

FOUNDED BY  
JAN AND HERB CONN

## NEWS OF THE P.A.T.C. MOUNTAINEERING SECTION

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### At Base Camp

A rental agreement for the Nelson House was signed on February 7 by Sallie Greenwood, John Christian, Greg Christopulos, and Charles Nelson. It gives the MS use of the house in return for repairs and renovation to be done over the next three years. However, the MS still expects to locate a site on which to build the Templeton Cabin.

The Carderock bulletin board finally has something on it. A poster stressing safe climbing, a bright red stop sign warning that climbing and rappelling can be dangerous, and an "in case of emergency" notice were prepared by Stevie Smith. A new plexiglas-covered board was built by the Park Service and, after a six month hiatus, the display and the board at last got together.

The annual MS picnic will be held at Carderock on May 1. Details will be forthcoming.

Workshop series - Joe Wagner would like anyone interested in helping him organize a workshop for trip leaders to call him at 966-6379.

Doug Scott will be giving a lecture titled "The Southwest Face of Everest" on March 22 at 8 pm in Shriver Hall, Johns Hopkins University, 34th and

Charles St., Baltimore. The lecture is sponsored by the Hopkins Outdoors Club; details can be obtained from the University's information desk, 301-366-3300 ext. 1456, 1457.

Eldorado Canyon - A fund has been set up to take contributions toward the purchase and creation of Eldorado Canyon State Park. Checks should be made payable to "CMC Foundation for Eldorado" and mailed to The Diana Hunter Memorial Fund, Box 395, Eldorado Springs, CO 80025. A petition in support of preserving the canyon was passed around at the last meeting.

### Belay Ledge

Jean Amberg and Chuck Sproull have announced that they will be married on April 3.

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Statistics are lacking, so we are not certain whether or not another first ascent is to be credited to MS/PATC, but here are the facts:

Over Christmas, Jann Benson visited from Colorado where she used to climb a lot, and a bunch of us took her out to Carderock. What with one thing and another she wound up climbing in slightly deficient equipment. The boots fit, the gloves fit, and the 60/40 cut the wind. BUT has anyone ever climbed Beginner's in a dress before?

Jim Kerr

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UP ROPE is the monthly newsletter of the Mountaineering Section (MS) of the Potomac Appalachian Trail Club (PATC) of Washington, D.C. Editorial contributions, letters and comments are welcome, and should be sent to Editor, UP ROPE, 802 New Mark Esplanade, Rockville, Md. 20850. Deadline is the 20th of each month. Subscriptions for MS members are included in dues. Annual subscriptions for non-members are \$3.50. New applicants and current members of PATC may join the MS by requesting sponsorship by a member of the MS. Current PATC members interested only in receiving UP ROPE may subscribe at no additional charge. Send subscriptions and address changes to Circulation Manager, UP ROPE, 1718 N St., N.W., Washington, D.C. 20036

Second MS Workshop

A well attended workshop on "Expedition Planning" was conducted by Tom McCrummy on January 22.

He began by distributing an outline of major planning factors, including personnel, location, objectives, schedule, expenses, food, equipment, leader responsibilities, and planning research. The more obvious factors were discussed, e.g. transportation, group equipment, and food requirements. But most important, Tom gave us numerous tips on those odds-and-ends which might be overlooked in planning, but which might be of great importance in the field. For example, consider the usefulness of the light from a full moon on a long climb, or the need for a bit of wire or a hacksaw blade for repair operations. Other such factors are the need to plan alternatives to the major climbing objectives and to include special "surprise treats" in the food for morale purposes.

Tom emphasized that the most important part of putting an expedition together is doing exhaustive research on the area to be visited. This research must cover the spectrum from finding

out what foods are locally available to spotting possible bivouac sites on photographs of the mountain. An hour in the library may be worth days in the field. Tom listed several valuable references for expedition planning and also made available excerpts of the paperwork from his own Peru expedition.

The evening closed with his spectacular slides from two expeditions to the Cordillera Blanca in Peru. The slides showed not only the beauty of the high mountains, but also brought out the serious and often dangerous nature of a major climb.

Curt Mobley

**Hanging Around**Sugarloaf, Md. - Dec. 28

Larry DeMilner

Jim Eakin

Charles Tuten

Mark Gunther

Day was cold and how cold was shown to us when we saw ice on the rocks. So after two low level climbs we headed down to the south side of the rocks, where we roped a few of the classics on that side. The sun warmed up the rocks and the day was very pleasant.

Mark Gunther

Castle Fin, Pa. - Feb. 8

A week of cold weather in D.C. made a drive to Castle Fin seem worth the gamble, so off we went at the inhuman hour of 8:00 am.

Our faith was well rewarded. The day was too warm to please a hard core ice lover, but the ice buildup was more than adequate for climbing. Several climbs were rigged and done by techniques ranging from "hands in the pockets" balance only to clawing with two hammers. Good practice for everyone.

Participants were Jon Larsen, John Fetvedt, Joe Ney, and  
Curt Mobley

Mt. Washington, N.H. - Feb. 9-14

What's worth 27 hours of driving, derision by family and friends, and a week's leave? Ice climbing in Huntington Ravine? You bet! Though the auspicious planning for this fairly extensive trip was followed up with some initially inauspicious attendance, the MS and friends literally took over the Ravine during this ideal climbing period. Of an original group of seven but three could get under way at the appointed date.

Sunday, 8 February, was a travel day. Tom McKenna and I arrived at the AMC Pinkham Notch Camp at 8 pm after 14 hours on the road. We were glad to see in the log book at the Camp that only two other climbers (MS members on an independent trip) had reserved space in the Harvard Mountaineering Club, Spur Cabin, which we planned to use as a base from which to make daily climbs in Huntington Ravine. This allowed Tom and me to leave our tent behind and kept our loads under 60 pounds. The hour-and-a-half hike up to the cabin from the parking lot at the Camp was a welcomed exertion after so long on the road.

On arising Monday morning to the 8 am radio weather broadcast by the Forest

Service we and the two other occupants of the cabin, Tom McCrumm and Steve Williams, were much surprised at the exceptional summit weather; 10°F and 10 mph wind. This was the day to bag the summit. Our third member, Ian Cruickshank, who had overnighted at his nearby house, arrived about an hour after we had started up South Gully. He soon caught up with us at the top of the gully and the weather held for a delightful summit romp. We descended via Boott Spur and enjoyed the panorama of Tuckerman Ravine and Pinkham Notch before us.

Upon arriving back at the HMC cabin we were met by MS'r Beth Waldow and Bob Norris and Tim Mervine. That evening, as each evening, four to six hours were spent in communal cooking of succulent meals, drying out gear near the wood stove, and story telling. This amount of time each evening allowed for detailed and elaborate stories and tales, and the critical examination and discussion of the climbing and other abilities of nearly all MS members not present.

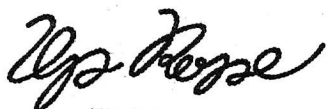
Tuesday, the weather became even more moderate and climbing in the sun-filled gullies was a shirt sleeve affair, sans mittens. Such benevolent weather accelerated both the climbing and the nightly rap sessions. During the remaining days the weather closed down but by that time various teams from the cabin had climbed nearly all the gullies. An exception was Yale, from which the ice had fallen the previous week making it an uninteresting climb. Occupancy at the cabin did not exceed eight persons on any one night, all of them Washington D.C. area climbers.

In general this year, ice and snow was less abundant than normal, making the use of rock anchor points more of a possibility while belaying on ice. The ice and snow in the gullies was well anchored, itself, and no normal routes were closed by the Forest Service. The ice held screws and 'hogs well without excessive plating-out, and front pointing was solid.

Hank Moravec

## Climber's Calendar

- Mar. 10 MS Meeting 8 pm "Ascent" - film of climbing in  
PATC Headquarters Yosemite (30 mins.)
- \*\* Mar. 14 Training Joe Ney (Home: 354-2168)  
By appointment only (Work: 354-2600 ext. 341)
- \* Mar. 20-21 Seneca/Nelson Rocks, W.Va. Curt Mobley (864-0428)  
Mar. 21 Corkscrew, Va. James Eakin (598-6047)
- Mar. 28 Bull Run, Va. Stan Halpin (340-2593)
- \* Apr. 3-4 Shawangunks, N.Y. Ray Kremer (656-0132)  
Apr. 4 Leader's Choice #
- Apr. 11 Annapolis Rocks, Md. Barbara Llewellyn (871-6197)
- Apr. 14 MS Meeting 8 pm Sallie Greenwood - A Mountaineering  
PATC Headquarters Prospectus (slides)
- Apr. 18 Bunny Climb at Purple Horse #
- \*\* Apr. 25 Training Joe Ney (Home: 354-2168)  
By appointment only (Work: 354-2600 ext. 341)
- May 1 Annual MS Picnic  
Carderock, Md.
- May 2 Buzzard Rocks, Va. Ray Kremer (656-0132)
- \* May 8-9 Seneca Rocks, W.Va. Joe Wagner (966-6379)  
May 9 Wild Cat Point, Md. #
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- \* Lead climbers and experienced seconds only. You should arrange for climbing partners before arriving at destination.
- \*\* All training is by appointment only. Contact trip leader no later than the preceding Wednesday.
- # Your help to lead this trip will be appreciated. Call Joe Wagner, 966-6379.



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