

FOUNDED BY
JAN AND HERB CONN

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

1718 N Street, N.W. Washington DC 20036

Volume 31 Number 4

April 1976

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* ANNUAL MS PICNIC *

* Carderock Pavilion *

Saturday, May 1 from 4 pm

* *

* Bring something to share (salad, dessert, or snacks) *

* Bring a main dish for yourself (and a stove or grill if you want to cook) *

* Free beer and soft drinks *

* * * * *

Expeditions

A number of climbers are interested in going on or helping with a section expedition but not enough for this year, reports the climbing committee. So the suggestion to participate in a joint expedition with the Buffalo Mountaineers to Assiniboine Mt., British Columbia, Canada, appears to be the best solution now.

Mt. Assiniboine, 3618 m/11,870 ft., south of Banff, Alberta, several 10,000 ft. peaks; snow, ice and rock. 1-14 August, base camp at Lake Magog. Est. cost under \$70 for two weeks, excluding transportation (air fare Washington-Calgary-Washington, approx. \$310; minimum of 3 days driving, also bus and train

connection). If you want to go, please contact Joe Wagner (966-6379) immediately.

* * * * *

Trip Leader Workshop - There is interest in a workshop for trip leaders, especially among future trip leaders. The climbing committee will plan for this and needs help. If you can talk about or demonstrate one of the following subjects, please call: emergency procedures; basic rescue techniques; where local climbing areas are and what they offer; general trip leader responsibilities; trip reports. If you have ideas and suggestions how the workshop should be organized and what should be talked about, we would like to hear from you too. Call Joe Wagner, tel. 966-6379.

At Base Camp

"Weather Forecasting for Mountaineering" will be the topic of the third MS workshop, to be conducted by Curt Mobley. Expanding the talk he gave last year, Curt will discuss characteristic weather patterns that can be predicted from observing cloud formations, and in-the-field interpretation and use of this information. Illustrated with slides. Wednesday, May 26 at 7:30 pm, PATC Headquarters.

(Cont'd on page 2)

PATC MOUNTAINEERING SECTION

Chairman

Sallie Greenwood (965-4087)

Vice Chairman

Joe Wagner (966-6379)

Secretary

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Joe Jensen (301-467-4611)

Mailing

Ruth Powell Jean Amberg

Rich Raymond

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

Nelson House Reservations - Stan Halpin will take reservations for the Nelson House. Contact him at 340-2593 between 6 and 10 pm. If you get his answering service, leave your name, phone number, and the time you can be reached.

The Management Committee for the Nelson House has modified the proposed use code. No pets will be permitted inside, and no young children will be allowed. A combination lock will be put on the door, thereby eliminating the problem of keeping track of a key.

Hermitage Cabin - The Section has offered to help with the rebuilding of the Hermitage Cabin and will schedule a work trip.

Knot tying practice sessions are being held each month at 7:30 before the regular MS meeting. Students are encouraged to come, particularly beginners who must master the basic knots before taking the secondary training course.

An Education Committee is being formed by PATC - contact Lee Foster, 291-7376, if you're interested in finding out more.

Belay Ledge

New Members - The following applicants have been elected to membership:

Guy R. Bateman
Dennis M. Kuhl
Mary D. Sprinkle
Hilary M. Bralove
Nancy A. Cohn
Robert A. Corruccini
William H. Wanger
John E. Gross
Frank E. Ierardi
Thomas P.A. Perry
Richard C. Raymond
Jonathan Scott
Lois Shipway
David H. Dantzler

Membership list correction:
Jim Thresher - 855-8648

Ann Kruse will be in Minneapolis all summer. If anyone has information about climbing or climbers in the Twin Cities area, please call her at 543-3741.

RR's, size 11-1/2 for sale; reasonable. Call Stan Halpin, 340-2593.

NELSON HOUSE

The following is the text of the rental agreement for the Nelson House which was signed on February 7.

"Agreement between C.S. (Charles) Nelson (Owner) and Sallie Greenwood, John Christian, Chuck Sproull, on behalf of the Potomac Appalachian Trail Club, Inc. (PATC) concerning the use, with privileges and responsibilities, of the farm house on the Nelson property in Nelson Hills, Pendleton County, including travel, parking and hiking and rock climbing activities. Such permissions, privileges and uses are not to jeopardize or hamper the property or way of access and egress for the owner or others having legitimate right to use and/or travel, and may be terminated by either party upon lack of need for such use or need for use by owner or transfer by sale or other instrument to other owner; upon any such changes notice of at least thirty days shall be made before such changes are to be done (in writing).

"It is also agreed that in the light of several items of readiness and/or improvement involving labor and materials this use shall not require the payment of rent until such time as the amount of rent might exceed by a small margin the costs of labor and materials used or provided for use, for a period of three years. In return for reasonable amounts of clean-up maintenance, repairs, and limited improvements, there shall be no rent or other charges made for this lease. The lease may be cancelled by either party for any reason upon thirty (30) days notice in writing to the other party.

"It is agreed that since the PATC is a voluntary membership Club, and since repairs and labor performed will in part depend on usage, the combined value of labor and materials provided instead of rent shall be no more than \$50.00 for each month of use. The Club will in good faith

perform repairs and maintenance, and anticipates that the value of labor and materials will usually exceed the latter amount.

"Some example items listed as present and future needs are: lumber to be removed from downstairs rooms; necessary cleaning of house, removing old torn linoleum; removing wallpaper; painting inside and outside of house (where painting inside rooms may be agreeable to both parties); replace eight broken windows - sash and panes where necessary; install locks on kitchen doors leading to outside (with keys) to match front door; install locks on all windows; also shutters to protect windows; install screen doors and screens for windows; loosen doors for easier opening; install door pulls to kitchen cabinets and shelves for small cook stoves in kitchen, also fireproof walls near stoves for safety; replace stovepipe where needed; repoint flue bricks wherever needed; place linoleum in kitchen and possibly other rooms where needed; install new cooking stove for heat and cooking (either coal or wood burning); fence yard (using some already available materials); clean yard inside fenced area; prepare appropriate and effective drains for carrying off water from house run-off and from excess water draining from above house from hill and road; relocate toilet for better service (either at another location agreed upon together or on present location); paint exterior walls of house and inside where necessary and agreeable, also roofs (house and porches); top tree in front of house; replace back kitchen porch (1 sill and 24 boards); replace front porch (2 sills and 18 boards); replace north kitchen porch and steps; lay 200 yards 1 inch-two inch plastic tubing from spring to house with two valves--one at each end to regulate water supply and empty hose in winter; put protecting fence around spring; test spring water; gravel road in needed places; and other things needing attention

(cont. on p.4)

as seen from time to time and agreed upon not mentioned herein.

"Travel and parking will be done with thought of care of road and property in surrounding areas and that it may not hamper use of and necessary travel over the property of owner. Drink and unwise use of alcoholic drinks will not be permitted to any degree that it attracts undesirable persons to and upon the property of owner or endangers the appearance and safety of the property, or provides an atmosphere undesirable to the property environment, or that it leaves such litter. Failure to any hurtful degree in observing these requirements can be considered sufficient cause for rendering agreement void. Enjoying occasional hikes and picnic occasions over and upon other portions of surrounding property will be permitted, with thoughtfulness and proper care. Other needs and privileges and responsibilities may come up for attention from time to time, and may be agreed upon mutually.

"This arrangement will in no way restrict or hamper the enjoyment of the scenic and recreational enjoyment of the property in Nelson Hills surrounding the farmhouse by other properly recognized groups and individuals, nor will others be permitted to hurtfully do this for the parties of this group.

"The PATC will maintain tenant insurance for its possessions and contents of the farmhouse in case of fire or theft but will not be responsible for or be required to insure the house against loss. The owner may obtain landlord's insurance if he wants."

/s/ C.S. Nelson
Sallie Greenwood
John Christian
Greg Christopoulos

February 7, 1976
Circleville, W.Va.

Hanging Around

Spitzbergen, Md. - Jan. 4

John and Martha Christian
Bryan Wilder
Don Kocher
Chris Triber
Ken Potts

We were supposed to go to Cupid's Bower but the Potomac was 7 times higher than normal. So we ambled upstream to Purple Horse. I carefully explained to all that is was named because of the purpleness of this face which is just across from Echo Cliffs. (The leader has an obligation to create a feeling of authority especially when there are newcomers and they were all new to the writer who hasn't been on a club trip for a long while.) There were many very gallant tries on that crack running up the face. We all did wander up other climbs just downstream which were more to our match. Later, Arnold Wexler told me we had really been at Spitzbergen.

John Christian

Old Rag Mt./Corbin Cabin, Va. -
Jan. 23-25

Some of us got off to a late start but six of us (Andrew, Bob, Joe, Margaret, Meg and Ray) finally met at 10 pm, Friday, at the parking lot below Old Rag, Nethers. The four-mile hike at night to the cabin was greatly assisted by Bob Goldberg who had been on the trail more recently than others. Three icy streams were successfully crossed and the column of miners - you could tell by their headlamps - was seen stringing toward the cabin close to 12:30 am.

Any thought about a cold-weather camp were considerably tempered by the 32-36° weather and a warm 40° inside

the cabin. Andrew discovered that sleeping on the porch was for the same price as using one of the bunks and a resident mouse - or mice - discovered a preference for Margaret's Cadbury chocolate. You might ask B.G. how the mouse kept him from hearing the racket right by his ear.

After breakfast on Saturday morning, the group was late getting to the parking lot where we had arranged to meet Greg and company about 10 am. But at 10:40 not a trace of them. Resident artist David Nordin chatted with us and asked us to stop by on the way back. Then up the Ridge trail to the saddle from where four of us started to traverse southwest in order to get right under the summit for a directissima ascent. Well, we may have started a new route, mixed ice, rock and brush, but the climbing was strictly grade 2. So we came out below a lower summit with promising grade 5 routes when we were bombarded by rocks thrown from above by camping kids. After hollering and threatening and scaring them we ourselves were somewhat scared about repetitions and traversed over the summit walkup. Lunch and down the ridge trail.

By the parking lot we found M&M who had brought not only kerosene (which had not been replaced by earlier cabin users) but a six pack! This time the walk in started in daylight and only the last and longest leg of our hike tested our night vision again. 7:30 pm. We had acquired a neighbor, a camper but after a short while who should turn up but the other members of the party: Diane, Ed and Greg. They had gone "ice-climbing" at Whiteoak Canyon and come down from the Skyline to share the cabin with us. Nice suppers, a fireplace and mulled wine made this a delightful evening.

During the night a raccoon tried to entertain Andrew but the mouse found no more chocolate (we had suddenly remembered an old camping rule about

sweets etc. in packs). The next day it drizzled, most of the ice had melted and so nobody was really interested in going hiking or climbing. After cleaning up the cabin and replacing the wood the two groups parted, one went up and other one down. We visited with Mr. Nordin who showed us his fairly extensive collection of paintings and warmed us with a variety of teas before we headed home--where it hadn't been raining. Participating were Ray, Meg and Andrew Kremer, Margaret Wettling, Bob Goldberg, Greg Christopoulos, Diane Burkhardt, Ed Guleke and your trip leader

Joe Wagner

Nelson House Work Trip - Jan. 30-Feb. 1

Jeanne and I arrived early Friday evening, walking the last 1/4 mile because of the muddy road. Saturday was primarily spent on routine house-keeping chores, chopping wood, sweeping floors, killing flies, etc., although we did walk down to scout out some potential routes on Nelson Rocks. Ryan came out Saturday afternoon and helped us celebrate Jeanne's birthday that evening. Sunday morning we warmed up with a few hours of scraping on the old wallpaper upstairs (soaking it with warm water first works wonders!), then packed up and moved out, with only 50% of the vehicles getting stuck in the mud. Ryan Pierson, Jeanne, and Stan Halpin, trip leader.

Camp Lewis, Md. - Feb. 29

Camp Lewis is an ideal place for winter climbing, given a sunny day and temperatures in the upper 30's or higher. On a day when the temperature is in the 70's, one thinks more of a bathing suit and a smooth rock for sunbathing. Most of us managed to overcome this feeling enough to try all, or almost all of the 6 or 7 climbs rigged. (Hal and Charlie Kramer rigged one of the
(Cont'd on page 6)

nicest - and one of the toughest - climbs around--an overhanging wall on the most downriver section of the rock grouping. We started at 9:45 with seven, and people kept trickling in all through the day, which worked out nicely as it meant none of the climbs was mobbed at any given time, and the impact of 19 people on a relatively small area was minimized.

(Overheard at the foot of the East Face: "I will lift up mine eyes to the hills, but I see no reasons to put my carcass up there also.")

Participating were: Phil Eddy, John Fetvedt, Bill Fite, Sallie Greenwood, Stan Halpin, Noreen Hooper, Kent Jameson, Hal and Charlie Kramer, Al Kraudahl, Ann Lipp, Rich Raymond, Joe Roseman, Charles Tuten, Bill Thomas, Chuck and Margaret Wettling, and trip leader

Barbara Llewellyn

Harper's Ferry, Md. - March 7

A relatively small group assembled at Gaithersburg Square shopping center and car-pooled to the foot of Maryland Heights Cliffs. One member delivered the registration sheets to the rangers in Harper's Ferry, while the rest of us took the hiker's path up to the top-roping area. We rigged four climbs along one face. Two of the climbs had been done on earlier trips. A third climb included an "easy start" and a virtually impossible finish. The fourth climb included an overhang and a roof. If one negotiated the overhang, the next move was to fall and land in a near-by tree. There was a lot of rock fall and loose rocks en route. Also, the wind blew dust in climbers' eyes when it did not blow the climbers off the rock.

Around 2 pm we descended to the foot of the cliffs. While several of us had originally planned to lead climb that day, the strong wind discouraged all but John Fetvedt and Curt Mobley. Later we were joined by Neil Arsenault

and Janet Ainsworth who had climbed the cliffs earlier. Neil described making moves between windy gusts, while Janet reported that, while seated on a belay ledge, she had the unique opportunity of watching someone attempt to break into her car. Later we adjourned to Roy's Place for dinner. Other trip participants included Rob Corruccini, Kent Jameson, Charles Tuten, John Larsen, Ann Lipp, Joe Roseman, Tom Perry, Kathy Perry, Bill Thomas, Noreen Hooper, Bob Goldberg, and

Vivian Goldberg

Corkscrew, Va. - March 21

Somehow my hand was up in the air and I was the trip leader to Corkscrew, Va. Oh boy, terror-ific, what am I doing? I don't even know where Corkscrew, Va. is! Ah well, I asked around and got a lot of advice but Ann Kruse came to the rescue when she said she had climbed there before.

The weather report called for thunderstorms Sunday morning but there was enough blue sky showing through the clouds to make a lot of climbers optimistic. Laughing at the weatherman's predictions we followed Ann toward the rocks. Five climbs were rigged and in use by 11:00. The climbs were interesting and had good variety. Unfortunately the weatherman was half right as the storm front appeared on the northern horizon about 1:00. Better late than never surely doesn't apply to storm and climbing. The high winds and dark clouds were enough of a threat that most of the climbs were down by the time the rain started. Although it was still early, the general consensus was Trav's was the place to go to get out of the rain.

The following people came for the trip: Kent Jameson, Stevie Smith, Don Kocher and son Mike, Frank Ierardi, John Bremer, Skip Henderson, Joe McDermott, Ann Kruse, Stuart Jones, Sallie Greenwood, Tim Moran, Bill Fite, Ted Casner, Rob Corruccini, Ed Lawson and

James Eakin

The Summit Register

Editor, UP ROPE

I am not a climber myself, but have been associated with climbers as a friend, and have lost a friend under circumstances which impell me to write down a suggestion. This impulse has been reinforced by my casual observation that many more couples are climbing, and my idea is really most pertinent to them.

I suggest that while a couple is on a rope, the lighter of the two will find it physically impossible to recover their partner. This was indelibly etched upon my memory when a couple of friends of mine got married and, while on their honeymoon, decided to do a little rock work. He fell and suffered injuries which prevented him from climbing the rope. She was not strong enough to pull him to the ledge upon which she was waiting, although the piton held. He died on the end of the rope before help could arrive.

My suggestion is that the use of a pulley will give a mechanical advantage of two, thereby dividing the load's effective weight in half, and allowing a light person to recover

a heavy one. This could be done in two ways:

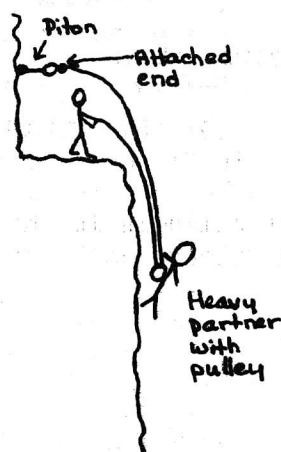
- a) if the rope were doubled, both ends could be held by the lighter partner, and the pulley attached to the heavier one's sling. In case of a fall, then, or the requirement for a belay, one end could be tied to an anchor or piton and the light partner would only have to pull with a force of $1/2$ the one's weight, as in (1) or (2).
- b) One need not carry twice the rope, as a) implies, if the light partner knows how to use a rolling hitch, or prussik, in a delicate situation. A small rope can be used, with the pulley and prussik, to pull up the main rope and heavy partner, in stages, as in (3).

I would like to know if this makes sense to the climbers, since I am only an observer. (For reasons of my ignorance, I have not shown the nature of belay at the light person.)

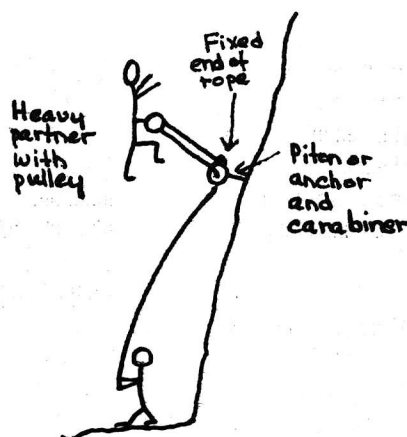
George Loeb
6920 Fairfax Rd.
Bethesda, Md. 20014

Ed. - Would someone give a careful and thoughtful reply to Mr. Loeb's suggestions?

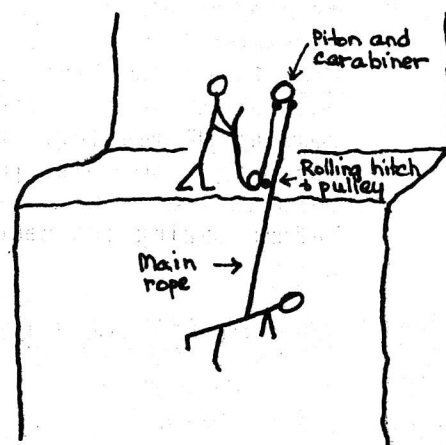
(1)



(2)



(3)



Climber's Calendar

- | | | |
|-----------------------|--|---|
| Apr. 14 | MS Meeting 8 pm
PATC Headquarters | Sallie Greenwood - A Mountaineering Prospectus (slides) |
| Apr. 18 | Bunny Climb at Purple Horse | Rich Raymond (338-7148) |
| ** Apr. 25 | Training
By appointment only | Joe Ney (Home: 354-2168)
(Work: 354-2600 ext. 341) |
| May 1 | Annual MS Picnic
Carderock, Md. | Details on page 1 |
| May 2 | Buzzard Rocks, Va. | Ray Kremer (656-0132) |
| * May 8-9
May 9 | Seneca Rocks, W.Va.
Wild Cat Point, Md. | Joe Wagner (966-6379)
|
| May 12 | MS Meeting 8 pm
PATC Headquarters | Program to be announced |
| ** May 16 | Training
By appointment only | Joe Ney (Home: 354-2168)
(Work: 354-2600 ext. 341) |
| + May 22-23 | Little Stony Man, Va. | Joe Wagner (966-6379) |
| May 26 | MS Workshop 7:30 pm
PATC Headquarters | "Weather Forecasting for Mountaineering"
- Curt Mobley |
| * May 29-31
May 30 | Shawangunks, N.Y.
Wolf Rock, Md. | Stevie Smith (762-7311)
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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.
 - + Combined one day and weekend trip. Bring lead gear, hard hat. Leaders and experienced seconds encouraged to come.
 - # Your help to lead this trip will be appreciated. Call Joe Wagner, 966-6379.



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