

FOUNDED BY
JAN AND HERB CONN

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

1718 N Street, N.W. Washington DC 20036

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Training Briefs

The Training Committee met at Sallie Greenwood's on March 30, 1976. The purpose of the meeting was to decide on a final syllabus for the MS training courses.

The modifications agreed upon are:

- 1) All knots (except prussik) will be taught in the basic course.
- 2) Mechanical rappels are to be taught in the basic course.
- 3) The discussion on rope organization and chock placement will be covered in the secondary course.
- 4) All training within the club will be covered in two courses, the basic and the secondary.

This last item requires clarification. The supervised multi-pitch climbing has not been eliminated, but it was felt that our lack of instruction facilities required a deformatization of the course. Those club members who feel they need supervision on their first multi-pitch climb may still obtain it. This may be accomplished by contacting the trip leader, the training committee chairman, or the trip committee chairman, or any of the clubs more experienced climbers. Those who have not had the discussion on rope organization and chock placement in the formal secondary course are invited to participate in the

same in future secondary courses (contact Training Committee chairman).

The members of the training committee would welcome hearing from those members who are interested in training or assisting in the courses, or taking members on their first lead.

At Base Camp

A First Aid Workshop will be conducted by Jim Thresher in June. To be given in four parts, the workshop will include administering artificial respiration, moving the injured, and treating fractures. June 8, 10, 15, and 17 at 7:30 pm, PATC Headquarters.

The Section has scheduled a Hermitage Cabin work trip for July 17-18 to assist PATC in clearing the site and rebuilding the cabin. If anyone is interested in continuing this work, PATC will be holding once-a-month work trips. Bob Humphrey is the co-ordinator and can be reached at (H) 229-4083.

Better late than never...thanks to John Fetvedt for his fine photographs of climbers and climbing which have been on display at Headquarters.

Don Hubbard has an article about Seneca Rocks and "DB" in the April issue of Off Belay.

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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

Hanging AroundSeneca Rocks/Nelson Rocks, W.Va -
March 20-21

The long night-time drive seemed worthwhile when Saturday dawned clear and warm for the first Seneca trip of the season. Stan Halpin and Ian Cruickshank made the wiser choice and headed for Seneca Rocks, whereas Al Fischler and Curt Mobley headed into the uncharted wilderness of Nelson Rocks.

Halfway up a beautiful but long inside corner, Curt (a) found that the long winter had wrought havoc on his balance, (b) felt the rock emitting distinctly unfriendly vibes, (c) decided he wasn't up for the layback needed to get past the blank section, (d) saw that the overhang looked a lot bigger from up close that it did from the road, (d) realized the wisdom of the old saying about a wise leader not climbing up what he can't climb down. So he belayed Al up, who was able to find a way to traverse off. The two then headed for Seneca, guidebooks in hand.

That evening's entertainment was provided by Ian, who told us of his many adventures and desperate, epic climbs in the Alps.

Sunday greeted us with ominous clouds. Al and Curt suddenly remembered a philosophy paper and a math take-home exam due the next day and split for D.C. Stan and Ian made a sporting try at climbing, and even reached the rocks before the rain drove them home also.

Curt Mobley

Bull Run, Va. - March 28

Leaving AO at 9:15 on a beautiful albeit chilly morning, a large crew of otherwise normal people were warming up their hands by climbing a number of routes by 11:00. At least 10 climbs were rigged, so there were few lines of people waiting for climbs, and hence no excuse to spectate. This fact along with the bright sunny day encouraged most present to new heights in climbing. Charlie's Crack, Bull Run Overhang, Sofa, and Snickersnee were tried by many, with varying degrees of success. Joe Ney rigged one fanciful climb and kept assuring the disbelievers that it could be done, but few could look at the purported climb without hysterical laughter, and the mother hawk was complaining about the rope through her nest, so there were no real attempts. Returning to the cars at twilight, we adjourned for some well deserved food and brew. The Vienna Inn took one

look at the trip leader and closed for the evening, so we wound up at the Pizza Hut, spread out over 3 or 4 separate tables. Present on the trip were: Vivian Goldberg, Charlie Tuten, Ian Cruickshank, Skip Henderson, Rick Todd, Rich Raymond, John Bremer, Barbara Llewellyn, Curt Mobley, Tony Madden, John Larson, Bill Fite, Tom Meagher, James Eakin, Mike Ball, Margaret and Chuck Wettling, Hal Kramer, Chuck Shellhorn with wife and child, Joe Ney, Tom and Cathy Perry, Sallie Greenwood, and trip leader Stan Halpin

Nelson House Work Trip - April 10

Who had green hair 25 feet long? (RAMPunzel). Who ran through West Virginia caverns singing a song about his name? (RAMPelstiltskin). Such was the humor at the annual Circleville Ramp Festival, where for \$2.50 one obtained all the good food one could eat, including unlimited quantities of ramps. (For the benefit of the uninitiated, ramps are a pungent wild scallion.)

In order to work up appetites sufficient for an entire evening, our six epicures spent a beautiful Saturday working at the Nelson house. The reason for the trip was the need for a cow-proof fence around the yard, since cattle are soon to be pastured in the adjacent fields. Materials were supplied by Mr. Nelson, and with six people working, the formidable task of setting and reinforcing posts and stringing wire was soon over. Other minor tasks were performed, to wit the construction of a stone walkway to the porch and some trenching in the yard.

Day-laborers were Tom Meagher, Alan Fischler, Sallie Greenwood, Jim Eakin, Andrew Kremer, and

Curt Mobley

From Other Peaks

The following letter from the Mountain and Jungle Rover Association (Istana Tua) in Indonesia was addressed to Norma Hoffman, PATC, and passed along to the Mountaineering Section.

...The activities of our club are still limited. The technical ability of the members are still underdeveloped as our country is. Lack of funds. Lack of equipment. We still have no facilities so any kind of help from a good and mature organization like yours would be welcome.

Therefore we are grateful if you could send us any kind of English reading material on basic mountaineering, search and rescue etc. etc. which you no longer need. Here in Indonesia reading material on those fields are hard to find....could you provide us with one or two names and addresses of the PATC's individual members are are interested in correspondence.

Finally, we would like to tell you about our home town. Sumedang is a small town where our organization is situated. It is located on the highland surrounded by mountain ranges. From the Nation's Capital (Jakarta) is 225 Km., to the southeast and just 45 Km from Bandung (the capital of West Java). So if you happen to visit Indonesia, be sure to see us.

Thank you once again for any kind assistance you could give.

Sincerely,

Daddi Djukardi

The Secretariat of Istana Tua
Jalan Ra. Kartini No. 4
Sumedang, Jawa Barat (West Java)
Indonesia

One of our more musically inclined members recently came across a ballad that appeared in the November 1967 UP ROPE and suggested it be reprinted

for the enjoyment and enlightenment of our readers. (For those who weren't around in '67, Touhey's was Trav's predecessor.)

THAT MIGHTY GEORGETOWN WALL

Off M Street in Georgetown, at that point where U.S. Route 29 crosses the Potomac on the Francis Scott Key Bridge, a stone stairway runs up to Prospect Street. This stairway is bordered on one side by the building which houses D.C. Transit and on the other by a stone retaining wall. The retaining wall makes a right angle at the bottom of the steps and faces on M Street. There, two faces, the East and the South, comprise what is known to the PATC Mountaineering Section as the Georgetown Wall.

After a day of climbing along the Potomac, members of the MS usually retire to a tavern known as Touhey's in Cabin John, a few miles out MacArthur Boulevard from Georgetown. Occasionally, groups go from Touhey's to climb on the Georgetown Wall as a sort of aperitif to the day. We assume this has always gone on. In any event, with that introduction, we present

THE BALLAD OF THAT MIGHTY GEORGETOWN WALL

Words and music by David Templeton

VERSES



On the ri-ver called Po-to-mac, by the Fran-cis Scott Key Bridge, There are



climbs that should be known to one and all. They are not up-on a cliff-side nor a



snow-y crest-ed ridge. They're lo-ca-ted on that Might-y George-town Wall

CHORUS



Oh, the George-town Wall (Yeh, Yeh, Yeh) It's a rough-rough haul (Yeh, Yeh, Yeh)



Look out! Don't Fall! (Yeh, Yeh, Yeh) off the George-town Wall

There are scrambles on the South Face but they will not lead to fame.
Any climb upon the East Face beats them all.
So, line up along the stairwell if you want to add your name
To the climbers of that Mighty Georgetown Wall.

You'll find climbers on the East Face any evening after ten,
Spring and Summer, in the Winter and the Fall.
The very best of climbers is found dangling now and then
On the East Face of that Mighty Georgetown Wall.

The pigeons roost upon it in the sunlit hours of day,
At night, the bats and hoot owls come to call.
They leave a faint patina which adds just a touch, they say,
To the problems of that Mighty Georgetown Wall.

There are brave men in the Tetons, there've been brave men on the Dru,
There are brave men in the Mountains of Nepal;
But the bravest of all climbers are the ones that dare to do
A free-climb on that Mighty Georgetown Wall.

Let us tell you now the story of a group of just such men:
One eve from Touhey's Tavern came a call
Which passed among the climbers, "Let us meet tonight at ten
And free-climb on that Mighty Georgetown Wall.

The wall had fell to aid just once. It was Nineteen hundred six
When Jacob Smutz and Alexander Ball,
Using fixed ropes and a scaffold, sand blasted all the bricks
And ledges on that Mighty Georgetown Wall.

But a free style climb had not been made, in fact, no climb was done,
Or recorded, since the days of Smutz and Ball.
So, that path was lying open with a prize for anyone
Who free-climbed on that Mighty Georgetown Wall.

From the tables out at Touhey's, though the chaste and dewy dells
Of Glen Echo, down MacArthur came they all.
The steps down to the river soon resounded with their yells
As they launched assault upon the Georgetown Wall.

The first man up was two stones high. His hands slipped and he fell.
The way he bounced sent shudders through them all,
For they realized next morning there'd be tolling on the bell
For the man that came off the Georgetown Wall.

The next man was more careful, but a pigeon did him in,
Or perhaps a bat or hoot owl caused his fall.
All that's known is, he climbed bravely till he went into a spin
And became a victim of that Georgetown Wall.

Then climber after climber tried the route that he had planned,
But somewhere near the top each one would fall.
The ranks kept growing thinner, in that brave and hardy band
Free-climbing on that Mighty Georgetown Wall.

(Cont'd on page 6)

It was misery to be watching as each climber, clutching, fell
And they realized he could not stop his fall.
They wondered if macabre scenes existed down in hell
Like the one that night beside the Georgetown Wall.

As each climber hit those cold stone steps he would shout "Keep up the Quest"
And each one of them would swear to make the Wall.
Then they'd strip him of his hardware and lay him out to rest
There on the steps beside the Georgetown Wall.

They began to doubt their venture, for their ranks were growing thin,
And thinner yet, at each and every fall;
But, while falling was an error there was yet a graver sin-
To give up and leave that Mighty Georgetown Wall.

Then, out of nowhere came a climber that no one among them knew.
He looked as if he stood some ten feet tall.
His hands hung by his knee caps. Like pitons, his fingers grew.
They knew he'd climb that Mighty Georgetown Wall.

Every outcrop, every crevice, every ledge and hairline crack;
His sharp and eager eyes surveyed them all.
They knew when he got started, there would be no hanging back.
He would go right up that Mighty Georgetown Wall.

There was silence in the stairwell. Every climber held his breath
As they watched him lace his shoes and stand up tall;
For he showed it by his manner, that he'd rather have his death
Then fall from off that Mighty Georgetown Wall.

In the evening by the moonlight, one could hear the engines hum
As the traffic went its way toward the Mall.
They stood like frozen statues, senses straining, stricken dumb,
As he strode up to that Mighty Georgetown Wall.

Then he started up the corner. There was heard a gasp or two
As they realized his courage, and his gall.
As you know, now, as a practice climb, it's quite a feat to do
The corner of that Mighty Georgetown Wall.

He slipped upon a bit of slime. They groaned and thought he fell.
He recovered and gave out a raucous call,
"Those birds are perty awful men. By day, it must be hell
To walk the steps beside this Georgetown Wall."

He was half way up the corner, they could see his muscles strain,
Beneath his shoes, was hardly rock at all,
They could not see what he held to, but to this day, people claim
His fingerprints are in that Georgetown Wall.

He came up to the topmost ledge, just short an inch or two,
He paused, they knew by then he would not fall;
But they couldn't see what he would use and wondered what he'd do
To get on top that Mighty Georgetown Wall.

He shrank into his climbing clothes, just like a spring, then sprung.
They closed their eyes and waited for his fall.
But the silence kept his promise, so they looked, and there he hung
By his finger tips upon that Georgetown Wall.

It was over in a second, one quick lunge, a yodel too.
He was out upon the top and stood up tall,
They dashed to find out who he was, the first man up to view
Found him disappeared from off that Georgetown Wall.

Now the fact that someone made it is what matters, but just who
Is what puzzles them as they try to recall
What he looked like, where he came from, and just how he ever knew
Of their free-climb on that Mighty Georgetown Wall.

Some say that it was Mallory, in spirit, some say Buhl;
For they claim no one alive could climb that wall.
Others say that it was just some nut, no sane man but a fool
Would free-climb on that Mighty Georgetown Wall.

But they were there, they watched him mount up bravely on his climb;
And they survived the night to tell us all.
Someday, somehow, we all will know that climber of all time,
The man who free-climbed up that Georgetown Wall.

Repeat verses 1 and 4

Belay Ledge

ICELAND: Anyone interested in climbing Iceland's highest peak (7000 feet; the final 6600 feet on or above the glaciers) sometime between July 23 and July 30? Perfect stopover on your way to the Alps when flying Icelandic Airlines. Contact David Dantzler at 338-6035.

Indian Skills for Modern Use...Terry Robinson is teaching courses on woodslore and survival techniques, including such subjects as edible wild plants, beef jerky and smoked meat, natural dyes and fibers, tanning hides, etc. Terry Robinson, 239 Burgess Ave., Alexandria, Va. 22305; phone 548-9460.

* * * * *

Looking for a climbing partner for the first two weeks of June, for the Boulder, Colorado/Rocky Mountain Nat'l Park area. I will be driving to Boulder the last weekend of May and can take a rider. Anyone passing through Boulder during the summer is encouraged to look me up at the National Center for Atmospheric Research where I'll be "working" through the end of August. Curt Mobley, 864-0428.

Membership list changes

Jean Amberg Sproull, 6006 Bryn Mawr Ave.,
Glen Echo, Md. 20768 (H) 229-7434
John Fetvedt, P.O. Box 1355, Eyota,
Minn. 55934 (H) 507-545-2310

New Members

Lin Murphy, 4015 Rickover Rd,
Silver Spring, Md. 20902
(H) 946-0999
Stanley L. Reeves, 617 E. Charlotte St.,
Sterling Park, Va. 22170
(H) 703-430-3270

Climber's Calendar

May 12	MS Meeting 8 pm PATC Headquarters	Climbing on Snowshoes - Bob and Vivian Goldberg
** May 16	Training By appointment only	Joe Ney (Home: 354-2168) (Work: 354-2600 ext. 341)
+ May 22-23	Little Stony Man, Va.	#
May 26	MS Workshop 7:30 pm PATC Headquarters	"Weather Forecasting for Mountain- eering" - Curt Mobley
* May 29-31 May 30	Shawangunks, N.Y. Wolf Rock, Md.	Stevie Smith (762-7311) #
*** June 5-6 June 6	Seneca Rocks, W.Va. Purple Horse, Md.	# #
June 8	MS Workshop 7:30 pm PATC Headquarters	"First Aid" - Jim Thresher Also June 10, 15, 17
June 9	MS Meeting 8 pm PATC Headquarters	Program to be announced
June 13	Training By appointment only	Joe Ney (Home: 354-2168) (Work: 354-2600 ext. 341)
June 20	Wolf Rock, Md.	#
June 26-27	Smoke Hole Canyon, W.Va. Canoeing/climbing	Ray Kremer (656-0132) Experienced canoeers only - inter- mediate level; must arrange own canoe

* Lead climbers and experienced seconds only. You should arrange for climbing partners before arriving at destination.

** All training by appointment only. Contact trip leader no later than preceding Wednesday.

*** Combination work and climbing trip. Climbing is for leaders and experienced seconds.

+ Combined one day and weekend trip. Bring lead gear, hard hat.

Your help to lead this trip will be appreciated. Call Barbara Llewellyn, 871-6197.

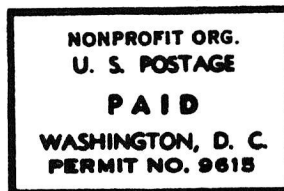
Up Rope

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MS

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