

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 10

October 1976

Page 1

At Base Camp

Wolf Rock, Md. has been closed to climbing on Sundays. The MS opposes the action and expects to negotiate with the Park Service in an effort to reopen the area. Details will be printed in future UP ROPES.

Paul MacIntosh of the National Forest Service has asked the MS to work with the NFS in designing an exhibit for the Seneca visitors center.

Construction of a new footbridge at Seneca has begun. It will be a **swinging cable suspension bridge**, similar to the old one which finally broke this summer.

Riverton's Annual Supper Revived

After a lapse of two years or more there was a Labor Day weekend church supper at Riverton. The fare (both quality and quantity) was as excellent as ever but the attendance was low due to little publicity. Even Buck Harper didn't know about it. The PATC-MS was represented by Bob and Kate Adams, Chuck and Margaret Wettling, Arnold Wexler and Steve Limbeck. Would highly recommend a scheduled Seneca trip for Labor Day weekend 1977 if this supper is again to be a regular annual event.

Margaret Wettling

Hanging Around

Bull Run, Va. - June 19

The day promised to be muggy and hot, if not overtly rainy. Undaunted, we set up the usual climbs which were more interesting because they were somewhat moist. Ian Cruickshank attempted to corrupt younger and/or less experienced climbers by offering them his chalf bag as they approached Charlie's Crack. Despite the chalk, all climbers who tried had a good time falling out of Charlie's Crack. Before everyone had a chance to get really tired, the heavens opened and we retreated. Once again, the Vienna Inn had closed 10 minutes before we arrived (at 6 pm!). Back to the Pizza Hut! This report has been brief because a lot of space is needed for the list of participants.

Laurie Anderson
Jose McDermott
Ellen Scholar
Skip Henderson
Johnny ?
Rich Raymond
Jon Larson
Brian Wilder
Rick Todd

Joe Roseman
Ron Smith
Ron Yockim
Leath Wayne
Four Hewes
Ian Cruickshank
George Hesser
Carrington Gregory
and
Vivian Goldberg

PATC MOUNTAINEERING SECTION

Chairman

Sallie Greenwood (965-4087)

Vice Chairman

Joe Wagner (966-6379)

Secretary

Ryan Pierson (869-6271)

Treasurer

Jean Sproull (229-7434)

UP ROPE Staff

Editor

Stevie Smith (762-7311)

Circulation Manager

Joe Jensen (301-467-4611)

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

Mt. Assiniboine, cont'd from page 3

to descend into next valley down series of gullies pioneered by Mark; further descent into valley guided by Chuck and a full moon; virtually impenetrable bush, windfall and avalanche swathes; 12:30 a.m. acceptance of the inevitable and a bivouac; 6:30 a.m. hungry, bleary-eyed start; noon meeting with "rescue party" with extra clothing but no food except one person's private supply of Gorp; 2 p.m. arrival at camp - food, drink, sleep, more food, more drink, more sleep. We did at least select the only continuous 32-hour fine weather period for this minor epic.

- * The 100+ ft. ice pitch on Sturdee climbed by John, Mark, and James. The run-out was considered reasonable so they did it unprotected.
- * The incredible packing job which stashed more than a dozen full kit bags, ropes, stoves, cookpots, water containers and sundry camping impedimenta, eight backpacks and eight bodies into James' van to drive the bumpy miles from Spray Lake back to Banff.

* The joy of the hot water and showers at Tunnel Mountain campground in Banff.

* The mice which took over Mike Boyd's van. He had already caught seven by the time we left him and he was getting worried about the U.S. Customs dunning him for importing livestock.

Margaret Wettling

* * * * *

FOUND - Goldline rope and anchor at Carderock on Sept. 9. Rope was jammed in a crack. Wool shirt at top of climb, broken gold glasses at bottom. Contact Jim Kerr, 941-3216.

FOR SALE - Ropes, 150' x 11 mm Edelrid Perlon, \$63.00. Call Tom McCrumm, 525-6272, weekdays before 10 am or after 10 pm.

New members - The following applicants were recently elected to membership:

Sibyl B. Frank
Phillip J. Lautenschlager
Ronald H. Smith
Nancy B. Smith

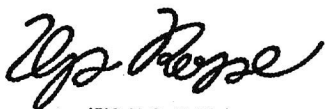
MT. ASSINIBOINE

John Bremer, James Eakin, Vivian Goldberg, Mark Gunther, Chuck and Margaret Wettling joined six members of the Buffalo Mountaineers in a joint "expedition" under the leadership of Elean Robson to Mt. Assiniboine, B.C., August 1-14. Combined memories produced the following highlights:

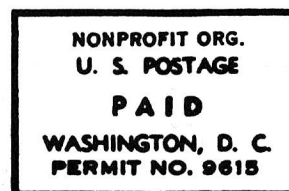
- * Vivian being asked by Canadian Customs if she was going to Summer Camp.
- * The grocery-shopping spree in Banff - over \$500 worth. (We did not go hungry.)
- * The skillful loading of the horses with all our gear. The packers had to drop it at the perimeter of Assiniboine National Park, which left us with only three miles to hump it instead of the whole eighteen.
- * The splendid, constantly changing (now you see it, now you don't) view of Mt. Assiniboine from the campsite and the surrounding peaks.
- * The constant battle with the pocket gophers who tried ceaselessly to chew their way into food bags and packs, and even into one tent.
- * The quagmire the original cooking area rapidly turned into as a result of twelve bodies trying to huddle under one tarp during the regular dinnertime deluges.
- * Pancake breakfasts - a ceremony rather than a meal.
- * The designated camping areas, the "Trail Closed" signs to help prevent further erosion, and the nightly check-up visit from the Park Rangers which emphasized the fact that the more an area, however seemingly remote, is used the less of a "wilderness experience" it can provide.
- * The rotten rock, the ice under a slight covering of snow, the constant snow and rock avalanches and, chiefly, the unprotectability of the whole thing which persuaded none of us even to set foot on The Mountain itself. (Two of the Buffalo people succeeded in climbing it, one in a party which took a grand total of 21 hours because they tried to belay every pitch.)
- * The rotten rock everywhere. (Bob Norris refers to the Canadian Rockies as "sedimentary potato chips" - a pretty accurate description.)
- * The only injury sustained - James' burnt fingers and anorak on our snow-belaying practice day.
- * The well-positioned and equipped A.C.C. hut at the base of Mt. Assiniboine, which made a perfect "high camp" for ascents of Mts. Wedgwood, Strom, Sturdee and Magog. Sleep there was not always possible, especially the night one noisy party arrived back from Mt. Assiniboine at 1 a.m. and proceeded to cook dinner, and parties were departing for the mountain at 3 and 4 a.m. respectively.
- * James' magnificent leap sideways, landing in perfect self-arrest position, to avoid being sent flying down the Access Couloir by Vivian's unintentional glissade.
- * The ascent of Mt. Terrapin by Elean and the PATC contingent, except for John, who had more sense. Memorable for: James' and Mark's first ice leads (but they only told us that later); a late, late summit arrival (6 p.m.); non-existence of any "easy descent ridge" quoted in the guidebook; eventual decision to
(continued on page 2)

Climber's Calendar

- | | | |
|----------------|--------------------------------------|--|
| * Oct. 9-11 | Shawangunks, N.Y. | Sallie Greenwood (965-4087) |
| Oct. 10 | Bull Run, Va. | John Arsenault (work: 948-2474) |
| Oct. 13 | MS Meeting 8 pm
PATC Headquarters | "Have you ever been to the Himachal Pradesh?" - slides by Joe Wagner |
| ** Oct. 17 | Training | Rick Todd (439-0672) |
| *** Oct. 23-25 | Seneca Rocks, W.Va. | Chuck Wettling (736-2447) |
| Oct. 24 | Sugarloaf, Md. | Joe Jensen (301-467-4611) |
| Oct. 30-31 | Kline Gap, W.Va. | Sallie Greenwood (965-4087) |
| Oct. 31 | Camp Lewis, Md. | # (everyone wear black and orange) |
| Nov. 7 | Little Stony Man, Va. | # |
| Nov. 10 | MS Meeting 8 pm
PATC Headquarters | Program to be announced |
| ** Nov. 14 | Training | Rick Todd (439-0672) |
-
- * Lead climbers and experienced seconds only. You should arrange for climbing partners before arriving at destination.
 - ** All training is by appointment. Contact trip leader no later than the preceding Wednesday.
 - *** Combination work and climbing trip. Climbing is for leaders and experienced seconds. No experience necessary for working at Nelson House.
 - # Your help to lead this trip would be appreciated. Call Joe Wagner (966-6379) or Barbara Llewellyn (871-6197).



1718 N St N W
Washington, D. C. 20036



DATED MATTER