



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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### ELECTION

Mountaineering Section officers for 1977 will be elected at the general meeting, December 8. The candidates proposed by the nominations committee are listed below. Additional nominations for any office will be accepted from the floor at the November and December meetings.

#### Chairman

Joe Wagner

#### Vice Chairman

Stan Halpin  
Curt Mobley

#### Secretary

Tom Perry  
Ryan Pierson

#### Treasurer

Ray Kremer  
Charlie Tuten

An MS Swap Meet will be held on Tuesday, November 22 at 7:30 pm, PATC Headquarters. Bring any items you no longer need or want--climbing gear, camping or backpacking equip-

ment, or anything related to climbing or mountaineering--for sale or trade.

A new membership roster will be prepared shortly. Any changes of address or phone should reach the Circulation Manager, UP ROPE, no later than December 31.

The December issue of UP ROPE will be prepared about two weeks later than usual and should be mailed out around the middle of the month.

Those interested in ice climbing this winter should contact Jon Larson, 591-6649. Trips will not be announced in UP ROPE due to variable weather and ice conditions.

The Treasurer reports that the Templeton Cabin fund now stands at \$2245. The Mountaineering Section voted at the last meeting to send the Mohonk Trust a fifty dollar donation.

\*\*\*\*\*

Ropes for Sale: 150' x 11mm Edelrid perlon - \$63. Call Tom McCrumm, 525-6272, weekdays before 10 am or after 10 pm.

Rider wanted to Denver, Colo. on or about December 27, coming back on or about January 19. Call Greg Christopulos, (H) 293-3272; (W) 964-2487.

## 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)

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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 Around

### Wolf Rock, Md. - June 27

On what may have been the last club trip for the foreseeable future to Wolf Rock, a good sized group of climbers straggled out to Wolf Rock, obeyed all of the rules requiring signing in and out, agreed to pay for any Park Service rescues, swore that they would be safe, and otherwise pretended to be good citizens. Many climbs were rigged, pronounced climbable by the majority, and abandoned in favor of harder climbs. Finally Tom M. and Tom Redbeard found an unclimbable line; after they climbed it and named it "Bee's Jam" in honor of the difficult hand-jam involved and they herds of wasps awaiting to "reward" success, everyone else declined the opportunity to try. We folded up our ropes and adjourned to Roy's place. Participants (climbers?) included Ron Yockim, Bill Fite, Jon Larson and friend Robin (why haven't you brought her back again, Jon? The group wasn't that rowdy!), Allen Fishler, Tom Meagher, Tom Redbeard, John Christian, and Jeannie and Stan Halpin

### Shawangunks, N.Y. - July 3-5

The trip began with a minor difficulty in communications which resulted in one climber sitting home waiting for a ride that never came. Everyone else had a pleasant weekend: good weather and few other climbers. James teamed up with a super climber coming out of semi-retirement and did some hard climbs while the rest of us leisurely explored some old favorites. Participants included James Eakin, Bill Fite, Jeannie and Stan Halpin, and John Scott (present in spirit only. Sorry about that!)

Stan Halpin

### Sharkstooth, Rocky Mtn. Nat'l Park, Colorado - July 11-12

(A "club" trip made possible by a fortuitous time-space overlap of the schedules of three members.)

After warming up in Eldorado Canyon on Saturday, Curt Mobley and Stan Halpin were joined by Ann Kruse for a 6:00 am departure Sunday morning from Boulder, Colorado to the Rocky Mountain Nat'l Park. We were still on schedule at 8:00 am when we left the car to begin our walk in past

The Loch and Andrews Glacier to Sharkstooth, but we soon found out that the trail and our speed were less than expected. Periodic rest stops were consumed with discussions of the futility of continuing because of the impossibility of finishing our climb before the afternoon storm. In the absence of clouds, we continued. Still no clouds when we got to the base of our climb at 1:15 pm, so we began what was purported to be a four-pitch "sustained" 5.3. It was well over five pitches, and most of the route was more like a 5.1, but otherwise the guide wasn't too far off. Problems in finding solid belay anchors, and the usual problems of rope management with three climbers combined to slow us down. But never a cloud in the sky! We completed the fifth pitch at about 7:30 pm and faced the decision of doing an additional pitch up the summit ridge to the top (50 feet), where we might be able to find the guide's recommended descent route, or of starting our descent while there was still some light back down over familiar territory. The sun set and the full moon rose as we began the first of five double-rope rappels. We reached the base of the climb at about midnight, much lighter after having left many fixed pins, nuts and slings behind us for rappel anchors. We staggered back down the snow slopes and scree, through the forest, and reached the car about 5:30 am. Luckily Curt's car knew the way back to Boulder, since all three of us slept all of the way back. Still not a cloud in the sky. The only day in a two week period without an afternoon storm. How does Curt arrange these things?

Stan Halpin

Mt. Assiniboine, B.C. - Aug. 1-14  
 Joint Buffalo Mountaineers-PATC  
 Expedition

Under the leadership of Elean Robson of the Buffalo Mountaineers, climbers from Buffalo and Washington, D.C.

traveled to Mt. Assiniboine Provincial Park for two weeks of climbing and sitting out rain. The participants included 6 PATC-ers: John Bremer, James Eakin, Vivian Goldberg, Mark Gunther, Chuck Wettling and Margaret Wettling. In addition, there were Cal Flett of the Buffalo Mountaineers, his friends Danny Granzansky and Mike Boyde, and two former Buffaloes, Dick Rivers and Peter \_\_\_\_\_. Our trip officially started when 12 people and their gear were disgorged from our multifarious vehicles and went their separate ways along the trail. The people went on foot while our gear went by horse. Actually the fun really began the day before when six of us raided the Safeway in Banff. It took two trips to get everything back to the campground. On this first Sunday we hiked 15 miles to Assiniboine Pass (end of the line for the horses!) where we could get our first glimpse of that mountain before shouldering our packs for the remaining 3 miles to our campsite near Macog Lake.

One of the features of the wilderness experience at Assiniboine Park is the well appointed, conveniently located high altitude hut. Six in our group (John, Mike, Cal, Dick, Danny, and Mike) decided to operate from there. These folks reappeared every 3 or 4 days for more food and Coleman fuel. Their adventures included a lot of rainy days spent inside a cozy hut, an unsuccessful attempt on Mt. Assiniboine by Mike, Cal, and Dick, and reading of other climbers' horror stories in the hut log book. Cal and Danny each climbed Mt. Assiniboine on separate occasions when they accompanied other parties. Danny reported rain and finally snow on his trip, while Cal's party took 21 hours to make the climb. The rest of us listened to the reports of rock, ice and snow avalanche, loose rock, unprotectable pitches and decided that although the mountain was falling down, there would be enough of it left to climb some other year.

The high altitude hut was also convenient to Mts. Macog, Strom, Wedgewood and Sturdee.

For those left in base camp there were such comforts as green scenery, live entertainment (gophers assaulting our supplies), a kitchen shelter which kept the rain off our heads but soon became ankle deep in mud (we moved it), and humid tents to spend rainy days in. At least we didn't need an ice axe for the walk to the outhouse. Our adventures included an ascent of Mt. Strom which necessitated a trip up (and down) the access couloir on the Assiniboine headwall. (There is a sign at the foot of the massif which says "The Headwall".) During the descent of the steepest part of the couloir, Vivian slipped but managed to cry "James watch out!" before she whizzed over the spot where James stood a millisecond earlier. James leapt sideways and landed in perfect self-arrest position. That evening, when the rangers made their nightly call, Vivian requested they install a handrail in the couloir.

Two days later the same group (Elean and all the PATC-ers except John) climbed Terrapin. This was going to be an easy day trip; the guide book told of an easy ridge of the SE side and the route up the snow chute and icefield on the north was obvious. We reached the summit at 6 pm. The easy snow couloir (450) terminated in an icefield that required 2 rope lengths and 4 hours to cross. Congratulations to James and Mark on their first ice leads and Vivian turned out to be a quick study on her first ice climb (belayed). The glacier had real crevasses and a Bergschrund. The rock portions were rotten, of course. Since nobody particularly wanted to rappel down the ice pitches on ice screws, we looked for the easy route down. Chuck reconnoitered and concluded that one couldn't get to the guide book route from here. BUT when we climbed

the west ridge we observed that the mountain was sculpted in a series of sloping scree terraces separated by cliffs. If the cliffs were breached with gullies, we could descend that way. Mark went off to explore this possibility and returned a long time later shouting "It goes". We descended into the valley guided by Chuck and a full moon. From Lake Gloria we had 7 miles to go. However this lake had neither a stony beach around its perimeter (unlike Macog) nor a footpath. Instead we got to thrash through pine and juniper trees in all degrees of growth, density and decay. That activity got us really tired and after 2 hours we collapsed in a small clearing. We were grateful for the warm temperatures and lack of rain. Dulled with hunger and fatigue we resumed at 6:30 am, eventually finding a fishermen's foot path. At long last we were on established trails which led back to our camp. Meanwhile our companions became concerned over our long absence and set off to rescue us. They greeted us at Wonder Pass with extra clothes and water, but all we wanted was breakfast. We arrived in camp 32 hours after we left it. Mike and Cal heated up some canned chili; and Esau's long ago action became clear.

The good weather we had on our Terrapin epic was the longest rain-free interval we had. It rained every day after that, which discouraged further adventures. Undaunted, the Wettlings departed for the hut, which was becoming increasingly popular with climbers in the area. The hut was filled to capacity and Margaret reported that it resembled Grand Central Station with all the noisy arrivals and departures in the wee hours of the morning. The other four survivors of Terrapin finally got it together and climbed on the last day. Elean and Vivian did Wedgewood with Danny. James and Mark climbed Sturdee the hard way and were very happy to accompany the Wettlings down the route which they had climbed. Chuck and Margaret climbed Macog the day before, between raindrops.



Everyone returned to base camp by Friday morning to pack up and ferry loads for the trip out the next day. As we arrived at the meadow near Assiniboine Pass where we camped on the last night, we observed the activity of the Alpine Club of Canada erecting their camp. They have entered the machine age since their supplies were brought by helicopter.

The next night we were back in Banff, immersed in the uproar of urbanized living. Sure, we were glad to have a restaurant meal and a hot shower and cars to ride in. But to some degree all of us would have preferred to tarry at that camp on Lake Macog where we could watch Assiniboine Peak wink in and out of the clouds and where one's feet could transport you anywhere you wanted to go.

Vivian Goldberg

#### Boulder, Colorado - Summer 1976

Since the good taxpayers of the MS were kind enough to support a summer's worth of my research at the National Center for Atmospheric Research in Boulder, I felt that the least I could do in repayment would be to provide lodging and guide service for any climber passing through. Boulder has the singular property of lying on all straight lines drawn from D.C. to anywhere out west; thus no one had to go out of his way to visit me.

Stan Halpin stopped by for a weekend on his way home from Arizona at the same time Ann Kruse realized that Boulder was only slightly west of Minneapolis. So off we went to do a short day climb in Rocky Mt. Nat'l Park. Left Boulder 6:00 am. Arrived at base of climb 1:30 pm after Curt's "short hike in--only a couple of miles". No clouds in sight so had to start climbing. Arrived at knife edge summit ridge 7:30 pm after six full pitches of beautiful 5.3. Other side of ridge about 800 feet above the talus and

overhanging all the way. Decided to amuse ourselves by spending the night rappelling off. Back to talus sometime in wee hours after five 150 foot rappels. Tiptoed through forest so as not to awaken sleeping animals. Back to Boulder by 7:00 am. Stan and Ann will be happy to fill in the details of this epic ascent, and I'll be glad to tell you how they graciously allowed me to go first on each rappel.

Next to pass my way were James Eakin, Mark Gunther, John Bremer, and John Scott on their way to Assiniboine. They climbed in the Flatirons and Eldorado Canyon. Then I persuaded Eakin to second me on an aid climb of a huge granit root in Boulder Canyon. By combining four racks I had enough small wired stoppers to do the lead all on nuts. You just can't appreciate the luxury of being able to stand up straight until you've spent a couple of hours scrunched over in etriers squinting into a one-eighth inch wide crack looking for the next placement. It will be a long time before that one goes free. Anyway, it began to rain so we rapped off after one pitch. Routine rope inspection the next day showed that the rope had worn about one fourth of the way through on the lip of the overhang as James cleaned the pitch on Jumars. Very amusing. I wonder if it would have held a good fall on one of the later pitches, which looked like they would go free with long runouts.

Others passing through were Bill Sexton and Celia Greenberg on the way to "anywhere interesting" and Bob Enagonio and Polly Wood on their way to British Columbia.

I managed to get in my share of heavy duty rock climbing in Eldorado and Boulder Canyons as well as several mixed rock and snow peak bagging weekends. I finished off the summer with the mandatory hike up Long's Peak.

Curt Mobley

Little Stony Man, Va. - Aug. 22

When it turned out that we had only four people and two ropes, Vivian decided that we should spend the day practicing lead climbing rather than top-roping. Splitting up the one available rack, Ron and Vivian each did two moderate leads with the "help" of many suggestions from their seconds. Ron and Stan also spent about an hour on an interesting over-hanging boulder problem, but it turned out that Ron didn't have any film in his camera, so all of the mock heroics were wasted. Participating were Ron Yockim, Vivian and Bob Goldberg, and Stan Halpin.

Stan Halpin

Training at Carderock - Sept. 12

Sunday turned out weatherwise to be one of the most pleasant of the month. A lively training session resulted in everyone bagging at least one climb. Training completed, we retired to Trav's to finish the day.

Training was conducted by Tom Prunier, Joe Roseman, and Rick Todd. Completing the beginner's training were: Leo Gurgerty, Ed Freitag, Barbara Berney, Jay Hotchkins, "Bin" Miller, Dan Brandenburg, and Anne Buttenheim.

Rick Todd

Wolf Rock, Md. - Sept. 19

Leo Gurgarty	Ray Kremer
Glenn Holt	Vivian Goldberg
Barbara Llewellyn	James Eakin
Dan Brandenburg	John Arsenault
Chuck Shellhorn	Janet Ainsworth
Jon Larson	Barbara Berney
Ron Yockim	and
Tom Prunier	Neil Arsenault,
Stan Halpin	almost trip
	leader

These are some of the people who would

have gone to Wolf Rock had not the trip been aborted. New Park Service rules for Catocin Mt. Nat'l Park now include:

- no Sunday climbing
- 25 climber limit within park
- climbing between 8:30 am and 5 pm
- check-in and check-out including recording car license plate
- permits issued 5 days or less in advance by phone or in person
- individuals will be billed for any rescue services required

Neil Arsenault

Bull Run, Va. - Oct. 10

General confusion, and a late nite Saturday impairs progress, but does not stop it, and the trip leader arrives at the cliffs last. Brief interest is aroused in the funny fellow taking role call until it is realized he is the "trip leader" and once again serious climbing is resumed. Barbara Llewellyn's graceful ascent of Bull Run Overhang in color-coordinated scarf, sweater, and rope is matched only by Steve Klett's attempt on the same climb barefoot! (Feets don't fail me now.) Glenn Holst demonstrated an ability to remain friendly despite being asked by the trip leader who he was 3 times. Janet Ainsworth put in a good attempt on Charlie's Crack as part of her "come back" program, while Neil Arsenault aborted attempts to lead both the Sofa and Charlie's Crack as part of his "come back" program. (It takes more than cheers and encouragement.)

Great arguing over the pros and cons of doing Snicker Snee vs having lunch or doing nothing. Various techniques were displayed (attempted) for ignoring the stoned-out teens at the top of the cliff.

Watching the sunset, enjoying the excellent sweater weather and good times hopefully had by most included

(continued at bottom of page 7)

## The Summit Register

### CATOCTIN MT. NAT'L PARK AND CLIMBING

#### An Opinion

The abrupt and seemingly arbitrary rules change now in effect at Catoctin can be met by a variety of responses. The PATC/MS itself should actively question the Park Superintendent's conclusions

- that climbers pose a threat to hikers because hikers try to climb themselves without proper equipment or training, or could be hurt while watching climbers either from below by a dislodged rock or from above by the hiker falling off!
- that 25 climbers and an 8:30-5:00 time limit are both safe and desirable.
- that the park needs to charge for rescue.

Have hikers ever been hurt or even almost hurt because of climbers in the park?

Sunday (no climbing) is the park's highest use day and therefore rangers being used elsewhere are "not available to supervise climbers". Do climbers need supervision and are park rangers the people qualified to do it?

Are fishermen charged for search and rescue services required?

In Yosemite, climbers are requested, not required, to register.

At Great Falls Nat'l Park, a much higher use area with much greater climber/tourist contact than Catoctin, the park rangers request that climbers register and feel they do not have the authority to require registration or to deny use of the park to anyone. If you want to climb you can. Period. But if you don't sign up or want to use clothesline, it's up to you. Reasonable. And most climbers comply. I do.

At Harper's Ferry Nat'l Park a special act of Congress requires registration for climbers on Maryland Heights. I register. The rangers sometimes inquire into competence and try to require helmets; however, rangers again have no authority to regulate climbers. If you want to climb barefoot and with clothesline you can. They won't be happy, but they can't stop you. If you register. I find myself forced to remind them that I can climb without a helmet. Which I don't. But I do register.

My personal reaction to the new rules at Catoctin is I doubt the Superintendent's authority to enforce these rules. Unless there is reasonable cooperation between park authorities and climbers to rectify these rules, when I climb at Wolf Rock I will not register. I will climb on Sundays. I will climb at Chimney Rock (which is closed) as well as Wolf Rock. I will not wear a helmet. I want no rescue.

This is my own very personal reaction to authoritarianism, put forward for other climber's opinion. I meet reason with reason, cooperation with cooperation, authoritarianism with resistance. The consequences are mine also.

Neil Arsenault

(cont'd from page 6)

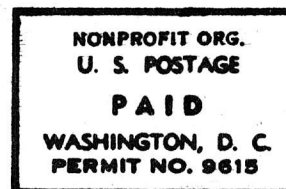
such individuals as:

Ann Kruse  
Barbara Berney  
Barbara Llewellyn  
George French  
Glenn Holst  
Janet Ainsworth  
Joe McDermott  
Curt Mobley  
Leith Wayne  
Neil Arsenault  
Pete Grand  
Steve Klett  
and  
John Arsenault,  
trip leader

## Climber's Calendar

- |               |                                      |  |
|---------------|--------------------------------------|--|
| Nov. 7        | Little Stony Man, Va.                | Joe Wagner (966-6379)                                |
| Nov. 10       | MS Meeting 8 pm<br>PATC Headquarters | Program to be announced                              |
| ** Nov. 14    | Training                             | Rick Todd (439-0672)                                 |
| ++ Nov. 20-21 | Wolf Gap, W.Va.                      | Neil Arsenault (965-4510)                            |
| Nov. 22       | Swap Meet<br>7:30 pm PATC Hq         | See page 1 for details                               |
| * Nov. 25-28  | Shawangunks, N.Y.                    | Tom Prunier (665-6942)                               |
| Nov. 28       | Annapolis Rocks, Md.                 | James Eakin (598-6047)                               |
| *** Dec. 4-5  | Seneca Rocks, W.Va.                  | Stan Halpin (340-2593)                               |
| + Dec. 5      | Harper's Ferry, W.Va.                | John Arsenault (949-0970)                            |
| Dec. 8        | MS Meeting 8 pm<br>PATC Headquarters | Combined slides of Assiniboine, B.C.,<br>summer 1976 |
| Dec. 12       | Training                             | Rick Todd (439-0672)                                 |
| Dec. 19       | Bull Run, Va.                        | Ray Kremer (656-0132)                                |
| Dec. 26       | Sugarloaf, Md.                       | Barbara Llewellyn (871-6197)                         |
- 
- \* 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.
  - + Bring lead gear and hard hat. Leaders and experienced seconds encouraged to come.
  - ++ Combined one day and weekend trip. PATC cabin has been reserved for Friday and Saturday nights.

*Up Rope*  
1718 N St NW  
Washington, D. C. 20036



DATED MATTER

*Nov. 1976*