



FOUNDED BY
JAN AND HERB CONN

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

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Page 1

SENECA ROCKS

John Stannard

John Christian has relinquished some of his duties for the Mountaineering Section with regards to Seneca Rocks, and I have been asked to help. Presently we are asking members of the Section for help, and we are trying similarly to enlist the aid of other groups and individuals who are interested in the Spruce Knob-Seneca Rocks NRA and Seneca Rocks itself. The Forest Service will soon make available for its last public comment, the Draft Land Use Plan for the Monongahela National Forest and the NRA. This will be the public's LAST OPPORTUNITY TO INFLUENCE THE PLAN FOR THE NRA, MOUTH OF SENECA, and SENECA ROCKS.

Short of active interest by a large number of people and a large number of clubs, I see no way for us to affect what is planned for the NRA and for Mouth of Seneca. In the past the Section objected long and strenuously to the plan to construct a Class A Trail (suitable for use by 2-3 wheeled vehicles) to the North Peak of Seneca Rocks. That plan was abandoned but only after a fatal

fall by a sightseer convinced the Forest Service such a trail could have serious consequences. Presently the Section is responding to a Forest Service suggestion that two coin operated telescopes be installed at the Visitor Center so that the climbers to be featured in a Visitor Center exhibit may also be observed in action. I am not sanguine as to the outcome of even this.

About a year from now the Visitor Center should become operational to one degree or another. The Forest Service is considering closing to camping at that time the areas around both the Visitor Center and Roy Gap Road. This will reduce greatly the camping area available to hikers, climbers, cavers, fishermen, etc. Buck Harper is presently trying to resolve difficulties with the Pavilion, but it appears he will have to make sizeable expenditures. It is possible that even the Pavilion area may be closed down in the near future.

(continued on page 3)

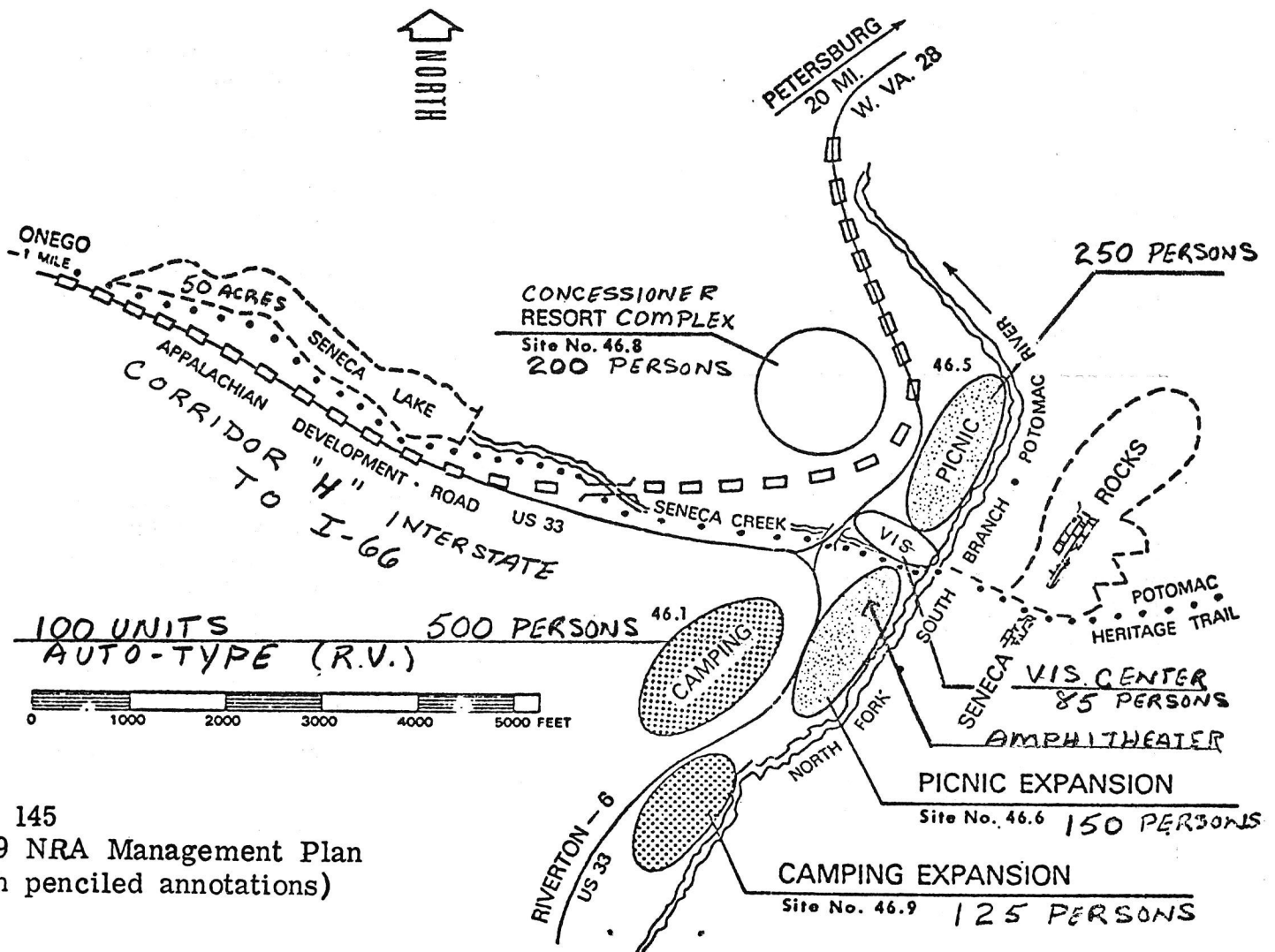
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UP ROPE is the monthly newsletter of the Mountaineering Section (MS) of the Potomac Appalachian Trail Club (PATC) of Washington, D.C. Editorial contributions, letters and comments are welcome, and should be sent to Editor, UP ROPE, 802 New Mark Esplanade, 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

SENECA ROCKS RECREATION COMPLEX



Seneca Rocks, continued

The long term prospect, as determined by the Forest Service Plan mentioned above, is not much better. The 1969 Forest Service Plan calls for up to 1400 people at one time to use the Seneca Rocks Recreation Complex which is to be developed around Mouth of Seneca. Of this number:

- 625 will be auto-type (recreational vehicle) campers
- 400 will be sightseers driving for pleasure and picnicking
- 200 will be guests at a resort complex to be built by a private concessioner on the bench just north of the town
- 85 will be in the Visitor Center

According to the Forest Service Plan only 90 people will be engaged in the pursuits of:

Hunting	Nature Study
Canoeing	Caving
Stream Fishing	Climbing
Photography	Hiking

Because the Plan calls for so few people to be engaged in pursuits other than recreational vehicle camping, picnicking and auto-driving, there is no plan for a camping area designed for the use of these "Other" people. They are to share a 100 unit (500 person) campground specifically designed for trailers and recreational vehicles.

In light of the recreational priorities contained in this plan, we understand why the Forest Service has not been more receptive to suggestions made by the Mountaineering Section. The plan for the area is simply not constructed to suit the needs of we the people who are presently the major users of the area. The plan is constructed to meet the needs of the sightseers, picnickers, RV campers, and resort complex guests who are expected to come to the area when the development program has been completed. (In 1969, when this

program was approved, its projected cost was 23.5 million dollars.)

This 1969 plan has never really been exposed to comment by the public. The recreational priorities contained in it were calculated by the Forest Service without benefit of specific and direct public input. And short of very real interest by the public NOW, that plan for the NRA, for Mouth of Seneca, and for Seneca Rocks, will proceed largely as it was constituted in 1969.

THE MOUNTAINEERING SECTION OF THE PATC HAS DONE ALL THAT IT CAN. NOW IT IS UP TO YOU.

What can you do?

1. As soon as possible, write Ralph Mumme, Forest Supervisor, Monongahela National Forest, Box 1231, Elkins, WV 26241. Ask for a copy of the Revised Draft Land Use Plan for the Monongahela National Forest.
2. Write John Stannard, 13003 Daley St., Silver Spring, MD 20906, enclosing 24¢ in postage. Ask for additional information on the 1969 NRA Management Plan. (Copies of this plan are not available.)
3. Study these documents and send your comments to Supervisor Mumme. And send a copy of your letter to John Stannard if possible so that we will be able to get an idea as to what is going on.

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

WANTED. . .photographs for UP ROPE. Prefer black and white but can print from color photos if they have good contrast.

Belay Ledge

If anyone is interested in a February trip to Mt. Washington for ice climbing or a summer trip to Baffin Island, N.W.T., Canada (see Oct. '76 Off Belay), contact Tom McKenna, 972-8739.

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

Joseph C. Roseman
5618 Bloomfield Dr., #204
Alexandria, Va. 22312
256-5276

Mark L. Amberg
1318 Stateside Drive
Silver Spring, Md. 20903
434-7808

Due to a partnership contracted on November 6 between Stevie Smith and Joe Ney, UP ROPE is now being edited by Stevie Ney.

Membership list changes:

Ann Kruse, 5700 N. 11th St., Apt. 1,
Arlington, Va. 22205; home
phone 533-8253

Greg Christopulos, work phone
566-2832

Joe Ney, 802 New Mark Esplanade,
Rockville, Md. 20850; home
phone 762-7311

Equipment Notes



Hanging Around

Training at Carderock - Oct. 17

A cold, grey, rainy morning managed to turn most people away from climbing. However, Doug Peterson, Marion Ratliff, Bill Shonered and I met at Carderock with hopes that the rain would stop. It didn't. After discussing the various possibilities, we decided to have an outdoor classroom session under the pavilion. The session covered all the basics except for rappelling (including belaying one another across the pavilion). A rather unorthodox training session, I suppose, but one that turned out to be comprehensive and productive. Hopefully, the weather will be better next time.

Rick Todd

From Other Peaks

The American Alpine Club's Mountaineering Fellowship Committee is accepting applications for grants from young climbers, generally under age 26, participating in expeditionary mountaineering ventures. Grants will be awarded to individuals depending upon excellence of the proposed project, evidence of mountaineering experience, and need for funds.

Research grants will be made to those engaged in research into the alpine environment. The funds may also be used to assist in publication or other dissemination of the results of such research.

Application forms for Mountaineering Fellowship and Research grants are available from the American Alpine Club, 113 East 90th Street, New York, N.Y. 10028. Requests should specify which type of form is wanted. Applications must be received before March 1, 1977; awards will be announced in May.

Trying to Climb in Europe

With a 22-day charter flight and a Eurail pass we tried to concoct a mixture of socializing, a few scientific meetings and some climbing in Scotland, Switzerland, and Austria. Thanks to the weather, we wound up doing just fine on the scientific meetings, heard a lot of music (like the Flying Dutchman in Vienna), hiked a bunch, and stared at clouds where people said there was a Jungfrau, a Matterhorn, etc.

Visiting some of Jim's friends near Glasgow we met Dick Sommerfeld (U.S. Forest Service, Ft. Collins, Colo.), our backpacking burro-driving buddy from many miles in the Colorado high country. Off to Ft. William and the 7-hour haul up Ben Nevis, highest point in the British Isles. A bit of rain, punishing wind, slightly ripped tent--we got off too late to go up and back the same day, no chance to use a climbing route, so we took the hikers' trail, and solid fog for the last 1,000 feet--no view of Loch Ness just below. Ben Lomond, by the Loch of the same name, is strictly a hike and pretty muddy, too. The fog opened up for about 90 seconds as we reached the summit; nice view but awfully short.

The highest point in Germany outside the Bavarian Alps is the Feldberg, just outside Freiburg im Breisgau. Dick was back in London by now, but Chief Jim Kolb of the Los Angeles Fire Department hiked up with us. Then we were off to Bern, Geneva, Zurich, and Vienna for a couple of meetings, and lots of disappointment. June says that after two separate trips to Switzerland totalling almost three weeks, without seeing a single mountain, she no longer believes they exist. Jim has seen them all often, but this time sitting in Zermatt was dull. Better luck next time.

One bit of coincidence came as Jim was inspecting the newest Austrian civil defense blast and fallout shelter. Walter Knesick, the young engineer in charge, said he had just been in the U.S. When? Oh, he had been on Mt. McKinley at 10,000 when Sallie's group went through the tragedy at 14,000. Small world, indeed.

June Lehman, Jim Kerr

Publications

Alpine Information - Monthly Report for Mountaineers made its debut in December. Published by MS member Joe Wagner, the report provides concise, up-to-date information on international climbing--expeditions, new ascents, area profiles including access, climate and political considerations, reference literature, contacts (both people and organizations), and assorted other items of interest to mountaineers. Available by subscription at \$24 per year (12 issues) from J. H. Wagner, P.O. Box 4875, Washington, D.C. 20008. Sample issue sent on request.

The Summit Register

To whom it may concern,

Just a note to let you know what and enjoyable, instructive experience I had with Rick Todd. As a beginner to the field of rockclimbing, I wanted to learn correctly and safely. While we had fun, Rick continually stressed the importance of "doing it right."


Your program is invaluable, and I appreciate it. Hope to join in future endeavors. And again, my appreciation to Rick.

Sincerely,

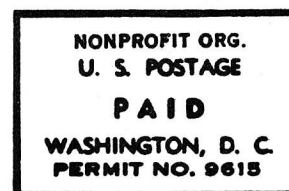
Douglas E. Peterson

Climber's Calendar

- | | | |
|----------------|--|--|
| Dec. 19 | Bull Run, Va. | Ray Kremer (656-0132) |
| Dec. 26 | Sugarloaf, Md. | Barbara Llewellyn (871-6197) |
| <u>1977</u> | | |
| * Jan. 1-2 | Seneca Rocks, W.Va. | # |
| Jan. 2 | Cupid's Bower, Md. | # |
| Jan. 9 | Great Falls, Va. | # |
| Jan. 12 | MS Meeting 8 pm
PATC Headquarters | Preventive Search and Rescue: slide
program of Nat'l Park Services'
VISITOR PROTECTION concept at
Great Falls |
| ** Jan. 16 | Training | Rick Todd (439-0672) |
| *** Jan. 22-23 | Old Rag, Va. | # |
| Jan. 29-30 | Nelson Rocks, W.Va.
Work Trip | # |
| Jan. 30 | Purple Horse, Md. | # |
| ????? | Ice climbing
Ice and weather permitting | Jon Larson (591-6649) |
-
- * 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.
- *** Combined one day and weekend trip.
- # Your help to lead this trip would be appreciated. Call Joe Wagner (966-6379) or Barbara Llewellyn (871-6197).



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DATED MATTER