

FOUNDED BY
JAN AND HERB CONN

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

1718 N Street, N.W. Washington DC 20036

Volume 32 Number 1

January 1977

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What: John Roskelley's Nanda Devi Climb

When: Thursday, February 3 - 8 pm

Where: Bethesda-Chevy Chase High School Auditorium - \$2.00 admission

The Mountaineering Section and PATC will jointly sponsor a lecture and slide show by John Roskelley about his trip to Nanda Devi this past summer.

"Nanda Devi, 25645 feet or 7816 meters, was climbed by a new and extremely difficult route on September 1, 1976, when Dr. Louis Reichardt, John Roskelley and Dr. James States reached the summit via the north ridge from a sixth high camp at 24,000 feet.... The recent climb is far and away the most difficult route achieved by Americans in the Himalaya." (Excerpted from Off Belay, December 1976.)

Chairman's Corner

Margaret Wettling will be taking the chairmanship of the section at the January meeting. Good luck, Margaret. I'm afraid I left her with a three-page list of on-going projects from Catoctin to Monongahela to Templeton Cabin.

As Joe Jensen wrote in his last Chairman's Corner, he owed a lot of thank you's. The same goes for this chairman. There is a corps within the section that appears to create a continuum that is the club for climbers in this area. Stevie Ney as editor of Up Rope, Joe Wagner heading up the trip committee, Rick Todd and Joe Ney with training, John Stannard shouldering the burden of Seneca and the Forest Service, Barbara Llewellyn with programs at meetings, Greg Christopulos and Jean Sproull who have kept us financially aware. Those who have helped with the Nelson House - Chuck Sproull, Stan Halpin and Curt Mobley. And so it goes through the roster. Thank you.

When I was elected chairman, I figured I would be giving something back to climbing, namely my time. I found that the job is time consuming. It can also be intimidating. It is always a challenge to one who is by nature a champion procrastinator. In the face of it all, it is ultimately rewarding.

I've enjoyed it.

Over to you, Margaret.

Sallie Greenwood

PATC MOUNTAINEERING SECTION

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Vice Chairman

Stan Halpin (340-2593)

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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. Send subscriptions and address changes to Circulation Manager, UP ROPE, 1718 N St., N.W., Washington, D.C. 20036

At Base Camp

New MS Officers - The election of Mountaineering Section officers for 1977 was held at the December meeting with the following results:

Chairman - Margaret Wettling

Vice Chairman - Stan Halpin

Secretary - Ryan Pierson

Treasurer - Ray Kremer

Congratulations to all. And thanks to outgoing officers Joe Wagner and Jean Sproull, and especially to Sallie Greenwood for her superb job the past two years.

Hanging Around

Bull Run, Va. - Aug. 29 and
Kline Gap, W. Va. - Oct. 30-31

Among the responsibilities of a trip leader - buried somewhere in the list after "bring 'em back alive," arranging carpools, and locating the best eatery in the vicinity of the trip, is something about writing a trip report for UP ROPE. Not wanting to set a poor example of trip leadership, I submit the following in order to clear my conscience for the new year, keep the UP ROPE editor happy by having news to print, and to satisfy that delight we all have, to see our names in print.

'Twas a Sunday in August. The trip was to Bull Run. Remember? The day was just right and the legions gathered. Twenty people in all. We would have had more but some chickened out, Barbara Llewellyn, because they thought it would be too hot.

Chuck Wettling rigged something called Two Inches More while the rest of the usual climbs were rigged. Since August was awhile ago I'll only give you my impressions - not necessarily the facts. Quite a few people worked on the climb -- several made it among whom were John Christian, Chuck and Margaret, James Eakin, Mike Hill. Mighty efforts that I remember: Vivian Goldberg, Ron Yokim, and Stan Reeves.

Tom Prunier belayed a number of people who were new to the area or have only recently begun to discover the wonders of Bull Run: Lee Flame, Joe McDermott, Chip Vernon, Skip Henderson, and John Boren.

Charlie's Crack was rigged, too. Lovely climb; combines the best of both worlds: esthetics and a nice swing should you fall. Much pumping iron on this climb - that's for those of us who don't make it; those who do make it, make it look

effortless. James made it. Did Mark Gunther or Mike Ball do it, or Stan Halpin, or Charlie Tooten, or Mike Hill?

We brought out bags and bags of garbage, being the good folk we are. Somehow we need to have Lady Bird's Beautify America campaign rerun. Seems to be a new generation around that isn't familiar with our new ethic.

So, while I'm tidying up the odds and ends of 1976, I'll report too on the Kline Gap, West Virginia of Halloween. Six of us showed up Saturday morning which threatened rain. Ann Kruse and Curt Mobley were off and away before the rest of us got organized. We followed their progress by the occasional thunder and crash of rocks hitting the scree and underbrush as Curt cleaned the climb.

Stan Halpin and Margaret Wettling climbed in the vicinity of Curt and Ann's climb while Ron Yokim and I were on a nice face to the left and around the corner. (How's that for precise route description.)

The climb I lead is potentially a nice route. It was going pretty much straight up: an overhang, a crack, an overhang, a crack (wasp occupied), when a call from Ron told me I was about at the end of my rope (which wasn't news to me.) I'd known that for the past five minutes, but it necessitated one of those strenuous traverses. Strenuous not because of the climbing but because suddenly what had been a nice, direct route jogged off at a right angle. After much muttering about route finding, hauling by tooth, nail, and eyelash, I tied myself to a tree to enjoy watching Ron follow. What is it that leaders find satisfying about watching their second struggle? Perversity? Heh, heh.

At any rate, we made it. The skies opened and the lichen became slippery squeegees. Ron and I made our way back

to camp to join Curt and Ann and to watch Stan and Margaret finish their climb. There we stood: four reasonably intelligent people getting soaking wet while two others paddled their way through wet lichen and deepening twilight.

Finally, we retired to respective tents to cook and get hot water and soup ready for Stan and Margaret, who wasted no time at all getting in out of the wet.

We bailed out the next morning. The Kline Gap mouse population had had a field day during the night by sampling webbing, shoes, helmets and by-passing slightly used tea bags, old onions, and orange peels.

Kline Gap is a good area. Climbs have been put in and named; but let's forget a guidebook. Let's keep it clean. The folks who own the land across which we have to walk are the Kirbeys. Should you go there, do check in with them - just courtesy.

Sallie Greenwood

Training at Carderock - Nov. 14

A bright sunny day seemed to overcome the stiff breeze, setting a fine atmosphere for training. An interested group of students climbed various routes until darkness settled in. James Eakin instructed Robert Dudley in the secondary course. Other instructors were Joe Roseman, Bill Thomas, and Rick Todd.

Completing training were:

Basic - Janet Young, Jean Mitchell,
Tom Januszewski, Eileen Tizcinski,
Rob Zeverka, Curt Hemly, Doug
Peterson

Secondary - Robert Dudley

Rick Todd

Search and Rescue Symposium

Damascus, Maryland, Saturday November 20, Joe Wagner, Jim Thresher and Sallie Greenwood attended a gathering of people involved in SAR. What's an SAR?

SAR is Search and Rescue. The others who were at the meeting were from the Civil Air Patrol, local police, Maryland Department of Resources personnel, Park Service personnel, Maryland State Police, and so on.

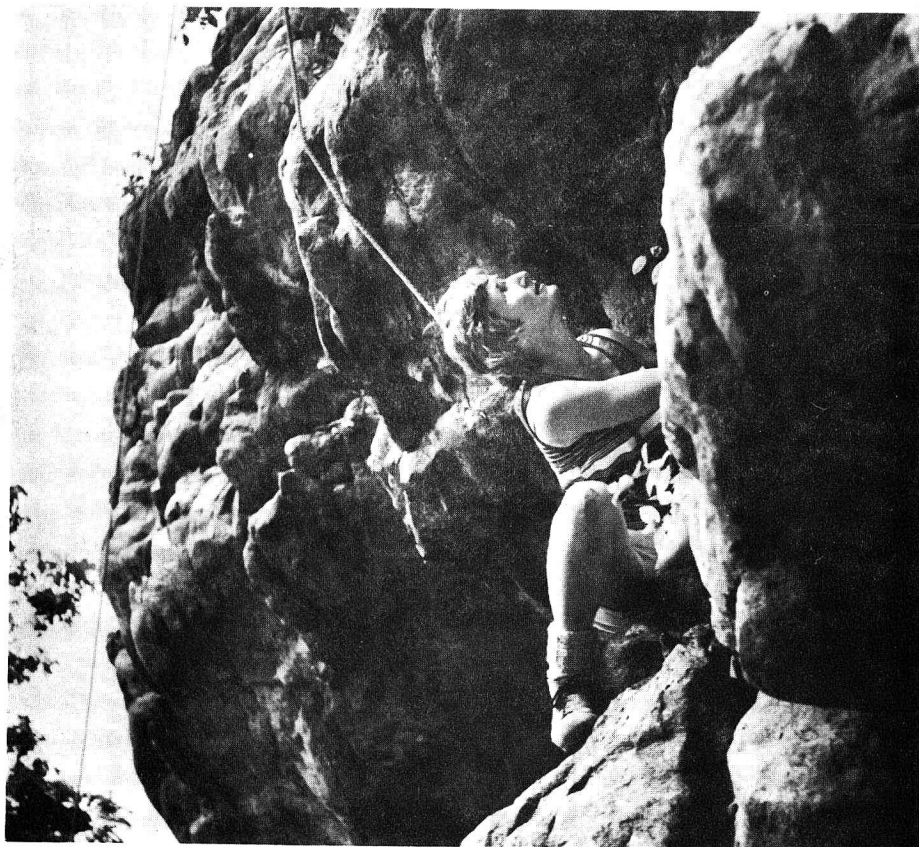
Most of the people were concerned with land search, though one of the interesting panels was on marine search with all of the intricacies of floaters, sinkers, and drifters. It may sound a bit callous to speak in these terms but it appears that most of the examples of search situations involved bodies.

How is any of this applicable to our situation? Mostly to resolve

not to become part of the problem: ie. a victim that would require calling any of these people out. And should it be necessary, know who to contact for help. All of this led to the conclusion that we should follow through on our efforts to make a listing of necessary phone numbers and phone locations at the various areas where we climb. The second point would be to take advantage of the expertise of the Appalachian Search and Rescue group that is associated with PATC to teach us what they know about rescue on vertical terrain. A meeting of the minds might be arranged, too, to include situations where there are but one or two climbers around to effect an orderly, safe, and rapid rescue.

We should think of holding such a meeting as part of the trip leader seminar. Over to you, Margaret.

Sallie Greenwood



Margaret Wettling
at
Annapolis Rocks

Photo by Jim Thresher

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Recently, climbing has become very popular. However, climbing is just a segment of mountaineering, which has evolved into a sport of its own. Many people interested in learning the techniques of mountaineering and/or climbing turn towards this organization. Having been climbing for only three years, I still can remember a lot of the questions I had when I first started. I hope to provide some answers for those people who have recently entered into the sport.

The initial encounter is generally Instruction in Basic Techniques and/or Top Rope Climbing - a far cry from icy summits or windswept faces, but most people do have aspirations of participating in a multi-pitch type climb. The time comes when one feels she/he is ready to move on to learn the techniques of lead climbing. I'm sure many people wonder how long they have to climb before they can learn and participate in lead and multi-pitch climbing. An excerpt from Royal Robbins' Basic Rockcraft seems to provide an answer:

"After learning and practicing the techniques of belaying and climbing, you are ready to apply them on an extended route. You must have a reliable, competent leader, and you must understand belaying and have had sufficient practice so that doing it properly is automatic. Although the leader is not likely to fall, he could, so his life - and yours, if you don't stop him - is in your hands."

In my opinion, Royal Robbins brings up some excellent points. Two key words in this excerpt are "practice" and "automatic." More questions: How much practice is sufficient? When does one do things automatically? These questions can only be answered by the individuals concerned. As

Chairman of the Training Committee, I would like anyone interested in lead climbing to give serious thought to these questions. In light of the fact that climbing requires at least two people (with the exception of solo climbing), when answering these questions, also ask yourself if you are ready to assume responsibility for someone else's life, as well as your own. Climbing is a team effort. A mistake in judgment could result in a serious, if not fatal, injury. Climbing is nothing; climbing safely is everything.

Now comes the age-old question: If you need experience before you can participate in multi-pitch climbing, how do you get experience? My answer to that is that this is achieved by being sincere and patient and forming good habits through observing and working with competent climbers. To improve one's climbing ability is not just a matter of mastering physical techniques. In fact, the more I climb, the more I realize that climbing is as much, if not more, a matter of mental proficiency.

Climbing is done one step at a time, whether it be trudging up a summit ridge or scrambling up Beginner's Crack. When one starts to climb faster, trying to skip steps, one is increasing the risk of an accident. After all, reaching the top is not all that counts; climbing safely without mishaps and being able to climb again IS!

Rick Todd

Belay Ledge

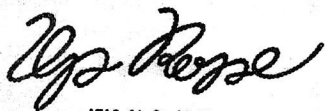
John Fetvedt has two of his photographs appearing in the December issue of Off Belay; one is a view of Black Diamond Mountain in the Southern Purcells, B.C. and the other shows Steve Williams climbing at Seneca Rocks.

Membership list change: James M. Thresher, 1342 Windy Hill Rd., McLean, Va. 22101; phone 821-2387

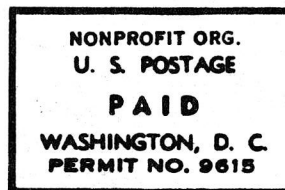
Climber's Calendar

- | | | |
|----------------|---|---|
| Jan. 12 | MS Meeting 8 pm
PATC Headquarters | Preventive Search and Rescue program
- Nat'l Park Service, Great Falls |
| ** Jan. 16 | Training | Rick Todd (439-0672) |
| *** Jan. 22-23 | Old Rag, Va. | Rick Todd (439-0672) |
| Jan. 29-30 | Nelson Rocks, W.Va. | # (work trip) |
| Jan. 30 | Purple Horse, Md. | # |
| Feb. 3 | Bethesda-Chevy Chase High
School, 8 pm. \$2.00 | Slide lecture by John Roskelley
on Nanda Devi (see page 1) |
| Feb. 6 | Great Falls, Va. | # |
| Feb. 9 | MS Meeting 8 pm
PATC Headquarters | "Abyss" - Filmed reenactment of a climb
(and 130' fall) in the Dolomites |
| ** Feb. 13 | Training | Rick Todd (439-0672) |
| * Feb. 19-21 | Chapel Pond, N.Y. | Greg Christopulos (293-3272) |
| Feb. 20 | Sugarloaf, Md. | # |
-
- * Ice climbing and cross-country skiing.
- ** 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).

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



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DATED MATTER