

FOUNDED BY
JAN AND HERB CONN

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

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Chairman's Corner

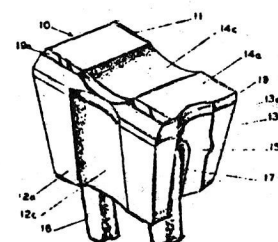
Thank you, Sallie. As I said before, yours is going to be a hard act to follow but I'll do my best. Thank you for the many hours of hard work I know you have put in in the past two years. I hope now you will have a chance to catch up on some of those "spare time" activities.

From my efforts as Nominating Committee Chairman (and as a result of which I am now somewhat embarrassed to end up as Section Chairman) I am concerned about the relatively few enrolled members PATC/MS has compared to the numbers who go through our training sessions, attend our weekend meets and our monthly business and social evenings. How can we encourage more folks to join PATC/MS and become more involved in the club from which, we hope, they receive considerable help, guidance, encouragement and, above all, pleasure. Any ideas anyone?

Margaret Wettling

Climbers, being of a single-minded disposition, tend to have a vocabulary limited to a few words of climbers' jargon and a number of

expletives (usually undeleted). This creates problems when climbers attempt to explain to their mothers and other concerned persons exactly what it is they do on those rocks. Explaining the nature and function of equipment such as chocks is particularly difficult. As a public service to climbers experiencing this problem, the United States Patent Office has graciously provided the following lucid description of chocks:



1. A mountaineering chock comprising: a rigid body having an aperture for accommodating a runner, a bottom surface, said runner aperture opening on said bottom surface, at least one pair of opposed external working surfaces tapering towards said bottom surface for engaging a rock formation, and at least one non-superficial concave surface portion formed in the lateral midsection of at least one of said opposed working surfaces for saddling a rock formation, said non-superficial concave surface portion being distinct from said runner aperture, the general centerline of said non-superficial concave surface portion having a substantially upright orientation in the direction of the taper of the working surface in which it is formed whereby said concave surface portion restricts the lateral displacement of the chock from the saddled rock formation.

(Thanks to Ann Kruse for this enlightenment.)

PATC MOUNTAINEERING SECTION

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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

Belay Ledge

Phil Eddy received the following letter from Rob Corruccini, and would like to share it with the Section:

Dear Phil,

...After a rough time in Durham I moved here to Boulder and was lucky enough to land a good-paying job as a sort of administrator for a fellow who has a fat contract from NASA to recruit experiments for the Space Shuttle. Its a strange change from anthropology but has worked out well. Naturally I have been climbing a lot, some of them routes on the Flatirons (1500' long).

I would like to extend an invitation to you to come climbing here if you ever have the chance to drop by on a business trip or whatever - it's a great area. Extend that invitation also to any other of the club members you happen to talk to.

Thanks again for writing. Best regards,

Sincerely,

Rob Corruccini
785 Flagstaff Rd.
Boulder, CO 80302

At Base Camp

The Section voted to increase fees for non-members staying at Nelson House. The new fee per night is:

Weekdays:	Members	\$.50
	Non-members	\$1.00

Weekends:	Members	\$1.00
	Non-members	\$2.00

208 copies of the new Seneca Guide have been sold, producing \$227 in dividends for the PATC Seneca Guide Fund.

The Revised Draft Land Use Plan for the Monongahela National Forest should be out around April. Write for a copy and send back your comments: Ralph Mumme, Forest Supervisor, Monongahela National Forest, Box 1231, Elkins, WV 26241.

The new footbridge at Seneca has been completed.

The American Alpine Club has established a chapter in the Washington, D.C. area. Named the Blue Ridge Section, its officers are Chairman Joe Wagner, Vice Chairman Sallie Greenwood, and Secretary/Treasurer Phil Cardon.

From Other Peaks

PRESIDENT'S SPORTS AWARD TO CLIMBERS

The eleven members of the American Bicentennial Everest Expedition (ABEE) were honored with the President's Sports Award in January. It is the first time since the President's Council on Physical Fitness and Sports was set up in 1970 that this recognition was awarded in the category of climbing.

Dr. Chris Chandler and Bob Cormack who reached the summit of Mt. Everest on 8 October 1975, and the expedition's leader, Phil Trimble, were present at a Washington press reception on 6 January when they received the Presidential certificate and embroidered insignia. On behalf of President Ford, the three expedition representatives were handed the award by Rep. John M. Murphy (Dem-NY) and C. Carson Conrad, Executive Director of the President's Council on Physical Fitness and Sports.

The expedition was endorsed by the American Alpine Club and also included Arlene Blum, Hans Bruyntjes, Dr. Dee Crouch, Dan Emmett, Frank Morgan, Rick Ridgeway, Barbara and Gerry Roach.

The Washington reception was also the stage for the national press presentation by CBS Television Network of its hour-long spectacular "To the Top of the World: Assault on Mount Everest."

The expedition had been able to interest CBS TV in its mountaineering venture and was accompanied by Ed Goren, Mike Hoover and their six-man film crew. It was probably the most expensive sports coverage CBS had engaged in and in the network's words was "the most exciting adventure CBS Sports Spectacular has ever followed."

(MS members Joe Wagner, who wrote this report for the American Alpine Club,

and Sallie Greenwood attended the reception. Honoree Phil Trimble is also an MS member.)

Dear Section Members:

Thank you, on behalf of the Trustees, for your recent gift of \$50 to the Mohonk Trust. As more new friends recognize the need for The Trust's work, our sense of responsibility increases.

Our newsletter will keep you informed of recent accomplishments and hopes for the future. The Trust was founded, almost fourteen years ago, as an experiment in "practical idealism." The founders were optimistic men and women, but The Trust has received support beyond our expectations. Over 5,000 acres of Mohonk land have now been set aside for permanent preservation; many projects are under way in environmental education and scientific research; and the Mohonk tradition of fostering international understanding is being carried forward.

To be part of this work is our privilege, and we are glad to have you join us.

Sincerely,

/s/ Dan Smiley
For the Trustees

My thanks too.

Brad Snyder

Wolf Rock, Md. - Tom Meagher reports that Catoctin Superintendent McFadden is very concerned with the ecological and environmental impact on the area and with damage caused partly by exceptionally large groups, which prompted the closing of Wolf Rock to climbers on Sundays. He is, however, open to suggestions for other measures of conservation. The MS will prepare a letter suggesting limited group size and requesting reopening of the rocks to Sunday climbing.

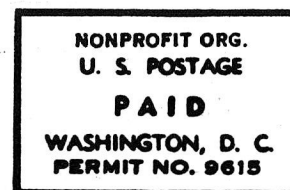
Climber's Calendar

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|---------------------------|--------------------------------------|---|
| 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
Feb. 20 | Chapel Pond, N.Y.
Sugarloaf, Md. | Greg Christopulos (293-3272)
Sallie Greenwood (965-4087) |
| Feb. 27 | Camp Lewis, Md. | # |
| Mar. 6 | Corkscrew, Va. | # |
| Mar. 9 | MS Meeting 8 pm
PATC Headquarters | Program to be announced |
| ** Mar. 13 | Training | Rick Todd (439-0672) |
| *** Mar. 19-20
Mar. 20 | Seneca Rocks, W.Va.
Bull Run, Va. | #
|
| Mar. 27 | Harper's Ferry, Md. | # |
-
- * Ice climbing and cross-country skiing.
 ** All training is by appointment only. 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).

FOR SALE: Two Salewa wart hogs, \$6. (EMS sells new for \$8.50.) Call Greg Christopulos, (H) 293-3272; (W) 566-2832.



1718 N St N W
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DATED MATTER