

FOUNDED BY
JAN AND HERB CONN

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Page 1

Chairman's Corner

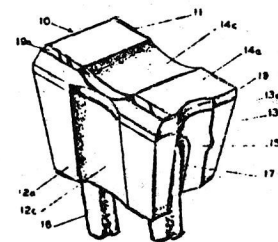
Thank you, Sallie. As I said before, yours is going to be a hard act to follow but I'll do my best. Thank you for the many hours of hard work I know you have put in in the past two years. I hope now you will have a chance to catch up on some of those "spare time" activities.

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.)