

FOUNDED BY
JAN AND HERB CONN

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

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At Base Camp

Seneca Rocks

The last issue of UP ROPE carried a note written by myself concerning the Land Use Plan for the Monongahela National Forest as it applies to Seneca Rocks. The tone of that note was not encouraging.

We have now had a chance to examine the Revised Draft Land Use Plan for the Monongahela National Forest, and we find there is in fact a great deal about which to be encouraged. The revised draft Land Use Plan addresses all of the comments we made during the public comment portion of its public review.

As a result, I feel we should support this plan fully. And along with other users of the Forest contribute as best we can to the up-coming Unit Planning Process.

John Stannard

Seneca Fund - The Section voted to donate \$200 from the Seneca Fund to the Franklin-Circleville Rescue Squad.

A Trip Leader Workshop will be held on Wednesday, March 23, 8 pm, at PATC Headquarters. (See calendar.)

Adirondack Rock Climbing - The Adirondacks could become one of the great rock climbing areas in the East. The rock is firm, granitic I believe, with faces offering climbs of 6 rope lengths not uncommon. Some of the rock faces are what the locals call "slides" and are friction climbs. There are many faces scattered throughout the Adirondacks. Some are adjacent to roads while others may be miles from a road.

One of the local climbers mentioned a few favorites: both sides of the Pitchoff Mountain between Lake Placid and Keene, and Wallface Mountain at Indian Pass (about 5 miles SW of Adirondak Loj). The faces coming down into Avalanche Lake (S of Adirondak Loj) were very impressive: about 1/2 mile long and about 800 feet high. Fritz Wiessner many years ago put up a route here.

There are 2 guidebooks to the area. The "Mountaineer" climbing shop near Chapel Pond is well stocked and will provide rock climbing information.

For the adventuresome climber interested in putting up new routes far from the maddening crowd, the Adirondacks could well be worth the effort.

John Christian

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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

Chairman's Corner

On Saturday, 12th February, 5 PATC-MS members - Ray and Meg Kremer, Greg Christopoulos, Chuck and Margaret Wettling - met with Mr. Thomas N. McFadden, Superintendent at Catoctin Mountain Park, and Mr. Les Holmes, Chairman of the Catoctin Mountain Advisory Council and a PATC member. Mr. McFadden outlined the increasing population pressures on the Park and expressed his concern regarding both the environment and public safety.

Mr. McFadden mentioned that since the ban on Sunday climbing there had been no climbing accidents reported - though we got the impression that none had previously involved any experienced climber or any beginner attached to a responsible group.

The following suggestions were made:

1. The registration system (in advance for groups) would be instituted (or re-instituted, as the case may be) for climbing at Wolf Rock.
2. PATC-MS will survey the Wolf Rock area to determine the

maximum daily carrying capacity for climbers.

3. Mr. McFadden will send us the names and addresses of the principal groups who climb at Wolf Rock (Discoverers, U. of Maryland, Hood College) with the idea that we will convene a meeting with their representatives and Mr. McFadden to work out some sort of schedule.
4. Mr. McFadden will also send us some statistics regarding use of Wolf Rock and also of accidents in that area.
5. We would appoint a representative to serve on a task force along with other users of the Park (hikers, cross-country skiers, Boy Scouts, etc.) to meet once or twice a year to assess the environmental impact.

At least we seem to be regarded as a helpful, responsible group. We still can't climb at Wolf Rock on Sundays but we hope a start has been made in that direction.

Margaret Wettling

From Other Peaks

The South American Explorers Club, a newly established club located in Lima, Peru, aims to collect, record, and make available accurate and practical information on South America for use both by field scientists and by travel/adventure/sport enthusiasts. They will provide technical support where possible, help plan expeditions, maintain a club house including map room and library, and publish a monthly magazine The South American Explorer. Annual membership is \$25. Details are available from Joe Wagner (966-6379) or Donald Montague, Editor, The South American Explorers Club, Avenida Portugal 146, Brena, Casilla 3714, Lima 1, Peru.

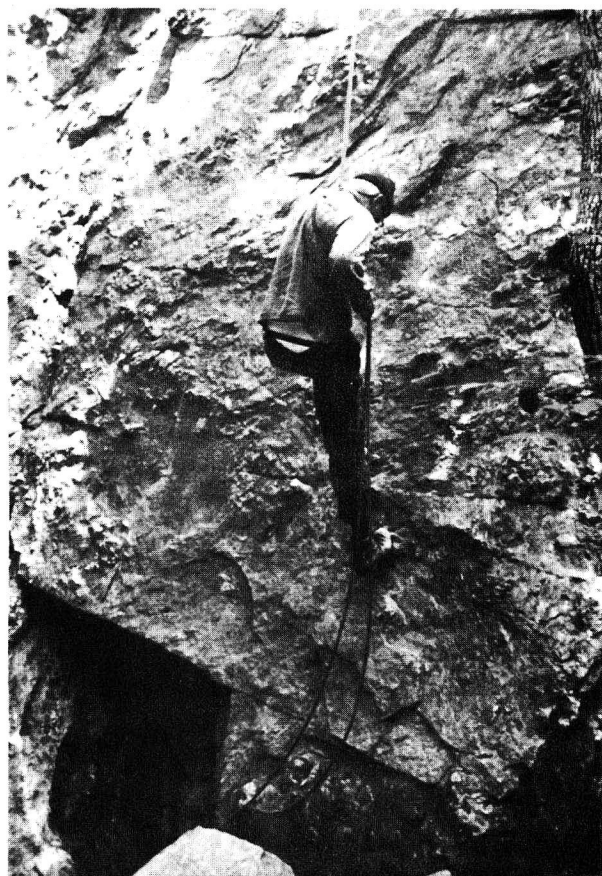
Devils Tower National Monument - The NPS is seeking comment on proposed

registration of climbers at Devils Tower. The regulation would require climbers to register before climbing above the talus slopes and sign again immediately following completion of a climb. This, they feel, is necessary to protect both climbers and non-climbing visitors at the base. The AAC is concerned that registration "in no way abrogate the right of a climber to alter a selected route in consequence for unforeseeable conditions or other considerations arising during the climb" and would not be used as a means to grant or withhold permission to climb. Comments and inquiries should be sent to: Superintendent, Devils Tower National Monument, Devils Tower, Wyoming 82714 and The American Alpine Club, Chairman, Conservation and Access Committee, 113 East 90th Street, New York, N.Y. 10028.

The Ups and Downs of a Climbing Family

Tony Madden . . .

and grandson Mike Dunleavy



Hanging Around

Nelson House, W.Va.

A somewhat overdue report on the last few work trips...

October 22-25 - Sallie Greenwood, Rick Todd, Clyde Soles, Chris Rowins and Margaret Wettling spent a beautiful day (for climbing) scraping and painting the main roof, employing some interesting belaying techniques at times, and putting a layer of white paint on the wall over the front porch just to give an idea of what the final effect will ultimately be. Arnold Wexler drove over from his cabin and lent a hand in removing a considerable quantity of wallpaper from the upstairs room. Virtue, however, was not rewarded and it rained the rest of the weekend. Greg Christopulos and Charlie Tuten showed up on the Sunday but admitted defeat by the weather and the flies, which had emerged in their hundreds with the unaccustomed warmth in the house, and returned to Washington. Other visitors were Tom Marshall, David Atkinson and Mike Downey, who enlivened one evening with suitable spirits. Rick, Chris and Tom did manage to get some climbing in on the Monday but the rest of us gave up.

December 3-5 - Ron Yockim, Chuck and Margaret Wettling rescraped the porch roofs and painted them. For a while we thought we might have to leave a racing stripe down the middle but finally ended up with sufficient paint to smear some over the john roof too. I use the word "smear" advisedly; the temperature was well below the stipulated 50° and the paint could hardly be said to flow. We also admired the paint job on one of the walls done the previous weekend by Chuck and Jean Sproull. On the Sunday we managed to get in one climb at Seneca after the rocks had warmed up a little.

January 29-30 - Don Hubbard, Chuck and Margaret Wettling spent a somewhat chilly weekend. Two window panes from the upper story had fallen out on to the snow, one miraculously unbroken. Presumably "them varmints" had been chomping away too greedily on the support. The temperature must have hovered around zero and the strong wind located every crook and cranny in the door and window frames. We tried to discourage it by putting plastic over the front door and windows of the living room and taping around the outside doors in the kitchen (as well as blocking up the upper window), but were glad to retire to the warmth of a visit with Mr. and Mrs. Nelson.

There is much that can be done on work trips even at this time of year (like sawing wood - the stove has a voracious appetite) but the main job at Nelson House is to complete painting the outside, including the trim. On the April 2-3 and April 30-May 1 weekends we hope to do just this. We will have an ample supply of brushes and paint - all we need are the willing workers. With enough people it shouldn't take too long, even with time out for climbing on the Sundays. How about writing those dates down on your calendar now?

Margaret Wettling

Training at Carderock - Feb. 13

Despite brief periods of nice weather over the last three months, it seems none would occur on the Sunday after the second Wednesday of the month. (Is there a pattern, Curt?) "This Sunday will prove to be interesting," I said to myself as I was digging the training equipment from under piles of Christmas paraphernalia. A 45° heat wave brought people out of hibernation for various Sunday outings. We were flanked on both

sides by various groups of people.

The students had a chance to see for themselves the number and proficiency of unsafe techniques now in current use at Carderock. Groups of self-proclaimed "cavers" provided demonstrations of the techniques of rappelling. A young lady got her hair caught in her rappel system. She was eventually freed after a few minutes of deliberation by the rescue party as to exactly how to untangle their victim. This was later followed by a "geronimo-o-o-ooo! one-bounce rappel" which terminated in the tops of the local vegetation. No belays were used during their rappels. I wonder if these techniques are practiced at Carderock only, or used inside caves also? A number of solo climbers demonstrated their various techniques: how to negotiate rappelling climbers, how to fall 15 ft. to the ground unroped, and how to save wear on one's rope by not using it, just to mention a few.

The day found Ryan Pierson, Margaret Wettling and me busy answering a lot of questions regarding the techniques used by other parties at Carderock, while Joe Roseman was instructing the secondary course. The session, to say the least, proved to be interesting and comprehensive.

Completing training were:

Basic - Jeffrey Glazer, Joen Grant, Laura Doulakis, Tom Stewart, Len Schmidt, Wes Johnson

Secondary - Leo Gugerty, Neil Carman

Rick Todd

Frederick Community College (Frederick, Md.) will offer a wilderness mountaineering course in Wyoming this summer, July 2-17, taught by Dave Rohrer.

Belay Ledge

Dear Stevie,

Would you be willing to announce the publication of our book about Jewel Cave (The Jewel Cave Adventure - Fifty Miles of Discovery Under South Dakota by Herb and Jan Conn). The publication date is set for March 14, and we're willing and eager to handle mail orders right from here, with autographs on request. Some of the climbers, old friends and the new on ones we know only through UP ROPE, may be interested to read how over-age, burned-out climbers can still find ways to amuse themselves.

In appreciation of the many years during which you have kept us on the UP ROPE mailing list, we want to send a clothbound copy of the book to the PATC-MS library. We should have a copy available to send in just a few weeks, and wonder if anyone would want to write a review of it for UP ROPE.

We surely enjoy reading UP ROPE regularly and keeping in touch with activities along the Potomac. It's hard to believe how many climbs and spills there must have been on all the old favorites since we were last there, but we remember marveling in 1960 the way all the footholds at Carderock had been polished by many feet since the days we climbed there regularly.

Best wishes,

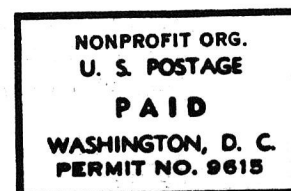
Herb and Jan Conn

The Jewel Cave Adventure can be ordered directly from the Conns - Route 3, Custer, S.D. 57730. Clothbound - \$10.50; paperbound - \$5.95. 7" x 10", 240 pages with 89 photos and 15 maps. A review will appear in a later issue of UP ROPE.

Climber's Calendar

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|--------------------------|--|---|
| Mar. 9 | MS Meeting 8 pm
PATC Headquarters | Harold Goldstein's slides of climbing around Kenya and Mt. Kilimanjaro, and possibly Rhodesia |
| * Mar. 13 | Training | Rick Todd (439-0672) |
| ** Mar. 19-20
Mar. 20 | Seneca Rocks, W.Va.
Bull Run, Va. | #
Greg Christopoulos (293-3272) |
| Mar. 23 | Trip Leader Workshop
PATC Headquarters 8 pm | Role and responsibilities of leader, emergency procedures, climbing areas |
| Mar. 27 | Harper's Ferry, Md. | Neil Arsenault (965-4510) |
| Apr. 2-3 | Nelson House, W.Va.
Housepainting trip #1 | Margaret Wettling (736-2447) |
| Apr. 10 | Big Devil's Staircase, Va. | Ray Kremer (656-0132) |
| Apr. 13 | MS Meeting 8 pm
PATC Headquarters | Program to be announced |
| * Apr. 17 | Training | Rick Todd (439-0672) |
| Apr. 24 | Buzzard Rocks, Md. | Curt Mobley (864-0428) |
| Apr. 30-May 1 | Nelson House, W.Va.
Housepainting Trip #2 | Margaret Wettling (736-2447) |
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- * 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).


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DATED MATTER