



FOUNDED BY
JAN AND HERB CONN

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

1718 N Street, N.W. Washington DC 20036

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At Base Camp

MS MEMBERSHIP ROSTER

A list of current PATC members who are also members of the MS accompanies this month's issue of UP ROPE. If you are a current, paid-up member of PATC and would like to be included on this list, contact the Circulation Manager of UP ROPE. If you are not a member of PATC, but would like to join, there is no better time than the present to ask a MS-member (or any other PATC-er) to sponsor you. We can't offer lower insurance rates or a gold star on your **birthday**, but we've got one of the shortest mailing lists in town.

Recently the MS contributed \$200 to the Seneca Rescue Fund. The following note appeared at Headquarters shortly thereafter.

4-22-77

On behalf of the squad and myself, I want to thank you for your generous donation-It is greatly needed and much appreciated.

We wish you a safe and enjoyable season of rock climbing and exploration.

Barbara M. Bennett, Sec.
North Fork Rescue Squad

The following is the text of a letter sent to Mr. R. F. Mumma, Forest Supervisor, of the Monongahela National Forest, concerning the Revised Draft Land Use Plan for the Monongahela National Forest.

May 5, 1977

Dear Supervisor Mumma,

I should like to endorse the comments made by John Stannard in his letter to you of 9th February. Members of the PATC Mountaineering Section have studied carefully the Revised Draft Land Use Plan for the Monongahela National Forest and are encouraged by the consideration given to the public reaction to the earlier drafts, expressed in writing and at public meetings, and particularly by the statements that Seneca Rocks will be managed for viewing and safe rock climbing and that development in that area must be compatible with those objectives.

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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 addressed to Vivian Goldberg, 103 G Street SW #B608, Washington D. C. 20024. Deadline is the 20th of each month. Subscriptions for MS members is included in the dues. Annual subscriptions for non-members are \$3.50. New applicants and current members of PATC can 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 subscription and address changes to Circulation Manager, UP ROPE, 1718 N Street NW, Washington, D. C. 20036.

From the Editor's Chimney

Two of our MS climbers are heeding the call "Go West, young man, go West", and are departing this month for the great open spaces, or at least places near the great open spaces. So good-bye to Curt Mobley and to Tom Mar. Curt is going to a post-doc in Seattle, via a summer of being a climb-aholic in Colorado. Along with a quasi-establishment 9-5 job, Curt has acquired a desire for material possessions. We wish to amass a library of mountaineering literature (now you know where to send all your old Upropes). Considering the number of rainy days in Seattle, he will have plenty of time to devote to vicarious climbing. Tom Mar is to be transferred by the Park Service, and, in a B'r'er Rabbit ploy, has managed to get himself thrown into the briar patch of Colorado. Best of luck to each of them in their new endeavors. May the bluebird of happiness, etc.. We have had some fun times (remember your first lead, Curt? When you finished in the dark at Little Stoney Man). You will both be missed.

TOM CULVERWELL

The May issue of the Potomac Appalachian reported the death of Tom Culverwell in Bar Harbor, Maine.

Most of today's rock climbers will not recognize his name and many of yesterday's climbers never had the pleasure of personal acquaintance, but he was known to us through his many humorous illustrations and articles in old Up Ropes.

Tom's interests were not limited to climbing alone. He was also active in hiking, trail clearing, white water boating, and spelunking. Tom was extensively involved in the exploration of Schoolhouse Cave and drew the detailed, precise map of that cave. His writings and art work have been printed in hardback mountaineering and caving books.

Tom's contributions to the "Good Old Days" helped make them good.

Chuck Wettling

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We do have two principal comments. We concur with the Forest Service request that the Environmental Impact Statement for Corridor H thoroughly examine all alternatives for both the routing and the configuration of the proposed road. Many of the routes so far proposed appear to have a direct and major impact upon the resources and environment of Forest Service lands. In particular, we are most familiar with the alternative going through the Mouth of Seneca and the North Fork Valley. In that case we feel strongly that, were the Corridor H to be routed through the North Fork Valley, irreparable damage would be done to the Spruce Knob-Seneca Rocks NRA's value to the public, as many of its resources are located in and about the North Fork Valley.

We also comment highly the emphasis placed by the plan on public involvement. We feel the possibility that people and their organizations might be involved closely in the formulation of the Unit Plans deserves exploration. This approach may well be the best and most efficient way of achieving a politically realistic plan which can simultaneously do justice to the concerns of management, resource conservation, and resource allocation.

In conclusion, we have much appreciated the opportunity to contribute to this plan. We remain eager to work with the Forest Service and others who are interested in and value the important and unique lands of the Monongahela National Forest.

Sincerely yours,
Margaret Wettling

Chairman's Corner

I was really delighted with the turnout for the Nelson House painting weekends (for details see Trip Reports). My very grateful thanks to everyone who showed up. Not only did an enormous amount of work get done relatively quickly but it was also most heartening to see Nelson House, for the first time, really looking like a climbers' hut, with a total of 9 cars and 21 people there on the Saturday evening. Maybe now that more people realize what a delightful spot we have up there it will be used more regularly. To encourage that, I suggest (in the temporary absence of Joe Wagner and the entire Trip Scheduling committee) that our next Seneca weekend, June 25-26, not be a work trip. Do go admire the House, but spend your days on the rocks or wherever.

The National Forest Service held a hearing on the Monongahela National Forest Revised Draft Plan in Washington, D.C. on May 2. Twenty-one people showed up, which was more than had attended any of the hearings in West Virginia. PATC was well represented by 2 hikers, 3 Ski Tourers, and 3 from the Mountaineering Section. Amongst the remainder there was one other climber, some cavers, and several four-wheel drive vehicle enthusiasts represented. There was a good exchange of ideas and suggestions and the Forest Service do seem to be trying to take everyone's sometimes conflicting requirements and preferences into account. As far as the Mouth of Seneca is concerned, the new bridge is now completed and they plan to finish the Visitor Center and the

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surrounding picnic area. They have no plans, at least for the present, for any resort center or even funds for the proposed campground. We now need to keep on the alert for when the detailed plan for Unit 8 (Spruce Knob/Seneca Rocks Recreation Area) is published.

Special message to Joe and Stevie: In light of the sterling service rendered in the transportation of the borrowed canoes on the occasion of our trip to Herzog Island, I hereby retract any innuendoes I may have uttered regarding four-wheel drive vehicles or the drivers thereof.

Belay Ledge

Note: The following report is presented for information only; extensive discussions have led to the conclusion that there is no "lesson to be learned" from this incident except for the obvious one that climbers should not fall.

On April 29 Barbara Llewellyn and Stan Halpin were climbing at the Gunks. After a warm-up climb, Barbara started leading Thin Slabs. After clipping into the fixed pin about 12 feet up, she proceeded up the thin face. At about 25 feet she slipped, came off, and landed on the ground in a standing position. Following an uneventful evacuation, X-rays revealed two broken heel bones and one compressed vertebra.

Barbara is now home from the hospital and will be walking again in a few weeks.

We have some good news and some bad news. The good news is that James Eakin's classical, nose-shaped overhang at Annapolis Rocks has finally (after 7 months of trying) been climbed. The bad news is that James didn't climb it. *Sigh* (For the record, Tom Mar did.) The climb has been called the Snivler, but to those of us who watched James struggle and gain on that climb, it will always be James' Overhang.

Training Briefs

Training - April 17

Due to the short notice of the change in training, requiring attendance of the indoor session, only four students attended this session. I would like to thank them for being patient with me while I was trying to figure out exactly how to break training into two sessions. The session was over by 3:30 and the rest of the day was spent attempting various climbs. A special thanks to Ron Smith for demonstrating the body rappel, which he courageously did in a pair of shorts and tee-shirt.

Completing basic training were:
Valerie Shipley, Ralph Hendrix,
Jackie Gordon, and Keith Pitman.
Rick Todd

As of May 21, you can still make crank calls at Mouth of Seneca, but you can't turn a crank to make a call. (The telephone system in Mouth of Seneca, WV is cranking up to put in a dial system. No man shall stand in the way of Ma Bell, North Fork Mutual Telephone, actually, when she is on a Progress rampage.)

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Hanging Around

HERMITAGE CABIN/SHAFFER ROCKS

May 15, 1977.

Seizing on the dedication of the new Hermitage Cabin, a number of climbers renewed the Section's acquaintanceship with Shaffer Rocks. A number of nice climbs were rigged, and a couple of the local "hardmen" were quite helpful in pointing out interesting variations. The cabin is beautiful, and a weekend trip would be quite profitable. Trip committee? Present were Margaret Wettling, Brian Wilder, Ryan Pierson, Bob Sherbin, Jon Larsen, Jeannie and Stan Halpin.

Big Devil's Staircase -April 10
Thirteen of us escaped the clutches of the Easter Bunny and departed A. O. about 9:15 AM. The approach hike involved following a fairly rugged blue-blazed trail which wound through the floor of the canyon. The climbs were extremely vertical or slightly overhung. By mid-day it seemed that the difficulty of the climbs coupled with the walk in, took its toll on a number of us. However, an Easter Egg Hunt, organized and supervised by Harold Goldstein and Rick Banning, provided a welcome alternative to flailing away on the rock. We returned to A. O. in time to adjourn to the Pizza Hut in Vienna for a well-deserved meal.

Participants were:

John Ferguson, Janet Young, Eileen Tizcinski, Rick Banning, Rob Sherbin, Paul Torelli, Jon Larson, Harold Goldstein, Skip Henderson, Lisa Wain, Leith Wain, Joe McDermott, and Rick Todd

Buzzard Rocks, Va. -April 24
How was the trip leader supposed to know that the changeover from standard time to daylight savings time was at 2 AM on April 24? After all, he is doing well if he knows what day of the week it is. Only minor panic resulted when he found out that telling someone on Friday to meet at 8 AM on Sunday was a bit confusing. Meeting times were eventually straightened, though, and only two people came early.

A short debate about the wisdom of driving all the way to Buzzard Rocks just to get rained on followed. We decided to chance it, however, and were rewarded with two-thirds of a day of sunshine. Various short and easy climbs were rigged and tried by most. Everyone had at least one chance at the harder face climbs on the "little El Cap" before a shower gave us an excuse to head for pizza.

The sign up list got lost, but the trip leader's memory tells him that the participants were Tom Perry, Ryan Pierson, Jon Larson, Leith Wain, Anne Kruse, John Bremer, Jon Scott, Eileen Tizcinski, John Fox, Doug Kahle, and someone else.

---and Curt Mobley

For your information, reprinted from the National Park Service Calendar of events for April, 1977.

"May I climb?" "Climb!": A 2-hour seminar delves into basic rope management and tenets of climbing safety. It will cover such subjects as anchor, mechanical delays, self rescue... and other topics as time allows.

In case you run out of excuses to cover your stalled starts...

The National Park Service has announced its intent to release the Draft General Management Plan and the Draft Environmental Statement in the Fall.

SENECA ROCKS/NELSON HOUSE

April 1-3, 1977

Sallie Greenwood Ron Yochim
Stan Halpin Joe & Stevie Ney
Margaret Wettling

An early Saturday morning drizzle gave way to a beautiful sunny day. Sallie insisted the most efficient way to paint above the side porch roof was to lie on her back, plying the paint brush over her head (did she think she was in the Sistine Chapel?). She discovered several well-clawed holes in the eaves and also a protruding bird's claw. She did consider painting the latter but decided to leave it au naturel.

Stan was voted to have the best head for the dizzying heights at the top of the somewhat shaky ladder and was assigned the upper portions of the main walls. He couldn't resist doing a self-portrait on the sheeting covering the broken window upstairs. The rest of us scraped and painted everything within reach from ground level, steadied ladders, and offered verbal encouragement.

A welcome visit mid-afternoon by Ruth and Vivian Mendenhall gave us a legitimate excuse to lay down our brushes for the day and admire the results of our handiwork. One wall was left completely untouched so that the next work party could savor the full before-and-after effect.

The next day rocks were climbed and birds were watched but the trip leader left on a house-hunting expedition and missed it all.

April 29-May 1

Slaves, Climbers and Hikers

Sallie Greenwood	Diane Burkhardt
Rick Todd	Janet Young
Ron Smith	Jackie Gordon
Tom & Kathy Perry	Eileen Trzcinski
Ryan Pierson	Leith Wain
Jon Larsen	Margaret Wettling
James Eakin	Ron Yochim
Vivian Goldberg	Tom Prunier

Climbers Only

Curt Mobley	Ann Kruse
Tom Meagher	Ben Sands

With a wonderful crew like that and perfect weather you can imagine the amount of work that was accomplished. The outside walls are all gleaming white and the trim is enlivened by a coat of green paint (the can said 'Cypress' but it looks turquoise to me). Despite what seemed ample supplies, an emergency run had to be made to Franklin in the afternoon for more white paint so that a second coat could be put on some of the walls (the more accessible ones, of course). Spiderman Tom Perry volunteered(?) to do the apexes, with a roof belay from James Eakin.

Rick Todd and Ron Smith did some great carpentry work. They repaired the front porch with the sound wood out of the back porch. The back porch miraculously is still standing but is scheduled for repair at a fairly early date. Some of the more rotten window and door sills were also replaced.

With more hands than tools it was possible for some nameless people to take time out during the day to hike or climb Nelson Rocks without their absence being too noticeable. A record \$41 in fees was collected - though it didn't even cover the cost of materials used that day.

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Sunday saw a mass assault on Seneca Rocks, while Kathy, Diane, Vivian, and Tom Prunier scaled the heights of Spruce Knob. Ryan and Leith were so keen on their first visit to Seneca that they left Nelson House while the rest of us were still asleep and spent 11 hours on the rocks. The others took it a little more leisurely but all had a good day.

Margaret Wettling

Sugarloaf, MD - May 8

Certain unfortunate events such as the injury of the designated trip leader and a cancelled Gunks trip led to the appointment of Vivian Goldberg as trip leader for a hastily arranged trip to Sugarloaf. Despite the fact that she stayed home three evenings in a row and even left the phone plugged in, she received but one call from a participant, Hm, lets meet at 10 AM, the leader intoned, blithely forgetting that Jan Wagner had been instructed to tell everyone who called her that the club would meet at 9 AM at the Safeway on Rt 28. Unbeknownst to Vivian, about a dozen people assembled there at 9 AM. Her ears should have burned at all the nasty things that were being said about punctual trip leaders. After the fuming stopped, a number of classical climbs were rigged. Rick Todd led Butterfingers. Adequate protection techniques were demonstrated, live, when his #8 stopper held him after he fell. (No damage to Rick). Everyone enjoyed reasonable success on Butterfingers and other climbs. A ridiculously inelegant chimney climb stymied Janet Young. Joe Roseman appeared for the first trip this

spring, and Jonny Boran made a farewell appearance (he and his family are moving to Texas). A delicate faceclimb, which has been climbed in recent memory only by the Thomases Mar and Prunier (who 'didn't come on this trip), was attempted by nearly everybody. At the end of the day nine of us went to Roy's Place and were no more rowdy than usual.

The climbers were:

Steve Peteranecz, Jonny Boran, Skip Henderson, Joe McDermott, Ryan Pierson, Joe Roseman, Janet Young, Leith Wain, Jon Larson, Keith Pitman, John Fox, Rick Todd, Margaret Wettling, and Vivian Goldberg.

From Other Peaks

Eastern Climbing Hut Visited

Ruth Mendenhall, visiting on the east coast, recently had the pleasure of spending a weekend with some Washington D. C. are climbers, members of the Potomac Appalachian Trail Club Mountaineering Section. This group often climbs the Appalachians in NE West Virginia, at Seneca Rocks, a large, very steep outcrop said to be geologically a continuation of the Shawangunks. In need of shelter in the inclement weather of the region, the group converted a 125 year-old farmhouse in an isolated canyon (part steep pastureland, part woods) into a delightful "hut", akin in spirit to the Baldy Mountain Ski Hut. Techniques in rock climbing and safety instruction seem to be basically similar to those of the RCS. (Reprinted from the Mugelnoos, April 20, 1977.)

Climber's Calendar

June 8	Meeting, PATC Head- quarters, 8PM	Climbing movie	
June 12	*Training, Carderock MD	Rick Todd	(439-0672)
June 18-19	Devil's Garden, WV	#	
June 25-26	**Seneca Rocks, WV	Tom Prunier	(683-6942)
June 26	Cupid's Bower, MD	Sallie Greenwood	(965-4087)
July 2-4	**Shawangunks, NY	#	
July 3	Leader's choice	#	
July 5	*Training, PATC Head- quarters, 8PM	Rick Todd	(439-0672)
July 10	Little Stony Man	Joe Wagner	(966-6379)
July 13	Meeting, PATC Head- quarters, 8PM	program to be announced	
July 17	*Training, Carderock, MD	Rick Todd	(439-0672)
July 24	Bull Run, VA	#	
July 30-31	Seneca Rocks, WV	Stan Halpin	(340-2593)

*All training is by appointment only and classroom training is required before the Carderock training.

** Experienced leaders and seconds only. Arrange for your climbing partner before departure. No experience necessary for work trips.

Call Joe Wagner (966-6379) or Barbara Llewellyn (871-6197) if you can lead this trip.



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