

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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### A REMINDER

Sundays and Augusts were made for climbing. Therefore in August there will be no business meeting, no training and best of all, no UP ROPE. The editor can't go out West to climb, so she is thinking of going to typing school. See you in September!

If you happen to be at Seneca over Labor Day Weekend be sure to check whether the Riverton Dinner is being held this year. If it is, go!! It is a real treat.

"Sis" Pritchard, one of the nice ladies who works at Travs, is in the hospital. We all wish her a speedy recovery. You may send cards c/o Travs Inn, 6119 Tulane Avenue, Glen Echo, MD 20768.

Sincere apologies to Tom Meagher (pronounced Mar) for spelling his name wrong (Mar, naturally) no less than four times in the last issue.

UP ROPE reported fully on the very encouraging state of the Land Use Plan for the Monongahela National Forest. However some mention should be made of an additional subject.

### CORRIDOR H

Many West Virginia residents and their groups are currently urging that the four lane and limited access road planned to connect Elkins with I-81, and called Corridor H, not be built in the vicinity of Dolly Sods, Greenland Gap, or Mouth of Seneca. Instead they urge the use of an alternative route going north on US #219, and then east on US #50. There is also hope that some consideration may be given to building something other than a full four lane limited access road. The Environmental Impact Statements on the various alternatives should be released in a year to eighteen months. Those wishing to be kept informed by the West Virginia Highway Department should write: W.S. Ritchie, Jr., Commissioner WV Department of Highways 1900 Washington St. E Charleston, WV 25395 --John Stannard

## PATC MOUNTAINEERING SECTION

## Chairman

Margaret Wettling (736-2447)

## Vice Chairman

Stan Halpin (340-2593)

## Secretary

Ryan Pierson (869-6271)

## Treasurer

Ray Kremer (656-0132)

## UP ROPE Staff

## Editor

Vivian Goldberg (554-4403)

## Circulation Manager

Joe Jensen (301-467-4611)

Rick Todd (439-0672)

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, S.W., #B608, Washington, D.C. 20024. Deadline is the 20th of each month. Subscriptions for MS members are included in the dues. Annual subscription for non-members is \$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 do so at no additional charge. Send subscription and address changes to Circulation Manager, UP ROPE, 1718 N Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20036.

## From the Editor's Chimney

We were somewhat behind schedule, and it seemed like a good idea to deliver UP ROPE to the printer instead of dumping it in the mailbox. So at noon, we took off across the mall and through the concrete canyons heading for the Bates Duplicating Company. The firm is on the sixth floor of a narrow old building on Tenth Street. To get to the printing office, one takes the human-operated elevator (the kind that is operated by levers and please and thank you instead of buttons). Having arrived at Bates Duplicating Company, Inc., we were greeted by a cheerful man who introduced himself as David Bates. He was agreeably surprised to meet a real live UP ROPE editor. It turns out that Mr. Bates is a longtime PATC member. He joined the club after reading about its exploits in the PATC newsletter which he read

on the job, so to speak. One imagines him stopping the presses because he has become engrossed in some hoary adventure story that got continued on page 5.

Back in 1955, Mr. Bates, who had since become an avid hiker, joined the MS for an outing at Great Falls. He didn't particularly like the climbing, but he remembers that Chuck Wettling, Ed and Blondie Worrell, and Ted Shad gave him lots of encouragement. Since then, Mr. Bates has become the PATC archivist. He is consequently interested in documents, letters, publications and whatever that pertain to club activities.

We left a bit happier because while Bates Duplicating Company Inc is Xerox machines and ink, it is also a friendly handshake and a warm smile.

## Equipment Notes

### WE'RE GONNA TAKE A BIG FALL ON ROPE PRICES!

	<u>Reg.</u>	<u>Now</u>
Chouinard std.		
11 x 150	\$81.50	\$69.50
11 x 165	90.50	77.00
Chouinard super		
11 x 150	97.50	78.00
11 x 165	107.00	84.85
Edelweiss '76		
11 x 150	85.00	70.00
11 x 165	98.00	79.50
Edelweiss Everdry Extrem		
11 x 150		85.00
<u>PLUS</u>		
Chouinard Baltoro	60.00	50.00
Chouinard Ultima	75.00	50.00
Thule		
Chouinard 100%	33.00	29.00
wool guide sweater		

During the next month we will offer to PATC/MS members a most substantial savings on technical gear. This represents a savings of approximately 15-20% on any Edelweiss or Chouinard rope in stock. Or we will order for you at the same price any length or color we don't have.

A word about Everdry ropes. "Everdry" has been and will continue to be expensive, usually over \$100.00. We will offer what is possibly the world's finest climbing rope, the new Edelweiss Everdry Extrem, for the same price as a current model 11 x 150 std.- \$85.00. This is a 12 fall rope with improved abrasion resistance and handling properties. When one compares this to the UIAA fall capacity of most other ropes of only 3-4 falls and then considers that some UIAA approved ropes with a 3-4 fall capacity will not hold even one force 2 fall when wet... This is a remarkable rope now at a remarkable price.

Besides the superior characteristics and handling of the Edelweiss Everdry Extrem for the serious climber, if you don't go around taking screamers it's simple -the higher the fall capacity of a rope, the longer its safe usable life under normal conditions. This rope will outlast several normal ropes.

As always we will maintain the highest possible technical expertise in Washington and offer the best possible equipment at the lowest prices we can.

Neil Arsenault and Clyde Daugherty  
of GEORGETOWN MOUNTAIN SPORTS

## From Other Peaks

Why do they climb? Each of us has our own reasons, which basically boil down to "because it's there."

Some criminal offenders in New Mexico can give a more definite answer because they participate in a rehabilitation program called Wilderness Experience that includes rock climbing. The participants of the Wilderness Experience can gain early release if they complete the program. In their roped, technical ascent of the Grand Canyon, they literally climb their way to freedom.

From Yankee magazine comes a report that Mount Desert Island has good top-roping areas scattered throughout (Otter Cliffs, the Bubbles) and some lead climbing on the South wall of Mount Champlain.

ROCK! ROCK!

The version of "Gory, Gory" you printed in May Up Rope may have been printed in Mugelnoos March 14, 1977 issue, but it was not originally published there. This is one of four "Gory, Gory" versions I have stuck in my ancient IOCA Song Fest - I think it's the one sung by Jan Conn in the early 1950s and possibly privately recorded for her D.C. friends at that time. This version was printed on at least two occasions at that time - I think once in Up Rope about 1951-2. The other three versions I have are: (1) climbers' version - probably from Boston area since setting is a quarry and they (Boston people) were the only climbers in the U.S. then who regularly climbed in a quarry; (2) a skiers' version c. 1950; (3) parachutists' version, probably World War II. (I know no version is younger than 1954, which is the last year I could have added anything to my song book - probably nothing is younger than 1952, which is the last year I remember adding any songs.)

-Blondie Worrell

Last month's issue of UP ROPE contained an error which should perhaps be corrected. That issue said the Section had donated \$200 to the North Fork Rescue Squad. This is not correct.

The Seneca Guide Fund in the PATC donated \$200 to the rescue squad, and the money in that fund is provided from the sales of a guidebook to Seneca published by Herb Laeger, John Bercraw and myself. The fund is entirely unrelated to the Section as the Section has been following the policy of neither

contributing to nor being officially connected with the guide. Printing costs of \$2300 were borne by John Stannard and his ultimate personal loss will be approximately \$300 after all copies have been sold. Furthermore, four times a year the fund is paid \$1.05 for each copy which was sold during that quarter, and no attempt is being made to pay off the printing debt before paying the Seneca Guide Fund its portion.

To date the Seneca Guide Fund has received \$378 and has a balance of something over \$178. In addition to supporting the work of the people who rescue or otherwise aid injured climbers, it is my hope that the fund will before too long be used to begin to support maintenance efforts on Seneca's talus slopes.

My personal effort and commitment to Seneca is substantial. If you are interested in Seneca and you feel these kinds of efforts are worthwhile, please help. Copies of the guide can be obtained for \$2.50 from: John Stannard, 13003 Daley Street, Silver Spring, MD 20906  
--John Stannard

Ed. Note: Sorry about that, John. Reprinted below is the letter that was sent to the North Fork Rescue Squad.

Dear Mr. Bennett,

The Mountaineering Section of the Potomac Appalachian Trail Club is very happy to send you a donation of \$200 to assist in the good work done by the North Fork Volunteer Rescue Squad. The contribution is from money raised by the sale of John Stannard's photographic guide to Seneca Rocks.

With all best wishes.

Yours sincerely,  
Margaret Wettling  
Chairman, Mountain-  
eering Section

## Chairman's Corner

As many PATC-MS members will recall, Dave Templeton, a long-time MS member who was serving as Chairman of the Training Committee at the time, was killed at Big Schloss in the Wolf Gap Recreational Area in August 1972 when his belay anchor failed. Several ideas for a suitable memorial were discussed and it was eventually agreed to establish a Dave Templeton Memorial Cabin Fund and use the proceeds to build a cabin for the PATC Mountaineering Section in West Virginia, close to Seneca Rocks - a project which had the support of the PATC Council, who authorized \$10,750 for the construction materials.

After many months of hard work initially by John Christian and Arnold Wexler and later by subsequent Chairmen and MS members, 2 acres of land were purchased just off Roy Gap Road not far from the swinging bridge, plans were drawn up for the cabin, and work commenced on ground-clearing for the foundations and digging an enormous hole for the john. Two months after the purchase, the National Forest Service condemned the land as it was to be incorporated into the Spruce Knob/Seneca Rocks National Recreation Area as part of their overall plan for the Monongahela National Forest. At least the purchase price (plus some) was recovered.

Nothing daunted, the Section renewed its search for land and/or a cabin and eventually came up with Nelson House. A three-year agreement, expiring in February 1979, was signed with Charles Nelson whereby the MS has the use of the house for a monthly rent of the equivalent of \$50 worth of work and materials. Since then no further search for land or cabin has been conducted. By the end of next year we will be better able to judge, based in part on our experience

at Nelson House and in part on the National Forest Service plans for the Mouth of Seneca area, the need for and likely use of a cabin by the Mountaineering Section.

Joan Templeton, Dave's widow, recently expressed to me her concern over the lack of progress towards a Dave Templeton Memorial, pointing out that it is now five years since his death, the momentum for the Fund is inevitably waning, and many current MS members never even knew Dave. She also mentioned that the PATC has to relocate Wolf Gap Cabin (because it is situated on National Forest Service land) and is currently negotiating the purchase of a nearby parcel of land for this purpose. Joan now suggests that the money (in the region of \$2,400) be given to the PATC for use in rebuilding the Wolf Gap Cabin on condition that it is henceforth known as the Dave Templeton Memorial Cabin (or the Wolf Gap/Templeton Memorial Cabin - exact nomenclature to be decided). She is anxious to see the Memorial established as soon as possible and feels that, in many ways, this would be the most fitting location.

This is an important issue. It was discussed briefly at the June business meeting but it was agreed that all members, and especially donors to the Fund, should be made fully aware of the proposal and given a chance to comment before any vote is taken. As Up Rope may not reach everybody in time for the July meeting (and many people will also be away on vacation) and there is no August meeting, this matter was tabled until September. Section members are urged to make every effort to attend the meeting on September 14 or to make their views known ahead of time to the Chairman.

Margaret Wettling

## Belay Ledge

### Addition:

WORRELL, Ed & Blondie  
9712 Montauk Avenue  
Bethesda, MD 20034  
530-8491

### Correction:

KERR, Jim  
Office Tel:  
694-1811

### New Members:

ATKINSON, David  
8014 Riverside Drive  
Cabin John, MD 20731

CARNEY, Jayne F.  
2201 Shorefield  
Road, #913  
Wheaton, MD 20902  
942-2835

McDONALD, Gerald M.  
2388 Glenmont Circle  
#107  
Silver Spring, MD 20902  
933-3267

PITMAN, Keith A.  
3203 Allen Street  
#104  
Falls Church, VA 22042  
560-0045

### Address Changes:

AINSWORTH, Janet  
1601 Hopefield Road  
Silver Spring, MD 20904

MEAGHER, Tom  
c/o Joe Kaelin  
2985 East Aurora  
#422 W  
Boulder, Col. 80303

RAYMOND, Rich  
2130 P Street, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20037  
296-2634

## Hanging Around

### Shawangunks, N.Y. - May 28-30

John Bremer	Stan Halpin
Tom Meagher	Vivian Goldberg
Leith Wain	Greg Christopulos
Rick Todd	Charlie Tuten
Ryan Pierson	Libby Wolfe
Chuck Wettling	Doug Howard
Margaret "	Eileen Trzcinski

In three unrainy and action-packed days:

- John led Classic as advertised, and Tom in turn led some 5.8s with John following.
- Greg arrived via bus from NYC where he's working temporarily, to climb with John but ended up climbing with Vivian. Greg

led RMC and Vivian led Horseman.

- Margaret and Stan climbed at a leisurely pace; Chuck hiked while recovering from a bad shoulder, then departed for New York and his ship.

- The band from the Black Fly Express (Rick, Leith, Ryan, Doug and Eileen) did "some good things"

- Charlie and Libby presumably survived the trip although they haven't been heard from since.

- Jon Larsen's car came to the Gunks without Jon in it, but that's another story.

Stevie Ney  
(trip leader in absentia)



## Publications

The Jewel Cave Adventure Fifty Miles  
of Discovery under South Dakota  
by Herb and Jan Conn

Herb and Jan Conn should be familiar names to the Mountaineering Section. They appear on the front page of UP ROPE as the founders of the paper; they are recorded in route names such as Jan's Face and Herbie's Horror at Carderock, Conn's East and West at Seneca. Former Washington climbers, the Conn's moved to the Black Hills to pursue their climbing interests. There, to their surprise, they also became cavers.

"Although we had had an occasional taste of caving, we preferred to find our recreation in the sunshine and fresh air." So begins the narration of the Conn's Jewel Cave adventure. Unenthusiastically agreeing to accompany a fellow rock climber into the small known portion of this South Dakota cave, Herb and Jan were lured on and, by the time this book was published, had devoted 17 years and nearly 15,000 hours to exploring, surveying, and mapping 56 miles of passage. And it was an adventure. Their enthusiasm, personalities, triumphs and setbacks permeate their book.

Led and taunted by an elusive wind blowing through the cave, they pushed deep into the earth following potential leads. Detailed maps in most chapters and a separate map of the full cave let the reader follow their progress.

Much of the work was hard and dirty. Pools, pits, and deadends, tortuous crawls and tight squeezes - all the aggravations of caving were present. But then, too, were the rewards - sudden beauty, fascinating formations, intriguing lofts, and the thrill of being the first explorers. The exacting demands of cave surveying and the tedium of translating measurements into maps were compensated by the enthusiasm and knowledge of those working with them. Modestly, they recount their own contributions, preferring to give credit to others wherever possible. But I have little doubt that they were the driving force behind the venture.

The Conn's goal to preserve a record of the discovery of Jewel Cave has resulted in a humorous, readable tale of life underground. It contains an abundance of photographs including several detailed close-ups of cave formations. Herb and Jan express their feelings in poems and songs; their lively imagination is evident in the naming of passages (akin, no doubt, to the naming of climbs). I recently read The Longest Cave by Roger W. Brucker and Richard A. Watson and found myself slightly uncomfortable with the personal conflicts, antagonism, and ill-feeling which underlie it. In contrast, the Conn's book is refreshingly open and spirited. Read it and share with them the Jewel Cave adventure.

Stevie Ney

## Climber's Calendar

July 13	Meeting, PATC Headquarters 8 PM. The Creation of the Teton Landscape	Jack Reed	
July 17	*Training, Carderock MD	Rick Todd	(439-0672)
July 24	Bull Run, VA	Ray Kremer	(656-0132)
July 30-31	Seneca Rocks, WV, work trip	Stan Halpin	(340-2593)
August 7	Great Falls, VA	John Arsenault	(949-0970)
August 13-11	**Seneca Rocks, WV	#	
August 21	Sugarloaf, MD	Ryan Pierson	(869-6271)
August 27-28	Old Rag, VA	James Eakin	(598-6047)
September 3-5	**Shawangunks, NY	Sallie Greenwood	(965-4087)
September 4	Annapolis Rocks, MD	#	
September 14	Meeting, PATC Headquarters 8PM		

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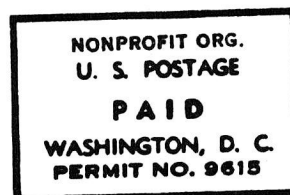
\*All training is by appointment only and classroom training is required before the Carderock Training.

\*\* Experienced leaders and seconds only. Arrange for your climbing partner before your 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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*Joe Wagner*  
1718 N St NW  
Washington, D. C. 20036



DATED MATTER

JULY 1977

JOE WAGNER MS  
4528 WINDOM PLACE N.W.  
WASH., DC 20016