

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

#### HELP WANTED

The Section urgently needs somebody to address, fold, and mail UP ROPEs. At the moment this chore is being done on an ad hoc, ad lib, off-the-wall basis, which is one reason that UP ROPEs do not arrive on schedule. If you think you can spend one evening a month on this task, even if you can only do it for a few months, please speak up. It will help alot.

As a corollary to the above-mentioned problem, the updating of address changes and new subscribers is about three months behind. So if your UP ROPE is still getting forwarded or doesn't come at all, please bear with us. Or, if you are truly scandalized, you can personally rectify this situation by volunteering to be Circulation Manager.

The subscription rate for UP ROPE has been raised to \$4.00 per year. This price reflects the real cost of printing and mailing UP ROPE more accurately than the old rate.

Doug Howard has agreed to become the chairman of the Excursions Committee.

#### Monongahela Forest Updates

The USDA Forest Service has prepared a final environmental statement on the Land Management Plan for the Monongahela National Forest. Copies are available on request from the Forest Supervisor, Monongehala National Forest, Sycamore Street Box 1548, Elkins, W. Va. 26241.

A draft environmental statement concerning the proposed development of the Spruce Knob Lakes Recreation Complex in the Monogehala National Forest is available and discusses the proposed construction of an impoundment with associated recreation facilities adjacent to the Spruce Knob -Seneca Rocks Recreation Area. Copies are available from the Forest Supervisor in Elkins. Comments must be received by March 8, 1978 in order to be considered in the final statement,

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, 4425 South First Road, Arlington, VA 22204. Deadline is the 20th of each month. Subscriptions for MS members are included in the dues. Annual subscription for non members is \$3.50. Current PATC members interested in receiving UP ROPE may obtain a subscription at no charge. MS membership is restricted to PATC members; new applicants and current members of PATC can join the MS by obtaining the sponsorship of a current member of the MS. Send subscription and address changes to Circulation Manager, UP ROPE, 1718 N Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20036.

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#### PATC MOUNTAINEERING SECTION

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MOUNTAINEERING SECTION Activities - The MS holds monthly meetings at PATC Headquarters (1718 N St. N.W., D.C.) to conduct a brief business session and to present a slide show, movie or other form of entertainment. Sunday trips to nearby climbing areas and/or weekend trips to more distant areas are sponsored every weekend; check the schedule on the back page for details on planned trips. Beginning and intermediate training is offered once each month. Any interested individual is welcome to participate in MS activities, although some restrictions are placed on those wishing to join MS climbing trips. The Sunday trips are usually to areas where there is a complete range of top-rope climbs, from easy to difficult; however, we ask that you have some instruction or experience prior to the trip. Check with the trip leader. The weekend trips are usually for lead-climbers only, and you are expected to find your own climbing partner. For more information on trips, call Joe Wagner (966-6379), Chairman of the Trips and Expeditions Committee, or call the listed trip leader. For information on training, call Rick Todd, 439-0672.

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## From the Editor's Chimney

There were three weekends in January when it was possible to ice-climb at White Oak Canyon. I missed the first trip because I was baby-sitting my 6-week-old niece. From this I learned

that babies cry even when they are not hungry, sick, wet, poopy or tired and that when you pick up a crying baby, the crying stops, but you can't do anything else because your arms are full.

The next week a bunch of us went up to Shenandoah National Park to try some ice-climbing. There was a foot and a half of snow up there. It was really beautiful and the ice was in good condition. Later, as the sun set, the snow glowed pink. Still later, the stars came out and the snow got hard enough to walk on without sinking with every step. By the next week, the rain and thaw had shrunk the ice down some, but the snow was packed on the fire road which made for infinitely easier walking. The canyon revealed its eerie winter beauty. The stark white of the ground was punctuated with fragments of twigs and pine cones. The sky, the rocks, tree trunks, and even the river water showed grey. The only color was the green of the hemlock foliage. It was a cold day and the ice held up well. This climber approached with a lot more confidence. Here's hoping the cold weather continues and there's an ice-climbing trip next weekend.

## Equipment Notes

Remember the equipment that Harold Goldstein has been trying to sell? Well, he still hasn't sold it. So, here goes:

### FOR SALE

Goose down parka with 65/35 outer fabric. NEW \$70

Kelty Pack with Tioga frame and modified D4 bag- \$40

Call Harold 296-0778

## Belay Ledge

### Bastille and Beyond, Without TV

It is my misfortune to work for a government agency that forces me to go to places like Boulder, Colorado; sometimes I even have to stay over weekends and holidays. In September and October of 1977 it turned out that I had to be in Denver early one week and finish the week in San Francisco. Three weeks later I was due in St. Louis, so a grand scheme suggested itself: suppose June and I could take a vacation during those three weeks and stay out West? And so we did, driving to Denver and putting together some climbs, back-packs, and visits.

June, of course, has spent a lot of time in Colorado, and I had done the Bastille and some Flatirons earlier in the year, so we intended to try some other climbs in El Dorado and nearby with local friends (including Bob and Martha Smith, who moved from here the same week we drove out. Would you believe every climbing date got shot down, and we never caught up with anybody in Boulder at all? But we did some neat bouldering in Flagstaff and headed for British Columbia.

Pausing in the early evening to heat some soup at the first overlook in Jackson Hole, we noticed that suddenly cars came swarming into the parking lot where we had been alone, gazing at the Grand and encouraging the Scotch Broth. Surprise! From the road they could see a big cow moose, right below us but not visible from where we had the stove set up on one of Uncle Sam's litter barrels.

On and on through Glacier Park, Calgary, Banff, Jasper (wow!) to

Muskeg Alberta, where we bought gas, oil, and apple pie right out of the oven. Yes said (both) the inhabitants of Muskeg, the next 150 miles of dirt road is open, at least we heard it was. Actually it was only about 130 miles to the next pavement and the next humans. The 130 miles took five hours, with my poor little Plymouth scraping its belly on the high frozen crown (when the road was good) or sliding all over where the snow was deepest or the mud thawed on the south slopes. Dented gas tank, some wires ripped loose, but nobody had a cardiac. Strengthened my driving muscles, and June's pucker.

On, to my son Wilson's 320 acres near where the famous highway starts for Alaska. Snow, tramps through the forest, helping Wilson stalk grouse, which he shot only through the eye with my old single shot .22! What a dinner that night! Down the Frazier Valley, with the rocks begging to be climbed (next year?) Vancouver,, Seattle (REI where Anna Marie Herfindall now works) and Olympia, where we caught up with Linda and Dave Harris. Backpacking in the South Cascades, one of their favorite areas, between Ranier and Adams. On to Portland, where we found some of June's friends from Nepal and Grand Canyon treks, and sis a few days on the Pacific Crest TRail below Mt. Hood.

Time to head East, but we spotted the Beacon Rock beside the Columbia River and dashed to the summit via the tourist route. No rope in the car, so we'll do the face another time. We could see where somebody left a bright orange sling on the rappell ledge. By the time we got to Cabin John it was too dark to drop in and cop a belay, but we were back in time to see that lad do the Bastille on TV. He is for real, isn't he.

--Jim Kerr

## Climber's Calendar

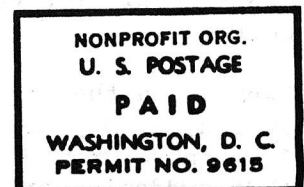
February 12	*Training, Carderock MD	Rick Todd	439-0672
February 18-20	**Lake Placid, NY	#	
February 19	Spitzbergen/Purple Horse MD	#	
February 25	Sugarloaf, MD	#	
February 28	*Training, PATC Head- quarters, 8 PM	Rick Todd	439-0672
March 1	Executive Committee meeting		
March 5	Great Falls, VA	#	
March 8	MS Meeting, PATC Head- quarters, 8 PM	Program to be announced	
March 12	*Training, Carderock MD	Rick Todd	439-0672
March 19	Bull Run, VA	#	
March 26	Buzzard Rocks, W Va	#	

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

\*\*Ice climbing for experienced leaders and seconds only. Arrange for your climbing partner before departure.

#Call Joe Wagner (966-6379) or Barbara Llewellyn (871-6197) if you can lead this trip. Or volunteer at the next meeting.

*Up Rope*  
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DATED MATTER

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