



FOUNDED BY
JAN AND HERB CONN

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

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Page 1

At Base Camp

MS PICNIC - June 3

The annual Mountaineering Section Picnic will be held on June 3, around 2 PM, at the National Geographic Society Headquarters in Gaithersburg, MD. (From I-270, take Route 28 west for about 3 miles; National Geographic will be on the right). Bring your own main course and beer or side dish to share. There are tennis courts and a softball diamond as well.

MT. EVERST, 1976

On Tuesday, June 6 at 8 PM, Phil Trimble will report on the ascent of the highest mountain in the world in connection with the 25th anniversary of the first ascent. Phil Trimble, a MS member, led the American Bicentennial Expedition. The lecture will be held at the auditorium of Bethesda- Chevy Chase High School, 4301 East-West Highway, Bethesda, MD. Sponsored by the Blue Ridge Section, American Alpine Club. Admission is \$2.00 (\$1.50 for members of the American Alpine Club).

CRESCENT ROCKS, REDIRECTED

A major typo in the April issue obscured the directions to Crescent Rocks (see page 6 of that issue). The directions should read: Take Route 7 to Rt. 601 (Route & isn't on most maps). Then drive north on Rt 601 (which is also the route of the Appalachian Trail); when the trail leaves the road, start walking uphill for about 45 minutes. There will be a club trip to Crescent Rocks on June 25.

From our far-flung correspondent, John Bremmer, we received word that the climbing area of El Dorado Canyon will not be turned into a gravel pit after all. The fund-raising and lobbying efforts of climbers and other parties have resulted in the purchase of this land by the State of Colorado as the first step in the establishment of a state park. The land had been a privately owned resort.

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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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.

JOHN STANNARD RESIGNS

Having officially resigned my duties as conservation representative for the Mountaineering Section, one final task remains: to indicate some of the purposes to which I feel the money in the Seneca Guide Fund might be put. Shortly I hope to donate to the PATC all of the remaining copies for use as it sees fit. At present, the balance in the Fund is about \$XXX. More than a year ago another \$200 ? was donated to the Franklin-Circleville Rescue Squad.

Though the creation of the guide caused me both a great deal of work and personal financial loss, I don't wish to dictate how the money should be used. (Provided it is used to benefit Seneca Rocks in a fairly direct way.) For several years I have anticipated greatly increased restriction on our use of all our major climbing areas. I hoped that a guide might be a vehicle which climbers would support, and which would generate money in a painless fashion. Money that could be used by climbers to fund their own volunteer maintenance projects. In the presence of such a determined effort by climbers it was reasonable to expect that climbers would have earned and would be given a cooperative role in charting the painful and inevitable decisions that I would guess are now only one or two years in the future.

It seemed to me that efforts to preserve the talus slope around Seneca are a major and continuing task that might be supported using the Fund. I can't be more precise here because the Forest Service is quite properly involved and any proposals by climbers would have to be

(Cont'd on page 3)

(Cont'd from page 3)

acceptable to the USFS.

In parting I would like to make two brief comments. I found my work with the Mountaineering Section challenging, and exciting, but most of all -useful. Finally to those of you who now climb more actively than myself, I would say the following: Climbing will become whatever climbers make out of it. So if climbing means a great deal to you, then you should take care to give the construction of that future the thought and effort it deserves.

--John Stannard

Belay Ledge

WELCOME BACK

James Thresher

NEW ADDRESSES

Rick Todd
3000 Belpre Road
#203
Wheaton, MD 20906
460-4349

Expeditions

Greg Christopoulos is interested in climbing in Europe during the month of August. The dates, objectives, and level of difficulty are all negotiable. Call after May 20 (293-3272).

Mystery of the Month

What are the potential uses of a wind-powered electricity generator on a 10-person Alpine expedition? (Electric blanket? microwave oven? hair-dryer? garbage compactor?....)

Hanging Around

Sugarloaf Mt, MD

--Feb. 25

It was a clear breezy day with snow on the ground. We approached Sugarloaf from the north looking for a climbing area on the north side of the mountain. Unable to find it, we headed for the usual climbing area, only to find that the entrance to the drive was closed to automobiles. We then drove around the base of the mountain looking for another climbing area. Finding no other rocks, we decided to go to Carderock because only half of the party wanted to hike up to the climbing area near the summit. The Sugarloafers included James Eakin, Stan Reeves, Leith Wain, and Ryan Pierson.

Sugarloaf Mt, MD

--March 19

It was a beautiful warm sunny day with no snow on the ground. We carpooled from Rockville to Sugarloaf and set up several top-roped climbs on the south side near the summit. Eighteen went on this excursion, including three kids and two wonder dogs, Max and Bubba. The bipeds were: James Eakin, Helen, Janice, and Pete Grant, Stan Halpin, Caleb, Mary, and Doug Howard, Deborah Kapper, Mike McGuire, Lin Murphy, Dave Lorentz, Vivian Prunier, Charlie Tuten, Ron Yockim, and Ryan Pierson.

Buzzard Rocks, VA

--April 9

A dismayingly large crowd was assembled at the appointed meeting place at that ungodly early hour. Janet said she was bringing a few friends; there were 5 other people in that van. Naturally, the leader neglected to bring paper and pencil, because she has the capacity to commit lists to memory. The resultant sensory overload meant that some people's names got forgotten or misspelled. See the list of participants below to see whether you are entitled to feel insulted.

Admittedly, Buzzard Rocks is not my favorite climbing area. I was sure Harold would be mad at me when he found out that there was a 20 minute hike uphill, and that most of the climbs were slab climbs of moderate angle. However, he didn't once threaten to hit me with his baseball bat. We must have looked scruffy though, because the administrator of the the fish hatchery was reluctant to give us permission to cross hatchery property to get on the trail. Then Marjorie applied a gracious amount of charm and permission was readily given.

This trip turned out to be alot of fun anyway. Marjorie, Parker, and John Fox remembered the location of the climbs. Their enthusiasm was infectious, and soon we were climbing routes which had resisted our collective attempts on previous trips. Harold and Janet set up some easier climbs for the less experienced people on this trip. They too got a chance to wear themselves out. We also got plenty of sunshine and not much wind, which made belaying and loafing comfortable.

We arrived back at the parking area about an hour later than we'd planned. We were further delayed because the sorting of the "going straight homes" from the "let's eats" required drastic moderation of the transportation arrangements. (Would you believe 8 in the van?) At the moment of departure, a climber recalled that he had done something that he will never do again: he forgot (someone else's) anchor and biners at the top! The owner of this equipment realized it would take less time to retrieve the gear (45 min) than it would to earn the \$\$ to replace it. The rapid onset of the dark of night did not appear to be a factor in this cost/ risk assessment.

Dinner at a pizza place in Front Royal proceeded in the chaotic vein of much of the day's events. Some folks' orders (mine) got lost, delayed, or scrambled. Undaunted by incipient starvation, our group achieved new records in rowdiness.

Before I conclude this trip report (7 of us snoozing in the back of a van), one further note about Buzzard Rocks. For a genuine mountaineering experience, cross the river, ascend the steep scree slope, and make a 5th class ascent up the rocks, which is what Ed Lawson and his friend did. Marjorie brought her lead gear but didn't use it. Harold brought along a baseball bat for protection. Someday he'll explain why.

The participants were: John Fox, Parker Hill, Marjorie Prochaska, Chuck Dewoody, Tom Prunier, Paul Torelli, Dave Coffee, Janet Young, Alan Sandler, Harold Goldstein, and Other Harold. Sallie Greenwood, Lin Murphy, Ed Lawson, and Someone Else (Bill?) made cameo appearances.
--Vivian Prunier

From Other Peaks



Annapurna III

The American Annapurna III Expedition has been granted sponsorship by the American Alpine Club, and will attempt to climb 24,787 foot Annapurna III by the unclimbed southwest ridge in the fall of 1978. One of the purposes of this seven-man expedition is to demonstrate that a small team on a limited budget can surmount the formidable logistics, as well as the climbing challenges involved. After reaching base camp, the climbers will spend two months attempting to climb Annapurna III without the assistance of Sherpas. The climb will probably require much high-angle rock and ice work at altitudes over 21,000 feet. The mountain was first climbed in 1961 by an Indian team and again by a Japanese women's team in 1970, both by easier routes.

The expedition members are: Steve Van Meter, leader, age 23; Werner Landry, 31; Tom McCullough, 29; Greg Sapp, 22; Ed Connors, 35; Rick Mosher, 31; and Dennis Coffee, M. D., 30, team physician.

Although substantial support has been furnished by equipment manufacturers, contributions from individuals is urgently needed. All contributions to the American Alpine Club are tax deductible. Anyone donating \$10 or more will receive a postcard from base camp signed by all the members of the expedition. Contributions should be sent to the American Alpine Club, 113 E. 90th St., New York, NY 10028.

The team is also offering a trek to the base camp in conjunction with the climb. The trek leads to the spectacular Annapurna Sanctuary and offers magnificent views of the Annapurna range, Macchapuchhare, and the Dhaulagiris. For further information or reservations, write expedition leader Steve Van Meter, 428 Blue Ridge, Orange, CA 92665; or call Steve at 714-974-1233.

Climber's Calendar

May 30	*Training, PATC Headquarters 8 PM	Rick Todd	460-4349
June 3	MS Picnic, Nat'l Geographic Society Headquarters, 2 PM		
June 4	Bull Run, VA	#	
June 10-11	**Seneca Rocks, WV	Doug Howard	736-6937
June 11	*Training, Carderock MD	Rick Todd	460-4349
June 14	Mountaineering Section Meeting PATC Headquarters, 8 PM		
June 18	Beginners Climb	Janet Young	296-0778
June 25	Crescent Rocks, VA	#	
July 1-4	**Shawangunks, NY	#	
July 2	Leader's Choice	#	

*All training is by appointment only. Classroom training must precede Carderock training. Carderock training may take place elsewhere if conditions dictate. Call Rick Todd (460-4349) to find the date for the July classroom training.

**Experienced leaders and seconds only. Arrange for your partner before departure.

#Your assistance in leading this trip would be appreciated. Call Doug Howard (736-6937) if you can lead a trip.

Up Rope

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