

FOUNDED BY
JAN AND HERB CONN

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

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SUMMER 1978

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At Base Camp

Nelson House

The combination on the lock has been changed; call Ryan Pierson (869-6271) to get the combination. Be prepared to scythe a little--the "lawn" seems to have gotten out of hand.

Rumor has it that the Royal Nepalese government has issued a permit for the spring of 1979 to a team of crack American climbers from the D. C. area. Their objective will be Machupachere, the Fish Tail, a strikingly beautiful peak of great religious importance. It has been off-limits to expeditions for some time and has never been climbed, so the granting of the permit, if the rumor is indeed true, is somewhat surprising. Even more surprising is the nature of the expedition, for this reporter has been told, and hold on to your hats, that the climbers will all be kittens. Yes, this will be the first all-American Kitten expedition to the Himalayas. More details will be available next month.

Conservation Committee

Paul and Betsy Guthrie have agreed to take over John Stannard's role of watch-dog, intermediary, and diplomat for environmental matters. Good luck!

The American Alpine Club, Blue Ridge Section, sent us the following note:

Dear Stan:

Members of our Blue Ridge Section who attended the Seneca Spring meeting and stayed at the Nelson House of the Mountaineering Section thoroughly enjoyed themselves there. We found it an idyllic place and the right surroundings for a low-land alpine get-together.

Thank you for making the house available to us.

Sincerely, Joe Wagner

Encl: Check for fees and a small donation to house fund.

Subscriptions to UPROPE

The subscription rate for UPROPE is \$4.00 for people who are not members of PATC. Yes the rate has been raised. Quality costs.

UPROPE 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 Prunier, 4619 N. 22nd Street, Arlington, VA 22207. Deadline is the 20th of each month. Subscriptions for MS members are included in the dues. Annual subscriptions for non-members is \$4.00. Current PATC members interested in receiving UPROPE 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 sponsorship of a current member of MS. Send subscription and address changes to Circulation Manager, UPROPE, 1718 N Street N. W., Washington, D. C. 20036.

 Mountaineering Section Activities
 The MS holds monthly meetings at PATC Headquarters (1718 N Street NW, D. C.) to conduct a brief business session and 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 a month. Any individual is welcome to participate in MS activities, although some restrictions are placed on participation on club trips. The Sunday trips are usually to areas where there is a complete range of top-roped climbs, from easy to difficult; however, we ask that you have some instruction or experience prior to the trip. 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 Doug Howard, 736-6937, Chairman of the Trips Committee, or call the designated trip leader. For information on training, call Rick Todd, 460-4349.

PATC MOUNTAINEERING SECTION

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This June, the town of New Paltz, NY celebrated the 300th anniversary of its founding. The founding of the town was quite dramatic. The site was discovered when a rescue party from Kingston stormed an Indian camp in the Shawangunk Mountains. The purpose of the raid was to free 23 women and children whom the Indians had captured in Kingston. Never mind that the Indian raid was in retaliation of a Dutch kidnapping of several chiefs and the subsequent transport of the captives to the island of Curacao. Fourteen years after that, the Huguenots received title to the land from the English governor and purchased the land from the Indians for tools, cloth, and 2 horses. The settlement that developed along the banks of the Walkill River is now the oldest street in America with its original houses.

Coming Attractions

The film "Fitzroy" which depicts an expedition to Patagonia will be shown at the September MS meeting (Wednesday, September 13, 8 PM).

In November, the long-awaited film "The Edge" will be the entertainment. More about "The Edge" in later issues.

Hanging Around

In Search of Ice Feb. 18-21

Now that the hot summer is upon us, it seems appropriate to finally reveal the details, long hidden, of this interesting trip. Ostensibly for the purpose of X-country skiing. Greg Christopulos, Janet Young, and Harold Goldstein left DC on the evening of Friday, February 17. The National Hotel in Gambrille referred us to their annex, a little hut un the woods. On Sturday we went up to Ligonier and asked about ice at the outfitters. "Oh sure, just follow these easy direction, can't miss it great stuff." Believe it. So we went skiing at Land Mt.

Sunday we searched out the Waterfalls at Swallow Falls Park and found somewhat quasi caves behind a falls-but nothing really to climb. Se we went back to New Germany where we skied happily ever after and Harold twisted his knee on the last run of the last day.

--Harold

SNAKE! SNAKE!

During a recent trip to the Gunks, Parker Hill was belaying Keith Pitman, who was leading the first pitch of the climb. As Keith was working his way up, Parker, who was tied in to a tree called out, "Hey. a copper-head just crawled across my EBs!" Keith said, "Don't take me off belay!" with a note of urgency in his voice. Then, "Do you want me to downclimb to a ledge so you can move?" Parker said "No." Then suddenly, a second later, "Hey wait a minute, the sanke's coming back!"

Well, it was quickly decided that Keith would downclimb to the nearest ledge, and Parker would unclip from the tree and move the belay to a less threatened

location. After that was accomplished, the climb was successfully completed. (Ed. note: It was not explicitly stated in the report whether Parker was actually wearing his EBs at the time; nor was the climb named.)

Keith Pitman

Belay Ledge

We received a note from Ron Yochim. The portions suitable for publication in a family magazine are printed below:

Dear Vivian and Tom:

First of all I am enclosing a check for \$3.50 for the UPROPE subscription. I'd appreciate it if you would start with the May issue.

As you may have guessed, I made it to Pierre. My second weekend here I spent in the Needles--did a few climbs, a few 5.7-5.8 boulder problems, a couple of B-1 problems, and generally got a feel for the place. It is really a fantastic place, pretty scenery and climbs (short 1-2 pitches) every where. Hoping to make it to Devil's Tower in a couple weeks, and hopefully Tetons or Wind: Rivers later in the summer.

Interesting to see a different group of birds around, seeing Western King-birds everywhere, Swainson's Hawks, of course Kestrels, and even been seeing owls out hunting. It is rather refreshing to be out in the wide open spaces again-- also where the only air pollution is the smell of fresh cowpies.

My new adress is:
1311 E. Cabot
Pierre, S. D. 57501
244-1984

Well, peace be with you, Ron

Climber's Calendar

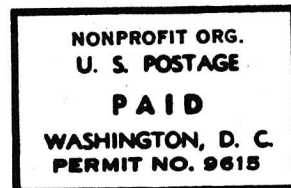
July 23	Annapolis Rocks, MD	#	
July 30	**Seneca Rocks, WV	Ryan Pierson	869-6271
August 5	Sugarloaf Mt., MD	Ryan Pierson	869-6271
August 13	Great Falls, VA	#	
August 20	Leader's choice	#	
August 27	Leader's Choice	#	
September 2-4	**Shawangunks, NY	Doug Howard	736-6937
September 6	Executive Committee Meeting		
September 13	MS Meeting, PATC Head- quarters, 8 PM	"Fitzroy"	

*All training is by appointment only. Classroom training must precede Carderock training. Call Rick Todd to find the date of 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 it.


1718 N St N W
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DATED MATTER

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MS

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