

FOUNDED BY
JAN AND HERB CONN

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

1718 N Street, N.W. Washington DC 20036

Volume 33, Number 7

UPROPE

October-November 1978

Coming Events

The MS equipment auction will be held on Wednesday, November 15, at PATC Headquarters. Doors open at 7:00 P.M. for tagging and preliminary haggling. The auction action actually starts at 8. Harold Goldstein will be presiding, with the able assistance of Stan Halpin.

The program for the December meeting (December 13) will be a talk and slide show by Arnold Wexler entitled "Walking Around Annapurna".

The election of MS officers will also be held on December 13. In the meantime, the Nominations Committee will accept nominations (what else?)

Rick Todd, who directs the Section's training program, has a new daytime telephone number: 434-5882.

As of December, 1978, UPROPE will have new editors. Lin Murphy and Jim DeLano have volunteered to take on this responsibility. Contributions should be sent to:
Lin Murphy, 1412 Patrick Henry Drive, Apt. 122, Arlington, VA 22205
or
Bill DeLano, 1012 Ellison Square, Falls Church, VA 22046

Eric Jones --November 13

Eric Jones, who recently returned from the successful 1978 "Everest without Oxygen" expedition, will present not one, but two of his films: "The Cerro Torre Enigma" and the award-winning "Matterhorn: the North Face" on Monday, November 13, at 8:00 P. M. The films will be shown at the Stone Ridge School auditorium at 9101 Wisconsin Avenue (corner of Wisconsin and Cedar Lane, next to the Naval Hospital) in Bethesda, MD. There will also be an introductory talk and a question and answer period at the end. Donations will be accepted.

"Matterhorn: the North Face" depicts a climb done in appalling weather conditions. A near-fatal slip, an avalanche, and a blizzard are all caught on film. Nearly 5000 feet of hard climbing tests the skills of the best mountaineers, and this exciting record portrays the humor, suffering, and final triumph of the team.

"The Cerro Torre Enigma" - One of the most spectacular peaks in the Andes, Cerro Torre has been the center of a climbing controversy for nearly 20 years. In 1959, Italian Cesare Maestri claimed that he scaled the peak with the Austrian climber Toni Egger. Egger was swept to his death, along with the camera and summit photographs. Since then,

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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

Chairman	
Stan Halpin	340-2593
Vice-chairman	
Neal Arsenault	301-997-2925
Secretary	
Keith Pitman	931-2234
Treasurer	
Stevie Ney	762-7311

UPROPE Staff

Editor	
Vivian Prunier	527-3163
Circulation Manager	
Don Kocher	949-2239

(Cont'd from page 1)
evidence discovered by American climber Jim Donini casts doubt on Maestri's claim. The verdict is left to the viewer in this powerful documentary on what is now considered to be one of the most difficult summits in the world.

Hanging Around

Old Rag, VA --July, 1978

A rather select group of climbers- Doug Howard, Ken Love, Janet Ross, and Alan Sandler- left AO at the usual hour of 9:30 AM Saturday with the intention of climbing at White Oak Canyon. However, an assessment of the climbs and equipment led us up the backside of Old Rag with hopes of meeting a second group at the summit on Sunday. As I was in search of new unclimbed rocks, I was carrying my aid rack. We reached the summit late in the day, only to find that the Park Ranger would not issue a permit for camping. A hasty retreat to Thornton Gap yielded the necessary piece of paper and a 10 PM return to Old Rag. The rain set in heavy about 3 AM and continued on and off throughout the day. As a result, we never did join up with the hard men and women who were rumored to be doing 5.8 friction in the rain on the summit.

-Doug Howard

Expeditions

Cat Expedition Update

As you read in the last issue of UP ROPE, the AAACHE (All American All Cat Himalayan Expedition) will climb Macchupachare in the spring of 1979. Due to the importance of the expedition, and the fact that the expedition members are to become honorary members of the Mountaineering Section, we will keep close tabs on their activities.

The cat climbers were jolted, in late August by the news of the death of Isis, mother to three of them, and sister to Tabby Cat climber. Isis fell to her death while attempting a tricky traverse three stories up. The tragic story so common, familiarity with the moves doesn't always assure success. Just two weeks later, Athena Cat climber, one of the charter members for the expedition, and one of the best tree cats in the world, was killed in an automobile accident.

This one-two death punch could have been fatal to a lesser expedition, but it has added to the determination of the cat climbers. Expedition leader Hummel informs us that the summit climbers will carry the ashes of Isis and Athena and will scatter them to the winds of the Himalayas.

Applications have been pouring in from around the country and the final team will be announced before the end of the year. Several additional members have already been chosen, including a former PATC climber who now resides in the Pacific Northwest.

Food preparations are in the capable paws of Tabby Cat. She plans to cache the upper camps with freeze-dried cockroaches and grasshoppers. Porter mice will accompany the climbers to upper camps and will be eaten there, thus reducing the loads that must be carried. This approach may herald a new era in Himalayan techniques...

it is believed that no other expedition has utilized its porters so effectively. It is rumored however, that even now several organizers are talking to Sherpa mice concerning their employment conditions, wages, etc., and are especially concerned about our high camp strategy.

Base camp staples will include Purr Tuna and Gourmet Delight.

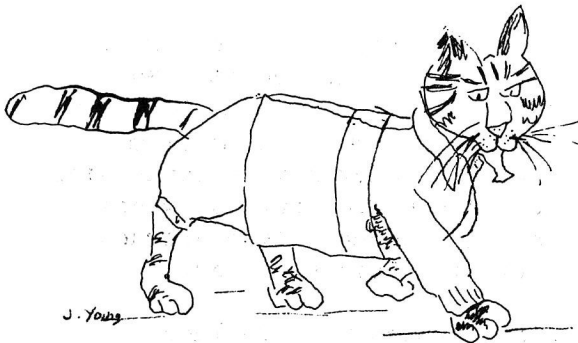
Climbing strategy and route planning is being done by Raisin. A very meticulous and able researcher, Raisin has spent long hours in the library becoming familiar with history and technique. He has been developing several amazingly simple ideas. It is well known that cats have 9 lives. Before the expedition, Raisin will survey all the cats to determine how many of their lives they have consumed. In this way, cats doing the trickier leads will be chosen on the basis of ability and available lives.

Because of the catpower shortages caused by the deaths of Isis and Athena, Hummel has accepted Greg Christopoulos' (human) offer of assistance. So Greg, in Nepal next month for his own climbing, will aid in contacting Sherpa cats to ensure that their training proceeds as planned. He will also take pictures of the route and do other liaison chores.

Once again, we urge all of you to order our expedition T-shirts. Available inscriptions include: Macchupachare: Not Just Another Tree A Cat's Place is on Top Cats Do It Better

Down on Dogs
The price is \$11.00 for humans and \$9.00 for cats. Please indicate size, color, inscription, and species when you send your order to Hummel Cat, 1409 21 St NW, Washington D. C. 20036.

--Harold Goldstein, Human Liaison Officer
1979 AAACHE



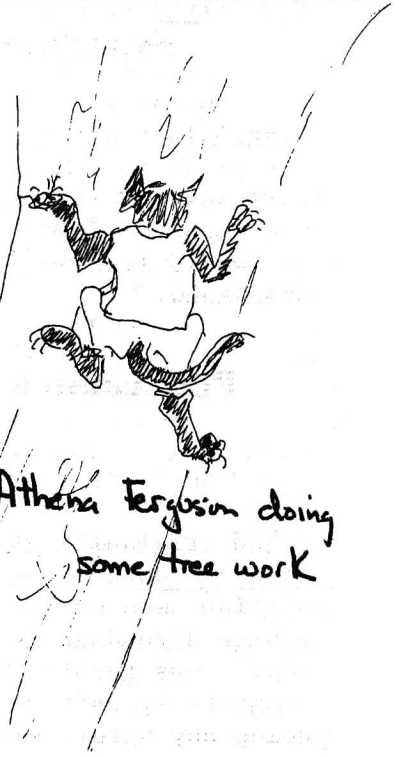
Tabby Cat, in her rugby shirt

Seneca Rocks, WV --October 21-22

Paul and Betsy Guthrie ended up as de facto trip leaders to Seneca Rocks on October 21-22. They were up there to attend the fall meeting of the Est Virginia Highlands Conservancy as the PATC representatives. The Highlands Conservancy was formed several years ago to counter the political muscle of the mining and logging interests in West Virginia. Interestingly enough, half of the members are from out of state. The theme of the weekend meeting was the generation of local input unto the Forest Service management plan for the Seneca Rocks-Spruce Knobs region which is expected to be completed in 1980. Of concern to climbers are the use of the rocks by commercial training outfits, the erosion of the footpaths and the scree slope, and the damage done by illegal camping around the rocks. The aim of the weekend meeting was to tour sites that might be affected by the Forest Service management plan. Another goal was to open up dialogue between Forest Service officials and local residents (who see their land threatened by Forest Service purchase and conservancy members). It is early for formal decisions, but by next fall the options will be formulated and long range policies will be set. PATC is monitoring the process and the club might think about trail maintenance activities that it can do and suggest alternative camping sites.



Raisin on prusik



Athena Ferguson doing some tree work

Paul and Betsy hauled up the wood stove that the Section recently acquired. The stove is now sitting in the parlor of the Nelson House. It has not been hooked up yet. The stove is large and will be welcomed by winter visitors (especially if it is operating). The smaller stove will be moved into the kitchen. The Nelson house looked pretty good, except for the infestation of the upper floor by cold-drugged flies. The flies were promptly zapped by intrepid climbers. Some corpses remain to be swept away by the next crew. The outhouse will definitely needed to be moved by spring.

As for activities, the drive to the top of Spruce Knob is highly recommended on a nice day to anyone who can spare one hour from the rocks. The turn-off to the access road is marked on Rt 33 between Seneca and the Nelson House.

Climbers who arrived at Nelson House on Saturday night were: James Eakin, Gary Rowan, Bill Heronimus, Neal Arsenault and Jeanie (sorry-I-forgot-yer-name).

--Betsy Guthrie

Wind River Range, 1979

Stan Halpin is assembling an expedition to the Wind River Range in Wyoming. The only thing definite about his plans is the date(s)--July 21 to August 6, 1979. If you think you might be free during those weeks and would like to go along, let Stan know.

Publications and MapsThe Foxes' Union, by James Kilpatrick

I had originally planned to review Great Ascents by Eric Newby. The writing was so bad, I never even finished reading it. Hence, no review. Now, I was feeling slightly guilty about that. After all, I haven't been doing any heroic climbs or led any trips since I've been expanding my role in other directions. (There are compensations--I can usually get a seat in a crowded bus.) Nonetheless, a contribution to UPROPE was promised, so I'll review The Foxes' Union instead.

The author of this book is the Washington Star columnist whose political views are so reactionary that I've never managed to read one of his commentaries all the way through without igniting. Of course the book has nothing to do with climbing or mountaineering, or politics either. But it describes the natural and human history of Rappahannock County, a region familiar to climbers of Old Rag, Big Devil's Stairs, and other favorite places on the eastern slopes of the Blue Ridge. Kilpatrick is a delightful writer. This book is chockful of information and funny stories about the inhabitants of a place beloved by writer and reader. There are also marvelous illustrations by Jeff MacNelly the creator of the comic strip "Shoe". I have thoroughly enjoyed this book and may even read it all the way through.
--Vivian Prunier

From the Editor's Chimney

With a mixture of relief and reluctance, I am resigning as editor of UPROPE. Relief because I will no longer have to race against those Deadlines, which usually won anyway. Reluctance because putting out each issue of UPROPE has been very satisfying to me. The obligation to write something has challenged my creativity in a way that writing on a strictly voluntary basis never does. Finally, I rediscovered the pleasure of writing. Writing for pleasure had been a favored childhood passtime, but as I grew up, writing became more like work and less like fun. So, in the process of providing everyone else in the Section with up-to-date climbers' calendars, trip reports, and miscellaneous news, I became acquainted with a part of myself that I'd forgotten I had.

Well, there's a saying that the best time to leave a party is when you are still having fun, so I guess I would be resigning soon as UPROPE editor anyway. However, my departure is precipitated by the pending arrival of the first of a limited edition of junior Pruniers. The (tentative) scheduling of this event makes it unlikely that I would meet the Deadline for the December issue. After that, the rumored ability of these little wailing creatures to consume all available time and space precludes my future activity as editor. I will send occasional trip reports on such topics as cutting my own toenails, day-for-night, long-distance floor pacing, and family life for amateurs. Some-time before my fortieth birthday, I'd like to do some more climbing.

My successors will be Lin Murphy and Bill DeLano. I'm sure they will do a good job and I hope that editing UPROPE gives each of them as much satisfaction as it has given me.

Climber's Calendar

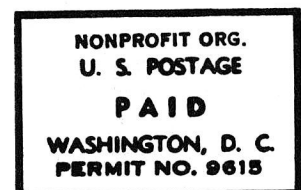
November 10-11	**Shawangunks, NY	Bill DeLano	532-0650
November 13	Eric Jones' talk and films; Stone Ridge School, Bethesda, MD, 8 PM		
November 15	Auction, PATC HQ, 8 PM		
November 19	Sugarloaf, MD	Stan Reeves	430-3270
November 25-26	Leader's choice	#	
December 3	Leader's choice	#	
December 5	*Training, PATC HQ, 8 PM	Rick Todd	434-5882
December 13	MS Meeting, PATC HQ, 8 PM Elections	Arnold Wexler	

*Training is by appointment only. Classroom training must precede training at Carderock.

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

#Your assistance in leading this trip would be appreciated. Call Doug Howard at 736-6937

Up Rope
1718 N St N W
Washington, D. C. 20036



DATED MATTER