



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

1718 N Street, N.W. Washington DC 20036

Volume 34, Number 2

UP ROPE

February 1979

Chairman's Corner

It's that time of year when I get to nag you gently, reminding you that our Mountaineering Section is only as strong and active as the people who are its members. Will we continue to have a training program? Can we expand training to include a good introduction to seconding climbs on multipitch climbs? Will we continue to have good programs every month? Will UP ROPE be published regularly, with interesting contents? Will novice climbers or climbers new to the area find our trips cancelled due to lack of interested leaders? Will we have a mountaineering medicine course? Will there be a picnic this year? For the answer to these and other questions, ask yourself whether you have done anything for the Section lately. Even though we have a number of individuals unselfishly spending a great deal of time on Section projects, it is like pulling teeth to find anyone new. Who is going to replace Doug Howard as Trips Committee? What can we do if Barbara gets sick of twisting arms and calling fly-by-night film distributors in attempts to find entertainment for us? For a small group, we accomplish a great deal, due in large part to the support of our parent organization. But if a larger portion of our membership were more active we would have

fewer good ideas put off year after year. PATC is built on the concept of volunteers working for the good of the general hiking public. The MS provides an avenue for work for the climbing community. Let's use it!

MS INVITED TO WHITE ROCKS

There are within perhaps 20 miles of Frederick, Md., two areas with good climbing potential, which, I believe, are unknown and untried by the rock climbing community. One of them is about to be "discovered" because of the publication of a map in the October, 1978, Potomac Appalachian describing the new Northern Peaks Trail blazed by Bill and Kim Hutchinson. It is identified as White Rocks on that map and lies perhaps a 15-minute steady climb off Mt. Ephraim Road, between Stronghold and Park Mills. White Rocks is secure quartzite, like the rest of Sugarloaf, and has a superb view. There is a vertical face with several possible routes and a feeling of exposure, good top belay positions, and (north just a bit) what is probably the best practice chimney in these parts. It well warrents a visit from a small exploring group.

Alfred M. Webb
(Waverley Farm, West Patrick St.
Frederick, Md. 21701)

Meeting Report

January 10, 1979

A draft new membership list was circulated for an accuracy check. It will be published toward the end of January.

We would like to plan a mountaineering medicine course for this spring. See Martha Hale if you have ideas for topics and teachers.

There are picnic site problems. Carderock is already booked full for the year. We need a place that allows alcohol, has a shelter, and space for frisbees. Call Stan if you would like to coordinate the picnic.

The yearly projects discussed at the January executive meeting included the uncertain status of the Nelson house. Query - do we want to continue using it? A good turnout on a work trip will indicate continued interest and use of the building.

Ian Cruickshank will tell about ski mountaineering at the February meeting. The potpourri slide show has been rescheduled for March. Give your slides to Harold Goldstein.

The executive meeting will be held the first Thursday of the month. On February 8, it will meet at Lin Murphy's.

Stan talked about a problem he had on a climbing trip to Bull Run. Cars were towed. (See trip report.) He reported some local hostility toward area users, which could be explained by the need to rescue lost hikers. He advised parking cars three feet off the road but cautioned that there are roadside spikes on the north side of the mountain.

MS patches are available. The large turnout having been characterized as a "veritable mob," newcomers were not required to identify themselves. Sallie Greenwood showed slides from her Pamirs expedition.

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 either Lin Murphy, 1412 Patrick Henry Drive, Apt. 122, Arlington, Va. 22205 or Bill DeLano, 1012 Ellison Square, Falls Church, Va. 22046. 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.

PATC MOUNTAINEERING SECTION

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Secretary	
Keith Pitman	931-2234
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Ian Cruickshank	426-1940

UP ROPE STAFF

Co-editors	
Lin Murphy	532-1853
Bill DeLano	532-0650
Circulation Manager	
Don Kocher	949-2239

MOUNTAINEERING SECTION ACTIVITIES

The MS holds monthly meetings at PATC Headquarters (1718 N Street, N.W., 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.

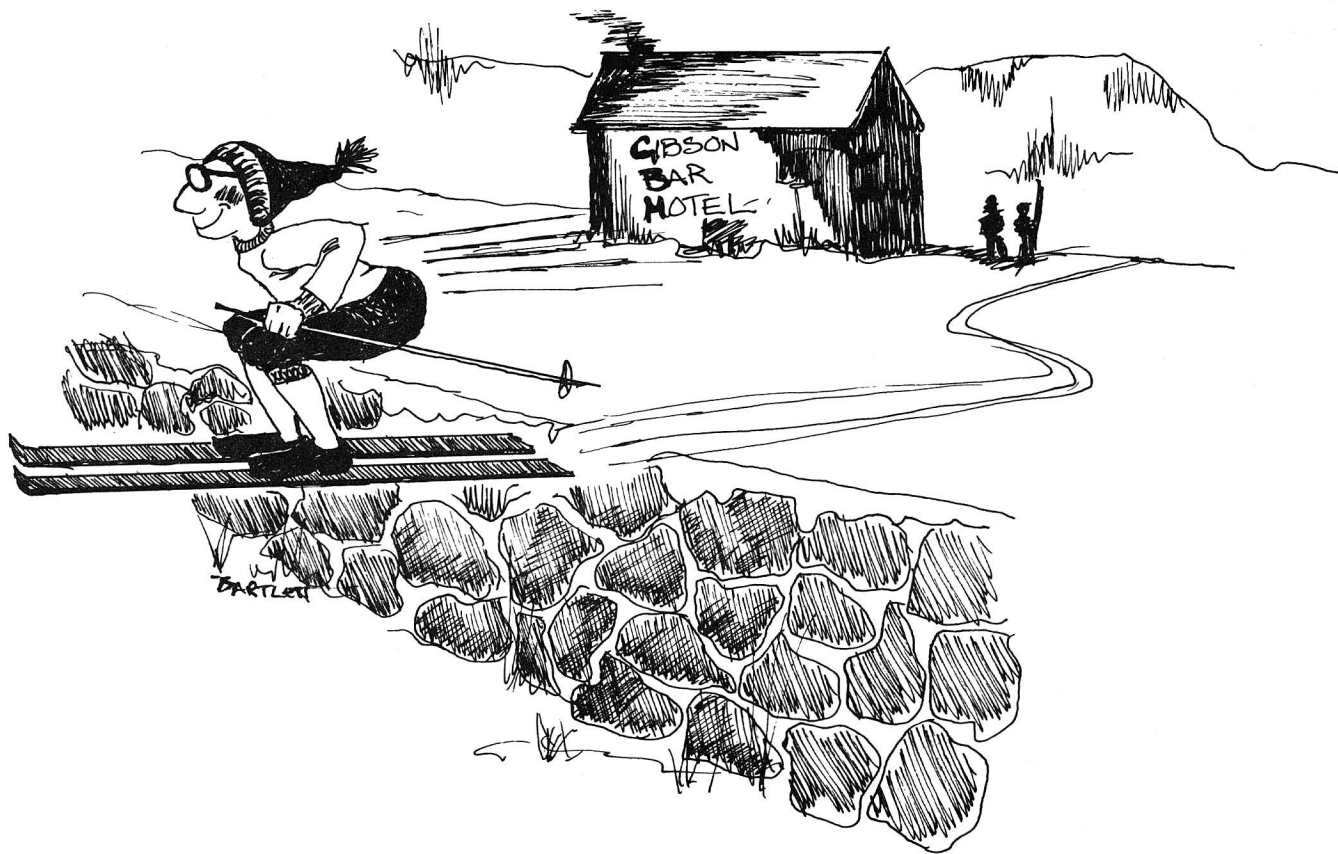
MS SKIERS SOAR TO NEW HEIGHTS

Ten MS members went skiing in Pennsylvania's Black Forest over New Year's. We ran into a group of the PATC ski touring people at Gibson's Hotel-Bar near Jersey Shore. The snow wasn't very good, and, on the second day, icy roads precluded driving to our accustomed ski trailheads on the plateau. Instead, we explored the humps and slopes around the hotel. One creative climber-skier saw the real challenge of a large hill right outside the hotel. Steel-nerved Mike Hill catapulted down the slope to shoot off the four-foot man-made ledge

of a near-by barn. His verve and panache thrilled both locals and visiting skiers who watched transfixed as he repeated his feat and inspired others to emulate him.

Later, we had good times talking and singing - Nellie Hill tried to tune us. In default of snow on New Year's Day, we left Gibson's early to visit the Wettlings' farm in Bloomsburg.

Marty and John Christian, Nellie and Mike Hill, Meg and Ray Kramer, Margaret and Chuck Wettling, Sallie Greenwood, Sue Jordan- Sallie's Australian friend, and Lin Murphy



First Descent of Barn Ledge

Hanging Around

Delivery Room - December 12, 1978

Sarah Zayat Prunier arrived safely on December 12, 1978, at 11:47 a.m. For me, it was as though I'd steered a toboggan down a steep, icy run. In the first minutes after her birth, I was just relieved that we didn't wipe out. Later, there was time to inspect, examine, and admire.

Now our daughter is one week old and seems to be tolerating our often-times bumbling attempts at parentry. Can a woman who earns her living with a pen ever learn to communicate with a creature who knows no words? (Tune in next month.) The first night at home, the child slept in a bath towel because we had not bought any receiving blankets. Although that deficiency has been corrected, we've found that bath towels are lots warmer. So, if you see a kid swathed in a turkish towel, it's probably ours. Also, we have found that lead climbing is good experience for aspiring parents. Where else can you learn to do complicated maneuvers with one hand while hanging on for dear life with the other? Did I say she was tolerating us? Right now she is in the other room screaming her head off.

Vivian Prunier

Seneca Rocks - New Year's Weekend

While **other**, **saner** people were enjoying warm **New Year's** parties, four intrepid (crazy) winter mountaineers took on Seneca Rocks. As it turned out, we were the last climbers on the rock for 1978 and the first for 1979. Armed with a rucksack of Cold Duck and Wild Turkey, we were able to ascend the Pine Tree traverse to Windy Corner and up

to a bivouac below the summit. Ignoring the verglas and freezing sleet conditions, welcoming New Year's on Seneca was not all that dismal. Other climbs included Conn's East, Skyline Traverse, and Greenwall.

Sue Neel, John Serrocci, Tim Gilroy, and Don McIntyre

Don McIntyre

White Oak Canyon - January 8, 1979

For reasons which were unclear then, and have faded with the passage of time, several of us went out to White Oak for the first trip of the year. The walk in from the bottom was good exercise, there was a small patch of ice which we all climbed two or three times, and it never rained all that heavily. But, after all, we are in the dead of winter. Would good ice and cold weather be too much to ask for?

James Eakin, Stan Swatila, Paul Torrelli, Kurt Kemper, Ian Cruickshank, and Stan Halpin

Bull Run, Va. - December 24, 1978

Several refugees from the final Christmas shopping rush spent part of a rainy day cursing the wet slimey rock north of the regular climbing area at Bull Run. Good sense finally won out over enthusiasm, and we got back to the road just in time to keep the second car from being towed (for having parked too close to the roadway). We retrieved the towed car and splashed home, muttering about the lack of Christmas spirit. Final bill: one \$15 towing charge, two \$33 tickets; total \$81. James Eakin, Bob Berger, Bill Heironomous, John Bremer, and Stan Halpin

From the Editors' Chimney

Climbing Places Project

Would you all help gather information about the places we climb for publication in UP ROPE? For example, a report on Bull Run Mt. could include a geological description, a history of the area (when settled, etc.), tell when climbing started there, and who the first climbers were. A lot of climbing pioneers live in this area, and their remembrances should be part of the report. A sketch or photo with some attempt to indicate routes would be mighty useful. Other items on the checklist are driving directions to the area and the location of emergency medical care.

We think that the risk of publicizing the climbing areas is outweighed by what we all could learn and by preserving for the climbing record the anecdotes of the people who first climbed there.

So, if you are a geologist, sketcher or photographer, or a climbing pioneer, or if you want to talk to these folks about a rock, call us. Someone has spoken for Greenland Gap, but there are lots of other rocks out there with stories waiting to be told.

Publications

Rowell's One-Day McKinley Climb:

On June 10, after two days at 10,000 feet, Ned Gillette and Galen Rowell reached the summit after 19 hours of climbing. "We moved straight through except for a 45-minute rest and hot-drink stop at 17,300. It took nine hours from 10,000 to 17,300, and another nine hours to the top." American Alpine News, December, 1978

Wheelchair Ascent of Mt. Fujiyama:

"In his specially designed wheelchair with a caterpillar tread," 37-year old Yukihiro Isa climbed Fujiyama in five days in late July. American Alpine News, December, 1978

Snakes at the Gunks:

Meeting two copperheads on Wrist, "he stepped back into space, falling 60 feet, after pulling three pieces of protection." 1978 Accidents in North American Mountaineering

NEW SOLES FOR SALLIE

Sallie Greenwood finally bought some E.B.s! "Shucks," she smiled and added, "I can still wear socks."



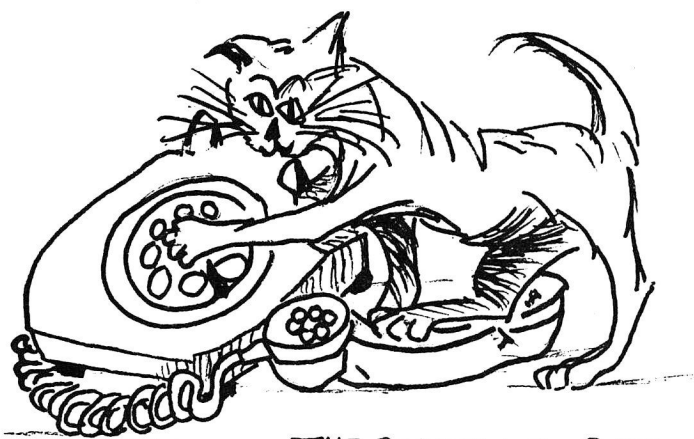
The high hills are a refuge for the wild goats; and the rocks for the conies.

Psalm 104:18

CAT EXPEDITION NEWS - MEMBERS SELECTED

Expedition leader Hummel announced the following additions to the expedition team:

Bastille Cat (B.C.) - Communications Officer. B.C. has shown tremendous skills in this important area: only four months old, she has learned to dial a telephone.



THE BASTILLE CAT
— communications expert
and crack climber

Mystery Dance (Ms. Dance) - Travel Officer. Mystery is Hummel's sister. Not content with the climbing opportunities in her birthplace, she split this past summer for the Pacific Northwest. She lives in Bellingham, Wa., and has climbed all over the state. Her travel experience includes cars, school buses, and air planes. She has been involved in many travel emergencies that have baffled less adept humans but not bothered her at all.

Acorn "Monster" Grieves - Massage Officer. Acorn specializes in foot baths, but is **quite** familiar with the entire feline frame. In addition, "Monster" is a large, courageous animal who will be helpful in fending off marauding dogs. He has very large paws and may be able to tread where others require skis or snowshoes.

Witchie "Little Put" - Bioenergetics Officer. Witchie is adept at bioenergetic technique, which will be important to keep the cats in high energy with healthy, supple, and tensionless bodies. She is also a fine French cook and will assist Tabby in food preparations.

Marley C. Bonine - Sociological Officer. Marley lives with former MS humans in Oregon. Concerned with the ramifications of the expedition on the area's cat population, she is studying catechisms of the Buddhist faith and cataloging the various interactions expected with the locals. She has learned of the existence of secret catacombs that will be used to store food and will be a general catalyst in creating good relations in Nepal.

Some major equipment decisions have been reached: Feline Kits ("The Kits for Kats") will supply much of the soft wear--clothing and base camp tents.



Forest Mountaineering has been chosen to supply climbing hardware. (Hummel liked the sound of the name - forest mountaineers climb trees) Forest will modify its ice axes in size and will design them to be handled by paws. (Those of you who have T-shirts should have them tipped since Hummel originally posed with a Verglas.)

Pleased by the public response to his T-shirts, Hummel has authorized a reduced price: \$7.50 postpaid; \$6.50 in person

Hummel Cat c/o H. Goldstein
1409 21 St. N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20036

CANZONE DI MONTANAROHerbie's Horror Blues*

by Jan Conn

When your foot begins a-slipping and you
 think you're going to fall,
 And what you're hanging onto isn't any
 good at all,
 And there's nothing quite within your
 reach that's half as good to use,
 That's the time you got those "Herbie's
 Horror" Blues.

Oh, the "Herbie's Horror" Blues make
 you feel so low,
 And you wonder what it is that makes
 you fall off so,
 And you tear your hair in deep despair
 and blame it on your shoes -
 But we all know it's the "Herbie's
 Horror" Blues.

*Tune: "When Johnny Comes Marching Home"

Author's Note - Herbie's Horror: The
 name of a rock face at Carderock that
 should never have been climbed.
 Unfortunately, it was successfully
 ascended three times. Thereafter, it
 was banned as being injurious to the
 morale and mental stability of the rock
 climber.

Jolly Climber**

from the Stanford Alpine Club

Once a jolly climber camped below a
 mountain top
 Under the shade of an old pine tree,
 And he sang as he sat
 And waited till his Primus burned-
 You'll come a-climbing Matilda with me.

Chorus: You'll come a-climbing,
 You'll come a-climbing,
 You'll come a-climbing, Matilda
 with me;
 And he sang as he sat
 And waited till his Primus
 burned-
 You'll come a-climbing Matilda
 with me.

Down came a boulder, bouncing off the
 mountain top,
 Up jumped the climber and laughed with
 glee,
 You're a jolly boulder,
 Bouncing through my camping spot-
 You'll come a-climbing Matilda with me.

Chorus

Up came the ranger, mounted on his
 thoroughbred,
 Up came the rescuers, one, two, three,
 And they laughed as they stuffed that
 Climber in their duffle bag-
 You'll come a-climbing Matilda with me.

Chorus

**Tune: Infer.

(Ed. note: Alfred Webb found these
 vintage rock climbing songs in his files
 and thought you'd like to see them.
 There are more...)

BRAD SHAVER DIES ON DHULAGIRI

Chris Kulczycki reports that Brad Shaver of Asheville, N.C., died after a successful two-man ascent of Dhulagiri (26,810 feet; 8,172 meters). Brad and his partner, whose name we don't know, had made a three-day alpine style climb. This is the fastest ascent of Dhulagiri to date. They were killed descending during a storm. A sherpa died in the search effort.

Brad ran Southern Mountaineering and had made first ascents of Stone Mountain routes such as Looking Glass and White Sides. He had also climbed in the Alps.

ExpeditionsPeruvian Climbing Expedition

I am currently organizing an expedition in the Cordillera Blanca Range in the Peruvian Andes for July- August, 1979. I intend to limit the team size to eight. Snow and ice experience is needed. To date, I have five people who have made verbal commitments. If you are interested in more information, please call.

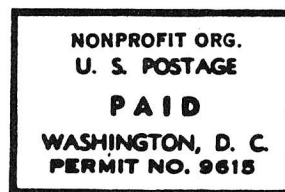
Don McIntyre
(H:536-6122; W:376-5898)

Climber's Calendar

February 14	MS meeting - 8 p.m. PATC Headquarters	Ian Cruickshank Ski Mountaineering
February 16-19	Chapel Pond, N.Y.	Stan Halpin (340-2593)
March 14	MS meeting - 8 p.m.	Potpourri slide show Harold Goldstein (296-0778)
April 11	MS meeting - 8 p.m.	North Country Mountaineering slide show



1718 N St N W
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DATED MATTER