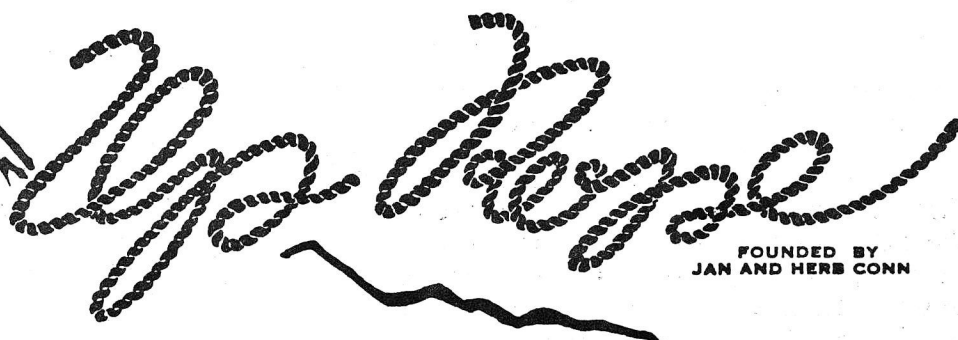


MAR 12 1979



FOUNDED BY
JAN AND HERB CONN

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

1718 N Street, N.W. Washington DC 20036

Volume 34, Number 3

March 1979

WHAT'S NEW IN THE FROZEN WATER GAME

by Neil Arsenault

Yvon Chouinard wrote in Climbing Ice, "The revolution is still continuing, but I feel most of the existing techniques will still be in use ten years from now.... There will be great changes in the equipment, however, particularly in the hardware tools."

Chouinard rigids have gone the way of the buffalo and the Edsel. No more. They have been replaced by Chouinard's new fully adjustable flexible crampon a la Salewa. Good, but for serious stuff the SMC rigid is still the item. Following the success of the Messner Habeler series of axes last year, Chouinard Piolets, Zeros, and Northwalls will also sport fiber-glass-graphite shafts instead of laminated bamboo. Ever the fly fisherman, it would seem Yvon is the interface for technology between two industries.

More good news. Once more super gaiters will be available, a new design worked out by Peter Carmen (Uptown Sewing) that will semi-permanently attach. No more straps and velcro. You get in and out via zippers. The bad news: about \$70. That is less than \$10 a toe the way Steve Komito looks at things.

Lowe Alpine Systems introduced their new "Big Bird" this winter, a

50cm space age broad-spectrum tool with a tubular pick (after the successful Hummingbird hammer) and a tubular adze! The adze is removable, converting Big Bird axes into North Wall hammers. The tubular pick may be replaced with a blade-style alpine pick for dirty ice. (Summer in the Tetons.) Rumor in Lafayette, Co., has it that the prototypes are so successful that a scaled-down version may replace the Hummingbird. Problems obtaining 5/8" tubular chrome moly for the picks have kept Big Birds a rare bird for this winter.

Forrest Mountaineering has had exactly the same problem with their new tubular pick for the Mjollnir hammers. (Their tube pick is plastic-coated inside to help relieve ice build up.) Forrest has come out with several new toys to go along with their very good Verglas and Neve axes, namely a metal-shafted (like all Forrest axes) North Wall hammer. Obtainable in any length, it is best in its 50-55cm lengths as a mate to a short Verglas. Also new: Serac Sabres, Terrordactyl-like hammer and adze models. Like the Terrordactyl, these are most useful in the 40-45cm range, although any length is available. The Sabres do represent a sophistication of the Terrordactyl and are beautiful tools
(continued on page 2)

What's New in the Frozen Water Game (continued)

for steep ice, if somewhat less versatile than curved pick tools.

A very obvious trend has developed the last two years and is reflected in the new tools. There is a preference on steep ice for "longer than a hammer/shorter than an ax" style tools. This 40-55cm tool gives additional reach going over bulges and overhangs, has little disadvantage on vertical ice, and is less clumsy on sections of low angle. (Ever try crawling on your tummy like a snake while using two alpine hammers at Chapel Pond?) The 70cm piolet, of course, still remains the basic and most versatile tool.

While not new, available in the U.S. for the first time this winter is the Habeler Superlight boot. An out and out technical, up and down only, ain't-gonna-do-no-hiking boot, the Superlight has a full-length, full-width wood midsole, instead of a steel shank. Now you know why it's super light. It's also super warm and super rigid, has a good fit, and is very well made. In fact, the comment was made, "This boot is better than sex." ** However,

like sex, fit is what it's all about. So, if you are tired of crunched toes from Superguides or Puterays.... In Europe, the Habeler is it and should soon replace Galibiers in the States as "the" technical boot. (For those in the know Superguides never were "the boot." Klockers maybe, if you could find them, or Molitor EIS boots, if they didn't kill your feet; even La-Trappeur Professionals, but not Superguides.)

* Anyone who hasn't at least looked through Climbing Ice is missing something important. I feel much of my ability on ice is a direct result of having available back in '72-'73 what was to become Climbing Ice. I learned more when six years later the published edition came out. Buy one, steal one, read it, memorize it, sleep with it. Read it again.

**ed. note: at 20,000 feet.

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

Chairman	
Stan Halpin	340-2593
Vice Chairman	
Martha Hale	762-4769
Secretary	
Keith Pitman	931-2234
Treasurer	
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.

Hanging Around

Castle Fin, PA- Tuesday, 24 Jan 79

College students James Eakin and Parker Hill joined me on my day off to ice climb under clear blue skies and 40 degree temperatures. The ice was in variable condition depending on which side of the Susquehanna River we were climbing. The road cut to the East of the river tends to receive more direct sunlight than the western side. Ice climbs in the Western side of the river offer generally easier routes and better anchors but demanding climbs can be found on either side.

Parker and I both whacked up the ice using Hummingbird and North Wall tools and bruised our knuckles learning to use the Mjollnir Terror-dactyl pick.

James displayed smooth technique with his North Wall and 70cm axe on an 80 degree plus ice pitch on the West side. Because of brittle and thin ice, this climb demanded a lot of clever arm and footwork to top out in one piece. Following James up this climb proved to be the highlight of the day for me. The setting sun shot into the ice wall producing a sensational show of florescent oranges and purples.

Bill De Lano

Barbara Llewellyn is home, after an operation to straighten the heel bone of her right foot. She hopes to get a walking cast during the first part of March.

Castle Fin, PA- Sunday, 11 Feb 79

I got my mob off to an early start and arrived at the ice ahead of the rest of the pack. We weren't alone for long and soon the road was crowded with D.C. area cars. Only one Pennsylvania car arrived that day. It seems the local climbers have discovered another road not far from Castle Fin that has longer ice routes. Evidently this new area is on Route 322 somewhere. Will someone please check this out with some Pennsylvania buddies?

I finally got my roommate Gary away from his distance running schedule long enough to try out ice climbing. James Eakin would have been out climbing with us but he tried to front-point up a brick wall with his foot and was walking around gritting his teeth at last sighting.

Brittle ice was our medium for climbing this Sunday. It was very cold but there wasn't much wind to make things too uncomfortable. Doug seemed to be all over the ice doing lead climbing. You oughta see the way he's fixed up those fancy ice tools of his! On the handle of his Simond ice axe he apparently has embedded a Garter Snake in a spiral fashion for better grip. Most unusual!

MS members and friends attending this winter event were: Neil Arsenault, Clay Corry, Gary Glueckert, Harold Goldstein, John Gregory, Parker Hill, Doug Howard, Dave Hustvedt, Tom McKenna, Janet Young, myself, and others.

Bill De Lano

Meeting Report

February 14, 1979

The MS picnic is scheduled for June 17, but a place for it has not yet been determined.

When the mountaineering medicine course was discussed, Doug Howard suggested that what MS members really needed was the Red Cross basic first-

aid course and instruction in rock climbing rescue, rather than medicine for mountaineers.

Ian Cruickshank showed up with five skis (one-half of five pairs) and talked about ski touring and ski mountaineering. He then showed a ski mountaineering film that documented a high traverse of the French Alps.

Climber's Calendar

March 4	Camp Lewis	Parker Hill	931-7487
March 11	Sugarloaf	Sallie Greenwood	965-4087
March 14	MS Meeting	PATC Headquarters	
March 18	Bull Run	James Eakin (Friday PM)	598-6047
March 25	Crescent Rocks	Doug Howard	736-6937
April 1	Gunks	Parker Hill	931-7487
April 1	Great Falls, VA	Clay Corry	525-5226
April 8	Old Rag	James Eakin (Friday PM)	598-6047
April 11	MS Meeting	PATC Headquarters	
April 15	Sugarloaf	Vivian Prunier	527-3163
April 21,22	Seneca Rocks	Doug Howard (Work Trip)	736-6937
April 22	Leader's Choice	-	
April 28,29	Hermitage, PA	Bill De Lano	532-0650
April 29	Leader's Choice	-	
May 6	Leader's Choice	-	
May 9	MS Meeting	PATC Headquarters	
May 13	Annapolis Rocks	Janet Young	296-0778
May 20	Buzzard Rocks	Tom McKenna	972-8739
May 26-28	Gunks	Stan Halpin	340-2593
May 27	Leader's Choice	-	
June 3	Great Falls, VA	Hernando Vera	299-2347
June 9-10	Seneca Rocks	Ian Cruickshank	484-5108
			426-1946
June 13	MS Meeting	PATC Headquarters	
June 17	MS Annual Picnic		
June 24	Annapolis Rocks	Martha Hale	762-4769

Up Rope

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

JOE WAGNER MS
4528 WINDOM PLACE .N.W.
WASH., DC 20016

NONPROFIT ORG.
U. S. POSTAGE

PAID

WASHINGTON, D. C.
PERMIT NO. 9615

DATED MATTER

March, 1979