

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 9

September 1979

COMING HOME

MS members are returning home from their summer mountain trips safe and smiling. Earlier this year we noted that, based on what people were planning to do, it promised to be an exciting summer. And now, late in August, we learn--it seems almost daily --of someone else safely back and happy with what he's done.

Ian Cruickshank climbed Mont Blanc (Arête Grise), la Dent de Tsalion, les Aiguilles Dorées, and the Bietschorn Traverse.

Everyone on the Wind River trip climbed Pingora. Various teams chalked up the Wolf's Head Traverse, Tiger Tower, Bollinger's Peak, Warrior Traverse, and the North Face of Mitchell.

Sallie Greenwood helped make the first all-woman ascent of Irene's Arête during the AWHE Tetons climbing meet. In June, she traversed Mt. McKinley.

Don McIntyre climbed the 20,400 South Peak of Yeropaja.

Bill DeLano went to Chamonix and did the Arête Cosmique and the Chère Couloir-Mont Blanc du Tacul.

Herando Vera climbed Nevado Pisco, Yanapaccha, and Vallanaraju in the Cordillera Blanca.

Lin Murphy reached the summit of Mt. McKinley.

STORM MARS PIK COMMUNISM BID

A six-day storm at 22,000 feet prevented an eight-person American team from reaching the 24,590 foot summit of Pik Communism in the Russian Pamirs. Expedition leader Dana Isherwood, who also led last year's Sierra Club Pamir climb, explained that the evacuation of an injured team member and time limitations imposed by the Russian government combined to prevent the possibility of a post-storm summit effort. A three-man German/Swiss team disappeared during the 100 mph winds.

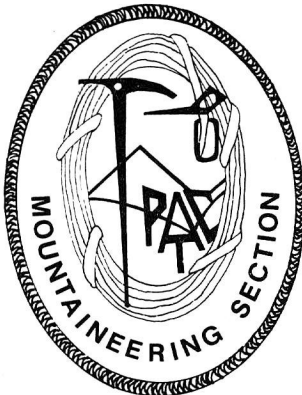
Publications

ALTITUDE ILLNESS - The most recent issues of the American Alpine Club Journal and The Canadian Alpine Journal contain short articles on health problems encountered at altitude. AAJ author Houston recommends the use of Diamox to "smooth out or regularize breathing" and briefly explains "physiological" altitude--what makes 20,320 foot McKinley feel higher than a mountain of equal height at lower latitude. Houston reports that physical conditioning probably doesn't help prevent altitude illness, but notes, "...the fitter climber, moving more economically, uses and needs less oxygen than does the slob."

notes and articles on equipment failures and problems: broken bolts, ropes, and carabiners.

Barry Nelson of Geneva Spur, Ltd. reported test results he claims draw into question the U.I.A.A.'s pending climbing harness specifications, "which require that a fallen climber be suspended in a vertical position even when unconscious." Nelson's tests show that merely hanging vertically can cause unconsciousness. Hanging vertically unconscious is dangerous because of decreased blood flow to the brain. (Ed. note: MS First Aid trainees will recall how Doug Howard, during his leader rescue clinic, arranged the simulated unconscious leader in a horizontal position. See UP ROPE, July-August, 1979) Off Belay, July & August 1979.

EQUIPMENT!! - Couldn't help but be struck by the number of recent



UPROPE

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, 2314 North Harrison Street, Arlington, Virginia 22205 or Bill De Lano, 1012 Ellison Square, Falls Church, Virginia 22046. Deadline is the 25th of each month. Subscriptions for MS members are included in the dues. The annual subscription for nonmembers 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 Secretary, UPROPE, 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 Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20036) to conduct a brief business session and present a slide show, film, 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. Anyone is welcome to participate in MS activities, although some restrictions are placed on participation in club 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. 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 James Eakin, 598-6042, Chairman of the Trips Committee, or call the designated trip leader. For information on training, call Rick Todd, 431-2236.

Hanging Around

GUNKS - July 6-8

Three carloads of nonbelievers in the gas shortage made their way to the Gunks and back with no gas problems on the 4th of July weekend. (Although .99 per gallon at Bill's Shell station seemed a trifle excessive.) Bill De Lano and Ian Cruickshank started on Classic, finished on High Corner, and had a leisurely mix of other climbs between. A warm-up for the Alps. Stan Halpin and Linda Roubik started on Raubenheimer Special, finished on High Corner, and got off route on several others in between. A warm-up for Wyoming. Parker Hill, Bill Hieronymous, and a friend cruised up several hard 5.7s and 5.8s. A warm-up for Carderock. Martha Hale and Don did some climbs. Hardly a warm-up at all. Greg Christopolous, Dave Coffey, and a friend kept getting to the good climbs first, causing huge traffic jams. Greg led Baby and Laurel to join the ranks of 5.6 leaders. Beautiful weather. And the blueberries were ripe and especially plentiful on unpopular climbs like High Corner (which has an undeserved bad reputation). A good weekend despite the relatively low turnout.

Stan Halpin

BULL RUN MT. - August 5

Just a few came along for a short visit to this old standby. It had been depressingly hot and humid the preceding week, and no one expected much. But the rock felt good--everyone did

Snickersnee; a majority, the Sofa; and Ian flashed Charlie's Crack enough for all of us.

John MacDonald, Ian Cruickshank, Tom Ferrano, Sallie & Merritt Greenwood, and Lin Murphy
LM

MOHONK WINS \$75,000 TAX SUIT

The New York State Court of Appeals ruled in July that the Mohonk Trust is entitled to exemption from property taxes. The decision reversed three lower court rulings, which had gone against the Trust, jeopardizing its existence.

WHITHER GUNKS WEATHER

There are at least three weather information telephone numbers for the New Paltz area.

(914) 331-5555

(914) 331-1494

(914) 936-1212

GENET WANTS CLIMBERS FOR ACONCAGUA

Ray Genet announced that this year's Aconcagua expedition will leave approximately December 26. The cost of the Polish Route is \$1,500. Write Alaska Mountain Guides, Box 63, Gustavus, Alaska 99826.

CALL PARKER ABOUT TRIPS

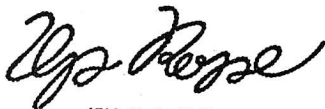
The original Trips Committee Chairman, James Eakin, will soon be a long-distance phone call away. Parker Hill (931-7487) has agreed to be the local coordinator.

BREMER SAFE AFTER CHAMONIX ACCIDENT

John Bremer and a Denver climbing companion were struck by rockfall descending Les Courtes, near Chamonix. His companion Turlough O'Brien, was killed. John was hospitalized with head injuries. His mother says he's OK and will spend the rest of his vacation touring.

Climber's Calendar

September 9	Annapolis Rocks	Paul & Betsy Guthrie
" 12	MS Meeting: 8pm PATC Hd	film: "Free Climb: The Northwest Face of Half Dome"
" 16	Old Rag	James Eakin (598-6047)
" 23	MS Caving Trip	Rick Todd (431-2236)
" 30	Hermitage	Ian Cruickshank (484-5108)



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September 1979