



FOUNDED BY
JAN AND HERB CONN

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MS PICNIC - MAY 10, 1980



left to right: Arnold Wexler, Sam Moore, Ed Goodman, Kate and Bob Adams, John Christian, Don Hubbard and June Lehman. Photo by Sallie Greenwood (cropping by Kodak; sorry, Arnold)

We couldn't have had a nicer day for our picnic. It was high, blue, and crisp. And what a range of people came: PATC headquarters window-washers, Peru Expedition runners, climbing pioneers, tiny babies, and some Carderock climbers.

There was a pleasantly un-

structured atmosphere. Some folks began eating preparations about noon; others were pulled off the rocks about 6pm. Keg master Steve Jensen reported that the MS has a relatively mediocre beer consumption profile! The Rockville and points-north people took the unemptied keg home.

Publications

Sivalaya: Explorations of the 8,000 Metre Peaks of the Himalayas, by Louis Baume, published by the Mountaineers, Seattle. Numerous sketch maps and drawings and extensive bibliography. American paperback edition \$9.95. 336pp.

Perusing a recent issue of the Himalayan Journal this reviewer ran across an ad for Sivalaya. "Here's something that looks interesting," he said to himself. Just how interesting, indeed fascinating and well written, he was not to discover until asked to write this review.

Sivalaya can in many respects be called the up-to-date version of Dr. G. O. Dyrenfurth's classic To The Third Pole. If anything, while terser, Mr. Baume's is the better effort. As Nick Clinch states in the softback American edition, it can be called "truly indispensable" for anyone interested in the history of the world's fourteen summits that surpass 8,000 metres (26,247 feet), plus two subsidiary summits of comparable altitude.

Mr. Baume's account describes

the climbing and geographical history of these alpine giants in logical fashion, proceeding from east to west along the main range of the Himalaya-Karakoram. He draws his knowledge from a formidable bibliography, listed in the back of the text and which constitutes an invaluable contribution to the work, plus what has evidently been personal relationships with some of the principal protagonists, notably in the part dealing with Nanga Parbat. It is hard to put the book down after reading the first few pages, particularly for persons familiar with any parts of the area, but it is of value also for the uninitiated. It is extremely well written. A supplement, covering activities in 1977 and 1978 adds to the value of the work and brings the reader almost up to date.

Mr. Baume is, if anything, at his best in the first chapter in which he recapitulates the topographical and general history of the world's highest mountains. Here he brings up many little-known facts, most of them previously unknown to the reviewer, and stresses



UP ROPE

UP ROPE is the monthly newsletter of the Mountaineering Section (MS) of the Potomac Appalachian Trail Club (PATC) of Washington, D.C. Climbing articles, letters, and comments are welcome and should be addressed to Lin Murphy, 2314 N. Harrison Street, Arlington, Va. 22205. Deadline is the 20th of each month. Subscriptions for MS members are included in the dues. The annual subscription price for nonmembers is \$4. Current PATC members interested in receiving *UP ROPE* may obtain a subscription at no charge. MS members must belong to PATC. Applicants for membership and PATC members can join the MS by obtaining sponsorship from a current MS member. Send subscription and address changes to Mountaineering Section-Secretary, 1718 N Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20036.

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UP ROPE STAFF

Editor	
Lin Murphy	533-8412
Circulation Manager	
Don Kocher	949-2239

MOUNTAINEERING SECTION ACTIVITIES

The MS holds meetings at PATC headquarters (1718 N Street, N.W., Washington, D.C.) the second Wednesday of each month except August. There is a brief business session followed by 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 climber's calendar for scheduled trips.

Beginning and intermediate training are offered once a month. Anyone is welcome to participate in MS activities, although some restrictions may be placed on participation in club trips. The Sunday trips are usually to areas where there is a complete range of top rope climbs. However, we ask that you have some experience or training prior to the trip. The weekend trips are usually for lead climbers only, and you are expected to find your own climbing partner.

Publications (continued)

the importance of the greatly underrated task accomplished by early geographers and explorers. He then proceeds to describe, in highly accurate but terse language, virtually every effort to approach the individual peaks--even minor and abortive efforts have their place. Invariably he preserves a sense of balance between the important and the unimportant, the sign of competent writing. The only elaboration concerns the various efforts on Nanga Parbat, perhaps because he may have a personal preference for that mountain, yet even here his tales are always fascinating, and, so far as can be judged, truthful.

In a work of this kind, despite any amount of scholarship, there will inevitably be errors. The reviewer has noted a few stemming from personal experience. They are, however, not serious--mere matters of detail. The reviewer's one quarrel, if any, is with Baume's decision to treat summit climbs on separate days by members of the same expedition as

separate ascents. The tradition has been to treat such performances as part of a single effort. But this is nit-picking.

Most valuable is the bibliography, which makes it possible for the reader who wishes to continue to discover any amount of source material from which to choose. The sketch maps and the drawings are graphic and excellent--far superior to photographs or elaborate maps.

Mr. Baume is to be congratulated for what can only be described as a major contribution to mountaineering literature and for a splendid contribution to the history of climbing in the Himalaya-Karakoram.

If you have any interest in the Himalaya-Karakoram, buy this book and read it. You will not be disappointed. It will make a fine addition to any climbing library.

-reviewed by Andrew Kauffman, 2nd
(Andy Kauffman was on the first ascent of Hidden Peak in the Karakoram in 1958.)

Meeting Report

May 14, 1980

Charlie Dorian is putting together a mountaineering and rock climbing slide show, which will be set up for automatic viewing on PATC Headquarter's second floor. It's a way to show visitors, and even PATC members, about MS activities. Loan him your slides by August.

Stan Halpin requested volunteers for the AT walk-through, which took place May 17. PATC people and guest VIPs hiked between Harper's Ferry and Weverton Cliffs. Stan reported that the PATC Council was pleased with MS's headquarter-window washing job.

The Peru Expedition exhibited the art work for its official t-shirt. Order shirts (\$5) from Tom Russell.

Rick Todd is leaving D.C. for Seattle. Stan Halpin will take over Rick's training activities.

Entertainment was a slide show of last February's N.H. winter week and of John Teasdale's out-west climbing. The late-to-arrive Joe Brown film was rescheduled for the June meeting.

JASON WADE GOES FOR IT

Betsy and Paul Guthrie's baby was born March 1. Paul reflects, "His first instinct was to climb on Daddy."

Equipment Notes

SHIRTS

T-shirt Inflames Tourist...

A well-known D.C.-area woman climber wore the "woman's place" version Annapurna t-shirt, jogged by the Washington Monument, and provoked a bermuda-shorted tourist to snarl, "Women belong on the bottom, you b___."

...Plain Shirt Championed

That same day, in another, totally unrelated incident, an overweight man driving a Ford Ltd. won a game of chicken in a cross walk with another woman climber/jogger, who wasn't even wearing her Annapurna shirt. Upon receiving a deserved whack on his roof, the man stopped and tried to back down the climber, who sidestepped (5.5). The surprise in this scene was the behavior of an unidentified motorcyclist who was stopped at a red light and headed the other way. He yelled chivalrously, "Hey, Fatso, leave the lady alone." After Fatso (sic) replied, the cyclist, heedless of the red light, hung a U-turn and chased the Ltd. down Constitution Avenue. The climber and others cheered, but the outcome was obscured by a bus.

T-shirt Ad Draws Comment

A Carderock-placed Dhaulagiri Expedition t-shirt advertisement bears the inapposite opinion that, "a woman's place is at base camp." The commentor has obviously confused two completely different t-shirt products, since the above remark is relevant only to Annapurna shirt ads, which suggested another possibility.

(Editor's note: UP ROPE welcomes the presentation of contrasting shirt reports of a responsible nature. It has heard of the ribald neo-Dhaulagiri t-shirt produced in Lander, WY, but declines further description.)

CAMPBELL SADDLEWEDGES

Frustrated by uneven cracks in which your chock placements wobble? I have found the cure: It is a shallow-angle chock called the Saddlewedge, made in four sizes by Campbell Mountaineering. The sides have large U-shaped recesses that permit placement surrounding a bulge inside a crack. This combination of flat and concave surfaces fits the rock better than any other chock I have used.

Saddlewedges are beautifully made. Their design and production enjoy careful attention to many details. For example, the rope path is recessed, gently curved, and free from burrs.

Don Barnett

CLIMBING EQUIPMENT WANTED

Shai Lean (342-0347), an exchange student from Israel, who has climbed on desert rocks near home and in Yosemite, wants to buy used climbing gear. He needs boots (43-44) and harness especially.

George Merriam (493-5484) is looking for some friction boots.

CLIMBING IN CANADA

The Alpine Club of Canada announced its 1980 program. The following is a partial list. If you want more information, Lin Murphy has the brochure.

*General Mountaineering Camp. Columbia River Basin. Inclusive cost of week-long camp is \$345. Three sessions are July 26-August 2; August 2-9; August 9-16.

*Canmore Clubhouse-Columbia Icefield. Training for novices who want to learn snow and ice techniques. \$279. July 19-26.

*Alpine Climbing Camp. Ape Lake. (Coast Mountains, B.C.) \$410. August 9-23.

*French Military Camp. Elk Lake, B.C. \$185. July 12-19; July 19-25.

Hanging Around

WINDOW WASHINGTON - April 19, May 10

"What would happen if you gave a ..." Remember that slogan? Well, nobody did show up on the 19th; so I learned a lesson (nail work trips down), and the windows of PATC Headquarters finally were washed the morning of the MS picnic.

We cleaned dirt of the last ten years from the windows while hanging in front of them on rappel. Our technique was, as they say, "traceable to the NBS:" all it took was ammonia and newspapers (plus a little elbow grease). Thanks, Ryan Pierson.

Norma Hoffman, the Saturday regular at PATC headquarters, rewarded us each with a special "Climber's Edition" of map D (Potomac Gorge). We, the gifted, were: Jeff Grove, Martha Hale, Ryan Pierson, Diane Yokel, and

Charlie Dorian



GREAT FALLS, VA. - May 4

High water prevented low starts, so we looked for short climbs. In the morning we rigged the climbs we'd tried earlier in the year (see the March 23rd trip report). The army diagonal crack is still hard! But, Bob Dunn did it, for his first time.

At noon, Don Barnett pulled in to join us after a colonial-era gig in Charlottesville the night before.

Post meridian, we moved to Backscratch (I think), and felt good working on a wide chimney and three overhangy climbs. We really could use a guide if we're to be here often--which may be with the oil import fee.

It was rewarding to have both apprentices and journeymen: Don Barnett, Ed Cummings, Bob Dunn, Jeff Grove, Tom Grovenor, Frank Hopkins, Jim Lowe, Ryan Pierson, and

Charlie Dorian



Ryan belays, Martha scrubs, and Jeff watches. Photos by Charlie

Hanging Around

ANNAPOLIS ROCKS, - April 20

A perfect day brought a large turnout for this trip, including six beginners. After the hike in, Charlie took over as instructor for a while, and all except one eager convalescent climbed successfully. At the other extreme (for lack of intermediate options?) only a few climbs were rigged, which everyone tried but few completed. In spite of scrapes and sore arms, we all had a good time, and the last group to leave feasted at Roy's. We were: Bill Hieronymous, Steve Jensen, Rick Todd, Sue Neel, Jim Lowe, Ed Cummings, Tom Ferraro, Stan Switala, Paul Torelli, Ellen Saftter, Zelik Segal, Steve and Sharon Hamoff, Rob and Mickey Brager, Charlie Dorian, Diane Yokel, and

Jeff Grove.

SHAWANGUNKS - May 3, 4

Lin Murphy looked around for a "warm-up" climb and led Sallie and me up CCK. Then we did Arrow. After a day of climbing, we had a long wait for dinner at Barnaby's, with Lin falling asleep during the last course. (Ed. note: Actually she fell asleep waiting for the last course.) Sunday was a beautiful day. We worked out Thin Slabs Crack and finished up with Drunkard's Delight. On Saturday, the only other participants in this trip, Tom Meagher and Ben Sands, decided to do some more noted routes in NYC, where Ben now lives. Lin Murphy, Sallie Greenwood, Tom Meagher (visiting from Boulder), Ben Sands, and

Martha Hale

SHAWANGUNKS - May 24, 25, and 26

A long weekend without rain! We grilled out Saturday evening. Most of the MS trip participants and some D.C.-area climbers came with burgers or steaks and chips and beans to share.

We will remember this weekend also for the animals: a garbage-smelling, camp-visiting raccoon, many wasps (while we were preparing for a nearby route, four consecutive climbers charged up Anguish, only to yell and hop around where their route led through several big nests), spiders (at first I thought the big one that rushed out at me—climbing cautiously to avoid wasps—was a snake), and five besotted bipeds who were carousing and yelling obnoxiously near the camp ground very early Saturday morning.

But the most absorbing event, attraction, and topic of discussion was the new Gunks guide, which added a point to almost everyone's climbing level. The upgrading of some climbs produced, variously, smug smiles and shocked disbelief, as both worthy and less deserving climbs were elevated.

We were reminded of the controversy surrounding Marriott's proposed development of Minnewaska. Friends of Minnewaska distributed leaflets opposing the plan, while some area drivers used their bumpers to say "Welcome Marriott."

No list of routes climbed was collected. In the light of the good time people were having, the very pleasant weather, and all the other things, it didn't appear necessary this time. Except--it seemed that people who climbed with Donna Grey finished three times as many climbs as anyone else.

Harold Goldstein, Janet Young, Greg Christopolous, John Birch, Mel Banks, Donna Grey, Bob Burger, Cathy Bushnell, Steve Singer, Hernando Vera, Parker Hill, Dick Loudis, John Rayner, Bob Ryan, Janet Hilton, June Lehman, Don Benson, Bob Dunn, Don Barnett, Sallie Greenwood, Margaret Wettling, Ian Cruickshank, Mike Chaney, Janet Shatz, Charlie Dorian, Cathy Rebebo, Brian Rennex, Howard Doyle, Joe, Stevie, and Michael Ney.

Lin Murphy

CLIMBERS REACT TO NEW GUNKS GUIDE

It's fair to say that the major topic of discussion over the Memorial Day weekend was Dick Williams' new edition of Shawangunk Rock Climbs (American Alpine Club, \$15). The 1972 edition has been out of print for several years. The long-promised updated edition's appearance was delayed, in part, by photograph problems.

The new guide has been generally well received. Climbers think the photographs are good and approve the inclusion of pictures of rocks at Millbrook and Mohonk, which as yet have no routes. As new routes are put up, the guide owner can draw them in and make notes on accompanying blank pages.

Unlike the prior edition, the routes in the new guide are not numbered consecutively. This is supposed to facilitate the addition of new routes. At least one climber complained that no-numbers makes it harder to locate the route photographs.

The updated guide includes about 120 new routes of all levels of difficulty. New routes put in less than six months ago (also reported as 12 months ago) didn't make the publication deadline.

Climbers generally agree that the guide is too thick. A roomy pair of Chouinard pants seems to be the only thing it fits into. Some feel there are too many errors, noting, for example, missing pitch

descriptions for Directississima and Knockout Drops.

The most talked-about aspect of the new guide is the upgrading of many climbs. Dick Williams wasn't at the Rock and Snow when I stopped by to ask about this. From his assistant manager I learned that the changes were based, in part, on a poll Williams conducted several years ago among climbers representing all levels of technical ability, different ages, sexes, and heights. When the majority of those responding felt a climb was harder than its (old) rating indicated, the climb was upgraded with a note that it is easy for its (new) grade. As might be expected, not everyone agrees with the new ratings. A New Paltz climber observed that 5.10+ climbers generally complain that routes have been improperly upgraded, whereas climbers breaking into harder routes may be more inclined to agree that what was desperate for them deserves a higher rating. But even this observation doesn't state a general rule. Some climbers struggling to break into a higher grade were dismayed to find they are, suddenly, already in it and objected to what they called a lowering of standards.... All this just goes to show what a subjective thing the ratings were in the first place.

Lin Murphy

Nelson House

Three work trips are planned for this summer. One will have already occurred by the time you read this (June 7, 8), the second is scheduled for July 19 & 20, and the third will be sometime in August. We need to do two major things--replace the front gate and its posts, and replace the front porch. The latter requires good planning by someone (or people)

with carpenter's skills, and will take several weekends. There will also be numerous minor repairs and grass cutting.

Nelson House is in a lovely isolated valley near Seneca Rocks, W. Va. We always work on Saturday and go climbing on Sunday (or hiking, or whatever you like), and good food is usually to be had on

(continued on next page)

Nelson House (continued)

Saturday evening. It's fun and also contributes to the terms of our lease.

The spring above the house currently can't be used, and it may go dry due to a natural re-routing of the stream, according to appearances last

month. So plan to bring water from Seneca. Vivian Mendenhall.

The De LaSalle Vocational School will be using Nelson House June 11-30 and July 22-August 12.

Climber's Calendar

June 1	Annapolis Rocks	Ryan Pierson (869-6271)
June 8	Sugarloaf	Barbara Llwellyn (871-6197)
Jun2 7, 8	Seneca Rocks* work trip	Vivian Mendenhall (490-7131)
June 11	MS meeting-8pm PATC Hd	film: "Joe Brown" 31 min., color
June 15	Great Falls, Va.	George Merriam (493-5484)
June 22	Carderock	Martha Hale (762-4769)
June 29	Big Devil's Staircase	Bill Hieronymus (379-7933)
July 4, 5, 6	Shawangunks*	Sallie Greenwood (533-8412)
July 9	MS meeting-8pm PATC Hd	Aconcagua: slides by Rick Acedas
July 13	Rock State Park	Paul Torelli (299-8039)
July 19, 20	Seneca Rocks* work trip	Vivian Mendenhall (490-7131)
July 27	Old Stoneyman	Martha Hale (762-4769)

For trip information call the leader or Martha Hale. Day trips are to top rope climbing areas. Weekend trips (*designated) are to lead climbing areas: please arrange for your climbing partner.

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