



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

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CHAIRMAN'S CORNER

Well, here I am. The new chairman of the Mountaineering Section. Boy, am I in the middle of a real mess!

The members who attended the December meeting and read through the January Up Rope should realize something major has happened. They might also realize that the issue was lost in the conflict between the personalities of the people involved. What has happened is not the way this issue should have been presented. For the past two months I have been discussing this issue with the people involved and just about anybody that knows anything about the situation. My work has not been very rewarding. My problem is that I do not see the issue as black and white, but in many shades of gray. I had hopes that there would be the realization that people do have disagreements and that this disagreement could be resolved just like any other. I am frustrated, but still optimistic.

My concern is that this issue and the resulting aftermath has divided and threatened the section. The section as a group can and has accomplished a lot. Much more than one individual could have (even though it is usually only one person who has the dedication to do the work in the section's name). The most recent example of such an occurrence is in dealing with VOF about Bull Run Mountain. Working as an individual, no one

person could have been able to represent the climbing community and been able to work with VOF to gain access to the cliffs. The section did. The section has done a lot in the past, too. It worked on the Seneca Rocks management plan and was effective in maintaining the area's character by persuading the Forest Service to alter its plans. The section worked on the Yosemite master plan. This allowed local climbers to have an input into an area that is not in their backyard but still used by them. It has also supported local groups who have a common interest with the section. The organization who owns Greenland Gap, a nature conservancy - I believe, asked for our support in blocking the plans for a proposed interstate going through the gap. Even though denied access to the cliffs at that time, the section was supportive of

PREVIEW OF FEBRUARY'S MEETING

Vern Clevenger will be the guest speaker for the February meeting. His presentation, "West Meets East: A Nepalese Experience", will include slides from his trips to India and Nepal.