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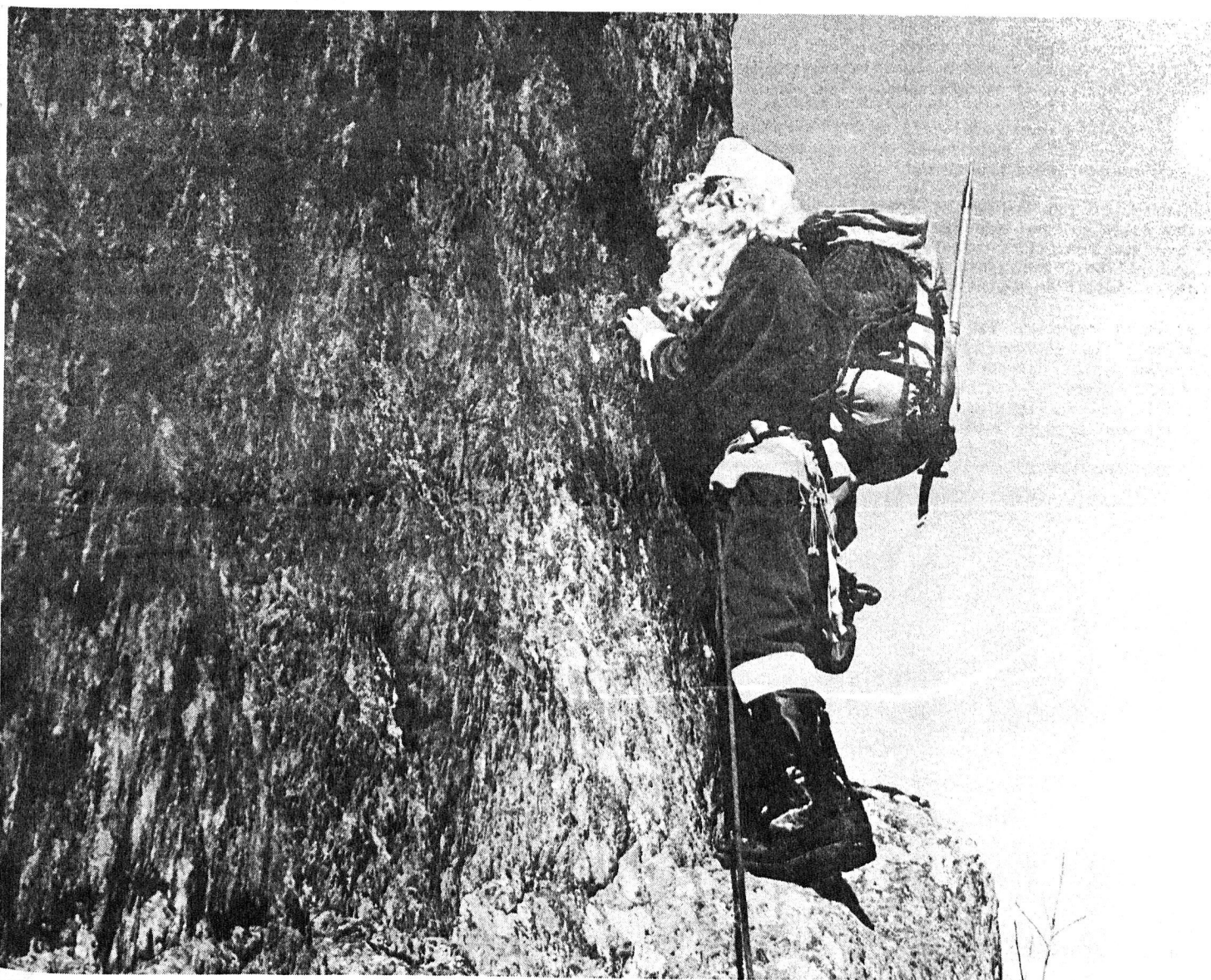
FOUNDED BY  
JAN AND HERB CONN

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

1718 N Street, N.W. Washington DC 20036

VOLUME 37, NUMBER 12

DECEMBER 1982



MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF  
NOVEMBER 10, 1982

The regular meeting of the PATC Mountaineering Section was called to order by James Eakin, Chairman, at PATC Headquarters.

Treasurer's report was presented by Ed Cummings. UP ROPE costs have exceeded the budgeted amount and the Treasurer will need to ask the Finance Committee for more money.

The Chairman made the following announcements:

Don Barnett is still in charge of training.

A Mountaineering Medicine class is now meeting on Tuesday evenings at 7:30 at PATC Headquarters.

There will be a Seneca Work Trip on Nov 20-21.

Two committees were established at the Executive Meeting on November 3. The first is the Membership Committee, chaired by Martha Hale, whose task will be to update the UP ROPE mailing list. The other is a Promotions Committee, chaired by Tom Russell. Anyone wishing to participate on these committees should contact the chairpersons.

A letter has been received from a climbing club in Calcutta, India, offering to exchange maps, information on climbing areas, etc.

The Report of the Nominating Committee was presented by Tom Russell. He said that members of the Committee are now contacting people on the membership list for nominations, and asked that anyone who wishes to nominate himself or another, speak to him.

Janet Young reported for the Carderock Conservation Committee. She thanked those who have helped out and asked for further support from Mountaineering Section members. A Corps of Engineers report on possible long-term solutions to the erosion problem is expected soon. The next work trip is Sunday, Nov 21.

Old Business:

The Chairman announced that the Section had received a letter from Bill Putnam asking for continued support for UIAA. A motion to donate \$100. to UIAA this year was made by Charlie Dorian and seconded by Joe Wagner. After discussion, the motion was approved by a vote of 7 to 6.

New Business:

A motion to donate \$100. to the Carderock Conservation Committee was made by Harold Goldstein. After discussion, the motion was amended as follows: that the Mountaineering Section authorize the expenditure from its present budget of up to \$100. to cover costs incurred by the Carderock Conservation Committee. The amended motion was passed.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:30 P.M.

The meeting was followed by a slide program on the PATC Denali Expedition presented by expedition members.

REPORT FROM AD HOC EXCURSION POLICY COMMITTEE

The Excursion Policy Committee; Tom Russell (Chairman), Ed Cummings, Charlie Dorian, Joe Farness, and Joe Wagner; has met and discussed what policy the Mountaineering Section should adopt concerning excursions (both climbing trips and expeditions). A draft of a policy is being circulated among the committee members for comment and will be published in January 1983 UP ROPE for comment by MS members.

Tom Russell  
Chairman

COVER: It's that time of the year again. Santa is definitely on his way -- and how!! If you still have some shopping to do for your favorite mountaineer, please see page 9. Photo by Helen Grant (© P. Grant).



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 Editor, Up Rope, Potomac Appalachian Trail Club, 1718 N. Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20036. Deadline is the 20th of each month. Subscriptions for MS members are included in the dues. Annual subscription price for nonmembers is \$5. Current PATC members interested in receiving Up Rope may obtain a subscription at no charge. MS members must belong to PATC. Applicants for membership can join the MS by obtaining sponsorship from a current MS member. Send subscription and address changes to Mountaineering Section, P.A.T.C., 1718 N. Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20036.

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 type of entertainment. Sunday trips to nearby climbing areas are sponsored on most weekends. Check the Climber's Calendar on back of this publication for scheduled trips. Weekend and longer trips are also scheduled periodically. Sunday trips are usually to areas where there are a complete range of top rope climbs; however, we ask that each participant has had some training or experience prior to the trip. Weekend trips are usually for lead climbers and experienced seconds only, and everyone is responsible for finding his or her own climbing partner.

PATC MOUNTAINEERING SECTION

Chairman	James Eakin	587-6062
Vice Chairman	Charlie Dorian	362-7523
Secretary	Justine Carson	354-1389
Treasurer	Ed Cummings	332-6100

UP ROPE STAFF

Editor	Pete Grant	960-6033
Circulation Manager	Joe Farness	265-5877

## Hanging Around

STONE MOUNTAIN, NC

Veteran's Day weekend, November 11 - 14.

### THE WALL THAT DREAMS ARE MADE OF

The message said "Bob Berger called. Call back before 11 P.M.." I was still sore and stiff from a trip with Bob where I spent my time falling off the routes on the Microdome, so with some reluctance I returned Bob's call.

"James, how would you like to go to Old Rag and check out the Wall That Dreams Are Made Of (WTDAMO)?... Greg Says it's a great area.... hand jams through an overhang ... a super crack like finger crack ... some off-widths ... Larry, Kathy, and I were going out and I was wondering if you wanted to go?"

"Maybe," I thought. "Sounds like an interesting place -- hard climbs ... hand jams -- sounds like my type of climb.... a real hard, impossible finger crack ... Ugh! Off-widths ... a good group. Maybe I won't have to do any leading!"

"James, you don't even have to do any leading."  
"YOU ARE ON!"

The next morning found us trudging up Old Rag in the wee hike it takes to get to the WTDAMO. First, you have to get to the Reflector Oven near the top of the mountain. Then you descend down the main gully, through sticker bushes, over loose rocks, over rotten trees, past the leaf-hidden crevasses down past the Black Corner, Strawberry Jam area, past the Oh My God Crack, past the slabs below Strawberry Jam where you start to bear left (North) and there lies the WTDAMO. The routes there are top-ropeable as well as leadable and have the tendency to look hard. The WTDAMO is easily recognized by Bushwack Crack, a hand-sized jam crack that goes through a four-foot overhang that is about 10 ft off the ground and continues up a slightly overhanging wall. Fifteen feet to the right of Bushwack Crack is a super crack type of a climb. Five feet to the right of super crack is an off-width and 50' further to the right is another off-width. Gives one pause for thought about one's dreams, doesn't it?

Anyway, after the trials and tribulations of getting to the Wall, we were ready to climb. We looked the thing over and arrayed our equipment for an assault of Bushwack Crack: a rack complete with lots of wired and a set of Friends, chalk, tape (very necessary), rope (double nines), and four stalwart climbers. We were ready! With the optimistic words: "I don't think I can do this!" ringing thorough our minds, we attacked. We quickly realized that we had left out two important pieces of equipment. The first was a second set of Friends. The second was a good set of ethics. What followed was a mostly Friendless and definitely ethicless ascent that need not be elaborated upon except to say that it shot the whole day.

Now, the question is, "Are future trips to the Wall That Dreams Are Made Of worth while?" I'll answer it by saying:

"The WTDAMO is an interesting and remote area." meaning everything those adjectives imply: interesting -- beautiful, aesthetic, cerebral, keeps your attention, scary, hard, a good chance you will fall, etc.; remote -- a beautiful natural area, no crowds, poor or non-existent trails, wild, probably lots of "critturs", definitely a lot of vegetation, not pleasant to get to, etc.. So take your pick! If you find a couple of descriptions that strike your fancy, CHECK IT OUT!!

James Eakin

\* \* \* \* \*

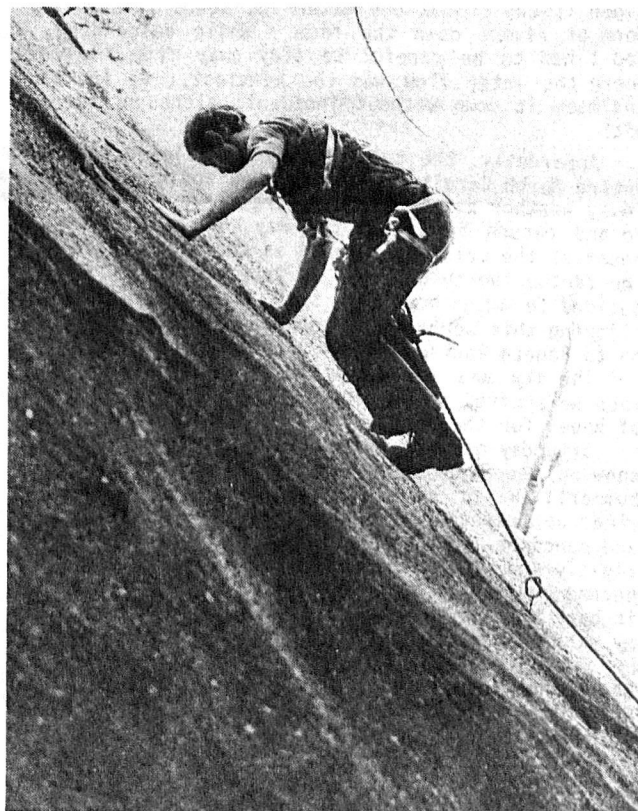
With the cold weather approaching, what could be better than going down South for the four-day Veterans Day weekend? Well, as our group found out the hard way: it doesn't necessarily get warmer the farther South one drives; in fact, it can be quite opposite! Anyway, here's the story of our Linville Gorge trip.

Right after the Wednesday evening club meeting, four of us packed our gear into two cars and started the long drive down to North Carolina. Four more were to join us later. Due to numerous stops for coffee and whatever else, it took us a little longer than normal to drive the distance and ended up getting to Table Rock parking lot at around 11:00 A.M. on Thursday morning. According to plan, the remainder of the day was spent climbing around Table Rock.

John Birch teamed up with a local climber to try out some of the harder (5.8) climbs at the Crackerjack area while Gary Beil, Bob Skinner, and I went to look for My Route -- a mere 5.6. On our part, the climbing ended up being a disaster. We didn't go down the trail nearly far enough and ended up climbing up some unknown route that led us right through Rhododendron thickets -- that's right, THROUGH the bushes! We desperately tried to find some landmarks to identify the routes described in our guide book, but to no avail. The bushwacking and finding our way back down consumed the remainder of the day. In the meanwhile, John and his partner did Crackerjack and another 5.8 on the same wall.

(Text cont on Page 4)

BELOW: The angle may not be so great, but look at the hand/foot holds -- there aren't any; at least not the kind we are used to! John Birch on the alternate start of the Great Arch, Stone Mountain, NC.  
Photo © P. Grant.





## STONE MOUNTAIN, 11-14 Nov (cont.)

## Belay Ledge

Towards the end of the day, Don Barnett and Charlotte Lackey arrived, too late to try any climbing. It was too close to darkness to hike into the gorge, so we sacked out near the parking lot. During the night Pete Schumann and Geoff Kricorian arrived after having spent the day climbing at Stone Mountain.

Friday morning the weather turned out to be drizzling and on the cool side. According to forecasts a cold front was moving through the area and the rain would turn to snow and after the front had passed, temperatures would be dropping down to 20's. With such a dim outlook, we decided to forget going into the gorge and execute Plan B. Pete and Geoff told us of the great time they had had climbing at Stone Mountain, so we all decided to go down and have a look. Don and Charlotte had their own Plan B: going down to the Chattooga River for some white water rafting!

Surprisingly, the weather wasn't quite so bad at Stone Mountain and we decided to split into three rope teams of two and try the friction climbing that is prevalent in this area. Two of the teams, John Birch/Gary Beil and Pete Grant/Bob Skinner assaulted the Great Arch, a Stone Mountain classic 5.6. Turned out that only the first pitch (we used an alternate start) was friction, the remainder of the climb being a layback -- 250 feet of it!

Everything was going great; John and Gary were on the third pitch, Bob and I were finishing up the second, when I noticed the dark storm front approaching over the ridge a couple of miles away. Pete and Geoff had taken the hiker's trail to the top to survey some of the more difficult climbs, and noticed the storm too. To speed up our getting off the mountain before the storm hit, they lowered a rope down to John and Gary. Bob and I decided to rappel back down instead. We didn't make it in time. When the rains hit us, we were still on the first of two rappel pitches, and John and Gary were still some distance from the top.

It's not that I mind getting wet, but Stone Mountain, being a granite dome, gathers the rain water and, since it can't soak the water in, sends it down in the form of rivers down the face. While descending, Bob and I had to be careful to stay away from the chutes where the water flow was the heaviest. We lucked out and made it down without incident; although thoroughly wet!

Apparently, the cold front had followed us and the entire North Carolina climbing area would have the same lousy weather as at Linville Gorge. We decided to give up and return home. On the way, we must have driven ahead of the cold front again as the weather got warmer the farther North we drove on Interstate 81. Bob and I decided to make one more stab at trying to get some climbing this weekend and took US 33 turnoff and headed on to Seneca Rocks.

The sky was clear and weather seemed to be good when we arrived at Germany Valley. We sacked out full of hopes for the next day.

Saturday morning arrived with a light dusting of snow on the ground and a cold wind blowing. What a bummer!! Well, maybe after breakfast things would clear up; especially if we took our time. After eggs and pancakes at Hedrick's 4U, it was still raining lightly and wind had gotten stronger and colder, and it became obvious to us that our best bet was to high-tail it back home. After all, there were lots of leaves in my yard waiting to be raked!

## Participants:

Don Barnett, Gary Beil, John Birch, Pete Grant, Geoff Kricorian, Charlotte Lackey, Pete Schumann, and Bob Skinner.

Pete Grant

## RABIES

Rabies is an infection of the central nervous system affecting all warm blooded animals, including man. The disease is caused by a virus and when untreated, with rare exceptions, is fatal. Rabies is generally transmitted by the inoculation of the virus-containing saliva into the bite wound. It may also occasionally be transmitted by the contamination of already existent open wounds and sores or by contamination of mucous membranes (i.e., mouth, nasal passages) with an infected animal's saliva. The virus may be present in the saliva and be transmitted by an infected animal several days prior to the onset of obvious clinical signs.

Some animals are much more likely to be infected with rabies than others. Carnivorous wild animals such as skunks, raccoons, and foxes are prime examples. Bats also are prime suspects. Unless an animal in this category is tested and shown to be definitely not rabid by pathological examination of the brain, postexposure prophylactic treatment probably should be initiated as soon as possible.

Animals such as squirrels, hamsters, guinea pigs, gerbils, chipmunks, rats and mice, and rabbits are rarely found to be infected with rabies in the United States and, therefore, post bite treatment should be dependent on the circumstances of the biting incident.

The likelihood that a domestic dog or cat is rabid varies from region to region with the amount of compliance with local regulations, and the extent of the stray animal problem. Usually the likelihood is low.

The clinical course of rabies can be divided into three phases: the prodromal, the excitative, and the paralytic phase. The prodromal stage may last one to three days and is marked by the animal acting restless, uneasy, or apprehensive. The animal may stop eating and seek solitude. (Please remember, though, that these signs are common to many much more common disease conditions such as fever, stomach upset, respiratory infection, etc.)

The excitative phase ("mad dog syndrome") is marked by irrationality and aggressiveness. The animal's face may look alert and anxious. The animal may chew and swallow foreign objects, stones, wood, feces, metal, etc.. They are oblivious to self injury. These animals lose all fear and will attack even when unprovoked. They may come into camps and appear abnormally friendly, then suddenly bite.

The paralytic form is usually characterized by early paralysis of throat muscles, producing profuse salivation and inability to swallow ("foam at the mouth"). These animals are not necessarily vicious and rarely attempt or are able to bite. They are infectious, though. The paralysis progresses to all parts of the body, causing death.

After the onset of signs, the animal will rarely live beyond 10 days. The incubation period, however, when the animal harbors the virus but does not show signs, can potentially last several months.

Of course, the best treatment for rabies is prevention. DON'T GET BIT! If you come across a wild or stray animal, stay away from him even if he appears tame. The possibility of the animal being rabid is not great. But the severity of the disease is real. Common sense tells us that any animal will bite if he perceives himself threatened -- regardless of your intent. If you do get bit, flush the wound out as best you can with soap and copious amounts of water and seek professional medical attention as soon as possible. If you

(cont on next page)



RABIES (cont from previous page)

suspect the animal is rabid and it is possible to capture and kill it without any further injury to yourself or your companions, you may try to do so in order that the head may be examined for rabies verification. In most circumstances, however, this is a very difficult and dangerous activity and the more prudent course to follow may be to notify the local authorities about the animal, its description and location and let them deal with it properly.

All dogs and cats, whether confined to their houses and yards or allowed to run free, need to be vaccinated for rabies. This not only helps keep them protected from the disease, but if they should bite someone, it may help save them from either going through a ten day quarantine or possibly being killed for diagnostic purposes. Animals adopted from the wild are potential sources of rabies and as such pose a public health problem. I would strongly discourage anyone from keeping a wild animal as a pet.

In summary, remember:

1. Most animals, wild or domestic, are not rabid, so don't panic.
2. Most animals are illiterate and haven't read the text books about what rabies should look like. So don't be fooled; be precautious with all animals. Don't provoke any animal into biting you.
3. If you get bit, clean out the wound and see your doctor.

Clara Witt, VMD

Editor's note: We thought it might be useful to have an article on rabies in light of the obvious fact that our climbing is done in areas with plenty of animals.

\* \* \* \* \*

CASUALTIES IN CLIMBING

The World Press Review of November 1982 had a report on the rising toll of casualties as climbing increases. The following is excerpted from a story by Sandro Doglio in "La Stampa" of Turin, Italy:

Bad luck -- one collector of mountain climbing statistics believes -- was a minimal cause, maintaining that "90% of this year's approximately 100 fatalities on the three sides of the Northwest Alps (over the entire Alpine crescent the figure approaches 200) were caused by lack of caution."

"Some advice for those headed into the mountains: 'Never believe that you know everything and need nothing,' says Lino Lacedelli, prize-winning climber and a guide at Cortena d'Ampezzo. Another veteran of many expeditions into the Alps recommends, 'Always Go on expeditions that are slightly inferior to your ability -- so you can make it back.' He adds, 'It takes courage to face some climbs. But it takes even more courage to know when to give up.'"

Contributed by  
John Christian

MOUNTAINEERING SECTION 1983 OFFICER NOMINATIONS

The Mountaineering Section (MS) Nominating Committee for 1983 Officers consists of the following members:

Tom Russell (Chairman)	301-869-8058
Joe Farness	202-265-5877
Barbara Llewellyn	301-871-6197
Joe Wagner	202-966-6379

The Committee telephoned many of the members to ask that they nominate candidates for various MS offices. The following is a list of potential nominees. Unless otherwise directed, the names will be put before the MS as candidates for office. Anyone desiring to have his or her name withdrawn, or nominate others, please contact the Chairman or one of the other committee members. The formal slate will be published in the January issue of UP ROPE for the election to be held at the January 1983 MS meeting.

CHAIRMAN:	Charlie Dorian * James Eakin Ron Greenberg Joe Wagner Janet Young
VICE CHAIRMAN:	Dave Atkinson * Charlie Dorian James Eakin Harold Goldstein Barbara Llewellyn Tom Russell Joe Wagner
SECRETARY:	* Justine Carson Harold Goldstein Pete Grant Martha Hale Barbara Llewellyn
TREASURER:	Dave Atkinson * Ed Cummings Charlie Dorian Joe Farness

\* = Incumbent

Tom Russell  
Chairman

REPORT FROM AD HOC EXCURSION POLICY COMMITTEE

The Excursion Policy Committee; Tom Russell (Chairman), Ed Cummings, Charlie Dorian, Joe Farness, and Joe Wagner; has met and discussed what policy the Mountaineering Section should adopt concerning excursions (both climbing trips and expeditions). A draft of a policy is being circulated among the committee members for comment and will be published in January 1983 UP ROPE for comment by MS members.

Tom Russell  
Chairman

I N M E M O R I A M

STEPHEN WAYNE JENSEN  
1952 - 1982

As many of you know, Steve was killed on June 11 in an avalanche while attempting an unclimbed route on Mt. Logan in the Yukon territory of Canada. Steve's group had been waiting for a storm to clear after completing the crux of the climb when the avalanche struck their camp at about 15,500'. Steve's two tent mates, Franz Mohling, a physicist, and Turen Baruk, the son of a physicist, also died. The remaining four climbers were rescued five days later in reasonably good condition, given the harsh physical and emotional circumstances.

Steve was the kind of person who became a best friend to many of us in a very short time. It is hard to believe at times that we only met him less than three years ago, soon after he arrived in Gaithersburg to work at the National Bureau of Standards. He had completed his Ph.D in physics in 1978 at the University of California at Riverside, and already had a sound professional reputation for his research and enthusiasm. He had climbed many of the fourteen thousand-foot mountains in the lower United States and Mt. McKinley, and quickly became one of the regular climbers and hikers in the area. He went to Peru with other members of PATC in 1980 and to the Canadian Rockies last year.

Those few climbing trips were the type of experience that helped build solid friendships, and our recollections of Steve could not possibly be finer. His attitude toward his climbing partners was like that of a caring shepherd tending his flock, and one could always be comfortable with him. His energy and strength was somewhat legendary among his friends, and the fact that he did not mind carrying a cooler in his pack with refreshments for us all while training for his trips just confirmed our worst suspicions about his strength. He took pride in always having the heaviest pack, but he was just that kind of a person, always doing more than his equal share of any task. Steve also had the habit of being the first one up on cold mornings and of getting the stove going, spoiling us with hot chocolate and coffee. We teased him a lot about his enthusiasm, which would usually cause him to laugh a little and maybe even blush. It was a little luxury that those of us who were older could afford since Steve, who would have finally reached age 30 on November 26 of this year, had usually been the youngest person on the longer trips.

Steve moved to Lewisville, Colorado, about a year before his death to do research in high-resolution photolithography for the Bureau of Standards. He visited us in May before leaving for Mt. Logan, just as we were about to leave for Mt. McKinley. We spent a long time talking about his Logan climb. There was no doubt that Steve fully knew the risks that this climb entailed. Some of us decided to go see "K-2" together, the play at the Arena about two climbers (a lawyer and a physicist) who were descending that mountain. We joked on our way over about the fact that our trips always seemed to have too many lawyers or too many physicists. The play, in which the young physicist protagonist dies, left a sobering feeling for the evening, and Steve commented on the fact that Logan would be his technically most challenging climb. His departing words on that evening were so typical of Steve, reminding us, with a hug, to take care of each other.



ABOVE (L. to R.): Jeff Brown, Rick Todd, and Steve Jensen last year on Mt Robson in the Canadian Rockies. Photo by Ed Cummings.

But Steve looked forward to his climb and was full of advice on ours, sorting through our gear, telling us what should and should not be taken. We could always argue the merits of each issue, always in the best of fun. It was a good visit and he made a point of saying hello to his many friends. We bid each other farewell, we promising to come to Colorado in the fall and Steve promising to take us to some of his favorite Colorado mountains. Parting words to Steve were "watch out on this one". These words rang in our minds when the call came reporting the accident. Steve had commented on how we could see Logan from the plane on route to Anchorage, and we looked for the mountain. Little did we know when flying over it on the way home that Steve had died on it a couple of days earlier.

Steve's parents, Dorothy and Wayne Jensen, were very helpful to many of us when we called to talk about Steve. They helped us learn a lot about how one must handle a tragic loss. Our feelings about Steve's life and death cannot be better conveyed than by the epithet that they prepared for Steve:

"Stephen Jensen: Born in a Blizzard -  
Lived with High Expectations -  
Accomplished Much - and Died at the Peak."

Ed Cummings and Tom Russell

## From Other Peaks

### CANADIANS CONQUER MOUNT EVEREST

Article courtesy Canada Weekly.

Two Canadians, in separate attempts, have reached the summit of Mount Everest, the highest point in the world.

Laurie Skreslet, 32, of Calgary, Alberta, and Sherpa guides Sungdare and Lhakpa Dorje were the first to the top on October 4. Three days later, Patrick Morrow of Kimberley, B.C. and two other Sherpa guides reached the summit.

The two Canadians were members of the eight-man Canadian team which was the 26th expedition to complete the 8848-metre climb to the top since Sir Edmund Hillary and Sherpa Tenzing Norgay first stood on the summit in 1953. Other members of the team included: expedition leader William J. March and David Read of Calgary; deputy leader Lloyd Gallagher and Alan Burgess, who was in charge of climbing and also made an attempt to reach the top falling short by 457 metres owing to equipment failure, of Canmore, Alberta; Gordon Smith of Golden, B.C.; and Wayne Congdon of Invermere, B.C.. The Canadian climbers were accompanied by 16 Sherpas.

The Canadian team made the climb up the traditional South Col route after abandoning plans to scale the mountain via the South Pillar route which no one has ever scaled to the summit.

Early in the expedition, the team had been ahead of schedule, but the weather and the deaths of three Sherpas and North Vancouver cameraman Blair Griffiths cut the advance. A lingering monsoon season dumped snow on the mountains for nearly two weeks, creating several avalanches, particularly on the Khumbu ice fall.

Base camp was established on a rocky moraine at 5846 metres -- only slightly lower than Canada's highest mountain, Mt Logan. From there it took two days of scouting and three days of climbing to push a route through the Khumbu ice fall and establish camp one above the ice fall at 6023 metres. Three more camps were set up, the highest one being at 7925 metres, only 923 metres from the summit.

One of the Sherpas, Sungdare, established a world record by reaching the top of Mt Everest for the third time.

## From the Editor's Chimney

### LETTERS TO EDITOR

Dear Editor:

Is one correct in assuming that the literary gem - SINKS OF GANDY - Up Rope, September 1982, was composed by Charlie Dorian? Or is it the product of a group effort? If the former, you might inform the author that it may never replace Shakespeare, but that it has and will provide a few laughs in the appropriate appreciative circles.

Inclosed herewith is a Xerox copy of an old letter to the Wettlings (Ed note: excerpts of inclosure injected below) August 10, 1978, which contains a little on almost every subject then current; including a few remarks on Gandy Sinks. That particular trip to the Sinks was supposed to have been the first (perhaps still the only) complete traverse of the Sinks via the water route. This letter to the Wettlings was initiated by Chuck's efforts to find someone to write the saga of Paul Brandt -- one of the greatest; perhaps THE GREATEST!! (Mohammed Ali might object to that latter appraisal). Be that as it may, if you follow the penciled-out sections of the Wettling letter, you will perceive that the point at which your party turned back, is where the Brandt-Culverwell-Hubbard voyage began; circa 1937. It was a shame that Charlie waded in up to his elbows that your party turned back to the mud exit. You essentially had it made. A little swim across the "subterranean lake", while bearing slightly to the right, would have put you in (i.e., out); with no need to later: "to sit in the river to wash the mud out of our clothes."

(Excerpts from the Wettling letter):

"Do you realize that for some subtle reason (obscure/elusive) it is almost impossible to give a fair evaluation of Paul Brandt? I have often wondered why. He accomplished his missions so quietly and efficiently that apparently no one quite realized HE WAS DOING THE UN-DOABLE. Everybody knows Tom Culverwell. His works are published and republished throughout many texts on cave exploration. Arnold Wexler's name has been mentioned for the Hall of Fame for his contributions to mountaineering safety. Alvin E. Peterson's publication on lightning hazards to mountaineers has been reprinted (republished) in many foreign languages; and his work is lauded as the most sought-after article ever published in the Journal of The American Alpine Club. Sam Moore is famous for his Giant Laurel Tree. The Conns, Stimson with his survey of School House Cave, Leo Scott, etc., etc., etc., are all products of, or riders on the coat-tails of Paul Brandt. Yet Paul's name does not, or seldom does, appear among the shouts of acclaim. Perhaps he is a victim of extreme modesty, generosity, a desire to have other folks enjoy his toys; viz., caves and cliffs. Maybe it is because some of us forgot to return them.

One of my first recollections of Paul was his determination to explore the entire course of Gandy Sinks' underground stream. We had arrived on the shores of a subterranean lake. So Paul, Tom Culverwell, and I; astride on a log, launched forth on a voyage of exploration. Disaster struck immediately, merely by the simple act of the log (our ship) rolling over. As we submerged, my camera with its synchronized shutter and photo-flash shorted and fired spontaneously inside of my pack. I recall Tom laughing at his own description of the event as probably the best and only photograph of the content of a pack ever taken under water. ..."

... "However, back to Paul Brandt.... and the Gandy Sinks. It was Paul's adventure but Hubbard appears in print as having dived through a syphon whirlpool under a rock wall to emerge ---- etc., etc.. Actually, I did nothing of the sort. I found a narrow cleft in the rock-wall, and swam in, hopefully trusting that I would not be sucked under. The crack continued and shortly daylight could be seen in the distance. No fuss, no feathers, no bother. Tom's appraisal of the episode was: THIS CHAP HUBBARD IS ABSOLUTELY FEARLESS! while Paul, the peerless promoter got NOTHING AT ALL. It was like that all the time...."

(Cont on Page 8)



LETTERS....(Cont from Page 7)

..."P.S. Again. You can readily understand why I always blush with embarrassment, whenever Gandy Sinks is mentioned. After all it wasn't much of an accomplishment to swim less than a hundred yards, for an individual who had over twenty years earlier been acclaimed as the unofficial WORLD CHAMPION CLAM DIVER, (maybe my record still stands); who had also tied the then World Record for sustained breath holding (three minutes and fifteen seconds)."

(Ed: end of Wettling letter quotes).

One notes with interest from your photograph of Nelson Rocks (Up Rope, October 1982; p. 7), that the pine tree mentioned in APPALACHIA, June 1944, page 82; is still standing. You might find it of interest to have the Forest Service's tree-ring counter check its age, for comparison with Sam Moore's Giant Laurel (thirty feet tall with other superlatives). Which latter giant was extant prior to the signing of the Declaration of Independence. (One count places the date before Columbus discovered that the Indians had already discovered America before 1492). For particulars see Potomac Appalachian I, p. 6-16 (1973). Such a count for the stunted pine tree would depend upon being able to get a Forest Service core borer to the base of the Nelson Rocks' upper pinnacle.

One often wonders how such a tree survives (and for how long) with nothing to sustain it except solid rock for support and what it can gather from the air and wind born nutrients. Itself being the rproduct of a wind born seed. Rock climbers and pine trees may have something in common, with their mutual determination to go places and do things. After finding so many impossible things in impossible places, you can well appreciate why so many folks still believe in spontaneous generation! (early concepts involved in the theory of evolution and creation). Based on such irrefutable data and observations as: Throw a pile of old rags in the corner of the basement. Then upon investigation later, to find that it has turned into mice, rats, fleas, and other vermin. And similarly so it is with a pile of rocks and caves. They spontaneously generate a unique creature, some of whom in their psalms pronounce: "Dark as a dungeon, damp as the dew", and so forth.

As for your unprecedented sprint for the top of Mt. Katahdin as a warm-up for the Marine Marathon, it reminds one that: In a bilateral midnight project with Arnold Wexler, we arrived at the summit of Baxter Peak (Ed. Baxter Peak is the summit of Mt. Katahdin) to catch the very first beam of sunlight to strike the Nation, to view the colors of dawn initiated by the Raleigh Scattering (a cosmic colloidal phenomenon), which is followed by the GREEN FLASH (a combined scattering -- refraction -- absorption spectacular), observable only momentarily or at most for approximately one minute depending on special atmospheric conditions. Then as a special dividend we arrived at the instant of the conjunction of the plane Venus and the last quarter crescent sliver Moon on September 3, 1945. Arnold's account appears in Appalachia, p 87-94 (June '46). You may notice that Arnold also emphasized the "oversized sun", always referred to by the LUNAPHILES as the "moon illusion". As you already know, the argument still persists as to whether this appearance of BIGNESS is a true illusion due to the juxtaposition of the sun's outline against nearby terrestrial objects, or is a refraction effect (lens magnification) dictated by special meteorological conditions. As a photographer, you might

take a picture of each, and then measure the respective diameters recorded on your films. The camera does not have a brain, and hence can not be influenced by an illusion.

Leave it to Arnold to get the most out of a one-package-deal. But you may have noticed that in this case, he had not provided an Ezekiel Wheel or Wheels; Elijah's Chariot; a Specter of Brocken; nor a Heiligenschein. These latter are not too easy to come-by. But are worth while waiting around for, when one perceives that the conditions are propitious for their appearance. You do not have to be reminded that the Heiligenschein was once considered reserved for good folks who were predestined for Saint-hood (given high priority and emphasis in the account on the Mount of Transfiguration). The original Ezekiel Wheel foretold the destruction of Solomon's Temple. The Spectre of Brocken could easily be from the spirit world, warning the mountaineer to proceed with caution. The Elijah Chariot (an inverted bow mounted above a special Ezekiel Wheel; i.e., a wheel within a wheel), apparently is very rare. However, if you are ever fortunate enough to view it, you will undoubtedly agree: What a wonderful way by which a good man like Elijah to make his earthly exit!

One notices that after doing Gandy Sinks, Dorian's party dashed over to Seneca Rocks for a warm-up on the Gendarme (a Paul Brandt first), the West Face (another Brandt first), etc., etc., ETC. In other words, they did more in one afternoon than had been done in all history prior to the Paul Brandt Era. BIG DEAL!

Further, it was a relief to learn that Herbie Conn had been able to extricate himself from Lincoln's whiskers. If ever there be a greater than Paul Brandt; Herbie and Jan certainly are IT!

Cheerio,

Donald Hubbard

P.S. As Sterling Hendricks always said: "UP ROPE is my favorite Mountaineering Magazine!"

Just in case you ever encounter an argument as to whether or not Mt. Katahdin really catches the first beam from the Sun to strike the United States in the morning; you may find these other claimants, with the following sequence.

October 7	to March 6	Cadillac Mountain
March 7	to March 24	West Quody Head
March 25	to September 18	Mars Hill
September 19	to October 6	West Quody Hill

I called up the Naval Observatory about this matter. And the individual to whom I spoke, informed me that according to their records, Katahdin is still the Champion.

Concerning the un-named viewer's reaction to your successful ascent of the Spruce Knob overhang, don't be surprised if someone calls to your attention Editor Price's (of the Pocahontas News, Marlinton, West Virginia) appraisal of leader Chris Scorderos' lead in a primary ascent of the South Face of the South Peak of Seneca Rocks, viz.: "A rock climber is one part monkey and nine parts vacuum in the head!" Appalachia, June 1944 page 81.

(Please turn to Page 10)

## Equipment Notes

### MOUNTAINEERING EQUIPMENT FOR SALE

REI K2 Expedition Sleeping Bag Comfort rated to -25, polarguard fill	\$100
Dolt Internal Frame Pack	\$ 70
Camp Trails Adjustable Pack	\$ 25
Assiniboine Expedition Double-Boots, size 7 mens	\$100
Salewa Adjustable Crampons, w/protectors & stuff sack	\$ 30
Interalp Camp Ice Axe	\$ 20
Climbing Helmet	\$ 20
Hirsch Weiss Small Pack	\$ 8
Woolrich Chamois Shirt, rust, size 12 womens	\$ 8
Woolrich Stag Wool Shirt, size mens medium	\$ 25
Ski Bibs, size 9 womens	\$ 10
Blue Rain Jacket	\$ 20
Hand-made bivy sac w/stuff sack	\$ 15
Avalanche Cord	\$ 4
Justrite Headlamp	\$ 5
Leather Face Mask	\$ 5
Mountaineer Glasses	\$ 10
Hiking boots, size 7 mens	\$ 15
White Wool hat	\$ 3

CALL SUE - 439-7191

### FOR SALE

Belay Pack (HBO) 1350cc, new:	\$10
Climbing boots, Vasque (heavy, esp. good for ice climbing) size 10:	\$50
Climbing shoes, Asolo Chouinard Canyon, new, sz 10	\$50
Climbing boots, Val d'Or, used, size 10-1/2	\$10
Climbing shoes, Galibier PR's, used, size 9-1/2	\$10
Body harness, one-piece, Rebuffat, new	\$25
Seat harness, Desmaison, used	\$5
Assorted pitons (8, incl 3 Lost Arrows), used	\$15

Joe Wagner, 966-6379

### SNAP LINK FAILURES SURFACE IMPROPER RAPPELLING TECHNIQUES

Article reprinted from COUNTERMEASURE, August 1982 issue, by U.S. Army Safety Center.

U.S. Army TSARCOM published an item in their Supply Information Letter, May 1982, concerning snap link failures due to improper rappelling techniques.

Investigations have revealed that improper techniques have been used in lacing the rope through the snap link. Since improper use of the snap link can be hazardous, the following information is furnished for your information:

**WARNING:** When using the Snap Link, Mountain Piton, NSN 8465-00-360-0228, for the seat-hip method of rappelling, whether from a helicopter, a tower, or on a mountain, the rappeller must hook onto the rope as follows:

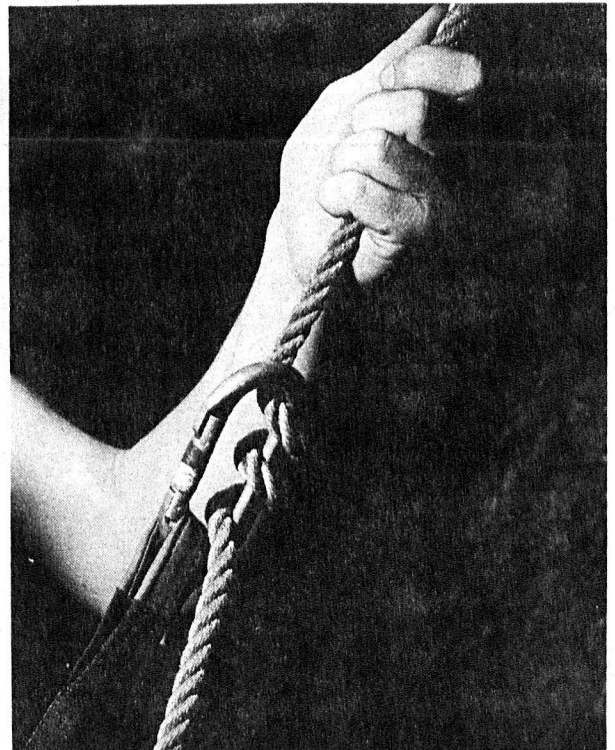
The rappeller stands to one side of the rope (if right-handed, to the left side of the rappel rope facing the anchor; if left-handed, to the right side of the rappel rope). The rappel rope(s) are placed into snap link, some slack is taken between the snap link and the anchor point, brought around the shaft of the snap link and into the gate, so that a round turn is made around the shaft of the snap link. If a single rope is used, this process is repeated to place two turns around the shaft. It is imperative that slack for the turn of the rope around the shaft is taken from between the anchor and the snap link in order to keep the rope from sliding to the gate side of the snap link. This can result in the gate being forced open and releasing the rope which could result in a serious accident.

A complete description of the seat-hip method of rappelling is given on pages 35 and 36 of TC 90-6-1, Military Mountaineering.

Since improper use of the snap link could result in a serious accident, all personnel using this equipment should be advised of the potential safety hazard.

Courtesy Stan Halpin

BELOW: Would you feel safe using Army's rappelling method? By the way, if you haven't guessed by now, snap link is a carabiner!



LETTERS.....(Cont from Page 8)

LONG OVERDUE  
A photo essay by Pete Grant

Whew! What can I say; except: The Sinks of Gandy trip report (which I enjoyed at least as much as you did) was Charlie Dorian's sole effort. Also, I'm glad to see that at least one person reads UP ROPE!

Ed.

Dear Editor:

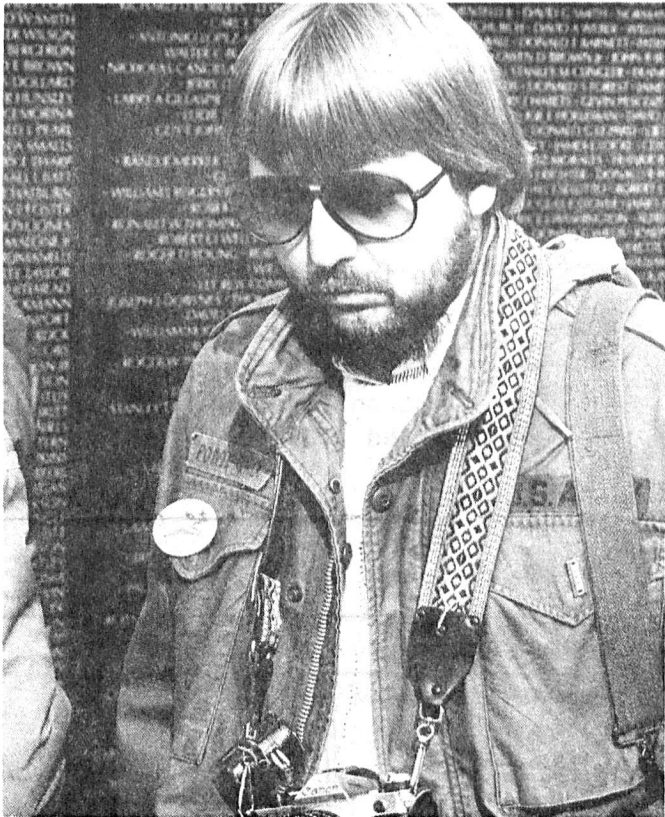
As a rather decrepit ex-mountaineer, I was delighted to read Tom Russell's article about the 1982 Denali PATC Expedition in UP ROPE's November issue. I am a former expeditionary, and as such am extremely keen about the sort of detailed information and knowledge contained in Russell's article. Such articles and their contents can be of immense help to others who wish to visit the regions described. UP ROPE could use more such articles. My congratulations to Tom Russell and to you.

Andy Kauffman

Ed note: Wow! Two letters in a row that have favorable comments. I thank you Andy, and Tom, I'm sure, does too. Keep 'em coming!

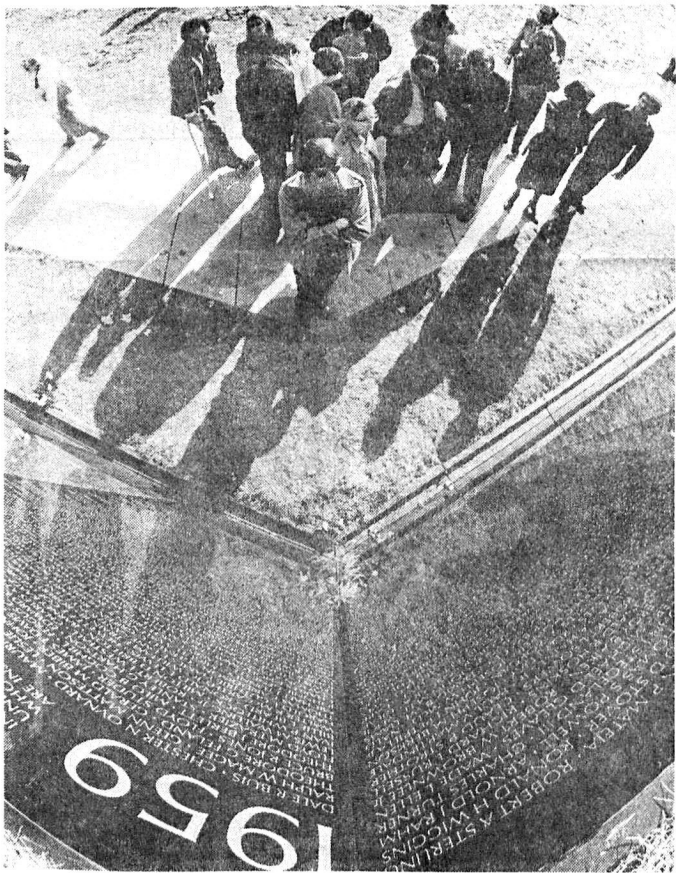






Some found old buddies at the Memorial..... Others found only names inscribed in stone.

Photos © P. Grant



CLIMBER'S CALENDAR

Dec 5  
Dec 8  
Jan 12

Cupid's Bower  
Monthly Meeting  
\*\* January Meeting

Ptet Grant 960-6033  
PATC Hq & ABC Studio  
PATC Headquarters

For trip information, call the leader or Charlie Dorian (821-6801). Day trips are to top-rope climbing areas. Weekend trips are to lead climbing areas -- please arrange for your own climbing partner.

\*\* Election of MS officers for 1983.

Ice climbing trips will be organized on an impromptu basis, depending on weather and availability of ice. Call Charile Dorian if interested.



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