



FOUNDED BY
JAN AND HERB CONN

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

1718 N Street, N.W. Washington DC 20036

VOLUME 38, NUMBER 2

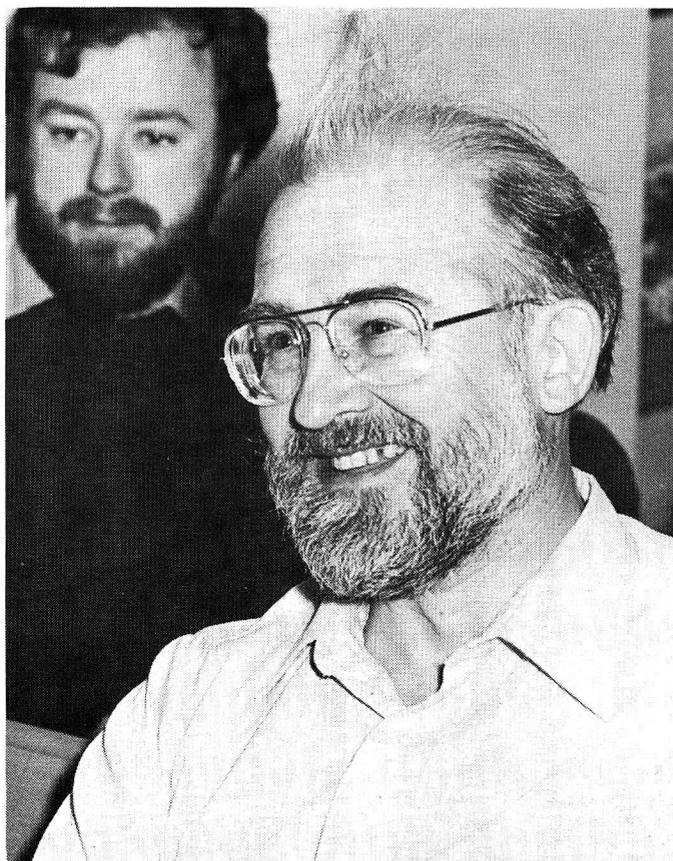
FEBRUARY 1983

Chairman's Corner

Climbers climb and that is our section's chief purpose, above our other activities and projects. The PATC Mountaineering Section is in fact the Washington mountaineering club and such role needs to be strengthened in the coming months, within the section and on the local climbing scene.

An active group attracts active people and while not every climber can or will join us, we can make sure that we stay in contact with local climbers, regardless of affiliation, get them involved in projects to keep open and conserve climbing areas, climb safely, and keep informed about achievements and concerns of the mountaineering world.

Our section is the oldest mountaineering group in the city and in the region. Being a volunteer group, it is not immune to organizational doldrums. And when climbers meet, reputedly highly individualistic in their views, personal disputes and schisms can result -- like any other mountaineering group, our section has had its share of such scises. Yet, our common bond and the lure of rock, ice, and snow always put such interruptions in perspective and place them second when it comes to action for the common good.



Victory is sweet! Joe Wagner smiles upon being elected as the Mountaineering Section Chairman for 1983.
Photo by Pete Grant.

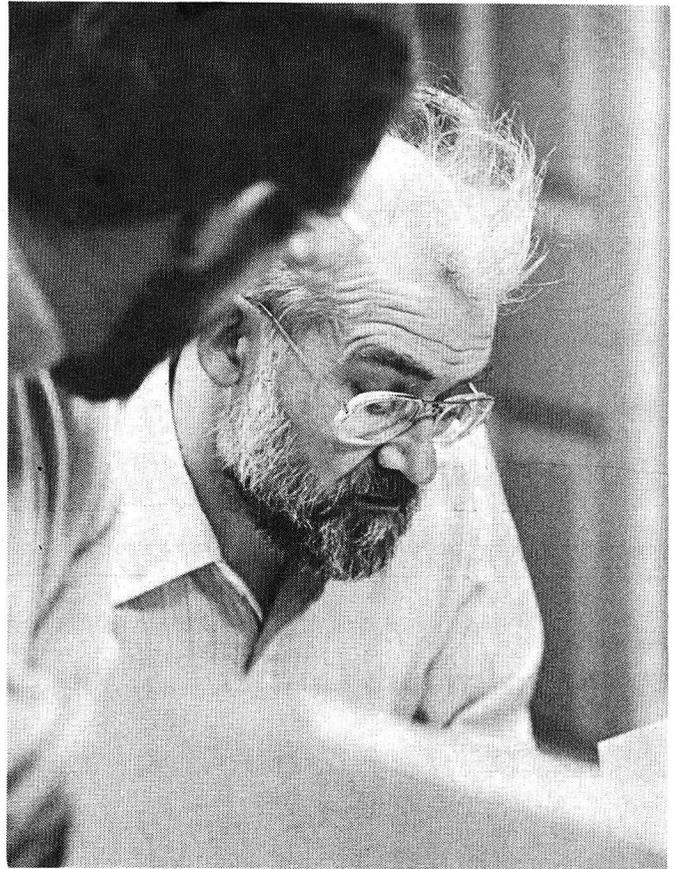
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CHAIRMAN'S CORNER
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I urge you to join me during the next weeks in

- widening our appeal to other mountaineers in the area;
- actively supporting the work of the section: leading and participating in section climbs; conservation and upkeep of climbing areas; teaching others to climb safely, to recognize and prevent alpine dangers, and to know first aid; organizing and attending section programs which inform, entertain and foster fellowship; publicize the section and its work; helping making decisions and administering the club;
- making the section more self-reliant without losing our ties to PATC and fill our role as the Washington mountaineering club more prominently and adequately;
- continuing close cooperation with national alpine organizations and their local sections as well as with other climbing groups in the region.

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Above: Joe Wagner digs right into his duties as he receives some old business notes from James Eakin, the outgoing Chairman. Photo © P. Grant.



UP ROPE is the monthly newsletter of the Mountaineering Section (MS) of the Potomac Appalachian Trail Club (PATC) of Washington, DC. 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, DC 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	Joe Wagner	966-6379
Vice Chairman	Charlie Dorian	821-6801
Secretary	Justine Carson	354-1389
Treasurer	Dave Atkinson	654-1784

UP ROPE STAFF

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

CHAIRMAN'S CORNER
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Section officers will do their best to operate this section smoothly, handle business efficiently, and to inform you fully so you can make the decision which is best for this group. I plan to delegate liberally and spread responsibilities widely to give all of us a sense of achievement and involvement. I will gladly join you in recognizing active members and in rewarding them so that others may do likewise.

There is something for everybody in this section that needs your advice, help and initiative. Make your concerns and ideas known to me and to the other officers and members. We will help you carry out your plans for a rewarding association with this club and its members.

WHAT CAN I DO? WHERE CAN I HELP?

To help you understand the scope of our present activities, here's a brief list of most functions of the Mountaineering Section:

1. Day and weekend climbing. Needed leaders, suggestions, transportation. (X-C skiing/ski mountaineering, snow permitting).
2. Expeditions and alpine mountaineering. Suggestions, leader support (food, equipment, permits, etc).
3. Climbing area access, upkeep and conservation. Organizing, manual labor and skills, attending meetings, monitoring government planning, meeting officials and other groups; correspondence. Specific projects: Carderock, Seneca Rocks, Nelson House: upkeep, repairs.
4. Training. Instructors for basic, intermediate climbing and advanced or specialized techniques (rescue, glacier travel, first aid, weather and alpine dangers, winter survival).
5. Information. Keeping members and public informed through UP ROPE newsletter -- editing, writing, reporting, drawing, typing, mailing, handling subscriptions.

6. Programs for section meetings and lectures. Ideas, contacting speakers and other resources; picking up/ordering program materials; finding room, making reservations. Planning and organizing picnics, fellowship activities.

7. Publicity. Writing, designing, drawing, personal contact, media contact, display of information, handling meeting announcements.

8. Membership. Hospitality, newcomer information, membership publicity, maintaining membership records.

Joe Wagner



James Eakin on Bushwack Crack, Old Rag, Nov 1982. Photo by Kathy Rebibo.

Hanging Around

SUGARLOAF, November 14, 1982

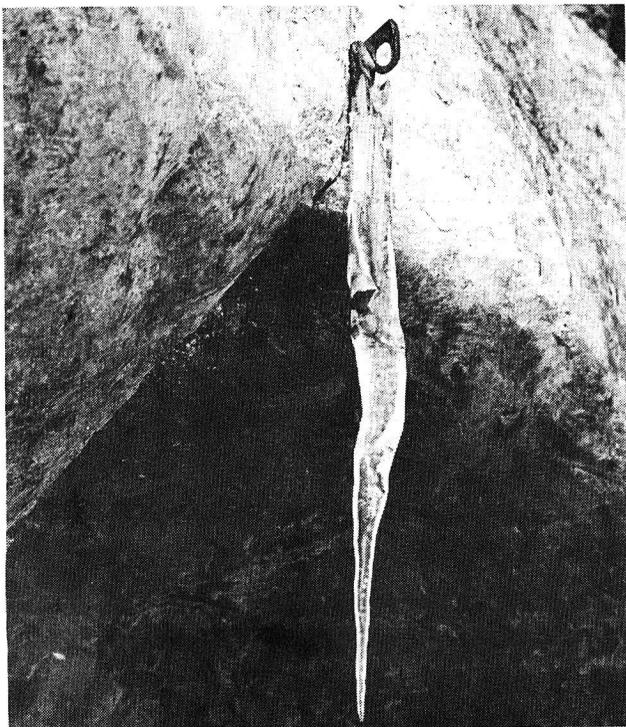
I'm afraid enough time has elapsed that I've forgotten some (or most) of the details, but here goes:

The weather turned out to be not as cold or miserable as predicted, so we went to the main climbing area, to the right of the stairs. The regular warm-up climbs were rigged, and then -- as these proved to be too easy for a couple of our more ambitious (better?) climbers -- harder routes were rigged and climbed. Rhythmic Roof was not rigged, and Butterfingers not climbed, to the best of my knowledge.

The original group of Tom Russell, Paul Torelli, Charlie Dorian, Gretchen Schwartz, Ian Cruickshank, Martha Hale, Ed Cummings (& Cedric), and James Eakin was eventually joined by John Fohrell (& Jamie) and even later by long-time-not-seen Phil Eddy.

Barbara Llewellyn

* * * * *



LITTLE STONY MAN

January 30, 1983

"Hey, Pete, is there a climbing trip this weekend?" Gary asked over the phone last Saturday. After checking the calendar it turned out that none was scheduled so we decided to go ahead and have one to Bull Run -- even in the face of a forecast for 30-40% chance of rain. Although we made several phone calls to other climbers, no one else could be recruited for this wintry adventure.

After meeting at A0 parking lot, it was decided that some other climbing area that was a little closer to the parking lot would be a wise choice in case it started pouring. I suggested Little Stony Man, and Gary was willing to give it a try.

It didn't exactly rain, but a few sprinkles every now and then kept the rock wet making footing a bit insecure. Our first climb was led by Gary, and involved a rather tricky traverse -- it took a quite a while for both Gary and me to negotiate this traverse, and the entire climb took us almost two hours. Fingers frozen numb, our bodies turning blue from the cold, we were unwilling to call it quits, and rigged a top rope on one of the walls somewhat shaded from the howling winds. A couple of hikers came by and made some remark of how they just couldn't understand why someone would do anything like climbing rocks in weather like this, etc... We ignored their comments and finished out the rigged climb. Then back to the car, and then home.

Pete Grant

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WHAT IS IT?? Department

Who says there's no ice this winter? What do you think that on the left is, a crystal chandelier? Want to know where this ice can be found? At the Gunks!!! End of Doug's Roof (5.11) -- anyone recognize the piton? Photo © Pete Grant, mid January 1983.

From the Editor's Chimney

I can hardly believe it! I still haven't gotten my January UP ROPE from the mailman, and here it is, 25th of the month already. I understand there was some mixup in payment of our mailing bill but it has now been straightened out. I talked to someone else a couple of days ago and he said he had received his copy. If you are as unfortunate as I, drop by PATC Headquarters sometime in the next 30 days and pick up a copy of January issue from the 'extra copies bin'.

On the weekend of 19-20 January I went cross country skiing trip to Lake Minnewaska. As I passed by the Gunks, I saw Tom, the ranger, collecting day use fees from other skiers, so I pulled over and inquired. It turned out that Mohonk Trust has excellent ski trails on the carriage roads (over and under cliffs) and I saw no point in paying a trail fee elsewhere since my rock climbing permit was valid for skiing too. I had a great time, skiing by Skytop and to Mohonk House, where a large number of guests were both skiing and ice skating.

My reason for going to New York in the first place had been to photograph the X-C ski races at Lake Minnewaska. On Sunday, the day of the race, I awoke in my little pickup truck to the sound of heavy rain falling. That sure put a damper on my skiing/photographing enthusiasm. After breakfast at Plaza Diner, I drove the icy roads to the mountains, hoping that the rain would turn to snow at higher altitude -- no such luck! On the return trip home I thought that my friends are right: I'm nuts! Only a true nut would drive 800 miles just for a few hour's skiing!

Hey, we have a LETTER TO EDITOR again this month! Great -- Keep 'em coming!!

Dear Editor:

This letter is really a matter of settling my conscience, after many years of thinking about it. But who is this mysterious person who springs a badly typed letter on you out of the blue and written in a perhaps somewhat strange style of English. I was a member in th years 1966-1971 and was even chairman in, I think, 1969. It seems a long time ago now. My main claim to "fame" was to edit the first formal guide to Seneca. I say "edit" because there had been previously a Seneca guide sub-committee but as we all know, such committees rarely work. I inherited a collection of route descriptions (which I left in N Street more or less neatly bundled when the guide was printed in 1971 -- I hope they still exist as they might be of some historical value) and my task was to produce the final book with a lot of help from John Christian who did all the drawings. I still have a couple of copies, I guess they are becoming collectors' pieces. The ("The") Alpine Club even has a copy in its library -- how's that for fame? But I joke, of course.

Incidentally, the supply of UP ROPES dried up for a few years, that is until Arnold Wexler visited me en route to Nepal and on his return to the US arranged for the supply to be restarted.

But what has finally stimulated me to write was the article on Denali in the November 1982 issue, and one of the things I would like to do is thank the author for one of the most informative articles I have read on the subject. When resident in McLean I and my friends seriously considered an attempt on Denali on 2 or 3 occasions, but we finally decided that in terms of a more fruitful return on the investment and with so much else to do in North America, that Denali would have to wait. Since my return we have inevitably looked at the prospect again, several times, but the statistics, coupled with

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EDITOR'S CHIMNEY
(Cont from Page 5)

the many counter attractions have continued to put us off. Still, thanks to Tom Russell for his article which I have passed on to several of my British friends who are still entertaining serious thoughts. Tom might like to know that I spent many hours in the Alpine Club library reading the literature including all of the Washburn accounts. It is easy to find route descriptions but not the essential back-up information. The folk we have written to in Alaska have rarely bothered to reply. It is, strange to say, relatively cheap to reach Anchorage as Western Airlines use it as a staging stop enroute to Hawaii from London and offer a cheap fare.

Other articles in recent years that I have recorded have been Nov 82 on Nelson Rocks, July 82 on Little Stony Man, Nov 81 on Robson and rescue techniques, and June 81 for historical interest.

I climbed a number of times at Nelson with Roger Birch and Richard Sideman. On one occasion I recall climbing an 11-pitch route including quite a lot of traversing.

The article on Stony Man was of special interest because it reminded me of the controversies I generated in my early months in PATC because of my insistence that all the outcrop climbs in the D.C. area should be led and not top-roped, as would be the case here unless the rock was so suspect as to make all forms of protection valueless. We do have here a particularly soft form of sandstone on which top-roping is "permitted" but elsewhere all climbs are led. I brought the first nuts and chocks to PATC, including some genuine engineering nuts on line slings and used them at Carderock, Sugarloaf, Bull Run, as well as at Stony Man, Seneca, the Gunks, etc. Somewhere at the Gunks there lies to this day, is suspect, a long 7mm sling with two large genuine nuts and two karabiners (Ed: note the spelling); the lot slipped down behind a large detached pillar somewhere near the

base of Shockley's Ceiling. Before my tour of duty at the embassy ended, nuts and chocks had begun to replace pegs.

I rarely hear anything about Harpers Ferry these days as a climbing centre. When I was with PATC I found this rock face one of the best near D.C. I often climbed there in the evening. I remember one occasion when in doing a new route involving a traverse under an overhang to escape left from a climb we used to call "Bird Lime Chimney" (or something a bit more vulgar according to the density of the new deposits). I used a nut to safeguard myself for the passage of the overhang, but Sideman, being rather taller than me had considerable difficulty and we were more or less benighted. It was too dark for him to see well enough to recover one of my prized nuts so I returned next day in the lunch hour (extended) and abseiled down to recover it. It wasn't the value, just the availability.

I managed to visit all the mainland states and to climb in a large number; in fact, when I tot up the number I am quite astonished how much I managed to do. Vanity notwithstanding, I would like a list or a few comments on some of the more amusing events such as when the abseil rope jammed on our descent of the Devil's Tower in front of a large crowd called up by the Park Service to watch the entertainment -- which is what they used to do in that era.

I still keep in touch with Chuck and Margaret Wettling and expect to be seeing Chuck on his return from Sudan in the new year.

Best wishes to PATC and the members for Xmas and the new year.

F. R. (Bob) Robinson

COMPARATIVE STRENGTH TESTS ON
ICE SCREWS

Reprinted from the Alpine Club of Canada (Ottawa Section) Bulletin, January 1983.

Ice screws can and do fail every year. Here is a brief report on some tests done and the results of those tests.

Ice screws constructed of low-carbon steel are less likely than medium-carbon to become brittle at low temperatures. An ice screw which bends without snapping, under heavy load, is still a much more worthwhile proposition than one which simply snaps under load. The trouble of distinguishing Salewa screws and pitons made from low-carbon (0.2%) steel from identical looking screws made from medium-carbon (0.55%) steel, still remains.

The fact that the Interalp screw was found to be brittle at unacceptably high temperatures (i.e., temperatures likely to be encountered while climbing) through grain growth caused by heat treatment, is very interesting, also.

The thinking climber, wishing to avoid confusion, or death through ice screw failure, will obviously be gladdened by the choice of a Chouinard screw, judging by the DSIR tests. Made of steel tough enough not to crumble, yet not brittle, it has the added advantage of a larger section tube to more easily withstand forces of leverage and torsion upon it. The only drawbacks to it are: (a) the price and (b) the (remote) possibility of the wire helix becoming detached from the shaft. This last detraction has only been heard of in one instance, and even then it was easily noticed and not likely to cause an accident through ice screw failure.

The following conclusions are reprinted from pages 8 and 9 of the report.

"The Salewa screws are manufactured from two distinctly different materials, the original [and the ice piton] from a

medium carbon steel and the other two from a mild steel. Medium carbon steel shows a pronounced reduction in notch toughness values at low temperatures and brittle failure has been shown to occur at room temperature on samples taken from an ice screw."

"Low carbon steel can show much more severe reductions in notch toughness values but generally at lower temperatures. The temperature at which the ductile/brittle transition occurs depends on many factors included in which is a phenomenon known as "strain ageing" which can raise this temperature markedly. The notch impact testing undertaken seems to imply that these particular samples are, in this respect, in their present state of strain, probably safe for the purpose. They do, of course, have a considerably lower strength than the equivalent medium carbon steel part. If a screw were to be recovered, straightened and reused (so as to inflict strain ageing) then the ductile/brittle transition temperature could be caused to rise markedly."

"The Chouinard screw is manufactured from a high strength (heat treated) alloy steel. The impact testing seems to imply that it has sufficient notch toughness at the temperatures likely to be encountered to avoid hazard. It is interesting that whilst the addition of Chromium and Molybdenum is known to raise the ductile/brittle transition temperature, this part shows a low transition temperature probably due to the use of a tempered martensite structure which is known to lower the transition and to the use of a thin section."

"The Interalp ice screw is manufactured from a low carbon steel which should have been adequately notch tough. The tests show, however, that the transition temperatures are much higher than those found for the mild steels and this is undoubtedly due to the large grain size. This has probably arisen as a result of the copper brazing process which involves heating the parts to a temperature in excess of the melting point of copper (1083° C). This temperature is far in

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CLIMBER'S CALENDAR

Feb 9	Meeting at PATC Headquarters 8:00 P.M.; entertainment by Charlie Dorian and Joe Wagner (et al?) presenting slides of their 82 trip to Italy.		
Feb 19-27	* Ice climbing/Skiing in New Hampshire	Charlie Dorian	821-6801
Feb 19-21	* Seneca Rocks/Dolly Sods (climb, ski, or hike depending on weather)	Pete Grant	960-6033
Feb 27	TBA		
Mar 6	TBA		
Mar 9	Meeting at PATC Headquarters 8:00 P.M.		Program TBA.
Mar 19-20	* Seneca Rocks, WV	Pete Grant	960-6033

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

Ice climbing trips are normally organized on an impromptu basis, depending on weather and availability of ice. To inquire about unscheduled ice climbing trips, contact Charlie Dorian or James Eakin.

Trip leaders needed. Please contact Charlie Dorian if you would like to volunteer.

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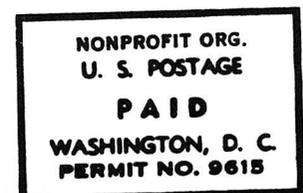
excess of the critical point and grain growth is inevitable. The process should have been followed by cooling and reheating to a temperature just in excess of the critical point to refine the grain.

The shackle of this screw is made from a high carbon steel which would have a transition temperature well in excess of the ambient."

* * * * *

Up Rope

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DATED MATTER