

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 3

MARCH 1983



Belay Ledge

NEW MEMBERS

Robert Blackburn, 2104 Spencer Road,
Silver Spring, MD 20910.

Dave Coffey, 6895 Norris Lane,
Baltimore, MD 21227.

Deborah Ann Jaslow, 1642 Mt Eagle
Place, Alexandria, VA 22302.

Costa Lascaris, P.O. Box 1105,
Leesburg, VA 22075.

* * * *

SKYLINE

Skyline road between Big Meadows and
Panorama is expected to be partially
closed to motor traffic when repairs
begin about July 1.

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PATC COMPUTER

An ad hoc committee under Dave Seiffert
will look into benefits of a computer for
PATC.

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A.A.C.

The American Alpine Club does have a
local section, the Blue Ridge Section!
Anyone with a sustained interest in
climbing is invited to join. Two spon-
sors are needed, and these may be readily
obtained by contacting an AAC member.
Here are a few who are also MS members:
Neil Arsenault (301 997-9601), Barry
Bishop (8285688), John Christian (986-
1243), Don Hubbard (656-4368), John
Bremer (654-367), Andy Kauffman (797-
8352), Geroge Merriam (493-5484), and
Arnold Wexler (493-6965).

Joe Wagner
(966-6379)

* * * *

COVER: When the icy winds of winter howl
outside, our familiar gear gets a bit of
rest..... but not for long!! Spring is
just around the corner, and UP ROPE can
once again get some real climbing photo-
graphy. Pentax 35mm camera with 105mm
lens. With lighting from two photofloods,
exposure was 1/2 sec @ f-16 on Panatomic-
X developed in D-76. © 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 \$6. 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

Now, here's an item I accidentally missed from last month's UP ROPE. My apologies ... better late than never!

REPORT FROM THE NOMINATING
COMMITTEE FOR 1983 OFFICERS

The following were elected as 1983 Officers of Mountaineering Section (MS) at the January 12, 1983 meeting of the MS.

Chairman:	Joe Wagner
Vice Chairman:	Charlie Dorian
Secretary:	Justine Carson
Treasurer:	Dave Atkinson

Tom Russell

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From Other Peaks

ADIRONDACK SKIING/HIKING/CLIMBING
(February 4-13, 1983)

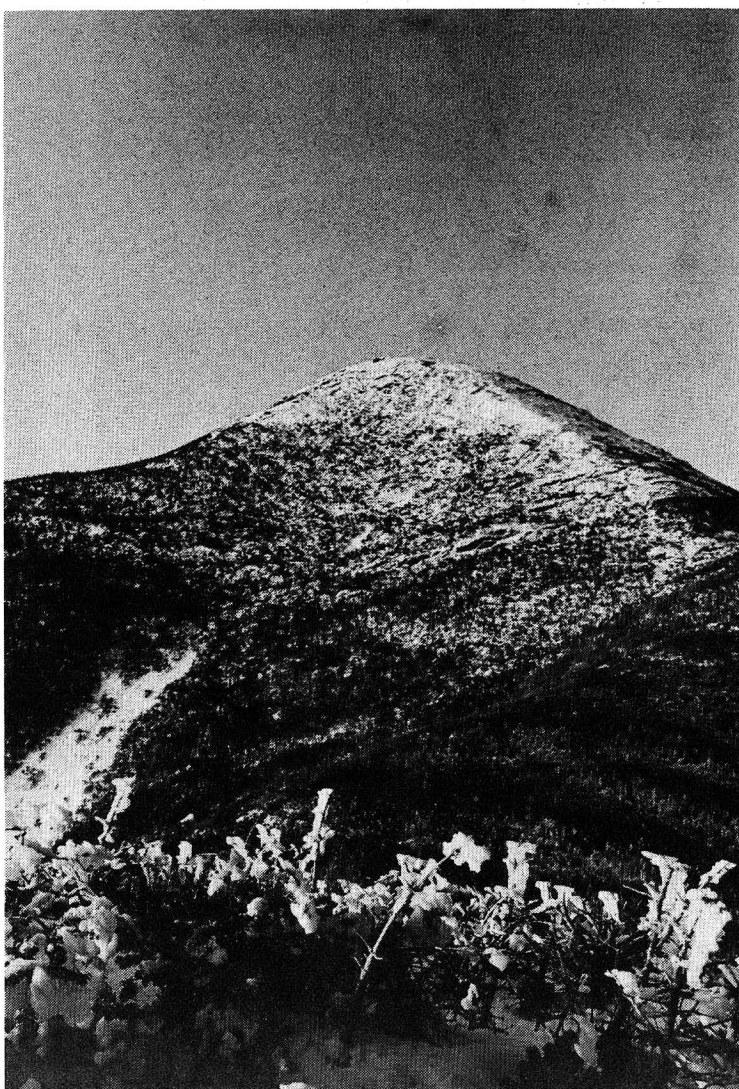
This was to be my ski trip of the year. John Christian coordinated the arrangements to stay at the Adirondack Loj, in one of the great cross-country ski areas of the East Coast, near Lake Placid, New York. Now, some of you remember the 1980 winter Olympics. The Adirondacks, normally under many feet of snow, had so little snowfall during the 1980 winter that they were forced to bring snow in by trucks to cover up parts of the X-C ski trail system. About a week before the Olympics, mother nature finally decided to cooperate and gave plenty of the white stuff for the games and all ended well.

This year? Almost a repetition of 1980. On Saturday morning, as Jay Brooks and I loaded up into Jay's Volvo, there was still insufficient snow cover on the ground at Lake Placid area, so we took along our hiking gear, I even took my ice axe. After a 12 hour drive, we were able to confirm the snow reports for ourselves: they were true -- very little, maybe two inches on the ground. Oh well, that's why the hiking boots, etc., were brought along on a ski trip.

Jay and I were a day early, as our mid-week package started on Sunday evening. We decided to do Mount Marcy, the highest point in New York, for starters. The trail from Adirondack Loj to the summit is 6.8 miles and is well maintained. Although the snow covering was minimal, there were many ice gullies which had to be negotiated, and I wished I had brought along my crampons to add a little security to the footing. We managed to bushwack around most of the iciest spots and made it to the summit without incident. On the summit we met a couple of other climbers and engaged in a discussion of politics, of all things. The temperature on the summit must have been in the low teens and the wind was blowing like crazy to make the wind chill factor sub-zero, but these guys wanted to talk politics! To each his own, I say. (By the way, Mount Marcy is 5,344 feet high and Adirondack Loj, our base camp, is at elevation of 2,180 feet above sea level.)

Monday the entire group went for a hike, with Algonquin Peak (5,114') as our goal. The trail was much shorter -- only 3 miles -- than Mt Marcy's, but the elevation gain was nearly the same, so it was obvious that we should encounter some steep sections; and we did: covered with ice. Again, no crampons. Some members of the party had stopped at a local hardware store and bought some crampon-like devices that attach to the instep. They helped some, but the going was still pretty rough, and soon most had turned around leaving Jay and I to finish off the climb again. Algonquin Peak was cold and windy (what else is new)! It had started to snow some and our view from the summit was nonexistent. We managed to find the trail down the other side into Avalanche Lake and made a rapid descent on both our feet and rear ends. It was fun, though!

(Cont on Page 5)



Above: Algonquin Peak (5115') at the Adirondack High Peak Region. Photo © P. Grant.

CRESCENT ROCKS, VA

Feb 29, 1983

(One week after the Great Snowstorm of 83)

By Gary Beil.

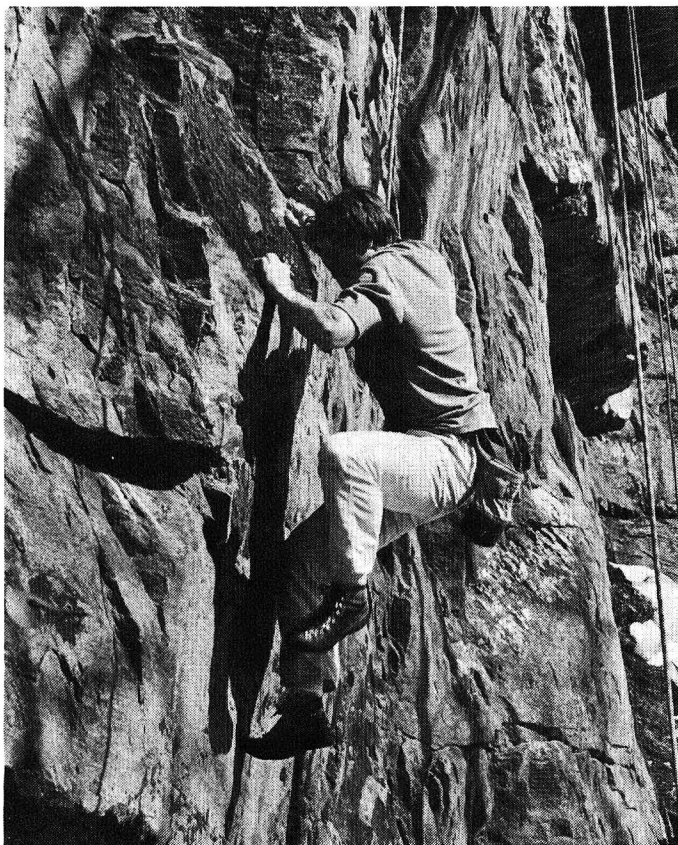
With most of the snow gone in Washington, a warming trend approaching, and cabin fever running high, five climbers met a Bloomingdale's (Ed note: that's a new one...) for the trip and piled into one Datsun for a long, comfortably tight fit. During the drive, John kept us entertained with jokes.

Arriving at our destination, parking was slightly difficult with 8 to 12 inches of snow still on the ground. Hiking the half mile wasn't bad at all, and the cliffs were dry from the sun. Four top rope climbs were set up: The Dish (direct), Triple-D (Decision, Decision, Decision), and Muddy Desperation (aka Bush in the Face).

Everyone did The Dish for a warm-up, and then the rope was moved to Coordination Street. John did Muddy Desperation. Everybody successfully did Coordination Street; a few tried Triple-D -- a small overhang which was wet underneath. Others attempted unsuccessfully a new route, a corner to the left of Muddy Desperation, trying to reach a second horizontal crack. Near the end of the day, everybody tried a new route set up by Bob on Washington Wall -- left of the anticline. It remains undone.

Participants were: Gary Beil, Bob Berger, John Bremer, James Eakin, and Alex Karczewski.

* * * * *



ABOVE: Bob Berger trying a new route on Washington Wall at Crescent Rocks. Photo by Gary Beil.

(Cont'd from page 7)

(THE FOLLOWING LETTER IS REALLY NOT THE TYPE NORMALLY INCLUDED IN THIS COLUMN; HOWEVER, THERE ARE MANY OTHER PEOPLE OUT THERE WITH THE SAME QUESTION SO I AM PRINTING THE LETTER AND MY REPLY HERE FOR ALL TO SEE:)

Dear UP ROPE:

I obtained a one year subscription to UP ROPE in September 1982. Please inform me if this subscription must be renewed presently as indicated in the January 1983 issue. Also, my copy generally arrives at my house around the 20th of the month -- too late to participate in the calendar events. Is this a problem from your end or should I contact the Post Office?

William Cosgrove
Baltimore, MD

First, starting with this month, the expiration date of your subscription will appear on the mailing label on the same line with your name. It is in the format YYMM indicating the last issue to be mailed under your current contract. For example, 8306 means that the June 1983 issue will be your last one unless you renew or pay up membership dues. If there is no expiration date on your label, you either have a lifetime subscription (there are a quite a few PATC life members), or we can not determine the expiration date from current information. The great majority of UP ROPE recipients are MS (PATC) members and pay their dues in December of each year. I have set the computer to go ahead and mail the January issue of each year for all whose membership expired in December to ensure that no one misses a copy just for being a little late in payment.

Second: The late arrival of UP ROPE is definitely a problem in this end. To fix up the problem, we are tightening up the publishing/mailling operations as much as possible; the goal being to have UP ROPE arrive to subscribers before the current month's meeting (second Wednesday of each month). That means, among other things, that I must resume sticking to the 20th of the month deadline -- no exceptions! In addition, to solve the problem of non-participating in club activities due to the Climber's Calendar being exhausted by the time UP ROPE arrives, I will discuss the subject with appropriate staff members and recommend that we try to have the calendar extend a little farther -- say, two months -- out each month.

* * * * *

UP ROPE MAILING LIST

WE ARE STILL WORKING ON OUR MAILING LIST. IF WE KNOW DEFINITELY WHEN YOUR SUBSCRIPTION/MEMBERSHIP EXPIRES, THE EXPIRATION DATE WILL APPEAR ON YOUR MAILING LABEL. IF THERE IS NO DATE ON YOUR LABEL, WE HAVEN'T HAD THE CHANCE TO UPDATE YOUR FILE YET (ALSO PATC LIFE MEMBERS HAVE NO EXPIRATION DATE). WHEN WE FINALLY DETERMINE YOUR UP ROPE EXPIRATION MONTH, WE WILL MAIL YOU ONE MORE ISSUE IF YOUR SUBSCRIPTION IS UP TO SERVE AS A REMINDER TO RENEW.

* * * * *

Adirondacks (cont)

When we awoke Tuesday morning, there was a definite blanket of snow on the ground. It wasn't quite 12 inches that we had hoped for...but it was thick enough for skiing! Jay was the first to go out and try the snow, at around 6:30 A.M. -- before breakfast. The rest of us weren't quite so eager and had breakfast first before heading out to Mt Van Hoevenberg ski area where we explored the various ski trails the entire day.

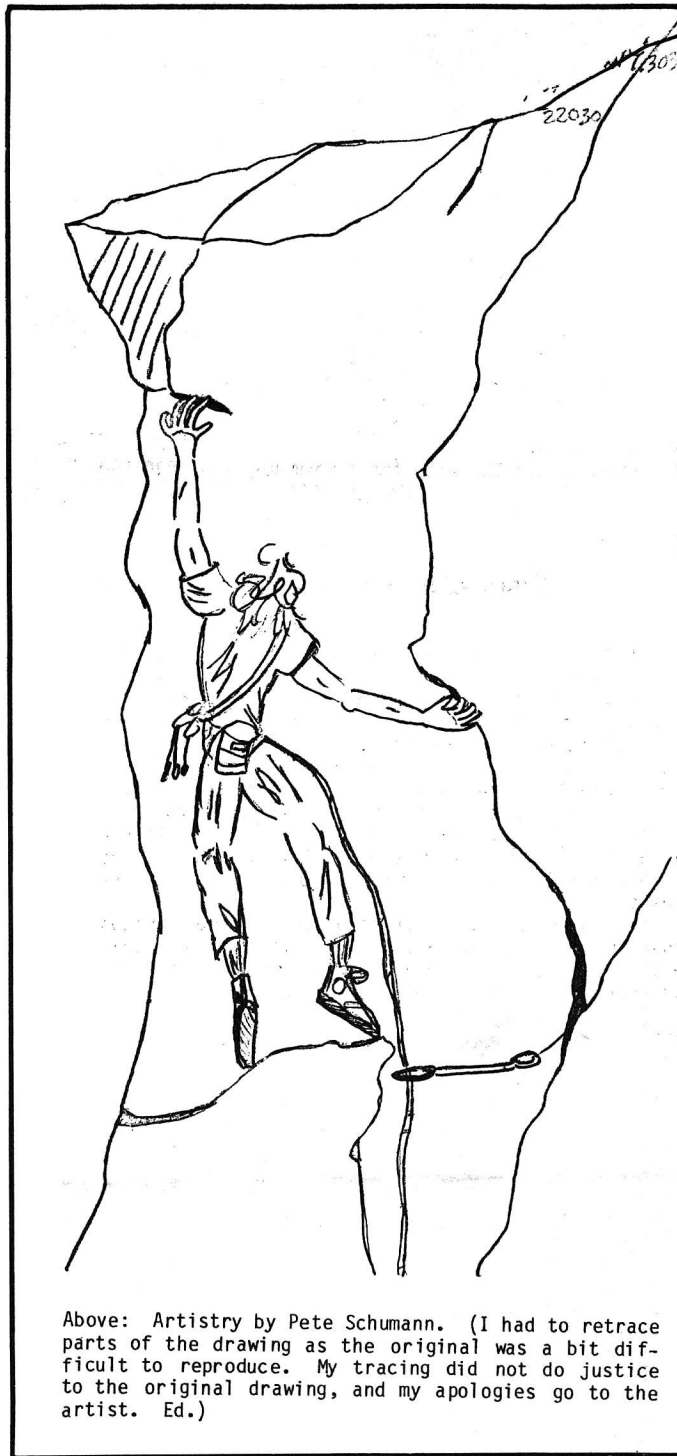
On Wednesday, it was decided to do a little back-country (i.e., real cross-country) skiing. We started out with Avalanche Lake as our objective, passing by Marcy Dam (to feed little Chickadees). As we gained altitude, the snow got a little deeper and it wasn't long until there was only Jay, John, and I continuing up to higher elevations; the others had turned back at various points along the way. As we climbed, we noticed that the fresh powder snow was hiding many menacing, nasty-looking obstacles; fallen trees, branches, and the like; and we (or at least I) were worried about skiing down that same trail and taking a serious spill if snagged. But we kept on climbing!

Soon Avalanche Lake was reached -- and what a view! There were rock cliffs on both sides of the lake, several hundred feet high ... what a grand place to come during the summer sometime and climb. A week, a month wouldn't be enough time to climb it all!

After some picture taking and resting, it was time to return down to the ordinary earth. Jay led most of the way down (as he had on the way up), carefully bypassing the most dangerous sections. The last downhill section we no longer wanted to proceed with such caution, but pointed our skis straight down the trail, tucked our ski poles under arms, and let gravity do its thing on us. And how it did! As we built up speed on the narrow back-country trail, it was soon obvious that we wouldn't be able to ski around any danger spots, even if we saw them in time. But that was OK. The exhilaration was so great it was worth taking extra risk ... I know I was whooping and hollering from pure ecstasy riding on two skinny plastic strips (skis) through the soft, fluffy white powder at speed. It was over too soon! The trail suddenly leveled off and we found ourselves back on the flatlands. I wished we had time to do that again, but dinner time (and darkness) were too close for an instant replay. Too bad! Maybe next year again.

The rest of the week was uneventful. The snow started melting and compacting, making skiing around the area less than ideal. John, Martha, and Irene left Thursday morning. Redd, Mary Ann, Jay, and I spent the day at Mt Van Hoevenberg, trying to get as much skiing as possible.

Friday, Redd and Mary Ann left, so it was only Jay and I again. We found more snow near Keene, about 15 miles from the Loj, and skied up to the Ausable Lakes. The scenery at Ausable (we visited both upper and lower lakes) wasn't nearly as grand as at Avalanche Lake, but nevertheless, it was pretty in its own sort of way. It was after returning from Ausables that we heard the news about the snow fall in Washington DC area. It didn't take us long to decide to cut our trip short and head back home -- that same evening. Around midnight we hit the edge of the storm. The snow started falling so hard that the highway crews were unable to keep the road open and we ended up spending the night at a rest stop on New York Thruway near the 'Gunks.



Above: Artistry by Pete Schumann. (I had to retrace parts of the drawing as the original was a bit difficult to reproduce. My tracing did not do justice to the original drawing, and my apologies go to the artist. Ed.)

The drive on I-84 and I-81 through Pennsylvania next day was very slow due to there being cars stuck all over the place, and in many spots, only one lane had been plowed open. It took us 24 hours to get back home. No skiing on Saturday, but Sunday I headed out to Manassas where I saw several rock climbers, also on skinny skis.

Pete Grant



Chairman's Corner

At the February membership meeting I briefly commented on the role of the executive committee. It has an important place in our club and we should all know what it does do and what it can't. Normally, it meets at a member's home at 7:30 PM on the first Wednesday of each month. (Since it is a potluck affair and to avoid ending up with 10 desserts, it is practical to call up and let the host know that you plan to attend. Meetings are open to all members! Attendance of officers, committee chairmen, and others responsible for various section activities is requested.

The committee is a constitutional group, set up under the section by-laws (see UP ROPE, May 1982). We plan for meetings, prepare business that comes up for decision by the membership. Minutes are kept and available, however, they do not carry verbatim reports but briefly note what has been decided. If you don't know what happened at a meeting, check UP ROPE or ask someone who attended.

There are judgements made at executive committee meetings but section decisions are made by the membership or are subject to review by the membership. Administrative and programming matters, however, require quick decisions and that's why the committee is empowered to handle such business between meetings.

I will shortly ask the section to participate in a full review of our operating rules and the role and responsibility of the executive committee certainly is one issue that can be examined.

Support of the Section.

Initial response to my plea for help and support is gratifying. We still need more help with leading trips, suggesting and presenting programs, writing for UP ROPE and helping with mailing it. Following are the members who are volunteering to support our elected officers and make this an active mountaineering section:

Barbara Llewellyn, program and entertainment;
Charlie Dorian, climbing trips;
Tom Russell, expedition planning;
Don Barnett, training and safety;
Pete Grant, editor, UP ROPE;

Don Kocher, UP ROPE circulation;
Martha Hale, membership and hospitality;
Roger Slakey, program publicity;
James Eakin, conservation and Seneca West
Face trail project with David Atkinson;
Paul Torelli, Shenandoah National Park;
Janet Young, Carderock conservation project;
Marcy Logan, Nelson House; and
Ed Cummings, UP ROPE cost study.

Thank You.

Joe Wagner

From the Editor's Chimney

Wow!! Are things ever slow this time of year? Area climbers seem to have gone into hibernation, although some have temporarily assumed roles as cross-country skiers -- and I'm just as guilty as the next person, having spent most of February trying out the white stuff and refreshing those old waxing skills. All of last week was spent at the Adirondaks with a group from PATC Ski Touring Section headed by John Christian, another climber/skier. I'm planning on writing a little trip report on that journey but lack of time may put the big jinx to that project... check elsewhere in this issue to see if I made it!

Talk about things being slow! Even the rats at the Pentagon seem to have lowered their activity. I saw only one this morning; during summer months one has to be careful not to step on them if arriving before daylight when they are most active. Not that I'm worried the rats' welfare; it's just fear that they might bite if I happened to walk one of their tails. My dress uniform shoes don't offer much protection against a rodent's sharp teeth!

We have Letters to Editor again -- I hope this becomes a regular feature of UP ROPE 'cause I'm running out of ideas on what to write about. Here goes:

(Cont'd on page 7)

EDITOR'S CHIMNEY (Cont from Page 6)

Dear Editor:

I want to compliment you on UP ROPE. I just read the December and January issues, and I think UP ROPE is the best I have ever seen it. Your photographs are a great addition, and your spread on the Vietnam Veterans is excellent...and long overdue.

It was good to see Don Hubbard pass on some of the lore of Paul Bradt. I remember when I first started to climb with the Mountaineering Section in 1964, Don Hubbard would also meet the MS at "HoJo's" (Ed note: Howard Johnson's) in Chevy Chase on Sunday mornings, and often the name of Paul Bradt came up. When I was Chairman of the MS about 12 years ago, I organized all the old MS files, and there was some preliminary effort made of a history of the Mountaineering Section. What ever became of this? I think someone should permanently document the early years of our club; and it should be easy to do with people like Don Hubbard and Arnold Wexler to help us. What about the UP ROPE file...how complete is it? Can you find anyone who would take on the project? People have been climbing at Carderock for 50 years, and I think the history should be documented. I would be more than willing to help with the years I was active with the PATC.

Keep up the good work - UP ROPE sure looks a lot better than when I used to help paste it up on my living room floor in 1970!

Sincerely,

Tom A. McCrumm
McDowell, VA

P.S. Please change my present UP ROPE address to the above address.

Also - I am a life member of the PATC - does that entitle me to a lifetime of free UP ROPES? If not, how do I tell if my subscription's due?

- - - - -

Let's see now, starting from the top: Thank you for the compliments...it's always good to hear such words, however, I also welcome criticism so if anyone has a gripe, let's hear it! I usually try to publish letters as they are (except for corrections of typographical errors); however, in case of lengthy manuscripts I reserve the right to condense a bit. As to the history of the MS, I agree, the task needs to be done ... any volunteers? I'll bring up the subject at the executive committee meeting on March 2nd. Address change: OK...done!

UP ROPE subscriptions: All members of PATC, including lifetime members, are entitled to receive UP ROPE as long as names are on the Mountaineering Section rolls. I have the mailing list on the computer, and lifetime members' expiration is marked as year 9999. For other members & subscribers: see my notice elsewhere in this issue!

Dear Editor:

We certainly enjoyed the letter from Don Hubbard published in the December UP ROPE. Sounds like the same old Don! It was just this sort of rambling but fascinating discourse on everything imaginable that used to greet climbers as they gathered at the Hot Shoppe on Sunday mornings back in the '40's and '50's.

We agree wholeheartedly with Don that Paul Bradt should be immortalized as the founder of the Mountaineering Section and the author of classic climbs along the Potomac, on Seneca Rocks, and underground in Schoolhouse Cave. But his name should be spelled right in the immortal records. It is Bradt, not Brandt.

Paul was a soft-spoken, self-effacing man whose eyes gleamed and whose heart opened to anyone showing an interest in climbing. He and Don were men of action, but leaders and teachers, too, each in their own way. From Paul we learned to pick our handholds carefully and give conscientious belays. From Don we learned to savor the oddities of life and to avoid eating mushrooms. (Don, an encyclopedia of information, knew exactly which mushrooms to pick, but the rest of us clods had only the intelligence to kid him about his hobby.)

Keep up the interesting issues of UP ROPE! In faraway South Dakota we read it, too, and re-enjoy all the old favorite climbs and marvel at the new ones.

Sincerely,

Herb and Jan Conn
Custer, SD

Well, did I goof again -- and royally this time! I don't know why my fingers want to add the letter "n" every time I type the name Bradt. Anyway, the spelling has been corrected and from here on out Paul's name will be B-R-A-D-T, like it should be. I sincerely apologize for my misbehavior in transcribing Don Hubbard's letter. To err is human.
Ed.

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EDITOR'S CHIMNEY (letters) Continued on Page 4.

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W-A-N-T-E-D!

A place to hold our annual picnic in late May or early June. If you know of a place that is centrally located, available on a Saturday or Sunday, and has a pavillion or other covered facility please let us know. Call Barbara Llewellyn 871-6197 as soon as possible!

* * * * *

BUDGET CUTS TO HIT PATC (and UP ROPE)

Starting next month, we are going to have to hold down our costs to stay within our reduced budget. As a result, UP ROPE will have fewer pages and no photos. This situation will continue at least through the summer months.

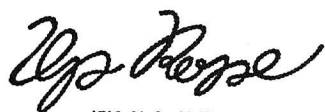
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Climber's Calendar

Mar 6	Wolf Rocks, MD	Tom Russell	869-8058
Mar 9	Meeting at PATC Headquarters 8:00 P.M. Program: Cross-country Skiing in the Canadian Rockies by John Christian		
Mar 13	Great Falls, VA	Charlie Dorian	861-6801
Mar 20	Sugarloaf, MD	Barbara Llewellyn	871-6197
Mar 19-20	* Seneca Rocks, WV	Pete Grant	960-6033
Mar 27	Wolf Rocks, MD	Ed Cummings	933-1457
Apr 3	Bull Run, VA	Tom Russell	869-8058
Apr 10	Annapolis Rocks, MD	Martha Hale	762-4769
Apr 13	Meeting, PATC Hqs at 8:00 P.M. Program: TBA.		
Apr 17	Great Falls, VA	Charlie Dorian	861-6801
Apr 24	Sugarloaf, MD	Roger Slakey	556-0589
May 1	Old Rag, VA	Tom Russell	869-8058
May 28-30	* Shawangunks, NY	Martha Hale	762-4769

For trip information, call the leader or Charlie Dorian (H: 821-6801; W: 893-5900). Day trips are to top-rope climbing areas. Weekend trips (designated by *) are to lead climbing areas -- please arrange for your own climbing partner.

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



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