



FOUNDED BY
JAN AND HERB CONN

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

1718 N Street, N.W. Washington DC 20036

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Chairman's Corner

PART I

The Mountaineering Section now has open membership and most of us wish to continue this opportunity so that many new and active climbers in the area can join. It must also be said that membership--because it's easily obtained and does not have to be earned--is taken for granted. Active support from members is often found wanting especially when it comes to service to the climbing community and at meetings.

There was a time when the regular, elected members and climbers would first look you over and see how you climbed and how you would do as a rope mate and prospective member before they would recommend you for membership. The Section was smaller then but it accomplished a lot for a local climbing club. Members tested equipment and reported results; others went off to remote mountain ranges to explore and climb, and a few wrote on training techniques, equipment and similar subjects. A number of these early MS members became leading mountaineers of national and world renown.

In 1958 Andy Kauffman, whose MS affiliation goes back to the 1940's, together with Pete Schoening, were the

first American mountaineers to climb and reach the summit of an 8,000 meter peak, Hidden Peak or Gasherbrum I. In May 1963, 20 years ago, another MS member Barry Bishop was among the first Americans to reach the world's highest mountain, Mt. Everest. In 1976, MS member Phil Trimble organized the American Bicentennial Everest Expedition which succeeded in putting two climbers on the peak without loss of life or injury.

MS members have opened up local cliffs to climbing, from the Potomac Gorge to Seneca Rocks--in tennis shoes and without today's lightweight, super-strong technical equipment. MS members wrote and illustrated the first Seneca Rocks climbing guide and mapped the Potomac Gorge climbing cliffs.

Since its beginning in the late 1930's, MS members have climbed practically everywhere in the world: US and Canadian Rockies, Coast and Interior Ranges of Canada, in Alaska, the Andes, European Alps and British sea cliffs and highlands, the Karakorum, Himalaya, the Pamir, in New Guinea and New Zealand.

This Section, in the shadow of its parent, a trail club, is a mountaineering club of distinction. Join me in keeping this spirit alive in the future and participate!

PART II

When I was elected chairman for this year, I urged you to support this section
(cont on next page)

CHAIRMAN'S CORNER (Cont)

and to help make it more self-reliant and effective. The time to show this support has now come! On 9 March I reported to you at the monthly meeting about the drastic cut in our budget by the PATC Council and the need for quick action to gather support for our activities: climbing, conservation and access, training, publications, program and membership service. I asked John Christian to form an ad hoc Review Committee and (1) review the current status and activities of the Section, (2) review our ties to PATC, and (3) recommend what would be needed to ensure continuity and support of MS activities in 1983 and in future years, in terms of membership, money, facilities and operating rules. He, David Atkinson and Marjorie Prochaska spent many hours and at my urging submitted their report and recommendations by 6 April when the Executive Committee accepted the report. To Dave, John and Marjorie our thanks for volunteering for this challenging task.

PART IIIFORMAL NOTICE TO AMEND BY-LAWS

Dave Atkinson was authorized by the Executive Committee to submit the following summary of proposed actions in this issue of UP ROPE which also serves as formal advance notice as required by Section By-Laws that amendments will be presented for approval by the membership at the next regular Section meeting on 11 May 1983, at 8:00 P.M. I fully endorse the major proposals. Please call me or any of the officers and members of the review committee prior to 11 May to comment or seek information.

Joe Wagner,
Chairman

The purpose of this letter is to inform you of major changes proposed in the way in which the Mountaineering Section of the PATC would be financed and operated and to request your support for these proposals, which will be presented to the Section in its meeting on May 11, 1983. It is proposed that the Section become financially independent from the PATC by 1984. The MS would, of course, maintain its association with the PATC as a special interest section, and collaborate with the Trail Club as it has in the past. The Section would, however, raise and keep its own dues and operate on the basis of those resources alone, much as it did when it was first founded in 1939, and as the Ski Touring Section does now.

The reasons for this recommended move to financial independence are based on considerations of reality, equity, and efficiency. To begin with, the PATC is finding it difficult to provide support for the Section. The actual MS budget for 1982, which was provided entirely by the PATC, was \$3,068. In 1983 we requested \$4,100, an increase due basically to higher UP ROPE expenses, but we have been authorized only \$1,500, less than half of the previous year's budget. It bears mentioning that the PATC registered a net deficit in 1982 of \$6,614 and is projecting a loss of \$4,812 in 1983.

In addition, it is felt that the Section can operate on its own financially and perhaps might even do so more efficiently than we have in the past. Membership in the Section would continue to be open to all interested persons, whether they are PATC members or not.

Of course, membership in the PATC would be encouraged since only MS members who are PATC members may vote for the Chairman. Only the Chairman is required to also be a member of the PATC. To become a member of the Mountaineering Section, annual dues would be charged. The dues for 1983 would be \$15 per person, \$25 for couples and \$10 for non-residents. As of July 1, UP ROPE would be sent only to those who have paid their MS dues regardless of whether they have paid their 1983 PATC dues. This is a unique situation and we ask for your understanding in getting the Section re-established financially. We will continue to receive the \$1,500 budgeted by PATC for the Section this year, but starting in January of 1984, the MS would operate solely on the basis of the income from its members. Our activities would therefore be defined precisely by the amount of financial support the Section receives directly from its own membership. While this proposed move to independence is dictated in large part by the financial limitations of the PATC, it is felt that the new arrangements would introduce a keener sense of discipline in our activities and a clearer definition of our membership and its priorities.

It is perhaps appropriate at this point to remind ourselves of the basic purposes of the Mountaineering Section. Basically, the MS provides:

1. An opportunity for sharing experiences in mountaineering.
2. A convenient point of contact for organizing trips and excursions.
3. Information on climbing activities.
4. A source of identification for MS climbers when traveling in other parts of the US or abroad.
5. Technical programs such as training, first aid and mountain medicine.
6. An organization through which we can express concerns and make our influence felt regarding conservation issues which are relative to climbing and mountaineering.

None of these basic objectives would change. How we fulfill these objectives, however, would be determined by the amount of money and active support we receive from the membership. Although it is difficult to predict what this amount might be, it is fair to assume that we should already be considering new ways in which to finance our activities. It is proposed that the money received from dues go almost exclusively for the publication and distribution of UP ROPE, which at the same time will have to be designed more sparingly in order to fit within what is already a reduced budget, and would no doubt continue to be so. Any money left over from UP ROPE could possibly go for monthly programs (movies, speakers, etc.), but to the extent possible we will attempt to choose programs which are free. In those cases in which MS does have to pay we will charge a fee at the door in order to cover the costs. To supply equipment for training programs, the Section will make a special effort to obtain donations. MS donations to organizations dedicated to conservation and mountaineering safety will be derived exclusively from individual contributions by members; in drawing up each annual budget we will identify those organizations we wish to support and at the same time designate individual members who will take on the responsibility of raising contributions through such promotional means as they consider appropriate. We urge all members and other interested persons to attend the May 11 meeting and express your opinions regarding these proposals in order that we may formally decide on the new arrangements.

Dave Atkinson,
Review Committee

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, DC) 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

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Hanging Around

SUGARLOAF
March 20, 1983

By Barbara Llewellyn.

Someone must be watching out for me on the few trips I lead - March 20th turned out to be one of the prettiest Sundays in three or four weekends, and nicer than predicted. What started out as a small group (Don Barnett, Gary Beil, Yvonne Weber, and the trip leader) in the ex-Safeway parking lot, grew rapidly after we reached the rocks. We were joined before too long by Roger Slakey, Charlie Dorian, Gretchen Schwartz, Paul Torelli, Martha Hale, Tom Russell, Ed Cummings (and Cedrick) and James Eakin. And much later, Jack Smith. The slightly chilly, breezy morning turned into a lovely, sunny day, and all the old standards were rigged and enthusiastically tackled. The more adventurous took on the thin wall on the far left and Rhythmic Roof. The latter was done without apparent excess effort by James Eakin, Gary Beil, and Charlie Dorian. It apparently being too easy, a harder version (eliminating some handhold or other) was done by James and Gary - I think. By mid-afternoon when the whole world had decided it was going to be a beautiful day, swarms of teenagers came plowing through the area, taking over the scramble routes and the top of rocks. (I, personally get a little nervous with enthusiastic strangers romping through the riggings at the top.) As one of our members put it: "They remind me of a swarm of chattering crows, perched all over." (Not an exact quote, but close enough and quite appropriate.) After a while -- a long while, it seemed -- they finally dispersed. Somewhere around 3:30 - 4:00 it became obvious that our group had worn themselves out. It becomes obvious when you look around and see one person climbing - usually one belaying - and the rest sprawled in various positions at ground level, talking in leisurely fashion. So we collected our gear and adjourned to - wher else - Roy's. The perfect end to a perfect day.

* * * * *

Publications and Maps

A WALK IN THE SKY

By Nicholas Clinch

Published by the Mountaineers, Seattle

Reviewed by Martha Hale.

As summarized on the cover, Hidden Peak (Gasherbrum I) was the first 8,000 meter summit reached by a group of Americans. Unlike the previous large expeditions to other 8,000 meter peaks (all 14 climbed between 1950 and 1954) the American Expedition to Hidden Peak appeared to be a group of friends who decided to go climb a mountain.

The book is well worth reading. Clinch did an excellent job in describing all facets of this 1958 expedition -- from the planning phase to the return trip. I only think it is sad that the public had to wait 20 years to read the account of this rather important event in the history of American mountaineers.

Note: To Washington, DC area residents, I might add that one member of the summit team, Andy Kaufman, is a resident of our area.

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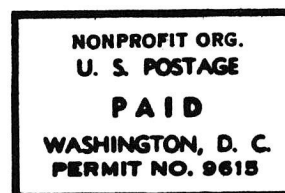
Climber's Calendar

May 11	Monthly Meeting	8:00 P.M. PATC Headquarters Program: Bud Keefe will show slides & talk to promote 1984 Mt Everest Expedition - ascent of the NE ridge by a group from University of Washington.
May 28-30	* Shawangunks, NY	Martha Hale 762-4769
June 8	Monthly Meeting	Program: "Rock Climbing in the West" by Sandy Fleming.
July 13	Monthly Meeting	Program: "The Shield (El Cap)" by Tony Rickert.

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.


1718 N St NW
Washington, D. C. 20036



DATED MATTER