



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

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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
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