



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

1718 N Street, N.W. Washington DC 20036

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Chairman's Corner

WELCOME TO THE MOUNTAINEERING SECTION! When you receive this issue you have either received a courtesy copy for newcomers at our monthly meeting or you have joined as a member. In fact, response from you is satisfying--every week we receive new registrations. Our problems aren't all solved but the Section is making progress:

Weekend climbs: More people are coming out and Charlie Dorian reports more calls from people who are new to the area and wish to join us.

Expeditions: The Huascaran group returned safe and sound (?) although el Niño made an ascent of the main target too risky. (For the exciting details watch these pages for the inside story and for brilliant photography and chatter, meet the expedition members on November 9 at our monthly section meeting.) Up Rope Editor Pete Grant and friends made a first ascent in the Canadian Rockies and other section members climbed in the Maritime Alps, around Chamonix and out West.

Training: Don Barnett retired from the Air Force and regrettably resigned as chairman of the training committee. Together with numerous people who made their first upward movements with the help of Don, the Section wishes to thank him for his time and help. Even before Don asked for time out, John Teasdale volunteered to assist him and now succeeded him to handle training.

Program: Interesting talks and slide shows have been scheduled by Barbara Llewellyn for the remainder of the year, including reports on climbs by members.

Nelson House: Marcy Logan has organized two work trips and lined up several repair and maintenance projects.

Carderock: Section members are helping with the conservation project there but Janet Young Goldstein needs more help especially to move tons of rock donated.

Guidebooks: James Eakin is receiving valuable comments and help from section members and reports that the P.G. guidebook is on its way. John Markwell is negotiating with the Section on a new Seneca Rocks guidebook.

Bull Run: Charlie Dorian is scheduled to taking physical inventory of the proposed area and Elizabeth Vos volunteered to solicit contributions from friends and former members.

Social affairs: We are happy to report on recent marriages of section members and join in wishing them well: Charlie Dorian and Gretchen Schwartz, Harold Goldstein and Janet Young, Rick Todd and Roses.

Vacancies: Justine Carson has left for Colorado and we need a secretary for the next few months. The summer issue of Up Rope was Pete Grant's last edition but his increasing engagement in photography is shrinking his free time. Thank you, Pete, for your many well illustrated and informative issues. Martha Hale has agreed to assume the editorship of Up Rope with the next issue.

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. Applicants for membership can join the MS by registering with the Secretary and payment of Section dues. Send 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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UP ROPE STAFF

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At Base Camp

RECENT SECTION BUSINESS-Excerpts from minutes and reports:

Executive Committee, Feb. 2

A membership committee will welcome newcomers and register guests; request for \$150 for Carderock project was discussed; resident foreign embassies as a source for programs and climbers was discussed.

Section meeting, Feb. 9

A \$4,100 section budget was proposed and approved for submission to PATC. An MS expedition policy was approved. Price increase of \$6/year for Up Rope subscription for nonmembers was approved.

Executive Committee, March 2

Sale of section T-shirts planned. New sources for programs needed. Review of Up Rope circulation list discussed, will delete non paying subscribers. Roger Slakey will handle publicity.

Section meeting, March 9

John Stannard has agreed to use some money of "Stannard Seneca Fund" for Carderock project; PATC Council cut MS budget request to \$1,500; discussion of budget crunch.

Executive Committee, April 6

Discussion of adhoc section review proposals; introduction of section dues discussed.

Section meeting, April 13

Purchase of section T-shirts for sale approved; discussion of adhoc section review committee report. (see Up Rope, April-May).

Executive Committee, May 4

Discussion of adhoc review recommendations; discussion of Bull Run land offer.

Section meeting, May 11 (see Up Rope, June/July 1983).

Executive Committee, June 1

Discussion of adhoc review recommendations; Potomac Gorge climbing guide proposal.

Section meeting, June 8

Discussion of May 11 by-laws changes; Nelson House status.

Section meeting, July 13

Resignation of Up Rope editor; proposal to open section chairman election to all section members with confirmation by PATC Section members, discussion deferred.

Potomac Gorge climbing information needed

James Eakin is attempting to produce a climbers' guide for the Great Falls of the Potomac. The area to be covered extends from Great Falls to Echo Rock on the Virginia shore and to Cupids Bower on the Maryland shore. The profits from this guide will go to the Mountaineering Section.

A review of past Up Rope issues (Vol.1, No.1 November 15, 1944 to present) has produced the following list of climbs. Unfortunately, many of these climbs are not well described or are listed in name only. Anyone who knows the location of the non-starred climbs and who would be willing to point them out, please, contact James Eakin (phone: 301-598-6047). Names for climbs not listed will also be appreciated.

Great Falls, VA

*Bird's Nest
Reverse Chimney
Chris' Crack & Stocking Climb
Flatiron Rock
Indigestion
*Juliet's Balcony
Laurences Last
Corkscrew
Cornice Climb
Oscar's Fall Rock (Oscar's Leap)
Straddle Climb
Inverse Chimney
*Romeo's Ladder
Ten-Foot Terror
Wailing Wall
Inclined Plane (Slab?)
Chris' Downcast Face
Ringbolt
Armbreaker (*Armbuster ?)
Ancient Hardware Route

Cupid's Bower

*Bachelors BA
*Masters MA
*PhD Coffin Triangle
Post PhD

Great Falls, MD

Little Handhold That Isn't There
Purple Horse
Zig Zag Climb
Red Overhang
Great Falls Bulge
Sturgeon's Struggle
Peg's Progress
Even Steven
Stitz Chimney (Spitzbergen)
Jan's Lead

Echo Rock

Donald Duck Traverse
Big Toe Traverse
Wateline Traverse
Climb to the Woods

These four climbs are well described

in Up Rope:

Four-Year-Old Climb
Inclined Ledge (Slab)
Amphibious Traverse
Ten Foot Devil

Cow Hoof

*Socrates Downfall

From Other Peaks

Up Rope editor Pete Grant received the following letter from former member Rich Stokes who is now rangering for the National Park Service at "Craters of the Bogachiel" in Washington. Although the letter was written in March it is still pertinent and we would like to share some of the information and thoughts of Rich with you:

I was a peripheral member and undistinguished climber among your ranks from 1972 until 1977 when I was transferred from Great Falls Park, Virginia here to Olympic National Park. I certainly do not understand what action on my part resulted in what appears to be a lifetime subscription to UPROPE. More than the mountains of climbing gear in the basement and rescue cache of this Ranger Station, UPROPE is a tenuous belay to the climbing community with which I am still casually attached. Also, I enjoy reading about the exploits of old friends and associates back east. However, this letter is to say that the last 5½ years had found me increasingly jealous of how I spend each dollar and minute at my disposal and so much water has passed under the bridge since I left Great Falls that the arrival of an UPROPE in my mailbox is so much as a whisper from a ghost from experiences passed. In the interest of economy to the Section, I invite you to drop my name from your mailing list. If you elect to continue sending the periodical, please send it to my home address at the heading of this epistle.

As long as I'm writing this letter I'll include some information on how my life is turning out here on the Olympic Peninsula. In 1977 I studied a map of this area with several other Section members and from the sheer numbers of glaciated, snaggly peaks erupting from sea level I made the remark that the terrain could not help but make a decent climber out of me. Sadly, this prophecy has not yet been realized and if anything my agility on a sheer vertical plane

Letter (cont'd. from p. 3)

has deteriorated. Still, I have bagged a few peaks and been driven off a few more than that. These peaks or climbs include Mt. Olympus, Cruiser, Constance and Fitzhenry in this park; Mt. Ranier and Challenger in the North Cascades; Mt. Jefferson and Shasta in the South Cascades; Mt. Cook and the Remarkable Range in New Zealand. I have learned to moderate my outdoor experiences with larger doses of discretion and caution, which is called "c _____ s _____" in some of your circles. I confess that on beholding a mountain my eye falls on the culoirs and ridges rather than the vertical faces.

My duties with the National Parking Service are wide and varied. Rescue, continues to be a major function. I've led three climbing rescues in this park without killing anybody, though I narrowly escaped death once when I pendulummed on rotten coastal rock displacing the two ton overhang which sailed by me as I swung at the mercy of my rope. The adage, "Them that can't do, teach," is not inappropriate in my case. Every year I teach rope management (both in the context of high angle and swift water rescue) to seasonals and permanents. Though, today, I would slip and sputter on a climb as straight forward as Juliet's Balcony, my rope skills are as honed as most of your membership and I have greatly expanded my consciousness in the field of emergency management.

The greatest part of my time has been dedicated to the acquisition and application of certain pioneering skills. On my days off, I live with my wife, Jeanne and my two month old daughter, Darcy, on our little 7 acre farm on the Bogachiel River. We are the last residence on the river before the park boundary. The barn, cabin and shop are the products of our own carpentry skills, or lack thereof. The lights and power come from our own hydroelectric and photovoltaic stations. We - or really my wife - grow(s) most of our own food. It's a bucolic and peaceful existence.

Enough rambling. I'm writing also to offer yet another base camp to the ranks of your membership. It would be a real pleasure to see either familiar or new faces from the east coast. I can make available bed and floor space on the Bogachiel or Park Service bunkhousing facilities (\$1.50 a night) here at the Elwha. Though already I can hear your complaints about the quality of our rock, the mountaineering potential of the Olympics is unlimited. Instead of standing in line for a Sunday climb at Carderock or following the tab tops and pissholes up Ranier you can climb to the summit of an unnamed peak and see the whole world from the Cascades to the Pacific. You can sit on many of these peaks for ten years without sharing the experience with another wayward mountaineer. Though our largest peak barely surmounts 8,000 feet, many are as big (not tall) as the Rockies, as rugged as any American summits and frequented by a yearly visitation which is surpassed by four or five weekends at Great Falls. And they are growing bigger every day.

I am hoping ~~if~~ I can attract a visiting populace of competent, aggressive climbers. In exchange for what will pass as southern hospitality on the northern frontier I am hoping to tie in with a party that might assist me somewhat in rekindling a declining skill which was never that good in the first place. On the positive side I can only think of two climbs in my life where I slowed anybody down. I know where the good rock is, I know the country and am in good physical condition. Also, I carry Jumars.

Again, Pete, I thank you and the Section for five years of free UPROPEs. I'm also thanking your membership for helping to open the door for me into a world of limitless beauty and awe.

Sincerely, Rich Stokes

(Craters of the Bogachiel, St.Rt.1, Box 553, Forks WA 98331).

TRAINING

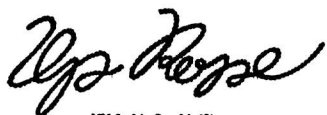
Whether you are a member of the Mountaineering Section or not, and whether you have climbed a little or just with a top-rope belay, the Section is able to help train you in safe climbing techniques. Instruction is offered, free, in beginning techniques and lead climbing. Aid climbing techniques upon request. Contact John Teasdale for arrangements. Tel. 301-262-9128.

Climber's Calendar

Sep 18	Sugar Loaf, MD	Paul Torelli	301-299-8039
Sep 21	Executive Committee	James Eakin	301-587-5062
Sep 25	Stony Man, VA	Charlie Dorian	301-946-2373
Oct 1-2	Nelson House Work Trip, WV	Marcy Logan	202-332-6116
Oct 1-2 <i>postponed</i>	Baker Rocks, WV	Pete Grant	703-960-6033
Oct 8-10	*Shawangunks, NY	James Eakin	301-587-5062
Oct 12	Section Meeting-Program: <u>First and Other Ascents in the Canadian Rocky Mountains</u> , by Pete Grant.		
Oct 16	Annapolis Rocks, MD	Dave Atkinson	301-564-1784
Oct 23	Bull Run, VA	James Eakin	301-587-5062
Oct 30	Old Rag, VA	Joe Wagner	202-966-6379
Nov 2	Executive Committee	Tom Russell	301-869-8058
Nov 9	Section Meeting-Program: <u>1983 Huascaran Expedition or More Tales About El Niño</u> , by Atkinson, Cruickshank, Cummings, Russell, Smith & Torelli, Esq.		
Dec 7	Executive Committee	Joe Wagner	202-966-6379
Dec 14	Section Meeting- 8 pm, PATC Hqs	<i>Program to be announced</i>	
Jan 4, 1984	Executive Committee	Joe Wagner	202-966-6379
Jan 11	<u>Annual Section Meeting: Election of Officers</u> 8 pm PATC Hqs <i>Program to be announced</i>		

For trip information, call the leader of Charlie Dorian (H: 301-299-8039; W: 703-893-5900). Day trips to top-rope and short multi-pitch climbing areas require no climbing partner. Weekend trips (identified by *) are to lead climbing areas--please arrange for your own climbing partner in advance.

Trip leaders are needed. Please contact Charlie Dorian if you would like to volunteer. For program suggestions, please call Barbara Llewellyn (301-871-1863).



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ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED