

FOUNDED BY  
JAN AND HERB CONN

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

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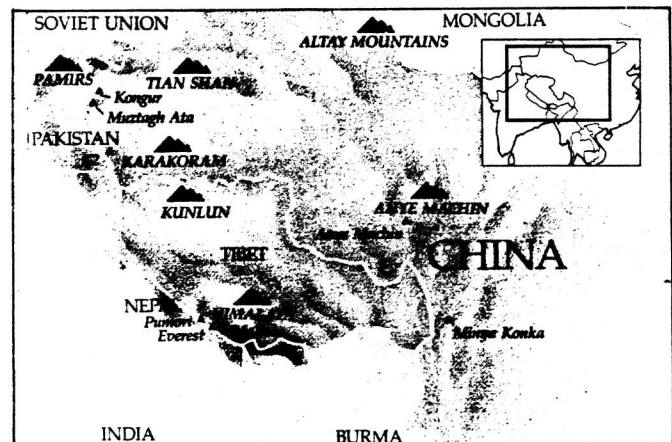
### EXPEDITIONS

#### The 1984 American/Pamir USSR Expedition

*Tom Russell*

The 1984 American Pamir/USSR Expedition received permission from the Soviet government to climb Peak Lenin (32,408 ft.) and Peak Nineteen (19,423 ft.) which are located in the Pamir mountain range of the Soviet Union. The expedition is being led by Don McIntyre, a former member of the Mountaineering Section (MS) of the Potomac Appalachian Trail Club, who now lived in Martinez, California. Don is an experienced expedition leader, having led climbs to the mountains of countries such as China, Ecuador, Nepal and Peru. Local climbers and MS members joining the expedition are Ed Cummings, Tom Russell, Clair Witt, and former area resident and club members, Ian Cruikshank, who now lives in South Chatham, New Hampshire. Access to the Pamirs has only recently been available to Americans, and this year marks just the tenth anniversary of the first American ascents of summits in the Pamirs. Traveling as a group, the expedition will leave from New York City July 11 and are expected to return August 12.

The Pamirs occupy the wild area of Asia where Afghanistan, Pakistan, India, China and the Soviet Union meet. It is there that the world's highest mountain



ranges intersect: the Hindu Kush from Afghanistan, and the Karakoram from Pakistan, the Himalaya from India, and the Tien Shan and the Kun Lun from China. The people of the Pamir region are mainly Kirghiz who are an ancient

*Pamirs continued page 6*

### NELSON HOUSE

#### Spring Worktrips Scheduled for May and June

May 19, 20; Come help restore the Nelson House to its former glory, or at least, its former rustic charm. We will scrape and paint the house and porch and assess the need for further repairs. Bring your own roller, roller covers (the fuzzy part), pan and climbing gear.

Join us for one day or both. We  
*Nelson House continued next page*

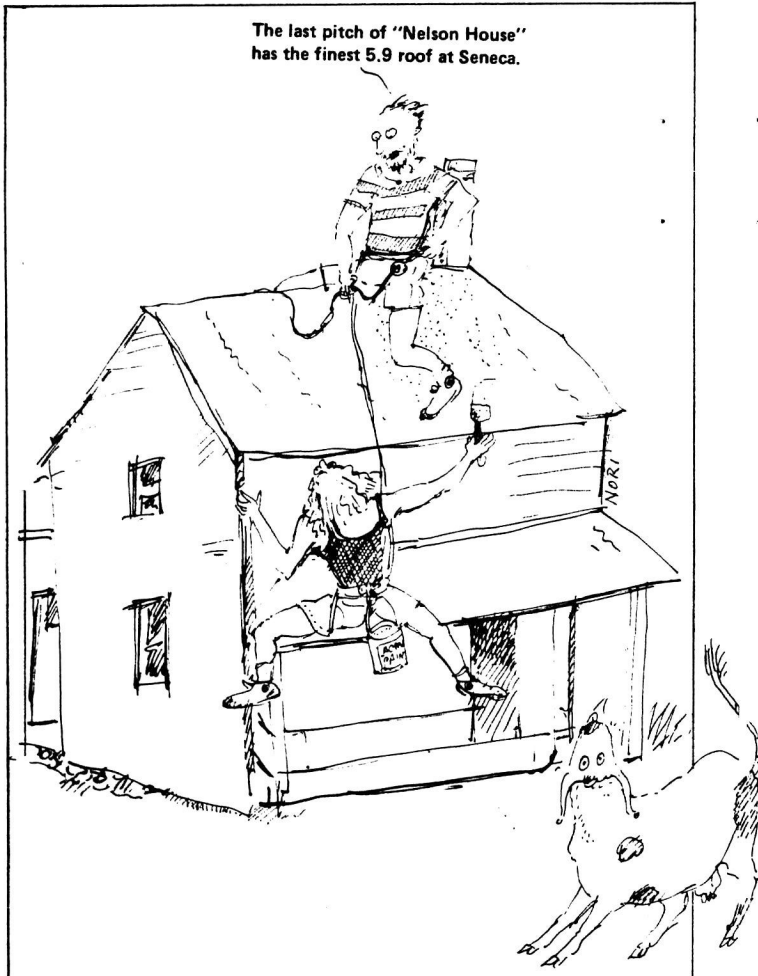
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## HANGING AROUND

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### Nelson House continued

will spend Saturday night at the Nelson House and share in potluck suppers. For further information and reservations, call Marcy Logan at 202/332-6116.



### Ascent of Annapurna

Arlene Blum will give an illustrated lecture on The Ascent of Annapurna, on Thursday, May 24 at 8:00 p.m., Museum of Natural History, Baird Auditorium. Ms. Blum will describe her 1978 all-women climb of Annapurna and discuss the history of women in mountaineering. For ticket information, contact the Resident Associates Office at 357-3030.

### Old Rag

*Nori Gessler,*

March 24. B.S., a born-again climber, picked me up at 7:15 Sunday morning.

"It's raining," he said.

"No, it isn't," I said.

It was, in fact coming down so hard that you couldn't drive 20 feet down Lee Highway without hitting a seal or a catfish. B.S. began to cast sidelong glances at me and clear his throat. He was being negative, very negative, about the weather. He cranked the wipers up to high speed and scrubbed at the fogged side window with an old ragg wool sock, somewhat hysterically, I thought.

"Try to control yourself," I snapped, "What are you--a caver, or something?"

Reeling from the blow, he side-slipped his Karman Ghia into McDonalds, the little car barely holding its own against the muddy torrent. We had a couple of McMuffins at the Golden Arches and leafed through some back issues of UpRope. "Hmmm," B.S. said.

Suspecting B.S. of malingering after a third reading of Volume 2, No. 5, I fashioned rainbonnets out of the UpRopes and we went back into the storm. The waist-deep current gave us pause, but John Teasdale had taught us well--we rigged a Tyrolean Traverse from one of the golden arches, and slid right into the little red Ghia's bucket seats, no problem.

In Warrenton, we dropped into the Dew Drop Inn for hashbrowns and pancakes. In Amissville we had what was dubbed a "Hunt Breakfast" at the Trot 'n' Fox (not recommended). Sperryville was a bit thinner--we had to settle for barbecue and an R.C. at the Taste Freez. On Old Rag, we unpacked our tinned smoked oysters and Cadbury milk chocolate bars with hazelnuts.

Where were you, anyway?

## Sugarloaf Mountain

James Eakin

March 11. The trip to Bull Run did not materialize, so we returned to Sugarloaf Mountain's south side.

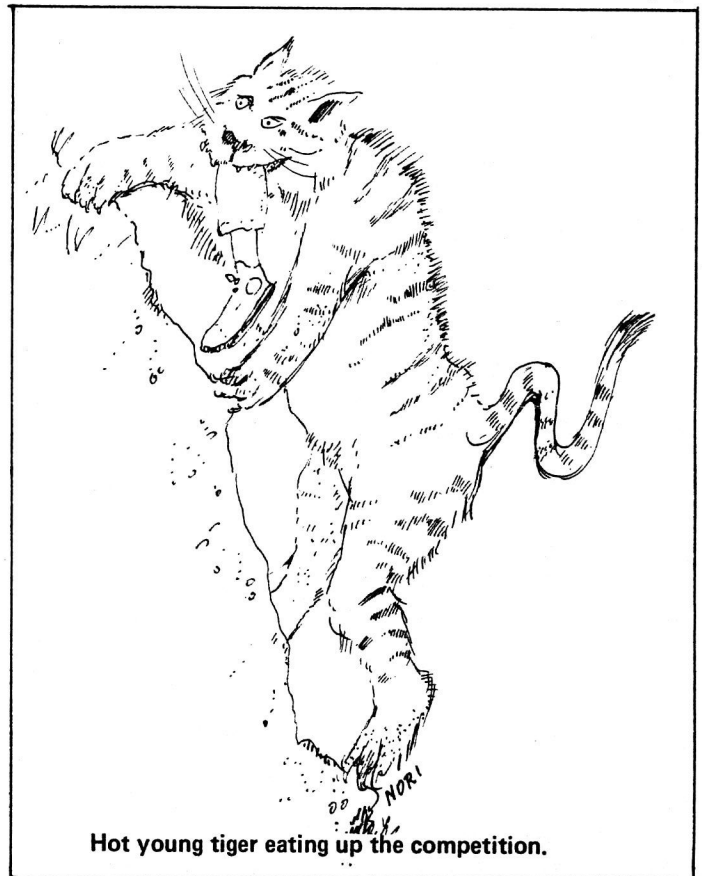
The slanted crack, the vertical wall to its right, the South Ridge, its left face variation, South Ridge Direct, the overhanging Disparate Reality, Spread-Eagle, Cedric's (the easy rib 50 feet to the left of Spread-Eagle) and Hornet's Nest Removed (the broken rib next to Cedric's) were all attempted with varying degrees of success. Clair became fed up trying to climb the slanting crack and thought the thin vertical face to the right was the more sensible climb, so she climbed that. Stuart amused himself by doing laps on the crack and face. The South Ridge was climbed by the standard route, a face variation to the left of the upper crack and the direct overhang start. The overhanging wall to the left of the South Ridge was named Disparate Reality because of its very faint resemblance to Separate Reality. Ed attacked this climb with a vengeance, and with one more move he'll have it. The rectangular cave to the left of Disparate Reality, Spread-Eagle, was also climbed. The crack in the right side of the Spread-Eagle overhang was done. Stuart figured out the crux foot jam that made the route go. About 50 feet to the left of Spread-Eagle, an easy rib was rigged. Clair noticed a profile of a dog on its face and the wall was immediately named after Cedric. Variations on the face became Cedric's eye, ear, nose, collar, biscuit, and drool or slobber (depending on the mood of the climber as they approached the wet moss near the mouth). Just about everybody did at least one variation of Cedric's. A broken wall to the left of Cedric's was also rigged and called Hornet's Nest Removed. The reason for the name should be obvious. Participants on the trip were: Ed Cummings, Clair Witt, Cedric and Edgar, Stuart Pregnall, Tom Russell, Gary Beil, James Eakin.

## Spitzbergen

Pete Grant

February 12. I want to begin this trip report with an apology: some of the people who called on Sunday morning were told that the trip was cancelled. This was an error on my part, and I apologize. Let me explain (read: make an excuse). As of 7:30 a.m., I had received only two calls about the trip, one of which was a possible cancellation. Outside, the ground was very wet and there was a thick fog blanket covering the D.C. area, so I decided that climbing would not be good since the rocks would not dry out even if the fog lifted. I wanted to go out and take some foggy morning photographs, so I told my daughter to tell anyone who might call that there would be no trip due to weather and lack of interest, and headed on out. I drove to the meeting place by

continued next page



Hot young tiger eating up the competition.

Old Angler's Inn just in case someone showed up in spite of the cancellation. Lo and behold, there was Gordon Swenson in the parking lot. As we were discussing the poor prospects of climbing, Dan Abrash and David Breemer arrived. Well now, with five of us present and the fog lifting, there was no point in continuing with the cancellation.

Originally the trip was to Cupid's Bower, however, the Potomac was too high to cross, so we went to Spitzbergen instead. By the time we arrived at the rocks, the fog had completely lifted and the side of the cliff facing South was rapidly drying. Two ropes were set up, with various climbs made on the face. As a finale, we rigged a rope on the wet and very slippery overhang, which none of us were able to negotiate.

Participants in alpha order include, Dan Abrash, David Breemer, Karen Grant, Pete Grant, and Gordon Swenson.

### **Seneca Rocks and Little Stony Man**

*Tom Russell*

November 11 - 13. The Memorial Day weekend which I had planned to fill with climbing seemed in jeopardy because of the heavy rains which fell on Friday, the first day of the holiday. Trusting the weather forecast which predicted a clearing trend over the weekend, Ann Baron, Ian Cruikshank and I set off for Seneca Rocks. As we crossed the ridges of George Washington National Forest, it began to snow. Seeing the first snowflakes in early fall is always exciting. For winter, a climber hoped it will be one which will produce lots of local ice for climbing; a skier wishes for lots of local snow for skiing. I happen to enjoy both sports, so maybe that doubles my excitement.

We looked out of our tent which was pitched beside Roy Gap Road at the foot of Seneca Rock Cliffs on Saturday morning and found the light snow still falling with a fraction of an inch of accumulation. There was some wind and the

temperature was in the low 20s. At the Valley View Restaurant after breakfast and countless cups of coffee, we decided that a climb in these conditions would be very "alpine-like," and good training for climbs in the Alps. Ian picked something easy--Old Man's, a climb to match the weather. When we began the climb from the base of the cliff, it was about 30°F. When we arrived on the summit of South Peak, it was very windy and 26°F. From the summit we took a couple of pictures, commented on the view and quickly retreated.

Sunday was a bright and sunny morning and a little warmer than the previous morning. We drove to Little Stony Man Cliffs, located in the Shenandoah National Park, several miles south of Panorama Gap, the site of the MS Sunday climb. We were greeted in Stony Man parking lot by Charlie and Nick Dorian and Gretchen Schwartz. At the rocks, we found Paul Torelli, Jane Price and Chris James putting up one rope and Gary Beil and John Hutten another. Later we were joined by Marcy Logan. Charlie, Ian and Gary did most of the leading, while the rest of us followed. Most of the climbs were on the northern end of the cliffs. This area seems to be one not climbed very often by the MS and the routes, names, and grades forgotten. This makes describing the routes difficult. The area has been climbed, perhaps extensively, since there are numerous old pitons left in place. I was told by John Christian, who was along on a previous trip to Stony Man, that the pitons look like the ones made by Bonatti. The climbs range from easy to difficult and they can be top roped or led. Since the cliff is about 100 feet tall, two ropes tied together are required for top roping. There is lots of loose rock, so watch out. James Eakin told me that he once managed to pull out a "lap full of rock." Rope leaders complained that the climbs were difficult to protect and required small "pro." Usually on the easier climbs there were enough hand and footholds to make placing pro less desperate.

*continued next page*



I like climbing at Little Stony Man, and think that it might be fun to collect information about its climbing history, a description of routes with their names and grades, and all the other standard fare required to do a mini-guide to Little Stony Man. If you can contribute to such a venture, let me know (after 6 p.m. 301/869-8058). I'll collect the information and see if I can get enough for an article in a future UpRope.

### Old Rag

October 30, 1983. On this beautiful Sunday, we met at Appalachian Outfitters in Oakton only to have a leisurely breakfast, 10 miles down the road. Eventually, everybody found the Nethers parking lot and the ridge trail, but the party was so extended that stragglers didn't make the summit until about an hour after the first party had finished lunch in the sunshine! Various climbs were led and a few top-roped. John Birch showed up in the nick of time to overcome an obstacle (or was it my fear of standing on next to nothing) and lead Marjorie to the lofty summit. The walk down shortly before nightbreak was considerably faster--everybody was talking about the fine supper we were going to have, and we did: Tom Russell, Paul Torelli, Marjorie and Jerome Prochaska, Charles, Gretchen and Nikki Dorian-Schwartz, Dan, Marie Jane, and Joe Wagner, leading.

### East Rag

*Nori Gessler*

April 1. Gary Beil said, "It's dry at East Rag....April Fool's!" We went to Carderock instead, which was teeming with April fools competing for climbs you could belay with less than two feet of Potomac lapping at your knees. Gary Beil, Chip, some rappellers deep in the throes of spring fever, and I set up ropes on Jan's face.

Some of us did the Flake. "Avoid those big knobs to the left of the vertical

line," Gary Roan told me, "they're like Sirens, luring you to your destruction." The tree, too, was beautiful, but corrupt. Gary Beil chalked up with pink chalk (this is not an April Fool's joke) and left a lurid line of pink paw prints up and down the rock. Lee Porter wanted to know the answer to the eternal question: why chalk? and said she thought she'd prefer chocolate chip cookie crumbs in her chalk bag. Chip and Gary R. seemed to think this idea had some potential. (Check their chalk bags next time for Famous Amos crumbs.)

Paul Torelli, Ann Baron, and Gordon and Eric arrived later, wet to their waists, having fallen for Gary Beil's rather cruel April Fool's hoax. Someone rigged Elsie's and Tom Hardenburgar, Lee and Gary Roan zipped up it. Chip did a grand pendulum into the tree, just like the guidebook says you might, but then, maybe he was a little spent from having done the Flake in impeccable style twice.

Everyone did the Nose, or was I taken in yet again? There was also some action on the Upper Wall and the X. Dan Abrash, David Breemer, and Liz Sinclair also showed up for their first, but certainly not last, taste of Crowdedrock climbing.

*continued next page*

### Alpine Club to Feature Eiger Thriller

Eiger Nordwand Tragödie 1936., Gerhard Bauer. The winner of the Best Technical Climbing Film award in the Mountainfilm 1983 festival is tentatively scheduled for Thursday, June 7, 7:30 p.m. at the Conference Room of the German Embassy, 4645 Reservoir Road, N.W.

The film (shot on location) is historically accurate, and uses period costumes and equipment to portray the 1936 Eiger tragedy when a four-man German team was wiped out. (As you may remember, Andreas Hinterstoisser made his famous irreversible traverse, and fell to his death.) The movie is cosponsored by the Blue Ridge Section of the American Alpine Club and the German Cultural Section. Admission is free.

## Annapolis Rocks

Gary Beil

August 21, 1983. Sunday. The sun was shining and the humidity had dropped since the day before, making this a pleasant morning. Only a few (James, Raul, Gretchen, Charlie, and the trip leader) showed up at Mac D's in Gaithersburg for breakfast and the trip out to the rocks.

After arriving at our destination, we enjoyed a pleasant hike in. The standard climbs, Faint's Roof and those nearby were rigged. By noon, Anne, Bill, and Gary showed up as the others were moving to the Prow area. The rest of the afternoon was spent scaling or attempting to scale different climbs. We were joined by Erik and Gordon in the afternoon, with Jack and Raisa coming very late, but being able to get in two or three climbs. The day was ended with everyone meeting at Roy's for dinner. Participants were: Anne Baron, Gary Beil, Charlie and Gretchen Dorian, James Eakin, Bill Hieronymus, Gary Roan, Raisa Scribin, Jack Smith, Erik and Gordon Swensen. □

### Golden Eagle Passports

If you're planning on climbing in or visiting National Parks that charge entry fees, you might consider getting a \$10.00 Golden Eagle Passport for free entry. You also get 50 percent off user fees--camping, parking and boat launching--in areas managed by BLM, BuRec, USFWS, NPS, USDS, TUA and the Corps of Engineers. Send \$10 to National Park Service, 1013 Interior Building, Washington, D.C. 20240.

### Pamirs continued

nomadic people. They raise camels, goats and sheep, as well as horses. They continue to live a nomadic life and live in skin tents called yurts. Their history, culture and physical features are related to the Mongolian tribes of Genghis Khan. The area is one of the most remote and

most exotic in the world. The old Silk Road of Marco Polo passes through the center of this area and most trading is still done in the small towns and villages along its path. The ancient people of the Pamirs lived in a world heavily influenced by spirits of all kinds. In spite of the essentially areligious Soviet state, ritual and superstition still exist. □

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## REVIEWS

### HARDWARE/SOFTWARE

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#### The Golden Road to Samarkand, Wilfrid Blunt The Viking Press, 1973

The almond groves of Samarcand,  
Bokhara, where red lilies blow,  
And Oxus, by whose yellow sand  
The grave white-turbaned merchants go.  
-Oscar Wilde

The Golden Road to Samarkand is a light and fascinating description of travel, conquest, and trade in Central Asia that spans the centuries from Alexander the Great to Sir Aurel Stein, who in 1907 rediscovered the Cave of the Thousand Buddhas which had remained unopened for over 1,000 years. Other travelers include Jenghiz Khan and his Mongol horsemen; Ibn Battuta who in twenty years covered 75,000 miles; the indomitable Friar Rubruck who attempted to convert the Mongol horde to Christianity; Tamerlane; Babur, the first of the six great Moghul emperors; the Chinese pilgrim Hsuan-tsang, who, as far as is known, was the first to explore and describe the Pamirs; and of course, Marco Polo. The Polos crossed the Pamirs, the "Roof of the World," where Marco noted in his journal that "because of the great cold" (in fact, the altitude), "fire is not so bright nor of the same color as elsewhere, and food does not cook well." He also described the wild sheep that once roamed the Pamirs in abundance, Ovis poli, named after the merchant/adventurer.

In the epilogue, Wilfred Blunt, a traveler and adventurer in his own right, gives an account of modern day Samarkand and Bokhara. He waxes nostalgic about the good old days when you had to ride a camel if you wanted to get to the almond groves of Samarcand and Bokhara, where the red lilies blow.

In 1984, the American/Pamir Expedition will be flying there. Wilfred Blunt says, "But then, of course, no doubt, you always could: there has always been air transport in the Orient--the instant, silent flight of the magic carpet, the more leisurely, but no less silent progress of the dove-drawn cart. Mahomet ascended to heaven on the back of a mythical, composite animal...while Alexander the Great explored the stratosphere in a glass cage drawn by hungry griffins. These were the great pioneer days of Asian aviation." □

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**Climbing and Expeditions**, Tom Russell. .... 301/869-8058  
**Membership and Hospitality Program**,  
Barbara Llewellyn. .... 301/871-6197  
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**UPROPE** is published monthly, except during August, by and for members of the Mountaineering Section of the Potomac Appalachian Trail Club of Washington, D.C., Editorial contributions are welcome and should be sent to Editor, UpRope, Mountaineering Section, PATC, 1718 N Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20036 before the 20th of each month.

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## TRAINING BRIEFS

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The Shenandoah Mountain Rescue Group, one of the only two certified rescue groups in Virginia, is holding an Auxiliary Training Session May 12 at 9:30 a.m. in the Prince William Forest Park. If you would like to become an Auxiliary member, or just want to learn a little about mountain search and rescue, join the group for a one-day course in short-term survival, search tactics and lost person search organization.

Reservations are required for the training session. For further information and to make reservations, call Sam Hunt at (703) 323-7627.

The SMRC is a section of PATC, and meets the first and third Tuesdays of each month at PATC Headquarters.

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## EDITOR'S CHIMNEY

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### Only YOU Can Prevent Editor Burnout

*—Graffiti seen in PATC Headquarters bathroom*

Over the past several months, UpRope has been in a state of relative (or normal) confusion. We are hoping that under the editorial guidance of Joe Wagner, assisted by Stuart Pregnall and Nori Gessler, UpRope will continue the fine tradition started by Herb and Jan Conn.

Joe Wagner (966-6379) will be handling the general editorial and managerial chores. We're all familiar with the leadership Joe has given to the Mountaineering Section in the past, and we're grateful that he accepted this role. MS members who have an article proposal, photo submission, suggestion or complaint should call Joe.

Nori Gessler (524-2068) has volunteered to typeset and layout UpRope and will be providing some graphics as well. She'll be our new Production Editor, in effect. Because we don't want to lose Nori's services, please make an effort to send in legible manuscripts, and make sure there's a phone number and name on them so she can call if she can't read your writing.

Stuart Pregnall (338-6140) has taken on the task of belaboring trip leaders for their trip reports and handling miscellaneous editing jobs. Trip leaders are encouraged to at least call with a report, and climbers are urged to tell the real truth behind the customarily censored leader's tales. Stuart is also interested in news of any non-MS trips--if you've been anywhere or done anything interesting, write it up and send it in.

We're going to make UpRope readable, informative and relevant. We're going to try to produce something that will become useful to the area's climbing community--MS members and others. Your help will be needed--if UpRope doesn't increase circulation soon, rumor has it that Rupert Murdoch is eyeing our paper for acquisition--he wants to make it a climbers' supermarket tabloid!

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## CLIMBER'S CALENDAR

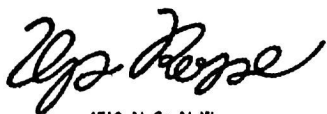
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For program information, call PATC tape 202/638-5306 during daytime; for trips call the leader or Tom Russell (301/869-8058). Day trips to top-rope or short multipitch climbs require no climbing partner. Weekend trips (identified by an asterisk\*) are to lead climbing areas—please arrange for your own climbing partner(s) in advance.

For instruction in basic and advanced climbing techniques, contact John Teasdale (301/262-9128). \*\*Basic Rock Climbing is a 4-part course: introduction to rock climbing at a nearby crag followed by additional instruction on three regularly scheduled Section Sunday climbs.

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|--|---|----------------|--------------|
| May 5-6  | Shawangunks Lead Climbing Course  | John Teasdale  | 301/262-9128 |
| May 6  | Bull Run, Virginia  | James Eakin    | 301/977-5811 |
| May 9  | Section Meeting, PATC HQ, 8:00 p.m.<br>Ranier and St. Helens, with aerial views by John Harmon.   |                |              |
| May 13   | Baker Rocks, WV   | Pete Grant     | 703/960-6033 |
| May 20   | Old Rag, VA   | Charlie Dorian | 301/946-2373 |
| May 26-28  | Shawangunks, NY   | James Eakin    | 301/977-5811 |
| June 3**   | Basic Climbing Course   | John Teasdale  | 301/262-9128 |
| June 3   | Sugarloaf Mt. (West)  | Charlie Dorian | 301/946-2373 |
| June 6   | Executive Committee   | Joe Wagner     | 202/966-6379 |
| June 10  | Annapolis Rocks   | Gary Beil      | 301/776-0391 |
| June 16  | Section Picnic/Swimming party<br>James Eakin 301/598-6047<br>Potluck dinner--bring one dish. Noon to ?,<br>2000 Flint Hill, Silver Spring, MD (East of<br>Georgia Avenue, Norbeck Road (Rt. 28) |                |              |
| June 13  | Section Meeting, PATC HQ, 8:00 p.m.<br>From Lahul to Garwhal, Climbing in India, Joe Wagner   |                |              |
| June 17  | Little Stony Man  | Tom Russell    | 301/869-8058 |
| June 24  | Sugarloaf Mt. (South)   | Ed Cummings    | 301/933-1457 |
| May 19-20; June 23-24 Nelson House Worktrip Marcy Logan 202/332-6116 |   |                |              |



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ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

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