

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 9

November 1984

AT BASE CAMP

Tom Russell again presided at the Mountaineering Section's monthly meeting since Charlie Dorian had car trouble and could not attend. Tom said that Marcy Logan had incurred approximately \$300 in expenses, mostly in paint and other supplies, during Nelson House worktrips. Since the budget needs amending in order to reimburse her, the club will discuss the matter at its next Section meeting. Marcy stated that the work trip scheduled for the 20th and 21st of October was cancelled and will be rescheduled for early November, possible November 10--12.

Andy Kaufmann complimented everyone involved with the Carderock Conservation effort, stating that there was great improvement over his last visit and encouraged all hands to keep up the good work.

Stuart Pregnall reminded all trip coordinators that trip reports should be given to Nori Gessler for the UpRope more promptly. The Climbing Calendar was updated to include a December 2 trip to Crescent Rocks led by Charlie Dorain and a December 9 trip to Sugarloaf Mountain, led by Ed Cummings. Ann Baron advised everyone that her telephone number had been changed to 202/223-4001.

Stuart Pregnall gave a very impressive slide show on his trip to the Wind River Range. He also included photos of climbs in New Hampshire and the Grand Teton.

contributed by Bill Smith

NOMINATIONS FOR SECTION OFFICERS

Nominations for the offices of chairman, vice chairman, secretary, and treasurer are now being accepted. The elections will be held at the annual meeting on Wednesday, January 9, 1985 at 8:00 p.m. at PATC Headquarters.

--Nominations Committee

1985 SECTION DUES

This is the official notice that membership dues for calendar year 1985 are now due and must be paid before January 20, 1985. Annual dues are \$15.00; \$15.00 + \$10.00/member for family and joint memberships; and \$10.00 for non-resident members.

Please make check payable to Maountaineering Section, PATC and

PATC MOUNTAINEERING SECTION

Charlie Dorian, Chairman301/946-2373
Tom Russell, Vice Chairman301/869-8058
Bob Skinner, Secretary703/528-7371
Dave Atkinson, Treasurer301/654-1782
Conservation and Access, Paul Torelli301/299-8039
Training and Safety, John Teasdale301/262-9128
Climbing and Expeditions, Tom Russell.301/869-8058
Membership and Hospitality
Program and Entertainment,
Barbara Llewellyn301/871-6197
Publicity Roger Slakey701/556-0589
Nelson House, Marcy Logan202/332-6116
Carderock Conservation, Janet Young202/966-9091

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UP ROPE 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, Up Rope, Mountaineering Section, PATC, 1718 N Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20036 before the 20th of each month.

mail to Treasurer, MS, PATC, 1718 N Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20036 or hand over at the Section meeting.

--David Atkinson, Treasurer

MICHEL MONASTYRSKI TO SPEAK AT SMITHSONIAN

Get together with Michael Monastyrski, director of International Mountaineering Camps for the USSR Mountaineering Federation at PATC, 5:30 - 7:00 p.m.

He will speak and show a film on the Soviet Climb of Mount Everest, 8:00 p.m. at Baird Auditorium, Smithsonian Museum of Natural History (admission by ticket-discount for AAC and Smithsonian members)

Co-hosted by the AAC Blue Ridge Section, and PATC Mountaineering Section.

EDITORIAL

A Columbus Day weekend climb nearly led to a serious accident: inexperience, disregard for safety, unfamiliar equipment and overestimation of personal ability. Luckily, no accident happened.

Following a fatal climbing accident on a Section trip in 1972, the Mountaineering Section and its members acted quickly and prudently to prevent accidents: new emphasis on training, spelling out the responsibility of trip leaders, and promoting a spirit of cooperation and assistance between experienced climbers and novices. Regrettably, some of these actions and approaches have weakened.

What is needed is renewed awareness that all of us are responsible for our own actions when we climb with others and in a group.

When the Section was smaller and perhaps guided more by the voice of experience than by the willingness to regard everybody equal on the rock, a new or inexperienced climber could not go off on his or her own to climb on Section trips. A benevolent apprentice system was in place under which the novice was helped and coached by more experienced members. The trip leader felt responsible for doing everything possible to forestall an accident: check riggings, keep an eye on newcomers, pair up climbers if needed and offer advice.

It is clear that Section climbs at the Gunks, Seneca or Linville Gorge where people are spread out over a large area are different from closed-in activities at Carderock or Sugarloaf. That's why the leader for Gunks-like trips is more a coordinator and why section rules insist that anybody going make prior arrangements with a climbing partner which does not exclude switching partners later on. But these areas are also clearly

identified as lead-climbing rocks for advanced climbers. Our current arrangement should preclude, or at least discourage a novice from teaming up with another novice, but it doesn't. The Section needs to tackle this problem.

Leading, rapelling, following on harder climbs should of course not be limited to just a few--that has never been the goal of our club. we all like to expand our abilities to the limit--not in a hit-or-miss fashion, but with the help of fellow climbers, and if possible with the support of the Section. John Teasdale and the Training Committee are offering basic and advanced instruction in safe climbing. The training program should not just instruct newcomers and rank beginners, but provide all of us with the opportunity to practice rarely used techniques, advance our skills and learn how to safely use new equipment.

But no amount of instruction from the Committee can make up for personal help from experienced climbers to less advanced partners. We encourage our leaders to look after newcomers and urge the Section leadership to instill in anybody acting as trip leader a sense of responsibility.

NELSON HOUSE

September 29-30. The weather was too wet to paint the roof of the Nelson House as previously planned, however, we had a large and enthusiastic crew to paint the kitchen cabinets. Pete Grant's three daughters, Helen, Karen and Janice had mixed opinions about the color (cornflower blue), but all wielded paintbrushes like pros. We painted the back porch floor battleship gray, and the porch ceilings light sky blue. Folk wisdom is that the blue color discourages wasps from building nests on the porch.

The woodstove, repaired earlier in the summer by Marcy Logan, Gary Beil and James Eakin worked fine, quickly warming up the damp chill in the front room where we enjoyed (among many other things), Mrs. Grant's delicious marinated Oriental beef slices and her potato salad.

Later that evening, we went to the Gendarme for James' slideshow of every climbing trip he had ever been on in his whole life. When the lights went on, the Gendarme floor was found to be littered with snoozing bodies.

The Nelson House roof still needs to be wirebrushed and painted, and the cabinets must be given another coat of paint. The front porch floor also needs to be painted.

Perhaps most of all, the Nelson House needs a ladder that can remain there. It is becoming more and more difficult for Marcy to haul her old ladder to West Virginia. Perhaps the club will consider the donation of a Nelson House Memorial Ladder.

TRIP REPORTS NEEDED

Trip coordinators who neglect to write up trip reports should keep in mind that those who went on their trips are burning to see their names and deeds in **Up Rope** and are very disappointed when the report does not appear.

Trip reports do not have to be lengthy. A brief description of the climbs rigged and participating climbers is sufficient. Please try to send your reports to Editor, UP ROPE (1718 N Street NW, Washington DC 20036) by the 20th of the month in which your trip was scheduled. If you do not have time to write the report, you may call an editor and narrate the details. Your climb might take on unimagined epic proportions.

Adopted by the Executive Committee on January 5, 1984.

Duties of Standing Committees

1. Training and Safety

- a. Plan and organize basic, advanced and special training for members and non-members.
- b. Maintain a pool of volunteer instructors and provide opportunities for training of new instructors.
- c. Keep abreast of new techniques and equipment and inform membership.
- d. Monitor safety of section climbing activities, update "Trip Leader Guidelines" when necessary, and keep membership informed about area hazards, faulty techniques and procedures and equipment failures.
- e. Serve as point of contact on matters of accidents and search and rescue.

2. Climbing and Expeditions

- a. Plan and organize section climbing and related outdoor activities, and assign leaders.
- b. Obtain and maintain information about existing and new climbing areas, including directions, emergency facilities, local practices and restrictions.
- c. Assist in the planning and organizing of section expeditions and camps, and in the selection of destination, site and leader.
- d. Give out information to members about non-section climbing activities and opportunities, including mountain travel, camps and schools.

3. Program and Entertainment

- a. Plan and prepare monthly section programs. Schedule at least three months in advance. Arrange for facilities and necessary equipment.
- b. Plan and organize special events, incl. talks, visits, picnics.
- c. Maintain a current roster of facilities for meetings, lectures, picnics etc. and keep a resource file of information on available films, speakers etc.

4. Up Rope

- a. For duties of committee, see section VI, By-Laws.
- b. Recognizing the independence of the editor in judgment and action from section leadership and membership, the editor shall feel obligated to include the following items because of the purpose of Up Rope as a section newsletter:
With priority:
 - (1) Calendar of climbing trips, meeting announcements and other program notes;
 - (2) Minutes and reports of section and committee meetings;
 - (3) Section announcements (such as nominations).
Highly desirable
 - (4) Trip reports;
 - (5) News about members;
 - (6) Mountaineering events, incl. accidents.
- c. The editor generally has freedom of selection of format, style, design and contents within the limits of the section budget.

5. Membership and Hospitality

- a. To handle membership matters and to assist in verifying and updating the membership roster.
- b. To recruit new members.
- c. To make newcomers welcome to section activities and introduce new members to each other and to section members.
- d. To assist in the preparation of information material for guests and interested climbers and to hand out such material at meetings and upon request.
- e. Maintain contact with former members and friends of the section.

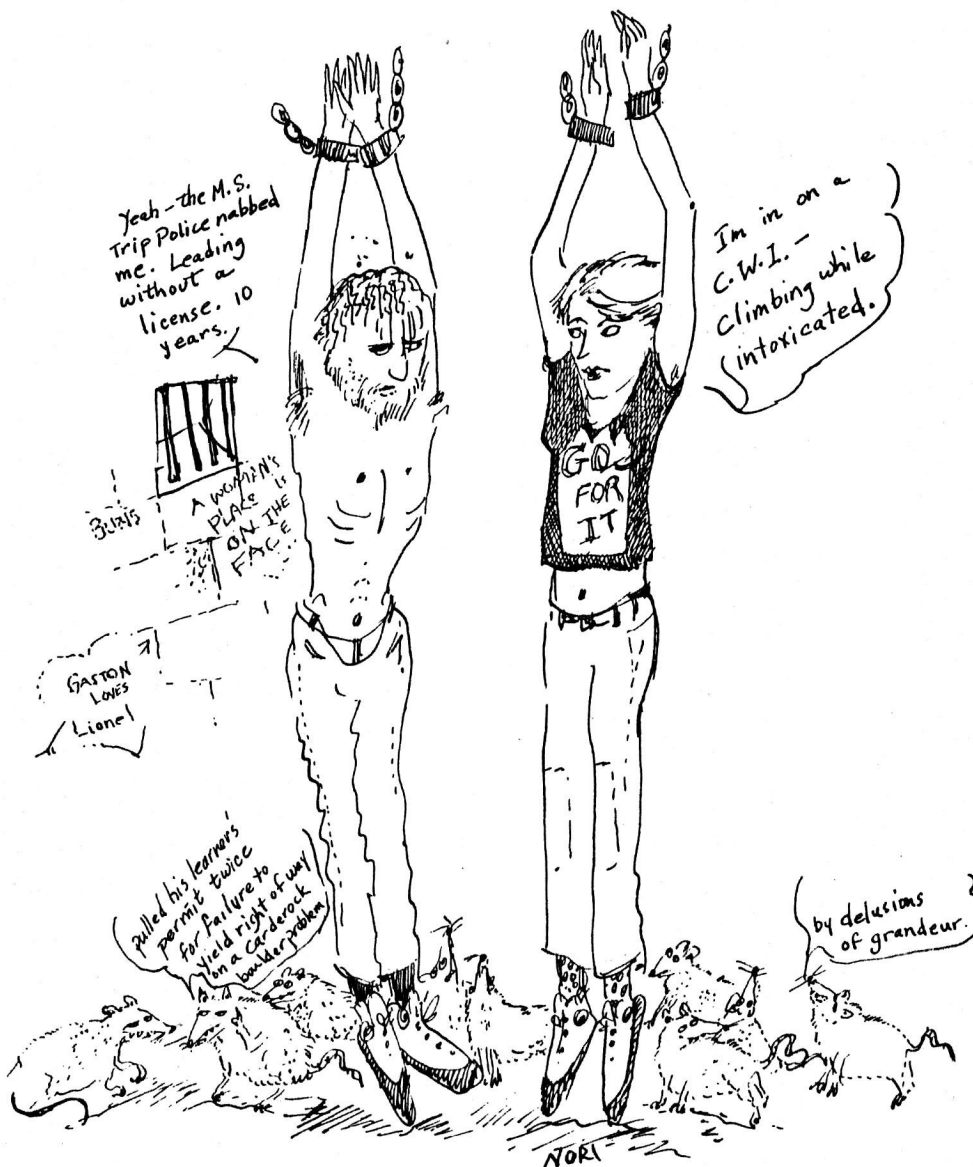
6. Conservation and Access

- a. To maintain contact with officials and owners controlling access to local climbing areas.
- b. To anticipate threats to access of such climbing areas, to warn the section and to recommend solutions.
- c. To monitor the conservation behavior of section and members during section activities and recommend necessary actions.
- d. To serve as point of contact for all conservation and access matters affecting mountaineers and keep the membership informed about developments.

7. Publicity

- a. To publicize section and its activities in the Greater Washington area.
- b. To prepare information about section and its activities for PATC outlets (publications, recording tape etc.).
- c. To initiate and maintain contact with media and displays (e.g., climbing stores), and to assist in the preparation, production and distribution of material for them.

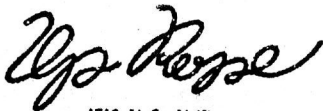
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CLIMBER'S CALENDAR

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 partner. Weekend trips (identified with an asterisk*) are to lead climbing areas. Please arrange for your own climbing partner(s) in advance. For instruction in basic and advanced rock climbing techniques, call John Teasdale (301/262-9128). Basic Rock Climbing is a four part course: introduction to rock climbing at a nearby crag followed by additional instruction on three regularly scheduled Section Sunday climbs.

November 14	Section Meeting, PATC HQ, 8:00 pm	Program: to be announced	
November 18	Bull Run	James Eakin	301/977-5811
Nov. 22-25	Linville Gorge, N.C.	Pete Grant	703/960-6033
December 2	Crescent Rocks	Charlie Dorian	301/946-2373
December 4	Executive Committee Meeting	Charlie Dorian	301/946-2373
December 5	Reception, PATC HQ, 5:30-7:00 pm:		
	Michel, Monastyrski, USSR Mountaineering Federation		
December 9	Sugarloaf Mountain	Ed Cummings	301/933-1457
December 12	Section Meeting, PATC HQ, 8:00 pm	Program: 1984 Pamirs Expedition	
December 16	Sugarloaf Mountain	Tom Russell	301/869-8058
January 2	Executive Committee Meeting	Charlie Dorian	301/946-2373
January 9	ANNUAL SECTION MEETING, PATC HQ, 8:00 pm	Election of officers-Program to be announced	



1718 N St N W
Washington, D. C. 20036

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED
