



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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Number 1

### SECTION TO ELECT NEW OFFICERS

The Nominating Committee made up of Ed Cummings and Paul Torelli, co-chairmen, reports that the following members were nominated and agreed to serve:

For Chairman: Tom RUSSELL

For Vice Chairman: Stuart PREGNALL

For Secretary: Pete GRANT

For Treasurer: Dave ATKINSON (incumbent).

Nominations remain open till 9 January when additional nominations can be made from the floor.

Section By-Laws (which cannot be changed for this election) require the following:

(1) When electing a Chairman, voting privileges shall be limited to Section members in good standing and who are members of PATC.

(2) Officers shall be elected by secret ballot; the candidate receiving a majority of votes cast by members present at the election shall be declared elected.

### LAST DUES NOTICE

*Pay your 1985 Section dues now and don't let your membership lapse, warns Section Treasurer Dave Atkinson. The annual fee is now due and must be paid by 20 January 1985 if you wish to continue receiving UP ROPE and take and take an active part in the Section.*

*Annual dues are \$15.00 (unchanged) + \$10.00/member for family and joint memberships; and \$10.00 for non-resident members.*

*Please make check payable to Mountaineering Section, PATC and mail to Treasurer, MS PATC, 1718 N Street NW, Washington DC 20036 or hand over at Section meeting. The Section does not send an individual dues notice.*

### USER FEE FOR CLIMBERS?

Jeanette Fitzwilliams in the PATC's January Potomac Appalachian addresses the question of recreational fees for users of public lands (e.g., x-c skiers in National Forests, climbers at Seneca Rocks). She represents trail users on a Forest Service committee which is considering three types of recreational fees to cover the costs of maintenance. The logic is very compelling: "Most people feel taxpayer dollars should pay for the acquisition of areas and for [programs of benefit to the public at large]. Only a small portion of the population use (continued on page 3)

**PATC MOUNTAINEERING SECTION**

Charlie Dorian, Chairman .....301/946-2373  
 Tom Russell, Vice Chairman .....301/869-8058  
 Bob Skinner, Secretary .....703/528-7371  
 Dave Atkinson, Treasurer .....301/654-1782  
 Conservation and Access, Paul Torelli .....301/299-8039  
 Training and Safety, John Teasdale .....301/262-9128  
 Climbing and Expeditions, Tom Russell. ....301/869-8058  
 Membership and Hospitality  
 Program and Entertainment,  
     Barbara Llewellyn .....301/871-6197  
 Publicity Roger Slakey .....701/556-0589  
 Nelson House, Marcy Logan .....202/332-6116  
 Carderock Conservation, Janet Young .....202/966-9091

**UP ROPE STAFF**

Joe Wagner, Editor .....202/966-6379  
 Editorial Staff  
 Stuart Peggall .....202/338-6140

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.

**CHAIRMAN'S CORNER**

The past year has been a good one for the Section. We have managed to prosper without funds from the PATC and we have grown in membership after a period of dormancy. For this we should all feel proud, for it has taken the contributions of each member, summed together, to make it possible.

Perhaps the best reason for joining an organization is that it becomes possible to do things that would be impossible alone. Whether it's finding a climbing partner, watching a climbing movie or drinking a beer with friends, the Section increases your options. But there's no free lunch! If you enjoy the benefits, you'll eventually have to pay the price--in dollars and in days.

The ebb and flow of life allows us each to make differing offerings at differing times; all are important. Remember that we are a volunteer organization. And if you've only thought of volunteering, remember what the road to (oops, this is a family publication!) is paved with.

If the same group always answers the call for volunteers, the same answers will be proposed to solutions. Although not always bad (we oldtimers call this experience), things will tend to get stale (we newcomers call this boring). How can the strength of stability be blended with the growth of change?

Analogy can be useful at times. We have to hope that the model is appropriate. Like a tree, the fertilizer of new ideas helps growth. Branches shoot from the trunk. Springtime heralds the appearance of new leaves. And storms stress the tree, but it becomes stronger.

I'm proposing that, if you see something odd about the tree, give it a hand. If you see something you like about the tree, help it along. But don't cut it down. Bend the twig the way you want, change it, get involved.

For the past year we should thank all those who worked to make it possible, and I do. For the coming one, we will thank each person who helped. You'll be the one, won't you.

Charlie Dorian

**Congratulations**

*Fellow section member George Merriam and Suzanne Merriam got married last month. George is also chairman of the Blue Ridge Section of the American Alpine Club.*

USER FEE (cont.)

the recreational resources provided yet costs increase with use. It is, therefore, felt that those who use our parks, forests etc., should help pay for some of these additional costs."

The November-December 1984 issue of Summit magazine quotes Louise Marshall (maybe the same Louise that was an early member of the Mountaineering Section) in Signpost, November 1984, that the concept of "the user must pay" is embodied in a bill which almost certainly will be introduced in the next session of Congress. If passed, it means that in the not-too-distant future, hikers and backpackers, horseriders and canoeists, snowshoers and skiers, hunters and fisherman, all should expect to pay "reasonable" and "fair" fees for the use of the more popular of the facilities they use in the National Forests.

An annual permit would be established (\$15 per individual, \$25 per family) which would entitle the pass holder to enter any designated special recreation area. A single-use pass would also be available. A special recreation area is any area of the National Forest system which is managed for public recreation purposes. These may include National Recreation Areas, Wilderness areas, Wild and Scenic Rivers and National Trails.

The concept of a user fee seems perfectly reasonable and something which we who are concerned with the quality of the environment could endorse. We know how easy it is for climbing areas like Seneca Rocks and Carderock to get trashed from overuse and how nice it would be to have more ski-touring trails.

But the Sierra Club's Legislative Office takes a broader view of user fees. They have opposed user fees as discriminating against the poor who need parks but don't have the discretionary income to pay for access. Further, the USFS budget in energy exploration and road building is increasing to aid "consumptive users," e.g., lumber industry, while the recreational budget is being cut, hoping the shortage will be made up from recreational user fees. The Sierra Club feels that "consumptive users" are not paying an appropriate fee considering that their use of national land is basically destructive and for profit.

Since we are users, we have an obligation to make our views known. We could individually or as a Section send comments to Jeanette Fitzwilliams, Fees Committee, 13 Maple Street, Alexandria VA 22301.

Or if we feel strongly about this, the Section could develop a position statement. In early February a call could be made to Tim Mahoney, Sierra Club Legislative Office in Washington (tel.: 547-1141) to find out what congressional committee will have responsibility for hearings on the proposed legislation. The Section could then send its statement to the committee and know that we have at least exercised our inalienable right to speak out and hopefully will have influenced the committee to a solution we can live with. (This will not affect the non-profit 501c(3) status of the PATC as this is such a minor part of our activities.)

Those of you who would be most affected--now and in the future--owe it to yourselves to act now (Talk about it, find others concerned, form a committee, draft a position statement, get Section agreement, send it off)!

John Christian

Blue Ridge Sect. AAC meeting

Annual meeting and slide program by Randy Starrett, on Thursday, January 24, at 7:30 pm, at PATC headquarters, 1718 N St. NW. Guests are welcome.

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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 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.

January 9      ANNUAL SECTION MEETING, PATC HQ, 8:00 pm  
Election of officers  
Program: 1984 Pamirs Expedition, slide show  
by Tom Russell with Clara and Ed Cummings

January 13, 20, 27 Climbing	Tom Russell	301-869-8058
February 3, 10, 17 Climbing	Tom Russell	301-869-8058

January 28      Annual Meeting, PATC, Sidwell Friends School (3825 Wisconsin Ave NW, Washington DC) 6:30 pm refreshments; 7:00 pm meeting: What we can do as a Club; elections.

February 6      Executive Committee Meeting Tom Russell      301-869-8058

February 13      Special program: Alpine-style climbing in the Himalaya with  
DOUG SCOTT.  
Location and time will be announced later.

Climbing in January and February will be on an ad hoc basis to allow for ice climbing on short notice, conditions permitting. Call Tom Russell for weekend plans.

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

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

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