



FOUNDED BY
JAN AND HERB CONN

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

1718 N Street, N.W. Washington DC 20036

Vol. 40

May 1986

No. 5

AT BASE CAMP

APRIL 9, 1986

The April 9 meeting was opened by Stuart Pregnall who gave updates on familiar topics before a discussion on trip leader guidelines. The April 1 lecture and slides and music given by John Harlin III was well received and donations collected contributed \$80 toward his cost. Form "old news": a volunteer is needed to coordinate with PATC the site of the new trail at Bull Run. On 26 April, PATC will hold a reception with "the People of the Plains", our Bull Run neighbors. A second printing of the Great Falls Guidebook will occur. From "new news": John Christian recommended the book Snow Sense, published by the Alaska Avalanche Forecast Center as containing the most detailed tests for avalanches that he has seen. Andy Kauffman mentioned that the Italian climber Reinhold Messner will be in the U.S. next year, probably giving talks in New York and out West. Although

we would like him to come to Washington, it may be impractical to invite him due to his fee. Paul Torelli will look into possible co-sponsors. Pete Grant gave an update on Seneca. Parking is limited to the area by the Gendarme or on the side of the road (Rt. 33). Roy Gap parkers will be ticketed. Camping is behind the Gendarme, though with no water available. The Forest Service plans to install pit toilets and water, although they presently lack the funds. Wading in the river was necessary to cross the water near the site of the old bridge. A new one will be constructed in the area between the swimming hole and the Visitor's Center. A new trail for hikers will lead to the top and it is hoped that this may separate visitors from climbers. The climbers may follow a trail which will lead back to the old road, giving access to both peaks.

Copies of a proposed interim guideline for training and safety were handed out to those present at the meetings. To summarize a lengthy discussion, it was evident that the guidelines will not