



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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CHAIRMAN'S CORNER

It's time again to set down an agenda for the Mountaineering Section. I'd like first to compare our goals and accomplishments for last year.

Our first goal was to expand the Section's membership. We didn't do well on that score. Joe Wagner, the Hospitality and Membership Committee chairman, needs some help, not just in terms of committee help, but help from all of us on a continuing basis. We really should do a better job of promoting our organization. We do represent the local climbing community; we do provide quite a number of public services to the climbing community, and we do climb. After attending the American Alpine Club meeting I am convinced that the best hope for climbing freedom and access in the future is going to be through the activities of organizations like ours. Nobody else will protect climber's rights, and the opposition is very well organized. So let's start recruiting members. We need

PRESERVING OUR HISTORY

About 40 years ago, the Mountaineering Section (then called the Mountaineering Committee) made two climbing films. The first film, "Up Rope" was of two climbs in the Potomac Gorge and one on Old Rag. Tom Culverell, climber and artist famous for his series of paintings of climbing in the Schoolhouse Cave, made a painting which comically portrayed the climbers involved in the movie: Chris Scoredos, Johnny Reed, Marian Jackson, Pim Karcher, Don Hubbard, Delores Alley, John Meenahan, Arnold Wexler, Fitzhugh Clark, Andy Kauffman, and himself. They are shown roped together on a fictional peak with the dangling end of the rope forming "Up Rope", so familiar on our newsletter masthead. The painting was photographed in sections for the title and lead-in for "Up Rope".

The second film, "Belaying the Leader" begins with a party (Earl Reed, Tommy Marshall and Jane Showacre) on the Hollywood Climb (hence the

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UP ROPE

Nori Gessler, Editor 703/524-2068

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.

them, and they will eventually need us.

Our second goal for last year was to resolve liability/trip leader/safety guideline issues. As of this writing, we're almost finished with these. For those of you who have had misgivings about the direction we've taken on these matters, other groups, including the Alpine Club of Canada and the Mountaineers of Washington have instituted liability release policies for their members and club participants. We're not alone

in taking this action in response to liability and insurance pressures. Of course, now that we've taken the first step in deciding to have a release, it's up to us to start using them. Time will tell on that.

The third goal was completion of unfinished projects--Bull Run, revamping the Treasury, the Carderock project, etc. Bull Run is now open (no further sword-rattling heard from VOF), the Treasury looks good, and Carderock will probably always have some small work that needs to be done. We'll just have to keep an eye

on the place and respond to the needs there as they arise. I see that there are some railroad ties near the Cripple Face that need some work.

The fourth goal--encourage more Section activity--was, I think, achieved. Pete scheduled climbing in lots of different areas, and we had a lot of other activities going on throughout the year.

So where do I think the Mountaineering Section should go from here? Well, I think that we need to continue the momentum we've gained over the past few years: 1) build our membership base; 2) continue our projects, i.e., Bull Run, Carderock (including the new guide), the new painting/film conservation project, involvement with PATC and other groups, etc.; 3) keep our safety record clean by using our release form and safety guidelines; 4) keep up our climbing. We've been fortunate to have some good climbers in the Section recently, and we should continue to develop our skills.

Finally, I just want you all to know that the help and support are greatly appreciated. I know that I speak for all Section Chairmen when I say that we'd never have a Mountaineering Section if it weren't for the contributions of time and energy the membership gives. The work many of you accomplish goes unrecognized, and certainly unlauded. For those of you who have helped over the past year, immeasurable thanks. For those of you who aren't much involved, or who haven't been active for a while, c'mon in and join the fun. It's not the same thing as making a tough

crux move or summiting on a gloriously brilliant day, but it can be just as rewarding in the long run. The Mountaineering Section has a long history of service and climbing activity--so there's plenty of room for both climbing and club work, too. Let's make 1987 a really good year for both!

(Continued from Page 1 - PRESERVING)

origin of the name) at Old Rag: a climber falls and is rescued using the technique. It then reviews various belaying techniques for catching leader falls. It also shows a belayer can fly through the air by attempting a static belay. It then demonstrates the then-new concept of dynamic belaying (co-developed by Arnold Wexler). Among the actors in these sequences is Ken Karcher, Peg Keister, Chris Scoredos, Tony Soler, Arnold Wexler, and doing a drop off the old Oscar Belay Tree at Carderock, John Brehm.

Recently the Culverwell painting was donated by Lowell and Ellen Burnett to the PATC. It desperately needs preservation. Jun Meenahan and Arnold Wexler proposed that the Mountaineering Section assume responsibility for saving the painting and the two films which they had been storing. The painting would be properly mounted in acid-free matting and framed and a permanent place for display at PATC would be sought. The films would be repaired, have narration added, and transferred to video stock so copies could be made for distribution.

The Mountaineering Section at its December meeting

approved the idea. John Meenahan, Arnold Wexler, Gordon Swenson, Jack Smith, and John Christian formed a Preservation Committee to undertake the project. First, contributions are needed to defray the costs of professional restoration. David Bates as PATC Archivist offered to contribute \$75.00. Several other sizeable contributions have already been made. With such a promising start the Preservation Committee is very hopeful that PATC members and the climbing community will respond generously. John Meenahan will donate an 8 x 10 toned photographic copy of one of Culverwell's Schoolhouse Cave paintings to each person making a contribution of \$50.00 or more. Checks should be made out to the PATC Mountaineering Section marked for the "Preservation Fund", and mailed to PATC Mountaineering Section, 1718 N Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20036.

Make a donation, please, for this is a chance to preserve a vital part of the early history of modern rock climbing.

--John Christian

IN SEARCH OF--THE PERFECT VALENTINE?

Dear Miss Lonelyhearts:

I'm a climber, but my husband is a couch potato. He thinks I'm at a ceramics class with the girls every Sunday when really I'm out pumping 'hangs at Annapolis Rocks.

Recently, however, he discovered my climbing rack

where I had hidden it in the back of my closet. He thinks the chocks are some sort of "marital aid" and wants to try them out. Help! I'm not that kind of girl!

--Worried

Dear Worried:

Tell your hubby that you're going to show him a flick that demonstrates the full erotic potential of climbing hardware. Rent "El Capitan" for the evening, but call it "Big Wall Vixens."

--Love, Miss L.

Dear Miss Lonelyhearts:

I used to be a macho kind of guy. Some even called me a stud, capital S, but lately my piolet has started to droop, I have a feeling of constriction around my lower torso, and I get hot flashes in my legs. Can I be a victim of early male menopause? I'm only 18!

--Desperate

Dear Desperate:

Take off that tight Lycra.

--Love, Miss L.

Dear Miss Lonelyhearts:

I keep taking bad leader falls at the Gunks and it's all because of love. I can't concentrate with all those honed females seductively cranking 5.11 overhangs and enticingly slinking up 5.12 faces.

--Battered

Dear Battered:

Put on some tight Lycra.

--Love, Miss L.

BASE CAMP

After Tom Russell spoke as Chairman of the Nominating Committee, elections were held: Stuart Pregnall, Chairman, Rich Cunningham, Vice Chairman; Karen Pregnall, Treasurer, and Selma Hanel, Secretary. Joe Wagner as Chairman of the Membership and Hospitality Committee tallied membership figures: 101 members in 1986 as compared with 101 members in 1985. Pete Grant will be Training and Safety Coordinator.

The conservation project for the Culverwell Paining has raised \$425.00. Additional funds needed to restore the films that the MS made many years ago may not be as much as previously estimated. Gordon Swenson and Jack Smith are working on having the work done gratis by media contacts.

Andy Kauffman recommended the first article in a series of two on the Mt. Hood accident (Appalachia, Jan/Feb 1987, AMC). The analysis is sound and informative to those going to high altitudes with relatively inexperienced people. Professional guides, as a result of the accident, are working towards high standards for professional guides.

The Explorers Club of Pittsburgh has approached the MS for a possible get-together. Traditionally the MS had infamous meetings and parties at Seneca with the Explorer's Club. REI is planning to open a retail store in College Park. They may be doing a promotional event with the MS. The meeting was followed by a slide show by Bruce Rich on trekking in India, Nepal and the Karakorum.

NEW ROUTES AT SENECA

Hang 'Em High. Climbed September 1986. Brian Rennex and Sandy Fleming.

The climb is a variation finish to "Marshall's Madness" on the Face of a Thousand Pitons. The belay is at the bottom of the chimney on the 2nd pitch of Marshall's Madness. Step left and climb the overhanging buttress that forms the left side of the chimney. The hard part is about 20 feet long.

Pro: Excellent. The crux is to keep from barndooring while placing the pro. The climb is continuous and outrageously overhanging.

Grade: 510C

Foghorn Leghorn. Climbed October 1986. Brian Rennex and Sandy Fleming.

An unlikely line but classic in that it is right on the Cockscomb skyline as seen from below. The route follows the arete/butress which begins at the lunch ledge and continues for some 120 feet to the top of the face. It is to the left of the Old Ladies' Scramble to the bottom of COD. The climb is best done in two pitches. The first pitch is 5.9 and the second is 5.8.

The rule of contrivance is to stay on the arete on the first pitch without stemming out to the face on the right. This makes for a nice, strenuous 5.9 section which is immediately followed by a serious section where one is totally dependent on one dubious stopper (about 30 feet up).

There are two steep sections on the second pitch--one just below the level of the pine tree traverse (to the left) and the other just above. Belay at the start of the lower one. Stay in the center of the buttress for both of these. The rock is better than it looks, and the overhanging finish is spectacular. Escaping left leads to the dark side.

Pro: Excellent except for a 10 ft. section about 30 feet off the ground, which is probably safe but a little dubious. One could do only the second pitch to avoid this.

REVIEWS

Mountain Light, Galen Rowell, 1986, Sierra Club Books. \$35.00, 224pp, hardcover.

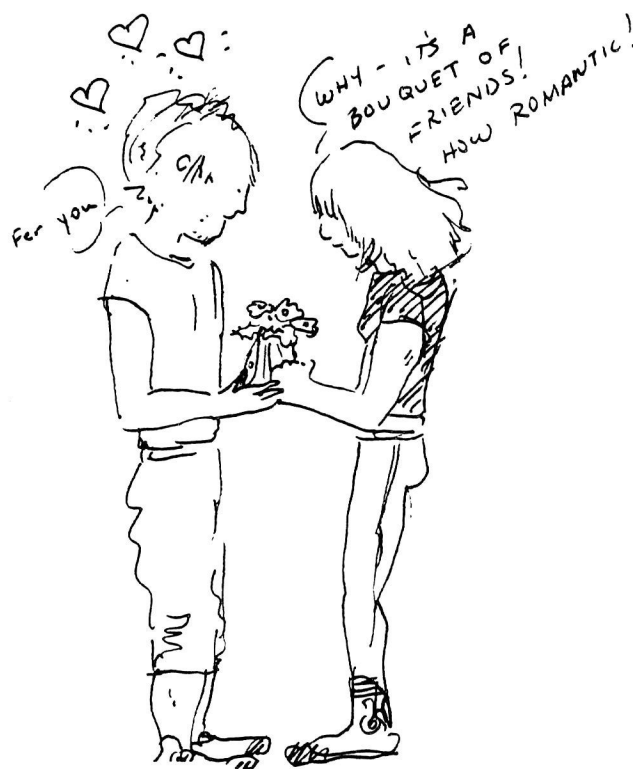
How often have we looked at one of Galen Rowell's photographs and thought, "now why can't I take stuff like that?" Well, Rowell has let the cat out of the bag, so to speak. He's an insomniac, and gets out of bed at all kinds of strange hours with his camera.

Seriously, though, this is one fine book. Rowell not only treats us to roughly eighty of his finest images, but he also lets us in on the secrets of making them. For those of us who just carry our cameras along for the chance photo, it gives food for thought. For the more avid enthusiast, it may open up a whole new range of artistic success. Rowell talks about film, equipment (all reasonable stuff that you or I might own), and then teaches us how to use these tools to take advantage of light.

This isn't to say that Mountain Light is a technical manual, because it isn't. It's full of little stories and adventures to place each image into its environment. Rowell has worked on his prose as much as his photography, and it shows. This is an enjoyable book to just read. When Rowell does get technical, he makes every attempt to get his point across in simple language so that simpleton novices can catch the meaning and duplicate his efforts. He doesn't promise instant results, but he does give on the understanding to achieve them.

The price may seem steep, but compared to the cost of other "art" books, this one's a bargain.

--Stuart Pregnall



1. NEW UIAA STANDARDS:

New UIAA standards for chocks, mechanically adjustable chocks (friends), ascenders and fall arresters (for the via verrata-climbing trails) have been created.

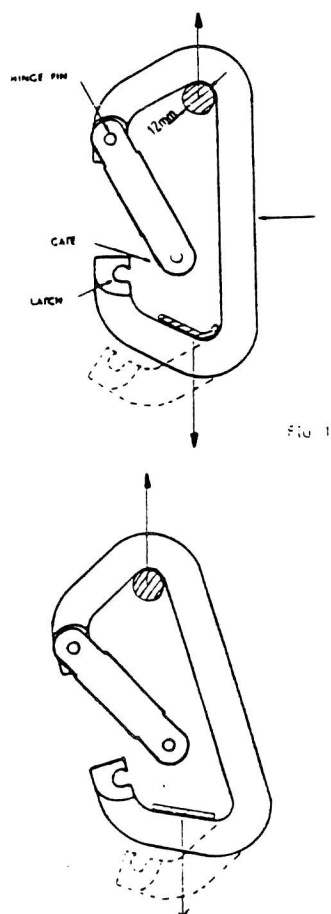
2. FILM ON FALL AND BELAY TESTS:

An interesting film on falling and belaying, using live subjects was shown. The film will be available for rent or purchase from the Austrian Alpine Club. During discussions, the following comments were made:

- The maximum tolerable limit of the impact force was given by the climbers who volunteered for these tests (young, elite rock climbers and alpinists) as 4 to 5 kN (900 to 1125 pound force). This compares with 12 kN as the maximum allowable impact force on the UIAA rope standard.
- The injury threshold, i.e. the maximum impact velocity of a person landing on his/her foot is about 4 m/sec.
- Several accidents were reported using Sticht belay plates. In all instances, the belayers were familiar with the device (repeated use), but did not react properly during a sudden fall. Because of widespread education, the use of the Sticht belay plate has essentially disappeared in Germany. The figure eight rappel device used for belaying is inadequate if the pull is down. The friction is too low and the rope runs through, therefore, is too large. Neither of these methods should be used for belaying. The friction hitch should be used instead.
- Various accidents indicates that the belay should not be attached to the body of the belayer, but to the anchor directly.

3. CARABINERS:

There is a trend to produce lighter and lighter carabiners and there is pressure to reduce the UIAA requirements. Of concern are tests by the BMC which show that tape slings and double ropes produce unfavourable loadings particularly on D-shaped carabiners. The tape does not find the lowest point in the carabiner (see Figure 1 and 2). While the carabiners are strong enough with the gate closed, it has been found that with the gate open — and they can



open during a fall with slight impact — they will brake as much as 40% below the UIAA requirement. No reductions in the standard are planned in the near future.

4. ICE AXE, ICE HAMMERS, ETC.:

Because of the large number of pick fractures on ice tools, the working group will develop a test for picks to be incorporated into the standard.

5. CRAMPONS:

The second draft has been circulated. New findings will be incorporated and a final draft is expected to be ready for the next meeting.

6. ICE SCREWS AND PITONS:

Progress on this standard has been slow because of the difficulty in designing a test method. The general consensus now is to proceed with tests in laboratory-made ice. We may have a draft next year.

7. BOLTS:

Because bolts are used frequently on popular routes in Europe, this standard is important. A first draft was presented. It is similar to tests performed on bolts used in the construction industry. A final draft may be ready next year.

8. ROPES:

Various items were brought before the working group such as marking the ropes for date of manufacture and ropes with differing diameter within one rope length.

An interesting piece of information was passed on by a rope manufacturer. It is generally known now that two half ropes (9 mm diameter) when tested like a single rope hold many UIAA falls using an 80 kg mass. The reason for this is apparently not because they are stronger, but because of the test geometry. The edge over which the ropes are tested is a round orifice. There is some side compression which increases capacity. If the ropes are tested over a horizontal edge (not the UIAA standard), they hold more or less the same as a good single rope.

There is a need to make the test procedure more realistic. The edge now simulates a carabiner and not a rock edge. Ropes, however, break over rock edges and not in carabiners.

9. TAPES:

The standard has been altered to permit strength identification of UIAA tape material. Identification threads are to be added in black or white on one side of the tape. Each thread is good for 5 kN (1124 pound force). Thus tape marked with, say, three threads has a minimum capacity of 15 kN (3372 pound force).

10. UIAA LABEL AND ADVERTISING:

Products which carry the UIAA label have been tested in accordance with the UIAA standard and have satisfied these minimum requirements.

Various catalogues use wordings such as "corresponds to UIAA standard", "holds six UIAA falls" or "tested according to UIAA". It should be remembered that these claims may or may not be true. Only a product carrying the label has gone through the test procedure and is subject to re-testing at regular intervals.

[WATCH WHAT YOU BUY!]

*Alpine Club of Canada Newsletter
(Vol 1, No 2, Fall 1986)*

Helmut Microys

TRIP REPORT

Ice Climbing at Riegelsville, PA. February 14-15, 1987.

This set of cliffs with several excellent ice routes is located in Kintnersville, PA, about 30 miles SE from Allentown. Four of us, Jeannette Helfrich, John Reiner, Gordon Swenson, and I, went out to explore the ice and found it well worth the 4-hour drive. Most of the routes are in gullies which are scrambled from the roadside to the first high-angle portions (about 5 minutes is all it takes in most gullies) and are then ascended with belays. Generally, the climbing increases in difficulty as elevation increases. Two recommended routes are:

1. Main Gully (starts out easy--about Grade I--and leads to a basin with steeper parts (Grades III-IV) depending on one's choice of the final pitch).

2. 45MPH-Gully (starts out as a cascading series of icefalls 20-40 feet in height (Grade I-II) with a final pitch of solid Grade III).

There were a few routes that appeared a bit too demnading for our group, but seemed excellent for those who are able to get out on ice more than once or twice a year.

Directions:

East on I-81 from Harrisburg to I-78. Continue past Allentown to Easton, PA and follow signs to PA-661 (rambles a bit through town). South on PA-661 to Riegelsville, continuing 4 more miles South to Kintnersville and PA-32 intersection. Turn left

(East) on PA-32, drive 2 miles until a power station is visible on the left side, across the river. The large cliffs on the right contain the ice routes. 45-MPH Gully is located at the speed limit sign almost directly across from the power station. I'll let you guess what speed the sign dictates. Park on a small turnout just before the sign. Main Gully is 800 feet farther down the road just beyond a slightly larger turnout (parking). A rather imposing route for the hardy climber is located another 200 feet beyond the main gully right on the huge wall.

After the climb, the recommended place to eat is the Great American Grill at PA-661 and PA-32 junction in Kintnersville. Great atmosphere, friendly service, good food and drinks--and they welcome climbers!

If you visit this place during the summer, make sure you drive 15 miles or so South on PA-32 to Point Pleasant, PA. Turn right onto the road that parallels Tohickon Creek on its West side, and drive 2-3 miles to Ralph Stover State Park for some unusual rock climbing on red sandstone. From the Park, take a road down to Tohickon Creek crossing it on a wooden bridge, then on an unpaved road back up the hill on the other side, until another dirt road (less than a mile) to the right and into a parking lot. Hike 200 feet towards the river to find the top of the cliffs.

--Pete Grant

Special MS Meeting
7:30 PM April 8

Our spring climbing kickoff meeting will be a Special Section SLIDE SHOW. We want to start the climbing season with a real climbing party. Bring your favorite slides - we'll provide the projector and REFRESHMENTS. We want to see Carderock and the Karakoram, Great Falls and Great Ascents, vacations and day trips. Let's see them ALL. Plan to make an evening of it, cause we won't quit until the slides are over and the refreshments are GONE! Please note that we'll begin at 7:30 - and the Chairman has promised to keep business short. See you in April, and don't forget to bring your slides!

BENEFIT AUCTION, April 15, 1987. Auction to benefit PATC and the Sierra Club. Guest Film - China/Everest Expedition, with Lou Whittaker as Guest Speaker. Section members are asked to offer donations for the auction. Donations could include such items as raft trips, season ski passes, legal services, paintings, knit to order sweater, rock climbing trip, cabin hideaway weekend, etc. Call Jeannette Helfrich 301/585-9119 for more information.

EDITOR'S CHIMNEY

Being editor of UpRope has its rewards--you have the double pleasure of editing lurid accounts of club climbing adventures as well as wheedling lurid accounts of climbing adventures from club members who never even write to their poor, sick mothers, nevermind UpRope.

To be a conscientious editor you need some time, a wordprocessor, and the lack of a two-year old helper who insists on hand coloring your galleys with Crayolas. This editor no longer fills the bill and would like to offer her rewarding position to another club member. Please give me a call if you think you would like to edit UpRope.

I want to thank all of you who have contributed, and continue to contribute articles, artwork, reviews and trip reports to the newsletter.

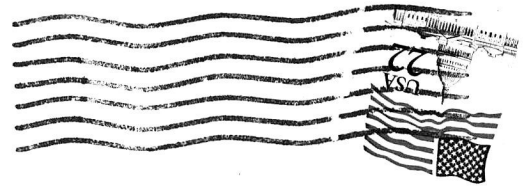
--Nori Gessler

CLIMBER'S CALENDAR

DATE	LOCATION	TRIP COORDINATOR	PH. NO.
Mar. 7	Crescent Rocks	R. Cunningham	202-332-7931
Mar. 8	Annapolis Rocks	Tom Issacson	202-332-3710
Mar. 11	Monthly Meeting	Andy Kaufman, K2 Film	
Mar. 14	Old Rag/ Great Falls	R. Cunningham	202-332-7931
Mar. 15	Waterfall Mountain	R. Cunningham	202-332-7931
Mar. 21	Training Class	Ed Cummings	301-589-6261
	Carderock/Camp Lewis	Selma Hanel	301-774-9594
Mar. 22	Bull Run	R. Cunningham	202-332-7931
Mar. 28-29	Seneca Rocks	R. Cunningham	202-332-7931
Mar. 28	Great Falls	Stuart Pregnall	202-543-3988
Mar. 29	Old Rag	Jeanette Helfrich	301-585-9119
Apr. 1	Executive Committee Meeting		
Apr. 4	Great Falls	Tom Issacson	202-332-3710
Apr. 5	Hermitage	Tom Russell	301-869-8058
Apr. 8	Monthly Meeting	MS. Slide Show Bring Slides Refreshments Provided	
Apr. 11-12-13	Stone Mountain	Stuart Pregnall	202-543-3988
Apr. 11	Buildering	Ken Andrasko	202-546-6088
Apr. 12	Great Falls	Anne Baron	
Apr. 15	REI Benefit Auction	Jeanette Helfrich	301-585-9119
Apr. 18	Training Class	Pete Grant	703-960-6033
Apr. 19	Little Stony Man	Tom Russell	301-869-8058
Apr. 25-26-27	Shawangunks	Stuart Pregnall	202-543-3988
Apr. 25	Great Falls	*	
Apr. 26	Annapolis Rocks	*	
May 2	Bocher Rocks	R. Cunningham	202-332-7931
May 3	Chimney Rocks	R. Cunningham	202-332-7931
May 6	Executive Committee Meeting		

Up Rose

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