



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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BASE CAMP

February 1987

The meeting began with a brief summary of upcoming events. Stuart Pregnall spoke on the advantages and necessity of increasing our membership. Many climbers are unaware of the legal decisions being made concerning access or use of climbing areas. With a larger membership, the MS--in conjunction with other clubs--can have a greater influence in land use and preservation decisions. At the Executive Meeting held at the Pregnalls, the possibility was discussed of requiring people who participate in our training sessions to become members or pay for the instruction. Rich Cunningham entertained us with slides of his ascent of Mt. McKinley last summer.

HANGING AROUND

Camp Lewis, MD. March 21, 1987. Camp Lewis includes the rocks directly opposite Boucher Rocks, just next to I-495 on the Maryland side. From Carderock we walked downstream

along the canal to the first spillway, just about where the large Navy building end (on the left). We turned right and followed the small stream until we had to ford a built spillway. The rocks can be approached either by exiting left or right towards the river. None of the rocks immediately across from this spillway were rigged. Guided by Barb Llewellyn and a copy of the Vol.2, No. 15, 1945 UpRope, we rigged several climbs. Facing the rocks, from left to right on the "Dome" or "Skull" we climbed the thin, awkward face (5.8), the nose and two variations, thanks to Tom Isaacson (5.9, 5.10). Also climbed the Ferocious Layback either as a layback (5.9), ro using the pinnacle (5.7), the 5.8 route up the corner, and then a face, and attempted the bottom moves of Shaefer's Aching Back (Aid).

Moving downstream we climbed Pony Express (5.6), the ramp/corners which are part of Crawford's Crash and Lizards Ledge. The Short Man's Climb is essentially a short climber's boulder problem to climb the square rock just to the left of the Jam Crack.

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UP ROPE

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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.

The Jam Crack (5.8) like all the these routes does not look too difficult until it is attempted. On the Main Cliffs, the set of rocks separated from the upstream ones by the Beginner's Notch, we climbed the West Sentinel (5.3), the Junior Horror left (5.4), and right (5.7). None of the East Face climbs were rigged due to the brambles. Stuart Rosenthal suggested we rig a climb on a large block, 30 ft. high upstream from the Dome (5.9-ish).

-Selma Hanel

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

A Letter from Joe Farness.

On a late Summer day in 1983, Joe Farness left his adopted hometown of North Conway on an overloaded bicycle for a trip around the tworld. Those of you who have known Joe realize he's not your average bicycle vagabond. After a youth spent learning life the hard way, Joe worked his way up through the government bureaucracy to the GS-15 level. When he had enough service to retire and his marriage failed, he chucked

the whole thing. An active MS member in the early 80's, Joe is in his mid-50's (maybe more), and was always in incredible shape, younger members treated him as an equal while depending on his experience and common sense in deciding club matters.

Since leaving in 1983, Joe has traveled through the Southeast to Mexico, then all over France and Switzerland, then back to Central America, where we lost track of him in Panama well over a year ago. I hope Joe doesn't mind me sharing this recent letter so that old friends can regain contact. His address is P.O. Box 324, North Conway, NH 03860.

--Ian Cruickshank

"Dear Ian:

Hope all is well with you and the gang at the club and in D.C. Can't recall where I was when I wrote you last so I'll generally bring you up to date. I've now completed 22 countries. They include the U.S.A., Mexico, Guatemala, El Salvador, Honduras, Nicaragua, Costa Rica, Panama, Columbia, Ecuador, and Peru to Lima. From there I went to Iquitas and took a number of boats 3,500 miles down the Amazon to Belem, Brazil. When in Ecuador, I went to Lago [] "where the recent earthquake damage was the most severe", then to Coca, the last city before the jungle. Then I took small boats to the sidputed border between Ecuador and Peru. In R---, I met some Auca Indians (the ones with the huge earlobes). I spent some time with them in the jungle and although I was on malaria medication, I managed to get it. The cure is to take heavy

doses of the preventative medicine. The result was that in Belem Brazil, I was getting some side effects. Thus I needed to go someplace where I could get off the meds. I flew to Luxembourg. In Europe I've covered England, Scotland, Ireland, Wales, Holland, Belgium, Germany, Switzerland, France and Spain. A little more time in Spain, perhaps, France and then Scandinavia. After that, either Africa, north to south, or Austria, Yugoslavia, Greece, Turkey and somehow on to Pakistan and India. I anticipate three to four more years to finish. I've extended the time as I've decided to tour much more extensively than originally planned. I'm finding the experience a great education. I've had some unusual experiences and hope to be able to write about the trip when I've finished.

I'd like to hear from you some time again. Are the troops in D.C. still climbing, etc. Well, enough for now. Hello to club and troops."

Joe Farness

REVIEWS

In The Throne of the Mountain Gods. By Galen Rowell, 1986 paperback reprint. Sierra Club Books, \$17.95. 326 pp.

If you've got a good but not great book, then how can you justify reprinting and charging \$17.95 for it? Well, if the book is one of Galen Rowell's, and he has lots of fabulous transparencies that didn't make it into the

original artwork for the first publication, then you can get away with it and not feel ashamed.

Climbers will remember the group of dissidents who fought their way into the Baltoro region to attempt an American ascent of K2 in 1975. Rowell's book chronicled the events that led up to the expedition and the factors that prevented its success, and made a sort of instant hit with climbers who wanted to peer into the sordid details of why expeditions fail. Behind the glitz, however, lay a deeper tale: one of human accomplishment over the years that the region has been inhabited. This book, first published in 1976, opened Rowell's awareness of the magnificence of the geological and human resources that make the Karakoram such a fascinating region. He has since returned many times.

The reprint of In the Throne Room contains many new photographs, some of which are stunning. If you're into collecting books, then you'll have to pick this one up. But if you just like Rowell's work, a far better value is his new Mountain Light, which at twice the price has more pics and tells you how he managed to take them. Of course, if you don't already have a copy of Throne Room, then you should buy it--some day we may all have the chance to go expeditioneering, and there are some valuable lessons to be learned by reading it.

Reviewed by Stuart Pregnall.

The American Alpine Journal
1986 edited by H. Adams Carter.
The American Alpine Club, New
York 1986.

Once again it's here--the
premier alpine journal in the
world. Where else can you find
all that fabulous information
about climbing in every corner
of the world? There's even a
lot of stuff about rock
climbing in places that we know
about!

This year's edition has
our own Randy Starret/Will
Garner Snow Leopards, a way out
of date article on "modern"
rock protection, a summary of
climbing achievements
worldwide, and of course, lots
of great photos. Maps are
another matter--you have to
look to the British Alpine
Journal or the Himalayan
Journal for those. Ont eh
whole, though, this one's got a
jump on all the rest. Ad
Carter and friends to an
"ad"mirable job of editing,
making the Journal very
readable. Production is
excellent--color pics look
great, and the B/W's aren't
bad, either. Pick up a copy
and start dreaming.

-- S. Pregnall

GREAT FALLS PARK, VA.

CLIMBERS (please include entire group)	VEHICLE LICENSE (model, number, color) STATE	CLIMBS RATING TO BE (decimal) ATTEMPTED 5 - ? (name)	DATE	TIME IN	TIME OUT	CONDITIONS, COMMENTS, SUGGESTIONS
WARREN HARDING- YVON CHAPMAN ROYAL ROBBINS Age GOLDEN	DRIVE IN FROM CALIFORNIA IN YVON'S ROLLS.	ALL-GRADE 6s DESCRIBED IN "CLIMBER'S GUIDE TO GREAT FALLS".	5/8	7:30	8:00	BITTERLY DISAPPOINTED TO DISCOVER THAT GRADE 6 WAS MERELY A TIPO IN THE GUIDEBOOK & WAS GREAT FALLS TAVERN DEFUNCT SINCE 1930.
TOM FROST (NOT CLIMBING- MITZI BODYHEAT KEN+BABIE DAHL CLUTCH CARGO JOHNNY GUEST BOBE BANNON Age LATE-20'S	- ALONG TO MONITOR MANY TURBO SAABS WITH VANITY PLATES	THE MORALS OF ROBE'S LADDER	5/8	12:00	2:00	PARK SERVICE SHOULD DESIGNATE ROBE'S LADDER, AID BOX, & JULIE TIE'S END CONVEY RAPPEL ONLY AFFAIRS. PEOPLE CLIMBING UP THE ROCK CONTINUOUSLY GOT IN OUR WAY!
JOE BROWN the (SOLOING- ALL PARTNERS DECEASED) Age AGELESS	1960 BLACK HILLMAN MINX CONVERTIBLE	JUST LOOKING- FOR A GOOD CRACK TO JAM	5/8	10:00	3:00	CLIMBS IN ALREADY GONE TOO BLOODY SLICK FOR HOBNAILS
JOHNNY HATROX SUSIE NUBILE HARRY "HANK PUPPY" JOHNSON 14 Age 14 15	MOUNTAIN BIKES	PLUMBLINE DIEMON CLAWS WAY HARD	5/8	8	9:30	WHATS THE BETTER ON CLAWS ANYWAY?
Age						

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.

May 13	Monthly Meeting		
May 16	Ilchester	Stuart Pregnall	202-543-3988
May 17	Old Rag	R. Cunningham	202-332-7931
May 23-24-25	Shawangunks	Stuart Pregnall	202-543-3988
May 30	Great Falls	R. Cunningham	202-332-7931
May 31	Annapolis Rocks	Tom Issacson	202-332-3710
June 3	Executive Committee Meeting		
June 6-7	Seneca Rocks	*	
June 6	Cupid's Bower	*	
June 7	Cadey's Castle	*	
June 10	Monthly Meeting		
June 13	Bull Run	*	
June 14	Rock State Park	Stuart Pregnall	202-543-3988
June 20-21	Stover State Park	Jessee Nogradi	215-294-9171
June 20	Great Falls	*	
June 21	Wolf Rocks	*	
June 27	Great Falls	*	
June 28	Big Devil's Stairs	*	
July 1	Executive Committee Meeting		
July 4-5-6	Shawangunks	Stuart Pregnall	202-543-3988
July 8	Monthly Meeting		
July 11-12	Hermitage	Tom Russell	301-869-8058
July 18-19	Seneca Rocks	*	
July 18	Vaso Herzog Island	*	
July 19	Bull Run	*	
July 25	Great Falls	*	
July 26	Annapolis Rocks	*	

Up Rope

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ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

