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JAN AND HERB CONN

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

1718 N Street, N.W. Washington DC 20036

Vol 41 No. 3

June / July / August '87

SUMMER FUN ISSUE!

### AT BASE CAMP

#### APRIL-MAY-JUNE 1987

The business covered included final organization for the REI auction which was held in April. The MS earned a substantial profit from the auction. Carderock conservation is again being discussed again because recent floods have undermined the embankment. The MS hopes to coordinate this effort with others groups that use the area. Ken Andrasko and Bob Gasser are going to look into First Aid rescue kits and what they should contain. Ken and Madeline Carter are investigating the possibilities of a Mountain Film Festival.

**Bull Run:** The VOF recently announced their purchase of property at High Point which overlaps the property surveyed as Leigh Hauters. VOF offered to negotiate an agreement with Mr. Hauter, whereby VOF would maintain control of their acquisition and Mr. Hauter would have sole title of the property. Currently the VOF owns 20% of the title. On June 13 Stuart Pregnall walked both boundaries with Leigh Hauter that were surveyed for Mr. Hauter and the VOF. The overlap does not affect the main climbing area which is on Leigh Hauter's property; however, the VOF proposal would include a clause that the PATC would never have access to VOF property. As this is not

acceptable to Leigh Hauter or the PATC, more negotiations will be needed.

**Entertainment:** In April various members showed slides of miscellaneous climbing and skiing they had done. In May Anne Baron shared her trip to Nepal. In June Stuart Rosenthal showed slides of the Cascade Range and the variety of hiking, rock climbing and mountaineering it offers.

### **Relay Ledge**

#### ACCESS ALERT

The Mohonk Mountain House is proposing to ban climbing at Skytop (at the Gunks) in the near future. The ban would affect all routes left of the crevice and would run from Memorial Day to Labor Day. Officials of the Mohonk Preserve and concerned local climbers are working with the Mohonk Mountain House on this issue, but MS members can help by writing the Mohonk Mountain House.

It takes only 15 minutes to write a letter that may help avoid a three month climbing ban. Our response will show how poorly thought out the Mohonk Mountain House's action is. In your letter you might stress the following points:

- ° Climbers have been climbing at Skytop for over 50 years -- The first route at Skytop (Gargoyle) was climbed in 1935. There can be no justification for restricting climbing now.

**PATC. MOUNTAINEERING SECTION**

Chairman: Stuart Pregnall	202/543-3988
Vice Chairman: RICH CUNNINGHAM	202/332-7931
Secretary: Selma Hanel	301/274-9594
Treasurer: Karen Roussell	202/543-3088

Training & Safety: PETE GRANT	703/960-4033
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Prog. & Entertain.: Paul Torelli	301/299-8039
Memb. & Hospitality: Joe Wagner	202/966-6379
Conservation: Charlie Dorian	301-946-2373
Publicity:	
Nelson House: Nori Gessler	703/524-2068
Carderock Conserv.: Janet Young	202/966-9091

**UP ROPE**

Tom Isaacson, Editor 202/383-6558

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.

° Climbers do not represent a safety hazard to others; instead we help Mountain House guests negotiate the talus field and difficult sections of the crevice and warn them of dangerous scrambling around without proper equipment or instruction. Without climbers helping the Mountain House guests, there doubtless would be more accidents.

° Climbers, especially MS members, are dedicated toward preservation of the outdoors. We are very careful to ensure that we do not litter or cause harm to the environment. Further, we encourage others to respect the outdoors.

Letters should be addressed to:

Bernard Gavin  
Executive Director  
The Mohonk Mountain House  
Lake Mohonk  
New Paltz, NY 12561

and a copy sent to:

Seward Weber  
Executive Director  
The Mohonk Preserve  
Lake Mohonk  
New Paltz, NY 12561

WRITE NOW. The Mohonk Mountain House will act soon, so we have to get our letters in NOW. We'll keep everyone informed on developments.

**HANGING AROUND**

CRESCENT ROCKS, March 22, 1987

The scars of hard labor heal slowly. On the back of his hand, about one inch below his forefinger Rich Cunningham still bears his red badge from his efforts on the Brick (5.11). This is one of those many climbs that is much easier for short folks. The crux to this otherwise easy overhang involves getting your right foot about 18 inches below your right hand. For a taller person this places one's center of gravity about two feet off the rock into space. The consequences of this predicament are serious for one's right hand which is positively locked into a sharp crack yielding the above scar. After a great struggle, Rich got his right foot on the ¶#\$\$\$\* hold. The two Stuarts and I also made it.

OLD RAG, March 29, 1987

Hearing young voices coming from the top of the cliff we became concerned for our top rope anchors. Tom Russell engaged one of the nymphettes in conversation and asked "How old are you?" The answer: "Well, I'm not jailbait."

The Peruvian trainees (John R., Jeanette, Rich, Tom R., Madeline) took the ridge approach while Stuart, Karen, Kathy Rebibo and I took the easy approach. The base of the climbs was still snow covered. Jeanette showed great form jamming her way up the offwidth. I suggested that we try the very thin face just left of the 5.8 fist crack/corner. After my initial attempts, John R., Madeline and Rich worked out the beginning sequence. The groundwork thus laid, Stuart P. grabbed the probable first ascent. (5.11+)

### Stone Mountain, April 10-12, 1987

The Pregnalls, John Rayner and Madeline Carter spent the weekend dodging rain and running it out on Stone friction. Since all the routes are more or less identical, no further information was sought. Meanwhile, Ken Andrasko and I went to the New River Gorge for the club's initial reconnaissance. Due to my hamstring injury (from basketball) and Ken's prolonged layoff we decided to take it easy. The fact that virtually everything was still wet from a recent snowstorm also encouraged caution. We almost finished an attempted first ascent on the Southern Wall but backed off in the face of serious loose rock. Some respectable hangdogging and several #1 friends got us up High Times, a 5.10c finger crack that is ideal for wet weather. Ken borrowed my razor (which is needed for taping one's hands at the New) and shaved his three day beard before setting off on Zag. By sheer coincidence and serendipity a young lass was on top of Zag to greet our conquering climber. Though tempted, Ken was persuaded by his Samoan lawyer not to sample the local delicacies, whose father probably owned a shotgun.

### Great Falls, April 25, 1987

I did Lost Arrow on my birthday. All other memory of the day's events was obliterated by the evening's festivities.

### Annapolis Rocks, April 26, 1987

Rich and I took our first tries at freeing the huge roof to the right of Faint's. Just getting to the roof requires a 5.10 no feet traverse. A heelhook behind a crumbling flake gets you ready for the roof. No further progress was made but the swing from this stance is well worth the effort. A double belay with a top and bottom rope keeps you from being impaled on the tree at the base of the climb. We got good pumps doing laps on Pine Tree Crack.

### Boucher Rocks, May 2, 1987

Almost everyone got up Dancing (5.8) and hardly anyone got up Stems & Needles (5.10) although Madeline Carter gave it many strong tries. No one succeeded on the crack above and left of the overhang on Stems but we managed to get the holds nice and chalky. Stuart Rosenthal and Stuart Pregnall neatly slithered up the disgusting brown face above the right facing corner.

### Bull Run, May 3, 1987

The tanning section of MS met on this gorgeous Sunday to take in some rays on the white stone at Bull Run. Thus properly bronzed we had several personal bests including Anne Baron (Charlie's Crack), Stuart Pregnall (Bull Run Overhang) and your editor (Galactic Acid).

### Seneca, May 9-10, 1987

Jacques Tamisier, his friend Jacques (aussi), Anne Baron and I took in some glorious weather at Seneca. Anne and Jacques II did Ecstasy Jr., Le Gourmet and Humphrey's Head. I took French lessons at the Rocks View Saturday night while Jacques II got a cuisine lesson. Anne Baron left that night and the two Jacqueses and I teamed up to do Really Flakey, Rox Salt, Lichen or Leave It and Castor. Jacques II and I had several monosyllabic conversations on belay ledges. ("Oui, the sky is blue.")

### Ilchester, May 16, 1987

Stuart Pregnall, Roger Noonan (?) and I eventually located this forgettable volcanic plug outside Ellicott City. The rock leaves festering lacerations on those foolish to entrust their hands to its cracks. Stuart learned that Blue Rose (5.9 and named for its affect on the human skin) was not as hard as it seemed in the 70's. Roger, who trained under Pat Ament, showed good form and determination on the face climbs directly above the recycling plant.

### AID BOX, May 17, 1987

Stuart Pregnall, Michael Mergi and I tackled some of harder climbs on these faces. Stuart finally got up P.V. Wall (5.12-). Michael discovered that the climb can be impossible even if you cheat on the first few moves. I wired the moves up the right hand cup and got no further. The initial moves (involving a neat feet switch on the first foothold) can be very esthetic but it's a grunt from there.

### GUNKS, May 23-25, 1987

Stuart and Karen Pregnall, Martha Hale, James Eakin, Paul (Torelli & Anzalone), Jacques Tamisier, Ken Andrasko, John Rayner, Jeanette Helfrich, Ian Cruikshank, Jesse Nogradi, Kaz and Ali Lorenz, Ali's sister Erica and I enjoyed three days of generally good weather. Ian picked up some spare change selling defective Wild Things runners. Paul Anzalone led Horseman in good style, one of his first adventures on that end of the rope. His placement of a teeton just below the crux traverse earned my admiration for inventiveness. Stuart grabbed the pin at the crux to spoil an otherwise impressive effort on On Any Monday (5.11-). Ken smartly cranked over the slightly runout crux overhang on This Petty Pace (5.9) while Martha and James lent my guidebook to a man named Moe. Paul Torelli surprised himself by getting up the awkward initial moves on City Lights. Erica got up Bunny twice and I failed again on Foops. Todd Swain told us how not to do a guidebook in three easy lessons, Steve Angelini gave us the beta on Supercrack (it takes 5 #1 1/2 friends) and Tom Addison tried to sell some "Patagucci" t-shirts.

### MICRODOME, May 30, 1987

James Eakin, Stuart P., Michael Mergi, Paul Anzalone and I spent several scorching hours on this overhanging face at the upstream end of Great Falls. We worked hard

on climbs named after various armaments and I spent a while repairing my glasses. Don't forget to bring a rack when you visit the Microdome because there are no trees for a top rope anchor.

### ANNAPOLIS ROCKS, May 31, 1987

The ciccada invasion was at full force when we (Stuart P., Michael M., Paul A., Rich C. and I) visited the Prow area. Paul succeeded on his first 5.9 after a tremendous struggle on the mantle at the top of the left most route up the main face. Rich and Stuart managed to get up the Prow proper (5.11) and I didn't even bother in light of the attack of tendonitis the Gunks had inflicted on me. Stuart entertained us with a precise explanation of the various ciccada artifacts we found around the climbs. We made a great sport of trying to knock the carcasses off the trees with rocks. (I know you can't wait until 2004 to try that one yourself).

### BULL RUN, June 13, 1987

Selma Hanel, Stuart Pregnall, Stuart Rosenthal, Genesis and I were joined by Carol (?) who had missed the car pool for her hiking club and decided to give rock climbing a try. We spent several hours improving the trail to the top of the ridge and clearing brambles from around the climbs. The beautification effort has solved one of the major access problems for Bull Run. Carol climbed well until she succumbed to heat exhaustion, or was it the berries she ate? Stuart Pregnall almost made it up the crack and arete to the right of Charlie's Crack but was foiled by the long reach at the top. Stuart Rosenthal showed us how to jam the lower section of Charlie's but I found that style hard to emulate. Selma imparted much botanic information as several species were massacred to make room for the climbs.



AID BOX, June 14, 1987

Ed Worrell, John Christian, Stuart Pregnall, Chris and Robert McDonough, James Eakin, Nori Gessler, Stuart Rosenthal, Mark and David O'Connor, Selma Hanel, Michael Mergi and I spent a sweaty day in this reflector oven. Ed Worrell, after a very long layoff from climbing, impressed us with his solid, graceful form. He cruised up Dark Corner in his sneakers but was foiled on Splinters. Nori, with the weight of the Up Rope editorship taken off her shoulders, put in a great performance getting half way up Monkey Fingers (5.12) on her first try.

Unfortunately, most of the day's activities came to a halt when a young climber, not associated with the MS, fell the entire length of the Aid Box. The climber had just finished his first climb (the Box) after a morning of rappelling. He apparently intended to go over the top and walk down. Someone in his party suggested that he lower off on the top rope which he did without properly retying his bowline. Although he at first looked more seriously injured, he may have escaped with "only" a broken arm. MS members helped out in most phases of the rescue. However, the Park Rangers decided to wait almost an hour for volunteer firemen to arrive to carry out the stokes litter instead of using the many surefooted climbers already on hand.

GREAT FALLS, June 20, 1987

With most of the Club either in Peru or getting rained out at Seneca, Martha Hale and I took Greg Eckert and his friend Rikka (?) to the Seclusion area of Great Falls. Both Greg and Rikka are beginners but showed good style and determination, getting up several 5.5 and 5.6 climbs.

ANNAPOLIS ROCKS, June 21, 1987

Paul Anzalone, Gary Prince and I were later joined by Martha Hale and Margaret Wettling for some

thrashing around in the land of overhangs. Gary and Paul both had personal bests on Pine Tree Crack (5.9+) but were not able to master the crux sequence through the overhangs. I finally cranked through the overhang located 30 feet to the left of the Pine Tree area. Judging by the amount of lichen on the key hold, this climb has not been done much, at least lately. The route is five-tenish and might be called Broken Branch in commemoration of the limb which gave its life for the cause.

VASO ISLAND, June 27, 1987

Tom Isaacson, Stuart Rosenthal, David Brown, Jacques Tamisier and Selma Hanel put in the canoe on the Fisherman's Rock by Nubble Face and ferried a fivesome across to Vaso Island. After walking across the island and then downriver along a path, we stopped a few times to look down the cliffs. Finally we decided to rig a bunch of climbs on a large cliff on the downstream set of rocks, opposite a set of cliffs on the nearby Turkey Island.

From a slanting belay ledge below, we climbed the left crack to the pine tree (easy) and the adjacent right face (5.6), the thin crack (5.7), the overhang (5.10) and escaping right around the overhang (5.5). We also climbed the right face beginning over the water. (5.8). Further down the cliff we took turns belaying from the top and lowering each other to a ledge just above the river. Fortunately, we all made it back up the strenuous crack and layback (5.9). We also rigged the upstream sloping faces which looked like Elsie's at Carderock but, due to an oncoming and then present-thunderstorm we headed back. A minor epic finding the canoe in the rain ensued. Some of us had impressive chigger bites as a reminder of the day's events.

-- Selma Hanel

VASO ISLAND, June 28, 1987

Although there were vows and promises of not returning to Vaso this century, we headed back the very next day in even greater numbers. This time we rigged cliffs midway down the island, upriver from the cliffs climbed the previous day. From the walkdown we rigged two ropes on the face (5.6-5.9) with one near the right crack (5.1). With its proliferation of lichen, the classic face was dubbed "Many holds are edible." Just to the right of the crack Tom Isaacson went to work on what had been thought an impossible problem. Starting with a hard crank off the ground and two strenuous face moves you get to an undercling less than an inch deep with lousy foot holds. From there it's two long reaches to thin holds and a hard lunge for the ledge. Stuart Pregnall brushed off the holds and, after considerable effort, finally made the entire sequence in one push. Ed Worrell's goldline held up well throughout the hangdogging.

After some pruning we were able to get around the corner to a relatively clean group of climbs. The first big overhang (5.10) saw many tries and only two successes. It's easier on the right (5.9). We also climbed the corner (5.8) and the face to its right (5.6). Ed Worrell tried on Stuart Pregnall's Fire's and cruised a variety of climbs. Suitably impressed, Ed showed up a few weeks later with his own pair. Ed also found the Chairman's Chimney which proved to be a challenge both in terms of getting to the climb (by rappel or by braving the jungle) and getting back up.

The purpose of all this work at Vaso was to help review this area for the inclusion in the forthcoming revision of the Carderock guidebook. Participating in today's climbing: Selma Hanel, Chris & Robert McDonough, Michael Mergi, Stuart Pregnall, Tom Isaacson, Ed Worrell, David Brown.

-- Selma Hanel

FOURTH OF JULY WEEKEND

Many club members, including some just back from Peru, took off on the traditional trip to the Gunks. Little is known of this trip except that Rich Cunningham flashed Retribution (5.10) and, for the second consecutive Gunks trip, a party of MS climbers backed off of MF (5.9).

Hearing reports of bad weather, Ken Andrasko and I stayed home for a day and then went to Seneca. In varying degrees of style and with a little help from our friends we got up The Burn, Triple S, Marshall's Madness, Pollux and Nip and Tuck. Chris (Topper) Wilson reported that there will be a major effort over the August 29-30 weekend to improve the trail to the West face which is suffering from serious erosion. Anyone interested in helping out should just go to Seneca that weekend and contact either John Markwell or Topper at the Gendarme.

Through the efforts of the local guiding school, a series of stepping stones now provides an easy access across the stream, at least at times of relatively low water. There are also reports of a cable crossing further upstream although I have never actually seen it.

CRAG EAKIN, July 11, 1987

We had the best turnout of the year for this annual trip to a fairly obscure area. Almost everyone succeeded on The Pool. The Feast was also popular but even some hardmen and women had to back off on Crazy Volleyball. Despite the attempts of many, only Ed Worrell was able to do the crux on Juggling. We put in a new route and named it The Toast, in honor of our hosts. The Dessert Crack was so easy that some climbers felt it was a piece of cake (sorry).



### THE HERMITAGE, July 12, 1987

Rich Cunningham, Tom Russell, Gary Prince, Ed Worrell, Ed Cummings, David Brown, Madeline Carter, John Rayner, Stuart Pregnall, Jeanette Helfrich and I managed to get in some good climbing before the rain set in. For the first few ascents, the routes were unusually slimy. Jeanette displayed the right stuff in her repeated attempts on Leap of Faith but finally could only resolve to return some day with an infusion of renewed faith or an improvement in leaping. Rich despaired his failure on Spiderman which he had cruised in a previous life. I read aloud from the Post's editorials on Judge Bork and we watched some foul mouthed cavers rappel the rap crack. Larry Geib showed up later and gave a tour of some route possibilities we've ignored to date.

### GREAT FALLS, July 18, 1987

With most of the club either at Seneca or at social engagements, Ed Cummings, Rich Cunningham and I headed downstream to the Degree 101 area. We all got up the East Face (5.7), some of us got up Backscratch (5.10) and no one succeeded on Degree 101 (5.11). In the oppressive heat we were quickly spent. (no subject)

### ROCKVILLE SEEKS OUTDOOR SPECIALIST

The Rockville Parks and Recreation Department needs an outdoor specialist capable of instructing and leading top rope climbing, caving, hiking and other similar activities. Specialist works with teenagers and some adults. Most activities take place on Saturdays, however, there are some weekday hours available. For more information, call Bob Plumb at 424-8000 ext. 344.

### SUGARLOAF, July 19, 1987

Rich Rosburg, John Hearn, Martha Hale, Ed Cummings, Claire Witt, Rich Cunningham, Tom Russell, Josh (?), Michael Mergi and I braved the heat for a surprisingly pleasant day at the Loaf. Martha's brownies were a big hit. Tom Russell began the trip with a run which earned him many hardman points. He also blazed up the whatchamacalit overhang. We spent much of the day instructing the beginners in our group, a great excuse for not climbing. Ed and Michael never made it up the large overhang directly below Barb's face but earned much respect for their persistence. Rich flashed it twice using different holds and I got up using max effort and a tight belay.

### NEW RIVER GORGEOUS

Always in search of new rock, Karen and I travelled down to the New River Gorge for a delightful weekend. The trip was also supposed to include other PATC members, but nobody seemed willing to get away. Too bad.

The drive is about 5 1/2 hours, and, no, I didn't drive like a wild man. Take I-66 west to I-81 south to I-64 west to Route 60 west to Route 19 south. This will take you right to the Gorge. A guide is out now, and once you're there using the guide is pretty simple.

The rock is 75-120 feet high, a solid Nuttall sandstone not unlike Annapolis Rock, and the routes are great. The first day we managed to thrash our way up the classic Zag (5.8), then dispatched Layback (5.9) and Angel Arete (5.10a) with little trouble. These three routes are within 50 feet of each other and about 20 seconds from the car. On Saturday we bushwacked (literally as there's no real trail yet) up to the Bubba Wall and managed to get totally burned out trying to put in a new route. There's lots of rock there, but everything we tried seemed to go nowhere. We were fortunate to be climbing with Rick Thompson

(the guidebook author) and another PA friend Eric Horst, who managed to spot a line of weakness that a) had pro and b) was manageable. We jammed along a delightful little horizontal hand crack and up an arete with a sting in its tail to produce Hubba Bubba at 5.10a. While rapping off that to clean gear on something else they had been trying, Eric decided that the other route was worth one more shot. He managed to red point the route and demanded a second. I was sufficiently fooled by Eric's smoothly efficient ascent that I asked for a shot. After two falls and a demanding dyno up to more hard climbing, I topped out.

"So what do you think? 12a?"

"Nah, I can't climb 5.12, gotta be 5.11 something."

"That's what I thought."

So was completed the Six Foot Factor at 5.11d.

Sunday brought more beautiful weather and climbs. We'd scouted out the upper ranges and determined that we should investigate some of the lower end climbs. Midnight Moonlight at 5.7 was a great introduction to "easy" New routes. There were several other 5.6 and 5.7 routes that looked worth our attention, but sloth and exhaustion from the previous days' climbing had taken their toll — it was easier to lay back and take in the scene.

For future reference, the New is an area that should receive lots of visits by MS members. The climbing is fabulous, and there's lots of it at all grades. Sure the emphasis is on 5.9 - 5.11, but that shouldn't deter those who feel that fun and not pain is the greater goal of climbing. For the most part, New routes are well protected and encourage pushing your limits. Cracks, corners and faces abound, and there are some outrageous roofs (and a few smaller ones, too).

Karen and I have been invited back, and we intend to take Rick up on his invitation.

-- the Chairman

#### new New notes

Following are some random thoughts that may be of general use to those contemplating a trip to the New.

Bring big pro. Many of the cracks at the New are fist sized and wider. Remember those huge hexes with all the holes in them that are in a box at the bottom of your climbing closet? Bring them. Although you wouldn't be caught dead with them clanging together against your lycra at fashionable spots like the Gunks, they're mighty handy at the New. The big friends which always get hooked on your leg loops are also helpful.

Food. Everyone has breakfast at the Western Pancake House in Fayetteville. (Fayetteville is pronounced "fedville"). The Rax in the shopping Center in Oak Hill has an all-you-can eat salad, pasta and soup bar for the hungry and health conscious climber.

Don't make fun of the bridge. The locals are quite poor and take much pride in the bridge.

Get current information on the access situation. Much of the Endless wall has been closed temporarily for the procreation of the Peregrine Falcon. Also, most of climbing is on private property. Apparently some of the owners have only recently learned of the extent of the climbing activity at the New and this may become a serious issue in the future.

Buy the guidebook. In addition to being very useful in an unfamiliar area, Rick Thompson's guide is simply the best guidebook to any area in the U.S.



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## EDITOR'S CHIMNEY

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### RANDOM NOTES

On July 22 a few MS members turned out for a talk at the Fairfax Circle HTO by Richard Leversee of Chouinard. He began with a decent slide show of various routes on El Capitan. The shots were extremely good but the narrative consisted of basically making the same points over and over and over again. He did a good job, however, of capturing the incredible exposure one gets on these walls. After the slide show he gave a talk and question/answer session on gear, most of which was an advertisement for Chouinard equipment. He gave a particularly hard push for the Camalot, Chouinard's version of a friend. These babies, which were reviewed in Up Rope last Winter should be on the market by early September. Also on the gear front, Leversee reported that Chouinard will soon become the U.S. distributor for Scarpa which will please many people. Leversee confirmed recent reports that Air Voyagers should not be used with small D biners. Chouinard's tests show, as others have suggested, that the bursting of the bar tacks can cause the gate to open. Because an air voyager is wider than the notch at the bottom of a small D, it puts side pressure on the biner which can prevent the biner from closing properly. The danger is that the biner will become detached from the protection and not that the biner will break with its gate open. Leversee concluded by giving away a bunch of catalogs and t-shirts.

As a side note, Chouinard has come in for some criticism in some of the popular climbing magazines for the largess he has amassed. Apparently profit is antithetical to the climbing game. Since Chouinard has done more than anyone to make technical gear safe, light and clean he surely deserves all of his success.

THIS IS NOT A BOOK REVIEW, however, I recently picked up a copy of the revised Yosemite Climbs by George Meyers and Don Reid (Chockstone 1987) and thought some of its contents should be passed along. The book begins with a lengthy analysis of the 43 deaths that have occurred in the Valley since 1970. That broad database allows a good analysis of what actually goes wrong in climbing. Although their information is clearly affected by the Big Wall nature of many Valley routes (and deaths), it is about the best statistical analysis of technical rock climbing safety I have seen.

What may surprise many people is that no one has died in the Valley from free soloing. This comes despite the fact that the Valley sees more free soloing than any other area. Also surprising is the fact that no one has died from natural rockfall. In all cases of fatal rockfall, the rock was knocked loose by the victim, the rope or climbers above. Consistent with the above results on free soloing is the fact that good climbers hardly ever die from leader falls on known routes. They do, however, suffer a lot of injuries. Most fatal leader falls happen to intermediates or climbers who are off route. Leader falls, as you would expect, become fatal because the gear pulls out. Gear almost never simply breaks due to a leader fall. Of course, most climbing deaths occur when people misuse gear so that there is a break in the anchor chain. This danger is, perhaps, particularly salient for those of us who mostly top rope and may grow a bit lazy about such matters. Several recent gaffes have shown that people who lead climb only rarely make mistakes on belay ledges, etc. Climbing as a threesome or with double ropes can be confusing. It is critical that all members of a team talk through the anchor and rope arrangement to be sure that everyone has their heads together.

# 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.

DATE	LOCATION	TRIP COORDINATOR	PH. NO.
August	NO MONTHLY MEETING IN AUGUST		
Aug. 1	Great Falls	Ed Cummings	301-589-6261
Aug. 1-2	New River Gorge**	Stuart Pregnall	202-543-3988
Aug. 2	Sugarloaf	Tom Russell	301-869-8058
Aug. 8	Cow Hoof	Tom Isaacson	202-332-3710
Aug. 9	White Oak Canyon	Stuart Rosenthal	703-527-5247
Aug. 15	Great Falls	Tom Russell	301-869-8058
Aug. 15-16	Seneca Rocks**	Rich Cunningham	202-332-7931
Aug. 16	Boucher Rock	Jeanette Helfrich	301-585-9119
Aug. 22	Camp Lewis	Tom Isaacson	202-332-3710
Aug. 23	Bull Run	Ed Cummings	301-589-6261
Aug. 29	Easter Egg	....	....
Aug. 29-30	Hermitage	Tom Russell	301-869-8058
Aug. 30	Great Falls	....	....
Sept. 2	Exec. Committee Mtg.	....	....
Sept. 5	Sugarloaf	....	....
Sept. 5-7	Shawangunks**	Rich Cunningham	202-332-7931
Sept. 6	Great Falls, VA	....	....
Sept. 7	Great Falls, MD	....	....
Sept. 9	Monthly Meeting	....	....
Sept. 12	Great Falls	....	....
Sept. 13	Annapolis Rocks	Tom Russell	301-869-8058
Sept. 19	Ilchester	Stuart Pregnall	202-543-3988
Sept. 20	Old Rag	Rich Cunningham	202-332-7931
Sept. 26	Sugarloaf	....	....
Sept. 26-27	Bellefonte Quarry, PA**	Stuart Pregnall	202-543-3988
Sept. 27	Great Falls	....	....
Oct. 3	Chimney Rock	Tom Isaacson	202-332-3710
Oct. 4	Bull Run	Ed Cummings	301-589-6261
Oct. 7	Exec. Committee Mtg.	....	....
Oct. 10	Sugarloaf	....	....
Oct. 10-12	Shawangunks**	Stuart Pregnall	202-543-3988
Oct. 11	Great Falls, VA	....	....
Oct. 12	Great Falls, MD	....	....

\*\*Indicates a trip to a lead climbing area. Arrange for partners beforehand.

*Up Rope*

1718 N St NW

Washington, D. C. 20036

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

