



FOUNDED BY
JAN AND HERB CONN

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

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CHARLIE DANIELS

Arnold Wexler sent in the following sad news.

"Charlie Daniels died in November 1988 after being stricken by a heart attack while on a hike in New York where he resided. Charlie was one of the climbers associated with the PATC during the late 1930's and early 1940's. He was an entomologist by profession. During his youth he worked as a tree surgeon. His name is permanently linked to "Charlie's Crack" at Bull Run Mountain, a climb that he pioneered. He is also remembered for leading one of the first ascents on Champe Rock in West Virginia. On July 4, 1940, with Paul Bradt and Art Lembeck on his rope, he put a route up the face

to the top of the inner flake, where he hoisted the American flag. On the way up he encountered a hornets' nest whose residents violently objected to his trespass. With some discomfort he disposed of the nest and the hornets and completed the climb! During WWII he served as a Captain in the Army Medical Corps. After the war he worked for Shell, travelling extensively and finding time to climb in the mountains of Japan and Korea. Occasionally he would stop by in Washington to visit his local climbing friends. He will be missed."

AMERICAN ALPINE CLUB NEWS

A few quick notes from local and national AAC sources...the Blue Ridge Section will be sponsoring a local climbing competition in May 1989...the AAC now has a two tiered membership system--Active Members, which require two year's climbing experience, and General Members, which require the ability to write a check...new Membership Committee member Karen Pregnall is in charge of recruiting--be forewarned!...Jeff Lowe's three regional climbing competitions will begin in Boston in June...the Blue Ridge Section will arrange for a trip up to

watch it...Andy Kauffman was awarded the Angelo Heilprin Citation, the Club's highest award, for long time service to the Club and lasting contributions to climbing...Paul Piana and Todd Skinner received the Robert and Miriam Underhill Award for their free ascent of the Salathe Wall...Andy Kauffman, the Pregnalls, Ken Andrasko, Tim and Patty Hood, Bruce Cox, and Jeanette Helfrich were in attendance at the meeting in Atlanta...new AAC President Glenn Porzak has pledged to continue the energetic leadership provided by outgoing President Jim McCarthy.

APPRECIATION

The Mountaineering Section would like to offer its thanks to Rich Cunningham, who is stepping down after a year-plus of being Chairman. During this time, Rich has managed to lead the Club through its first (and successful) Film Festival, lots of climbing trips, and enthusiastic support for a number of new climbers. In addition, Rich has managed to personify the total climber, accomplishing some fine alpine routes, hard ice climbs, and rock climbs in the stratospheric 5.12 range. And some of us remember him as a beginner!

The Section has prospered under his direction, and we thank him.

FROM THE CHAIRMAN'S CHIMNEY

To all members of the Section:

Before the end of my term as Chairman, I wanted to publish this letter thanking everyone who has come out in the past year and a half and participated in the meetings, weekend trips, and special events of the Mountaineering Section.

I also want to encourage old and new members alike to continue to be active in upcoming Section activities.

At the top of my list, I want to thank Madeleine Carter and Ken Andrasko for their planning and brilliant execution of the First Annual Washington Mountain Film Festival. It was incomparable. Also, hats off to Tom Kawecki, Stuart Rosenthal, Jeanette Helfrich, and Tom Russell for their help. I want to mention Pete Grant for his silent and continuing efforts in training newcomers to the sport. Tom Isaacson, Michael Mergi, and John Yanson deserve a special thanks for producing each insightful issue of UP ROPE in their spare time. Jeff Kramer and Gary Prince have skillfully guided the paper ship this past

year and kept the Section from steering over the edge.

Jeanette Helfrich has been the brains behind this operation, for it was Jeanette who always called me several days before anything needed to be done, to say that she had already taken care of it. Jeanette kept the Section going. And she and Madeleine Carter made sure we were all well fed and entertained at the monthly meetings. Thanks.

In conclusion, I want to say that I feel privileged to have been selected as the Chairman of the Section and to have had the chance to associate with such a wonderful and diverse group of people. When I decided to compose this short letter to the members, I thought I would mention each member of the Section, one by one, but I then realized the list would go on for several pages. Besides, we already have a membership list.

The point of this is to highlight the fact that each member is a valuable asset to the Section, whether a 5.2 climber or a 5.12 climber. I hope that in the future the Mountaineering Section will grow, but more than that, I hope that the present new members, the members of long standing--all of whom make the Section worthwhile--will continue to be active in Section events. I know I will!

Rich Cunningham

CARDEROCK WORK TRIP ONCE AGAIN--BUT WITHOUT FEELING

Sunday, November 6th saw another hard day of work at Carderock. The main objective of the trip was to fortify the river bank in the vicinity of the Cripple climbs. You might recall that when our project started some 93 years ago (more or less) this area was down to its last 6 inches of walkable river bank. The fact that the bank looks like it presently does, and has remained stable throughout the

vicious floods of recent years, attests to the validity of the design and quality of the overall work effort.

Perhaps because of this, interest in the project once again seems to have dwindled. Although a great deal of progress was again made, an extremely poor and disappointing turn out prevented completion of the goals of the trip. It is, therefore, time for this phase of the project to be formally terminated. One more trip will, we expect, be organized in the early spring to strengthen and make permanent Sunday's work. That will be the end of this phase of the Carderock Conservation Project.

If any other hardy souls wish to take over the project and create new and better directions for the future, we can provide the lists of workers and other who have offered and provided related assistance, as well as our suggestions and visions for further enhancements.

Many thanks to those who came to work Sunday. These include: John Yanson, Matt Lavington, Greg Patrick, Gianni Battimelli, Mike Chaney, Ahmet Zeytinci, Harold Goldstein, Janet Young, Paul Torelli, Tom McKenna, Saklim Khan, Toby Awasum, Abdi Musse, Jeanette Helfrich, and Marci Logan. I'd like to note that John Bercaw had his Voyager kids out in the pouring rain two weeks before our work trip. Their work greatly facilitated Sunday's efforts. Special thanks to Jeanette for once again providing much appreciated sustenance and to Rich Cady for kindly assisting with the phone calls. Sorry if any one else was inadvertently omitted.

Finally it should be stated that what you see as physical evidence of our collective efforts is only the tip of the ice berg. It is hard to imagine that perhaps 150 railroad ties and literally hundreds of tons of rock and dirt have been placed in

the river during countless manhours of labor; this is not to mention the hours of planning, organizing, phasing, writing, etc. that went on behind the scenes. An article detailing the story behind the Carderock Conservation Project will follow.

Harold Goldstein

TRIP REPORTS INTERMEDIATE LEAD TRAINING SHAWANGUNKS, SEPTEMBER 3-5

Four students found their way up to the Gunks over Labor Day Weekend this year. We arrived at the Uberfall just before dark on Friday and decided to start training right then and there. I took David up Clover, while Helen led Rhododendron with Beau following. Let me tell you--it gets DARK at the Gunks below the treetops!

Saturday started with the usual group instruction, followed by hands on (feet on?) practice. Climbs included Bunny, Horseman, Frogs Head, and Jackie. We ended the day by climbing two routes next to each other, Arrow and Silhouette.

As an observation, today's climbers continue to amaze me. It took several trips to the Gunks and Seneca before I even attempted a 5.8; and when I first seconded Arrow, I spent several minutes struggling with the final move past the last bolt. Here were two students seconding me on their first lead trip, and they both flashed it!

Sunday it rained. That's right--the first time in my memory that it has rained on Labor Day Weekend at the Gunks. Well, there was one benefit. I got to show off a bit (to get even with them for they way they flashed Arrow). We rigged a top rope on Slightly Roddey (5.10) and I managed to pull the roof (just barely)--none of the others made it.

By noon the rain turned into a downpour and we decided to call it quits for the weekend.

Participating were David Bailey, Brent Clements, Vern (Beau) Kirby, Helen Grant, Pete Grant and Tim Klimaszewski.

Pete Grant

MOCANAQUA

Once again, there is rumor of more great rock lurking in the hinterlands. Karen and I scurried off to scoop the rest of the Section, but from our initial reconnaissance, you might want to wait for more pleasant weather before following in our path.

I'd heard about Mocanaqua for some time now--rumored to be better than the New River. As you might imagine, that would take a lot of incredibly good climbing to convince me! The stories, though, sounded intriguing--lots of bolt-protected hard face climbs on Gunks-type rock. What we found, however, was a little different. There may be lots of hard routes, but there appear to be lots of easy ones, too. So read on.

To get there, take I-83 from Baltimore north to Harrisburg, then west to I-81 north. Take the exit for Nanticoke, (just past Hazleton a few miles, but before you get to Wilkes-Barre) and proceed toward Nanticoke on a four lane highway. Cross the Susquehanna River, (about three miles) and take Route 11 South towards Shickshinny and Mocanaqua. When you get to Shickshinny, head into town (it's small) and look for a road heading to the left back across the river--this will be Route 239 and will be sign-posted for Mocanaqua. Immediately after crossing the river, there will be a set of railroad tracks with a gravel parking area where you park. This is the crux of the trip--the parking area is used by 18-wheel trucks, so make sure you leave them plenty of room to maneuver! Also, parking on the railroad tracks themselves is not advised. On foot, cross the tracks perpendicularly, to a faint trail heading up hill

through some mine tailings. After about 100 yards, the trail will intersect with a gravel road. Head right along this road. There will be a 60-70 foot high cliff facing you--Paradise Cliff. It's 200-300 yards long, has a few bolts, and the bolted routes are for the most part 5.12a or harder! It also appears to have lots of routes in the 5.3-5.7 range, with plenty of opportunity for natural protection. The exit moves might be problematic, as there are piles of loose rock sliding downhill at the top of the cliff--so if you climb there, beware! It also seems that belays would be for the most part provided by birch trees.

Proceed along Paradise Cliff to the end, where there is a large mound of mine tailings. Contour around this up and to the right. You will be standing atop a large scree pile, looking at the head of a small gorge. There will be a 125 foot high cliff with yellow and red rock called The Yellow Wall on the left, with lots of 5.11's and 5.12's on it. To the right you will see a small piece of white rock hiding behind some hemlock trees--this is called The Library. It is a series of large buttresses, and is said to have primo rock and lots of 5.12's.

We didn't climb there; the brisk wind and falling snow dissuaded us from baring fingers longer than necessary. Observations, though, reduced what had been high anticipations to a more level-headed assessment. The rock is very nice--the sort of rough Gunks conglomerate that makes even tennis shoes stick like stealth rubber. The strata is horizontally broken--lots of little overhangs, but the angle of the rock is gentle (hence all the moderate looking routes).

In summary, Mocanaqua is certainly a place that should be visited. It's about a 4 1/2 hour trip from D.C., so that really

makes it a weekend sort of place. On the other hand, if you're retreating from the Gunks and the weather turns sunny, it might be worth stopping in to check it out.

Stuart and Karen Pregnall

NEW RIVER GORGE OCTOBER 1-2 & 29-30

We managed only a few trips to the New this Fall. Between meetings in the Gunks, social obligations, and general hoopla, time just wasn't available.

The first weekend we managed to finally climb the blunt arete that we'd attempted our very first trip down. It's just to the left of Perpetual Motion at the Head Wall, called All Things Considered, it's 5.11a, probably the best new route Karen and I have done, and if you think it's harder than 5.11a, take it up with the climbin' Canuck, since she downgraded it! An awkward start leads to good pro (natural), then the crux bulge (bolt), and a slightly run out stretch (crummy TCU in a slot next to a tiny, tiny sapling on the left) to a stance, then straight up the arete to the top (natural pro). We also top roped another pretty new route, but were too pooped and hot to fool with it. If it's still unclimbed by next spring, we'll go back and do it. We both tried another Horst horror show, but couldn't reach the key hold. That pretty much ended the day, and Sunday it rained.

I also traveled down with Rich Cunningham for a weekend. We climbed at the Central Endless Wall the first day, with Rich flashing The Undeserved (5.10b) and me flailing and failing on Back With My Kind (5.11c). We ended the day by climbing out via the Grafenburg Crack (5.9), which I had followed before but never led.

The next day we rapped into Fern Point Cirque, and Rich climbed the very elegant Mellifluous (5.11a) and I TR'd a

hard direct start to another route. We may go back in the future and straighten out the original line--the start upgrades the route two whole grades! By that time lethargy and hunger had set in, so we escaped via the fox hunter cracks (weird) and headed back to D.C.

COLUMBUS DAY AT THE GUNKS

A few hardy climbers braved rain and record cold temperatures at the Gunks over Columbus Day Weekend. When we heard on the drive up that the baseball playoff game at Shea Stadium was called for rain, we should have known better and gone home. After a Saturday of sleeping, sightseeing, eating, and checking out Foley's Irish pub, Sunday dawned mostly clear. Monday was glorious.

Our crew consisted of Gianni Battimelli, Kit Pollock, Jeffrey Levy, Lawrence DeMilner, Don Holtzer, Jeff Kramer, Ian Cruikshank, John Rayner and Jeanette Helfrich. Climbs conquered (more or less) included MF (5.9), Double Crack (5.8), No Glow (5.7), Birdland (5.9), Three Pines (5.3), Snooky's Return (5.8), Son of Easy O (5.8), Directissima (5.9), Gelsa (5.4), and Little Rascals [OK, so I don't know the grade of this one right off the top of my head--the typist].

Notes of interest: Dick Williams said that he has been testing pitons recently in the Birdland area and has removed the pins at the Roseland belay [you'll need a couple of Friends to arrange a safe belay here, and it means you'll have to climb the second pitch rather than rappelling off as has become common practice recently--the typist]...Dick was seen leading Bird Cage (5.10) with seemingly no effort...Jim and Laura McCarthy were climbing that weekend...The Northern Lights was closed temporarily pending its reopening as The Peppercorn...the broken front window at Rock and Snow was the

painful result of a missed swing during a fight between non-climbers...Ian led an expedition into (sort of) the water at Coxing Kill, which isn't any colder in the fall than the summer...don't forget that you can get New York weather forecasts on local cable TV.

Jeanette Helfrich

[I'd like to comment on the two pegs that were removed from the Roseland belay. They were both relatively new pegs--Dick has been working on replacing old belay pegs throughout the Gunks. However, both of these pegs were removed by hand when they were tested by a climber who had just completed the route. The moral of the story is that you can't trust fixed gear, anywhere, no matter how new it looks. If you can back it up with something, DO IT OR DIE!]

Stuart Pregnall

CRESCENT ROCKS OCTOBER 16

Maybe the reports of "serpenti excessimus" at Crescent Rocks are greatly exaggerated. An entire warm day was spent peering into cracks before inserting fingers, and nary a snake was seen. With its south facing and sheltered cliffs, Crescent Rock remains a wonderful place to climb in cold weather.

A large group of us set up all the usual climbs. Some personal bests were recorded on Coordination Street (5.10) while Green Duchess (5.11+) managed to defeat most of us. Stuart Pregnall also climbed a route (new?) that ascends the blunt arete to the right of Three Mantles and a Stem; it features thin face moves, an overhang, and a nice crack, and according to his recollection is in the 5.10 range.

Climbers included Stuart Pregnall, Jacques Tamisier, Gianni Battimelli, Alessandra Ricci, Kit Pollock, Matt Lavington, Michael Mergi, R.

Krishnan, Brian Borders, Michael Cubin, Zofia Kosim, Andrew Krevere, John Rayner and Jeanette Helfrich.

The by-pass around Leesburg has been extended and re-enters Route 7 just before coming into Round Hill. That means all of you McDonald's freaks will either have to back-track from this point, or exit the by-pass earlier at Purcellville.

Another note--the trail and base of the cliffs are getting pretty overgrown. The large trees growing there have died, and the increased sunlight has led to an explosion of undergrowth. Clippers and loppers would be useful equipment to carry this winter. In addition, the usual collection of trash, garbage, clothing, old peculiarities, etc. could stand a little attention--so bring some large trash bags, too!

THE HERMITAGE OCTOBER 30

With its north facing cliffs, the Hermitage is not for winter climbing. Funny how the climbs you can float up in summer seem desperate with frozen fingers. In spite of the cold, a few climbers got a good workout including Sue Hartley (a recent import from Minneapolis), Ima Curiel (a recent import from the Netherlands who teaches mathematics at UMD in Baltimore), Gianni Battimelli (a frequent import from Rome, stopping by from a day's climbing at Seneca with Charleston WV resident Jeff Brown), and Jeanette Helfrich.

Jeanette Helfrich.

HERB AND JAN CONN FEATURED

Hopefully many of you will already have read Beth Wald's profile of Herb and Jan Conn in the December issue of Climbing. If you haven't read it--read it!

BULL RUN UPDATE

Phil Paschall from the PATC's Land Acquisition Committee has sent the Section the latest proposal from the Virginia Outdoors Foundation with regard to the ongoing boundary dispute at Bull Run. The newly proposed division would, at first glance, not permit continued access to the rocks. In addition, the surveyor is reported to have "established" the proposed boundary by the environmentally questionable method of bulldozing a path!

Charlie Dorian has spoken with Leigh Haughter and scheduled an on site trip to view both the proposed boundary and the bulldozed desecration. Stay tuned for future details. You can bet, though, that if the bulldozer story is true, the VOF will get some pretty angry letters!

CLUB OFFICER NOMINATIONS

Just when you thought that the elections were over and done with, we have another one! The Nominating Committee is proposing the following candidates to be PATC-MS officers for 1989.

Chairman	Jeanette Helfrich
Vice	
Chairman	Tom Kawecki
Secretary	Kit Pollock
Treasurer	Jeff Kramer

JOSHUA TREE TRIP

Anyone interested in climbing at Joshua Tree and Red Rocks some time around the week of March 3rd-10th please get in touch with Stuart Pregnall. Both areas have great climbing with plenty of good routes of all grades. Climbers interested in going should be prepared to make plans no later than February 1st.

EVEREST EXPEDITION HELP WANTED

The local group heading off to Mt. Everest in February needs help in packing their truckload of equipment. This is a perfect opportunity for anyone interested in travelling or climbing in the Himalayas to get an idea of what is involved in terms of gear, food and logistics. You get a free education, they get some help.

Call 301-344-2459 and ask for Dr. Bob Reynolds or Sheri Henderson. They'll tell you when you can come, where to go, etc.

ICE CLIMBING LESSONS

In 1989, I plan to conduct one or two ice climbing sessions for those who have experience on rock but are new to ice. Since the weather is so unpredictable, it is difficult to schedule trips on weekends now, but I will hold a couple of weekends open for this purpose. Right now, January 14-16 is a tentative weekend, as is February 18-20. If you're interested, call me (703-960-6033) during the week before the trip if it has been very cold for the previous two days.

Pete Grant

ERIC HORST WORKOUT QUESTIONNAIRES

I have the questionnaires for Peak Performance USA workouts if anyone is interested. Now is the time to train!!! Eric's tailor made workout costs only \$35, and whereas it isn't the entire answer to better climbing, it's a good part of it. Call me if you're interested.

Stuart Pregnall

NEW UP ROPE WORD PROCESSOR

Jeffrey Levy has agreed to take over the UP ROPE word processing chores as of January. So, for those of you who still have trips reports to Peru, Bolivia, the Canadian Rockies, etc., please get them in! Tom Isaacson will remain as overall Editor--call him (202-332-3710) if you're unsure of who to send copy to.

LYCRA SALE

OK, the word is out. If you're interested in getting quality wild looking lycra at a cheap (well, pretty cheap) price, call Stuart Pregnall. These 5.12 togs will cost about \$25 per pair (less if we can get a large order in). They're one size fits all, no liners, and usually unique in terms of design. Call now: the order goes out in January.

CLIMBERS CALENDAR

Dec 14	Monthly Meeting	Rich Cunningham	202-332-7931
Dec 17	Great Falls	Rich Cunningham	202-332-7931
Dec 18	Carderock Work Trip	Harold Goldstein	202-966-9091
Jan 1	Carderock--COME START THE NEW YEAR ON THE ROCKS! 1989 WILL BE A GREAT YEAR, SO JOIN US!		
		Rich Cunningham	202-332-7931
Jan 9	Executive Meeting	Tom Isaacson	202-332-3710
Jan 11	Monthly Meeting--Officer Election	PATC HQ @ 7:30	
Jan 14/15	Loch Haven, PA** ICE!	Rich Cunningham	202-332-7931
Jan 28/29	Riegelsville, PA** Ice	Jeanette Helfrich	301-585-9119
Feb 1	Executive Meeting	Jeanette Helfrich	301-585-9119
Feb 8	Monthly Meeting	PATC HQ @ 7:30	
Feb 11/13	Loch Haven, PA** Ice	Rich Cunningham	202-332-7931
Mar 16	FILM FESTIVAL @ CIRCLE EMBASSY THEATER		

PLEASE NOTE: Call trip coordinators mid-week to make arrangements and contingency plans. Because of uncertain winter weather, check during the week to see if a trip is planned. In the absence of published trip leaders, call Rich Cunningham, Jeanette Helfrich, or Stuart Pregnall. Trips noted ** are to lead climbing areas. Please arrange for your own partners; the trip coordinator can help with arranging rides and other logistics.



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