



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

Vol. 44 Number 1

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### LETTER FROM THE PAST CHAIRPERSON

Dear Members:

As outgoing chairperson, I'd like to make a few observations about the Mountaineering Section, aka "The Club", over the past several years. These years have been good ones - the membership has remained strong, around 200. Just when we are saddened by some of our closest friends and strongest supporters in the Club moving away to new lands - Vancouver, Aspen, Paris, Boston, Zimbabwe, Phoenix, Brasilia (at least they're moving to interesting places) - we find that enthusiastic new faces keep appearing at our functions, and so we make new friends. The thing that has always struck me about the club is the diversity of its members and their interests. One can attend club functions and meet stimulating people from all over the world in many different fields (although an informal poll shows that science predominates).

The long traditions and mainstays of the club activities remain strong - the invariable Wednesday monthly meeting and slide shows, the potluck dinner executive committee meetings (although this club isn't known for its culinary talents), the Saturday and Sunday top-roping trips, weekends lead-climbing at the Gunks and Seneca Rocks, but most of all, the easy ribaldry, camaraderie, and support of fellow climbers having a good time. UPROPE keeps providing the glue to make us a club. We painted the Nelson House; we did maintenance at Carderock; and we continued to pursue our rights to climb at Bull Run. We brought well-

known climbers to Washington to share their adventures with us: Lynn Hill, Glenn Porzak, Mark Wilford, and the Paul Piana non-slide show. Our parent club, PATC, continues to provide comfortable logistical support and the credibility of its membership of over 4,000 people and a 60-year history.

Some innovations have gradually insinuated themselves, however. We now climb at Great Falls more than Carderock; we go to the New River Gorge as well as to Seneca and the Gunks; we have a social hour at the monthly meetings with pizza and beer; more of us work out intensively for climbing, climb on artificial walls, and enter sport climbing competitions; we wear Lycra and Gore-tex instead of wool knickers and painters' pants; club business gets done by telephone answering machine. Maybe next year PATC will realize its plans to move from Dupont Circle to the suburbs. Surely the club will survive even that.

Some new club activities merit comment. The film festival, now in its third year after two highly successful festivals, grew out of the brainstorming of Madeleine Carter and Ken Andrasko. Both Madeleine and Ken have brought the club new vision and ideas and the confidence that we can do anything we set our minds to. Although some of us eventually have questioned (after burnout) whether the film festival is the best use of the club's energies, of which it takes a considerable amount, the festival now seems somewhat entrenched and is certainly popular

with the club members and the community. Another new activity is the formation of a Climbing Wall Committee, headed by Tom Haliki, which we hope will bring us great things in the future. A revitalized activity, which I cannot praise highly enough, is the Expeditions Committee, rejuvenated by Tim Hood. Tim has organized a climbing trip to New Hampshire this winter and to the Tetons this summer. Researching, organizing and participating in such trips to climb with like-minded friends in far away places is, to me, the essence of why many of us joined the club in the first place.

Specifically, I would like to thank the many individuals who have recently contributed a great deal to the club and who made being an officer rewarding over the past two years: John Yanson, forever cheerful and the possessor of illustrative talents, who I know will do a great job as chairperson this year (besides, he lives close enough to PATC to put the beer in the refrigerator before meetings); Jeff Kramer, quiet and competent balancer of the books (leaving a nice surplus), and provider of trip leadership on the coldest of days (when yours truly is still in the feathers); Tom Isaacson, workout freak and welcome ear for trials and tribulations and a constant source of good judgment and wisdom who manages to keep UPROPE appearing in spite of all odds; Jeffrey Levy, wry wit and enthusiastic volunteer for a multitude of tasks that actually appear to get done; Michael Mergi, the

backbone of UPROPE who has done lots of licking and stamping and delivering to the Merrifield post office; Doug Craun, painter and prodigious purveyor of pizza and beer; Pete Grant, race car driver and trainer of scores of new climbers; Madeleine Carter, filmmaker who brought us many enjoyable films and slide shows as monthly programs, who instituted the film festival and whose presence in DC is sorely missed; Clair Ganz, bringing us new monthly slide shows and more film festival tickets than we can ever sell; Tim Hood, proud father who single-handedly restarted the tradition of club expeditions to far places; Tom Kawecki, home renovator who finds time to handle the publicity for our many programs; Selma Hanel, a club historian and tireless editor soon to bring us the Carderock guidebook; Ken Andrasko, world traveler who inspired the first film festival and thinks up new ideas faster than we can absorb them; Anne Baron, French translator extraordinary with a larger vocabulary in English than most climbers; Stuart and Karen Pregnall, Rich Cunningham, Tom Russell, Ed Cummings, Charlie Dorian, those past officers whom I could always count on for some sage advice; and Lee Collyer, PATC staff manager, who eases the logistics of organization.

Endearing the Club to me in a very basic way is the Club's long-standing support for women both as climbers and as leaders of the club. This equality and tolerance appears to stretch back to times when such support could not be taken for granted in our institutions and clubs, particularly in sports. The long tradition of women's involvement in the club started at least in 1944 when Jan Conn helped start UPROPE and pioneered many routes in this area. Women's involvement continued through the chairpersonships of Margaret Wettling, Sallie Greenwood, Dorothy Martin, Martha Hale and yours truly. Many contributions to strong climbing and club organization have been made in recent memory by Selma Hanel, Madeleine Carter, Karen Pregnall, Sue Hartley, Nori Gessler, Clair Witt, Anne Baron, Clair Ganz, Helen Grant, Marcy Logan, Barbara McLlewellyn, Kathy Rebibo, Kit Pollok, Lynn Murphy,

June Lehman, Elizabeth Vos, Blondie Worrell, and many others.

Sincerely,  
Jeanette Helfrich

### **FRENCH FILMMAKER TO ATTEND FILM FESTIVAL**

French mountaineer and filmmaker Marc Batard is planning to attend the Third Annual Washington Mountain Film Festival on March 15, 1990, for the showing of his film "Le Sprinter de l'Everest". On September 26, 1988, Marc achieved the amazing feat of climbing Mt. Everest (8,848 meters) in 22 hours and 30 minutes without oxygen. Marc attained the summit on his third attempt with the assistance of Sherpa climbers breaking trail and setting up two camps on the mountain. His exploits are set out in his film and book of the same name with the collaboration of Brigitte Logeart. His further exploits include the first solo ascent of the west pillar of Makalu (8,481 meters) in 18 hours and his ascent of Cho Oyu (8,200 meters) in 19 hours in 1988. A veteran of many other Himalayan and Alpine climbs, he is a well-known mountaineer in France and has received several awards for his adventures. Marc is a 36-year old mountain guide from Megeve in the French Alps, where he lives with wife and three children. In Washington, he will be the guest of the Mountaineering Section and will meet with various journalists, mountaineers and club members. For more information concerning Marc's visit, please call Tom Kawecki, Anne Baron or Jeanette Helfrich. Also see the enclosed flyer about the film festival, and call Jeffrey Levy with questions at (703) 934-3889 (O).

### **BRIEF HISTORY OF MOUNTAINEERING SECTION AND UPROPE**

The Mountaineering Section of PATC has existed in spirit since the 1920's, although the organization began under a different name. Under the leadership and enthusiasm for exploration and climbing by Gustave Gambs, rock climbing became popular in the Great Falls area. The cliffs were frequented for weekend outings by a group called the Washington

Rock Climbers. They recorded their adventures in the newsletter UPROPE which was founded in 1950 by Herb and Jan Conn. In 1950, the Washington Rock Climbers joined PATC and became the Mountaineering Committee and UPROPE became the club newsletter. The group changed its name in 1965 to the Mountaineering Section of PATC. From 1944 to the present, UPROPE has continued to report trips to local climbing areas, anecdotes of first ascents, names of new routes, vignettes of members' adventures and expeditions to other rock climbing and mountaineering areas in the United States and around the world.

### **"TO THE LIMIT" CLIMBING FILM**

Don't miss the stunning climbing sequences by Tony Yaniro shown at the Maryland Science Center's IMAX film presentations at Harborplace in Baltimore. Presented on a five-story high screen, the film features Tony Yaniro climbing in Yosemite including shots of him soloing "A Separate Reality". The film focuses on taking the human body "to the limit" as illustrated in ballet, rock climbing and downhill ski racing. You can see the film most Saturdays and Sundays at 3:00 p.m. The charge is \$3.00 for the film and \$4.50 to enter the Science Center.

### **DUES DUE**

**DUES FOR 1990 ARE NOW DUE:** Individual membership \$15.00; family/-joint, \$15.00 plus \$10.00 per member; non-resident, \$10.00. Please make out your check to PATC/MS and send to Ron Sitrin, Treasurer, 3825 Swann House Court, Burtonsville MD 20866, telephone (301) 890-5243, or to PATC-MS at PATC headquarters.

### **ELECTIONS HELD**

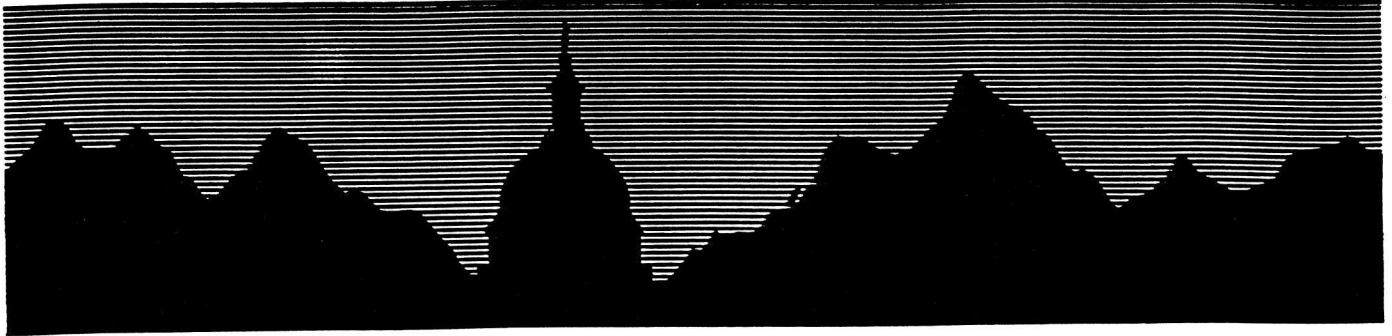
The membership unanimously elected the nominated slate of officers for 1989 at the annual meeting held January 10, 1990. Good luck to the new officers, who are:

John Yanson, Chairperson, (202) 667-4334 (home), (202) 347-1511

The Mountaineering Section of the Potomac Appalachian Trail Club  
presents

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# THE THIRD ANNUAL WASHINGTON, DC



# MOUNTAIN FILM FESTIVAL

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THURSDAY, MARCH 15, 1990-6:30 PM  
CINEPLEX ODEON EMBASSY THEATER

1927 Florida Avenue, N.W.

3 blocks north of DuPont Circle off Connecticut Avenue

Three hours of award-winning European and  
American rock climbing and mountaineering films.

Special Guest MARC BATARD with his film SPRINTER ON EVEREST

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## SPONSORS

REI (Recreational Equipment Inc.)  
College Park, MD (301) 982-9681  
Tickets Available

OUTDOOR PROVISIONARIES  
Great Falls, VA (703) 759-7950  
Tickets Available

EMS (Eastern Mountain Sports)  
Alexandria, VA (703) 354-8664  
Tickets Available

HUDSON TRAIL OUTFITTERS

POTOMAC APPALACHIAN TRAIL CLUB  
1718 N Street, NW Washington, DC  
(202) 638-5306  
Tickets Available

During intermission the American Alpine Club ACCESS FUND, created to purchase and improve climbing areas, will conduct an auction of climbing and camping equipment donated by our sponsors. This is your opportunity to make a great deal on equipment and support an issue that affects us all.

(office). John is a self-employed professional artist and illustrator.

Jeffrey Levy, Vice Chairperson, (703) 527-8331 (home), (703) 934-3889 (office). Jeffrey is a computer programmer with ICF, Inc. He has taught climbing at Cornell University.

Frank "Dusty" Wissmath, Secretary, (301) 585-7610. Frank recently moved here from Wyoming, where he taught climbing at the University of Wyoming.

Ron Sitrin, Treasurer, (301) 890-5243 (home and office), is a C.P.A. who has just started up his own accounting business.

### **LIBRARY AT PATC**

The library on the fourth floor of PATC contains a wealth of information of interest to climbers. The library subscribes to Climbing, Backpacker, and Outside and binds the older copies of those publications as well as the UPROPEs. There are lots of books on mountaineering and climbing guidebooks, although the bulk of the collection consists of hiking and trail books. The sets of the American Alpine Journal and the Canadian Alpine Journal are occasionally incomplete and need some work. PATC members Mary and Bernie Morgan (864-1324) began working intensively on the library last November and will let the MS know how we can help complete and/or expand the library's resources. Although PATC has been re-evaluating the desirability of keeping the library, the MS strongly favors maintaining the collection. Many MS members use these publications to research possible peaks and climbing areas. The library welcomes any donations of relevant books and publications. For more information call Jeanette Helfrich at 585-9119.

### **LIZ LEE and HERB OLSON JOIN UPROPE**

Liz Lee has recently joined the UPROPE staff. She is a former writer for the Foreign Service Journal and now works for the Population Reference Bureau. Newsletter copy should be sent to her at 1530 Kay Blvd., #829, Arlington, VA 22209. As of April 1, she'll be living at: 4604 Windsor Lane, Bethesda, MD.

We look forward to her professional touch to the newsletter.

Herb Olson has also joined UPROPE. Herb recently moved here from Portland, Oregon, and now works in Virginia. Herb brings with him a wealth of rock climbing and mountaineering experience from the Pacific Northwest which we hope he will share with us. Herb may be reached at (703) 734-9257 (home) or (703) 631-7800 (office).

### **CLIMBING COMPETITION AND AUCTION**

Rumor from Stuart Pregnall has it that the 1990 SPRINGSTONE climbing competition will be held in the Washington, D.C. area on Saturday and Sunday, June 9 and 10 on the grounds on REI in College Park. An auction of climbing equipment and books will be held concurrently as a fund-raising event for the newly-launched Access Fund. The Access Fund is a new program of the American Alpine Club established to purchase and maintain climbing areas which have been closed to climbing and to which access has been limited. The MS has decided to allow the AAC to run a short auction to introduce and benefit the Access Fund at the MS film festival on March 15 which will replace the raffle at intermission. Prizes for the auction are generously being donated by the climbing and outdoor stores sponsoring the film festival: REI, EMS, HTO, and Outdoor Provisionaries. For more information on the A.A.C. Access Fund, call Stuart Pregnall at 543-2988 or write P.O. Box 67A25, Los Angeles, CA 90067.

### **MISCELLANEOUS**

I recently received a card from Rich Cunningham, written Rich's architecturally precise penmanship. He has settled down in Carbondale, Colorado - near Aspen. All seems well. His and Judy Harper's new address: 89 Meadowood B4, Carbondale CO 81623.



# MOUNTAINEERING SECTION

Potomac Appalachian Trail Club,  
1718 N Street, N.W. ♦ Washington, D.C. 20036

## CLIMBERS' CALENDAR

Revised 2/15/90

DATE	AREA OR EVENT	PERSON TO CONTACT	PHONE	PLACE**
Feb. 25	Sugarloaf MD	John Yanson	667-4334	RR
March 4	Crescent Rocks Va	Jeanette Helfrich	585-9119	TC
March 7	Executive Committee	John Yanson	667-4334	TBA
March 11	Camp Lewis/Carderock Md.	John Yanson	667-4334	CD
March 14	Monthly Meeting	John Yanson	667-4334	HQ
March 15	Claire Ganz - Climbing Mt. Baker and Mt. Rainier THIRD ANNUAL WASHINGTON MOUNTAIN FILM FESTIVAL, Cineplex Odeon Embassy Theater. 1927 Florida Avenue, N.W., (off DuPont Circle) 6:30 p.m. Three hours of award-winning rock climbing and mountaineering films from Banff, Telluride, Diablerets. Tickets: \$10 in advance or at the door.	Jeffrey Levy	461-0649	
March 17	Film Festival Party, 8pm	Jeanette Helfrich	585-9119	TBA
March 18	Crescent Rocks Va	Tom Isaacson	332-3710	TC
March 18	Basic Climbing Training	Pete Grant	960-6033	CD
March 24	Bulges (Great Falls MD)	Tom Kaweck	832-5006	TBA
March 25	Bull Run Va	John Yanson	667-4334	AO
March 31	Great Falls VA	Charlie Dorian	946-2373	AO
April 1	Boucher Rocks VA	Tom Haliki	370-7026	GF
April 4	Executive Committee	Doug Craun	323-5256	TBA
April 7	Great Falls VA	John Yanson	667-4334	TBA
April 11	Monthly Meeting	Jeffrey Levy	461-0649	GR
April 8	Cauvey's Castle, W. VA	John Yanson	667-4334	TBA
April 15	Annapolis Rocks MD	Jeanette Helfrich	585-9119	TBA
April 21	Great Falls VA	Tom Isaacson	332-2710	RR
April 22	Old Rag VA	John Yanson	667-4334	GF
April 28	Great Falls VA	Tom Haliki	370-7026	AO
April 29	Cow Hoof (Great Falls)	Dusty Wissmath	585-7610	GF
May 2	Executive Committee	Don Holtzer	656-4076	GF
May 5-6*	New River Gorge, W.Va.	John Yanson	667-4334	TBA
May 9	Monthly Meeting	Jeanette Helfrich	585-9119	TBA
May 12	Great Falls VA	John Yanson	667-4334	TBA
May 13	Annapolis Rocks	Dusty Wissmath	585-7610	GA
May 20	Great Falls VA	John Yanson	667-4334	RR
May 26-28*	Gunks, New Paltz NY	Don Holtzer	656-4076	GF
June 9-10	SPRINGSTONE CLIMBING COMP.	Jeffrey Levy	461-0649	TBA
		Stuart Pregnall	543-3988	REI

Please call the trip leaders in mid-week to make arrangements and contingency plans. In the absence of published trip leaders, call John Yanson, 667-4334; Jeffrey Levy, 461-0649; Dusty Wissmath, 585-7610; or Ron Sitrin, 890-5243.

\*These trips are to lead climbing areas. Please arrange for your own partners. Trip leaders will help arrange rides and other logistics.

**\*\*MEETING PLACES FOR CLIMBING TRIPS:**

**TBA = To Be Announced**

**REI = Recreational Equipment Inc.**, 9801 Rhode Island Ave., College Park, MD. **DIR:** Exit I-495 at exit Rt. 1 south; immediate L. at light onto Edgemore; R. at 4-way stop on Rhode Island Ave.; L. into parking lot.

**RR = Roy Rogers Restaurant**, 465 N. Fredrick Rd, Gaithersburg, MD. **DIR:** Exit I-270 at exit Rt. 124 E. (Montgomery Village Ave.); R. on Rt. 355 S. (Fredrick Rd); L. at second light. U-turn into parking lot behind restaurant.

**TC = Tysons Corner, Hardee's Restaurant and Central Fidelity Bank Parking Lot**, 8111 Leesburg Pike, Vienna, Va. **DIR:** Exit I-495 at Rt. 7 W. (Tysons Corners); L. at second light into bank lot.

**AO = Appalachian Outfitters**, 2930 Chain Bridge Rd., Oakton, VA. **DIR:** Exit I-66 at exit 16 (Rt. 123 N); L. just past fourth light (AO is on your left) into shopping center, go to far left into bank parking lot closest to AO store.

**GF = Great Falls National Park**, 9200 Old Dominion Dr., Great Falls, VA. **DIR:** Exit I-495 at exit 13 (Rt. 193/Great Falls); W. on Georgetown Pike about 4 miles; R. at light into park; hard R. past ranger's booth into lower parking lot, see notes on car windshield for specific climbing area.

**CD = Carderock Park**, Potomac, MD. **DIR:** Exit I-495 at exit 41 (Carderock exit); W. on G-W parkway about 1/2 mile; exit R. at Carderock exit; L. across parkway; R. at stop sign to last (third) parking lot.

**HQ = Headquarters of PATC/MS**, 1718 N St., N.W., Washington, D.C. **DIR:** 1 block east of Conn. Ave. near DuPont Circle Metro stop (Red Line).