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BOOK REVIEW

Seneca, The Climber's Guide

by Bill Webster

Earthbound, 1990, 156 pp.

Reviewed by Tom Isaacson

You've asked for it, you've asked about it, you've wished you had it, you've long since forgotten about it and yet, when you least expected it, it's here! The new Seneca guidebook is available. After years of speculation that someone connected with the Gendarme would publish a new guidebook, the task finally fell to Bill Webster to revise his earlier work.

The new guidebook achieves its primary purpose—to collect in one place all the old routes together with those that have been added since the previous guidebook was published in 1980.

There are several significant improvements over the previous book. The action photos, including the color shots on the front and back cover, are larger and generally more striking. The photos of the cliffs also are larger and much more distinct. Also, Webster has included some shots of female climbers and some his-

torically significant photos as well.

The ratings depart from the old Seneca sandbag ratings and, in my opinion, conform more or less to generally accepted East Coast standards. Eddie Begoon complained that the new guidebook overrated his climbs, which probably means the new ratings are about right (Begoon routes are notorious sandbags).

Although the new book is far superior to its predecessor, there are a few areas in which it falls short of current guidebook standards.

First, the cover is made of low-grade paper that won't survive very long in your pack. If this was done to keep costs down, you couldn't tell it from the price. At \$16.95, the book is at the high end of the price range for comparably sized guides.

Second, several of the photos depict "unknown" climbers. Even a modicum of local inquiry would have revealed the names of at least some of those anonymous figures.

Third, the description of the rockfall situation at Seneca

would lead the newcomer to believe that Seneca rock is about as solid as that found at most climbing areas. In my experience Seneca presents the most serious rockfall danger of any crag I've ever visited. There is no excuse for downplaying the severity of this problem.

Fourth, while I do not intend to nitpick over literary styles (lest someone review Up-Rope), there are a few transgressions that should not go unmentioned. I challenge the statement that "Paul Bradt, Herb and Jan Conn, Charlie Daniels, Don Hubbard, Andy Kauffman, Sam Moore and Chris Scordo...were average men with an odd passion." They deserve better. And I would not, as did the author, put the fall of the gendarme on a par with the flood of 1985 as one of the "great tragedies" of the 1980s.

Furthermore, I found the observation that "the end of the decade saw a decrease in the number of new routes as well as the presence of well-honed hardmen" somewhat beneath even the modest standards of climbing literature. "Totally rad, dude."

Back on a more positive note, I first used the guidebook to get

Tom Halicki and myself to the lower slabs. The directions were very good and we found the place without any wrong turns. Any guidebook that gets you to the routes, gives you reliable ratings, shows where the routes go and how to get down is worth owning. The historical perspective offered by Bill Webster is a bonus. The guidebook has its shortcomings, but I bought one and you probably should too.

HERMITAGE RESCUE AND FIRST AID TRAINING TRIP

by Elizabeth Lee and Jeanette Helfrich

They're the kind of stories that can keep you up at night and off the rock for months--stories about severed limbs and broken bones, about heroism and fear.

About 25 MS members were treated to just such tales of guts and gore the weekend of August 8-9 when they attended a rudimentary rescue and first aid course at the Hermitage in Pennsylvania. Taught by Dusty Wissmath, Secretary of the PATC/MS, the course was a sobering run-down of accidents that can befall a climber and how to treat accompanying injuries and illnesses-- whether they're your own or someone else's--before professional rescuers arrive at the scene.

Dusty, who has served on the search-and-rescue team in the Tetons in Wyoming, drew the rapt attention of the crowd as he presented his extensive knowledge of rescue and first aid procedure. Seated (somewhat uncomfortably) on the rustic front porch of the PATC cabin about 20 feet below the rocks,

the assorted MS members watched Dusty demonstrate such skills as tourniquet technique, splint manufacturing and construction of a makeshift litter from a climbing rope.

Also discussed were simple, compound and compound complex fractures, the latter of which John Yanson witnessed on his recent climbing trip to Colorado and described to the group. His story left some pale faces.

Jeanette Helfrich then told a first-person account of being avalanched on Langtang Lirung in Nepal, and described how her party of eight checked each other for external injuries as well as for signs of internal injuries and shock.

After the morning-long session, the group broke for lunch and in the afternoon concentrated on the business of climbing. In between routes various people practiced self-rescue techniques by ascending a top-rope via jumar and prusik knots--with varying rates of progress.

Everyone who attended the day-long workshop appreciated the opportunity to learn such vital skills from a knowledgeable and accessible source. The exercise just scratched the surface of the body of knowledge and experience held by collective MS members, and prompted talk of holding similar--though perhaps more in-depth--sessions in the near future.

The Hermitage Cabin provided the setting for our training session and for an enjoyable overnight stay on Saturday. The cabin is part of the Appalachian Trail system and is administered by PATC and a local volunteer

PATC overseer who keeps it in tip-top condition. We found it fully equipped for housekeeping with a wood stove, wood, axes, cooking utensils, dishes, grill, picnic table, inside dining table and benches, storage racks for packs and clothes, furniture, working windows with screens, sleeping loft and thick upholstered (and clean) mattresses for sleeping.

If we could only get PATC to run the Nelson House??

After a pleasant, if somewhat prolonged multi-course dinner, we staked out sleeping places on the roomy porch, one tent, and the loft which was habitable even in August. Those among the 25 people participating in the seminar who stayed overnight included John Yanson, Gordon Swenson, Paul Torrelli, Doug Dupuis, Subhash Lele, Jeanette Helfrich, John Rayner and Hugh Brown and daughters.

NELSON HOUSE TRIP REPORT LE WEEKEND

Fifteen MS members held a summer picnic and BBQ at the Nelson House and conquered some summits at Nelson Rocks on August 4-5, 1990. After standing at the first gate around midnight Friday to debate the birth year of the Nelsons' daughter, we headed up the mountain road. The surrounding hillsides were breath-taking in the full moonlight.

The road has been in decent condition since the flood of '85, but only careful driving through the ruts rewards the underside of cars. I found my upbringing in driving farm implements through

Kansas pastures beneficial to my new low-slung sports car. We were able to pick out the driveway through the overgrown weeds, trying not to light any fires with our catalytic converters. We then plowed our way to the front door through overgrown thistles reaching six feet high. After sniffing around the house, we decided to bed down on the porches as usual.

All too early on Saturday morning the next batch of arrivals, including Michelle Meacham and Carter Mackley on a motorcycle, could be heard coming up the road. With the new arrivals, we stomped a path around the house and intruded on John's quiet slumber on the east porch. He couldn't believe such well-known herpephobes were blithely tramping through the grass.

Later we found the resident black snake nestled among the porch rocks. It slithered away, however, not to reappear during our stay, likely petrified by hoards of thistle-stompers. (Any other fans of the Fat Broad in B.C. out there?). Soon every thistle in the yard lay prone. Finally, we headed downhill to the rocks. After climbing, we waded in the creek and returned to Nelson house for a BBQ and picnic. We ate dinner after proceeding to spill all the not-quite-hot charcoal on the ground and then pick it up. The menu included shish-kebabs, turkey burgers, chicken, kielbasa, tomatoes, watermelon, potato salad, sesame noodles and copious amounts of beer and wine. As usual, MS diets were amazing, ranging from Diet Coke and donuts for breakfast all the way to Michael's home-made whole wheat biscuits and noodles. One certainly doesn't often

get those homemade salads and brownies served at PATC functions. (We sport climbers are always on diets, supposedly.)

Sunday dawned rainy and cloudy. After naps and a three-hour breakfast of left-overs and more junk food, we called it quits and headed for home. We all agreed that there's lots of charm and good times to be found in those West Virginia hollows.

The rowdy crew that actually made it to the Nelson House: Michael Mergi, Ken Klapatch, Amy Lueders, Elizabeth Erskine, Subhash Lele, Carter Mackley, Michelle Meacham, John Rudick, Chris Chen, Gordon Swenson, Paula and Phil Grant, John Rayner, and Jeanette Helfrich. Those who didn't quite find the house but had a nice picnic anyway in some nearby alfalfa field included: Christina Barros, Jeff Kramer, Don Holtzer, Antoine Brezin and Dan Kimes.

We plan to schedule another Nelson Rocks weekend this fall for climbing and some work on the house. The foundation under the kitchen needs some work. To follow up our painting of the outside of the house last year we need to paint the trim, and the kitchen could use a fresh coat. Varmints have chewed a hole through the floor in the southwest corner of the living room, which needs immediate repair. Join us next time and have some fun in the hills.

For new readers, the Nelson family has let MS use their old farmhouse as a cabin since 1973 while climbing in the area in return for keeping up the house. The house is about 12 miles (a

20-minute drive) south of Seneca up in a picturesque West Virginia hollow. It has a large living room, a kitchen, a fireplace and two bedrooms upstairs. There's also an outhouse and several other farm buildings but no running water. We would like to furnish Nelson house as a country cabin and welcome your donations of furniture and household items.

THE CLIMBING:

Nelson Rocks are about 1/2 to 1 mile from the main road. There are no locked gates between the road and the rocks. We parked at a small turnout on the south side of the road at the gap in the rocks with space for about six cars besides a small stream. What rocks! Nearly invisible from the road, they rise majestically in four giant dinosaur fins appearing to be 300-500 feet high, higher than Seneca Rocks. Each fin appeared to be about 50' wide at the bottom and 3' wide at the top in certain places. We walked up the talus slope on the north side of the road between the northeast and northwest fins. The space between the fins is about 100 feet wide and rises up gradually for about 600-800 feet where it finally joins the hillside similar to the north end of Seneca.

We approached the rocks based on information Ken Andrasko had gleaned from a trip there last Thanksgiving and the log book in the Nelson House which was not very helpful but entertaining (lots of Ian, James, Martha, etc. stories). Obviously many people have climbed in this area but the majority of the possible routes are full of lichen and vegetation. The rock appeared to be quite solid and similar to Seneca although, as in any area not

frequently climbed, there was lots of loose rock. Helmets are advised.

We hiked up the talus slope for about 75' then turned right and scrambled up 20' similar to the approach to Luncheon Ledges at Seneca. We climbed three climbs on the west side of the Northeast Fin. Since none of us had climbed there before, the names of the following climbs are merely descriptive. We found the following climbs in order, from left to right (north to south):

CLASSIC CRACK, 2 pitches, 5.9 - First pitch (30'), climb up at slightly overhanging left-facing corner, continue up near arete to good ledge, walk left 10-15' to belay at tree; Second pitch (60'), traverse diagonally to right using obvious large crack, to base of classic vertical finger crack in a beautiful blank wall, good protection, can sew up crack, crux is about 2/3 up vertical crack just below a small off-width crack to ledge. Go left to pine tree for belay. Rappel off slings and rappel rings on tree. Optional third pitch: scramble to top of ridge, traverse up ridge (left, north) on rotten rock.

VARIATION on second pitch, unknown grade. From the base of the vertical crack, traverse diagonally up right to a line of 3-4 bolts near the arete.

OFF-WIDTH CRACK, 2 pitches, 5.9 moves on vertical section, some scrambling. Rappel off pine tree by Classic Crack.

END ARETE, 2 pitches, some 5.8+ moves. First pitch (best) - Scramble up to ledge to begin climb (or add another pitch climbing arete all the way from base). Climb up 20', go over

overhang (pumpy), continue up 20' in hand crack to tree. Second pitch - Climb up either on face or blocks at end of cliff (can see through to east side) 70' to ridge. To rappel, put sling on block (not great).

BOLTED FACE AND CORNER:

Go back down to the talus slope and continue uphill another 200-300' to a fairly clean right-facing corner rising about 60'. It looks like the corner might be a 5.8 climb similar to Triple S at Seneca. The arete and adjoining wall to the left might be a 5.9 similar to Marshall's Madness. To the right of the corner is a route with 3-4 bolts. The first bolt is about 20' up and possibly could be clipped from pro placed in the corner. Another route about 6 feet to the right of the bolted route has 2 pins about 25' up and looks pretty hard. There are possibilities for some easy routes just past this area with trees dotting the laid-back rock in this area. We got rained out the second day and didn't get to try these climbs but definitely want to go back and try them.

DIRECTIONS TO NELSON HOUSE :

From Seneca Rocks, take Rt. 28 south through Riverton. About 1-2 miles past Riverton, Rt. 28 turns right just after you cross a river. (Don't take Rt. 33 left to Franklin). Follow Rt. 28 to the right about another 1/2 mile.

Turn left on what looks like a farm road with a gate. Pull in, open the gate, drive through and be SURE to close the gate or the cows will get out. The farm road is easy to miss. If you get as far as Circleville, turn around and try again. Go up the dirt road (in generally good condition) through the gap in Nelson rocks.

Go past the little white school house on your right to where the road splits with a gate across each road. Take the road with the gate on your right (be sure to close the gate) using the four-digit combination lock. Follow the road 1 and 1/2 miles. The Nelson House is the white house on your right. The road sometimes is deeply rutted and you might want to leave your car down the road a piece.

CLASSIC

by Jeffrey Levy

Sunny day, climbing well,
Could I lead it? Time would tell.
Made the crux, going strong,
never thinking something's
wrong.

My last piece - way down there?
Fifteen feet of thin air.
Getting nervous, gotta stop;
Don't see pro; what if I pop?
Try a little farther is my call.
Hands sweating, legs shaking - I

f
a
l
l.

No memory of slipping, though.
Just one thought - here I go!
Tilted left, speeding down,
thirty feet toward the ground.
Upside down I come to rest;
a helmet I have but no harnessed
chest.

I bang my leg, but nothing
breaks.

Okay for awhile - then the
shakes.

People shout, do I need help?
Their concern is deeply felt.
Off to emergency, to get myself
checked.

But I feel inside what to expect.
I'll wear a brace and walk on
crutches,
but death hasn't got me in its
clutches.

So now you ask, where from here?

I don't know, no answer's clear. I'll climb again, I'll pass this trial. But pushing leads may take awhile.

I got lucky, I can't hedge.

Three feet more I'd have hit a ledge.

SUMMER TRAVELS

by Jeanette Helfrich

"What I did on my summer vacation." MS members have been all over the world this year. Andy Kauffman was honored in June at a reunion in Chamonix, France, of all mountaineers who have made first ascents of 8,000 meter peaks (Andy was on the team that climbed Hidden Peak in 1958). Ken Andrasko attempted the "Dru" peak in Switzerland with Jacques Tamisier and other French climbers in August. Jeanette Helfrich trekked in Nepal in April, climbed Ganja La Chuli and was a member of the Rick Wilcox team that attempted to make the first American ascent of Langtang Lirung. Ed Cumming, Charlie Dorian, Ricky Todd and Ian Cruickshank climbed Mt. Moran and the Direct Exum route up the Grand Teton in July. John Rayner and Tom Isaacson are climbing in southern France in the Verdon Gorge and Buoux in September. Tom Kawecki and Tom Isaacson climbed in Yosemite Valley and Tuolumne Meadows in July. John Yanson climbed Spearhead Peak in Rocky Mountain National Park and in El Dorado and Boulder Canyons in Colorado. Stuart and Karen Pregnall and Jeanette Helfrich attended the wedding of former MS President Rich Cunningham and Judy Harper in Boulder on September 1 and

climbed in El Dorado and Boulder canyons. Stuart and Karen Pregnall had a son, Duncan, on June 1, 1990. Dave Coffey, Don Holtzer, and Jeff Kramer climbed in the Adirondacks over Labor Day. Paul Torrelli will be trekking in Nepal in the Hinku valley in October and making an attempt on Mera Peak. If we didn't include your trip, we apologize. Just write us a note and we'll publish it.

AMERICAN LANGTANG EXPEDITION APRIL 1990

by Jeanette Helfrich

SUMMARY: An American expedition led by Richard French Wilcox of North Conway, New Hampshire, attempted the first American ascent of Langtang Lirung (7,246 meters/23,773 feet) by the southeast ridge in April 1990. Base camp was established on April 3 at approximately 13,550 feet on the glacial moraine of the Lirung glacier due east of the summit and north of the Kyangjin Gompa in the Langtang River Valley.

The group established Camp I on Langtang Lirung on April 13 at approximately 16,000 feet on a snow-covered outcropping well to the south of the Lirung glacier and northeast of a gully about 2,500 feet long which led to the southeast ridge. On April 16, two of the party ascended the gully to the southeast ridge and climbed the ridge to the expedition's high point just below Camp II at approximately 20,000 feet. On April 17, further attempts to progress up the mountain were cancelled because of lack of time remaining to surmount the

technical difficulties on the ridge between Camps I and II and between Camps II and III. On April 18, eight members of the expedition left Camp I in an attempt to retrieve gear and to reach the expedition's high point. As the group approached the top of the gully, an avalanche swept six of the group approximately 2,000 feet down the gully, breaking a polypropylene fixed rope in two places. None of the six suffered serious injury.

Earlier, from the same base camp, the expedition members climbed Naya Kanga (also known as Ganja La Chuli) (5,846 meters or 19,179 feet), summitting on April 9. The peak of Kyangjin Ri (4,700 m/15,420 ft) was also climbed by some of the group on April 5.

The climbers on Naya Kanga included three women and 16 men, including one British citizen and one Canadian citizen. The expedition members were: from North Conway, New Hampshire, Rick Wilcox, 43, trip leader and mountaineering retail store owner; Marc Chauvin, 37, mountain guide; Nick Yardley, 23, mountain guide, British citizen; Dan Doherty, 24, apprentice mountain guide; Chris Hurtabise, 35, pharmacist; Henry Kendall, 63, professor at MIT, Sharon, Massachusetts; Peter Gamashe, 28, pharmacist, 28, Gofftown, N.H.; Jeanette Helfrich, 45, attorney, Washington, DC; Henry Kohn, 45, truck driver, Ware, Mass; Ajax Green, 32, health program consultant, Boston; Judy Grossman, 48, nurse, Ware, Massachusetts; Jim Balog, 34, professional photographer, Boulder, Colorado; Jim Driver, 38, mountain guide, Salt Lake City; Jennifer Stevens, 22,

apprentice mountain guide, Salt Lake City; Jeff Pheasant, 33, logger, Duboise, Wyoming; Dave Walters, 48, cable TV executive, Kennebunk, Maine; Mike Dube, 22, carpenter, Boston, Canadian citizen; Mike Yeo, 22, Cumberland, Maine; Bill Yeo, 24, climbing department manager, Cumberland, Maine; Ian Wedmore, M.D., 25, Rockport, Massachusetts (not on Naya Kanga climb).

What is the real story? I went on this trip and I know the real story (at least my version). After I review my diary and summon some energy, you may see a more colorful version of the dry summary above. Remember how the story unfolded in The White Hotel? You're welcome to my slide show of the trip to be shown at the November 14 monthly meeting.

EXCERPTED FROM THE MOHONK PRESERVE'S JULY NEWSLETTER:

"Last year when we wrote, we enclosed a survey questionnaire and while we don't have the full results yet, early returns indicate that the majority of member climbers do not feel that the Gunks are overcrowded. The average income of Gunks climbers who responded to this question is \$45,748. The average distance traveled from home to the Gunks for those who are not staying overnight was approximately 213 miles round trip. This average round trip distance is substantially greater when overnight visitors are included. Most respondents said that they would not wait more than 15 minutes to do a climb, with some stating that they would not wait at all,

and some stating they would wait up to one-half hour. Three hundred and sixty-six members out of the 1,325 total returned the questionnaire. Of these, the most frequent leading ability indicated is 5.9 and the most frequent following ability is 5.10. Now who is kidding who? Watch for the final results in an upcoming newsletter.

We are still waiting for a decision by the Gardiner Town Board as to the future of the bridge that is closed on Clove Road. Last August the bridge was condemned as unsafe by the state... People who want to get to Coxing either have to go around on Mountain Rest Road, Mohonk Road and Clove Road or walk down the trail from the steel bridge and walk from there along Clove Road to Coxing. We are sorry for this inconvenience and hope that the bridge will be repaired soon.

Last year certain access trails to the cliffs at the Trapps were blazed green and others were closed in order to reduce erosion and damage to vegetation. Climbers seem to be adjusting to this new arrangement. We greatly appreciate that.

The proliferation of bikes near the hotel is of growing concern to the management of Mohonk Mountain House. If you didn't already know, Mohonk prohibited bike riding near the hotel. This is for the protection of horses and the safety of older people walking on the grounds. A bike whizzing around a corner spooking a horse pulling a carriage filled with people could result in an accident with serious liability implications. A bike rack

has been placed at the bottom of Old Minnewaska Hill which is the outer limit of the no-biking zone which carries around on Oakwood Drive and extends up Laurel Ledge. The Mohonk Mountain House does not want bikes on Forest Drive, Lake Shore Drive, Humpty Dumpty or at the hotel.

At the December 1989 meeting of the Preserve's board of directors, the rules applying to dogs on the Preserve were tightened. Now dogs will have to be leashed. This move was in response to numerous complaints from hikers and climbers. Dogs have also been a serious problem at Coxing picnic area where they have knocked over small children and their excitement makes picnicking and sunbathing precarious. So anybody who has a dog should be aware of our new leash regulation and that dogs are not allowed in and/or around Mohonk Mountain House...

During hunting season in November, climbers are often startled by the Preserve vehicles on Undercliff Road carrying hunters and the deer they have killed. Hunting has been permitted on Mohonk land for decades but today only deer can be shot. This is because the deer herd needs to be controlled in order to prevent vegetative damage from over-browsing. Bow season opens November 1st and gun season corresponds to state regulations which this year is November 19th to December 11th.

Last year a number of climbers worked diligently to help the Preserve formulate a policy on climbing. After much discussion and review by the Preserve's

lawyer, a policy was adopted by the board of directors. This policy appeared in the spring newsletter and we just want to again thank all of those who participated in the effort. If anyone wants a copy just request it when submitting your button application. This policy will come up for evaluation at our December 1990 board meeting so if you have any constructive criticism, please let us know..."

SECOND CLIMBING FILM AVAILABLE

(Reprinted from the Potomac Appalachian newsletter)

"A few months ago two outstanding films of the Mountaineering Section were made available to members of the PATC. "Up Rope" and "Belaying The Leader" were in one videocassette, and were offered for sale or lease. Now a second videocassette is offered to Club members entitled "The Gamblers' Action". This is part of a pilot film made in 1958 for a proposed TV series called "The Gamblers". (It had nothing to do with gambling for money.) The part offered to PATC members is of the action shots done in this movie about a fictional expert climber essaying a "come-back" after an illness. All climbing sequences are done by members of the PATC's Mountaineering Section. The late Art Lembeck, Win Lembeck, Don Hubbard and Jane Showacre are shown in some stunning climbing and falling sequences, as they perform what was then called the "stunt work". While not shown in close-ups in the acting scenes, they are given credits at the end of the film. The lead part of the older climber trying to return to his old form is

played very well by Charles Bickford, one of Hollywood's more capable actors in those days. As TV shows go, this is good stuff, with a fairly plausible plot being well done by all the principals. The best parts, of course, are done by PATC's climbers."

To purchase the video, which sells for \$20.00, contact John Meenehan at 9405 Athens Road, Fairfax, VA, 22032. Both VHS and Beta cassettes are available. To lease a video from the archives, contact Dave Bates, 1611 N. Bryan St., Arlington, VA, 22201. A deposit of \$20.00 is required, returnable in full when the film is brought back.

GUNKS IN JULY

by Jeffrey Levy

In late July the club went a Gunkin'. The troupe included Pete Hsi, Jeanette Helfrich, John Rayner, Duncan, Karen, and Stuart Pregnall, a new member named Paula, Gary Beal, Denise Cohen, and myself. Although the weather threatened on Saturday, it never really rained and Sunday was hot and sunny. I've heard everyone else had a good time, but I only know what Pete and I did. He had never followed a climb, so I took him up Gelsa first. For those of you not familiar with this beautiful route, it finishes on an exposed corner that gradually works its way out from the main face. Pete was impressed with the view.

Then we hiked down the Trapps to Hawk, whose second pitch traverses right and up around a corner--three times. It turned into a six-hour epic when the party ahead of us got a little stuck. It

seems the leader was returning to climbing after a ten-year hiatus... Hawk is a very good climb for people sure of their skills on easier climbs who want to get some exposure. At least Pete looked at the view on this one. That night Gary, Denise, Pete and I discovered how crowded Bacchus can get. My clearest memory is of downing water pitchers as quickly as our harried waiter could fill them.

Sunday dawned clear, as I discovered a few hours later. We set off to do Double Chin, a double overhang near Bunny. In three years of looking at the climb, I had never seen anyone on it. Since it was taken, we did Rhododendron, a nice crack I had done a half dozen times but never led. After rapping off the first pitch, we finally did Double Chin. It's an okay climb, with the second ceiling a little awkward. I was interested in leading my first 5.7, but, alas, Ken's Crack was taken, so we finished by top-roping a boulder called Pebbles. As you walk down the carriage road toward Jackie and Classic, there are two huge boulders right in front of those climbs. Pebbles is the one on the right. Setting it up takes some patience and either a lot of webbing or a genuine PATC/MS-type anchor rope. You can find a 5.7 scrambling up the series of cracks, then finishing using the right edge, a 5.8 without the edge, and a 5.10 going straight up the right side of the face without using the cracks or the edge (sounds like Carderock, right?). All in all it was a pleasant weekend.

DONATION TO PATC

by John Yanson

PATC continues to work hard to maintain access to Bull Run. Several years ago, PATC purchased an easement from the landowners for the crest of Bull Run, which enables the MS to park on the property and climb on the beautiful white rock precipice. The MS has climbed there since the 1930s. PATC's efforts have been at considerable cost in terms of both time and money. The dispute has gone on for over 10 years and continues today. We have Phil Paschall of the PATC Lands Committee to thank for his strong commitment and also Charlie Dorian, who has represented the MS's interests for the past 10 years.

To show our appreciation and to encourage PATC's continued efforts, the MS voted to donate \$1,500 to our parent organization. At the July PATC meeting, MS chairman John Yanson presented a letter of appreciation and a check to the PATC council. Our gift was credited to the Trail Lands Fund.

LABOR DAY IN NEW PALTZ

by Jeffery Levy

Ahh, Labor day...Barbecues, softball, and dangling from cliffs. The club put in a fair showing this Labor Day at the Gunks. Making the pilgrimage were Subhash Lele, Elizabeth Erskine, Doug Craun, Ken Andrasko and Julie, Eric Wright, Elizabeth Lee, a French student named Guillaume and I. No one got an early start, and we met at the AMC campground at 1:00 a.m. on Saturday. After six hours of sleep and a long breakfast at the Plaza

Diner, we hit the cliffs.

Subhash and I went off to CCK, Guillaume found a partner and climbed Grand Central, and Doug and Elizabeth E. found Disneyland occupied and diverted to Fat Stick. Eric took a morning nap, then he and Elizabeth L., after being advised by Doug not to do Fat Stick, went up Fat Stick.

Subhash led well on CCK, a route I'd waited three years to climb. I, on the other hand, flailed "most heinously". The last pitch is very exposed, and it felt good to be off the ground. We hiked back to the Uberfall, and Subhash led Pas de Deux, a steep thin face climb. At 5.8, it was the hardest thing I'd followed. I led the second pitch, which is also nicely exposed, and was feeling pretty good compared to my CCK performance. We met up with Elizabeth E. and Doug, who had finally gotten on Disney, and I decided to try leading Classic as my first 5.7 lead. I'd followed it twice before without a hitch, and the crux is the first move, so I figured once I was on the cliff I had it made.....Nope.

I made the crux with no problem, and started up the face. Unfortunately, I traversed left from the last piece, a sturdy-looking piton, and then went up about fifteen feet. I was a little nervous about the runout and was looking for more protection when I discovered I was no longer on the rock. Down I went, 30 feet until I hit the wall and stopped, hanging upside down facing out. Thank you, Subhash. After he lowered me to the ground, Elizabeth E. helped me to the road, where a ranger splinted my left leg and drove

me to my car. Subhash and Doug finished the climb and rappelled off in the dark. Then off we went to the hospital, where my knee and foot were x-rayed, revealing no breaks. Yes, I was lucky, but that ended my climbing for awhile. Ken and Julie had seen us and were going to come to the hospital, but we left before they arrived. I'm sorry--they went 20 miles the wrong way to help me feel better.

Anyway, the next day I discovered that no area library was open and resorted to the local bookstore. Subhash and Elizabeth E. did Never Never Land, and Doug and Guillaume danced up Miss Bailey and City Lights. Miss Bailey is listed as 5.6, but Doug's poor elbow couldn't take the strain, so he did it 5.6, A1. What's a little 'biner-pulling between friends? Eric and Elizabeth L. drove up to Skytop, where Elizabeth got a little leading in (Intermediate, a variation on Easy, and the second pitch of Little Face), and Ken and Julie climbed in the Trapps.

When we decided to go swimming, we found that the road has been closed at a bridge. No problem for healthy climbers, but I hung out and read.

Monday morning Subhash, Elizabeth E. and Guillaume did Shockley's Ceiling, while Eric and Elizabeth E. climbed Minibell and Inverted Layback.

Meanwhile, Doug offered to head home first thing, and I took him up on it. We headed west on I-84, then south on I-81 to Harrisburg, and down U.S. 15 to I-270 in Frederick, and we made it in 5 1/2 hours, and it was FREE!!!! The normal route costs about ten bucks in tolls. Granted,

at normal speeds it may add a half-hour to the trip, but I feel the savings is worth it. In addition, especially on holiday weekends, the NJ Turnpike gets pretty crowded.

It was a nice way to end the weekend. Everyone had a good time, and even I got some good climbing in before I fell. Thanks again to everyone for their help!

MEMORIAL DAY WEEKEND TRIP REPORT

by John Yanson

A large and optimistic group of MS members migrated to the Gunks for the Memorial Day weekend, facing uncertain weather. Saturday morning we gathered at the deli below the Uberfalls, gazing up into a gloomy sky. After bagels and caffeine, we paired up and headed for the rocks, hoping to get in one climb before the rain. And so the day went, one more climb before the rain, which never came.

For many of the numerous participants this was the first visit to the Gunks. All were impressed. The climb most often ascended was "Three Pines", with several parties praising its beauty. The climb least likely ever to be repeated? Crack of Despondency. Just ask Doug C. or anyone else in his party why.

The hazard of procrastinating an entire summer in writing a trip report is forgetting important details. Suffice it to say that several club members were on the sharp end of the rope for the first time and others were first-time seconds. Many classics were climbed: Gelsa, Disneyland,

Bunny, Boston, City Lights, Brat (what was Doug D. doing on that 5.9 to the left?), Wonderland, Frog's Head, Layback, High Exposure and many more.

The best advice given over the weekend was by Jeff K. to a climber (who will remain anonymous) who dropped his tuber from one pitch up: "He'd better get his tuber tied."

Many pleasant meals, good times and good climbs were shared by an enthusiastic crowd. At one point I counted 22 climbers (plus assorted family members) from the MS. At the risk of missing someone, I'll try to put names to the numbers: Jeanette H., John R., Anne B., Jeff K., Christina B., Carter M., Michelle M., Paul T. and son Mark, Ken and Julie A., Hugh Brown and family (Kristy, Josh, Josie and Jessie), Dusty W., Elizabeth E., Bob F., Ron S., Barbara K., Doug C. and Lori, Dan H., Madeline C., Doug D. and John Y.

VERTICAL NEWS

Due to a last-minute program change at our June meeting, we viewed a couple of videos from Vertical News, a video production company in Terrebonne, Oregon. The videos cover a variety of subjects relating to climbing. There was heavy emphasis, though, on competitions, which are ideal for filming because they provide good action in a controlled environment. Here's your chance to see Scott Franklin climb To Bolt or Not To Be (5.14 a/b) or watch Doug Skinner free-soloing in Hueco Tanks. There is also an attempt to review climbing shoes

and ice tools. The videos also showcase climbing in many regions of the country, including ice in the Northeast.

The films were so well received that at the July meeting we agreed to subscribe to the series. Currently, Vertical News has produced three videos, which we have ordered. These will be made available at our monthly meetings for loan to MS members.

GROUP SLIDE SHOW FOR OCTOBER MEETING

We've all taken slides on our varied climbing trips, whether long expeditions or weekend jaunts. In most cases there are not enough slides for an entire show, or we may feel the location wasn't exotic enough to warrant a special showing. Yet, we all have some great shots. Beautiful vistas, harrowing spectacles, a friend at their best or a partner being less than graceful.

For the October program we'd like to do a "Best of the MS" slide show. So dust off those slides you're most proud of (or the ones your peers would find most entertaining). Be sure your name is on each slide you submit, along with an "X" in the upper right hand corner so we get those dramatic roof shots right side up.

We'd like to get 10 to 20 slides from each member. You be the editor. No need to feel self-conscious. We're not looking for another Galen Rowell, we just want to have fun. If you have some slides of interest, call Paula Grant at 703-204-4575 or John Yanson at 667-4334.

VOLUNTEER FOR TRAIL MAINTENANCE

PATC has asked the MS for a volunteer to maintain a one- to two-mile trail at the base of Little Stoney Man. This is a blue blaze trail, a short spur to the Appalachian Trail. It requires visiting the trail a few times a year to trim brush, remove fallen trees and generally keep the trail in good condition. If you are interested, contact Don Owens at the PATC headquarters.

NELSON HOUSE WORK TRIP

There is a Nelson House work trip planned for the weekend of October 27th and 28th. Please contact Bill Smith if you would like to help at (703) 554 -2055. Directions to the Nelson House can be found on page 4 of this issue.

SUMMER TRAVELS II

by Jeanette Helfrich

Anne Baron and Claire McIntyre Ganz will be climbing with Tashi Jangbu Sherpa in Nepal in October. They will attempt to climb the mountains Pacharmo (6,273 m.) in the Rolwaling Himal (one valley west of the Khumbu valley), and Gokyo Ri (5,360 m./ 17,585') in the Gokyo valley region.

REI CLIMBING WALL

It is rumored that the new REI store in Bailey's Crossroads, Virginia will open its rock wall for public use several times a week this fall.

The Entre Pris wall is 16 feet high. Qualified belayers will be provided and climbing lessons will be offered.

For more information write or call: Mark Nelson, Public Outreach Director, REI, 3509 Carlin Springs Road, Bailey's Crossroads, VA, 22041 (703) 379-9400

ADDRESS CHANGES?

The 1990 membership list will be published in November. If you have any changes, please send them to Ken Klapatch at 3014 Virginia Dare Court, Chantilly, VA 22021, 703-378-5231. Ken is now on the Membership Committee in charge of the computerized mailing and membership list.

FOR SALE :

2 ski racks for cars with gutters: 1) holds 7 pair of skis with rubber pull-down stays, \$8; 2) key-lock rack with pop-up stays, nearly new, \$30. Call Jeanette or John at 301-585-9111.

WANT ADS BY MS MEMBERS WELCOME - NO CHARGE.

MOUNTAINEERING SECTION

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

CLIMBERS' CALENDER

Date	Area or event	Person to contact	Phone	Place
Sept. 12	Monthly Meeting	John Yanson	667-4334	HQ
Sept. 15	Carderock, MD	John Yanson	667-4334	CD
Sept. 16	Great Falls, VA	Jeff Kramer	532-3247	GF
Sept. 22	Great Falls, VA	Dusty Wissmath	585-7610	GF
Sept. 30	Chimney Rock, MD	Doug DuPuie	656-4076	RR
Oct. 3	Executive Committee	John Yanson	667-4334	TBA
Oct. 6-8*	Seneca Climber's	John Markwell	(304) 567-2600	TBA
Oct. 6-8*	Gunks, NY	Jeanette Helfrich	585-9119	TBA
Oct. 10	Monthly Meeting- Amateur Hour	John Yanson	667-4334	HQ
Oct. 13-14*	Pavilion Work Trips			
Oct. 13	Great Falls, MD	Dusty Wissmath	585-7610	GF
Oct. 20	Annapolis Rocks, MD	Tom Isaacson	332-3701	RR
Oct. 21	Caudey's Castle, MD	Jeanette Helfrich	585-9119	TBA
Oct. 27	Bull Run, VA	Tim Hood	830-3919	AO
Oct. 28	Great Falls, VA	Jeffrey Levy	527-8331	GF
Nov. 3	Crescent Rocks	Tom Isaacson	332-3701	TC
Nov. 3-4*	Bellefonte, Quarry, PA	Stuart Pregnall	543-3988	TBA
Nov. 7	Executive Committee	John Yanson	667-4334	HQ
Nov. 11	Crescent Rocks	John Yanson	667-4334	TC
Nov. 14	Monthly Meeting	John Yanson	667-4334	HQ
Nov. 17-18*	New River, W.VA	Stuart Pregnall	543-3988	TBA

* **These trips are to lead climbing areas.** Please arrange for your own partners. The trip leaders can help with arranging rides and other logistics.

Note: Please call 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, 527-8331; Ron Sitrin, 890-5243; or Dusty Wissmath, 585-7610.

****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 Edgemoor; 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. 123 E. (Montgomery Village Ave.) ; R. on Rt. 355 S. (Fredrick Rd.) ; L. at second light.

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.

AO= Appalachian Outfitters, 2930 Chain Bridge Rd., Oakton , VA. **DIR:** Exit I-66 at exit 16 (Rt. 123 N.) L. just past the forth light (AO is on the left) into the bank parking lot.

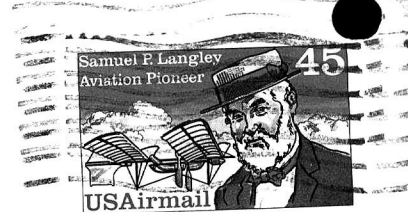
GF= Great Falls National Park, 9200 Old Dominion Dr., Great Falls, VA. **DIR:** Exit I-495 at exit 13 (Rt. 193/ Great Falls) ; W. on Georgetown Pike about 4 miles; R. at light into park; hard right past ranger's booth into lower parking lot, see notes on car windshield for specific climbing area.

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/MDS, 1718 N Street, N.W. , Washington, D.C. **DIR:** 1 block east on Conn. Ave. near DuPont Circle Metro Stop. (Red Line).



1718 N Street, N.W.,
Washington, D.C. 20036



Jeanette Helfrich
8717 Sundale Drive
Silver Spring MD 20910