



FOUNDED BY
JAN AND HERB CONN

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

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HOLIDAY PARTY

Karen and Stuart Pregnall will host the club's annual holiday party at their home on December 14, 1991, beginning at 7 p.m. The Pregnall residence is at 9110 Meadow Rue Lane in Annandale. Call (703-503-5852) for directions. Beer will be provided. An attempt will be made to coordinate food. Call Karen Pregnall or Jeanette Helfrich (301-585-9119) to find out what dish you should bring. Stuart requests that you bring your favorite climbing video.

YOSEMITE 1991

by Tom Isaacson

The late September marriage of Ken Andrasko and Julie Shannon in Marin County provided an excellent excuse for Jeanette Helfrich, John Rayner and me to visit Yosemite after the lovely affair. Although late September/early October is still a bit early for Yosemite -- it's awfully hot -- this seemed like a reasonable project. The recession seems to have reduced tourism a bit, making Valley accommodations more open than usual. Having trashed a finger the previous weekend at the New, any

serious face climbing was out of the question. I figured that Yosemite's famous cracks would be finger-friendly; particularly if I could slot my hands thumbs-down, thereby protecting my ring finger.

I had two major projects in mind for this trip. One was to conquer my old nemesis, Lunatic Fringe, which is a nasty one-pitch crack which had so painfully exposed my deficient crack climbing skills when Madeleine Carter and I visited Yosemite three years ago. I assumed that, because I am climbing better now than I was then, I had a reasonable shot at Lunatic Fringe. I later discovered that doing hard face climbs at the New does very little to improve your crack climbing skills. The second project was the East Buttress of El Capitan, reportedly the best one-day free climb in Yosemite. Reconciling divergent climbing aspirations is often a major aspect of any lengthy climbing trip. Because Jeanette considers herself a mountaineer she was hoping to do the longer routes such as Royal Arches. By and large John and I resisted those temptations, in favor of late starts on challenging short routes. We first stopped at the Cookie Cliff - the best "sport crag" in

Yosemite - with lots of hard, short vertical climbs. Our goal was Wheat Thin (5.10b), a fierce 80-foot layback on the upper part of the cliff - known as the Nabisco Wall. To get up there, we did Beverly's Tower (5.10a), whose crux is a tricky chimney in an overhanging corner/slot. From there, a death-defying leap across a short chasm landed us at the base of Wheat Thin. After logging some flight time onto a TCU, I managed finally to clip the first bolt. From there, Wheat Thin is a fairly spectacular layback and undercling problem with precious little time available for any nonsense, contemplation or fancy footwork. Crank or fly. There is a surprise at the end of Wheat Thin which I will leave you to discover on your own. John then led Son of Sam, a horizontal crack on the low angle Apron which has no footholds worth mentioning. The next day, after warming up on Maxine's Wall (5.10a), we blasted up the three pitches of Serenity Crack (5.10a, 5.10a, 5.10d). Our mid-day ascent of this unshaded, south-facing portion of Royal Arches gave us disturbing doses of dehydration and sunburn. The three pitches total almost 400 feet of continuous crack climbing. The moves

aren't all that hard (except at the top), but there's a lot of them. This climb has great protection except at the start, where it's needed the most. Jeanette finished our day by leading Peruvian Flake (5.10a).

After a rest and rehydration day, we got an early start on Higher Cathedral Spire. This pinnacle, which looms more than 2,000 feet above the Valley floor, is one of the classic Valley free climbs. After a pitch of 5.5 and four pitches of 5.9 you can enjoy a flat, spacious summit with outstanding views of the Valley. Getting to the base of the Regular Route is a serious slog, which sorely tested John's early morning good nature. The route is somewhat in the shade and, although it has several tricky sections, is never too hard. After getting hero shots -- and attending to some other needs -- on the summit, we rapped back down and dashed back to the Valley for showers and dinner at Degnan's.

The next day was spent with Carter Mackley at the Apron, scene of classic low angle cracks and desperate thin face climbing.

By far the most popular climb on the Apron, and deservedly so, is Mr. Natural (5.10c), a full-rope length finger crack up immaculate rock. While waiting for a pair of Brits to finish Mr. Natural, we top roped Dr. Feel Good (5.10d). The fact that, among the four of us, I struggled the most on that climb concerned me both because I had done the climb on a previous visit and because I was scheduled to lead Mr. Natural. Since I was largely responsible for route selection I could hardly have begged off on this lead. In any event, I hung out long enough to empty a considerable portion of my rack (and that really is saying something as

a few of you know) into Mr. Natural. I earned a hanging belay while the rest of our four-some climbed and photographed the route. During lunch we watched in horror as a French duo climbed Green Dragon (5.11b). Their belayer seemed to think it all right to take both hands off the belay while he unsnarled the rope. Being French, of course, the leader did not fall on mere 5.11 and the belaying lapse became moot. After lunch Carter lead the quite challenging Synapse Collapse (5.10a) and John cruised Shuttle Madness (5.9).

In light of the more demanding adventures to come, I took the next day as a partial rest day. While Carter and Jeanette ostensibly left to climb the Nutcracker, John and I lounged at the Ahwahnee Hotel. An unknown and rarely felt force later moved John and I to attempt a few afternoon climbs. I led, with one transgression, Sherrie's Crack, which is the hardest 5.10b I've ever attempted. This may replace Reed's Direct as my ultimate Yosemite sandbag. John then led Trough of Justice - or something like that - a pleasant 5.10b, if you don't mind an occasional run out and route finding problem. We caught up with Carter and Jeanette who told some strange tale about doing the first pitch of Nutcracker three times, or something like that. You'll have to ask them. Although I suspect it was a ruse to avoid the dreaded mantle on pitch five, they insist the route was crowded.

John and Jeanette then left for San Francisco. Having recently completed his first wall climb in the Valley, Carter was eager to tackle the East Buttress of El Cap. Although accounts differ, the

route has approximately two pitches of 5.10, three pitches of 5.9 and seven pitches of assorted easier grades. The pitches include a wide array of knobs, scoops, cracks, corners, chimneys, flares, troughs, stems, laybacks, etc. Although the route only has one hard move, you may need your full bag of tricks. After a five a.m. start, and a one hour hike in the dark, we roped up, Carter having agreed to lead the initial chimney pitch. The early start was part of our major focus on avoiding dehydration. The East Buttress gets blazing direct sunlight all day long. Although it is well above the Valley floor, you cannot count on a good breeze up there. By completing the aerobic part of the climb in the dark we hoped to preserve water. I drank a half-gallon of Gatorade and a quart of water during the two hours between waking up and roping up. I'm not sure that did much good, but some of the belay ledges will never be quite the same. We also climbed the route with a gallon of water in the pack.

We had a few simple rules: (1) we swing leads, (2) the second carries the pack, and (3) no stalling. Aid, cheat, whatever, but keep going. El Cap is too big and too hot to indulge a lot of hesitation and shaking out. This is not a good place to lose your shit (or "shoot", as Carter would say).

As we started up the first pitch, another party arrived at the base complaining about being "scooped" on the route. They threatened to be "barking up our ass" (yuck!), so as to encourage us to climb faster. Since one of them is a guide at EMS, we took the threat seriously. For the record, they only caught up to us twice on this 12

pitch route. Our Judeo-Mormon alliance proved swift.

On pitch eight we caught up to a climber named Hans, who was on the second day of a roped-solo ascent. Hans was very sick from dehydration and was in no condition to get up or down the route on his own. We gave Hans a half-gallon of our much cherished water, some food and a top-rope for the last four pitches. Hans never quite regained his equilibrium but he managed to climb out with a minimum of complaining. Hans had the poor form to barf into Carter's water bottle. He thanked us for saving his life.

Hans aside, the East Buttress of El Cap deserves its reputation as a classic route. Although it is a substantial undertaking, it is easily manageable in a long day. We were at the top of El Capitan before two p.m., even with the delay for Hans. The situation along this arete is spectacular on several pitches -- especially four and eight. The descent is surprisingly easy.

I still believe that the quality of Yosemite climbs is well worth the hassle of dealing with life in the Valley. Yosemite is extremely smokey, both from natural fires as well as campsites. The Curry Co. should not sell firewood, but it's probably a big profit item. The Valley roads are primarily one way and a great deal of any trip is spent driving around the Valley floor. The restaurants close far too early and are crowded on weekends. But, I appreciate the amenities of the Valley, such as stores, restaurants, showers, a climbing shop, etc. It is still one of my favorite destinations, a sentiment others do not share.

Be forewarned -- Yosemite is bad for the ego. Despite what you may have heard, Yosemite grad-

ings are pretty stiff. The pitches are long, you must place your own protection and there is a lot of rapelling involved. Of course, compared to the New, Yosemite weather is fairly stable (I've never been rained on there in five trips), Yosemite has no snakes or bees and only a modest rockfall problem. You may not do a lot of climbs with big ratings, but you'll probably feel like you did something hard nonetheless. Amidst all the excitement, I never got around to Lunatic Fringe -- perhaps next trip.

Distant Lands Dept.

Club member Jim Martin writes "Now home ported in Japan. A few rocks/cliffs nearby. Climbed in Japan before? Please have members send info." Jim's address is:

1-22-6 Mabori-Kaigan
Yokosuka, Kanagawa 239
JAPAN
011-81 (0468) 41-7574

Reed Falwell Incident

Editor's Note: UPROPE solicited the following article from Reed Falwell, long-time area climber and resident of Potomac, Maryland. In November of 1990, Reed took a seemingly minor fall at Seneca and subsequently had his foot amputated. Although his account omits the reams of medical details and complications, here is his story.

A number of folks have inquired about my circumstance since my climbing accident, so I'd like to take this opportunity to fill in some informational gaps. Last year's climbing season was great, until the last climb. In

May of last Year, Smith Wood and I spent a week climbing outside of Moab, Utah, with ascents of Owl Rock (5.8), Dark Tower (5.10), and the northwest route on Castleton (5.9). Owl Rock and Dark Tower are both in Arches National Park, a land of stone monoliths, of every shape and dimension, standing for miles across the desert. The trail to Dark Tower (some two hours) crosses an enchanted landscape--the hike of a lifetime. Unlike many towers, the Dark Tower stands alone, and visible for many miles. Castleton, some forty miles north of Moab, is a wonder, sitting on a high cone of scree, presenting a fantastic visage. Its northwest route is thought by many to be the best 5.9 in the desert. Its first pitch, a long, overhanging crack, is particularly memorable. Set aside a full day for this beauty. Owl Rock, a one pitch 5.8, is a great warmup, on desert sandstone. It's right off the road in Arches, only minutes from Moab. July found Bill Cox and I in the Dolomites, alpine rock spires, rising from lush green Italian Alps. The place is stunningly beautiful (many small, picturesque alpine towns), and surprisingly inexpensive. The climbs, on high rock, in an alpine setting, are quite accessible. Bill and I accomplished the "Yellow Aretet," on the Tri Cime Di Lavaredo. This 5.9 follows a wonderfully exposed knife edge ridge for twelve pitches to a small summit (approximately 2,900 M). Bill and I finished the last half of the route in a white out fog, with a challenging descent in the soup. We next climbed the south face (5.9) of Piz Di Caivazes (Schubert Route), eight pitches of delightful climbing. "Perhaps, the best free climb on the Piz Di Caivazes--

fabulous rock and somewhat athletic in sections." How can you resist this guidebook description?

Many hiking trails are found in the Dolomites. Mountaineers need not have technical climbing ability to enjoy these spectacular trails, and can clip into anchored cables, which take you over high exposed ground. Strategically placed inns provide the mountaineer with food and drink. The Dolomites are a special alpine wonderland.

In September, Smith Wood and I climbed the Leaning Tower (A-3) in Yosemite Valley. Overhanging the entire way, Smith and I gained the summit in four days of hard work (typical eastern style). I've never had more enjoyment on a "big wall." Copious quantities of both water and Christian Brothers Brandy proved a dynamite combination.

Later that fall, Tony Rickert and I were back in Canyonlands climbing Pale Fire (5.12) (A-2, 5.9), a two day adventure on Moses, the tallest rock tower in the Park. Moses is a five pitch monster, rising from the floor of Garnet Canyon to its rim, a remote and beautiful spot, in the shadow of ancient Indians.

I "attempted" to finish the season by leading my young son up an "easy" climb at Seneca.

November 17, 1990, found young Reed and I looking up at a rain-soaked Seneca Rock. With nothing better to do, we set out. At the base of Conn's East Direct, we put on our harnesses in complete solitude. My son is a novice so my attention was focused on him, explaining the techniques of a good belay. Five feet off the ground (no kidding), my foot came off wet rock, and I followed it. The foot wedged, with my body going over it. The ankle was "blown apart."

Commentary by my young son,

"Suck it up, Dad—you've seen worse than this." Thought I was climbing with John Wayne. I sat on the ledge for an hour, while young Reed fetched John Markwell, who in turn got six stout men with a stokes litter. I was lowered off the rock on my son's back.

John Markwell was professional and wonderful—I shall forever be indebted to him. We're lucky to have him at Seneca. It was four and a half hours to the hospital and a pain killer (three hours off the rock and one and a half to the hospital), with muscle spasms grinding up broken bone the entire way. Elkins Hospital couldn't help, so I ended up at West Virginia University Hospital in Morgantown.

It's a long story, but suffice it to say that my leg was amputated below the knee on July 12th, and I have not walked since November 17th. This walking problem will soon be remedied, and I fully intend to resume my climbing career in the spring of 1992. Many climbing friends have been a great help, which I deeply appreciate. Hugh Herr, who is an inspiration, has given me much of his time and good advice.

Unable to walk for nine months, I've had a dilemma—what to do with my spare time. The spare time I used to devote to climbing. Interestingly, these "tragic events" have a funny way of enlarging your interests and activities. My enforced "rest" has given me the opportunity to write a play, and also develop two rather elaborate slide shows, one on last season's climbing adventures, and the other, on ancient Indians. Unable to walk, I went back to the desert last May, rented a four-wheel drive, and took long drives deep into the western desert—photograph-

ing Indian ruins, petroglyphs and other desert scenery for an upcoming slide show.

Photographing and hopping around on crutches in "slickrock country" was an interesting experience.

I've heard from friends that there have been an unusual number of accidents at Seneca this year. Climbing is dangerous—that I've always known. But now, I've come to fully appreciate how dangerous climbing can be on easy ground, close to home. This was reemphasized with this year's tragic accident on the east first pitch of Pleasant Overhangs, involving another experienced climber. Today, new climbers have the opportunity to develop more quickly, top roping on artificial walls and local crags. Their skills in placing protection do not always match their climbing abilities. Top roping a 5.10 does not mean that you can climb a 5.10 lead, nor does it mean you should try a 5.6 on lead. I suspect that training this new influx of climbers to be safe is an important priority. Look forward to seeing folks out on the mountain soon.

HEADQUARTERS MOVED TO VIENNA, VA.

PATC moved into its new headquarters in Vienna, Virginia on September 20. The headquarters is a two-story, free-standing building located at 118 Park Street, S.E., Vienna. PATC purchased the building for approximately \$740,000 and sold the old headquarters building for about the same price. The 20-yearTM old building contains 7000 square feet, has 28 parking spaces, meeting rooms, storage space for tools, publication storage, a shipping room, a

public information area for sales and cabin rentals, and room for a library. MS has a separate office which it shares with the other Sections and will continue to have a mail box, file cabinet space, and rooms for its monthly meetings. Since the current rooms only hold about 20 people, renovations will take place to create a larger meeting area as well as soon as funds are available.

The monthly meeting is on Wednesday, December 11 and will take place at PATC Headquarters.

Directions: take I-66 west from I-495, exit at Nutley street north, go one mile north, turn right (east) on Maple Avenue (Rt. 123), go about one mile, turn right on Park St SE (Southern States Supply is on the corner of Maple and Park), and the building is immediately on your left. Or, take the orange line to the Vienna Metro station and buses 2X or 2C or walk 1.5 miles through a pleasant residential area. The headquarters is near the Maple Avenue Shopping Center and 1/8 mile from the WD&O bike trail. The participation of MS members is welcomed to make the building a useful and lively headquarters for PATC, MS, and the other sections and their activities. In particular, members living in the Vienna area are invited to assist with volunteer staffing of the new facility since several people who worked at the downtown location can no longer help out. For several years, PATC has worked hard on finding a new headquarters and is pleased with the new building which is much larger, has good parking, will have less expensive upkeep, and should be a convenient meeting place for Virginia trips. For a building tour, call Michael Petty, new PATC staff director at 703-242-0693.

LEE COLLYER RESIGNS

Lee Collyer resigned as staff director of PATC effective in September and has been replaced by Michael Petty. Lee and her husband, Ron Collyer, moved to Montana to manage a cross country ski resort located near west Yellowstone and Ennis, Montana. They will manage the lodge and five cabins, groom trails, and guide clients at the Wade Lake Resort, a small, rustic resort with 55 kilometers of cross-country trails. Lee hopes to see some MS members skiing there this winter and will send us brochures. Their new address is: Wade Lake Resort Box 107, Cameron, Montana 59720, 406-682-7560. MS wishes to thank Lee for her assistance to the Mountaineering Section over the years in the many day-to-day housekeeping tasks involved in keeping our organization up and running. In particular, we appreciate her special assistance to the Mountain Film Festival and publication and sales of our guidebooks.

TELEPHONE RECORDING FOR MS TRIPS

MS is getting its own telephone line at the new PATC headquarters from which members can access a recorded message for weekend trip information and special events. The cost to MS is a \$26.80 installation fee and an \$18 a month service charge. Trip leaders and officers will be able to record new messages from remote locations. The ski section has had a similar line for about a year, and we applaud this upgrade in service to our members. The number is 703-242-3501.

NEWS NOTES ON MEMBERS

Carter Mackley has left the law firm of Sullivan & Cromwell to enter the Ph.D. program in economics at Berkeley. John Yanson has become a proud homeowner of a large semi-detached house at 21 R Street, N.W. off N. Capital Street; John earlier drove a '65 Cadillac convertible ("Doris") back to the east coast from San Diego with a stop at the Grand Canyon and Graceland(!). Liz Lee recently traveled to Thailand, Nepal and Indonesia to interview winners of a U.N. environmental prize for a book she is writing for her employer. Jack Smith, ABC news anchor for the Brinkley show and ABC weekend news has been nominated for an Emmy for a television segment he produced on racism. Michael Mergi has left the Architect of the Capitol's office to move to his hometown of Buffalo, New York where he is employed as an Emergency Medical Technician. John Rayner and his former climbing partner, Bob Ryan, currently living in London, bicycled on the island of Sardinia in Italy in October inspired by the climbing photographs in a recent issue of Mountain. Ken Andrasko and Julie Shannon are honeymooning in Thailand after their Marin County wedding on September 28. Elizabeth Erskine and Tom Halicki climbed Le Petit Gripon and Hallett Peak in Rocky Mountain National Park this summer. Doug Dupuis and Ali Abrishami also climbed in the Boulder area in August. Eric Wright found some rock climbing in Hawaii and was been seen in Boulder and environs. The recent 1990 AAC Journal published an account of Jeanette Helfrich's group's attempt on Langtang Lirung and Chris Warner's new route on Ama Dablan in Nepal in 1990. Jeffrey

Levy was honored at a farewell party in June hosted by Jeanette Helfrich and John Rayner. Jeffrey Levy then went on to climb Mt. St. Helens and Mt. Whitney including an attempt on Mt. Hood before settling down for graduate school at the University of Washington in Seattle. Dave Coffey and Bob Fenichel were climbing in New Hampshire in August. Bob earlier traveled to Alaska for an attempt on Mt. McKinley. Don and Zoila Holtzer vacationed in the Dominican Republic this summer. Jeff Kramer and Cristina Barros were married on August 25 in Alexandria and traveled to Greece for their honeymoon. Doug and Lori Craun and Jeff Kramer climbed on Cathedral and White Horse Ledges and hiked up Mt. Adams this summer. Dusty Wissmath has been seen climbing and schmoozing in Wyoming several times this summer. Kate Hughes vacationed in the Lake District in England in August. Rick Wilcox, owner of IME in North Conway and Secretary of the AAC, and Mark Richey of Boston, climbed Mt. Everest by the south col route in May (Rick may give a slide show here next spring). Sallie Greenwood has resigned as an editor from the National Geographic Society and is moving to Boulder, Colorado where she will be a free lance writer and editor; Sallie's book on the history of women climbers will be out in Spring 1992. Rick Forbes may be moving back to D.C. after several years in Phoenix, Arizona. Don McIntyre, still with DOE, has moved back to D.C. from Sandia, New Mexico. Regis and Cathy Martin had quadruplets on July 12: Emily, Alice, Clemence, and Pierre (who has since died); they moved from Marseilles to a

family house being renovated near Grenoble (new address: Nantizon, 38350 Susville, France). Ken Klapatch is spending an extended temporary assignment with Magnavox in Ft. Wayne, Indiana but is keeping his house here in Chantilly. Tom Isaacson, John Rayner, Jeanette Helfrich, and Carter Mackley (for part of the time) spent a week in September climbing in Yosemite Valley and attending the wedding of Ken Andrasko and Julie Shannon. Brian Borders (former aide to Senator D'Amato) and Grace Morgan recently returned to Washington after spending a year traveling in Czechoslovakia and Africa. Ellianne Lieberman is on a six-week climbing tour out west this fall. Seen at the Access Fund's Climbers' Rendezvous at the Gunks: Stuart and Karen Pregnall, Beth Logan, Dusty Wissmath, Mary Koshuto, Jeanette Helfrich, Sallie Greenwood, and Howard Doyle.

The September issue of Washingtonian magazine recommended PATC (no mention of PATC/MS) as a place to meet outdoorsy singles!! On the remaindered shelf for \$1 - Angels of Light, a novel about climbers in Camp 4 and their adventures retrieving bales of marijuana from a crashed plane in the mountains.

"F" WORDS IN CLIMBING

Fall, flash, flail, flounder, Friends, flared, finger, flapper, friction, flame out, flabby, fat, fist, foot, forefinger, flank, first-aid, flamingoes, fraternize, finesse, falter, fulminate, fissure, fracture, force, formidable, fouled up, freaked out, free up, Frenchies, frightened, frontpoint, frustrated, flatulence, funk, fustiness, fun, f... etc. [Editor's note:

some of these are not really climbing expressions but reflect the peculiarities of Jeanette's climbing partners. I would add "follow, free solo and fixed protection" to the list.

ADIRONDACKS ICE CLIMBING

Anne Baron is leading an ice climbing trip to the Adirondacks over the Martin Luther King 3-day weekend on January 18-20, 1992. The group will stay in a lodge and old farm house in Keene, New York run by Ed and Ann Palen of Adirondack Rock and River Guide Service, P.O. Box 219, Keene, NY 12942 (518-576-2041).

Accommodations consist of bed-and-breakfast style lodging with private rooms (private or shared bath), loft, bunk area, stream-side lean-to, and campsites. The number of people in these facilities is strictly controlled but overflow housing can be arranged if necessary. Home-cooked breakfast and possibly dinner will be specially prepared for our group. The lodge also has a stone climbing wall in its spacious living room. Basic and advanced ice climbing instruction will be available from Ed and Ann's guide service will include all equipment. The area offers ice climbing at all levels as well as cross-country skiing out the front door. A number of MS members climbed there in 1989 and 1990 and highly recommend the area. One can reach Keene by car (8-9 hour drive), by train to Lake Placid (20 miles away) or by flying into Albany and renting a car. Since the trip is nearly full, please indicate your interest immediately to Anne Baron at 703-680-5561 home or 202-223-4001 office.

If a trip leader can be found, MS

NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTIONS

For 1992, I resolve:

1. To stop giving John Rayner such a hard time.
2. To persuade Stuart Pregnall to lead me up the Yellow Wall.
3. To complete the first ascent of Old Forts in Tights.
4. To lead New Age Equippers.
5. To thank Charlie Dorian for all the good work he's done at the Rockville Wall.

6. To increase my donation to the Access Fund.

7. To stop arguing about bolting.

8. To learn the secret of Jeanette's finger power.

9. To climb better while taking it less seriously.

10. To learn a new knot.
-Tom IsaacsonNOMINATIONS

The Nominating Committee, Jeanette Helfrich, Jeff Kramer and John Yanson presents the following slate of officers for 1992:
 Pres. Dusty Wissmath
 V.P. Paula Grant
 Sec. Peter Hsi
 Treas. Jeff Colianni.
 Elections are on the night of the January monthly meeting.

CALENDAR

DATE	DESTINATION	CONTACT	PHONE	MEET
Dec 14	Great Falls, VA	Stu Hammett	301-627-3874	GF
Dec 15	Bulges, Great Falls, MD	John Yanson	202-667-4334	GF-MD
Dec 14	Holiday Party	Karen & Stewart P.	703 543-3988	
Jan 2	Executive Meeting (Thursday)	Dusty Wissmath	301-585-7610	TBA
Jan 4	White Oak Canyon-ICE* (optimistic idea)	Dusty Wissmath & John Yanson	301-585-7610 202-667-4334	TBA
Jan 8	Monthly Meeting-annual election of officers Slide show by Chuck Fleischman & Sid Balman: Climbing K2	Dusty Wissmath	301-585-7610	HQ
Jan 11	Crescent Rocks	John Yanson	202-667-4334	TC
Jan 18-20*	Adirondacks-Ice	Anne Baron	703-680-5561	TBA
Feb 8-9*	Delaware Water Gap-Ice*	Jeff Colianni	703-273-9880	TBA
Feb 5	Executive Committee Meeting	Dusty Wissmath	301-585-7610	TBA
Feb 12	Monthly Meeting-Slide show Don McIntyre	Dusty Wissmath	301-585-7610	HQ

There will be an Executive Committee meeting on the first Wednesday of each month. Everyone is welcome. For information please call Dusty Wissmath (301-585-7610).

For additional information about listed trips, please call the trip leader a few days in advance of the scheduled date. For any other information call Jeff Kramer (703-931-4895).

* These trips are to lead climbing areas. Please arrange for your own partners

may also schedule a trip over the Presidents' Day three-day weekend in February to North Conway, New Hampshire. Volunteers?

HERMITAGE TRIP REPORT

On August 11, 1991, MS members enjoyed the cool north-face rocks of the Hermitage area on the AT near Gettysburg, Pa. Most of the following did most of the usual climbs: John Yanson (trip leader), Doug Dupuie, Beth Logan, James Eakin, Michael Mergi, Paul Torrelli, Ellianne Lieberman, Jeanette Helfrich, John Boyd, Bill Weatherell, Felix Hoffstatter (visiting from Frankfurt, Germany), Rita Zeidner, John Rayner (belaying only due to sprained ankle), and others. We also flailed on a 5.10 overhang at the far west end of the cliffs which we called "Elbow Overhang" for the elbow and forearm bruises everyone experienced who did the climb. We ended the day with pizza at Il Forno in Gaithersburg.

THE PASSING STORM" AT ANNAPOLIS ROCKS

The club trip to Annapolis Rocks on August 18 saw a new top-rope problem conquered by Tom Isaacson. Named "The Passing Storm" for the atmospheric conditions prevailing during the ascent, this 5.11+ climb goes up about 20 feet of extremely overhanging rock just to the right of Faint's Roof. This roof shares no footholds or handholds with Faint's Roof and is about 10 feet longer (horizontally). To the best of our knowledge, this route has not been climbed before. If, however, you have any information about previous ascents,

please call Tom. Tom, Stuart Pregnall and James Eakin have been working on a harder variation further right. Also on the trip were Stu Hammet (enthusiastic new member who is a lawyer in Upper Marlboro volunteering for our access committee); Stu's friend, John Ray; Donn Williams from Frederick; and Jeanette Helfrich, trip leader. Later, the climbers celebrated "the Passing Storm" in historic downtown Gaithersburg at the Great China Restaurant. Note: a #1 Camelot is very useful for rigging this route.

NEW PATC MAP "D" AVAILABLE

PATC has just republished MAP D which shows the hiking and climbing areas in Maryland and Virginia in the Mather Gorge from just inside beltway to above Great Falls. The map is now available from PATC headquarters book sales. Jim Fenuchen, a PATC volunteer, directed the publication efforts with the Cartegraphics company. He invites the MS to review the accuracy of the map and to contact him at 202-254-5544 with suggestions.

This map may be a useful adjunct to the two guidebooks published by MS to the area: the Great Falls guidebook written by James Eakin and the Carderock guidebook written by Selma Hanel. By the way, the guidebooks continue to sell well. In the first six months of 1991, 450 copies of the Carderock guidebook have been sold and 550 copies of the Great Falls guidebook. The MS receives substantial royalties from these sales.

PROSPECT LIST NAMES NEEDED

Over the last 3 years, MS has put together a fairly decent mailing list of 760 prospective members and active climbers in the area. But we need YOUR help. The only way to have a good quality list is by the old-fashioned grass roots method of asking climbers for their address and phone numbers. It's like going door-to-door in a political campaign. When you talk to other climbers at Great Falls, Seneca, etc., ask them if they would like some information about the club and if they would like to be on our mailing list for information of interest to climbers. Most will say yes. Be sure to carry a pad and pencil in your pack to get their name, address, and phone numbers. Then all you have to do is call up Jeanette Helfrich on the Membership Committee at 301-585-9119 home or 202-586-5267 office or Pete Hsi, Secretary, at 703-620-4741 at home or 202-377-6808 at work and just leave the information on their answering machines. They or the Executive Committee will send a packet of information out to the person, and will add her or him to MS's computerized "Prospect" mailing list. We use that list several times a year for the film festival and special slide shows. Most importantly, this essential club work leads to new members which revitalize the club. Don't be shy.

CLOTHES DONATIONS FOR NEPAL

Anne Baron is soliciting donations of clothes to take to Nepal this fall, especially sneakers, warm clothes, sweaters, jeans, and T-shirts. Anne plans to trek in through the Rowaling Valley

and climb the south ridge of Kwangde Lo, 20,298 feet. She is currently sponsoring a family with two children in eastern Nepal. Please take your donations at Anne by November 1. Call Anne at 703-680-5561 home or 202-223-4001 office.

RESCUE IN BOULDER CANYON: A FIRST-HAND ACCOUNT

by Jeanette Helfrich

On July 21, 1991, John Rayner and I went climbing with Rich Cunningham and Judy Harper on Elephant Butte, several miles west of Boulder just inside the entrance to Boulder Canyon. I led the first pitch of "Monster Woman," 5.9; John started up the second pitch. We were climbing on two 8.5mm Mammut double ropes. He climbed a easy rampy section, then started up a corner. He put in two Camelots on one rope and a wired stopper higher on the other rope. After getting off-route in the corner, he started to down climb expecting to fall on the stopper. He didn't know that the stopper had just fallen out. The two Camelots on the other rope caught his fall of about 15-30 feet. He hit the rampy area and immediately complained about his ankle. At this point, he was only about 15 feet from me and seemed alright in terms of head injuries or other more serious injuries. He asked me to immediately lower him all the way to the ground. After assuring myself that there was enough rope to reach the ground, I did so. In the meantime, Eric Wright and two friends, John and Buck, had arrived at the base planning to do the same climb and saw the whole incident. When John reached the ground, they laid

John on the large waterpipe (2 feet in diameter) used for the walk in. They cushioned him from the coldness of the water in the pipe with our empty packs. Unbeknownst to me, a nearby climber ran to call an ambulance on his car phone but had to drive to the canyon entrance to make contact. Eric and friends taped John's ankle using his Teva sandals as splints. I was still up at the belay at the end of the first pitch, preparing to clean the climb, then rappel down. With Eric's belaying and moral support I climbed the easy ramp, adding more pro to account for my stress, cleaned the Camelots, and retreated to set up a rappel. I heard the sirens and realized with surprise that they were for us. I left a bunch of pro for rappelling which Eric and friends agreed to retrieve upon doing the climb. At some point I was finally able to let our friends, Rich and Judy, who were on a climb out of sight around the corner, know that John was hurt.

When I got down, the Four Mile Volunteer Rescue Squad had already arrived followed shortly by the medical technician in the ambulance. They put a neck brace on John and were checking him over. They asked him to wiggle his toes, whether his back hurt, whether he was allergic to any drugs, and what his birth date was, etc. They put a flexible wire splint around his ankle after taking off his climbing shoe. They did not put ice on the ankle although I later saw some blue cool bags just lying on the ground. I'm not sure what treatment the volunteers did and what the medical technician did. All were impressed that John was wearing a helmet.

The rescue squad planned to lower John on a Stokes litter down the hillside and across the

creek, about 100 yards. They set up a caving belay system using old goldline ropes. Eric noticed that at least three rescue people as well as John would be attached with a single old piece of 7-9mm gold line sling doubled or tripled to a single (albeit heavy-duty) eye-bolt in the cliff used to hold up the waterpipe. After the delicate operation of lifting John up and sliding him into the litter between the guy wires on the waterpipe, they lowered him down and across the creek without incident.

Throughout, John seemed remarkably calm and collected. I had divided my time between comforting John and keeping track of myself and our spread-out gear. John reminded me to count shoes carefully when packing (6 pair total: 2 pair of climbing shoes each and a pair of sneakers each). Judy and Eric helped me pack up quickly in order to get across the creek by the bridge in time to ride in the ambulance. Judy and I ran across the bridge and through the growing crowd of Sunday afternoon spectators. I madly got John's wallet with insurance information out of our car which Judy drove to the hospital. The ambulance took us to Boulder Community Hospital, about 5 miles away. On the way, the medical technician gave John an IV of glucose. At the hospital, we were seen promptly (by DC standards) though they apologized for the delay. The X-rays showed a hairline fracture in the distal fibula just above the ankle and an acute sprained ankle. For the first time, I had a chance to wash up and examine the rope burns on my right palm and fingers which the doctor said should heal without problem. John was greatly relieved not to have a worse injury although

disappointed that he would miss the Wind River trip (see other story). With a cast and a prescription for crutches and codeine, it was all over. John fell at 11:30 a.m. and by 2:00 p.m., he was sitting in a recliner watching a baseball game in Judy Harper's parents' house. What a contrast to a sprained ankle in the Winds, where medical attention couldn't be obtained for 2 days. After painful deliberation, I drove up to the Wind Rivers trip as planned while John recuperated in Carbondale with Rich and Judy and received therapy at the Aspen Club. It could have been worse.

CIRQUE OF THE TOWERS CLIMBING IN WIND RIVERS

by Jeanette Helfrich

In the Wind River Range in northwestern Wyoming, the Cirque of the Towers surrounds Lonesome Lake in a ring of granite rock towers. Part of the continental divide, this wonderland of alpine rock contains many easy and moderate climbs from 4th class through 5.9 on superb granite. Nonetheless, the area rewards speed and good route-finding.

In late July, a number of MS members and friends climbed, hiked, and camped in the Cirque: Ed Cummings, Tom Russell, Ian Cruickshank, Ricky Todd, Charlie Dorian, Gretchen Schwartz, Sue Drazek, and myself. Because of a sprained ankle in Boulder Canyon two days earlier, John Rayner was not able to join us. (See other story). While congregating in Jackson, we met two climbers from North Conway, New Hampshire on a six-month climbing odyssey who later joined our camp: Chris Gill

and Patty Wespiser. Their considerable climbing experience and winning ways contributed to enjoyable camp life and later to rescue operations. During our six-day stay, members of the group climbed Wolf's Head, Mitchell Peak, Pylon Peak, and Pingora twice. On the second ascent of Pingora (day 5), Ricky Todd sprained his ankle in a leader fall, and was evacuated on horseback.

Since the approaches into the Cirque are strenuous hikes, we decided at the outset to hire horses to hump our stuff to camp. When carrying their own gear, climbers generally hike to the Cirque on the 5-8 mile trail from Big Sandy Opening on the west side of the Winds crossing back-breaking Jackass Pass which is not suitable for horses (nor people to our minds). Our decision dictated that we approach the Cirque from the east side of the Winds near Lander where horses can wander up a flatter although longer trail. We reserved horses from Jim and Mary Allen of Lander who hold the only permit to take horses into the Popo Agie Wilderness where the Cirque is located. (Allowing horses into this pristine wilderness contradicts the whole idea of wilderness since horses cause a lot of environmental damage but this country's wilderness policies reflects just such ironies.

The eight of us rendezvoused in Lander which is about 180 miles southeast of Jackson and 400 miles northwest of Denver. From Lander, we drove up mountain roads for 35 miles to Dickinson Park and stayed overnight in cabins at Jim and Mary Allen's Diamond Four Ranch. The next morning after a hearty ranch breakfast, we started hiking with light day packs.

Four pack horses carried the bulk of our food and equipment. Each horse carries 150 pounds or about two climbers' gear. This 15-mile hike to the Cirque follows the North Fork Trail of the Popo Agie River and takes about 6-8 hours one way. The horses return to the ranch the same day. The guidebook advertised four river crossings on this trail. The first crossing was easy; the second more imposing. Some slithered across the second on high logs. I waded across using my two ski poles. To avoid the two other crossings, we skirted a lake by a game trail. Eventually the rain, swamps, and bogs defeated our attempts to stay dry and we reached camp with soaking leather and canvas boots.

We set up camp in a pine thicket next to a meadow of wild flowers northeast of Lonesome Lake at 10,266 feet altitude. Camping is not allowed within 1/4 mile of the lake. The crystal clear lake supplied our drinking and cooking water which we treated with iodine. We were the talk of the Cirque with our luxurious campsite, camp chairs, canned foods, some fresh fruit and vegetables, a case of beer and two 5-liter cardboard containers of wine (one red, one white). The torment of the mosquitos was bearable only because the cool temperatures allowed us to wear pile or two layers of clothes. We had delightful weather, 60-70 degrees in the daytime, 50 at night, and no rain or thunder-showers except for the hike in. Although a ranger told us that 35 people were camped in the Cirque, we enjoyed near solitude at camp and on the climbs. On our first day, we explored the Cirque to locate peaks, approaches and descents. Charlie and Ricky scampered up

Pylon Peak via the Wisconsin Couloir to a spectacular view of the Wind River Range to the north (Southeast Gully, I, Class 4-easy 5). Gretchen and Sue walked out that day after joining us on the hike in.

The second day we climbed Pingora by scrambling up the south shoulder then roping up for the southwest face (South Buttress, II, 5.6 with crack variation at 5.8). Four delightful pitches on solid low-angle granite and some scrambling brought us to the summit. On the summit, we were rewarded with an imposing straight-on view of our intended route up the east ridge of Wolf's Head. On our descent, we found rappel stations suitable for single rope rappels and passable rappel slings. Using double ropes, we needed only three rappels.

On day three, we started out for Shark's Nose. Because of incredibly good weather, however, we decided to veer over and climb Wolf's Head instead which required a long day of stable weather. We climbed Wolf's Head by the classic east ridge route (II, 5.5) in "50 Classic Climbs". This exposed, airy, knife-edge ridge with improbable ledges, chimneys and towers is probably the most exciting 5.5 alpine rock route I've ever done. It was vaguely reminiscent of Bugaboo spire by the northeast ridge route but more exposed. After classic summit photos, we scrambled and rappelled down the west face (I, 5.0) using rappel stations already in place.

Deposited on confused terrain of rocky gullies on the Shadow Lake side of the Cirque, we traversed around to the south where we did a final rappel into the col between Wolf's Head and Overhanging Tower. Still in rock shoes, we scrambled down a

steep dirty gully to snow fields and our packs. This long climb took 14 hours round trip from camp.

On day four, Ed Cummings and Ricky Todd climbed Mitchell Peak via the North Ledge route (I, Class 3). This pleasant climb involved several class 5 moves but was mostly 4th class. It took 2 1/2 hours from camp to the summit.

By day five, we were ready for our major objective - the north-east face of Pingora, one of the "50 Classics" (IV, 5.8). In two roped parties composed of Charlie and Ricky, and Ian and myself, we started out early swinging leads up the 10-12 pitches of beautiful, laid-back granite cracks and corners. Each pitch had an interesting move or two which made for continuous and enjoyable climbing.

On the fourth pitch from the top, however, Ricky Todd took a leader fall of about 6-8 feet on good pro and sprained his ankle. After assessing Ricky's injury and state of mind, we chose to continue up over the top to the rappels and descent route we already done. The alternative would have been to rappel onto unknown rock faces below away from our diagonally route. Ricky figured that with tension, he could climb up the primarily right-facing corners by hopping his right foot up the face. Amazingly, he did.

Watching through binoculars from camp, Ed, Tom, Chris, and Patty discerned that Ricky was hurt. Ed and Chris quickly hiked to the bottom of the rappels with extra water, food, clothing, equipment, and our mountain boots. Ricky remained in good spirits and his ankle did not appear to be broken. We filled a pack with snow to use later for ice bags. As soon as we

descended to tree line, we found Ricky a walking stick. We avoided the tedious boulder field by going around the south side of the lake. After starting at 6:30 a.m., we arrived back in camp around 8:30 p.m. just before sunset. The threatening afternoon thundershowers never materialized.

Early the next morning, Tom and Ed hiked out a day ahead of schedule. They arranged to have an extra horse sent with the pack horses for Ricky to ride out. They also arranged for Ricky to have medical care as soon as he got to Lander. That last day in camp Ricky rested with his ace-banded foot elevated and covered with ice packs, fortified with any food available, Motrin and the rest of Ed's Remy-Martin Cognac. For the rest of us, that day turned into one of those all-too-rare B.S. sessions where we solved all of the problems of the world. (It just wouldn't do for us to have leftover wine).

The hike out went as planned but the ride for Ricky, his sprained foot in a stirrup, was a painful ordeal. He arrived back at the ranch at 10:30 p.m. after 5 1/2 hours. Ed then drove him to the hospital in Lander where they arrived at 1:00 a.m. The X-rays showed no broken bones but a badly sprained ankle and some internal tissue damage. Eleven hours later on crutches and with an air splint, Ricky was able to fly back to Seattle from Jackson as scheduled.

In assessing the lessons learned from this incident, we realized that we benefitted from traveling into this remote area in a fairly large group. For example, we had two ropes of two climbing together on the route (no one else was on the route that day). This meant that after Ricky fell, three uninjured people were

available to make decisions, organize rappels, help Ricky up and down, and/or go for help if necessary while others stayed with the injured person. At the same time, four experienced people remained in camp who could and did follow our progress through binoculars. We actually saw them watching us and assumed that they would figure out what had happened. They were able to anticipate problems and help with the rescue. Having a large group also meant that there were bound to be some people in camp who were rested and ready to go for help so the climbers could take care of themselves then rest and help care for the injured person. It was also wise that we had scouted out the approaches and descents in advance and were generally experienced in the mountains. We had started early in the day - 5:30 a.m. We had various medications, medical books, and recent experience with sprained ankles. On the other hand, we didn't have a litter or splints, and none of us had EMT training. All in all, we were lucky that the injury was not life-threatening and that the weather was good. Ricky felt that a sprained ankle is within the normal risks of climbing and that the pro and rope did what they were supposed to do. We will enjoy the trip and would like to return some day.

Post-script: On our way out, we learned that Secretary of State James Baker and Secretary of Defense Cheney, planned a fishing trip in the same area of the Winds up the North Fork Trail two weeks after we were there using Allen's Diamond Four Ranch as the outfitter. We left our business cards, of course. Moreover, later we read that a number of administration offi-

cials had their Wind River vacations cut short by the USSR crisis and that the Pentagon's press secretary, on a backpacking trip, was plucked out of the Winds by helicopter during the crisis.

GUIDEBOOKS & MAPS:

Joe Kelsey, Climbing and Hiking in the Wind River Mountains, Sierra Club Tote Book; Orrin H. Bonney & Lorraine Bonney, Field Book: The Wind River Range, 3d Edition 1977; USGS 7 1/2 minute - Lizard Head Peak Quadrangle; USGS 7 1/2 minute - Dickinson Park Quadrangle.

OUTFITTER: Jim and Mary Allen's Diamond Four Ranch, P.O. Box 243, Lander WY 82520, 307-332-2995. Cabins at Dickinson Park are \$10 per person. Breakfast is \$10 per person. Horses are \$70 per day including wrangler, not including tips. Camping and guided trips are also available.

ALTITUDE SUMMARY

Dickinson Park Trail head, 9,400'
Highest point on trail 9,580'
Drop on trail to river 8,580'
Lonesome Lake 10,166'
Pingora Peak 11,884'
Wolf's Head 12,163'
Pylon Peak 12,378'
Mitchell Peak 12,482'
Big Sandy Trailhead 9,200'
Jackass Pass 10,800'

New River Gorge 1991

by Tom Isaacson
During 1991 I took eight trips to the New, far more than in past years. Many of those were with Doug Dupuie or Jeanette Helfrich and John Rayner. Other trip participants include: Jana Gill, Stuart Pregnall, Tom Halicki, Beth Logan, James

Eakin, Elizabeth Erskine and Carl Phillips. I encountered the usual range of nature: extreme summer humidity, serious frost and chilly winds in the fall, the omnipresent morning fog, deer, bees galore, serpents, and serious smoke. Incredibly, I did not miss a single day due to rain.

Although the New gained its initial fame for having the best cracks in the East, it has now achieved international renown as a sport climbing venue. Many of America and Europe's best climbers visit the New. That development has been fueled in part by the relaxed attitudes toward bolting that prevail at the New. The New now sports hundreds of high end bolted face and overhang climbs. While these are not "safe" in any normal sense of the word, they are relatively safe by the standards of lead climbing. If you want to raise the level at which you lead, the New is one of the best places you could possibly go to. The grading at the New may be a bit more generous than elsewhere in the East but the nature of the rock and the protection certainly encourage you to push your standards. Be forewarned, unless either you or your partner can lead 5.9, you won't find very much to do at the New.

In 1990, the great hazard at the New was broken legs from leader falls. In 1991, it was snakes [a few readers may wish to skip to the next paragraph]. Stuart Pregnall says this has something to do with the dry weather. During two visits to the hospital [for minor injuries] I heard many stories of snake bites at the New. Climbers are most likely to get bit on the hand while grabbing onto a ledge. Snakes also may reside inside a crack. One poor soul was bitten twice by a copper-

head in his tent. Zip that fly! If you are bitten by a rattlesnake or a copperhead, walk -- don't run -- to the car and go to the hospital in Oak Hill. Keep your hands at the same height as your heart. Don't fool around with tourniquets or other gadgets. To get to the hospital, take Route 19 South past Fayette, past the Kroger Shopping Center, past Holiday Inn and take the Main Street exit (right) into Oak Hill. Follow this for a mile or so and you'll see the Plateau Medical Center on your right. They have antivenom on hand. You'll be okay unless you're allergic to the stuff.

This Spring the Kaymoor area on the south side of the River was developed. It now sports some 60 routes, most of which are bolted and are at least 5.11. Other areas, including the Meadow River and Summersville (along the Gauley River) also are

under development. Tom Halicki and I visited Summersville one cold, smokey day. The area has some good rock and is located on the beach along the Gauley. I wouldn't advise you to rush off to Summersville unless you're either tired of the New or you can lead 5.11.

Another warning: don't camp near the bridge at the New. There are reports of climbers getting beaten up by locals who have some weird attitudes about anyone spending the night there.

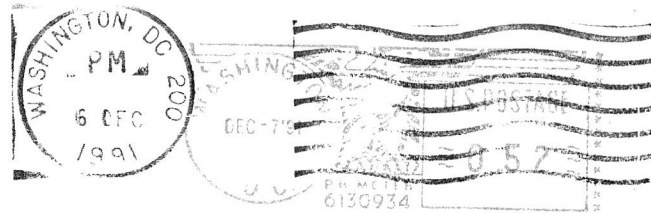
One of the campgrounds probably will serve you better.

I could not possibly do justice to all the achievements or glorious failures of club members at the New this year. I remember Doug Dupuie flashing Sugar Bubbas (5.11a), Jana Gill following it with ease, and Elizabeth Erskine making In The Bag (5.11d) look easy. Jeanette Helfrich flashed Smore Energy

(5.11b) on a top-rope. Beth Logan led a few 5.10s during her first year of climbing. Despite climbing much less often than in the past, Stuart Pregnall put in a powerful display at the Kaymoor one day. John Rayner exhibited his legendary slab climbing prowess on many routes and the unpumpable James Eakin hung out longer than any other climber in recorded history in leading Bat Crack, Doce Doe and a few others. As for myself, while I managed to dramatically improve my leading skills, taking many falls along the way, I hurt a finger top-roping and hurt my back sleeping. Like they say, "It's always something." See you at the New in 1992.



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