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

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1992 ACCESS FUND RENDEZVOUS by Stuart Pregnall

The 1992 Access Fund Rendezvous was a huge display of corporate support for the Access Fund and its efforts to preserve America's diverse climbing resources. Held in Jefferson, CO, at "Bungee Jumping Colorado," the Rendezvous continued the themes of good times, good climbing and good bargains begun at the first Rendezvous held last year in New Paltz.

This year's attractions included a gigantic tent where sponsors plied their wares; an Orbitron, where one's horizons were certainly confused if not expanded; six climbing walls(!!!); food and fun; another booty and climbing gear memorabilia auction; and a reggae band. Oh, and the bungee jumping tower, which was available for \$30 a jump. Nearly 500 people attended the event, including many of Boulder's climbing notables. Spotted at the Rendezvous were Doug Dupuie and climbing partner Natalie, Boulder Rock Club employee Eric Wright, Dusty Wissmath, Mary Koshuta, John Taladay and the Pregnall family.

Highlights of the day included Sean Coburn's dramatic bungee jump, Armando Menocal's thrilling Orbitron ride, the golden eagle from the Rocky Mountain Raptor Institute, speed and three-legged climbing contests, and a bidding war on one of the original Harding-placed bolts from the Headwall pitch of the Nose (it eventually sold for \$330). Many climbers also scored great gear bargains, bidding for shoes, ropes, protection gear, and clothing at prices well under retail. Food was Mexican fare washed down by Coors, a Rendezvous sponsor, although a lot of people kept heading for the free Power Bar distribution.

In terms of Rendezvous-related work, the AF's National Advisory Council met for three action packed hours Saturday morning to discuss two items. First, over 50 members and guests hotly argued over the question of whether or not the AF should support the Park Service's proposed

"zoning" of climbing areas as included in several draft climbing management plans. At stake, according the Michael Kennedy, is the freedom for climbers to choose what type of climbing experience they desire. Gary Colliver, Climbing Ranger at Yosemite, contended that the Park Service's mission was to "regulate Park visitors' experiences." In the end, the NAC voted that the AF should not support Park regulation of experiences, but should support climbing regulations based on demonstrable resource impact. Second, the question of AF support for artificial climbing areas, such as building (common to our area) and glued-on routes (common to southern California) was debated. The NAC came out very strongly in favor of supporting such climbing, based largely on the notion that "climbers are climbers, and climbing is climbing" as voiced by Christian Griffith.

The AF Board met Sunday and revisited the two topics from the NAC meeting, agreeing to adopt an official policy on climbing management at the next meeting after an agreeable text could be developed, and, based largely on limited resources, overturned the NAC's vote on artificial climbing surfaces. The Board agreed on a model Recreational User Statute as drafted by the Legal Committee, and of course discussed finances and administration. The AF raised and spent over \$120,000 in the past year. Additional projects that remain unfunded include the Gunks parking lot, trail projects at Yosemite, and locally, toilets at the New River and signs at Seneca. Increasing membership was a very hot topic, and all MS members are strongly urged to join the AF as soon as possible. Finally, local climber John Taladay, who was instrumental in developing the model recreational use statute, was elected as the new Chair of the Legal Committee, and Stuart Pregnall was elected AF Vice President.

A Sponsor's Dinner, held Friday evening, honored George Bracksieck of Rock and Ice and PMI/Petzl as two significant AF supporters during

the past year. A large crowd of local climbers jammed into Sally Moser's back yard to enjoy barbecue, a keg, and brisk mountain air. Many of Boulder's climbing elite attended, and it was highly amusing to feel a mass of low body fat climbers shivering in unison.

The AF was pleased to be able to announce several access victories at the Rendezvous. First and foremost was the announcement that the South Carolina Parks and Recreation Department will soon open their lands to climbing for the first time. Sean Coburn of Spartanburg brokered this coup. South Carolina's Piedmont has a lot of tremendous climbing that will become available as a result. Next, the AF announced that Table Mountain in Golden CO was reopened due to Rick Accomazzo's efforts. Table Mountain, a recently developed area, was unexpectedly closed because of the landowner's misunderstood liability concerns. Accomazzo pointed out that Colorado has a decent Recreational User statute, and that solved the problem. Locally, White Rocks PA is now reopened, Clifton Gorge will allow restricted climbing on a trial basis for one year, most of the cliffs at Minnewaska are being lobbied by the Friends of the Shawangunks for climbing closure (but open for horse back riding, mountain biking, etc!), climbing at Bellefonte Quarry is still up in the air, and the Red River Gorge has encountered the wrath of a self-appointed guardian of traditional values who claims that God has told him bolts were a form of blasphemy.

During the Rendezvous, the Pregnalls also visited a number of Colorado climbing areas to get a better idea of how climbers view the AF and its activities, to visit specific areas of concern to the AF, and, if time was available, to climb! During two day visits to Shelf Road and Penitente Canyon, both of which are on BLM land, it was evident that the BLM and climbers are working well together to mitigate climbing impacts. Both areas have adequate signage, parking, camping and toilets, and the trail systems are well marked and maintained. A BLM note on a bulletin board at Shelf proclaimed that climbers were the best recreation users in the area! We urge local climbers who enjoy sport climbing to visit both areas. Shelf Road's limestone is steep (i.e., vertical to slightly overhanging) and highly featured with edges, pockets and buckets. Protection was generally good, and the routes in Roth's guide that have stars deserved them. In Sand Gulch, Apple Bites Back (11c) and at the Bank, Back to the

Future (also 11c) were the absolute standouts, with Suburbia (10a), Mark Finds Bob Bolting (10d), Miller Time (11a), and Back Her Up Against the Wall and Caulk Her (11b/c) also being recommended. We climbed a number of 10's and 11's and found the gradings to be pretty consistent with local grades. At Penitente, face climbing on off-vertical to slightly overhanging walls is the norm. Edges and small pockets are offered on most routes. Pro is generally excellent. Penitente also boasts the only 5.2 sport route in the country! Recommended routes: all of them! Absolute standouts were Not My Cross to Bear (11b), Los Hermanos de la Weenie Way (11c), Ya Ta Hei (10c), That's the Way (10b), Forbidden Fruit (12a), and Tanks for the Huecos and Breakdown Dead Ahead (both 11a/b, but they felt only 5.10). General notes include: keep to the shade, and hydrate, hydrate, hydrate.

In Boulder, day care provided us the option to get off the deck a few pitches, and we romped the delectable Third Flatiron (5.4) and blustered our way up the Yellow Spur (5.10). Wind was so severe on the Spur that we were in danger of being blown off one belay, and the crux pitch was negotiated by moving only between wind gusts. New climber-built trails afford better up and down access than before, and will help mitigate erosion and rock fall. Eldorado's new Redgarden Wall trail is especially magnificent, switchbacking up what used to be a horrid grind.

Rock gyms are also big in Colorado. We visited only Paradise (Denver) and the Boulder Rock Gym, enjoying the plastic scene a lot. Leading routes on plastic isn't everyone's idea of "real" climbing, but it was a great pump, a good way to practice various techniques, and lots of fun to boot. The scene is mildly competitive, but generally friendly. Boulder also sports two superb climbing shops (The Boulder Mountaineer and Neptune Mountaineering) plus lots of smaller shops where you can see, try, and discuss (with real climbers) all the latest gear.

Next year's AF Rendezvous will probably be in Phoenix, AZ, in mid-November when it cools off. Phoenix boasts tons of climbing of both traditional and sporting natures (call Steves Amter or Zich for a run-down), tons of mountain biking, hospitable people, an indoor gym, and reasonable air fares. As details develop, you'll read about them here in *Up-Rope*. See you there!

LOOKING GLASS ROCK

By Rick Dotson

Looking Glass Rock in North Carolina has good solid granite. The rock is climber-friendly, not razor sharp like Old Rag. The Glass has everything from cracks, steep face and slabs to overhangs.

I went there with my friend Regina Pieper and her 10-year-old son Jacob. Jake really enjoyed climbing on the granite domes. One of our favorite routes was The Nose, which has four pitches of excellent climbing. It is one of the most popular routes at Looking Glass. The Nose is 450 feet of moderate (5.8), well-protected face climbing. The Nose is exciting to climb because you are climbing "eyebrows". Eyebrows are horizontal pockets that are sloping on the bottom half and have a small lip at the top. Eyebrows require bizarre moves like underclinging one eyebrow to mantle onto another.

The face can be covered with hundreds of these things. Sometimes there will be a small flaring crack in the back of the eyebrow for pro, but usually not. The trick is to find the ones with cracks. You can't tell if an eyebrow takes pro until you are on top of it, so I found myself putting in pro all the time. I seemed to use lots of small units and pink tricams.

There are plenty of other good routes at the Glass. The North Face has 200-foot crack climbs from 10- to 11+ and 400-foot aid climbs. The Sun Wall has wavy overhangs that are climbed by friction and underclinging eyebrows. The South End has many moderate one- and two-pitch cracks and corners.

For cooling off after climbing, Sliding Rock is really wild. It is a 20-foot-wide, 40-foot-long slide on smooth rock into an eight-foot-deep hole. You really get moving on the way down, then splash into the big pool at the bottom (which is cold even in the summer).

Camping is not a problem at the Glass. Looking Glass is located in the Pisgah National Forest, so back-country camping is allowed. One popular camping area is near the trail to the south end. A creek runs by many clearings to put up your tent and there are many fire rings for your campfires. There are no showers but you rinse off under Slick Rock Falls.

"East Coast Rock Climbs" is the only guide currently available for Looking Glass. It covers several areas in North Carolina. I would recommend it to anyone who wants to get an overview of climbing areas on the East coast. Looking Glass Outfitters has topos of the popular routes on the Glass. The shop is located outside of the town of Bevard at the entrance to Pisgah Forest Park.

PHONE NUMBERS FOR WEATHER ETC.:**THE NEW**

Hard Rock Climbing (304) 574-0735
National Weather Service @ Beckley
(304) 252-0791
Mountain State Campground
(304) 574-0947 Reservations
(304) 574-1458 store

SENECA ROCKS

Gendarme (304) 567-2600
National Weather Service @ Elkins
(304) 636-1200
Seneca Shadows Campground (304) 567-2415
Yokum's camping & restaurant (304) 567-2351

THE GUNKS

Rock & Snow (914) 255-1311

NORTH CONWAY, NEW HAMPSHIRE

International Mountain Equipment
(603) 356-7064

NOTE:

Between 9am and 5pm the National Weather Service office has staff to handle questions about the weather in any part of the country. When you call you will get a recording; wait until it is finished and someone will pick up the phone to help you. Sometimes it takes them a while, so be patient. The Washington area has a National Weather office which is cheaper than long distance (between 9-5) but I don't have this number.

EARTH TREKS SPONSORS EXCHANGE

Earth Treks, a Maryland-based adventure education organization, will be one of the first American firms to sponsor mountaineering expeditions to the former Soviet Union for both Russian and American climbers. With the support of the Russian government a two phased climber's exchange has been planned for 1993. The first expedition is to the Andes Mountains of Ecuador and is scheduled from January 16 to 31, 1993. The team of climbers will be ascending four mountains ranging from 16,818 to 20,703 feet. The second expedition is to Peak Revolution, 23,305 feet, in the Pamirs of Tadzikistan, a remote corner of the former Soviet Union. The expeditions will be led by Chris Warner, a successful Himalayan climber and mountaineering guide. Applications for participation on these expeditions are currently being accepted.

Earth Treks also offers introductory, intermediate and advanced climbing and moun-

taineering courses taught by experienced outdoor education instructors. Contact Earth Treks at their Clarksburg, Maryland office (301-972-5468).

REGIONAL CLIMBING MAGAZINE TO APPEAR

The premier issue of Sheer Face, a monthly newsletter devoted to rock climbing enthusiasts in the mid-Atlantic region, will soon be launched. The promotional brochures states that "climbers need a reliable, unbiased, timely source of relevant information. National magazines simply don't give this region enough coverage to sink a piton in." It plans to address all climbing disciplines from bouldering to indoor walls to technical rock climbing to spelunking. To subscribe, send \$36 for 12 monthly issues to Sheer Face, c/o DSL Publishing, P.O. Box 230, Rockville, Maryland 20848-0230. (We think UPROPE gives pretty good coverage, and for only \$15 a year! ... but there's always room for quality writing and publishing ... just who is DSL Publishing anyway?).

CLIMBING ACCIDENTS IN NORTH AMERICA

The American Alpine Club's yearly publication of Accidents in North American Mountaineering recently appeared. Apparently no reports were made from Maryland, Virginia, West Virginia, Pennsylvania or North Carolina. The Mohonk Preserve issued the following report on accidents at the Gunks:

"Twenty-three climbing accidents were reported in 1991, seven of which resulted in fractures. In five cases, protection pulled out, and three accidents were due to belayers dropping their seconds to the ground. The worst injury was a fractured and dislocated elbow, which resulted when a first-time leader fell ten feet on the top pitch of Rusty Trufel [sic] (5.3)."

"One life-threatening situation occurred to a climber as he was walking up to the cliffs by Sleepy Hollow. He disturbed a swarm of feeding yellow jackets, was stung multiple times and went into full anaphylactic shock. He has a history of being allergic to bee stings, but even a non-allergic person may have suffered under such a severe attack. The climber recovered with no ill effects, but we are all to be reminded of the potential accidents which can occur if bees are encountered while climbing."

This annual report makes for chilling reading, especially reports on rappelling on a single piton which pulled, rappelling off fixed slings which broke, and rappelling off a rock horn which shattered after five people had used it.

MEMBER NEWS AND MISCELLANEOUS

Appearing shell-shocked, Brian Borders announced that he and his wife, Grace, are expecting twins. They have just bought a house on Greystone in Chevy Chase. After returning from a year in Czechoslovakia and Africa, Brian was recently appointed President of the Publicly-Traded Securities Association. Grace works for the Resolution Trust Corporation.

MS Treasurer, Brian Vincent, has accepted a position as director of the Forest Conservation Council, a small grass-roots environmental organization in Portland, Oregon. In Washington, he worked for the Audubon Society. Galen Rowell gave a slide show on September 17 at the Sumner School in Washington for the benefit of the Campaign for Tibet Committee headed by MS member John Ackerly.

A certain MS member is reaching new heights, not mountains but ratings. Tom Isaacson is working on climbing "Apollo Reed," a climb graded 5.13a at Summersville near the New River Gorge. He has reduced his hangs to one and a redpoint watch is on! Tom has also put up "Morning Dew" a 5.12a-b route with Steve Jones at Fern Buttress and redpointed "Chunky Monkey" at Beauty Mountain graded 5.12b.

Alison Osius was recently spotted devouring every route on sight at the Clipper City Rock Gym in Baltimore preparing for an upcoming competition in Nuremberg, Germany. Having grown up in Annapolis, she is an editor for Climbing magazine and frequent winner of climbing competitions.

Ken Andrasko has been traveling to Malaysia, Thailand, Mexico, and and trying to work in some climbing.

Jeanette Helfrich and John Rayner are climbing in southern Thailand near Krabi and Phuket in November after trekking in the northern hill country near Chiang Mai. If there's too much adventure in mountaineering, try adventure in sport climbing.

Rumored that Chris Bonington may give a major slide show in Washington in 1993. His new book and 4 part television series sponsored by the BBC have been a smash hit in Britain. A joint publication and tour in the U.S. are expected to follow—stay tuned.

Congratulations to Stuart Pregnall who was elected Vice President of The Access Fund at the Climbers' Rendezvous and Annual Meeting in Boulder. MS members Dusty Wissmath, Mary Koshuto, and John Taladay also attended the meeting. While there, Stuart and Karen also visited Mesa Verde, Durango and Telluride and climbed at Shelf Road, Penitente, Rocky Mountain National Park and Boulder.

The Access Fund held a major membership

and fund raising "tele-thon" in the D.C. area in October. John Taladay generously provided facilities and equipment for the event at his downtown law firm, Baker & Hostetler. If you missed our calls, feel free to send a check to the Access Fund, c/o Stuart Pregnall.

Don't forget the grand opening of the PATC meeting hall on Wednesday, November 11 (Veteran's Day), 7:30 p.m. in PATC's new office building in Vienna. Bring a covered dish to share for the celebration and several of your favorite climbing slides (preferably you or your friends in compromising situations). After a year of cramped meeting rooms, the newly-remodeled meeting room is finally finished.

Alex Tait regaled us at the September slide show with the antics of "snafflehounds" while climbing in the Bugaboos in Canada and his climb up the northwest ridge of Bugaboo Spire. Alex is our new program chairperson who recently moved to old town Warrenton. He got married in October.

Beth Logan has returned from a bicycling vacation in France and Brussels and has recently been climbing with Doug Cosby at the hot new sport climbing area in the East, the Red River in Kentucky. I'm still trying those ridiculous stretchesss, Beth. Don and Linda McIntyre invite the club to a Holiday Party at their house in Oakton, Virginia in December, date to be announced. Don presented a slide show at the October meeting on his April attempt on a new route on Cho Oyu, the ridge from the Nepal side. The standard route approaches from Tibet.

Seen climbing at the Gunks over Columbus Day were Rick Dotson, Michael and Sara Murphy, John Rayner and Jeanette Helfrich. We enjoyed hanging around some famous climbers who traveled from Boulder back east for a climbing vacation: Annie Whitehouse, Derrick Hershey, and their host from New Jersey, Mike Freeman.

A significantly larger crowd spent the holiday weekend at the New River, reflecting the apparent shift of club members from mountaineering to sport climbing. Bobbi Bensman visited the New River around that time but didn't stay long — "too reachy."

Noted mountaineer Jeff Lowe is giving a slide show to benefit MS on November 14, 7:30 p.m., at the Cathedral School on Wisconsin and Massachusetts Avenues in Washington entitled "The Last Great Himalayan Challenge" (we don't know in advance what Jeff considers that to be).

News on the climbing computer network — Wolfgang Gullich died in a high-speed car crash in Germany this summer; a tragic fall in Yosemite sent a couple to their deaths when their belay pulled; a note posted to the network seeking climbing information in Thailand yielded no infor-

mation but lots of inquiries requesting such information if we ever get some; Jeffrey Levy, now studying at the University of Washington, is actively reading and posting on the network; weird inventions for protection in bolt holes are being brain-stormed; etc.

UP ROPE ACCEPTS ADVERTISING!

Beginning in this issue, *Up Rope* will accept paid advertising. A unanimous executive committee vote allows the MS to defray the costs of printing and postage associated with *Up Rope* and provide MS members with additional info on supplier sales, events, or services that are not widely known. All advertisers are invited to call Dan Hague (301) 585-5243 for rates and publication schedules.

By the way, *Up Rope* now reaches over 300 MS members and most are climbers in the Washington D.C. area. What better way to get your message out than an ad in *Up Rope*.

JEFF LOWE TO PRESENT

Jeff Lowe will be in town on November 14 to present what he believes to be "The Last Great Himalayan Challenge." No word from Jeff on what that might be, but it's sure to be interesting nonetheless. The show begins at 7:30 p.m. at the National Cathedral School (sight of Cathedral Crank) and will cost \$5.00 per head. Call Dusty Wissmath at 301-585-7610 for more information.

ROCK GYM DEAL

If you haven't been using the Clipper City or Rockville rock gyms because of the cost then take note! PATC has put together a package deal that will allow you to join for about \$8.00 per month. Call Dan Hague 301-585-5243 for more details.

CLIMBERS' CALENDAR

DATE	AREA OR EVENT	CONTACT	PHONE	PLACE
Oct 31-Nov 1	Seneca & Franklin, WV	Rick Dotson	703-494-7873	note 2
Nov 1	Crescent Rocks, VA	Alex Tait	703-349-2645	call
Nov 4	Executive Committee mtg	Dusty Wissmath	301-585-7610	call
Nov 7	Open / TBA	PATC-MS Hotline	703-242-3501	TBA
Nov 8	Crescent Rocks, VA	Don Holtzer	301-681-8035	call
Nov 11	Monthly MS mtg / Grand Opening Everyone bring a covered dish & a dozen of your favorite climbing slides	Dusty Wissmath	301-585-7610	HQ
Nov 14	Jeff Lowe lecture, 7:30 PM at National Cathedral School	Dusty Wissmath	301-585-7610	call
Nov 15	Open / TBA	PATC-MS Hotline	703-242-3501	TBA
Nov 21	Crescent Rocks, VA	John Yanson	202-667-4334	call
Nov 22	Open / TBA	PATC-MS Hotline	703-242-3501	TBA
Nov 28	Open / TBA	PATC-MS Hotline	703-242-3501	TBA
Nov 29	Bulges / Great Falls, MARYLAND	Dusty Wissmath	301-585-7610	call
Dec 2	Executive Committee mtg	Dusty Wissmath	301-585-7610	call
Dec 5-6	Seneca Rocks, WV	Rick Dotson	703-494-7873	note 2
Dec 5	Bulges / Great Falls, MARYLAND	John Yanson	202-667-4334	call
Dec 6	Bull Run, VA	Alex Tait	703-349-2645	AO
Dec 9	Monthly MS meeting Yosemite Slide Show, Reed Falwell	Dusty Wissmath	301-585-7610	HQ
Dec 12	Great Falls, VA	Don Holtzer	301-681-8035	GF
Dec 13	Open / TBA	PATC-MS Hotline	703-242-3501	TBA
Dec 19	Open / TBA	PATC-MS Hotline	703-242-3501	TBA
Dec 20	Open / TBA	PATC-MS Hotline	703-242-3501	TBA
Dec 26	Open / TBA	PATC-MS Hotline	703-242-3501	TBA
Dec 27	Open / TBA	PATC-MS Hotline	703-242-3501	TBA

*** HAPPY HOLIDAYS!! ***

.... Think cold, think ICE!

NOTES:

- 1) Please call the trip leaders in early or mid week to make arrangements and contingency plans. For information on open trips, please call the Mountaineering Section Activities Hotline at 703-242-3501. (The hotline will be updated on a regular basis.) For further information, you may contact one of the persons listed below:

- Dusty Wissmath,	Chairperson,	H-301-585-7610,	W-703-379-9401 (REI)
- Donn Williams,	Vice Chairperson,	H-301-473-5499,	W-301-948-6070
- Peter Hsi, Secretary,		H-703-590-2540,	W-703-648-0013
- Brian Vincent,	Treasurer,	H-202-588-1358,	W-202-547-9009

- 2) These trips are to lead climbing areas. Please arrange for your own partners. The trip leaders can help with arranging ride-sharing, what to bring, and other logistics.

MEETING PLACE DIRECTIONS:

RR Gaithersburg Roy Rogers/Hardees, 465 N. Frederick Rd. (Rt 355), Gaithersburg, MD: Exit I-270 at Rt 124 E. (Montgomery Village Ave.); R at next lite on Rt 355 S.; L at 2nd lite and L into parking lot; park in rear by large trees.

AO Appalachian Outfitters, 2930 Chain Bridge Rd., Oakton, VA: Exit I-66 at exit 16 (Rt 123 N.); L just past 4th lite (AO is on your left) into bank parking lot.

GF Great Falls Nat'l Park, 9200 Old Dominion Dr., Great Falls, VA: Exit I-495 at exit 13 (Rt. 193/Great Falls); W on Georgetown Pike about 4 miles; R at lite into park entrance; hard R past ranger's booth into lower parking lot; late arrivals check for note on windshield for specific climbing area.

HQ PATC-MS Headquarters, 118 Park St., S.E., Vienna, VA 22180: I-66 W. to Nutley exit; N. towards downtown Vienna; R. on Maple Ave.; R. on Park St., S.E. to building on left —OR— take Orange line Metro to Vienna stop; connect to 2X or 2C bus for 2 mile ride (or walk thru pleasant residential area); near Maple Ave. shopping center. W&OD bike trail runs 1/8 south.

TBA To Be Announced (call PATC-MS Hotline for latest info.)

SO YOU WANT TO BE A ROCK STAR?

CLIPPER CITY ROCK GYM

Baltimore and Washington's premier indoor climbing facility provides year-round comfort for all levels of ability. For the novice we offer introductory coursework as well as climbs with BIG holds! Our 50 foot cave and numerous roof routes can pump even the burliest hardman - a killer workout for those looking to break the 5.11 or 5.12 barriers.

Clipper City has over 3500 square feet of texturized climbing surface with 30 foot walls, overhangs, roofs, caves, overhanging headwalls, and much more. Visit our pro shop or use the weight training equipment, even curl your toes in the sand of our beach volleyball court!

Two facilities: Baltimore at 2017 Clipper Park Drive 410-467-9727 open till midnight every day but Sunday
Rockville at 805 Avery Road 301-217-5025 restricted hours - call!

1993 MOUNTAINEERING EXPEDITIONS

ECUADOR VOLCANOES

Russian / American Climbing Exchange

Climb four peaks, including Cotopaxi (19,347 ft.) and Chimborazo (20,703 ft.), on this skill development and multi-cultural expedition. (Jan. 16 to 31)

Andean Classic Realize your dream of climbing one of the world's great mountains. A mountaineering adventure on Cotopaxi and a cultural exploration of the Ecuadorian highlands. (Jan.30 to Feb.7)

PAMIRS

Russian / American Climbing Exchange Join a group of Russian and American climbers on an expedition to Peak of the Fours (20,661 ft.) and Peak Korzhenevsky (7,105 m., 23,305 ft.). July-August.

NEPALESE HIMALAYA

Trek into the Langtang Valley and ascend Naya Kanga (19,180 ft.). November.

Earth Treks is a leader in the field of adventure education. Based upon a foundation of 26 years of experience as educators and ascents of dozens of Andean and Himalayan peaks, we are able to offer safe, stimulating, skill development expeditions to the world's most incredible climbing areas (from Carderock to the Himalayas). Ask about our local climbing courses and private guiding opportunities.



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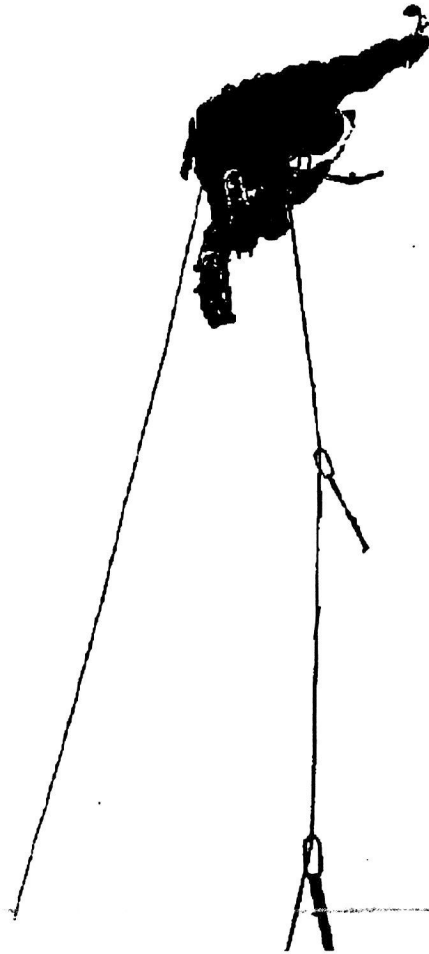


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