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The '92 New Review

by Tom Isaacson

1992 was a fairly quiet year at the New. For the first time in several years no major new area (such as Summersville, Kaymoor, Bubba, etc.) was opened. Quite a few serious sport climbers visited from distant places to liven things up a bit.

The Scene. The growing emphasis on sport climbing at the New probably parallels that trend throughout rock climbing. I suspect that on any given weekend less than half the climbers at the New carry a protection rack and even fewer have any plans to use one. A corollary to that trend is that the New remains relatively unpopular among beginners (for whom there are few routes) or trad climbers (who seem to prefer Seneca or the Gunks). In fact, the New has far better cracks than either Seneca or the Gunks but few people want to climb them.

Since about 1984 Rick Thompson had served as the New's de-facto ambassador to the climbing world. A very high percentage of what the rest of the climbing community (if there is such a thing) knew about the New was based on Rick's guidebook, articles and Basecamp reports. Lately the correspondents' scene has become something of a free-for-all, with articles appearing from many sources. While the diversification of perspectives is probably a good thing, some of the new material has been either a bit silly or rather misleading. Up Rope, of course, has maintained its usual high journalistic standards. Some climbers, especially Doug Reed and Eric Horst, have been equipping old trad or mixed routes with bolts and cold shuts. Many unpopular routes became "instant classics" when they were retrobolted. The arete/flake known as Strike a Scowl illustrates that phenomenon. Try it before it gets chopped; it was bolted without the first ascensionist's approval.

The hardest climbs of a few years ago are still, by and large, the hardest climbs at the New. This stagnation results from several factors: Some of the top

climbers at the New were injured, others spent a lot of time elsewhere, visiting climbers seem to focus on repeating (not establishing) routes and Harrison Dekker doesn't own a drill. Some of the climbers who live at the New also appeared to be spending time on "secret" cliffs, such as those located upstream of Kaymoor. Meanwhile, the next generation of climbers such as Jake (the snake) Slaney, John Logan, Rudy Ruann and others are already leading 5.13 and knocking on the incumbents' door, or so I'm told. Many of the better D.C. climbers were busy again at the New. Jim Woodruff was hard at work on a new route at Beauty Mountain which, if completed, could be the hardest route at the New, 5.13d. Young Doug Cosby put in an immense number of tries ("burns") to lead his new route (White Lightning) at Kaymoor. At last word, he had not yet made it. Jim Taylor spent the summer at the New doing a lot of hard routes, guiding for Hard Rock and kayaking. Gary Beil established quite a few new sport and traditional routes, mostly at Summersville. Other non-club members such as Ken McLain and Phil Olinick were active at the New, whatever that means.

The growing popularity of Kaymoor and Summersville (which are almost entirely sport climbing areas, Gary Beil's efforts notwithstanding) helped spread climbers around much better. The further development of Franklin, Safe Harbor and Red River Gorge also pulled sport climbers away from the New. As a result, places like Fern Point, Central Endless and Beauty Mountain were nearly empty on many weekends. The seriously deteriorated condition of the ladders at Central Endless may also become a deterrent if they aren't fixed soon.

Getting Around. The much anticipated second edition of Rick Thompson's guidebook has yet to arrive. Perhaps this Spring. In its absence, low budget mini-guides to most areas (except parts of the Endless Wall) have become available. Visit Hard Rock in Fayetteville if you need a copy. A comprehensive

inexpensive guide to the New is also rumored to be in the works. (*Editor's note: See the ad on page 137 of the Dec 92/Jan 93 issue of Climbing magazine for this new New guide!*)

Club Stuff. A significant number of club members visited the New, though probably no more than in past years. Most experienced club members view the New as the place to go to do hard routes. Whether they succeeded in those ambitions is a different matter. I could not possibly do justice to all of the efforts of club members at the New this year; in fact, I'm not always sure who is a club member. With those caveats, here are a few highlights from 1992 (in no particular order). Tom Halicki beta-flashed S'more Energy (11b) and Elizabeth Erskine top rope flashed it, Under the Milky Way (11d), and Aesthetica (11c). Dan Hague led Freaky Stylee (12a), and Tech Man (12b/c) and flashed quite a few 5.11s, including the first flash of Left of Legacy (11?) after a key hold (the potato chip) was broken off by Tom Clancy, or was it Robert Ludlum? Dan was on the verge of pinkpointing Bullet the New Sky (12a) when rain stopped him half way up.

James Eakin top rope flashed many 5.11s, including Ex-puddition and Sugar Pumpkins, and he teamed up with John Rayner and Jeanette Helfrich to establish a new crack/corner route at Kaymoor. John Rayner led (more or less) Magnificent Pucasso (12a) proving, once again, that he can climb very hard routes if he finds them appealing. He also led Mellifluous (11a) (How many other club members led a traditional 5.11 this year? Not many, I'll bet) and has his sights on a few 5.11d climbs. Jeanette led Muckraker (10c) and top-roped Under the Milky Way (11d). Jeanette seems poised to start leading carefully selected 5.11 sport climbs. John Yanson flashed New Tricks (10c), which has thwarted many good climbers, as well as the challenging unnamed 10b on the Excellent Buttress at Summersville.

Steve Jones flashed a lot of 5.11s and one 5.12a, mostly at Kaymoor. He is close to succeeding on Thunderstruck (12b/c), and is making steady progress on Apollo Reed (13a). Those of you who persistently whine about your height should watch Steve climb. Doug Dupuie led a number of hard 5.10s before moving to Denver. [Note to Doug: Someone (you can probably guess who) bolted the new route we were working on at the far downstream end of Endless Wall.] Rick Dotson established a solid record on many hard crack climbs and held his own on sport routes - including just missing a top rope flash of an unnamed 11c at Kaymoor. (Isn't that informative?) Rick is the only climber I've met who can return from a day at the New looking like he's been caving.

Beth Logan led or flashed a bunch of 5.10s and, at last word, was working on redpointing Moon Child Posse (11c) and Out of the Bag (11d). Ex-club member Rick Forbes was active this Fall and was consistently leading moderate 5.10 sport and trad

routes. Rick Forbes is about to take an extended climbing trip between work assignments. Stuart and Karen Pregnall visited the New less often than usual. Stuart was able to make the best of his trips with on-sight flashes of Pucasso (12a) and Aesthetica (11c), a top-rope flash of Grow Hole (12a) and redpoints of Dead Painters and Team Machine (both 12a). I didn't see much of Karen, but she reportedly put in some strong efforts in between parental obligations. At last sight Brian Rennex was fighting the good fight on Apollo Reed (13a), results still to come. Jana Gill, Dave Godwin, Paula Grant, Denise Cohen, Dusty Wissmath and others were seen at the New but I can't comment on their efforts. As for myself, I visited the New about twenty times (with 14 different people) which improved my climbing. I led more than forty 5.11s (about half of which were on the first try), and seven 5.12s (including pinkpointing Chunky Monkey, 5.12c?, after a key foothold broke off). Steve Jones (a recent Club addition) and I established Morning Dew (5.12a/b) at Fern Buttress, one of the hardest first ascents by a club member. Many club members assisted that project in various ways.

Climate. The weather was rainier and cooler than last year. Although frequent dampness was a problem, especially at Beauty Mountain which seeps a lot, this seems to have held back the snakes which was a welcome relief compared to 1991 when numerous climbers were bitten by copperheads. While the weather at the New is not great, the fact that the rock faces many different directions and is often capped by roofs allows climbing in nearly all weather. Remember, "it never rains on Apollo Reed." I went to the New every weekend for more than four months and never had less than two full days of climbing each time. Most of the rain falls in late afternoon and early morning, so as not to interfere with climbing. Ignore weather reports if you're planning a trip to the New - they are rarely accurate. The weekends that Hurricane Andrew and Tropical Storm Danielle were supposed to pass through the area were both excellent. I could tell many stories of people who cancelled trips at the last minute only to learn that the weather was thoroughly climbable. If you want to climb at the New, just go there; it probably won't rain, if it does, there are still plenty of climbs to do. Also, try saving some of the rainy day routes for a rainy day. Recent events compel me to add that my idea of acceptable climbing weather is somewhat broader than that of other climbers.

Food and lodging. I've stayed at nearly all the campgrounds, none is particularly good, yet everyone has a preference. Battle Run at Summersville Dam is the plushiest but doesn't take reservations. All of the campgrounds near the New suffer from noisy rafters and most are near the highway, too. Buy some ear-plugs. The Peking Restaurant in Oak Hill is a popular alternative to the Golden Corral. Mountain Mama's in

Fayetteville replaced the Pancake House as the climber's breakfast of choice this summer. It has since closed but is rumored to be re-opening under new owners.

Getting started. The New now has enough moderate 5.9 and 5.10 sport climbs to keep you happy for many weekends. There are 5.9 and 5.10 sport routes throughout the New although Summersville probably has the highest concentration of them. The two best moderate routes, Rico Suave and Flight of the Gumbie, are at Kaymoor. If you do all of the moderate sport routes, you should be ready for the 5.11s, of which there are hundreds.

Access. Getting to Summersville has become a problem due to the expansion of Route 19. One solution is take the first left after crossing the bridge over the Gauley and park at the boat ramp. This involves a lengthy walk in. You can park along Route 19, just past the construction lot, and hike back toward the bridge. Or, you can try your luck on the logging roads. These appear to be on private property and probably should be avoided. When the Lake rises in the Spring and precludes walking along the beach you will need to use the old trail which has been partially obliterated by logging. Alternatively, you can rent a boat at the Marina. A weak "powerboat" costs \$35/day and takes some 45 minutes to reach the main cliffs. Unless you're interested in aquatic sports, in touring the lake, or in hauling a cooler to the cliffs, you're probably better off on foot. If you haven't been to Summersville lately, you should check before going there.

Another area, the Meadows, is on private property and you probably should stay away. There are lots of great routes at the New and very few at the Meadows unless you can climb 5.12. Its availability for climbing is very tenuous and there is no reason to impose unnecessary burdens on this area.

Back at the New, a ranger has been seen patrolling the cliff base. Your good judgment may avoid creating an access problem in the future.

Lies and Etiquette. One unmistakable trend at the New, perhaps elsewhere as well, has been to inflate claims about climbs. Some of this is due to the competitiveness of sport climbing (it is a sport, after all) and some of it results from careless language. (I'm sorry, I'm a lawyer, I care about these things.) There are two prominent examples of this. First, a "flash" originally referred to a successful lead on the first try. Many people, some of whom should know better, use "flash" to describe any stylish ascent or a successful lead on the first try of the day. Second, a "redpoint" means placing the quickdraws on your lead while a "pinkpoint" means the quickdraws were already in place. Many climbers use "redpoint" to cover both situations. If you can't handle that distinction just use the new verb "send", it refers to any

legitimate lead. ("Did you send Exoduster?" "Yeah, I sent it".) While this expansion of the term "redpoint" might be o.k. in reference to routes which have permanent quickdraws and you're not expected to place them yourself, it is obviously misleading when used on a climb where you normally must place your own quickdraws. This is not purely semantics. On some pumpy routes placing quickdraws significantly affects the overall difficulty. On other routes pre-placing a quickdraw on the anchor can eliminate the last move altogether. One reason for this fusion of terminology is that many people do not top rope sport climbs, unless they are just working out the moves. Instead, the leader lowers off, pulls the rope and leaves the quickdraws in place for the second, etc. Thus, everyone else in the party who tries the route never even attempts to place the quickdraws themselves. You can claim whatever you want about your efforts but be careful in taking others' claims at face value.

[Before you trad climbers get holier-than-thou on this issue, I should point out that accuracy in reporting is far worse among trad climbers. I've witnessed many climbers claim to have "led" or "done" a trad route when, in reality, they hung all over the pro. That is a huge distortion on a one pitch route. Few sport climbers will claim a redpoint when they actually hang-dogged the route.]

Sandbags. Route grades at the New usually are those given by the first ascent party and do not represent a consensus. As a result the grading can be quite inconsistent. Without digressing into the bottomless pit of arguments over route grades, I will mention a few routes that seemed awfully hard for the reported grade: Totally Tammy (8), Brass Monkey (10a), Lewd Operator (10b), Left of Legacy (10d), Linear Encounters (10d), My Wife is a Dog (10d), Sceptre (11a), Sancho Belige (11b/c), Fattburger (11d), and nearly everything on the 10b wall at Summersville. John Rayner says that Flyin' Hawaiian is tough for 5.9 and many people feel that Prowesse is rather exciting for 5.8. Some of the routes on this list are excellent and come highly recommended. Just be forewarned, they are bad for the ego.

If I feel charitable, I may put together a list of overrated climbs (so-called "gimmees") for the New Year. These may help guide you to climbs that will give you the greatest bragging rights and sense of accomplishment. On the other hand, since some of those may strike close to the heart of some club members' proudest achievements, I may leave that list unpublished. Better yet, go to Safe Harbor (if it reopens), it's reputed to be full of vastly overrated routes.

Inspirational drive! If you want to get better fast, go to the New and start leading steep bolted climbs. You'll take a few leader falls and scare yourself silly. If you don't get too far over your head you shouldn't

get hurt. The only fall- related injury on a sport route at the New of which I am aware (doubtless there were others), involved someone who neglected to clip the last bolt on With A Little Help From My Friends (10a) and fell to a ledge, breaking an ankle. Anyhow, it's a lot safer than placing your own gear.

You need to learn how to clip bolts quickly and how to thread a rope through cold shut anchors. The major hassle is learning to clean the quick-draws on very steep routes which is an art and an adventure. I've learned this the hard way. Otherwise, there's not a lot to sport climbing. You don't need a rack of gear (just quick draws, preferably new ones with bent gates on the bottom biner) or double ropes (a single 60 meter rope is probably best). You do need some enthusiasm, climbing skills and good belayers.

If you push yourself (if you don't take leader falls, you're not pushing yourself — but that's a personal prejudice) you'll improve quickly. Like it or not, you cannot develop the mindset to be a good sport climber by doing lots of easy routes where there's little risk of a leader fall. You must be willing to climb past the bolt and be 100% committed to the move despite the fact that there's a very good chance of a fall. After some leader falls you should learn to focus on the move, not the fear. Nothing I have ever encountered will improve your leading ability faster than climbing the steep routes at the New, or having a snake nipping at your feet. Leave your excuses at home. How far you go is up to you.

For those of you who know the New, or who have nothing better to do, I offer this trivia quiz. See you next year.

1. What has lately appeared in a horizontal near the base of "Leave it to Jesus"?
2. What is the current condition of "Ha-Ha Rock"?
3. On what day did Mountain Mama's close?
4. How did Rick Thompson injure his foot?
5. What do John Rayner and Doug Reed have in common?
6. What 5.11 climb (that some of us have sent) caused Colorado superstar BobbieBensman to leave in disgust?
7. To what does Gary Beil's new route "Brown Spittle in a Green Bottle" refer?
8. Which prominent New River climber was caught stuffing a burrito down his pants at a convenience store?
9. At what mile marker is Sam Black Church located?
10. What new route is named after a pornographic sheep?
11. Why did the Siamese twins move to Britain?

Answers

1. A gospel book.
2. The bus stop has been repainted and is standing upright.
3. Sept. 30.
4. He dropped a five gallon Polar water bottle on it.

5. I promised I wouldn't reveal this answer.
6. Magnitude.
7. Spitting tobacco into a Sprite bottle.
8. Mark Stevenson.
9. Mile 156.
10. The Uninflatable Ewe.
11. So the other one could drive.

New Impressions

by Dan Hague

Memorial Day 1992. My wife Dede and I, having struck a babysitting deal with grandparents, meet the PATC crew in the Mountain State Campground for a day of clipping and cranking. It was my first visit to the New River Gorge. Having pulled out two hold on the same 11b, taken screamers (literally!) each time, that first day at Kaymoor should have sent me home with the shakes. Instead I immediately began plotting the next trip.

Over the course of the summer and fall, I made six additional sojourns to the New. I learned the ins and outs of such diverse locations as Fern Point with its elegant slabs and steep, thin faces and Summersville which possesses breathtaking overhangs. I went to Beauty Mountain while Tom Isaacson worked Chunky Monkey (12b) and watched with fascination the gorilla like moves on severely overhanging rock necessary for its completion. I recorded Tom and Steve Jones on video as they struggled with Apollo Reed (13a) at Summersville - a severe fitness test 80 feet high and overhung by 50 feet.

And there were victories of my own. Freaky Stylee (12a) and Techman (12b/c) top the list, but there were many others of lower grade and equal quality. But beyond the tick count there was also time for reflection. The solitude and magnitude of the place helped me put the pace and stress of modern city living into proper perspective - a reordering of priorities into to a more natural existence of physical endeavor, early evenings and no TV!

I think comraderie has a special attraction for me and, unlike many climbing areas, the physical environment at the New lends itself to a more social and competitive atmosphere. A cliff band which rises off a continuous and level surface promotes interaction among climbers. People wander by, stop, look, discuss or provide advice sometimes staying to see the outcome. This type of interaction is different from the isolated man against mountain view of only a few years ago. But it is very much the New.

All the nebulous, philosophical stuff aside, let's not forget that the New is just plain fun! Call me warped but whipping off routes beyond my ability, figuring out moves, offering advice to a rapidly pumping partner or just plain watching someone else climb is fun for me. Then there was the epic boat ride with John Raynor, Mike Link and Tom - 4 of us plus gear

crammed into a tiny putt-putt thinking we would save time and energy getting to Summersville and it taking three times as long and costing \$10 each!

A second New season is just around the corner, and I can't wait. Hope to see you there.

P.S. Some helpful hints: Ignore weather forecasts for the New - they are always wrong (someone told me it rains there a lot), don't eat at Jeno's in Fayetteville, be very wary of participating in Doug Cosby's plans, and walk, don't boat, to Summersville!

Member News and Miscellany

by Jeanette Helfrich

Bob Gasser has been appointed medical director of the Army Medical Center in Biloxi, Mississippi. He and his wife, Sue, and two children, plan to move to Biloxi soon and rent out their house on St. Andrews Way in Silver Spring. (For you non-southerners, Biloxi is a well-kept secret with one of the best beaches in the country, magnificent Victorian homes along the waterfront and great seafood).

Steven Crane is spending three months in Singapore and Malaysia arranging manufacturing operations for his products design and engineering firm in Columbia, Maryland. He plans to climb in Thailand and trek in Nepal while there. On previous trips, he has climbed in Hong Kong ("don't," he says, "the monsoon rains send the snakes out of the bushes and unlike here, they're all poisonous!"). He has also located some promising but remote cliffs in Mexico in the state of Chiapas including a canyon of limestone walls 1,000 feet deep. The area is about 200 miles southeast of Vera Cruz near the Guatemalan border and near the towns of Via Hermosa and San Cristobols. It is approachable by plane into Vera Cruz or Merida and then by local bus. He promises UPROPE an article on Mexican climbing.

Bob Fenichel is leading a trek and climbing trip to Nepal in the spring. Among the participants are Dave Coffey.

Tom Halicki and Elizabeth Erskine, confident from their climbing tour of Chamonix in September, went ice-climbing in North Conway, New Hampshire over Christmas. After studying photography at the Corchoran for several years, Elizabeth may be showing her work in Adams-Morgan in June.

John Yanson has been elected President of Stonewall Climbers, a gay climbing group. John is leaving his H Street studio for a larger space to accommodate his new interest in print-making as well as expanding his commercial illustration business.

Christina Barros and Jeff Kramer vacationed in Brazil in the fall in connection with Christina's job in population planning. They report hiring a boat to travel up the Amazon from which they later toured into the jungle with a guide and machete and slung their

hammocks between trees to sleep.

Climbing walls seem to be springing up all over Washington, including overhanging walls in the garages of Stuart and Karen Pregnall, Jana Gill and Phil Olinick, and a major addition to the roof deck wall of Tom Isaacson (but what is it attached to?). Steve Jones, owner of the Rockville Fence Company, is also building a climbing wall for the FBI training academy in Virginia. Steve Jones and Doug Cosby built Jana and Phil's wall and are available for hire to transform your basement or garage into a den of torture guaranteed to make you a 5.12 climber.

Calligrapher (and climber) Paula Grant designed her Christmas cards as a take-off on John Long's Workout from Hell ... tres amusant. Rumor has it that Paula is entering a body-building competition in the spring. Wendy Reiger of NBC Channel 4 News used some climbing footage of Jeanette Helfrich and Paula Grant on a three-part news program on staying fit as we grow older (!). Wendy and cameraman met Paula and Jeanette at the Aid Box at Great Falls early one foggy morning in October in the midst of vibrant fall colors. They were photographed climbing Lost Arrow, Splinters, and Diagonal three times each, filmed from a different angle. The raw footage, of which NBC was so kind as to furnish a copy, illustrates the superior quality of professional video equipment and techniques over our amateur video efforts. Wendy professes some interest in climbing; maybe she'll be out this spring.

The MS holiday party was a success in our spiffy new meeting room at the PATC headquarters in Vienna. About 40 people attend including some non-member climbers from the community. Although the planning nearly fell into a crevasse, the club's populist party formula reigned - phone calls branching out to members, bring your own food and drink, music on a boom-box, and ultra-casual dress as usual. Wouldn't it be fun to eat caviar and wear short black dresses and high heels sometime? Not really . . .

MS members do keep up with some trends, however. Rumors abound of a member's wild tattoo party last fall but verification of the location of the tattoos and the manner in which they were applied has remained elusive. I guess this falls under unreportable events such as embarrassing climbing accidents, affairs and divorces especially one leading to the other.

Bull Run Settlement at Risk

Bull Run is again under danger of being closed to climbers. After PATC/MS purchased an easement to the property in 1985 from the 80% landowners, Leigh and Winona Hauter, we have had no end of trouble from the 20% landowners, the Virginia Outdoors Federation (VOF). VOF is a quasi-governmental organization which has been hostile to climbing and other types of recreation in the face of Virginia regula-

tions which mandate consideration of recreational uses of property by its citizens. Last year, after new surveys and negotiations, the parties reached a proposed settlement. Before it was signed, however, the attorney in the Virginia Attorney General's office responsible for signing the document, passed away. Meanwhile, the VOF has gotten to his/her successor and the settlement appears to be off. PATC and MS are considering various lobbying, media and letter-writing campaigns to solve this problem.

On January 6, Phil Pascal, Virginia attorney volunteering for PATC on this issue, briefed the MS executive committee on the situation. Phil has been working with Stuart Pregnall and John Talladay of the Access Fund, and Charlie Dorian, Alex Tait, John Yanson, and Jeanette Helfrich from MS. If you are willing to travel to Richmond, write letters, or make phone calls, please call Charlie Dorian or Alex Tait.

Moreover, as part of the easement contract, PATC and MS are required to pay the legal expenses of the Hauters. Two years ago, MS reimbursed PATC for paying the Hauters legal fees of \$1500. Currently, another \$850 is outstanding.

White Mountains, New Hampshire

by Doug Craun

With my return to the granite of New Hampshire over an extended Labor Day weekend, I had one goal in mind: to do a route on Cannon Cliff. Going to Cannon with Dave Coffey and Bob Fenichel boosted the chance of success, as both had done climbs on Cannon. First, though, there was the Dike Route on Whitehorse Ledge.

We arrived at the bottom of Whitehorse Slabs mid-morning planning on doing the Standard Route. Because of the late hour, the bottom of that route was already crowded. Bob then suggested the Dike Route.

The dike in the Dike Route begins at the ground but we didn't rope up until on a large sloping ledge 200 feet higher. The first pitch began from that ledge on the dike which was less than a foot wide. This pitch was fairly easy ground but very difficult to protect. The second pitch stayed with the dike to a large tree-covered ledge. Running short of rope, I belayed Bob and Dave up from the first substantial tree available.

Dave led the third pitch to just below a large right-slanting arch and set up a really important belay stance.

The fourth pitch begins as a layback up the arch. My feet were on the slabs with hands in the crack at the arch. Everything was fine until the wet part of the slabs.

The arch was good solid ground. The crack at the juncture of slab and arch wall protected well and had good finger jams. Still, putting my left foot in the arch corner with the right on the wet slabs, progress could be made gingerly. Then hell or at least my feet broke loose. I hit the wet slabs, slid past a friend that popped, past an old pin that didn't, and looked over at Dave my belayer, as I slid to a stop.

We rappled off.

The next day found us at the bottom of Lakeview on Cannon Cliff. I was given the first lead due to the previous day's slide finish. That first lead went up a

ragged corner with a nice jam crack to a lap. Bob then lead a nice finger crack diagonally left. The crack eventually became a trough wide enough to stand in up to your knees. Altogether a lovely line. The third pitch was Dave's with some bold leading across a friction bulge. The next three pitches involved climbing and grabbing bushes to a huge ledge below the Old Man buttress.

By now it was late afternoon. The sun was obscured by fast-moving clouds and a cold wind was blowing. Dave was leading the seventh pitch. A nice pitch up cracks and flakes with an odd bit of exposure. When I got to the belay, there was Dave belaying me while Bob was talking to another climber on the slab above. Bob and the climber were old friends who hadn't seen each other in 15 years.

After watching Bob's friend second the last pitch, it was my turn to lead. It began with an awkward flake that I rode and grunted up (au cheval) to the base of a dihedral, the Weissner Corner. As advertised, the corner was beautiful stemming with good handholds to the summit on top of the Old Man. A stuck rope while belaying resulted in a Dave who was finally convinced that it was indeed stuck, not just a poor belay. We're still friends.

The day after Lakeview we planned as an easy day. That plan went awry. First we traded Bob for Jeff Kramer, then mid-morning we went to Whitehorse Ledge. The plan was to do about four pitches and then rap off or escape into the woods. So we began the Standard Route.

Dave began with the first pitch lead to the "toilet bowl". The party behind us had new fixed gear for the toilet bowl, a toilet brush. Jeff led the second pitch, a traverse to a nice ledge. My layback third pitch ended in a "sort of" hanging nervous belay. I calmed down when Jeff led past tying me into a fixed pin.

Dave's second lead ended at Lunch Ledge where we discussed then rejected escaping right into the woods. About this time a soloist caught up with us. After getting some beta from him, we decided to finish the route. The soloist retreated down to the bottom. Maybe that was an omen.

With the decision made, I led the psychological crux over the famed "brown spot". Dave led the technical crux up a ramp and through a layback to a tree. Nearing dusk it was time to think about getting off the rock.

From the belay anchor, Jeff took us through some woods to the bottom of a slab, then led the slab. There was one more pitch to go, up a dike in the dark to a tree. Now it was time and place to get down.

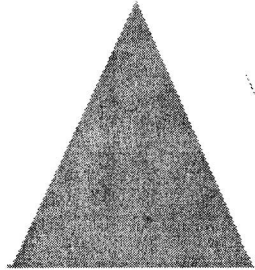
With headlamps and a flashlight we found the trail and then lost it. From previous daylight experience, we knew the trail could lead us to wooded ledges on the right. This was to be avoided. After a couple hundred feet we discovered the ledges had not been avoided. To get down we had to use tree rappels. After five raps we reached easier ground and the trail at the bottom. We then took the trail the wrong way.

We finally ate dinner at Horsefeathers, a bar in North Conway, at 11:15 PM. On the TV, the Redskins were losing badly to Dallas.

I had a great time.

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Up Rope Editing Changes

Up Rope has shifted editing responsibility, at least temporarily, to Tom Isaacson. Our thanks to Liz Lee, who for the last 2 years has served Up Rope and PATC-MS unswervingly.

Submissions may be sent directly to Dan Hague for publication if they meet the following criteria: 1. Formatted to Wordperfect 5.0 or Microsoft Word on IBM compatible machines 2. Placed on 5.25" diskettes 3. Do not require extensive editing
Send to : Dan Hague 828 Gist Ave. Silver Spring, MD 20910

Other submissions should go to Tom at 1527 T Street NW Washington DC 20009

Include a hardcopy version with your diskette.

Our next submission deadline is February 15, 1993

New From On Sight Shoes!

The Vector by boreal

The Vector is a flexible, canvas lined sport climbing slipper. It incorporates a new cambered, asymmetrical design for maximum sensitivity and precision. The Vector is the most advanced sport climbing slipper available today.

"Climbing shoes are the most important piece of equipment I own. Lightweight, sensitive, precise, and with a glove-like fit, the Vector represents the state-of-the-art in climbing shoe technology."

John Bachar

On Sight Shoes is Washington/Baltimore's boreal source. Our stock of Lasers, Ninjas, Aces and now Vectors is more complete than any other retailer in the area. And remember - precise fit is our obsession!



301-585-5243

CLIMBERS' CALENDAR

DATE	AREA OR EVENT	CONTACT	PHONE	PLACE
Jan 2/3	Open / TBA	PATC-MS Hotline	703-242-3501	TBA
Jan 6	Executive Committee mtg	Dusty Wissmath	301-585-7610	call
Jan 9/10	Open / TBA	PATC-MS Hotline	703-242-3501	TBA
Jan 13	Monthly MS mtg	Dusty Wissmath	301-585-7610	HQ
Jan 16/17	Open / TBA	PATC-MS Hotline	703-242-3501	TBA
Jan 23/24	Open / TBA	PATC-MS Hotline	703-242-3501	TBA
Jan 30/31	Rieglesville, PA /Ice Climbing	Jeanette Helfrich	301-585-9119	Lead climbs
Feb 3	Executive Committee mtg	Dusty Wissmath	301-585-7610	call
Feb 6/7	Open / TBA	PATC-MS Hotline	703-242-3501	TBA
Feb 10	Monthly MS mtg	Dusty Wissmath	301-585-7610	HQ
Feb 13/14	Open / TBA	PATC-MS Hotline	703-242-3501	TBA
Feb 20/21	Open / TBA	PATC-MS Hotline	703-242-3501	TBA
Feb 28	Carderrock, MD	Alex Tait	703-349-2645	call
Mar 3	Executive Committee mtg	Dusty Wissmath	301-585-7610	call
Mar 6/7	Open / TBA	PATC-MS Hotline	703-242-3501	TBA
Mar 10	Monthly MS mtg	Dusty Wissmath	301-585-7610	HQ
	Slide show: Sport climbing in Southern Thailand			
Mar 12-14	Keene, NY / ICE CLIMBING!	Anne Barron	703-680-1229	Lead climbs
Mar 21	Bull Run, VA	Alex Tait	703-349-2645	call
Mar 27/28	Open / TBA	PATC-MS Hotline	703-242-3501	TBA

Note: The ice climbing trips listed above require lead climbing. Please arrange your own partner.



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