

Up Rope

FOUNDED BY
HERB AND JAN CONN

October 1995

Vol. 50 no. 5

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

FIRE DESTROYS CLIPPER CITY ROCK GYM; Reconstruction Planned

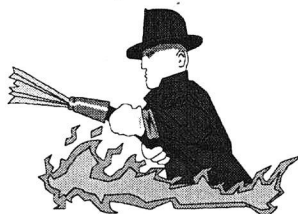
A major, nine-alarm fire ripped through Baltimore's Clipper Mill Industrial Park in mid-September, claiming one firefighter's life and injuring seven others after a granite wall collapsed in the blaze. The Clipper City Rock Gym, one of the businesses lodged in the 145-year old former iron foundry, was destroyed when its roof collapsed. The fire also forced cancellation of the ASCF National competition that was to take place at the gym last month.

An Associated Press report said the fire was apparently an accident, caused by sparking electrical wires. AP reported that firefighter Eric Schaefer, 23, died at the scene and that a total of 17 were hurt out of the 150 who responded to the blaze. Schaefer, who was married this summer, had joined the Fire Department in February last year.

For many years, the gym has offered a special membership discount for Mountaineering Section members. Among the encouraging news is word that owner Jim Ellis plans to rebuild the gym at the same location.

Climbers wishing to make a contribution in memory of the deceased firefighter may do so at:

In Memory of Eric Schaefer
Greater Baltimore Fire Disaster Fund
Parkville Federal Savings Bank
821 West 36th St
Baltimore MD 21211
(410) 366-3100



ELECTION TIME NEARS FOR MS OFFICERS

It's getting close to election time for the Mountaineering Section's four officers (chairman, vice-chair, treasurer and secretary). Elections will take place at the January meeting. Each post's term lasts one year. MS members choosing to run for office should get their campaigns rolling now.

Aside from the elected positions, the Section also has committee slots available to willing volunteers. MS committees include: Training/Safety, Newsletter, Expeditions, Publicity, Membership, Programs and Hospitality.

NELSON HOUSE UPDATE: Volunteers needed for repairs

The Mountaineering Section's Executive Committee decided last month to satisfy the terms of the Section's contract with the Nelson family and to help repair the Nelson House. A decision on whether to continue the Nelson House arrangement after the repair work was postponed until a later date. MS members Rick and Mary Dotson told Up Rope last month that Nelson House needs some fresh coats of paint and some roof work. It's still unclear if the house's foundation also needs repairs—and if that work could be done easily by a volunteer work crew.

Upcoming MS slide show: NEPAL'S AMA DABLAM AND IMJE TSE

The November slide show will be presented by Don McIntyre and will cover his climbs of Nepal's Ama Dablam and Imje Tse.

The October meeting's slide show, B.C.'s Bugaboos, was presented by Ozana Halik and covered his climbing trip with Peter Hsi to British Columbia's Bugaboos and Alberta's Lake Louise area.

Demian Larry presented the September slide show of his solo ice-climbing trip in Mt. Washington and the Adirondacks.



Top photo: A view of Snow Patch Spire on left; Bugaboos Spire on right; and Pigeon Spire in back center.

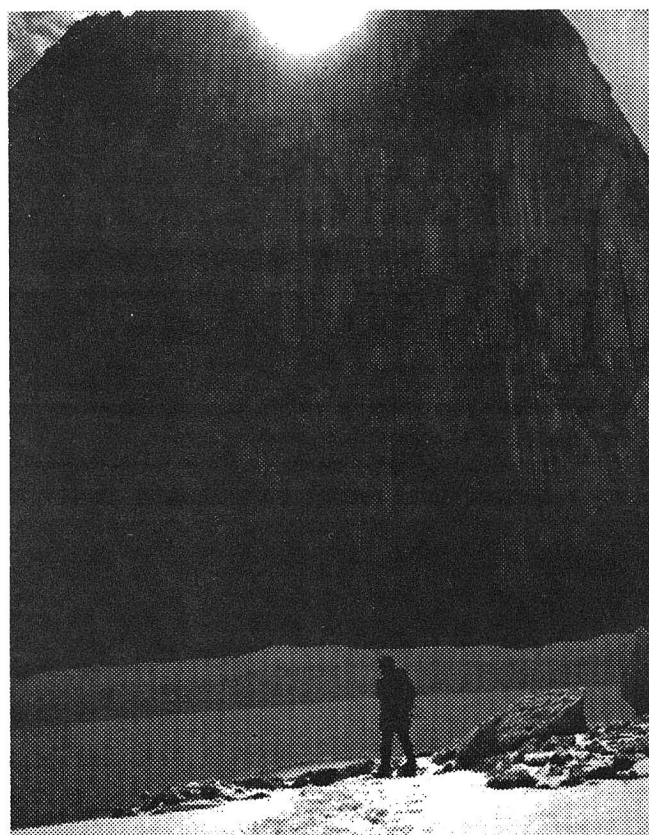
Bottom photo: Peter Hsi in front of Snow Patch Spire as the sun sets.

In search of good ribs—and climbs—in the CANADIAN ROCKIES

Ozana Halik and I agreed that our trip to British Columbia's Bugaboos was not going to be a sport-climbing trip and that we were going to climb on stuff we couldn't find back home. Unfortunately, it rained and snowed the entire time we were in Canada. The local sport routes began to look mighty tempting.

We saw avalanches while slogging up wet, snowy trails. The only summit we made was Mt. Temple right before we returned home, and that was after it had snowed and in white-out conditions—I kept fearing I was going to be blown onto the cornice on the summit ridge!

We roped-up for the mini-glacier on the President but got snowed off at the bergschrund and descended in white-out conditions. We didn't even attempt to approach Mt. Goodsir because it would have taken 2 days and there was heavy snow on the surrounding peaks.



The Bugaboos: Is this a place or state of mind?

We spent four days at the Bugaboos and got in one-and-a-half days on Crescent Towers and Eastpost Spire. A party went up the northeast ridge of Bugaboo Spire and encountered lots of ice and snow. They summited but found the descent route covered with snow. They rapped back down the route in a storm and arrived back at the Kain hut after 18 hours. With binoculars we followed a roped-soloist on Tom Egan Memorial (V 5.9 A3) on Snowpatch Spire—you'll probably read about it in a climbing magazine soon.

To alleviate boredom, I read a book while Ozana took photographs. We also passed the time watching B.C. Parks helicopters fly out barrels of out-house waste. We left the Bugs one morning after finding the place plastered with snow.

We spent much of our time traveling around the area as tourists, frequenting liquor stores, and talking to the many interesting people we met at the hostels and huts. In all, it's the most beautiful area I've ever been to and I'll definitely be back.

—Peter Hsi

Larry: "Thanks for the letters"

Demian Larry wants to thank all the MS members for their letter-writing campaign to support his efforts to get restitution from KLM Royal Dutch airlines for his stolen luggage and climbing gear. (See August Up Rope). "There's no need for any more letters. Thanks to everyone," he says.

Up Rope beta box:

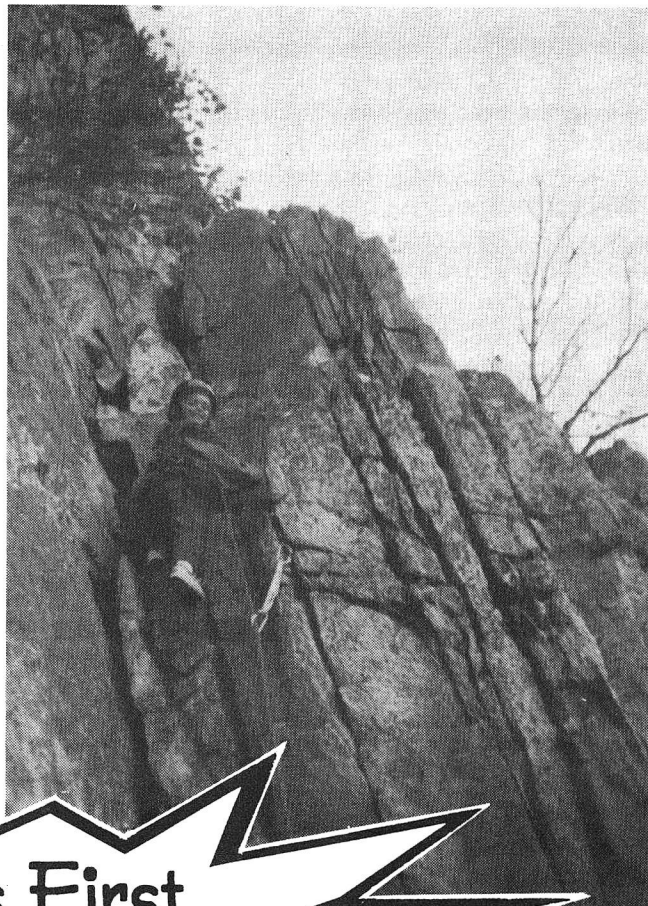
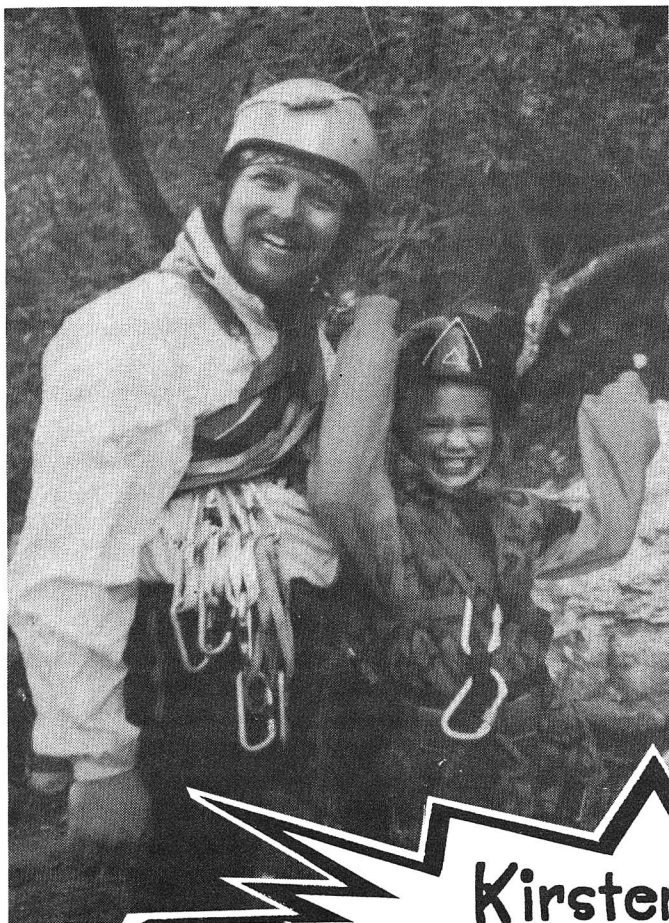
B.C.'S BUGABOOS AND ALBERTA'S LAKE LOUISE

This is the most visited area of Canada, so you **MUST** make reservations. Period. In Alberta, we bunked at the plush Lake Louise Hostel for about \$20 (CDN) per person, per night. By luck, we were able to crash the Whiskey Jack Hostel (we slept in the kitchen) and the Canadian Alpine Club's Stanley Mitchell Hut (we slept in a room full of snoring French Canadians, eh). We tried to camp at the Lake Louise campground but were directed to the overflow area. I recommend you go there directly as the regular campground offers no better facilities and you can get away without paying.

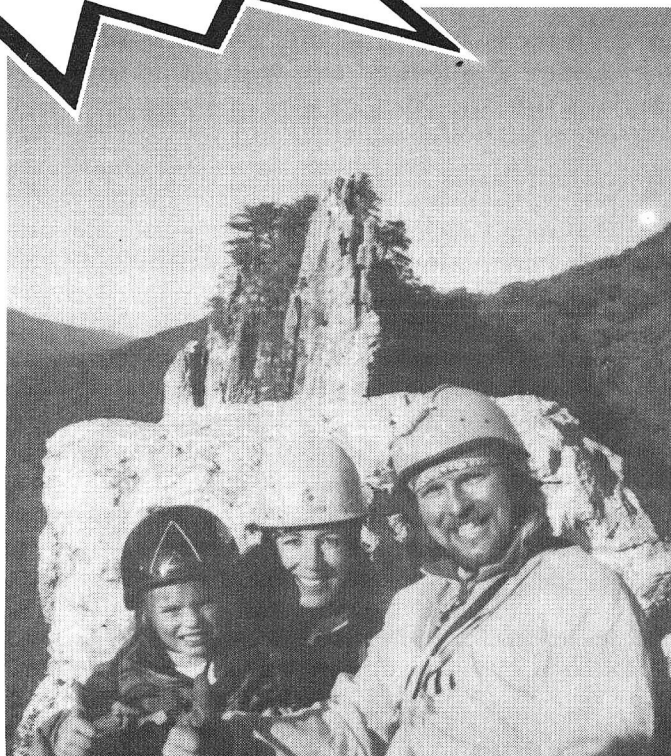
At the Bugaboos, bring hut shoes and a sleeping bag as the Kain Hut has a boots-off policy, no heat, and has kitchen facilities. Bring camping gear if you plan to venture past Bugaboo Glacier or if the hut is full. Bugaboo Provincial Park is well maintained—kudos to BC Parks—and is worth every penny of the \$10 (CDN) per person, per night hut fee. Too bad the park can't do anything about the ravenous varmints—you have to wrap your car in chicken wire so they can't eat it.

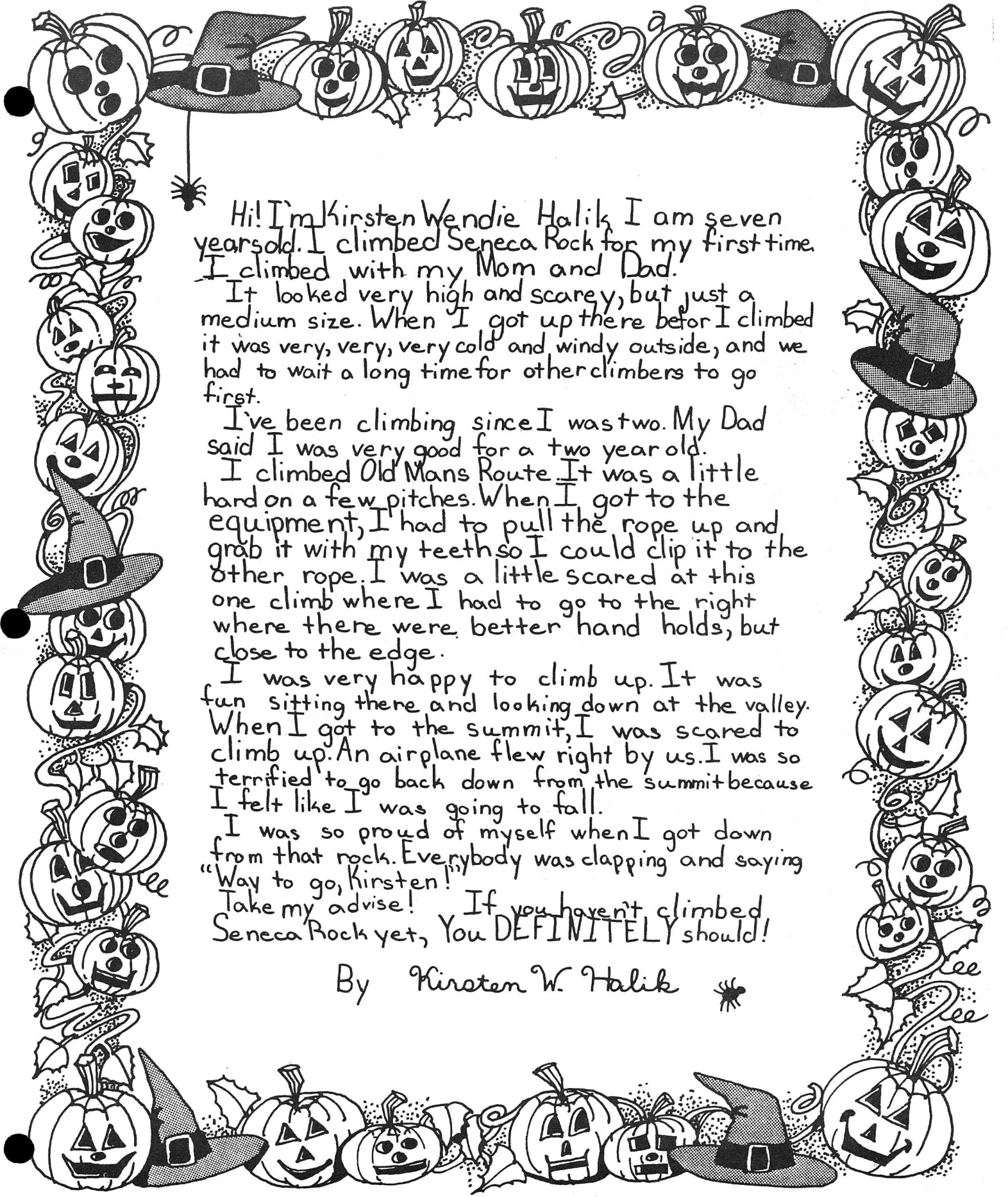
For meals, we highly recommend the Peyto Cafe, located in the Lake Louise Hostel. The plates of pasta are so **BIG** that we couldn't finish them, and at reasonable prices (\$5-\$7 CDN). At the back of Lake Louise, well beyond the mob of tourists gathered around the Lake Louise Chateau, is the Plain of the Six Glaciers hike which leads to a Victorian-vintage tea-house. The hike is just beyond the range of the casual stroller so it's not mobbed tourists. (Another tea house, located next to Lake Agnes gets far more tourist action.) Both tea houses are worth visiting. You can take in the alpine scenery while sipping tea on the porch. There are also some great sport-climbing routes nestled in at the back of the lake.

The Old Salzburg Inn in the town of Radium Hot Springs gets good marks and feels great after a dip in the Kootenay hot springs. One caveat though: Don't bother ordering steaks, ribs, or poultry anywhere in the parks.



**Kirsten's First
Seneca Rock Climb**





Hi! I'm Kirsten Wendie Halik, I am seven years old. I climbed Seneca Rock for my first time. I climbed with my Mom and Dad.

It looked very high and scary, but just a medium size. When I got up there before I climbed it was very, very, very cold and windy outside, and we had to wait a long time for other climbers to go first.

I've been climbing since I was two. My Dad said I was very good for a two year old.

I climbed Old Mans Route. It was a little hard on a few pitches. When I got to the equipment, I had to pull the rope up and grab it with my teeth so I could clip it to the other rope. I was a little scared at this one climb where I had to go to the right where there were better hand holds, but close to the edge.

I was very happy to climb up. It was fun sitting there and looking down at the valley. When I got to the summit, I was scared to climb up. An airplane flew right by us. I was so terrified to go back down from the summit because I felt like I was going to fall.

I was so proud of myself when I got down from that rock. Everybody was clapping and saying "Way to go, Kirsten!"

Take my advise! If you haven't climbed Seneca Rock yet, You DEFINITELY should!

By Kirsten W. Halik

Trekking in Nepal:

six weeks, plenty of miles and plenty of sights

Linda McIntyre and her husband Don recently returned from a six-week trip into Nepal—for trekking and climbing. Don's team summited 22,494-foot Ama Dablam and 20,423-foot Imje Tse. Linda's group logged over 150 miles of trekking in the region over the course of six weeks—including such objectives as the Mt. Everest base camp (18,298). Don's story was published in the August Up Rope. Here's Linda's story.

I visited Nepal in April and May, while my husband and three climbers planned to ascend Ama Dablam. Named "mother's jewel box" in Nepali, it towers above Tengboche (12,761 ft.), home of a large Buddhist monastery. I had rounded up four other friends to trek and sightsee. We wanted to see as much of the Khumbu and around Annapurna as possible, then Chitwan National Park on the way out.

Getting off the Thai airliner in Kathmandu is a fast track into the Third World. The city is like a non-stop movie set. The streets in and around the Thamel teem with vendors and visitors, vehicles, animals, odors and aromas, spiritual seekers, beggars, and you name it.

We visited the Buddhist temple Swyambunath at dawn and thrilled to the chants and crowds of devotees, sightseers, dogs, pigeons and monkeys—all

ity! Young climbers showed their bravery by running across with hands held high.

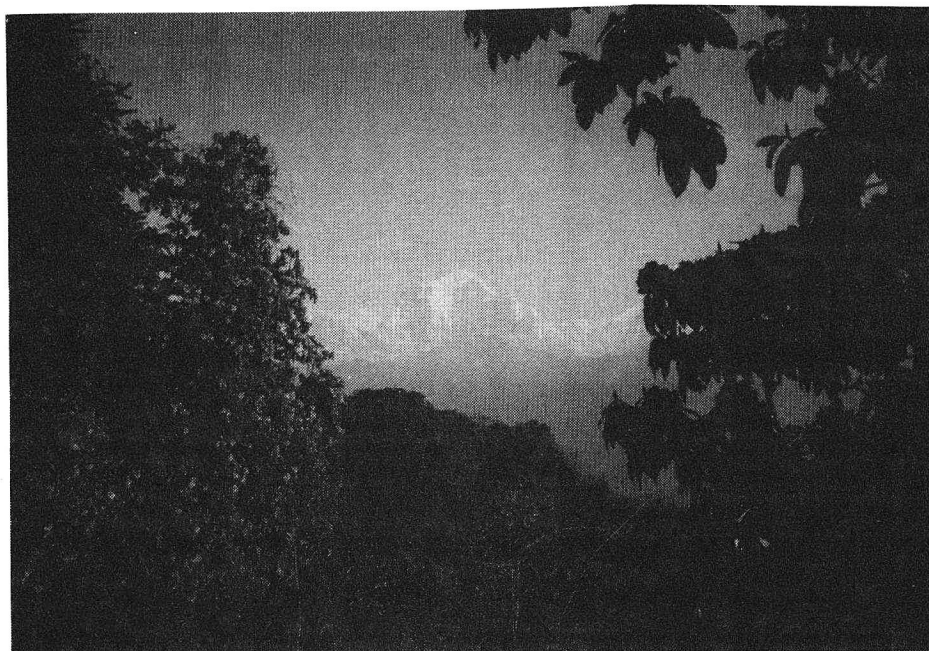
I gained a healthy respect for the trekking peaks of Nepal.

Many offer difficult high-altitude mountaineering opportunities. Our first trekking objective was Kala Patar and Mt. Everest base camp. We started that morning with the usual big scramble to pay the bill and get saddled up; then hugs, kisses and tears as we said good bye and good luck to our climbers. We headed up the ridge to Pheriche.

To

make a long story short, we started our trek with five team members but ended up a team of two; the others suffering from a mix of snow blindness, Acute Mountain Sickness, respiratory infections and hypochondria. Yolanda Lewis and I, the survivors, had a honeymoon of a hike up to Loboche (16,269) in a white-out. We had our choice of four tea houses and tried to choose the least smoky of the bunch.

It was still very smoky in the Moondance Lodge, but we met an interesting group of



The author with Yolanda Lewis on the Annapurna circuit.

very much at home amidst a fascinating collection of temples, prayer wheels, statues and rituals.

We had a steep walk up to Namche Bazaar (11,352)—the trail crowded with tourists and yaks, but gorgeous with the glacial river in the chasm below. We crossed swaying suspension bridges in perfect weather, 100 feet above a roaring river, praying "om mani padme hum." We had been told these bridges "always come down every year" during the monsoon. They certainly weren't built for poster-

The Mountaineering Section and the Voyageur Program Present

FAST TIMES AT YOSEMITE HIGH

A Slide Show by Steve Schneider



Steve is known for his big wall speed climbing, including an incredible one-day link-up of THREE El Capitan routes. His show, which has received rave reviews, documents his adventures on El Cap, Denali, Sierra Nevada white-water, and elsewhere.

Wednesday, November 1, 1995 at 8:00pm

Hearst Hall, National Cathedral School

Next to the National Cathedral, on Wisconsin Avenue., NW

Just north of Massachusetts Ave., NW, in Washington, DC

Admission: \$5 for MS Members, \$7 for non-members

For More Info, call Demian Larry, Treasurer, Mountaineering Section, (202) 789-3960 or Syl Mathis, Director, Voyageur Program, (202) 537-6468.

Come to the Party the next night.

(See other side for details)

INVITATION TO PARTY FOR STEVE SCHNEIDER

John Rayner and Jeanette Helfrich would like to invite you to join with members of the Mountaineering Section of PATC, to attend a party in honor of Steve Schneider at our home on Thursday, November 2, 1994 at 8:00 p.m. It'll be very casual; we'll have a big pot of chili and rice. You can bring some beer, etc. if you'd like. See you soon. There'll be lots of new and old climbers and MS members to meet!

DATE AND TIME

Thursday, November 2, 1994
8:00 p.m.

ADDRESS

House of John Rayner and Jeanette Helfrich
3100 Powder Mill Road
Adelphi, Maryland 20783-1028
(301) 434-1964

Directions: Take the "Beltway" I-495 north in the direction of Bltimore/Rockville. Stay on I-495 until you're NNE of Washington. Exit I-495 at New Hampshire Avenue - North. (The immediately preceding exit is University Avenue). Turn right at the 3rd traffic light onto Powder Mill Road just before the Shell gas station, which is a very short distance, about 100 yards from the Beltway. Go 1/2 mile and turn left at the first stop light where Riggs Road joins Powder Mill Road from the right. Go another 1/2 mile through the next stop light which is Floral Drive at the entrance to the Army Research Laboratory. Go another 1/2 or 3/4 mile down a long hill with a guard rail towards a creek. When you come to a sign on the right for a community park and a school bus yellow sign, put your turn signal on. Go about 100 feet past the yellow school sign and turn hard left up the driveway after the "3100" mailbox. That left turn is immediately before the bridge over the creek. The driveway is hard to see and the traffic is moving fast here. Go up the driveway about 100 yards. Our house is the old red stone English style house on the left. You can park near our house, at our neighbor's brick house, or across the street at the community park. See you soon!

Danes who were living in Kathmandu and working at a missionary school. They regaled us with stories of polo matches, animal and mountain view hikes and gatherings of the expatriates in Kathmandu. Finally, it was dark at the Moondance and we could crash, anticipating an early start for our 3,000-foot climb, to over 18,000 feet, at Kala Patar. The climb of Kala Patar is a long walk up a hill, but well worth it for views. Everest base camp and Mt. E were in full view—gorgeously blue in the brilliant sun. We all had our pictures taken in front of Cho Oyu, Pumori, Ama Dablam, and, of course, Everest base camp and the Southwest ridge.

We hurried down to Pheriche and rejoined our friends. The stargazing was fantastic that night from almost 14,000 feet!

We next flew to Pokhara and enjoyed a canoe paddle on the Thal Lake, visited the beautiful Fish Lodge and enjoyed a most-excellent Nepali Rum and Coke. We eventually learned to drink this Nepali style—straight.

We then flew to Jomson and began our trek to Muktinath. We passed loincloth-clad holy men who walked hundreds of miles from India to Muktinath! They gave us encouragement and kept us on the right path. The wind was so strong on some of this trail that we saw local people blown over! We passed through a small canyon of gigantic rocks and saw ancient capitals of these provinces across the chasms.

The three of us walked up a long valley on a rocky stream bed path. This is the old Salt Trade Route. We passed trains of mules and burros laden with salt and rice. And we were passed several times by Tibetans riding long-legged Mustang ponies.



The author with Yolanda Lewis on the Annapurna circuit.

On our return to Jomson, we stopped briefly in a medieval city, Kagbeni, situated on a green oasis and with a river running through it.

Now bound for Marpha, we passed small settlements reminiscent of America's own "Old West." Adobe-style saloons with horses hitched at rails. We stayed at an inn owned by the

mayor of Marpha and had the good fortune to meet Bhakti Hiraschan, who has assisted many teams in efforts to ascend Dhaulagiri.

We hiked and stopped over in Kalopani, a resort-like settlement absolutely bursting with new homes, lodges and restaurants. The area is like Yellowstone, surrounded by high peaks, streams and trails.

Tatopani is a lovely village with a bank! By now we were low on Rupees and had resorted to trading off dirty socks and underwear for the fine native handcrafted jewelry. Known for its hot tubs beside the roaring Kali Gandaki river, Tatopani's atmosphere was friendly and relaxed. It also had the best food on the trip!

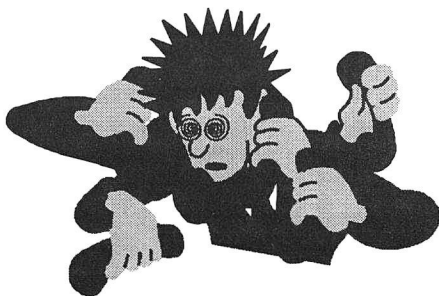
Ghorapani is a big day's hike to a high mountain pass with stupendous views. Poon Hill is over 18,000 feet, resplendent in rhododendrons and prayer flags and a gorgeous look at Dhaulagiri.

After a quick scoot through Pokhara, then to Kathmandu again,

we bussed up and down the foothills through horrendous traffic to the Terai and finally another ancient village of Sauraha near Chitwan National Park. While at Chitwan, we saw may rhinos at close range, exotic birds and an elephant breeding ranch. Maybe next time we'll see leopards and tigers.

—Linda Gabel McIntyre

REMINDER: MOUNTAINEERING SECTION HAS NEW PHONE SYSTEM



The Mountaineering Section has installed a new answering machine phone system with a built-in digital answering machine which allows us to add up to 11 separate mailboxes in addition to the main one. Particularly beneficial to officers and trip leaders, the answering machine

allows for remote access to listen to messages, save or erase messages, and change mailbox greetings.

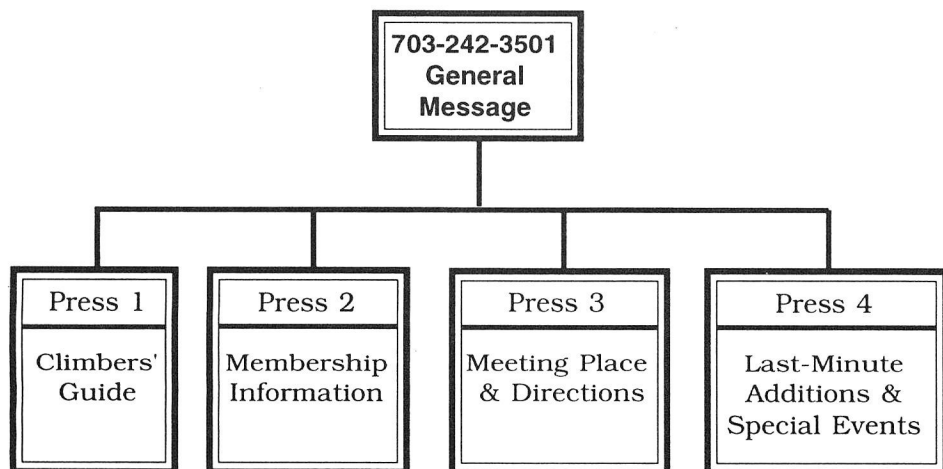
The PATC/MS answering machine is set up with one main mailbox, reached by dialing the Climbers' Hotline at 703-242-3501, and four sub-mailboxes that are accessible from the main mailbox (see chart, below).

The answering machine should be, for the most part, self-explanatory. Most climbers will probably dial the Hotline, then press 1 to listen to the Climbers' Calendar. When that message is done, if you're not leaving a message, you can hang up or press 4 to check any last-minute updates.

P.S., if you do want to leave a message, you can hit the # key during the greeting to skip right to the beep.

Probably the biggest change is that now you are allowed to leave a message. With that gift comes some responsibility to use it correctly. Please, make your messages short and to the point. If you know whom you're leaving the message for (e.g., a particular trip leader), please say that at the beginning of your message. And please, do not leave a message if the answering machine instructs you to call the trip leader — they won't be checking for messages unless they specifically request climbers to leave one.

Mountaineering Section Phone System



SOUTHWARD, GRECO ANNOUNCE HISTORIC FIRST FLIGHT

Lt. Cdr. (and MS member) Jim Southward and his wife, Martine Greco, gave birth to a son in July. Here are the stats as relayed to Up Rope by the proud father.

Model: Alexander James Southward

First Flight Date/time:
25 Jul 95/1043

Take-off Gross Weight:
7 3/4 pounds (3.53 Kg)

Fuselage Length:
21.125 inches

Running Lights: Blue

Canopy: Brown

Features: Low Fuel Alarm

Designers: Martine Greco & James Southward



TAIT, BORENZWEIG ADD NEW CLIMBER

MS members Alex Tait and his wife, Suzanne Borenzweig, gave birth to their first child, Nicholas George Tait. Nicholas was born Aug. 12 and weighed in at 7 lbs., 14 oz. Congratulations! (When he's not acting as a new father, Alex writes Up Rope's "Mr. Safe-T" column. Mr. Safe-T is taking a month off and will return with the December Up Rope.)

HSI HEADS FOR COLORADO, SOUTHWARD HEADS TO MONTEREY

Former MS Chairman Pete Hsi is moving to Colorado. His last climbing day in D.C. was Saturday, Sept. 23. Pete has vowed to serve as the Mountaineering Section's honorary Rocky Mountain chapter (once he finds a place to live and e-mails his new address).

MS member (and a Navy Lt. Cdr.) Jim Southward and his family will be moving to Monterey, Calif. right before Christmas. Jim is pursuing a Master's degree in aeronautical engineering—adding half a stripe to his epaulets. He'll be stationed at the Naval Postgraduate School in Monterey. Jim will be the Mountaineering Section's West Coast chapter and has extended a "crash-pad" invitation to all MS members who end up at his doorstep in Monterey.

Later this year, Pete and Jim will join MS member Bill Fike and five others for a planned ascent of Aconcagua (22,835 Ft), the western hemisphere's highest peak. The expedition will run from Nov. 25 to Dec. 17.



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Earth Treks offers the highest quality skill development expeditions to the world's most incredible climbing areas (from Carderock to the Himalaya).



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brochure and newsletter.*

Up Rope,

a publication of the P.A.T.C. Mountaineering Section, is published bi-monthly and written by Mountaineering Section members. We're always looking for newsworthy items to print. Articles can be on trip reports book reviews, gear reviews, good beta to climbs, red points, etc.. To submit articles and photographs for UpRope, please write with your favorite word processing program, and either send via Internet, or copy to a DOS diskette in plain ASCII text format, and mail to the literary editor, marked ATTN.: UPROPE. The deadline for the next issue is November 15.

Interested in obtaining fast MS information, and the updated climbers' calendar? Try our new MS Phone System.

Climbers' Hotline
703-242-3501

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Climbers' Calendar
 Mountaineering Section of the Potomac Appalachian Trail Club
 118 Park Street, SE, Vienna, Virginia 22180; Climbers' Hotline: (703) 242-3501

Date	Destination/Event	Point of Contact	Place & Time	Remarks
10/28 - 10/29 Sat & Sun	Nelson House, West Virginia Work Trip - Painting will be the main project	Rick and Mary Dotson (703) 319-9010	TBA	Great chance to see the Climbers Cabin and get introduced to Nelson Rock.
11/1 Wednesday	Executive Meeting	Dave Godwin (703) 276-2291	TBA 6:00pm	Call Dave for place. Will be going to the Fast Times show after the meeting.
11/1 Wednesday	Fast Times at Yosemite High By Steve Schneider	Climber's Hotline (703) 242-3501	8:00pm	At National Cathedral School/ Hearst Hall. \$5.00
11/8 Wednesday	Membership Meeting Don McIntyre give a slide show on Mt. Amodablem	Climber's Hotline (703) 242-3501	TBA	Food, Drink and Slide Show All are welcome
11/4 Saturday	Climbing at Crescent Rocks	Dave Godwin (703) 276-2291	TC 9:00am	Call Dave to confirm
11/25 - 12/17	Aconacagua, Argentina (6,950m)	Jim Southward (703) 684-6206	TBA	Start practicing those mountaineering skills!!
1/17/96	Matt Hale Mt Huntington - 1st ascent of the west face	REI (703) 379-9400	REI Baileys	

- * General: Please call the trip leader by mid-week to make arrangements and contingency plans.
Call the Climbers' Hotline (703/242-3501) mailboxes 1&4 for the latest additions and too-late-to-be-published ev
- * Executive Committee Meetings: Held once every odd-numbered month or by special arrangement. Everyone is invited.
- * Membership Meetings: Held second Wednesday of every month except August. Everyone is invited to attend.

RENDEZVOUS LOCATIONS

CD	Carderock, Maryland
From I-495 in MD, exit #41 north onto Clara Barton Pkwy. Take 1st exit and overpass to Carderock entrance. Turn right after entering park, go to last park. Cliff is beyond restrooms.	
GF	Great Falls National Park, Great Falls, Virginia
From I-495 in VA, exit #13 to Rte 193 west (Great Falls). About 4 miles and turn right at 1st light into park entrance. Sharp right after toll booth into lower parking lot. Late arrivals check at climbers' sign-in.	
HQ	PATC Headquarters, 118 Park St, Vienna, Virginia
From I-495 in VA, exit #11 to Rte 123 south (Vienna). Approximately 11 lights, left at Park St-OR- From I-66, exit at Nutley St north. Right at Rte 123. Right at Park St. Building is on the left.	
TBA	To Be Arranged
Please call the Point of Contact for directions or the Climbers' Hotline for updates	
TC	Roy Rogers (24 hrs), Tyson's Corner, Virginia
From I-495 in VA, exit #10 to Rte 7 west (Tyson's). At Gallows Rd, U-turn onto service road. Next to Crown gas station	



118 Park Street, S.E.
 Vienna, VA 22180

Address Correction Requested

Nonprofit Org.
 US Postage
 PAID
 Vienna, Va
 Permit No. 8035

Jeanette & John Helfrich (Rayner)
 3100 Powder Mill Rd
 Adelphi, MD 20783-1023
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