



Up Rope

FOUNDED BY
HERB AND JAN CONN

News of the Mountaineering Section of the P.A.T.C.

[Dec 1996]

December Update

MS elects new chairman

Rick Dotson is the Mountaineering Section's new chairman and Tony Sanders is the new vice chairman. Rick succeeds Don McIntyre who has moved to Reno, Nevada, and Demian Larry, who has moved to California. Rick will serve as chairman of the MS through all of 1997.

Tony will continue to edit Up Rope. Executive Committee positions, secretary, treasurer and "pizza wench" (or

"pizza wizard") are still available to willing members.

Up Rope switches to monthly updates

Up Rope starts publishing a monthly "Update" with this issue, in order to provide members with a timely "Climber's Calendar" of upcoming events. A quarterly edition of Up Rope (with lots of MS-contributed articles) will also be published.

December MS meeting is Xmas holiday party!!!

The Mountaineering Section's next meeting will take place at Rick and Mary Dotson's house—it's the annual Christmas-season party!—in Vienna, VA. Look for a separate flyer to show up in the mail. The party will be held Sunday, Dec. 15 from 2-6 p.m.. Bring 10 of your favorite climbing slides! For more details, call Rick or Mary at 703-319-9010.

Baby, it's coooold outside; Ice climbing trips on the way

The Mountaineering Section has three ice-climbing trips scheduled for January and February: The first trip is set for the long weekend honoring Rev. Martin Luther King's birthday, Jan. 18-20, 1997. The second and third trips are set for February; one during the Feb. 1-2 weekend, and another over the President's Day long weekend, Feb. 15-17.

Also, hard-core ice man Bill Summers is looking for experienced ice climbers for several trips this season.

The best options for beginning ice climbers would be to schedule a weekend lesson over the long weekends in either January or February. Space is lim-

ited, so make your plans today to join in the fun.

January trip to Adirondacks

The pre-Fall arrival of the Winter Black Diamond catalog signaled the start of the 1996-97 ice climbing season. Looking at the new toys and the pictures of climbs I would never be able to do told me that it was time to start planning this winter's activities.

For the last five years MS member Anne Baron has done a great job of organizing an ice trip to the Adirondacks

over the three-day Martin Luther King holiday. On these trips we always stayed at Ed Pallin's Rock and River Lodge, but this year there will have to be a change in plans. [Editor's note: Anne's coordinating a trip this year for President's Day weekend. See our story "Back to the 'Daks" on page 3.)

The Mountaineer Shop and the Rock and River have planned the first ever Adirondack International Mountaineering Festival over that weekend (Jan. 17-19, 1997) and are using all of Ed's facilities for the out-of-town instructors and company representatives.

For those of you who want to keep the January tradition alive and perhaps participate in the festival, I have located alternate accommodations. We have reserved a cottage at the White Sled Mo-

tel; it accomodates 8-10 people and has a kitchen. The cost for three nights' lodging will be \$45 per person if 10 people sign up and \$55 per person if eight sign up. If you want to sign up or want information on the Ice Festival, call Greg Christopulos at (703) 876-0957 (home) or (202) 622-0418 (office).

Festival acitivities include: "Beginning Ice for Women" with Kitty Calhoun and "Steep Ice for the Weak and Chicken-Hearted" with Don Mellor (the "Dean of the 'Daks"). Don's couse sounds like the right one for me.

Other highlights include "Beginning Ice" with Jay Smith, "Mountaineering Skills" with Night Yardley, "Avalanche ABCs" with Roger Damon and a slide show by *Climbing* magazine's Michael Kennedy.

There will also be gear from Black Diamond, Grivel, Charlet Moser and others to demo on an ice wall at the Rock and River.

If you want to participate, simply fill in the registration form below.

Those who want to take other ice courses can contact the Rock and River Guide Service at (518) 578-2041 or Adirondack Alpine Adventures at (518) 576-9881.

—Greg Christopulos

February trip to Riegelsville

MS Chairman Rick Dotson is coordinating an ice climbing trip to Riegelsville/Kintnersville, PA, above the Delaware River. Trip date is the Feb. 1-2 weekend. Last year's sojourn included ice man Greg Christopulos and Up Rope's own Mr. Safe-T (Alex Tait), along with Jeanette Helfrich and John Yanson. By the way, Mr. Safe-T's son, Nicholas, is now about 15 months old.

Climbers who want to join this trip should call Rick at (703) 319-9010.

Back to the 'Daks for President's Day

Anne Baron is planning an ice climbing trip to the Adirondacks over the President's Day weekend (Feb. 15-17). MS members who sign up early will be able to stay in the Rock and River Guides' House. The house has four rooms, two with their own bath and two that share a bath. [Editor's note: We also hear there's a 5.7 route on the fireplace.] There's also the possibility of booking rooms at one of the local B&B's.

MS members who want to join this trip should call Anne Baron at: (703) 680-1229.

You can use the application form below if you want to sign up for any ice climbing courses that will be offered during the first annual Adirondack International Mountaineering Festival (Jan. 17-19, 1997).

Application

PARTICIPANTS OF ALL CLINICS, SLIDE SHOWS, AND DEMO GEAR ARE LIMITED IN NUMBER AND MUST BE PRE-REGISTERED.

• NO "WALK-IN" REGISTRATIONS WILL BE ACCEPTED. MUST PRE-REGISTER

- All registrants in clinics may test demo gear at no charge. • All clinics will be filled on a first come, first served basis.
- All event registrations must be paid in full at time of registration. 50% refunds will be allowed for cancellations up until January 1, 1997.
- All events will originate at Adirondack Rock and River. Alstead Hill Road, Keene, NY.
- All participants are entitled to a 10% discount at The Mountaineer on 1/18 & 1/19, 1997 by presenting confirmation of reservation.

Registration

Please check appropriate boxes at right and don't forget to include the course fee. Personal checks or credit cards are welcome.

Name: _____ Tel No: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

VISA / MasterCard Number: _____

Expiration Date: _____

Please make all checks payable to The Mountaineer

Mail registration and full fee to: Box 66 Keene Valley, NY 12943

Tel: (518) 576-2281 • Fax: (518) 576-4352

COURSE FEES:		Friday January 17, 1997
<input type="checkbox"/>	Slide show: To be announced	\$ 7.00
		Saturday January 18, 1997
<input type="checkbox"/>	Beginning Ice For Women with Kitty Calhoun.	\$95.00
<input type="checkbox"/>	Beginning Ice with Jay Smith.	\$95.00
<input type="checkbox"/>	Mountaineering Skills with Nick Yardly.	\$95.00
<input type="checkbox"/>	Steep Ice for the Chicken Hearted with Don Mellor.	\$95.00
<input type="checkbox"/>	Avalanche ABCs with Roger Damon	\$75.00
<input type="checkbox"/>	Men at Altitude with Geoff Tabin, 9 am-noon	\$50.00
<input type="checkbox"/>	Demo Gear (No charge with registration)	\$ 5.00
<input type="checkbox"/>	Slide Show with Michael Kennedy.	\$ 7.00
		Sunday January 19, 1997
<input type="checkbox"/>	Intermediate - Advanced Ice for Women with Kitty Calhoun.	\$95.00
<input type="checkbox"/>	Intermediate - Advanced Ice with Jay Smith.	\$95.00
<input type="checkbox"/>	Mountaineering Skills with Nick Yardly.	\$95.00
<input type="checkbox"/>	Steep Ice for the weak and Chicken Hearted with Don Mellor.	\$95.00
<input type="checkbox"/>	Avalanche ABCs with Roger Damon	\$75.00
<input type="checkbox"/>	Expedition Planning Seminar with Geoff Tabin.	
<input type="checkbox"/>	9:00 am - noon	\$50.00
<input type="checkbox"/>	Kitty Calhoun Slide Show.	\$ 7.00
<input type="checkbox"/>	Demo Gear (No charge with registration)	\$ 5.00

TOTAL

Winters with Summers

Wanted: experienced ice climbers

Experienced ice climbers looking for some extended, cold-weather camping and climbing should consider hooking up with Bill Summers. Right now he has two trips planned and is looking for partners who have gear, experience and enthusiasm.

Interested climbers can call Bill at: (703) 631-1682 (home) or leave a message at (800) 945-2710 and he'll call back.

Here's what Bill has planned:

Trip 1—Dec. 12-16—Adirondacks: Thursday, Dec. 12, leave in the afternoon and return Monday, Dec. 16—Do a lot of quick ice bagging, routes tend to be thin, snow normally isn't very deep, which reveals excellent short problems. This is the time to work on that ice climbing technique we all need. Also, no crowds.

Trip 2—Dec. 27-31—Smuggler's Trip Same information as the Adirondacks trip. Must have your own bivy and climbing gear.

Expect deep snow, very hard approaches, harsh winter conditions, hard, brittle ice, and great ice climbing. I plan to build a snow cave. The conditions here make it worth the effort.

Good long routes, nice ski in and out.

Friday, Dec. 27: Leave in the afternoon to drive up. Bivy in Smuggler's parking lot that night.

Saturday, Dec. 28: Get an early start, ski in, set up bivy, climb in the afternoon.

Sunday & Monday, Dec. 29-30: Climb, bivy.

Tuesday, Dec. 31: New Year's Eve, climb in the morning and do a late

evening climb route on Mt. Mansfield side of the Notch. Top out at night to bring in the new year. The view is tremendous.

Trip 3—MLK weekend—Adirondacks: During the January club trip to the Adirondacks, I plan to go up early and spend most of the time bivvied at the North Face of Pitchoff.

Anyone who would like to go along and bivy should have their own gear. Climbing gear the same. I'll have one rope and multi-pitch lead gear there. If someone wants to ski back for a day of climbing, come back to the pond and shout my name several times. If two or more people come in, bring one rope per person. All climbing will be lead, multi-pitch.

This is a good opportunity to get cold weather camping experience. If you want to do some long climbs, in winter conditions, this is a great place. Bring a good headlamp and plenty of batteries.

Gear check lists are available if you would like one.

Trip 3 itinerary—Jan. 15-21

Wednesday, Jan. 15: Leave early afternoon and drive up. Bivy in the parking lot for Roaring Brook Falls.

Thursday, Jan. 16: Climb Chapel Pond area in the morning, afternoon ski into the North Face of Pitchoff and set up bivy.

Friday, Jan. 17 & Saturday, Jan. 18: Climb, bivy.

Sunday, Jan. 19: Climb in the morning, afternoon ski out. Bivy in the parking lot or in a campsite at the cross-country ski trail going into Mt. Marcy. (Left-hand turn before Loj, drive to end of road.)

Monday, Jan. 20: Get an early start, drive to Pok-o-Moonshine and climb. Bivy in the parking lot at Roaring Brook Falls.

Tuesday, Jan. 21: Climb Mineville Pillar, leave by 11:00 a.m. to drive back.

Other trips—White Oak, Riegelsville, Katahdin.

White Oak Canyon trips will start in early January and go into February. This is an excellent place for beginners and a good place to work on your technique. Bring a head lamp and batteries.

Riegelsville ice also starts in early January and goes until late February. Weekends tend to become crowded. Weekdays are the safest.

Katahdin trip: Looking for at least three experienced climbers with cold-weather camping experience for a possible trip in late February. Excellent chance to do some five-plus-pitch climbs. Speed and efficiency get put to the real test. This team would need to be a good mix of leaders and seconds. A total of six climbers would be an ideal number. There are lots of forms to fill out and mail in, so we'll need to get the group together quickly.

See you on the ice!!!

— Bill Summers

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Up Rope is a publication of the Potomac Appalachian Trail Club Mountaineering Section, published monthly and written by Mountaineering Section members. We're always looking for newsworthy items to print. Articles

can be trip reports, book reviews, gear reviews, good beta for climbs, red points, etc. Articles can be submitted to Up Rope either via the Internet or on a diskette in plain ASCII format (PC or Mac). We also accept photos (and return them!).

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If you have paid your dues already, thanks.

PATC/Mountaineering Section

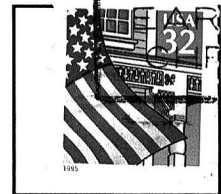
for annual membership in the

It's renewal time!!

Next MS meeting is the annual Christmas party!!
Look for a separate flyer in the mail. See you there!!



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