



Up Rope Update September 1997

MS loses Don McIntyre on Mt. Rainier; fall into crevasse also injures partner

Don McIntyre was a friend to many members of the Mountaineering Section, and a mentor and teacher for some of us. He died on July 29th from injuries sustained in a 50-80 foot fall into a crevasse on Mt. Rainier. He was 51. Don and climbing partner Joel Koury had summited Mt. Rainier by climbing the Liberty Ridge route and were descending by way of the Emmons Glacier. Both men, roped together, had stopped to clear snow from their crampons. A loss of balance led to a short fall and an unarrestable drop into a crevasse. Another climbing party witnessed the accident and went for help, which, due to weather conditions took nearly seven hours to arrive. Joel apparently landed on his backpack and escaped severe injury. Don suffered a ruptured aorta and was able to survive in the crevasse for about three hours, with Joel trying to keep Don as comfortable as possible. Joel was rescued four hours later. He was able to walk part of the way down the mountain but eventually had to be air-lifted. Don's ashes were interred at The Presidio in San Francisco. Don's wife, Linda Gabel, and his two children plan to attend a local memorial service scheduled for Saturday, Sept. 13th at the River Road Unitarian Church. (See story below.)

We'll miss you very much, Don. Thanks for taking this editor under your wing and teaching him how to climb.

McIntyre Memorial service set for Saturday, Sept. 13th

Don McIntyre served as chairman of the Mountaineering Section on two separate occasions, most recently during 1996, before he and his wife (and MS member) Linda Gabel moved to Reno. Friends of Don and Linda, along with the Mountaineering Section, have scheduled a memorial service and reception for Saturday, Sept. 13th at the River Road Unitarian Church, 6301 River Road, Bethesda, MD. The service will start at 4 p.m. with a reception to follow at the church. MS members who would like to attend or help with preparations should call Tony Sanders for more information at: 202-362-3819.

Car accident in Tibet leaves Anne Baron in coma

Right now the details are somewhat sketchy, but apparently MS member Anne Baron was severely injured in a car accident on Aug. 13th, an accident that has left her in a coma and with friends trying to make arrangements for her return to the U.S. We only found out about the accident on Thursday, Aug. 21st. As of this writing, Anne was still hospitalized in Tibet, with hospital and transportation fees running from \$10,000-\$20,000. Friends here are en route to Hong Kong to help bring Anne back to the U.S. Anne is a long-time member of the MS, who annually takes extended trekking trips into Tibet and Nepal. She works as a translator from her home in Virginia.

Leader fall, foot injury cuts Sanders' season

It was my first leader fall, and an unexpected one at that; a 12-15 foot fall taken while leading the second (5.6) pitch of Airy Aria in the Shawangunks. I'd never been on the route before, but felt comfortable about leading the pitch, since I had led High Exposure (5.6) earlier the same day. It's possible that I was off route when the accident happened, because the hand holds were fairly thin and greasy. I fell as I was stepping out right onto what promised to be a good, solid foothold. My fingers slipped as I made the move.

As I fell out and away from the rocks, I felt an "explosion" in my right foot and yelled out in pain. That lasted only a moment, though, since my brain was more concerned with my ongoing fall, which now had me upside down. The fall stopped suddenly as my protection held, whipping me right-side up and just about at eye level with my partner, Larry Krutko, who was holding the rope tight some 20 feet or so away.

Fortunately, there was enough rope left to safely lower me to the ground, where a group of climbers were already gathering to help rescue me and get me to an ambulance. In all, there must have been as many as a dozen climbers, hikers and rangers who came to my aid that Monday afternoon. (Quite a turnout for 5 p.m. on a workday!) They all proved necessary, since I had to be lowered down the steep climber's trail in a litter. A Monhonk Preserve ranger's truck was waiting to ferry me to an ambulance that took me to the hospital in Poughkeepsie.

My injury, aside from a scraped knee, was a broken Talus bone in my right foot; at the top of the foot where the shin meets the foot. It will be another six weeks before I can put any weight on it. Until then, I'm using crutches and relying on the patience and kindness of my wife and friends to get me around town.

See you at the September 10th meeting, when I'll be giving a slide show on climbing in the Bugaboos from the Vowell glacier. We'll also be using my accident as an opportunity to evaluate various rescue techniques and problems that can come up. Stay tuned.

Climbers' Calendar

Aug. 23 — Saturday, **Great Falls**, top roping. Meet at the climbers parking lot at 7:30 a.m.

Aug. 27 — Wednesday, after-work top roping at Carderock, 6:00 p.m.

Labor Day weekend, Aug. 29-Sept. 1 — Friday-Monday, New York's **Shawangunks**. If you've never climbed there, you should definitely try to join this MS trip. We've reserved two campsites at the nearby Creekview Campsites, 227 Creeklocks Rd., Rosedale, NY. 914-658-9142. Climbers should plan to meet Rick Dotson on Saturday morning at 7:30-8 a.m. at the Uberfall area; a brief tour of the area, along with some top roping is planned for MS members new to the area.

Important note: The Mohonk Reserve requires everyone to pay a daily climbing fee of \$5.00, so don't forget to bring your money. For more info, call Rick Dotson at: 703-319-9010.

Sept. 3 — Wednesday, after-work top roping at Carderock, 6:00 p.m.

Sept. 6 — Saturday, **Great Falls**, top roping. Meet at the climbers parking lot at 8:00 a.m. Trip leader: Marian Greenspan: 301-982-1338.

Sept. 10 — Wednesday evening, monthly Mountaineering Section meeting at PATC HQ. 7:30 p.m. munchies, 8:00 p.m. meeting. Slide show: The Vowell-glacier-side of the Bugaboos.

Sept. 13 — Memorial service for Don McIntyre; River Road Unitarian Church. For more info, call: Tony Sanders 202-362-3819.

Sept. 17 — Wednesday, after-work top roping at Carderock, 6:00 p.m.

Sept. 20 — **Caudey's Castle** or **Crescent Rocks**, depending on availability of access. Trip leader: Alex Tait: (h) 301-587-8085, (w) 202-546-5131.

Sept. 24 — Wednesday, after-work top roping at Carderock, 6:00 p.m.

Sept. 27 — Ready for some hard (5.9) trad leads at **Old Rag**? (We're talking granite, folks.) Contact Rick Dotson: 703-319-9010.

Oct. 2-thru-5 — **Friends of Seneca Trail Work**, including MS-sponsored Saturday-night (Oct. 4) dinner. Volunteer to help! Info: 304-567-2085. MS member contact: Bill Wright, 703-860-3752.

Oct. 16-thru-19 — **Friends of Seneca Trail Work**. Free "True Friend" T-shirt for working two days! Volunteer to help! Info: 304-567-2085. While you're working, don't forget to stop by The Gendarme for the **annual Chili cook off** on Saturday, Oct. 18.

Next MS meeting is Wednesday, September 10th at PATC headquarters: 118 Park Street, Vienna, VA. Munchies 7:30 p.m., meeting 8 p.m.

Friends of Seneca:

Work on climber trails continues in 1997!

This volunteer project works to decrease erosion, provide a more stable trail bed and preserve native plant life at Seneca Rocks.

And it's fun!

*****1997 Fall Trail Work Dates*****

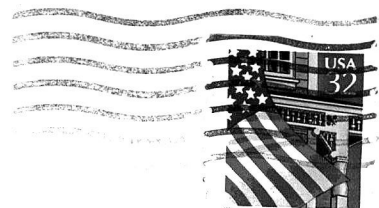
Oct. 2-5 & Oct. 16-19

- Meet:** Seneca Rocks Visitor Center Parking Lot, 8:30am
Bring: Helmets, work gloves, food and lots of water
Also, pick mattocks, shovels, rockbars if you have 'em
Party: Saturday nights at Volunteer Appreciation Dinners in downtown Seneca Rocks
Sleep: Free at the Seneca Shadows Campground (look for site numbers or instructions on Gendarme bulletin board)
Earn: Free "True Friend" T-shirt for working two days!
Info: (304) 567-2085

Friends of Seneca is supported in part through donations by the Access Fund, Potomac Appalachian Trail Club, Explorer's Club of Pittsburgh, the US Forest Service, The Gendarme, Seneca Rocks Mountain Guides, and hundreds of climbers like you!



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