



# Up Rope Update October 1997

## October events: TR'ing at Annapolis Rocks, Kurt Smith slide show

The Climbers' Calendar has two great events lined up for this month—top-roping at Annapolis Rocks on Saturday, Oct. 25<sup>th</sup> and a slide show set for Thursday, October 30<sup>th</sup> and given by none other than that Master of Stone, Kurt Smith. For top-roping at Annapolis Rocks, meet at the Carderock parking lot at 7:30 a.m. sharp. Trip leader: Mack Muir, 703-768-5724. The Kurt Smith slide show will be at the National Cathedral School, Hearst Hall, at the southern corner of Woodley Rd. and Wisconsin Ave., N.W. Tickets: \$5 at the door. Show starts at 8 p.m.

## The Ice News

by Greg Christopoulos

### November Slide Show: New-found climbs in Newfoundland

On my August car-camping trip to Newfoundland and Labrador, looking at the icebergs hovering off the coast and the snow filled gullies on the mountains made me wonder what next year's ice climbing season would be like. Although the Long Range Maintains of western Newfoundland are not much over 3,000 feet and are on about the same latitude as London, winter comes early and stays late.

I checked out the local climbing school near Gross Morne National Park. Paul Fenton, the Director of the Fundy Rock & Ice Climbing School, told me the season runs from November until April and that Spring ice conditions are usually good. The extinct ice age glaciers that carved these mountains left a broad high plateau so that water tricked into fiords and valleys with steep slopes—a sort of a Riegelsville, but on a grander scale.

Paul is trying to develop the area as a new rock and ice climbing center on the East Coast. This climbing area is a "two day drive" from D.C., meaning stopping to eat and to sleep. A hardcore ice climber driving through the night and eating in the car, as I understand Bill Summers does when going

to Orient Bay on Lake Superior, could probably do it in one day.

We have tentatively arranged for Paul to do a slide show at PATC for the November meeting.

### Winter climbing trip to the Adirondacks set for Jan. 17-19

The Rock and River Climbing School and The Mountaineer climbing shop are planning to hold a Second Ice Climbing Festival over the Martin Luther King Weekend (January 17-19, 1998). The format will be similar to last year's with introductory and advanced courses. There will be courses and slide shows by Scott Backes and Alex Lowe. New topics are also planned, including "Backcountry Skiing" by Dick Hall and "Snow Shoeing" by Carl Heilman. Don Mellor, "The Dean of the 'Daks,'" will once again give his popular session on "Steep Ice for the Weak and Chicken-Hearted."

Last year nine MS members made the pilgrimage to the first ice festival and attended various courses and slide shows. Everyone who signed up for one of the classes thought it was beneficial. Although I'm still weak and chicken-hearted, I enjoyed Don Mellor's class because now at least I understand why I'm weak and chicken-hearted.

Don's approach is to use sport climbing techniques on ice so that climbers who lack a gorilla's build can save energy

and rest between moves. For example, he emphasizes doing a twist-lock toward the spike of one tool while making a high placement with the other tool and developing a comfortable resting position while placing protection on a vertical pitch.

The MS has reserved the same cottage at the White Sled Motel which was used last year. This heated cottage holds 8-10 people and includes a full kitchen. Since the White Sled is planning to increase the cost of lodging and we need a cash reserve to cover a gratuity, we should assume that the lodging will cost \$65 per person. Depending on the number of participants, there may be a small refund available.

We will try an reprint an application in the November and December Up Rope issues. Last year classes filled up quickly so if you are interested in taking any of the courses, you may want to call the Mountaineer at (518) 576-2281 to get on a mailing list for brochures and applications which are due out by mid-October.

[Look for that application form soon at the MS's new Website, which is [http://www.patc.simplenet.com/mtn\\_sect.html](http://www.patc.simplenet.com/mtn_sect.html)

To keep climbers posted on the ever-changing conditions in the Daks, this year the Mountaineer is providing ice and weather information at: <http://www.mountaineer.com>.

For more information or to reserve a space in the cottage call Greg Christopoulos at (h): 703-876-0957 or (w): 202-622-0418.

### **Contributions break \$700 for McIntyre plaque**

As of early October, friends of Don McIntyre have contributed \$723 toward a \$1,000 goal for a memorial plaque to be placed on one of the auditorium chairs at the new American Mountaineering Center in Golden, CO.

The East Coast service for Don was a memorable event, with lots of Don's friends, co-workers and Vietnam comrades taking time to share moments of Don's life with the others who had gathered at the Unitarian church on River Road in September.

Along with the testimonials, we were able to give Don's wife, Linda Gabel, a "memory book" of photos and articles about Don. A bagpiper on hand for the occasion piped a soulful rendition of "Amazing Grace" for the recessionary.

The Mountaineering Section contributed \$250 towards the plaque that will be inscribed with Don's name. (Our goal of \$1,000 would give Don a "front-row, center" plaque on one of the chairs in the first five rows of the auditorium.)

Thanks to all those who helped make this event a success and one to remember.

### **Member-renewal time!!!**

#### **Have you paid up???**

Annual membership is only \$15 for individuals and \$25 for a family/joint membership. Please take the time to send in your dues for 1998 NOW.

Make checks payable to the "PATC Mountaineering Section." Mail that money to: PATC Mountaineering Section 118 Park St. SE, Vienna, VA, 22180

### **Up Rope, Climbers' Calendar on the Web**

The Mountaineering Section now has its own Website and this issue of Up Rope is also available via the Internet. Point your favorite Web browser at:

[http://www.patc.simplenet.com/mtn\\_sect.html](http://www.patc.simplenet.com/mtn_sect.html)

### **Missing a pie plate?**

Did you leave a Pyrex @ pie plate at the McIntyre memorial service? The clear-glass plate has a fluted edge and was used to hold a tasty Mexican seven-layer dip. If it's yours, call Tony Sanders at 202-362-3819.

### **After-work climbing moves indoors; Earth Treks gives 25% discount to MS members**

MS members who want to meet and climb after work on Wednesdays now have an incentive to meet at the Earth Treks climbing gym in Columbia, MD. Earth Treks owner Chris Warner has generously offered MS members a 25% discount off the walk-up fee to climb at his gym.

So mark you calendar to climb at Earth Treks on the third Wednesday of every month. (That's the Wednesday after the monthly meeting.) For November, the third Wednesday falls on the 19<sup>th</sup>. The current plan is for Earth Treks to offer this 25% discount through April. See you there.

### **Climbers' Calendar**

**Saturday, October 25<sup>th</sup>:** Top-roping at Annapolis Rocks. Meet at the Carderock parking lot at 7:30 a.m. sharp. Trip leader: Mack Muir, 703-768-5724.

**Thursday October 30<sup>th</sup>:** Kurt Smith slide show at National Cathedral School, Hearst Hall, at the southern corner of Woodley Rd. and Wisconsin Ave., N.W. Tickets: \$5.00. Show starts at 8 p.m.

**Sunday, November 2<sup>nd</sup>:** Bring your inflatable rafts to go top-roping on Herzog and Vasso Islands. Meet at the Carderock parking lot at 9 a.m. Trip leader: Alex Tait, 301-587-8085.

### **November Meeting Slide Show: Newfoundland**

**November 12<sup>th</sup>:** Slide show for PATC/MS meeting. Paul Fenton of Fundy Rock & Ice Climbing School on climbing in Newfoundland and

Labrador—an extensive underdeveloped climbing area in North America. Meet at PATC HQ, 118 Park SE, Vienna, VA. Munchies at 7:30 p.m., meeting starts at 8 p.m.

**January 17-19<sup>th</sup>:** Celebrate the Martin Luther King long weekend at the Second Annual Adirondack Ice Climbing Festival, including courses and slide shows by Scott Backes and Alex Lowe. Trip leader: Greg Christopoulos, (w) 202-622-0418, (h) 703-876-0957.

**February 7-8<sup>th</sup>:** A weekend of ice climbing at Riegelsville, PA (about 110 miles from D.C.). Trip leader: Rick Dotson, 703-319-9010.

**February 13-15<sup>th</sup>:** Celebrate the Presidents Day long weekend at the Mt. Washington Ice Festival in beautiful North Conway, NH. Trip leader: Mack Muir 703-768-5724.

### **An update on Anne Baron**

I heard the following from a friend in Paris who talked with a friend of Anne's in Paris. Some physicians doubt that Anne was in an auto accident; it may have been a "beating." There are many opinions and we may never know what happened unless Anne can tell us. There are no injuries to her upper body.

Whatever injury she sustained in the pelvic region seems to have resolved itself. Her "body" may be basically OK; the brain is the problem. The feeling is that she suffered from lack of oxygen. On the practical side, the hospital

authorities say that there is nothing more that they can do.

They are looking for a place for her rehabilitation; possibly some place in the north of France.

As you read this, Anne is still not out of the coma and is not responding to external stimuli.

—Jeanette Helfrich

Reprinted at our new Website  
([www.patc.simplenet.com/mtn\\_sect.html](http://www.patc.simplenet.com/mtn_sect.html))  
is part of a news report from the Tibet Information Network concerning Anne, who is referred to in that report as Anne Yschard. The information came over the Internet via John Ackerly of the International Campaign for Tibet (ICT).

The ICT served a vital role in helping get Anne from Tibet to Hong Kong and, finally to Paris. It was the ICT that helped get Anne the crucial funding for her transport out of Tibet.

John Ackerly of the International Campaign for Tibet is hoping France will decide to mount an inquiry into Anne's accident, and actually to get some answers to the tragic events.

The ICT has established a fund to help defray Anne Baron's enormous medical costs, which are now probably well into the hundreds of thousands of dollars. Those who would like to know more about contributing to the fund can contact the ICT at:

International Campaign for Tibet

1825 K Street, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20006

ICT's phone number is:  
202-785-1515

## Slush and Cinders: Must be a Chicago Winter

by James Pasterczyk  
(Taken from *The Chicago Mountaineer*, Vol. 36, # 2;  
edited for space)  
Well, no, not necessarily, there are other possibilities within this

broad classification of combinations of materials. If you happen to have been playing at altitude in the Cascades that long, hot summer of '92, the mind would immediately fire its synapses in sequence and tell you, "It's *deja vu* all over again!"

Actually, seven of us were out there June '92 for a little R & R: President Wilson and I had further ulterior motives since we divide our time (but not our loyalties—CMC forever!) between just climbing and climbing the high points of each of the 50 states. Which is how this trip was conceived in the first place, since Mt. Hood is the high point of Oregon and its big bro Rainier fills that job for Washington.

We fell into conversation about other groups of peaks that would be natural to do together—and Hood/Rainier came to mind. Since both of these peaks have "tourist routes," they would also make a suitable classroom for those who had never done any glacier travel or snow camping.

Four of us (me, Mike Wilson, Marcelle Freides, and Jon Ruddick) gathered out in Vancouver, Washington, at the home of former CMC member Don Theobald. We sorted our gear, sacked out on the floor, then headed out the next day to check out the Timberline Lodge, a wondrous structure of boulders and beams built during the Great Depression. Through its picture windows we could occasionally view our objective through the stratus murk. We were even lucky enough to catch glimpses of exultant climbers plunge-stepping down the snow slope after successful ascents via our route of choice, the basic South Face "Tourist Route."

Our next stop was the campground in the National Forest south of the peak for an evening of being sodden with mist while listening to the Bulls beating the Trailblazers in the NBA Championship series.

So we slept, arose, gagged down our AM oatmeal or Cream of Wheat (glutinous, awful

stuff), struck camp, and returned to the lodge. Stashing the cars, we suited up, saddled up, then plodded up first a trail, then the snowfield alongside the ski runs, still ascending through calm stratus. At about 7,000' the cloud layer petered out and we finally had a good view of our objective and route. The plan, though, was a two day ascent, camping at a flat spot about level at 8,400' with the top of the ski lift on the east side of the ski slope next to a rocky ridge dividing the Palmer and White River Glaciers. Here we pitched our tents and set up cooking facilities, after which Jon and I received instruction in self-arrest with our rented ice axes. Of course, this is where the slush first really came in.

The weather was positively balmy up there, no wind, clear, warm and sunny, giving us strictly klister conditions. So-o-o, in order to stop a fall down a moderate snow slope, all one had to do was flop spread-eagled to get some body friction working; the ice axes were superfluous. How were we to know, innocents that we were? Of course, later, on much steeper ground they came in mighty handy.

Retiring after a traditional dinner of mountain spaghetti, we all tried to sleep through the snow cats growling most of the night as they groomed the ski slope. The night was crystal clear and the moon gave us light to dress by after we arose at 4 AM to begin the slog. Conditions had frozen a bit, so crampons were the order of the day. Our Commander in Chief took point.

We could see the shadow of the mountain cast on the stratus below as we started up toward Crater Rock. Skirting the eastern side of this volcanic plug is where the cinders come in, as well as where we were reminded that Hood is only "dormant." Technically, it's a stratovolcano, meaning it builds up quickly loose ash and cinders, then tends to blow its top cataclysmically. The cinders, the smell of hydrogen

We halted at the north side of the rock where it forms the southern anchor of the Hogsback for a bit of food, recon for the last push, and to rope up and don our hard hats. This was in fact the only really touchy part of the whole climb; everything else up to this point had been just tough uphill hiking. This Hogsback, though, is a snow ridge that connects Crater Rock to the main summit, dropping on one side to the Devil's Kitchen and eventually the White River Glacier. On the other side, it heads down to the head of the Palmer Glacier following on to Mississippi Head and its cliff band. At the far end of this ridge is the bergschrund, double this year, for the south face glaciers, and

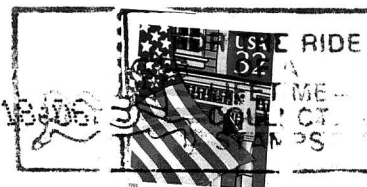
It was a gorgeous day, but that sun was rapidly softening the snow. We therefore, waved our CMC banner, took our pictures, left our footprints, roped up, and began to follow the trail of bread crumbs we ha

That night we again feasted at Don's house back in Vancouver and slept the sleep of the happily exhausted under a roof that wasn't nylon.



**Up. Close**  
FOUNDED BY  
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