



FOUNDED BY  
HERB AND JAN CONN

Newsletter of the Mountaineering Section of the Potomac Appalachian Trail Club—June 1998

## Climber's Calendar

For additions and updates check our website at [http://patc.simplenet.com/mtn\\_sect/](http://patc.simplenet.com/mtn_sect/)

### **CARDEROCK Wednesdays after work (until Fall)**

Climbers meet at base of rocks at 6pm every Weds. except MS meeting nights (second Weds. of month). Rain date is Thurs. Meet on Tues. nights during week of Weds. meeting.

### **June 10th (Wednesday)**

#### **MONTHLY MEETING of the Mountaineering Section**

Short business meeting. Pizza and beverages! Exciting slide show!  
Meeting time: 7:30pm for pizza, 8:00pm for meeting and slide show  
Meeting place: PATC Headquarters, 118 Park St., SE, Vienna, VA  
Contact MS Chairman: Tony Sanders (h) 202-362-3819 or e-mail [tsanders@ix.netcom.com](mailto:tsanders@ix.netcom.com)

### **June 14th (Sunday)**

#### **GREAT FALLS, VA--Climb/Learn TRIP: Leading and seconding info session**

Learn some of the skills needed to lead and second on multi-pitch climbs.  
Meeting time: 8:30am  
Meeting place: Great Falls Natl. Park, Virginia, downstream parking lot (farthest one south, U-turn after entrance booth)  
Trip Leader: Tony Sanders (h) 202-362-3819 or e-mail [tsanders@ix.netcom.com](mailto:tsanders@ix.netcom.com)

### **June 21st (Sunday)**

#### **WOLF ROCKS TRIP: Top roping near Frederick, MD**

For beginners and experienced people alike. Wolf Rocks is in Catoctin Mountain Park.  
Meeting time: 8:30am  
Meeting place: McDonald's in Gaithersburg, MD (call leader for directions)  
Trip leader: Pete Grant, (h) 703-960-6033 (7-9:30pm), e-mail [grantpk@classic.msn.com](mailto:grantpk@classic.msn.com)

### **June 28th (Sunday)**

#### **LITTLE STONY MAN MTN. TRIP: Climbing in Shenandoah National Park, VA**

Top roping and some leading possible. Little Stony Man Mountain is a short hike from the Skyline Drive in the central section of the SNP.  
Meeting time: 8:00am  
Meeting place: Appalachian Outfitters on route 123 in Oakton, VA (call for directions)  
Trip leader: Pete Grant, (h) 703-960-6033 (7-9:30pm) or e-mail [grantpk@classic.msn.com](mailto:grantpk@classic.msn.com)

### **July 3rd-6th (Thursday-Sunday)**

#### **4th of July SENECA ROCKS TRIP: Lead climbing**

Join the MS for superb climbing at one of the east's premier climbing areas. Arrange your own partner or call trip leader to see if another climber is looking for a partner.  
Meeting time: call trip leader  
Meeting place: call trip leader  
Trip Leader: Rick Dotson, (h) 703-319-9010 or e-mail [RickDotson@aol.com](mailto:RickDotson@aol.com)

### **July 8th (Wednesday)**

#### **MONTHLY MEETING of the Mountaineering Section**

Short business meeting. Pizza and beverages! Exciting slide show!  
Meeting time: 7:30pm for pizza, 8:00pm for meeting and slide show  
Meeting place: PATC Headquarters, 118 Park St., SE, Vienna, VA  
Contact MS Chairman: Tony Sanders (h) 202-362-3819 or e-mail [tsanders@ix.netcom.com](mailto:tsanders@ix.netcom.com)

### **July 11th (Saturday)**

#### **SUGARLOAF MOUNTAIN TRIP: Top roping near Frederick, MD**

For beginners and experienced people alike. More Washington area quartzite.  
Meeting time: 9:30am  
Meeting place: Parking lot at Sugarloaf Mountain. For first timers, meet at Carderock Recreation Area parking lot (farthest one north) at 8:45am for carpooling.  
Trip leader: Mack Muir (h) 703-768-5724 or e-mail [mackmuir@ami.net](mailto:mackmuir@ami.net)

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## Remembering some of mountaineering's Old Timers

This has not been a good couple of years for the older climbers. Last year, Frank Sauber, Ray Moore and Arnold Wexler died. Since many of the younger (under 35) readers may not know who these guys were, we wanted to publish an appreciation of their lives to help preserve their memories.

So much of the Mountaineering Section's climbing was made possible because of what was done by men and women climbers in the MS before us. There's a continuity here that is part of what our group is now. We can add our accomplishments to this ever-growing history of the Mountaineering Section for future climbers to appreciate.

What follows are some remembrances by John Christian, Ted Schad and Chuck Wettling.

—John Christian

### **Raymond T. Moore: 1922-1997**

Ray Moore died on August 21, 1997 after suffering a series of strokes while hospitalized for aortic bypass surgery.

Ray began climbing with the Washington Rock Climbers in 1947, shortly after arriving in this area following his wartime service with the Army Air Transport Corps. He was born in Texas, but as a child had traveled all over the United States with his family until he graduated from Eastern High School in Washington at the age of 14. He later attended Howard Payne University in Brownwood, Texas.

Ray was a strong climber, caver, and diver. He introduced the climbers to SCUBA diving at the Halltown quarry by placing a case of beer at the base of a submerged tree at the 40-foot level.

At Seneca Rocks with Tony Soler he pioneered Tony's Nightmare (5.6) in 1950

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and Soler Route (5.7) which has that spectacular second pitch, a great achievement for 1951. On a trip out west with Tony, they teamed up with Herb and Jan Conn to put in a new route on Devil's Tower in Wyoming.

In his well-equipped shop at home, Ray made the trigger mechanism that was used for years in belay practice with Oscar at Carderock. As a caver, Ray made a very long cable ladder which he used with Huntley Ingalls, to explore the depths of Cass Cave in West Virginia. Later, with Tony Soler he starred in the caving movie which Joel Gross filmed in Schoolhouse Cave.

After learning SCUBA diving in the quarries, Ray chartered a schooner in the Bahamas for diving on the reefs in the Caribbean. Working in his spare time from 1958 to 1963 he built a 36-foot ketch which he sailed in Chesapeake Bay. After that we didn't see him on the cliffs very much.

Ray was truly a renaissance man who excelled at everything he did, equally at home fabricating an intricate design in his shop, as an executive in private industry, as a climber, as a caver, as a sailor, and in the computer labs at the National Institute of Standards and Technology where he specialized in the use of computer technology in the identification of fingerprints.

—Ted Schad

### Arnold Wexler: 1918-1997

Arnold Wexler died in his sleep Sunday evening, November 16, 1997 of brain cancer. He was 79.

Arnold lived in a rarefied atmosphere, that of research engineer at the National Institute of Standards and Technology and of the mountain climber. He is largely responsible for the Mountaineering Section as we know it. He co-invented the idea of dynamic belaying. He made nearly

50 first ascents of Canadian mountains requiring horrendous bushwhacking.

Arnold was born January 3, 1918 in Manhattan in New York City but spent his early childhood in the Catskills until his family returned to New York City. He received a Bachelor of Chemical Engineering from the City College of New York in 1940.

In 1941 he joined the then National Bureau of Standards to work in structural materials research and testing, eventually focusing on instrumentation and standards for measurement, primarily for determining the moisture content of gases. During World War II he tested climbing ropes and equipment so the military could undertake mountain operations. As an aside, his work on oxygen regulators for military pilots helped some climbing friends (inspired by Jacques Costeau) to make their own underwater breathing apparatus to explore submerged passages in West Virginia caves.

He was one of a group of rock climbers that pioneered climbing in the Washington, D.C. area in the 1940s. When this group became the Mountaineering Section of the Potomac Appalachian Trail Club, Arnold served as its Chairman for 5 or 6 years, quietly leading it through its formative stage.

Through his testing of ropes and climbing equipment at the National Bureau of Standards during WWII Arnold met a west coast climber, (then Major) Richard Leonard. Together they made the first mathematical analysis of the forces on a falling climber, his anchors, the rope, and the belayer. They created the idea of dynamic belaying—a progressive snubbing of the rope around the belayer's body to mitigate the shock on the system.

At Carderock, a local climbing area, Arnold encouraged practicing dynamic belaying using Oscar, a 150 pound dummy, who could be dropped to simulate a falling climber. The ability to do a dynamic belay undermined the prevailing ethic that the leader should never fall because of the usual fatal consequences. Now the system need not fail. This was the first step towards today's new climbing ethic.

Even with dynamic belaying, Arnold was a cautious and competent climber. He believed in being able to climb down from a crux. Nevertheless Arnold pioneered

### Mr. Safe-T: Finding Camp Lewis (or Avoiding the Crowds at Carderock)

by Mr. Safe-T, a.k.a. Alex Tait, long suffering (2 issues) Up Rope Editor

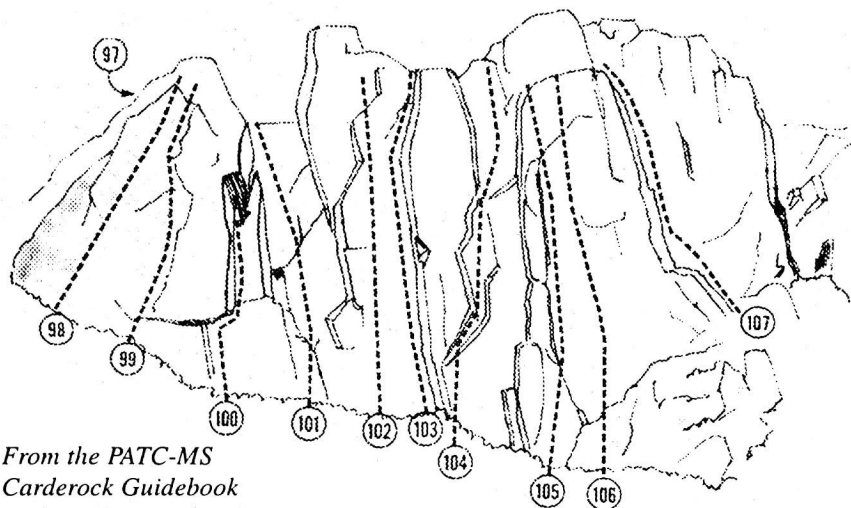
I am taking this opportunity to make a Brief Trip Report (BTR) about a trip I lead to the Camp Lewis crag at Carderock. All trip leaders please take note of this. I want each and every one of you to send me a similar BTR about your trip. Pleeeeease.

On April 25th, I led an intrepid group of climbers to the rarely visited Camp Lewis Crag which is located about a

mile south (downriver) of the main Carderock parking lots.

The climbing is not as extensive as the Carderock Guidebook illustrations may suggest but there are several enjoyable routes at varying levels once you clear the poison ivy off! (I think we may have been the first party there in several years.) Joining me were: Daniel Barclay, Mitch Hyman, Carl McIntosh, K-Lynn Smith, Dave Green and his daughter and her friend.

Routes 103 (Shiple's Climb, 5.10), 104 (Pony Express, 5.6), and 105 (Jam Crack, 5.9) on the below diagram are especially recommended.



From the PATC-MS  
Carderock Guidebook

routes at Seneca Rocks in West Virginia such as Simple J Malarkey (5.7) and Ye Gods and Little Fishes (5.8) strong routes for 1953-4 in sneakers and driving pitons on sight.

My strongest memories of Arnold are when we shared a little house at Seneca Rocks (now used by a guide service). It was furnished with local yard sale furniture and a new wood stove. It was then that Arnold and I put up Prune (5.7). At a taxing moment on the first pitch I clipped in to a very old Army ring piton. As Arnold followed he lifted it out with one finger. Half of it had rusted away.

Arnold climbed almost every summer either in the Canadian Rockies, the Interior Ranges or the Northwest Territories (at the Cirque of the Unclimbables, which his party named). There were also trips to the American Rockies, to the Alps in France and Italy, and to the Peruvian Andes. Altogether Arnold made well over 100 ascents of which nearly 50 were first ascents.

His most notable climb was in 1946 to the Selkirks with Sterling Hendricks who had been exploring the Canadian moun-

tains. The Hendricks party made their way through one of the most inaccessible regions of British Columbia to make the second ascent of Mount Sir Sanford, a major peak which had been first climbed 32 years previously.

Many of his subsequent trips involved horrendous bushwhacks, ferrying loads on pre-Kelty pack boards or in shapeless Army rucksacks, never finding air dropped loads, all to get into those peaks which no one had ever climbed before. There is an excitement in this which is hard to duplicate now. For all of these things he had done, it was a pleasure to have nominated him to be an Honorary Member of the Mountaineering Section.

Arnold had an ever present curiosity about different ways of life and different cultures. It was only natural that he began folk dancing. He, and many of us climbers in the 50s, would go each week to Dave Rosenberg's folk dances and afterwards to his back alley artist studio for beer.

This curiosity about other peoples led him to trek several times in Nepal, to Kashmir and Ladakh at the western end of the Himalayas and to less rugged trips to

other remote corners of the world. Arnold was a gentle person, a patient teacher, and a trusted climbing partner.

—John Christian

### Frank Sauber: 1927-1996

Frank Sauber, another old-time friend, was killed hang gliding in May, 1996. He was 69 and still working a regular job. Frank was one of the rock climbers who took me under their wings when I first met them in 1952.

I am indebted to Frank for including me in a trip to the Tetons, my first mountaineering experience. We shared the pleasure of being led to the top of Devil's Tower by John Christian and into the depths of Schoolhouse Cave by Paul Bradt.

Frank was an accomplished folk dancer and helped get me started in that type of recreation. He still had lively years ahead when an equipment malfunction cut him down, but he was enjoying his life to the last second.

—Chuck Wetling

## Travel Equipment Tip from Jim Pasterczyk

Not too long ago, one of our members lost a large amount of gear when his airline said it would be fine to check his full internal frame backpack as ordinary baggage and it never arrived at his destination. I have found that the best travel bags for carrying large amounts of gear are the nylon Cordura duffels made under the Equinox label and sold at Appalachian Outfitters in Oakton.

Campmor in Paramus, NJ, also appears to carry a similar item. But the Mountain Tools Padded Pack Carrier quickly loses its shape when shipped on an airplane and everything gets redistributed inside. I suspect that the Wild Things duffel would have these same problems since they have no compression straps like the Equinox duffels. They may be good only for home storage or car transport.

The particular ones I use are the largest model having two regular carrying handles, a detachable carrying strap, a sewn-on handle on either end, two side pockets, a mesh pocket for ID, a full-length zipper with double sliders (lockable with a small travel lock), and most

importantly, three circumferential compression straps which attach with Fastex buckles.

On the big expeditions I load one duffel with the snowshoes, backpack, boots, ice axe, pickets, shovel, saw, and other gear in stuffsacks or plastic garbage bags, taking care to place the water bottles, stove, and anything else obviously breakable in the pack and making sure the pointy stuff is padded with rubber things on their ends, pile clothing, or closed cell foam sleeping pads, stuffing the duffel as full as I can get it. I then zip it shut, shake it around a bit so things settle, then mate the buckles on the compression straps and tighten the straps.

The result is a rather stiff and robust sausage full of nylon and metal which can be dragged by hoisting one of the end handles, or two people can carry two such sausages with one person on each end of each duffel. I've also carried them using the regular handles over the shoulders, but this requires a wide berth and large turning radius as well as the willingness to endure a large amount of pain.

Into the second duffel goes an assortment of stuff sacks holding various soft

items, similarly stuffed, shaken, then cinched down. On several trips using this method, the only damage to my gear was a dented metal thermos which would not have happened if I had wrapped it in a sleeping pad.

If one wishes to take added precautions, a colleague of mine has suggested wrapping the whole thing in what resembles oversize Saran Wrap on a roller, to prevent the last possibility of pilferage.

My particular ski poles are too long to fit into these duffels since they are two-section poles, but I've never had any problem taking them as carry-on luggage and they fit into the overhead bins easily.

The duffels are actually small enough at least on domestic flights to count as ordinary baggage, though your skycaps and cabbies will deserve an extra tip to handle the weight.

I've also used them on haul sleds on glaciers to hold gear coming up the mountain with me since they have so many tie-down points that they'd be hard to lose if the sled tipped over or went into a crevasse. Just make sure anything on the outside of the duffel is tied in somehow to the assemblage.

## Short Notes

### New PATC Great Falls Guide Book

We are currently working on the update for the Mountaineering Section's best-selling guidebook to Great Falls. Anyone who has new route info, layout ideas, or wishes to help out, please contact Alex Tait (w: 301-588-7225, tait@erols.com) or John Yanson (w: 202-546-0600).

### Addition to last issue's Book Review of *Denali West Buttress*

The following fits into fifth paragraph after the words "...geology, wildlife, and glaciation.":

Of more immediate importance to the climber are its sections on Denali weather patterns, women's health issues on long expeditions, lodging in Talkeetna for the days one will inevitably spend there waiting for the weather somewhere to clear enough to fly, fine points of dealing with a snowy environment that you'd ordinarily have to discover empirically including latrine building and use.

### Help out with Up Rope! (Trip Leaders, this means you)

We need articles, book reviews, and other items for Up Rope. TRIP LEADERS I am begging you, write up a very quick and dirty summary of your trip and send it to me. This is our only institutional record.

Also, any kind soul looking to volunteer some time helping this woefully time-constrained editor would be greatly appreciated! Thanks.

Mountaineering Section  
Potomac Appalachian Trail Club  
118 Park St, SE  
Vienna, VA 22180

## Climber's Calendar continued

### July 18th (Saturday)

#### SENECA ROCKS, WV--Climb/Learn TRIP: Leading and seconding info session

Multi-pitch climbing at Seneca Rocks for beginning leaders and seconds.

Meeting time: contact trip leader

Meeting place: contact trip leader

Trip Leader: Tony Sanders (h) 202-362-3819 or e-mail tsanders@ix.netcom.com

### July 19th (Sunday)

#### BUZZARD ROCKS TRIP: Climbing on Massanutten Mountain, VA

For beginner and experienced climbers. This will be a chance to explore a rarely visited cliff with opportunity to lead climb or top rope.

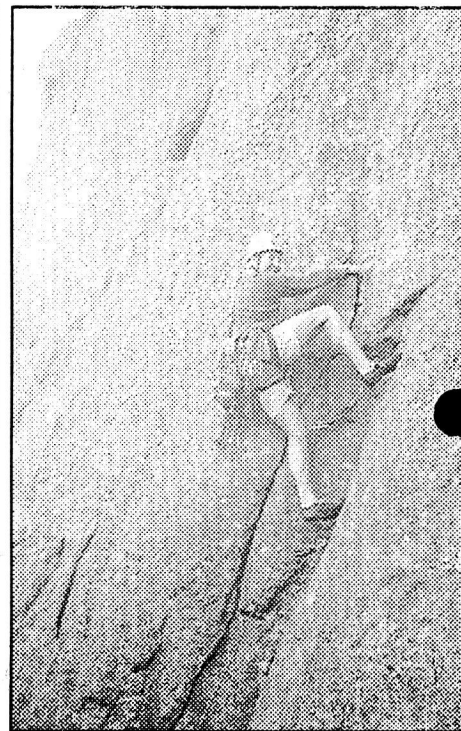
Meeting time: 8:00am

Meeting place: Appalachian Outfitters on route 123 in Oakton, VA (contact leader for directions)

Trip leader: Pete Grant, (h) 703-960-6033 (7-9:30p) or e-mail (pref.) grantpk@classic.msn.com



*Above, MS members on a 1997 trip to Old Rag Mountain in Shenandoah National Park. The party includes Mary Dotson, Greg Christopolous, Larry Krutko (also seen at right, leading the Doby Gillis Route on the PATC wall at Old Rag), Mack Muir, John Oster, Andy Britton, and Rick Dotson. Another trip to this fine climbing spot is in the works for fall when the undergrowth has died down.*



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Please forward