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ROCKFALL

- Membership renewals will be included in the next issue.
- Newsletter published quarterly: January, April, July, October. Articles with photos preferred.



Don Hubbard (right) was on the first ascent of the Gendarme in 1939

Shawangunks, NY

Labor Day Weekend, 2000

In spite of the less than ideal weather forecast, in impressive number of people decided to take the long drive to this premier climbing area of East coast. As usual, many of the people participated without having arranged for a specific partner, but, again as typically, partnerships were formed over breakfast and everyone was able to climb.

I teamed up with Paul Torelli and Mitch Hyman and set out to test the wet rocks on Hawk (5.4+). Although the cliffs were quite wet and slippery down low, higher up, especially above treetops, the rock was quite dry except for spots here and there. By the time we finished Hawk, we decided to up the ante a bit and proceeded to do Moonlight (5.6), a route that neither of us had done previously. Moonlight was surprisingly airy and delightful, especially on the last pitch. I think I'll add it to my recommended list. (Continued on page 4)

<u>Donald Hubbard (1900-2000)</u> Obituary

by Todd Post

Donald Hubbard, whose achievements as a rock climber and alpinist spanned nearly half a century, died of cardiopulmonary arrest on July 20 in McLean, Virginia, less than three months before his hundredth birthday. (continued on page 2)



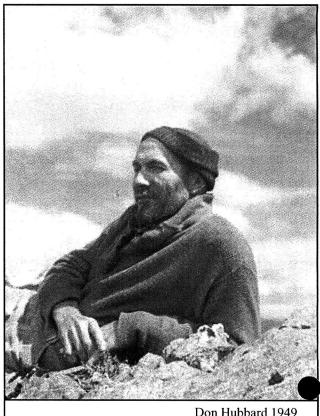
Steve on birdcage 5.10b photo by Mack Muir.

Hubbard did some of the earliest ascents at Seneca Rocks in West Virginia and Old Rag Mountain in the Shenandoah National Park. During World War II, when climbers were restricted from traveling far from home, he pioneered some of the most difficult routes at Carderock, an area just outside Washington, DC and a perennial favorite of local climbers.

Following the War, Hubbard focused most of his climbing energies on remote areas in Western Canada, where he made more than 80 first ascents and repeated several of the most difficult routes of the day. Nearly every summer between 1946 and 1960, Hubbard and partners Sterling Hendricks and Arnold Wexler, set off on an expedition to the Selkirks region of British Columbia. In '57, Hendricks and Hubbard were involved in a tragic accident that took the life of another in their party and nearly cost them theirs. Climbing on Mt. Howson with Rex Gibson, who was then President of the Alpine Club of Canada, Hendricks and Hubbard plummeted 250 feet down the side of the mountain. Gibson, who was leading the rope team, was struck in the head by a loose rock and when he fell pulled the other two with him. Gibson died of injuries from the fall. Hubbard suffered a broken knee and remained with Gibson until he passed away during the first night. Hendricks, with a broken shoulder, went for help and made slow progress, using his one good arm and his teeth to hold onto the rope during several precipitous rappels. Once Gibson passed away, Hubbard used a tent pole for a crutch and for two days and hobbled down the mountain.

"His specialty was coaching beginners," said Herb Conn, who started climbing under Hubbard's tutelage in the early 40s. "More often than not, he would have them leading some climb far beyond their ability—but he could always get them to the top through sheer word power."

Bill and Ruth Schlect, two psychiatrists from Washington, D.C. who were also climbers, recognized this quality about Hubbard and sought



Don Hubbard 1949

in their work with juvenile delinquents. The Schlects believed that climbing could be used to transform these troubled kids from selfperceived losers to winners. "He [Hubbard] used to bring a group of delinquent boys to Carderock, kids who had done things like murdering their mother," said Conn. "One day, to give such a lad confidence in his own selfworth, Don showed him how to belay a top rope, then deliberately threw himself over the edge. The lad held him!"

Hubbard refused to take much of the credit for the work he did with these adolescents. "Most of the kids found out they could do things the adults couldn't and this boosted their egos," he explained. In addition to the time he spent with these troubled youngsters, he worked the other side of the fence with the Boy Scouts to establish a climbing merit badge.

(Continued on next page)

(continued from p.2)

Hubbard also figured prominently in one of the first made-for-television depictions of the climbing life. In the early 50s, CBS launched a short-lived drama called the I-Series that included various outdoor adventures as part of its theme. The pilot episode I-Christopher Bell starred Charles Bickford as the protagonist Bell, with Hubbard appearing as the stand-in for Bickford during the climbing sequences. The show was a half-hour and had a simple plot. The aging Christopher, a legendary mountaineer, returns to his old haunts in the Colorado Rockies to try and regain some of the glory he achieved there in his youth. He has been out of climbing for awhile—and naturally his health has deteriorated. Not long before arriving in Colorado to visit an old climbing partner, Bell had suffered a stroke and has become partially paralyzed as a result.

"The television crew fell in love with Hubbard," remarked Joel Gross, one of the producers of the show, "—although they found him a bit of an oddball." Two weeks before the shooting started, Hubbard was asked to join Gross and the director, Don Medford, in scouting locations for scenes. After hours of hiking around in the mountains, they opened cans of sardines that Gross had packed with their lunches. Medford was horrified

to find a large fly soaking in the heavy oil with his sardines. Hubbard lifted up the insect, examined in closely, and then swallowed it. "Hmm," he mused. "I believe that's Musca Mediterranean. Delicious! I haven't had one in years." Nobody on the crew ever heard, except for Gross later on, that one of Hubbard's responsibilities at the National Bureau of Standards during World War II, where he was a research chemist, was to study what GI's could get by on in a pinch for food. Whatever they were expected to eat Hubbard ate too, and flies were considered one of the delicacies on the menu.

I met Hubbard only a couple of years ago. Although he didn't hear well or move around much at all, he was still quite sharp and quick witted, and fun to be with. I enjoyed calling on him, hearing old stories of what it was like to climb at Seneca Rocks, Carderock and other places popular with my generation of Washington, DC climbers, before these places were developed and the number of climbers was insignificant. Losing an old friend like Don Hubbard is a loss to our whole area. He was one of our patriarchs and will be sadly missed.



Dear Up Rope Editor:

Tues 1 Aug 2000

I have been a club member since 1980. I have now quit my job as a correspondent for ABC news (after 26 years with ABC), I 'm leaving journalism, moving to San Francisco and starting my own consulting firm (media consulting and industrial videos for hitech companies).

To all my climbing friends an the Washington area, I'll miss you, I had great times, my new address as of 23 August is: Jack Smith

55 Buena Vista Avenue Mill Valley, California 94941

Home: 415-381-6884

Best Regards,

Jack Smith

strenuous while the crux on the first is

(continued from Page 1)

Shawangunks Trip (con't)

On Sunday, Steve and I took a group to the Near Trapps. We settled on the Birdland/Farewell to Arms combo. Steve led Birdland (5.8+) while I led Farewell to Arms. Various people then seconded (thirded?) either or both climbs; Mack even took his camera on FWTA to shoot photos of those on Birdland. These two, incidentally, are three-star routes, highly recommended if you are comfortable at the grade. Although we did only the first pitches of the two routes, second

and Farewell to Arms is Birdcage (5.10b). Steve and I decided to take advantage of Mac's (actually his camera's) presence and decided to climb the route. Steve led and I followed. No problems. The group then

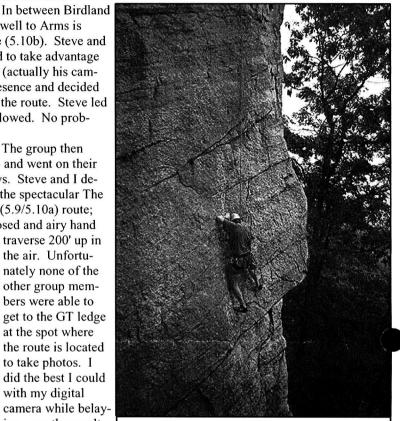
balancy and delicate.

broke up and went on their own ways. Steve and I decided to the spectacular The Dangler (5.9/5.10a) route; and exposed and airy hand

traverse 200' up in the air. Unfortunately none of the other group members were able to get to the GT ledge at the spot where the route is located to take photos. I did the best I could with my digital camera while belaying - see the result in the accompanying photo (#4).

Sunday most people again paired up and went on their way. Bob went on to lead Hviek's Horror, a balancy and bouldery start rated conservatively as 5.8-, and later V3, a popular 5.7. (See photo #5.) Not sure who all went with Bob, but at least Mack did since he took photos of the event. Carol and I went to do Arrow, a classic 5.8 with the crux moves at the very top of the second pitch. See photo

#6 Sunday afternoon it started to sprinkle. Bob and I, having just completed a climb, decided to wait it out, then when it continued to drizzle,



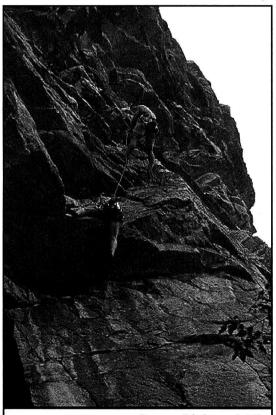
called it a day and went to the car. Of

Mitch on Bird land 5.8+

course, as soon as we dumped our gear in the car, the rain stopped. Oh well! Participants: Mitch Hyman, Steve Mack Muir, Pete Grant, Carol Garfinkel, and Bob. Additional Photographs are located at the following address: http://64.50.146.16/ climbing/gunks/sep2000/



Steve on the Dangler 5.10a



Pete on Birdcage 5.10b

pitches are also recommended, especially on Birdland. Be aware, though, that although the rating is the same, Birdland second pitch's crux is more

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CLIMBER'S CALENDER

Sept 13th meeting:

-- Bill Wright reported that The Friends of Seneca wants the PATC and the Pittsburgh climbers to take over maintenance of the Seneca Rock approaches. Bill has agreed to be the coordinator for the section and will be the trip leader to the October 20-22 trip to Seneca (The Chili Cook off trip). This will not be a work trip, but Bill would like members who are familiar with Seneca to join him on a walk through of the Seneca approaches with the Friends of Seneca. Bill is inviting the Pittsburgh climbers to join Section members on the walk through to get an idea of what maintenance needs to be done. We are also inviting them to join the Section at our group camp site for the weekend.

- -- Rather than attend the January Ice
 Festival in the Adirondacks and the February Ice Festival in the Whites, the Section decided to reverse the order this year.
 The festivals have become very popular and it has become difficult to book accommodations and to get on the more popular climbs. Going to the Whites in January and the Adirondacks in February will make trip planning easier. Ted
 Plasse has volunteered to arrange for beginning ice climbing group instruction during the January trip to the Whites.
- -- We need volunteers to do additional trips. Does anyone want to do a trip to Riegelsville in late January, a February trip to the Catskills, or a Spring trip to the Whites. Conditions permitting, I plan to do mid week trips to White Oak Canyon or Crabtree Falls in January or February which I will post on the list server.

Wednesday. October 11. Slide

Show: Climbing in Siberia, Gerard Brillantes.

October 20 -22nd (Chili Cook off)

Although this is not a work trip; there will be a walk through of the approaches with the Friends of Seneca and the Pittsburgh climbers to determine what maintenance work needs to be done in the future. Bill Wright will be the trip leader and liaison with the Friends of Seneca.

Saturday; October 28; 2-5 PM

Memorial Service for Don Hubbard Cedar Lane Unitarian Church 9601 Cedar Lane Bethesda MD

Wednesday, November 8, 2000

Section Meeting Vienna Ice Festival "Get Psyched for Ice 2001"

Bring your favorite ice climbing and skiing slides, particularly last winter's trips. Simon Carr will show skiing in Antarctica; former section member and Whitetail Ski Patroller Paul Hess will show climbing in Valdez Alaska; and Alex Tail will show mixed climbing in the Cascades.

Wednesday; December 13, 2000

Club Meeting and Christmas Party

The Meeting/Party will start at 7:00 PM. Bring a dish to share. The Section will provide beverages. There will be no slide show or business session.

December 29 - January 2

New Year climbing and hiking in the Whites. Jim Pastercyzk (Jimboski@mindspring.com)

January 13-14

Martin Luther King Weekend in the Whites. Ted Plasse (plasse@erols.com) is arranging for beginning ice climbing instruction with one of the climbing schools. Trip Leader: TBA

February 17-19

Presidents Weekend in the Adirondacks. Greg Christopulos (goclimb@erols.com) can assist with planning. Trip Leader: TBA.

(R)

Annapolis Rocks, MD

March 18th, 2000

Third Time's the Charm

After two cancellations of planned Annapolis Rocks Trip, it was beginning to look like the third was heading down the tubes just as its predecessors. Saturday morning greeted us with a temperature in the 20's and the high was predicted to be in the low 40's. But nevertheless, being the hardy sort, we decided to go ahead with the venture, so here's the report. It was cold enough that we wore parkas or similar garments even on the 40+ minute hike. In spite of the lively pace, none of us worked up a sweat -that's how cold it was. After arriving at the cliffs, we set up a number of top ropes on the usual routes: Black Crack, Nixon's Nose, Wall of Wander, and a couple of others. Since the sun had not yet worked its way around to shine on the other areas, the entire group congregated on Wall of Wander which we all climbed freezing our fingers in the process. Luckily Ted had some chemical hand warmer packets which were passed around to get some feeling back into our numb fingertips. By the time everyone had done Wall of Wander, the sun was just beginning to peek around the corner where Black Crack and Illusion were rigged. After warming up on Illusion -- warming up in the figurative sense only -- we attacked Black Crack with varying degrees of success.

(continued on next page)

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A Cheap Clip -Building Better Belay Anchors

by Greg Christopulos

The September 1999 issue of Rock and Ice had an excellent article on building better belay anchors with cordelettes and webolettes.

The first cordelettes were made from about 20 feet of 7mm nylon accessory cord tied into a loop with a double fisherman's knot. However, they were bulky compared to the new high tech cordelettes made from 5.5 mm Spectra or Dynema.

The author compared various cordelettes to a webolette made from 10 feet of Dynema webbing with a sewn eye loop at each end. He preferred the webolette for three reasons: (1) It doesn't have a knot which gets in the way when your are equalizing an anchor. (2) Because the webolette has a sewn eye at each end, it requires only four strands to be equalized from three anchor points compared to six strands for a cordelette. (3) It unties smoothly after being loaded

and racks faster.

A nylon cordelette cost about \$7 while a Spectra cordelette costs about \$20. Sewn webolettes are also pricey. The Mountain Tools or Metolius webolettes cost about \$20. Since nylon cordelettes traditionally are also used for self-rescues and for emergency runners, you must consider whether you really want to chop up you new high tech anchor cord and leave it behind. There is a cheap clip alternative. Make a homemade webolette from about 14 feet of 11/16 nylon webbing. Form a 4-inch loop at each end with an overhand or figure-8 knot and leave a four inch tail with each knot. This anchor set up costs only \$6 or \$7 to make and provides plenty of inexpensive material for building rappel anchors. The 11/6 webbing can be used to tie a klimheist or autoblock friction knot onto your climbing rope to assist in a rescue.



Annapolis Rocks (continued)

Some of us even tried the 5.12(?) route next to Black Crack, but none could make even the first of the crux moves. (Indy's Underground Guide mentions a route rated 5.10 in that area, but the way we were doing it seemed much harder than 5.10).

The highlight of our stay in the BC area was the establishment of a "new" route. This route, about 5.8+, follows the face just to the right of Illusion, diagonally slightly to the left, going through the notches in the overhang to the top. Most of the route can be done using the top rope anchor set up for Illusion; however, at the top there will be a danger of a swing as the route finishes about 6' to the right of the anchor. Although it is highly unlikely that no one has ever done the route before, it does not appear in any of the "guides" I have seen. Consequently, we'll claim first ascent. Ted was the first to climb it so he got the honor of naming it: Illusion Right. Next came the Nixon's Nose area where three ropes were rigged, including the Nose itself. Playing around thereon brought the time to nearly 3 p.m., after which we decided to call it a day.

Climbers: Bill Duvall, Pete grant, Mack Muir, Kurt Festl, Johann Schmonsees Ted Plasse, Lee Jenkins



DONALD HUBBARD 1900 - 2000

Don Hubbard succumbed to the infirmities of old age on July 2O at the Avalon House assisted living home in McLean, less than three months short of his 100th birthday. The doctors called it cardiopulmonary arrest. Don may be the last of the patriarchs of the Washington Rock Climbers, the group which initiated technical climbing in the Wash-

ington area under the tutelage of Gus Gambs prior to World War II. A research chemist at the National Bureau of Standards for over 40 years, Don spent most of his weekends rock climbing in the mid-Atlantic region with the amorphous group of climbers in the Washington area which became the Mountaineering Section of the Potomac Appalachian Trail Club about 50 years ago.

For over 40 years the group led by Sterling Hendrichs and Arnold Wexler mounted major expeditions to the mountains of western Canada. With his characteristic modesty Don always said that he just went along because his friends asked him to but he was always a stalwart member of the party and participated in primary ascents on numerous peaks in the Selkirks, Monashees Caribous, Adamants, the Coast ranges, and others.

He was an iron man. After a fall on Mount Howard in which Rex Gibson, President of the Alpine Club of Canada, lost his life, and Don broke his knee, he used a tent pole as a crutch for two days while he hobbled down the mountain to find shelter and assistance.

Don is credited, along with Paul Bradt and Sam

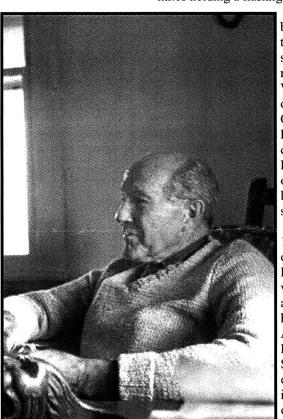
Moore, with making the first ascent of the Skyline Traverse on Seneca Rocks, as well as the first ascent from the Gunsight Notch to the South peak in 1939. He participated in the early exploration of Schoolhouse Cave in the 1940s. His visage was immortalized in Tom Culverwell's drawings which pictured the climbing in the inner wells, and in the original logo of the National Speleological Society, which shows him crawling in a cave among stalactites and stalagmites holding a flashlight.

Long before rock climbing became the popular sport that it is today, Don was recognized as an outstanding teacher of climbing techniques, with emphasis on safety. With soothing, gentle instructions he could talk neophyte climbers up Class5 pitches and make them like it. He delighted in teaching beginning climbers to descend from the South Peak of Seneca Rocks by repelling off the Gryphon's Beak and swinging like a pendulum to safety in the Gunsight Notch.

Don was born on October 4, 1900 on Terra Ceia Island just south of Tampa Bay on the west coast of Florida. He was educated at the University of Florida where he received a Masters degree in chemistry. Later he earned his PhD in-chemistry at American University in Washington. During his career at the Bureau of Standards he did research on such esoteric subjects as the hydroscopicity of glass, and the effects of various substances on human health, producing numerous scientific research

papers and pamphlets. He was a Fellow of the Washington Academy of Science and a Life Member of the American Alpine Club and the Potomac Appalachian Trail Club.

Don never married. He is survived by several generations of nieces and nephews with whom he enjoyed canoeing and oystering in the Tampa Bay area during his annual visits.



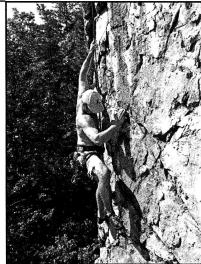


Caudey's Castle

August 20th, 2000

Seven a.m. startup not withstanding, everyone who had signed up for the trip arrived at AO meeting place -- more or less on time. After piling up into three 4wd vehicles, the party spent the next 90 minutes driving to Caudey's. Unable to get the key to the gate, we were left to hike the road/trail system to the rocks. There has been a lot of logging activity lately and, sure enough, I managed to take a wrong turn and we ended up doing the "scenic" route to the rocks.

Caudey's Castle, aka Castle Rock, has two main faces. On the West side is a top-roping area, on the East is lead-climbing consisting of both trad and sport leads, and on top is a beautiful view of the valley and Cacapon River down below. The view by itself can make a trip to Caudey's worthwhile. Bill and Ali teamed up to do the long 5.7 trad route, Bob and Jeff D took on the sporty routes, and the rest of us



Bill Duval shows excellent style and technique on a 5.11 unnamed

stayed on the top-roping side. The lead climbers were not seen again until later that afternoon.

After warming up on the standard routes (none are named), Tony, Audie, and I went around the corner to try our luck(?) on a 5.11 route. None of us got very high

on it, but it was fun trying. Later that afternoon, Bill attempted the route also, and got past the spot that had repelled the rest of us all day. It's good to get on routes beyond one's ability -- if one wants to get better at this game. So, if it's good, how come my fingers are sore and stiff to-

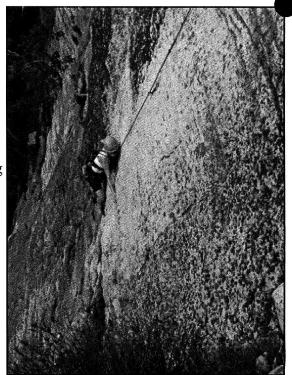
day?

One of the top-roped routes should be named "Carol's xx", or something like that. Seems that every time I looked in that direction, there was Carol once again trying to make a clean run up it. It's about a 5.8 route with some tricky moves on pinch grips as well as a lieback move off of smallish holds. I remember years ago a good climber today, but a near beginner then, Jeannette Helfrich, struggled with those moves. Today Jeannette out climbs most of us, so Carol, don't despair!

Audie Bradford
Jennifer McLean
Jeff Deutsch
Jeff Matsu
Bob Torrelli
Bill Duvall
Ali Abishami
Pete Grant

Tony Pfeufer
Jeff Deutsch
Bob Torrelli
Carol Garfinkle
Dave Hluchey
Mitch Hyman

Bob Dolensky



Carol on "Carol's XXX"

Mt. Washington trip report

By James Pasterczyk

Not having a lot of time, what with work, school and all, I dragooned my buddy Mack into going up to North Conway over New Year's weekend for the "millennial" celebration along with a little ice climbing, peak bagging, and eating of Indian food. The weather the first full day looked excellent, so we got a banker's start up from Pinkham Notch, heading for Tuckerman's Ravine, the Lion's Head, and points beyond. Compared to previous years when I tried this walk at this time of year, it was a balmy 0 degrees with very little wind and plenty of sunshine. We started up Tuck's trail, passing and being passed by folks in leather work boots, folks in jeans, folks in Carhart jackets with small packs stuffed with 3 season bags intending to camp out on the summit of Mount Washington. Never saw them again, though there were no apparent reports of fatalities. Not then, at least. We started up the winter Lion's Head trail, putting on our crampons about halfway up after struggling up some steep sections and deciding there was a better way. Breaking into the Hudsonian life zone, we could see the pile of boulders of the Lion's Head above us. Mack wisely decided to keep from dulling his points on those rocks by passing them on the north, bringing us to the plateau of the Alpine Garden. I had been up to that point before, but after a few more hundred yards of walking along generally level but rocky terrain I found out why it was so called; there's a shrub forest up there, about head high, and at this time of year the twigs were covered with crystal clear rime ice. Must have been the inspiration for chandeliers. Why do this in the winter? No other reason need be given. The walking here was pretty easy, with a nice wide trail filled with snow compared to only a few weeks before when Mack was trying to get into Huntington's and everything was just

rocks. But the summit cone was ahead, and although it was white, wind had scoured the bulk of the loose snow off everything, leaving just a layer of packed snow, clear ice, and annealed snow about an inch thick up the rest of the way over the rock pile. The points didn't suffer much, nevertheless. We broke out just below the summit onto the first parking lot (how many mountains can you say that about?), chatted with some other fellows, and Mack thought he'd just call it an "RMI summit". I pointed out to him what a beautiful day it was, how long we'd come, and how unlikely we were to get this confluence of events again, so he changed his mind and we strolled up to the summit buildings, everything covered with at least two inches of rime ice. We topped out about 3 PM, got our summit shots, then skedaddled back down, doing the last part of the Tuck's trail in the dark where I kept slipping on the snow and bruising my butt, the only falling all day long. Good thing I have a hard butt. Though I'd stood on the summit before, this way was far more satisfying. That night in the bunkhouse we celebrated by ogling the coeds who'd come up there to party in the new millennium and pretending to walk around with no pants on (we did have on our polypro briefs plus long sleeve expedition tops, but the dropped jaws were worth it). The next night after spending New Year's day doing some easy ice climbs. we ran into a guy I'd seen up there before back at the bunkhouse. He'd gotten up at 2 AM, hiked up to the summit with 30 pounds of large format camera gear on his back, and returned with a few rolls of what I'm guessing must be beautiful summit shots from sunrise on the first day of the new millennium. Some guys just think ahead that way. OK, there it is, I've sent you the e-mail sites that have a bunch of the summit shots. and I'll send copies of the slides Mack gave me soon. Wherever you want to publish it is fine by me. Check out those e-mail sites; Mack's a major photo freak.

(R)

Annapolis Rock Memorial Day Monday, May 29, 2000

Although it had rained steadily for two days and it was still misty on Monday morning, a small group of climbers who couldn't make to the Gunks for the three day weekend decided to make a break for it and get out of the house. We trusted the weather forecast and headed for Annapolis Rock and were rewarded with cool weather, dry rock, and pretty scenery. The base of the climbs was dappled with white flowers since the mountain laurel were just coming into bloom. Unfortunately, Pete Grant and Rick Dotson were not there to provide expert coaching on how to do Faint's Roof. Nevertheless, Marty Comisky, Greg Ward, and Alex Christopulos tried it any way. The rest of us worked on the more reasonable unnamed overhangs to the right of Faints Roof. Trip participants included: Marty Comisky, Alex Christopulos, Mimy Indra, Alan Pultz, Greg Ward. Greg Christopulos- trip leader

VISIT OUR WEBSITE WWW.PATC.NET THE MOUNTAINEERING SECTION

10/30/00 NU.VA. P&UL ZZU ZU.II DUK #Z

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