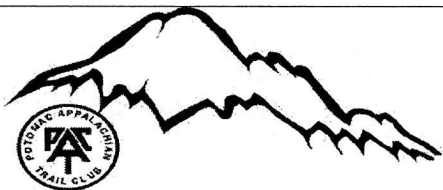


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FOUNDED BY
HERB AND JAN CONN

VOLUME 58 ISSUE 3

LATE SUMMER 2003

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Lee Jenkins's Hanging belay with a view of the lake in the Tetons this summer.

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ROCKFALL



The Teton Life
By Lee Jenkins

This past July Marty Comiskey and I traveled to the Grand Teton's to get in a few routes. This was my 3rd trip in 4 years and we had several routes planned. We met up with Ted Plasse, Kurt Ferstl and his girlfriend Darla at the airport. They were also going to the Teton's and we would share a cabin at the AAC Climbers Ranch.

Our first route of the week would be a 5 pitch warm-up on Cube Point East Ridge (5.4). If you were to ask Marty he would say that the crux was the approach, which on a good day is a steep hike up talus and scree slopes high above Jenny lake. However, just to make things more interesting we missed the intended traverse below Rainbow falls and ended up traversing some very slick slabs above the falls and into the gully just below the route. The climbing was relatively easy with a 200 ft. exposed traverse to a tiny summit block. We had incredible weather and got in a few interesting photos on the summit block including one of Marty "sky surfing!"

The next day we hiked up Garnet canyon and camped at the Platforms. We planned to climb the 9 pitch SW Ridge of Nez Perce (5.7), or "Nay Persay" as the locals call it. We left camp the next morning at about 6:30 a.m. and scrambled up the gully just to the SE of camp for about 600' to a saddle. From here we hiked for over two hours through a giant boulder field and up a gully on the SE side of Nez Perce. At this point we were under the rock face and found ourselves on a mission to find the route. Needless to say we couldn't find

it after an hour or so, so we gave up and started looking at a chimney just above a small snowfield that we "believed" was the start of the S. Ridge route which was also a 5.7.

June 2003 PATC Mountaineering Sec- tion Trip Report : An Old School Adventure at Little Stony Man

This trip got off to a wonderfully floundering start. As I sat at my desk grinding my way through the e-mails that had backed while I was away at a week-long conference followed by a great long weekend of climbing, biking, commiserating, and beer drinking at Seneca I came upon a thread from the PATC list serve. Someone started with a "...I noticed there's a weekend trip *planned* for this weekend. I'd like to go. Is anyone else going? Who's leading it?..." This generated an echoing silence until Alan Watson-Jones volunteered to lead the trip and I committed to go. This was shortly followed by the original protagonist dropping out. (Was it something I said?) Anyway, the club trip was up to two and Alan and I began making our arrangements to link up. I figured more people would get on board later in the week especially since weather called for wind instead of the rain we've enjoyed for what seems at least forty days. My neighbor had just about completed his arc and was gathering animals. The work week passed uneventfully, no one else signed up for the trip, and Alan and I finalized our link-up plans sometime Saturday.

Our plan was to link up at 8:30 Sunday morning at the Faith Mountain Company parking lot just a few miles outside the Thornton Gap entrance to Shenandoah National park. As I drove the hour and a half to the rendezvous on a beautifully sunny morning I noticed what looked like lenticular clouds ahead in the distance. Now I know that in the mountains these eyeball-shaped clouds are portents of harsh conditions but dismissed that thought as I drove across the Virginia piedmont on this idyllic morning. I did notice that the jeep was getting pushed around a bit, but what's a little wind.

John and I linked up right on time, under sunny skies, and in an only slightly blustery wind. I piled my stuff into his pod-mobile (Toyota Inspiron) and we were off. On the way up the hill toward the park entrance we entered those clouds I'd observed earlier. The sun disappeared and the wind ratcheted up a notch or two. These conditions would persist for the remainder of the day.

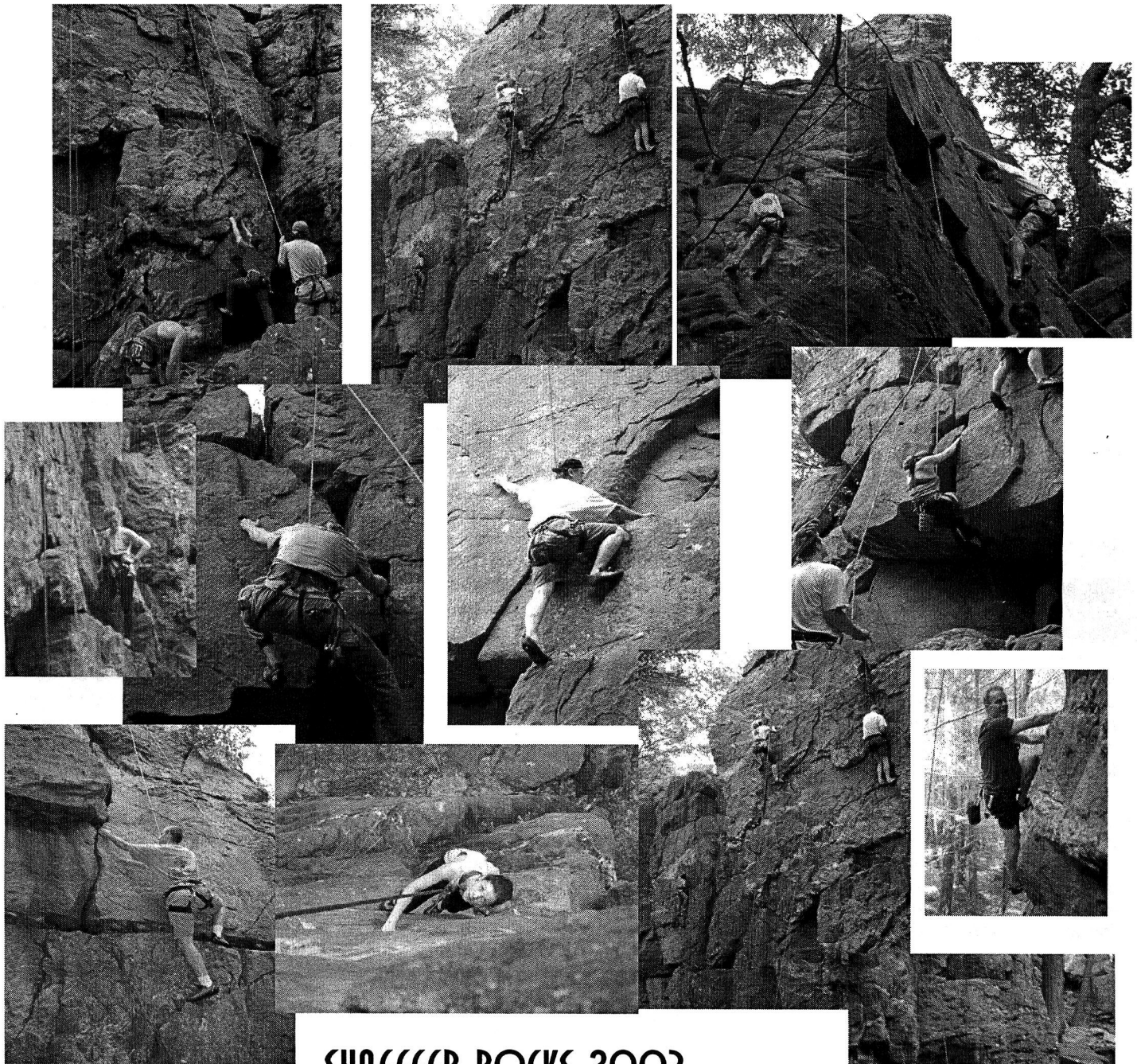
The conversation was pleasant on the 15-20 minute drive and since John and I had just met centered around backgrounds, both professional and climbing, and I came to almost immediately realize John and I had a lot in common. Both of us had recently "retired" John from the National Zoo and me from the Army (a different sort of zoo) and we were both primarily trad climbers who'd begun climbing in the 70s. Our "Old School" connection was cemented later in the day when John asked me if I'd ever worn EBs (I was sniveling about how painful my shoes got after a while). I told him I still had the last pair of EBs I bought on sale right after Firenzas and sticky rubber hit the market in the early eighties. We

both remembered how painful those monsters were.

On the way in we agreed that we wanted to get in some leading if possible. We arrived at the trailhead and the adventure began. We quickly realized that neither of us had a guide of any sort but agreed that the guide sucked anyway, and since we both had been there before (albeit a while ago), we'd "figure something out". Old school! After a bit of scoping weaknesses in the rock out from the ground we decided on a likely looking left facing corner/chimney that looked like it even had a small roof up high. John took the first lead and we agreed to rap or set up a TR for further explorations upon reaching the top. John racked up and headed on up in short sleeves and with a rack of slings, biners, and some of the biggest hexes I've ever seen. As I began to shiver in the gloom and wind I noticed right away that John climbed in great style with protection only as needed instead of stitching up every little move. John went left up a nearly vertical crack at the top instead of finishing the roofo section of chimney. "It looked easier". Great call, the top section was the best part and was a more direct and exposed finish. I followed and cleaned with every piece of light clothing I'd brought (except socks) on my body. I took John's jacket along with me as well. He seemed grateful to get it when we linked back up. On top we quickly realized we wouldn't be rapping (or TRing) the 120 foot cliff we'd just climbed with our one 50 meter rope. As we broke down the anchor and coiled the rope I looked off to the west across the Page Valley toward West Virginia, and noticed that it was sunny and bright everywhere except inside our little lenticular world. We headed down the trail to the parking area and took the Passamaquoddy Trail to the bottom of the cliff. On the way we passed some hearty AT hikers and families as the wind blew steadily at 40-50 mph and gusted well beyond that.

My turn to lead and I wandered over to another likely looking left facing corner further toward the left end of the rocks. The bottom forty feet or so would definitely go pretty easily and the top corner of about thirty or forty feet looked interesting. There was, however, a section in the middle that we couldn't see that I'd have to figure out when I got there. Adventure climbing! It's been years since I'd done this sort of day and had forgotten how invigorating it can be. What fun! The bottom section went as easily as expected, the middle section wound up being a simple walk across ramp, and the corner was fun but short. All in all, a very non-descript climb. Actually little more than stiff fourth class most of the way. I built an anchor, put my jacket on, and pulled my wool socks over my climbing shoes (they don't fit under) to keep my feet warm and brought John up. The wind and chill continued. John dubbed this effort Graver's gulley as hiked back to the bottom and looked for our next objective. More like Graver's folly if you ask me.

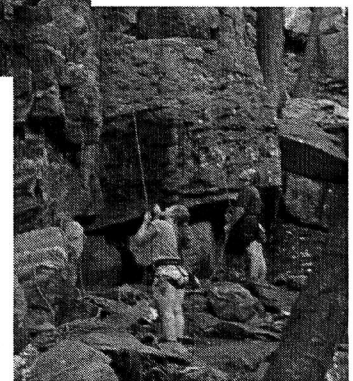
(continued on page 5)



SHATTER ROCKS 2003

Pete Grant
 Hayden Lockhart
 Phil
 Mitch
 Stacy
 Ted
 Lisa - (not pictured)

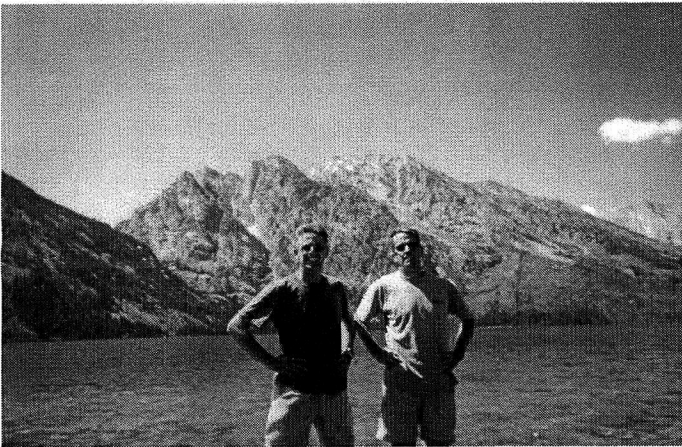
Linda or Melinda
 Doug Halonen and of coarse myself.
 There was another couple I think his
 name was Mike and hers was (?)
 And another couple.
 He and she...(Ann?)
 Audie



The Teton Life

(continued from front page)

Well... I can say that I really love the mountains but sometimes they can be harsh, ruthless and mean. They can spit us silly humans out like a piece of sand that's been stuck to a piece of straw in a torment! This is particularly the case when you find yourself off route and into unknown territory. After a few pitches up the wet and slimy chimney we figured we had to be off-route. It really sucked. There was more rock fall than dandruff blowing off of a Brillcreme freak! No one would climb this ugly thing right? Well we did find a few bits of old goldline that looked to have been used to bail many, many years ago. So, after a bit of discussion and scoping out what was above us we decided to keep on going. Marty started to lead up a particularly nasty looking section of the wet chimney. After a few attempts at different lines up a steep and mossy finger crack he decided to resort to a bit of aid. Slotting a nut and rigging a leg aider, he tried to move up but after getting a view of what was next decided to bail. He left the nut and it's associated biner and



descended back to the belay. From here I spied a steep broken section of steep cracks and ledges above and left of the belay. Marty took the lead which felt about like 5.8 but was on really loose rock. In fact once he was about 20' above me he let a bowling ball size rock fly and it missed me by a few inches! Yikes! What the hell had we gotten ourselves into! I took the next lead which was a bit easier but still very loose and sandy. Nothing like trying to get good footing on a sand covered face while hanging onto "portable" handholds! Once above the chimney I found myself in a narrow saddle with a view down a very steep snow gully to the North. The summit was several hundred feet up and to my left (west) but I could not see it due to a large overhang directly above me. Just where were we on this mountain? Which by the way has 5 summits!

Once Marty joined me at the belay we realized it was already getting late. We reviewed the really poor route guide we had and the topo maps but were still uncertain where we really were and how to get off this thing. So after taking a short break and eating 1/2 a power bar (all the food I would have all day) we figured we needed to start looking for a way down. Upon close inspection of the snow gully we decided it was too steep at the top but might be manageable a few hundred feet below (we had ice axes but no crampons) if we could down climb he ledges to the left (west) of it. Well after down climbing 3 rope lengths we dead ended at a 40' cliff with no way around it. It wouldn't

have mattered much anyway since from here we could see the snow gully actually had a nasty cliff in the middle of it about half way down as well. Now I'm starting to think we may get stuck on this thing overnight with no food, little water and only a light windbreaker above the shorts and T-shirt I was wearing. Not a pleasant thought to say the least. By now Marty and I weren't speaking much but I knew we were thinking the same thing. No choice but to climb up. We hoped we would find a way to the summit and eventually to one of the rappel stations on the west side of the peak that was mentioned in the guide.

We began the upward scramble over low 5th class ground and up about 300' to the summit ridge. We traversed over the eastmain summit via a small saddle and up to the true summit where we had a great view of the Grand, Middle and South Teton's as well Cloudveil peak and Jackson Hole. Now let's find the rap station that was supposed to be on the west side of the west summit. Well after a bit of scrambling and exposed down climbing we found a rap station with a few new slings and pitons, rapped down about 120' to a large ledge and a view of yet another snow gully. All we had to do now was scramble down the ledges and "hike" down the snow gully. Well the scramble was okay since there were Cairns to lead our way although some were hard to find and/or missing. We eventually found ourselves in what we thought was the NW Couloir which was the normal descent for any Nez Perce summit route (in fact it was the steeper N Couloir!).

It took us nearly 3 hours to climb down the depths of an icy/snowy hell for over 2'000 vertical feet. Jumping between snow and rock islands and dodging rock fall as we slid, glissaded and plunge stepped down in rock shoes while cold, dehydrated, and scared and way beyond exhaustion we proved we were men. This route made my two marathons seem like walks in beautiful flower filled meadows! Once we finally got back down we touched the first green leaf of a tree and knew we were back among the living and had escaped the demon rock & ice Monkeys. This endurance trip took 15 hard hours of my life. I will never forget a minute of it. I truly believe in the old saying that what doesn't kill you makes you stronger"! I am a better, although a more tempered man because of it.

Well, oh well, I thought that was it! But once in the mountains they kind of grab hold of you and never let go...

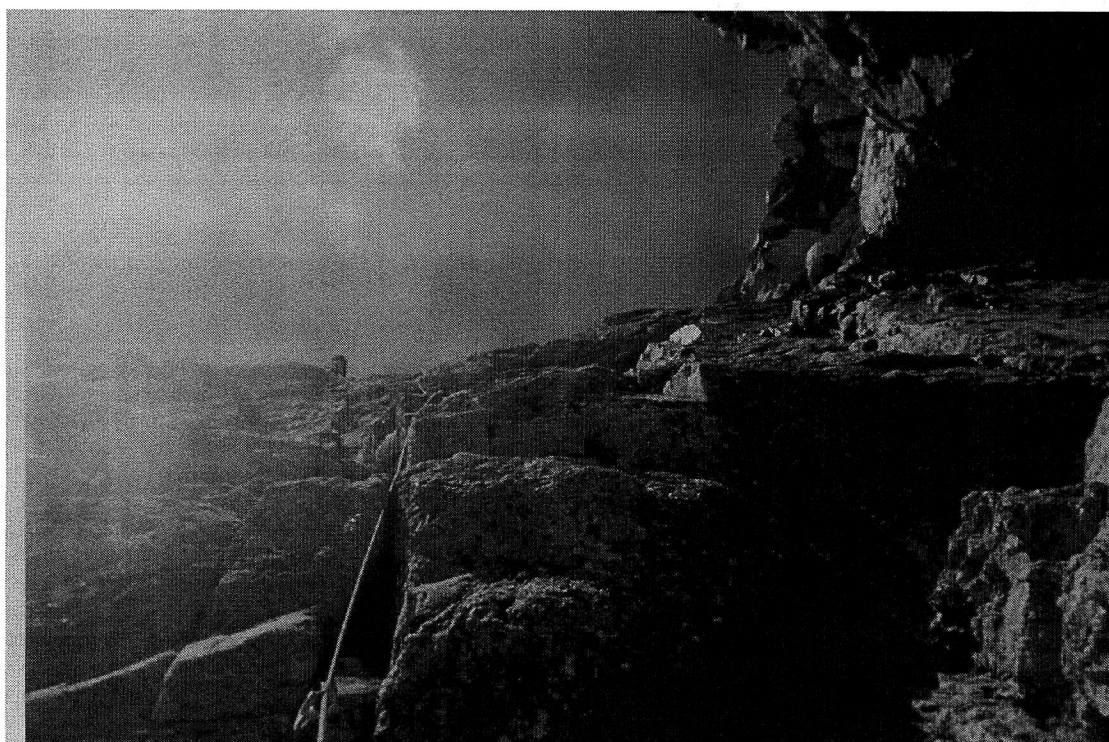
So a few days later, we decided to take on the classic 9 pitch Durrance route (5.6) on Symmetry Spire knowing that there was no chance that we would make it back to the boat/car before dark. Marty and I knew this because we had climbed the 7 pitch SW Ridge a few years back and got to the car just after dark. Ted would join us for this climb so now there were 3 of us and 2 additional pitches. The really math works against any possibility of us getting back before dark.

Ted, Marty and I took the 7 a.m. boat and kicked the volume up a notch on the "trail" to the start of the route. After an approach of over 3'000' vertical of steep loose scree slopes, snow and talus we arrived at the base. The weather was fine but the forecast was for afternoon thunderstorms. The rock was great and we were moving well even though we were climbing in a three man, double rope system over varying alpine terrain.

(continued on page 7)



Lee on Baxter's Pinnacle (5.9+)



Marty on Nez Perce (5.7)

Next we trained our sights on a likely looking arête to a corner in between the two earlier climbs. We talked of breaking the climb into two pitches and John graciously offered the lead to me. I think he sensed my disappointment with the previous effort. I originally planned to attack the arête directly but chickened out about thirty feet up, traversed across the nose, and climbed up the right side instead. I hurried to get past another party that was bailing/down climbing/lowering on a route just right of ours. The leader didn't sound at all inspired (I know this feeling well) and I wanted to be out of the impact area in case he popped. He didn't. When I got to the area we thought of ending the first pitch, I realized that it would take more time to build an anchor than to finish the remaining thirty feet or so. I started up the face directly over the arête but drifted into the security of the fun crack that John had finished the first effort in. As I got into this section I placed a small TCU in a funky little slot at the crux of this section. I remembered cleaning a similar piece at that spot behind John. It definitely didn't inspire confidence so I looked around for a back up. I found and welded (sorry John) a small nut into an almost horizontal crack just below the wobbly cam. From there it was a lie back and stem across a void to easy jugs and the top as the wind really began to crank. John followed nicely, didn't complain once about the ten minutes he had to work on the aforementioned welded nut. We headed back down for another lap as a couple other groups began to hang TRs to our right.

After a quick lunch and a bit of shooting the breeze with a couple of folks John knew we began what would wind up being our final climb of

the day. For this we chose another arête and John racked up. The route looked like it would be the stiffest of the day and did not disappoint. John chose to climb the left side instead of the harder and unprotected crown of the arête. This was the right choice. I followed up the direct version of the first 30 feet and confirmed that it was indeed hard and completely lacked gear possibilities. Twenty feet above this point John made one of the most creative and bold moves I've

Little Stoney Man

(continued from page 2)

seen in a while. When the slot he was climbing petered out John was forced to step right, out onto, and up the arête all protected by a runner girth hitched

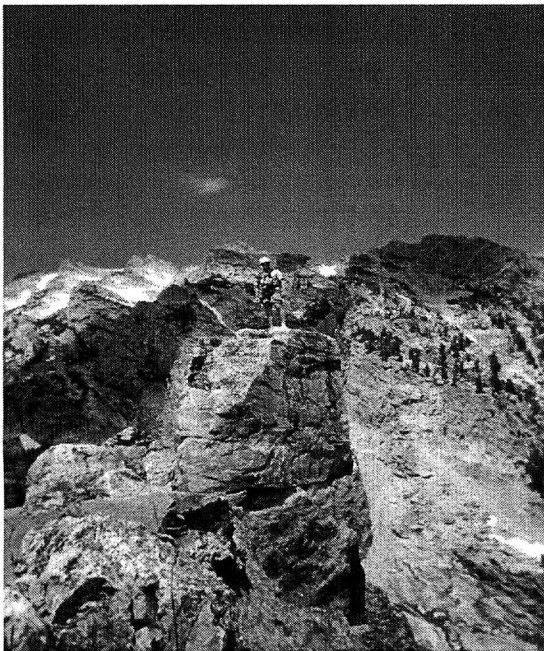
around the end of a broken off rock horn. Old school! The upper section was another fun corner/chimney that even overhung slightly. John finished this section in great form and I quickly followed, enjoying his work the whole way. Definitely the lead of the day!

What a great day! I met and climbed with a interesting new partner with similar style and abilities to my own and had a super time EXPLORING the rock. I'd forgotten how exciting and fun it is to wander around on the rock without the benefit (?) of guidebook and its associated beta and preconceived notions of route quality robbing the adventure from the experience. John headed off to Newfoundland for a couple weeks roaming around with his wife and I headed back to dinner with my family and another week of work extremely energized by the time we shared roped together on Little Stony Man. Definitely the best "club trip" I've ever enjoyed.



(from page 4) We climbed the first 5 pitches with no problems. However, at the start of the 6th pitch the weather was starting to look ugly. We had all been watching it for a few hours without saying a word (we, being men didn't want to raise a flag!) It was Ted's lead but he was tired and wanted to split it into two short 100' leads. I insisted that we needed to get off this rock ASAP and he needed to run-it-out or hand the lead to me and I would. Ted agreed to run out the 200' pitch which was fine by me since by now it had started to rain!

Marty followed, and I was pretty much pushing my head up his ass the entire pitch!



Lee atop cube point

Once I gained the top belay, the storm, the rain, and the lightning was in full force. By now I was pretty fired up, yelling at Ted and Marty to toss all metal objects (Including the \$1K Rack!) as far away as possible and to sit on the ropes and packs to shield us from ground shocks by potential lightning strikes.

Well, we waited out the storm for about 20 minutes watching the storms blow across the valley. I have to say it was pretty cool even if it was scary at the same time.

After a few more minutes the rain let up a bit and we decided to move. I took the lead up a nasty low angled and slimy 130' pitch to what I thought was the top of the route. I brought Ted and Marty up and then realized we had another 40' steep pitch to gain the rappel anchors! I lead it in a flash...

So now all we had to do was to get down!

Well, to shorten the story. We rappelled into the gully where the scramble back down was as nasty as I remembered it. Just before getting back to the base of the cliff the storm started raging again. Ted and I took cover underneath overhangs attempting to stay dry. I was pretty dehydrated and had been out of water for a few hours. I was so

thirsty that I held out my bandana in the rain and squeezed the sweaty tasting but satisfying rain water into my mouth. While we sat out the rain we both heard a terrible lightning strike followed by a major rock fall that came down the cliff directly above us. We both held ourselves close to the cliff hoping that the rock would pass over us which thankfully it did. I remember seeing at least one Dishwasher sized rock come crashing down about 30' away from us.

Well we finally got back to the car at about 10:30 p.m. after a 7:15 a.m. start and a twisted knee by me on the descent (much worse than originally thought). We drove directly to a Jackson MiniMart for chips, Gatorade and Beer before showering and passing out Big Time!!

To end the week Marty and I decided to go back and climb Baxter's Pinnacle (6 pitches 5.9+) which for the Teton's was a short 20 minute approach. We had climbed it a few years back but I wanted to climb it again and reverse the order of the leads so that I could lead the 5.9+ Crux pinnacle at the top for which the route is named. Even with a bum knee it was a most excellent day. I led the crux with no problem and was really running on adrenaline for the last 60' or so of exposed face climbing. What a true classic! A highly recommended route to anyone coming out to the Teton's to climb.

Climb high, climb safe...



Moon Shadow

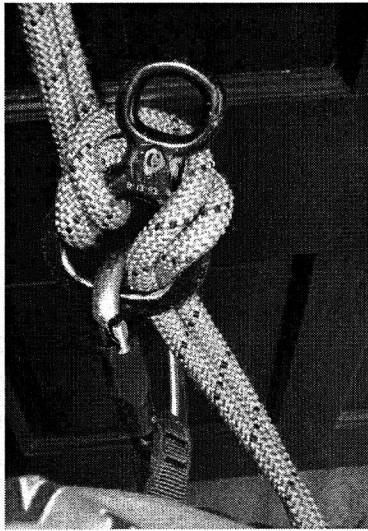
By Vintroch Daddiovininovitch

I am being followed by a moon shadow, moon shadow, moon shadow. Leaping and hopping like a moon shadow, moon shadow moon shadow... and my climbing partner was leaping and hopping through mid air with the following belay device setup. This is partially my fault for taking for granted that we are all responsible for our own safety when we climb and I didn't double check his set up like we used to when we were fresh.

So, your partner climbs. He or she is excited about the sport. They have new shiny gear. They have been climbing in doors and loving it. They have been waiting to break free in the great outdoors. However, this article is about the different belaying devices that I own and what I like about them. It is not my intention to preach about how important it is to have a modicum of knowledge in the absence of experience or training to climb safely.

For this reason I think every climber should have a climbing manual of some sort that they can refer too every now and then to refresh their chalk clogged minds of the rudiments of the sport and avoid at all costs a senseless climbing accident. There are a number of good references out there for this purpose. The one that always comes to my chalkhole is *How to Climb Rock, 1st, 2nd or 3rd edition, by John Long.* With that said, that's all I want to say about that.

When we go rock climbing on any given day there is one thing for certain we are going to do: belay or rappel. Rappelling is dangerous. Probably more so than the actual climbing where the ropes and equipments are there in place in case of a fall. When rappelling you are relying completely on the integrity of the entire system from anchor to knot. (LOL) All that leapin and hopin jazz you see in the movies with the FBI crashing through windows on rappel or bounding out of helicopters are best left on the big screen. Which brings me to the belay devices.



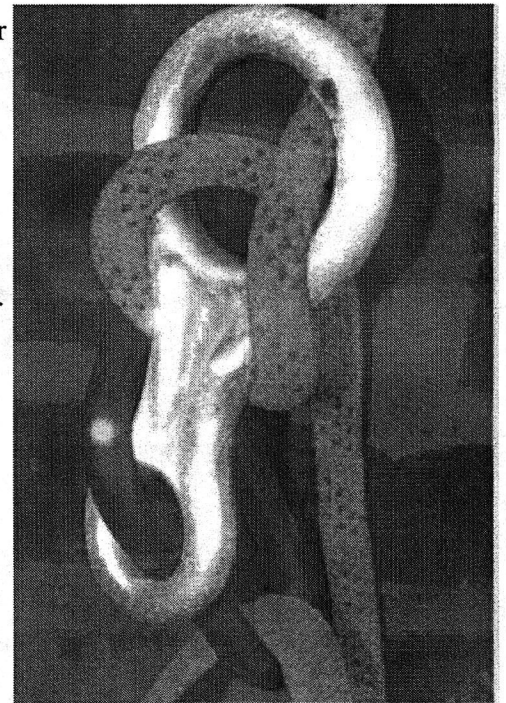
There is always the better mousetrap out there. I have been in search of the perfect belay device for so long that at one point I thought I had every belaying device that was on the market at the time. Until most recently, I had not given into the uncontrollable temptation of buying yet another better belay device (*reverso*). There are some new pieces out there but alas I have my wife to control temptation. So I'll show you what I have used, what **Andy Kirkpatrick** [☺] from www.timeoutdoors.com has to say and then maybe a blurb from the manufacturer about their product so you can decide what you like.

Figure-8: This was my first belay/rappel device. It was at the time a new and exciting piece of hardware that I used and trusted. The 8 is bulky, heavy but worked well.

Then I realized that the rope became awfully twisted at the worst possible times. Anodized aluminum has a wonderful tendency of wearing off right on to your nice clean rope and then

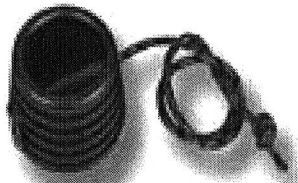
ending up all over your nice clean hands. There is a situation that can occur if the biner and the eight are touching in such a way as in the following picture. Dangerous shear forces can develop that could theoretically break one or the other. After a period of time I retired the piece(s). [☺]-Commonly used for sport climbing as the rope can be paid

in and out quickly but modern belay plates have really made it redundant. Not recommended for trad climbing as the actual holding power is limited, plus it's heavy and bulky.



(continued on next page)

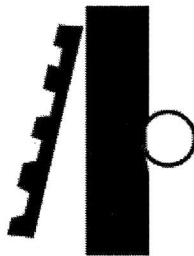
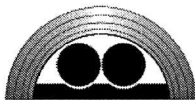
TUBER: I think I used the tuber for a while. It was nice but it didn't like fat ropes and was a bear for rappelling. This device did not feed smoothly. There is a documented safety concern. As the inside of this device wears it creates very sharp edges against the rope that could have the potential to free your mind and body. See the diagram....really retired. [☹]-**Twin belay tube design (aka variable controller (VC), air traffic controller (ATC), bug or tuber)**



Tuber

The modern rope control tool. With this, belaying is slick and easy, plus it makes a good abseil device, it's lightweight and small. Anyone using one of these devices for the first time should familiarize themselves with it first, as it won't lock off as easily as a traditional sticht plate. Once mastered these make great all-round belay devices. If very thin ropes are to be used (7.5mm to 8mm) then either a dedicated skinny rope device (Salewa Tubus, HB Mini Sheriff)

should be used, or the rope should pass around two HMS karabiners instead of one, otherwise there can be a feeling of lack of control if abseiling or holding a long fall. **TUBER by climb guide UK:** After time and a lot of use grooves wear into the central bar. As this bar is hollow, when the side is worn through the edge is razor sharp. This edge will strip and slice a rope in an instance. When abseiling and lowering the force of the rope against the bar is much increases. Thus the chances of device failure are increased. So unless you are sure of the device, using one for abseiling is not advised. Instead use an Italian hitch.



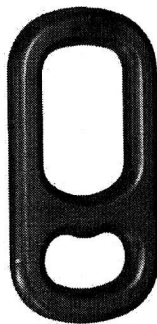
Sticht Plate: I didn't mind this device so much. It fed rope all right and rapping was OK. But I think the spring was a pain because it would get tangled up on your harness at the worst possible moments....retired. [☹]-**(unsprung)** Cheap, simple and basic. Locks off very easily but requires patience and practice to pay the rope out smoothly. A good beginner's plate if you want to learn how to belay with a high safety margin. **(sprung)** The added spring makes paying out easier, but can often become tangled up in the rack. Only recommended for the 'old school'.



Sticht Plate

Yates Belay Slave: I sort of liked this piece and used it during my minimalist gear climbing phase during the years climbing at El Dorado Canyon, the South Platte, and 11 mile canyon. The piece was lightweight, small and you could learn to belay and rappel smoothly with this hummer....but it is a malnourished figure-8 with the same kinds of concerns....retired. [Yates]-

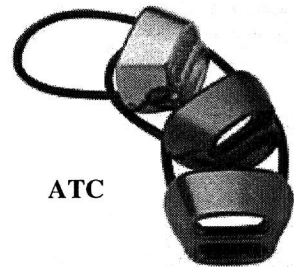
Multi-functional Belay and Rappel device, newly designed for increased versatility on rappels. * Offers a variety of belay alternatives: Stitch, Free-Run, and Munter Belay. * Rappel functions: Carabiner brake (9-11 mm Rope), Double rope free-run (10.5-11 mm rope), Munter (Single Rope). **Weight:** 52 gm.



Belay Slave

ATC/ATC-xp: This device was a departure from the rest I had tried and is a real pleasure to use. The rope(s) quickly load onto the device with ease. Belaying and rappelling is very smooth. The ATC is not too big, not too small and doesn't weigh very much you could even carry an extra one as a backup (?). (LOL) The next generation ATC has friction grooves that improve the "bite" the device will exert upon the rope and (2) flavors of friction you can apply with a flick; they come in a choice of colors.

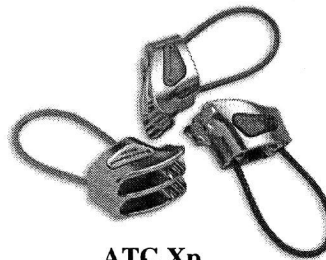
[Black Diamond]: There ought to be an exhibit at the Louvre, celebrating climbing's finest belay/rappel device...but there's not. The ATC must stand on its own. And with its unique geometry, light weight and extreme durability, the



ATC

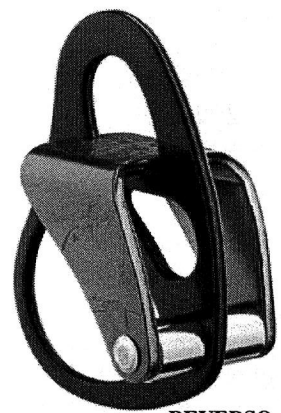
ATC needs very little help. When used correctly, this device provides silky smooth belays, holds falls with ease and doesn't kink ropes. □ Designed to feed rope smoothly while belaying or abseiling □ Locks up well with 9-11 mm ropes □ Elegant, simple design is very lightweight **[XP]:** Our new ATC-XP is a true variable-friction belay and rappel device. What's this mean in plain English? Well, with the ATC-XP, a climber can control how much friction they want while belaying or rapping, which in turn means greater

control with multiple rope diameters. Ice climbing with an 8.1-mm rope? Use the ATC-XP in high-friction mode, pulling the rope over the ATC-XP's contoured teeth. Abseiling with a fuzzy 11-mm down a granite slab? Use the device in regular-friction mode. An extended central web keeps biners and ropes properly oriented and reduces kinking. An added bonus is the thick ropebearing radii of the ATC-XP—which means ropes wear less and last longer.



ATC Xp

Reverso: Here is an improvement that I couldn't resist. This device is something new on the belay/rappel scene. The Reverso does both very well. Moreover, with the increasing popularity of using double ropes this excellent belay/rappel device also serves as an auto locking belayer when protecting your 2nd and 3rd climbers at the same time if you are using (2) skinnys. It also features (2) friction flavors depending on the side you have toward the "sharp" end. All in all the **Reverso is perfect!** [☺]-**Magic plates (aka reverso)** Designed to act as an auto-locking device when bringing up either one or two seconds. Generally only used by instructors and guides, they are very useful as a second belay device for long trad climbs. **[Petzl]-** The Reverso is a device for belaying the leader or the second, on either single or double dynamic rope. The rope runs easily without sticking for giving slack. By holding the free end it is easy to brake the rope and effectively hold a fall. You can attach it to the belay and change to belaying in autolocking mode. In this way, one or two seconds can be belayed independently. Finally, it can be used for abseiling. The Reverso is designed for multi-pitch climbs, mountaineering and ice-climbing. **Technical specifications :** Can be used with: 8-9 mm double dynamic rope or 10-11mm single dynamic rope. . Available in 3 colors (gold, blue and mixed gray). Weight: 81 g. (continued on page 10)



REVERSO

GRI-GRI:

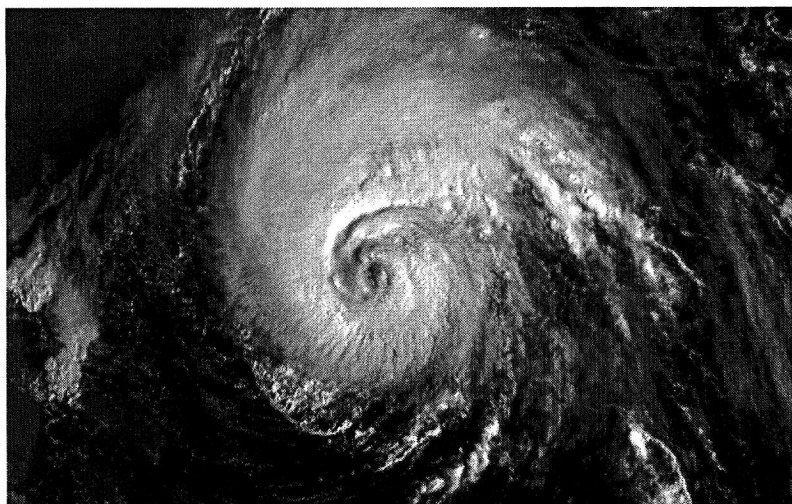
I named mine *Jee-Jee*. Introduced to me in 1995 and I use it to this day. This belay device is auto locking with an idiot diagram to facilitate threading the rope correctly. With the use of a ground anchor, your climbing partner can confidently belay you but does not replace fundamental belaying skills. Although not intended for lead climbing because it takes an effort to pay the rope out fast enough, a technique involving holding the device closed in a tightly gripped hand can tediously serve the dual function. When the device is loaded the clever coming action pivots, impinging on the rope, securely locking off the climber. To lower, there is a handle that easily rotates the cam and releases the rope, but with practice a smooth technique can eventually be developed. Besides using this on the ground for sport routes, I especially like using the GRIGRI for belaying my 2nd on multi-pitch routes. This auto locking belay device provides a secure belay when used properly. This device is very sound in that it will hold 4.5 KN of generated force. The device can also be used as a descender by reversing the set up and using the release handle to lower. The GRIGRI is a monster. It is heavy and bulky but generally worth it's weight.



GRIGRI

[☺]-Auto locking (aka grigri, SRC) An auto-locking device that takes single ropes, designed for sport and indoor climbing. Often mistakenly viewed as being foolproof, these devices do in fact require a high level of experience and are not recommended for novices. Although expensive and heavy, they are excellent for long belaying sessions (working routes, big walls, etc). **[Petzl]:** To belay a climber, you slide the rope smoothly through the device. If the climber falls, the sudden pull makes the cam pivot, which presses on the rope and stops it running. For lowering a teammate off a climb using a Grigri, you operate the handle so as to unjam the rope and you control the running of the rope by varying your grip on the free end of the rope. Although it gives greater safety, the Grigri is not a substitute for vigilance on the part of the belayer, who must remain attentive to the climber at all times. **Technical specifications :** For use with a single 10-11 mm UIAA dynamic rope (9.7 accepted). Weight: 225 g

In conclusion, There are a number of belay rapel devices out there yet to be discovered. My favorite pieces that have proven to be the battle hardened gems are the ATC/ ATCxp, the Reverso and the GriGri. In the end it is a matter of preference what we use to keep the sport fun, efficient and above all SAFE. Use your head, take your time and arrive alive!



Isabel

September 18, 2003

Photo 9/17/2003
1315zulu

Climbers Calendar

October 11th - 13th (*Columbus day weekend*) Shawanagunks, New York (*multi-pitch*)

The PATC-MS returns again for a Columbus Day Weekend trip to Shawanagunks-- a multi-pitch lead climbing area. All participants must have had training or experience in leading or seconding trad routes. An exception can be made only if an experienced climber agrees to take a newbie under his/her wing and assume full responsibility for the new person's training and safety for the entire duration of the event. Experience in leading sport routes is insufficient to qualify for trad leading or seconding.

There's not much more I can say beyond what's in the guide books. Basically, ratings are fair, and route descriptions reasonable. Most climbs are two or three pitches. Trapps is the recommended climbing area for first timers. After topping out, either rappel from established anchors or hike out to Uberfall and descend to the undercliff road there. I personally recommend the walkdown. It's a wonderful chance to discuss the just completed climb with your partner; besides, there are times when rappelling interferes with others who are doing routes in the vicinity of rappel lines. After finishing each climb, look around the Uberfall area for other group members and consider switching partners, etc.. For more information see <http://www.roadnrock.com/trip/index.html> Meeting time: 7:00 a.m. Meeting place: College Diner, New Paltz, NY Trip leader: Pete Grant at grantpk@msn.com or 703-960-6033 (H)

October 18th - 19th Seneca Rocks, West Virginia (*Fall Trail Maintenance Trip*)

All PATC members and friends are invited to attend. Here is your chance to help improve a favorite multi-pitch climbing area. Participants stay free at the Seneca Shadows Campground. We'll have four of the walkin sites at Seneca Shadows campground Friday and Saturday nights; check for a note on the Gendarme bulletin board or just walk in and find us..

We will be doing what we were to do in the spring, which got rained out. That is building stone walls in the burn area. You should have gloves,

boots, lunch for each day that you work, water and meet in the old parking lot near the old foot bridge at 8:00 AM on sat. Oct. 18 2003. We have Forest Service paper work to fill out and must hear a Ranger speak on safety. The camp site will be in Seneca Shadows camp ground and is free to workers on both fri and sat nights. Look for details here and on the Gendarme board as you come in. Free dinner sat evening for workers location to be found here later. The Chili cook off is the same date and this may be the dinner, more on that later. Pass the word and try to get a good turn out so as to get some of the walls up and going. Questions to me Bill Wright at (703) 305 7792 or my e-mail. Hope to see a lot of club members on this one and lets think dry weather. FOS asked me if PATC would like to have a raffle on the date of Oct. 18 2003 and I will pass the question along. They suggested as the prize, gear or a lesson with Tony Barns or Tom Cecil. Let me hear how you feel about this.

Meeting time: 8:00 a.m. Meeting place: Climbers Parking Lot Trip leader: Bill Wright at william.wright@uspto.gov or (703) 305-7792

November 1st - 2nd New River Gorge, WV (*Sport climbing*)

New River Gorge, located in West Virginia near Charleston, the state's capital, is a premier sport climbing area of the East Coast. Hundreds of routes exist for climbers to exercise their skills. Although most climbs are bolted sport routes, several trad and mixed routes exist for those preferring to place their own protection. Note that there are no really easy climbs at NRG, making this trip unsuitable for beginners. You should be comfortable top-roping 5.6 and higher grades to get full enjoyment of this trip. On the other hand, limited experience in lead climbing is not a problem. For information on climbing routes, see <http://www.luncheononline.com/climbing/NRG/200103/index.htm>

For information of this trip and registration, see <http://www.roadnrock.com/trip/index.html> Meeting time: Contact Trip Leader

Meeting place: Contact Trip Leader Trip leader: Pete Grant at grantpk@msn.com or 703-960-6033 (H)