



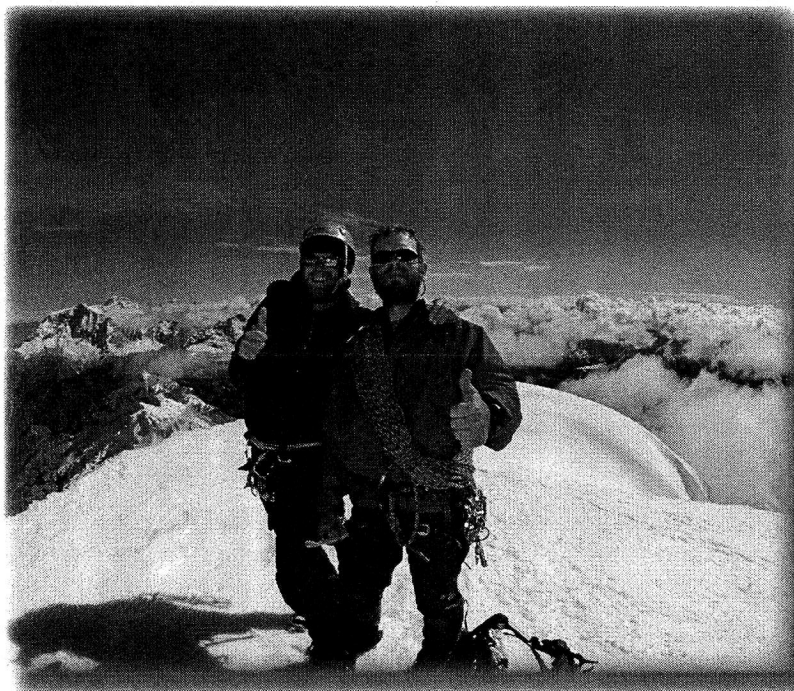
Up Rope

FOUNDED BY
HERB AND JAN CONN

Peru

Bill Dudley

2008 Volume 63, Issue 1



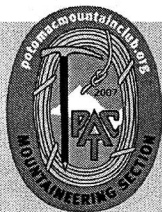
Bill Dudley and Jason Sandridge.
Tocclaraju in the Cordillera Blanca range in Peru

Jason, Rupa, Rob, Kathleen and I landed in Lima, Peru on June 11th. We took an over-night van ride for the 8 hour drive to Huaraz which is the climbing capital of Peru. We settled in to the Olaza Bed and Breakfast for 3 days as we acclimatized to the 10,000' altitude.

The day before departing for Pisco we had decided to do some mountain biking to help with the acclimatization process. Our guide drove us up to about 13,000' and directed us back to Huaraz from there. Everything was going fine until we decided to take some "shortcuts" against the advice of our guide. Why did we do this? I guess because we're climbers. Yours truly tried to bike down one section that started with a couple of stone stairs. I made that and a technical section that followed and just had to negotiate four more stone steps before getting back to the road. I made the first two but actually flew over the handlebars on the third step. Luckily I managed to land on my feet still holding the bike on the only

flat piece of ground within 50 feet. Kathleen wasn't so lucky. On one steep rocky section she tipped over and hurt her knee somehow and, to add insult to injury, ended up in a thorn bush that tore her up pretty good. She managed to yank most of the thorns out and the knee injury wasn't so bad that she couldn't just hop on the bike and keep going - but it was the beginning of the end for her. I'm pretty sure the other 3 members of our party also ended up on the ground from time to time. I think Rupa claimed an even half dozen. After Dave's???? mishap last year I'm beginning to think that mountain biking to acclimatize before a big expedition might not be such a hot idea. Biking seems to be much more dangerous than climbing - there's no rope!

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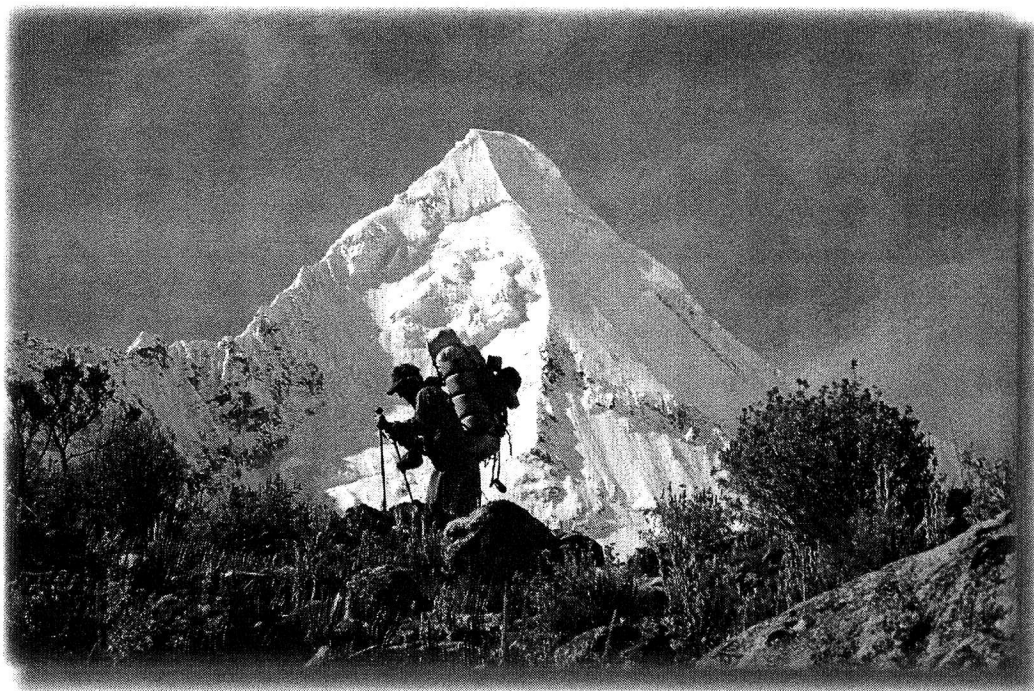
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On Friday we took another van ride up the Yanganucca valley to get dropped off at the base of the trail to Pisco; the elevation was about 12,800'. We camped there for the night and on Saturday made a carry up to our next camp which was at 15,400'. After that carry we returned to sleep at the lower elevation of our first camp. On Sunday we moved all our stuff up to 15,400' where there was a refugio which is a camping hut based on the huts in the Alps. We kind of felt like we weren't mountaineering anymore but we sure enjoyed it. On Monday Jason, Kathleen and I made a carry up to moraine camp at 15,900' to set up our tents and then continued on up to the toe of the glacier at 16,700' to drop off our technical gear in a duffel. We then returned to the refugio to sleep. On Tuesday Rob, Rupa and Jason decided to take a rest day at the refugio. Kathleen and I decided to make the move up to the moraine camp and have a go at the summit the next morning. Her knee had been bothering her pretty badly since the bike accident but she had been determined to walk it off.



Wednesday started at 12:45 AM and we were ready to go by 2:15. Somehow in shouldering her pack something moved in her knee causing her pain to go from bad to excruciating. Still she carried on hoping it would get better. We got to the toe of the glacier in about 45 minutes and it was time to make the decision to gear up or not. At 3 a.m. and 16,700' Kathleen was hit hard by the realization that her knee was getting worse, she couldn't trust it, and that her six-week climbing expedition in the Andes had been trashed by a biking accident the day before it started. We turned around and headed back to our camp. At 8 we informed the rest of the team by radio that we had to abort and that Kath was headed back down and out. I helped her carry her stuff down to the refugio where burros were available to carry gear down to the road. On the way down to the refugio we met Jason, Rupa, and Rob who were headed up to moraine camp. (Later, upon our return to Huaraz, we found out that Kath had left for Lima the next morning for a flight home. We missed her and wished her the best.) I then rejoined the rest of the team at moraine camp.

Rupa was content with setting her all time personal high of 16,000' while Rob, Jason and I tried for the summit on Thursday. So we were up at 12:30, on the trail before 2 and headed up the glacier by 3:20. It's a popular mountain so it was pretty easy to follow the track. I thought the cramponing conditions were great and despite quite a few short steep sections up to 50 degrees only ended up placing one picket on the way up. As we moved up we got some snow showers which reduced visibility a bit but never seemed too serious and sure enough by first light at about 4:30 the skies had cleared. By 5:30 the awesome scenery of the Andes was all around us. The Huandoy group behind us, Huascaran Sur and Norte, and Chopicalqui off to the right and Artesonraju, Quitaraju, and Alpamayo off to our left. Of course we could only see that beauty when we looked at something besides our feet plodding sloooooowly up the mountain. The higher we got the more convoluted, beautiful, and dangerous the snow formations became, but by 7 AM we were standing on the summit, having the honor of the first ascent...of the day! The summit is at 5752 meters which I believe works out to about 18,900'. We cruised back down the glacier in 2 hours and were back in camp by 11 AM. We thought about packing up and heading all the way out. The other choice was sleep. We chose sleep. We packed out and got back to Huaraz on Friday. Rob and Rupa were leaving in a few days, which left Jason and I to ponder our next objectiveArtesonraju???



North Carolina

Stone Mountain & Sauratown

Jeannette Helfrich

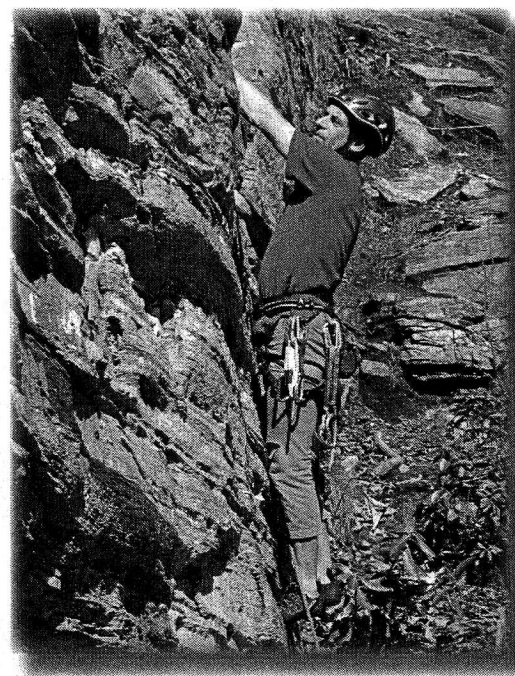
North Carolina climbing offers a late winter mecca while DC still shivers. Last weekend, ten of us enjoyed good weather, flowering trees and lots of good climbing. Four of us -- Simon Carr, Geoff Cohen, Cefyn Arch, Jeanette Helfrich -- climbed the routes below. The second group was Doug Halonen, Reed Bumgarder, and Craig Yamaoka and his wife. Also joining us were Paulina Kavonius from Finland and Ludek from the Czech Republic, currently stationed in Norfolk.



Sauratown Mountain. We sport-climbed Saturday at Sauratown Mountain, near King NC to warm up after the winter season. At Sauratown, we climbed Made in the Shade, 5.8 (or 5.10- depending on which sheet); Spiderman Gets a Job, 5.9; Leisure World, 5.10; Kish Dish, 5.8; Beer Bellies, 5.10; Big Erector, 5.9, and a 5.7 corner. The grades seemed tough, more like Seneca than the New River. Some routes required occasional gear and the first bolts were often quite high. The weather cooperated with 70 degree sun at Sauratown, which felt downright hot.

Stone Mountain. On Sunday, we moved to Stone Mountain, near Elkin NC, for an intense day on classic sparsely-protected granite slabs. We climbed The Pulpit, 5.8; Dirty Corner, 5.8; Yard Arm; and top-roped Rainy Day Women, 5.10, among others. Note that the fixed pin on the second pitch of The Pulpit has been chopped but I managed to get a dubious small nut by it (#5 BD). We welcomed the chillier weather because sliding falls with lots of fleece is to be desired (luckily, there were no falls). We gained new admiration for the first ascensionists who put in all bolts by hand on lead (including DC's own Sandy Fleming). In 1998, some 400 bolts were replaced with modern bolts. No new bolts were added to retain the spicy flavor. This area is not for the faint of heart.

Logistics. Driving to NC takes about 7-8 hours, dodging the trucks down I-81 past Roanoke. Camping is available at state parks but problematic because the parks close the gates at dusk. We stayed in motels which are reasonable in these parts (EconoLodge in King; Knight's Inn in Mt. Airy). Access to Sauratown climbing is delicate and is accessed through a private YMCA camp. Climbing is closed in summer, and discretion is advised in spring and fall when corporate retreats take place. Locals are friendly with many climbers were from local universities. The comforts of a big city are available nearby in Winston-Salem. Guidebooks: none except a few hand-made notes available for Sauratown. For Stone Mountain, see NC Climbing, or the old 1981 Southern Rock (out of print).



RMI Skills Training

Ross Hess

This year, I took part in RMI's Expedition Skills Seminar on Mount Rainier. Here are some details from my experience.

First, the structure of the program was quite good. We had one day on the lower slopes of the mountain for basic snow skills, including walking on snow of varying steepness, self-arresting with an ice axe, and building snow anchors. The next day, we learned some more on anchor

and pulley systems for crevasse rescue in the comfort of RMI's basecamp (bunkhouse, food, gear shop, etc., all in one place). The next four days were back up on the mountain. We headed up the Kautz Glacier route, set camp, and trained for two days. We trained quite a bit on crevasse rescue, which was valuable. Next was summit day, followed by return day. Much more specific details are available at RMI's website, or you can contact me if you're interested. There was quite a bit to learn throughout the day. At the end, we were all better experienced to head out on our own to glaciated mountains, or to bigger mountains with others who are more experienced.

The guides were great. We had four guides for eight climbers, for a low 2:1 ratio. The guides were very experienced, professional, and nice. Two of them, John Lucia and Tyler Jones, were just back from summitting Denali via the West Buttress. It seems that they did so just before our PMC folks headed up, and the bad weather hit. John is one of their lead guides, and has about 10 summits on Denali and 160 on Rainier. Another US guide was Jake Beren, who was also very solid. We also had a new guide from South America, Gabriel (blanking on last name), who guided on Aconcagua for years. We also got to briefly meet Peter Whittaker and Lou Horiskey. All in all, the guides were solid, and I would recommend them if you're looking for someone on an individual guiding basis.

The other climbers were good guys. Four were from Washington, and were looking to build on their skills to head up glaciated mountains safely on their own. One guy was from Boston, and likes to head to the Whites in winter. Two other guys were solid rock climbers from Orange County. They were talking about some 5.10 trad leads, and I noted how impressed I was that they're leading at that level. One very politely noted that he is actually leading 5.11a-b these days, while the other is leading 5.11b-c. They've also led Dark Star (Temple Crag) in a day, the longest climb in the Sierras at ~35 pitches. Yow! The good news about is that they're in their mid-40s. That gives me a good 15 years to improve my game.

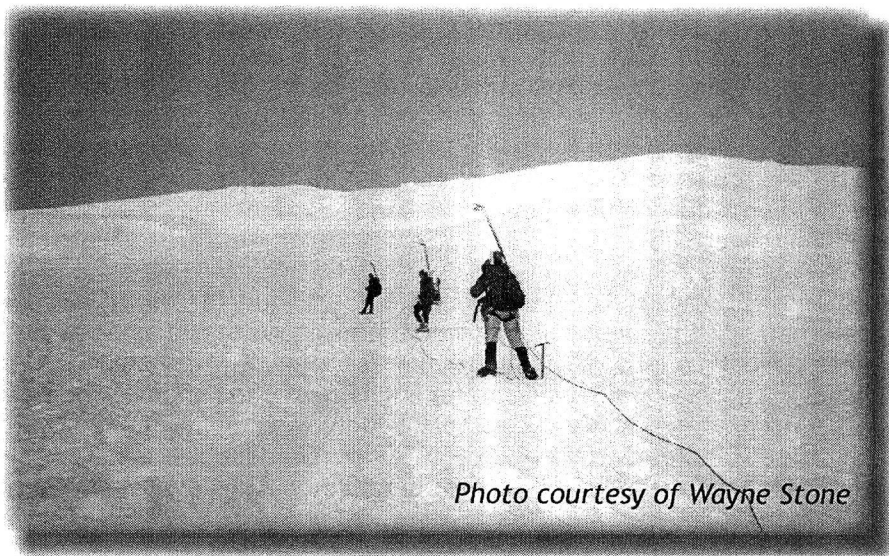


Photo courtesy of Wayne Stone

One thing that impressed me was the deliberateness of climbing on glaciers. It is truly one step, one intentional, well-placed step, at a time. It also helped me make more sense of higher-level alpinists who talk about adding power to endurance through training. I was able to head to the summit without many problems, but the power moves did break my stride. I have a better appreciation for, say, Mark Twight's intent focus on training.

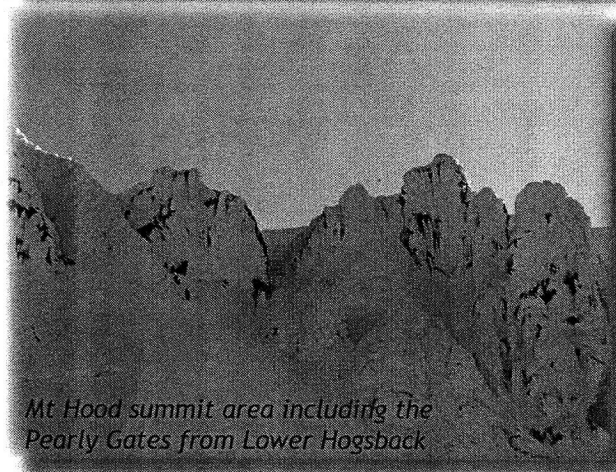
Since there has been discussion about water, I'll note that I was surprised about our methods for obtaining water. We had some relatively fresh snow, so during the day, we would just add snow to our water bottles to melt it. At night, if we found running water from icicles, we just collected it and drank it. Unless snow water was for hot drinks, it was just melted, not boiled. I was a bit disturbed by the lack of boiling at first (and the amount of bugs and silt we were drinking), but it seemed to be the norm, at least on Rainier.

The route itself was great. We headed up the Kautz Glacier route, which is a standard route, but far, far less traveled than the Disappointment Cleaver or Emmons Glacier routes. We had some large crevasses to pass, some steep snow and ice, and some ice chutes to climb. I'd highly recommend the route as an alternative to the highly-trodden routes.

The weather was also great. At Columbia Crest, the skies were clear, the sun was bright, and we felt great. Other days were rough, with many white-outs, but we felt very fortunate to have a great summit day. If you have any questions about this program, please let me know.

Mount Hood

Steve Brown



Mt Hood summit area including the Pearly Gates from Lower Hogsback

If you want to get experience using an ice axe, using crampons, and traveling as a member of a roped climbing team - while not blowing both your vacation and financial budget - then Mount Hood, Oregon is the place for you. Climbers experienced in ice axe and crampon use can climb Mount Hood as a day hike. May is a great month to climb Mount Hood for a few reasons: 1) the mountain still has good snow coverage, bridging obstacles such as the bergschrund, 2) temperatures at night go well below freezing, consolidating the mountain's surface, which helps reduce rock fall and avalanche danger, and 3) the odds of a brutal winter storm are reduced.

I climbed Mount Hood in a two-day program by Timberline Mountain Guides. On day one, there's a ½ day snow school where we got instruction and practice in crampon technique, using an ice axe, including self arrest, and climbing as members of a roped team. On climb day, our ascent began at 1:00 AM from the Timberline Lodge parking lot. We boarded a SnowCAT which transported us from the Timberline Lodge to the top of the Mount Hood ski area at 8,600' MSL. We began the actual climb just before 2:00 AM with slightly under 3,000' of climbing ahead of us. The surface at 8,600' was hard frozen, so we immediately donned crampons for the ascent. In about two hours time, we climbed northward on a moderate grade to the base of a feature

known as the Hogsback at 10,500' MSL. This is a sharp ridgeline that begins the steep part of the ascent to the summit, and it was on the Hogsback that we roped-up and used ice axes. The grade of our route increased on the Hogsback to about 30 degrees; about two-thirds of the ways up we crossed a bergschrund on a snow bridge. At the top of the Hogsback, we traversed to the east for about 25 yards, arriving at the base of the Pearly Gates, two rock pillars covered with snow and ice which had a 50-degree chute between them, leading to the summit. The surface in this chute was a mixture of mostly solid clear and rime ice which made it difficult to obtain any purchase using the axe's spike, so using the axe similar to an ice tool became the mode of choice. Our guide scrambled to the top of the chute and set a picket to prevent any problems; after clearing this chute it was a short walk up a moderate grade to the summit. Four hours after the start of our climb we were on the summit of Mount Hood watching the sun rise on a crystal clear day. Despite the early morning beauty, we were reminded that only five months earlier a climber had died in a snow cave about 100' east of where we sat on the summit.

We were one of the first parties to summit Mount Hood this day; it's a very popular climb, and from the summit we observe numerous climbers making their way up the Hogsback towards the Pearly gates. To avoid a traffic jam in the chute, we descended a different route than we had climbed. This took us down a steep snowy slope about 200 yards west of the Hogsback, which was not as technical (and probably not as much fun) as the route we ascended. At the bottom of this slope, we traversed back to the east to regain the lower part of the Hogsback, and then retraced our route as we descended to the top of the ski area.

When participating in Alpine sports, enthusiasm sometimes beats judgment gained through experience, and the day prior we had decided to ski from the top of the ski area back to Timberline Lodge. On the way up we had cached downhill skiing equipment for the 2,600' descent. As I removed my climbing boots, I noted that my quadriceps still burned from the steep downclimb. I remarked to my climbing partner that when I feel like this, it usually means I should have quit skiing about two hours ago. This was an accurate prediction of the ski run to come. I accomplished three firsts on this ski run: 1) I had never skied with a pack before, 2) the area near the top of the ski area was not groomed and it was both icy and bumpy, and 3) my leg muscles were burned-out. Things did not go well initially. After falling on my first two attempted turns, I figured out that you need to lean much farther forward than usual when carrying a pack. After two more falls, we were now skiing on a groomed portion of the mountain, which made things much easier, though I did manage to log a couple of more falls on the way to the lodge. This was an inexpensive learning experience as I found out I'm definitely not ready to take the Haute Route across the Alps. We were back at Timberline Lodge before 10:00 AM. In summary, everyone on this climb had a great time, and Mount Hood is strongly recommended as a good introduction to Alpine and glacier climbing.

Logistics Info: Lodging: The Mount Hood Inn (www.mthoodinn.com) in Government Camp has nice rooms and good rates during the month of May (although there is snow year-around on Mt Hood, May is between seasons: Winter skiing has ended. and summer snowboard camps have not yet started.) Guide Service: Timberline Mountain Guides (www.timberlinemtguides.com) operates out of Timberline Lodge at 6,000' MSL on Mt Hood. They have a two-day program that will safely get you to the summit.

Mt. Washington Valley Ice Fest

Naz Ahmed

John O., Emilio Ungerfeld, and myself met at BWI airport to catch our awesomely discounted Southwest flights to Manchester, NH for a weekend of ice climbing (and hobnobbing with climbing rockstars) in N. Conway. We had a little trouble with a frozen door on our rental vehicle at the airport and through a little weather made it to the White Trellis Motel in about 2.5 hours.

All three of us had clinics that Friday and thanks to Vince we secured 10% discounts with IME for those clinics. John O. participated in the Mixed Climbing clinic with Mark Synnott, Emilio had the Alpine Primer, and I had the women's steep ice with Majka Burhardt in the Texaco climbing area. Majka was pretty phenomenal, she had me climbing grade IV+ just by using one swing of tool (yes what I swung was what I got) while taking out screws from strenuous positions and threw in a mixed route for extra challenge. I only had two other women in my class. After the clinics IME had a great apre climb party with surprisingly good food and excellent beer. We met up with Jen Veilleux that evening and headed to the slide show and we got a presentation on New England climbing from Will Mayo. Our very own John O. participated in the figure 4 contest (the very first contestant!). He had great form, can't wait to see him pull that move at the crag! We then got a very inspiring slideshow from Maxime Turgeon (climbing from Colorado to K7 to Patagonia).

Saturday morning Jen V. and Emilio headed to IME for their classes (Ice and gully climb respectively) while John and I started out an hour later, grabbing breakfast at the Blueberry Muffin cafe (decent). We then headed to Shoestring gully, Huntington and Tuckerman ravine being out because of avalanche danger. Fun varied climb. We soloed up a couple WI 2 sections but spent much more time snow climbing (up to about mid-thigh level). We finished up the route with a dry-tool pitch 5.5 chockstone chimney for more variance and hiked off the route at the top. We started about 10 AM and finished by 5 PM, so good day and we weren't exactly booking it either. We met up with Emilio and Jen, took showers and opted for dinner before the slideshow at a thai restaurant next to IME. With only one waiter on staff, we basically missed the entire slide show.

Sunday morning with a snow storm looming most of the gear reps were heading out as early as they could. Jen V. had her waterfall ice course and she got Majka as her instructor as well and raved about it afterward (one tooling up WI 4+!). John, Emilio and I found a great place for breakfast (Peaches) and then took advantage of the 30% sales at EMS and IME before checking out and driving to Manchester. It was a good thing we left early as I found our rental lost almost all traction going up hills in slush and snow. However, our flights back to BWI were delayed by a couple hours because of the weather. But regardless everything generally worked out the way it should and everyone had a great time.

Cumberland Narrows

Ross Hess

We had a great time at Cumberland Narrows last October. The weather was great, and the trains chugged along. Jim and Kat climbed together, and I climbed with two newer climbers, Aine and John.

After some ground school, we headed up. With three climbers on one rope, we had to switch seconds, but we made it work. In Funland, I headed up Free, But Worth It (5.3), which was a nice way to start the day. I also led Preschool

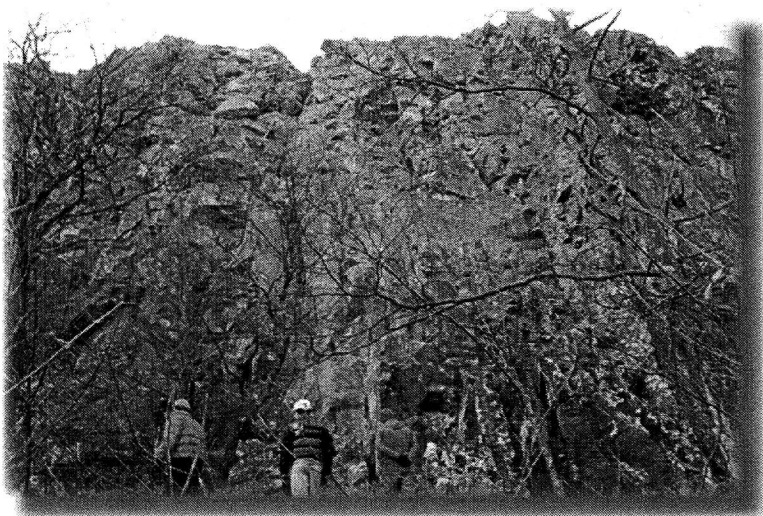
Dropout (5.5) which had a stout beginning for the grade. It has a nice lieback move with good friction for the feet. Tunnel of Love (5.6) was lots of fun as well, with some good stemming and exposure. It has a "tunnel" in the middle, reminiscent of the one on Ecstasy Junior at Seneca. It also has an optional roof to pull at the end with good hands, but feet about five feet off the ledge, which I decided to bypass on lead.

Funland is a shorter area, with climbs of 50'-80', but well worth it. It's also the first wall on the hike in. On Chuck Wall, I headed up Unexpected Party (5.5), which continues into After Hours (5.6R). I did them together in one long pitch, but rope drag and poor communication caused problems. With the view from the top down into the Narrows, though, it's hard to write of problems. I would strongly recommend Cumberland Narrows to those of you who haven't been there yet. It has the closest long routes around. The rock is just like at Seneca, except that I would say it has more "bite" since it hasn't seen thousands of climbers. We were the only climbers there, so no worries of crowds. On one unfortunate note, I did receive a note on my car from a local. I parked on the street, rather than in the church lot. (You may recall that the lot owners asked us not to park there on a previous trip.) The note asked us to be considerate, and park in the lot, rather than in front of houses on the street. There was no name or number, so I could not discuss the note with its author. It would be unfortunate if the locals became hostile. Parking is permitted on the street, despite this protestation otherwise. If anyone else has encountered these reactions, please let club members know.

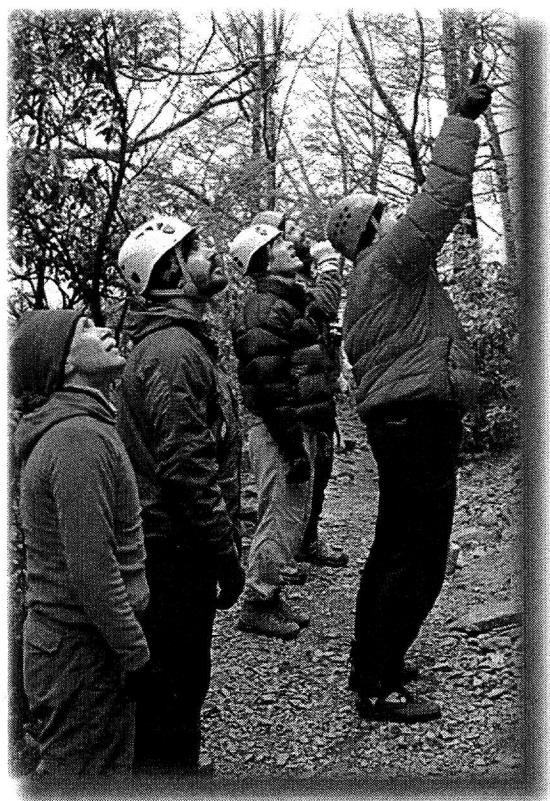
Little Stony Man

Vincent Penoso

I was running 10 minutes late on the way to the Oakton rally point for another Saturday morning commute to Little Stoneyman Cliffs, in the Shenandoah National Park. We have climbed here for 11 weeks consecutively last season. I was surprised to see a group of people, who could only be climbers, waiting on me as I returned from a stop at the PATC headquarters gear room. We all piled into 4 cars and drove west. In an hour and 20 minutes, we were in the parking lot. Climbers this trip included Jason Salmanoff, Tim, Reed Bumgarner, Bobby Bumgarner, Maura, Brenda Korte, Doug Halonen, Brian Guppy, Steve, Ana & Abe Gelabert & little ducklings and myself. Dave Raboy I made wooden signs the night before, and posted them on the Appalachian Trail, that runs along the top of the crag. There is an irresistibly deadly temptation to throw rocks off this spectacular vista onto unsuspecting hikers on another trail below as well as rock climbers at the base of this cliff could have tragic results.



Dave Raboy and I tried to resolve the discrepancy of (2) routes lead and named last November: Head first 5.7 and snowy finish 5.7. I began the day by leading what I thought was Head first, (named after the plunge Dave took back then and headed for a collision with LSM with his big fat melon), following a line of weakness up the route to the top. The route appeared to me as a walk up. I was actually embarrassed to be climbing this line and wanted to start before the main contingent settled to gawk at the base of the climbs. I started in the 3-4" crack, hopped onto the pillar and proceeded up until things got a little more interesting, because of the pro: THERE EES NO PRO. This was my calming mantra up this line of weakness. There was pro and I didn't need it, but placed ball nuts, very small nuts and exausted all my small cams from my stream lined rack (thanks Ted), to make it to the top. We named this line, no surprise, The Line of Weakness 5.7+. This line ends below the POOL of water (when there's water) at the top that has a 3-4" verticle crack for a bomber anchor. I constructed a anchor with my ACR, Blue, Green and red Camelot and belayed Dave to the top. So we established 3 lines on this section of the crag, after Dave followed me and relived the Autumn fall's fall.



We had 5 ropes set up from our group on The shield 5.8, Wall of Kazad Dum 5.7, Lego Block 5.6, Chimney in a Chimney 5.6, and an ever popular line over two roofs just to the right of Dragon's Back, an un-named TR that everyone tried and some completed.. A party of 2 came and went. Chad, from Shenandoah Climbing guides, had a party with him on an unnamed route to the left of Dragon's Back 5.7+.

The temperature hover around a very comfortable 80-85 degrees and just like I predicted, The sun came out at 1330. When we looked at our watches again, it was 1730..Time flies when you are having a blast. We returned to Vienna and stepped into the heat and humidity of the day and looked back at a wonderful day of climbing at Little Stoneyman.

Katahdin 08

Bill Dudley

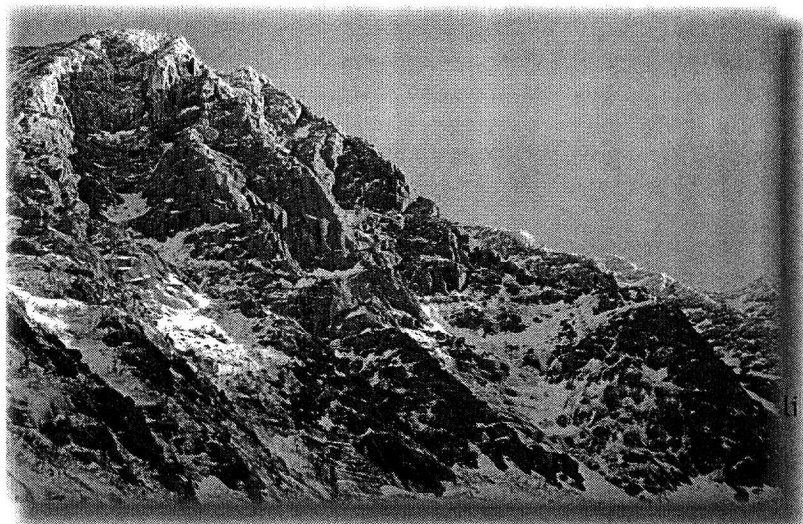
Katahdin 08 was another great trip. We had some success but we also ate some humble pie this year. Mike Baur, Paul White, Scott Hartsock, and Reed Bumgarner set out on Thursday, spent a night in Millinocket and hiked in to Roaring Brook on Saturday; they finished the approach by doing the final 3.5 miles to Chimney Pond Sunday morning. Jason Sandridge, Naz Ahmed, John Oster and I had a different itinerary as we were invited to Josh Baker and Kathleen Steinle's wedding in Whitefield, NH on Saturday! We drove

in and went to a pizza and beer party that night with the wedding group. We tried to stock up on sleep and the next day attended their beautiful wedding. After prying Naz off the dance floor we were on our way to Maine by about 8:30 PM. We got to the trailhead at 2:30 AM Sunday, geared up and started up the trail by about 3:45 AM on no sleep. What a weird transition; sipping champagne in dress clothes to shlepping gear up Katahdin in the dark. We did the 16 miles all the way to Chimney Pond by about 3 PM Sunday where we caught up with the rest of the group who had just done some reconnoitering around the area.

Unfortunately it rained on us Monday. The wedding four were kind of glad for the rest day but the rest of the group was chomping at the bit and Paul, Mike, and Reed squeezed in an ascent of Mini Pinnacle #2 in the afternoon. Paul and Mike led the pitches on this climb, the closest one to the cabin. Tuesday was our best day. Jason and Paul led Reed, Naz, and Scott on a circuit climb of the cirque. They started by going up the Cathedral Trail and were at the summit of Katahdin (Baxter Peak) in four hours but the fun was just beginning. They continued on past South Peak and were then on the Knife Edge portion of the trail. High gusty winds, blowing snow, and icy conditions made the going slow and they ended up roped up quite a bit. They had a difficult rap at one point (almost stuck rope) but finally the group made it over Pamola Peak and the difficulties seemed to be over. However...

Mike, John, and I were tackling Pamola IV, a 5.6 - 5.8 NEI 2+ Grade III. It was a ridge route that was mostly rock up high but we started by soloing quite a bit of snow, a little ice, and then up a couple of couloirs (easy to moderate climbing but serious consequences for a fall) to gain the ridge itself. We kept on soloing up some fourth class rock to save time and eventually roped up when the difficulties increased. We climbed the next four pitches roped up with Mike and I leading a pitch each and John leading two. Each pitch included some 5.7 to 5.8 moves. It was the first winter climb like this for all of us so we were all pretty happy when the grade eased off, we soloed the last pitch, and hit the crest just north of Pamola Peak by about 5. We started cruising down the Dudley trail, following the blue blazes. Just when the blazes were disappearing we spied a headlight down below and Jason called up to us that their group was off the trail. We fished around for a while but were unable to find the trail and just blasted downhill until we picked the trail up again and both groups made it back to the cabin by about 7:30. Long day!

We woke to howling winds and below zero temps on Wednesday; this changed our plans and no one got out early except to get water - they came back with stories of getting blown across the lake. Jason managed to lead one pitch, a 3+ on Pamola Cliffs, which Scott seconded. Mike lead a short pitch of about 3+ with Paul following, up to a cave on Pamola Cliffs. It was so cold and windy that they rapped down and then returned to the cabin, being practically blown back. To kill some time we all tried to eat a lot. John would have had a broccoli dish but found out that a vegetarian pine marten must have made off with the whole bag of broccoli he had buried in the snow right next to the three pounds of bacon I had buried. Go figure!

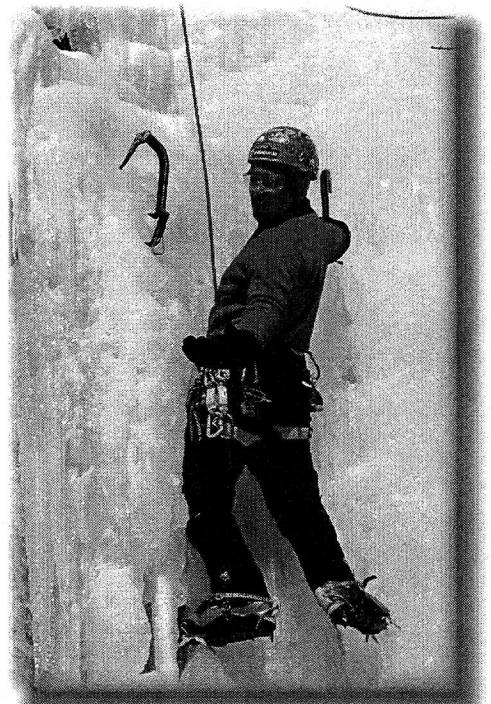
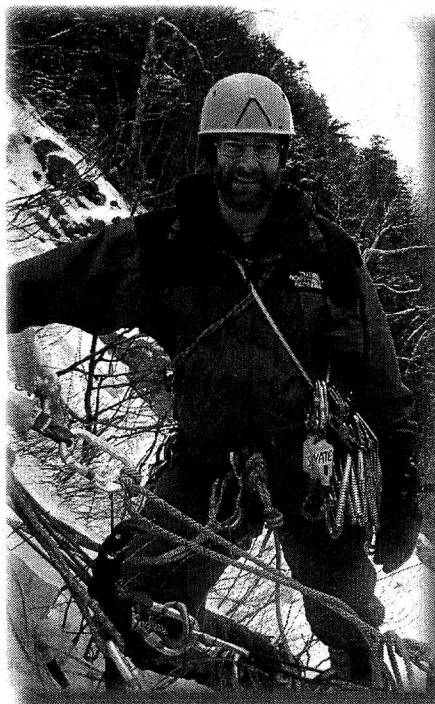


The rain on Monday followed by high winds, bitter temps, and a little snow for two days created some possible avalanche conditions. The rain had only saturated the first couple inches of snow and made a hard crust over powder below. On Thursday we were hoping that time had consolidated it and we set off early for some tough objectives. Paul and Mike were the first ones out, headed towards Ciley Barber. John and Naz set out next, headed towards Waterfall Gully, and Scott and I followed them there an hour later. More single digit temps and gusty winds were enough to drive Mike and Paul off their objective when they got to the first headwall. Paul headed back and eventually joined Reed for a hike into the North Basin. Mike joined us at Waterfall Gully; Scott had been thinking of doing Waterfall or Chimney with Jason but there was a clear debris field at the entrance to Chimney so they also headed back. John and Mike fought their way up the first pitch of Waterfall and Naz and I seconded. Naz rapped off and headed back while Mike, John and I still had thoughts of at least doing the hard pitch next but it wasn't to be. We got up to the base of the next ice pitch and no one wanted

to try and lead it in the cold, windy, hard ice conditions we were facing so we also headed down. We were all back in the cabin by early afternoon realizing that Katahdin had kicked our collective asses this year. But as the governor would say.....I'll be back!

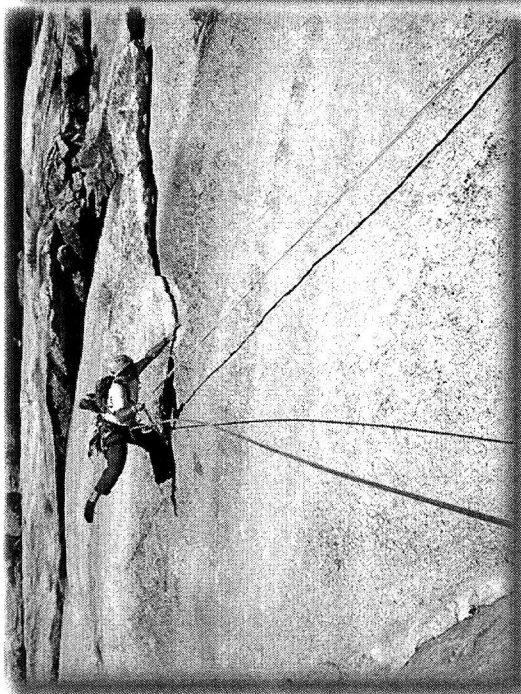
We had two group dinners which was really nice. It mixes up the diet a bit. We also did a group breakfast of bacon and pancakes the Friday morning we headed out. Two bottles of white gas and two canisters was more than enough as the wood stove did most of the cooking. Friday dawned a maddeningly mild and calm day but the trip down took some of the sting out of it. The high amount of snow this year made the trail great. Mike and I were the last ones out and probably sledged three of the three and a half miles to Roaring Brook. We made it in about 45 minutes. One particular run was probably a mile long. What a rush! At the bottom we realized we probably should have had our helmets on as we were cruising with some serious speed down the fairly narrow trail. The rest of the way out was more rolling but we still got some great hills to FLY down. In some spots a radar gun might have caught us going over the 20 MPH park speed limit. Back in Millinocket we raised our glasses to another successful Katahdin trip at the Scootic In. Thirteen hours of driving Saturday brought us back to the DC area.

Adirondacks 08



From My Chair

Robert Graver



Just a quick trivia question (no googling): Who authored the line: "... never send to know for whom the bell tolls; it tolls for thee"? Hemmingway, right? WRONG. Here's the text in a little larger context: "No man is an island, entire of itself; every man is a piece of the continent, a part of the main. If a clod be washed away by the sea, Europe is the less, as well as if a promontory were, as well as if a manor of thy friend's or of thine own were: any man's death diminishes me, because I am involved in mankind, and therefore never send to know for whom the bell tolls; it tolls for thee."

Hemmingway was quoting John Donne, an early 17th century, Enlightenment writer who first penned this text while contemplating life from a sick bed and apparently came to the conclusion that it is man's interconnectedness that gives the greatest meaning to our lives. I couldn't agree more.

As we embark on another year of playing together I will try and build on the wonderful energies and programs of my predecessors by taking Donne's message to heart and getting as many of you involved in the activities and running of our club. Already underway (as of JAN) are the expansion of the number and type of coordinators, an expansion of our "sharing" (Newbie, New Leader, Intro to Ice, etc.) days on the calendar, and we've put Great Falls climbing evenings back on the calendar for Fridays starting in the spring. Additionally, we've begun exploring partnering opportunities wherever we can find them with our parent organization as well as the local community and businesses.

But this is NOT ENOUGH (no, I'm never satisfied)! We need your ideas and participation, as much or as little as you prefer - nothing is beyond consideration - with it, the sky's the limit! I look forward to a great year ahead and to seeing and climbing with all of you as we remain "...involved in mankind..." in just a small way through our happy little band of misfit toys. See ya up top!

2007 PMC Holiday Party



Odds & Ends

UpRope Newsletter Submission Guidelines

Please send all trip reports to Netty88@msn.com - either as a separate email or as a CC to the listserve. Please put in the subject line TRIP REPORT: Name i.e. TRIP REPORT: Seneca.

Please include FULL first and last name of the story writer, and full names of as many club attendees' as possible. If you have it, logistics information such as guiding services, campgrounds, restaurants, etc would be useful at the end of the story. I will edit trip reports for grammar, conciseness and length when necessary.

Any word processing program is acceptable (i.e. Word, Works, Wordperfect) and preferable to emailed stories - although these can be used if necessary.

Pictures:

Hi-res digital images only, please, .jpg or .tiff formats work best. Please provide original whenever possible - I can crop or color-correct also if necessary. Original compressed 72 dpi or uncompressed 300 dpi images are best.

If images are too large for email, use a 3rd party site such as YouSendIt.com. If you have a downloadable photo site, please let me know the web address where the images are stored, which ones you would like used (if you have a preference) or which albums I can choose from.

Please also list WHO is in each photo, and who took it if you would like a photo credit. Please do not insert/imbed images, but send as separate attachment.

Additional submission categories:

Please feel free to submit more than trip reports; would like to start including reviews on things from new gear to gyms or campsites visited as well as books or magazines. Books can be fiction, nonfiction or even guidebooks.

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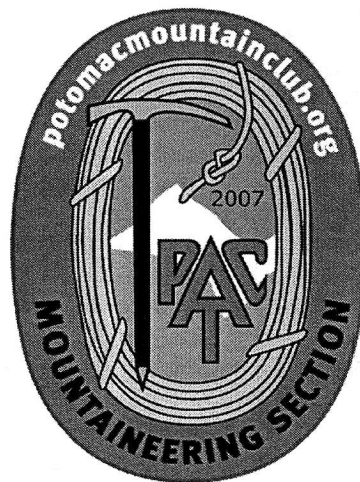
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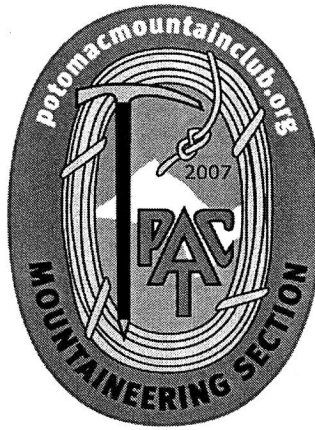
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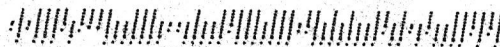
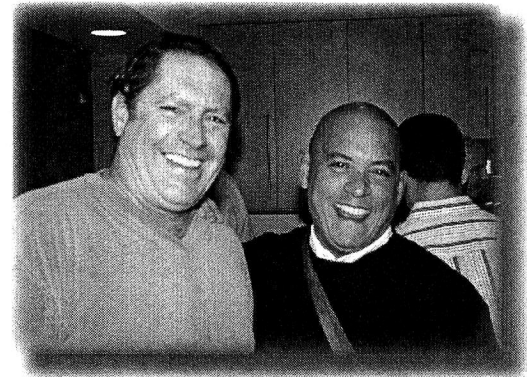


UpRope Newlsetter

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The PMC's annual Holiday Party. Thanks to the Dannhardt's for hosting!



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