



August 30, 2022

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What's New?

Changes Coming to 'First Wednesdays'

Starting in September 2022, we will no longer be using the term first Wednesday. Instead, we will host "Carderock Open Climb Days". These will be held each year on the first Wednesday of May, June, September and October. At these events we will have Carderock Crag Ambassadors onsite to greet, belay and support those who have registered for the event. We will use eventbrite to manage registrations and details for each month will be on our event page. If you have any questions about these changes please feel free to reach out!

Wilderness First Aid Certification Course:

We have arranged a special course for just PATC-MS members at a discounted rate of \$220 per person through MEDIC SOLO. You can now register for the course here on the PATC website and also pay through the site: <https://potomacmountainclub.org/event/wilderness-first-aid-wfa-for-patc-ms/>

Note that this course is capped at 20

Meeting Recap

We mixed things up and went inside for our monthly meeting this August, hosting climbs at both Crystal City and Carderock. Thanks for everyone who made it out!

Next month's meeting will focus on Injury Prevention and will be held in DC at sPACYcLOUD on September 14th from 7-830 pm.



Seneca Rocks Military History

by Peter O'Dwyer

Driven into a large saw toothed crag in West Virginia are thousands of slowly rusting soft iron pitons. Today they are a point of local trivia, even lending a name to one of the many sheer rock faces, "The Face of a Thousand Pitons." They were left by boys training to go overseas just hoping to "do their bit." What they didn't realize was that they were about to create military legend.

In 1943 the British suggested an invasion of Italy, striking against the Axis Powers' "soft underbelly." The campaign however quickly denigrated into a slow series of grueling battles up the Apennine Mountains, the "spine" of Italy.

The need for specialized mountain forces was firmly demonstrated at the climax of this campaign, the bloodbath on the infamous peak of Monte Cassino. Soldiers from five different nations were beaten back with appalling losses by German Fallschirmjager, Hitler's elite paratroopers, who were ensconced in the rocks and in the rubble of a ruined monastery. After four all-out attempts to take the heights, the position finally became untenable and the Germans finally withdrew. It had taken four months of savage fighting and over 50,000 allied casualties to the Nazis' 20,000 to dislodge them from the mountain.

This state of affairs could not continue, and thanks to a newly raised division already practicing their assault climbs in the US, it would not. The 10th Mountain division had been activated a year earlier, drawing enlistees from the Rockies and the Canadian-American border. Earmarked for cold weather and mountain operations, The 10th Mountain Division would drive 75,000 Pitons into the rocks at Seneca mastering their trade. Soon they would be off to Italy.

The 10th Mountain Division's first real fight would be in January 1945, during Operation Encore and it would be no repeat of Monte Cassino. The 10th Mountain division took the Germans by surprise by climbing straight up a cliff in the dead of night, knocking them off a contested peak. Mts. Belvedere and Gorgolesco would be next, falling quickly after several sharp clashes. The 10th Mountain successfully fought off all German attempts to regain their territory. The peaks would remain in American hands.

The battle set the pattern for the 10th Mountain's exploits for the rest of the war. It would remain at the tip of the spear until the German surrender a few months later, having never been driven back off height once they had captured it.

The 10th Mountain Division's war service cemented its legacy as an elite unit. It has served with distinction in Operation Gothic Serpent and holds the record of the most deployed American military unit in the 21st century

with over 20 deployments. Come visit Seneca rocks and experience the start of that journey yourself on The Face of One Thousand Pitons.

Upcoming Events

[Click here to sign up for an event!](#) See the website for details on each event

Carderock Open Climb

September 7th @ 4:30 pm - 7:30 pm

Carderock Recreation Area Billy Goat Trail C - North Parking Lot, Carderock, MD

Coopers Rock

September 10 @ 8:00 am - September 11 @ 5:00 pm

Cooper's Rock 61 County Line Dr, Bruceton, WV

September Meeting - Injury Prevention

September 14 @ 7:00 pm - 8:30 pm

sPACYcLOUD 2309 18TH STREET NORTHWEST, WASHINGTON, DC

Sugarloaf Top-roping Trip

September 17 @ 8:00 am - 3:00 pm

Sugarloaf Mountain Sugar Loaf Mt Dr, Dickerson, MD

Wolf Rock Top Roping Trip

September 17 @ 8:00 am - 5:00 pm

Wolf Rock 39°38'25.4"N 77°26'44.4"W, MD

Sendtember at Seneca Rocks

September 23 - September 25

Seneca Shadows Monongahela National Forest, Riverton, WV

Rocks State Park

September 24

Rocks State Park, Jarrettsville, MD

Are you a new member?

Welcome to the club! Here are a few suggestions to help you stay connected to the group.

New Members Guide

Check out our [New Members Guide](#) to learn about what we do and how you can get involved.

Monthly Meetings

Join us at [Club Meetings](#) for a great opportunity to come and meet the members of the club and see what we do!

Carderock Open Climbs

Everyone is welcome at Carderock Wednesdays, which usually kicks off around 4pm. A link to signup through Eventbrite is available through the [Events Page](#).

Stay connected

Don't have social media? Join our google group! To join:

1. Go to the [Potomac Mountain Club Google Group](#) page.
2. Sign into your google account. If you don't have a google account, you can still join but you'll have to associate your email address with a google account first.
3. Hit the button at the top of the page that says "Ask to join group". One of our members will approve your request within a week.
4. Having difficulties? Follow the troubleshooting steps [here](#).

2022 Club Officials

Co-Chairs

Nicole Horvath & Caroline Mosher

chair@patcms.org

Vice Chair

Jay Bishop

vicechair@patcms.org

Secretary

Marc Grunberg

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Treasurer

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Up Rope History

Did you know
Up Rope Newsletter
has been around
since 1944?

Check out past issues
on our
[Archives Page!](#)

Up Rope Editor
Jenna Schueler
upropeeditor@gmail.com

Up Rope Submissions

Trip Report Submissions: Please send all trip reports to upropeeditor@gmail.com. Please put in the subject line TRIP REPORT: Name. Please include the full first and last name of the writer and full names of as many club attendees as possible. If you have it, logistics information such as guide services, camp grounds, restaurants, etc. would be useful at the end of the story. Please list who is in each photo and who took it. There is no word limit for trip reports.

General Submissions: Submissions for climbing news, member of the month, and gear/book/gym reviews can be sent to upropeeditor@gmail.com at any time. Aim to keep them between 200-400 words.

All submissions will be edited for grammar and length when necessary.

COVID 19 Safety

Let's all make sure we're balancing caution with passion! Here are some resources to help protect ourselves and our community during these trying times. Here are some resources to help you stay informed.

- Check out the Access Fund's [Climbing During the Coronavirus Pandemic](#).
- Learn about the CDC's [Considerations for Events and Gatherings](#).
- Stay up to date with the CDC's [COVID-19: What's New & Updated](#) page.