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What's New?

Winter Climbing:

Don't forget you can download the PATC-MS [Rakkup Guide for Great Falls](#), produced by the club. Great Falls is a very convenient winter climbing spot due to its proximity and sunny areas.

Trip Application Process:

This year, we are going to be trialing an application process for trips. Members wanting to come on a trip will fill out a short google form detailing their experience level, and trip leaders will choose a mixture of experienced and novice climbers from the pool of applicants. By having a form to indicate participation open over the span of a few days, it will also allow for a more equitable trip signup since not everyone is able to check email or whatsapp with the same frequency. We are also hoping that this will enable the trip leader to manage a waitlist.

If you have any questions, dont hesitate to reach out to club leadership.

Monthly Meetings

Members met up at the Patagonia store in Alexandria. I gave the chair's annual report - we had a busy year last year! In 2022, we had

- 34 outdoor climbing trips
- 15 gym climbing meetups
- 8 climbing clinics
- 3 out of state climbing trips
- 2 intro to climbing/open climb days
- 10 monthly meetings
- 2 Alpine skills trips
- 8 hikes
- 1 ice climbing trip
- 2 winter camping trips
- 1 WFA course coordinated
- \$400 donated to charity

We had 30 volunteers who made all this happen. Thank you to our wonderful volunteers, especially Nicole who is stepping away from her role as chair this year. Dak Hardwick and I will be co-chairs until I leave in August. Haley Behere is taking over as vice chair for 2023.

After the chair's report, the club was regaled with a presentation on East Coast ice climbing by the president of the DC AAC, Piotr Andrejczak. Our next meeting will likely be in the form of a gear swap at a local brewery.

Trip Report: Daks 2023

By: William Kruse

I have to admit I was a bit apprehensive about this trip. Not only was it my first time doing a club event like this, but it was also my first time ice climbing. I knew no-one, had never been to the Daks, and wasn't even 100% sure I brought the right gear. But somehow, this trip exceeded all my expectations.

The drive from the DMV was amazing. I had taken off the full weekend, Friday through Monday, and enjoyed my trip up. I got a bit concerned by the rain just north of Manhattan, but the temps dropped quickly as I gained latitude, and before long that rain turned to that site we all hoped for - snow.

I couldn't believe the views of the climbing lodges. These were not the shacks I was expecting. Comfortable, spacious, warm and welcoming don't begin to describe the accommodations. Add to that the blanket of fresh snow on the ground and in the trees, and you can imagine how excited I was to start the weekend. It only got better as I exited the car and ran into a gentleman who had just finished some ski touring from a trail right behind our lodge. The smile on his face was contagious, and but for the lack of remaining daylight and gnawing hunger in my stomach, I would have immediately pulled my skis from the Outback and started out by myself.

I quickly met some new friends; Julie, Alex, Mithch, Ernesto and Ted. Even though they all knew each other already, they greeted me like an old friend, and invited me to dinner in Lake Placid. Drinks were had, food was shared, and we all told stories and got to know each other over the anticipation of a great weekend to come.

I didn't have plans on Saturday, so I shot out of bed and went to ski at Whiteface. It was cold, icy, and amazing. I was there early and in the first couple gondolas to the top of Little Whiteface. I avoided the holiday crowd by staying on top of the mountain for the whole day doing multiple runs on both the small mountain and from the top of Whiteface itself. It was also the World University Games on the mountain, so I was amply humbled by watching skiers effortlessly bomb some slaloms at speeds I can't seem to achieve on my best days. After a solid morning of alpine skiing, it was time to head back and do some AT behind the lodge.

I had a bit of lunch in town and hit the Mountaineer shop before putting my skins on my backcountry skis and making out into the woods. The air was crisp and amazing. I had no idea that the Saturday Ice climbing crew was even the slightest bit chilly as I stripped layer after layer working my way up the trails on my skins. I spent almost two hours in bliss, but was ready for dinner and company, so I headed back down the trail in time to meet all the new friends I'd been making.

Dinner was amazing, and I found myself wishing I had this many good choices to eat from in my home hill of Canaan Valley. One can hope! We made plans as a group for a potluck for the next night, which was a great plan, since we all kept breaking off into small groups last minute over the first couple of days. I had to head back early on Saturday night, since I had my first big day of ice climbing on Sunday.

I met Matt, our guide, in the gear room of the guide house the next morning. He would be leading two newbies, Ravi and me, alongside Khue, who already had a day of experience from her guided climb the day before. We took the trusty old Subaru Outback out in the early morning to get a head start on the crowds, since the weather was finally great and we knew there was pent up demand for crag access.

I belayed Matt up the face of Positive Reinforcement, a W3-4 climb with a lot of variation and routes in one spot. I'm not gonna lie, seeing him get 20 meters up before placing his first ice screw protection got my palms sweating. After he built our anchor, I lowered him and we took turns sending the 30 meters on various variations of the pitch. Wow, it was a lot of work.

The crew was all smiles and we had an amazing day of learning and practicing our technique. Trust in the feet was paramount, and made the whole thing a lot easier. After about 4 hours on the ice wall, we hiked back out, all in agreement that we couldn't wait to go again. Matt is also a pretty amazing granite rock artist, so we stopped by one of his workshops on the way back to the guide house for a private showing. Icing on the cake of an amazing day.

I still had to run out and get some groceries for the potluck, so no rest for the weary. We all enjoyed each other's company that night over app's, meals and desserts both home cooked and bought. I made stir fry

while Tudor made pasta carbonara on the burner next to me. I was thankful that Ravi brought veggie chili, and I don't know who brought the root vegetable soup, but it was amazing to eat while I finished the stirfry. There were so many good dishes that I don't know who brought, but it was amazing.

I left the next morning with a mixture of sadness and excitement. I felt a little like a kid leaving summer camp, missing his new friends and already looking ahead to next year. I spent the drive home replaying so many memories that I didn't even have time to mention. We played Scrabble and Backgammon. We climbed the indoor chimney (bring your rock shoes). We polished off Daniela's beer from a previous party. Dalton kicked so much ice he might lose a toe (just kidding, but maybe at least a toenail.) Leo made a king cake that I somehow missed out on. And, most importantly, everyone shared stories of adventures past and plans for adventures to come.

This was an amazing club trip, and one that shouldn't be missed if you want to try your hand at ice climbing. I know I'll be back and ready to improve my skills with all the new club friends.

Coming Soon!

Coming Soon: A new feature titled "Did You Know" will provide UpRope Readers with facts, stories, legends, and perhaps the occasional rumor about the club's history that may (or may not) surprise or (at least amuse) you. From unexplored caves to unfamiliar rock faces to virgin mountain tops, the Mountaineering Section has been there!

Upcoming Events

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

Wilderness First Aid Skills Practice

January 30 @ 7:00 pm - 9:00 pm

Movement Rockville 725 Rockville Pike, Rockville, MD

AAC-DC & PATC-MS Women's Vertical Happy Hour at Movement CC

February 3 @ 5:30 pm - 9:00 pm

Movement Crystal City 1235 S Clark St, Arlington, VA

Women's Vertical Happy Hour – DC Bouldering Project

February 10 @ 5:30 pm - 9:00 pm

DC Bouldering Project 1611 Eckington PI NE #150, Washington, DC

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

Dak Hardwick & Caroline Mosher

chair@patcms.org

Vice Chair

Haley Behere

vicechair@patcms.org

Secretary

Marc Grunberg

secretary@patcms.org

Treasurer

Andy Bernat

treasurer@patcms.org



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.

- 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.