



February 28th, 2023

VOLUME 65, ISSUE 23

---

## What's New?

### **PATC Looking for next Gearmeister!**

We are putting out a call for the next gearmeister - our current gearmeister is sadly moving away this summer. Please let Caroline or Dak know if you'd be interested or want more info in what the role entails. The gear locker is located right next to Movement Crystal City.

### **New 'Did You Know?' Section of the Newsletter is Live**

Check it out below! Kathryn Hughes has graciously offered, as Club Historian, to include interesting tidbits about the clubs history in each issue. If you have a story or fun fact, feel free to send it to her.

### **Uprope Contributions**

As we enter into our spring season, and start getting back outside - YAY! - consider writing up a trip report and sending some pictures along from your club trips to [upropeeditor@gmail.com](mailto:upropeeditor@gmail.com), for inclusion in our monthly newsletter.

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. We hope to hear from you!

## Monthly Meetings

This months meeting was a virtual gathering on zoom to discuss our Revitalized Spring 2023 Mountaineering Conditioning Group. This call introduced the revised program, outlined the new activities

and dates, and provided information needed to decide if the program is appropriate for participants. Applications have closed and participants have been chosen for the program. The program will begin March 4 and run through June 4. If you have any questions reach out to Chris Close or Ana Mills.

Our next monthly meeting will be a gym meetup on March 8th. There will be two simultaneous meetups - one at Crystal City and one at SR Alexandria. This is less of an official meeting and more of an informal gym meetup.

## John Christian Resource Center

The John Christian Resource Center (JCRC) is a centralized repository of images and materials that document the history of the PATC-MS and accomplishments of the local climbing and mountaineering community here and around the world. The mission of the JCRC is to provide resources for inspiring current and future climbers, writers, historians and adventurers.

John Christian (1929-2022) joined PATC-MS in 1954. He later served as both PATC-MS Chair and Up Rope Editor and provided the drawings for the first edition of the climber's guide: "Carderock Past & Present." At Seneca Rocks, WV, Christian's name is attached to more than 20 first ascents. He was a life member of the Alpine Club of Canada, and co-founded the local chapter of the American Alpine Club (AAC). Chair of the AAC's first Access Committee, Christian continually advocated for climbers' access at Carderock, Seneca Rocks and Great Falls National Park. He took a special interest in recording the accomplishments of area climbers and in mentoring new climbers.

Coming Soon: A new feature from the John Christian Resource Center titled "Did You Know" will provide 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---stay tuned!

## Did You Know?

BY: Kathryn Hughes

### DID YOU KNOW

... that the author of the first Seneca Rocks guidebook was British?

Bob Robinson was a British patent attorney assigned to the British Embassy in Washington, DC between 1967-1972. An accomplished mountaineer in Britain and Europe, Robinson quickly became an active and influential member of PATC-MS, serving as Club Chair in 1969, and writing the first edition of A Climber's Guide to Seneca Rocks, published by PATC-MS in 1971.

Club member Greg Christopoulos also credits Robinson with introducing the club to the clean climbing ethic, noting that “this was a revolutionary change which we now take for granted”. Club member Joe Nye adds: “Bob was using chocks while everyone else in the club was still using pitons. I remember Bob leading me on Solar at Seneca, because it was the first time I climbed with chocks. I just couldn’t imagine something I didn’t pound in would hold me in a fall. Bob made ‘hardware store chocks’ the sharp edges on the inside of a nut could be rounded with a file and then threaded with tied webbing or cord.”

At Seneca, Robinson together with Roger Birch put up “Mrs. Robinson” in 1970. The 1971 edition of A Climber’s Guide to Seneca Rocks was illustrated by John Christian. You can view the 1971 edition in its entirety on The Seneca Project website at:

[https://thesenecaproject.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/10/PATC\\_1971.pdf](https://thesenecaproject.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/10/PATC_1971.pdf)

## Upcoming Events

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

### **AAC-DC & PATC-MS Women’s Vertical Happy Hour at Movement CC**

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

Movement Crystal City 1235 S Clark St, Arlington, VA

### **Monthly Meeting – Crystal City Gym Meetup**

March 8 @ 5:00 pm - 7:00 pm

Movement Crystal City 1235 S Clark St, Arlington, VA

### **Monthly Meeting – Sportrock Alexandria Gym Meetup**

March 8 @ 6:00 pm - 8:00 pm

Sportrock Alexandria 5308 Eisenhower Ave, Alexandria, VA

## 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](mailto:chair@patcms.org)

### Vice Chair

Haley Behere

[vicechair@patcms.org](mailto:vicechair@patcms.org)

### Secretary

Marc Grunberg

[secretary@patcms.org](mailto:secretary@patcms.org)

### Treasurer

Andy Bernat

[treasurer@patcms.org](mailto: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](mailto:upropeeditor@gmail.com)

---

## Up Rope Submissions

**Trip Report Submissions:** Please send all trip reports to [upropeeditor@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto: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.