



March 27th, 2023

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What's New?

Looking for Trip leaders:

Calling all volunteers! As we head into the outdoor climbing season, we are looking for trip leaders for local and out of state trips. Contact Caroline (*email removed*) or Dak Hardwick (*email removed*) if you're interested in leading a trip. We are also seeking volunteers for Carderock Open climbs. The first Open Climb will be Wednesday, May 3rd.

Volunteer with Wilderness Kids Alexandria:

If you'd like to get involved in the local community, PATC-MS is assisting Wilderness Kids Alexandria for a trip to Sugarloaf Mountain on April 29th. We are seeking volunteers for this as well.

Monthly Meetings

Next month's meeting is still to be determined. Keep an eye out on our weekly emails for more info!

Did You Know?

BY: Tony Sanders

DID YOU KNOW that the development of the climbing shoe involved a PATC/MS member?

Look down at your rock climbing shoes and thank the following people for getting us to where we are today: In this list is Paul Bradt, an early PATC/MS member and physicist at the National Bureau of Standards (now NIST). More on Paul's contribution later.

We'll start with Charles Goodyear, who created vulcanized rubber in 1839; next, the folks at U.S Rubber Co. who developed the first rubber-soled shoe in 1892; Marquis Mills Converse, who started selling rubber boots to Boston retailers in the 1890s and, around 1915, introduced his first basketball shoe, the Non-Skid, renamed the All Star in 1919.

Sneakers are a hit around the world but, in the 1930s, French mountaineer and bouldering pioneer, Pierre Allain, finds the sides of sneakers don't last long when he boulders and, due to their shape, don't offer any precision for footing. Despite this, in 1935, Allain made the first climb of the bouldering problem, "L'Angle Allain" (6a), in Fountainebleau's Cuvier Rempart (in France).

By 1947, Allain was determined to design a shoe for climbing. Helped by shoemaker Edmond Bourdonneau, the two developed the PA; arguably the first climbing shoe.

Meanwhile, in the U.S., Paul Bradt formalized his own research into the holding power on rock for various types of shoes. His work is featured in the Summer 1948 edition of The Iowa Climber, published by the Iowa Mountaineers. The title: "The Relative Holding Properties of Various Shoes on Rock" and Bradt compares various shoes, including Vitale Bramani's relatively-new, cleated stiff rubber soles (later dubbed "Vibram"). Bradt also tested three other sets of shoes, along with "sneakers with soft rubber soles worn thin."

In 1950, Allain's PAs got a new name—EBs—after Bourdonneau bought Allain's business and rebranded the climbing shoe with his own initials. The EBs sported a logo, those initials in a round piece of leather attached to the high-top shoe at the malleolus, the location on a climber's leg where the outside of the ankle sticks out.

According to EB's own history, this is the first time a brand name is put on a climbing shoe.

Whose shoes are you wearing?

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

April 7 @ 5:30 pm - 9:00 pm

Movement Crystal City 1235 S Clark St, Arlington, VA

Buzzard Rocks

April 8 @ 9:00 am - 5:00 pm

Buzzard Rock WPQ6+3H Lake Frederick, Virginia, Lake Frederick, 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](#).

2023 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.