



May 28th, 2023

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What's New?

Summer Trips

We are on track to exceed our goal of two trips per month! Thank you to all of the trip leaders. Let's keep this energy going into the fall!

Please contact Caroline (*email removed*) or Dak (*email removed*) if you're interested in contributing to the climbing community by leading a trip. If you're interested in leading a trip but not sure what it entails, please get in touch and we can get you up to speed. The basic requirements are a solid understanding of top rope systems and familiarity with the crag you want to lead a trip to. It's easier than ever to lead a trip using the new website and it's a great way to meet new climbing partners and make friends within the club.

International Climbing Opportunities

A few weeks ago the club was treated to a presentation by Jeff Reynolds, a seasoned mountaineer. If you are interested in learning more, please see the attached presentation notes and article. Additional information about Jeff can be found at S2Mountaineering.com. For anyone interested in learning more about international climbing opportunities, they can sign up for the [email list](#).

https://mcusercontent.com/adfb7eefd01d48c34e1e32d38/files/0aabff21-e1c5-9050-0d34-893a0d655cda/Jeff_Reynolds_Training_for_Mountaineering_Speaker_Notes_5.2.23.docx

https://mcusercontent.com/adfb7eefd01d48c34e1e32d38/files/7cf7b5f0-2de3-4c74-8609-0dd5fae7a243/Human_Factors_in_HA_Mountaineering.pdf

Monthly Meetings

For our May meeting, club members met on May 10th at Carderock for a beautiful evening of climbing.

There will be no monthly meeting in June, but stay tuned as we will reconvene in July!

Did You Know?

By Kate Hughes, for the John Christian Resource Center (JCRC)

Did you know...How “Thais” at Seneca Rocks got its name (and/or how to pronounce it!)?

Climbing Thais* A Retrospective Elaborated Examination and Interpretation of the Naming of a Climb by the Leader.

John Christian, written on Memorial Day 2009, 55 years after First Ascent (with Bob Hinshaw)

Thais, a climb at Seneca Rocks, WV, takes its name from the opera of the same name by Jules Massenet which is based on a novel of the same name by Anatole France. First performed in Paris in 1894. Pronunciation: Metropolitan Opera Guild “Ask the Diva” says “Well, it certainly is not ‘thighs.’ Try Ta-EES (as is Reese).”

To quote Wikipedia: Thais (opera), “Set in Roman Egypt, the story concerns a Cenobite monk, Athanaël, who attempts to convert Thaïs, a courtesan of Alexandria and devotee of Venus, to Christianity, but discovers, too late, that his obsession with her is rooted in lust.”

In the opera Thais “turns the corner” away from her profession to find a straight and ascetic path. So this climb is found around the corner from the warm (eros) West Wall on the narrow, northern (frigid) face. There is a long journey thru the desert to the convent that Thais enters. Likewise the climb does several pitches with a bit of wavering within the confines of the narrow face.

The monk leaves Thais and returns to the safety of his monastery. So the climb turns away from the climaxing last pitch - which appeared too dangerous - and goes on to summit on the safer west face.

* It is pronounced “Ty-eeese” !

In Memoriam: Jan Conn (1924-2023)

By Tony Sanders for the John Christian Resource Center (JCRC)

Legendary Mountaineering Section member and *UP Rope* co-founder Jan Conn died May 13 at the home of friends in Custer, South Dakota. Her life of 99 years encompassed climbing, cave exploration, song writing, and more.

Jan and her husband Herb were regulars among the group of DC-area climbers in the early 1940s, establishing classic routes at Carderock (where the climb “Jan’s Face” honors her), at Seneca Rocks, and elsewhere. Known as great story-tellers, the couple launched the first issue of *Up Rope* in November, 1944. Read the inaugural issue at: <http://files.patcms.org/upropes/1944/1944-01.pdf>

Besides her accomplishments with Herb, Jan is credited with several notable first ascents, locally and farther afield. In 1945, she led many of the pitches on the first ascent of “Conncourse” on Cannon Cliff in New Hampshire. In 1952, with PATC-MS member Jane Showacre, Jan led the first “Manless Ascent” of Devil’s Tower in Wyoming. Read Jan’s trip report, courtesy of the National Park Service at: <https://www.nps.gov/deto/learn/historyculture/womenclimb.htm>

Jan was also an accomplished musician, entertaining PATC-MS members with the songs she wrote (often about them!) after a day of climbing. She later wrote the libretto and score for her own musical, “Run to Catch a Pine Cone,” which has been performed throughout the country, including at the Black Hills Playhouse in South Dakota, where it was directed by Wayne Knutson in 1984. Watch Jan’s performance at the PATC-MS celebration in 2012: [\(34\) Jan Conn PLays Guitar and Yodles! - YouTube](#)

Seeking more diverse adventures, Herb and Jan moved west and eventually settled in the Black Hills of South Dakota where they are credited with developing the Needles climbing area, and with the exploration and mapping of Jewel Cave (the world’s fifth longest cave). Look for more articles and Web resources celebrating Jan’s accomplishments (and those with Herb!) in future Issues of *Up Rope*.

Upcoming Events

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

Carderock Open Climb

June 7 @ 4:30 pm - 7:00 pm

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

Smokehole Canyon Sport Climbing Trip

June 9 @ 1:00 pm - June 11 @ 5:00 pm

Smokehole Canyon

Reeds Creek/ Smokehole Canyon Sport Climbing Trip

June 16 @ 8:00 am - June 18 @ 5:00 pm

Smokehole Canyon

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

June 16 @ 5:30 pm - 9:00 pm

Movement Crystal City 1235 S Clark St, Arlington, VA, United States

Annapolis Rocks Trad and Toprope Climbing Trip

June 17 @ 8:00 am - 2:00 pm

Annapolis Rocks 11174 Baltimore National Pike, Myersville, MD, United States

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

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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.

- 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.