



July 30th, 2023

VOLUME 65, ISSUE 28

What's New?

PATC-MS Funding Survey. The PATC-MS Officers are committed to making good use of club funds to benefit our members. This year we've added five new climbing ropes to the gear locker, made donations to local crag maintenance, provided grants for skills clinics, and subsidized group campsites. We'd like to know your thoughts on how else the club should use its funds. [Please fill out this brief survey - it should also take you a few minutes.](#)

Trip Leading Opportunities. If you're interested in leading a trip, Roy Gabriel has volunteered to co-lead your first trip as long as it's local to the area. Email Roy directly if you'd like to take advantage of this opportunity.

Monthly Meetings

There is currently no monthly meeting set for August. Check back for the fall!

Did You Know?

By: Tony Sanders

Did you know how the Alcoa Presents climb (5.8+) at Seneca got its piton and its name?

There, at the crux of the Alcoa Presents climb, is one of the original aluminum pitons hammered into position by Mike Nicholson.

Mike, along with his partner Joe Faint, made the first ascent of Alcoa Presents. When? As Mike tells it in his [90-minute oral history with John Gregory](#) on the PATC/MS Website, that first ascent came “around 1960.”

Now, 63 years after that first ascent, that piton is hammered too far into the crack to clip but it's still there. As we know, aluminum doesn't rust.

Why call this climb “Alcoa Presents”? That's because, in the 1950s, the Aluminum Corporation of America (ALCOA) sponsored a regular TV show called. . .ALCOA Presents. The rest is history.

That famous piton is one of 50 Mike says he made with a milling machine at the physics lab where he worked. “Maybe for a year, we used” the hand-milled pitons he said; not just for Alcoa Presents but for other climbs. One of those climbs is the undocumented Seneca climb, T6.

According to the summary of the oral history: “Another route, T6, was named for the hardness standard of the aluminum. It was somewhere on the east face near Alcoa but was never recorded in guidebooks. There may still be aluminum pins on the route.”

The Power of Mentorship

By: Vivek Gupta

Back in Fall last year, during PATC's annual party/meet up at Carderock, I made the best \$1 investment. I bought a raffle ticket, and luckily won a half-day mentorship with none other than Neil Arsenault (Owl Pine climbing mentorship).

Two weeks ago, Neil and I met at Sugarloaf on a beautiful weather day. We packed our gear, and went to Boy Scout ledges. Neil shared some of his cool climbing stories from his stellar 50+ years of climbing experience. I had a fantastic time learning about a few basic things: ropes, gears, rappelling, ascending, some SRT stuff. Neil shared local climbing history and crag knowledge. We talked about alpine, trad, sport, ice, mountaineering, skiing.

With Neil's knowledge and storytelling, I soon realized half day is not enough and we need more time to go deep into each topic. I really value this mentorship opportunity and also want to thank Neil for his time. We hope to meet again, chat, learn more and get some climbing done. I am also exploring other mentorship opportunities through PATC club mentors and super excited to learn from seasoned climbers and mentors about their climbing journey, goals, accomplishments, and experiences.

Thank you Neil. Thank you PATC.

Upcoming Events

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

August 18 @ 5:30 pm - 8:00 pm

Sportrock Alexandria Vertical Happy Hour

Sportrock Alexandria 5308 Eisenhower Ave, Alexandria, VA

August 20 @ 8:00 am - 3:00 pm

Wolf Rock Top Roping Trip

Wolf Rock 39°38'25.4"N 77°26'44.4"W, 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

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.