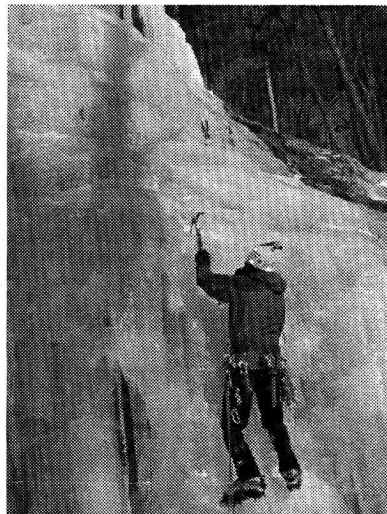


Volume 60 Issue 1

Spring 2005

**ROCKFALL**

- For the latest current events, notices -visit the website
- Pete Grant made Honorary member
- PMC to purchase climbing gear for club trips
- Welcome New Members!!!!!!
- Vice-chair Lee Jenkins leaving in July- vacancy



*John Smith*

**Mount Washington, N.H.**

*By Ozana Halik*

John Smith and I left for Manchester, N.H. on Friday Jan. 14, 2005. United flight 7882 leaving from Dulles was delayed 2 hours, of course they told us that right as we were checking in. I had to hustle and change the Dollar rent a car reservations, since they close their office at the Manchester terminal at midnight. Our flight was scheduled to land at 12:45am. I found Alamo stayed open till 1:00am, and was even cheaper, we even got a free upgrade to a full size car for the price of a compact. The drive to North Conway took 2 hrs, we arrived at the White Trellis Motel room #26 at 3:00am. Mitch Hyman who was trip coordinator and some MS members were already there since Thursday.

(Continued on pg.2)

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Gulf of Slides

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GMAIL & the LIST

Snow skills

Cochise stronghold

Mt. Kenya

Riegelsville

**Mount Washington Ski Mountaineering Trip**

C Ten PMC members participated, in part or in whole, in the New Hampshire trip, as described below. We knew going in that the weather could turn nasty and dangerous, but decided to give it a try. An excellent team effort made the trip successful and enjoyable despite the terrible weather.

3  
4 **March 31** : John Smith, Dave Green, Tammy Pham, and I drove to the AMC Joe Dodge Lodge at Pinkham Notch, where we were met by Pete Grant.

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6  
7  
8 **April 1**: The 5 of us skinned/snowshoed up about 2,100 vertical feet over 2.5 miles, where we established a camp at c. 4,100 feet directly below the Gulf of Slides.

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10  
13



(Continued on P.15)

*Dave Raboy*

**Mt. Washington** (Continued from cover)  
**Saturday, Jan. 15.**

Mack Muir woke us up at 8:00am, he said that the rest of the guys had gone to Lake Willoughby for better ice. I mentioned my plan to John and Mack. It involved hiking to the Harvard

cabin, dropping our sleeping bags and continuing up to "Huntington Ravine" and doing one of the gullies, then come back down and spend the night at the cabin. Next day we would do "Damnation Gully" and then go for the Summit. After checking the weather for the next couple of days and after calling for the trail conditions at the Pinkham Notch visitor center we decided to go for it. The weather looked good and the avalanche conditions were low. We got ready and headed to Pinkham notch, making a quick stop for breakfast at Dunking Donuts. After checking for cabin space availability, signing the log and finishing the last packing details we headed up. It took us a couple of hours to get to the cabin. We dropped our sleeping bags, filled our bottles with hot water and moved on to Huntington Ravine. We got to the base of "Odell's Gully" (NEI grade 3) at around 1:00 pm. Weather was great, calm wind, very cold, sunny, clear, and great visibility. John led the first pitch, since he picked that gully and had never been up it. At the end of the pitch, he built a "V" thread as a belay anchor and brought Mack and I up. It was getting late, so we decided to bail off. We rapped down from an anchor on a rock, that was made of a piton and a wire nut, it had some old slings but it looked safe. After getting to the cabin we started dinner. The cabin (overnight fee \$15.00) has a stove, water from a nearby spring, wood stove, and a sleeping area upstairs. Mack had not planned in staying overnight at the cabin, but we convinced him to stay. I shared my dinner and he had plenty of layers to keep warm. Also he slept downstairs by the wood stove. There was a nice group of people staying at the cabin, including some funny Canadians. We all had a good time telling jokes. The cabin caretaker constantly fed wood into the stove, he was going for a record 90 degrees. I went to bed at 10:00 pm but didn't sleep well, but at least I was warm. It's a good idea to bring ear plugs, then all that snoring and noise will not keep you awake all night.



*Harvard Cabin*

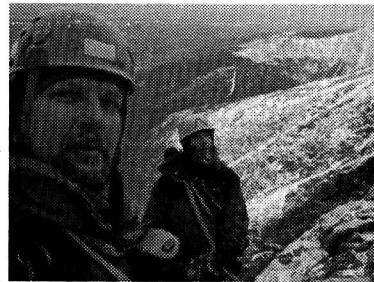
to whack a bit more to get a good placement. At the end of the pitch, I set up a belay anchor on a crack, good thing I had brought up rock gear (trcams, 2 pitons and a couple of nuts), then brought John and Mack up. With double ropes, it is much faster to bring both following *Alpine Start* climbers at once. John continued up the next ice pitch, what do you know, he breaks a pick also. I'm glad I brought my spare tool, I used it from there on. Mack brought his mini video camera, and got some great shots of us climbing. On the route we met another guided party of tree going up. The climb consisted of a couple of pitches of ice, then mixed rock/ice and frozen snow. After 5 pitches we reached the "Alpine Gardens", packed the gear and ropes, had a bite of lunch and continued to the summit (6228ft.). The visibility was still very good even though some clouds were rolling in, also there was no wind, just really cold. It took us about one and a quarter hours to get to the summit. We shot some more pictures and video, ate some fruit and chocolate and headed down on the Lion's Head trail. On the way down I spotted a large fox going for the summit. Later on, Mack found a picture of it on the Mount Washington weather website. You think that going down is a breeze, trail is has a lot and ice. con-pounding and giv-quads a out. At 4:00pm, couple of going for the

going to be but the long and of rocks You are stantly your toes ing the real work-around I saw a hikers summit, it was kind of late for them to be just on the way up. It's a long way down the Lion's Head winter trail, in some places we were able to glissade. You have to be careful, since there are tree stumps sticking out of the snow. Going down is fast and fun so, we caught up with a party of 4 hikers. They slowed us down since they were inexperienced and some were not wearing crampons. The Harvard cabin was busy with climbers, we took a break told a couple more jokes and packed the rest of our gear. After a 1 hour hike we got down to Pinkham Notch, got in the car and headed back to the motel. After a short hot shower, John, Mack and I went to the Moat brewery and pub for dinner. Lee Jenkins, Bill Duvall, Phil Boyer and Kurt were there and already had eaten dinner. John had a burned burger, Mack and I had the ribs, they were awful, needless to say we did not finish them. I complained, but the manager didn't care and the waiter had an attitude, too bad, because the place has good beer. Maybe I will try the chicken wings next time, maybe.



*Alpine Start*

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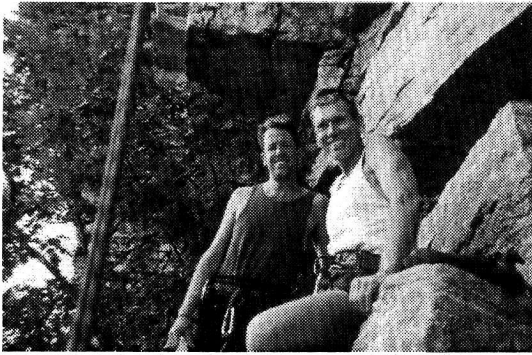
*Summit Shot*

going to be but the long and of rocks You are stantly your toes ing the real work-around I saw a hikers summit, it was kind of late for them to be just on the way up. It's a long way down the Lion's Head winter trail, in some places we were able to glissade. You have to be careful, since there are tree stumps sticking out of the snow. Going down is fast and fun so, we caught up with a party of 4 hikers. They slowed us down since they were inexperienced and some were not wearing crampons. The Harvard cabin was busy with climbers, we took a break told a couple more jokes and packed the rest of our gear. After a 1 hour hike we got down to Pinkham Notch, got in the car and headed back to the motel. After a short hot shower, John, Mack and I went to the Moat brewery and pub for dinner. Lee Jenkins, Bill Duvall, Phil Boyer and Kurt were there and already had eaten dinner. John had a burned burger, Mack and I had the ribs, they were awful, needless to say we did not finish them. I complained, but the manager didn't care and the waiter had an attitude, too bad, because the place has good beer. Maybe I will try the chicken wings next time, maybe.

**Sunday Jan. 16.**

We got up at 4:45 am, had some breakfast and got ready to go. We soloed to the base of the first ice pitch of "Damnation Gully" (NEI Grade 3). I led the first ice pitch, after 3 moves the pick on my tool broke. From there on I had

(continued on p. 14)



Lee Jenkins (L) Pete Grant (R) mid climb of "Something Interesting" (5.8) in the Gunks in Sept. 1999.

## Climbing with Pete Grant

By Simon Carr

I've known Pete for roughly 6 years; and when Charlotte asked me to write something about climbing with Pete I thought back over the many trips and places we've been together in that period. Most of these were via Pete's maroon BMW...now over 200,000 miles and still going. Pete likes to drive, and I fall asleep in cars so there was a natural division of effort. Plus of course Pete teaches race-car driving, making him a natural for the section on I81 between I66 and Lexington...

The first time we met was August 99. Pete picked me up in Georgetown and we went to Talking Head Wall, a PATC trip, one of many that he organized. For some five years Pete was the main PATC trip coordinator, and without his efforts there wouldn't have been much in the way of climbing trips run by the club. He was particularly generous with his time in terms of taking out the less experienced members...not to mention all the women he climbed with at the Gunks that he'd met via Gunks.com!

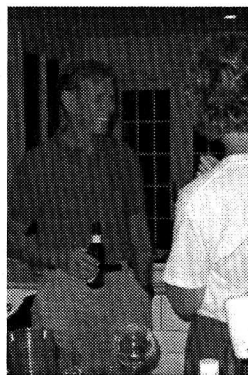
Some other memories... our epic trip to North Carolina, my first Thanksgiving in DC. By the end of the second day, we were at Looking Glass, having driven over 1000 miles and having climbed 4 pitches - the Great Arch, at Stone Mountain, in the pouring rain, with Ozana and Greg Mistler. Pete led the approach pitch, a wet poorly protected 5.7 slab; this was not the only time he led something I would have avoided. Pete could pull out the stops when needed...for example what I think must have been his hardest ever lead, Muckracker (11a) at the New, or Commando Rave at the Gunks, a 5.9 route worthy of a +++ annotation.

Other trips of note....Arizona, visiting Cochise Stronghold and Queen Creek....the Red River Gorge in Kentucky....and a number of ice-climbing trips to Pennsylvania, the White Mountains and the Adirondacks....faced with increasingly steep ice, Pete eventually retired his pre-history ice tools and bought some fancy new Charlet-Mosers.

We spent a lot of time in West Virginia, at the New River Gorge and Seneca, great trips working through the three star 5.9 & 5.10 classics. We'd talk a lot in the car there and back...and I learnt about Pete's time in the military, as an infantryman in Vietnam, about playing blackjack on cruise ships, and about his plan to climb all the Gunks routes below 5.10. Eventually Pete mentioned Linda, whose enthusiasm and energy has been so good for Pete.... for those who don't know, Pete and Linda are getting married in August, before they head to Europe for their second trip this year. Retirement was a good choice...and Linda an even better one!

Pete now lives with Linda up in Saranac Lake in the Adirondacks. He has a new hiking list of the 4000ft peaks in New England, and he and Linda are working their way through this. I expect we will see Pete on a few more club trips yet, either up north or on visits to his family in DC.

If asked to sum up climbing with Pete, it's his irrepressible energy and good nature that stands out. It didn't really matter where I suggested we go...incredibly punctual, he'd be at the door at 6am, I'd pile in, and we'd be on our way to another adventure.



**ThePotomac Mountain Club is very proud to announce, that for his selfless service to the club, leading countless club trips and driving to any crag with terrifying speed, we have made Pete Grant, an honorary member of the Club with all rights and privileges therein. ®**

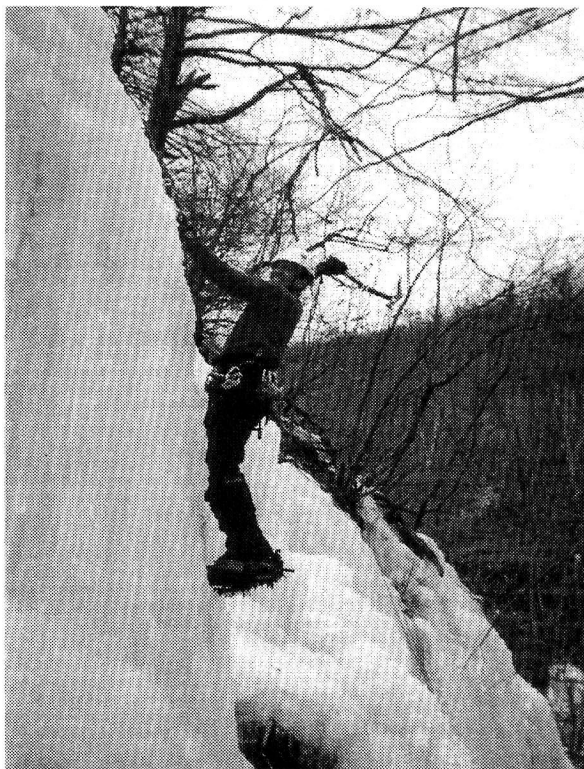
## WHITE OAK CANYON

BTR, ain't that kind of like a BFR 'cept it don't hurt quite so much?

Nine, yes, go ahead, count 'em.

Nine people braved this massive winter event today to experience the mediocrity of WhiteOak Canyon ICE. Ok, so maybe I shouldn't belittle our local ice scene, but really, it's nothing to write home about.

Still, it was fun (a heck of a lot more fun than staying indoors on a beautiful winter day), a bit of a challenge for some, a chance to exercise too-little used muscles for others, and a first time experience for one. Oh, and from that one -- THANKS directed to Ozana for the loan of crampons.



smiling Lee Jenkins

The details: we climbed about 6 separate lines on the flows left of the third falls, the ice was soft with tons of water running, splashing, dripping, the temperature was extremely bearable and wind was nonexistent, and the snow held off until just before heading down. The grille at ECow was open and provided us with satisfyingly stuffed bellies for the mostly(?) uneventful drive home -- Rodrigo: was that a shortcut?, or a wrong turn and you're still out there somewhere????

Participants:  
 Bill Wright  
 Dave Green  
 Kurt Ferstl  
 Jeff Fiedler  
 John Smith

Ted Plasse  
 Rodrigo Riadi  
 Mack Muir  
 John Watson-Jones

OK, BTR = Brief(?) Trip Report.

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