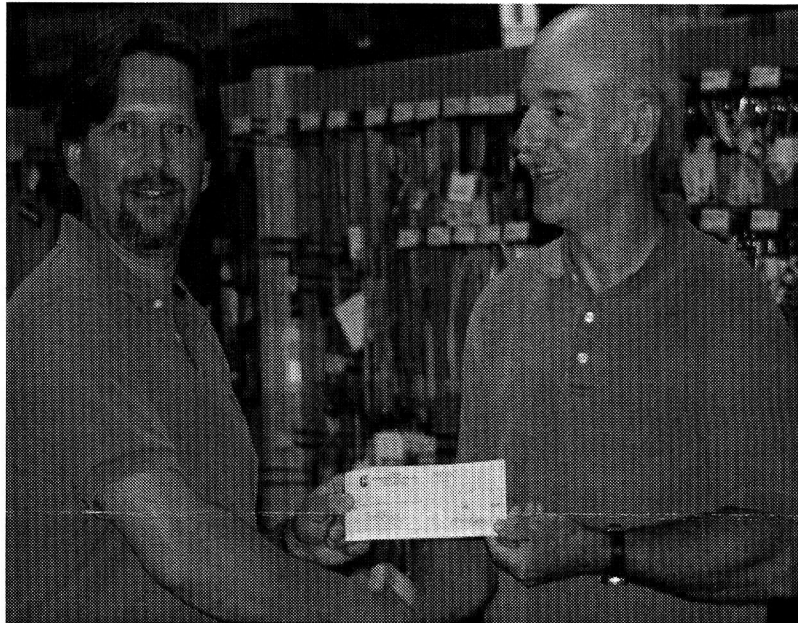


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Rockin' Chair Credited with REI Grant

The Seattle based REI company returns a portion of their operating profits to non profit organizations to promote outdoor activities in the local community. PMC Chairman, Ozana Halik (left) proudly accepts a grant check in the amount of \$3000 from REI Bailey's Crossroads Manager, Mark Nelson. The new climbing equipment includes ropes, helmets, harnesses and much more to be used at Carderock Wednesdays and other PMC climbing events. Thanks REI. Thanks to Ozana Halik

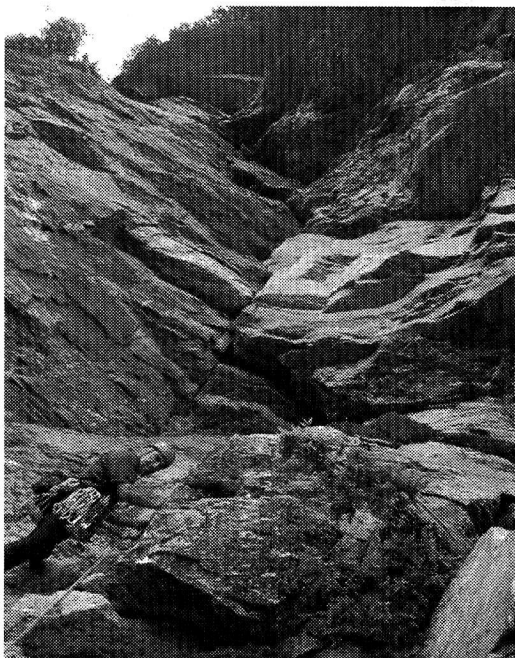


SHIPROCK NORTH CAROLINA

By Doug Halonen

It was cold and spitting rain Saturday morning as we scrambled up through the forested talus to Ship Rock, the dreary weather putting a damper on our expectations. But once we reached the base of the crag, nobody in our delegation from the Washington, D.C., metropolitan area was ruing the up to eight-hour drives and sleep deprivation invested in making the visit possible. Many of the overhanging routes looked dry enough to climb in the rain. Soon, the rain stopped and the sun came out, and Edge of a Dream, a spectacular 5.7, and other lines on the crag's upper tier were also accessible. And, talk about a dream, we had our pick of the routes because we only had to share them with five other climbers the entire day.

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Seneca Rocks, Annual Trip: An unprecedented Success

By Milton J. Fligna III

Maybe it was the lure of Italian sausages slowly simmered on a bed of sweet onions and green peppers or the highly advertised event and spectacular weather that brought so many to this climbing mecca in West Virginia. In fact, there were so many who came for this weekend through the PMC, that the campground host issued \$5 overflow parking violations. The event(s) was a cantankerous success, overshadowing similar trips in the past.

The numbers of participants had escape from our city in mind, as many diversions such as hiking in the dolly sods, vertical hiking on the Via Ferratta at Nelson rocks, mountain biking, and swimming at the base of Seneca Rocks, vied with this annual trad climbing trip.

This annual event excluded many in the past from participating if they didn't have a climbing partner or worse a leader. This year, the PMC events planning committee decided to include Nelson Rocks Preserve, to opened up a more rounded climbing experience. Nelson Rocks has many sport routes and of course the via ferratta, all of which have an approach that is significantly less than the approach up Seneca. (my kind of approach) This brilliant insight paid off as this event has never seen this level of participation and set a precedent for the coming years.



ROCKFALL

- John Smith new vice-chair
- Welcome New Members!!!!!!
- Club directory out soon
- Club Calendar on-line
- Discussion Boards on-line



Smuggler's Notch VT

By Ozana Halik

John Smith and I flew to Burlington, VT on Independence Air on **Friday, Feb. 18, 2005**. When we got there we met up with Eric Pihl who was catching a ride with us to Stowe. Also we met Jeff Siedler, Rodrigo Riadi and his girlfriend. Rodrigo didn't have a car rental reservation, but he lucked out, I had made 4 reservations with different companies just in case. Jeff was staying with friends and Ricardo and girlfriend stayed at a B&B. We would not see them again on the trip.

John, Eric and I drove 1 hour to the Alpenrose Motel in Stowe VT. Much closer than driving 2 1/2hrs, from Manchester N.H. Dave Raboy, Mitch Hyman and Kurt had

arrived earlier, so we went to Dave's room for beers and plan the next day's climbs. Mack Muir had an accident in NJ; he decided to drive and during a freak snow storm a tractor trailer jackknifed in front of him and his car crashed under the truck, Mack's face ended up 6 inches from the back of the trailer. Mack didn't incur any injuries but, the car was a total loss.

Saturday, Feb. 19.

John and I got up at 7:30 am, got ready and went to buy some breakfast sandwiches at the convenient store close to the motel. We met Dave Raboy and Eric Pihl at the trail parking lot, Mitch and Kurt showed up a couple of minutes later. The day was cold, sunny, clear and a bit of wind.

Since it was John's first time at the Notch, he was open to do anything. I wanted to do Elephant's Head gully, so up we went. We had brought snowshoes for the approach. They worked fine for the first fifty feet, but not as good when it got steeper. There was a party of two already on the first pitch, but by the time we got there they had move up to the second pitch.

I took the first pitch; John belayed me from a couple of bolts at the base of the gully. The party ahead of me was dropping a lot of ice; I had to move fast during their rest times. The pitch ended at an anchor on the right side. From there we could see the climbs across the road, one gully in particular attracted our attention, "Hidden Gully", so we decided we would have to climb it.

The second pitch is a 20 ft. steep ice flow followed by short ice bulges. The gully acts like a refrigerator, it was really cold. John was having problems sticking his tools since the ice was very hard and brittle. I followed and then we rapped down from a sling attached to a couple of trees. The second rap was from the bolts at the top of the first pitch.

After we got down we decided to drop our packs and take a look at the other climbs down the road. Dave Green had car trouble on the drive up. He got it fixed, but missed his 7:00 am rendezvous with Pete Grant who decided to go back home since he didn't see anybody at the meeting place. Dave and a friend went



skiing to the top of Mount Mansfield. Dave is going for the U.S. 50 summits. That night after a nice hot shower we jumped into Dave's suburban and went to dinner to Picasso's Pizza. Dave Raboy, John, Dave Green, Eric, and I met Mitch and Kurt who already were there, it is a small place but they have very good pizza and beer.

Sunday, Feb. 20.

We decided to take an easy approach day. Dave, John, Eric and I hiked to the work out wall. They went up to set up top ropes while I started the Jetboil stove. The stove works great in summer but when the fuel can gets cold, there is not enough pressure. You have to keep it warm close to your body before firing it up.

We all climbed several times and had a good time. Dave Green showed up later for hot chocolate, he had been skiing the trails around the notch.

On the way back to the car we met up with Ted, Mitch and Kurt, who were coming down from climbing "Blue Ice Bulge". For dinner we got in on Raboy's suburban again, and went to check several restaurants. They were very crowded and we had no reservations, next time I will make sure we have reservations, specially during holidays. Mitch mentioned a Chinese restaurant, we went there, no crowds, no reservations needed and all you can eat buffet, not to bad.

