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We will have a club meeting on January 11th 2025. More details will follow.

A final Excom and club listening session was held on December 7th leading to an excellent conversation about thoughts for 2025. The attendees discussed goals for: improving club leadership and management, improving gear locker management in response to the growth of the club, trips to other climbing destinations in the US, and mentorship, particularly in trad. We plan to continue the conversation at the January 11th meeting. So attend! Or join by Zoom.

Self Rescue Class: On December 8th, Alex Ovodenko led a self rescue techniques clinic. He was joined by Patrick Le, Brian Florence, Matthew Manopoli, who provided excellent instruction on core self rescue techniques. Simon Carr joined for most of the day and contributed his many years of experience to the conversation. The class was arranged around situations with demonstrations and practice.



Thank you to Kat Carlille for leading the Intro to Top Rope Anchors Clinic, Saturday, Nov. 23rd. They covered the go-to anchor for our local crags, the V-Rig/Joshua Tree Anchor System using a static line off natural anchor points. Mentors introduced the principles of top rope anchor construction including natural anchor point selection, materials and knots for the set-up, setting up safely with tethers, and proper masterpoint and dynamic rope positioning. A great class and good weather helped things go smoothly, and participants were climbing on their anchors by the afternoon. A huge thank you to our mentors Marty Comiskey, Brian, Jenny

O'Brien, and Justin Vaughn!



On November 2nd, Alex and company had a successful trad trip to Old Rag in beautiful weather.



A BRIEF RECAP OF 2024

We had a successful party, which was organized by Leila Desotelle and many volunteers. Sixty-five people attended. We had some logical challenges, but all in all it was a fun day! The raffle raised \$562 for support of our local climbing community. The proceeds were donated to South Central Pennsylvania Climbers and Old Rag Mountain Stewards, and they were very appreciative of the money.

Successful grant recipients:

Cara George: Jeanette Helfrich Women's Leadership Grant Recipient - Smith Rock/She Moves Mountains

Chris Close: Professional Outdoor Skills Educational Grant - Wilderness First Responder

Leonardo Regoli: 2025 Expedition Grant

Excom had many challenges this year. Club Chair Roy Gabriel departed to pursue other activities. Many, if not most, of the spring top rope trips were canceled due to rain. These included trips to Old Rag and Harpers Ferry. Hot weather prevented planned club activities in the summer. Once fall weather arrived, September was full of top rope trips and clinics. First Wednesday, which was hosted by Roy and Leila, did continue this year when weather permitted and was always well attended.

We also had many successful top rope trips. Roy led trips to Smoke Hole and Wolf Rock. In the spring, Leila led a top rope trip to Annapolis Rock. Haley Behre led trips to Sugarloaf. Roy and Alex led a successful trip to New Hampshire, and Alex led the Daks trip in January. Kat Carlile and Nicole Guilfoyle led their first trip to Great Falls. McClain Saba led a successful trip to Buzzard Rock. Haley and Jenny led a fantastic trip to Harpers Ferry. Leila and Andy Bernat planned a trip to Shaffer Rocks and Pond Bank but it completely rained out (in the best PATC-MS spirit they actually went and did one climb on rock with water running down). Leila organized a very successful trip to the Seneca Chili Cook Off with old and new members. Brian and Carol Clayton organized a trip to Vaso Island, which was a pleasant end to top rope trips in 2024.

An excellent development over the last few years is that trips are now being organized via our WhatsApp groups. Many were organized by Jenny for the Thurmont Watershed Area and at Great Falls, VA.

Alex led several successful clinics including: New Trip Leaders, Top Rope Anchors, and Self-Rescue. Through the New Trip Leaders clinic, many new members led their first trips and resources were provided for setting up events on the club's webpage.

The Mountain Conditioning group continues to mentor people into mountain climbing. Thank you Ana Mills and Chris Close and the mentors for all their hard work!!!



Mountain conditioning is expanding into backpacking trips. November 23rd, Kathleen Krupenevich and Leila led a beginning backpacking trip on the Big Schloss/Little Schloss loop. This trip was successful because of Kathleen's careful planning.



We are beyond grateful to our trip leaders. This club cannot provide trips with your help. Each received a thank you gift of Petzl Attache screw carabiner from the club. We plan to provide such rewards to our volunteers in the future.

[Rakkup Guide for Great Falls](#)

[PATC-MS Whatsapp Community](#)



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