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January 2025

New Year, New Team, Same Great Sends

2025 is officially underway, and it is already shaping up to be a much busier year for the PATC-MS, despite the frigid weather the past few weeks.

Election Results

As announced earlier this month, we elected a new ExCom as of January 11th with 80 members voting. We were fortunate to have multiple generous members from the 2024 ExCom seek to chair the committee. Alex Ovodenko was elected Chair, after having served as Vice Chair (and Acting Chair) in 2024, and Andy Bernat stayed on as Treasurer. Sergei Nekhai was elected Vice Chair and Matthew Hermerding was elected Secretary. The team is eager to keep improving the clubs operations from gear management and upgrades, to website improvements, a reimagined trad climbing program development, and organizational enhancements that better empower the community that makes PATC-MS the only auto-renewal you won't regret.

Better, Faster, Stronger!

We aren't talking about your sends after spending winter running laps in the gym. If you tuned into the December or January public meetings, you would have heard a couple themes emerging from the discussions. Chief among them is reducing the friction to member driven initiatives from hosting of climbings to organizing events and building a greater sense of community among the members. In years past, ExCom was often looked to drive membership activity. While ExCom will certainly continue to generate membership activities, the goal of those activities will be aimed at shaping organizational dynamics so that we have a more sustainable and consistent stable of programming year-to-year. ExCom had our first work session on January 31st. One of the first things on the docket is getting the new [trip] leaders training program restarted and developing a trad cohort mentorship program. Be on the look out for more inter-club partnership events and all calls for volunteers. As plans start to firm up, we will be sending out regular updates in the newsletter. As always, if you have ideas or want to get more involved, just shoot ExCom a note.

Housekeeping

Thanks to the hard work of our webmaster, Simon, we are cleaning up our membership rolls in all of our communication platforms. While we certainly don't mind sharing the good news of the club, we are obligated to maintain good rolls of our membership which was complicated by the plethora of lists and platforms used by the club. So if you are receiving this message, make sure you have paid your dues on the website. Or better yet, set up an auto-renew so you don't have to worry about your membership expiring.

January Highlights

Despite being January, club members were fairly busy from ice climbing at Scott's Run(!) to a far flung trip to Penal de Pernal, Aculco, and Jilotepec in Mexico. Make sure to check the WhatsApp group chat for all the great photos. We also joined several of the like minded organizations in the DMV for their educational events.

If it is January that means it was time for our annual trip to Daks and the Alpine Skills Week! The club had an awesome trip to the Adirondacks over MLK weekend skiing, hiking, ice climbing, and even watching a world cup freestyle event at the Olympic Ski Jumping Complex. One club member even learned the biathlon! As always, we enjoyed staying at Rock & River (aka "the Daks house") and we crowned not one but two queens of the trip during the potluck. The club has reserved the house again for MLK weekend 2026 and we will soon post the signup on the website.



Alpine Skills Week was wrapping as we were pulling together the newsletter, so look for an update next month.

Also, be on the look-out for a notification on the next group for M-Con! Demand remained sky high because of the excellence of the program; the coordinators had a really hard time deciding on the next cohort.

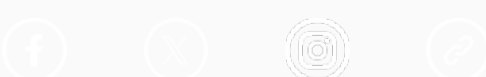
Belay Off,
ExCom



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