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I.O.C.A. BULLETIN

The ROC is making a big name for itself in Outing Club circles this year by Publishing the IOCA Bulletin, the official publication of the Intercollegiate Outing Club Association. Last year at the IOCA Conference held at Middlebury, Vermont, Dick Bailey was chosen Bulletin Editor. The choice was due partly to the excellent News Letter which he had been editing for ROC and partly to his willingness to accept the responsibility.

Since last summer Dick and his staff have been busy gathering articles and soliciting ads for the Bulletin. Both ventures have been gratifying. Al Harthimer, Business Manager, has been successful in obtaining advertisements to make it possible to publish an eighty-four page magazine and sell it for only twenty cents per copy (about half the actual cost of printing), provided the quotas assigned to all IOCA Colleges are met.

Dick has been equally successful. This issue presents about twenty feature articles, many of which have been written by outstanding men in the outing world. His primary goal has been to produce a bulletin which contains chiefly objective, factual material of interest and value to outdoor enthusiasts. In this respect he has been extremely fortunate. Articles by Clay Perry, noted author of caving books; Fritz Wiesner, noted alpinist; George Earle, Head of Syracuse Sk& School; and other noteworthy men have contributed a generous part of the informative material presented. The articles in the Bulletin contain information on rock climbing in both the Eastern and Western United States and Canada, IOCA activities, and many other topics which will interest you. The Bulletin has been designed, however, to be a book of not only immediate and passing interest but one which you will want to keep as a reference book.

The ROC has been given a quota of 120 Bulletins; more will be available if required. You can pick up your copy for twenty cents in the new ROC office after Wednesday, December 17.

ADVICE TO THE SKI-LORN

The first snow of the season sends thousands of members of a queer race, known as homo skiens, scurrying for their torture boards, better known as skis. Many of the Engineers belong to this race and are impatiently awaiting that first sitz-mark. To make it easier for these odd fellows, the ROC will run buses to near-by ski areas nine Sundays extending from January 11 to March 13. North Creek, Snow Valley, Big Bromley, Dutch Hill, Hogback and Jimmeny Peak are some of the areas to which these trips will be run. The final destination for each trip will be determined by snow conditions. Undoubtedly many of the engineering type of homo skiens have never been to these areas before. In this issue and several subsequent issues of the "Newsletter" we will try to give them some of the pertinent facts about these areas.

North Creek, located in the Adirondacks about 90 miles from Troy, has 55 miles of ski trails with ratings from novice to expert, and several open slopes. Two rope tows and a 4000-ft. T-lift service the slopes and the lower parts of the trails. The rope tow fee is \$1.25 per day and the lift is \$3.50 per day or ten rides for \$2.50. The lift tickets are not good on the rope tows. Taxi service is maintained to Gore Mountain for \$2.50 per trip, from where several unusually long trails with various ratings wind four or five miles to meet the trails at the top of the lift. A lodge is maintained at the foot of the lift where coffee, hot dogs, etc. may be purchased.

Big Bromley, at Manchester, Vt., has nine trails with ratings from novice to expert. Three J-lifts serve the trails. Little Bromley, a novice slope served by a rope tow, is an excellent place for beginners. The lift rate for the J-lifts is \$3.50 per day and the rope tow is \$2.00 per day. The lift ticket is good on the tow. During the summer several of the trails have been improved and two parallel trails have been joined making one broad trail that is almost an open slope. A cafeteria is operated at the lodge.

Snow Valley, Manchester, Vt., has trails and slopes for beginners, intermediates and experts. There are two rope tows, a 700 ft. one servicing a very gentle beginners' practice slope, the other, 1200 ft. long, will take the skier to either a novice trail or the lower portion of an intermediate trail. There are two Alpine ski lifts, 2500 and 2800 ft. long. A very wide intermediate slope straight down the mountain side presents an excellent panorama from the ski hut below. In all, there are three open slopes and six trails. The charge for the use of either or both of the rope tows is \$2.00 per day; that for both lifts, \$3.50. A lift ticket also includes use of the rope tows. Ski hut, restaurant and rest rooms are at the bottom of the slopes.

As in the past the Athletic Department will post reports of the snow conditions on the main bulletin board in the gym as these reports are received.

RALLY

On November 21 a large crowd of about 100 fellows turned out for the ROC Rally, highlighted by an exhibition of ski equipment by Cahill's Sporting Goods Store of Troy. The large display included many items of wearing apparel as well as skis and accessories. The movie, "Tragedy of Mount Everest" showed many scenes of the attempted ascent of the mountain in 1924 and gave a good idea of the hardships endured by the climbers.

SKIING CAN BE SAFE! *

Skiing is not a dangerous sport and most skiing accidents are avoidable. Repeated surveys have shown that the principle causes of skiing accidents are: 1. Skiing out of control. 2. Skiing on terrain with which the skier is unable to cope. 3. Skiing when fatigued.

The outstanding example of the first hazard is the "Schussboomer" whose primary purpose is to get to the bottom of the hill with the least possible delay in as direct a line as possible. "Schussboomer" is ski-English for a novice with wings on his feet and rocks in his head. To him form and technique are superfluous. He thinks a "check" (breaking) is effeminate. The other customers on the hill he avoids with skilled, effortless grace by simply screaming "Track!" at them. These people are merely accidents going someplace to happen and, if they were a menace only to themselves, could be viewed with a certain degree of tolerance. After all, there is nothing wrong with these characters that a broken leg wouldn't cure, and their accidents are an effective, if drastic, means of ridding the slopes of their presence. But they endanger not only themselves but all those around them. On almost every slope these avalanches on boards can be seen cutting a swath through weekend crowds like an All-American fullback, bowling over a dozen bystanders, sliding twenty yards on his good, solid noggin, then sitting up to exclaim, "Boy what fun!" There ought to be a law!

There exist a cult of blithe devotees of lift and tow who gaily latch on to the nearest tow with never a thought of how they will return once they have arrived at the top of the mountain. Once there and confronted with a trail marked "expert" these individuals shut their eyes and shove off with a prayer. All too often prayer fails them and they become cases for the ski patrol. (Incidentally, many trails are not clearly marked with their ratings. It's always a good idea to get a map on the slopes and tows at the ticket window or the ski hut.)

The fatigue factor in accidents is **most** excusable. It is understandable that knees that spend the rest of the week under a desk should suddenly develop on Sunday afternoon a deplorable tendency to come unhinged. Also, students, who for the most part have limited time to devote to their sport, can hardly be blamed for wanting to crowd as many downhill runs as possible into their weekends. Too, there is enough thrift in most of us who have paid for an all-day tow ticket to take those last two runs even though every muscle is twanging like a plucked harp string, but it is false economy to assume that you must squeeze in every trip that you can. After all, you ski for fun. No one is paying you to perform this grueling labor. When you get tired, stop and rest.

The greatest single contribution to skiing safety and enjoyment is controlled skiing. Controlled skiing is simply the ability to make your skis take you where you want to go and to stop whenever you wish. If there are times when you find that your skis are directing their own course with you an unwilling and helpless passenger, or if you feel it would be nice to stop but somehow you never get around to it until you get to the bottom of the hill or a solid tree intervenes, you are out of control. The impatient souls who, having mastered the snow-plow, feel competent to tackle anything, including Class A racing trails, usually find themselves coming down the mountain on a stretcher escorted by the ski patrol.

* Condensed from an article by Minot Dole, President of the National Ski Patrol, written for "N.Y. State Ski Trails", published by the N.Y. State Chamber of Commerce.

A final contribution you can make is to support the National Ski Patrol. These men (and women) are on the slopes and trails, giving up time from their own skiing, to help you, to prevent you from getting hurt, to assist you if you are hurt. They have taken courses in first aid, (Red Cross Standard and Advanced). Help them by cooperating.

THE CHERRY AND WHITE MEETS THE GREEN

The Dartmouth Outing Club played host to eight ROCers on the weekend of Nov. 22nd and 23rd. An early start was made on Saturday morning; the last car arrived at Dartmouth in time for a late lunch. The DOC has two lodges on Mount Moosilauke in the heart of the White Mountains. The one at the base of the mountain, "Great Bear Cabin", was our campsite Saturday night. A truly delicious steak supper met with heartiest approval and with a good meal under their belts and a roaring fire in the hearth, the fellows were in a mellow mood. The rest of the evening was spent in a combination song-fest and bull session.

Sunday morning preparations were made for an ascent of 4810-foot Moosilauke. About half a foot of slushy snow covered the base of the mountain, and it increased steadily in depth with higher altitudes. Despite the slippery footing and snow drifts, the second lodge on the summit was reached. A dense, low-hanging cloud made finding it a bit difficult, and the boys with the Kodachrome were definitely disappointed; the climb, however, was worth it. A pleasant surprize was afforded by the presence of some Radcliffe girls who were up there to do some skiing.

Reluctantly, we set out for home about 5:00 pm. Except for a few transportation problems, such as a flat tire, headlight trouble, and a collision with a deer, this weekend, spent in territory unfamiliar to most ROCers, was an extremely enjoyable one; the Rensselaer Outing Club extends its sincere thanks to the Dartmouth Outing Club for the hospitality which made it possible.

NEW ROC OFFICE

The Outing Club has been fortunate enough to acquire an office from which club business can be transacted. The office is located in the 187 Gym on the second floor where the ping pong room used to be. As yet the office is rather bare, containing only a desk. However, in the near future a bulletin board and filing cabinet will be added. The office provides a central place where information can be obtained, and it will act as a clearing house for trips. In the past the officers and trip leaders have been handicapped since it is often necessary to contact fellows all over Troy. Now notices and instructions to trip leaders will be posted on the bulletin board in the office. Someone will be in the office Monday through Friday from 10 to 5 to answer any questions and to handle trip sign-ups.

The officers of the club are very appreciative to Mr. Kumpf, one of our faculty advisors, for obtaining the office for the club and for all other invaluable help he has given us.

COMING ACTIVITIES

Camping and hiking are tapering off for the winter months to be replaced primarily by skiing. There is one final trip, an overnight affair, going out Saturday and Sunday of this weekend to Mount Greylock. The quota has not been filled as yet. Tonight is your last chance to sign up.

A tentative trip to Mount Marcy, which boasts of excellent skiing facilities, is being planned for Jan. 31st and Feb. 1st. Deposit required is \$10.00 since plans at present call for the ROCers to stay at Adirondack Lodge where the rate is \$5.00 per day including meals.

ROC SQUARE DANCE

The '87 Gym rocked on its foundations as 110 square dance enthusiasts gathered together for another session Friday, December 5th. Jed Prouty's Hayseeders provided the music. They set a fast pace which soon had the plaid shirted crowd swinging through their steps in fine style. At first, each new step was explained and gone through slowly until everyone had the idea; then the band would really swing into the number.

During the first intermission, Jed introduced a Belgian step which caught on immediately. Soon everyone had the sequences down pat and the gym reverberated from the final window shaking, "Hey". Caller, Bill Haselton gave forth with some of his trickier calls and everyone had to be on their toes to keep up with the band. However, the group was pretty sharp and none of the calls gave them much trouble.

Waltzes and foxtrots offered a bit of variety during the next intermission for the hardier souls while the rest retired to the sidelines or quenched their thirst at the coke bar. Near the end of the break, Jed demonstrated the schottische and the polka. Finally, all of the couples gathered around the bandstand and sang some traditional college songs before beginning the final sets. Everyone agreed that the Outing Club had staged another successful affair and that square dancing hadroccally caught on at R.P.I.

PRE-WAR OUTING CLUB EQUIPMENT FOUND.

A rather beat-up trunk was unearthed amid the stacks of books, stationery, and other supplies in the basement of the Pittsburgh Building. It proved to be camping equipment which the R.O.C. owned before the war. Upon investigation, this "hoard" was found to consist of two knapsacks, six duffle bags of assorted sizes, four shelter halves (no poles), one poncho, one lightsleeping bag (woolen lining), one tent (no poles), one mosquito net, a first aid kit and various sundry items like fishing hooks, thread, etc. The shelter halves, poncho and tent are in reasonably good condition but the serviceability of the other items is rather doubtful, especially when compared with the Army surplus equipment which the club now owns and rents out.

A three-quarter ax (abig job!) and ahatchet were also recently added to the R.O.C.'s store of equipment, fulfilling a long standing need for these items.

HELPFUL HINTS

Icecream cartons dipped in parafin are good for carrying olco, jams, peanut butter, etc. on camping trips.

Shower curtain material makes ideal waterproof food bags for dehydrated foods, cereals, etc.

Surplus nylon poncho can be wrapped around your sleeping bag and fastened with snaps to provide a ground cloth and give some rain protection.

New York State has just published their 1948 "Ske Guide" which gives a lot of useful information on forty New York State ske centers, as well as other useful information. It may be obtained free by writing to: New York State Department of Commerce, 112 State Street, Room 61-A, Albany, New York.