

Vol. II - No. 5

March 3, 1948

SKI TEAM WINS MEET AT NORTH CREEK

RPI's ski team came out on top in their invitation meet at North Creek last Saturday, February 28. The competing teams were Hobart, Cortland, Syracuse, Lehigh and RPI. The Ridge Trail at North Creek was the scene of the slalom and downhill which were the only two events.

Gunner Sorkness of RPI took the downhill course in 1:10:0 with Deunet on his heels at 1:13:0. Best, of Union, navigated down the trickily gated course in 1:30:2 and Dick Headly of RPI was only a second behind him. The totals were; RPI-200, Syracuse-190.1, Union-189.5, Hobart 176.0, Lehigh 170.4 and Cortland 159.0.

The previous week end the Cornell skiers again edged out the RPI slatmen in a field of five colleges in the Syracuse carnival. Gunnar Sorkness snaked down the gated course in 52.3 seconds to lead his nearest competitor, Best, of Union, by three seconds. Arneson of Cornell taking third with 56.8 seconds. In the downhill the order was just reversed as Arneson won in 39.8 seconds while Best and Sorkness followed in 41.7 and 42.0 seconds respectively. The team scores were Cornell-189.8, RPI-187.9, Syracuse-177.9, Union-175.7 and Penn. State-159.5.

SQUARE DANCE

Plain shirts and ski togs were the style Saturday, February 21, as the R.O.C. held a square dance in the '87 gym. Over 70 couples danced the traditional dances to the fine offerings of Jed Prouty's Hayseeders. Jed's boys were in fine style and they soon had the crowd in high spirits.

'Tween sets Jed introduced several new polka steps. After the throng had watched him go through the numbers with blond Nan Ellefson, the bad struck up and everyone tried their luck with the new variations. One of the high points of the evening was an elimination dance. The band played faster and faster until only a few hardy souls were left on the floor.

During intermissions, the crowd quenched their thirst at the coke bar while a few tried round dancing for variety. It was a tired but happy throng which finally staggered off the floor at twelve.

Dick Peters '49

"TO YOU WE THROW THE TORCH"

With the advent of annual Club elections this evening the past year's officers of the ROC can look back upon a highly successful term of office. With them the Club has grown from childhood to youthful maturity. It has firmly entrenched itself among the active campus organizations, and daily evidence indicates it is becoming of even greater significance in the overall pattern of student activity. Although its program has come to include more and more activities of purely a social nature, none of us has lost sight of the purposes for which we originally banded together.

In turning the reins over to our juniors we believe that two particular phases of ROC activity should be mentioned. The first is our membership policy of requiring aspiring ROCers to attend or participate in three Club functions before they can become eligible for membership; the second is our policy of having semi-monthly business meetings. We firmly believe that both of these policies should be continued.

It is rather difficult to ascertain exactly what would happen if ROC membership were automatic upon payment of dues. The Treasury would have more money, true, but how many "deadwoods" would the Club have? How would the effective organization of the Club be increased? The experience of other outing clubs has shown us no real advantages of the "open membership" policy. Certainly anyone genuinely interested in OC activities will consider three trips a small obstacle in the way of becoming a member.

The business meetings, we believe, are responsible for the feeling of oneness which our Club members have developed. Through open, democratic discussion of practically all problems affecting the Club, everyone has ample opportunity to air his views, to offer valuable suggestions, and to be in a position to evaluate the efforts and accomplishments of those in office. To these advantages may be added another of equal importance: that of creating the opportunities for all of us to get to know one another better -- in less time and under the most favorable circumstances. The genuine brotherly feeling within the ROC ranks can be attributed directly to our meeting on two planes: the formative, creative plane of organizational meetings and the plane of experience out on the trail or around a campfire.

Dick Bailey
Retiring ROC President

THE DOC WOODSMAN'S WEEKEND - A LUMBERJACK'S SPECIAL:

The Dartmouth Outing Club has announced plans and rules for its second annual "Woodsmen's Weekend." the two-day competition between the would-be Paul Bunyans of some ten northeastern colleges will be held Saturday, May 8th, and Sunday morning, May 9th. The skill and proficiency of the woodsmen will be tested in the following events: felling, twitching (log skidding), cross cut sawing, pulp throwing, buck sawing, splitting, chopping, fire building, relay packboard racing, woodsman-naturalist test, one-man and two-man canoe races with obstacles, canoe rescue race, one-man portage race (canoe), fly and

plug casting (general), fly and bait casting for accuracy, and fly and bait casting for distance.

All equipment for the competition will be supplied by the DOC except axes, saws, and packboards. Teams will pitch camp in a designated area, cooking all their own meals except Saturday lunch and supper; these meals will be furnished by the DOC. Each team must consist of six men; the winning sextet will receive a trophy cup. Complete details are posted on the bulletin board in the ROC Office.

Come on you woodsmen and woodsbums! Drop around and tell us you're willing to represent the ROC in this competition at Hanover. From past experiences the fellows who have participated in Dartmouth-sponsored activities can promise you a whale of a good time.

N.S.S. GROTTO STILL AIM OF ROC SPELUNKERS:

The ROC Spelunking Committee announces an all-out drive this month for membership in the National Speleological Society. The desirability of holding membership in the N.S.S. cannot be overlooked, particularly if we want to push spelunking among IOCAers in the New York-New England area.

Spelunking in our immediate neighborhood suggests a combination of hiking and cave crawling trips in the spring and autumn months and ambitious projects in recording all the data on new caves as they are explored. Currently we have two caves on tap offering such possibilities to those disposed to pioneer new regions. Furthermore, we would like to see an N.S.S. Grotto at R.P.I. under the paternal wing of the Rensselaer Outing Club. It would mean many special assignments from the N.S.S. -- opportunities to give public exhibits -- and would place R.P.I. as the repository of local cave histories and folklore.

Associate membership in the N.S.S. is \$3.00 annually. This sum brings the semi-annual bulletins and the monthly newsletters. The N.S.S. is exclusively devoted to the study of caves. Its total world-wide membership is less than one thousand, representing the leading men of science as well as the most avid Sunday spelunkers.

Dick Rhyins
Spelunking Chairman

IOCA SKI WEEKEND AT DOC'S RAVINE CAMP:

On March 5-7 a group of five ROCers were present at the Moosilauke Ravine Camp of the Dartmouth Outing Club for a fun-filled weekend among outing clubbers from 15 New York, New England, and Canadian colleges. Representing the Cherry and White were Steve Randolph, Al Hartheimer, Dick Peters, Canny Clark, and Dick Bailey.

The weekend was primarily a skiing one with the hickory board enthusiasts alternately climbing and running the Snapper and Little Dipper Ski Trails. Saturday afternoon the renowned "Hackers Inferno" was held on the latter. Don Lamson of New Hampshire won the men's division with Link Neidlinger of Mt. Holyoke taking honors for the women. Randolph, Bailey, Clark, and Hartheimer placed 19th, 20th, 22nd, and 26th respectively.

The evening entertainment -- both Friday and Saturday -- was admirably taken care of by sundry activities planned by the DOC. Square dancing on Saturday night almost became a marathon as the sets swung and circled from 7:00 til 2:00 AM. Other highlights were Rog Brown's account of the Moosilauke Ghost Story, "Pass the Shoe," the "Orange Game," innumerable song fests, and Ross "Baptiste" McKenney's tall tales of the woods. To the DOC goes our most sincere respect for such a wonderful job of organization.

ROC BUSINESS MEETING - MARCH 3RD:

As part of its contribution to R.P.I. "Open House" April 23-24 the ROC will have a large map (yet to be obtained) of the local area. Photographs taken on ROC trips will be connected to the geographical location concerned by pins and ribbons. Publicity Director Ostergaard and Social Chairman Peters request that all pictures suitable for this use be turned in to the ROC Office - in Dick's "pidgeon hole," to be exact.

Plans for increasing the efficiency of the office watch were discussed. Keys have been made and distributed to the Executive Council members. There are, however, a few hours when no one is scheduled on the "watch." ROCers with an off hour now and then who would be willing to do their studying in the ROC Office are asked to check the watch schedule on the office door to see if they can fill in during these particular hours.

Future activities still in the planning stage include a lecture-smoker on May 7 in the 15th Street Lounge and a combination dinner, square dance and rollicking good time. A committee was appointed to investigate possible places at which the dinner could be held.

RENSSELAER SKI TEAM FIRST -- THEN SECOND -- IN WILLIAMS MEET:

It was originally announced that R.P.I. had placed first in the Williams Invitation Ski Meet held the 5th, 6th, and 7th of March. Due to a "slide rule error," however, the original decision was reversed and Amherst won the meet with R.P.I. taking second.

One of the hardest things about a ski meet is the timing, and Williams had some troubles. There are two general methods of timing: the use of radio or field telephones and the use of watches that are synchronized. Accurate results can be obtained with radio or telephones, but when watches are used, things can, and do, get fouled up. Here is how it works. It is previously agreed that the first skier will start at 2:00, the second at 2:01, etc. If the second skier doesn't start at exactly 2:01, an elaborate system of corrections gets under way. This is what happened at the Williams Meet, and it probably happened to every team there at least once, if not more. Amherst appeared to think that all corrections hadn't been made, so they asked for a re-tabulation of the results. R.P.I. finally ended up in second place.

There were eight teams competing in the Williams Meet, all of which had good skiing records: Williams, Syracuse, Norwich, Bowdoin, Amherst, Yale, Harvard, and R.P.I. It was a six-event meet, the first for the Cherry and White this year. Claude Wiese put on his best form and won

the cross country, the R.P.I. team taking fifth due to his efforts; Williams took the slalom with R.P.I. again taking fifth; Saturday afternoon due to the fine skiing of Warren Cavanaugh and Wiese, R.P.I. took first in the jumping; and on a cold Sunday morning Gunnar Sorkness took fourth in the downhill on the Thunderbolt, the team third; in the Alpine Combined, a combination of downhill and slalom, first place was captured by Harvard while R.P.I. took fourth; Claude Wiese rose to the occasion again in the Classic Combined, a mixed event featuring jumping and cross country, and took first place with the team likewise capturing first.

R.P.I., in spite of this defeat, still has one of the better teams in the country. An even better season is expected next year when the same, well-rounded team will be back with much more experience. To Coach Roland Brown and the fellows on the team this year go a well-deserved "Well Done!"

ROC GARNERS THIRD IN INTERFRATERNITY SLALOM RACE:

After a hasty decision on March 12 the Rensselaer Outing Club recruited four men to represent them in the Interfraternity Slalom Race on March 13. Held at Prospect Park (behind the Stanton Brewery) the race was sponsored for the fraternities by the Ski Team. John Coffin, Bob Chote, Canny Clark, and Bob Woodbury were green to slalom racing at 2:00 PM -- before the start of the meet -- but by 5:00 PM it was evident that there were many others who were even greener. Coming in third behind Theta Chi and ATO, the ROC group was led by the performance of John Coffin who placed sixth with a time of 69.4 seconds.

SPELUNKING

The coming spring holds big things for the ROC spelunkers if present enthusiasm among Outing-Clubbers is any indication. Furthermore, the Spelunking Committee has received invitations to explore and investigate several caves in the area including the ones we never got around to last fall.

Many, of course, will remember the initial efforts of the ROC last fall to undertake a program of cave exploration which led to an invitation from Mr. Clay Perry, member of the National Speleological Society and author of a series of books on American Caves, who led the ROC neospelunkers to a long abandoned cave at Hoags Corners, N. Y. and also to Bentley's Cavern in Berlin, N. Y. Mr. Perry promised to include our group on subsequent trips, and offered to assist us in forming a campus chapter, or grotto, of the N.S.S. among the really interested students. It was hoped that field trips could be planned frequently to caves in the area, especially little known ones suggesting the collection of scientific, historical and legendary information. We contemplated a grotto comprising interested mapmakers, sketchers, photographers, and geology students on campus, not necessarily club members who would join the Outing Club and participate in the spelunking activities.

The formation of a grotto requires at least five regular or associate members of the N.S.S. who desire to organize members within a geographical area. One of the first steps is to elect an Executive Committee which in turn elects its own slate of officers as required, such as; chairman, secretary, treasure, program director, and equipment supervisor or quartermaster. Next would be the adoption of a constitution consistent with the policies, constitution and by-laws of the national organization.

The suggestion of having RPI take out an institutional membership in the N.S.S. for \$10.00 yearly was discussed with the Geology Department and received an encouragement there. If this plan was adopted, RPI would receive the N.S.S. publications and would and would act as sponsor of a grotto.

Whether we can muster up a grotto and enjoy the advantages of N.S.S. affiliation or not, we are going ahead and plan a varied spring program. Mr. Perry will conduct our group through Richmond Cave very close to North Adams. It is a combination of limestone, schist and quartz, with a waterfall in one corner and some rambling adits to crawl into. It is fairly easy of access, being within 1200 feet of a road right in the city limits, and can be entered with a rope quite handily. Mr. Perry is hoping to persuade the owner of the Hoags Corners Cave to improve the entrance so that we can assist in its further exploration. We also have an invitation to attend a meeting of the tentative Schenectady Grotto this spring when Mr. Perry will present an illustrated talk on his favorite subject--Spelunking.

The practice of the Howe Caverns management at Cobleskill, N.Y. is to allow members of the N.S.S. to tour the Caverns without cost. Although the area open to the public contains nothing significant for spelunkers, there is the possibility of convincing the management of our ability to explore the darker reaches. One undeveloped adit, incidently, is tough to drop into, muddy and cold and generally considered dangerous.

Our best offer to explore in the area comes from the proprietors of Knox Cave, Altamont, N.Y. who want us to assist them in the exploration, surveying and mapping of Knox Cave. In return, we may have free access to the cave at any time. Furthermore, we would enjoy their arrangement for publicity over all the local radio stations and in area newspapers. The letter sent to us by Mr. D. C. Robinson states that the cave was developed in 1933 "to help make new jobs." We were surprised, and frankly honored, to be contacted to do a job which is right down our alley, and if we have the cooperation from more ROC members, we feel we can hit the big time in speleology.

In addition, Ken Sweitzer, spelunking Outing-Clubber has promised to lead a trip to Eldon's Cave, Stockbridge, Mass. This cave is one of the most beautiful in the state. Unlike most of the limestone caves around here, Eldon's Cave is cut in marble. Dick Rhyins will gladly supply any ROC'ers with detailed information on any of the above plans or accept additions to the spring spelunking program.

Dick Rhyins '50

COMING EVENTS

The coming season looks like a banner one in the trips department. Of course we can look back at some fine trips, for instance all of our ski trips for February were highly successful, but in all expectations, the spring season should provide great opportunities to yield conversation in the past tense over areas as yet unconquered by ROC.

Hopes to attain the summit of Katahdin before summer are pretty well shattered now, but it is still on the agenda for coming forays. The immediate week ends shbw promise for some fair skiing at North Creek (providing there is no more rain). As of this writing the plans for the two ski trips scheduled for the first two week-ends in March are to make them IOCA affairs with Skidmore O.C. Here's hoping. Cross your fingers, if all comes as per scheduled, seats will be restricted to Outing Club members of paid-up-dues variety, and then if there are any left, we'll open up. (In all there will be fifteen seats for fellows and fifteen for the girls.) Come on, this is a gentle reminder for all of you who have your three trips, to take out membership to which you are entitled. It only costs one dollar per semester.

The week-end of March 6,7,8 we have our delegation all rarin' to go North to the Dartmouth IOCA-----at Ravine Camp on Mt. Moosilauke. (Ah fond memories of Moosilauke--That was another great trip. By the way those of you who were there, Roger Buzzard's color snapshots of the trip turned out very well. See him for prints.)

On March 14, the Thunderbolt trail over on Greylock ought to be ripe and mellow for a day of beautiful spring skiing. Plans are for two cars going over which will mean not more than ten fellows. Dick Rhyings is going to lead the trip. Sign up now with a \$2.00 deposit in the ROC office ('87 Gym - old table tennis room, tucked amiably in between "Skip" Falkenstine and "Ed" Jontos.)

For the spring vacation our president, Dick Bailey, has been feverishly hounding this department to whip up a contingent to spend several days at Big Bromley over Easter vacation. That swell pass for the lift couldn't have much to do with it. So, all you fellows, let's now plan same. Get your name on the list in the office and the days you are interested in staying at Manchester. I'll do my best to get you the dope and we'll make a fine trip out of it.

In other fields, there ought to be some fine hiking in the Catskills during vacation. How about a trip down there? Suggestion, the Slide-fittenburg-Cornell and vicinity area is good hiking and well mapped for those who don't know the region. If you're atune, let's have your name. No reason why ROC can't be down there too.

In closing, it might be worth mentioning that the guiding principle for the remainder of the season will be to make as many of our trips IOCA affairs as possible. Correspondance is out on this now. Tentative dates have been arranged, and all Outing Clubs that are withing a nominal ease of accessibility from Troy are included. It is only regrettable that we'll have but April and May to bring them off. Included will be canoeing, hiking, mountain climbing, rock climbing (for those who know the ropes only), spelunking, and miscellaneous-which might even include hiking on the level with the goal awciner roast somewhere.

Bob Woodbury '50

SITZ-MARKS

The RPI Shaussboomers had a banner season this year--the snow conditions were excellent and the ROC ran buses to transport the fanatics to some of the popular ski areas every Sunday for the past five weeks.

Our first two originally scheduled trips unfortunately were to take place during reviews and exam week but few fellows could spare a whole Sunday away from the books. But with the advent of a new term, ski bunnies and experts alike came out in force to enjoy some of the fine skiing in many seasons. It was just perfect. Then came the thaw! "Those" days changed all that fresh powder snow into an abnormally early spring skiing situation. Engineers are a bunch of die-hards; they took the ice and barespots in stride.

On our most recent trip we were fortunate for two reasons: 12" of fresh new powder had fallen the day before to cover up ruck and rocks and Sage-ites provided feminine companionship for our little group. The day was perfect except for the first serious accident to occur on any ROC trip. Janice Kahn, of Kellas House, broke a leg in a freak accident. The ROC is extremely sorry it happened, Janice, and we sincerely wish your a speedy recovery.

Al Bagati '50

SNOW BUNNY

R.P.I. boasted of a new undergraduate as the ROC's snow bunny made its appearance on the campus last Saturday, February 14. The 15 ft. snow statue can be seen skiing in front of the club-house. Although a recent thaw has had its effect, and it now looks more like a dinosaur than a rabbit, the statue brought many admiring comments and a host of camera fans recorded it for posterity.

The five or six Outing Clubbers that packed the snow monster together had a lot of fun that quiet afternoon. Who can forget the worried expression of Canny Clark's face as he was perched on the rabbit's head. He seemed glad to get down safely. The finishing touches were applied by Cliff Ostergard and Al Harthemer who were aided by slush slingers Al Bagari, Bob Woodbury, Dean Borden, Dick Peters and Dean Woodward.

Although our newest freshman is making a gallant try, the ROCers doubt that he is going to make it through review next spring.

Dick Peters '49

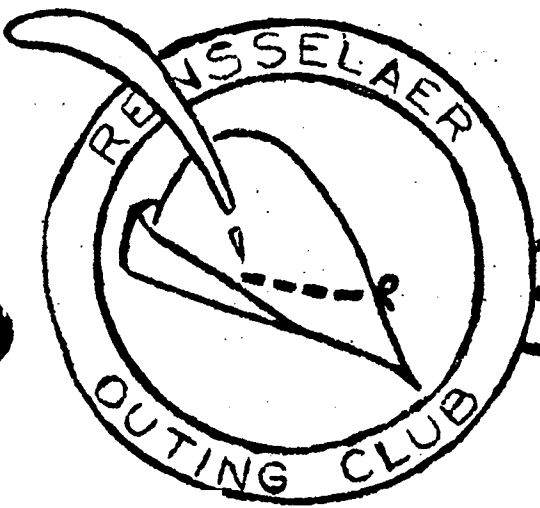
MOVIES AND SLIDES SHOWN OF CLUB ACTIVITIES

At the last business meeting Bob Woodbury showed the movies that he took on the trip to Lount Marcy. A darn good job of photography, Bob, you should bring that camera on more of the trips. Roger Duzzard showed his colored slides of the trip with the Dartmouth Outing Club on the trip to Moosilaukie; and Charlie Fine had some very interesting shots taken in the Adirondacks last fall.

At the next business meeting, on March 31, Dr. Clark of the Mechanics Department will show some of his colored movies and slides taken in the Canadian Rockies. The few fellows who have seen them say that they are really outstanding pictures, so don't forget the date, March 31, at 7:00 in Sage Lab.

On the new bulletin board in the ROC office some black and white pictures have been posted of the Marcy trip and the ski trip to Big Bromley on February 1. Reprints may be obtained by signing the accompanying lists.

NEWS LETTER



Vol. II - No. 6

March 31, 1948

IOCA SPRING CONFERENCE:

From Dave Hitchcock, DOC Conference Committee Chairman, comes news that the 16th Annual Intercollegiate Outing Club Association Conference will be held at the DOC Moosilauke Ravine Camp April 9-11. Member and non-member IOCA colleges will be permitted to send two delegates per club.

The business part of the Conference will include election of IOCA Executive Secretary, Bulletin Editor, and College Week Chairman and discussion groups on various topics pertinent to IOCA and the individual college outing clubs. Conference speakers have not been announced at this date, but with Ross McKenney on hand conferees can be sure of some of "Baptiste's" famous tall tales.

The entertainment calendar lists the usual galaxy of sure-fire activities -- skiing, square dancing, song fests, and others.

ON TRIPS IN GENERAL:

It is indeed unfortunate that, of necessity, the great gatherings of college outing clubbers, such as Conference, College Week, etc., are restricted to but a mere handful of the many hundreds who follow the OC banner. To be able to partake of the wonderful and wholesome comradeship that is the IOCA spirit is an experience that every single OCer should have at least once. This ideal being impossible the next best step is the organization of as many inter-college activities as possible. The Rensselaer Outing Club goes on record as being anxious and willing to co-arrange outing trips with any of its neighbors -- be they Skidmore, Russell Sage, Albany State Teachers, Union, Vassar, Williams, Bennington, Springfield, Amherst, Smith, Mt. Holyoke, Connecticut College, or any other colleges. The ROC home territory extends from the Adirondacks to the Catskills eastward into Vermont and Massachusetts.