



THE ROC CAIRN



RENSSELAER OUTING CLUB — '87 GYMNASIUM, TROY, NEW YORK

VOLUME IV, NUMBER 4

SEPTEMBER 23, 1948

ROC SETTLES IN NEW OFFICE; OFFICE NOW IN 15TH STREET LOUNGE:

Last year the ROC had its office in the '87 Gym which served as a base of operations for its expanding activities. Lack of such office space in the gym building this year has made it necessary for the organization to move to the 15th Street Lounge, a move which has just been completed this past week. The functions of the office will be much the same as last year, its prime utility being, of course, the coordination and efficiency which it provides for the speedy dispatch of all club business: the sign-up lists for all trips and activities sponsored by the club are always available in the office; council members can readily be contacted by leaving messages for them in their respective "pidgeon holes;" council meetings, at which much of the club policy is decided, are held here; new and prospective members can always get complete information on any phase of "outdooring" that interests them from the literature on hand and from members of the office watch; and finally it makes a swell place to hang out and "shoot the breeze" during those between-class hours.

Bright and early Monday morning the office will be open for business. Hours will be from 10:00 AM to 5:00 PM Monday through Friday with some ROCers always on hand to answer any inquires or handle any business. Drop in at your convience and meet the ROC. We'll be more than happy to meet you!

ROC CAIRN STARTS THIRD YEAR OF PUBLICATION:

On November 14, 1946, the ROC CAIRN -- then known as the RPIOC NEWSLETTER -- came out with its initial issue. Since that time it has appeared "fairly" regularly and in so doing has succeeded in faithfully documenting the progress of an organization that at its rebirth after the war numbered only seven persons. Now well on its way toward becoming one of the most popular campus organizations, the Club looks forward to expanding horizons and more members who share a love of not only outing but also a love of their fellow man.

The ROC CAIRN hopes to be even more influential than in the past in helping the Club attain its self-appointed goals.

SPECIAL

YODER AND PERRY RESPONSIBLE FOR FROSH CAIRN ISSUE:

With information left behind in June by Messrs. Woodbury and Bailey Cairn Staff Member Dick Yoder and ROCer G. L. Perry succeeded in turning out a wonderful FROSH CAIRN ISSUE. Two mimeographed sheets containing a warm letter of welcome by President Woodbury and brief outline of the ROC and its activities were distributed to the 830 newcomers attending a Freshman Orientation Assembly.

If possible, a copy of this special issue will be sent out to other college outing clubs in the hope that it may be of some value in the future planning of their activity programs.

OUTING CLUB VALUES: AN EDITORIAL:

To a great many it would be difficult indeed to discover a more truly genuine means of enjoyment than the carefree hours spent with an outing club. The very tempo of life is spurred on with the thought of what the next weekend holds in store. Rock climbing, camping, canoeing, cycling -- each has its own individual lure: each succeeds in giving to the active participant an underlying sense of accomplishment and self-confidence, a feeling of freedom and of being completely alive. Daylight hours furnish the exhilarating way to become pleasantly tired, and the evenings provide the open and sincere comradeship that can only result from the informality and congeniality of such a group.

There is value in the tiresome hours spent on campus preparing for and organizing the club's program. Often with little or no tangible reward this work may nevertheless be of great beneficial aid in the years ahead, for the sooner a person learns the power of organization, the better start in life he has.

But perhaps most valuable of all is the outing club's contribution to learning another person's character. Out in the woods where camping necessitates that people live together closely one is rapidly stripped of the artificialities of our urban existence. The real make-up of a person is visible -- he cannot hide it for long -- and with all barriers down real friendship can spring quickly and easily. As someone once said, "A real friend is someone with whom you want to go camping again."

Outing clubs are valuable units of any campus; their values are wholesome, constructive, and make us just a little better than we were before.

COMING TRIPS

RPI-RUSSELL SAGE OUTING, SEPTEMBER 26:

ROC-sponsored get-together primarily for freshmen from "up on the hill" and "downtown" to be held at country home of Dr. Baker, Dean of Students at RPI. Activities to include hiking, swimming, boating, soft ball, and gigantic picnic supper followed by singing. ROC providing transportation. Sign up in Mrs. Warren's Office in Clubhouse or in ROC Office in 15th Street Lounge. \$1.00 deposit required. Time of departure: 2:00 PM from '87 Gym.

FROSH CAMPING TRIPS, OCTOBER 2-3:

New type of activity copied from Dartmouth Outing Club. Old ROC members to provide leadership for small, 1-car camping trips. Destination, activity, food, and equipment to be determined by leader in conjunction with freshmen participants. All interested parties -- members or non-members, with or without cars -- sign up in ROC Office. Be sure to indicate whether you have car available.

ROC-RUSSELL SAGE CANOE TRIP, OCTOBER 2-3:

First Lake George Canoe Trip of fall season. Trip to leave '87 Gym at 1:00 PM Saturday; return will be by 7:30 Sunday. Trip limited to 16 men with sleeping gear. Knowledge of swimming and canoeing necessary. Suggest bringing musical instruments and cameras. (excellent for kodachrome) Approximate cost \$5.50. Sign up early and watch for notice of organizational meeting. Advance deposit \$3.00 required.

TWIN LAKES SPELUNKING TRIP, OCTOBER 3:

Sunday excursion to Twin Lakes Cavern at Taconic Center, Conn., to explore longest cave in New England. Cave is large so that any number may be accommodated on trip. Only limiting factor is number of cars available.

ROC-IOGA CANOE TRIP, OCTOBER 16-17:

Gigantic assemblage on Lake George of outing clubbers from all over this section of country for weekend of canoeing, climbing, swimming, square dancing, and singing. Invitations being sent to Cornell, Russell Sage, Smith, MIT, Vassar, Union, Williams, Skidmore, Amherst, Dartmouth, McGill, Conn. College, Mt. Holyoke, Springfield, Bennington, Syracuse, Green Mountain, Plattsburg State Teachers, Champlain, and Paul Smiths. Strictly a closed trip -- only for old ROC members. Organization as follows with details at business meeting September 29:

Host - Smilin' Bob Woodbury
Asst. Host - that obnoxious character Bailey
Chairman of Committees - Ostergaard
Commissary - Peters
Camp - Jaderlund
Transportation - Unfilled as yet
Entertainment - Hartheimer and Randolph

INTER-GROTTO NSS WEEKEND, OCTOBER 16-17:

Two-day caveing trip in vicinity of Duquesburg, New York, with members of several other NSS Grottoes. Watch main bulletin board and ROC Office for particulars.

SPECIAL NOTICE - ROCK CLIMBERS ATTENTION:

It is the intent of the ROC to initiate the sport of rock climbing at RPI this fall. Of necessity it requires competent instruction. Will all men who have had some technical experience in rock climbing and who would be interested in furthering this activity please leave their name, address, telephone number, and climbing experience in Dick Bailey's box in the ROC office.

The Club already has the promise of assistance and personal leadership on two trips from Jim Goodwin, pioneer Adirondack rock climber, and Fritz Wiessner, long time American Alpine Club member and undoubtedly one of this country's outstanding mountaineers. It is hoped that the Capital District will yield several more experienced men willing to work along with a mountaineering division of the ROC.

COMING SOCIAL ACTIVITIES

FIRST FALL SQUARE DANCE, SEPTEMBER 25:

Jed Prouty is once again on hand with his Hays leaders to capably provide music and instruction for this popular campus activity. Inexperience no excuse for not attending. Bring your date and have a wonderful evening for only \$1.00. Time: 8:00 PM in '87 Gym.

GENERAL BUSINESS MEETING, SEPTEMBER 29:

Open meeting for all persons seriously interested in ROC program. Old members are particularly urged to attend. Primary purpose to finish organization for ROC-sponsored IOCA Canoe Trip and separate canoe trip with Russell Sage. Other problems and policies also to be discussed. Membership Chairman Bud Jaderlund will be eagerly awaiting payment of this fall's Club dues -- try to remember your \$1.00. Check main bulletin board and ROC Office for room number and time.

SQUARE DANCE, OCTOBER 9:

TENTATIVE SOCIAL CALENDAR:

- Oct 13 - General Business Meeting
- Oct 23-24 - Hudson Valley IOCA Conference
- Oct 30 - Square Dance
- Nov ? - Square Dance at Skidmore
- Dec 4 - Square Dance

PAST TRIPS

SPELUNKING WEEKEND, JULY 17-18:

The main event in the field of ROC Spelunking this summer took place on the weekend of July 17-18. The New England Grotto of the National Speleological Society invited our Grotto to be guests at their annual meeting held at Disappearing Brook, Lanesboro, Mass., on Sunday, the 18th.

To make the trip well worth while Dick Rhyins, Charlie Chew, Don Mulbany, and Ken Sweitzer met on Saturday and explored Eldon's Cave in West Stockbridge, Mass.

Eldon's Cave is the most beautiful cavern in New England in many respects, as well as being one of the most difficult to traverse.

Its beauty lies in the fact that it has been carved by the hand of nature out of gleaming black and white marble. Its beautiful water-worn formations are something that can only be seen to be appreciated.

Every pleasure has its price, however, and Eldon's price is dampness. A fair-sized stream flows through the cave. In some places it is necessary to crawl on one's hands and knees through one and a half feet of water, and to enter the main 68 foot high chamber it is necessary to slide down a rope about 15 feet through a waterfall. The entire exploration took about two hours.

On Sunday morning the group joined approximately 85 other persons at Disappearing Brook for the New England Grotto Annual Meeting. Many notables in speology were present including Dr. Stone of Washington, D.C., president of the National Society. After an interesting outdoor meeting, the group split up and took turns visiting Baker's Quarry Cave, Elephant's Den Cave, and Coon Hollow Cave, all in the immediate vicinity. In the later part of the afternoon the group gathered in the Lanesboro Town Hall for colored slides and talks. The entire weekend will be long remembered by those attending.

Ken Sweitzer
RPI Grotto, NSS

FULTON CHAIN CANOE TRIP, SEPTEMBER 3-9:

A chain of lakes and streams extends southwest to northeast through the heart of the Adirondack forest forming an almost continuous water route from Old Forge to Saranac Lake. This 86 mile waterway passes through the Fulton Chain Lakes, Raquette Lake, Forked Lake, The Raquette River, Long Lake, the Saranac Lakes, and the Saranac River. Where there is no interconnecting body of water the canoeist must carry his craft and equipment overland in order to continue his trip. These portages or "carries" are ten in number and vary in length from 0.1 miles to 1.3 miles. For the most part they are along good dirt roads and pathways, and with a properly-fitted and -adjusted shoulder yoke cause no unusual difficulty for the portagee with the smaller and lighter types of canoe.

Nine ROCers and one Cornell chubber canoed this picturesque route early this September. With the exception of one sudden heavy rain shower, which succeeded in thoroughly soaking everyone, excellent weather made all the more enjoyable the wild beauty of uncommercialized virgin timberland on state owned land along a good portion of the route: Buttermilk Falls on the Raquette River, Raquette Lake in the heart of the Adirondack wilderness, Middle Saranac Lake with its lack of any sign of civilization whatsoever, Lower Saranac Lake with its many tree-clad islands, and the long still miles of the Raquette River with a charm and flavor all their own.

Despite difficult conditions of camp cooking, our reflector ovens turned out such delicacies as blueberry biscuits, gingerbread cake, and apple pie. Provisions for 7 days were packed at the start of the trip, hence it is no small wonder that the group went all out for fresh food upon reaching Saranac Lake. A truly magnificent meal of chicken roasted to perfection over an open fire -- complete with stuffing and giblet gravy -- fresh vegetables, fruits, and milk plus "home made" apple pie graced our plates. Everyone thoroughly enjoyed this fitting and just manner with which to top off a novel and active week of outdoor vacationing. (With the exception of one ROCer all members of the canoeing party thence made their way to Lake Colden and College Week - EDITOR)

Your Editor has been so damn busy since his tardy return to school (only missed three days this year) that the full College Week write-up will have to be postponed until the next issue of the ROC CAIRN. This year his notebook is full of odd stories -- about "Gabby" Collins and Pete Balise (MIT), "Lord Jeffery" (who else but Amherst), the ferocious ROC-Cornell tea Parties, the failure of Mt. Holyoke to pack out over Algonquin as in the past, Woodbury (ROC) and his ripped trunks, and many more. Gad, what fun ripping these poor souls apart!!!

MISCELLANEOUS

WINTER MOUNTAINEERING AND CAMPING; ADIRONDACK MOUNTAIN CLUB TO OFFER TROPHY AND MOUNTAINEERING EMBLEMS:

Word has just been received* that the Winter Activities Committee of the Adirondack Mountain Club has arranged to offer a trophy "to that college outing club which has done most each winter to promote proficiency in winter mountaineering and winter camping."

The ADK is anxious to disseminate this information to all college outing clubs and would like to know what specific clubs are interested so that appropriate literature may be forwarded to them. An attempt is being made to print a leaflet explaining in detail the basis on which the groups will be judged. At the present time the Committee has definitely decided to give credit for either skiing or snowshoeing and for personal ascents of Marcy and other high peaks in winter. (more credit being given for difficult peaks) Furthermore, for all foolhardy stunts, lack of preparation, avoidable accidents, etc., points will be deducted. In cooperation with the ADK publicity committee extra points will be given for trips of publicity value to the club.

The Committee would also like to make it known that an ADK Winter Mountaineering Emblem is available for 5 major peaks in winter (December 21 through March 21) via ski or snowshoe.

The ADK is further interested in sponsoring a Winter College Week at the Adirondack Loj at Heart Lake. The time set could be arranged to be the most appropriate for the largest number of persons -- perhaps during mid-semesters. Special rates would be in effect, and any that preferred to sleep in the cabins outside the Loj could do so. Given a prompt reply from enough parties the Winter Activities Committee could take steps to arrange a more interesting program and perhaps have a few special trophies, prizes, and events.

NOTE: Liason between the Winter Activities Committee and the IOCA has been assumed by Dick Bailey, ROCer and member of the Publicity Committee of the Adirondack Mountain Club. Inquiries concerning any phase of the mountaineering program should be directed to him at Rensselaer Outing Club, RPI, Troy, New York; they will be forwarded as soon as received.

Concerning the proposed Winter College Week -- will all interested individuals and/or college groups please notify Dick Bailey by November 1, if possible. Indicate the time most suitable for you, the length of time you would like to stay, and the approximate number in your group.

*Delivered to your Editor by hand at 10:09 PM halfway between the Ranger's Cabin and Caribou Leanto at Lake Colden. It was during College Week; the mailman was Hank Grunebaum, ROC.

HERE AND THERE IN THE EQUIPMENT LINE:

- 1) 7/16 Plymouth Nylon Climbing Rope - \$3.45 per pound or about \$18.50 for 100 feet. Obtainable through M. G. Stoneman, Broadway (opposite Plaza), Albany, New York.
- 2) Reflector Ovens - endorsed by Girl Scouts of America.
 Sheet aluminum baker, folds into flat package 14 x 12 x 3/4" weight - less than 23 oz. Price - \$3.00 prepaid.
 Wire frame baker with aluminum foil surfaces, weight - less than 19 oz. Price - \$1.50 prepaid.
 Article on "Reflector Baking" - \$.25
 Copy of Maine Campcraft Conferences Recipes - \$.25
 Order from Curtis-Stebbins, Bailey Island, Maine.
- 3) Mountain Cook Kits - were obtainable from Dartmouth Co-op for \$2.00 C.O.D.
- 4) Army Surplus Packboard - currently available through L. L. Bean Freeport, Maine, for around \$3.50.

ROC EQUIPMENT LIST AND RENTAL FEES:

Item	Quantity Available	1st Night	Each Night Thereafter	Weekly
Sleeping Bags:				
Single	6	\$.50	\$.25	\$2.00
Double	3	1.00	.50	4.00
Frame Packs	8	.25	.25	1.00
Tents	2	.75	.50	3.00

"GOD MADE THE WORLD IN SEVEN DAYS:"

In response to numerous requests made at Collage Week your Editor hereby sets down the words to that charming little song about Adam and Eve:

God made the world in seven days,
 And he wasn't satisfied.
 He took a rib from Adam
 And made for him a bride.
 They walked up to each other
 Though they'd never met before;
 They recognized each other
 By the clothes that they both wore.
 Oh, she wore a tulip, a big yellow tulip,
 And he wore a big, red rose.
 Now Adam, he grew bolder
 And you're some kid, he told her,
 From your head down to your toes.
 Gee, kid, you're dynamic;
 The Lord was some mechanic--
 How he made you from a rib God only knows!
 Why, I could have a harem;
 I've got six mor ribs to spare 'em,
 And he blushed like a big, red rose.

A LETTER TO A SMITH HEELER FROM HER MOTHER *:

My Darling Daughter:

We just received your last letter, not a very long one. Your father and I both feel that you might write more often and not just when you need money.

What is this about the "Going-out Club?" Was that what you called it? I do think you might be able to find something more interesting to do than cooking meals and washing dishes. But if you feel that you must belong to this club, you might as well be as warm as possible. You spoke of being cold at night -- so I am sending you some warmer blankets. I remember when I was in school we used to walk out into the country, picnic and go wading -- not where anyone could see us, of course.

Don't you think that some of the older girls might carry the axe and hatchets? I know that you are old enough to take care of yourself, but you have had so little experience in this sort of thing. Your father says to remind you to be very careful when you are lighting a fire because it's rather dangerous.

You mentioned mud and a brook; I hope you didn't wear your new saddle shoes.

I'm sure you were exaggerating when you said you had to use Bon Ami for your bath.

Write us soon.

Lovingly,

Your Mother

P.S. Your father is looking for a sleeping bag for you and has a lot of folders from a man in Maine who owns an old shack or something.

* With apologies to our OCFriends from Smith. Letter "lifted" from the Spring 1940 issue of the IOCA Bulletin.