



THE ROC CAIRN



RENSSELAER OUTING CLUB — '87 GYMNASIUM, R. P. I., TROY, NEW YORK

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ROC RALLY

Tonight the Outing Club has the opportunity of officially welcoming all the new men on campus to Rensselaer. We've prepared a program we hope you will enjoy. Various speakers will tell you exactly what you wish to know about the Club. The exhibits which are set up will give you some idea of the types of activities we enjoy and sponsor. Members of the ROC will be very happy to explain the functions of any of the items displayed and to answer any questions you may have on anything pertaining to the organization's operations. To assist you in contacting the Club's members, the latter will be wearing red shirts with the ROC emblem on the right arm near the shoulder.

We sincerely hope you will have a most enjoyable evening and a very profitable stay at Rensselaer!

ROC MEMBERSHIP POLICY

Full membership in the ROC is acquired in two steps. Anyone may fill out a membership application and submit it to the Membership Chairman with an initiation fee of \$1.00. Dues (\$2.00 per year) are also payable at this time. He receives his membership card and is entitled to participate in all trips which the Club sponsors. To qualify for full membership a man must go on three recognized trips and submit a list of these trips, certified by a member of the Executive Council, to the Membership Chairman. He is given a shoulder patch depicting the Club's symbol (a Swiss Tyrolian Hat) and acquires full voting authority in any decision of general policy made at regular business meetings. In addition, he may cast his ballot for the candidates he wishes elected to the Executive Council at the annual elections held each Spring. It is the general policy of the organization to award a man his badge and introduce him "officially" as a new member at a general business meeting.

For your convenience, a table will be set up tonight where you may take out your initial membership if you so desire.

EQUIPMENT LIST AND RENTAL FEES

Item	Quantity Available	1st Night	Each Night Thereafter	Weekly
Sleeping Bags:				
Single	4 single or	\$.50	\$.25	\$2.00
Double	2 double	1.00	.50	4.00
Frame Packs	8	.25	.25	1.00
Tents	2	.75	.50	3.00
Shelter Halves	4	.25	.25	1.00
Ponchos	1	.25	.25	1.00
Coleman Lantern	1	.50	.25	2.00
Group Cook Kits	2	.50	.25	2.00

The above list constitutes the equipment which the Club owns and rents. The income derived is used to replace items which become unserviceable and to purchase additional gear for the Club's use. In addition to the above mentioned articles, there are a large number of items available for which no charge is made. Foremost among these are rope, a hatchet, an axe, a Red Cross first aid kit and assorted cooking gear.

From time to time the CAIRN publishes information about equipment for sale with complete details for the benefit of its members who wish to purchase individual items.

COMING ACTIVITIES

SEPTEMBER 24-25 and OCTOBER 1-2 -- SMALL CAMPING TRIPS

These overnight camping trips are intended primarily as orientation trips for the new men on campus. The organization and destination for each one is decided by its trip leader(s). In most cases there will be two old hands and five or six newcomers. Indian Summer negates the necessity for a large amount of camping equipment which many men may not have. Club equipment will be utilized to the fullest advantage for group use.

Sign up lists will be available at tonight's meeting. If you are interested in the Club's activities and want to give it a try, this is an excellent opportunity to do so! If the demand is sufficiently great these trips will become a standard week-end activity.

OCTOBER 1 -- SQUARE DANCE

If you've never square danced before don't worry about it. All dances are demonstrated beforehand for the benefit of all who are new at the game. So put on those loose, informal clothes you like to lounge around in, get yourself a date and show up at the first square dance of the season. Watch the bulletin boards for time and place.

SEPTEMBER 25 -- THATCHER PARK TRIP

Thatcher Park boasts a series of short but very scenic trails, Haile's Cave for those who like to go cave crawling, and ample camping grounds. If you want a rough weekend this isn't it, but it could be a good conditioner for future tough ones.

OCTOBER 2 -- MT. GREYLOCK HIKE WITH RUSSELL SAGE

The route up isn't definite but it will probably be up the ski trail which is a fairly easy haul. Here's a good chance to climb a mountain and meet some outdoor girls at the same time.

OCTOBER 7,8,9 -- LAKE GEORGE IOCA

The ROC will once again be host at another gigantic assemblage on Lake George when outing clubbers from all over this section of the country will congregate for a weekend of canoeing, climbing, swimming, square dancing and singing. This trip is strictly for old members only.

OCTOBER 16 -- GLASTONBURY HIKE WITH GREEN MOUNTAIN JUNIOR COLLEGE

This is another coed trip, this time with the "Green Mountain Girls" in Vermont.

OCTOBER 22 -- SQUARE DANCE

OCTOBER 22-23 -- OVERNIGHT ON CRANE MOUNTAIN

The summit of Crane Mountain is almost completely covered with tall, majestic evergreens. If you've ever had a pine needle mattress for a bed and a forest of evergreens for your bedroom you know the thrill that is yours when you "sack in" for a night in the open. This trip will be held when the Fall weather is tangy and invigorating. In addition, rock climbing enthusiasts will find small but interesting cliffs at the top to test their skill.

OCTOBER 22-23 -- CORNELL DANBY

Cornell plays host each Fall to all member clubs of the IOCA. These weekends have become famous for fun and activity. Hiking, square dancing and singing are but a few items on the agenda.

PAST ACTIVITIES

BANQUET -- MAY 21

Recently renovated Mountain Springs with its white pine woodwork, open fire place, appropriate interior decorations -- even the smell of freshly-cut wood still in the air -- provided a most pleasant setting for the second annual ROC Banquet. The meal itself, a gourmet's special, was built around grilled fillet mignon as the main dish.

Three presentations were made during the evening. President Cliff Ostergaard conferred honorary membership on A.T. Shorey, a member of the N.Y. State Conservation Department who has been extremely helpful and valuable to the Club by speaking at smokers, leading trips, and helping in committee work connected with winter mountaineering.

Charlie Hine delivered to the Club's cold weather specialists a very practical and symbolic trophy for "doing their duty as they saw it" during this past year's winter climbing trips in the Adirondacks. This splendid award, donated by the Adirondack Mountain Club, may now be seen in our "trophy case".

The third presentation was made to Dick Bailey who became the owner

of a cherry-red, Swiss, Tyrolian hat complete with braid and feather, the symbol of the ROC. This gift was made to Dick in obvious recognition of the very vital part that he has played in building up the Club from a position of bare existence immediately after the war to its present successful status as a leader among campus activities and in intercollegiate circles.

Guest speaker for the evening was P. Schuyler Miller, Head of the Conservation Committee of the Adirondack Mountain Club. His main topic of "Conservation" was discussed under several sub-headings. Pollution of N.Y. State's rivers and streams has become so bad that legislation in the form of the Osteeye Bill has finally been enacted. Even Lake George has become slightly polluted within the last few years.

The indiscriminate use of DDT and other insecticides wipes out not only the mosquitos and other insects generally regarded as pests but also birds and the smaller creatures of the woodlands which perform definite and vital functions in the matter of destroying the aforementioned pests.

The effects of erosion can be seen in many places in the Adirondack forests. The practice of absolutely cleaning a hillside of timber permits even ordinary rains to wash away the top soil accumulated by nature "the hard way" over thousands of years, even when new saplings are immediately planted. Too much humus washes down to clog our waterways, leaving bare, rocky mountains behind, before these new saplings can take sufficient root to stabilize the topsoil. Mining does not at present constitute a serious threat.

Various loopholes exist in the present laws; amendments detrimental to the preservation of the forest preserve are continually being presented in the State Legislature. This combination of dangerous situations explains completely the necessity for greater public conservation education, increased vigilance to detect and ward off new threats to the forest preserve and whole hearted efforts on everyone's part to protect those natural resources as yet unravaged by civilization.

Editor's Note; Although the Banquet was held last Spring, the message delivered by its guest speaker is every bit as timely now as then. The next issue of the ROC CAIRN will contain comprehensive information on the conditions now existing which are detrimental to the Forest Preserves of N.Y. State.

CANADIAN CANOE TRIP

During the latter part of August before College Week three ROC'ers and a friend from Pittsburgh roamed northern Canada in the vicinity of the Lake of Bays and Tamagami Provincial Forest. Original plans called for a 90 mile canoe trip in Algonquin Provincial Park but due to the fire hazard created by dry weather this had to make way for a brief excursion farther to the north.

We're told the trip was a little jinxed what with a lost wallet, a mislaid fishing pole and a goodly quantity of precipitation during the trip across Lady Evelyn Lake. However, on one occasion, the group hiked five miles into town for cigarettes and wound up at a dance so perhaps it wasn't all dark clouds at that!

ROC'ers INVADE GRAND TETONS OF WYOMING

In the space of three weeks time every major peak in the Teton Range except one fell to the enthusiastic efforts of three of the Club's dyed-in-the-wool mountain climbers. A clean sweep was stymied by formidable ice formations on the top of one peak which prevented the last 200 feet of ascent from being made. Climbing in the Tetons is climbing at its best according to the boys. The trails are wide, dry and never steep. And the scenery is superb. The consensus of opinion is that the long haul to the West was well worth it.

COLLEGE WEEK -- SEPTEMBER 9-16

With enthusiasm slightly dampened by a steady rainfall, College Week chubbers began their stay under somewhat inauspicious circumstances. However, the sun god favored us with his blessings after the first day or so and the Rensselaer men got in all the climbing and hiking they wanted. Song fests in the individual lean-tos provided a pleasant way to spend an evening "in" during unfavorable weather and the ranger's cabin was once again the site for square dances under moonlit skies.

RPI and Cornell did a bit of early morning feuding. The game seemed to be -- "who can wake up earlier?" Sleepy heads were aroused amid a chorus of yells and a symphony played on pots and pans. The Vassar contingent and even some of our own squad in another lean-to bore the brunt of the extra exuberance of the ROC'ers on one cool, clear morning.

Unfortunately, most of us had to leave Lake Colden prematurely to register for the present school term.

P.S. Why doesn't somebody high above Cayuga's waters buy a cook book containing a recipe for something besides glop?

SPELUNKERS OFF TO AN EARLY START

The Rensselaer Grotto of the National Speleological Society got off to a good start this semester by organizing two trips within the first week. On Wednesday, September 14, before classes had even begun, six spelunkers went out to Ball's Cave where they spent the day going through passages that were unusually dry. There was, however, water collected in one end of the cave at a series of natural dams, which prevented further exploration. Plans are being made to acquire a rubber boat and to continue on into the cave.

On Saturday afternoon, September 17, a party of eleven speleologists set out in the direction of Duanesburg on a "cave-finding" trip. With their sights set on some exposed limestone strata, the cave crawlers turned into mountain climbers and then rock climbers as they explored a cliff overlooking the Schoharie River (800 feet below). Several small "caves" or holes were found but were too small to be of interest. To wind up the trip, the cavemen went to nearby Sitzer's Cave, which was very wet and very cold, but as this was the first time through a newly opened section, the cold water has little effect on their activities.

Many interesting and exciting activities are being planned for the coming year, and all freshmen are welcome to join in with the undergrounders.

ROCK CLIMBERS ACTIVE

The Rock-Climbing Division of the ROC opened its Fall program with a number of successful climbs in the Shawangunks over the weekend. A party of seven including Herb Fishman, who was kidnaped from his fellow Spelunkers and initiated into the thrills and skills of rock-climbing, climbed the Three Pines, The Butterfly, The Easy Overhang, the One Piton Route and a recently pioneered route called Ralph's Crack.

Our organization again made contact with the A.M.C. rock-climbers, meeting a number of new members. The girls were out of this world!

MISCELLANEOUS

ON BOOKS AND THINGS: TAHAWUS

In my opinion every lover of the Adirondacks should own a copy of Russell Carson's Peaks and People of the Adirondacks. Thumbing through mine the other day I ran across two beautifully descriptive passages dealing with New York State's magnificent skytop, Mt. Marcy -- or as I prefer to call it, "Tahawus". The first is a simple word picture voiced by the native, John Cheney, and recorded by Charles Fenno Hoffman.

"It makes a man feel what it is to have all creation under his feet. There are woods there which it would take a lifetime to hunt over, mountains that seem shouldering each other to boost the one whereon you stand, up and away Heaven knows where. Old Champlain, though fifty miles away, glistens below you like a strip of white birch when slicked up by the moon on a frosty night, and the Green Mountains of Vermont beyond it fade and fade away until they disappear as gradually as a cold scent when the dew rises."

The second is the first two verses of Alfred L. Donaldson's "Song of Tahawus":

I am the tallest of the mountains where the many mountains rise--
I am Cleaver of the Cloudland and the Splitter of the Skies --
I am keeper of the caverns where the God of Thunder sleeps --
I am older than the waters that once hid me in their deeps.

For the eyes I hold the visions of the things that make men
whole --
Of the woodlands and the waters that can whisper to the soul.
In the winter robed in whiteness, in the summer garbed in green,
I am warden of the wonders of an ever shifting scene.

Dick Bailey