



THE ROC CAIRN



RENSSELAER OUTING CLUB, INC. — 15th ST. LOUNGE, R. P. I., TROY, NEW YORK

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TIPS ON WINTER CAMPING

A. T. Shorey, Local authority on outdoor activities, honorary member of the club and good friend to the club spoke at the general business meeting last week. His topic was "Winter Camping", surely an important one in view of current club plans in this field. He discussed the challenging but dangerous aspects of the sport, the absolute necessity of careful and detailed planning, and the importance of "forehandedness".

Techniques and suggestions he mentioned were:

1. Plan to camp in familiar country in combined balsam and hardwood timber; include a minimum of four and a maximum of about eight in the party.
2. Equipment and supplies-- If possible use an ordinary pick-up truck tarpaulin for shelter rather than a tent or ready built leanto, use the tarp for a pack in preference to a standard pack or frame (if each member carries one tarp the extras may be used for sides and ground). Carry sash cord, single blade axe, ten-penny nails, candles, flashlight, compass, vaseline, triangular bandage, sunglasses, etc. Wear all wool clothing (layers rather than single thicknesses), take extra clothing, especially socks; carry dry foods such as oatmeal, coffee, flour, etc., and plenty of energy foods (a half pound of sugar per person per day is not too much); carry foods that will not freeze and take repairs for harness and gear.
3. Hiking-- Always keep prominent land marks in view; train yourself to always be on the watch for camp sites and to note qualities of each; avoid perspiration while hiking and at all times on trip; do not try to go too far in one day; use skis or beaver-tail snowshoes on open trails, bear paw in uncovered brush or around camp; stop in plenty of time to set up camp before dark.
4. Camping-- Choose a site beneath a fallen tree, rock face, balsam, or other protected area; clear snow to bare ground; build fire first, unpack last; build fire from birch bark (if available), long shavings, plenty of twigs from dead bottom branches of balsam, then make low leanto with tarp, cord and nails; cover sleeping area with plenty of balsam boughs; cut plenty of wood and kindling for morning; sleep close together; keep shoes warm (they will freeze!); expect to wake up early, start a fire, and leap back into the sack.

5. Emergency- The best cure for any trouble is of course, prevention but be prepared at all times for emergency; be sure your planned route and time of return are known at the base camp or starting point; let an experienced member of the group be absolute boss and let his be the final word in all matters, then an emergency is less likely to arise, and you can act quickly and efficiently if it does; also, beware of frostbite! Fingers can become frostbitten in the time it takes to tie your shoes; if feet become wet, put on dry socks immediately! Do not wear wet shoes!

JOHNNY JAY'S "ALPS TO THE ANDES"

On Monday evening, December 12, the Albany and Helderberg Ski Clubs will present an exclusive capital district showing of the inimitable Johnny Jay's latest film production, "Alps to the Andes". Those who have seen some of Johnny Jay's films need no high pressure solesmanship to be convinced that Johnny is a master of photographic technique and a genius in capturing on celluloid the thrills and action of the sport of skiing. Johnny personally supplies the narrative for all his productions. See you in the Albany High School Auditorium at 8:00 PM on Monday evening, December 12! The admission is \$1.00 and you can be assured of your money's worth.

EMERGENCY RESCUE SQUAD

We have all been lucky so far. We have had few serious accidents while in the ROC. But the law of averages is against us. The Spelunker's safety branch, seeing this condition in their own field started this rescue squad plan. But when the fields of use proved so large, the ROC Council decided to present it to the entire membership.

Here are the possible scopes of action.

1. Immediate help to any branch of the ROC which needs it. Spelunkers-- cave in; Rock-climbers -- fall; Hikers, hunters, skiers--man lost. Or any other situation where help is needed.
2. Availability to other organizations such as Red Cross, Forestry Service, Police Dept, for service during floods and forest fires and in finding lost children in the woods etc.

Here are requirements for personnel.

1. Number of men limited to about 20.
2. Several experts in each field like Rock-climbing, Camping, Spelunking, etc.
3. All men qualified in first aid. (You can still get in the first aid class every Thursday night).

Details such as cars, equipment, and contact service are being worked out.

The plan is good. It has started in a small way in the spelunker and what is needed now is good men from the other branches of the ROC. If you are interested, have any ideas, or want to hear more, see Bill Davis, Roebling 32 or drop a note in the ROC office.

TRY YOUR HICKORIES IN THE BERKSHIRES

There may be some week-ends this winter when you just can't find a whole Sunday for skiing, and you just want to grab a Saturday afternoon's skiing, or it may be that you want to trim the budget and leave the long trips for a vacation. Then, the Berkshires may be the answer to your problem.

For the most part, the Berkshires are rope tow areas, but that doesn't mean that you can't find some good trails, or a sporty slope. Now for a run down of some of the areas.

JIMINY PEAK: Perhaps one of the best developments within a reasonable distance from Troy. To reach Hancock, Mass., follow Route 66 for 14 miles, then Route 43 for another 11 miles to Jiminy Peak. The area is located in a natural snow bowl, and quite often there has been good skiing here while other areas in the Berkshires were without snow. The trails are serviced by one T-bar and several rope tows that lead to trails of intermediate and advanced-intermediate difficulty. The area is still very new (just opened in 1948) and will probably add more trails in the near future.

BOSQUETS - in Pittsfield, Mass.: Located just outside of Pittsfield, on routes 7 and 20, on the way to Lennox, and it's good driving all the way from Troy, about 35 miles. This is one of the oldest developments in the Berkshires, and draws large crowds. The slopes are reached through ten or more tows, all rope, and are mostly open slopes of novice and intermediate difficulty. The top of the hill does have some short trails that lead to the slopes below.

G-BAR-S - Great Barrington, Mass.: The G-Bar-S Ranch is on Route 23 from Great Barrington to Monterey, just outside Great Barrington, 50 miles from Troy. It offers an excellent assortment of trails of all difficulties which wind down from the summit of a hill reached by three successive rope tows. There are two open slopes, beginner-novice class, served by two rope tows.

For the more rugged individualists who prefer to do their own climbing, there are trails on Mt. Greylock - Thunderbolt trail in particular - just outside of Williamstown, Mass. Snow stays quite late on the summit of Greylock.

The Pittsfield State Forest, Pittsfield, Mass., has some good trails, sheltered by dense pine woods, providing a good protection from the sun, consequently, when snow is scarce there may be skiing here. The State maintains a warm lodge by the parking lot, and a smaller cabin up by the trails.

A few developments of lesser importance may be found at the State Forest at South Lee, Mass., and at Otis Ridge, Mass., Route 23: both are served by rope tows and are mostly trail areas.

If you happen to be in northwestern Connecticut, the ski area in the Mohawk Mountain State Forest near Goshen on Route 4 is well worth a try. It is one of the best in the Berkshires.

EXTENSIVE WINTER MOUNTAINEERING PROGRAM PLANNED

This winter will see the return of winter competition between several colleges of the northeastern area. The Adirondack Mountain Club is sponsor of this friendly rivalry which is an annual occurrence. As an incentive for bigger and better winter mountaineering the following trophies are awarded yearly:

The Robert Marshall Memorial Trophy - an annual award to the club sending not more than six and no less than four members as a skiing and camping team up Algonquin and Iroquois Mountains. Last year the ROC won the award. Let's get it again!

The Adirondack Loj Trophy - a challenge trophy which is retained for one year by the club receiving the award. ADK awards this trophy to the club showing the most proficient skiing, camping, and snow shoeing program in the Adirondacks for the year. It is presently in the competent hands of the ROC. Let's keep this one too!

The Robert Kehoe Memorial Trophy is a recently initiated award to be presented to the club that has the most extensive skiing, camping, and touring program for the year.

The William G. Howard Memorial Trophy - offered to that college group which performs the outstanding day's performance of the season, in winter mountaineering, whether on skis or on snowshoes.

Judging will be accomplished on the following four categories:

- 1) Qualifications - preparation, planning, size of group and ratio of novices to experts.
- 2) Contributions and Accomplishments - new methods and equipment used, weather and snow data, trail and map information, ascents hitherto unrecorded in winter, camping, difficulties encountered.
- 3) Adherence to Safety Rules - Use of common sense, adequacy of provisions, equipment, clothing, first aid treatment of any injuries, return condition of men (morale and physical condition).
- 4) Report Submitted - Completeness, clarity, photography.

Trip Leader Franz Mohling has mapped out an extensive winter mountaineering program. If all goes as planned we should have no trouble capturing our share of trophies. For more information on our plan of attack see page 6.

COMING ACTIVITIES

DECEMBER 9, 10, 11 -- WELLESLEY IOCA SQUARE DANCE WEEKEND

This promises to be an interesting weekend with sports events, hearty meals, congenial company and lots of square dancing in the offering. Amherst and Norwich are both slated to send representatives. As a special added attraction Amherst's Ernie Anderson will give an illustrated talk entitled "Ramblings of an OC'er"!

DECEMBER 10-11 -- SKIING INSTRUCTIONS

On Saturday and Sunday, December 10 and 11, skiers who have already mastered the rudiments of the sport will have an opportunity to learn more advanced techniques. These instructions will be given for the greater part of the day under the direction of Al Seligman. A limit of 10 people on each day has been set. So if you are already a skier of sorts and wish to be a better one, put your name on the sign-up list in the ROC office and wax up the old hickory slats.

WINTER MOUNTAINEERING -- DECEMBER

- DECEMBER 10 -- A conditioning and equipment shakedown trip consisting of hiking and/or casing, probably in the Adirondacks.
- DECEMBER 18-24 -- A rugged trip with the intent of climbing remote Allen Mt. Night camp in tents.
- DECEMBER 18-24 -- Trip to Dix Range, to be coordinated with Allen Mt. trip.
- DECEMBER 26-31 -- Rugged trip to the Swards - involves twelve mile trip to pack in.
- DECEMBER 26-31 -- Ski mountaineering - stay in ADM winter camp: not so rugged but a lot of fun.

HUDSON VALLEY REGIONAL MEETING -- NOVEMBER 5,6

With the dual purpose of discussing problems relative to the successful functioning of the IOCA trips and having a good time four members of the Hudson Valley Group, Vassar, Skidmore, Sage and RPI sent delegates to Thunderhead Lento adjacent to Charlie Hine's home in the Taconics. Among the topics discussed were: selection of chaperones for coed trips, the choosing of a Hudson Valley Regional Secretary (Joan Cross of Skidmore), time schedules for planning IOCA trips, methods for improving correspondence between clubs, trip sign-up policy and the possibility of a written constitution for the IOCA.

For the fun part of the weekend it seems there were a lot of water pistol fights, snow ball duels, prune-pit spitting contests, and horseplay in general. The basement of Charlie's new home was the scene of square dancing on Saturday night ("everybody seemed to dance - they had to to keep warm") and a hike through the Taconics occupied Sunday morning.

INDIAN OVEN AND TWIN LAKES CAVE TRIP -- NOVEMBER 12-14

The spelunkers really had a field day on this jaunt, with four caves being visited over one weekend. The first one, Indian Oven Cave proved a little difficult to find but two hours of searching finally located it. It proved interesting particularly because the whole floor was at an angle of 90 degrees which made traveling a little rough. No. 2 on the list was Twin Lakes Cave. A great many passages exist but because of time limitations only a few were investigated.

The group met Clay Perry, noted cave authority, who took them to the third and fourth caves to be investigated. Both were marble caves, Baker's Quarry and Elephant's Den. They were unusual to the ROC Grotto because of their smooth white walls and cleanliness, in contrast to the usual type of cavern found in our own stamping grounds.

VASSAR SQUARE DANCE WEEKEND -- NOVEMBER 12-13

Your editor can't think of a better way to write up this trip than to quote directly from the trip writeup. "A howling success!" "Getting in the first car to go down was apparently the objective of several of the "red shirts" swish two hours and 85 miles later found the engineers clamoring at the portals of Vassar with none else but you guessed it, water pistols. The VOC, determined not to have water pistols, imposed a \$1 fine on everyone found in the act of discharging same. ROC total for the weekend \$78. The same amount in simulated stock in the ROC, Inc. was sent to Vassar via Woodbury and Woodbury, Ltd."

"The afternoon (of November 12) was consumed in a rugged soccer game. Score: one mutilated hockey field plus one hundred sore shins." Dick Best and his band came over from Boston to supply the music for square dancing. As expected, several slide rule artists stayed on after the official closing of the weekend to play football and partake of the excellent athletic facilities at Vassar, before beginning the reluctant trek back to the salt mines.

SKIDMORE SQUARE DANCE -- NOVEMBER 19

The combination of 40 ROC'ers and 40 SOC'ers proved a good one on Saturday evening as Stu Jamieson provided the music for a square dance in the Skidmore gym. After a little trouble with one of the loud speakers had been corrected, dancing really began in earnest. The genial atmosphere of the nearby Recreation Center made the intermission an interesting interlude. In fact, some of the participants forgot to go back for the second half of the shindig. The dance ended with a Kentucky hoe-down, a Virginia reel, and other large-group dances.

MISCELLANEOUS

ATTENTION SKIERS!

If you're in New York City or near vicinity this Christmas Vacation and are in the market for ski equipment, you might find it profitable to visit the Suns Sporting Goods Co., Inc., 200 Fifth Ave., N.Y.C. Upon presentation of your ROC membership card, this company will offer a 20% discount on any purchases made except "merchandise on special sale or Fair Trade". Suns Sporting Goods Co., Inc., features "one of the largest SKI departments in New York, carrying all nationally advertised merchandise".

PROCEDURE FOR RENTING EQUIPMENT

To rent equipment simply leave a note in the box of the Equipment Chairman (Larry Drobny), stating what is wanted, what trip it is for, and date you leave note. First come, first served applies here, of course. Pick up the stuff Friday afternoon or Saturday morning in the Office. The amount you owe will be posted on the Office bulletin board. Please pay the rental to the office watch. Equipment should be returned early in the week on Monday or Tuesday.