

ROCK CLIMBING

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SAFETY AND CLIMBING

The rapid increase in interest in rock climbing in the R.O.C. as well as in most of the other clubs in the I.O.C.A. has created a need for more stringent control and emphasizing of safety precautions. But far better than a list of precautions at this point, is a little thinking on the part of those who would climb cliffs.

The common sense term in rock climbing language is good judgement. This is the thought which lies behind every safety precaution in the book. It is something which is broadened with a knowledge of rock, weather, and the climbing party, but basically, good judgement can be simply defined as being opposed to downright foolhardiness.

Climbing is a companionable sport, not a competitive one. It is a team sport in a companionable sense. Judgement must be exercised by every member of the team with the leader making the final decisions. Often a question or an observation from those following will illuminate a situation overlooked by the leader. Invariably, properly considered questions and comments will develop better judgement in future leaders.

The following is a list of precautions with which climbers should be thoroughly familiar:

1. a judicious retreat is better than a foolhardy ascent.
2. know your conditions, rock, weather, and party.
3. the physical condition and experience of the whole party, not just the leader, must match the climb.
4. Climbing requires good and adequate equipment, rope, clothing, and accessories.
5. it is good form to constantly practice technique, rope handling and rules of safety. Commands and signals should be reviewed before the climb.
6. the second on a rope should be experienced and strong enough to hold the leader's fall. Leaders must be familiar with the limits involved in leader protection and stay within these limits.
7. only one member of a rope should move at a time. Everyone not moving should be roped in.
8. it is good form to belay rappels. This is a must when not too experienced persons are to rappel.

9. watch for loose rock, for your own security and for the security of those below.
 10. taking all of these rules into consideration,

THINK.

Pete Oliver
 ROC RMC

LOST AND FOUND

Attention! All you rambunctious IOCA'ers. Some of your lot were soooooo anxious to skidaddle home that in the mad scramble they left their duffle behind.

The items listed below were collected by the ROC and haven't been identified. If something sounds familiar, drop us a line (we'll sell it back to you very reasonably.)

Here's hoping you finally wind up with everything that belongs to you.

Win Oakes
 Equipment Manager

- 1-sleeping bag-marked U.S.-kapok, snap fastening
- 1-double sleeping bag-mummy type- in water repellant case
- 1-blanket-green-marked CHATHAM
- 1-sweater-tan-knit wool-slip/on
- 1-soap-DIAL/in brown case

The following material was marked, but if you haven't received it yet let us know.

- 1- sleeping bag-J.C. ROTHBERG
- 1- blanket- WARREN S. SEAMAN
 Milltown, N.J.
- 1-dufflebag- JANET FIELD
- 1-green wool shirt- ISABELLE CARTER

THE R.M.C. PAST AND PRESENT

Many of the newer members of the ROC know very little about the Rensselaer Mountaineering Club. In as much as the RMC is closely linked with the ROC and draws most of its new members from the ROC, the pertinent facts about this unique organization are long overdue.

The purpose of the RMC as stated in its constitution is "to encourage and promote safe and enjoyable mountaineering activities among the student and alumni members of the Rensselaer Outing Club". This carefully worded literary gem also neatly encompasses the past activities of the RMC from the ascent of the Devil's Tower to the safety measures that permeate ROC rock climbing.

The RMC is a young club, not yet three years old. At the present time there are 22 members who are spread over the globe from Alaska to Germany. Yet in spite of these difficulties the RMC, today, is flourishing. The strong bonds of comradeship formed in the Outing Club have been preserved and strengthened in the Mountaineering Club.

Membership in the RMC is definitely limited to those sincerely interested in mountaineering. As for ability, an ROC'er must be only fairly proficient in rock, snow, and ice climbing to become an Associate Member. The Outing Club offers the opportunity to easily obtain this proficiency with little more than enthusiasm as a good start. The Mountains Won't Come To You.-----

The RMC has an interesting library of mountaineering literature which is available to anyone in the ROC. We hope that in the future to locate our precious collection in the ROC office, but until then contact Don Bailey--Librarian.

There are five undergraduate RMC members on campus:

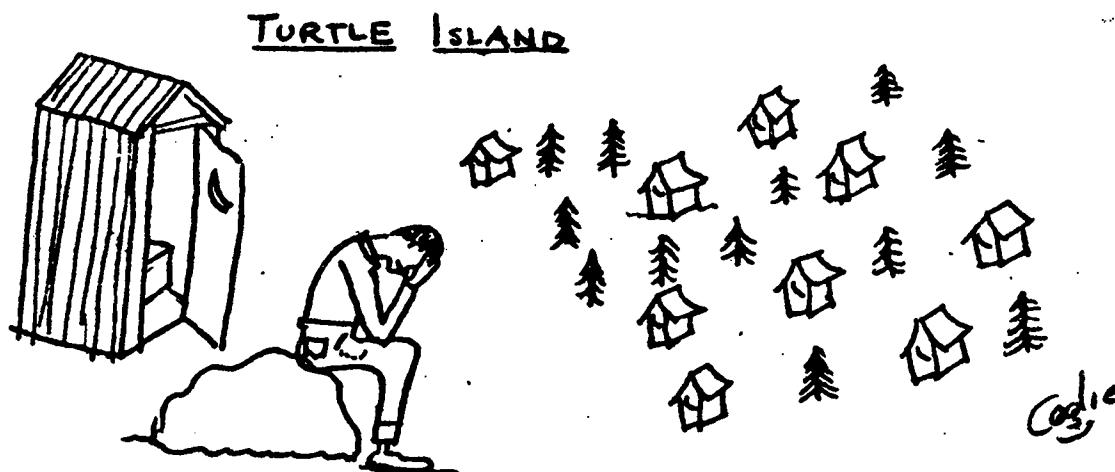
Pete Oliver President
 Dick Opsahl
 Carl Henrikson
 Phil Norwine
 Don Bailey

Anyone who would like more information about the RMC should contact one of these men.

D.J.B.

From the Editor:

If there is anybody or organization that would like to receive the Cairn, drop me a line o/o the Outing Club.



And not a sheet of paper-----