



THE ROC CAIRN



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

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TRIPS

"He was cold and hungry. Standing outside the cabin, feet deep in snow, eyes peering through the frosted glass - eyes that even Scrooge couldn't resist - he plaintively wanted to come in and join the happy group." (Winter mountaineering?) (Could this be Calhoun?) Don't be left out in the cold, for once again has another active season of the ROC begun. Join in on the trips. Become a patch member. Then quit. "What trips?", you ask. Why just read on and find out. Rare is the weekend that finds us without a trip to go on. (Rarer is the car to take us there.)

On September 22, 1956, day trips went out in four activities and were concluded by a square dance and supper at Samson Lodge in conjunction with the RSOC. These trips were in canoeing (see trip report), trail-clearing, rock-climbing, and spelunking (what is spelunking?). The following weekend featured more rock-climbing and spelunking (what is it?). In the immediate future looms FALL LAKE GEORGE. What is Fall Lake George? What is this thing that cuts Saturday class attendance in half? Go there and see.

Talking about trips, I would like to say that the trip leaders are sorely neglecting to turn in trip reports. This is the only record we have on the worthiness of a trip and what is needed for it. I strongly suggest that the club reemphasizes the use of trip reports (besides for scratch paper) over again. It also is a potential source of Cairn articles. You will notice, as long as we are now on this subject, that contributions to the Cairn can be put into the envelope on the door of the office (Sage invited). It means less plagery for me.

One last point: In the past, as far as I can remember, various activities have had exceedingly weak training programs for novices. These consisted of going out on a trip and learning the bare essentials through experience. Let me cite several cases.

1- Canoeing The novice would be planted in the bow. From there would he be on his own to move this wooden board called a paddle. These "canoeists" then go out into Lake George and... I know; I was one.

2- Winter Mountaineering Here the novice is taken out,

usually after a very sketchy talk, and begins to learn how to be comfortable - if lucky - in the snow. A negligible amount of technique is picked up.

3- Rock-climbing. Somewhat more of the fundamentals are shown here, since the leader's safety is dependent upon it. Occasionally, somewhat more of the finer points are demonstrated.

All these are cited from personal experience. What is at fault? Is it that the leaders are short in the knowledge themselves or is it that they are unwilling to give up the time to help instruct the newcomers? Perhaps stricter requirements for leader will help? Any suggestions?

Has anyone seen Calhoun?

STOP!

FALL LAKE GEORGE

OCTOBER 12, 13, 14 1956

GO!

MIOCA WEEKEND

MIOCA and the Cornell Outing Club are having a weekend outing out in the Catskills, November 2, 3, 4. There will be hiking, mountain climbing, and, of course, the inevitable dance.

Mike Smolin

Ed. Do we have a trip planned to go out there?

UNTIMELY SPACEWASTER

"We need BETTER weather than Canada's been sending us...THEIR Export weather is shoddy! SHODDY!"

The Incomplete POGO Walt Kelly p32

NOTE

The quotation opening this issue was from "THE MOUNTAINEER", Vol. 48, No. 13, p66

BROWN WATER TRIP

Our party of twelve, ten ROC and two RSOC, finally assembled together under the Congress Street bridge (west side) at about 1:00 PM after meandering there through many sundry ways, mainly walking. The four canoes had already been placed there and we found the launching fairly easy. The east shore presents difficulties.

Up the river (the Hudson, that is) we bravely headed and... we nearly got mired in muck ("The map is not the territory..."). Don't take the left channel. It isn't. Course compensated, we bravely headed up the right channel and...three out of four canoes leak, poor lazy rider. Well, this factor ignored, we bravely headed up the river and...a fall loomed ahead of us. The modern Illiad commenced as we went through Troy, canoes, et.al. Past the locks (we had been advised not to go up them) we resumed our journey and we bravely headed up the river for half a mile and...we turned back. Pangs of hunger were within me.

Down the river we went and rather than parade once more past the Trojans (and save us work) we went through the locks. Note: This is difficult to do when a red light is showing. Homeward bound, we encountered native resistance through the vehicle of missiles thrown at us from the bridge. Sensing a slight antagonism, we quickly withdrew and beached at a boat basin some two blocks from the Congress Street bridge on the Waterveliet side. The whole trip took some four hours of easy going.

Andy Monian



"Rock Rock" Rock Rock Rock

One phase of mountaineering is rock-climbing, a sport, an art; to be practiced and enjoyed. This was the attempt of several students from Sage and RPI on the weekend of October 6&7.

Saturday, a beautiful Fall day, a group went out to Grafton, a site for rock practice, and were briefed in the principles of rock climbing. Encountered during the day were such things as: Balance climbing, climbing with the Eyes, Rythem climbing. The afternoon was spent climbing up, climbing down, and climbing around-velling, "Up Rope, Slack, Testing, ~~Falling~~ climbing -standing, slipping, climbing eating.

On Sunday a group of 9 RPI boys and one Sage girl left for the Schwangunks, a rim of rock approximately two miles long and offering exposure up to 200 ft, with every conceivable situation in rock climbing. There are overhangs, chimneys, cracks, slabs, finger traverses and an escape route.

Because of a lack in ropes and experienced leaders most people had to sit out one climb. Two usually climbed together and in some situations three were on a rope. In all events everybody had a GOOD TIME.

P.B.



TRADE-IN POST

Anybody have anything for trade, purchase, or garbage? Anyone need any? Tell about it here. No charge, draft it!

CALENDER OF EVENTS

October 12, 13, 14 - Fall Lake George

October 20 - RPI Square Dance. ROC backed

October 27 - Smith Square Dance

Plus the many other trips unknown now but sure to be formed.

NOTE

The article on rock-climbing shows what happens when the editor DOES'T type out the copy himself, eh P.B.?

SEE YOU THERE

WHERE?

FALL LAKE GEORGE

ROC Cairn
15th St. Lounge
RPI
Troy, New York