



THE ROC CAIRN



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

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September 3, 1951.

Member of the Class of 1955,
Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute.

Hello,

I'd like to take this opportunity to introduce you to the Rensselaer Outing Club.

Essentially our outing club is based on a program of hiking and camping. This, however, in no way limits our activities. We combine this basic hiking and camping with canoeing, mountain climbing, rock climbing, and whatever else appeals to the members.

There are no strict requirements to membership in the ROC. Interest and enthusiasm for the out-of-doors and connected activities are the only necessities.

Don't hesitate to come along with us because you're not an experienced woodsman. We can teach you whatever you don't know about outing clubbing. (Or perhaps you old trappers can teach us a few things). You will have opportunities to learn about phases of outing-clubbing which may be new to you, such as: winter mountaineering, rock climbing, etc.

The reverse side may answer a few of your questions about our club. It is hard to tell you all about the outing club in these few lines, however, so in closing I'd like to invite you to our giant rally, which will be held on Thursday, September 27th. At this rally you will be able to meet the ROC, its officers and its members, and we will tell you something about its history, and future plans.

Dick Opsahl, '53,
President.

In answer to a few of your questions about our organization:

What is the Rensselaer Outing Club, and why was it formed?

Stated quite simply in our Constitution is our purpose - "to further outing activities and good fellowship among the students and friends of RPI". This phrase does not adequately express the "why", and perhaps, here, experience rather than words are necessary. It is, however, due to the love of adventure and travel in the out-of-doors; the scaling of new heights (or depths in the case of our spelunkers); or even the retraveling of old familiar trails. It is the thrill that comes when we have reached the summit and can look out on the broad expanse below that we have just covered. It is the feeling of relaxation and freedom when we "hit the sack", be it pine needles or a sleeping bag.

The ROC is a group of RPI students and friends who banded together into an organization for the promotion and mutual participation in outing. It is divided into the ROC proper, and its associated organizations - the Rensselaer Grotto (for the spelunkers); the Rod and Gun Club; and the Rensselaer Mountaineering Club. Membership in each club is distinct and a member of one automatically becomes an associate member of the others.

The ruling body of the ROC is the executive council, consisting of the president, vice president, secretary, treasurer, office manager, Cairn editor, and two members at large. It is the duty of this group, which meets weekly, to see that the club functions as an organization. Meetings are as informal as possible and open to everyone.

General meetings of the club are held whenever items of particular interest arise, such as the commencement of the skiing season, and are generally highlighted by a movie or special program and speaker.

The ROC is a member of the Intercollegiate Outing Club Association (IOCA), and participates with other member colleges in joint outings throughout the East. The club is also affiliated with the United States Eastern Amateur Skiing Association (USEASA).

How does the ROC accomplish its aims? By going out on trips as often as possible. Trips are generally kept small to increase the feeling of comradeship. Large trips such as those run early in the season to acquaint new members with the ROC are generally made in buses. Small trips are made in club members' cars, the drivers being reimbursed according to club rules. All trips are financially self-sufficient. (This is a necessary procedure since the club has no outside source of income). Variety is the keynote on these trips, and trips activities include hiking, camping, white and calm water canoeing, rock climbing, skiing, winter mountaineering, and square dancing, to mention a few.

How does one become a member? By filling out a membership application and submitting it to the Membership Chairman with an initiation fee of \$1.00. (Annual dues are \$2.00). To become an active voting member of the club requires that you participate in three accredited trips. A shoulder patch, depicting the club's symbol (a Swiss Tyrolian Hat) is then presented to you. This shoulder patch, together with the red shirt, distinguish the ROC members on campus.

This briefly, is the ROC. If you're interested, or have any further questions, drop around to our office in the 15th St. Lounge. And when you arrive on campus, don't forget the date of the rally - September 27th. Watch the bulletin boards for time and place, as well as planned activities.