



# THE ROC CAIRN



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

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First a few notes on conferences:

## WINTER MOUNTAINEERING CONFERENCE

The April issue of the CAIRN went to the presses just a little too early to catch the Adirondack Mountain Club's winter mountaineering conference on March 28. The Princeton crew took care of all the arrangements and held the get-together at the Winter Clove hotel in the Catskills. Congratulations to Walt Dunlap and his cache carrying coolies from Cornell for copping the cold camping and climbing cup. The dinner that night was really terrific, but unfortunately it was served family style. The ROCers present did justice to all available food and then forgot to pay the bill. Honestly, it was just an oversight!

## IOCA CONFERENCE

The big IOCA event in April was, of course, Conference with the UPOC as hosts this year. Just as a quick review, College Week will be September 9-16 and back at Colden again, Sandy Dewey of UPOC was elected exec. sec., and Doug Rankin of Colgate was elected College Week Chairman. Best of luck folks! The site for next year's conference will probably be in N.H. as UNH will be next year's host. Aside from the conference angle, it was a great week end for meeting those good friends you meet only once or twice a year.

## REMEMBER...

The ROC\*IOCA Lake George canoe trip is officially scheduled for October 9-12. Make note of it now to avoid conflicting trips.

## DOWNHILL YACHTING, WHITE-WATER CANOEING, OR FLOOD-BOATING

This Spring the ROC has been doing quite a bit of white-water canoeing both as individuals and as a club so below are the accounts of the trips with the lessons that we learned. Some of the lessons were costly or nearly so and it is hoped that these stories may help other white-water canoers avoid the same mishaps.

### THE UPPER HUDSON

Saturday night, April 11, Pete Oliver, Carl Henrikson, Jack Hershey, and Fred Hochgraf took two 17 foot kayaks (Folbots), a mik truck, and an Austin to the upper part of the Hudson River. After spending the night in a field near The Glen where we left the Austin, we took the boats to a point about five miles above North River.

The fun started about a half a mile from where we put in and with several cars of tourists watching, we stuck our bows into a wall of water and started bailing. In the next eighteen miles the river dropped 350 feet. We would get a half mile of rough stuff and then 200 yards where we could bail. We ate lunch over a fire and thawed out. About three miles from the Glen, we went into a mile and a half of real down-hill paddling. Every wave contributed until Jack and Fred wamped. After four minutes in the 36 degree water, they were hauled out and started walking towards the Glen. In the process of swamping, one paddle was lost, but luckily Jack saw it in the back of a passing truck and we retrieved it. The kayak that swamped was pretty broken up so Carl H., Stan Ball, Jack H., Jan DeWan, and Fred H. spent several nights in the kayak repair business. Many thanks to Charlie Hinc for the use of his boat.

Refer any necessary kayak repairs to Ye Henrikson, Hochgraf, Hershey, and DeWan Kayak Repair Co., Inc., Ltd. (paid advertisement)

Now for a few suggestions. You will be wet most of the time besides probably getting dunked, so wool clothes next to the skin are in order. Sneakers are most practical for gripping rocks, but watch out for cracked shins or worse from these same rocks. Life jackets are a necessity for swimming and sometimes even gripping the boat are out of the question in icy water. Each boat should carry a waterproof container for matches, maps, cameras, and dry clothes. A 30 cal. ammunition case is good for the small articles, but its waterproof characteristics should be checked in advance (believe me!). Everything should be lashed to the boat except yourself for the boat is likely to roll over several times, winding up the line and pulling you under. Bring plenty of extra rope for towing and tying and have it ready.

F. G. Hochgraf

## WITH THE LEDYARD CANOE CLUB ON THE WHITE RIVER

Ten members of the ROC were initiated to the thrill of running white-water in a canoe the week end of April 25. The Ledyard Canoe Club of Dartmouth was the generous provider of the canoes. The group left Troy at the insane hour of 3:30 AM and arrived at Dartmouth at 7:30 for a trip which they planned to start at noon. We spent the morning at various destructive tasks around the boathouse and finally collected the eight LCCers and headed for the river.

By 2:00 the canoes were in the river and by 2:15, several of us had joined them. (The ten May Wests that the club purchased just before the trip proved invaluable) We reached our campsite at dusk after completing the first ten miles of the trip. We ate and hit the sack in a Mr. Ford's hayloft because of the poor weather conditions.

We awoke Sunday morning with the Ford youngsters bouncing footballs off our noggins. The rain was steadily pouring down, but a few brave souls ran the remaining ten miles while the rest of us packed up and began collecting canoes up and down the river. If you desire more knowledge of the trip and a few stories of monstrous waves, which you won't believe anyway, (probably because they aren't true) just contact Carl Henrikson, Jack Hershey, Dick Opsahl, Win Oakes, Joe Smith, Dan Behm, Carl Helwig, Dave Krashes, or Bob and Chuck Stoyer. From the enthusiasm of these guys, it looks like white-water canoeing is here to stay.

Chuck Stoyer

## FLOOD-BOATING ON THE POESTEN KILL

This generally unheard-of creek is just outside of Troy and a cloudburst on the Sunday night after the White River trip converted it from a shallow creek to a raging torrent. Dick Opsahl and Carl Henrikson took the latter's Folbot out for a run and had more than they bargained for. They put in four separate times at three different places and covered a total distance of about 500 yards. The results were: two overturnings, one lost paddle, one smashed bow, two buckled aluminum longrons, one seat missing, one seat broken, one cowling piece missing, assorted fittings broken and lost, and two very wet ROCers. Most of the damage occurred, as in the other trips, when the boat was filled with almost a ton of water and was moving along the bottom at 5 miles per hour. One thing we learned was to know your river before starting for Dick very nearly went over a rather large dam that we had failed to spot from the road. Luckily for him, he upset just above the dam and never got to it.

See you on the rivers next Spring!

## SUMMER CARE OF SKI EQUIPMENT

Are your skis still standing in the corner where you left them after the last ski trip? If they are, you'd better take care of them now or they'll be ready for the ski shop instead of the ski trail when the snow falls next season. Here are a few suggestions for summer ski care that may be of help:

1. Check the edges. Tighten up loose screws and replace broken lengths.
2. Give the bottoms a good coat of base lacquer to protect the wood from moisture.
3. If your skis are badly scarred, sand down rough spots and cover with a coat of good spar varnish after staining to the desired color.
4. Cover the metal parts of the bindings with a light coat of oil to retard rust. Do the same for metal ski poles.
5. Store skis in a dry spot. Block the skis to retain camber and curve at the tips. The best way to do this is to clamp the skis against a wall or the floor. The next best is to clamp them to a plank heavy enough to resist bending. Simply tying the skis together with a block between them is not sufficient because oftentimes one ski is stronger than the other. This will result in uneven camber which is difficult to correct.
6. Rub neatsfoot oil into the leather grips of your ski poles to keep them from becoming dry and cracked over the summer.
7. Give your boots a coat of ordinary shoe polish and keep the soles in shape with a good pair of shoe trees.

Jim Shildneck

### NOTE FROM THE EDITOR

If the graduating seniors will leave their future addresses with me, I will be glad to see that their names are put on the CAIRN mailing list. Also, anyone else who wishes to receive the CAIRN may do so by simply sending me their name and address. On the other hand, if you can't stand the CAIRN, I will be glad to discontinue sending it. As you probably noticed, this issue is being sent out with 3¢ stamps and a return address so that we may catch wrong addresses in the files.

(H)

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Taunt hurled from outing club vehicle passing stalled '53 Oldsmobile, "Get a hearse!"

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\*SPECIAL RELEASE TO THE ROC CAIRN! (Flash from the two roving reporters: "Womenless" and "Very-bear")

DANBY-After bushwacking our way through kuni grass and over 18 feet of concrete sidewalk, we climbed a buttress two feet high, roped together, and levered open the pine door. Four porters were lost on the trip.

The sight we beheld was too horrible to believe. We were aghast to see the results of a CCO(Cornell Couple Off). The rugged mountaineers were peacefully sleeping on their inner-spring mattresses. They had had a tough trip too, and had square danced the night before. By stumbling through the bar(agilelydodging the half-filled punch glasses), we reached the first camp.

After a rugged traverse, we reached the second camp, up to the stage. But stopping here only long enough to glance at the square dance records, we plunged ahead to the highest camp of all and aroused "Henrik" Henrikson who had climbed the unimaginable cliffs, heroically carrying his bell with him. This he used to wake the porters after our arrival.

The porters began setting up their breakfast tables. Luckily they had brought their own utensils. The cooking facilities here were obviously better than those at the previous site. Did you ever see a campfire with a pilot light?

Some random thoughts gathered from our observations: Everything would have been fine if the TV set had worked. Unfortunately, the service technician couldn't make it work, either. Our hats are off to Skidmore who couldn't bear the thought of coming inside to escape the odor of the newly landscaped lawn. Inquiries will soon be made as to whether the Cazenovia group will trade in their elbow patches for three ROC patches each.

Messrs. Opsahl & Hershey

#### ROC COMING EVENTS

May 15-17 Hudson Valley Lake George Canoe trip. A great last trip. Trip leader: Jim Butler

May 22 RMC Banquet

May 23 ROC BANQUET - Bring your shovel to Sampson Lodge

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR COLUMN (The opinionsexpressed here are those of the letter writers and are not necessarily those of the ROC.)

No letters received to date.