



# THE ROC CAIRN



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

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R.O.C.

NOV. 7; 1957

As the Fall closes and Winter begins here is a summary of what is happening, has happened, and is to come:

## WINTER MOUNTAINEERING

Many of you have already spent time in warm weather climbing in the Adirondaks or other mountain ranges. If so you have already experienced some of the joys and challenges of mountaineering.

However, with the arrival of winter, the Adirondacks will present a new type of beauty; its snow and ice formations providing a spectacle unthought of by the summer climber, far different experiences and much more difficult challenges. Winter climbing is much more than just hiking over the same trails you did in the summer with merely some added warm clothing. There are new techniques to be learned; climbing in deep snow on snow shoes, crossing icy stretches on crampons, skiing narrow mountain trails, and for the advanced climber, the use of ice axe, crampons, and climbing rope on steep ice pitches.

In addition to climbing techniques, a good deal must be learned on keeping safe and comfortable under winter conditions. The Adirondack winters are nothing to take lightly. Weather conditions there are often worse than anything ever experienced during the climbing seasons in the Himalayas. But with proper training and equipment, the winter trips to the Adirondacks are most enjoyable and rewarding.

Our winter mountaineering program will begin with a lecture, discussion, equipment display, and slide show in the 15th street lounge following the regular meeting Tuesday night, November 12. The meeting will start at 8:30 pm. The first beginners trip will be on the weekend of December 15-16, and will climb Mts. Cascade and Porter. Following that, we will have trips of varying degrees of difficulty on weekends and during vacations. If you don't have boots, parka, or the other necessary equipment, you can usually borrow it from other club members.

For people who have already done winter climbing before, there will be a trip to Mt. Katahdin in Maine, with the M.I.T. Outing Club, over Thanksgiving.

One of the best ways to learn proper techniques in winter climbing is to attend the winter mountaineering school, run by the Adirondack Mountain Club, over Christmas Vacation (December 27-30). They will give really expert instruction for beginners and advanced climbers. Full details will be given at the November 12 meeting.

Frank Sandy  
Winter Mountaineering Chairman

### CLARKSVILLE

Is it true: 1) that spiders grow to the size of silver dollars, 2) that Dick Terryberry goes spelunking with a seal beam lantern (range  $\frac{1}{2}$  mile), 3) that certain people of Sage can come within one millimicron of water and not get wet, 4) that Marcia Miller needs to be fed every half-hour, 5) that Neuka Cardigans can turn from blue to brown, 6) and that Frank Shivoni hangs from the roof holding a slimelight (private joke!)

Well it is!!! If you don't believe me you leave at 11:00 A.M. and lead a trip to Clarksville Cave. Returning at 4:30 P.M. we went to the Sampson Square Dance.

I dare you!!!!

Bob Gillmore  
Trip Leader

### CATSKILL TRIP

At noon, on Saturday, November 2, four R.O.C.'ers piled into Wayne Taft's car and took off for MIOCA's Catskill trip. We arrived at the Woodland Valley campsite around 3, set up our tents and headed up a nearby ridge for a couple of hours of bushacking. We then drove back into Phoenicia where the MIOCA clubs who were sponsoring the trip had rented a recreation hall from the local church. There they served us a most excellent roast chicken dinner. "Unfortunately" the turnout, about 45 people, was much lower than expected and we found ourselves with double portions of chicken and enough ice cream to make any normal person sick (but there were no cases of sickness reported). After our feast we removed the tables and spent the rest of the night square dancing to the expert calling of Bert Raphael, an R.O.C. alum now at Brown University and Don Moore of Syracuse. The shortage of girls was more acute than on most IOCA trips but Bert and Don handled the situation extremely well by throwing in a large number of mixers, cut in dances and folk dances without couples.

Sunday morning we awoke to find there had been some precipitation during the night and that our tents were not completely waterproof, but such minor trivialities didn't faze us and four of us proceeded to make our breakfast of a dozen eggs and a half pound of bacon. Half way through breakfast, Don Cotten came around peddling the leftovers from the night's dinner and for 15¢ each, we each wound up with another half chicken, and apple and a donut. After killing time 'til 10:30, we decided it was high time to start climbing and headed off for 3,700 foot Panther Mountain. When we reached the 2,800 foot level we found ourselves engulfed by clouds. The groups climbing Saturday reported that they came out of the clouds before reaching the peaks and we hoped to have similar luck but such wasn't our fate. When we reached Giant Ledge, the view was most awesome. Looking straight down, the vertical face gradually disappeared into the swirling whiteness and the bottom of the cliff was nowhere to be seen. We then proceeded on and reached the summit of Panther at about 2 P.M. There we ate our lunch, imagined what the view would have been on a clear day, and turned back to return to civilization and accumulated home work.

Frank Sandy  
Trip Leader

### BICYCLE TRIP

A trip to Poughkeepsie (who wants to go to Pokipse?) by means (pretty mean) of bicycle was attempted recently by three stalwart, but quite insane members of the R.O.C. The trip left some time after 10 A.M., and after some preliminary exploration, the obvious (downhill) route was chosen. Our path took us through downtown Albany to an obscure road meandering alongside the Hudson, rather hilly for a water-level route. The members of the party were dead tired when the town of Hudson, half-way point, was reached. However, they doggedly plodded on, despite an attempt at disintegration by trip leader's bike. (Why does everything have to happen to the trip leader?) The only things that loom from the haze of the rest of the trip are several large hills. Nine hours after its beginning, the trip ended, racing through the dark streets of Poughkeepsie towards its final goal, cops!

Bill Goldner  
Trip Leader

### BALL'S CAVE

On Sunday, October 27, a party of 5 R.O.C.'ers, one alumnus, and one RSOC'er took off for Ball's Cave in Schoharie. The cave had been closed by its owner for several years, until it was purchased by Mr. James L. Gage, District Attorney of Schoharie County. He has a great interest in spelunking and has opened the cave to cavers. The entrance is a forty foot pit, in which Mr. Gage has provided an excellent ladder. After this, a steep descent follows into the cave passages. Inside, several rooms are to be found, one of these notably large for New York caves. For those who like to play reptile, there are four interesting crawlways. Off in the north passage there are reputed to be several Tufa Dams, but this passage is filled with deep cold water, and we did not travel down it. The trip is about a two hour trip, complete with lots of brown bats.

If you go to the cave on a weekend, you will very likely find its owner there working on clearing it or pumping out water. The end passage is yet to be dug out, a project on which three of our party started while we were there.

One or two words of caution. If you go to the cave, **BE SURE TO GET PERMISSION** from Mr. Gage. He lives in Esperance, N.Y. If permission is not gotten, the cave may be closed to future parties from your group. Mr. Gage may also grant you permission to camp out on his land. Secondly, watch out for the loose rock in the rear of the cave. Large hundred pound handhells are apt to pull out on your head if you pull hard.

Maps of the cave are available from Bill Myer, R.O.C. Spelunking chairman.

T. Lipton  
Trip Leader

### SAMPSON LODGE

After returning from various trips a group of about 40 persons set forth for an evening's entertainment at Sampson Lodge. Here was industriously assembled one grill, 61 steaks, corn (128 ears), beans, etc. Trimming the display was one square dance caller and one songfest.

Starting to prepare the feast 25 minutes before the throng arrived proved to be a huge mistake. The beans were never cooked and the corn was one hour late. However, the steaks were beautifully burned on their 6 foot by 4 foot grill and everyone was well fed.

At the magic hour of 11:00 P.M. everyone but Bill Meyer, one axe, and a few feet of wiring, vanished. . . . . The end of a highly satisfactory day.

Bob Gillmore, Trip Leader

## TRIP LEADERS

There has been much said about training trip leaders in the past month. The trend is becoming not to train leaders but to produce athletes. The question is what are the requirements of a good trip leader? To be able to run up a mountain in 5 minutes - 23.5 seconds, light the evening fire with his pants after a hot-seat rappell, or lower himself 190 ft. in free space by tying shoe laces together. It seems, to be able to take out 6 to 20 people and bring them back unmarred, enthusiastic, and tired, instead of bruised, shaking, and exhausted, is far more worthwhile.

True physical condition and stamina have their place, but they should be reserve factors, not to be used except in emergencies.

So remember that the person who rises magnificently to an emergency is to be praised no higher than the person, whose level reasoning prevented one.

Bob Gillmore  
Cairn Editor

## FALL LAKE GEORGE \* OCTOBER 11, 12, 13

Trip Leader - Lewis Stone

Camping, Canoeing to Turtle Island, Lake George, N.Y.

As usual, the weekend nearest Columbus Day found 35 members of the R.O.C. headed for the wilds of Lake George. Cars left the 15th street lounge from noon Friday, to noon, Saturday - a total of 11 vehicles of varying vintage began the trip.

Registration was held at Lamb's Livery in the town of Bolton Landing. Run by the R.O.C., registration compiled a list of 340 students from over 30 schools. Canoes, kayaks, racing sailboats, an Appalachian long boat, and various and sundry motorboats, provided transportation to Turtle Island, the center of the beehive of the activities.

After setting up camp, groups split. Black and Tongue Mountains were climbed; many canoes paddled, and several waters skied. Dinner on Friday night was on each person. Food was served for the rest of the weekend's meals. Bacon and eggs and french toast joined the main menu of breakfast. Lunch was packed sandwiches to enable all to go where they wished. Saturday dinner was charcoal broiled steak, mashed potatoes, and tossed salad, followed by a chocolate pudding dessert.

After dinner Saturday, everyone adjourned to Mohican Island - about 200 feet away and joined the square dance, which was called by Glen Easton. There were as many as 20 sets gyrating and stamping at any one time to the music.

For the thirsty, there was cider, which was so good that 50 gallons went by 10 o'clock. For the tired, there was an attempted song fest by a bonfire which had been built for the occasion.

In all the trip was successful. There were two accidents, deserving of mention, although all concerned ended safely. One was a motor boat swamping due to excessive speed and the other was an auto accident, immobilizing one and damaging another car. Future trips should be designed to improve the safety mindedness of the motorboating operation.

Lou Stone

(Ed. Note - Is it true that Mr. Stone exempted all of his English courses at R.P.I.?

## NEW YORK STATE VOTERS

On election day, two amendments to article XIV of the State Constitution will be put up for public referendum. They are:

- 1) The "Highway Amendment" to Section 1 allowing for further construction of highways in the Adirondack and Catskill Forest Preserves.
- 2) The "Detached Parcel Amendment" to Section 3 allowing the sale of certain parts of the Forest Preserve.

The Rensselaer Outing Club urges all members of the R.P.I. family, who will be voting in the New York State Election, to vote no on these two proposals. Details on these proposed amendments and the arguments against them are included in recent bulletins of the Adirondack Mountain Club which are posted on the Outing Club Bulletin Board in the Fifteenth Street Lounge.

### Notices

Lost - 1 tent (Morrison, belonging to R.O.C.)

Lost - 1 sleeping bag, brown outside, green inside, U. Conn. O. C.

Lost - Pack, left at Lambs at Fall Lake George, Pembroke Outing Club

### Announcements

New Ladders - sixty feet of them. We need only 140 feet more for Cass Cave Trip

New Policy on Spelunking Trips - For all trips classed A or B the following equipment will be required: Helmets, three sources of light, and at least one sling (ten foot,  $\frac{1}{4}$  diameter, hemp sling).

### Coming Events

Nov. 10 - Rockclimbing, Gunks

Nov. 15-16 - Mountaineering Trip ADK

Nov. 27-Dec. 1 - IOCA Spelunking Trip to West Virginia

Nov. 28-Dec. 1 - Mt. Katahdin- Winter Mountaineering A to AA

Dec. 7 - Mt. Helyoke Square Dance

Dec. 14 - Skidmore Square Dance

Dec. 14-15 - Winter Mountaineering Trip - Beginners - Cascade -Porter

Dec. 27-30 - Winter Mountaineering School (ADK) A to AA

Jan. - Reviews and Finals

Mid Terms - Canadian Ski Trip

Winter Mountaineering to ADK

Feb. 7-9 - Yale Sno Ski

Feb. 15 - MHOC Square Dance

Feb. 22 - Saturnalia Ski Meet

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The opinions expressed by the contributed articles are \*#@@&¼ !!!