



THE ROC CAIRN



Vol. XIV No. 7

Oct. 11, 1958

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

KATAHDIN I - Winter Wonderland
(Dave Noyes -(unabridged))

. . .or maybe autumn wonderland. During Thanksgiving vacation you never know which it will be, but you can be sure it will be exotic.

The famous Austrian climbing team of Berthold and Wolfgang Puchtler who gained recognition for their exploits on South Island's Mt. Cook, New Zealand, said recently of Mt. Katahdin:

"Wir betreten feuer-trunken, Himmlische,
dein Heiligthum. Alle Menschen werden
Brüder, wo dein sanfter Flügel weilt."

Even such conservatives as Tim Bond have been heard to say:

"Fantabulous, man, fantabulous!"


What do I say? Well, I was there last year, and it rained four days. However, on Katahdin at this time of year, even rain is a good thing. The trails above 3500 feet were all ice. All the loose rocks were firmly cemented together, making the steep trails safe from talus avalanches. (Of course the people-avalanches were a bit unnerving, especially if you were among the lucky few who got to glissade all the way down!)

Seriously, though, Thanksgiving at Katahdin is a wonderful trip for the novice or experienced winter mountaineer, and the MITOC people are good cooks and gracious hosts.

Aaron Schneider

Vassar Square Dance turned into old home night for the ROC with such alumni as Ira Sohnall, Pete Himot, "Sourvy" Schiavone, Mike Smolin, and Bert Raphael, who acted as caller, on hand. The dance was preceded by an amorphous supper which was tasty but un-identifiable. (However, there have been some unprintable suggestions.) Rock climbers from the "Gunks" turned out in numbers, and so did the Paul Smith's burlers to make the affair look O.C. The girls were ample in numbers, as well as in all other respects.

In case anyone wondered, several ROCers had arrived early to help decorate. (I mention this to protect the reputed taste of Vassar girls.)

 First Aid Course

← TAKE
Note!

The ROC will again sponsor a Red Cross Standard First Aid course this year. The course will be held at the
Red Cross Building
1712 5 Ave., Troy

from 6:30 to 8:30 on Thursday nights, commencing on Nov. 13, and lasting for 8 weeks. All ROC leaders and prospective leaders will be REQUIRED to have passed such a course. The Standard First Aid course is also a prerequisite to the Advanced course. Non-ROCs are encouraged to attend.

Andy Monjan.

FIRST AREA APPEARANCE

Gil Turner, a folk singer of great strength and charm, will give his first concert in the tri-city area Dec. 13 at 7:45 P.M. at the R.F.I. Playhouse. Mr. Turner, who is sponsored jointly by the players and the R.O.C. is noted especially for his extensive repertoire, which includes many less well known songs in several tongues.

Mr. Turner has had concerts at colleges throughout throughout the Eastern seaboard, and is appearing currently, at "The Cup of Jazz" in New York.

Jerry Schiffman
President, R.F.I. Players

Opportunity KNOX

Marty Glicksman

Sunday morning (Nov. 1), five eager spelunkers, led by Dick Terryberry, sped westward toward Knox Cave, Altamont, N.Y. After a talky trip and some preliminary banter with local farmers, we entered the cave at 11 A.M.

A quick exploration of the commercial portions was followed by a procession through a keyhole and a rugged worming through the "gun-barrel" (or "groan-barrel", as it is variously called). The party worked the "canyon" passages and checked a variety of routes to their conclusion. No new passages were uncovered, but some excellent formations delighted all present. Of particular interest were some foot-long "soda-straw" stalactites and some very lovely "antler" helictites. Though pitons jangled continuously, the only rope work encountered was for a belay on one chimney descent.

Plagued by ever diminishing electric lamps (carbide wins again!), the party surfaced at 3:30 P.M. After removal of case-hardened exteriors, rather silent, sleepy trip led the group back to society and FOOD!

Miscellaneous and Anouncements:

Patches: On Oct. 7, Dwight Deal and Ralph Larson spent the afternoon on the Grafton rock — a short 14 miles from campus. There is some good, although short, climbing there.

This was a beginner's trip for Ralph on which he earned his R.O.C. patch.

Congratulations Ralph!

Dwight Deal

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Three other R.O.C'ers earned their patches "testing their compressibility" in the gun barrel: Marty Maltz and John Hall during the IOCA weekend (part II), and Hank Mosler a week later(see above). Congratz to all of you!

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More patches (ATTENTION NEW MEMBERS): A person qualifies for a patch after taking part in three different types of trips (rock climbing, caving, canoeing, Lake George, etc., etc.), and on the recommendation of any member of the Executive Board. A patch member is entitled to vote, hold office in the club, and so forth. The idea of this type of requirement for a patch is to insure that those who wear an ROC patch, and are therefore easily identified as ROC'ers, are something more than just dues-payers.

IOCA Caving Weekend

(Note: These two trips have little to do with each other except that they took place on the same weekend!)

Part I - Mike Moldover

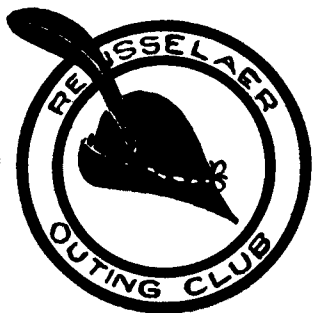
Three Saturdays ago (during the "seven days' rain") an IOCA caving trip, for leader- and beginner-training, set out under Walt Lipton. We started, as usual, by driving around Troy for an hour gathering people and equipment. Eventually we met two cars from U.Conn. and one from Harvard at the Union Cabin. Our first attempt to get out of the rain and into the mud (in Shutter's Corners Cave) was stopped by an unusually difficult obstacle for spelunkers --- a locked iron gate. After much more driving in the rain, we got into Garden of Eden cave, which did not resemble the Garden of Eden in any respect. One enters the thing by 60 feet of cable ladder. Inside we found a few fossils, one scrawny dripstone formation, and plenty of mud. One of our party was so disgusted because the cave didn't go anyplace that he nearly lost his head (by sticking it in a crack and leaving some scalp behind on the way out).

After leaving the (quote) Garden of Eden Cave, the best part of the trip occurred -- we ate in an Italian restaurant, and, after 12 hungry hours (it was 11 PM), that was good.

Part II - Marty Maltz

(The following) morning three intrepid freshman chose an unusual way of recuperating from the fraternity parties the night before. Together with another group of ardent cave-crawlers we went spelunking in Schoharie county. The plan for the day was to visit one of Selik's caves (there are a woodlot full of them) and dig a channel to lower the water level enough so that we could get into some big rooms further back. Due to the rain and snow, however, the water-level was so high that we couldn't get close enough to the stream bed to sink a shovel.

After lunch we went to Knox Cave and spent an hour testing the compressibility of the human body in a long, thin crawlway, the famous "gunbarrel". We were forced to turn back at the far end of the gun-barrel as some of us were low on carbide.



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IN THE LAKE OF GEORGE

Paul La Rock

On Friday, October 10, R.O.C. played host to many of the neighboring colleges at the annual "Fall Lake George" outing. The weather was not exactly perfect, but nevertheless, fun-lovers from various colleges converged on Turtle Island to make the most of a weekend away from school. Rock-climbing, canoeing, swimming (some of it involuntary), square-dancing, and just plain socializing marked this trip, climaxed by a spectacular "cider-spray" - (see Andy Monjan for details). Some brave souls even took in some water-skiing!

Thanks to Joe Smith, the Herman Cup reappeared on the scene. Herman is an award given to the girl's school which . . . does the most for the trip; this year the award went to Holyoke.

Many thanks to Andy and Pete McGorison who contributed highly to the success of the trip.

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COMING UP - -

- Oct. 25, 26 I.O.C.A. Spelunking beginner's and leader's training. (Sleep at Union Cabin)
R.O.C. - held square dance at Sampson Lodge Saturday night.
- Nov. 1 Union square dance at their cabin
- Nov. 8,9 Vassar Square Dance. maybe some climbing at the gunks sunday.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

I. Slides I need square dance, songfest, caving, winter mountaineering slides to be made into 5X7 prints for the bulletin board display. (The prints become the property of the slide-owner when he leaves R.P.I.)

D. Noyes

II. Climbing lists: The R.O.C. has a few copies of a list of climbs at the Schawangunks and will send them to clubs who have rock climbers that are active in the Schawangunk area.

Contact: Dave Noyes
903 Peoples Ave.
Troy, N.Y.

LOST (at Lake George)

1. 1 pr. chinos - Bill Goldner (ROC)
2. 1 poncho (ripped, has name in it)
Back dealer (ROC)
3. 3 tents - Mt. Holyoke O.C.

FOUND

1. 1 pr. sneakers - Steve Gaffan (ROC)
2. Guitar Capo near campsite
(Brown 02)
3. small knapsack with one-burner (fd. at Labba)
Brown 02
4. 1 guitar - (Norwien 02)
5. 1 axe - GUNY 02

Editor: M. [unclear]

Assoc. Eds. H. [unclear]