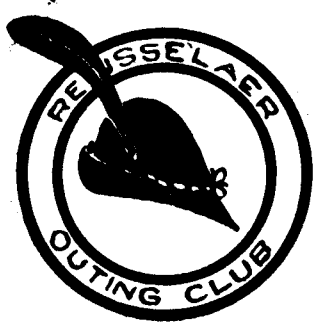


MARCH, 1980

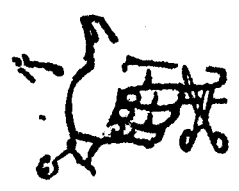


THE ROC CAIRN



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

* * * ELECTION * * * ISSUE



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15th St
Lounge

peoples

NOTTY
PINE

hoosick



union

FOR BEST RESULTS

HEAT
RESISTANT 

Well folks, its another year come and gone. The club
once again has a bright future, what with Fall Lake George
going again (if the general level of activity doesn't impress
you, look at the first and second derivatives, they're wild!).

One sore point on my part, of course is that you guys
are'nt writing enough CAIRN articles. Oh well, "Kay Sarah
Sarah" as they say. As well as trip reports we could use
some "how to" articles so you too can say "I made it myself",
even if they are just Goretex ear muffs.

The presidential candidates were asked to expound for
this issue on what they thought the president of the ROC
should be (on the theory that hot air makes light reading?).

So far, only George Trudel has answered. (see next page)

As my last official editorial comment I will just say to pick
as best you can, and don't forget to go to the election
night "meeting after the meeting" at the Notty Pine Tavern
for pizza and beer (I think they even have soda for those
of the sugar persuasion). To get there, see the map on the
cover, or ask one of those old farts that sit in the back at
every meeting.

Dandy Don Perley

Soon to be Ex Cairn Editor

GEORGE TRUDEL

The role of the Rensselaer Outing Club president is primarily to ensure the objective of the club is carried out. This objective is to maintain and encourage outing activities among the members of the RPI community. In performing this role, the president not only presides at the general and ECON meetings but must execute other administrative duties and oversee the general functioning of the club.

Amongst the administrative duties, the president acts as a liaison to various sectors of the administration: E. Board, Security, Athletics, Registrar, and the ROC Board of Directors. He also corresponds with outside retailers and suppliers and with the Intercollegiate Outing Club Association (IOCA) and its other members.

The president must also work closely with the other officers and the activity chairmen to ensure the care and maintenance of club equipment and the safety of participants, as well as, to purchase new supplies and equipment. The above group is also responsible for organizing special functions such as the Lake George weekend; the club spring picnic; presentations for Parents Weekend, GM Week, and Activities Day; and the bi-yearly slide show.

As general overseer of the club, the president needs to continue the attempt at recovering the membership lost in the past few years and to help maintain the current rise in club activity and spirit. These goals can be met by publicizing the club activities through posters on campus, in the Poly, and

via the special club functions. A large number of diversified club trips is also critical to maintain and improve club spirit. These trips should include instructional trips to enable beginners to advance and advanced trips to train new leaders.

I feel that it is necessary for the president to perform these duties regularly and capably in order for the club to improve its quality.

A PRELIMINARY REPORT ON WINTERSCHOOL '79 - '80

From the journal of Kate Sahlin

Saturday Morning: Walking in - hot, then stop to rest then cold. The cold and hot in sinusoidal waves, as someone put it. I found that I wasn't in as great shape as I had hoped. The walk seemed to last forever and I died on the uphill. There were enough uphill too. The hike (about 3 miles) was undulating hills. But mostly uphill cause we went from 1600 feet to 2300 feet. There wasn't any snow on the ground. Got to the John's Brook Ranger Station (from the Garden above Keene Valley), looked around for campsites, and ended up going upstream about a quarter mile to an area around the John's Brook Lodge.

We set up camp then hiked up Short Job, a mile or so hike up to 2800 Ft. It was sunny and we got a good look at all the peaks around.

Tomorrow I'm going to do a bushwacking trip up Tabletop. Other trips are Gothics, Big Slide/ Yard, and Upper/Lower Wolfjaws. Really cold that night; I was supposed to get the water the next morning. Woke up at 9 pm thinking it was morning already and then realized that it was nowhere near 5 a.m., so I borrowed a watch from Rimas. Slept in 3 hr stretches; up at 1 am and 4 am. I got up at 4:50 and got water. Really cold (-8 F.). I had slept with my head in the bag so I must have woken up for fresh air.

Sun., Jan 6: Day trip to Tabletop - along Phelps trail to Bushnell falls then along Hopkins trail. We had decided to get as much elevation as possible before we started bushwacking. Up to about 4000 feet by the trail on a small ridge. Took a bearing off of Gothics to figure out where we were on the trail then figured out a bearing to Tabletop from the map. I got to lead the bushwack first. It was pretty easy taking bunny trails and squeezing between and under trees to get to the next little clearing. I lead

to the end of the ridge, then others took over and the trail got lots worse. Sometimes the trees grew so thickly that you just pushed your body through then pulled your legs through after yourself. Rimas climbed up to see if the dense trees ~~would~~ would end; he could walk on the tops of the trees and when he jumped down the first time he didn't reach the ground. The little trees held him up. Up near the top Rimas climbed this huge dead tree and directed us to possible places for the summit. We found it and its mailbox. We signed in and ate quickly.

George started the bushwack down until he jumped down this little cliff and slipped into a crevasse until only his shoulders and head showed. Climbing out we found out that he had landed on a ice slide in the crevasse that dumped out about 20 feet down the mountain. After that, Leon lead. He had a knack for finding interesting paths: walking down fallen trees to miss the dense trees (we called these logs "ladders"), and finding places where we could climb down cliffs, once with a traverse, several where you slide down a tree, and one where you jump down about 8 feet.

We reached a Ravine with a stream going down. We walked down it without crampons then followed the trail back. We got in late as it was dark while we walked; some with flashlights and some without. I don't remember what dinner was but I sure gobbled it down fast. Slept like a log that night. It was warmer and it snowed about 5 inches.

To find out what else happened at Winterschool, tune in to the next CAIRN. If someone else writes some articles, maybe the next one will be a little sooner.

Your Friendly CAIRN editor

WHAT EVER HAPPENED TO KNOX CAVE?

About a year before I came to RBI a certain event occurred which shall remain name-less which closed a lot of caves in the Schoharie region. Unfortunately Knox cave was the cause of all this. Since 1975 it has been closed. What follows is the access policy to the cave as presented in the NRO convention, Fall 1979.

Access Policy for Knox Cave

The Northeast Cave Conservancy, Inc (NCC) is a nonprofit corporation promoting conservation, safety, and management of caves in the area, and presently its largest undertaking is the ownership of Knox Cave.

The present access policy calls for written permission to be obtained from the president of the NCC, Bob Addis. As well, a release form must be signed by all visitors and returned before the proposed trip. Allow at least 2 weeks to do this. Prospective visitors must have the permission on NCC letterhead paper, and it will be dated for only one trip. This letter must be clearly displayed on the dash of the vehicle as the visitor parks along the KNOX Cave Road and walks to the cave. No vehicles are allowed on the property. Vehicles not displaying the permission are subject to towing at the owners expense, and the persons are subject to arrest for trespassing.

In the request for permission, the group's leader should briefly summarize his experience as well as that of the group. All cavers are expected to abide by the normally accepted rules of safe and conservation-minded caving. There must be 3 or more persons in each group and each must have a sturdy helmet with chinstrap and 3 sources of light. Knox cave will be closed to all trips between December and May of each year. Exact dates will be listed each year.

The address of Bob Addis can be obtained from the caving chairman. Also the club files contain substantial amounts of information on this cave.

Do not park and expect to get away with a quick visit. The local police get a percentage of the towing fee, and towing occurs very fast anywhere within a mile of the cave.

A lot of the caves in Schoharie County are starting to be visited again. This is partly due to the efforts of the NCC. With careful observation of good caving guidelines maybe more caves will be opened in the future.

Jim Rawding

One major problem for a climber who travels as I do is locating good quality bouldering and climbing areas while on the road. When you have a day here or a weekend there it's nice to be able to jump in a car and go climbing. Since this is a limited circulation newsletter with (usually) well instructed and knowledgeable readers, I don't mind giving out some location information to aid others (plus, I might in that way interest readers to share some with me).

In this installment, I will include some areas which are "close to home" for me!

Boulderhead Harris
(Sometimes known as Roger)

I. Texas:

Enchanted Rock:

Enchanted Rock is a Granite dome in the Lland Area of Central Texas. It recently became a State park and a topo map is available from Texas Parks and Wildlife Dept., Austin Texas, 78701. The backside of the main dome has several two pitch and some one pitch climbs. The park abounds with superb granite bouldering. Crack climbing is painful but friction is enjoyable. The most northerly dome has a 100 foot vertical layback which I have yet to conquer.

(leading, top roping, bouldering)

Davis Mountains

A friend has reported good rock. I've seen one photo which confirms this. They are located in west Texas between the Guadalupe and Big Bend National Parks.

(bouldering?)

Other Areas

Several reports exclude the two National Parks. One possibility is Willow Mountain near Study Butte at the Western edge of Big Bend

(?)

II. Southern New Mexico:

Organ Mountains

The Organ Needles are a promising area near Las Cruces, N. Mex., just 44 miles north of El Paso. Rising several thousand feet out of the desert, they are the nearest real mountains to Houston (785 miles, 14 hours). Several references are available, including the hiking guide "Guide to New Mexico Mountains" and several "not in print" climbing guides. Because it is easy to waste time in finding the proper approach it is wise to obtain a detailed map from someone who knows the area. The summit magazine article

a half a dozen years ago do not do them justice.
(leading, bouldering)

III. Oklahoma:

The Tulsa Mountains

Chandler Park has some fine, short limestone cliffs. The park is just west of town on the south bank of the Arkansas River. Short cliffs in the park itself and slightly higher ones on Avery Dr. along the river provide most of the entertainment.

(top rope, bouldering)

The Wichita Mountains

The Wildlife Preserve near Lawton has many small granite hills accessible in the public use and wilderness areas. 1000 feet of relief on some yield some nice scrambling and bouldering. The slopes of Elk Mountain and adjacent hills are nice friction climbs of low and moderate difficulty. The Narrows on West Cache Creek have some several pitch climbs which I haven't investigated. An excellent topo composite map is available from Wichita Mts. Wildlife Refuge, P.O. box 448, Cache, Oklahoma 73527. Be sure to ask for the topo or you'll just get the 1" - 5 mile sketch map. My trip was in November and I found it a bit cold for climbing.

(leading?, top rope, bouldering)

Other Oklahoma areas:

Basement Rock outcrops are found in the Lawton Area and in the Ardmore Area. Red Rock Canyon near Oklahoma City may also be an area to investigate.