

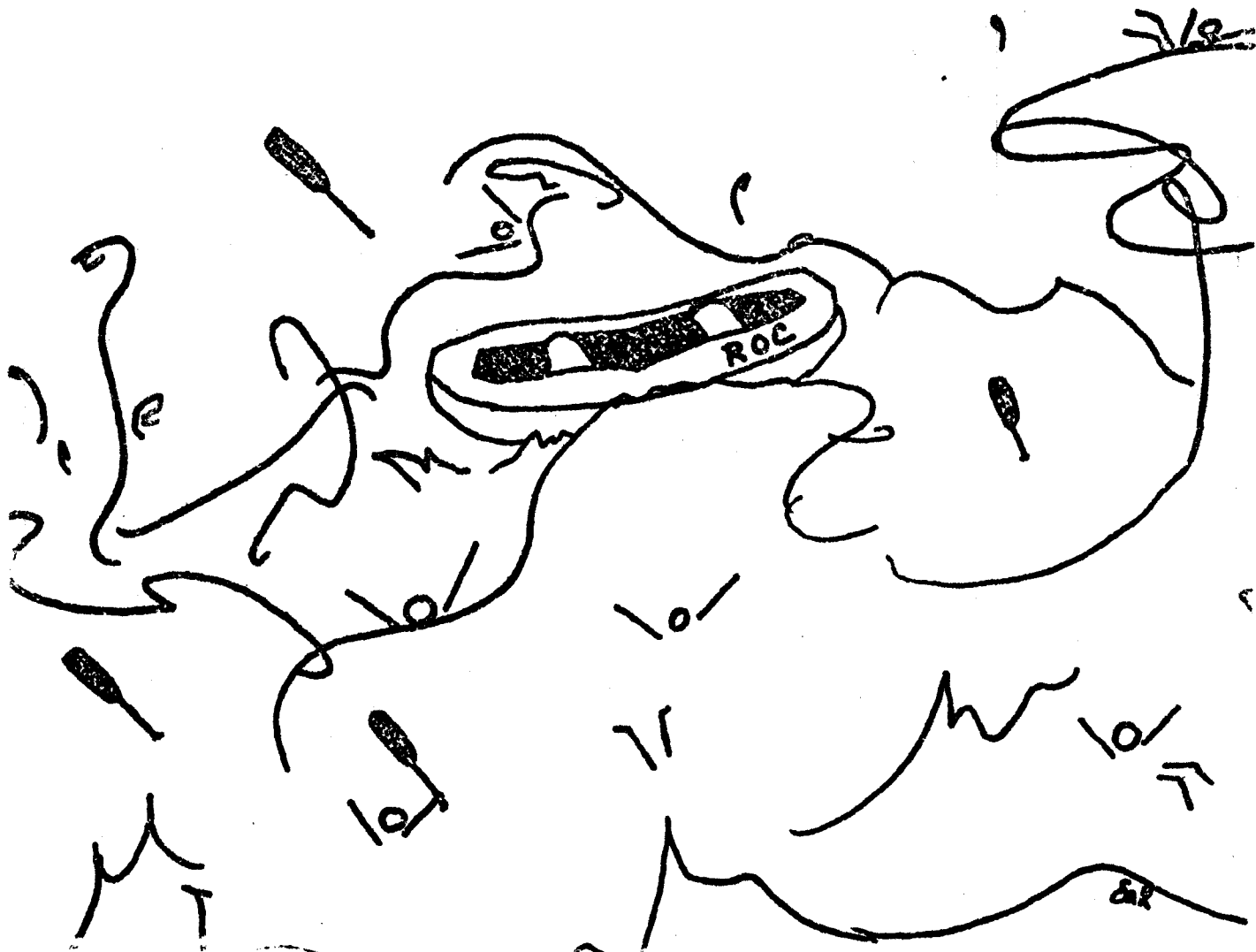


THE ROC CAIRN



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

P R I L , 1 9 8 0



This being the last Cairn of the school year, the entire Cairn staff wishes everyone a pleasant summer and fair weather on all summer trips. Remember to reserve the dates September 26 - 28 (that's Friday - Sunday) for the annual IOCA Fall Lake George trip. Last year's trip was the first in a while and had a good turnout. Let's get this traditional trip going strong again. Whether you canoe, kayak, motorboat, or swim out, GO and HAVE A GOOD TIME!

B.N. and P.P.#2 were good enough to write down the 'official' woppling policy for the neophytes to this club activity. Jim Rawding has another article for you cavers. I find that it's good fortune that I have these articles to print. But why should it be good luck? Hey, you other people that have been a round for awhile, how about writting down some information on trips that you've been on? Give those (myself included) that have not been here long enough to explore the region a head start. Also how about some reports on summer trips for fall Cairn's?

George Trudel

Cairn Editor

PROPOSED CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT

Tonight the patch members will vote to amend the Constitution
The amendment reads as follows:

ARTICLE VI Section 3 shall be amended to read:

"The dues of the club shall be three dollars (\$3.00) for each semester, payable at the beginning of the year. In addition, summer membership shall be two dollars (\$2.00)."

On The trip to the Registry
time. We drank beer. Where is the
Cavin editor - all the other turkeys are
here. We also @ pizza. It's midnight and we
are discussing the chopping manuals in addition
to the HTS official policy.

HTS:

Trip: Class C: non denominational beginners trip.
No protection necessary

B: Requires use of - protection, beginning activities

A: Often requires aids, roped technical
trips, bivouacs. Solo trips don't require
protection. Leather gloves required on belay

Leaders
Class C: must demonstrate effectiveness and other
so-called "qualifications" to chairperson

B: Skilled using protector

A: Must be skilled in knot tying, leather
tapping, Jacuzzi

Credited to B. N.

Transcribed by pp #2

PLIGHT OF THE CLASS-B CAVER

During the past two years, I have been limited to the level caves. While these C caves we have done are good, they do not fill the need for a nice rapelle. Having done several of late, I find the sensation of vertical caving exhilarating and impressive. (In a limited New York way.) Also, while VTS teaches all the necessary techniques, Kingston and Kaaterskill are too big a jump for most people without class-A experience.

In the following list are a few recommended new vertical caves. All of these caves have excellent caver-owner relations and assuming that the caving is quiet and considerate of the owner when out of the cave, they will remain that way.

MICHELL'S CAVE: Located in Montgomery County, it is the best decorated cave on the list. The cave developed along a fold in the limestone of the area. It is 160' deep. The first two drops are climbable, but a rappelle is nice. Anchors are in place, and only two 40' handlines are needed. When the bottom of the cave is reached, one is almost directly below the entrance. Also, the last room has a 25' flowstone cascade and other formations. It is all white flowstone and quite large. Most of the rest of the cave is covered with flowstone and combined with the large amount of climbing make this a really good cave.

PENDELUM WELL: The first real vertical cave, it is somewhat of a disappointment. It has the longest rappelle, 55'. The bottom is a room which has one dome pit which is chimneyable for 30' or so and has some flowstone. The helectites were minor at best. Due to the ease of rigging, however, this cave is a good first cave. It is dry and definitely vertical.

NEW BEAR CAVE and STAIR STEPS SHAFTS: These two caves make an excellent day of caving. New Bear is a 30' sinkhole which can be rigged in any way desired. I put 4 ropes and a cable ladder over the side with a tyrolean possible. The cave is about 100' long and then has a short crawlway. It is good for practice.

Stair Steps Shafts Cave is another story. This cave is more vertical than horizontal. The best way to rig this cave is to tie a 300' rope to a tree outside the entrance. Twenty feet into the cave, there is a 40' rappelle. Almost immediately, there is a 30' rappelle followed by a 20' foot drop either rappelled or climbed.

A short crawl later ~~there~~ is another 20' drop, followed by a tight 5' drop.

This cave is complicated by dripping water on the lower drops. In large trips, hypothermia could be a problem. Also, the rock is very brittle, I tried to place a 3/8" bolt but almost 1" of rock flaked away. Despite these problems, this is a real cavers' cave. There is very little crawling and lots of promise for additional passage and the fossils (not formations) can fill the spare time nicely. By the way, it took four cavers six hours to do the 200' of passage in this cave.

WEYBRIDGE CAVE: Located in Vermont, this is the most recommended cave I have. Unlike Gauge Cavern, the drop must be rigged inside the cave. The cave is in Marble near Middlebury. There is no owner relations problems since it is owned by the state of Vermont.

After 70' or so of caving, the 45' rappelle is found. It is rigged by tying off to a beam. Also there are some 3/8" bolts for a backup; nice and safe. The main passages is 20' to 30' wide and up to 20' high. There are several side passages rivalling the best sand crawls anywhere. There are a few formations. I spent three hours of hard caving in this cave. I estimate over 1000' of passage and there is the possibility of additional passage in one of the crawls.

This list consists of good Class-B caves. These are not meat-grinders like Keyhole Cave or diving trips like the duck under at Ward and Gregory. They are not dead end pits like Wolferts Cave. The locations of these caves are in the caving files. Some of the directions to caves were omitted because they are tricky to describe.

GOOD CAVING!

Jim Rawding

SUMMER DIRECTORY

Note: Other activities are as follows:

- 1 Horseback riding
- 2 Gardening & house building
- 3 Waterskiing

ACTIVITIES

NAME	ADDRESS	PHONE	ACTIVITIES						
			Canoeing	Kayaking	Rafting	Caving	Rock Climbing	Backpacking	Emceeing
Elena Aranda			X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Evan Bergen	R.D. 1, Box 149 Grafton 12052	H: 279-9737 W: 436-0764	X		X	X		A	
Cathy Bogen	Leisurevill Apts. Bldg 21 Apt 39 Watervliet 12189	785-9957	X	X	X	X		X	X
Joseph Brostmeyer	R.D.1 Delanson 12053	895-8124	X	X	X		X	X	
Tom Duchesneau	3 Cooper Ave Troy	271-8729	X		?			X	X
Dave Ellis	40D Friars Gate Clifton Park 12065	371-8640					B	C	X
Randolph Franklin	2105 Sausse #3E Troy 12180	273-4613	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Diane Larson	JEC 6042 1611 Tibbits Ave Troy 12180	270-6324 273-7971	X						X
Ginny Mason	40-B Ahern Ave. Troy 12180	274-6416	X						X
Vicki Merriman	92 25th St. Troy	273-9566	X		X	X	X	X	
Don Perley	1611 Tibbits Ave. Troy 12180	273-7971	C	X	X	C	A	X	X
Jurgen Reher	152-A Delaware Ave. Troy 12180	274-7667	X				X	B	
Linus Sherrill	240H Huntridge Dr. Clifton Park 12065	383-1251			X		X	X	X
Dan Stevens	1605 Highland Ave Apt. 4 Troy 12180	274-8039	X	X	X	A	B	X	X
John Swozeeniak	100 9th St. Troy	272-5711		X		X			X
Greg Thomas	1605 Highland Av Apt 4 Troy 12180	274-8039	C		X	C	C	X	
George Trudel	40-B Ahern Ave, Troy JEC 7037	274-6416 270-6548	AA	B	X	X	X	X	X