

# The Rambler



*Official Publication of*

## THE WASATCH MOUNTAIN CLUB

Club Headquarters: 425 South 8th West, Salt Lake City, Utah

Lodge: Brighton, Utah

Telephone EM 3-7150

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## OUR BY-LAW CHANGE on CONSERVATION

Cal Giddings, President

On October 5 the Board of Directors considered and passed a number of amendments to the by-laws. Most of the changes involved an up-dating of the by-laws without having any important effect upon the organization of the Club. One of the major changes was the combination of the Trails and Transportation posts. This post will still be responsible for arranging transportation whenever necessary. Since most of the trip leaders prefer to arrange their own transportation there has been little need for a separate Transportation Director.

The position left open by the Trails and Transportation merger will be filled by a Conservation Director. The WMC has enjoyed the out-of-doors too long without taking an organized interest in what happens to it. The Conservation Director, along with a Board, approved Committee of three to eight members will now represent us on Conservation matters. According to the amendment, now By-Law 7, the Committee is "subject to such restrictions as may be determined by the Board of Directors". The Board of Directors in turn is subject to the desires of the entire membership through direct contact and yearly elections. With the Committee just getting into action this month, now is the time to let us know your feelings about Conservation.

At the General Membership Meeting held on October 19, the Board and the new Conservation Director, Austin Wahraftig, heard the views of more than a dozen members who spoke up on the subject of Conservation, grazing, road development, out-of-state interests, and many other items we were discussing. This interest was gratifying to those who, like Carl Bauer, have been fighting an individual battle on our behalf.

If any of you have a view to express on Conservation or would like to help the Committee in some way, please contact Austin and let him know of your interest.

## TRIP SCHEDULE

November

- Nov. 5-6     Southern Utah Trip. Visit Glen Canyon Dam, Kodachrome Flats, and Grosvenor Arch. This is a motorcade type trip with no lengthy hiking involved and is a good family trip. Bring the youngsters on this one. The round trip is approximately 780 miles. Transportation \$12 or under. Commissary \$3.50. (Families may wish to take their own cars and bring own commissary).  
Leader: Carl Bauer. Register by Wednesday, Nov. 2, at 6:00 p.m. Club Headquarters EM3-1750.
- Nov. 6     North Face of Mt. Olympus. Meet at 7 a.m. at 39th South and Wasatch Blvd. Bring lunch, canteen. Leader: Harold Goodro. Register by Saturday night, Nov. 5, before 6:00 p.m. EM 3-1750.
- Nov. 12-13     Still Open to Suggestions. There are a couple irons in the fire, but we want to hear from you if you have a bright idea. Call Dale Green, who will welcome your suggestions. Club Headquarters will have the final details on this weekend. Call there, EM 3-1750, to find out what's cooking.
- Nov. 20     Logan Cave. Too cold to go hiking. Not enough snow for skiing! What to do. Into a cave, of course, for some exploring. There will be a little ankle-deep wading in a friendly, but cold stream. Bring lunch, camera and flashlight with a couple of good batteries, hard hat or thick cap. Call Leader, Dale Green, if you need more information. Meet 8:00 a.m. in the Wasatch Plunge - north of Salt Lake, at Beck Street. Transportation \$2.50. Register by Saturday, 6:00 p.m., Nov. 21.

Dec. 3-4      Ski Alta. We hope. Mr. Snow-maker send us some snow.

Dec. 11      Ski Tour. We hope. Send us some more snow.

Dec. 13-19   Christmas Party at the Lodge. Everyone will be there.

Dec. 24-25   Open. Christmas.

January      This is the month. Skiing, Skiing, and Skiing. Mixed in with ski-tours, after ski-socials, cheery lodge weekends. The peak of the year!

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#### T RIPS and OUTINGS

Red Pine Lake and Phiferhorn -- September 25  
Janet Yergensen

This was "The Day". The one everyone should set aside each fall to help nature celebrate in all her glorious colors before putting on her white blanket and putting her forest people to sleep for the winter.

The trip was to Red Pine Lake and the Phiferhorn. The day was cool, yet warm enough for Max McDowell to change to his shorts. Many stops to record the yellow and red mountain sides broke into the hike to the first lake. It was extremely low but the upper lake was deep and clear, a refreshing mountain lake, its level untampered by man. The steep hike from the lake to the ridge was rewarding in its panorama of Utah and Salt Lake valleys. Mt. Timpanogas's glacier was a small patch of snow. We saw the stern non-frivolous side of the mountains in the gray straight cliffs and knife ridges leading out from our ridge as a contrast to the brilliant fall dress of the rest of the area. Here, some of us stopped for lunch, to enjoy the beauty and exhilaration of the day, while the more ambitious dashed to the upper heights and the top.

The return trip was under a canopy of gold, as the sun back-lighted the Aspen. More camera stops were made to record the clear, brilliant yellows against deep blue sky and green pines. The sides of the "V" of Little Cottonwood Canyon were like a Persian Rug, with its various shades of reds, greens, and browns. Those who agreed it was "The Day" to see Fall in all her beauty were: Janet Christensen, Leader; Caine Alder, Trudy Freidhofer, Harold Goodro, Max McDowell, John MacDuff, Wenonah McGhan, and Delbert and Janet Yergensen.

### Zion Narrows - October 1 and 2

It never seems to fail that when a bus load of WMC members sets off on an expedition, whether it be river-running, back-packing, or what have you, the end result is a combination of excitement (is that really our truck lying there upside down?); confusion (great scott, fellows, paddle to the right!); pathos (no, I'm not wearing red socks. Those are just my bloody feet); and heroism (just hang on a minute longer and I'll call for help.)

Gale Dick caught the flavor of this characteristic trip and recorded it as follows:

Hitting the sack after that first day's hike was made especially delicious by the fact that the bus had pulled into our starting place on the North Fork of the Virgin River at about 3:30 a.m. the same morning. It was cold when the bus arrived but after what seemed like about eight minutes sleep, we were greeted by a hot and hearty breakfast prepared by Don and Jeanne Pearson. The tone for the day's activities was set when Lee Steorts took a head-over-ears type spill into the water at our First encounter with the Virgin River.

There is no more dramatic approach to Zion Park than this one which starts in a sheep pasture down a little draw that ends up at the Great White Throne after 18 miles of continuously

spectacular and increasingly dramatic scenery. The canyon, after wandering briefly in an elegant park enclosed in red cliffs, plunges into a series of slits and astonishing corridors. This year most of the leaves hadn't yet begun to turn but who was looking at leaves?

Once in the canyon some tried to keep their feet dry, Steve MacDonald showing the most valiant effort, but soon we had begun our estimated 1,000 crossings of the river. The problem of the best footgear for this wading hasn't really been solved. Tennis shoes lead to bruised soles and unpleasant squishing noises; boots end up tripling their weight. Another unsolved problem is the one of how to photograph things 30 feet wide and 1,000 feet high in practically no light. Photographers mumbled about high speed Ektachrome and some very imposing machinery was trained on the scenery. Bob Wright had a sort of porthole window with an adapter to attach it to his camera.

It's hard to believe that this gorge wasn't particularly designed as a footpath, possibly with the Wasatch Mountain Club in mind. At the one spot where there might be a little trouble geological forces have thoughtfully provided a sort of staircase detour. However, judging from the water marks on the walls it gets pretty wild down there in the spring. Cal Giddings got a sort of far-off look as he mentally compared the canyon width with a kayak length.

The first afternoon brought us to our camp in a large sandy cave. The uninitiated couldn't imagine that the next day could bring anything more spectacular than the first, nevertheless, it did. In the meantime, moonlight on the cliffs; a memorable rendition of "Ol Man River" from Meredith Page; and then..... that blessed sleeping bag.

Lodge Overnight and Lake Desolation Hike Oct. 8-9

Dave Sundstrom

A delightful weekend was enjoyed by five (3 members and 2 prospective members). Members included Clare Sundwall, Ginny Winkle, and yours truly, who were joined by Gil Graham and Bob Robertson of Brigham City. Snow was predicted for the weekend so Saturday afternoon found the above laboriously and tediously working with pick axe and "idiot-sticks" endeavoring to finish burying the septic tank and appurtenances. It was a rather dreamy day with heavy clouds hanging low and soon became dark.

After supper some precipitation in the form of light hail came down soon changing to lovely "goofer feathers" which in turn precipitated a short snowball scuffle. Evening found the intimate little group singin' and strummin' before a cozy blaze in the fireplace.

In the morning after a hearty breakfast, beautiful winter scenery was enjoyed. Later, desiring some more vigorous physical endeavor, another snowball fight ensued followed by some dead timber-cruising, sawing, felling, and dragging the potential fireplace occupants back to the lodge. The weekend proved to be one of much fun, fellowship, wintry scenes, good food and physical exercise benefiting soul, body, and Lodge.

The hike to Lake Desolation to be led on Sunday by Ginny Winkle had six possible participants, but everyone took a "rain-check", or rather - "snow-check". It might have come off if the "hikers" had been prepared with skis or snowshoes.

## FROM THE CONSERVATION DEPARTMENT

Carl Bauer

With an apology for repetition which in effect, we intend to be elaboration, may we return to the subject of Birds?

Apologists for the hideous and utterly asinine practice of bird killing imagine themselves on firm ground in their condemnation of Hawks, Owls, and English Sparrows.

Some decades ago, government scientists, after a study of the problem of the Alfalfa Weevil in Utah, stressed the most important of birds with these observations: The Killdeer is our most valuable bird, but it is not present in sufficient numbers to be a decisive control factor. The Brewers Blackbird renders the second best per capita control performance, but it also is lacking in numbers. The report ended with the eye-opening conclusion - "But the average barnyard flock of English Sparrows will account for a quarter of a million weevils in a single season."

Experience teaches in a costly school, as officials of five California counties learned to their sorrow. These "progressive" public servants, after years of a losing struggle against rats, mice, and other rodents, in desperation appealed for government assistance. The experts, too, were perplexed by the relative futility of intensive control measures, but noted one unusual condition - the almost total absence of hawks and owls. The local official admitted that an early phase of their long term "program" had been the extermination of these "pests". Need we add that subsequent planning included rigorous protection for all such pariahs?



## PERSONAL ITEMS AND NEWS OF NOTE

We were very saddened recently by the loss of Ed Leidich. Ed and his guitar music at the Lodge doings will be long remembered. Our sincere sympathies go to Mrs. Leidich and the children.

Newlyweds Diane (Hause) and Terry Arney are at home at: 517 South 5th East, Telephone EM 4-5607.

### New Members:

Ralph C. Richards, M.D.  
2227 Kensington Avenue  
Salt Lake City  
IN 7-3704

Wolf H. Snyder  
4272 Mackay Street  
Salt Lake City  
AM 6-1374

Ronald Petersen  
866 Pacific Avenue  
Salt Lake City  
EL 5-7216

### Change of address:

Chuck Dunham  
404 6th Avenue  
Fairbanks, Alaska

We no sooner welcomed Ronald Petersen into our circle than we learned that he is going to New Zealand to serve a two year Mission for the L.D.S. Church. Though he will be many thousand miles away Pinky and Pete say it is only 17 hours by air. Best wishes, Ron, and we will keep a spot warm for you round the Lodge fireplace while you are gone.

Well, here comes the annual announcement:

Dues are due November 1

\$6.00 for those who reside in Utah

\$2.00 for the out-of-staters

Treasurer John MacDuff (2780 Yuma Circle, Salt Lake City 9) will be hanging around the mail box to receive them.

We have a notice from the "Skiing" magazine that for a limited time our members may obtain a subscription for \$1.50 for the year. The usual price is \$3.00. If any members wish to take advantage of this offer they should send their \$1.50 along with their mailing address to the Publications Director, Clare Sundwall, as soon as possible. The offer is limited in time.

Attention Skiers! Remember the first model of flexible Head Skis that made powder skiing so easy? Those who have skied on both the original models and what is now called the "soft" Head really know how much more flexible and easier to handle in the powder the originals are. Unfortunately, Head quit making these some years ago. However, this year, especially for Alta and for one time only, the Head Ski Co. has run off a batch from the original pattern - - and those skis will be on sale at the Peruvian Lodge Ski Shop at Alta which is run by fellow WMC Club member, Jim McConkey. So, if you're having troubles in the powder with your present skies, and are looking for the right pair, see Jim about these special Deep Powder Heads. Jim is also having a beginning of-the-season sale on Parkas, Sweaters, Stretch Pants, poles and boots. The shop will be open every day starting with the opening of the Alta lift on November 19.

As you have probably noticed, hints of snow and winter are creeping into our journal. Better check over your gear! Better have those skis waxed! Better be ready!