

The Rambler



Official Publication of

THE WASATCH MOUNTAIN CLUB

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TRIP SCHEDULE

February 1964

Call all Registrations to Club Headquarters (EM 3-7150)

The Forest Service has advised us that there will be dangerous avalanche conditions for some time - perhaps until April. This will mean that our ski touring will be somewhat restricted, with only the safer tours scheduled. All persons participating in ski tours should keep the dangers in mind, even on the easier tours.

February 2 -- Red Pine - Maybird. This tour will be a little longer than those scheduled so far, and will include considerable climbing. Register by 6:00 p.m. Friday, January 31. Meet at the Y-intersection at the mouth of Little Cottonwood Canyon at 7:00 a.m. Leader, Alexis Kelner.

February 9 -- Brighton to Park City. We will hope that this tour can go as scheduled, but snow conditions may force its cancellation. This trip will probably become one of the club's favorites now that we can ski at Park City afterwards. Register by 6:00 p.m. Friday, February 7. Meet at the Majestic Lift at Brighton at 9:00 a.m. Leader, Bob Wright.

February 9 -- After Ski Social at Ann McDonald's (5344 Cottonwood Lane). Join us for some food and conversation after the tour or after skiing - be sure to telephone for directions if you don't know the way - it's hard to find. Bring along your favorite ski story and plan to enjoy a relaxing session around a warm fire.

February 15 -- Albion Basin. This is a repeat of an earlier trip, but one that is always popular. This time we'll schedule it on Saturday so that those who often can't take a Sunday tour will have a chance. Register by 6:00 p.m. Friday, February 14. Leader to be announced. Meet at the Albion Basin Lift (Neversweat) at Alta at 9:00 a.m.

February 21-23 -- Sun Valley. Although this is not an official club trip, at least eight members will head for Sun Valley Thursday evening, February 20, and may even do a little skiing during the long weekend. Anyone is welcome to go, although you'll have to arrange your own transportation and accommodations. Since Friday, February 21 is a holiday for many, Sun Valley may be crowded and it would be wise to contact one of the local motels for reservations in the immediate future.

March 1 -- White Pine Canyon. This tour involves about 3-4 hours of climbing but is quite scenic and doesn't involve any dangerous slopes. Register by 6:00 p.m. Saturday February 29. Meet at the Y-intersection at the mouth of Little Cottonwood Canyon at 8:00 a.m. Leader to be announced.

March 1 -- After Ski Social at Bob and Dordie Wright's (6366 Cobblerock Lane) Time once more to join your fellow skiers for some warm food and socializing around a relaxing fire. Stop by after skiing or stop in anyway. (Non-skiers are welcome). No need to register. Beer and soft drinks will be available or bring your own wine.

HELP !

We have heard of at least two enjoyable and fairly easy ski tours in the Snow Basin area -- one in particular is supposed to be about a one hour hike to the "Easter Bowl". Is there any member who is familiar with this trip? If you would be willing to lead such a trip, or even if you could simply map out the directions for another leader, please contact club headquarters or trips and outings director Joe Gates (364-9577).

SPECIAL NOTE:

A debate on the subject "Wilderness Areas, their Use and Abuse" will be held at 7:45 p.m. on Sunday, February 2 at the First Unitarian Church, 569 S. 13th East. Participants in this public debate will be Dr. Harold Lamb of the Audubon Society and Miles Romney of the Utah Mining Association. For those who can't attend, part of the program (8:00 to 9:00 p.m.) will be broadcast over KSL radio. A question and answer period usually follows these debates of the church's "Town Meeting" series.

SOME TRIPS IN THE FUTURE

April 23-26 -- Glen Canyon River Trip

May 28-31 -- Yampa River Trip

June 20-21 -- Colorado Trip (aided by a full moon)

SPEAKING OF RIVER TRIPS.

Does anyone in the club know of a building that could be used by the repair crew to work on boats? The required room should measure 20 by 30 feet (minimum) and should have a fairly large door. If you have access to or knowledge of such a building, please notify Dave Cook at 355-4086 AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

Anyone For Canada This Summer?

by Tom Stevenson

A summer excursion for two weeks is planned in the Canadian Rockies from July 18 until August 2. Who wants to enjoy the bountiful pleasures of climbing, hiking, camping or just plain car touring and sightseeing that this marvelous area offers?

The trip is designed primarily for climbing but hiking, camping and sightseeing will coincide with the planned itinerary as well as the climbing; the trip is open to everyone.

I have spent a week or more in the Canadian Rockies during each of the last two Summers and am somewhat familiar with the enjoyable sights, places to go, the weather and economical accommodations. I have a selection of slides and several maps of the area which will be visited. The slides will be shown and the maps will be on display at the election meeting in April. Details of the trip may be discussed at that meeting or at any time prior to it if questions arise.

The itinerary is designed for the most enjoyable sightseeing as well as the most effective conditioning for hiking and climbing. There are specific dates and times for meeting as a group, but every auto is on its own to do as it pleases. There will be no waiting for stray autos.

The planned itinerary is as follows:

July 20, 9:00 a.m. Meet at Tunnel Mountain Campground in Banff. Hot and cold running showers as well as excellent camping and cooking areas are available for 50¢ per night or \$2.00 per week. The day is reserved for sightseeing and coordinating activities.

July 21, 7:30 a.m. Meet at Lake Louise Chateau to meet the Lake O'Hara bus. July 21-23 would be spent at Lake O'Hara where senic camping and pleasant hiking abounds. Climbers will pack up to Abbot Pass Hut (9,588') and climb Mt. Victoria (11,365') and Mt. Lefroy (11,230') on July 22 and 23.

July 23 - Return to Lake Louise Chateau and thence return to Tunnel Mountain Campground.

July 24 - Depart by auto for Glacier National Park, the Selkirks, and Mt. Sir Donald (10,818') This is a classic climb of North America. There is fine hiking in the area and scenic Rogers Pass on the Trans-Canadian Highway. The climb will be made on the 25.

July 26 - Depart from Glacier National Park and travel to the Columbia Ice Fields. Meet at the Ice Fields Warden Station at 4 p.m.

July 27 - 30 or 31 - Sight seeing for all non climbers. The road to Jasper Parallels the Scenic beauty of the Sunwapta River and Athabaska Falls. The climbers will leave the Sunwapta Campground (no showers) early for a trek up on to the Columbia Ice Field.

A variety of peaks may be climbed once there - Mt. Columbia (12,294'), The Twins (12,085'), Mt. Kitchener (11,500') or Snow Dome (11,340').

July 31, evening - Meet at Tunnel Mountain Campground for last night get-together.

August 1 - Return to Salt Lake City.

For questions on mountaineer' Qualifications being necessary for Canada climbing. "Every effort will be made to insure that all who wish to become mountaineers will do so!"

The Canadian Rockies are conducive to the most strenuous mountaineering or the most care free relaxed enjoyable vacationing. Why not come along!

SNAKE CREEK - December 22

by Carl Bauer

The obvious quality of the WMC class now matriculated at the Solitude Ski School has not passed unnoticed by the "Yeti" auxillary, ski touring neophytes of the WMC. Lest the Solitude class be inclined to tarry in the quest of perfection, we herewith remind them that touring invites their early indulgence and requires no diploma.

Touring, in fact, holds forth the promise that one will probably never become an expert, but will have more fun. Leaving the conventional routes with their moguls and shussboomers, he is free to revel in a different world.

From the majestic lift we turned to an unmarked expanse of forest and glade, where senses are free to delight in the patterns of glistening light and shadow, and the saucy chiding of the chickadee.

In due course we mounted the highest ridge where lunches were demolished, as we sought frames of ermine-clad fir and spruce for pictures worthy of a vast gleaming expanse of canyons and mountains dominated by majestic timpanogos.

"Yeti" or seekers there of:

Clare Davis

Mel Davis

Helen Bassey

Dave Cook

Betty Bottcher

Carl Bauer

CARDIFF PASS (AVALANCHE BOWL) -- January 12

by Mel Davis

A usually interesting ski trip turned out to be much more than expected for ten of us who had never been near an avalanche before.

Trip leader Laird Crocker and John McDuff were waiting at the mouth of Big Cottonwood Canyon at 8:30, along with Al and June Wickham, Carl Bauer, and Pete Hovingh when I arrived. We managed to squeeze into Laird's car, with poles and boots in back and skis on top for the ride to Alta where our tour was to begin. Ed Schneider and Bill Nissen met us there, and Betty Bottcher drove up while we were putting our skins on.

The sky was clear and the sun shone brightly up above us on the mountain, but down on the road where we were getting ready, it was freezing the fingers of those who couldn't fight their skins with gloves on. We took the trail leading up to the rangers' cabin and shortly after broke out into the sunshine. John MacDuff set the pace almost straight up the mountain until the Cubco users begged for relief. Towards the top, Al Wickham took the lead and brought us out at Cardiff Pass.

We smoothed off the top of a cornice overlooking Alta and sat down on our skis and had lunch. Soon we heard a popping noise and thought a snow-cat was coming, but soon discovered it was Ed Schneider brewing a cup of tea over his primus stove. During lunch, we watched planes drop parachutists over Alta. The men landed just below the Alta Lodge. From this point, our trip headed downhill, and very quickly as we were soon to discover. The slope is very steep at the top and there is no way out except to traverse across the open slopes. We joked about avalanches but as none of us knew a potential one when we saw it, we didn't take the situation seriously.

I led off first but soon was floundering up to my hips in powder snow and caught in the trees before I'd gotten out in the open. John took off higher up and sailed gracefully clear across the slope. Pete followed next and went across to stop near some small trees. June and I were next. After discussing the appearance of the slope, I took off about ten feet below the trail of the other two. June started out not far behind me.

I was about two thirds across when I heard June scream. I looked back and saw her going down in an avalanche. She tried to ski out, but soon disappeared under the surging snow. Just as she went under, I looked back to where I was going and the trees and rocks suddenly seemed to start going uphill. I realized then that the whole slope was going down, and I was in it. I, too, tried to ski down the slope, but when the snow you're on is also going down, is it possible? The two-foot deep powder snow became even lighter as it bounced down the steep slope, and gave no support to my frantic efforts to remain upright.

My feet were swept from under me but I still fought to stay up on top. I knew I was losing, and as the snow started to come over me,

my thoughts then were to get my arms over my face to trap a breathing space, and also try to keep something sticking out of the snow so I could be found.

Just as the snow was closing over my head, the avalanche stopped against an outcropping of rocks almost at the bottom of the slope. I lost no time kicking free and immediately looked for signs of June. One of my skis had come off and gave me a little trouble getting it back on. Not a trace of her was visible from where I was. I set off across the snow to where I was sure she was buried. As I looked for her, I kept calling out, thinking she might hear me from under the snow and help me to locate her. There was no reply.

I soon found one ski pole, then up the slope from it I could see a ski lying upside down in the snow. Getting closer, I saw a white boot fastened to the ski and thought she had been pulled out of it. I grabbed the ski near the boot and pulled up--she was still in it. I called to the others that I had found her and to hurry. I frantically dug down the leg to her hips, then down further and brushed the pack on her back. Then I knew where her head would be and hurriedly dug in that direction. There was no sound or movement from her until I uncovered her face, just as John and Pete arrived to help. With fresh air on her face, she began to moan, and believe me, this was a happy sound to us.

By the time we had dug her out, she had revived and fell into the arms of her husband who had taken off his skis at the top of the slide and made an almost impossible dash across the loose snow to get to her.

Apparently, the entire bowl was ready to slide, and just waiting for something to trigger it, when we came along. At least ten similar slopes around the bowl broke loose and went down when we started ours going. One went down on each side of MacDuff and left him standing on a narrow strip. Pete just missed going down with June and I, but managed to grab a small tree and ended up with only a broken ski pole.

One of June's poles is still hidden somewhere in that deep pile of snow. She said she'd come back for it next spring.

Certainly the rest of the trip was anti-climactic. Three hours later, after some beautiful powder skiing and quite a long walk on skis, we arrived at the highway below Silver Fork where a car was waiting.

At the after-ski social that night, June said that except for the avalanche it was a nice trip.

ONE MEMBER'S COMMENTS ON JOHN FITZGERALD KENNEDY

by Carl Bauer

Lest the tragedy of November 22 be compounded through forgetfulness, some retrospection is in order.

For three happy years conservationists found reassurance in the knowledge that a Kennedy veto lay in wait for any legislative trickery concocted for "special interests". For contrast one need only recall an earlier veto of urgently needed anti-pollution legislation. Justification for that shameful act was attempted with the asinine comment, "A unique local problem". The trend continued into 1960, when the flood of campaign garbage so masked a record of ruthlessness and deceit that, for hosts of intelligent voters, it became "the lesser of two evils".

Yet a kindly providence interceded, though the nation hardly deserved a president of Kennedy stature. The gallantry with which he, although relatively blameless, shouldered the responsibility for the Cuban invasion fiasco, is probably without parallel in our history; and his reaction to the incessant sniping and abuse from the highest echelons of the political opposition, was in the finest christian tradition.

A recent editorial of the New York Times included this paragraph: "Throughout his brief tenure in the White House, John F. Kennedy tried to awaken the American people to the urgency of conservation in our land of vanishing beauty, increasing ugliness and shrinking open space..."

The stage is again set for an election campaign of invective and half-truth, and with a dearth of bonafide issues, will probably gyrate about the theme of "big government", "Plausible" development will require the clothing of the predatory interests with mantles of cherubic innocence, a task, even with the sympathetic press, of substantial proportions.

Foresight is "persona non grata" in the voting booth, and experience hardly a match for "sloganized thinking"; nor can destiny guarantee that the wisdom of even a martyr shall prevail.

(Editor's Note: These comments do not necessarily express the position of the Wasatch Mountain Club or the beliefs of individual members.

WILDERNESS LEGISLATION

by Margaret Piggott

January 10 and 11 hearings were held in Denver on the latest proposals for the Wilderness Bill, and since I was going to testify

on behalf of the Uinta Regional Group of the Sierra Club I was able to represent the Wasatch Mountain Club also.

The hearings went well for wilderness legislation. Many individuals - including a small boy aged 8 and a group of school children from 12 to 15 years - testified on their own behalf for a strong wilderness bill. It was interesting because a majority of conservationists were willing to compromise by supporting the Saylor measure, H.R. 9070; and some of the dissident commercial concerns unbent enough to concede to a "watered-down" Dingell Bill, H.R.9162.

In order to gain a better understanding of the issues involved I will give a brief resume of the various bills before the committee and the history of the entire problem. The question of Congressional protection by legislation for wild, wilderness and primitive areas has now been bandied back and forth for a decade. Two bills were passed by the Senate with large majorities, and the first one, S174, died an untimely death when it reached the Floor of the House of Representatives. The second one, S4, is at present frozen in the committee deep-freeze, and will meet the same fate as S174 if we do not get it unstuck in time. Representative Saylor (Rep., Penn.), in a genuine attempt to break the deadlock, introduced H.R. 9070, and Representative Dingell, whose motives appear less altruistic, introduced another bill H.R.9162 which sweeps away most of the objections of the miners, lumbermen and cattlemen's Associations, and at the same time almost sweeps away the original wilderness ideal.

So that the effectiveness of the various bill and compromise measures can be better understood, I will give the basic facts on each:

Saylor compromise on S4

1. This allows mining in the primitive areas while they are pending for review to change their status to wilderness and hence have Congressional protection. (S4 halts mining.)
2. Saylor has a 3-5 year review period of the primitive areas, wildlife refuges, etc. (S4 has a 10 year review period of these areas.)
3. Saylor gives Congress the decision to change the status of the primitive areas to wilderness on the recommendation of the appropriate Secretary. (S4, recommendations are made by the Forest Service, and Congress has right of veto only.)
4. Saylor stops mining except by Presidential decree in an emergency, but allows geological surveys to be carried out on the potential mineral wealth in wilderness areas. (This is sensible as opponents of S4 had a valid criticism with the complaint that they "wouldn't know what was in there" when the emergency arose.)
(S4 is essentially the same except that it has no clause allowing surveys)

Dingell Bill Differences

1. This bill allows mining to carry on for 10 years in the wilderness areas after passage of the Act.

2. The review period on primitive areas is 10 years.
3. Primitive areas will have their status quo maintained until this time, and if they do not achieve wilderness status by an Act of Congress within the mandatory 10 year period it is possible (because of ambiguous and vague wording) they will revert back to unqualified National Forest areas without any protection whatsoever.
4. The mandatory review period is for primitive areas only. Legislation to include wildlife refuges, monuments, etc. in the wilderness system for Congressional protection is purely discretionary.

Thus, you have my interpretation of the broad spectrum of events, and it is possible that an amended Dingell Bill will reach the Floor of the House. Our work, however is not finished. The Committee can stall again until time runs out and once again we have lost our chance of protecting these wonderful areas. This is where we come in. One good reason why Aspinall (chairman of the committee) is stalling is because the mining and grazing interests are making a big noise - but these are minority interests. Are we going to let them get away with it? They can and will if we don't write NOW. Things are already looking black for wilderness legislation and unless we let up a H-O-O-O-W-L which can be heard in Washington we are going to allow some of the most wonderful scenery in the nation slip thru our fingers, to be lost to the cause of mercenary interests. WRITE TO REPRESENTATIVE ASPINALL (DEM. Col. - Hon. Rep. Wayne Aspinall, Chairman, House Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs, House Office Building, Washington, D.C.) AND YOUR OWN REPRESENTATIVE. Urge passing the Saylor Wilderness Bill or S4. After all, the entire fuss is concerning 14,700,000 areas, which is only 8% of the total National Forest system!

As a footnote, I would like to say that I felt honored to represent the Wasatch Mountain Club. Austin Wahrhaftig made the statement which I was invited to read after summarizing my own testimony. I also had with me a letter from Forrest Hatch, one from the Ute Alpine Club, and two others, all of which were placed in the hearing records.

A BIG THANK YOU TO. . . . Yenta Kaufman who recently made a donation of \$15.00 to the Club Treasury. These financial contributions have made possible many special improvements at the lodge. Let's have more of them!

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