



The Rambler

Official Publication of

THE WASATCH MOUNTAIN CLUB

Salt Lake City, Utah

June 1968

CLUB ACTIVITIES FOR JUNE 1968

Register for all trips at Club Headquarters, 363-7150

June 1
Sat.

MT. TIMPANOGOS - HEAD OF ROCK CANYON --
This is planned as a family hike. If the road is opened to the head of Rock Canyon, we'll be able to drive to the foot of several large snow fields, where we'll be able to glissade. (Incidentally, this Rock Canyon is not the same one listed in an earlier scheduled hike.) Hikes of various lengths and difficulties can be evolved from here, depending upon the participants. Bring lunch and a change of clothes for young glissaders. Meet at the Timponeke Guard Station at 9:30 a.m. Register by 5:30 p.m. Friday. Leader: Milt Hollander (466-7567).

June 2
Sun.

MT. RAYMOND VIA BUTLER FORK TO MT. OLYMPUS RIDGE RUN -- This is an extended ridge run from Mt. Raymond at elevation 10,241 ft to Mt. Olympus at 9,000+ ft, back down to Pete's Rock. Bring water and two lunches since this is a long hike of 9 to 10 miles, with about a 4,000-foot ascent and a 5,000-foot descent, with numerous relatively short elevation changes along the way. Hiking boots are necessary and gators helpful. Registration is required to facilitate the time involved in car shuttling. Register by 5:30 p.m. Saturday. Meet at Pete's Rock at 7:00 a.m. Leader: Dale Green (277-6417).

June 6
Thur

CLIMBING AT STORM MOUNTAIN -- We will have the infamous weights out straining the tree under the loading of dynamic belays. Bring gloves and an old pair of pants. This session is almost mandatory practice for any serious climber, so put this in your datebook. Suds and food at dusk.

June 8
Sat.

NATURE HIKE - MILL CREEK -- For an easy spring walk and a guided tour among the early lowland mountain foliage, join Mike Treshow (467-1022) in Mill Creek Canyon. School-age children are welcome. Registration is not required. Meet at the Red Carpet Inn, approximately 3900 Wasatch Blvd, at 9:00 a.m.

June 8, 9
Sat., Sun.

LONE PEAK HIGH CAMP AND DAY HIKE --
Climbing and hiking; those wishing to camp out overnight in Lone Peak cirque should contact Max Townsend (363-2269), as should anyone interested in climbing. The trip rating via Corner Canyon is 11.5, so hikers should be in good condition. Last year, participation was heavy in this event and enjoyed by all despite a moderate snowfall and a lightning storm. If the evening skies remain clear, moonlight should add to the allure of the cirque and peak since the moon will be nearly full. Mike King (486-9705) will lead Saturday's hike. Meet at 7:00 a.m. Saturday at 12300 South 700 East, Draper. Sunday's hike will be led by Dick Bell (254-4555). Meet at 7:00 a.m. Sunday, same place. Register for the hikes by 5:30 p.m., June 7.

COVER PHOTO OF ORDERVILLE CANYON BY EVELINE BRUENGER

June 13
Thurs

ANNUAL EVENING BOULDER SESSION AT GATE ROCKS (Besides, it gives Annie a break) -- Suds will be served tailgate style after a strenuous bouldering session. Since the last session, several new routes have been worked out. Everybody is welcome.

June 15
Sat.

SUNSET PEAK VIA CATHERINE PASS FROM THE LODGE -- Rating, 3.0; elevation, 10,650. A pleasant hike past Lake Mary, Lake Martha, and Lake Catherine and then up to Catherine Pass. Meet at the lodge at 9:00 a.m. Leader: Al Wickham (485-9847).

June 15, 16
Sat., Sun.

SNAKE RIVER FAMILY TRIP -- Take your school-age children on one of those WMC float trips from which they are ordinarily excluded. Landlover wives and others will also enjoy this easy float with spectacular scenery and abundant wildlife. Camp on the river Saturday night and leave the river Sunday in time for a hike or other recreation. First come, first served. Register by paying the trip fee of \$7 for adults, \$3.50 for children, at Club headquarters. A pre-trip meeting will be held Wednesday evening, June 12, at 8:00 p.m. with the trip leader, Dean Withrow, 519 Northmont Way (364-6868).

June 16
Sun.

LAKE BLANCHE -- Rating, 5.0; elevation, 8,900. The hike starts at the switchback in Big Cottonwood Canyon and goes up the south fork of Mill B. Lake Blanche and two sister lakes nestle below Dromedary Peak and Sundial. The more ambitious may find some good glissading below Sundial. Meet at the mouth of Big Cottonwood Canyon at 8:30 a.m. Register by 5:30 p.m. June 15. Leader: John Riley (485-2567).

June 15, 16
Sat., Sun.

ESCALANTE BACKPACK -- This will be a short backpack trip to give you just a taste of the spectacularly beautiful redrock country in the Escalante drainage. (We hope some of you will thereby become interested in the conservation aspects of this region.) We will go to Jacob Hamblin Arch on Coyote Creek, a tributary of the Escalante River. Hiking distance will be about six miles each way, about half of this walking in the stream. Register by 5:30 p.m., Wednesday, June 12. Leader: June Viavant (364-9684).

June 20
Thurs

CLIMBING AT STORM MOUNTAIN -- An evening of climbing or hiking is always fun, particularly when good company and refreshments are around.

June 21
Friday

GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING - KEG PARTY AT LODGE -- Come to the lodge for an evening of conviviality. Dale Green will show slides and/or films of his trip to Kilimanjaro.

June 22
Sat.

NEFF'S CANYON TO MT. OLYMPUS -- This is an advanced trip with a 12.0 rating for those taking the run along Wildcat Ridge to Mt. Olympus. An easier hike with a 5.0 rating can be made by returning via Neff's Canyon. Carry water and

lunches and wear adequate footgear. Meet at Red Carpet Inn, 3923 Wasatch Blvd, at 7:00 a.m. Register by 5:30 p.m. Friday, June 21. Leader: John MacDuff (484-1634).

June 22, 23
Sat., Sun

ORDERVILLE CANYON TO VIRGIN RIVER - ZION'S TRIP -- This will be an advanced hike. It was previously scouted last year and hiked in one day by a small exploratory group. Pictures of the trip were enough to make a person go AWOL from the everyday routine. See the write-up in this issue. If a minimum of 15 people register sufficiently early, the bus can be made available at \$15 per member. Register by 5:30 p.m., Saturday, June 15, with Fred Bruenger (485-2639). Leave Friday, June 21, at 7:00 p.m. from Ann MacDonald's.

June 23
Sun.

TWIN PEAKS -- Rating, 10.5; elevation, 11,330. Another favorite. Check with leader Boone Newson (277-5783) to see whether an ice axe will be needed for the climb to the summit. Meet at the mouth of Big Cottonwood Canyon. Bring water and a lunch. Register by 5:00 p.m. Saturday, June 22. Check with Boone for the meeting time.

June 27
Thurs

CLIMBING AT STORM MOUNTAIN AND A T GATE ROCKS -- This is a split session that will rejoin at Storm Mountain for food and drink. Standard multipitch climbing at Storm Mountain (including socializing). Some advanced on-the-rock instruction in 5th class climbing will be given above Gate Rocks. Take your pick.

June 29
Sat.

KESSELER PEAK -- Rating, 4.5; elevation, 10,403. The hike starts in Mill "D" South; though steep, it is relatively short and not difficult. The peak reveals another spectacular view of the Wasatch. Meet at the mouth of Big Cottonwood Canyon at 8:30 a.m. Registration is not required. Leader: Jerry Daurelle (278-5025).

June 29 - July 7
Sat. - Sun.

SELWAY RIVER TRIP -- This will be a week-long river trip on the Selway River, a small, swift river in Idaho. Previous river experience is a prerequisite for this intermediate to advanced trip. Register early with trip leader Al Mathews (363-2378) or call June Viavant (364-9684).

June 30
Sun.

WHITE PINE, RED PINE, PFEIFFERHORN, BELL'S CANYON -- Rating, 17.0; elevation, 11,326. For only the experienced and conditioned hikers. This is one of the most difficult but rewarding hikes in the Wasatch. The route includes Red Pine Lake to the Pfeifferhorn, along the ridge to Thunder Mountain, with variations by some along the ridge to Thunder Mountain, then down the bowl and into Bell's Canyon. Meet at the mouth of Little Cottonwood Canyon at 5:00 a.m. Register by 5:00 p.m. Saturday, June 29. Leader: Harold Goodro (277-1247).

July 4
Thurs

CLIMBING AT STORM MOUNTAIN -- Low key, since it is a holiday, for those who can't get Friday off. Drinks only afterwards.

July 4
Thurs

AMERICAN FORK TWINS VIA ALBION BASIN -- Rating, 7.5; elevation, 11,489. The trip starts in Albion Basin, past Secret Lake, then along the ridge between American Fork Canyon and Little Cottonwood Canyon. The panorama constantly changes as the route progresses along the ridge, and the view is well worth the effort. Meet at the mouth of Little Cottonwood Canyon at 8:00 a.m. Register by noon Wednesday, July 3. Leader: Elmer Boyd (298-5537).

July 4 - 7
Thurs - Sun.

TETON TRIP -- This will also include a climb of the Exum Ridge of the Grand on the weekend. For details, contact Harold Goodro (277-1247) or Gary Larsen (278-2956), the perpetrators of last year's successful mass assault.

July 4 - 7
Thurs - Sun.

WHEELER PEAK TRIP -- This trip is scheduled with a leisurely start. Meet at Lehman Caves parking area at 3:00 p.m. A hike to the top of Wheeler Peak is planned for one day and a separate hike to the cirque the following day. If time permits, some side trips may be made. Anticipate hiking on snowfields and cold nights; come properly equipped to enjoy the trip rather than just endure it. For further information, contact the trip leader, Pat King (486-9705).

July 7
Sun.

MT. NEBO - SOUTH PEAK -- Elevation, 11,900 (approx) The route to the north peak from the road has a 9.0 rating so you can approximate the rating for the south peak. In any event, the route in the early morning light is very pleasant. Last year, drinking water was available in the higher elevations only, so bring water and a lunch. The horizon can be seen for almost 360 degrees, except for the north peak, and it's quite a view. Meet at the N.E. corner of State and 33rd South (Prudential bldg) in the parking lot at 5:00 a.m. Register by 5:30 p.m. Saturday, July 6. Leader: Bruce Christenson (278-9308).

July 13, 14
Sat., Sun.

LODGE WORK AND KEG PARTY -- Details will appear in July Rambler.

July 13, 14
Sat., Sun.

HENRY MOUNTAINS

July 27, 28
Sat., Sun.

GREEN RIVER - CANYON OF LODORE -- An intermediate to advanced trip. Leader: Al Mathews (363-2378).

July 27, 28
Sat., Sun.

TETONS

August 3, 4
Sat., Sun.

AMETHYST LAKE - HIGH UINTAS TRIP

August 10, 11
Sat., Sun.

LODGE WORK AND KEG PARTY

August 17, 18
Sat., Sun.

GREEN RIVER FAMILY TRIP -- Flaming Gorge to the Gates of Lodore. Beginner's trip.

August 24
Sat.

KEG PARTY AT LODGE

August 31-Sept 2
Sat. - Mon.

SNAKE RIVER -- Jackson Lake to Alpine, beginner's trip.

Sept

SILVERTON - 1

Sept 12 - 15
Thurs - Sun.

CATARACT CANYON -- Moab to Lake Powell, advanced trip.

Sept

SILVERTON - NARROW GAGE RAILROAD

EDITOR'S CORNER

Mailing out the Rambler last month, with the many complications adjoining the chore, made me appreciate Vivian Higginbotham's services all the more. Bob Bucher, however, deserves most of the credit for getting it out last month; he did all the dirty work, such as sorting according to zip code. I'm thankful that Vivian is taking over the job again, though.

We've been getting more trip pictures lately, thanks to conscientious trip-goers. It might be a good idea for each trip leader to request that at least one person take black and white photographs to accompany the trip report. By the way, please identify the photo as specifically as possible.

RAMBLINGS

by Dale Green, President

Included in the price of the keg party at the lodge this month is a 50¢ lodge fee. This fee is necessary to help offset the financial deficit the lodge runs up every year. Currently, our annual lodge expenses are \$1,200, while our income from rentals is only \$900. Unfortunately, the \$1,200 does not include any depreciation. We should be setting aside \$200 to \$400 a year to handle the large expenses that occur every so often. The problems connected with the lodge are complex, and no easy solution is in sight. Pete Hovingh,

our lodge director, is organizing a committee of interested people to see what can be done.

Our method of dues collection this year brought more than the usual number of comments. Dues are due March 1st and become overdue April 30th. However, this year we started on January 1st, and some members got reminders even before March. Despite this, 114 people, nearly one-third of the membership, hadn't paid by the middle of April, more than three months after we started. You can see why we started early. If we wait until March 1st, payments still dribble in as late as July, long after we have stopped sending the Rambler, with some hard feelings, even though it was their own fault. (While I'm on the subject, I would like to thank all those to whom we sent delinquent notices even though they had already paid. This year we didn't receive a single nasty note in return!)

Some of the misunderstandings connected with the above are perhaps due to the mail delivery. Mail is delivered to O'Dell's Shoe Shop at 425 South 8th West, where Pete (O'Dell) opens it. Unless the letter is of an emergency nature, it sits in a shoe box until the afternoon before the Board meeting, the first and third Wednesdays of each month. Consequently, your check or letter can sit for two weeks, sometimes three, and once in a while, for a month, before it's acted upon. (If your letter is a registration check, it is, of course, entered on the list the day it is received.)

by Dale Green

Congratulations to Lee Steorts, who has just become a Life Member. Life membership is awarded to anyone who has paid dues for 25 years.

About to be married: Ron Weber to Sylvia Horton on June 8th.

Just married: Bob H. Wright to Denna Tucker on May 3rd in Flagstaff, Arizona.

New baby: to Jeanne and Jim Lee, a boy.

Sick: Einar Lignell is hospitalized. Although Einar is not presently a member, he was president of the Club in 1923 and was active for many years.

Larry Swanson, recently returned from Europe, made the headlines by landing his plane on the highway in Parleys Canyon just below the summit.

Herbert Lund writes that he is very appreciative of receiving the Rambler and wonders if anyone has ever done a "horizon" hike; that is, set foot on every spot of ground on the horizon as seen from the state Capitol. The idea is intriguing. As a start, would anyone be interested in hiking the crest of the Oquirrh Mountains this summer with me? It would be done in two sections, using the Butterfield - Middle Canyon highway as the dividing point.

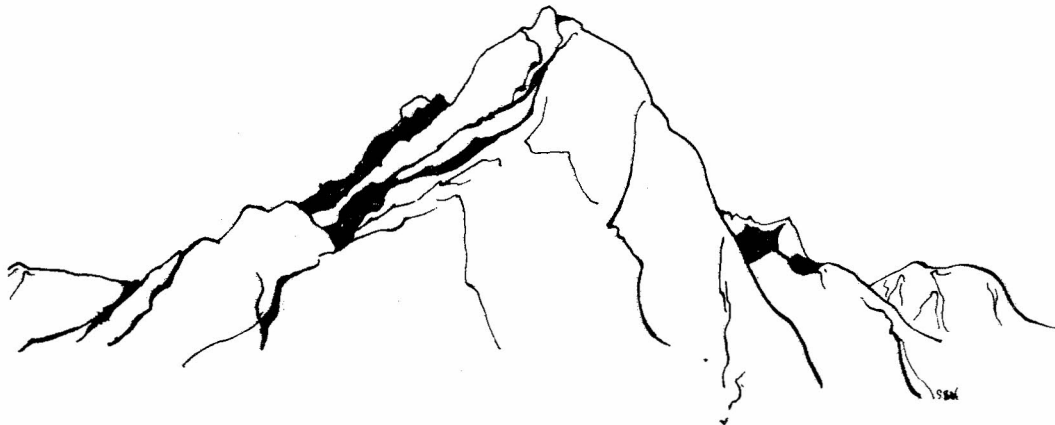
by Bill Viavant

Small (intimate?) ski tours hold certain attractions. On this one there was loose talk about stripping bare and rolling in a snow bank, this conversation taking place while packs were being adjusted and skins attached.

The four of us parked beyond the far upper parking lot at 11 am after spending two hours shuttling a car on the Brighton side and started up the steep slope toward the ridge. We watched the helicopter take skiers to the top of Gad Valley and wished we were they. It was HOT, and the stripping began. I won't say how far it went, but I was forbidden to take pictures!

We got to the ridge easily, in about an hour and 45 minutes, ate lunch, and then traversed behind a house-sized cornice to a spot where we could start down the Silver Fork side. Skiing through the trees was fun, then down a large, open slope east of the site of last year's disastrous avalanche, and then the long run out. We hit a couple of patches of glue just before the road but made it to the car about 4 pm.

Recommendation for next time: start even farther up the road into Albion. It will put you near the east side of the Silver Fork basin. Strippers: Del and Carol Wiens and Bill and June Viavant.



SAN JUAN RIVER RUN

by Marilyn A. Riedel

On the eve of April 26, 25 souls asked how weatherman Bob Welti could be such a fibber. By 7:30, we started for Montezuma Creek, Utah, in a downpour which later turned into snow at Soldier's Summit. Our bus was packed with 18 people, four rafts, and one kayak.

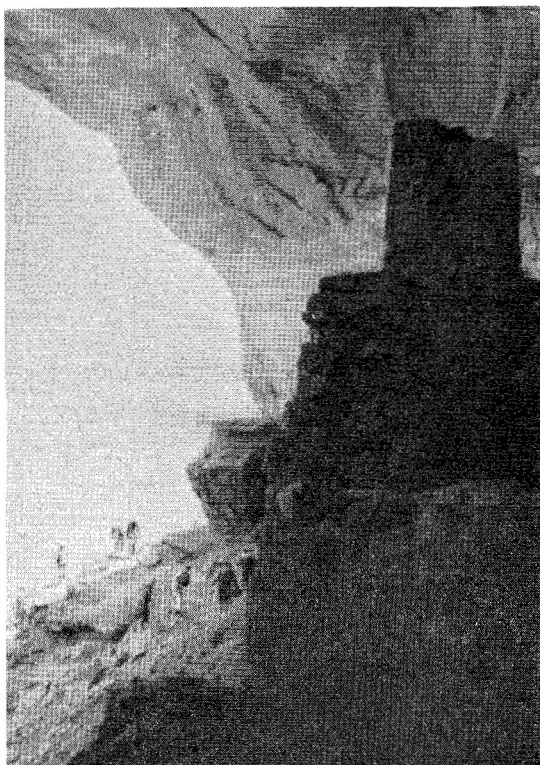
We had the customary 40 winks in a warm and comfortable bus and arrived in time for breakfast Saturday morning at 6:30. We longed for our old "Tortuga" (Sp: turtle) which had been a speed demon. Driver Bud Reid suggested that we call this bus Tortugita because of its diminutive qualities.

Two years ago when the club ran the San Juan, it had only one rapid. But we were to find that it had changed character and now had four more rapids of grade 2 or better.

We launched the rafts at 8:30 am. Around the first bend we saw the first one-man hogan of mud. Some of us stopped and had our pictures taken crouching inside the doorway. By noon we docked at the 17-room Navajo cliff ruins. We had survived an attack of wind and dust and now were enduring cold rain. With ponchos, raincoats, and lunches in hand, we shivered up the



Ken McCarty
Preparing for launch



K. McCarty
Exploring the Navajo ruins

path to the ruins - protection. The long-lost sun finally came and made us feel much better in its warmth.

The ruins was a shutter bug's paradise. Veteran river rat Gerry Powelson gave us a guided tour and pointed out the Indian artwork while we climbed about the ruins and looked through peep holes in the walls to the people below. The Indians evidently splattered dark brown stain which neatly outlined hand prints. These, as well as painted circles, appeared in neat rows across the back of the cave wall. The winding San Juan could be seen for miles from this vantage point.

After lunch the sun invited us for a siesta and tan as well as a walk across the river on the one-man

footbridge. The trick is for you and your friends to walk out of step, or in step for real excitement!

We shoved off at 1:45 pm and began a relaxing afternoon of enjoying the scenery. Orange canyon walls soon began to rise up along the river. Someone thought he heard Indian drums, which turned out to be a steam engine. But we used the thought like "Drums Along the Mohawk" and whooped and hollered the rest of the day, and the next. In late afternoon, two rafts took a shallow, almost disastrous, detour, but found a most rewarding sight! Two undisturbed ruins were discovered, and painted pottery, flint chips, ancient corn cobs, and grinding stones were identified. We also discovered petroglyphs, mostly of animals and square-shaped stick men wearing beads or carrying objects. The braver members of the party tried their skill on the Moqui holes, hand and foot holes that had been dug into the cliffs by the Indians.



K. McCarty

Phil Nelson getting into the swing of things.



Sally Nelson
Unidentified body.

Late that evening we arrived at the campsite for the night, Comb Wash. About half a mile away we could see Mule's Ear rock. The wind was blowing coldly, prompting us to make a large campfire on the shore. Night fell, and we turned in about 9:30 pm.

When we awoke Sunday morning, frost was everywhere. It took great determination to crawl out of the sack. But today was the day of excitement, for right around Cock's Comb bend we would find white water.

Remember what MacBeth said--"Lead on MacDuff"? That's exactly what Captain John MacDuff and his crew did--right into a hangup on the third rapid. There they were, the raft stuck in its middle, right under the gear, taking in water on one side with two girls outside on the rock--tugging on the other side. In five minutes, they were afloat with no apparent damage. All four rafts, admittedly, had mild cases of hangup--but really! The rapids didn't get us very wet, so we resorted to horseplay.

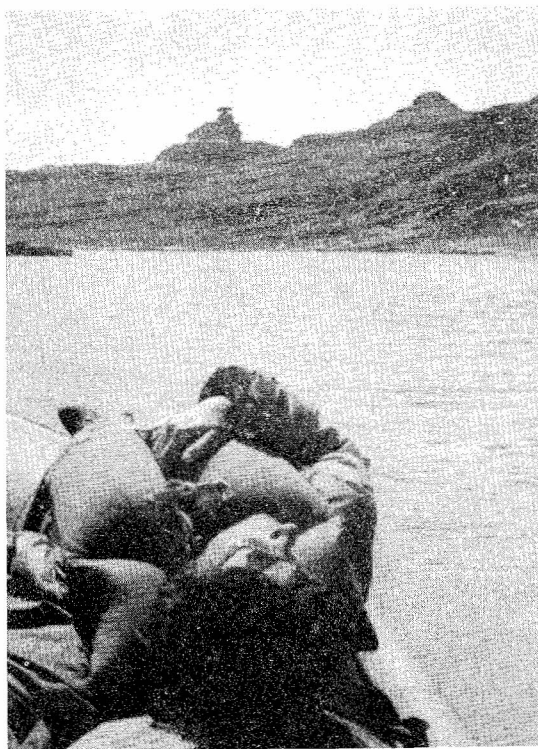
Around noon, we were within one hour of the bus at Mexican Hat, and decided to stop and have lunch under the popular Mexican Hat rock formation. In the meantime, the lead raft forged ahead to prepare for the disembarkment at Mexican Hat. We ate and then continued.

Within sight of the beaching, we saw a very exciting rapid, and feverishly paddled into the left channel. This was the best rapid of all to our surprise and excitement. Our 50-mile run thus ended at 2:00 pm.

It took us two hours to pack the equipment. To the women's consternation, the nearby restrooms at the motel had no mirror, or hand towels, or-----. Luckily, we were in the habit of taking paper with us anyhow. Most everyone changed into something clean, and we all felt human again. One gentleman threatened to outdo his comrades by shaving. That idea was quickly beaten down.

Back on the road again, we climbed the first hill. And what did we see on the road but a lone cow slowly ambling into our lane. Who are the taxpayers anyway? Well, cow or no cow, the bus almost stopped. The day was so clear that we could see Shiprock in New Mexico. We drove by the 11,455-foot Abajo Mountains, and stopped in Monticello for refueling. Coincidentally, we didn't leave until a broken air line for the brakes was discovered and repaired.

We stopped to have supper in Moab and then continued past Arches National Monument and House-in-the-Rock before night fell. We arrived in Salt Lake at 1:00 a.m. although it was 2:00 a.m. daylight savings time. Our summer friend arrived with us that morning.



K. McCarty
Annie taking a siesta under Mexican Hat.

Members of the trip were: Dottie & Tom Bentz, Betty Boetcher, Ed Cook, David B. Cook, Barbara Evans, Dale Green, Vivian Higginbotham, Earl Mason, Alvin Mathews, Ken McCarthy, Ann McDonald, John MacDuff, Neil & Marla Natoli, Sally & Phil Nelson, Ernie Partridge, Gerry Powelson, Bud Reid, Dick Reuling, Norma Richardson, Marilyn Riedel, and John E. Riley.

Cheer up, gals! Your membership director has the name of a bachelor who joined the club because he "wants to get married"!!!! What am I offered to divulge the secret??? June Viavant

THOSE TRIP FEES: HOW MUCH AND WHY

by Del Wiens

Your board of directors has assigned me the unhappy job of explaining current changes in trip fees. Such fees are levied whenever the club rafts and bus are used. As with prices and wages, they never balance, and both remain in a constant state of flux.

Here is some recent history on the boating rates. Last year a new price system was initiated, and I inherited it from the previous board. That system was based on the difficulty of the daily rapids encountered. There were advantages and disadvantages with the system; some criticism of the policy was voiced. This year, a boating committee was instigated for the first time, and a thorough cost analysis of the boating activities was again undertaken. Fred Bruenger and John MacDuff put in many long, painstaking hours on this project, and their efforts are much appreciated.

Such an analysis must deal with two basic factors: (1) the cost of boat maintenance and (2) the development of reserve funds for purchasing new boats. Past records suggested that maintenance ran around \$250 a year, possible higher. The 10-man rafts which the club uses are extraordinarily difficult to find, and just as expensive when located. Many of our boats are old and, although we try to maintain them as best we can, attrition is inevitable. Because of attrition and increase in club membership, the boating committee felt we should attempt to add a new boat to the fleet each year. The 10-men rafts run from about \$300 to \$500 - used! Therefore, the boating section of the club needs about \$77 a year to operate effectively. We may spend somewhat more than others for equipment and maintenance, but it has been my policy that good equipment is not false economy. Whitewater can be dangerous,

and wagering a few dollars against possible injury seems a poor bet. A daily boat fee to obtain the needed revenue was calculated by estimating the number of trips to be taken, number of river days, and finally, the number of total projected man (or woman) days of boat use per season. If all this sounds complicated, it is! After these figures were cussed and discussed by the boating committee, it was decided that a flat rate of \$3.50 per day per person should be assessed for all float trips (excluding family trips). The board (after much soul-searching) passed this proposal with the provision that 25¢ of the daily fee of \$3.50 go to the bus fund to help defray transportation costs of the boats. This brings up the next onerous subject---the bus.

Little Tortuga was purchased over a year ago upon Big Tortuga's final demise. The same rate schedule that was used for Big Tortuga was also applied to our present bus last year. The formula we used consisted of a \$9.40 base price which everyone paid for any trip the bus ever took. Added to this figure was an 8¢ per mile charge to cover actual operating expenses (i.e., gas and oil). The 8¢ per mile was then divided by 15, the average passenger load.

George Smith had just completed a cost analysis for our present bus based on last year's expenses. He has discovered that necessary revenue can be obtained by charging 3¢ per person per mile to run the bus if there are 15 passengers.

Calculating a per-mile basis has the advantage that the bus can be used for short trips without the standard \$9.40 base fee and does not make long trips proportionally cheaper. The bus just about breaks even with 12 people and anything over 15 represents extra profit for the bus fund. As with the boats, there is a contingency fund for the bus and it is hoped that

each year about \$600 can be saved for the day when a new bus becomes necessary. This will probably be every three or four years.

Congratulations if you have read this far. You are obviously interested in your club. The board wants you to know how trip fees are set, and how the formulas are derived. If you have any suggestions, inform the board. Our job is to improve the WMC, and your suggestions will help.

ORDERVILLE CANYON

by Fred Bruenger

It was several years ago, and we had just completed a trip through the Narrows when one of the Park Rangers told us about a hike down Orderville Canyon. He was very enthusiastic about this trip, but he also mentioned a number of difficulties and cautioned that only the experienced hiker should undertake it.

Last October, at the same time when the club took the traditional Zion Narrows hike, we found in Pat King and Bill Conrad two other club members who would try with us to make an exploratory trip through this canyon. Little information was available. From our map we figured that we would have to cover a distance of about 15 miles. We also knew that there were several drop-offs, part of which would require the use of a rope. With this knowledge and a sack full of enthusiasm we started the descent into the canyon. For the first hour or so, there was a little water in Orderville Creek, but we managed to walk without getting our feet wet. This upper section was open country that was used for cattle grazing. After two hours we encountered our first obstacle. Here the real canyon began--about 200 feet below. A rappel seemed difficult but closer inspection revealed

a possible descent through Walker Gulch. We managed without ropes, but stopped about a dozen times for Pat to take pictures. The fall colors were of particular beauty, bright red maple and golden cottonwoods on a background of multicolored sandstone walls, and a dark blue cloudless sky. We kept a good pace and stopped only to take pictures. The narrowness and the seclusion of the canyon made orientation by a map almost impossible. The canyon walls grew higher and very narrow. There were long stretches where the canyon floor was no wider than ten or fifteen feet, and for some time it was too dark to get a reading on any light meter. Nevertheless, Pat's camera made click, click. He assured us he had plenty of film and about an hour later he had used up his big supply of both black and white and color film.

After five hours there were the first signs of water, and after another mile or so, a nice and clear little stream had formed. Walking in the water from now on slowed down our pace. However, not only the water caused difficulties, but there were other obstacles that cost time. The second drop--long expected--was only about 12 feet deep, but caused some trouble because of lack of any support. We used our rope and Bill, who belayed, had to manage without help. Only a few hundred yards downstream there was another drop. This time there was an old trunk, swept there by a flash flood, to which we could tie a short piece of rope to help us come down. By now, we had regained orientation and we knew it was not far from the confluence of the Virgin River. The stream in this lower part was rugged, and we soon faced another obstacle. While Pat, Bill and I stood there looking for an easy way to bypass the waterfall, Evelyn jumped down into the pool below and we had no other choice but to follow--kind of wet, but uncomplicated. At the last barrier, somebody

TIMBERLINE SPORTS^{INC}

KELTY
SIERRA DESIGNS
MILLET
RICH-MOOR

2959 highland dr
m-f 12-6, sat 10-6
466-2101

had chiseled out a few hand and foot holds which proved helpful, but were very slick.

These were the only signs of an earlier presence of men in the canyon, no rusty beer or pop cans, chewing gum, or candy wrapping.

Pretty soon we saw some fresh footprints, and we knew that we had made it. Behind the next bend there was the Virgin River. Its water was cold and a little higher than expected. The last few miles offered nothing new except that we met there Nick and Marie, who told us that they had taken our car around and had parked it at the Temple of Sinawawa. This made the trip complete by eliminating a 40-mile shuttle after a hard 10-hour-long hike through outstandingly beautiful canyon country.

Want to join us? If you are in good condition and like to hike through the untouched wilderness of this canyon, come along.

PROVO RIVER IN THE RAIN, MAY 12

by Carol Wiens

The threat of rain did not dampen our enthusiasm as we launched our three kayaks (Leader Cal Giddings, Gary Haltmeyer, and guest Bob Tcholakian) and three canoes (Dan and Barbara Lovejoy, Dorothy Roberts and Jim Byrne, Del and Carol Wiens) below the dam on the Provo River. Bob was soon dampened by a spill, however, and Gary could soon agree that the water was cold. After fishing Gary out, Cal announced that we had reached our quota and could tolerate no more spills. The one rapid, "Bonecrusher" (love that name!) caused no difficulties nor did the infamous railroad trestle for those who challenged it. The rain did catch us and by the time we landed we were almost as wet as Bob and Gary. We may have been rushing the season a bit, but it was a most enjoyable day.



THE THUMB

THE THUMB

by Dave Allen

1. EAST COULOIR I F 5

First ascent by Karl Dunn and ?????
Bushwhack and scramble up the couloir east of the Thumb to the notch on the back side of the pinnacle. Ascend the summit knob's north ridge (one move of F5). This route is best as a descent route.

2. STANDARD SOUTH FACE II F 6

First ascent by Bob Irvine, Ralph Tingey, and Dave Wood, May 21, 1962. Start by climbing easy cracks right of the main gully as if to do "The 'S' Crack," but instead, drop back into the main gully and scramble to the first overhang. Pass this by climbing a jam crack on the east side, dropping down and traversing a vertical wall on good holds to regain the gully, here a chimney. Force the next few overhangs and bulges. At the large roof in the "V" gully, traverse out and up on the east side (a bolt is at the edge of the roof and two pins are around the corner.) Scramble over the big ledge to the base of the "trough" pitch. Layback the east side of the "Trough's" entrance, and jam to a belay above a bulge (bolt on east side of crack). Climb the "Chimney", then go right at a junction of crack systems. Scramble up west of the summit knob and ascend the summit knob's north ridge.



VARIANT-SUMMIT KNOB-WEST CRACK F 10

First ascent by Royal Robbins and Ted Wilson, July 3, 1964. Climb the obvious overhanging jam crack.

3. 'S' CRACK III F 8 A 3

First ascent by Steve Ellsworth, Mark MacQuarrie, and Ted Wilson August 8, 1964. Climb up a dihedral with some bushes in it. A wide jam crack leads to a ledge. Ascend a crack until it is possible to pendulum into the "S" crack. Aid and hard free climbing (wide angles and bongs) takes you to the big ledge of the standard route. Finish the climb on either the standard route or the ? ? route. F9; First ascent by George and Jeff Lowe, October 1967. This route starts directly across the Big Ledge from the finish of the "S" Crack." Climb the cracks to the face above and follow intermittent cracks to the top of the face. This comprises four leads of continuous F 8, or harder, climbing.

ROBBIN'S ROUTE III F 9, F 10 A 3

First ascent by Royal Robbins and Ted Wilson July 3, 1964. Start at the nose of the buttress in the right crack of two parallel cracks, using aid. Follow this crack to a detached flake until it is possible to pendulum into the crack to the west. Follow this crack up a small dihedral past an overhang to the second belay. Then climb up a dihedral and over a ceiling (F 6). Climb two thin parallel cracks (F 9) to the third belay. Climb up and west on moderate jam cracks to the Big Ledge of the Standard route.

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Bob Frohboese (355-7218)

DIFFICULTY RATINGS FOR ROCK CLIMBING

by Dave Allen

The problems of rating rock climbs are complex. However, some rating is a necessity in describing the routes. Theoretically the ideal system would:

1. Be objective
2. Be in common usage.
3. Describe the overall difficulty of the climb.
 - a. Strenuousness
 - b. Mental problems
 - c. Length
 - d. Weather problems
4. State the free-climbing difficulty of the hardest pitch.
5. State the aid-climbing difficulty.

Two systems that meet these qualifications have been developed: the modified Sierra Club system, and the NCCS (National Climbing Classification System). Both consist of three sections: overall difficulty, free-climbing pitch difficulty, and aid-climbing difficulty. Both systems have merits; however, this is not the place to argue them. The NCCS was selected for rating climbs in the Wasatch simply because it offers more latitude in rating climbs of moderate difficulty. Many climbers must arrive at a consensus before a climb can be considered accurately rated. This consensus has not occurred in the Wasatch, thus more latitude in rating is required. The overall difficulty rating is given by a Roman numeral. The classification, in brief, is as follows:

- | | |
|-----|--|
| I | A few hours |
| II | Half a day |
| III | Most of a day |
| IV | A full day to a day and a half |
| V | Same as IV because only experts will be climbing these routes. |
| VI | Several days |

No grade IV-VI climbs have been done in this area.

Free-climbing difficulty in the NCCS is given by a number from 1 to 10, preceded by an "F." F 1 is the easiest; F 10 is the most difficult. The best way to get the feel of this system is to climb some of the rated climbs. For comparison, the following chart approximates some of the various ratings:

NCCS	SIERRA	OLD TETON	AMC
F 1	1-2	1	-
F 2	3	2	3
F 3	4	3	4-
F 4	5.0-5.2	3-4	4
F 5	5.3-5.4	4-5	4+
F 6	5.5-5.6	5	5
F 7	5.7	6	5+
F 8	5.8	6	6-
F 9	5.9	6	6
F 10	5.10	6	6+

Aid climbing is rated by a number, 1 to 5, preceded by an "A" (for aid). A 1 is the easiest; A 5 is the most difficult. This rating is common to both the NCCS and the modified Sierra system.

- A 1-easy nailing (i.e., direct aid)
- A 2-more difficult than A 1
- A 3-difficult placement, pins tied off, or many pins barely support a man's weight
- A 4-very difficult placement. Even well-placed tied-off pins may rotate when load is applied
- A 5-more faith than logical rationale is required. High probability that pitons will pull loose

Any climbing classification system is only an aid for judging the difficulty of a climb. The ultimate judgment is still an individual one, because weather conditions change, routes change, and the individual changes. Also, this is a different area from the Tetons or Yosemite, with different people rating the climbs. Thus, an F 8 climb here could be harder, or easier, than in Yosemite.

¹For arguments on the merits of the two systems, see the following:

1. Ortenburger, L., "A National Climbing Classification System:", The American Alpine Club Journal, Vol. 14, No. 1, American Alpine Club, New York, 1964.

2. _____ A Climber's Guide to The Teton Range, rev. ed., pp 9-14. Sierra Club, San Francisco, 1965.

3. Roper, Steve, A Climber's Guide to Yosemite Valley, pp 29-32, Sierra Club, San Francisco, 1964.

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DRUID ARCH - CANYONLANDS BACKPACK

by June Viavant

All night long the cars rolled into the Squaw Flat campground, and weary bodies crawled into sleeping bags for what was left of a night's sleep. At 6:00 am, Pat King, trip leader, finally rolled into camp (after an unplanned side trip to Colorado and back) and succeeded in waking up some of the hikers --whereupon he unrolled his sleeping bag and sacked out. (Ask him where he went that night, and how you get gas at Moab at 5:00 am when none of the gas stations are open....)

Undismayed at being abandoned (?) by their leader, hikers cooked their breakfasts and started moseying down the trail, except for Jack McLellan, who raced on ahead of everyone so he could take pictures of us silhouetted against the skyline. (We didn't see our Glorious Leader until late that afternoon.) Some of the people dumped their packs at Elephant Canyon and hiked in to see Chesler Park and back again. Charlie and Tricia Swift, who were the only ones that had picked up a park map, accompanied by

Jackie Thomas, kept their packs on and made a loop into Chesler Park and back to the Druid Arch trail further upstream.

The Demints and cat, who drove up from Denver to meet us, and the Davises camped at the first spring and ran around in the park without packs the rest of the weekend. Those of us who slept nearer Druid Arch distributed ourselves into the few level nooks and crannies and ledges near the last available water, and then hiked up to try the different vantage points from which to view the arch. Most made the half-mile trip again the next morning, spending from two to four hours viewing and photographing the arch in different light.

Thunder and lightning reverberated from the north of us most of the time, and we went to bed wondering whether we'd have to scramble in the dark. However, it didn't catch us till about noon the next day.

The trail is a fun one to follow, marked by redrock cairns or silver (spray-painted) deer tracks and cleverly routed through varied and beautiful scenery. However, since my last trip here a year ago, the trail has been (in my opinion) over-refined by chipping footsteps out of the rock in places where they are totally unnecessary and where they only detract from the outdoor experience. Canyonlands is a magnificent park; we ought to have more trips down there!

Trip leader: Pat King; backpackers: Mel and Clare Davis, Bob and Marie DeMint and cat, John Riley, Lois Mansfield, Jackie Thomas, Charlie and Tricia Swift and dog, June Viavant and sons Chris and Tim and sons' friends Chris Gittins and Dale Ash, Mike King, Jack McLellan, Carl Bauer, Mareka Unk, Peter Preuss, Ann McDonald, Ann Carter, Jane Daurelle and sons Ray and Steve, and Jim Baggott.

MOUNTAINEERING RAMBLINGS

by Dave Allen

And this is just that, this month. The first topic is the Thursday evening session. First, we are going to have some intermediate climbing sessions at Gate Rocks on a "split" basis. These sessions are for those who are interested in leading difficult free and aid climbing, under the eye of more experienced climbers, and will be conducted more on a seminar basis than a teacher-pupil basis.

Also, an annual reminder. If you want to climb, please have certain equipment, such as a piton hammer and climbing boots. Also, try to arrive early enough so that leaders are still available. Remember, the parties are organized (if that is the word) on an open plunge basis--if you want to climb, feel free about asking to join a party.

The club has purchased two ropes and has ordered two more. Other people bring their own ropes. These represent substantial investments. Although sturdy in tensile strength, they can be ruined quite easily by sharp objects. Don't step on them!

Finally, by bits and dribbles, a guide to climbing routes is being presented in the Wasatch. If you have any corrections, additions, or new routes, please contact me (Dave Allen, 278-0230). Your help will be greatly appreciated.

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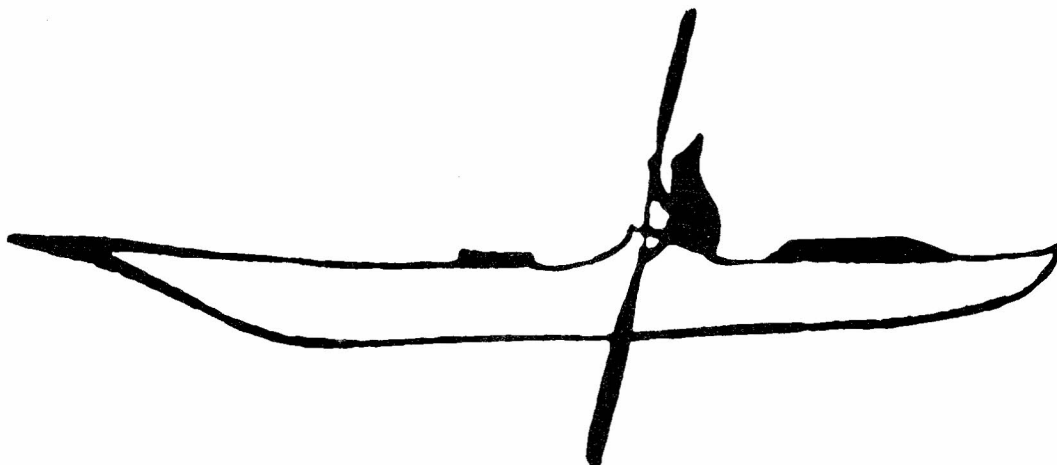
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