

The Rambler

DECEMBER 1972



Official publication of THE WASATCH MOUNTAIN CLUB Salt Lake City, Utah

club activities for dec 1972

REGISTRATION WITH TRIP LEADERS is important for ski tours since weather and snow conditions can cause cancellation or change in destination. It also aids in organizing car shuttles early enough to avoid delays. Register with the leader by some reasonable hour on the day before the tour.

RATINGS OF SKI TOURS (X,Y) describe the difficulty of the climb (X) and the skiing proficiency required to get down (Y). Both are rated from 1 to 6, in order of increasing difficulty. A detailed description of some popular tours is in the Nov. 1972 Rambler. Contact the leader if you are in doubt about your ability to do the tour.

Dec. 2
Saturday

Wolverine Cirque Ski Tour - Beginner (1,2) - The tour is basically a traverse from the top of the Millicent lift, climbing only 350 feet in .7 mile, into the cirque below Mt. Wolverine. The descent is in a wide open bowl that is ideal for not so confident powder hounds. Snowshoers should be aware that the traverse is across fairly steep terrain and they should have some experience before undertaking this tour. Meet at the mouth of Big Cottonwood at 8:30 a.m. Leader: John Riley - 485-2567.

Dec. 3
Sunday

LAKE BLANCHE SKI TOUR - Advance (3,5) - This is one of the most spectacular and challenging tours in the Wasatch Mountains. The route is Cardiff Pass, around the bowl and up to Cardiac Ridge, down into Lake Blanche drainage, and possibly over into Mineral Fork to avoid the trail below Lake Blanche. Ideal conditions are a requirement to avoid avalanche danger and each tourer should have a cord and probe just in case. Registration is mandatory, and prompt departure is a must. Meet at the mouth of Big Cottonwood at 8:00 a.m. Leader: Gale Dick - 359-5764.

Dec. 8
Friday

TEENAGE RIVER RATS REUNION!!! - All you kids that were lucky enough to have experienced a WMC river trip come to Mike and Robin's (1355 Butler Ave.) at 7:30 p.m. to view some slides and films of your trips, refreshments served (NO PARENTS please) - 322-1873.

Dec. 9
Saturday

SILVER FORK SKI TOUR - Intermediate (2,3) - The route begins with a climb to Twin Lakes Pass from the Millicent lift. The traverse to the head of Silver Fork is highlighted by superb views of Mt. Superior, Alta, Pfeifferhorn Peak, etc. Descent is through a fairly steep open bowl, then along a wooded road

to the lower parking lot at Solitude. Meet at the mouth of Big Cottonwood Canyon at 8:30 a.m. Leader: Dixon Smith - 277-6334.

- Dec. 10 DOG LAKE (from Brighton) SNOWSHOE TOUR - Beginner (1,1) - The
Sunday Sunday afternoon tour is something new this year, and if there
P.M. is enough interest, we will have more of them. This tour is
quite short, but a most pleasant outing. The terrain is gentle
and wooded, ideal for beginners on snowshoes and X-country skis.
Meet the group at the lodge at 1:00 p.m.
- Dec. 9-10 OPEN LODGE WEEKEND - Saturday night will feature a kayak slide
Sat./Sun. and movie party. Hosts: Jim and Dotty Byrne - 582-5631.
- Dec. 15-17 TARGHEE - - Leaving Thursday evening. We will spend three days
Fri., Sat. skiing this area to our north. Targhee is known for its early
and Sun. powder, and its remote small area charm. Phone: Dan Thomas for
more details - 484-3873.
- Dec. 16 MILL F SNOWSHOE TOUR - Intermediate (2,2) - From just below
Saturday Solitude, Mill F Fork wanders all the way to the ridge overlooking
Park City. This is quite a long tour, but you can stop when you've
had enough. It rises gradually amid the aspens providing terrain
that is ideal for snowshoers and easily handled by skiers. There
is some competition with snowmobilers in the lower section, but
they can be avoided in the higher areas. Meet at the mouth of Big
Cottonwood at 8:30 a.m. Leaders: George and Georgia Randall -
322-2360.
- Dec. 16 CHRISTMAS PARTY AT THE LODGE. An Old Fashioned Christmas Party
Saturday with a Christmas tree, carol singing, Santa with gifts for all,
snacks, and dancing. Wine punch or BYOL. Admission 50 cents
and bring small clever gift marked "boy" or "girl". About 8:00
p.m. Stay overnight if you wish. Hosts: Mel and Clare Davis -
278-3174.
- Dec. 17 ALTA TO CATHERINE PASS SKI TOUR - Beginner (1,2)
Sunday ALTA - BRIGHTON - ALTA SKI TOUR - Intermediate (2,2).
From the top of the Albion lift, a 750 foot climb gets you to
Catherine Pass overlooking many spectacular peaks in the Big and
Little Cottonwood drainages. The less ambitious tourers can have
lunch here and enjoy a leisurely glide back to Alta. Hardier
souls can follow their fearless leader down to Brighton. The
route back to Alta is over Twin Lakes Pass (with help from the
Millicent Lift) and down Grizzly Gulch. Meet at the mouth of
Little Cottonwood Canyon at 8:30 a.m. Leader: Dave Smith -
467-9163.
- Dec. 26, LODGE OPEN. Ron and Dagny Healey and Family will be staying at
27 and 28 the lodge and invite members and families to drop in and visit
or stay overnight with them. 484-5607.
- Dec. 30 LAKE SOLITUDE SNOWSHOE TOUR - Beginner (1,1) This short but scenic
Saturday trip goes through aspens and firs for about a mile from the ski

area to the lake. There's not much uphill so its a good one to try out your new Christmas snowshoes. Meet at the mouth of Big Cottonwood Canyon at 10:00 a.m. for a bit of solitude with Mel Davis - 278-3174.

- Dec. 31
Sunday AMERICAN FORK SKI TOUR - Intermediate (1,3). You'll work up a real appetite for the evening celebration with this year-end tour. From the top of the Sugarload lift, a short climb takes you to the head of American Fork Canyon. And then it's all down hill - - 12½ miles worth!! The long, gentle descent follows the drainage all the way to the South Fork Ranger Station. The terrain is not difficult (Nordics can handle it) but it's a long one (be prepared for a work-out, snowshoers). We may not be able to enjoy this one for long if the developers have their way, so don't miss it. Car spotting is a hassle, so registration is mandatory; it's best if a couple of spouses can be persuaded to meet us at the other end late in the afternoon. Meet at the mouth of Little Cottonwood at 8:00 a.m. Leader: Lyman Lewis - 277-6816.
- Dec. 31
and
Jan 1
Sun./Mon. NEW YEAR'S EVE PARTY - Gather at the Lodge for refreshments, music, drinks, and season's spirits. Cost is \$2.00 per person plus drinks. Plan to hang over for sleep, recuperation, skiing, snowshoeing or whatever you wish. Bring your sleeping bag, breakfast food, pots and utensils, and winter equipment. Time is 8:00 p.m. til next year. Please call for reservations after 6:00 p.m.. Call Karen Weatherbee at 582-6799.
- Jan. 13-14
Sat./Sun. LODGE OPEN
- Jan. 13-14
Sat./Sun. SKI TOURING COURSE - There seems to be interest in some ski touring instruction for the many skiers who are coverting to nordic equipment. We plan a two-day session at the Lodge to fill this need. The first day will be a discussion of touring technique followed by a practice session and a short tour. Sunday will be waxing equipment and another tour; deep snow techniques will also be covered. More details will appear in the January RAMBLER.
- Jan. 14
Sunday SKI SOCIAL - Its that time again - all you party people, skiers, snowshoers, everyone is welcome to come to the first ski social this season, be prepared to eat shoulder-to-shoulder, for a nominal fee dinner and refreshments will be available. All starting at 6:00 p.m. at the Caldwell's, 2501 Walker Lane - 278-2100.
- Jan. 20-22 SUN VALLEY - A lift skiers paradise. See January RAMBLER for details, better yet, call Jackie Thomas - 278-0394.
- Jan. 20 or
Jan. 21 AVALANCHE COURSE - The annual avalanche safety course will take place on one day in this weekend. The morning session will include films and discussion of avalanche conditions, avoidance, and rescue procedures. After lunch we will adjourn to a suitable location for practice in rescue techniques. Details will be in the January RAMBLER.

Jan.20-28 SKI TOURING IN YELLOWSTONE - Dave Smith is planning a tour across Yellowstone from the Northeast to the West entrance. It will generally follow the road and visit the spectacular spots in the Park. This will be a nordic tour of about seven days duration, so good endurance and winter camping experience are required. Participation is by special apointment only. The specific route and dates are somewhat flexible at this time. Call 486-2680 for details.

Feb. 17-19 TRADITIONAL JACKSON TRIP.

news and notices

HITCHED

Chuck and Diz Mays - October 18 in London

HATCHED

Greg Hanscom - October 24 (Dave and Mary).

Geoffrey Swift - October 11 (Charlie and Tricia).

THANKS

...to Betty Hendricks and Sandy Koncher for typing this month's RAMBLER.

...to Georgia and George Randall for mailing the November RAMBLER.

DEADLINE

...for the January RAMBLER is December 13th. Note change of date! Please have your articles and schedules TYPED and mailed or delivered to Ruta Dreijmanis, 1941 Woodside Drive, #A, Salt Lake City.

news from the board

There were many treats at the Halloween Party this year! A great band, musically good, groovey guests lead by a mystery mushroom-headed creature who turned out to be Ruta Dreijmanis and a never ending supply of frappe drinks served by dashing Gary Larsen. The tricks came later as we drove down the canyon in a snow storm. A vote of many thanks goes to Marion Nelson and Karen Caldwell for planning a great party.

By the way, the club has been asked to park in the church parking lot up at Brighton on the nights it looks like snow. They would like to snow plow the parking lot to keep it clear.

Well, the Nominating Committee called quite a few people to find the following people who are willing to serve on the Board. They are: Entertainment - Karen Wetherbee, Membership - Jack Noy and Marilyn Bateman, Transportation - Carol Caldwell, Hiking - Bill Rosquist and Lauren Williams. However, this list, at this date, does not include the name of the next RAMBLER editor. Can you imagine life without any more RAMBLER's???? Anyone interested in a board position, can still call (Carol Greenlee) and volunteer or nominations can be made at the Nomination Banquet which, I understand is to be at Fort Douglas Country Club.

Carol Greenlee



**leaves
from the
old wasatch**

MOUNTAIN DELL

About half way between the mouth of Parley's Canyon and Parley's Summit is a broad and pleasant basin known as Mountain Dell. The area is well-known today by virtue of the reservoir and the golf course, Mountain Dell was equally well known, especially to the travellers.

Since the original journey of the pioneers in 1847, the accepted route into the Salt Lake Valley from the east ran through Mountain Dell. From Weber Canyon, the trail ran up East Canyon, then over Big Mountain Pass where State Highway 65 crosses today, then down along Mountain Dell Creek to within a mile of its confluence with Parley's Creek. There the trail turned and crossed Little Mountain into Emigration Canyon. After Parley P. Pratt opened his Golden Gate toll road down through the narrow part of Parley's Canyon, travellers began to use that route and thereby traveled the entire length of Mountain Dell.

Soon after Salt Lake Valley was settled people moved into Mountain Dell and used it for farming and grazing. It was reported that vegetables grew very well in the basin. This may seem surprising until it is recognized that, in spite of its setting among high mountains, Mountain Dell is only 5,500 feet above sea level. Potatoes as large as four pounds were grown there. By 1858 Ephraim K. Hanks and Augustus P. Hardy had established a trading post for the accommodation of travelers. Being somewhat isolated and having little com-

petition, their meals cost from \$1 to \$2.50, being a good day's wages for a man fortunate enough to have a paying job. Two years later Leonard G. Hardy took over the enterprise and in the years following the area along Parley's Creek above its confluence with Mountain Dell Creek became known as Hardy's Place, or simply Hardy's. While the name Mountain Dell was in use as early as 1869, Hardy's was the more popular name among travellers. When the Kimball Park City stage lines began running, Hardy's was a regular stop, although the Roach stages stopped at Roach's Half-Way house near the mouth of Lamb's Canyon.

The mid-1880's held the high point of Mountain Dell population. In 1882 about 100 people, including children, lived there, but after that the population declined. Mountain Dell farming died altogether in 1914 when Salt Lake City voted a bond issue to support a large increase in water supply and storage. Water rights in Mountain Dell and upper Parley's Canyon were purchased and the Mountain Dell dam and reservoir project was begun. Under the supervision of Sylvester Q. Cannon, city engineer, several dam designs were studied and a most unusual one conceived by John S. Eastwood was chosen. Built of reinforced concrete, the dam has multiple arches supported by deep buttresses. There are eleven arches, each an arc of one-third of a circle and spanning 35 feet. The arches are inclined such that the lower end is farther upstream than the upper end, giving the structure a peculiar hollow appearance when viewed from downstream. While the dam was designed to be 145 feet high at the center, construction funds were found inadequate and it was built only 105 feet high. By 1918 the reservoir was filling; the new landmark dominated the scene and the once active farming community and the popular name of Hardy's were a thing of the past, soon to be forgotten like many other Leaves of the Old Wasatch.

the right kind of touring

by Dave Hanscom

With the rapid increase in the length of Utah lift lines, more people are turning to ski touring as a winter activity. There are several possible approaches for the newcomer, but the right kind of touring for each individual depends upon one's reasons for trying the sport, one's physical condition and skiing ability, and certainly the state of one's pocketbook. Motivation for braving the cold and expending the effort to climb snowy mountains can be a passion for powder, or a simple desire to escape the smog, or even a biological requirement for conquering summits. Whatever your hangup may be, knowledge of the alternatives for winter travel in the mountains will help you make a decision on what is best for you.

The traditional approach to ski touring in the Wasatch has been to use one's Alpine equipment with the simple addition of climbing skins. This is an inexpensive way to enable a skier to get to the powder even if it hasn't snowed for a week (or a day the way things are going!). All the advantages of regular downhill equipment are maintained, so the pleasure of the descent is maximized. The disadvantage, of course, is that the pain of the ascent is also maximized. The weight and stiffness of Alpine skis, boots, and bindings mean considerable strength is required for

tours of great length or vertical rise. However, this approach is the only alternative for tours with very difficult downhill runs and variable or hard snow conditions, and it's inexpensive if you already have Alpine equipment.

In recent years, nordic skis have made an appearance on club tours. This type of equipment is very light, making climbing much easier, but downhill control is sacrificed. In rolling and not too steep terrain, these skis are ideal, so if your bag is just to enjoy the clean air and solitude on beginner and intermediate tours, read the next article by Dave Smith. Prices vary considerably but are much lower than for Alpine equipment.

The third type of touring is the old standby - snowshoes. As an unbiased observer, I consider this method of transportation to be for those who enjoy winter hiking but are hesitant about skiing for one reason or another. But there are many tours that are much more suitable for shoes than skis; an example is very narrow trails that are too steep to ski straight but have no room for turning. The one limitation on snowshoes is very steep terrain, since traversing these areas can be quite difficult. See the following article on snowshoeing for more details.

A couple of general suggestions are applicable for any type of touring. Talk to an expert before you spend any money and try to borrow or rent the equipment that you like before buying. Before going too far from your car, try out any new equipment to be sure everything functions properly; this is particularly important before a club tour since everyone's pleasure and well-being could be sacrificed. If any doubt exists about your ability to handle a club tour, check with the leader beforehand.

a buyer's guide to nordic skiing

by Dave Smith

The phenomenal growth of x-country skiing and the accompanying proliferation of nordic equipment has caused great confusion for people interested in undertaking this pastime. The goal of this article is to present a general picture of the various types of nordic skiing and the corresponding equipment. The type that you should purchase depends upon your skiing ability as well as the terrain that you plan to tour.

I. Racing equipment is designed purely for light weight. Skis weigh less than $3\frac{1}{2}$ pounds per pair and usually have birch soles for maximum wax holding ability. Boots are cut below the ankle and provide almost no support. The pin bindings and aluminum poles are also extremely light. Despite a lack of durability (racers don't even use the skis for practice!), this equipment is very expensive.

II. Racing-training equipment is similar to the above but slightly heavier and more durable. The skis usually have a full hickory sole. These skis are also made for use only in prepared tracks.

III. Langren skis offer the light weight and performance of the racing-training models (about 4 pounds per pair) but with more durability. They usually have a hickory sole and lignostone (compressed wood) edges. Bindings are medium weight pin type, boots are ankle high, and poles are either aluminum or the slightly heavier but cheaper tonkin cane. This equipment is suitable for an expert nordic skier for general touring and occasional running in a prepared track.

IV. Tur-langren is the most popular category of x-country equipment sold, accounting for over 95 percent in the Scandinavian countries. The skis weigh 4 to 5 pounds with hickory bottoms and lignostone edges. Boots are ankle high with flexible soles but good torsional rigidity. A sturdy pin binding and a serrated heel plate provide considerable downhill control. Sturdy tonkin cane poles provide light weight, good flex, and low cost. This equipment is ideal for general touring in moderate and rolling terrain.

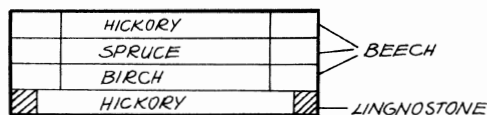
V. The turski is the traditional

nordic touring ski which was used by most Scandinavians until about ten years ago. Its popularity has waned since the introduction of multi-laminated tur-langren models. The turski is wider, heavier (5 to 6 pounds), and more durable, with hickory soles and lignstone edges. Boots are above the ankle for greater support and warmth. Cable bindings are most common to allow better ski control. This type of equipment is best suited for beginners (particularly those of limited athletic ability) and the more adventuresome tourers who plan to ski in rugged terrain.

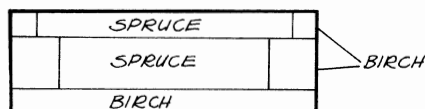
It is obvious from the above that the last two categories are most applicable for Wasatch tourers. Both the tur-langren and the turski are suitable for most of our beginner and intermediate tours. The degree of difficulty of the outings that you plan to try, as well as your skiing ability, should determine which you buy.

A comment should be made here on the materials used in ski construction. Many manufacturers are experimenting with fiberglass or metal bodies and no-wax bases. Most of these have yet to prove themselves, so proceed with caution. The manufacturers of wooden skis have many years of experience behind them.

There are two basic approaches to building a wood ski, the Norwegian and the Finnish. The Norwegians need a more durable ski due to their rugged mountains and many climatic variations, so they use more laminations and tougher materials. The following diagrams show the difference:



NORWEGIAN CONSTRUCTION



FINNISH CONSTRUCTION

It should be noted that the type of construction does not necessarily correspond to the location of manufacture, so ask the salesman for details. The Norwegian construction is recommended for touring in the Wasatch.

**the
snowshoers
are here**

Have you noticed? The snowshoers have been taking over the slopes! Three years ago they were greeted with snide remarks and relegated to the rear on ski tours. No events were planned for them. But things have changed! On many trips last season they outnumbered the

slatsters 2-1. Skiers have learned that shoers break trail as well as they, have endurance, and are handy to have around. This year a snowshoe outing is planned for almost every weekend. If you enjoy hiking and the peace and quiet of the mountains, but are hesitant about skiing, then maybe snowshoeing is for you.

It is easy to get started in this growing sport. Ski poles and snow shoes are relatively inexpensive, there are no lift fees, and broken bones are nonexistent. Equipment is available locally in several styles--both to rent and to buy. The main types of shoes are the oval bearpaws and the crosscountry. The shorter bearpaws are easier to handle on steep slopes and in the brush but are more difficult to master because of their width. The longer crosscountry shoes are designed to stay higher on the snow and are for relatively level terrain. The turned up tip is particularly valuable in powder and in breaking trail. Experiences have varied to such a degree with the plastic shoes that I hesitate to recommend them--particularly in an area where crusty conditions or steep slopes are frequently encountered.

One of the most important considerations in snowshoeing is the bindings. Leather has traditionally been used, but it tends to stretch and rot over a period of time. Newer models use neoprene-nylon, both for bindings and for the webbing, so if you plan to shoe a lot, keep this in mind. A malfunctioning binding can be the difference between a pleasant outing and a most frustrating day.

An individual's weight and size, the snow conditions, and the type of terrain one plans to explore are all factors that need to be considered before equipment is purchased. As in any new activity, perhaps the best course is to borrow or rent several types before a final decision is made. With its growing popularity there have been a number of improvements since last year. Shop around and ask questions. Timberline Sports rents all types; Mountaineer will have an improved plastic model; various rental agencies have them.

Beginning ski tours are usually suitable for snowshoers, but they may demand more endurance than tours scheduled for beginning snowshoers. New bindings can be a problem for the expert as well as the beginner, so start out on an easy trip and build up to the more demanding ones.

With all winter activities, there are problems involved. Weather and snow conditions vary considerably. Plans made in November for tours in January and February are based on what can usually be expected, but every winter is unique in the Wasatch. Whenever there is a question about the suitability of a scheduled event for your skill level, call the leader. It is always easier to conduct a tour when the group as a whole is prepared and of reasonably similar capabilities. Not only that--you'll have more fun if you're not worried about keeping up.

Mel Davis (278-3174), Elmer Boyd, (298-5537), Fred and Eveline Bruenger, (485-2639) are all knowledgeable about equipment. The snow is already here. The trips are scheduled. Come join us!



early bird ski tour

by Milt Hollander

The first ski tour of the season had been scheduled for the last Sunday in October. The foot or so of fresh snow that was apparent in the near deserted Brighton parking lot quickened our ski waxing preparations. While waxing, Jim was tactfully requested by the canyon water patrolman to place his dog "Beep" on a leash. The patrolman was in turn informed of larger game in the form of a loaded double horse trailer down below Silver Fork. The patrolman scurried hence, to check on the half horses who would exercise such freedom.

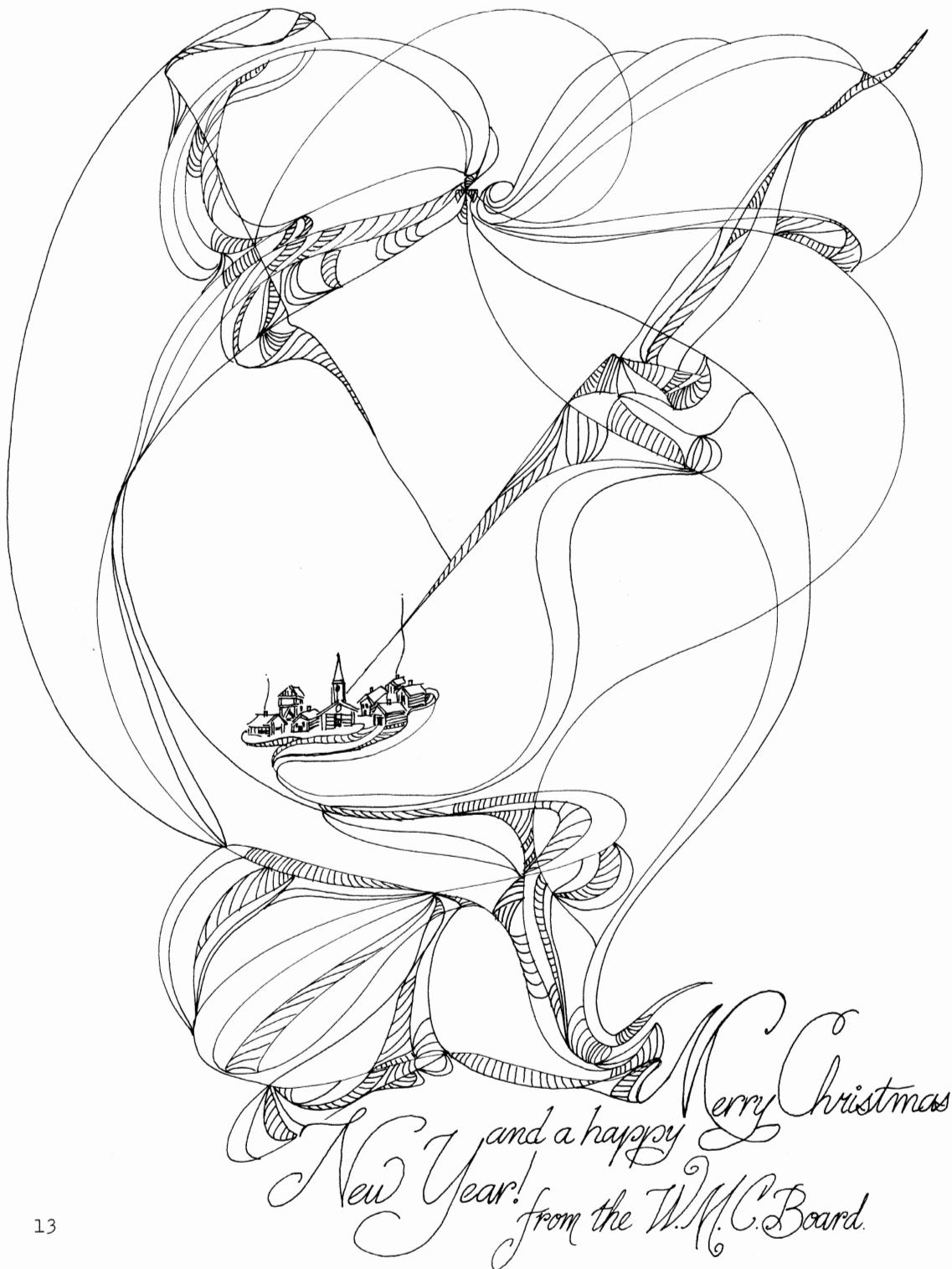
Ray Watrous stopped by while we were still in the ski waxing stage and himself waxed eloquently of past tours in previous seasons with some of the old time club members. With Ray's good wishes we headed for Catherine Pass. Dave broke trail most of the way in a baseless medium powder snow which frequently tracked knee deep. The going was slow despite a relatively strong small group with everyone on touring skis, including Beep on occasion. A short lunch was held under cloudy skies on the ridge between Dog Lake and Lake Martha, then on to Catherine Pass. We tried a down hill run down the open slope immediately southwest of the pass on the Alta side. Pointing straight down the fall line was the only way to get moving in the deep baseless snow, with the attendant knowledge that more than wax might be removed from the skis.

Jim and Brad regained the pass while Dave and Milt tested the snow west of Sunset Peak on a slope draining to Lake Catherine. Dave made a near flawless down hill run while Milt checked the snow depth and the late fall vegetation. We regrouped at Lake Catherine and headed back down to the Brighton parking lot, which by this time was well tracked by many vehicles. A brief inspection of our skis revealed scratches of varying depth on everyone's skis. The price of early season skiing.

It was still good, however, to have ended a long dry, hot summer.

Participants: Dave Hanscom, Brad Rich, Jim and "Beep" Byrne, and Milt Hollander.

january rambler deadline! december 13



Merry Christmas
and a happy
New Year!
from the W.M.C. Board.

topaz mountain

By Renu and Ruth

Ruth: The sun rose in streaks of pink and gold over the Wasatch early Saturday on the 14th of October. Seven cars assembled to escape hunters and risk the predicted desert "showers". After coffee and donuts while we waited for latecomers to arrive (see below!!), gear was redistributed and cars consolidated. A caravan of two blazers, two bottom-scrappers (GTO and Datsun) and Elmer Boyd's veteran of many desert expeditions set out. (After the first hour we left the blacktop and sent clouds of dust billowing over the stunted sage.)

Water stops, gas stops bush stops (Paula?) and firewood stops punctuated the morning. The lunch hour was spent on a windy hill, chipping away at wonderstone. The brilliant blue sky persisted as the wind rose-shoving thick white clouds toward Salt Lake and lending force to the weatherman's predictions of cloud-bursts. After lunch we bounced on over Dugway Pass and over a maze of side-side-roads to the geode beds. With expert advice from Elmer as to what constitutes a "good" find, we spread out. If too heavy, it would probably be solid with no crystals-plain rock; if light, well-1-1 not interesting; but somewhere in between-!!! Those who couldn't stand the suspense, broke their knobbly chunks open. The well-disciplined carried theirs home, to be properly sawed and polished. The heaps of debris left by fussier rockhounds were treasure troves for many of us.

Before we could believe it, it was 5 o'clock. Dark clouds spitting rain were upon us as Jean graciously lubricated our dusty tongues with wine. (That was really neat, Jean!). Dashing to the cars, we headed east over the Pass and on to Topaz Mountain. Here those who had to return to Salt Lake gathered a few crystals and returned to the warmth and security of dry beds. While those of us who stayed were dry (if windblown), those who turned back were deluged on their return trip. The wet ones included: Ray and Rose Miller, their daughter Ann and friend Michele Metihe; Ralph and Jean Torreyson; Cynthia, Mike and Kate Leitch; and Shirley Mealey.

Renu: Saturday morning, we missed our group at the usual rendezvous point, as we did not look for the rock-hunters in the local "Donut" shop. (Well begun is half done!) With meager knowledge of our destination we started for Topaz Mountain via Dugway Pass. In a couple of hours we were in the desert with pretty blue sky engulfing the barren Mountains and the wind blowing, but still no trace of familiar faces. So we left the Geode hounding area and started back for gas. Having a refill at Vernon we started once again for Topaz Mountain, this time from the southeast, with snow covered peaks of Oquirrah Mountains looking down on us and a clear horizon in the west which soon was covered by threatening dark clouds. The westerly wind was more gusty and soon the dark clouds poured down a heavy shower which settled the dust and was refreshing. (Still we didn't give up!). Soon, (once again) we were in the rock-hounding area and faced the ashen gray Topaz Mountain

with it's rugged peaks. One couldn't imagine such a dull looking place was capable of producing something as exciting as the topaz crystals. Faithfully we groped around and around and "Eureka" here was the gang! We were as thrilled as they were surprised to see our faces. Now we faced a conflicting situation-whether to camp or to go for the topaz crystals. The too excited and specially the wet (see above) ones started to stroll around and lo and behold picked up topaz crystals in no time! We made camp in the gusty winds and under the dark clouds. The wind was so gusty that we had to tie our tent to the car and it blew away our "fireplace", which was started by Elmer with great efforts. After a hearty meal and campfire chat we decided to hit the sack, as it started to drizzle but fortunately it didn't pour.

We woke up fresh on Sunday morning with a clear blue sky. After a leisurely breakfast we started for "topaz-rush". One could easily find and identify the topaz crystals from the "gravely" surface. These are crystal clear with multiple faceted surfaces, (U-8) with terminations on one end giving it kind of an arrow shape. The largest ones we could find were about 2.5 cm. long and 1 cm. thick. Soon Elmer led us on to the rugged hills and started hammering at the "right kind" of Rhyolite rocks. These contain cavities in which topaz takes birth. The crystals hidden in the rocks are amber color and get decolorized once exposed to Sun. Once the crystals are lost due to "weather beats" the foot prints are marked by wavy petals forming little flowers on the rocks. So the group got busy breaking the rocks, finding the cavities, and extracting out the crystals. (The making of a dentist!). While the hammerless (or harmless) watched and enjoyed the scenery, the talented one (Joyce) got busy with her water colors. Soon the sun rose high and we welcomed a lunch break and siesta. Afterwards we drove

around to the northwest corner for the pretty purple Flouride rocks and also the obsidian, natures exquisite work of art! After our exciting time we had fun driving back home through the old dead mines, the still surviving Beryllium plant, and the ghost towns. Bidding us good-bye was a scarlet sunset forming a silver lining for the patchy scattered clouds.

P.S. It was a fun trip in spite of being stranded on the freeway without gas, amidst the wilderness, (between Mammoth and Eureka) where two girls from Provo were murdered within the last month!

Participants: Elmer Boyd, Renu Jalota, Joyce Sohler, Ruth Henson, Dan Thomas, Stewart Roberts, Paula Mickle.

almost lookout peak

October 14, 1972

About twenty-five of us bounced up the dirt road north of Pineview in four vehicles. We walked up the road north to the small meadow which had numerous beaver ponds and good views up several draws. After careful study of the map and compass, we pushed northward up the draw, rejoining the trail to the west ridge. The more energetic pushed on to the peak and the knoll to the east. A lone elk hunter assured the early arrivers they were on the peak

no Rambler!

by Audrey C. Stevens

before he left in disgust after several "What are you doing up here's" The leader was in the middle of the group -- somewhat waiting for the girl who had his map (she never submitted). So, we all ate lunch almost on the peak after our very leisurely two-hour ascent.

As promised, there was a great view of Big Black and Grandview to the West and the Super-Peaks in the Cottonwoods to the South. The circular ridge to the north was inviting.

We headed back down the south ridge through "a few" bushes to the meadow, then on to the cars.

Most of the hikers were: Ann Wennhold, Catherine Davies, Norman Viss, Jean Daugherty, Corinne Sweet, Mary Jean Turley, Jenny Keyser, Maggie Lind, Michael Hendrickson, Marilyn Bateman, Von Parker, Cliff Bell, Irene Ault, Lucile Hoelscher, Joe Smith, Gary Dow, Connie Tuttle, Tom Dickman, Ed Miller, Barbara Evans, Two Dogs, and Leader John Gottman.

Gentlemen, help!

How am I deprived
of my so valued RAMBLER
For September and October
and now, methinks, November?
What is my good name
cast off the mailing list?
I paid my dues, in faith,

and am now conjecturing:
Could it be an unvar-
nished snowshoe?
My parka is three years
old?
My last RAMBLER article
was appalling?

How can you be so guilty
of such an inferiority
complex

As you have inflicted on me?

Ah, sweet remembrance
Of priceless fellowship
In caves or in warm sun -
yea, even in blizzards -
Please restore to me my RAMBLER!

letter to w.m.c. members

Let us say at the beginning that we miss all of our W.M.C. friends terribly. Receiving the October Rambler with the "Early Bird" ski tour schedule was almost more than we could stand!

At least the weather Gods have been good to us as the sun has been shining most of the time since our arrival. The natives say it has been the most beautiful Fall they have ever had, and Oscar, the gung-ho fisherman, has taken advantage of it.

We find the people to be very friendly, the coast fantastic. We have bought a brand new house which means we're living in a fish bowl (no curtains), and we have a yard consisting of bottomless sand covered generously by at least an inch of topsoil.

But, don't let our glowing description discourage you. We sincerely hope that anyone who has occasion to travel this way will look us up. Our address is 3188 ASH STREET, NORTH BEND, OREGON 97459, and phone 756-6553.

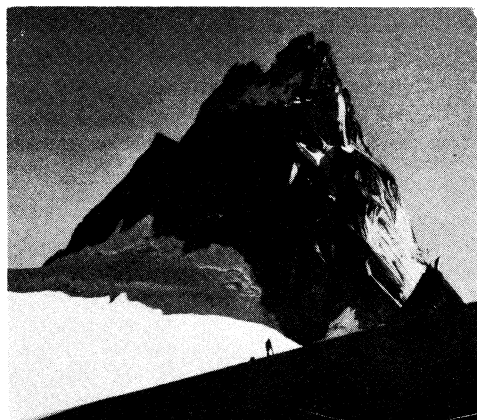
We'll be thinking a great deal about all of you lucky people out on the ski slopes. In the event that we don't get cards mailed to everyone, may we wish all a Very Merry Christmas and a Prosperous New Year.

Sincerely,

Oscar, Phyllis and Craig Robinson

**SIERRA DESIGN-CMI
NORTH FACE - LOWA
GALIBIER-VOYAGEUR
CHOUINARD - KELTY
DOLT**

Specialists in lightweight back
packing, mountaineering and
ski touring equipment.



TIMBERLINE SPORTS

3155 HIGHLAND DRIVE / 466-2101

HOURS: Monday-Friday 10:00am - 9:00pm
Saturday 10:00am - 6:00pm



COVER PHOTO:
"Winter Wonderland"
by Larry Swanson

Wasatch Mountain Club business is conducted only on the first and third Wednesdays of each month. At that time, and only at that time, is the mail opened, new membership applications voted on, dues payments recorded, address changes made, and all other business requiring board action conducted. All board members cannot attend all board meetings and although an effort is made to fill in during a member's absence, some business is held for action until the next meeting.

WASATCH MOUNTAIN CLUB
3155 Highland Drive, Salt Lake City, Utah 84106 Phone: 363-7150

APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

To the Board of Directors:

I hereby apply for membership in the Wasatch Mountain Club. I enclose the \$4.00 entrance fee and \$3.00 dues (spouse \$1.50). I have attended 2 outings (hikes, ski tours, cave trips, camping trips, rock-hound trips, work parties) and am genuinely interested in the out-of-doors. (Please note that social events (lodge parties, ski socials, etc.) are not included in the definition of outings.) I agree to abide by all the rules and regulations of the Club as specified in the Constitution and By-laws and as determined by the Board of Directors.

Name (print)_____	Outings attended: _____ Date _____
_____	1. _____
Signature _____	2. _____
(If spouse membership please print name of spouse) _____	Recommended by: _____
Address _____	Member: _____
City _____ State _____	Director: _____
Zip _____ Phone _____	(Please note: you must have above signatures before your application can be presented to the Board of Directors.)
	(Effective September 1 to January 1, 1973)

WASATCH MOUNTAIN CLUB, INC.

3155 Highland Drive/Salt Lake City/Utah 84106

**BULK RATE
U. S. POSTAGE**

PAID
SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH
PERMIT NO. 2001

Address Correction Requested / Return Postage Guaranteed

3

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

DENNIS CALDWELL, President	278-2100
CAROL GREENLEE, Secretary	262-0690
RON WEBER, Treasurer	467-3194
BOB EVERSON, Boating	487-0029
SAM ALLEN, Conservation	486-6834
MARION NELSON, Entertainment	262-7748
PAUL HORTON, Hiking	262-4695
MEL DAVIS, Lodge	278-3174
JUNE ZONGKER, Membership	262-7092
DAVE SMITH, Mountaineering	467-9163
RUTA DREIJMANIS, Publications	272-1412
DAVID HANSCOM, Ski-touring	487-6065
DAN THOMAS, Transportation	484-3873