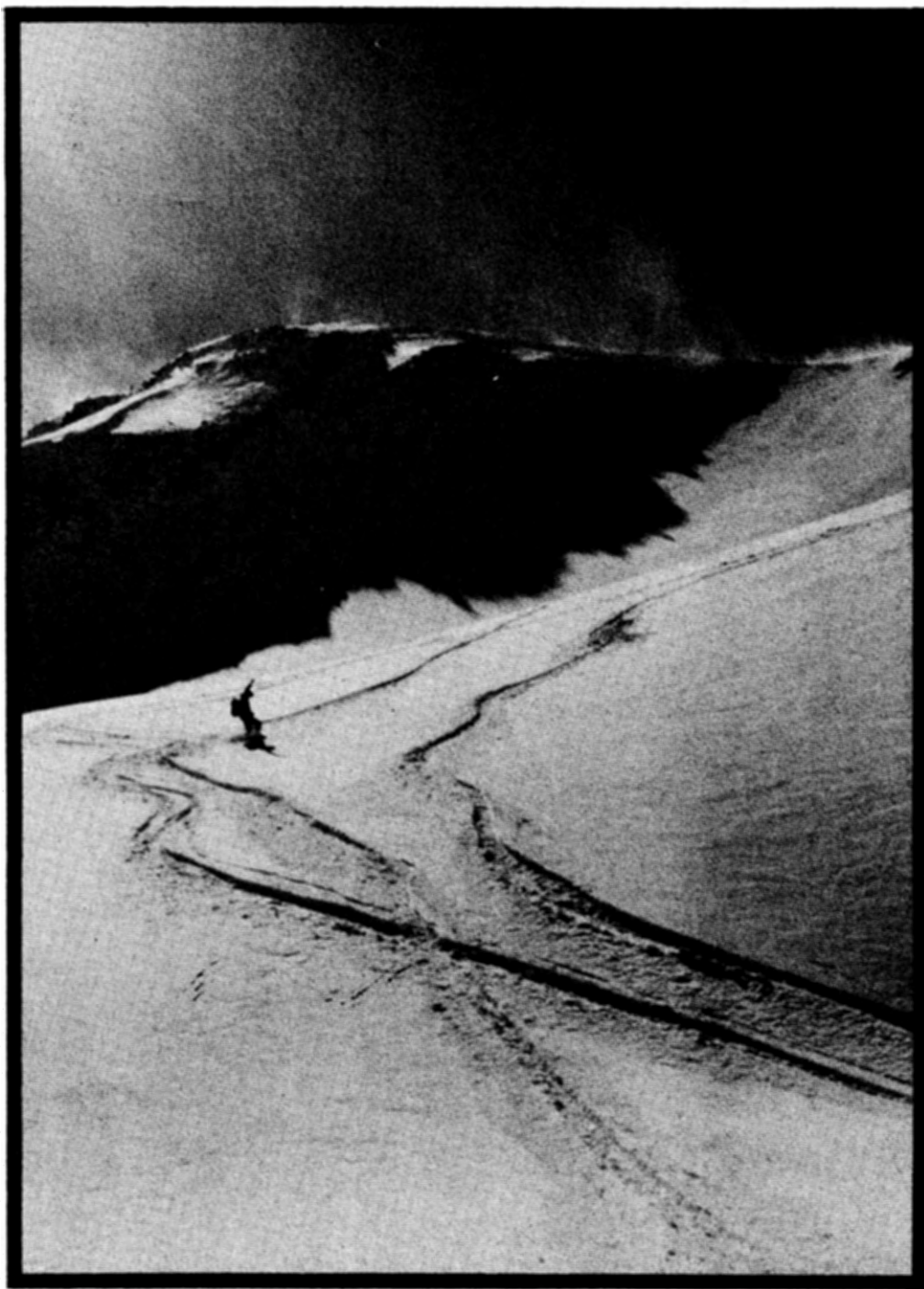


# *The Rambler*

JANUARY 1977



Official Publication of THE WASATCH MOUNTAIN CLUB

# News and Notices

COVER: Maybird Gulch by Trudy Healy.

## Rambler Deadline

...for February is January 15, Saturday. Please type (double-space) your articles or schedules, indicate your telephone number(s), and place your slides or prints in protective folders. Mail to (or drop by):

WASATCH MOUNTAIN CLUB  
3155 Highland Dr.  
Salt Lake City, Utah 84106  
ATTENTION: RAMBLER EDITOR

## Thanks....

...to Larry Hoskins for contributing his time and talents in laying-out and pasting up this month's Rambler.  
...to Leona Conn for typing material and to Diz Mays for proofing the copy.  
...to Dale Green for mailing the current issue.

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THE RAMBLER is published monthly by the Wasatch Mountain Club, Inc., 3155 Highland Drive, Salt Lake City, Utah, 84106, telephone 363-7150. Subscription rates of \$5.00 a year are paid for by membership dues only. Prospective members may obtain 2 free RAMBLERS (consecutive months) by contacting Club headquarters or the Membership Director. Direct all correspondence regarding changes of address, mailing, etc., to the Membership Director at the above address. Second Class Postage is paid at Salt Lake City, Utah.

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NOTICE: CALIFORNIA ALMONDS--shelled, whole nuts with no preservatives. We can bulk order these from the grower but we need 20 orders for 25# each. The cost is \$30.00 which includes shipping. (This amounts to \$1.20 per pound.) If you are interested, please call Mary Manley at 277-6307 before January 31, 1977.

The Wasatch Mountain Club is governed by a Board of Directors - 13 representatives elected by the membership. Through the courtesy of Timberline Sports, our mail is sent to their address, 3155 Highland Drive, for collection only. The Club's telephone is located at O'Dell's Shoe Repair Shop, 425 South 8th West. This phone is maintained as an answering service only by Life Members 'Pete' (O'Dell) Peterson and wife 'Pinky'. They take time out from their work to answer the phone and relay incoming messages to the proper Director. The Petersons do not hold any office, or attend Board meetings, or are they informed by the Board of official actions. If a trip leader cannot be contacted or is not specified, call the Director of that department for information. The Board strongly desires to hear comments, suggestions, inquiries, and criticisms concerning the operation of your Club. Please feel free to phone any Director or write to the President. Names will be withheld upon request, but anonymous letters will be disregarded.

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.

# Club Activities ...

## January, 1977

AVALANCHE INFORMATION is available from the Wasatch National Forest winter sports information recording, 486-6333. The Forest Service will attempt to update this information on a daily basis as needed. More detailed information may be obtained from Milt Hollander, 277-1416. Avalanche probes, cords and shovels are required on advanced tours at the discretion of the leader. Probes are available for rent through the Ski Touring Director. Electronic transmitter-receivers are now available through Timberline Sports and are recommended for advanced tourers.

\* \* \*

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. Contact the leader if you are in doubt about your ability to do the tour.

REGISTRATION WITH THE TRIP LEADER is important for ski tours as weather and snow conditions can cause cancellations or changes in destination. It also aids in organizing car shuttles early enough to avoid delays. Register by some reasonable hour on the day before the tour is scheduled.

(Note: See article and charts by Dave Hanscom and Dwight Nicholson in the November RAMBLER for a more detailed description of and ratings for the more popular Wasatch ski tours.)

\* \* \* \* \*

JANUARY 7  
Friday  
8:00 p.m.

The Ski Touring Committee will meet at the Schoenbergs, 1219 Ridge dale Lane, at 8:00 p.m. to plan ski touring activities for February/March.

JANUARY 8  
Saturday

ANNUAL NOMINATION BANQUET. Cocktail hour begins at 7:00 p.m. and dinner at 8:00 p.m. at the Park Place Condominium Clubhouse at 56th South & the Van Winkle Expressway. Call Mary Manley at 277-6307 for more details (or see page 6 of December Rambler).

JANUARY 9  
Sunday

LAKE BLANCHE SKI TOUR. (Advanced.) The route will be determined by the leader on the basis of existing snow conditions. Register with the leader, Dennis Caldwell, at 942-6065. Meeting time is 7:15 a.m. at the Caldwell's home, 3645 Golden Hill Drive (between Big and Little Cottonwood Canyons).

JANUARY 15-16  
Saturday-Sunday

THE LODGE is open for WMC members. The weekend will be hosted by Bob and Judy Weatherbee. For information please contact Judy at 272-5510.

JANUARY 16  
Sunday  
6:00 p.m.

WINTER SOCIAL. The first of the season's winter socials will be held at Bill Viavant's home at 218 Iowa Street (950 East) just off Second South. For other details, please call Bill at 532-4289.

JANUARY 22  
Saturday  
CLAYTON PEAK VIA SNAKE CREEK PASS SKI TOUR. (Intermediate.)  
Rating 2,3 (I). The first part of the tour to Snake Creek Pass  
is very pleasant and suitable for all kinds of skiers and snow-  
shoers. The ascent to Clayton Peak is steep and may require good  
control and sharp edges depending on snow conditions. Meet at  
mouth of Big Cottonwood Canyon at 8:30 a.m. Leader: Andy Schoen-  
berg, 466-6531.

JANUARY 22  
Saturday  
PARK CITY SOUTH SKI TOUR. (Beginner/intermediate) This tour to  
the ridge above Park City overlooks Heber Valley and the Timpan-  
ogos area and is suitable for snowshoers and Nordic skiers. Meet  
at east end of K-Mart parking lot at 9:00 a.m. Leader: Elmer  
Boyd, 299-7814.

JANUARY 22  
Saturday  
ICE CLIMBING COURSE. This is a training/refresher course for  
participants in our climbing activities. We will meet at 9:00  
a.m. for a classroom session which will be followed by practice  
on the ice in the afternoon. Ice axes, ice hammers, and crampons  
will be necessary. A \$1.00 fee will be charged. Register with  
John Gottman at 359-4693(home) or 328-8066 ext. 359(office).

JANUARY 23  
Sunday  
PARK CITY-WHITE PINE SKI TOUR. (Intermediate) Rating 2,2 (I).  
We may use the new Jupiter Hill lift at Park City for this tour.  
Meet at Park City Golf Course Club House at 8:30 a.m. Please  
register with Lyman Lewis at 1-649-9632.

JANUARY 23  
Sunday  
NORDIC SKIING CLINIC--BRIGHTON AREA. Instruction in intermediate  
nordic downhill (I) techniques. Meet at the Lodge at 9:30 a.m.  
Call Dwight Nicholson, 359-6178, or Dave Hanscom, 487-6065.

JANUARY 29  
Saturday  
ALEXANDER BASIN FROM BUTLER FORK SKI TOUR. (Advanced) Rating 3,5  
(N/A). This is a 9-mile tour with an ascent of 3145 feet. The  
descent of more than 4000 feet to Log Haven requires advanced down-  
hill skiing ability. You must register with the leader, Dave Smith  
at 1-649-8198. Meet at the Movie Theater (39th So. and Wasatch  
Blvd) at 8:00 a.m.

JANUARY 29  
Saturday  
SNAKE CREEK PASS FROM BRIGHTON TOUR. (Beginner) Rating 2,2 (B).  
This tour will start in the vicinity of the Lodge to avoid most  
of the downhill skiers. Meet at the mouth of Big Cottonwood  
Canyon at 9:00 a.m. Leader: Diana Schoenberg, 466-6531.

JANUARY 29  
Saturday  
TOP OF SOLITUDE--MOONLIGHT TOUR. If skies are clear, we will enjoy  
a tour under the full moon. Call Oscar Robison, 943-8500, or Andy  
Schoenberg, 466-6531, for details.

JANUARY 30  
Sunday  
RED PINE LAKE. (Intermediate) This is a scenic tour suitable for  
snowshoes, nordics and alpine skiers. If snow and weather permit,  
the tour may continue to Upper Red Pine Lake. Meet at the mouth  
of Little Cottonwood Canyon at 9:00 a.m. Register with the leader  
Fran Flowers at 581-9083.

JANUARY 30  
Sunday  
6:00 p.m.  
WINTER SOCIAL. Ruth Hoppe is the hostess. You will find her at  
1398 S. Blair Street (345 East). Her telephone number is 484-5558.

FEBRUARY 5-6      ARCHES CAR CAMP. Call John Gottman, the leader, at 359-4693 (home) Saturday-Sunday      or 328-8066, Ext. 359 (office) for details.

FEBRUARY 5      DOG LAKE VIA MILL D TOUR. (Beginner) Rating 2,2 (B). Meet at the Saturday      mouth of Big Cottonwood Canyon at 10:00 a.m. Leader Paul Horton, 328-9486.

FEBRUARY 5      PARK CITY FROM BRIGHTON VIA SCOTTS PASS SKI TOUR. (Intermediate) Saturday      Nordic 2,2 (I). Meet at the mouth of Big Cottonwood Canyon at 8:00 a.m. Call leader: Dick Leining at 584-7616 for details.

FEBRUARY 6      MILL F TO SCOTTS PASS SKI TOUR. (Intermediate) Rating 2,2 (I). Sunday      A nordic and alpine ski tour. Meet at the mouth of Big Cottonwood Canyon at 8:30 a.m. Leader: Bob Woody, 466-5039.

FEBRUARY 6      MINERAL FORK FROM ALTA SKI TOUR. (Advanced) Rating 3,5 (N/A). The Sunday      ascent via Cardiff Fork will be followed by a challenging run down Mineral Fork. Register with the leader, Alexis Kelner at 359-5387.

FEBRUARY 12-13      THE LODGE is available to WMC members. For information, please Saturday-Sunday      contact Randy Taylor at 272-4624.

FEBRUARY 12      MINERAL FORK TOUR. (Beginner/Intermediate) Rating 2,2 (I). This Saturday      tour, suitable for snowshoers and nordic skiers follows an old mining road up Mineral Fork as far as conditions will permit. Call Joyce Sohler, the leader, at 272-2624 for more details.

FEBRUARY 12      WHITE PINE FROM ALTA SKI TOUR. (Advanced) Rating 3,5 (N/A). This Saturday      is a strenuous tour via the American Fork Twin Peaks and will be attempted only under good snow conditions. Please register with the leader, Dennis Caldwell, at 581-7272 (work) or 942-6065 (home).

FEBRUARY 13      UINTAS--B FORK OF THE BEAR RIVERS NORDIC SKI TOUR. (Advanced) Sunday      Call Dwight Nicholson at 359-6178 for details.

FEBRUARY 13      SILVER FORK FROM BRIGHTON ALPINE SKI TOUR. (Intermediate) Rating Sunday      2,3 (I). The route via Twin Lakes Pass requires some advanced nordic skiing techniques. Meet at mouth of Big Cottonwood Canyon at 8:30 a.m. Call the leader Charley Keller at 467-3960 for details.

FEBRUARY 13      WINTER SOCIAL. Phil and Kay Berger are giving this one at 2250 Sunday      East Pheasant Way (5650 South). Turn at the fourth stop light south of Cottonwood Mall on Highland Dr. Their telephone is 278-7412.  
6:00 p.m.

FEBRUARY 16      GENERAL MEMBERSHIP AND ELECTION MEETING will be held in the Zion Wednesday      Lutheran Church basement, 1070 Foothill Dr., at 8:00 p.m. Candidates for the Board of Directors will be introduced and voted upon. Del Wiens will present slides from his last six-month tour of Southern Africa. Refreshments will be served.

FREE SATURDAY SKI TOURING CLINICS offer beginner instruction and, in some cases, more advanced tours may be scheduled. Some also offer evening discussions (such as, at Timberline Sports). However, in all instances, it is important to call the respective shops and find out the details:

Timberline Sports	3155 Highland Drive	466-2101
Wasatch Mountain Touring Co.	779 East 300 South	359-9361
Village Sports Den	1384 Foothill Drive	582-5611
The Mountaineer	207 South 13th East	582-2338

The Ski Touring Clinics provide a very good way to get into the sport and enough instruction to participate in a WMC beginner tour.



APRIL 16-24  
Saturday to  
next Sunday

GRAND CANYON RIVER TRIP. Once again the WMC has arranged for a nine-day trip through the Grand Canyon with Dave McKay. The Grand Canyon trip is always an exciting experience. And April is a good month as the Colorado River and the Canyon area are relatively free of the press of tourists. The total cost for this trip will be \$440.00, which includes the trip itself and a return flight from Lake Mead to Kanab. Transportation to Lee's Ferry and the return trip from Kanab will be extra. In order for the trip to go, however, it will be absolutely necessary that all reservations be made before February 1, 1977. Reservations filed after that date will not be accepted. Make your reservations by sending a \$25.00 deposit to Bob Weatherbee, 5664 So. St. Charles Place, Salt Lake City, Utah, 84117. For further information, call Bob at 272-5510 (home) or 363-1454 (office).

Watercolor.....Grand Canyon.....by Joyce Sohler



# Nominations: 1977

by Marty MacKnight

The following slate of candidates for the WMC Board of Directors has been proposed by your nominating committee --not without a large measure of searching and a small degree of arm-twisting. Many thanks to those who offered suggestions and to those who accepted the nominations.

Additional nominations will be accepted at the Nomination Banquet on January 8; however, the by-laws specify that the nominee be present at the banquet or that the nominator have written consent from the nominee.

President . . . . .	Dennis Caldwell Mike Treshow
Secretary . . . . .	Peggy Taylor
Treasurer . . . . .	Mel Davis
Boating . . . . .	Bob Weatherbee
Conservation . . . . .	Walter Haas
Entertainment . . . . .	Marlene Austin Karen Caldwell
Hiking . . . . .	Fran Flowers
Lodge . . . . .	Randy Taylor
Membership . . . . .	Mary Manley
Mountaineering . . . . .	John Mason
Publications . . . . .	Joyce Sohler
Ski Touring . . . . .	Lyman Lewis
Kayaking . . . . .	Jim Mason
4-year Trustee . . . . .	Doti Marden
Ambassador-at-Large* . . . . .	Bill Viavant

# WINTER SOCIALS

It's time once again for one of our most popular activities--winter socials. Join old friends and meet new ones in a casual atmosphere of shared good food, drink and company. A simple but hearty supper is served for a nominal fee. Beer, wine and soft drinks are available at cost.

Although reservations are not necessary, it is suggested that you arrive at a reasonable time if you are having supper. Drinks and conversation are available throughout the evening.

We would like to interject a few suggestions that we feel will help eliminate some of the minor perennial hassles produced understandably enough by the close proximity of 60 plus or minus bodies fresh off the slopes.

It is much easier for the host/hostess if people come with money in smaller denominations than \$20 bills. That always creates a plug in the stream of events.

Further, it has been the consensus of hosts and guests that everyone would enjoy these functions more if toddlers were left at home. These socials are considered adult functions by most participants. Any host's graciousness is strained enough by the numbers of people who usually attend these events, but add several toddlers investigating side corners and things can get a little grim.

We hope that everyone will have yet another year of friendly gatherings at these twice-a-month functions.

\* \* \*

We need hosts for March 13 and April 17 winter socials. Any volunteers? Please call Mary Manley at 277-6307 if you wish to volunteer for either date.

.....

\*This honorary position has been proposed for a deserving person.

# SKI TOURING ISSUES

by Dave Hanscom

On December 6, the Ski Touring Committee met with people from the Wasatch National Forest (Cliff Blake from the Salt Lake Ranger District and Gerry Horton from the downtown office) to discuss issues of mutual interest. WMC members need to be aware of the following:

(1) Helicopter Skiing. Wasatch Powderbird Guides, operating out of Snowbird, has probably by now been issued a permit for this season to take skiers into many canyons in the Wasatch. The Forest Service had proposed to allow them to use virtually all north-facing canyons between Millcreek and American Fork with the exception of the Lone Peak Scenic Area. The attitude of the Forest Service seems to have changed over the past few years from "where should helicopters be allowed" to "should they be excluded from any areas." They don't seem to understand the magnitude of the conflict that exists between tourers and helicopters. The letter from the Ski Touring Committee to the Forest Service is reproduced at the end of this article.

At present we are meeting with the Forest Service and with Greg Smith who runs Wasatch Powderbird Guides. Greg seems to be a reasonable person, and we hope to work out a compromise with him before his permit is issued. A map showing exactly which areas are open to helicopter skiing will be included in the February Rambler.

Regardless of the final decision on where they will fly on weekdays or on weekends, we want to establish just how much contact there actually is between WMC tourers and the helicopter skiers. If you encounter them in any way (flying over to drop skiers off, skiing the same canyon, etc.), please call me as soon as possible thereafter so I can keep a log. This will help us negotiate effectively in future years. Further, letters to the Forest Service stating your views, particularly if you can cite specific incidents that have influenced your feelings about helicopters in the back country, may prove beneficial.

(2) Snowmobiles. After several years of negotiating, the Forest Service has finally decided to close two places to snowmachines: Redman Campground and a large area that includes Mill D North (Dog Lake, Desolation Lake), Mill A, Butler, and the Water Gulches. We commended them for a good first step and suggested very strongly that Millcreek Canyon be blocked off to all motor traffic. The letter that follows was the response of the Touring Committee. You should write to them if you agree.

(3) Albion Hut. There seems to be some question about the future of Albion Hut. Although it was built many years ago on private land, the Forest Service, after purchasing it, doesn't have the facilities to maintain it and doesn't feel strongly about having it there. Some private individuals have been talking about removing it because of its present condition. A group at Alta would like to save the hut and would appreciate the help of anyone willing to participate in a clean-up project in the spring. Call me if you are interested. (The desirability of undertaking this task will be affected in the next couple of years by the new ski lift that Alta proposes to build on Point Supreme and by the following item.)

(4) Wasatch State Park Tram. It looks as if the first link in the long-awaited "skiers' supermarket" will be upon us shortly. A ski area is being proposed for Snake Creek above Wasatch State Park. One feature would include a tram from the bottom up to Ant Knolls (the ski area would be north of there) and on to the saddle near

Point Supreme overlooking Albion Basin. The reason for the second leg is presumably to link Alta to the new area. This is almost entirely in the Uinta National Forest. We need to watch this situation very carefully and make our concerns known to proper officials.

(5) Millicent Ski Lift. The owners of Brighton ski area have decided that skinny skis don't belong on the Millicent lift. The unloading point at the top is quite abrupt and there have been accidents involving x-country skiers. The problem for tourers is that the Evergreen lift doesn't always run during the week; hence, no lift is available for the climb to Twin Lakes Pass or Honeycomb. We will try to work something out for midweek (e.g., slow the lift down when tourers unload), but the outcome is uncertain at this point. The Forest Service supports their right to make restrictions of this kind (and probably rightfully so).

(6) Avalanche Information. The Wasatch National Forest winter sports information recording (486-6333) is updated daily. It gets better every year with more complete reports and more frequent updating. We encouraged them to include even more detail on weather and snow conditions for the more sophisticated ski tourers (see the letter that follows). They, in turn, recommended that anyone interested in more thorough weather information should purchase a weather radio from an electronics store. They also requested that we not bother the snow rangers at Alta.

(7) Avalanche Handbook. The long-awaited treatise covering everything you ever wanted to know about avalanches has finally made it. Written by Ron Perla and Pete Martinelli and illustrated by Alexis Kelner--what more can I say? Send \$3.95 to the U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C., 20402 and ask for USDA Forest Service Agricultural Handbook #489, Avalanche Handbook, by Perla and Martinelli. It's almost as good a buy as Wasatch Tours! The WMC has ordered a few copies so you might check with me before placing your order.

(8) Nordic Ski Patrol. Local members of the National Ski Patrol System are in the process of setting up a Nordic Ski Patrol. It would function much the same as the Ski Patrol in downhill areas. Members will be assigned to be in certain canyons on specific days, primarily to help anyone that needs them. They will also function as a backup for the Alta group that has been organized for back-country rescues (mostly Forest Service, Ski Patrol, and helicopter guides). The Nordic Patrol is a voluntary organization open to anyone willing to undertake the required skiing, rescue, and first-aid training programs. If you're interested, call Chuck Windham (486-4404) at Sunset Sports on State Street.

(9) USSA Membership. A final item (not related to our meeting with the Forest Service) involves an organization that you may be interested in joining. The United States Ski Association organizes all the major amateur skiing events recognized by the US Olympic Committee and the International Ski Federation in this country. They also have many programs for recreational skiers. The major benefit of membership is a coupon book that entitles members to free meals at restaurants, discounts at many local shops, and free or discounted skiing at many resorts in Utah, Idaho, and Wyoming. Call Dave Hanscom (487-6065) for more information.

The following is re-typed from the original letter:

WASATCH MOUNTAIN CLUB SKI TOURING COMMITTEE

Mr. Cliff Blake  
Wasatch National Forest  
Salt Lake City, Utah

December 8, 1976

Dear Cliff:

We appreciate the opportunity to talk with you and Gerry Horton earlier this week. It is important for us to keep the communication lines open. We want you to know the feelings of ski tourers who now number in the thousands in Salt Lake City. In turn, we should be aware of issues that could be of interest to us. We feel that the meeting was very fruitful on both counts.

Three of the areas that are of particular concern to ski tourers should be re-emphasized.

(1) SNOWMOBILES. You are to be commended for setting up areas for beginning ski tourers without the presence of snowmachines. Redman Campground and Mill D North Fork were excellent choices for starting this program. We strongly recommend, however, that Millcreek Canyon be added to this list. The road in Millcreek is being used increasingly by skiers, snowshoers, and walkers and decreasingly by snowmachines. It is the most accessible canyon to Salt Lake City where skiing conditions are relatively good. Regulation would be easier for you than in most other areas. A gate should be erected to keep all motor traffic off the unplowed part of the road as soon as possible.

(2) HELICOPTERS. Our general observation is that almost all northfacing canyons of intermediate difficulty in Millcreek, Big Cottonwood, Little Cottonwood (east of the Lone Peak Scenic Area), and American Fork, as well as some in the Midway drainage, have been opened to helicopter skiers. We felt in the meeting that your philosophy had changed over the past few years from "where should helicopters be allowed" to "should they be excluded from any areas". This attitude is very disappointing to us.

In light of the fact that one of the most valued benefits of ski touring is a quiet appreciation of the mountains and forests, it seems only fair that some of these areas be off limits for any motorized vehicles. We agree that they should have places to ski, but so should the powder lover who prefers to get there under his own power.

Every year more canyons are being made available to helicopter people in the name of maintaining a profitable business. This doesn't seem like a good argument since others have survived in previous years with much less territory.

We would hope that at least some of the more popular and accessible ski touring areas would be off limits for helicopters. This might help to reduce the great antagonism and hostility that tourers have for the noisy machines. Three areas that come to mind immediately are Mount Wolverine, Silver Fork, and the Water Gulches (the last in particular since it is an area closed to snowmobiles).

Ideally other canyons will be included in this category. For example, if no helicopters were allowed north of Big Cottonwood Canyon, much of the conflict would be eliminated. Many ski tourers use the low elevation areas in Big Cottonwood and the area closed to snowmobiles in the Mill Creek Drainage. If the helicopters stayed south of this, most tourers would not have to listen to the deafening roar that is

such an annoying intrusion into a back country experience. We hope this policy will at least be established for weekends when the number of ski tourers is greatest.

We also recommend that you publicize the areas where helicopters are forbidden so ski tourers can be alert for infractions of the rules and report them to proper authorities.

(3) SNOW REPORTS. Your recording gets better every year. It serves a vital function for anyone who ventures into the back country of the Wasatch mountains. Our only suggestion is that you might include more detail for the tourer who has a knowledge of snow and avalanche characteristics. Someone contemplating an advanced tour needs to know several factors: previous and present weather, wind, and snow conditions at 10,000 feet as well as at Alta, current avalanche conditions reported by snow rangers and helicopter guides, potentially dangerous weather patterns that may be moving in, general recommendations for touring on slopes of different exposures, warning to the tourer to tell someone where he is going. All of this is not important to every tourer, but increasing numbers will find it useful.

We intend to touch base with several people in the near future: Alta Central about getting avalanche conditions, Greg Smith about helicopter/ski tourer conflicts, Jim Head about the rescue groups, Mike Doyle about tourers on the Millicent lift, and Chuck Windham about the Nordic Ski Patrol. We will keep you posted on our efforts.

cc: Verne Hamre  
Chandler St. John  
Gerry Horton

Sincerely,  
Dave Hanscom  
Andy Schoenberg

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## JHCOB AREA CLIMB

October 23

by John Gottman

It was a fine October day for our last fair-weather event. Shockingly, some fifteen climbers showed up for a day on the quartzite including Cal Giddings who pioneered many local climbs.

We gathered by the road and selected our routes. John Riley and George Swanson were all ready to go and raced off to the Inside Corner--the most pleasant of the alternatives. John Moellmer, Roy Johnson, and Steve and Cal Giddings took on the Outside Corner with polite misgivings.

Cal Osburn and Laura Brabenave settled for the ridge to the right of the wall. Cal later described the moderate, bushy, rock-strewn route as being "very strange"

toward the top where the angle increased. Dave Byorkman and Bill Rosquist struggled up the mysterious dark crack to the right of the wall.

Bill Shepard and I picked our way up the JHCOB wall and through the horrid overhang and the remainder of the unsettling crux pitch. Cal had crushed my ego before the climb by saying he didn't remember any F7 up there. Clint Lewis, Martin Knaphus and Bob Bamford fled the crowd and climbed the classic Dead Snag Arete a short distance up Stairs Gulch.

The quick finishers waited for Bill and me at the geology sign at the bottom. We took off for the Canyon Inn before heading up to the Lodge for the Ski Touring Kickoff.

# TETON WILDERNESS ODYSSEY

August 13-15

"Stiff in  
opinion...."



Early Thursday evening, four of us--Sam Allan, Bob Mitchell, Fran Flowers and Joyce Sohler--arranged our gear in the back of Sam's pickup and squeezed into the front seat. As we headed up Parley's Canyon, we kidded Sam about his difficulties in locating Joyce's house and Fran's house (Sam's in the real estate business) and in getting out of town amid the bustle of the peak-hour traffic; hence, his credentials for leading anyone into the wilderness. The joshing continued during a superb Chinese dinner --Chicken Almond Ding and a myriad of other dishes--at the New Paris Cafe (a Chinese restaurant?) in Evanston, Wyoming. Sam's fortune cookie added fuel to the fire: "Stiff in opinion--always wrong!" Needless to say, we had many opportunities to use variations of this theme during the next three days.

After an unsuccessful midnight search of the campgrounds along Alpine Canyon, we pulled onto a dirt road that Joyce remembered from a previous hike. Within minutes, sleeping bags were rolled out and we were gazing up at the stars brightly shining above us.

Early the next morning, Bob hastily loaded his gear into the pickup and headed down the road for his morning jog. We picked him up on the main highway some-

time later. During breakfast in Jackson Hole, we found out why Sam was so knowledgeable about the area and was so obviously fond of it--he grew up on a ranch at what is now Moran Junction. As our eyes feasted on the spectacular beauty of the Tetons, Sam kept us entertained with tales of mountain men surviving the long, bitter winters and of the characters inhabiting Jackson Hole during his boyhood. He talked of the times his father entertained the "monied" folk from the East who later purchased ranches in the area and deeded them to the government for use as a National Park. Later, we drove by Sam's boyhood home (see photo). It is now inside the Teton National Park.



Allan residence... 1931...Moran, Wyoming

We left the pickup near the South Entrance of Yellowstone Park and assembled our backpacks. A short hike from the road led us to the Snake River--the first of many rivers and streams to be forded over the next days. Bob and Joyce make the mistake of attempting to cross it with bare feet. The added weight of backpacks made the rocks painful and slippery and maneuvering through the swiftly moving, "near-freezing" water a slow affair indeed! It was obvious why Sam and Fran did not change to hiking boots until after the crossing.

At lunch, near Snake Hot Springs, we saw the last human beings we were to encoun-

ter for the next couple of days. We were now on our own. The trail became increasingly difficult to follow as we entered the Teton Wilderness area. Frequent reconnoiters were necessary to decide if we were on the trail and offered opportunities to continue the joshing: "stiff in opinion...." For the most part, the day was spent hiking through long stretches of high grass meadows with stands of forest and higher mountains in the distance and frequent fording of Wolverine Creek and smaller, crystal clear streams. And always Sam in the distance with his fishing rod visibly bobbing up and down.

In the late afternoon, we decided that we were probably not on the main trail and looked around for a suitable camping spot. We settled on a small clearing encircled by tall and fragrant pines and shrubbery high above a creek. Sam tried his luck in the stream but the fish were not interested. Late in the evening and early the next morning, we observed elk and three bull moose grazing in the meadow across the stream.



We began the next morning by crossing the same creek many times. Sam and Bob leaped nimbly from rock to rock; those with shorter legs were not so graceful. We gained elevation as we traversed heavily forested areas and maneuvered over, under, or around the many fallen trees. We were on a trail--but it was far from clear if it was the one indicated on the Teton Wilderness map.

Late in the morning, we chanced upon a small meadow with a crystal clear stream--perhaps three feet at its widest--meandering through it. We saw several trout and decided to take a long lunch break while Sam tried his luck. Within minutes he landed one about ten inches long--and then nothing. Meanwhile, Fran retrieved a mosquito net from her pack. As Bob "herded" a trout downstream, Joyce and Fran held the net across a narrow channel. Eureka! We got one without a pole! After a leisurely lunch, we moved on, with the addition of two fish nestled in the net hanging from Sam's pack.

We wound through the forests with sun flickering and filtering through the trees overhead, with birds and small insects flitting about, with small wildlife scurrying through the abundant foliage and underbrush, with soft pine needles underfoot, and with fragrant scents wafting about us. Nature's bounty and joy everywhere.

Late in the afternoon, we reached a high mountain meadow and stopped for a breather. Sam consulted his map as the rest of us collapsed on the grass. We gazed across the meadow and speculated on the direction of the stream as we were now close to the Continental Divide. A short hike revealed that the stream was coming toward us; we had not yet reached the Divide. We were too soon on the way--too exhausted to do anything but keep moving forward. Up over a rise, we saw yet another meadow with high slopes ending in the bowl below and a lake at the far end. We had arrived at our destination. As we neared the lake, we saw water lilies and soon realized the water was stagnant. We scouted for a fresh water inlet. No luck. By then, we were ready to collapse. The trail signs near the lake told us where we were but, of course, were no help in locating fresh water. Joyce suggested that we head up the trail to the north until we found water. Others favored following our present trail down the other side of the meadow. We left that enchanting, open bowl and plodded down the trail for what

seemed an eternity--really only about a mile--and set up camp next to a stream heading in the opposite direction. We had crossed the Divide. Night came early as the high cliffs above us blocked the fading rays of the sun.

At breakfast the next morning, Sam suggested that, since we were making good time, we go back and explore the high country with day packs and pick up our gear on the way back. Fresh and light-footed, we quickly made our way back to the upper meadow and headed up the trail Joyce had indicated the day before. At the top, amid stands of trees along the ridge, we gazed at the enchanting panorama spread out before us--the lake small in the distance and ridges rising high above it. On the far side, we discovered another meadow nestled in a small bowl with (would you believe it?) a clear stream meandering through it. We agreed on the spot to come back again so that we could spend the night in that lovely place and watch the sun set and rise from the high ridge.

We left the trail and climbed yet another ridge. Up and up through meadows and slopes of fragrant wild flowers and shrubs. At the top of another ridge, we could see the Tetons up-thrust against the vivid blue sky. Joyce stayed and drank in the indescribably lovely panorama while Fran led the others to the summit. There, a world of wilderness opened before them--Two Ocean Pass to the north, the head waters of Yellowstone River to the east, and the incomparable Tetons to the west. About a half an hour later, the three came hurtling down the ridge and, joined by Joyce, continued down, down, and down to our camp of the night before.

As the afternoon wore on, rain threatened and then began to fall in earnest. The temperature dropped precipitously. Out came ponchos and on we plodded to keep warm--swaying spectors in the shadowy gloom. We reached Gravel Lake and took the short side trail to see it. In the campground we saw our first evidence of

man--orange peels. Soon we entered an area that had been burned over. It looked like nature's graveyard with charred pillars rising all around us.

Pacific Creek, the largest waterway since the Snake River, was tumbling along far below us. The trail widened. As we walked along, Sam recalled the people who used to spend their summers panning gold in Pacific Creek.

Suddenly we were out of the forest and below us were sagebrush, a dusty trail, and strangely familiar sounds and shapes in the distance. Soon a range bull was identified resting beneath a nearby scrub oak. We gave him a wide birth and continued on. Ahead of us, a herd of range cattle was spread out for miles in all directions. The sounds increased in volume as they "talked" to each other about the strange apparitions walking on two legs among them. It is one thing to realize how large range bulls are--from the perspective of horseback or from behind a fence. It is another thing to be walking among them with a heavy pack amid all the dust and confusion. Joyce "humorously" suggested that Sam could use his fishing pole as a cattle prod if the bulls came too close; fortunately, they decided to keep their distance but not their "mutterings" of intimidation. We were now traversing through our most dangerous encounter with "wild animals."

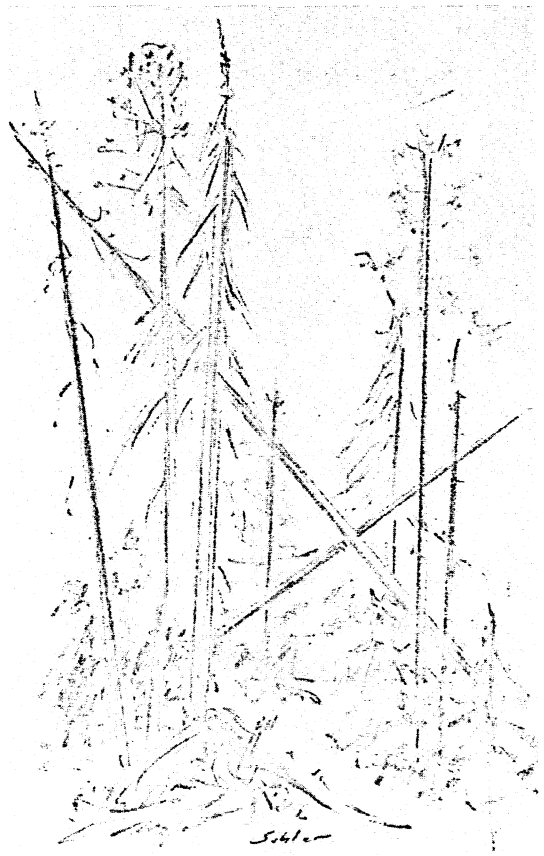
In the distance, dark clouds were slowly enveloping the Tetons and moving in our direction. They enveloped us also before we had arrived at our destination--a grove of trees beyond the long valley of sagebrush and tall grass. We searched in the driving rain for a campsite beside a swiftly-moving creek. The other side looked more inviting so Bob located a crossing--a precarious log spanning the creek with debris and bare limbs below. Not the kind of thing to attempt in the driving rain at the end of a hard day's hike! We spent what was left of the evening eating a hasty meal and drying out drenched clothing and gear.

Fortunately, the next day, the sun broke through the few remaining clouds. Soon we reached the head of Pacific Creek Road. Our feet tired easily on the gravel road after days of hiking with heavy packs. Sam had suggested that we "hitch hike" out rather than walk the five miles or so. A few cars passed going in one direction or the other. A pickup truck approached and Joyce stuck out her thumb--assuming that others would do likewise. (She found out later that no one else had done so.) The truck stopped. A Forest Service person was on his way out with camp and pack gear in the back. We climbed in amid the gear and enjoyed the scenery all the way to Jackson Lake Lodge.

There, Sam left us to hitch a ride back to his truck. We sprawled on the cement in front of the Lodge with our packs upright against the cement benches and our wet socks, etc., "hung out" on the nearby sagebrush. What a contrast to many of the well-dressed persons strolling by. Joyce spent the time painting the Tetons and Fran slept on the cement walkway. Bob toured the Lodge. Upon Sam's return someone suggested that we set up camp on the carefully manicured lawn beside the Lodge just to see how long it would take for some official to tell us to move on. We had an hilarious time imagining who and how long it would take that someone to take the initiative.

The joking and good humor continued as we decided to head for the New Paris Cafe in Evanston for another marvelous Chinese meal. The fortune cookies were read--but none had the impact of Sam's "Stiff in opinion..." Back to Salt Lake and the end of an eventful wilderness trip. Once again we were faced with the need to adjust to a different kind of wilderness--the asphalt wilderness of man.

And thanks to the foresight of the people who had worked with the Forest Service 30 years ago to preserve this extraordinary wilderness in its natural state, we may return next year to that enchanting, "top of the world" place.



Sketch ... Teton Wilderness

Wealth I ask not, hope nor love,  
Nor a friend to know me;  
All I ask, the heaven above  
And the road below me.

Robert Louis Stevenson,  
The Vagabond, 1895

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## **Ski Touring Safety Equipment Purchase**

by Andy Schoenberg

Our survey of local shops indicates that the purchase of ski touring safety equipment in quantities of 10 to 20 could save us about 20% of the list price. For example, ski poles that are convertible from downhill to touring to avalanche probes would cost \$23 instead of \$28. The electronic avalanche victim locators (PIEPS) would cost approximately \$42. We are continuing to search for better prices. Contact Andy Schoenberg, 466-6531, if you are interested in buying equipment or have information about the purchase of the above items.

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The Ski Touring Committee will meet at the Schoenberg's, 1219 Ridgedale Lane, at 8:00 p.m. on Friday, January 7, to plan ski touring activities for February-March, 1977.

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## **CHECKLIST FOR TOUR LEADERS**

by Andy Schoenberg

1. Know the condition of the snow, the best route to follow, the approximate length of time required, the difficulty of the tour, and expected weather conditions. People calling to register will ask about these details.
2. Check on avalanche conditions the night before if there is potential danger. The Wasatch National Forest has a recording on avalanche conditions (486-6333). For more details call Milt Hollander at 277-1416. It is better to change the tour than take a chance on getting into trouble.
3. Recommend that avalanche probes, cords and shovels and, if possible, the electronic pieps be taken on

most intermediate and advanced tours. The WMC has a portable toboggan. Contact the Ski Touring Director if you want to borrow any safety equipment.

4. Make arrangements to spot cars and carpool so that the whole group doesn't have to fight the canyon traffic.
5. Bring extra equipment for certain contingencies. Suggested items: First Aid Kit, flashlight, gloves, socks, cables, wax, tools, bales and spare tip for Nordic skis. Encourage use of ski safety straps.
6. List the names of all tourers in the party and obtain an estimate of their abilities.

7. Be sure everyone returns safely. Either the leader or someone appointed by him who knows the terrain should bring up the rear. If there is high avalanche danger, it is imperative that members of the party maintain visual contact. Dangerous slopes should be crossed individually with others watching from a safe location.
8. If the leader wishes to limit the size of the group, this should be indicated in the Rambler notice and registration should be mandatory.
9. Please find a volunteer to write an article about the tour for the Rambler. Photographs are greatly appreciated. Have fun!



DESERET PEAK

BY PHOTOGRAPH BY TRUDY HEALY



# INSTITUTO DE INVESTIGACIONES ANTROPOLOGICAS

November 11, 1976

I don't seem to be going on any WMC outings this year, but I'm getting plenty of exercise. I'm spending the year in the sierras of Western Chihuahua, studying the Guarijio language. The Guarijos are cousins of the Tarahumara Indians (well known for their running) who live in the high sierras to the south and east of here. Where I am, the mountains are not high (between 3000 and 6000 feet, I would guess), but they are rugged, much up and down. And they are indescribably beautiful. Every new trail is an experience, and different, depending on if it is along the crest, the shoulder, creek or canyon bottom, north or south facing slope; through pine, oak (lots of oak), the lower thorn forest (with a thousand plants that are all new to me) or cactus vegetation; or a view of the canyon areas.

There are no roads, vehicles--all travel is by foot, horse, or burro--or electricity. I think it would rank as a wilderness area, but it is different from what we think of. There is a well-developed network of trails, and, while not densely populated, the area is well-peppered with Mextizos and Indians alike. Here and there, there are occasional clearings for corn or beans. It is impossible to get lost as every trail will eventually lead to a house--if you don't meet a fellow traveler first--where you can get re-oriented.

I am living on an almost 100% natural food diet--consisting mainly of tortillas and beans and tortillas and beans and--occasional goat meat, goat milk, goat cheese, squash, pinale, tomale, pisolé, elote, chile, chicken, eggs, bananas, oranges, peaches, pears, guava, sugar cane and native teas. I've discovered almost anything is palatable if taken with lots of salt and chile.

Si quieres escribirme  
(en Inglés o Español),  
la direccion es:

Wick R. Miller  
Arechuyvo  
Chihuahua  
Mexico      ...y nada mas.

I'm getting my share of the outdoors, but I am going to miss the skiing season and the ski socials. Looking forward to seeing you all next year.

Wick Miller

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## 1977 Mountaineering Fellowship & Research Grant from the AAC

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The American Alpine Club Mountaineering Fellowship Committee is accepting applications for grants from young climbers, generally under age 26, participating in expeditionary mountaineering ventures. Grants will be awarded to individuals depending upon excellence of the proposed project, evidence of mountaineering experience, and need for funds. The grants are made available through the Boyd N. Everett Jr. Memorial Fund and from contributions received for this purpose.

Research grants, available from the Roger L. Putnam Research Fund and the Arthur K. Gilkey Memorial Research Fund will be awarded to those engaged in research into the alpine environment. The funds may also be used to assist in publication or dissemination of the results of such research. Dr. Walter A. Wood is chairman of the Research Committee that administers the two funds.

Application forms may be obtained from the American Alpine Club, 113 East 90th Street, NY, NY, 10028. Specify which form you desire. Applications must be received before March 1, 1977, and awards will be announced in May, 1977.

(Note: The above was received from the American Alpine Club.)



GOBBLERS KNOB RIDGE

PHOTOGRAPH BY BEN STOLP

## CONSERVATION CORNER

by Mike Omana

The Park Service Act of 1916 specifies that "...No natural curiosities, wonders or objects of interest shall be leased, rented, or granted to anyone on such terms as to interfere with free access to them by the Public."

As of November, 1976, the Grand Canyon River Manager reported that 895 requests for private permit applications to run the Colorado River through the Grand Canyon had been received. The deadline for applications closes on January 31, 1977. By then, there could be easily 1,000 requests. Last year, 37 private trips were allowed through the Grand Canyon. The number will be about the same in 1977. During 1976 the private sector was allowed 12% of the total user-days allocated on the Green and Yampa Rivers through Dinosaur National Park.

In 1972, the National Park Service found it necessary to impose overall use ceilings on the rivers it managed in order to protect the environment. This was brought about by the tremendous growth in the popularity of river running. The fragile environments simply could not tolerate the numbers of people wishing to float the rivers.

This was fine; it was needed. Unfortunately, the concessionaires were given an unrealistically high percentage when user-day allocations were divided up. This resulted from a highly questionable, easily cheated-on historical-use philosophy coupled with a gross misjudgement of the private sector's growth rate and competence. Examples are 1) Grand Canyon 92% concessionaire, 8% private; 2) Cataract Canyon 95% concessionaires, 5% private; 3) Dinosaur National Park 72% concessionaire, 16% educational (quasi-commercial), 12% private.

So far the concessionaires have been unable to use all their allocations even though thousands of dollars are spent on advertising campaigns all over the nation and world to stimulate business. For example, the Grand Canyon concessionaires in 1972 (even with intensive advertising) were unable to fill 19,000 user-days of their allocation. In 1974, 4,000 user-days went unused; in 1975, 5,200. The private sector was not given access to these wasted user-day allocations even though thousands of people were turned down on their permit applications.

The private sector has a 7,600 user-day allocation in the Grand Canyon. Last year, 4,000 people who wanted to float the Colorado through the Grand Canyon were turned away. These same people could have gone as often as they wished if they were willing and/or able to pay a commercial outfitter. With few exceptions, this pattern is repeated on every popular Western whitewater river.

It is obvious that the intent of the National Park Service Act of 1916 is not being represented in present-day policy. It is an unfortunate but unavoidable reality that, today, if a person wants access to his National Park, he must pay a concessionaire a fee before he can enter. That is exactly what the authors of the Park Service Act were trying to avoid in writing the act.

The trend is now being set for the eventual take-over of all public lands by big business--big profit concessionaires. Not only is this a problem for river runners; it will be felt soon by climbers, hunters, fishermen and other users of public lands where there are use limitations put on a recreation resource.

The concessionaires move in and create an artificial demand through massive advertising: "Where shall we go this year, dear? Paris, Disney World or take the Grand Canyon-Las Vegas package tour?" This prevents people who really want to enjoy an area --and who don't want the Disneyland-pampered tour or can't afford the \$50 to \$65 plus per day fee--from using their public lands. In direct violation of the National Park Service Act, thousands of persons are being turned away from their Western rivers because the concessionaires own most of the rights to these (public) areas.

Can something be done, or is something being done, to stop this trend toward the take-over of public lands by concessionaires? Finally, yes. The following are excerpts from an advertisement printed by the Wilderness Public Rights Fund (WPRF), a group formed to challenge the legality of the 92%/8% allocation in the Grand Canyon. The WPRF now has a law suit before the U.S. District Court in San Francisco asking--on constitutional grounds--the National Park Service to revise its permit allocations under limited capacity river management policies.

"A deeply concerned group has established the Wilderness Public Rights Fund, a non-profit corporation, chartered for the purpose of giving strength and substance to the argument that, in sustaining its 92/8 percent allocation of user-days, the National Park Service has discriminated unfairly and illegally against those qualified users of public lands who do not need concessioner services."

"... WPRF believes that the Park Service's 92/8 percent policy in the Grand Canyon, if not challenged, will set a dangerous precedent adversely affecting public participation on public recreational areas throughout the nation... (further) It is WPRF's contention that, when commercial and non-commercial user groups are required because of government edict to compete for the same public space, the qualified non-commercial category must be given priority."

"It is not WPRF's objective to eliminate commercial outfitters on land and on water and thus abridge the rights of that portion of the public that has neither the time, inclination, or capability to organize and participate in a non-commercial wilderness trip. But once a capacity ceiling is placed on the use of public preserves because of excessive demand by the combined commercial and non-commercial users, then priorities must be established and choices made between the two sectors. We feel that concessioners, profiting by use of public lands as their major capital resource are legally obligated to be the first to prove how, when, and where their services are unique or essential." (For example, of the public demand they claim to serve, how much is artificially created by widespread, colorful advertising and intensive promotion?) "We seek only an equitable use-allocation of precious outdoor recreational resources."

The WPRF is taking the first step in a long and difficult process, an unfortunate but necessary task, to stop the take-over of public lands by big business concessionaires. Their legal costs are already high; if the suit is to continue, more money is going to be needed.

The WPRF suit concerns a river, but in principle it concerns all forms of recreation on public lands. So it concerns us all. You would be doing yourself a favor by sending your donation to: Wilderness Public Rights Fund, P.O.Box 308, Orinda, California 94563.

For further information, contact Mike Omana at 485-8783 or Dan Thomas at 272-6435.

A P P L I C A T I O N   F O R   M E M B E R S H I P

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NAME (Print) \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

Name of spouse (only if spouse wants membership also) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

Occupation (Optional) \_\_\_\_\_

I hereby apply for membership in the Wasatch Mountain Club and enclose \$ \_\_\_\_\_ as my annual membership dues for the year \_\_\_\_\_, \$ \_\_\_\_\_ of which is for a subscription to the Rambler for the year and \$4.00 entrance fee. (If joining during January thru August, dues are \$6.00 of which \$5.00 are for a Rambler subscription -- Spouse dues (non-subscribing) are \$3.00 additional. If joining during September thru December, dues are \$3.00 of which \$2.50 are for a Rambler subscription -- Spouse dues (non-subscribing) are \$1.50 additional. Add \$4.00 entrance fee to each application, single or couple. Subscriptions are not deductible from dues. I (do) (do not) desire to receive the Rambler.

I have attended two Club activities in the past 12 months as required for membership such as hikes, ski tours, camping trips, rock-hound trips or work parties and have been recommended by two trip leaders who are Club members. Events such as lodge parties, winter socials, lectures, meetings, etc. are not activities qualifying for membership. I agree to abide by all the rules and regulations of the Club as specified in the Constitution and Bylaws as determined by the Board of Directors.

I am specifically interested in the items checked below:

Hiking \_\_\_\_\_ Ski Touring \_\_\_\_\_ Boating \_\_\_\_\_ Mountaineering \_\_\_\_\_ Cycling \_\_\_\_\_

Conservation \_\_\_\_\_ Writing and Editing \_\_\_\_\_ Organizing social activities \_\_\_\_\_

Lodge Work \_\_\_\_\_ Photography \_\_\_\_\_ Other \_\_\_\_\_

CLUB ACTIVITIES ATTENDED:

1. _____	Date _____	Signature of recommending Trip Leader _____
2. _____	Date _____	Trip Leader _____

(Note: The signature of a Director may be substituted for one Trip Leader.)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Applicant

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**Vol. 54, Issue 1 (1977)**

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