

WASATCH MOUNTAIN CLUB

The Rambler

Vol. 57, No. 12, December, 1980

Wasatch Mountain Club

Persons wishing to become members of the Wasatch Mountain Club should request, either by telephone or in writing, an application form from the Club's Membership Director. Upon such notification, prospective members will receive free two consecutive issues of the Club's Schedule of Activities and a full application form with instructions for joining. Dues are as follows: \$10.00 Regular (single), \$15.00 Spouse (double) and a \$5.00 initiation fee.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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The Rambler

(USPS 053-410)

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Deadline for THE RAMBLER is the 15th of each month.

TYPE (double space) your articles and schedules, indicate your name and phone number on your articles, prints, etc., and mail to (or drop by):

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

This publication is not forwarded by the Post Office. Changes of address, and other direct correspondence regarding the mailing of THE RAMBLER should be directed to the Membership Director.

WASATCH MOUNTAIN CLUB
ATTENTION--RAMBLER EDITOR
3155 Highland Drive
Salt Lake City, UT 84106

JOHN MASON, Managing Editor

THANKS....to Lois Shipway, Dale Green, and Alexis Kelner.

Club Activities — December 1980

Ski Touring, General Comments

- Call 942-4059 for avalanche information.
 - Club equipment--probes, may be borrowed from John Riley, 3639 Palisades Dr., 485-2567. Also, a portable toboggan is available.
 - Tour leaders may request you bring shovels, avalanche chords, and pieps as they deem necessary.
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December 6 Saturday	WHITE PINE SKI TOUR. MoD. Go up and find the powder with Joe Hall. Call to register at 561-4029.
December 7 Sunday	ONTARIO CANYON SKI TOUR. NTD. Ski with the intrepid leader Lyman Lewis on his home turf. Meet at the Park City Golf Course Club-house at 9:00 a.m. Leader Lyman Lewis, 1/649-9632.
December 13 Saturday	GREENS BASIN. NTD-MoD. Meet leader Wick Miller, 583-5160, at 8:30 a.m. at the mouth of Big Cottonwood Canyon.
December 14 Sunday	CATHERINE PASS FROM BRIGHTON. Rating 2,2 MoD. Call leader Al Wickham at 272-7996 to register.
December 14 Sunday	SNAKE CREEK PASS SNOWSHOE TOUR. Meet leader Joyce Sohler, 272-2624, at the mouth of Big Cottonwood Canyon at 9:30 a.m.
Dec. 19-21 Fri.-Sun.	LODGE AVAILABLE FOR MEMBER USE. Please call the lodge director ahead of time.
December 20 Saturday	WOLVERINE CIRQUE. Rating 2,2 MoD. Meet leader Oscar Robison, 943-8500, at the mouth of Big Cottonwood Canyon at 9:00 a.m.
December 20 Saturday 7:00 p.m.	ANNUAL CHRISTMAS BASH AT THE LODGE. Please bring a favorite holiday food for the buffet. There will be live music, a tree to decorate, carols to sing, superb food, and many friends. Refreshments available. \$5 with reservations and \$6 at the door. Phone 943-7231 to register.
December 21 Sunday	LAKE SOLITUDE. Rating 1,2 NTD. Meet leader Mike Hendrickson, 942-1476, at the mouth of Big Cottonwood Canyon at 8:30 a.m.
Dec. 24-28 Wed.-Sun.	LODGE WILL BE AVAILABLE FOR MEMBERS. A person must host the lodge. Contact the lodge director for information.

Cover: UMC cavers visiting Goshute Cave. Photo by Craig Olsen.

- December 27
Saturday
DESOLATION LAKE SNOWSHOE TOUR. Rating MoD. Meet leader Trudy Healy, 943-2290, at the mouth of Big Cottonwood Canyon at 9:00 a.m.
- December 28
Sunday
RED PINE LAKE - PARK WEST. Rating 2,2 MoD. This is the site of a proposed ski lift. Meet leader Lyman Lewis, 1/649-9632, at the entrance to Park West at 9:00 a.m. Car pool east side of Parley's Way K-Mart before 8:30 a.m. departure time.
- December 31-
January 2
Wed.-Fri.
LODGE NEW YEAR'S EVE PARTY. The lodge will be available to club members for the New Year's Eve weeknights. For arrangements, contact Bob Myers, 363-0667. There will be a BYOB party Wednesday night with plans for a pot luck buffet and refreshments. Please call to register.
- January 1
New Year's
Thursday
January 3
Saturday
DOG LAKE VIA MILL D. Rating 2,2 MoD. Meet leader Clay Benton, 277-2144, at the mouth of Big Cottonwood Canyon at 1:00 p.m.
- January 4
Sunday
RED PINE LAKE. Rating 3, 2 MoD. Meet leader Dick Leining, 583-1616, at the mouth of Big Cottonwood Canyon at 8:30 a.m.
- January 4
Sunday
ADVANCED TOUR. Leader's choice. Rating MsD. Register with leader Milt Hollander, 277-1416.
- January 4
Sunday
CATHERINE PASS SNOWSHOE TOUR. Rating MoD. Meet leader Elmer Boyd, 969-7814, at the mouth of Big Cottonwood Canyon at 9:00 a.m.
- January 4
Sunday
MILL F TO SCOTT'S PASS. Rating 2,2 MoD. Leader Norm Fish, 487-0937. Meet at 8:30 a.m. at the mouth of Big Cottonwood Canyon.
- January 10
Saturday
ICE CLIMBING SEMINAR. As John Gottman's leading protege, Joe Hall will take over the instruction of the club Ice Climbing Course. The course is designed to teach the fundamentals of ice climbing. The day will start with an indoor session at Joe's house, 1001 East 970 South in Sandy (that's about 9100 South 500 East for those who orient by Salt Lake City street notation). The group will then go up to Little Cottonwood Canyon for a field session. To register, call Joe Hall at 561-4029.
- January 17
Saturday
NOMINATIONS BANQUET. Details will appear in the January Rambler.

Hiking Comments

By John Riley, Hiking Director

As the 1980 hiking season ends, I wish to thank the members of the Hiking Committee for their help and support throughout the year. They are Elmer Boyd, Lyman Lewis, John Veranth and Neff Walker.

We hope the hiking program has been satisfactory, knowing well that there were times when it could have been improved. If you have any suggestions for improvement or other comments, please contact Hiking Director, WMC, c/o Timberline Sports, or call me at 485-2567. Your suggestions will be considered for next year's program.

Notes

It's Winter Social time again. We need people willing to host these happenings. Open dates are January 11 and 25, February 8, March 1, 15 and 29. Call Dorothy or Ruth at 943-7231.

Volleyball will continue through the winter on Tuesday nights from 7-9 p.m. at the East High School Girls' Gym. For information call Pat Harvey, 583-5452, or Steve Summers, 484-9022.

A name was inadvertently left out of the membership list last month (a computer error, no doubt):

Susan Giddings
1425 Perry Ave.
SLC, UT 84103
521-9496

Deseret Peak

By Leigh Brown October 4, 1980

Dawn was clear and cold for eight hardy travelers who gathered together for a trek to Deseret Peak in the Stansbury Range in western Utah. The rosy dawn promised a beautiful, clear day to accompany the climb. Soon the party stretched out, as each member set his own pace along the first leg to the saddle of the ridge. A pale moon, autumn colors, sudden dips and rises into pine groves, birds: a mosaic of delights to the senses. At the saddle, everyone took a short rest and then we set off for the summit, a half hour away. The last ridge, the last few feet, one by one we all scrambled up to sit and gaze at deep blue sky, to contemplate purple-blue ranges, to imagine what lies deep in the misty horizon. This writer is overcome by the sharpness of vision. No wind. Silence. Each of us reacts in his own way: some in silence, in touch, in speech, to express his feelings. Overhead a hawk dives and sweeps the summit. Is he mocking us with his ease of flight or is he glad to see other creatures high in his domain? Enough. After lunch and a brief huddle, the group splits up; five are to take the loop trail and three of us arrive at the rendezvous point earlier and wait by the stream, watching birds drink. Golden colors and silence. Later, we learn the lucky five have discovered a meadow and heaps of wild currants. A very pleasant digression. Sadly, we make our way back to Salt Lake City and city life, but with a memory of a high mountain dream.

Participants: (Bird Watchers) Paul Rubinfeld, Leigh Brown, and Earl Cook, Leader; (Currant Eaters) Larry Vanderplas, Martin Schweiger, Jim Mallon, Steve Negler, and Ilka Allers.

Avalanche Forecasting Program

The Utah Avalanche Forecast Center is a cooperative venture between the National Weather Service and the U.S.D.A. Forest Service. The objective of the program is to provide the general public with accurate mountain weather forecasts and related avalanche advisories. This information is primarily aimed at recreational users such as cross-country skiers and snowmobilers traveling outside of developed areas. Additional users may include developed ski areas, the Utah Department of Transportation, mining interests, the Utah Highway Patrol, various Sheriff's offices, and search and rescue groups.

Mountain weather forecasts and the Wasatch avalanche advisory will be based on information received from a number of mountain weather sites. At each site an observer takes twice daily readings of weather, snow, and avalanche conditions. This information is phoned into the Avalanche Forecast Center located in the National Weather Service Forecasting Office at Salt Lake International Airport. Accurate meteorological information and observer data evaluation are combined to facilitate weather avalanche synopsis and advisory. Full telephone facilities with multi-line announcement capabilities, teletype communications, and quick computer access allow prompt dissemination of the weather avalanche advisory. The observer network and public information service is operational during the avalanche season from November through May.

Each avalanche forecast and stability evaluation begins with the first snowfall of winter. The demonstrated picture of avalanche forecasting is the timely accumulation of data that leads to reliable knowledge about snow cover stability. Continuity is essential, for each day's stability estimate builds incrementally from that of the previous day. Continuous tracking of weather, snow, and avalanche conditions as they evolve is necessary so that each data event contributes to a clearer picture of relative stability. The overall strategy is to minimize the uncertainty introduced by each daily increment of change in snow and weather conditions.

Arriving at a reliable weather avalanche advisory is a team effort combining accurate weather information and field observations with knowledgeable interpretation. Considerable clinical training in snow pit analysis and fracture line profiles is necessary to establish rapport and confidence between observers and forecasters. Since the forecaster must see the total picture through the eyes of an observer, observers and forecasters must agree on what they are seeing.

Following are specific features of the Utah Avalanche Forecast program:

Forecasts are issued twice daily (7-8:00 a.m. and 3-4 p.m.), or more often as required, seven days a week, by USFS weather avalanche forecasters for the northern Wasatch Mountains between the Utah/Idaho border and Provo Canyon. Daily forecasts will be for the day of the forecast, the following night, and the next day with a special avalanche outlook for Sunday issued with the Friday forecast. The avalanche forecasts will give current and expected hazards. Avalanche hazard classifications and definitions used in the avalanche project are:

Low Avalanche Hazard - Mostly stable snow exists and avalanches are unlikely except in isolated pockets on steep snow-covered open slopes and gullies.

Back country travel is generally safe.

Moderate Avalanche Hazard - Areas of unstable snow exist and avalanches are possible on steep snow-covered open slopes and gullies. Back country travelers should use caution.

High Avalanche Hazard - Mostly unstable snow exists and avalanches are likely on steep snow-covered open slopes and gullies. Back country travel is not recommended.

Extreme Avalanche Hazard - Widespread areas of unstable snow exist and avalanches are certain on steep snow-covered slopes and gullies. Large destructive avalanches are possible. Back country travel should be avoided.

An informational weather avalanche synopsis describing the general snowpack and weather parameters producing the forecast avalanche hazards will be available upon request.

An avalanche warning will be in effect for a specific zone when the hazard for that zone becomes high or extreme.

USFS weather avalanche forecasters will be based at the Salt Lake City National Weather Service office at the Airport Executive Terminal, 337 North 2370 West, Salt Lake City 84116. Phone for administrative use is 364-3214.

Avalanche forecasts will be distributed from the National Weather Service offices via VHF broadcast, local loop/NOAA Weather Wire for Utah and through a Forest Service phone recording at 942-4059. The VHF broadcast will contain a brief summary of the current avalanche forecast, while the local loop and phone recording will contain detailed avalanche forecasts including synopsis, hazard definitions and occasional safety tips. Daily forecasts also will be carried by local newspapers in the weather section of the paper.

Twice daily avalanche forecasts will generally be available from approximately November 15 to May 15, depending on early and late season snow and weather conditions.

Further information regarding the Forest Service Avalanche forecasting program is available through the Forest Service public information office in Salt Lake City, 801/524-5030.

Back country travelers should be aware that even during periods of high to extreme hazard, there are avalanche-safe areas in the mountains. Contact your local ranger district for further information.



President's Column

By Mike Treshow

Some very important issues have come up this month. On a negative note, your board was shocked, appalled, stunned and worse to learn that there are still a few members among us who lack an outdoor ethic or moral considerations for others. The seriousness depends on your personal views. There are still those who deposit candy wrappers, cans, baggies, and orange peelings whenever the contents are consumed. Far grosser though was the individual who, over the protests of his companions, continued to wash his hair in the only decent water source. A less gross, perhaps, but more constant problem of ethics concerns those who sign up for trips and then change their minds. This may be acceptable for airline reservations, but for a club trip it imposes a tremendous inconvenience on the leader. So much so that it is becoming increasingly difficult to get trip leaders. Fortunately the WMC is blessed with fewer slobs than many groups, but let's try for none.

One more crucial note: Upkeep costs of the Lodge including fuel, insurance, etc. have increased along with everything else. To keep pace with this, and to keep the lodge in good shape, your Board would like to reaffirm a policy established some time ago. This is that members be charged a \$1.00 use fee for participating in lodge activities (other than work parties, of course). The fee is usually part of the cost of parties, etc.

On a happier note, the 1981 Nomination Committee has been appointed. If you're called upon to run for office, we hope you'll welcome the honor. Nominees will be announced in the January Rambler.

Found

At the Halloween party:

A blue storm coat.

Rubber boots.

Cigarette lighter and leather case.

White suspenders.

Contact Bob Myers, 363-0667.

At the River Runners party:

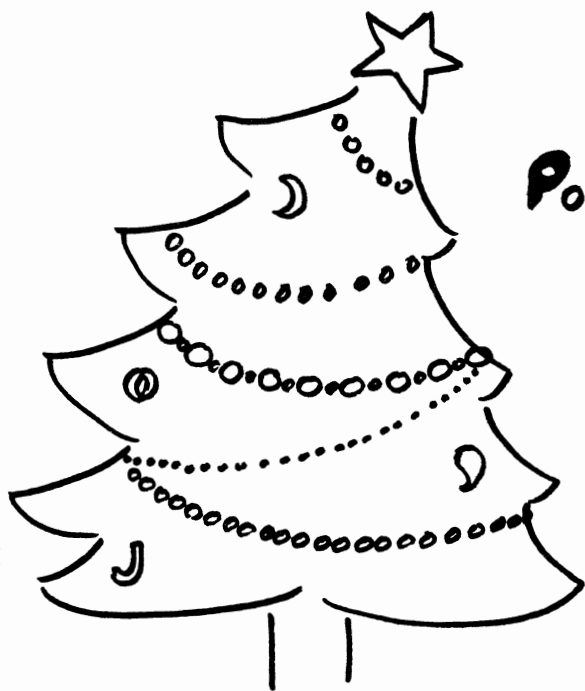
A box of slides.

Contact John Mason, 942-5033.

ANNUAL CHRISTMAS BASH



Dec. 20 7pm Lodge



Live Music

Pot Luck Buffet

Reservations \$5

943-7231



Kayaking

By Debbie Carlson

Even though skiing has barely started, now is the time for anyone interested in kayaking to plan for next summer. Many people have mentioned that they would like to begin kayaking this year. The optimal learning method is the Elementary Kayaking class offered winter quarter at the University of Utah. Gary Nichols is a good instructor and the University can provide equipment that the Club cannot.

Registration for the class is available through the Division of Continuing Education, University of Utah, Room 1180 Annex (Room 1180 is in the eastern end of the Annex building; the Annex is east of the Special Events Center). Registration will begin December 2 and continue to December 15, 8:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. You may register by mail or in person, but the class fills early, so the sooner the better! The fee is \$65 if the class is taken for credit (1 hour), or \$40 for noncredit, plus a mandatory \$15 fee for the pool and equipment. The class meets once a week: Tuesday 6-8:00 p.m.; Tuesday 8-10:00 p.m.; or Thursday 6-8:00 p.m. Winter quarter begins January 5 and ends March 13.

Although it seems early to be thinking of boating, kayaking is rarely a sport that is learned overnight, and beginners will benefit greatly from this early start. The club will have pool practice in the spring, but this is late for people whose objective is kayaking this summer to be climbing into boats for the first time. With the basics instilled in your body and brain the pool practices will enhance what you have learned and provide a warm-up for the boating months ahead.

From the Lodge Director

By Bob Meyers

December brings us Christmas and the New Year. On several particular occasions this month members may use the Lodge for a small nominal fee. The Lodge Christmas Party will be on December 20. Also the Lodge will be available for a responsible person to host member use from December 24 through December 28, and again from December 31 to January 2. This is a good season to be at the Lodge. Any person who would like to do something at the Lodge on the Christmas weekend should contact Bob Meyers, the Lodge director, or Dorothy Holland, the social director.

The club weekend for January will be either January 9-11 or January 16-18, host's choice. This date will be confirmed next month. If you wish to host the Lodge one of those weekends (take your choice), please contact me.

SKIING IN UTAH

A History/Alexis Kelner



EVERYTHING
YOU'VE EVER WANTED TO FIND OUT
ABOUT UTAH SKIING, BUT DIDN'T HAVE THE TIME TO!

"SKIING IN UTAH—A History" by Alexis Kelner.

256 pages, 207 historical and contemporary photographs and
illustrations, 7.25 x 10.5 inches, soft cover, \$8.95.

Available Dec. 4 at your favorite Utah bookstore or sporting goods dealer

Contents

Wasatch Walkers

Skis and mining. Early recreational skiers. The Wasatch Mountain Club. Parley's Summit. Ski clubs and the first ski patrols. Utah Ski and Mountain Corps. Langlaufs. The ski huts.

The Ski Riders

Utah's first jumping competitions. Becker Hill. Ecker Hill. Professional jumping. Amateurism versus professionalism.

A Constant Struggle

Avalanches at Alta. The first Snow Ranger. Montgomery M. Atwater. E. R. LaChapelle. The first artillery. Avalanche schools. The winter of '64-'65.

"Romantic" Alta

Alta during the 1850's. Enter the Army. Alta as a community. Enter the speculators. Transportation. George H. Watson. The first ski lift. The "para-ski troops." Alta as a community—again!

Brighton's Canyon

Brigham Young. William Brighton. The hotels at Brighton's. The first skiers. CCC, WPA, and USFS. Early canyon management philosophy. The new "El Dorado." "Alpine Prospects or Telemarks?" The "Brighton Philosophy."

Saga of Solitude

Thinking Big. "Cooperation." Villain, judge, jury, and executioner. Waiting for the courts to close them. "Solitude II." Good intentions. Demise. "News, News, News..."

The Skiers' Mecca

Birth of Park City. Trial by fire. Recreational skiers. Ski trains. "Good American Dinero." Deer Valley. Iron Mountain. "Another Aspen." Chicken livers and smoked oysters. "It's a mess!" "Good Morning!"

Suddenly Snowbird

"Greetings from Snowbird." Hand in glove. Richard D. Bass. The "real environmental issues." Social consciousness. Zoning and regulation. An "ideal balance." Mountain management. The Snowbird legacy.



WASATCH MOUNTAIN CLUB
3155 HIGHLAND DRIVE
SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH 84106

SECOND CLASS
POSTAGE PAID
AT SALT LAKE
CITY, UTAH.
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