

RANDONNEWS

Published by Randonnée Aventure
Montreal's Friendly Outdoor Club

Spring 1992





recycled paper

Randonnée Aventure Executive

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Hiking Administrator	Maida Haltrecht
Trail Maintenance Coordinator	Margaret Robertson
Social Director	Sam Allison
Skiing Director	Gail Tedstone
Skiing Administrator	Pat Zebel
Volunteer Coordinator	Betty MacNaughton

Randonnée Aventure, founded in 1985, is a non-profit year-round outdoor club for adults, with about 400 members.

Randonnée Aventure offers:

- Saturday and some Sunday bus trips to prime cycling, hiking and cross-country skiing destinations within a 2-hour drive from Montreal. Trips are designed to accommodate all levels – from beginner to expert.
- Long weekend getaways.
- Frequent social events such as picnics, barbecues and parties.
- And more...

Randonnée Aventure
P.O.Box 1102, Snowdon
Montreal, Quebec H3X 3Y2
489-0339

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Editor Tim Skene
Assistant Editor **vacant**
Typing..... Karen Findlay, Bill McLean
Photography Gerry Bard, Jim Mullet, Monika Malecka

Other contributors:

Sam Allison	Mike De Tracey	Karen Findlay
Susan Harris	Jola Kuzmicka	Monika Malecka
Margaret Robertson	Gail Tedstone	Colleen Wilford

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Send contributions to:
Tim Skene
4843 Jeanne-Mance
Montreal, H2V 4J6

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

The Winter Olympics took place this year in Albertville, France with the world's best athletes pushing themselves to their maximum to win the coveted medals. To achieve one's highest potential is not simply a goal for the serious athlete, but a true and important target for us all.

My limits have been stretched as never before in attempting to fulfil my duties as President of Randonnée Aventure during the past two years. Before, I would have said "That's impossible for me to do - I don't know how, I simply can't do it." But with the encouragement and enthusiasm of my Randonnée friends I have learned instead to say "Well, I'll work at it and give it a try". Like magic, one's limits seem to expand with every attempt to touch them.

Alone, however, one cannot accomplish half as much as with a little help from one's friends. There are so many people to thank for all of their kindness and generosity during the past two

years in which I have served as President of RA. The other three directors have provided countless hours of assistance; those who have faithfully attended the monthly Executive Meetings and cheerfully completed the many tasks at hand receive a great round of applause from me; to those on whom I have relied for advice, I thank you; to those whose ears are somewhat misshapen due to my chattering, I apologize and thank you for listening; to the many of you who have passed along your words of praise, I can only say I could never have done this alone, and any achievements were reached in conjunction with many RA friends.

To the next President of RA I pass the flame; the flame of love nurtured by the people of RA. May you bask in its warmth and glow in its light as I have over the past two years. Thank you all.

Susan Harris



A WORD FROM THE EDITOR

This is now the second year of my editorship of Randonnews, and I'm beginning to get the hang of it. The transition to electronic publishing is well under way, and everyone seems to like the way things look. Now, I can't imagine ever going back to the old typewriters and glue pots of the past.

We have some interesting stories this issue: Sam Allison recounts his spirited treks through Scotland, and Jola Kuzmicka is back with another Randonnée Portrait - this time of RA's outgoing president, Susan Harris.

Over this coming summer, you will doubtlessly have some entertaining travels or experiences. Why not retell them in

writing, so all of RA can see what a worldly adventurer you are. If you carry a camera, keep us in mind when you snap some majestic scenery or that charging rhinoceros. All photos will be returned to you afterwards.

Don't forget the Classy Ads, for extra knapsacks or other related gear, and if you would like to help out with the Randonnews, let us know. The deadline for the Fall issue is September 14, so start thinking now about what you might like to contribute.

Tim Skene

Notice to Members

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Notice is hereby given that the Annual General Meeting of Members of Randonnée Aventure will be held at Thomson House, 3650 McTavish Street, Montréal, Québec on Saturday, April 4, 1992 at 8:00 p.m. for the following purposes:

- 1) To receive the unaudited financial statements of the Club for the fiscal year ended December 31, 1991;
- 2) To elect the Board of Directors for the following year;
- 3) To resolve not to appoint auditors for the following year;
- 4) To transact any other business which may properly come before the meeting.

Dated this 14th day of March, 1992
BY ORDER OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS
THE SECRETARY

According to the by-laws of RA, the four members of the Board of Directors are nominated and voted in by the membership at the Annual General Meeting.

NOMINATIONS RECEIVED TO DATE FOR THE POSITIONS OF DIRECTOR:

Hélène Millas	Vacant
Jack Melnick	Vacant

Monthly meetings of the Executive Committee, as well as the four other Committees, i.e. Hiking, Cycling, Skiing and Social, are open to all Club members. You are encouraged to participate and attend any of these meetings. The monthly Executive Meetings are held at the N.D.G. YMCA, 4335 Hampton Avenue, N.D.G. at 7:00 pm. For information on the locations of the other monthly meetings, call the Club tape at 489-0339 and ask for details of date, time and place.

THE MEMBERS LISTED BELOW HAVE STATED THEIR WILLINGNESS TO SERVE THE CLUB FOR ONE YEAR IN THE FOLLOWING POSITIONS :

President	Vacant
Vice-President, Operations	Vacant
Vice-President, Administration	Hélène Millas
Treasurer	Jack Melnick
Assistant Treasurer	Mike Serniuk
Registrar	Margaret Robertson
Assistant Registrar	Vacant
Legal Advisor	Robert Fyfe
Recording Secretary	Carole Laflamme
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Hiking Director	Andrew Byrne
Hiking Administrator	Maida Haltrecht
Trail Maintenance Coordinator	Colleen Wilford
Cycling Co-Director	Mike De Tracey
Cycling Co-Director	Ray Stevenson
Cycling Administrator	Vacant
Telephone Coordinators	Hélène Millas
	Francine Bélanger
	Veronica Stevens
	Nancy Des Roches
	Maureen Robertson
Volunteer Coordinator	Betty MacNaughton
Skiing Director (91-92)	Gail Tedstone
Skiing Administrator (91-92)	Pat Zebel

RA is its Volunteers

Randonnée Aventure has grown over the past six years as a result of the dedication and hard work of many of you. Over these past months I have enjoyed working with you and sharing in the joy and effort involved in many of our activities: administrative, cycling, hiking, skiing and social. What a great group of people - who help us all to put more into life and to get more out of life each day, the RA way. Special talents and ideas are always welcome, but we also need people to stuff envelopes, man phone lines, hang up decorations and bring goodies to parties, not to mention the day trips and weekends. So a big thank you to each of you who have contributed in so many ways, and I would encourage all of you to offer your assistance in the ongoing activities of Randonnée Aventure this coming year.

Susan Harris

Trip Information

Prices

The cost of cycling trips is \$27, except trips 6 and 9, which are \$30. Hiking trips are \$24, except trip 7 which is \$27. Note that there is a surcharge of \$2 per trip after May 1. Cheques must be dated and received before that date. All cheques must be payable to Randonnée Aventure.

Trip Signup Procedure

To get your first choice of trips, sign up early! Either:
Mail the enclosed registration form to the Club address:
P.O. Box 1102, Snowdon, Montreal, Que. H3X 3Y2

or

Sign up during the **Spring Party & Annual General Meeting** on Saturday, April 4, at 8:00 p.m., McGill Grad Centre, 3650 McTavish. Trip registration ends at 9:30 pm.

or

Come to the **Late-Bird Signup**: at the Atwater Library, corner of Atwater and Tupper St., Monday, April 13, 5 to 8:30 pm. Registrations are welcome after April 13, but **check the Club tape first to see which trips are sold out**.

Selling a Trip during the Season

The Monday to Wednesday prior to the trip, call the tape (489-0339) and leave a message. RA will *not* call you back, but if a buyer is found, a cheque will be mailed to you.

Buying a Trip During the Season

From Monday to Wednesday prior to the trip, call the tape and leave a message. On Friday evening prior to the trip, call back to hear if your name is on the list. If you hear your name, show up with cash (\$29 for cycling, \$26 for hiking) or a cheque payable to "Randonnée Aventure". We do not carry change. If you don't hear your name, you can go the the *last* pick-up spot (Atwater & Tupper for cycling, Atwater & Ste-Catherine for hiking) before 7:45 a.m. with the correct payment, and you stand a good chance of getting on the bus if there are "no-shows".

If you reserve a place by phone, then fail to show up, you will lose the privilege of reserving by phone in the future. RA does not give refunds or exchanges, nor guarantees the resale of any trip.

Identification for the U.S.A. Border

To avoid any problems at the U.S. border please make sure that you have adequate identification. A driver's licence or credit card are not necessarily sufficient; a passport, citizenship card or birth certificate are the best form of identification.

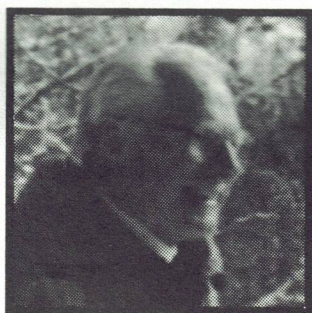
Visitors to Canada must have a **VALID VISA** and their passports in order to be admitted to the U.S. Last year people without proper identification were left at the border for the day. If in doubt, call the U.S. consulate beforehand.

IN MEMORIAM

Paul R. Waymann

Randonnée Aventure lost a cherished friend on February 11 when Paul Waymann died tragically in a train accident. Just two days before, we had shared his pride upon receiving a Silver Tips Award in the Canadian Ski Marathon. This was a first for him after many years in this event. Paul exemplified the Marathon spirit as a participant and a volunteer. Our veteran skier, he inspired our whole Maxi-Team with his youthful exuberance. In typical Paul fashion he was among the first to volunteer to clear the CSM trail last fall. We will remember him as we ski "our sections" in years to come.

Paul brought the same enthusiasm and generosity to his hiking endeavours. Among his treasured



accomplishments was the conquest of Mount Washington, despite a blizzard in the last third of the trek. He climbed other peaks with RA as well, and sloshed through snow and mud doing maintenance on the Long Trail.

We will miss Paul dearly, and are thankful that our lives have been touched by his presence among us. Our sympathies go out to Lorna and their children.

Betsy Mahabir

Betsy, a longstanding member of the Montreal Outing Club and Randonnée Aventure, died in October after a short illness. She will be fondly remembered by those who shared in the outdoor activities she loved so much. Our condolences to Hugh.

The Director Reports

This season was full of surprises for our intrepid skiers. We wondered if we would ever end up where we had planned to go! The motto was "follow the snow" and we found plenty of it. There was something for all tastes at most centres: groomed trails and challenging trail breaking. Many skiers surpassed their expectations in kilometres skied and hills climbed. Others wondered if they would flounder forever in the deep snow!

Early season trips sold out quickly, but registration for later outings remained a little spotty. Marathon training motivates a core group to come out often. Perhaps next year we will find a late season event as well to keep in shape for. Preregistration is important, since to break even our buses must have most seats filled. Walk-ons are welcome but are not a guarantee. Members with confirmed phone-in registrations who did not show up were an inconvenience, as those who were not confirmed missed a chance to come. We have instituted a policy in response to this issue which we hope will solve the problem.

As this goes to press 16 skiers are looking forward to a "Wilderness Weekend". This is an occasion to ski with a full pack to the relative luxury of a warm cabin in the woods, enjoy a communal dinner and fun and games together. The destination is Réserve Mastigouche. Not even torrential rain could mar our pleasure last year. However, we hope for better weather this year.

The season was a success because of the efforts of many volunteers on the Ski Committee and trip leaders and assistants. Thank you to Betty, Eldeen, Monika, Maida, Esther, Lucie, Richard, Susan, Gerry, Jan, Cathy, Egon, Linda, Phil, Ann Mary, Rick, Don, Ross, Gilbert, Barbara, Raymond, Brian, Wayne, Francine, and Elise. Pat Zebel kept all the numbers straight as Ski Administrator. Together we made it all happen.

Gail Tedstone

The Canadian Ski Marathon the Captain's View

This is the second time that Randonnée Adventure has participated as a group in the Canadian Ski Marathon. Our Maxi-team has grown to 30 in number and included: Paul Ahlgren, Jill Aspinall, Tom Baldwin, ^{HERB} Gerry Bard, Arthur Baylis, Georgia and Alyson Carpenter, Ingrid Corbould, Mike de Tracey, Karen Findlay, Vivien Freedman, Robert Fyfe, ^{GAIL'S} Susan Harris, Kate Harbert, Catherine Haskins, Brenda Hunter, Rosemary Koula, ^{GAIL'S} Monika Malecka, Joseph Mel, ^{HERB} Jack Melnick, ^{GAIL'S} Jim Mullett, Betty MacNaughton, Diane

Rothberg, Don Salmon, ^{HERB} Herb Srolowitz, Rex Tallentire, John Tomasik, Wayne Waters, Paul Waymann and Colleen Wilford. Much to our surprise and delight, Ian Deakin and Jim Wilson also were winners of a CJAD radio contest. Twelve of the group were entering for the first time, and Cathy Ladanowski and Jan Wilk made their first attempts as Coureur de bois. ^{GAIL'S} Gail Tedstone and Ray Cox skied in the same category.

Conditions were totally different from last year. On Saturday, warm temperatures and fresh, deep snow slowed most of us down. Very few reached the check-in point before the cut-off time. The following day, a brutal drop in temperature to -22 C and vicious winds considerably curtailed our ambitions. A wind chill factor of -47 C made wide open fields feel like an Arctic trek. As we reached the second checkpoint, we were examined for frostbite, fed warm soup and directed into a warm bus. Many of us called it quits then and there!

A few hardy souls made it to the end of infamous section 8, and only a few Randonnée'ers earned awards—bronzes for Gerry Bard, Vivien Freedman, Robert Fyfe, Joseph Mel, Jim Mullett, Wayne Waters and Colleen Wilford.

Paul Waymann earned the Silver Tip Award, given to skiers 65 and over who complete four sections or more. He participated in numerous marathons and joined us for the Sunday night banquet with his wife Lorna. We were shocked to hear about his death two days later on the Via Rail train. We will all miss him.

This year, some of us more decadent Randonnée'ers decided to do it in style. We stayed at Chateau Montebello, enjoying two hearty breakfasts and two delicious dinners. We made use of the jacuzzi to restore our tired muscles, and slept in a quiet and peaceful environment. We did not miss the loudspeakers in the dorm in Papineauville. (Apparently there were no 4 am announcements this year!)

Our participation in the CSM is no longer limited to skiing. For the first time, the club's involvement included trail maintenance. We worked three full days last November, sending teams to clear brush, cut branches and hang blazes along section 2. Gerry Bard, our liaison with the CSM, keeps in touch with Charles Spencer, the Marathon president, organizes work crews, and distributes publicity for the Montreal area.

We had hopes of improving last year's records and of increasing the number of medals earned. Although we were defeated by the elements, we still feel proud of what we did accomplish in view of the extreme weather conditions. We estimate that we skied 110 sections; and will know for sure once all the bibs have been submitted to the CSM.

To conclude, I wish to thank Gail for her encouragement and guidance, and Karen and Mike for their help.

Monika Malecka

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Our diligent Canadian Ski Marathon Trail Maintenance Crew takes a camera break.

l to r: Paul Wayman, Susan Harris, Louise Lalibert, Jill Aspinall, Wayne Waters, Elizabeth Mel, Gerry Bard, Monika Malecka.

Hike with Randonnée in '92

Well, this is lucky hiking season No. 7 for Randonnée Aventure. There will be fourteen hikes in our favourite areas of Quebec, the Adirondacks and Green Mountains. The season will start by returning to our late season hike locale in Chertsey and include three Sunday hikes.

Some of the special events planned for the year will be the Outdoor Literacy Workshop (see next page), and the HYCLIST (hike/cycle/swim) picnic. The HYCLIST trip will be to Jay Peak, for those of you that didn't get to the top last year.

This year, two car pool trips are planned for destinations which we cannot get to by bus. These have been scheduled for the adventurous at the end of the season (see below). All the trips will be interesting, but four are not for the faint of heart: Hunger, Mansfield, Camel's Hump and Hurricane.

Late Season Car Pools

If getting to out-of-the-way places appeals to you, RA has two car pool trips to places we cannot get to by bus. First will be Laraway on October 24, an old Club favourite made inaccessible by deteriorating bridges. The second is Jay Mountain, NY, on November 1 on somewhat unused trails to the peak.

These trips will be for intermediate to advanced hikers. Registration will be limited by the number of cars, so those without should encourage those with to sign up early. Please indicate your interest on the enclosed registration form.

Full details will be in the Summer Randonnotes.

Trip Leaders

A meeting for people who have volunteered, or are interested in leading or assisting with hiking trips is planned for Wednesday, April 29, at 7:30 pm. Check the Club tape the week before to find out the location. The purpose of the meeting is to review procedures and responsibilities of trip leaders and assistants.

Prices

Prices for day trips are \$24, except trip 7, which is \$27, due to the party & goodies supplied by the Club. After May 1, a surcharge of \$2 per trip must be added to all prices.

Remember

Acceptable I.D. (passport, citizenship card, birth certificate) must be carried on all trips to the U.S.

1992 Hiking Trips

No.	Date	Destination
1	May 9	Grande Vallée , Chertsey, PQ Easy to intermediate
2	May 23	Pitchoff/Porter/Cascade , Keene, NY Easy to advanced
3	May 30	Hunger , Waterbury Center, VT Intermediate to advanced
4	June 6	Giant/East Ridge , St. Huberts, NY Easy to advanced
5	June 14 Sunday	Noonmark , St. Huberts, NY Easy to advanced
6	June 20	Brompton/Chauve , Orford, PQ Easy to intermediate
7	July 11	Jay Peak , Montgomery Center, VT Easy to advanced (hike/cycle/swim)
8	Aug. 22	Mansfield/East Side , Stowe, VT Intermediate to advanced
9	Aug. 29	Whiteface/Esther , Wilmington, NY
10	Sept. 13 Sunday	Elephant/Nixon/Vache Noir , Lac Supérieur, PQ Easy to intermediate
11	Sept. 19	Camel's Hump , North Duxbury, VT Intermediate to advanced
12	Sept. 20 Sunday	Adirondak Loj , Lake Placid, NY Easy to advanced
13	Sept. 26	Big Slide , Keene Valley, NY Easy to advanced
14	Oct. 3	Hurricane , Keene, NY Intermediate to advanced

Pick-up Points

T.M.R. Shopping Centre (Lucerne Rd.) 7:15 a.m.
Queen Mary & Decarie (United Cigar Store) 7:30 a.m.
Atwater & St. Catherine (McDonald's) 7:45 a.m.

Trail Maintenance - 1992

The Long Trail Continues...

Looking back over my shoulder I can see the winding trail, clipped and shorn to reveal a beautiful clean pathway. What a wonderful feeling of satisfaction to see that cleared trail. At times it seems the "battle" to clear this path is far too one-sided. Nature has all the cards in the deck. But after awhile you realize this really is not a battle—rather a gesture of appreciation to "give back" to Nature and the outdoors after all it has given you.

What do you say? You too can learn the words "water bar" and "swizzle" are not pub jargon! No prior knowledge is needed, just strong, able bodies. You saw us perhaps during the end of the Tillotson hike - the "meanies" digging, hacking, thwacking away to make our ten miles of the beautiful Vermont Long Trail passable. In October, we rerouted the section near Tillotson Camp to allow a momentary symbiotic relationship with those indefatigable beavers. Beaver condos thrive here but it's the lake in the middle of the trail that got a bit much! The trail now takes a new dry "dip" just past the camp. And thanks to Derek, we now have a cleared route up to the top of Tillotson. We'll have to wait for a clear spring day to see what the view will be like.

Also, Gerry organized the RA trail crew to clear C.P. 1 and 2 of the Canadian Ski Marathon. For all of us who skied these sections, well done! Not a single wayward branch or overgrown root marred the track.

How do the weekends work? We go to Montgomery, Vermont (near Jay Peak) via car pool and stay indoors at Rolf's beautiful lodge or across the street at Walt's bed and breakfast. The cost is very low and depends on the number of "meanies" in the group. Become an RA trail maintenance member and meet the team, including: Sue Harris, Gerry Bard, Hélène Millas, Betty MacNaughton, Al Feider, Ian Deakin, Diana MacDougall, Maureen Robertson, Margaret Robertson, Lech Mikisko, Raye Cambria or Derek Wisdom (my apologies for any omissions).

Challenges abound in maintaining the lovely trail. Ask any of us and we will be happy to share our experiences and hope you will be there too. More specific info is in this Randonnews and on the registration form. Help us out—you won't be disappointed—and you might just find a little inner pride as you too, look back over your shoulder and feel part of the team that clears trail!

Colleen "Meanie" Wilford

Outdoor Literacy

A Hiking Skills Workshop for All

Wednesday, May 6
McGill Grad Centre (Thompson House)
3650 McTavish

Randonnée Aventure presents a hands-on workshop for everyone interested in improving and developing their skills and confidence in enjoying the outdoors during the hiking season. Lectures, discussions, and activities will take place on the following topics:

- 1) reading terrain and maps to find your way in the woods
- 2) what to wear and what to pack for a successful and safe hike
- 3) pacing yourself, planning a hiking strategy
- 4) hiker ethics - hiking with others for fun and safety
- 5) basic survival skills for day hikers
- 6) fitness preparation for the hiking season
- 7) books to read for additional information and enjoyment

The outdoor literacy clinic will be from 7 - 10 pm. A cash bar will be available for refreshments. All participants will receive an information kit, including a day hiker's equipment checklist. Ample time will be available to answer questions and deal with special concerns of participants. For further info and to register, please call the RA tape at 489-0339. There is no charge for this event.

Scouting Anyone?

The Hiking Committee is looking for help in scouting new destinations. If you're interested contact the Hiking Committee via the Club phone, or indicate your interest on the registration form. We need all levels of skill, so don't be shy.

Date	Location
Sun. May 10	Mt. Hunger, VT
Sun. May 31	Brompton/Chauve, PQ
Sun. June 13	Elephant/Nixon/Vache Noir, PQ
Sun. Aug. 23	Jay Mountain, NY

Classy Ad

Set of tubular wheels for sale with Campagnola hubs. Call Brian Way at 767-9594 (h), 399-6608 (w).

The Hiking Spirit in Scotland

Last summer, Jim Wilson and I hired a car and went hiking and sightseeing in Scotland. The trails were great, the people friendly, the food plentiful and the weather held out - as did the whiskey.

There are many surprises in Scotland. Recession or no recession, there are plenty of tourists and one has to use the excellent and numerous Tourist Bureaus to find accommodation. Perhaps because of ozone fears, Europeans are travelling to Scotland in record numbers. Yet in the far North the trails are quiet, even deserted

A second surprise to Canadians is the absence of trees. One can see the occasional tree and whiskey distiller from miles away. Hiking is different there, and with the help of laminated maps one plans the route visually. Possibly the nicest hike we took was near the Queen's estate at Balmoral. There are spectacular castles and lochs in the area, yet the trails are beautiful and quiet. The lodge at the start of the Balmoral trail had scale models showing the area with masses of information. This is an intellectual side to Scots hiking we could perhaps copy.

In fact, there are spectacular hiking trails (and spectacular whiskey trails, which I will describe later) throughout this country. Ben Nevis, Britain's highest mountain has what must be some of the finest hiking trails in the world. The Ben Nevis trail was planned by the Royal Engineers and looks like a Roman road in places. The trail climbs totally upwards for 4,406 feet, except for one solitary place where it drops back down at a stream bed for a six-foot descent.

History and connections to Canada are everywhere. Abandoned villages where the people were replaced by sheep and then shipped to Canada are sad. (The sheep were more intelligent and better looking than the people.) Glencoe, where the Campbells massacred the MacDonalds, is especially wild and sad. Jim Wilson's mother was a MacDonald. Since I had to leave a whiskey distillery early to visit Glencoe, Jim and I were both sad that day.

There are all sorts of tourist arrangements for hikers and cyclists, and the shops are now open on Sunday. The people are genuinely helpful and are very aware that tourists bring jobs. At the Glenfiddich whiskey distillery they gave the tours in five languages. Since Jim was driving and the whiskey was free, it wasn't long before I was understanding all five languages with no trouble at all. There are, in fact, several types of planned whiskey trails in Scotland. One can cycle, hike, drive or crawl as the spirit takes you, around a whole series of whiskey tasting trails for free. Free spirit at last!

Consequently, I would recommend Scotland for everyone in our club, whether they be advanced, medium or novice drinkers...sorry, hikers or bikers. Mountain biking is especially good there, given the absence of trees. It costs around \$20 per night for bed and enormous breakfast. A car is about \$200 per week divided by however many share it. Public transport is excellent but expensive. Airfare is approximately \$600 to \$700, so living as we did would cost around \$2000 for a month or \$1500 for two weeks for everything, including almost as much whiskey as one would want.

As my Scots relatives kept reminding me, Scotland has improved enormously since I left.

Sam Allison

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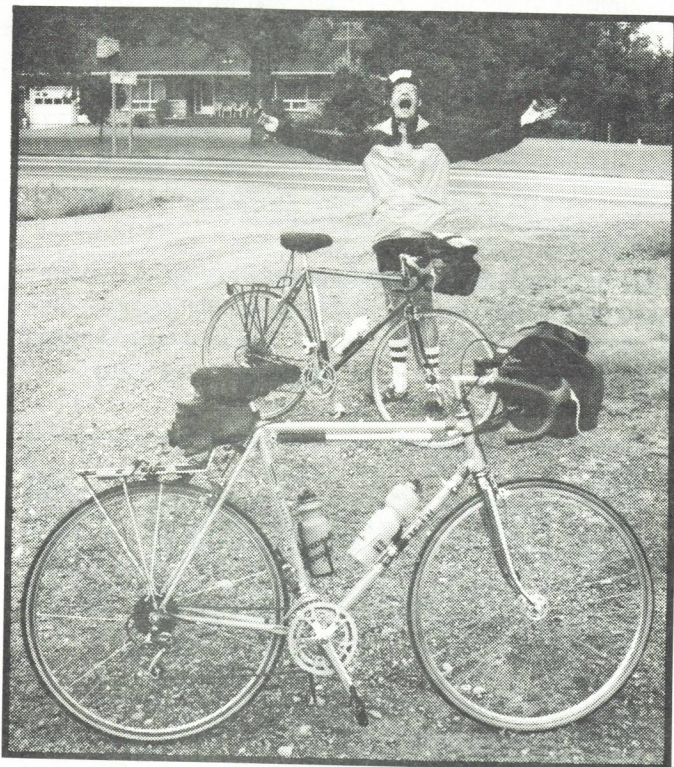
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Presenting...

**The First Randonnée Aventure
Photo Caption Contest**



The above photo of Club cyclist Ross Clarkson needs one thing: a funny caption. Send us your ideas, and if yours is judged the best, you will win a year's membership to RA (worth \$25!).

Entries can contain several suggestions, but they must reach the Club address by May 15, 1992.

The winner and runners up will be announced in this summer's Randonnotes. Members of the executive committee are not eligible, and the decision of the panel of judges will be final.

Send entries to: Ross Speaks...
Randonnée Aventure
P.O. Box 1102, Snowdon
Montreal PQ
H3X 3Y2

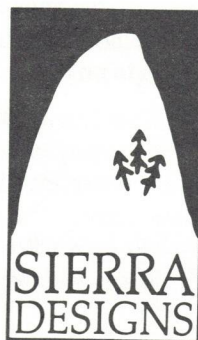


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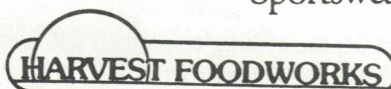
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Cycling With Randonnée

Winter is quickly coming to an end, my cycling friends. Soon we will be putting the skis away and searching for that bike that we were planning to clean at the end of last season, but never really got around to doing. The Cycling season is just around the corner and we want you to be prepared. This year there are 9 exciting trips to places in Vermont, New York state and Quebec. We will return to some old haunts, just because they are so beautiful, and we have found some new places to cycle as well. Yes there will be a Mystery Tour again this year, and no, we don't know where it is. If you really want to find out where we're going, sign up for the trip and join us! We'd love to have you along.

All our trips will be thoroughly scouted by dedicated cycling volunteers. Why not join us on some of our fun, scouting expeditions; all levels of ability will be welcomed. It's a casual, non-competitive atmosphere. Just phone the club number and leave a message for Mike or Ray. One of us will return your call to explain everything you need to know about scouting.

For those who didn't read Randonnotes, we now have a new luxurious bus with all the conveniences of home—a toilet. This is really great news for members who like to "wet their whistle" after a hard day's cycling, in that they can relax knowing that "John" is just down the aisle! We have removed the magazine rack to discourage those who like to read in private.

Our bike trailer holds 40 bikes, but please bear in mind that mountain bikes take up more room, so there may be times when they cannot be accommodated. We have never left a bike behind yet, at least not for the reason mentioned above. The only time a bike is left behind is when the rider shows up without a helmet. **We absolutely will not let anyone on the bus without a cycling helmet!**

If you're new and wonder if our level of cycling is beyond your capabilities, give us a call and we will be more than happy to address your concerns.

We look forward to cycling with you this year. Come out and join in the fun. You will see some of the most scenic areas in this part of the world and share it with some interesting, fun-loving people.

Cycling Director's Orientation Night

On Tuesday, April 21, the cycling committee will host an orientation night at Mike De Tracey's from 7-10 pm for prospective cycling directors and administrators. The session will acquaint you on how to lead or administrate a trip; we hope you will join us and learn what is involved in planning a trip from beginning to end. Please call 488-6664 for more information.

Cycle Clinic 92

Sunday, May 3

Spring will soon be with us and it is time once again to start thinking about your bike. Do I change it in for a new one or do I do what many cyclists have done in the last five or six years, dust it off and ride it over to Randonnée Adventure's Cycle Clinic. Again this year we offer coffee and donuts and helpful mechanics to give you some helpful pointers on bike maintenance. Be prepared to work on the bike yourself. We will help you with whatever bike problems you have, but it will be YOU who will do the actual work. We believe that the only way to learn is to do. We suggest that you wear some old clothes. It is very difficult to wash grease out of your good cycling clothes.

The bike clinic will be held from noon to 4 pm at Western Radiator & Autobody (Jim Mullet's place) on the corner of de Maisonneuve and Harvard in N.D.G. Come along and bring a friend!!



New luxury for RA cyclists!

Day Trip Prices

All trips are \$27 each, except trips 6 & 9 which are \$30. After May 1, a surcharge of \$2 per trip must be added to all prices.

Lost & Found

The last few years have brought us a diverse collection of articles which hikers, cyclers and skiers have left on the bus. If you left something on an RA trip, call the Club number and leave a message; we may have it. All unclaimed items will be disposed of after six months.

1992 Cycling Trips

No.	Date	Destination
1	May 2	Champlain Islands, Vt. Mostly flat terrain through a multitude of islands on the Vermont side of Lake Champlain. A good area to ease you into the cycling season!
2	May 9	Shelburne, Vt. One of Vermont's most scenic cycling areas. This area, just south of Burlington, abounds with beautiful rolling hills. Visits to the Historic Shelburne Farm and Museum and the Shelburne Bakery are "musts".
3	May 30	Morgan, Vt. Join us in a foray into northeastern Vermont, just across the border at the southern tip of Lake Memphramagog with its breathtaking scenery and abundance of lakes.
4	June 13	La Mauricie, Que. Continuing our endless search for new cycling areas we boldly go where no Randonnée Adventure cycling tour has gone before! Let us lead you into the picturesque Lower St. Maurice Valley to sample the delights offered right here in Quebec.
5	June 20	Elizabethtown, N.Y. Three words can sum up this area—majestic, magnificent and breathtaking! Views to the east of Lake Champlain and to the west of the Adirondacks. Come and let yourself be overwhelmed by the panoramas which seem to change around every curve.
6	July 11	Jay Peak, Vt.. Come and spend a day's cycling in a beautiful area topped off with a picnic prepared by Randonnée Volunteers. This trip is special in that we are joined by our hiking partners giving you the opportunity to see how "the other half" lives.

No.	Date	Destination
7	Aug. 30 Sunday	Mystery Tour Can./USA. After the success of last year's inaugural Mystery Tour, place your trust in us once again, if you dare! We are not at liberty to divulge too much information at this stage mainly because we don't have any. The tour may involve a visit to a new area or to a spot we have not visited for a number of years. The format of this tour allows the director to plan a few surprises at his discretion, so those who are prepared to throw caution to the wind will not be disappointed!
8	Sept. 12	Havelock, Que. and the Havelock Country Fair All aboard for a trip into this beautiful area of southwestern Quebec, noted for its orchards and the Havelock Country Fair. This trip should offer us the opportunity to view the fall colours in all their glory and a chance to browse through the fair.
9	Sept. 26	Knowlton, Quebec In a change from the last few years, we are offering our traditional end of season "blast" in the picturesque village of Knowlton. Enjoy a day's cycling in the Eastern Townships, taking in the fall colours and working up a thirst. Then meet up later at a local pub for a well-earned pint or three. Randonnée may even treat you to some of your favourite Sangria!

All trips are on Saturday except no. 7

Pick-up Points

T.M.R. Shopping Centre (Lucerne Rd.) 7:15 a.m.

Queen Mary & Decarie (United Cigar Store) 7:30 a.m.

Atwater & Tupper 7:45 a.m.

Discounts

The following stores offer discounts to RA members. Present your membership card and you can expect 5-15% off the regular price.

Blacks Camping International
3525 Queen Mary Road
739-4451

Dr. Bike
559 Lakeshore Road
631-2198

Boutique Endurance
5922 Sherbrooke W.
481-6218

McWhinnie Cycle Inc.
6010 Sherbrooke W.
481-3113

Peel Cycle
6665 St-Jacques
486-1148

V.B. Cycle Inc.
6344 Victoria Ave.
738-2101

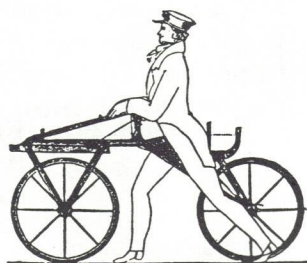
Cascapedia Sports
263B St. Jean Blvd., Pt-Claire
694-6374

Hull Cycling Festival

Avid cyclists may want to mark August 5 to 9 on their calendar, when the Hull cycling Festival takes place this year. Events include:

- International bicycle races
- Provincial mountain bike championship
- A 20 or 40 km participation event in the Gatineau Hills
- Kinex ride of 1 to 5 days through "la belle province", starting in Beaufré and finishing in Hull. Distances will be: 100, 200, 300, 400 or 600 km. The tour can be joined at any stage, but must be completed in Hull (200 km in 2 days). An average speed of 23km/hr will be maintained for the ride.

Information packages can be obtained by phoning 819-595-7373, starting in May.



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Presiding With Style— Susan Harris

It was May 15, 1982, when Susan Harris went on her first hike with the Montreal Adventure Club. Her ensuing ten-year membership in the MAC, and then Randonnée Aventure which replaced the MAC, epitomizes all that can be gained by participating in our club.

For years Susan was just a regular member, avidly taking part in various activities, from day-trips to long weekends to social events. As the friendships that she formed multiplied and her athletic abilities developed, Susan's sense of gratitude towards the club blossomed, so about four years ago she decided to assume organizational responsibilities within RA.

This was a tough decision, because her life was already full. She had completed part-time studies towards her B.A. in English by 1984, but continued to take evening courses which interested her. For quite some time Susan had also been working on church committees and teaching Sunday school. Her highly responsible job as a legal assistant was another factor which limited the amount of time she could spare to help run RA.

In 1988, however, Susan's twinges of conscience and her growing leadership abilities coincided. President Gerry Bard noted her readiness and viewed Susan as a prime candidate to take over his own position. Feeling that RA needed new blood, Gerry invited selected members to a meeting (held at the late Colin Mason's house). Susan volunteered to replace Monika Malecka as Recording Secretary. By the spring, she found herself in the position of Vice-President, Administration. She also joined the hiking committee at that time.

Susan expected that Jan Wilk, V-P Operations and writer of RA's software, would succeed Gerry as president, but Jan was due for a rest. So, with only one year's experience in an executive position, Susan Harris became RA's president in April 1990.

Among Susan's most vivid memories are the orange ribbons marking the trail on her very first hike up Mt. Orford. This could be because her whole group, all first-time hikers (at least in Canada), got lost! After two ribbonless hours, Phil Prince put his compass to the test and led the group to the waiting bus. Susan also fondly remembers the meeting at which Randonnée Aventure as such was formed, where a spirit of enthusiasm, energy and friendliness was present. While not participating in the decision-making herself, she was inspired by the leadership of Joanne Gray, the "flamboyant" Patrick Glorieux and others.

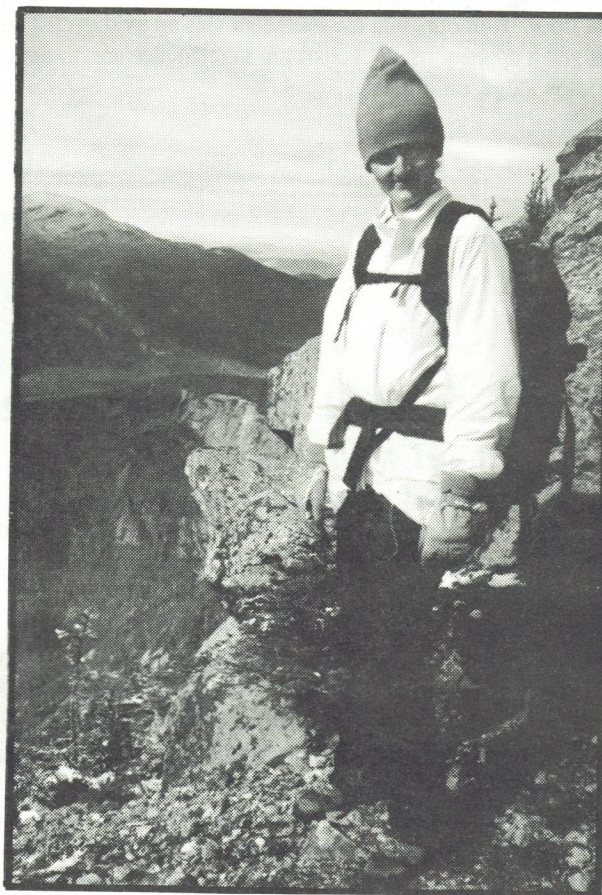
Susan's maturing as a leader is paralleled by the various challenges she has met in the great outdoors. Hiking ever further and higher, she has conquered Mt. Marcy, and spent an entire week back-packing. Mt. Washington was a benchmark that proved to Susan she was capable of making even greater efforts. She has participated in the Canadian Ski Marathon with the club on two occasions, and of course, the annual Rideau Lakes Cycle Tour (two

hundred miles in two days) was a cinch...

Among the qualities most striking about President Susan are her positive, friendly attitude and her smile, both of which are contagious. Gerry praises her for her energy and ability to encourage others. He considers Susan to be well organized, and is grateful to her for making his last year as president easier by handling a lot of administration with ease.

For her part, Susan Harris rates Randonnée Aventure highly. She claims she has accomplished what she has "only through the encouragement and enthusiasm of others". She admires all the hard work, the sense of commitment and the professional attitude of her fellow volunteers. They all "treat their task with respect, dedication and intensity; everyone has a certain love for the activities and the club". In Susan's own words, "every activity is spirit-filled". The greatest treasure of the club is friendship—"people, getting to know people for who they are."

Jola Kuzmicka



Victoria Day Weekend

Hotel Coolidge, White River Junction, VT.

Friday, May 15 to Monday, May 18

Our first cycling weekend of the year takes us to an area which straddles the Connecticut River offering spectacular scenic routes for cyclists of all levels of ability in both New Hampshire and Vermont. Relax! Leave your worries in Montreal! You may wish to wander off and explore picturesque villages such as Woodstock, Vermont, or follow the meandering course of the Connecticut River and on the off-chance that you're feeling especially energetic you can test your stamina in the surrounding hillside! Whatever your mood, this region offers the potential to realize every cyclist's dream of the perfect weekend getaway. Enjoy the warmth, charm and hospitality of the Hotel Coolidge in White River Junction, Vermont. Named after Colonel John Calvin Coolidge (the father of President Calvin Coolidge) this hotel is a landmark in the village. Its history is inextricably linked to that of the railroad in the Upper Connecticut River Valley. President Calvin Coolidge himself stayed in the hotel in Parlor Room A on the first floor. Rumours that the President was an avid cyclist and that his ghost appears when cyclists are in residence are, to the best of our knowledge, unfounded!



Finally and most importantly, you will enjoy the experience of being with a group of like-minded fun-loving people for what promises to be yet another memorable Randonnée Aventure

Victoria Day Weekend. Those who don't want to experience a truly enjoyable weekend in the company of friends (or soon to be friends) need not apply!

- Cost:** \$130 for members
\$155 for non-members (includes yearly membership of \$25)
Payable to Randonnée Aventure by April 27, 1992.
Space is limited to 40 people on a first come first serve basis.
- Includes:** Three nights accommodation
Three full breakfast buffets.
One dinner.
- Transport:** Car Pool, leaving Friday night

Canada Day Weekend

Schroon Lake, New York

Friday, June 26 to Monday, June 29

Since Canada Day is being celebrated on Monday in Quebec this year, we have picked the above dates for our mid-summer long weekend. We hope that many of you will participate in this weekend of hiking and cycling in this lovely area of New York State. It's a new addition to our schedule of weekend destinations, about a three hour drive from Montreal going south on Highway 87. There will be cycling for all levels and hiking for beginners to experts on tempting new trails. Swimming and other water activities will be available as well. Accommodation awaits you at a mystery destination in the town of Schroon Lake. Details are not yet final. Transportation will be by car-pool as usual and if you have a car and/or bike rack and are willing to take passengers, please indicate this on

the registration form. Susan and Sam are organizing this event, but need help to arrange the car-pooling. Can someone lend a hand, please? Call the Club tape at 489-0339 to leave your name for Susan who will contact you as soon as possible.

- Cost:** \$120 for members
\$145 for non-members (includes yearly membership of \$25). Your cheque, payable to Randonnée Aventure, must be received no later than Monday, May 25 to reserve your place. After May 25, a late registration fee of \$20 per person will also apply, if there is still space available on the trip.
- Transport:** Carpool leaving Friday evening.

Canoe Camping Trip Weekend

**Rouge River, Arundel, Quebec
Saturday, July 4 to Sunday, July 5**

Since so many of you have shown such an interest in canoe camping, Wayne Waters and myself (Mike De Tracey) have decided to organize a canoe camping trip. We knew that we couldn't do this alone so we approached our friends at Détour Nature to help. They said that if we supplied the bodies (that's you) they would supply the canoes, life jackets, food (except lunches), tents (if required) and river. There would be a small fee of course, but that shouldn't stop you from coming along. We will depart on our adventure early Saturday morning by car pool. Ludger and his helpers will be waiting for us with open paddles.

The adventure will start with some canoe lessons early Saturday morning followed by a leisurely trip down the Rouge River. Upon arriving at our destination sometime late Saturday afternoon, Ludger and his helpers will help us prepare a delicious meal. Since we don't have to carry all that heavy food in our knapsacks there will be plenty of room in it for our favorite beverage(s).

On Saturday night we will be staying at the hotel "Tent by the River", the only hotel in the area with free air conditioning. Sunday, we will awake to a hearty breakfast and for the really adventurous, a dip in the river. Afterwards we will spend the better part of the day meandering down the river soaking up the sunshine. At the end of the day Ludger will transport us and the canoes back to our cars.

If you are daring enough to come along on this journey call

Wayne or myself (Mike for those of you who have forgotten my name) at 488-6664. If by chance there is anyone out there who is interested in helping us organize the trip we would be more than happy to have you on board. We would certainly appreciate your help.

Cost: \$150 per person

Includes:

- Canoe rental/lessons
- Paddle and life jacket
- Tent (if required)
- Insulation pad for sleeping bag.
- Saturday supper
- Sunday breakfast
- Lodging at the hotel "Tent by the River" (it's a B.Y.O.B & B...bring your own bed and beverages...)
- Transportation back to Arundel

Bring: Your own sleeping bag, lunches for Saturday and Sunday, rain gear, and warm clothes. Make sure you bring wool if it's cool.

Meeting place: Town of Mount Royal Shopping Center

Date/Time: Saturday, July 4 at 7 am sharp.

Transport: By carpool

Labour Day Weekend

Friday, Sept. 4 to Monday, Sept. 7

At press time, work is still ongoing to organize this weekend. We are hoping to come up with a new and exciting destination for this most popular weekend of the Randonnée calendar. Be sure to look for full details in the Summer RANDONNOTES.

Thanksgiving Day Weekend

**Waterville Valley, New Hampshire
Friday, Oct. 9 to Monday, Oct. 12**

One of the Club's treasures, Waterville Valley, is on the agenda for the 1992 Thanksgiving Hiking weekend. Mount Tecumseh, Tripyramid and Osceola await us as well as the myriad of shorter walks and peaks in the vicinity. A luxury bus will transport us to the beautiful condominiums of the Waterville Valley complex, our home for this fall weekend.

Watch for the Summer RANDONNOTES for full details of registration and cost, but mark your calendar now in order not to miss this special event.

APRIL 4 **SPRING FLING:** 8pm Annual General Meeting followed by sign-up for the summer program. The McGill Grad Centre, also known as Thomson House, 3650 McTavish. Cost: \$5 if you bring a party nibble; \$9 without. Our theme this year is the sixties!

Sat.

PARTY HELP APPRECIATED!

Decorators needed at 7 pm; Duos of Meet & Greet people invited to do half-hour desk duty from 8 on. No experience required. Offer your help by leaving your name & number on the Club tape – 489-0339.

APRIL 24 **SINGALONG** at Egon's place in Roxboro, 2 blocks from the Roxboro train station. Featuring Phil on piano and *your* accompaniment. Beer on tap. A small charge will be levied. Please call Egon at 683-2397 for directions and details.

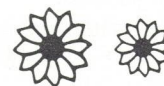
Fri.

JULY 19
Sun.

BBQ LAMB ROAST at Derek's cottage in Chertsey, near Rawdon. Car pool from Atwater Metro Sunday morning. BYOB. Lunch provided, costs shared. Advise the club tape of your interest by the week before. You will be contacted with the details.

OCT. 31
Sat.

Annual **HALLOWE'EN DRESS UP & SIGN-UP PARTY**. Westmount Royal Regiment Armory, 4625 Ste. Catherine St. West. 8 pm 'til...



Halloween last year
Guess whoooo...?



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RANDONNÉE CALENDAR

April

2	Thur	Executive Committee Meeting
4	Sat	Annual Meeting, Signup & Spring Party
13	Mon	Trip Signup Night at Atwater Library
24	Fri	Singalong at Egon's

July

2	Thur	Executive Committee Meeting
4-5		Rouge River Canoe Weekend
11	Sat	Jay Peak, Montgomery Center VT (hike/cycle/swim/picnic)
19	Sun	BBQ Lamb Roast at Derek's

May

2	Sat	Champlain Islands, VT cycle trip
3	Sun	Cycle Clinic at Jim's
6	Wed	Outdoor Literacy Workshop
7	Thur	Executive Committee Meeting
9	Sat	Grande Vallée, Chertsey PQ hike Shelbourne, VT cycle trip
15-18		Victoria Day Cycle Weekend in VT
23	Sat	Pitchoff/Porter/Cascade, Keene NY hike
30	Sat	Hunger, Waterbury Center VT hike Morgan, VT cycle trip

August

6	Thur	Executive Committee Meeting
22	Sat	Mansfield/East Side, Stowe VT hike
29	Sat	Whiteface/Esther, Wilmington NY hike
30	Sun	Mystery Tour cycle trip

June

4	Thur	Executive Committee Meeting
6	Sat	Giant/East Ridge, St. Huberts NY hike
13	Sat	La Mauricie, PQ cycle trip
14	Sun	Noonmark, St. Huberts NY hike
20	Sat	Brompton/Chauve, Orford PQ hike Elizabethtown, NY cycle trip
26-29		Canada Day Weekend Getaway

September

3	Thur	Executive Committee Meeting
4-7		Labour Day Weekend Getaway
12	Sat	Havelock, PQ cycle trip & county fair
13	Sun	Lac Supérieur, PQ hike
19	Sat	Camel's Hump, North Duxbury VT hike
20	Sun	Adirondak Loj, Lake Placid NY hike
26	Sat	Big Slide, Keene Valley NY hike Knowlton, PQ cycle trip & Sangria Party

October

1	Thur	Executive Committee Meeting
3	Sat	Hurricane, Keene NY hike
9-12		Thanksgiving Weekend Getaway
31	Sat	Hallowe'en Party & Fall Signup

**Call the Club tape at 489-0339 for the latest
information on Club events.**