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# RANDONNEWS

Published by Randonnée Aventure  
Montreal's Friendly Outdoor Club

Spring 1995







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## IN THIS ISSUE

|                                       |           |
|---------------------------------------|-----------|
| <b>President's Message .....</b>      | <b>3</b>  |
| <b>Word from the Editor .....</b>     | <b>3</b>  |
| <b>R.A. News .....</b>                | <b>4</b>  |
| <b>Buying and Selling Trips .....</b> | <b>5</b>  |
| <b>Cycling .....</b>                  | <b>6</b>  |
| <b>Hiking .....</b>                   | <b>10</b> |
| <b>Trail Maintenance .....</b>        | <b>12</b> |
| <b>Of Interest.....</b>               | <b>13</b> |
| <b>Weekend Getaways .....</b>         | <b>14</b> |
| <b>Trip Recollections .....</b>       | <b>16</b> |
| <b>Ski News .....</b>                 | <b>21</b> |
| <b>Social Stuff .....</b>             | <b>22</b> |
| <b>Randonnée Calendar .....</b>       | <b>24</b> |

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## Randonnée Aventure Executive

|                                      |                              |
|--------------------------------------|------------------------------|
| <b>President</b>                     | Anne Harper                  |
| <b>Vice President</b>                | Clive Brewer                 |
| <b>Treasurer</b>                     | Mike Serniuk                 |
| <b>Registrar</b>                     | Margaret Robertson           |
| <b>Assistant Registrar</b>           | Pat Zebel                    |
| <b>Recording Secretary</b>           | Linda Shear                  |
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| <b>Cycling Director</b>              | Al Ramsay                    |
| <b>Cycling Administrator</b>         | Kathy Poth                   |
| <b>Hiking Co-Directors</b>           | Andrew Byrne<br>Clive Brewer |
| <b>Hiking Administrator</b>          | Bob Paknys                   |
| <b>Trail Maintenance Coordinator</b> | Colleen Wilford              |
| <b>Social Director</b>               | Vacant                       |
| <b>Skiing Director</b>               | John Stewart                 |
| <b>Skiing Administrator</b>          | Pat Zebel                    |
| <b>Volunteer Coordinator</b>         | Elise Brais                  |
| <b>Business Manager</b>              | Susan Harris                 |
| <b>Advertising Coordinator</b>       | Elise Brais                  |
| <b>Phone Coordinator</b>             | Maureen Robertson            |

Randonnée Aventure, founded in 1986, is a non-profit,  
year-round outdoor club for adults, with over 400  
members.

### Randonnée Aventure offers:

- Saturday, and some Sunday bus trips to prime cycling, hiking and cross-country skiing destinations within a two-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**





## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Another ski season has come and gone and I would like to thank John Stewart and his people for an excellent year in spite of the twists Mother Nature threw their way. The ski committee stayed right on top of things and made the tough decisions to cancel some trips and reroute several others to take advantage of the best snow conditions. Thanks again for all your hard work, guys.

We are all looking forward to cycling and hiking. The day trips that you see listed in this newsletter are the cumulation of months of activity and careful planning by the cycling and hiking committees. Susan Harris and Al Ramsey have also been hard at work planning our weekend excursions. I hope you enjoy the fruits of their labours.

Among other behind-the-scenes work carried out over the past season was a review of our administrative and trip costs. The increase in the membership fee with the corresponding decrease in trip prices which you will find described later on are a direct result of efforts made by our executive to control our costs and offer our members the best value for their money. We will continue to monitor our expenses and

prices.

Members of Randonnée have often remarked to me on how well-run and organized the club is. This smoothness should not be taken for granted — it is the result of hours of work by a small number of dedicated volunteers, and this volunteer work is the main reason that our prices are kept low. To quote an old cliché, "Many hands make light work." So please, take the time to think seriously about what you could be doing to make the work lighter for everyone. For example, Susan Harris is looking for people to organize condos and carpooling for long weekends. The cycling and hiking committees need people to help scout and run trips. Get involved! You will get to know more members and will find it to be an enriching experience. I know I have.

I hope to see all of you on the trails and let's hope that Mother Nature cooperates with us a bit more this summer.

**Anne Harper**

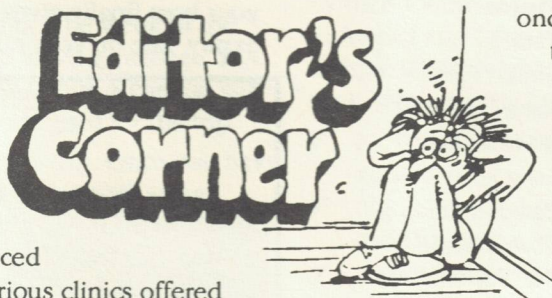
# Take a Hike!



## FROM THE EDITOR

Yes, it's a new season! As you will see within this newsletter, the Randonnée executive have prepared a their usual tempting array of locations to satisfy all tastes, from the eager but inexperienced to the eager and experienced. And to help the inexperienced become experienced, there are various clinics offered from the Outdoor Literacy Clinic to the Cycle Clinic where cyclists learn how to maintain their valuable vehicles.

Once again, R.A. members have come through for their newsletter with a variety of articles on trips taken in the the past year, from club-organized to privately-taken activities. The somewhat secretive Anoni family has,



once again, prepared an article for us, this time by Mario's favourite sister, Mary Anoni with an extremely important moral to their message.

Of course, this newsletter could not have been put together without my most valuable assistants, who came to

my rescue when all looked darkest. Thanks a million, Elise, Anne and Bill.

To repeat from last season, I, and your fellow R.A. members, very much enjoy reading your articles on club or other outdoor-related activities. So please, keep them coming!

**Nancy LaRose**



## NOTICE TO MEMBERS

### ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Notice is hereby given that the Annual General Meeting of members of Randonnée Aventure will be held at Thompson House, 3650 McTavish St., Montreal, QC on Saturday March 25th, 1995 at 8:00 pm for the following purposes:

1. To receive the unaudited financial statements of the Club for the fiscal year ending December 31, 1994.
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 24th day of January, 1995

#### By Order of the Board of Directors

According to the by-laws of Randonnée Aventure, the four members of the Board of Directors are voted in by the membership at the Annual General Meeting. Nominations received to date for the positions of director are:

|                      |                      |
|----------------------|----------------------|
| <b>Anne Harper</b>   | <b>Jill Aspinall</b> |
| <b>Ray Stevenson</b> | <b>Vacant</b>        |

The management meeting of the Club, held on the second Thursday of every month as well as the other committee meetings, (cycling, hiking, skiing and social) are open to all club members. We encourage you to attend any of these meetings. For information, call the Club tape at 489-0339 and ask for details of date, time and location.

The members listed below have stated their willingness to serve the club for one year in the following positions:

|                                       |                                    |
|---------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| <b>President</b>                      | Anne Harper                        |
| <b>Treasurer</b>                      | Mike Serniuk                       |
| <b>Registrar</b>                      | Margaret Robertson                 |
| <b>Assistant Registrar</b>            | Vacant                             |
| <b>Recording Secretary</b>            | Vacant                             |
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| <b>Cycling Director</b>               | Tony Scott                         |
| <b>Cycling Administrator</b>          | Cathy Poth                         |
| <b>Hiking Director</b>                | Clive Brewer                       |
| <b>Hiking Administrator</b>           | Bob Pakneys                        |
| <b>Trail Maintenance Coordinators</b> | Maureen Robertson<br>Helene Millas |
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| <b>Business Manager</b>               | Al Ramsey                          |
| <b>Advertising Coordinator</b>        | Elise Brais                        |
| <b>Phone Coordinator</b>              | Maureen Robertson                  |

## MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

### MEMBERSHIP FEES

This year membership fees are being increased from \$25 to \$30, our first increase in five years. This is a direct result of our ongoing review of R.A.'s administrative and trip costs. Our goal is to ensure that all fixed administrative costs are covered by Club membership fees, and are thereby paid for equally by all members. The up side of this increase is that we can reduce prices for both hiking and cycling day trips by \$1 a trip. Just think, if you sign up for more than 5 trips you will actually save money.

### Non-Members

Newcomers to the club are allowed to join one cycling, hiking, or cross-country ski trip before paying the membership fee. They can do so by registering by mail, at our sign-up evening, or by using the club buy/sell procedure the week of the trip. This is a once-in-a-lifetime trial offer and not open to those who have been a member of RA before or participated in any of our trips.

### Membership Renewal

Is your membership about to expire? Has it already expired? If so, this may be the last issue of Randonnews that you will receive. To reduce costs, the current club policy is to send members only one more issue of Randonnews after their membership expires.

Only current members of R.A. receive copies of Randonnotes, our mid-season publication. The next Randonnotes, in July, will have all the details of the Labour day and Thanksgiving weekend trips. Also, if your membership has expired, you cannot take advantage of our buy/sell procedure.

So, don't risk missing out on the latest information on upcoming events or not being able to buy that trip when your boss finally gives you a weekend off. Check the expiry date on your mailing label and renew now.



*Room with a View: R.A. offers unlimited horizons*

Photo: Linda Lessard



## BUYING AND SELLING DAY TRIPS

Fees for day trips cannot be refunded to anyone for any reason. If you are unable to come on the trip, you may personally sell the trip to anyone you wish. If this is not possible, we offer a service by which we attempt to sell the trip to a member.

Once you have activated the R.A. service, you must not attempt to sell the trip on your own. This might result in double selling the trip. Priority will always be given to the person who bought the trip through the R.A. system. The procedure to follow is:

### TO BUY A DAY TRIP

From Monday a.m. to Wednesday 9:00 p.m., the week of the trip, call the Club number (489-0339), and leave your name and the name of the trip you want to buy. Calls outside this period will be disregarded. Non-members taking their first trip should say this and leave their phone numbers. On the Friday evening before the trip, call the Club number to listen to the list of people for whom there is a place on the bus. If you hear your name, show up with exact change or a cheque. We do not carry change.

**Important:** If you are confirmed as a buyer you have made a commitment to pay for the trip. If you cannot make the trip, you must send a cheque for the trip fee to the Club immediately. This applies to non-members also. If you do not do so promptly, you will be **BLACKLISTED** and will not be allowed to register for any more trips until payment is made.

If you do not hear your name on the Friday evening tape, you can go to the last pickup point with the correct payment and take a chance. (Atwater and St. Catherine before 7:45 a.m. for hiking, Atwater and Tupper before 7:30 a.m. for cycling). You have a good chance of getting on the bus if there are "no-shows." People who have tried to reserve by phone have priority as walk-ons.

### TO SELL A DAY TRIP:

Monday a.m. to Wednesday 9:00 p.m., the week of the trip, call the Club tape (489-0339), and leave a message. R.A. will not call you back, but, if a buyer is found, a cheque will be mailed to you for the amount that you paid for the trip.

RA does not guarantee the sale of any trip. Once you have given your name to sell your trip, you no longer have a reserved seat on that bus. If you want to go on the trip after all, you may do so on a standby basis at the last pick-up point.

### WAITING LISTS FOR DAY TRIPS

We do not have waiting lists for any day trips. Cheques sent in for sold-out day trips will be returned, creating extra work for our registrar. Please check the Club tape (489-0339) before you register and, if a trip is sold out, use the buy/sell procedure to purchase a seat. Your cooperation is appreciated.

## BUYING AND SELLING WEEKEND TRIPS

Weekend trips are not refundable but R.A. will attempt to find a buyer if you are unable to make the trip. To sell a trip, leave a message on the Club tape (489-0339) as soon as possible and you will be contacted by the weekend coordinator. **Requests to sell must be received at least 7 days before the date of the weekend trip.** R.A. does not guarantee the sale of any trip.

To be placed on a waiting list for sold out weekend trips only, send a cheque for the full amount to the Club. You will be contacted if a space becomes available. Your cheque will be returned if a place is not found.

**BORDER CROSSING:** Acceptable ID (passport, citizenship card or birth certificate only) must be carried on all trips to the U.S.A.

**SHOPPING:** Shopping in the U.S.A. on day trips is not allowed. Members caught breaking this policy may be left at the border and may be asked to leave the club.

**DRINKING ON BUSES:** It is illegal to consume alcoholic beverages on Club buses and infractions of this law could result in the driver being fined. Further complications can arise when border crossings are involved. All members are requested to respect the law and to refrain from bringing or drinking any alcoholic beverages on the bus. Your cooperation is appreciated.

## TRIP REGISTRATION



### Prices This Year:

**Cycling:** \$25, and \$28 for the season's final windup trip  
**Hiking:** All trips are \$24.

Please note that there is a surcharge of \$2 for all trip signups received after April 21. Cheques must be received by then for the regular price to apply. Payments for trips in August and later may be postdated to August 1, if the cheque is received April 21. To get your first choice of trips, sign up early by doing one of the following:

- ✓ Mail the registration form and payment to the Club address.
- ✓ Sign up at the Spring Party on Saturday, March 25, at the Thompson House, 3650 McTavish, 8:30-9:30 pm.
- ✓ Come to our Signup night on Monday, April 3, at the Atwater Library, Atwater & Tupper St., 5:30-8:30 pm.

## ATWATER SIGNUP EVENING

The spring signup and information night will be at the Atwater Library, 1200 Atwater at Tupper, **Monday, April 3, from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m.** Come and talk to members of the Hiking and Cycling Committees about this season's trips.



## DIRECTOR'S COMMENT

We are looking forward, in anticipation, to a new cycling season. Your cycling committee is presently making preparation for weekend getaways and day trips. We have added one extra trip for 1995, making a total of 11 for the season. We know that with a new season and friends, great cycling will be had.

Because you had such fun last year on the R.A. Challenge ride, we plan to continue this event. Look for more information.

For 1995, there's a change of position for Al Ramsay to Business Manager. For a number of years he has been Cycling Director with support from Co-Director, Ray Stevenson. Over the years we have enjoyed good cycling trips from their hard work. I would like to wish them well and a big thank you and good luck with their new challenge.

One important reminder: Cycling helmets are mandatory and you should always have acceptable ID for cross-border trips. Hope to see you soon, cycle safely and enjoy the beauty of life.

Anthony Scott

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## SMOKING POLICY

The vast majority of Randonnée Aventure members are non-smokers, and prefer a smoke-free environment. Members who smoke, are requested to respect the preferences of other participants, or to smoke where other members will not be affected.

## 1995 CYCLING TRIPS

| No. | Date     | Destination                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
|-----|----------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1   | May 6    | <b>Rivière St. François, QC</b><br>To start the season, a beautiful area in the Eastern Townships.                                                                                                                |
| 2   | May 13   | <b>Enosburg, VT</b><br>Across the border near St. Albans. Rolling terrain along the Missisquoi River.                                                                                                             |
| 3*  | May 28   | <b>Magog/Ayers Cliff, QC</b><br>Another pretty part of the Eastern Townships, near Lake Memphremagog.                                                                                                             |
| 4   | June 3   | <b>La Petite Nation, QC</b><br>We now head west to Montebello. Take in the charm of this log inn for an after ride drink. This trip will honour the late Ross Clarkson who loved this area.                       |
| 5   | June 10  | <b>Elizabethtown, NY (Extended)</b><br>Back by popular demand for the 4th time. The Adirondacks rise to your west, and Lake Champlain descends to your east. The views in between are spectacular.                |
| 6   | June 17  | <b>Richmond, VT</b><br>Just south/east of Burlington.                                                                                                                                                             |
| 7   | July 8   | <b>Island Pond, VT (Extended)</b><br>A beautiful lake area. Bring swim wear and relax after the ride.                                                                                                             |
| 8   | Aug. 12  | <b>Meecham Lake, NY</b><br>A clean lake nestled in the Adirondacks at the foot of Mount De Bar. Ideal for swimming and picnicking.                                                                                |
| 9*  | Aug. 27  | <b>Lake Champlain, NY &amp; VT</b><br>Around Lake Champlain for some superb views, a ferry ride, and fairly flat.                                                                                                 |
| 10  | Sept. 9  | <b>Jay Peak, VT</b><br>Now that you are in great shape, tackle the high of Jay and the great downward rush to Montgomery Falls.                                                                                   |
| 11  | Sept. 16 | <b>Bedford/Dunham, QC</b><br>Our annual end-of-the-season trip takes us to Quebec's wine valley. Spectacular views, wine tours, and antique shops. Afterwards, enjoy R.A.'s sangria party at the cafe in Bedford. |

## \* Sunday trip

An extended trip leaves at 5:00 p.m. to return to Montreal. Destinations have been scouted to accommodate all levels of cycling ability.



## Pick-up Points for Cycling

|                                  | Bike Loading | Bus Departs |
|----------------------------------|--------------|-------------|
| 1. Decor Decarie Shopping Centre | 7:00 am      | 7:15 am     |
| 2. Atwater & Tupper              | 7:30 am      | 7:50 am     |

Please be there with your bike ready to be loaded at the bike loading times. Make sure all panniers, water bottles, and pumps are removed prior to loading.

For U.S. trips, a passport, citizenship card or birth certificate must be carried by all cyclists.

## CYCLE CLINIC

**Sunday, April 30**

Well, fellow cyclists, it's time to get your prize bicycle in shape for the coming season. If you haven't done so, it's still not too late Ride over to your Club's bike clinic and fellow Randonnée volunteer mechanics will answer your questions as you tune-up your own bike. Don't forget your tools, and gloves to keep yourself clean. We will supply the grease, oil, wipers, cleaner, friendly conversation, coffee, tea, and donuts.

This clinic is for **members** only.

Time: noon to 4:00 p.m.

Location: Western Radiator & Autobody (Jim Mullet's garage), on the corner of de Maisonneuve Blvd. West and Harvard Ave. in N.D.G.

## OTHER CYCLING EVENTS

|                |                                         |
|----------------|-----------------------------------------|
| Sun. June 4    | Le Tour de l'Ile (70K)                  |
| June 10-11     | Rideau Lakes Cycle Tour (334K)          |
| Sun. July 16   | R.A. Challenge Ride (50K - 162K)        |
| July 22-23     | MS 150 Vermont Ride (242K or 325K)      |
| August 5-12    | Le Grand Tour Québec (1000K)            |
| August 26-27   | MS 150 Quebec Ride (150K)               |
| Sat. August 26 | Air Canada Interline Charity Ride (70K) |
| Sun. August 27 | Beaconsfield Club Century Ride (162K)   |

## R.A. CHALLENGE RIDE

**La Ferme Quinn, Ile Perrot  
Sunday, July 16th, 1995**

Following the success of last year's R.A. Challenge Ride, we are holding this year's edition on Ile Perrot, starting and ending at La Ferme Quinn, 2498 Perrot Blvd. To get there, take the 2 & 20 west to Ile Perrot, then follow the blue signs to La Ferme Quinn.

We will meet at Quinn's farm at 8:30 a.m. for a 9:00 a.m. start. The day's rides will end with a Bar-B-Q. Cost for the day, including Bar-B-Q, will be **\$10**. This event is open to both members and their friends but **advance registration and payment** is required by **June 28th**. Complete the registration form and mail with your cheque to the Club address.

Achievement certificates will be awarded for the completion of distances from 50 K to 100 miles (162 K). Y'all come along now and challenge yourself to set a new personal best!

## CYCLING TRIP LEADERS' BRIEFING

The Cycling Committee will hold a meeting to brief prospective trip leaders and assistants on Wednesday, April 19th, 7 p.m. at Le Manoir in N.D.G. Come and learn how to lead or assist a day trip. Hope you will join us to see what is involved in planning these trips. For more information, please leave a message for Tony Scott on the Club tape (480-0339).

Photo: Gerry Bard



*You too can learn how to get (oops) fix flats at the Cycle Clinic*



## MUSINGS FROM THE SADDLE # 2

My twin brother Mario is over in southern Italy training for the Tour de France. He's been selected by the elite French team UCPA (Union Célibataires en Panne d'Amour). One Randonneuse is already a member of the mountain climbing branch of this club and put in a word for our Mario.

First the bad news: You will remember from the last Randonnews that Mario and I had designed a noble machine to enable the cyclist to conquer the winter snow and ice. Bombardier made its fortune by inventing the skidoo. We had similar dreams for a bicycle with skis on the front. Alas, the prototype of the *Randonskicycle* lies submerged in the Lachine canal. On a test run it proved too skittish: the torque of the fork was clearly inversely proportional to the carbon fiber/graphite/thermoplastic/steel amalgamation of the Zipp Ballistic Dura Ace Hyperglide sprocket-derailleur combo. In short, we're back to the drawing board.

But now for the really bad news. This story was told to me by a friend who cycles with another club and she swears it is true.

It was a hot summer day when the hero of this story was nearing the end of a century ride and he decided to

rehydrate and reward himself with a couple of brews. He pulled into the local *dépanneur*, but then had to figure out how to carry his liquid load to the nearby scenic spot. So he put one bottle in his rear waterbottle rack and stuffed the other two in his jersey pockets. His fortunes began to decline when he hit some roadworks and soon began bouncing along some rough gravel. This shook up the beer in the waterbottle holder so much that it exploded with the cap hurtling up, ricocheting off his saddle and hitting him on the chin. Our man fell off his bike, landing on his back and smashing the other two beer bottles.

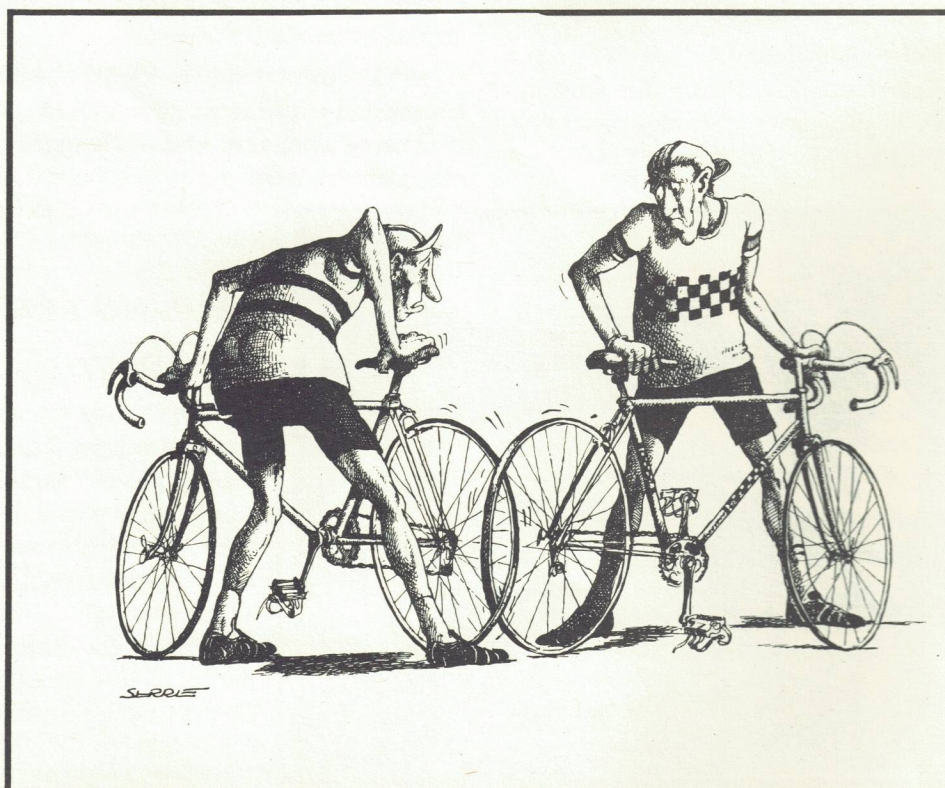
(The squeamish should stop reading here for it gets a bit gory....)

A jagged piece of glass penetrated his back and cut right through the large artery that supplies his right kidney. Our hapless hero insanguinated (at the risk of being pedantic, one can't speak here of exsanguination since this hemorrhaging was all internal).

So when you straddle the saddle—carry your beer in cans.

Until next time,

Mary Anoni



Courtesy of John Stewart

*Al and Tony having a bad cycle day.*



## CYCLE TOUR OF THE LOIRE VALLEY, FRANCE

This past September eight club members got together for a two-week trip to the Loire Valley, known as the 'garden of France' to enjoy the food, wine, scenery, culture, the many chateaux and abbeys found in the area and, last but not least, each other's company. Susan Harris was our contact for the house we rented on a farm in Sennelles, not far from Montrichard, a provincial town near Chononcelle. This was our base for the first week. Richard (the negotiator) Epstein made our initial travel arrangements and arranged hotel stays for most of the second week. Lucie Montpetit researched and prepared our itinerary of scenic cycle routes along with the history and highlights of places of interest. Others in the group included Wayne Waters, connoisseur of fine foods, cheeses and head chef; Linda Shear and Egon (the racer) Nickel who did the honours each night by sharing aperitifs with the group; Brian Abbott, connoisseur of fine wine, brandy and scotch; and Al Ramsey, eagle-eyed scouter of local attractions.

Our departure from Mirabel was delayed for a couple of hours so we had ample time to wander through the duty-free shop. Upon arrival at Nantes, Brian's and my panniers, which had been packed in the same plastic bag, did not, unfortunately, depart from the plane at the

same time we did and thus continued onto Le Mans. After waiting several hours for our wayward panniers to return on the next flight, we headed out to catch up to our confreres in Tours.

While the weather for the first day-and-a-half was cool and wet, it fortunately became very pleasant for the rest of our trip.

Our wake-up calls the first few mornings at the house somewhat unusual—orchestrated as they were by a hundred or so piglets being fed. What a noise! We didn't have the slightest idea as to what could be happening until Wayne investigated the situation.

The most impressive chateau we visited was at Chambord with a grand total of 440 rooms, 365 chimneys,

and double circular staircases that never did meet. During the French revolution, every piece of furniture was destroyed with the exception of one small table.

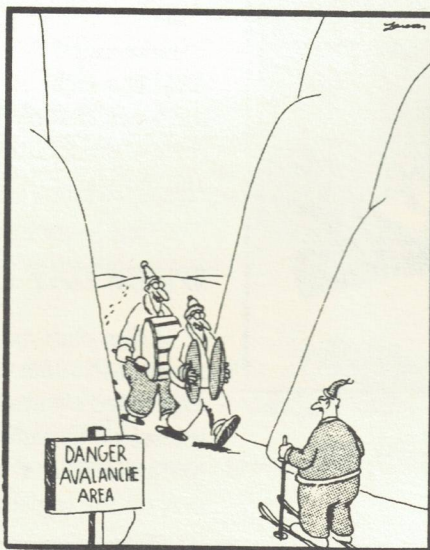
The roads we cycled on in this region, past hectares of vineyards and sunflowers, were mainly narrow and paved with great surfaces. We saw farmers harvesting grapes with specially-built combines and many other interesting sights too numerous to write about however, I know anyone of the crew would be delighted to share their experiences of this fascinating tour.

**Al Ramsey**

Photo: Al Ramsey



*The Loire Valley Gang*





## TRAILS TO THE TOP – 1995

Welcome to Randonnée Aventure's 1995 Hiking Season. Once again, we have a great selection of trips planned for you, including old favourites as well as a couple of less frequently visited destinations. There are three extended hikes which will give us lots of good hiking, including a new trail in the Worcester Mountains of Vermont.

Last year was one of our most successful hiking years ever. That success, and our confidence that it will continue in 1995, has enabled us to reduce the hiking day-trip prices this year to **\$24** from **\$25**.

Once again, we are holding an Outdoor Literacy session to pass on information and tips about hiking. All are welcome, and newcomers are particularly encouraged to attend. It's also a chance to get together again at the beginning of the season and exchange news! Mark May 10 in your agendas.

Andrew Byrne is retiring from the Hiking Director's position this year. He has done a wonderful job over the last years, and I'd like to thank him on behalf of all Randonnée hikers. Do not despair, however, Andrew will still be active on the Hiking Committee, and it will be good to have his expertise available to us.

Have a great season.

**Clive Brewer**

## OUTDOOR LITERACY CLINIC

### A Hiking Skills Workshop for ALL

**Wednesday, May 10: Atwater Library**

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

- 1) Reading maps and the terrain in order to find your way in the woods
- 2) What to wear and 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 held from 7:00 p.m. – 10:00 p.m.. Some handouts will be given including a day hiker's equipment checklist. Ample time will be available to answer questions and deal with the specific concerns of all. A practice map-reading session will be held on Mount Royal, Sunday, May 14 beginning in the morning for a couple of hours. More information will be available at the clinic.

For additional information, please call the R.A. tape at 489-0339. There is no charge for this event.

## TRIP LEADERS & ASSISTANTS

If you want to become more active in hiking, there will be a meeting for volunteers. Please indicate if you are interested in attending on Wednesday, May 3 at 7:30 p.m. The location will be announced on the Club tape the week before. The purpose of the meeting is to review procedures and responsibilities of trip leaders and assistants. It's not difficult, so come on out.

## WEEKDAY HIKING, ANYONE?

A few club members whose schedule does not leave them much time for hiking trips on weekend, have expressed interest in hiking during weekdays. If you are interested in weekday hiking, and would like to contact like-minded R.A. members, please check the appropriate box on the registration form, and someone will be in touch.



*Photo: Tim Skene*

*Two well-prepared hikers utilizing their map-reading skills (what else?)*



- 1 **May 20 Mattawinnie, Ste. Emilie de l'Energie** **E-M**  
A scenic but rarely visited area for low-level rambles through the woods with some open ridges and excellent views.
- 2 **27 May Noonmark, St. Huberts, NY** **E-M-D**  
A prominent, pointed peak almost due south of the town of Keene Valley with good views in all directions. Finish the day with a great pub stop.
- 3 \* **4 Jun Madonna/Whiteface, Jeffersonville, VT** **E-M-D**  
The first mountain this year in Vermont on the Long Trail. There's also an opportunity to explore Smuggler's Cave and Elephant Head.
- 4 **10 Jun Ausable Lake (Extended), St. Huberts, NY** **M-D**  
Walk along streams and spectacular falls or climb up to exquisite views. Variety of cut-offs along main trail.
- 5 **17 Jun Adirondak Loj, Lake Placid, NY** **E-M-D**  
A very popular destination. Many trails to choose from such as an easy walk to Marcy Dam, or a hard climb to the top of Mt. Colden, or the second highest Adirondak peak: Algonquin.
- 6 **8 Jul Belvedere/Tillotson, Montgomery Ctre, VT** **E-M-D**  
This section of the Long Trail is maintained by RA on behalf of the Green Mountain Club. See the work done by RA volunteers with your support.
- 7 **19 Aug Chertsey, QC** **E M**  
A pleasant summer walk on low rolling trails developed and maintained by an RA club member who gives you a personal guided tour.
- 8 **26 Aug Jay Peak (Extended), Montgomery Center, VT** **M-D**  
This northern section of the Long Trail is one of the most pristine sections and will provide a good challenge. Great views from the top!
- 9 **9 Sep Mts. Hunger & Pinnacle, Stowe, VT (Extended)** **M-D**  
Panoramic views on a clear day. A favourite hike to include Stowe Pinnacle (good vertical climb). A stop at Mr. Pickwick's Pub.
- 10 \* **17 Sep Whiteface, Wilmington, NY** **E-M-D**  
Whiteface and its companion Esther offer impressive views of Lake Placid, Lake Champlain and Mount Royal. Take pride in hiking up Whiteface even if some drive to the top of this fifth highest mountain in the Adirondaks.
- 11 **23 Sep Mt. Mansfield, Underhill, VT** **E-M-D**  
The highest mountain in Vermont: a favourite trip following many trails to great views. From the top, the Subway or Wall St. are accessible to adventurous souls. A great destination for any level of expertise.
- 12 **30 Sep Giant, Keene Valley, NY** **E-M-D**  
A tough climb to the top along Roaring Brook Trail. At 4736 ft high, it is the 12th highest in the Adirondak Mtns. For those wishing an easier option, there is the Washbowl and Nubble.
- 13 **14 Oct Cascade/Porter, Keene Valley, NY** **E-M-D**  
Do you like varied terrain? i.e. up and down, up and down, rather than up, up, up and down, down, down. Or, for the experts - a long hike from Blueberry to Cascades. Great views and a wonderful pub at the end of the day.
- 14 **21 Oct Brothers/Big Slide, Keene Valley, NY** **E-M-D**  
This trail offers a spectacular approach to Big Slide over the three Brothers, with excellent views along the way.

\* **Sunday trip**

Day trips including the extended trips will be \$24. After April 21, a \$2 surcharge will be added. For trips after August 1, cheques postdated to August 1 will be accepted at regular price if received before April 21.

**REMEMBER:** Acceptable I.D. (passport, citizenship card or birth certificate only) must be carried on all trips to the U.S.A.

**Trail Ratings:**

These ratings are given as guide-lines only. The distances and elevation gains are approximations, dependent on the difficulty of the terrain. Some climbing is usually required on all hikes, less with easy hikes than with difficult trails.

**E(asy)** - about 5 to 7 miles and 1000 to 1500 ft.

**M(oderate)** - about 8 to 9 miles and 1500 to 2500 ft.

**D(ifficult)** - about 10 to 12 miles and 2500 to 3500 ft.

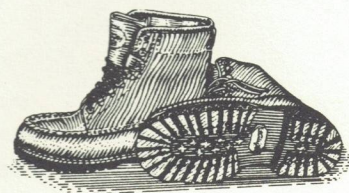
**Extended Hikes**

The bus will leave Montreal at the regular times and places, but will not return from the destination until 7:00 p.m., and will finish the drop-offs by 10:00 p.m.. Because of the length of hiking time, none of the destinations have easy options. The extra time will be used to hike on some trails which are normally too long. However, you will need to bring extra food for the longer stay, which you can leave on the bus to eat on the way back. We might get to stay a little longer at the Pub.

**Bus Departure Times**

**Pick-up departure times are:**

|                                                            |           |
|------------------------------------------------------------|-----------|
| Decor Decarie<br>(Vezina & Décarie)                        | 7:15 a.m. |
| Queen Mary/Decarie<br>(west side: in front of cigar store) | 7:25 a.m. |
| Atwater/ Ste. Catherine<br>(MacDonalds on Atwater)         | 7:45 a.m. |





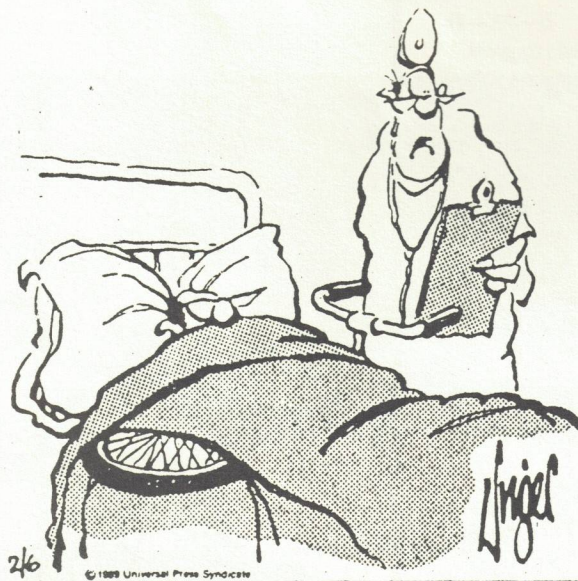
## QUEBEC TRAIL MAINTENANCE

This past year the trail maintenance crew moved its activities from the Lac Supérieur region to a section ten miles south of St. Donat. Mont Oureau has been a favorite hiking area for nearby campers for many years and has been selected to become part of the National Trail.

For the past two years, a number of RA members have participated in clearing a section of trail beyond an existing one to a point half-way between Rte 125 and Rte 329. Kudos go out to Derek, Suzie, Mike, Gilda, Dawn, Susan, Monica, Maureen, and Egon for their contribution and hard work. Under the direction of Paul Perreault of Federation québécoise de la marche, our crews have completed a major portion of the proposed trail. It is our intention to complete the remaining 5 km by the Spring of 1996.

For 1995, we anticipate blazing a section of trail from Rte 329, which would parallel an existing cross-country ski trail, by-pass Mont Legault, and head in an easterly direction toward Lac Lemieux. We are in the process of obtaining permission from the municipality and land owners in the area with the intention of beginning work in May. Tentative dates are set for May 6th and 13th, with two additional days in the Fall.

Michael Serniuk



**"We'll get you down to X-ray in a few minutes."**

## VERMONT TRAIL MAINTENANCE

Maureen Robertson and I have agreed to take over trail maintenance coordination for the next two years. We first wish to thank Colleen Wilford for the great job she did organizing the "troops" for the past two seasons. It's not an easy job, and one sometimes feels like a slave driver. Luckily, most of the participants have been both highly motivated and hardworking.

What exactly is trail maintenance, you ask? Basically, it consists of clearing the hiking trails for easy access to both day-hikers and through-hikers who carry heavy packs. This entails use of a chainsaw in the springtime to cut a path across fallen trees and other obstacles, as well as clipping and wacking away stinging nettles and miscellaneous weeds from the trail. It, moreover, involves special projects such as 'rock work,' i.e., digging out boulders from the surrounding areas and creating steps where the slope used to be as well as building up 'bog bridges,' those wood planks you walk over rather than walk into the muck.

Why do trail maintenance? The first reason is because the Green Mountain Club can't handle the whole trail network on its own with its quota of volunteers. The Long Trail comprises 260 miles as well as several dozen miles of access trails. Randonnée Adventure's adopted section consists of almost 16 miles, including access trails. Club members enjoy using the trail network both in New York's Adirondaks, the Laurentians and Townships as well as Vermont. Several years ago, it was felt that we should be giving something back rather than taking, and so the club signed a commitment to the GMC to maintain a section of the Long Trail. Those who choose to get involved and give it their all find it most rewarding, especially when we see a newly created trail where only dense forest used to be. It's a labour of love and we can't hide the fact that it's physically demanding, but the camaraderie that develops among the group is the greatest.

Should I get involved? Yes! If you have guts, a strong back and give a damn, as well as being a team player, then trail maintenance is for you.

Hélène Millas

### Trail maintenance dates are as follows:

May 19-22

July 7-9

August 11-13

October 13-15

Check the appropriate box on the registration form if interested.



## RAISIN RIVER REVELRY

Last spring, Robert and I (Egon) entered the Raisin River Whitewater Canoe Race, which takes place each year one week after ice-breakup. The start went fine—groups of three boats were started at 3 minute intervals, and with a strong current, we zoomed down the river.

When we saw a large group of spectators ahead on the banks we assumed they were there to watch us canoe. Actually they had come to see us swim! They had picked a likely spot, a long stretch of rapids. We steered through the rapids quite nicely, however, the boat kept filling up with ice cold water until, at the foot of the rapids, it sank beneath us much to the spectators' delight. Our lunches, spare clothing and Robert's boots floated down the river never to be seen again but we retrieved the boat and paddles.

Next came a small portage along a gravel road. Luckily, because his feet were anesthetized by the cold, Robert could not feel the gravel on his bare feet.

Another group of spectators, another set of rapids. By now we were a bit smarter. Robert moved back and I moved forward to make it easier for the boat to bob in the standing waves so that the boat only filled half full.

Before we knew it, we were at the finish in Williamstown. We changed into dry clothing right on Main Street (you lose all sense of modesty when you are shivering in the cold) and with the car heater at full blast and a cup of hot tea we were soon as good as new.

All in all, we didn't do too badly. Had we dressed differently and been called Edna and Roberta, we would have been in a different category and would have won!

The race is over a distance of 31 km, starting in St. Andrew's West, near Cornwall, and ending in St. Williamstown. Boats and wet-suits (for the faint-hearted) can be rented. Hope you'll join in the fun this year.

**Egon Nickel and Robert Kearns**



## MONTREAL MARATHON

I'm trying to organize one or more 4-person relay team(s) for the 42 km Montreal Marathon in late September. Teams must be of mixed gender. If interested, call Herb at 489-7687.

## SNOW-SHOEING

If you are interested in snow-shoeing, either with your own snow-shoes or by renting, contact Susan Harris via the Club tape (489-0339) to form a group for an outing either this year or next.

## SPORT EQUIPMENT GARAGE SALE

DATE: Sat., April 8, 1995 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.  
LOCATION: Jim's Garage, 2160 Harvard Street, N.D.G.

Members are invited to bring in their new and used cycling, hiking and cross-country skiing equipment (clean and in good condition!) two (2) hours before the start of the sale, i.e. between 8:00 a.m. and 9:00 a.m. Saturday, April 8<sup>th</sup>. **All items must be labeled with your name, telephone number, asking price and lowest acceptable price.** Please note, unsold items must be picked up the same day by 4:00 p.m. We will not hold your item for later pick-up. If your item is sold, you may collect the proceeds at 4:00 p.m.

For more information, call the Club tape (489-0339) and leave a message for Wayne Waters.

## CLASSY AD

Shimano Cycling Shoes  
Size 41, velcro closing

\$118, asking \$60  
worn only 3 times

Linda Shear, 683-6970



## VICTORIA DAY WEEKEND

**Kingston, Ontario  
Friday, May 19 to Monday, May 22**

The first cycling weekend of 1995 takes us to the former capital of Canada. From the rocky outcrops and sculptured valleys of the Canadian Shield to the fields and marshes alive with birds and wildlife, these cycling routes enable you to comfortably and peacefully explore the region's wealth of beauty.

The rides will take you to nearby lakes, 1000 Islands Parkway bicycle path, Wolfe Island to New York, Rideau Canal, and many more sights.

We will be staying at the comfortable First Canada Inns on the outskirts of Kingston. Downtown is just minutes away.

Non-members are welcome, but they must also purchase an annual membership (separate cheque for \$25) at time of registration.

**Cost:** \$150. All cheques are payable to Randonnée Aventure.

**No of Participants:** Space is limited to 40 people, on a first-come first-served basis. Payment must be received to reserve your spot.

**Late Registration:** For payments dated or received after May 1st, add \$20.

**Price includes:** Three nights accommodation, three full breakfast buffets, and Saturday night dinner at a local restaurant.

**Transport:** By carpool, leaving Friday night, returning Monday.



## ST. JEAN BAPTISTE WEEKEND

**North Conway, New Hampshire  
Thursday, June 22 to Sunday, June 25, 1995**

Carpet baron Erastus Bigelow built a magnificent summer estate set on a secluded hillside among tall pines in the White Mountains of New Hampshire. After his death, his daughter developed the estate in the "English Country Manor" style with hand-carved oak woodwork, leaded glass windows, a multitude of stone fire-places and spacious gardens so that she could entertain important guests from around the world in style. After her death, the 500-acre estate was broken up and sold with Stonehurst Manor remaining as an inn since the 1940s.

Hidden up a long winding drive, just before the hustle and bustle of the town of North Conway but within walking distance of EMS (Eastern Mountain Sports) and other shops, is our St. Jean Baptiste Weekend retreat. Stonehurst Manor awaits us on arrival for registration and we will stay in the spacious condominiums nearby which are fully equipped with the usual modern conveniences to which we are accustomed. Dinner on Friday evening will be served to us in the Manor itself. The other three breakfasts and Saturday dinner will be organized by the condo coordinator, and costs will be shared by all members of the condo. All lunches are on your own.

Whether you wish to hike the White Mountains in all the splendour of summer, cycle the Kancamagus Highway or other scenic routes beside the nearby rivers and through the New Hampshire and Maine countryside, or get away for a relaxing weekend with friends, you will find all of this available at Stonehurst Manor.

Space, as usual, is limited, so don't delay in sending in your reservation. The full details are:

**Accommodation:** Stonehurst Manor condominiums, North Conway, New Hampshire

**Transportation:** Will be arranged by car-pool

**Price:** \$175.00 Canadian per person

**Price includes:** Accommodation for three nights; dinner on Friday night.

**Late registration:** \$20 late registration fee for payments received or dated after Friday, June 2, 1995.

**Volunteers needed:** Car-pooling organizer. Seven condominium co-ordinators (male or female). Party organizer for Saturday.

**Contact:** For more details and/or to volunteer, please call the Club tape (489-0339) and leave a message for Susan Harris. See you there!



## RUSTIC HIKING WEEKEND

**Adirondak Loj, Lake Placid, New York**  
**Friday, June 30 to Sunday, July 2, 1995**

As a change from John's Brook Lodge, our destination in recent years for this traditional July 1<sup>st</sup> backpacking weekend (where you have to carry about 35 lbs. of weight to the Lodge from the car for an hour or so hike), we have reserved space at Adirondak Loj for our 1995 July 1<sup>st</sup> weekend. Your car can make it right to the door of the Loj, so you will be getting off lightly this year!

Accommodation will be bunk-style and you should bring a sleeping bag. Another perk—showers are available!. Hearty dinners on Friday and Saturday and full breakfasts on Saturday and Sunday will be served.

Hiking of all levels is available from the complete beginner to the most advanced. Transportation will be by car-pool so we need to know if you have a car and how many passengers you can bring.

Adirondak Loj is a very special place. If you are not familiar with it, you are in for a eye-opener; if you know it already, you have another chance to spend precious time in the wilderness forging memories for a life-time.

Space is limited to 24 participants. To register, fill out the registration form and send in your cheque by Friday, June 2, 1995. The cost is **\$125** Canadian. All payments received after June 2 must include a \$20 late payment fee.

Non-members are welcome, but they must also purchase an annual membership (separate cheque for \$25) at time of registration.



## LABOUR DAY WEEKEND

**Rutland, Vermont**  
**Friday, Sept. 1 to Monday, Sept. 4**

Back to the green farmlands, hills and mountains of Vermont on the Labour Day weekend to cycle, hike and enjoy each other's camaraderie. The cyclists can explore some new territory over rolling scenic roads and will get a chance to use their "grannies" on some not so rolling hills (a.k.a. gaps!!!). The hikers will get to continue their conquests of this section of the Green Mountains with its many peaks, trails and spectacular views. Arrangements are being finalized to stay at a Hotel/Inn. See this summer's Randonnotes for further information.

## THANKSGIVING WEEKEND

**Waterville Valley, New Hampshire**  
**Friday Oct. 6 to Monday Oct. 9**

One of the Club's favourite weekend destinations is Waterville Valley, where Mount Tecumseh, Tripyramid and Osceola await us as well as a myriad of shorter walks and smaller peaks in the area. Our home for the weekend will be the condominiums of the Waterville Valley complex. See the summer Randonnotes for full details.



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Tel. (514) 630-6717**

**25 minutes from downtown. Exit 49 off highway 2-20  
or the 211 bus route from Lionel Groulx.**



**Canoes, kayaks, sea-kayaks, and tents available for rent.  
Coming soon...Father's Day tent sale-June 17th...Evening boat  
trials...Climbing club...and more! We hope to see you soon.**



## RECOLLECTIONS OF THE WHITE MOUNTAINS—AUGUST 1994

New to Randonnée in 1994, and a neophyte hiker, I expected, none the less, to find the trips relatively easy. After all, I had been jogging for years and was quite fit, so I recklessly signed up for whatever was available. My first outing—an extended hike to Giant on a very hot day in early summer—quickly disabused me of my assumption, and I felt lucky to get back to the bus alive and within the time limit (thanks to Clive and Karen for moral support!) A few beers at the Elm Tree soon restored my spirits, and I was chastened but ready for further challenges.

By the middle of August, with a few successful hikes in hand, I felt ready for real action in the form of a three day backpacking expedition to the White Mountains, New Hampshire. We drove to Gorham on Friday afternoon, and after picking up vital liquid supplies, joined other Randonne'ers enjoying a pre-prandial drink in the sunshine. After an excellent dinner, I retired early in deference to the efforts ahead.

Our itinerary and plans were consolidated at breakfast on Saturday, and I was among a group starting first. The first leg of our expedition was the climb to Madison Hut from the parking lot. We set out in warm sunshine, and, in spite of our thirty-five pound packs, reached our objective in under four hours. The hut is well above the tree line in the shadow of the peaks of Adams and Madison, and is an austere but welcome sight in the desolate rock-strewn environment.

After staking a claim in the dormitory and eating our lunches we were ready for more action, and, unencumbered by packs, made the easy ascent of Adams, basking in the wan sunlight at the summit for half an hour before returning for supper. The cheerful young staff at the hut prepared an excellent meal, and we spent an hour or two playing cards and games before turning in.

The next morning, the hut staff entertained us with a series of skits aimed at reinforcing our concern for the environment. I learned how to fold a blanket the AMC way, and we were informed as to the staffing and running of the huts. Suitably indoctrinated, our group of twelve packed up and addressed leg two of our journey.

We set out in cool, breezy, sunny weather, starting with a stiff climb, then taking the Gulfside trail towards our destination. Although mostly level, the terrain is rock-strewn and I found the walking tiring, requiring

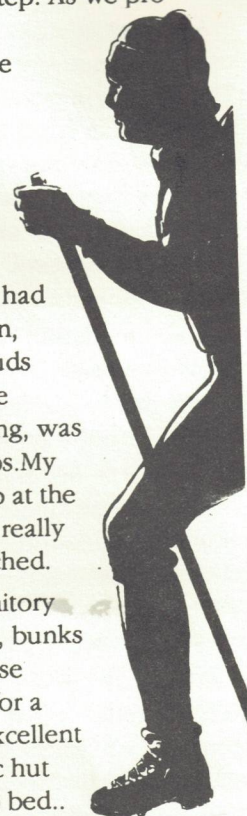
unwavering attention to ones next step. As we progressed, the weather deteriorated, becoming colder and windier. By the halfway point, rain started and it became misty—at times visibility was but a few yards. Lunch was taken in the shelter of a large boulder, and the temperature was such that activity was essential to keep warm. After six hours of this I had definitely had my fill—but just then, our destination—Lakes of the Clouds hut—appeared out of the mist, like Brigadoon. The sight, though fleeting, was enough to restore spring to my steps. My group were soon enjoying hot soup at the hut. Shortly thereafter, the heavens really opened and latecomers were drenched.

Our group shared a single dormitory the size of your average washroom, bunks stacked three high. No room for false modesty when changing! I retired for a siesta, and then enjoyed another excellent supper, courtesy of the enthusiastic hut staff. Still exhausted, it was early to bed..

The hut crew produced a splendid breakfast, and followed it up with a theatrical production befitting the largest of this chain of mountain huts, furthering our ecological indoctrination.

The rain had cleared overnight, but it was cool and grey as we started our ascent to the summit of Mt. Washington, which loomed a thousand feet above the hut. We left our packs there, and set out. This proved an easy climb of less than an hour. Seeing tourists in T-shirts and sneakers who had driven, or taken the train to the summit rather took the edge off our accomplishment. After a snack and hot drink at the restaurant, the group returned to the hut, packed up and started the descent.

The impressive Tuckerman's ravine was the most scenic part of the trip. My personal scenic preferences include streams and trees and cliffs rather than tundra-like mountain tops, and Tuckerman's certainly has them. It took about four hours to reach our final destination—the AMC Camp at Pinkham's Notch, of which the last hour seemed endless, and I arrived having depleted every last vestige of energy and then some!





## White Mountains (ctd)

One last challenge remained. I picked up my car apparently empty of gas. It being downhill all ten miles to Gorham, we coasted in on the fumes in the tank.

Sore and exhausted though I was, a get together at the Motel over a few beers soon restored my spirits as we all mulled over our experiences.

My lasting recollections of the trip, were of personal accomplishment and enjoyment of comradeship: the experience has left me determined to go further, and get fitter and faster. Maybe next time I will be in the position to help some struggling tailender!

My thanks to Susan and her helpers who made it all possible.

**Bob Yarnold**

## Discounts for R.A.

The following stores offer RA members discounts on regular prices. Present your membership card when you make a purchase.

### **Blacks Camping**

3525 Queen Mary Rd.  
739-4451

### **Dr. Bike**

559 Lakeshore Rd.  
631-2198

### **McWhinnie Cycle Inc.**

6010 Sherbrooke St. W.  
481-3113

### **VB Cycle Inc.**

6344 Victoria Ave.  
738-21201

### **Cascapedia Sports**

263B St-Jean Blvd.  
Pointe-Claire, PQ  
694-6374

### **The Trading Post**

5385 Queen Mary Rd.  
484-3447

### **Norway Nordic**

127 rue Ste-Anne  
Ste Anne-de-Bellevue  
457-9131

### **Base Camp**

173 Cartier Ave.  
Point-Claire, PQ  
630-6717

### **Sirens Ski Shop**

6131 Sherbrooke St. W.  
482-2734

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**Discount for RA members**

**Nick  
Joseph  
Bruno**

**6010 Sherbrooke St. W.  
Montreal PQ H4A 1X9  
481-3113 481-8891**



## MOUNT CHOCORUA (New Hampshire)

Many of us have driven (perhaps cycled) across New Hampshire's famed Kancamagus Highway. You can see several parking lots or rest areas as you go by. The trailheads will allow you to discover many challenging mountains, not yet explored by R.A.'s hardy hikers. Their Indian names are tongue-twisters (Chocorua, Paugus, Passaconaway, Tecumseh, to name just a few) and they will excite your imagination.

Last Thanksgiving, Derek Wisdom and six companions (Sam Allison, Gerry Bard, Monika Malecka, Mylene Pepin, Al Ramsay and Dave Rovers) decided to take advantage of ideal weather conditions. The temperature hovered around 20C and the ground was dry. We decided to climb Mount Chocorua, whose distinctive cone-shaped peak is a favourite among photographers; you will not see it from the highway. This was a "first" for Randonnée and can be considered as a "scout" for future club weekends in the area.

The hike began as a gentle stroll on a former logging road (Twin Brook Trail). We crossed several brooks (water was very low) and observed several varieties of forests until we reached the intersection with the Bee-Line Trail. We took pictures, had some water, then began the gradual but strenuous ascent (900' in a mile). The rocky ledges pose quite a challenge for both the lungs and the legs. We stopped for lunch and rested in the sun. Several switchbacks now take you up the steep mountainside to the summit. We were lucky to have encountered but a gentle breeze.

Just before the final ascent, converging trails from every direction can cause problems. In fact, only two of the trails reach the top but they bear several names! Stop and check your map every few steps. Once you have reached the peak, take a look in every direction. On a clear day, you spot Mount Washington and the "Presidential Range" to the north and Waterville Valley to the S.W.

Off the summit, some of us took a cut-off (Middle Sister Trail) to a small ridge nearby while others, fearful for their knees, opted for a gentler descent that led them

to Champney Falls; the Champney Brook Trail brought us back to the starting point.

Chocorua's elevation (3,475') is no match for the Adirondacks' High Peaks, as the spectacular pinnacle looms in the distance, but the extensive areas of open ledge which make it so attractive also pose a very real danger when the rocks are wet or icy. The rocky summit is severely exposed to lightning during electrical storms.

The substantial amount of climbing makes Chocorua a strenuous but very exciting hike, but **ONLY** in good weather.

Total distance was 9.51 miles and estimated hiking time was 7 hrs. 30 minutes (at a fast pace).

A legend is associated with the name of the Indian chief Chocorua. His son had been killed at the home of friends and, in revenge,

Chocorua murdered the entire family, then proclaimed a curse on the white man. For several years, cattle in the area would become sick and die, until someone discovered this had nothing to do with "Chocorua's curse" but was related to lime deposits in the local water.

Our stay in N. Conway next June, will allow us to chose among several "unexplored" peaks in the various mountain ranges that run north and south of the Kancamagus Highway. They are certainly as exciting as the Lafayette Ridge and other often-climbed R.A. favourites. For me, Chocorua was the apex of the most exciting hiking season in years. Only Mount Katahdin has posed more of a challenge from the technical point of view.

**Monika Malecka**

Photo: Monika Malecka





## HIKING IN PARC DE LA GASPÉSIE & FORILLON NATIONAL PARK

August 25 to September 4, 1994

Neither Diane Lowden nor I had ever been to the Gaspé before. We had heard great accounts of hiking Mont Jacques Cartier, the highest mountain in Québec, located in Parc de la Gaspésie, and of the beauty of Forillon National Park located at the tip of the Gaspé Peninsula. So, we dusted off Diane's family heirloom, the Coleman stove, packed up the tent and sleeping bags and drove off on August 25.

Our first campsite was in Parc de la Gaspésie. There were more blackflies than people around but the site itself was very clean; we had our own picnic table; there was fresh water within 10 steps from our tent; toilets and showers were a short walk away; and an outdoor kitchen area was nearby (although we didn't use it). During our 3-day stay we got plenty of information about the local hikes, the two major ones being Mont Jacques Cartier with a 70% chance of seeing caribou and Mont Albert, named after Queen Victoria's husband.

The unfavourable weather gave us some problems but we finally decided to tackle the 16-km round trip up to the plateau at the top of Mont Albert. It was a steady climb through the forest with a couple of great look-outs (one to the Gîte du Mont Albert below, a very civilized inn) until we came out at the plateau. As you reach the top there is an interpretation centre which provides shelter from the wind. We had lunch there and spoke at length with the naturalist. With our binoculars we saw two caribou in the distance looking around the plateau for food and then disappearing over the other side and down the valley to continue their search. After lunch, we crossed the boardwalk built over the plateau to protect it from the pounding of hiking boots and to allow hikers an easy way to traverse this rugged terrain. On our way down the other side of the plateau, we saw numerous waterfalls cascading through the deep crevices in the hills surrounding us, some descending directly from the plateau, some through the immense forest. Back at camp, we soothed our tired feet and made it an early night.

Next, we went on to Forillon National Park a few hours' drive farther along the north coast of the Gaspé peninsula and set up camp in a sheltered site in view of the cliffs and the ocean. Excellent facilities are provided for camping here as well and, best of all, there were no bugs! We stayed for four nights and during this time hiked along the trails of Forillon within sight of the sea

to reach the lighthouse at the tip of the coastline, saw a museum dedicated to the story of the history and importance of the cod-fishing industry in the Gaspé, drove around to see one of Canada's natural wonders, Percé Rock, with an aura all of its own and took the ferry to deserted Ile Bonaventure to hike the short distance to the other side of the island to see the famous gannet bird colony. We ate great meals prepared by our own chef Diane under clear (but cool) skies and watched the stars fill the sky to the brim. I was happy to be able to add a few more kilometers to my Fundy Challenge hiking book. (Hike 100 miles in Canada's National Parks and earn a special pin granted by Fundy National Park in New Brunswick.) Diane, too, was more than satisfied with our first visit to the Gaspé. We're both certain that we want to return for more, more, more!!!

Susan Harris



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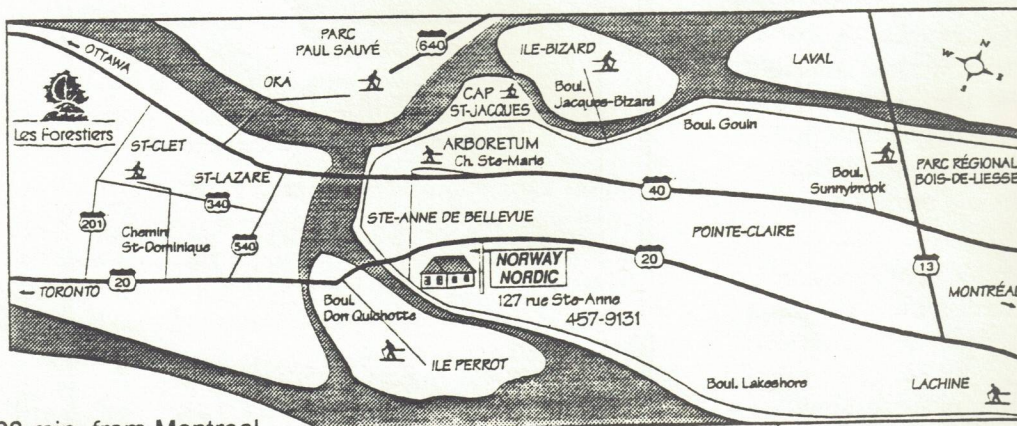
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## SKI DIRECTOR'S REPORT

A sure sign of a bizarre winter is when, the day after a ski, you hang your Lifas to dry on the clothesline, then bike some hills to train for the Marathon. All of us felt a bit schizoid as ski trips were cancelled or rerouted at the last minute. But in spite of it all, we got in a lot of excellent skiing, much of it at Far Hills Inn which enjoyed superb snow. Now that it has amalgamated its trails with those of Val David, Far Hills is surely the premier XC ski area in our part of the province. However the Winter Ski Weekend at Lac Beauport brought home to us just what amazing cross-country and downhill ski facilities exist in the Quebec City region. The Mount Royal ski lessons were expanded to two nights per week this year and proved very popular. Tom Silletta, our professional coach, promises to be back again next year. A big thank you goes to the stalwart members of the ski committee, to the trip leaders and their assistants, and to the ski lesson volunteers: these folks' efforts make all these things look effortless. My particular thanks to Gail Tedstone who coached, cajoled, aided and abetted yet another neophyte ski director.

John Stewart

## CANADIAN SKI MARATHON

The 33 members of our maxi team had another enjoyable year at the CSM. Unfavourable conditions led to the creation of a loop trail that resulted in heavy skier traffic, but afforded the rare opportunity to catch a glimpse of the elusive Coureurs de Bois. Congratulations to all who participated and strived to meet their personal goals. See you all next year at the start in Gatineau.

Diane Lowden, Team Captain

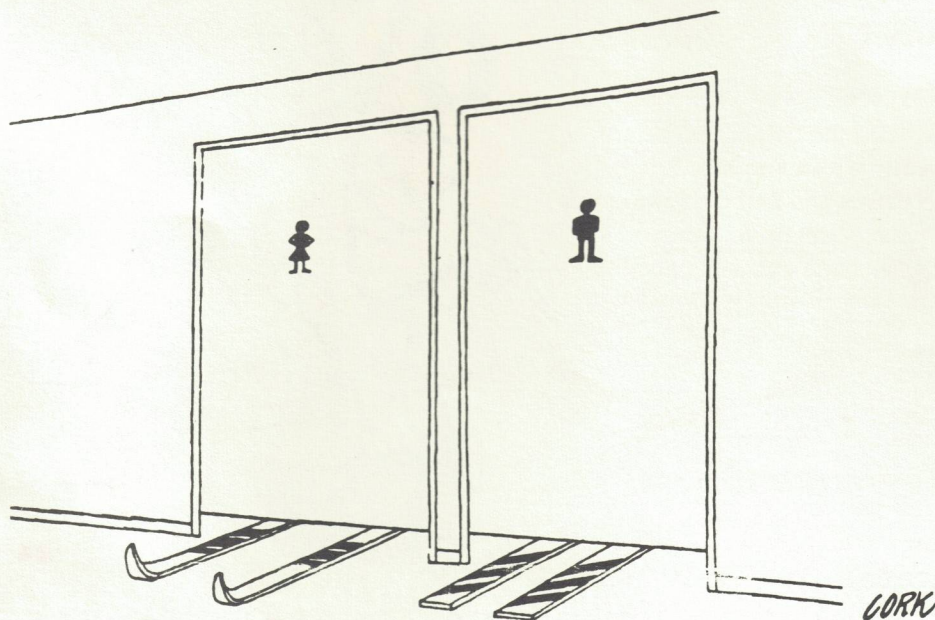
## GLIDING

Sunday, June 11th

How does an afternoon of soaring through the air sound? Leave your troubles behind and join club member Vivian Wiseman for an afternoon of gliding run by the Montreal Soaring Club near Hawkesbury. To take advantage of the afternoon updrafts, you will leave Sunday morning by carpool to arrive in time for a picnic lunch (BYO lunch) before an introductory lecture. The cost is \$45 payable on the day of the excursion but the group is limited to 15 people maximum.

If interested, contact Vivian at 482-9573. Calls would be appreciated between 7:00 p.m.-9:30 pm only.

Note: This outing is not organized or sponsored by Randonée Aventure.





## VOLLEYBALL NIGHT

**Tuesday Evenings—late January to early May**

At the Royal Vale High School (formerly West Hill) 5851 Somerled at Draper, in NDG. Take the 102 bus from Vendome. The cost is approximately \$26 for City of Montreal residents, \$36 for others. For more information, call the Club tape and leave a message for Herb Srolovitz

## GAMES AFTERNOON

**Saturday, March 18 – 2:00 p.m.**

What is a five letter word for fun? Games—as in the Games Afternoon Diana and Ian are hosting to chase away those mid March blues. Everything from Trivial Pursuit and Scrabble to Charades or Battleships. Don't worry if you don't know the rules — we'll make them up as we go along. No R.S.V.P. necessary but bring along some party snacks and beverages as well as your favourite game.

The games commence at 2:00 p.m. at 81 St. Louis, Beaconsfield. Easy access by the 211 bus from Lionel Groulx metro. Hope to see you there.

## ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING AND SPRING SIGN-UP

**Saturday, March 26**

Summer may be still around the corner but we are going to start the season early with a Summer Tee party. No, you don't need white gloves and Earl Gray, just your favourite Tee-shirt and shorts. Warm up for those summer sports by dancing the night away. No need to bring party snacks this time — they will be provided. Hope to see you there!

|                         |                                                                              |
|-------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Time:                   | 8:00 p.m. sharp                                                              |
| Registration for trips: | 8:30 - 9:30 only                                                             |
| Summer Tee-party:       | 8:30 onwards                                                                 |
| Location:               | McGill's Thompson House,<br>3650 McTavish, between Pine<br>and Dr. Penfield. |
| Admission:              | <b>\$10.00</b>                                                               |

## IMAX SHOW – TITANICA

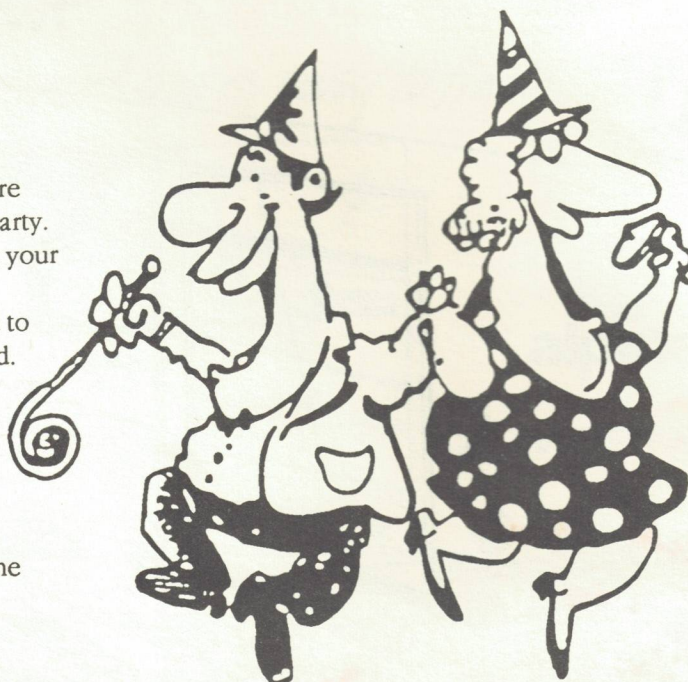
**Friday, April 28**

Join R.A.'s outing to see the world's biggest Naval Disaster, the Titanic, on the world's biggest screen — the IMAX theatre in the Old Port of Montreal, corner of St. Laurent Blvd. and de la Commune Street. The show starts at 8:45 p.m., so meet at the entrance to the theatre at 8:20 p.m. to buy your ticket and join the rest of the gang. Price is \$11.75. Would you like to go for supper first? R.S.V.P. to the Club tape by Tuesday April 25. Details of where to meet will be on the tape the week of the show.

## SHAKESPEARE-IN-THE-PARK

**Saturday, July 15**

What would be better than a picnic followed by the Immortal Bard. This year, Repercussion Theatre will be presenting *As You Like It*, directed by Cas Anvar, and *The Comedy of Errors*, directed by Jack Langedijk. The final play schedule is not out, but the plan is to meet at 7:00 p.m. at Westmount Park for a B.Y.O. picnic supper and then settle in to watch the play at 8:00 p.m. Bring blankets or folding chairs to sit on. The only charge is a freewill donation to the theatre company. You don't need to reserve, but arrive in plenty of time to ensure you get a good view. Check the Club tape during the week of July 10th for details on which play is being offered that night.





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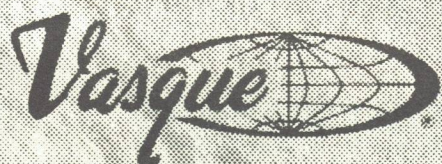


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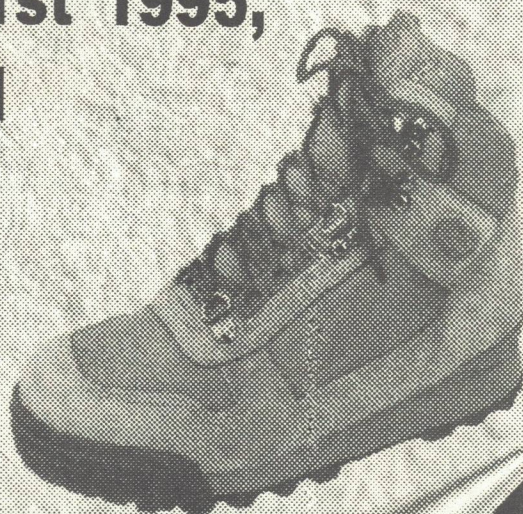


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## March

- 18 Sat. Games afternoon, Beaconsfield  
25 Sat. Spring Signup, A.G.M. & T-shirt party

## April

- 3 Mon. Atwater Library Signup Evening  
8 Sat. Sport Equipment Garage Sale  
19 Wed. Cycle Trip Leaders Meeting  
28 Fri. Imax Show & Dinner  
30 Sun. Cycle Clinic at Western Radiator

## May

- 3 Mon. Hiking Trip Leaders' Meeting  
6 Sat. Rivière St-François, Que. - day cycle  
6 Sat. Quebec Trail Maintenance  
10 Wed. Hiking Outdoor Literacy Clinic  
13 Sat. Enosburg, VT - day cycle  
13 Sat. Quebec Trail Maintenance  
14 Sun. Map reading course, Mt. Royal  
19-22 Vermont Trail Maintenance Weekend  
19-22 Victoria Day cycling weekend, Kingston, Ont.  
20 Sat. Mattawinnie, Que. - day hike  
27 Sat. Noonmark, NY - day hike  
28 Sun. Magog/Ayers Cliff - day cycle

## June

- 3 Sat. La Petite Nation, Que - day cycle  
4 Sun. Madonna/Whiteface, VT - day hike  
10 Sat. Ausable Lake, NY - extended hike  
10 Sat. Elizabethtown, NY - extended cycle  
16 Sat. ADK Loj, NY - day hike  
17 Sat. Richmond, VT - day cycle  
22-25 St. Jean Baptiste Wknd, North Conway, NH  
30-Jul.2 Rustic Hiking Wknd, ADK Loj, NY

## July

- 7-9 Vermont Trail Maintenance Weekend  
8 Sat. Belvedere/Tillotson, VT - day hike  
8 Sat. Island Pond, VT - extended cycle  
15 Sat. Shakespeare-in-the-Park  
16 Sun. R.A. Challenge Cycle Ride

## August

- 11-13 Vermont Trail Maintenance Weekend  
12 Sat. Meecham Lake, NY - day cycle  
19 Sat. Chertsey, Que. - day hike  
19 Sat. Lake Champlain, VT/NY - day cycle  
26 Sat. Jay, VT - extended hike

## September

- 1-4 Labor Day Weekend, Rutland, VT  
9 Sat. Mt. Hunger/Pinnacle, VT - extended hike  
9 Sat. Jay Peak, VT - day cycle  
16 Sat. Bedford/Dunham, QC-season's final cycle  
17 Sun. Whiteface, NY - day hike  
23 Sat. Mt. Mansfield, VT - day hike  
30 Sat. Giant, NY - day hike

## October

- 6-9 Thanksgiving Wknd, Waterville Valley, NH  
13-15 Vermont Trail Maintenance Weekend  
14 Sat. Cascade/Porter, NY - day hike  
21 Sat. Brothers/Big Slide, NY - season's final hike  
28 Sat. Winter Signup Night & Halloween Party

For the latest information on Club events,  
call the R.A. tape at 489-0339