



# The I O C A NEWSLETTER

January 1977

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HAPPY NEW YEAR! When we last left you, Ann Knudson was in a canoe. But before we return to the canoe, Ann gets to say a few nice words about herself. "You could describe me as the "Dastardly Female From S.U.O.C." commonly known as DFF3UOC. Graduate of SUNY College of Environmental Science of Forestry and Syracuse 74! Ann is also the Ex-Trophyization Chairperson. She is married to Mike Knudson, who is presently a graduate student at SUNY College of etc., but hopes to be heading West in 1977. (I wonder if he plans to take Ann along). Finally Ann claims to be slave to two flea bitten alley cats, who are known as Schwartzkat and Critter.

Just ahead was a promising little bay with several half submerged logs of the kind turtles like to sun themselves on. Unfortunately the turtles were not to be caught napping. Rings of ripples proclaimed where they had made dives for safety. We poked around the bottom a little bit, but only succeeded in muddying the water and stirring up some foul smelling bubbles. Then we spotted one a distance away, just a little feller and apparently not as wise as his elders. We coasted in his direction as quietly as possible with Bob doing an expert job of propelling the canoe without taking his paddle out of the water and me doing the best I could. Splash! there he went, but it was too late, Bob had a fix on him and watched where he swam. He settled down under some tree roots and we settled down to outwait him. He had an amazing lung capacity. Furthermore every time we rocked the boat, even slightly, he seemed to feel it and would draw in again, instead of coming up. Finally Bob got tired of waiting. He had seen some streaks of vivid color on the turtle and was sure it wasn't a snapper, so he decided to risk bitten fingers and make a grab. I was torn between leaning back to balance the canoe and leaning over to watch. Bob prodded around with his paddle and forced the turtle out of his refuge. Then there was a SPLOOSH! No, we didn't turn over, and we got the turtle. A handsome painted turtle and very lively. He crawled up and down the canoe looking for a way out.

We too were looking for a way out, seeking the outlet to the pond. Another bay leading back toward the highway looked promising. A thin layer of willows at the end might mean something?

As we drew near those willows a large bird rather like a strange looking duck took off from the shallows. It flew a short distance, making un-duck like sounds and then landed in a tree. I ran quickly through a short mental list of water birds that also landed in trees and told Bob he was looking at a green heron. "They're not uncommon", I said. What's really unusual is to spot a great

blue heron. The bay turned out to have no outlet, so we dawdled along the lake shore towards another possibility. Some cattails grew at the edge, and we went close up to assess their age and edibility. Suddenly a V of ripples shot out onto the lake. A large fish? A fish would slide into deep water and disappear and this was still going. "A muskrat" said Bob. "After him" Away we went in hot pursuit; the muskrat dove, we waited then followed when he showed up again. And again and then he was lying down in some pickeral weed. We waited, but he didn't come out. We decided to scare him out and tossed the turtle into the lake where we thought he'd gone. That didn't work either, so we gave it up.

This time we found the outlet and a five foot dam with some fishy shadows below the spillway. The stream was much narrower and much faster. Easy going down, but a lot of work to come back up. Sunset was not too far away ... and like I said before, we're lazy. We headed back for the car.

We came to the little lake as the stars were coming out, but they weren't quite enough. At any rate instead of steering us into the outlet I took a shortcut(?) across a piece of marsh. We were almost back into the channel, when the canoe struck a mud bar. "Heave", I said, and woke up a flock of ducks having a peaceful nap. "Heave", I said again, and more of them took off. About three more shoves got us back in the water, and on every shove more late sleeping ducks took to the air.

From then on we merely had to stay more or less in the middle of the stream. The railroad bridge was a cinch, and the highway overpass was dark enough to be spooky but had plenty of elbow room. The faithful car started on the first try, and soon we were part of the firefly stream on the highway. Back to the old salt mines. Tomorrow is Monday

Ann Knudson

Alan Brooks wrote recently regarding Fall Lake George. "I think it is time to drop the sophistication of that weekend and adopt a more "primitive" atmosphere to reign over the trip. Although Renselaer Outing Club has always conducted the event in a highly professional (i.e. - well organized and efficient) manner for more than 25 years, it seems that the contemporary ROCers no longer enjoy doing "thankless" work. In recalling a few of the Fall Lake George weekends I attended from 1968-1973, ROC may well be justified in dropping the project.

I propose that IOCA sponser Fall Lake George as a canoe trip and not become involved with power boat shuttles. One IOCA club that is active and well-trained in canoeing leadership and safety can certainly handle the necessary registration, safety inspection of club canoes and equipment, campsite policing and square dance arrangements for that one weekend each year (or, of course, the sponsorship can be rotated among willing clubs).

Fall Lake George, perhaps because of the convenience of the ROC power boat shuttle service, has always been marred by quasi-IOCA types, unfortunately. By eliminating the power boat service, I believe IOCA will reduce the number of "turkeys" who tend to show up for the weekend in complete absence of IOCA spirit and tradition. I have no objections to attending a function with 400-500 real IOCA's, but repeated incidents of "drunken brawls" and other non-IOCA activities indicate that not all Fall Lake George participants are IOCA's, though they may belong to an outing club.

Responsibility for Fall Lake George weekend should rest with the IOCA canoeing Chairperson and his/her outing club. It should also be the responsibility of said officer to assure the health and safety of all Fall Lake George participants through preventative

# INTERCOLLEGIATE OUTING CLUB ASSOCIATION

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procedures, not by "leading them by the hand." You don't need a power boat if everyone wears a reliable life jacket and is properly clothed against the possibility of hypothermia, not to mention knowledgeable in the basics of rough-water canoeing. Some of the best canoeists I've met in IOCA were nonswimmers - they were excellent canoeists and well-equipped because they were aware of their inability to swim!

The information I often receive from IOCANs and OCalums is that many who attend Fall Lake George are not adequately trained in simple camping and are often not properly equipped for rain, wind and cold. Are IOCA clubs failing to function as outing clubs?

If this information is accurate, then it is obvious that IOCA clubs will need to do some drastic house cleaning. It would be very tragic to have an IOCAN lose his/her life at Fall Lake George (or any other IOCA function) from some unpredictable incident (which has occurred infrequently in the past). However, it would be even more tragic - and certainly inexcusable - to have an IOCAN lose his/her life on a trip due to being ill-clothed, ill-equipped, or poorly trained in camping, canoeing or any other outdoor activity."

Does anyone remember going out and collecting bottles in their youth and returning to the store to raise money for the movies or whatever. Well kids can't do that anymore. That's one good reason for having deposit bottles. Of course, there are other reasons. Thomas O'Conner of 1084 West Broadway, Woodmere, N.Y. 11598, is interested in passing legislation to bring back deposit bottles. If you are concerned about this problem, write to Tom about ~~this at the address listed above.~~

Alan Tenthoff has volunteered to become IOCAving Chairman. If you would like to put together a trip contact Alan at 21 Diller Ave., Newton, N.J. 07860. Blake Bacon still hasn't received a roster of members, from a number of IOCA clubs for the Directory. Please send the name, address and telephone numbers of your prominent club members, to Blake Bacon at 192 Main St., Trappe- Collegeville, Pa. 19426. Bill Rollins wrote in to say that the trip in May on the Yampa River will be rafting. There is no canoeing on the Yampa river.

## IOCALENDER

### January

21-23

The Metropolitan Intercollegiate Outing Club Association proudly presents a Weekend at Surprise Lake, located in Cold Spring, New York. Cost for the weekend is \$19. For the \$19., you receive 5 meals and a bed for 2 nights in a heated cabin. Send your money and/or requests for more information to Charlie Rubin, 2547 W. 2nd St., Brooklyn, N.Y. 11223. This trip is an IOCA traditional.

21-23

Colorado State Outing Club cross country skiing - Contact Jim Stohlquist. Jim's address is 111 Braiden Hall, Fort Collins, Colorado 80521. Phone: 303 491-3712.

February  
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St. Peter's Outing Club - Cross Country Skiing. Details for this trip are rather slight. If you have time next month and would like to go, contact Mike McGuinness, St. Peter's Outing Club, St. Peter's College, 2641

Kennedy Blvd., Jersey City, N.J. 07110. Phone: 201 667-2575

March  
18-20

St. Peter's Outing Club. Franconia Notch, N.H. This is another trip with heated cabins. Contact person on this one is Mike McGuinness. Go back one space for address and phone.

April  
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CONFERENCE at Oneonta, New York. The S.U.C. at Oneonta Outing Club is sponsoring conference. They haven't set a date, but the weekend of April 15-17, seems very likely to be the time.

July  
15-31

I know this is getting ahead of ourselves, but it is never to early to plan. This trip is the IOCALUM SUPER TRIP. Island Camping, Canoeing, Climbing, Backpacking, and lots of etc. The person to write to for this one, is Morrie Schneiderman, P.O. Box 5783, Station A, Toronto, Ontario, CANADA.

\*\*\* Please remember to send in a list of your trips. Any and all news of your weekend and extended trips will be appreciated. Remember to include such things as a short description, contact person, address and phone.

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