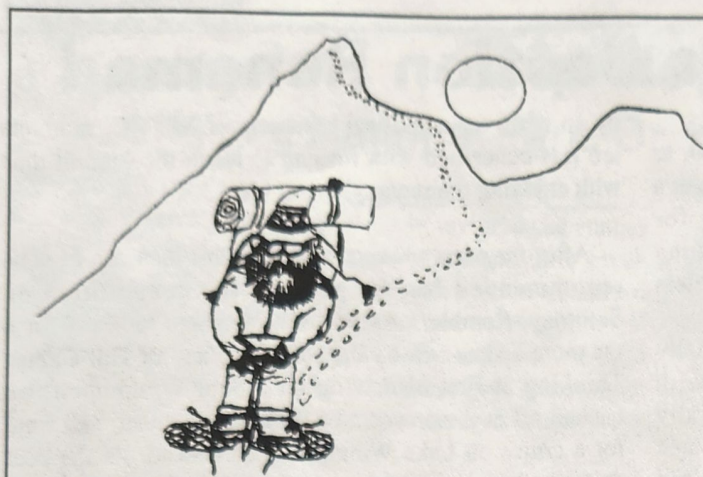




MIT Outing Club

Gnarmpsk

Winter 1993

MITOC: Room W20-461
MIT Student Center, 77 Massachusetts Ave
Cambridge, MA 02139 (617) 253-2988

MITOC Potpourri

By David Maltz -Camelot Cabin Manager

Intervale Progress

The MIT Architecture Department has finished its work and we are now in possession of the plans which will be used to build Intervale 3. The new cabin is much better thought out than Intervale 2 was, and hopefully the noise problems the old cabin suffered from have been solved. With any luck, construction of the new Intervale will begin in the spring and then continue through the summer and next fall.

To tide the club over till the spring, the US Army has been kind enough to loan us one General Purpose Tent – Medium for the winter. Four people spent Sunday Dec 13 setting up this 33' by 16' canvas monster on the Intervale site. The tent will be used as a shelter for Winter School trips during January, and will eventually serve as a base of operations for construction volunteers living on the site.

We're asking people to contribute \$2 per night that they stay at Intervale 2.5 to help pay for the plowing of the parking lot and the property taxes – so please stop by the office during rental hours if you stay up there. If by chance you have some stove pipe you could donate so we can put some heat in the tent, please contact Harold Payson (628-7876).

Winter Trip Leaders

With the exception of certain types of trips, MITOC has long encouraged its members to organize and lead club trips. If you would like to lead winter trips for the club, however, you must first be approved as a winter leader by the Winter Safety Committee. Becoming approved requires two things: 1) that you are certified in First Aid at the First Responder level or higher, and 2) that you go on at least two trips with current winter leaders so they can vouch for your skills. If you would like to become a winter leader, this IAP provides the perfect

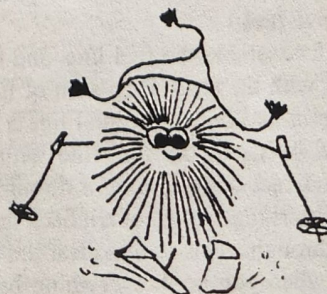
chance. MITOC in conjunction with the MIT Campus Police will be running a First Responder Course at almost no charge to the participants. First Responder Courses normally cost about \$120. By volunteering to co-lead Winter School trips on January weekends, you can also meet the second criteria for becoming a MITOC Winter Leader. If this appeals to you, please contact the Winter School Coordinator Bhavik Bakshi at 253-6521 (BHAVIK@ATHENA).

Financial Matters

MITOC applied for Undergraduate Association Financial Board Funding for the spring term and received quite a bit of aid. We were given a grant of \$480 for purchasing new crampons for Winter School, and an interest free loan of up to \$5,000 for rebuilding Intervale. The total available money for rebuilding Intervale now stands at near \$45,000. If anyone has ideas for further fund raising and would be willing to contribute their organizational skills, please contact Matt Knapp.

T-Shirt Designs

MITOC desperately needs someone to help design a new club T-shirt. The club already has about 100 T-shirts, just waiting for somebody's idea of what to put on them. If you've got ideas, please stop by during office hours and talk about them, or contact Dave Maltz (492-6983).



MITOC Cowards Section Renamed

By Jonathan Richmond

There's good news for those cowards who are too, or cowardly to admit to their non-heroic disposition: due to a lack of people willing to be seen volunteering for cowardly pursuits, the Cowards Section of the Outing Club has been renamed the British Imperial Ramblers Association.

Rambling is a genteel English occupation, especially popular among Southern gentlefolk not taken with unnecessary overexertion. A tweed jacket is generally sported, and preferably some sort of faded tie for the men and equally tasteless scarf for the women. A good sized picnic hamper is taken along for the trip, replete with all manner of delectable edibles. Ramblers traipse around England's green and pleasant land, keeping their distance from the harsh and uncivilized environments presented by the undeveloped hinterlands of the Scottish north.

Translated to the American colonial environment, there are plentiful opportunities for the pursuit of rambling. Just think of it: while your friends get sweaty and dirty scaling mountains, you can ride up to the top in a gondola and, after a gentle ramble around the summit, be snacking on smoked salmon and downing a good champers as they only begin to emerge from the deep despondent distance! During autumn, ramblers can drive through the leafy scenery, pausing for refreshing strolls down gentle paths. Spurning the orgasmic approach to the countryside taken

by so many conventional members of MITOC, ramblers are less concerned with rushing to reach the summit than with enjoying the scenery on the way.

After far more running up mountains than can ever be recommended for the good of the constitution on Saturday, Ramblers Association members took off for a far more sedate trip on the following day of Fall Circus. Thinking at first of driving up Mount Washington, we backed off at the prospect of inclement weather, and went for a cruise on Lake Winnepesaukee instead. As the boat drifted through the lake, the New Hampshire foliage presented itself in full glory: and without the least exercise. When the countryside got boring, furthermore, there was a lawnchair orchestra on hand to provide cultural edification because, in the end, ramblers are at heart urban people who realize that the joys of the countryside should only be taken in small doses.

If you are interested in planning or pursuing lazy rambling activities, please contact me. There will be a ramblers day at Spring Circus, and plans are in motion for a ramblers weekend at Acadia National Park, where there are plenty of roadways available to avoid the necessity of straying too far from the civilized track. Other MITOC members, interested in providing portage services for our champagne supplies, should also please contact me.

How to Clean the Fuel Line of Your MSR Whisperlite Internationale

By Jim Reardon

Why you would want to do this: if the stove takes a longer time than usual to boil water. If you find yourself pumping it more and more often. If it makes some noise other than the usual quiet rushing roar. The fuel line is the most likely cause of such symptoms.

What you need to do this: a maintenance kit. It contains (among other things) disassembly instructions, a jet cleaning tool, and something that can be used as a wrench. You can improvise for these if you're clever. Also you need stove fuel.

What to do: disassemble the fuel line, and remove the jet. Clean the jet with the tool. Drip a bit of fuel through it. Run the cable in and out of the fuel line a few times. Hook up the fuel bottle to the fuel line with the cable removed, and send fuel under pressure through the fuel line. Unhook it, insert the cable, hook it back up, and send some more fuel through. This should clear the fuel line of any dirt, so that when you hook everything back up, the

dirt you dislodged from the fuel line won't get washed into and stuck in the jet. Reassemble the stove. 10-20 pump strokes should suffice to get the stove going.



This issue of Gnarpfsk:

Editing:.....David Maltz '93

Layout:.....David Maltz '93

Postmaster: Please send address corrections to MITOC, Room W20-461, 77 Massachusetts Ave, Cambridge, MA 02139 (617) 253-2988. PAPER SUBMISSIONS FOR GNARPFISK SHOULD BE SENT TO MITOC AT THE ABOVE ADDRESS. ELECTRONIC SUBMISSIONS (WHICH WE PREFER) SHOULD BE SENT TO DMALTZ@ATHENA.MIT.EDU. MITOC is a separately incorporated body recognized as a Student Activity by the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

Trip Reports

Life in a National Park, Or, What I Did This Summer

By David Metzler

Before I immersed myself fully in my graduate studies at MIT, I figured I needed a complete and utter break from school. So I decided to apply for a job in a National Park. A friend of mine had done so two years earlier and vastly enjoyed his experience, so I decided I would try it too. As it turned out, I had a wonderful time, and I would recommend such a course to anyone interested in the outdoors.

I got a job as a busser at a place quaintly named the "Paradise Inn," in Paradise, Washington. Paradise is the main destination in Mount Rainier National Park, a 400 square mile piece of land around Mount Rainier, the fifth highest peak in the contiguous States. Mount Rainier has doubtless appeared often in previous issues of this journal—as well it might, because it's a fantastic mountain. First of all, it's BIG. REAL big. It may not be the highest mountain in elevation in the lower 48, but measured from its base, it dwarfs any mountain in Colorado or the Sierras. The famed 14ers in Colorado typically rise from 10,000 foot bases; whereas the 14,411 foot (4392m) Rainier rises from a 2,000 foot base. Even seen from 70 miles away in Seattle or Yakima, it dominates the skyline, enough to make my jaw drop when I saw it from the airport. Rainier is also special in the lower 48 for being the most glaciated peak – due not to extremely cold weather (Colorado is colder) but to the ENORMOUS amount of precipitation it gets due to its location on the West Coast. The prevailing winds basically try to dump as much of the Pacific as they can on the Cascade range of which Rainier is the zenith. For example, Paradise holds the world record for yearly measured snowfall, at 1,122 inches!

Being at Mount Rainier inspired me to put all of my energy into hiking and camping. Hardly a day went by when I didn't explore some new trail around Paradise, or go out on my days off for an overnight trip. The park has a great system of trails, encompassing the mountain and going from the lowest life zones (temperate rain forest) to the highest (arctic). The diversity of habitats, caused by the incredible vertical relief, is perhaps the park's most outstanding feature besides the beautiful mountain that presides over it all. If you stay in the park a while you can see all sorts of critters – I saw mountain goats, elk, white-tailed deer, a bear, and even a mountain lion, in addition to the thousands of marmots, squirrels and chipmunks playing in the meadows. And it's the meadows which are the other great attraction of Rainier, particularly the Paradise area, which has its rather presumptuous name

because of the absolutely amazing flower meadows it possesses during the summer.

Soon after I got to Rainier I was bitten by the climbing bug, and conceived an overwhelming desire to climb the mountain. I managed to do that twice, and both times were incredible experiences. The first time I went with the guide service, an outfit called Rainier Mountaineering Inc., which is run by a rather well-known mountaineer named Lou Whittaker. In fact, many of the staff at RMI are expert mountaineers, including many Everest summitters, and the first person ever to summit Everest twice (a Sherpa named Nawang Gombu).

Both of my climbs went by the "Disappointment Cleaver" route: by far the most popular route on the mountain. The trip starts with a vertical mile of climbing from Paradise to Camp Muir, a collection of shelters (and toilets!) on the edge of the Cowlitz glacier. Most of the journey up to Camp Muir is a snow slog, which can be pretty tedious with a 40 pound pack. But if the weather's good, the view is incredible – you can see the other two jewels of the Washington Cascades: Mt. Adams and the unfortunate Mt. St. Helens. On a clear day you can see across the Columbia River to the triangular Mt. Hood.

Most sane climbers allow a full day to get up to Camp Muir, set up camp and get to bed early – very early, since the ideal time to start climbing is about 1 AM. This preposterous schedule is necessitated by the dynamics of temperate glaciers. They are safest when cold, since the snow bridges over crevasses are then good and solid. On Rainier, particularly on this route, you also want to know that the rocks above you are frozen in place – rock and icefall is the biggest danger here: in 1980, eleven people in an RMI climb were killed in a massive icefall on this route.

Most people get up about midnight to check the weather, and if it's decent, they start preparing for the climb to the summit. Once geared and roped up, you begin the climb with a traverse of the Cowlitz glacier, then an unpleasant hike up a scree slope, then another glacier traverse, until you come to the most dangerous part of the climb. You must traverse (quickly!) under a face of rock that is rapidly disintegrating and hence prone to rockfall. Once past that, you are on the "Disappointment Cleaver," a rock rib so named because the first climbers to use it expected its top to be much higher. I would have liked that, too, since the Cleaver is the steepest part of the climb, and the one where I started feeling the altitude (about 12,000 feet = 3600m).

Trip Reports

Fall Circus 1992

By Matt Knapp – MITOC Co-President

Circus! The roar of the fire! The smell of the crowd! Circus was a jolly good time this year! The weather, while not excellent, showed much sympathy. It was raining when we arrived and started again just as we left, but never in the middle! (it was also quite warm so the wet wasn't too bad). The weather also made for a neat arrival atmosphere with the dark and the fog and the patter of rain on leaves – kind of like the mystical Camelot of Arthur's time. The cabin was far too small for a crew of our size - there were a good 60 - 70 people at circus at any one time. MIT, Wellesley, Amherst, and Wells were all represented. In order to sleep this many people we overflowed the sleeping loft into a few tents. A few more people slept in the kitchen, some of us slept under the cabin and the Amherst crew got stuck with the woodshed.

Saturday the rocks were too wet to climb so 9 lucky winners got to go canoeing (we only had 3 canoes) and the rest of us took a hike. I led a trip over Moosilauke which was an excellent hike. We did have the misfortune of encountering a large group of Dartmouth business college types on the top of the mountain. Stock market trends are the last thing I want to hear about while hiking in the White Mountains. The view was a bit hazy and grey which didn't help the foliage any, especially since most of it had gone by already. Lots of nice leaves on the grounds, not as many left in the trees.

Dinner was excellent, at least. It ran smoothly though it took a while to cook stir-fry for n people (as $n \rightarrow$ lots) over camp stoves. One stove kept insisting on doing an Olympic Torch impression every now and then just to keep life exciting! There was a gorgeous full moon and we walked out to the clearing SEDS uses for their

telescope a few hundred yards from the cabin in the woods. A few minutes later we heard another group coming out to the same spot so we (Richmond, Heather and I, Neil was there too but he had fallen asleep on the ground) decided an ambush was in order. Less than 50 yards short of our ambush the other group got lost! Geeze, some people can't even get themselves scared properly! The underside of the cabin was forsaken that night for a much nicer sleep under the stars. (The neat thing about fall is that it's still relatively warm but there are no mosquitoes).

On Sunday we had rock climbing and canoeing again. I don't know how those activities were but the mortality rate was 0 so they couldn't have been too bad!. I had a great hike with 5 others over Little Haystack and Mt. Lafayette. Found three more intrepid MITers not connected with us on top of Lafayette, one of whom was the brother to one of my Random floor-mates. We also set some sort of record for class by getting out the stove and serving Hot Cocoa for lunch on top of Lafayette. Ahhhh, so much more fun than tooling!

Back at the cabin we faced a final moment of chaos figuring out how to get everyone back to Boston without pulling a clown-car stunt. In the end, we managed to distribute gear and people so that there were only 17 passengers in the 15 passenger van, not bad at all! Being Co-President I'll be happy to take some credit for an excellent circus but I owe a lot to Dave Maltz who is just too used to being in charge to stop now, and Minh Lee who kept things organized back at the cabin while I was having fun leading my "death trips" through the woods. Thanks both of them and everyone else who came, see you for Spring Circus!

Denali Park Provides a True Wilderness Experience

By Jim Reardon

DENALI NATIONAL PARK, AUG 6-10

Denali is a park dominated by one mountain, still officially called McKinley, and one animal, the Grizzly Bear. It is a park which caters to the hiker: free bus rides into the park (note that the bus which takes hikers into the park is not the same bus that takes tourists into the park—the latter had a two-day waiting list when I was there), free use of ABS cylinders to keep your food from the bears, free backcountry permits.

After 15 miles the access road into the park is officially closed to private vehicles and apparently closed to trees, and for the next 66 miles it winds through the treeless Wyoming Hills until it reaches Wonder Lake, paralleling

the Alaska Range at a distance of 10 miles. Mt. McKinley is about 20 miles from Wonder Lake and rises more than 3 miles above it: it looks BIG (if it's not cloudy).

I hiked for a few days just north of Wonder lake in some low hills, mostly under 3000 feet, through terrain that looked like the top of Mt. Lafayette, spread out to the horizon. There were Caribou around, but no Grizzly bear, and no Mt. McKinley, for it was cloudy. The tundra there was spongy and made for very pleasant, if very damp, hiking; it abounded with blueberry bushes.

Don't forget McKinley and the Grizzly, but even in their absence Denali Park is a wonderful place to visit for anyone who enjoys the wilderness.

Useless Conversion Mnemonic: 1 mile = 1.6 km

Trip Reports

Unprepared BUOC Members Get Frozen in November

By Bryant Noice, Boston University Outing Club (BUOC)

Nov 14-15, 1992

The BUOC trip to Mt Chocorua in the Whites was perhaps one of the closest calls that I have had as a trip leader. In the second week of November, it can get quite cold at night in the Whites, as most of us know. Yet, there managed to be some folks in our group of sixteen who managed to get on that mountain with some of the worst preparation, or lack thereof, that I have ever seen. One fellow went up in canvas deck shoes, with a large hole in the side of one. Another guy claimed he was set for a sleeping bag, until we got to our camp site, and it was

discovered that he had a bag rated at +30 degrees that simply wasn't gonna do the job. We had beautiful weather, yet all the same it was 12 degrees the night we spent up there. If we had not been so damn lucky with the good weather, someone would have lost fingers and toes to frostbite, and that would have been the least of our problems. As a result of this, the BUOC has instituted some stiff policies about demonstrating the necessary level of preparedness for a trip, especially a winter trip! This is a story with a moral — If you organize or run trips, make damn sure all your participants are suitably prepared before you let them anywhere near a mountain!

Summitting on Mt Rainier is One of the Benefits of the Job.

Continued from page 3

The last part of the climb is the most interesting, and is in some ways the most enjoyable, even though it is a long, slow, difficult trudge. Here you are ascending the upper part of the Emmons Glacier, the largest glacier in the continental US, and doing your best to zig-zag around or step across the many crevasses barring your path. This landscape, described by one of my companions as "Dr. Seussian," is what really hooked me on this kind of mountaineering. A glacier is like no other place, and it's a beautiful and fantastic, if dangerous, place to be.

The summit itself is rather an anticlimax—on this route, you come up to the summit plateau, which basically consists of a huge crater, on exactly the wrong side. To get to the true summit (200 feet higher) you take off your pack, unclip from the rope and waltz over (or trudge, depending) across the bottom of the crater to sign

the register book and put your feet on the snowy hill they call Columbia Crest, the Top Of The Mountain. And then you realize that the RMI people are right when they say the summit's only halfway there. For you have to go all the way back down to Paradise — 9,000 feet of descent in about seven hours. Make sure your boots fit.

The experiences I had at Mount Rainier made this summer the best one I can remember. I'm sure that one could have a similarly intense experience at many national parks, and I would highly recommend working in one for a summer. If you want to try it, you can call the National Park Service Personnel Office for information, or find a book called "Jobs in Paradise," all about working in the parks. And if mountaineering is your thing, there isn't a much better place to be in this country than Mount Rainier. If you want to work there, contact Mount Rainier Guest Services in Ashford, Washington.

Mapping Mt. Everest by Dr. Bradford Washburn

(Boston Museum of Science)
Wednesday 17th February at 8:00pm
MIT Room 10-250

Dr. Washburn is among the world's most leading authorities in map making and exploration. He will be bringing along examples of the cameras, clothing and oxygen gear used in putting together the most detailed maps of Mt Everest to date.

There will likely be some nominal admission charge to cover the cost of the room. Sponsored by MITOC

Hilton's Tent City Provides Discount to MITOC Members

Hilton's Tent City located at 272 Friend Street in Boston near the Green line (227-9242) will give a 10% discount on all their merchandise to Outing Club members. You must simply show the checkout clerk your membership card before he starts to ring up your purchase. Hilton's has a pretty good selection of outdoors' gear, from tents to clothing to stoves and packs, and their prices are ordinarily low relative to other stores. The store is an absolute mess, but the sales clerks have an astonishing memory for under what pile of stuff they last saw what you're looking for.

Up Coming Events

MITOC's largest event during January is Winter School. Winter School consists of lectures and demonstrations held two nights a week and trips on weekends. You are welcome to come on as many or as few trips as you like, but you must either come to the first four lectures or have previous winter experience with the club to be able to go on trips. Lectures will be held from 6-9p.m. on Mondays and Wednesdays in the Mezzanine Lounge of the Student Center. For more information, please contact Bhavik Bakshi (253-6521).

THEME 1: ESSENTIALS OF WINTER SURVIVAL

Monday, Jan 4 - Introduction and Slides; Heat Management via Clothing; Food and Nutrition; Stoves and Headlamps

THEME 2: BASIC WINTER TRAVEL AND SAFETY

Wednesday, Jan 6 - Trip Announcements; Below tree line travel; Cross-country skiing; Snow shoeing; Safety and evacuation

Monday, Jan 11 - Above tree line travel; Multi-day trips; Weather; Car Woes

Wednesday, Jan 13 - Trip Announcements; Self arrest; Mountaineering and Cold Weather Injuries (Guest talk by Dr. Murray Hamlet of US Army Environmental Research)

Monday, Jan 18 - MARTIN LUTHER KING DAY

THEME 3: ADVANCED WINTER TRAVEL

Wednesday, Jan 20 - Trip announcements; Winter Natural History (Guest talk by Helga Burre of the Audubon Soc.); Snow and ice climbing; Glacier travel; Avalanches

Monday, Jan 25 - Routefinding; Snow shelters/bivouacs; Expeditions; Ski Mountaineering

February

Friday to Sat (5th-7th): Winter hiking trip - we'll go where ever there is snow (contact: Bhavik Bakshi 253-6521)

Friday to Monday (12th-15th): A Presidential Traverse on President's Day weekend. You must have significant winter experience to go on this trip. (contact: Bhavik Bakshi)

Wednesday 17th (8pm): Mapping Mt. Everest by Dr. Bradford Washburn, MIT Room 10-250

Friday to Saturday (19th-20th): A day of cross country skiing at Camelot (contact: Dave Maltz 492-6983)

Friday to Sunday (26th-28th): Winter Backpack (contact: Jim Reardon nemesi@athena)

March

Thursday 4th (6pm): MITOC Elections meeting (W20-461)

From: The MIT Outing Club
W20-461
84 Massachusetts Ave
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I.D.
MAIL