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UVAOCalendar

November

28 UVAOC Meeting - slides on canoeing in Canada

December

1 Search and Rescue Training, Prince William Forest Park, Va.

5 Matt Hale's slide and talk show on Mt. Huntington in Alaska. 7:30, Informal Lounge - Don't miss it!

7-9 UVAOC CHRISTMAS PARTY, Wolf Gap Cabin - Lots of Jollies

12 UVAOC Meeting and Gear Swap and Auction. Bring all of your old junk to trade for new junk or to sell.

exams!!

21- Jan. 14 XC skiing, Wind River Range, Wyoming

27- Jan. 4 Winter Mountainering Seminar, Pinkham Notch, N.H.

January

1-7 Or 7-14 Skiing, Laurentian Mountains, Canada. Both Downhill and cross country.

4-12 Third Annual Traverse Expedition (Presidential Range N.H.)

18--20 Winter Backpacking, George Washington National Forest Rt. 60 to Eye River Gap.

19 or 20 Search and Rescue Training-
(I) Cold Weather, Hypothermia, and Frostbite
(II) Land R Communications - (no pre-requisites)

16 UVAOC Meeting - Slides on Olympic National Park.

The next Scrawl will hopefully be completed and ready for distribution on January 16. This issue will deal with Winter Mountaineering and any contributing articles will be gladly accepted. We print anything!!!

Scrawl Editor -

Ric Spengler

Contributing Editors -

Eric Hardee

Keith Conover

UVAOC OFFICERS

President	Keith Conover	295-2050
Vice President (Equipment)	Eric Hardee	295-2050
Secretary	Jon Harris	
Treasurer	Ron Good	295-1627
Canoeing Chairman	Forrest Arnold	295-0595

Note: John Rutkowski resigned as President of the U.V.A. Outing Club. His Resignation had nothing to do with Watergate.

(John felt that due to his heavy course load he could not give enough time to the Outing Club.)

Trip Report
or
Once Upon A Devil's Tower
-John Rutkowski

Wed. August 14 1:30 p.m. - Another hot day of construction work. pouring concrete. 90° and 90 relative humidity. Dreaming about snow capped mountains. I hadn't had more than a weekend in the mountains since last spring. Have done a good deal of rock climbing through the summer. I wonder what it would be like to climb a "real" mountain, instead of cliffs ?

Thurs. August 15 11:00 p.m. - Called the girl I had been climbing with this summer, to tell her I'm going to the mountains.. She got ahold of a car and wants to go too. I'll quit my job tomorrow.

Fri. August 16 - last of work for the summer. Caa-ooo-wah! Spent two hours packing, then on to C'ville to see if anyone else wanted to come. Everybody's gone West already. The rest is a two week blur: drove to Urbana (?), all from C'ville straight in 14 hrs. 3 hrs. sleep in South Dakota that night.

"Well, now that we are heading West, Where are we going?"

"Well, I hear Devil's Tower in Wyoming is a neat climb, 5.4

I think."

"How big?"

"How should I know."

Played tourist for the day and went through the Badlands and saw Mt. Rushmore. Did some climbing in the Pinnacles area of the Black Hills. Kind of Winded climbing at 10,000 ft. Crawled through Jewel Cave for awhile. Saw Devil's tower ~~that~~

that evening, 1,200' above the surrounding plains..Talked to the ranger - you have to go through ten miles of red tape in order to climb a national monument. Found out that the easiest route "Durrance" is 5.6. Melannie can climb only 5.4, looks like I'll have to practice the non-ascent. Good luck! Ran into three climbers from Billings, Montana and;one neededaspe rtner.

Up at the crack of dawn, armed with two liters of water, two 150' ropes and assorted other gear. Tourists took pictures 9(still and movies) of us sorting the gear. Scramble 150' up over talus and two shoulders. The climb was six pitches with not a hand hold in sight for 400',have to jam crack all the way. 3 1/2 hrs.for the six which ended with a pendulum around a corner. Scrambled the last 200' class4. On top, if I look east the next highest thing I should see is Mt. Washington in N.H. Took an hr. to rappell down 4 150' rappells. More pictures with the tourists.

"Well, now where?"

"Ihear that the Wind River Valley Range is nice."

"Ok., might as well"

Another day driving across the Continental Divide at 9,000' in the middle of a prarie. Drove 40 miles on a dead-end dirt road. stayed around Green River Lakesdfor three days, did a few 11,000 footers. Woke - up 40°. Found a warm spring, 80°, stripped and jumped in (we could use a few of these in Va.)

On the road again through Colorado, then across the Plains. Drove from Iowa to C'ville with one two hr. break. Got to get back for class. 12 days, 9,000 miles and some neat climbing. Not a bad score!

Trip Report
Harper's Ferry Search
Sept. 15-16
-Rusty Fitzgerald

At 6:00 p.m. on the afternoon of September 14, five intrepid hikers, climbers, and general outdoor types piled into Keith Conovers Rambler and headed toward Harper's Ferry, West Virg. Included in this expedition were Carol Piem, Keith Conover, Eric Hardee, Proal Heartwell, And Rusty Fitzgerald. The object of the exercise was to develop expertise in methods of back-country rescue. With the faithful Stokes Litter securely lashed on top of the car with carabiners and sling seats, the trip took two and one half hours. The first stop was Highacre, a converted house owned by PATC. The group met two other exercise participants, Gene Harrison and Cheryl Jones. Gene and Keith were the overall coordinators of the mission, and they spent a good deal of ~~W~~ Friday night plotting the route of the trackers and the target. They developed an intricate system of voice and CB radio communications, using such exotic point designations as "Checkpoint Gunpoint" and "Checkpoint Hurry-up."

Saturday morning at 10:00 a.m. the team from UVaOC and Gene met the rest of the force at the National Parks Service Headquarter
****~~Some problems were encountered and overcome~~****Occasionally****

There were five others who joined in the mock-search. After some delay in setting up radio contact with the Park Service radio band, the combined expedition moved out in force.

Cheryl was selected to be the object of the search. The situation was that one of two young climbers was hurt on the previous day. The other climber returned with help to find the injured

climber missing. The injured boy was presumed to be wandering about somewhere on the Maryland Heights Bluffs overlooking the Shenandoah and Potomac Rivers.

Cheryl was given a head start and she took off along a specified trail. Carol, of UVaOC, followed the trail and was the center of the search line. Proal, Eric, and Rusty were deployed along both sides of the trail with the other searchers to comb the sides for clues that the target would hide from time to time. After about 3 hrs. of bulling through thickets and bramble nests, the searchers discovered the target hiding gleefully among the boulders and crevasses on the exposed rock cliffs on the Maryland side.

Some problems were encountered and overcome. Occasionally, one flank would get out of line or spacing, both of which required relayed verbal messages to correct the situation. Several times one flank was stopped entirely while the other quartered a particularly promising area. The searches stumbled onto spiders, bees, and one black snake. Overall, the exercise pointed out possible areas of problems and workable solutions to those problems. Saturday night we returned to Highacre again to clean up and had an excellent supper at the Hilltop Hotel.

The next days exercise was more technically difficult. At first glance it seemed almost too easy to bother with: to remove one small girl from one medium size bluff with six people helping. In fact, it took the better part of three hours. We were assisted on Sunday by an Explorer Post of the Loudon Co. Va. area, and we had technical assistance from Gene and Stowell Robertson, who is a fire and rescue specialist for the F. A. A. at Dullas International. Their technical assistance consisted of intervention in a case where the rescue team's plans would have been dangerous to the

victim or the rescuers. Rusty Fitzgerald was the rescue leader, and he had to plan the rescue tactics necessary to negotiate steep rock faces, brush and trees, and onae fairly small crevice in the rock. Eric was the team's rope specialist, designing and operating whatever belays and safety rigging was necessary. Proal was a special assistant who relieved others in the stretcher-bearing and cleared dangerous objects from the path of the rescue. Keith was an advisor and generally supervised the selection of the ~~****~~ task for the team. The victim was a girl Liz from the Explorer Post. After 3 hrs. three separate belay rigs (using double brake bars), a great deal of complete concentration, and quarts of sweat; ~~the*observers*and*~~ ~~participants*begin*~~ the rescue was over, Liz was safe, and the observers and participants began to have a critique of the performance. The team cleaned up again, shot the bull with old caving buddies, then headed for home. The most exciting thing that happened on the way back was when Rusty single-handedly rescued the tie-in sdtraps of the Stokes Litter which were blowing off the top of the car when it was moving. The group stopped at Harrisonburgh to visit Madison College and the Sandwich Shop, in that order, and then made its way home by way of downtown Ruckersville. Overall, it was a challenging and educational activity, and one in which people spending time in the boonies ought to engage.

Rumor has it that the U..S.. Fire (?) Service is planning to install footlights on Old Man's Route since it is becoming such a popular ~~route~~ for descent after dark!

Experimental results have shown that large doses of Quaker 100% Natural Cereal injected into rats produce unbelievable crepatations!!!

Equipment Analysis

What to look for in a backpack

After several packs (I'm still not satisfied) and different kinds of backpacking ; I have discovered that no one pack on the market suits all my needs completely. This article is aimed at making you aware of quality features to look for in a pack depending on your activity.

Carefully considering features of packs by Alpine Designs, Sierra Designs, North Face, Jan Sport, Kelty, Mountain Master, (Denali Co.), Universal, Alpenlite, R.E.I., Ski Hut (Trailwise), & Gerry, I have come to several conclusions. The packs I'm speaking of are frame packs and not soft packs or packs with flexible aluminum stays, (although I must mention that Class Five has emerged with a respectable line of quality "touring sacks"). The above companies all make several packs, only some of which are worth considering. Kelty, Mountain Master, and Universal all make several packs which are worth considering. To single out the best pack of each I would recommend Kelty's Serac, Denali's Rocky Mountain Divide, Universal's ~~Trailmaster~~. Sierra Designs and Jan Sport have some interesting innovations but other factors make these packs inferior, and I would not recommend them. Gerry's C.W.D. is an interesting idea but it does not work as well as it could; the execution of the design idea is just not of a good enough quality. Ski Hut packs employ the same, quality recommended suspension system also used in Denali Packs, however Ski Hut's packs are of a dump-all design which is essentially useless (for keeping things in any semblance of order) I know I will get flack from this statement, but to anyone who disputes this I will boldly challenge them to a number of tests which will prove my statement. Time is critical in a survival situation - a matter of seconds could mean life or death. Alpine Designs packs, especially the Expedition, have some very sophisticated features, but the quality control and durability of the equipment is poor.

On Waterproofing

T:

The Great Debate rages on: Kelty vs. all the competition. Kelty is the only company that holds steadfast in their belief of a non waterproof pack to be the best. Kelty's packs are constructed

with a waterproof back (the part next to your back) and the rest of the pack is a water repellent (breathable) nylon. This means that in a heavy rain everything will get wet, but not if you buy the extra Kelty rain cover!!! In other words if you're buying a Kelty remember to figure in the cost of the rain cover (of course unless you exclusively dig desert hiking). Kelty's reasons for a non waterproof pack are interesting. They claim that no pack is waterproof, due to the many seams in construction. That's true, if you hike underwater. They also maintain that with a waterproof pack, there is condensation on the inside of the pack material. I will dispute this - I have never experienced this phenomena with my waterproof pack. Obviously when there is a radical change in temperature, and depending on the relative humidity, condensation does occur (since the air in the pack is trapped at the previous temperature by the non-porous material). A friend of mine, upon occasion, has found everything in his pack to be wet after bringing it inside. To this I reply... well the next time I'm back-packing through buildings I'll consider this problem. When you bring your pack inside after a trip merely open it up allowing the air to circulate.

A definite minus against the rain cover is that it makes everything in the pack inaccessible (accessibility being one of the features I am emphasizing). I have a rain cover for my waterproof pack, and use it only in hard driving rains where the seams would leak slightly. This way I only lose convenience in a few instances of extremely bad weather. When you buy a waterproof pack make sure that the waterproofing is on the inside the pack. If it is on the outside it will wear off rather quickly, although with waterproofing on the outside, the pack material will stay dry. If the waterproofing is on the inside, the pack material will get wet as far as the waterproofing- so it dries slower.

Durability

Kelty makes the most durable pack due to its excellent craftsmanship, and the excellent materials used. There are basically 3 choices in pack material - Canvas, Nylon Duck, and Cordura Nylon. Most packs are made of nylon duck, which provides good durability for its weight. Cordura is practically indestructable, but its weight is a little setback. If you're heading for the thick brush

and places where people have never been before ie: Bushwacking, then a cordura pack is a must. Kelty falls in between the two with a Zelan treated nylon duck, and only slightly heavier than the normal. It is much more durable than the standard nylon duck. Universal uses the heavier cordura exclusively (on the Loadmaster), Alp and Denali both offer a choice of material. In my opinion, the standard nylon duck is much more aesthetic than the cordura due to its more natural handling characteristics.

Kelty uses metal zippers contrary to most of the other manufacturers who use nylon or delrin. I have never yet heard of a metal zipper failing (much less on a Kelty); however there aren't that many nylon zipper failures, and when they do occur you can usually replace them for free under the manufacturers' guarantee. Nylon Coil zippers (YKK) are preferable to both nylon; or Delrin, tooth and metal zippers due to their much greater ease in operation. Delrin which is self lubricating is also better in a tooth zipper than either nylon or metal. All nylon zippers have a lower freezing point than metal ones, although the temperature difference may not be that critical. Alp and Jan Sport have nylon (self repairing) coil zippers, Mountain Master has Delrin tooth zippers.

Features - General Construction

Pockets are an important part of the pack and much thought should go into their design(it usually doesn't). To clarify their purpose... pockets are useful in containing many small items, especially poly-bottles for water. Quick and easy access is important. The pockets should be geared to these functions. For instance in the Alpine Designs Expedition, I have yet to find a water bottle* that fits comfortably, and efficiently into the top pockets (although bottles do fit, the cut of the pockets is such that there is unuseable space). By having pockets on the outside, the width of the pack is increased, WHY IS THERE A GAP BETWEEN THE POCKETS ?? By merging the pockets, there is more easily accessible space, and yet the pockets are still separated. Access to the bottom pocket is solved by a side zipper on the pocket. Mountain Master packs have these "merged" pockets, but

* a 1 qt. poly-bottle

the zippered access was designed poorly. Pockets on the Sierra Designs packs illustrate exactly what I'm talking about. Mountain Master also has an interesting 1" wide pocket which extends full length between the main bag and the pockets. It's a useful pocket for tent poles and other long items, but one must choose between this, and having slots for skis.

The map pocket is also a problem pocket. There are many designs, none of which work correctly. The idea is to have the maps and the guidebooks easily accessible- this means without removing your pack. Denali has a flap immediately behind the head, but when the pack is full, the pressure against the cross-bars makes removal of the maps impossible. Alp has a roomy map-guidebook flap on top, but when things are lashed on top this is very hard to get at. Other designs have the compartment on the outside of the pack (back center), which simply means that you have to take your pack off to get at the info.

A two compartment pack is a must!! Finding something in a "dump-all" design without actually dumping everything out is a matter of luck. Access to a bottom compartment is then my next point of concern. Standard access is through a one sided non separating zipper across the pack, into which one must stuff your gear. Alpine Designs improved the situation with a three sided zipper which allows easy access and packing, but makes the merged "pocket" pocket idea impossible. The total solution is found on the Sierra Designs Alpenite packs, where a half moon zipper on the compartment allows the easiest packing of all types. To prevent contents spilling out a 2 way Coil zipper is necessary, allowing the pack to be opened at any precise point.

Ice ax, Crampons, Rope and Ski Carrying

Leather accessory patches are essentially useless for lashing things on to the pack. Under much stress the ~~fab###~~ in the center of the diamond will deform, and eventually break. For ice axes they are adequate since they merely provide resistance to the ax falling over. These leather patches are normally sewn onto the center of the flap which covers the main bag. This means that when the bag is overloaded the patch is beyond the end of the ice axe. The solution is obvious,

the leather patch is sewn off to the side, directly on the bag itself. Kelty, on the Tioga and Serac executed this correctly. Recently Camp Trails emerged with an ice axe loop of Velcro which is advantageous over the leather diamond because one need not mess with fastening any strap, and it releases much quicker. Leather patches on the bottom of the flap are useful for holding a rope in place, and the flap should be oversized for this very purpose-miracles through elastic. For Crampons the patches should be rectangular to provide a greater surface area for stress on the pack material and to prevent the leather from stretching. Look at the Tioga or Serac for the correct method. I am anxiously waiting for the synthetic that will be used in the place of ~~the~~ leather. Although leather is very aesthetic, a synthetic would mean that the pack could be washed without damage (which occurs to leather). The surrounding material around the Crampons should be Cordura to resist puncture. Leather channels behind the pockets for skis, should be optional.

Frames and Suspension

The best frame on the market is the Kelty frame - it is ~~the~~ unrivaled in durability and workmanship. Some people prefer wrap-around frames for full weight distribution on the hips - that just depends on your anatomy. There are many fairly well made wrap-around frames, of which Universal and Alpenlite stand out. The only other frame that offers interesting possibilities is the Alp Adjustable frame. If you're planning a bicycling - backpacking trips frequently, this is the frame. It can be dismantled for easy transportation and it is quite strong. It also produces a dynamic load which is easier to carry??

The best back band is the Denali full mesh back band. Their over the shoulder harness is also the best, because the load is distributed over the front and back of the shoulders. Its only setback is that it is difficult to adjust - you just have to be patient. Don't be fooled, the Alp full mesh backband does not work !!! I have not as of yet completed my comparative analysis on Hipbelts, and Kelty is soon planning on introducing a new design ... so I will hold off my judgement for a while.

New Designs

Kelty created a new one this year, the Serac. This provides, as part of the packbag, a permanently attached compartment for the sleeping bag. After much deliberation I have concluded that this is a very desirable feature. Extra things can easily be stuffed in there, and if you're using the pack for some other function you have all that extra space.

I am interested in designing a pack combining many of the features that I have mentioned in this article. Anyone interested in forming a small group to buy materials, and actually make a prototype (maybe even go into limited production) should contact me.

Eric Hardee V. Pres. - U.V.A.O.C.

Anyone wishing to give me flack about this article may do so by writing me care of the Outing Club, Box 101-x Newcomb Hall Charlottesville Virginia 22903.

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MATT HALE

DECEMBER 8 (WED.) 7.30 - 9.00PM.

A LECTURE AND SLIDE SHOW OF ICE CLIMBING ON MT. HUNTINGTON
ALSO VARIOUS SLIDES FROM SUNDRY ACTIVITIES IN THE ALPS
+ OTHER MISCELLAENEOUS POODAH
INFORMAL LOUNGE * NEWCOMB HALL

ADMISSION 50 ¢

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