

◆ The Goose Down Gazette ◆

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Spring/Summer 1993

ADOPT-A-TRAIL UPDATE

The Adopt-A-Trail program at East Fork Lake State Park is off to a great future, thanks to all who have contributed time and sore muscles to our efforts. If you are new to the UCMC, the club adopted 4.1 miles of the Backpack Trail at the Park for the purpose of maintaining the trail to correct erosion problems, maintain foot bridges, clear trees and brush from the trail, and remove litter.

In late October the club members made its first major impact on the Trail by building a 17' x 3' bridge over a wash. (The Club maintains 11 other bridges on the Trail). Our November project consisted of rebuilding steps along a hill near the access road. This was a major project totaling 38 steps that needed two days to complete. We used 6x6 lumber with a length of 3 feet.

Club members that spent the holidays in town helped out with two smaller new bridges over creeks. Thanks goes out to Mike Smiley and Brian Ante for drawing the plans for the bridges. Thanks also goes out to Charlie Clark for his efforts in accommodating our lumber and tools, the Park personnel who cut the lumber to our specifications, and to all of those Club members who have given help in improving the trail.

There is more opportunities

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Skydiving? In Winter?

Why would anyone from Xavier want to join a club at U.C. ? For me, the diagnosis is burnt-out suburbanite assuming his role of sobriety, responsibility and reserve as the "next generation". UCMC. is equivalent to 800mg Ibuprofen. UCMC. members are misfits in a post-industrial, post cold-war world, who like being dirty, living on the cheap, smelling flowers, discussing the universe imploding and sipping on U.S. lemonade-style beer.

I found UCMC. shoved in a back hall broom closet along with another club. During my first visit, 10 people were discussing solutions to an out-of-control equipment issue system while staring at an unplugged, newly-acquired computer. They tried to keep a safe distance from the machine, but 10 people in a wall-to-wall, floor-

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WHAT IS CANADA DOING?

Senseless Environmental Destruction at James Bay

If you are concerned about the environment as I am then you will be shocked to find out what our neighbors to the north are doing to destroy our precious Mother Earth. Hydro-Quebec, the giant electric company, has planned a large scale hydro-electric project. Hydro-Quebec has already implemented Phase I of the project that has flooded 4,000 square miles of northern Canadian forest near James Bay. They have destroyed a primary calving ground of the largest caribou herd in North America and have even drowned 10,000 migrating caribou fording the Caniapiscou River by a release of a torrent of water from the dams. The master plan calls for three Phases of 600 dams and dikes blocking 19

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Skydiving in Winter cont. from page 1

to-ceiling broom closet archive of magazines, maps, and geographic descriptions were having difficulty avoiding the future now.

Since my first visit to UCMC., I've participated in many minor adventures. The Waynesville Airport skydiving trip, however, deserves the major adventure category. The adventure coordinator was Mike Gorman, hereafter referred to as M.A.C. (Mike, adventure coordinator). The day began with an attendance being taken at Scioto Hall. "Veronica Silk, check, Mike Schirmer, check, Brian Ante, (that's me), check, Jamie O'Brian, check, Gareth Hughes, where is he? We'll wait a few minutes." After a few minutes, M.A.C. whips out his borrowed cellular car-phone to give Gareth a call. Gareth woke up and agreed to meet us at the airport. We then left Scioto Hall parking lot.

M.A.C. had us traveling at 45 MPH on the expressway, then made us sign liability waivers in recognition of the dangers of skydiving. We spent the morning droning through a "How to" video. I made intermittent trips to the 15 degree Fahrenheit outhouse. We bought lunch from the vending machine and were saved by a giant warm-air blower in the old barn that is used as a parachute-packing hanger. An hour and a half later, the instructor walked up and said "There you all are! I was wondering when you were going to return. I guess you never left" Slow time was over.

One by one we climbed on a stool and strapped ourselves into an

Army surplus parachute harness that's hanging from the barn rafters. The instructor twisted and turned us while he shot questions at us like: "What happens when you reach 'Five Thousand', you look up and see that your parachute hasn't opened?" and "What if you pull your right brake and it doesn't work?". He moved the stool to the other side of the barn, where couch cushions were lined across the floor and had us practice our parachute landing falls (P.L.F.'s). The hired long-haired Vietnam vets with their girlfriends and kids laughed while they watched and continued to pack parachutes.

We split into two groups and were told to put on hunter-orange jump suits. Mike, Jamie, and Gareth were then put into their parachutes. Their straps were then tightened and checked. Radios were hung around their necks and helmets put on. They left the hanger and climbed into the Cessna-182 while dutifully keeping their hands on their reserve parachute release pulls.

Jamie was the first one out of the plane. I stood next to the radio man who said "Number one, number one, your looking good, real good. FLARE! LEFT, RIGHT!, good, real good. Now left, left, left, left, (He's not l-i-s-t-e-n-i-n-g!) left, left, left good... If your having fun, yell "Yahoo" (Not a sound)" Jamie almost landed in a briar patch. I went over to talk with him.. "I did a backward flip out of the plane. I lost my hold" Wonderful words of encouragement. Gareth and Mike landed safely and we all went back to the barn to prepare for the

second manifest.

Our jump master saw Veronica's instamatic camera and told her to give it to the pilot. We ascended to 3,500 ft. The jump master asked me if I was ready. "YES!" "Then get out of the plane. Smile for the camera. Look at the dot." I counted to five-thousand and looked up for the parachute. I wondered "Where is it? I wondered where it... Oh, that's nice." "Jumper number one, Jumper number one, FLARE! LEFT, RIGHT, good, real good, not to jerky Left, left, left, now right, right. Good... Flare when I say to, not yet, not yet, not yet, not yet, FLARE! FLARE! FLARE!" I landed at the right place, on my feet.. I rolled up my parachute and headed back to the barn as I listened to the radio communication with Veronica and M.A.C. No problems.

As we got out of our jumpsuits, the jump master critiqued us. Except for Mike, who has done a lot of military skydiving, we hadn't arched our bodies enough and we were swimming. The jump master then braced himself for a possible pond-throw, because he made his one hundredth jump, and old traditions must be maintained. The Vietnam vets popped cans of beer and discussed the trade-off between tradition and climate considerations, as we gathered our things to go home. We're going back to skydive again after New Year's.

Brian Ante



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to volunteer your help to maintain the Backpack Trail in the future. The weekend of April 17-18 is planned for a weekend trail maintenance/overnight camping trip. The Club will be working to create a new section of switchbacks on a ridge. These switchbacks will replace an eroded part of the trail. We will be able to camp overnight at the site so bring your camping gear! This weekend should be great time, so come out and join us. The weekend of April 24-25 is planned in case of rain. Many other activities will be planned in the upcoming months so stay tuned for more information at the meetings.

For more information on the Adopt-A-Trail maintenance program or information about the East Fork State Park area just ask me at the meetings or call me, Ken Osborn at 793-5811 or our office, 556-6014.

Spring Is Here !

Well folks, this is what you've waited for all winter long. The birds are singing, the Sun is shining (Well, sometimes); the trees are budding; and the orange barrels are up. So what are you waiting for? The UC Mountaineering Club does it all.

Look on the back for our calendar of events for spring, and don't forget to stop by our meetings on Wednesdays at 7:00 PM in 527 Old Chem on the UC Main Campus.

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Wasting Canada cont. from page 1

major rivers resulting in the irreversible damage of a watershed area the size of Germany. A total of 6,000 square miles of wilderness will be underwater forever. This relentless destruction of our wilderness must stop!

But there is more:

*The fragile food chain, which feeds the polar bear, the freshwater seal and the snow goose, will be wiped out by the flooding.

*The world's largest herd of Beluga whales migrate to the James Bay region. Phase II will cause more flooding resulting in changing temperature and salt-content.

*The flooding of Phase I released mercury into the water and found its way into the food chain.

*The health of the Cree Indians, who have lived off the land for 5,000 years, are being poisoned by mercury found in the fish, which is their main diet.

Who is fighting against the Hydro-Quebec project? Not the Canadian environmental laws which are so weak it let the giant utility begin the devastating project with unconditional terms. It is in the

hands of the Cree Indians. Their very homeland and lives depend on saving this land. With the help of environmental groups, the Cree Indians, and concerned people, the Canadian government has issued an environmental review of the Hydro-Quebec/James Bay project. The fight to save these precise lands and halt the project is also in the hands of concerned people like yourselves.

This is not just a Canadian problem, it is a global problem and you can help! By writing to the addresses below you can show your outrage at the project and let Canada know that you are concerned for the environment and humanity.

Please write a letter, do not type, since written letters get more attention. You can use the letters provided or write your own. If you need any more information on the project or other addresses just let me know.

Ken Osborn

Who to write to:

Honorable Derek H. Burney
Ambassador to the United States
Embassy of Canada
501 Pennsylvania Ave., N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20001

Mr. Richard Drouin
Chair & CEO, Hydro-Quebec
75, Blvd. Rene-Levesque Ouest
Montreal, Quebec H2Z1A4
Canada

Source: Natural Resources Defense Council:
James Bay Action Campaign

Dear Ambassador Burney,

As a resident of North America, I am deeply disturbed by the environmental impact of James Bay hydro-power development. This mega-project threatens natural resources we all share: migratory birds, beluga whales and vast ancient forests which counter global warming. I urge your government- as the steward of this great North American wilderness- to cancel Phase II of the project and invest in energy efficiency instead.

Dear Mr. Drouin,

As a concerned resident of North America, I am appalled by the massive environmental costs of your James Bay project. And, as an aware American ratepayer, I know that there are much less destructive ways to supply Quebec's energy needs. I urge you to cancel Phase II of the James Bay project immediately and plan for Quebec's energy future with cheap, clean energy efficiency.

UCMC Spring Calender 1993

Wednesday

Saturday

Sunday

OPEN HOUSE APRIL 14	TRAIL MAINTENANCE Ken Osborn → BACKPACKING: Lara Hugenberg → APRIL 17	APRIL 18
OUTDOOR ADVENTURES REPRESENTATIVE APRIL 21	BIKEPACKING ADAMS COUNTY: → Joe Lampe APRIL 24	APRIL 18
T B A NOMINATIONS APRIL 28	CLIMBING COURSE TIE DIE PARTY: Nina Meadows CAVING : Mark Guttadauro MAY 1	MAY 2
KEEPER LECTURE- Par Callahan MAY 5	TOSRV SCUBA DIVING: Bob Masters → MAY 8	MAY 9 MOTHER'S DAY
UTAH SLIDE SHOW: Bob Kessler MAY 12	CANOEING MAY 15	MAY 16
ELECTIONS MAY 19	CLIMBING- Ed Schulte MAY 22	MAY 23
RICH & ROB'S SLIDES MAY 26	MEMORIAL THREE DAY WEEKEND RAFTING: Kloth Childers → MAY 29	MAY 30
EDEN PARK CLEANUP JUNE 2	NATIONAL TRAILS DAY BICYCLING: BIG SOUTH FORK Paul Even JUNE 5	JUNE 6
EDEN PARK CLEANUP JUNE 9	WHO KNOWS WHAT WE'LL DO JUNE 12	NEXT JUNE 13