FEBRUARY GENERAL MEETING
February 13th – 7:30PM
at The Union Project
801 North Negley Avenue.
Pittsburgh, PA 15206

PRELIMINARY AGENDA
Officers’ Reports
Appointees & Committee Reports
Announcement of February BOG mtg.
Old Business:
New Business:
Funding Support for 2014
Mt. Washington Cleanup
(special expenditure or budget modification)
The post-meeting presentation will be Western US Road Trip and Backcountry Adventures by Brian Cowan and Michelle Najera who just moved to Seattle and are visiting Pittsburgh briefly - come on out to greet them!

NEXT BOARD OF GOVERNORS MEETING
Thursday, February 27, 2014 –
Gather at 7pm meeting starts promptly at 7:15
(note change from customary 3rd Thursday of the month and new starting time)
at the home of Equipment Chairperson: Derek Stuart
608 Dorseyville Rd Pittsburgh PA 15238

All ECP Members are welcome to attend and participate in the discussions.
We do request that attendees notify the host/hostess or Vice-President Ron Edwards of their intention to attend.
Over the past several years it has become traditional for attendees to bring snacks, beverages, or covered ishes to shared pot-luck style
See Preliminary Agenda on Page 2
NEXT BOG MEETING - February 27th, 2014

Preliminary Agenda

ROLL CALL/QUARUM (Promptly at 7:15)

OFFICER REPORTS –
President, VP, Secretary, Treasurer, Activities Chair, Editor, Equipment Chair

APPOINTEE REPORTS –
Advertising, Environmental, Historian, Librarian, Membership, Webmaster

COMMITTEE REPORTS –
(School Committee Reports)

OLD BUSINESS –
- Removing old members from membership database? Masking Addresses?
  And related Privacy Issues.
- Digitization of historical records. Need a subcommittee
- Option to purchase multiple year memberships
  and option to purchase “associate” membership.
- Removing old Members from the Membership database;
  masking street address on distribution of list; and related privacy issues.

NEW BUSINESS –
What BOG business/decisions can/should be conducted on line through the internet? This is especially relevant since BOG no longer meets every month. Proposed Policy:
Where timely action is needed, the BoG may make decisions outside of a formal meeting. Such decisions are subject to the following conditions:
  a. A formal motion must be posted on the BoG listserv for at least 72 hours before the action is taken
  b. The words 'Motion Proposed' must appear in the message subject line on the listserv
  c. The motion must have the explicit approval of three voting BoG members, as indicated by emails posted on the listserv
  d. Any BoG member may veto the decision by requesting it be discussed at the next formal BOG meeting
  e. Expenditure must be less than $100, unless it relates to an approved budget item
  f. The decision must be recorded at the next BoG meeting and shown in the published minutes"

Changes to Constitution?? Re: Reading of BOG Minutes at General Meetings

Auto-draft for payment of routine budgeted expenditures such as website fee

BOG SCHEDULED TASKS (February – Name Roast Chairman or Committee)

-- RON EDWARDS
OFFICERS - 2014

President -- Jeff Maurin
Jeffmaurin@gmail.com

Vice-President – Ron Edwards
ecp@edwardsjr.com

Secretary – Dave Martin
climberdjm@gmail.com

Treasurer – Chris Ciesa
ciesachr@gmail.com

Activities Chair – Greg Buzulencia
gab5540@gmail.com

Equipment Chair – Derek Stuart
derek.stuart@verizon.net 412-956-2123

Editor – Philip Sidel
sidel.climbing@gmail.com 412-521-9570


2014 BOG Meetings
A very tentative list of dates and hosts

February: Derek’s
(alternate date: Feb 27)

April: Jeff

June: Chris

August: Greg

October: Ron

November: Phil


APPOINTEEES

The ECP Appointees are persons appointed by the president to fill key positions in the club. – In addition there are appointed Activity Coordinators and Special Committees

Advertising – Tara Powers –
tarasmagicalpowers@gmail.com

Environmental – Ginette Vinski
ginette@vinski.net 412-366-4925

Historian – Phil Sidel
sidel.climbing@gmail.com 412-521-9570

Librarian – Phil Breidenbach
Booksandmaps@yahoo.com 412-486-1450
Assisted by Bill Baxter
billybax@yahoo.com 412-926-8261

Membership – Martha Gray
graymf@gmail.com, 412-228-9307

Webmaster – Tom George
webmaster@pittecp.org, 412-831-4711

SCHOOL CHAIRPERSONS
Mtneering School – Felix Duvallet
Rock School – Matt Janick
ACTIVITY COORDINATORS

Backpacking & Hiking
Suraj Joseph
surajj1234@gmail.com

Caving
Doug Fulton & Teralyn Iscruphe 724-468-5564
fulton12b@yahoo.com

Down Hill Skiing
Lindsay Hastings 412-303-6287
lmh239@gmail.com

Flat Water Paddling
Nick Ross 412-759-8799
lnickross@gmail.com

Fly Fishing
Bruce Cox 724-433-2894
brcox33@comcast.net

Ice Climbing
Tom Prigg 412-443-6494
tom.prigg@gmail.com

In-Line Skating
Robin Kamin 412-621-7745
ekamin@verizon.net

Mountain Biking
Rush Howe 412-983-5256
rushhowe@yahoo.com

Mountaineering
Sam Taggart 412-216-8789
Samuel.taggart@gmail.com

Rafting
Gary McCormick 412-885-0712

Rock Climbing
Ron Edwards 412-327-2084
ecp@edwardsjr.com

Rowing
Bob Dezort
bobdezort@verizon.net

Sailing
Bill Baxter and Jeff Baxter 412-721-5305
billybax@yahoo.com

Scuba Diving
Barry Smyda 412-925-4985
Email: thescubashop@comcast.net
Web: www.thescubashop-pa.com

Trail Running/Marathon/Ultra-Marathon
Brian Ottinger 412-242-1144
brian@ottinger10.com

White Water Paddling
Barry Adams 412-242-4562
bj2adams@juno.com

Yoga
Allison Pochapin 412-519-7636
a.pochapin.@gmail.com
and Elise Nolan

ECP IS CURRENTLY SEEKING COORDINATORS FOR THE FOLLOWING ACTIVITIES:

- Adventure Racing/Triathlon
- Bike Touring/Road Biking
- Cross-Country Skiing
- Sea Kayaking
- Slacklining
- Snowshoeing
Twenty-four members were in attendance. President – Jeff Marin – Opened the meeting

**OFFICER REPORTS**

VP – Ron Edwards absent

Secretary - Dave Martin – December BOG & General meeting minutes were read and approved by the membership.

Treasurer – Chris Ciesa – Absent - No report

Equipment Chairperson – Derek Stuart – no report

Editor – Phil Sidel – Reminded the members that he needs to have any trip reports or officer reports 1 week prior to the general meeting; The Newsletter will be published early on the Tuesday prior to the General Meetin.

Activities Chairperson – Greg Buzulencia – Absent- No Report

**APPOINTEE REPORTS**

Martha Gray – Membership Coordinator - Two new members voted in for the month of January:
- Peter Todaro
- Michael Schmitt

Matt Janick – Rock School Coordinator – Inquired to the membership of anyone who is interested in being the Rock School Director or assisting in the Rock School to contact him at mattjanick@gmail.com.

Bill Baxter – Assistant Librarian - Informed the membership that there are 16 books donated to the library and they are available to the membership.

President: Jeff Maurin confirmed the following appointees for 2014:
- Phil Sidle – Historian
- Martha Gray – Membership Coordinator
- Ginette Vinski – Environmental Chair
NEW BUSINESS

Phil Sidel – Presented to the membership that the BOG will be discussing Multi-year or Lifetime memberships to the ECP at the February BOG Meeting.

Martha Gray motioned that the ECP donate $500 for the sponsorship of various Groups/Events as determined by the BOG. Two Groups/Events that might benefit from this ECP sponsorship are the Reel Rock Tour and the Seneca Summit. This motion was approved by the Membership.

The 2014 Budget was approved by the membership

The next ECP BOG meeting will be on February 27, 2014. The location will be determined

Derek Stuart, speaking for the BOG, presented Felix Duvallet for Flag Membership in ECP. Felix’s Contributions as the Mountaineering School Committee Chairman and bringing the REEL Rock to Pittsburgh were particularly noted! The Membership concurred and Felix was awarded the ECP’s newest Flag Membership.

Bill Baxter provided the Membership with a slideshow of his backpacking trip to the Grand Teton National Park with Martha Gray and Matt Janick.

Meeting adjourned at 930 PM

-- Dave Martin, Secretary
Newest Flag Member: Felix Duvallet

In view of his service to the ECP and the local climbing community, and in recognition of his record of climbing and mountaineering, Felix Duvallet has been awarded Flag Membership. The nomination and award were made at the January, 2014 meeting.

Felix arrived at mountaineering after plenty of experience rock climbing, and found the two to complement each other well. His mountaineering interests lie in fast & light ascents of alpine peaks via technical rock routes, and this focus stems from the training grounds that are easily accessible around Pittsburgh: we do not have high glaciated peaks; instead we have great rock climbing within a few hours’ drive. These areas provide excellent venues to hone the wide range of skills required to safely ascend mountains.

Felix has climbed in a variety of places in the US and abroad, but most of his time and energy gets spent closer to home at our “local” crags: the New River Gorge and Seneca Rocks.

Service to the ECP and Pittsburgh Climbing Community
Real Rock Tour organizer 2012, 2013
Rock school instructor: 2010-2013
Mountaineering school committee chair: 2011-2013
Mountaineering school committee member: 2010-2011

 Significant ascents:
Bugaboos Provincial Park, BC Canada (2013):
  - South Howser Tower (Beckey-Chouinard route),
  - Pigeon Spire (W Ridge),
  - Crescent Spire (McTech Arrete).
Yosemite National Park, CA (2013):
  - Cathedral Peak, Matthes Crest, Tenaya Peak
Mt Washington, NH (2012):
  - Pinnacle Gully
Rocky Mountain National Park (CO), 2011:
  - Spearhead (Syke’s Sickle), Parc des Ecrins,
French Alps (2010):
  - Pointe des Aigles, Pic Nord des Cavales, Flambeau des Ecrins
Wind River Range, WY (2009):
  - Mt. Helen,
  - Gannett Peak (North Face),
  - Fremont Peak
Adirondacks, NY (2009):
  - Mt Colden (Trap Dyke)
Red Rocks, NV (2013):
  - Levitation 29

Rock Climbing Areas Visited
New River Gorge (WV), Seneca Rocks (WV), Red River Gorge (KY), Gunks (NY), Stone Mountain (NC), Moore’s Wall (NC), Tahquitz (CA), Joshua Tree (CA), Boulder Canyon (CO), Eldorado Canyon (CO), Rocky Mountain National Park (CO), Red Rocks (NV), Yosemite National Park (CA), Ticino (Switzerland), Catalunya (Spain)
The 2013 Backpacking School underwent some changes from years past. The first outing was moved to an overnight outing and the graduation trip included an optional third day. These changes were made due to feedback from past years asking for more in depth instruction. The goal was to create a school that would be able to reach a wider variety of people. In the past, we had some students that were just looking for the very basics of backpacking and some students that were looking to plan longer trips. This format allowed us to provide instruction to both groups of students.

The first outing was a Saturday overnight at Quebec Run Wild Area. The second outing was on the Laurel Highlands Trail out of Ohiopyle. The students that participated in this outing were put to the true test as the whole hike on Saturday was in a downpour. The graduation trip had two options this year. The first was the traditional single night trip. This group went to Black Moshannon State Park. The second option was a two night trip to Shenandoah National Park.

The school started with 19 students this year. As in years past, we had some students that decided to only participate in the classes and not the outings. 7 students participated in the Black Moshannon grad trip and 4 students participated in the Shenandoah grad trip.

Moving forward, we are hoping to pull in more students from past years to help run and teach the school. Not only will this provide more insight into former student thoughts but it will encourage continued participation with the ECP. We also hope to continue with the two option grad trip. The feedback from both trips was very positive and we feel it provided an opportunity to structure the course to each student's expectations.

Lastly, I would like to thank all of the instructors that helped teach the course! As everyone knows, these schools cannot run without the time and effort of the volunteers in the ECP.

**EXCERPTS FROM THE REPORT**

**Committee**

- Jamie Billings: Chairman/Gear
- Chris Ciesa: Co-Director
- Jessica Goezl: Co-Director
- Leslie Brown: Advertising
- Lauren Kester: Advertising
- Martha Gray: Website, ECP Membership
# Student Roster

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Status</th>
<th>Notes</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Diane Kass</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Sarah Trafican</td>
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<td>Lindsay Hastings</td>
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<td>Nicole Miller</td>
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<td>Mark Wolfe</td>
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<td>Josh Jordan</td>
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<td>Benjo Cowley</td>
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<td>Aaditya Ramdas</td>
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<tr>
<td>Brian Myler</td>
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<td>Jonathan Seethaler</td>
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<tr>
<td>Marrisa Ferrighetto</td>
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<td>Amada Clark</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jennifer Sowers</td>
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<td>Jacob Kamholz</td>
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<td>Annabel J Li</td>
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<td>Ammar Husain</td>
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<td>Bethany Melvin</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nicole Miller</td>
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<tr>
<td>David Reese</td>
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</table>
## Participating Instructors and Assistants

Bill Baxter  
Jessica Goelz  
Leslie Brown  
Lauren Kester  
Chris Ciesa  
Derek Stuart  
Tina Castillo  
Matt Golub  
Jamie Billings

*Others – if your name was omitted, please contact Jamie or Chris to have it added to the report*

## Course Syllabus

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Class/Outing</th>
<th>Reading Assignments/Outing Location</th>
<th>Homework</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Intro Party</strong></td>
<td>Jamie Billings’ House</td>
<td>Bring something to share with the group</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(Optional but highly recommended)</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
| **Class 1: Clothing and Gear.** | • Ten Essentials 20-21  
• Clothing layers pg 22-38  
• The Backpack pg 38-46  
• Gear pg 46-65  
• Map and Compass pg 134-138, 144-162 | • How many 1 liter water boils do you get out of a canister for a pocket rocket stove and a jetboil stove. How many times can you boil water with an 11oz bottle of white gas for a whisperlite stove  
• What will the weather be like for the upcoming outing?  
• Bring a typed up gear list for the upcoming outing (what do you have/don’t have)  
• Bring a printed Map of Quebec Run Wild Area  
• What color are the blazes?  
• Bring directions on how to get there include travel times, where you can meet for carpools |
| **Outing 1:** Quebec Run Wild Area: 2 days 1 night. | Don’t be late 9am at the trailhead. Bring your directions Map and gear. |                                                                          |
### Class 2: Travel
- Having a Safety Plan/First Aid pg 226-228, 236-240,
- Water purification pg 94-103
- Thunderstorms and Predicting the Weather pg 206-209
- Food and Nutrition
- Leave No Trace pg 106

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Outing 2</th>
<th>Laurel Highlands: 2 days and 1 night hiking staying in shelters (fees split between students and instructors)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| Class 3: Trip Planning | Trip Planning pg 2-18, 107-111  
River Crossing pg 174-179  
Setting up a camp pg 111-117,  
Bear info: 180-188  
Fire pg 123-128  
Suggested Gear Lists and Trip outline Plans pg 399-418 |

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Outing 3</th>
<th>Student Choice: Shenandoah National Forest or Black Moshannon State Park</th>
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</thead>
</table>
|          | Shenandoah National Forest (3 day, 2 night)  
Black Moshannon State Park 2 day, 1 night |

### Finances

**Startup Income and Balance**

<p>| | |</p>
<table>
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<tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>23 students fees ($40 each)</td>
<td>$920.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ECP Equipment Fund contribution ($5 x 23)</td>
<td>$115.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ECP Mike Brown Grant Fund contribution ($5 x 23)</td>
<td>$115.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>$690.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Expenses** (shock cord, water proofing, shelters, tent, sleeping bag & pad)

| TOTAL | $397.84 |

$690.00 - 397.84 = **$292.16 remaining funds** (to be deposited in the ECP Gear Fund)
**ECP CALENDAR OF ACTIVITIES & EVENTS**

Note: The Activities descriptions presented below have been radically abbreviated. More complete descriptions are posted in the Activities calendar on the ECP Website (www.old.pittecp.org, click on activities>events-calendar). There are also some notes on some upcoming events later in this newsletter.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date / When</th>
<th>Activity / Description</th>
<th>Contact / Info Source &amp; Sponsoring Organization</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>FEBRUARY 2014</strong></td>
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| FEB. 28, 2014 6pm to 9pm | **SCUBA Clinic – at New Brighton High School Divers** – Refresh your skills  
Others – Come try it; learn about SCUBA | Contact: Barry Smyda  
thescubashop@comcast.net  
Phone: 412-925-4985  
Sponsor: |
| **MARCH 2014**   |                                                                                       |                                                 |
| March 30, 2014 8:30a.m. to completion | **MOUNT WASHINGTON CLEANUP**  
Bring Old Clothes/Work Gloves/Sturdy Boots  
Belay gear if you have it | Contact: Ginette Vinski  
ginette@vinski.net  
Or: Karen Kirk  
woldofem@yahoo,.com  
Phone:  |
| **APRIL 2014**   |                                                                                       |                                                 |
| 4/11 to 4/13     | **"Chicks with Nuts" Women's Only Trad Climbing Clinic at Seneca Rocks, WV**  
For Women of all Skill Levels  
2-to-1 Student-Instructor Ratio  
PRICE: $450 -- includes two days of climbing instruction, climbing equipment, optional Friday night crack clinic, 2 mornings of breakfast, Saturday night dinner and slideshow! | Contact: Kelly Fields  
chickswithnuts@gmail.com  
Phone: (304) 567-2115  
Sponsor: Seneca Rocks Mountain Guides  
**LIMITED OPENINGS** |
| **MAY 2014**     |                                                                                       |                                                 |
| **JUNE 2014**    |                                                                                       |                                                 |
| 6/21-6/22        | **Seneca Summit - Trad Climbing For Women**  
Women-Climbers of all experience levels are welcome.  
The event usually involves climbing together, a potluck, a slide show or two, and some clinics.  
This is a grass roots event! Meaning we all pitch in, either by leading, bringing an item to the potluck, or offering to give a slide show or teach a clinic.  
Modest cost (last year it was ~$20/climber) | Contact: Regina Schulte-Ladbeck  
reslscience@gmail.com  
Sponsor: jointly with PATC Mtneering Comm. |
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Details</th>
<th>Contact Information</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>6/27 to 6/29</td>
<td>&quot;Chicks with Nuts&quot; Women's Only Trad Climbing Clinic at Seneca Rocks, WV</td>
<td>For Women of all Skill Levels 2-to-1 Student-Instructor Ratio PRICE: $450 -- includes two days of climbing instruction, climbing equipment, optional Friday night crack clinic, 2 mornings of breakfast, Saturday night dinner and slideshow!</td>
<td>Contact: Kelly Fields <a href="mailto:chickswithnuts@gmail.com">chickswithnuts@gmail.com</a> Phone: (304) 567-2115 Sponsor: Seneca Rocks Mountain Guides</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>July 2014</td>
<td>MS 150 – Keystone Country Ride With team: Maggie's Marauders Start &amp; Finish 150 Mile Road Ride in State College, PA. Fundraising Commitment: $300 for MS research &amp; treatment, Training Rides will begin this spring.</td>
<td></td>
<td>Team Captain: Bob Dezort <a href="mailto:bobdezort@verizon.net">bobdezort@verizon.net</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>AUGUST 2014</td>
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<tr>
<td>SEPTEMBER 2014</td>
<td>&quot;Chicks with Nuts&quot; Women's Only Trad Climbing Clinic at Seneca Rocks, WV</td>
<td>For Women of all Skill Levels 2-to-1 Student-Instructor Ratio PRICE: $450 -- includes two days of climbing instruction, climbing equipment, optional Friday night crack clinic, 2 mornings of breakfast, Saturday night dinner and slideshow!</td>
<td>Contact: Kelly Fields <a href="mailto:chickswithnuts@gmail.com">chickswithnuts@gmail.com</a> Phone: (304) 567-2115 Sponsor: Seneca Rocks Mountain Guides</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Wow, do we have a good book for you this month! Called **The Emerald Mile**, written by Kevin Fedarko, it tells about an attempt to break the record for the fastest boat trip through the Grand Canyon. Granted, you might say that the best way to view the Grand Canyon would be on a slow, relaxing (?) trip that takes weeks, not just a couple days. The author agrees with this also, but it wasn't the intention of the three men on The Emerald Mile.

In 1987, the Glen Canyon Dam was experiencing a drastic amount of water collecting behind its walls. The heavy snow fall and then long lasting rain was filling it faster than it could drain. They had to open the two spillway tunnels used during construction to lower the water level. The Grand Canyon below, experienced water levels never seen since its flow was dammed off.

Three river guides decide to try to break the speed record and they do it in a wooden dory. This book tells about their trip through the canyon, it tells about the dam, how it was built and the nearly disastrous events that happened with it. It tells about the history of the canyon and the stories of the men and woman who run it. The book tells us a bit about conservation and how damming the rivers change their normal cycles. This book was one I had trouble putting down!

Even if you aren't a white water fan, you will enjoy this book!

While reading The Emerald Mile, I came across another book which I purchased for our collection, called **There is a River**, edited by Christa Sadler. Every river trip through the Grand Canyon is filled with stories, this is a collection of those stories told by guides to their patrons as they sit around the fires at their campsites. For anyone interested in the Grand Canyon, the Colorado River, whitewater or just good stories, this is a book you'll enjoy! One of the stories is a different authors version of the time race written about in the book above.
We have received a couple donations to the club's collection of books recently. The first is *Between a Rock and a Hard Place*, by Aron Ralston. I'm sure most of us are familiar with Aron's story, while out hiking in some remote Utah canyon lands, a boulder moves and pins him between two rocks. Unable to free himself, he faces possible death. With no food and just a little bit of water, and eight miles away from his vehicle, things look pretty grim. For six days, he goes through his options and finally decides on the one which provides his escape, a drastic move, but one that saves him from death. This book reminds us that it isn't always beauty and a feeling of freedom that we experience when out in the wild.

The second book was donated to the library by Andy Wagner, in memory of David K. Tanner. It is titled *Flying South*, written by Barbara Cushman Rowell. This book is the story of Barbara's "Inner Journey;" it has a nice collection of beautiful pictures by her and her famous husband and photographer, Galan. It is about her adventures in her airplane, on a trip to South America and back. Dealing with foreign bureaucrats, the chance of theft and assault and the machismo of the men she was traveling with kept her on edge and at the same time taught her a lot about herself.

As always, remember, these books are here for you to borrow! If any of them interest you, give me a call or drop me an e-mail. You can also tell Bill Baxter at the club's monthly meeting. Also, if you have any suggestions for future purchases for the club library, be it a guide book, story, picture book or movie, let me know and we'll see if it's possible to get it.

Happy reading!

*Phil B. ECP Librarian*

(412) 486-1450 (booksandmaps@yahoo.com)
MEMBERSHIP REPORT

This month we have one membership applicant for consideration:

- Casey Way

Thanks to all that have renewed their memberships for 2014. As of February publication date, we have 129 members for this year. In 2013 we had a great group of members that got out and explored near and far. The ECP was alive and well in its 66th year with 262 members. We had 21 out-of-staters that were members. These folks hailed from 8 states including Ohio, West Virginia, Washington state, New York, New Jersey, Colorado, Texas, and North Carolina.

We again urge all the past members who have not yet renewed for 2014 to do so. To facilitate renewals we have established on-line renewal using PayPal, and you can still renew by sending or delivering your dues ($20 for individuals; $25 for "families.") and Renewal Request or Form to Membership Coordinator Martha Gray.

For future years, the club is considering convenient and economical multi-year renewal plans. Come to meetings and pitch in with your thoughts and suggestions on such plans,

AN ITEM FOR OUR ARCHIVES

Membership Coordinator Martha Gray reports: "I received an interesting piece of mail from the WV Division of Natural Resources, addressed to the ECP. Enclosed is a dvd of a movie filmed in the Schoolhouse caves by ECP in 1963 and a nice letter from a wildlife biologist who has been working to preserve the caves for use by bats. The WVDNR recently purchased the caves to protect these bats. I will turn all this over to Phil at the next meeting and he can respond to the questions posed in the letter about our archives."

The DVD is a Spoof Movie produced by Ivan Jirak featuring a "local" (Ivan Jirak with a candle on his hat) and another character (named Sam) rapping into the drop hole to explore. Bruce Cox comments on this and another Jirak movie and other Schoolhouse Caving trips on the next page.
EXPLORING SCHOOLHOUSE CAVE

A Note from Bruce Cox

I think the movie is one made by Ivan Jirak. I know of two. One was a very muddy affair and I believe the earlier one was a spoof in which Ivan did played a local exploring the cave with a candle on his hat as he rappelled into the cave at the first drop. …

We used to do School House quite a bit in the 70's and 80's, along with all the other vertical caves, as part of our team training for larger mountaineering trips.

I remember doing a trip with George Bogel where George led out the incredible Inner Wells passage that I returned several years later and led myself. We used to call it 5.7 underground; really it was only 5.4 or 5.5 but it was indeed wet and protected by very old 1/4” rusty bolts.

I have a bunch of shots in my collection that I need to get digitized of our trips, but here are two of the interesting ones I found on a caving club page. I found these two photos when I googled School House Cave Register. One shows the old register with our names in it; The other shows the cave entrance as we see it today with a bat gate installed.

Here are the photos I found and names with description of our trip there in Sept of 1978.

FYI

The names are from top to bottom:
Tom Ordons
Leo Stember
John Brinjack
Charles Granigan
Jim Painter
Bruce McClellan
Not legible - and I can't remember who
Charles Kennedy
Bruce R.L.Cox

The notes are to John and Pittie Iacovino who were to do the cave later after us. The Pot of Gold Reference was from Ivan Jirak telling us the local legend was that at the end of the cave there was a pot of gold.
The ECP and A.K. reference was for our club and Ivan Jiraks Outdoor Earth Sport School he ran called the A.K.s, meaning Angeda Kimohnhon, meaning, "Facing the wind from every direction", the school's moto and philosophy, – in a Native South American language from Ecuador or Peru.
A SOGGY SAUNTER TO SENECA

Trip Information:
Location: Seneca Rocks, WV
Dates: January 11-12, 2014

Report:
Hiking Team Members: Arynne Moody, Annie Jones, Matt Janick, and Matt Golub
Climbing Team Members: Arynne Moody and Joe Calcek
Trip Report by Arynne Moody

This weekend trip for the Explorer’s Club of Pittsburgh’s Mountaineering School truly began the night of January 10, when several carloads of students and instructors made their way from Pittsburgh to Seneca Rocks, WV. The goal of the weekend was to hike just over 13 miles to Seneca Rocks, get as much climbing in as possible, bivouac on a ledge for the night, rappel down in the morning, and be back to Pittsburgh by Sunday evening (just a typical weekend). So, in the darkness of that Friday evening, we set up our bivvies under the pavilion of the Princess Snowbird campground, not far from the base of the rock. We planned for an alpine start, leaving the campground at 1:00am and travelling by car to the start of the Landis Trail (leaving the shadows of the rock we were to climb, only to hike 13 miles back to it).

We began the long trek around 1:45am, looking like a train of lights floating through the air with only the headlamps of other groups visible. The train soon lengthened and lights disappeared as the groups began to spread out. We followed the Landis Trail westward until it intersected with the North Fork Mountain Trail and then headed south toward Seneca Rocks. It drizzled several times during our hike, just long enough each time to put on a rain jacket, only to take it off a few minutes later. By about 4:00am, we were fighting fatigue and “hot spots” on our feet, and by 6:00am we were begging the sun to rise. Once it finally did, we got a much needed boost and finally ditched our headlamps. We stopped to cover our blisters and to prepare for an uphill climb to the top of Forest Road 79. After being disoriented by several pipelines and one that crossed our path twice, we found the pipeline we needed and began hiking westward again. It seemed as though Seneca Rocks was getting farther and farther away instead of closer, and just when we thought we had made it, we had to climb not only our steepest hill yet, but one covered in horse manure. After that ascent, we made it to the observation tower on the North Summit and all that was left of this leg of the trip was to walk down the gravel hiking trail. Around 10:30am, we finally made it and were greeted by very steady rain and a beer.
This is where our hiking team and our climbing team went their separate ways. Our climbing team decided that neither of us felt comfortable leading trad in a cold, steady rain. So, we mustered up all the energy we had left and climbed the “stairmaster” to the base of the rock. Since we did still have to bivouac on a ledge for the night, we made our way across a slippery Luncheon Ledge with packs and mountaineering boots, up and over part of the rock just below Humphrey’s Head, and down onto Lower Broadway Ledge to set up camp for the night. By 2:00pm, our bivvies were set up and we had a “roof” (tarp) over our heads to block the rain and wind. After a short nap, we boiled water to make our delicious dinners and some hot chocolate and were asleep for the night by about 6:30pm.

By 7:00am the next morning, we were ready to pack up and make our way back to the pavilion under which our weekend began Friday night. We hiked down the “stairmaster” and left Seneca Rocks behind us until the next trip. Overall, what a great experience. I pushed myself past limits I never saw myself pushing past and learned so much. One thing I have learned is that the trip may not always be easy or joyful in the moment, however the stories and memories you have afterward are always well worth the effort you have put forth to earn them.