



January 2015 Edition

Dear MITOC Alumni,

After many years of hibernation, GNARMPFSK woke from its slumber in the form of a semiannual newsletter. The purpose of the new GNARMPFSK is to keep you informed of what your favorite club is doing and how you can continue to be involved.

-The MITOC Alumni Board

Alumni Board Members:

Tom Parr, Reading, MA

Jim Hoburg, Moultonborough, NH

Chris Glazner, Falls Church, VA

Dan Walker, Malden (practically Melrose), MA

Greg Wallace, Somerville, MA

Erika Uyterhoeven, Paris, France

Feel free to get in touch with the Alumni Board if you have questions about what the club is up to or just want to share your experiences with MITOC. The email address is mitoc-ab@mit.edu.

Circus Activity:

Intro circus had a record-breaking 130 people sign up and around 80 people made it to NH for the weekend of September 13-14. It was a real tent city and we now have evidence that the parking lot at Camelot can support at least 19 cars. There was hiking, climbing, intro to packrafting, hitchhiking, skinny-dipping, birthday celebrations, and enough climber revelry that the dishes didn't get done until the next morning. Thanks to Kayla Meduna for organizing!

Majed Alnaji did an excellent job of organizing Fall Circus the weekend of October 25-26. The weather on Saturday was beautiful enough to allow climbing in T-shirts, and people stayed up late chatting by the fire. Circus dinners are getting more and more complicated. We have expanded from the traditional pasta and sauce into curries, soups, meat, salads, and so much more thanks to volunteer enthusiasm

(namely Catie Rowley and David Cain) and trying to compete with infamous MITOC gourmand John Rogosic.

Outreach:

The club received a \$4,000 grant from Outdoor Nation/Outdoor Foundation and the National Park Service for the development of a 'very MIT' high-school outreach program. Chris Saulnier and Jacob Sargent led the effort to secure the grant. Activities this fall included an overnight trip to the White Mountain National Forest (WMNF) where MITOC leaders Ben Scandella, Sally Miller, Jenn Gagner, and Leigh Ann Kesler partnered with WMNF Rangers to introduce students to current environmental issues facing the Forest (picture below).



Adventure Films:

Kris Brewer has spearheaded efforts to bring more outdoor adventure films to campus. This fall MITOC hosted the Reel Rock climbing film festival (in conjunction with the Lecture Series Committee) and Pretty Faces, an all female ski film (in conjunction with Graduate Women at MIT).

School of Rock:

This year marked the launch of a new big event, MITOC's School of Rock. Spearheaded by Dan Weber with the help of many climbing leaders, the program took over 40 MITOCers (out of over a hundred applicants!) through a semester worth of rock climbing related classes. Beginner climbers learned the basics of

belaying, climbing knots, rappelling, ascending the rope, and building top rope anchors. More advanced climbers got to practice placing traditional gear and learn the ins and outs of multipitch climbing. In addition to nighttime lectures and practice, the program included practical outdoor lessons at places like Rumney, Quincy Quarries, and Hammond Pond. The program culminated in an end-of-the-semester trip to the Gunks, where advanced students were able to follow (and in some cases even lead) multipitch trad climbs! Hopefully this is the start of another 45-year tradition like Winter School.

Slideshow Socials:

Ben Scandella organized a series of weeknight social events in the MITOC office this fall. The events featured free food (always a great way to attract a crowd!) and inspiring pictures on the following subjects:

The Quest for the North American Country High Points (Eric and Matthew Gilbertson), Conservation and Photography in the Canyonlands (Harvey Halpern), Iceland (Chris Giebe, Kayla Meduna, Chris Saulnier, Jeff Cegan, Jerome Michon, Jason Jong, Kelly Kochanski, Michelle O'Donnell, Anna de Regt, and Tom Parr), Himalayas: treks in Pakistan and Nepal (Clint Montague and Katie O'Connor), Ski movie: Days of My Youth (hosted by ski chairs Julian Cooper and Nadya Peek), Mt. Rainier (Sally Miller, Ludwig Schmidt, Leigh Ann Kesler, Margie Root, Anna de Regt, and Wolfram Moebius)

Winter School:

This year, for the 45th winter school, we have over 90 trip leaders and expect more than 300 participants in January. David Lawrence (a.k.a. DLaw) is in charge, assisted by Winter Safety Committee members Nadya Peek, Ben Scandella, and Dan Weber. On December 5th (in unexpectedly snowy conditions!) we had a fun and educational retreat for 40 new leaders at the Camelot cabin. David Cain created a new lottery-based system for trip signups that we hope will minimize frustration for participants who would like to sign up for highly contested trips.

Cabins:

In addition to regular maintenance at Camelot, cabin manager Pavel Gorelik has pursued two larger scale projects this past year. One was to upgrade the electric service, the other was to repair the roof.

We moved the electric meter to a remote pedestal and had the utility company install a new, more powerful, transformer on the pole. The cabin now gets power from the meter via a buried conduit that is less susceptible to damage from tree-fall. The new connection allows for higher amperage at the cabin and provides an independent disconnection means that improves safety when working on the cabin wiring. The service also has room for expansion to accommodate an additional independent 200A circuit for future buildings. We also now have permanent power at the shed and at the water pump.

The second major project was to repair a roof leak that sprung around the chimney a couple years ago. The leak was caused by improper flashing while installing a home-made snow break. The break proved ineffectual at shielding the chimney from snow loads while allowing water to seep in. This fall we installed a significantly taller commercial snow deflector, repaired some water damage and installed a better flashing system. We also extended the chimney by 4', which should provide additional air draw for the stove. Inside the cabin, we replaced all the stove pipe components with higher quality parts.

Cabin manager Jenn Gagner executed a major improvement at the Intervale property this year. The old yurt, which was built as a temporary structure between Intervale II and III, was finally razed and replace with a new yurt from White Mountain Yurts. The new yurt is well insulated and includes a proper door, windows, and a skylight with ventilation. The new yurt has neither heat nor artificial lighting, but the improved insulation and windows make it much cozier than what it replaced. Pictures of the old and new yurts are shown below.



Anyone with additional information on the history of the original yurt (or the series of Intervale cabins) should get in touch with Jenn at ijenn07@gmail.com.