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OUTDOORS

By Barney Fowler



Security for EnCon

PCB's

Outdoor Front: EnCon brass doesn't feel it has enough talent inside its own department for the job of chief law enforcement officer; understand two FBI men and a Utah law enforcement officer has has been interviewed for the position. This, despite the fact that talent does indeed exist within the department.

As an indication of the way one part of EnCon is functioning this hunting season: Region Five has been without a dispatcher on the radio system. Understand departmental brass has been sitting on this along with other matters.

Albany Sloop Club has widespread interests and one is most assuredly worth getting into. Take the PCB problem in rivers scheduled for dredging. Will such work stir up the poisonous chemicals?

It will. As it stands today PCB in many rivers, and that would include Hudson's, have settled into what might be described as "pockets" in the bottom silt. The chemical is to all intent indestructible. Dredging will stir the silt and disturb the PCB and, in effect, "redistribute" the stuff: disperse it into the water again, where it can do its deadly work on marine animal and plant life.

Backto the Sloop Club: Gail Bowers tells us club members have been asked about the effects of dredging, and we hope what has been printed will help explain. Meantime, we note, the club will meet Dec. 9, at the Delmar branch of the National Savings Bank, Four Corners, Delmar, at 7:30 p.m., and the meeting is open to the public. Add note: Club also interested in finding more potential park space, similar to the area found in Watervliet.

That male bear (boar) you might see in the Catskills....how far does he roam in his mountain prowlings? The answer is developing. Catskill Bear Study, now being made by EnCon, has put a transmitter on one male and found that this traveler has a range of about 150 square miles.

In the domain of the bear, the boar seems to have an itchier foot than the female, or sow. Females roam less, but give 'em a taste of the Liberation Movement, and they'll probably catch up to their male buddies. The study is quite interesting. Transmitters are placed on the animals (so far, four sows and one boar), attached to collars and are tracked by personnel in aeroplanes, flying out of Freehold.

How are the bears caught? In painless foot snares, then they're tranquilized and the collars put into place. With these electronic neckties sending out signals, men, far above, can trace movements.

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Personal note: Might not be a bad idea to furnish similar collars to a selected group of snowmobilers, not only in the Catskills, but the Adirondacks. It'd be interesting to track down trespassers.

Taconic Hiking Club continues to prove it is an active one. Shirley Clifford, Troy, points out the next three hikes. First one to Harmon Hill, a joint jaunt with the Albany Adirondack Mt. Club, with Warren Wilber, 439-1213, leader. That's his phone number, not his zip code. This one scheduled Sunday, Dec. 14.

Second hike on Sunday, Jan. 4, with Tongue Mt. at Lake George the goal. Jim Lane the leader, and his Alexander Graham Bell Ding-a-Ling identification is 438-1570. Third one coming up will be led by Ralph Carter, and will be in the Merck Forest, Rupert, Vermont, suitable, it is hoped, for ski touring.

Note: Because of parking difficulties in front of Russell Sage, all hikes will now start from the court house parking lot across Congress St. from the Jack-in-the-Box hamburger stand. Harmon Hill scheduled at 8:50 a.m.; Tongue Mt., 9:30 a.m., and Merck Forest, 9:30 a.m.

Gun safety? Rensselaer Sportsmen's Lodge, Harrison Ave., believes and practices such. During its most recent hunter safety program more than 200 took the course, and over the past several years the lodge has held the sessions, more than 4,000 have done ditto. Tom Roberts did the coordinating this season, assisted by Adrian Mather, Wilhelm Wimmer and Charles Smith. All done at no cost.

Here's an idea which may catch on if tried in NYS: One thousand people, from as far away as Florida and Canada, traveled to Bradford, Vt., for the annual wild-game supper of the United Church of Christ. Among items served: Moose hamburgers, bear roasts and rabbit pies, some two feet in diameter. Add this to the menu: Venison loaf; raccoon roast and pie; wild boar chops and sausages and casseroles of rabbit liver. Even buffalo figured in the menu; the bison came from a Western preserve which regularly thins out its herd.

Is this a profitable undertaking? The church makes about $5,000. And, believe it or not, more than 1,500 requests for tickets were turned down. It's all indoor eating, in the church basement.

Leslie P. Arnberger, superintendent of Yosemite National Park, banned snowmobile use on the Tioga Pass Road to "minimize conflicts between the buggies and cross-country skiers." Many letters and other communications have been received over the noise and use of snowmobiles.

So what's happened? A snowmobile club brought suit against Arnberger to open the road, and a U.S. district court will hand down the decision within a few days. Note: In 1972 an executive order granted Arnberger the power to prohibit off-road vehicles in his park. Similar powers were granted to superintendents in other parks.