

1974: Ken Nichols climbed **Black Plague** on Wallface with Ed Webster. Over the years, Nichols participated in 103 first ascents, most notably at the Upper Tiers of Poke-O Moonshine.

1975: The Mountaineer was built in Keene Valley and, over time, became a climbing center and place for new route reporting.

1976: Tom Rosecrans self-published *Adirondack Rock and Ice Climbs*, a pocket-sized affair documenting ice climbs and 110 rock routes (19 of which are on private land).

1976: The first 5.10 route in the park, **Fear of Gravity** at the Upper Tiers of Poke-O Moonshine, was climbed by Gary Allan, one of Geoff Smith's Ski to Die protégés.

1976: The first rappel-bolted route, **New Star** at the Poke-O Slab, was climbed by Geoff Smith and Dave Hough.

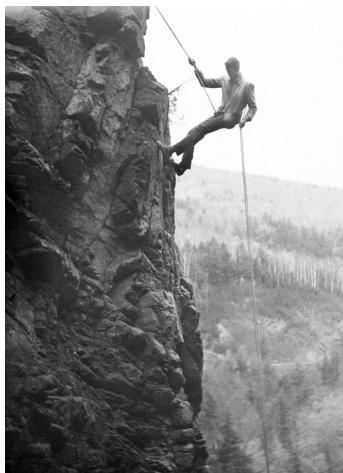
1976: Mark Meschinelli climbed **Southern Hospitality** at Poke-O Moonshine in the winter with Geoff Smith and became a Ski to Die member. Meschinelli was a strong influence at Poke-O for more than 30 years and participated in 53 first ascents there. His photography increased awareness of climbing in the park.

1976: Bruce Bendorick published a hand-printed miniguide to Bald Mountain. Despite having many routes in a section of the park otherwise devoid of climbing, it quickly fell into obscurity.

1977: Tad Welch climbed **Toad's Traverse** at Panther Hill, his first first ascent. Welch brought joy to groveling and was a driving force in backcountry exploration, participating in 95 first ascents to date (page 472).

1977: The first 5.11 pitches, both at Poke-O, were climbed: **Firing Line** by Jim Dunn, and **Southern Hospitality** by Geoff Smith and Gary Allan.

The floating Hitch-Up Matilda bridges at Avalanche Pass ca 1950. Photo by Stanley Smith.



Sam Senior rappelling Roaring Brook Falls in the late 1940s. Photo by Stanley Smith.

1977: Dick Tucker climbed his first first ascent, **Black Dog Chimney** at Blue Hill. Tucker, a north country local, was prolific in exploring moderate climbing on remote cliffs and participated in 93 first ascents (with even more undocumented) over the next 23 years.

1978: Jim Cunningham, Chuck Turner, and Rich Leswing visited the boulders at McKenzie Pond, an area presently thought to offer the best bouldering in the park. Together with the Poke-O circuits, this marked the earliest bouldering done in the park.

1979: Don Mellor made his first first ascent, **Mr. Spaceman** at the UFO Wall. Mellor participated in 148 first ascents through the years (second only to Patrick Purcell). His three guidebooks defined Adirondack climbing for the next 20 years.

1979: John Case donated his mountaineering collection to the Keene Valley Library.

1980: **Labatt-Ami**, the first route at the Beer Walls, was climbed by Bill Simes and Chuck Turner. This area was considered a major discovery and now boasts 100 routes.

1981: Jim Cunningham climbed various ascents around the Lower Washbowl. Over the next seven years, he and the Red House Gang stacked up numerous first ascents on a variety of cliffs in the Keene / Chapel Pond Pass region (page 237).

1982: Patrick Purcell began climbing, with P1 of **Elusive Dream** at the King Wall. He uncovered routes on cliffs previously overlooked and, during his 16 years in the park, participated in 209 ascents, more than any other climber (page 171).