

MOUNTAINEERING CLUB OF ALASKA

Anchorage Alaska

SCREE

No. 4, Vol. 1

January, 1959

MEETING, MONDAY, FEBRUARY 2nd, KENI Auditorium, 8 p.m.

There is an important change. The Mountaineering Club of Alaska will meet on the first Monday of every month instead of the first Thursday. Because the executive committee meetings of the Ski Club take place on Thursdays and for many MCA members there is a conflict, this new meeting time has been selected. Hope it will be convenient for most of you. Our next meeting will be on February 2nd - same time (8 p.m.); same place (KENI Auditorium). So please remember we will be getting together on Monday, and in February it will be Groundhog Day!

We won't hold a special celebration for Spielunkers even if it is February 2 because we like to go up distances not down. Hans Metz is going to show his color slides of European rock and ice climbing. All of the color slides shown at MCA meetings have been excellent so be sure to come and not miss this opportunity.

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At our last meeting a film, "Mountains Don't Care", was shown. It was photographed in the Cascades and showed the necessary skills for safe and consequently pleasurable mountain climbing. Larry Straley talked to the members present about winter survival. At least one of the audience - this writer - went home with it fixed in mind that a candle and dry matches are wonderful things to have in an emergency, that an automobile once the motor stops running is colder inside than it is outside, and that it is a far better thing to hole in safely than to nobly and futilely brave the elements.

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AT LAST!!! Word on our patches is here!!! President Paul B. Crews will pass it on at the next meeting.

Trip to the "Mountain behind the Ski Bowl" on December 14th, 1958.

Maybe the length of this unusual name for a mountain scared the mountaineers away. Perhaps it was the dark gray weather. At any rate only three of us started to climb from the top of tow No. 3 about 10:30 a.m. on Sunday. Two seconds later the first climbing skins had come off. And so it went on. But mountaineers never give up and about 2 hours later we managed to end up where we wanted to be, on the top of the "Mountain behind the Ski Bowl". How about a nicer name, even though it may be unofficial?

I (helga writing) have climbed it several times now as a sort of work-out... the view, in clear weather, is unexcelled. Equally delightful is the run

down through the "gully" and the three of us encountered lovely powder snow on our way down. We all admitted it had been worthwhile.... so how about a repetition some Sunday when the tsw skiing becomes too monotonous? Those on the trip were Lois Willard, Tony Bockstahler and Helga Bading as leader.

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On the Fire: Several activities are in the planning stage. We hope to print full information soon:

1. Organization of a qualified cadre for cooperation with the Ski Patrol as a Rescue Team. Climbers of this group will also be available as support party for visiting climbing teams.
2. Leadership Training. There are facets to leading a climb other than climbing ability.
3. Climbing School. For those who want the training.
4. A schedule of hikes for people who do not particularly care to climb (the berry pickers).
5. A trip into Bear Valley.
6. Climb Bashful Peak.
7. Summit registers to be established on our climbs.

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Climbing Schedule

LEADERS - VOLUNTEER

- Mar - Twenty-Mile
 - Apr - Burns Glacier
Portage Glacier or
Thompson Pass
- Check with Helga for time and place.

Exchanges: At present we're trading papers with American Alpine Club, Appalachian Mountain Club, and Explorers Club of Pittsburg. Ye Editor has them on file if you want to see them.

Bob Rankin wrote from Hawaii. He's not climbing tho'.

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Equipment: It's winter time. Climbing activity is rather slow. When weather permits, we hope to start pounding the hills like a herd of turtles. Now is the time for you who need equipment to prepare. Following is a list for those who need help:

-3-

Essential
Ice Axe
Crampons
Parka
Nylon Rope
Sleeping Bag
Air Mattress
Rucksack or Pack Board
Proper Boots

Nice to have
Primus
Tent
Pitons
Piton Hammer
Cook Kit

Any of us will be glad to suggest dealers and to give advise.

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Due to conditions beyond our control, we must now pay for printing SCREE. Tentative plans called for publishing four times a year. At our last meeting, this news was met with instructions to find a way, but publish monthly. We will try.

Summit Registers: Oren Wilson has been in charge of research for summit register containers. At our last meeting, he presented an empty G-I caliber 30 machine gun ammo canister. After examination, Oren was authorized to purchase four of these for a trial. This committee of one has worked on this project less than a month and has produced excellent results. Good work, Sir!

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MCA should establish a uniform file of reports of climbs in our area. These could be compiled eventually into a guide to Alaskan mountains. None such exists at the present. Who will volunteer to head up this project?

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James Morris who went to Nepal with the 1953 Everest expedition as correspondent for "The London Times" has written a book about his assignment to get the news of the assault if successful back to England. In Coronation Everest (available at the Loussac Library - 915.42), Morris describes why he thinks mountaineers climb. He is not one himself although he got up to Camp IV on Everest at 21,200 ft. He writes:

"I believe their reason for climbing is partly pride (because they do not care to admit weakness); partly ambition (because a warm caress of glory surrounds the successful mountaineer, even if he only stands, alone and unhonoured, on some minor and ill-respected summit); partly aestheticism (because their sport takes them to such beautiful places); partly mysticism (because they wallow sensuously in a spiritual challenge); and partly masochism (because they actually enjoy the discomforts they undergo, crevasses, avalanches, cold, loneliness, squalor, fatigue and all)."

WHY DO YOU CLIMB A MOUNTAIN?

When the Mountaineering Club of Alaska was first organized, it was the hope of the founders to locate about 20 persons who would be interested in climbing. It is with considerable satisfaction to the Club's originators that the project has attracted some 73 people. It will be nice when spring and summer is here so that all of these members can start to go up into the mountains together. However, in the meantime, here is a list of our members: