



MOUNTAINEERING CLUB OF ALASKA

BOX 2037

ANCHORAGE, ALASKA 99510

JANUARY 1975

VOL. 18, NO. 1

JANUARY MEETING.....WEDNESDAY January 15, 1975.....8:00PM
Pioneer School House.....3rd and Eagle. Program....Ascent of the
South Peak of Mt. Hunter (Alaska Range) by Dave Hawley.

BOARD MEETING.....Time and place to be announced.

CLIMBING SCHEDULE

Jan. 25.....0"Malley Peak.....Tom Meacham, leader.....277-2129.

Sign up sheets will be available at the next meeting for other climbs.
Anyone interested in leading future climbs should contact Bill Barnes.

SKI TOURING SCHEDULE

(Note changes from the original Nordic schedule)

Saturday, January 11th.....Prospect Heights Flag Tour, John Baxendall,
leader-333-6735.

Sunday, January 19th.....Big Lake to Call of the Wild Ski Tour. Meet
at the Mt. View Safeway at 9am. Hartmut Pluntke, leader-279-9252.

Sat./Sun. January 25th-26th.....Hatcher Pass to Willow Ski Tour...
MCA leader needed.

Sunday, February 2nd.....Willow Carnival Cross Country, no leader

Sunday, February 9th.....Eagle River Ski Tour, Dona Agosti, leader-
279-2901. Meet at the Value Mart Parking lot at 9am.

PRESIDENTIAL NOMINATION.....At the Jan. board meeting, the Board
acting as the nominating committee, nominated Fritz Rieger as President
of the Club, to fill the vacancy created by the transfer of President-
elect Al Worland. The Board decided to present the nomination
of Fritz at the January meeting, and to take any other nominations
from the floor at that time. The special election of a new MCA
president will be held at the February MCA meeting (Feb. 19, 1975)

MINUTES OF THE GENERAL MEETING, December 19, 1974. Pioneer School House, 3rd and Eagle, Anchorage, Alaska.

The meeting was called to order by acting president Tom Meacham.

The treasurer's report: Totalexpenses-\$91.00, Income from dues and books-\$123.50, Checking account-\$450.00, Savings-\$382.83. Cash on hand \$77.00 for a total cash of \$910.00. Approved.

Minutes of the last meeting were approved as they appeared in the December SCREE.

Bill Barnes, Jr., the new climbing committee chairman, reported on the future club climbs. The Flat-Top sleep-in will be held December 21-22. Bill placed a desperate plea for climbing leaders. Several peaks such as Pinnacle, Kickstep and Bard, are scheduled for climbs in the near future. If you would like to volunteer as a climbing leader contact Bill Barnes, Jr.

Dona Agosti, Hiking Chairman has completed the year's hiking schedules. It will be included in the January SCREE. She mentioned once again the Katmai trip in July (roundtrip airfare \$108.00). Climbers should note that they are welcome to accompany the group to the Katmai National Monument and then split from the main group to pursue their climbs. For further information, contact Dona Agosti, 279-2901.

Climbing wall chairman, Mike Richardson reported that he has a new son, Benjamin, and has consequently been inactive in his role as the chairman. He mentioned that there seems to be good potential for establishing a wall in the near future with some help perhaps from AMH. Mike then requested that someone replace him. His resignation was not acted upon by acting president Tom Meacham. Interested in being the climbing wall chairman?

The subject of the Vin Hoeman library, currently stored at Marie Lundstrom's home was again brought up. Two possible repositories were suggested--the private homes of either the Nienhueser's or the Okenek's. The executive board will discuss it at the next meeting.

The next board meeting will be held at 7:30 p.m., January 7 at Tom Meachams, 1410 H St.

Someone found Barry and Ruth Kircher's ice axe on Byron Glacier which they lost during their bear encounter. The ice axe will be retired to the club's relic collection.

Chuck Evans moved that MCA send a letter to the director of the state parks opposing the use of the Ship Creek drainage by helicopters for ferrying skiers to peaks in the area. Seconded.

Bill Barnes, Jr. moved that MCA file a formal protest against issuing permits allowing helicopters to use designated wilderness areas, as in the case of Deep Powder, Inc., without public input. The club should also request further information. Seconded and passed.

Meeting adjourned.

Nina Faust, Secretary

ANNUAL MCA REPORT TO THE AMERICAN ALPINE JOURNAL

1974 was an unfortunate blend of success and tragedy for the Mountaineering Club of Alaska. On the first day of the new year an avalanche in the Chugach Range took the life of Mark Rainery, Huts and Cabins Chairman for the Club, who had gained the first winter ascent of Koktaya (5300') only moments before. His youthful enthusiasm and acceptance of responsibility had offered the Club much promise for the future. On May 24, 1974 Herb Christie, a veteran bush pilot whose singular and intimate knowledge of the northwest Chugach had enabled Club members to undertake several significant climbs in the region, was killed near the Matanuska Glacier while piloting his Cub.

If prior years have been consistent in their frustration of Club attempts to record winter ascents among the surrounding Chugach peaks and in more distant Alaskan ranges, then 1974 continued that pattern, with some notable exceptions. Tanaina Peak (5350') in the Chugach was ascended by the Rainery party the day prior to their avalanche tragedy. On January 13, 1974 a group led by Will Cottrell gained the summit of Cantata Peak (6410'), making another Chugach first. The Wrangells saw their first winter ascent and the second highest winter summit yet attained in Alaska, with the climb of Mt. Blackburn (16,523') on March 18 by a team comprised of Club members. Other winter climbs witnessed much effort but less success, among them being the early February attempt on Mt. Spurr (11,070'), which was aborted after six days by wind and lowering weather.

The Club's spring and summer climbing activities at higher altitudes necessarily assume the aspects of winter climbs, with longer days and moderated temperatures offering the only differences. In May of 1973, a yet unreported ski traverse between Mt. Redoubt (10,190') and Double Peak (6818') was made by the Steve Hackett party with climbs of Redoubt's lower, western summit (9300') Double Peak, and two unnamed summits (6721' by two routes, and 6200') en route. On March 27, 1974 Icefall Peak (8000+) in the Alaska Range was climbed by the Bjarne Holm party, reaching the summit in a first route ascent from the Gakona Glacier. Peril Peak (7040') in the Chugach saw its fourth ascent, and by far its earliest in the season, in the May 26, 1974 climb by Club members led by John Pinamont.

Significant but unsuccessful attempts were made by Club members to traverse the Sargent Icefield, in March and to ascend the unclimbed north ridge of Mt. Sargeant Robinson (10,600') in August. The Club continued its function as a clearinghouse of Alaskan climbing information by reporting, in addition to Club climbs, the first recorded ascent of the highest point in the Sargent Icefield, Peak 6115', on March 10, 1974 by the Woelkers-Moore party. No formal mountaineering schools were held by the Club this year, but assistance was rendered to local high schools undertaking climbing instruction. Club members were also active participants in Alaska Rescue Group search and recovery missions, assisting in two avalanche operations and two downed-aircraft recovery attempts.

The Club's Hiking Committee had an active year, completing a successful Chilkoot Pass trip as the prelude to more ambitious plans for hiking-climbing treks in 1975 to Katmai National Monument and the Arctic National Wildlife Range. And the Club indirectly entered the political arena in a big way: long-time Club member and supporter Lowell Thomas, Jr. was elected Lieutenant-Governor of Alaska. Despite the sad moments of 1974, the future of the Club, and of climbing in the state of Alaska, promises to be both active and rewarding.

HOEMAN LIBRARY....The Board decided to recommend to Mrs. Kufel and Miss Neiman, the heirs of Grace Hoeman, that the Hoeman Library be moved to the home of Brian Okonek, 3003 Kerry Circle, Anchorage. Brian's home had been strongly recommended to the Board by Dave Johnsto and Chuck Pease, who knew the Hoemans well and who both believe that a conscientious, "homey" atmosphere is a better place for the books than the more formal and less certain location of AMU or UAA.

FERN MINE.....The following post card was sent to Dona Agosti from John Nevin....."You said to let you know how Fern Mine was. I finally prodded myself to go and started skiing back in from Independence Mine Rd. at 11 am. Got to the mine but had no idea where the cabin was. Another group said it was about 2-3 miles further. My map said that was impossible but it was 2:30. Gloomy day made the trak hard to find. Also wearing wrong wax made skiing up hill virtually impossible. Reached the overcrowded cabin. Put my tent up in the dark. Not enough tent pegs-3 out of 8!!Thank goodness no wind. But we had a fluffy night--shoveled my tent out a couple times in my pajamas. Tent sagged, night dragged. Sockad in next day. Skiing out was an experience. 95% whiteout conditions-trail covered, couldn't see it even fresh. Fell many times. Took 3 hrs. to get out. Guess it was because I'm a hiker, not a climber. Not a bad trip but not a great one."

MCA ICE AXE NO. 10.....Brian Okonek found MCA Ice Axe No. 10 on Bryon Peak. The axe had last been used by Ruth and Barry Kircher in the summer of 1971 when they had their ill-fated experience with the bear. It will be retired from the rental collection and placed with the Club's memorabilia.

MOUNTAINEERING CLUB OF ALASKA

HIKING-SKIING SCHEDULE

1975



-For more information call Hike Chmn: Dona Agosti-279-2901

JANUARY

FEBRUARY

MARCH

Date	Place	Leader	Date	Place	Leader	Date	Place	Leader
Sat. 5	Aleyeska to Cabin Ski Tour	Nordic Ski Club	1			Sat 1	Portage Glacier Bear Valley Ski Tour	Nordic
Sat. 11	Eklutna Lake Ski Tour	" "	Sun 9	Eagle River Ski Tour	Dona Agosti	Sat 8	Grandview Skiing (Via train)	Nordic
Sat 18	Big Lake to Call/Wild Ski Tour	" "	Sat 15	Knik Glacier Tour (Bus) (Rondy weekend)	Nordic	Sat/Sun 15-16	Arctic to Indian Ski Tour	Nordic
Sat/Sun 25-26	Hatcher Pass to Willow Ski Tour	" "	Sat 22	Iditarod Trail Tour (Bus)	Nordic	22-23	Fern Mine Ski Tour	Nordic
						29-30-31-1-2	Arctic Valley to Girdwood	Bill Stivers 277-2869

APRIL

MAY

JUNE

Date	Place	Leader	Date	Place	Leader	Date	Place	Leader
Sat 5	Palmer Creek Valley Ski Tour	Gil Todd 279-7794	Sun 4	Winner or Glacier Creek (783-4435)	Nancy Simmerman	Sat/Sun 31-1	Bench Lake Cabin, out Johnson Lake trail	274-7965 Libby Hatton
Sun 13	Lynx Creek Ski Tour	Tom Meacham 277-2129	10-11			Sat/Sun 7-8	Chickaloon-Knik-Neichina-Purinton Cr.	Mes Howe 745-4341
Sat 19	Birdseye Ridge "Snow Hike"	Bob Cadieux 279-1143	Sat/Sun 17-18	Reed Lakes Ski Tour	Shawn Oxford 279-3283	Sat/Sun 14-15	Bold Peak hike and climb,	Bill Stivers 277-2869
Sat	Lazy Mountain Hike (694-2323)	Tony & Betty Bockstahler	Sat/Sun 24-25	Tazlina Lake Ski or Hike	John Nevin 822-3240	21-22	FLAT TOP SLEEPOUT	President MCA
						Sat/Sun 28-29	Peters Creek to Hanging Valley	Helen & Gayle Nienhueser 277-9330

