



MOUNTAINEERING CLUB OF ALASKA      BOX 2037      ANCHORAGE, ALASKA 99510

JANUARY 1980

JANUARY MEETING

Vol 23 #1

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The meeting will be held Wednesday, January 16th at 8:00 p.m. on the top floor of the Pioneer Schoolhouse, Third and Eagle, Anchorage, Alaska. After the business meeting there will be a slide show featuring Jim Eason's recent 23 day cross-country ski trip through the St. Elias Mountains. Jim began his trip on the coast at Malispina Glacier, headed inland, and finally emerged at Kalani Lake.

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MINUTES OF DECEMBER GENERAL MEETING, MOUNTAINEERING CLUB OF ALASKA  
Wednesday, December 17, 1979, Central Junior High School, Anchorage

The meeting was called to order at 8:03 p.m. by President, Tim Neale. Paula Quering gave the Treasurer's report as follows: Checking \$1,175.00; Savings \$535.00 (to be changed soon to a money market fund); Petty Cash \$65.00 for a total of \$1,728.00. Al Robinson read the minutes of the November meeting. John Dillman introduced a guest, Dr. Peter Hackett.

Committee Reports were as follows:

Equipment: Because the Club's ropes, kept along with the other equipment at Alaska Mountaineering and Hiking store, were pretty well used, the Club will order two new Goldline ropes.

Program: Nothing definite yet for the future, but they will continue to be outstanding.

Trails: John Lohff reported that he had met with a local HCRS representative. There appear to be no plans for any significant new trails in the Anchorage area. There is also little interest to date from the snow-machiners. Members were urged to talk with John if interested in any trails.

Citizens Advisory Council to Chugach State Park: Paula Quering reported no monthly meeting has been held yet.

Library: No report. Members were advised to phone Tom Meacham before looking at the Club library kept in his basement.

SCREE: Help was requested in getting out this monthly bulletin. Get in touch with Meg Leonard or Pauline Chase.

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(Minutes of December meeting - Continued)

Climbing: Tim Neale reported that the two scheduled climbs earlier in December had very little response. Although 15 signed up for The Wedge, only 4 came. Only 2 phoned about Hicks Creek. He announced that anyone interested in climbing The Wedge on January 5th, bring skis. John Dillman said the January SCREE would have some late January climbs listed. The winter solstice camp-out will be held on Flattop December 20th.

The proposed membership Potluck dinner could not be held in December but an attempt may be made again in January on some weekend. Brandon Gentry volunteered his home. John Dillman suggested having it in March.

Al Robinson announced that some of The Mountaineers books will be having higher prices beginning January 1, 1980. The Mt. McKinley map of Brad Washburn will go up from \$4.00 to \$4.95, and the ABC's of Avalanche Safety will go up from \$1.50 to \$1.95.

Drawings were held for four Christmas prizes and the following won:

Laura Jerday: A freeze dried dinner

William Dunagan: An ice-cream certificate at Baskin-Robbins

William Vermette: \$10.00 gift certificate at the Book Cache

Janet Smalley: A 7½/lb ham

After the intermission for refreshments, Dr. Andy Embick of Valdez gave an extensive slide show of two attempts, the second one successful, of climbs of the Northwest Face of Katchatna Spire. His climbing partner on the second attempt was Jim Bridwell. The slides had musical accompaniment.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:00 p.m.

E. Allen Robinson, Secretary

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**AN EARLY REMINDER:**

Due to Fur Rendezvous activities, the Pioneer Schoolhouse will not be available for the February meeting. This meeting will be held instead at Romig Junior High School and will occur on February 20th at 8:00 p.m.

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**SKI TOURING**

Two day trip into Eagle River Valley - January 19th and 20th:  
There shouldn't be many hills to negotiate on this trip since we will be on or near the river at all times. Bring cross country ski equipment and winter camping gear. Meet at UAA Sports Complex parking lot at 8:00 a.m. Sign up for the trip

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(Ski Touring - Continued)

at January meeting or contact Tim Neale at 274-4952. We will have a sign-up sheet at the January meeting to see how much interest there is in having another ice climbing class.

#### ICE CLIMBING

Anyone interested in helping with beginning or intermediate ice climbing class in February please contact Tim Neale at 274-4952. We will have a sign-up sheet at the January meeting to see how much interest there is in having another ice climbing class.

#### SUMMER RIVER TOURING

Several MCA members have expressed an interest in participating in a kayak/canoe trip on the Porcupine River this summer. The Porcupine is a flat water river which flows through Canada's Yukon Territory and Northeastern Alaska. Since it has no rapids, the river provides an excellent opportunity to relax and enjoy the remote wilderness and varied wildlife of the area. The remnants of a gold fever from an earlier day can be seen along the Porcupine's banks. This would be at least a 10-day to two-week trip and would probably occur during June or early July. If you are interested or have suggestions, call Marty Bassett at 694-3917.

There will be a short discussion of Chugach State Park regulations during the January meeting. One or two Chugach Park Rangers will be at the meeting to answer questions anyone may have regarding park regulations or park use.

Tim Neale

#### TRIP REPORTS

Annual Winter Solstice Flattop Sleepout or "Sunset over Capricorn"

The Annual Winter Solstice Sleepout on the most often climbed peak in the Chugach attracted over 20 MCA members and non-members on the night of December 22. Most arrived after sunset, having followed the well-worn footpath from the Glen Alps parking lot. Skiing proved impractical due to the lack of snow cover and skis were cached along the way by several die hards. A cheerful fire greeted later arrivals and provided a gathering spot. Most of the wood was left over from the summer solstice which had been secretly stashed. Occasional light snow and breezes became less noticeable as the night wore on and the circle around the fire grew tighter. Tents, partial igloos and snow caves provided accommodations although

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Trip Reports - Continued)

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several hard cores slept under the stars. The next morning groggy campers were surprised and delighted to find the Sunday paper at their door (tent) steps. Many thanks to the dedicated Atwood employees (actually an East Coast ski rep and a friend ) who do this service each year.

This year's sleepout probably set an attendance record and it appeared that everyone had a wonderful time (no cases of frostbite). Thanks to everyone who contributed to the success of the sleepout and we'll see you all again when "the sun sets over cancer".

December 8th Trip:

Fifteen people signed up but only four showed up Saturday morning. The trip was planned for The Wedge, but was changed to the Eagle River Valley area. We had a short but enjoyable climb on an area S/W of Mt. Magnificent. The following people participated in the climb: John Wahl, Sandy Gibbons, Pat Slater, Pat Murray and Tim Neale. The weather was a little cool, about 6°F. Once were above 2,500' the sun was shining. A three-legged dog met us as we passed the last house and then proceeded to lead everyone to the top. The snow was about 15" deep and our new found friend had an efficient technique of literally swimming through the snow. When we were sitting on the top eating lunch, Pat Slater laid down his sandwich which the dog made a beeline for and grabbed. It was amazing how fast Pat and the dog could move for the same squashed, half-eaten, frozen sandwich. Matter of fact, the rest of us had a good laugh out of the whole thing, probably because it wasn't our sandwich. Tim Neale

December 15th trip - Cancelled - no one signed up.

A special thanks to Pat Murray. Pat was the only person to participate in every one of the fall activities, despite the fact he had a broken arm and a cast on the last trip.

## BOOK REVIEWS

CLOUD WALKERS, by Paddy Sherman. 162 pages, 5½x8½" paperbound. Photos. The Mountaineers, 719-R Pike Street, Seattle, Wa. 98101. October 1979. \$7.95.

This is a good account of the climbing history of a number of major peaks in western and northwestern Canada, including peaks of special interest to Alaskans such as Logan and Fairweather, Robson farther south, and some peaks low in altitude but high in adventure nearer Vancouver. The book is a considerable tribute to intrepid and highly skilled Canadian climbers, and displays an easy journalistic style which is alert to adventure. One particularly good section describes the crash of a Trans-Canada airliner in the mountains east of Vancouver, the lengthy search after it vanished, the ultimate discovery, and the difficult mountain rescue efforts needed to recover some bodies and the plane's log.

CROSS COUNTRY SKI GEAR, by Michael Brady. 212 pages, 5½x8½", paperbound; line sketches. The Mountaineers, 719-R Pike Street, Seattle, Wa. 98101. Dec 15, 1979. \$6.95.

Probably many of us read our first word about cross-country skiing over Michael Brady's name. The well-known ski instructor and coach has done a comprehensive new book which tells about all anyone would need to know about cross-country equipment, waxes, clothes, etc. Perhaps the average recreational skier will feel he doesn't need to read quite this much, but it is nice to have a veritable Bible at hand, written in a clear and easy style.

THE CHALLENGE OF RAINIER, by Dee Molenaar. 364 pages, 6x9", paperbound, photos and sketches. The Mountaineers Books, 719-R Pike St., Seattle, Wash. 98101(12-15-79)

This reviewer can hardly be objective about this new edition of Dee's book on "The Mountain" as pictures and text reminded her unceasingly of happy days and weeks in Rainier National Park, and familiar names kept cropping up, stimulating the sort of reminiscence that is the great reward of mountaineering. Well, to settle down, this book does a thorough job of history and gives much natural history, a little short on fabulous flowers and berries. Although there have been amazingly few fatalities for the total number of climbers, there have been some, and these are updated to include the tragic loss of Willi Unsoeld and one of his students early in 1979. One is reminded vividly, by a man who had many years of climbing and guiding experience on Rainier, that its height and proximity to the Pacific Ocean give it weather which can defeat the most skillful climbers and is murderous for the careless or ill-equipped. There are numerous maps of various climbing routes on Rainier, and throughout the book is illustrated by Dee's skillful drawings. There is also a good commentary on changes in climbing equipment over the years.

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