

SCREE ✓

MOUNTAINEERING CLUB OF ALASKA

BOX 2037

ANCHORAGE, ALASKA 99510

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January Meeting

The meeting will be held Wednesday, January 21 at 8:00 pm at the Pioneer Schoolhouse, third and Eagle, Anchorage Ak. After the business meeting, Tom Smayda will present slides of his recent trip with Larry Tedrick which included an extensive ski tour on Buckskin glacier and an attempt on the east buttress of McKinley. Jim Eason, MCA Vice-President has viewed the slides and declaimed them to be outstanding.

DECEMBER MINUTES

The meeting was called to order at 8:05 pm by President John Lohff. The reading of the minutes was waived after John so proposed. However, it was brought to my attention later in the meeting that I had misspelled the name of the Director of the Alaska State Division of Parks, Mr. Chip Dennerlin, who spoke at our November meeting in last month's minutes. They stand corrected and my apologies for the error.

There had been no Executive meeting, therefore there were no minutes.

President Lohff introduced our new Treasurer, Reggie Buchanan, who read the Treasurer's report: Petty Cash: \$50.65, money in bank accounts not verified due to Reggie's just taking over the position; money market \$2,101.51. We discussed the necessity for purchase or acquisition of bookshelves for the library, which will be needed when the library is moved from Tom Meecham's. If anyone has bookshelves we could use that they would like to donate, please contact a Board Member or Officer or let us know at the next meeting.

Several guests were introduced, including our guest speaker, Lowell Thomas Jr. who was introduced by Tim Neale.

The equipment report was given by John Dillman: we currently have the following inventory at Ak. Mountaineering and Hiking: 13 pair of crampons, 14 helmets, 5 ice axes, 6 peeps and 6 shovels and several ropes. John also spoke briefly about the Winter Mountaineering Course and Ice Climbing Course. If interested, please contact John

There were no special committee reports. Members were reminded that 1981 dues are due January 1, 1981.

President Lohff brought forth old business in the proposal for amending the By-Laws to create a Board Position for our outgoing President each year. The motion was made, passed, and seconded. After this we presented Tim Neale, our outgoing President, with a Northwall Ice Axe, in appreciation for the extra effort and dedication he provided in his term. Thank you again, Tim.

New business included information received from the Mt. McKinley Parks Office regarding change in regulation: Physical examinations will no longer be required from prospective climbers. Two-way radios will no longer be required on climbs.

Some discussion was made about outings in January: on 1-3-81, going up the Wedge on skis; also plans for an overnight trip, perhaps Turnagain Pass or Johnson trail for the second week in January, depending upon snow conditions. Sign up sheets were placed at the front.

Discussion from the floor: It was suggested that the Club purchase new Ice Axes to fill out our equipment inventory. A motion was made that we purchase 4 new axes. The motion was seconded and carried. Paul Denkwalter can purchase these wholesale and they will be available for check-out to anyone who has a current membership card, at AMH.

Our program, given by Lowell Thomas Jr. was an excellent film and narration of flights into Mt. McKinley National Park with our Alaskan folk-hero, Don Sheldon, his camps, and Ruth Glacier. There were some beautiful scenes, good sharing of experiences and some terrific flying scenes. I think it was an exceptional program that had some meaning for everyone and I'd like to say thank you again, to Mr. Thomas for joining us, and to Tim Neale for bringing him to us.

Swap Meet after the meeting had everybody buzzing. Nobody bought my boats, though!

Until next time,
Madeline Jones - Secretary.

EKLUTNA LAND ISSUES

This article is written with a certain amount of hesitation. The Mountaineering Club has in its Articles of Incorporation a specific injunction against a "substantial part of the activities of this corporation" . . . being used in . . . "carrying on propaganda or otherwise attempting to influence legislation or of participation or intervention in any political campaign." I think this injunction voices the opinion of most members' views as well. The Eklutna Lake area have such an impact on future club activities, that I raise the issue even though I also hear the injunction from

the Articles of Incorporation.

As Mr. Chip Dennerlein, State Director of Parks, reported to the Club at the November meeting, the Eklutna Village has made native claims land selections all around Eklutna Lake and along both forks of the Eklutna River. Trail easements have been reserved in these selections, so back country access can continue even if BLM does transfer this land to Eklutna Village. These selections do mean that when this land is transferred, that a significant portion of the Chugach State Park will no longer be a state park. What the Eklutna Village would decide to do with the land around Eklutna Lake, I can't predict.

What I suggest may be of interest to individual Club members and perhaps in the best interests of the Club. A letter to your state legislator saying you support state payment of money to the Eklutna Village in exchange for the selected lands in the Eklutna Lake area, would help by showing public interest in this area. This is solely a personal decision on the part of each Club member that keeping the Eklutna Lake lands in the state park system would be a benefit to the Mountaineering Club and to all of those in the Anchorage community interested in outdoor recreation. If you do feel that this is a good idea, then write your local legislator.

Thank you, John R. Lohff

1981 MOUNTAINEERING AND RESEARCH GRANTS

The American Alpine Club is accepting applications for grants from young climbers under age 26 who are participating in expeditionary mountaineering projects. Grants will be awarded only to individuals depending upon excellence of the proposed project and evidence of mountaineering experience. The grants vary in amount from year to year, usually from \$150 to \$400 each. The grants are made available through the Boyd N. Everett Jr. Memorial Fund, the John R. Hudson Memorial Fund, and the recently established Rick L. Mosher Memorial Fund. Organizational or academic groups are not eligible for awards, though more than one person in a group or expedition may apply. Awards are not granted for the purpose of climbing instruction. Eiichi Rukushima is chairman of the Mountaineering Fellowship Committee which reviews the applications and determines the recipients of awards.

Research grants will be available from the Roger L. Putnam Research Fund and the Arthur K. Gilkey Memorial Research Fund. These funds are administered by the AAD Research Committee which is chaired by Dr. Walter A. Wood. The purpose of the Putnam and Gilkey funds is to make grants to those engaged in research into the alpine environment. The funds may also be used to assist in publication or other dissemination of the results of such research. The awards range from \$250 to \$500 each.

Application forms for Mountaineering and Research grants are available from The American Alpine Club, 113 East 90th Street, New York NY 10028. Requests must specify which type of form is wanted. Applications must be received before March 1, 1981. Awards will be announced in May.

FLAT TOP WINTER SOLSTICE

A full moon never set on the club's winter solstice celebration atop flat top mountain the night of Dec. 20-21. The party was attended by 14 members and non-members, some of whom obviously made the climb only to escape the Anchorage cold. But while a few were snoring a 7 pm, others only began to uncork their spirits at 10 pm.

The Aurora Borealis put on an impressive performance of green and red about that time as tendrils and curtains whipped across the Anchorage bowl.

Wine served to those watching the show was well chilled-sluchy; as a matter of fact. But the consumers didn't seem to notice, especially after chasing the chablis with old crow thawing agent.

No cases of hypothermia resulted from heat loss induced by alcohol intake. But then, arctic conditions didn't exactly prevail. The weeks-old temperature inversion held true, allowing those on the 3,550 ft. high summit to bask throughout the night at 10 degrees above, with minimal wind chill, while Anchorage temperatures ranged from zero to 15 below.

Also, everyone was prepared for cold. Especially Pat Murray, His companion, Anita Beeman, had never camped in the winter before, so Murray hauled up the steep west face a sled loaded with four sleeping bags and three bottles of Blazo. He also carried a birthday cake and a book, "Women on Annapurna," for Beeman.

Dave Pahlke and Laurie Skelly dug a snow cave into the west cave. Skelly, more accustomed to the lakes of Minnesota than the mountains of Alaska (this was her first summit climb), had an interesting time ascending the hard wind-packed face in borrowed bunny boots two sizes too large.

Patches of snow on the summit were packed solid two to six inches thick, and blocks carbed with an ice axe easily broke free from the underlying unconsolidated layer. The blocks made a fine igloo.

Those celebrating (or sleeping) were Pat Murray, Anita Beeman, Bob Crouch, Ron Rhodehamel, Steve Robinson, Don Kerr, Ed Miner, Mark Skok, Doug Billman, Karen Braun, Steve Gerlick, Richard McManus, Laurie Skelly and Dave Pahlke,

Tim Neale made the climb, but didn't spend the night.

Mark Skok

HISTORY CORNER

One of the regulations for combing Denali in 1958 was the requirement for a support party to be available in case of problems on the mountain. The original Club members were very interested in forming a rescue group that could "serve as a stand-by party for qualified expeditions" on Denali, as well as for search and rescue-operations elsewhere in Alaska. During the Summer of 59 such a group was formed by the Club and the list of primary members in the November SCREE read like a partial "Who's Who" in the MCA including Norm Pichler, Erik Barnes, Rod Wilson, Hans Metz, Paul Crews, and John Johnston.

The rescue group was destined to become a separate entity

however, and did not remain under the aegis of the MCA for very long. By April of 1960, MCA President Johnnie Johnston (the 2nd president) had joined with Hal Sherman, the leader of the Denali Ski Patrol, to make plans for an independent Alaska Rescue Group. They were assisted in the planning by the Seattle unit of the Mountain Rescue Council and both eventually served on the 1st Board of Directors for the Group. Through the years many members of the MCA have been active in the rescue group.

In April of 59 the Club offered its 1st school. The objectives were low keyed: "The participant should have gained enough knowledge of climbing on rock, snow, and ice to stay out of trouble while perfecting his (her) technique." Areas covered were equipment, rope handling and belaying, snow and ice campigg, rappeling, and climbing techniques on rock, snow, and ice.

Although the Club reportedly has 52 charter members (those who joined before Sept. 5, 58), the 1st membership list printed in the January 59 SCREE had 73 names. There are many names of interest on the list; two of them are Mr. and Mrs. L.A. Bockstahler. They have been participating in Club activities for 22 years, and this Summer Tony led and wrote-up the popular Mt. Eklutna trip of August 9th.

Greg Higgins.

Thanks to Mark Skok for the really nice article in the Ced 12th copy of the Times on the Winter solstice pathering on Flat top. As stated the annual event began in 1966, but Kerstin Petterson and Gary Hansen were responsible for organizing the Summer sleep-out, rather than the Winter one as stated in the article (see Gwyn Wilson's article in SCREE: Vol 9; No 2; page 6).

Gary Hansen did take part in the 1st Winter sleep-out that year along with Steffen Maagoe, Hans Van der Laan, Frank Nosek, and Dave DeVoe. This group reached the top around midnight and left for home at 5 am. Violetta the dog accompanied the group and rode down part of the mountain in a small avalanche.

Greg Higgins

Jan 3 CLIMB

This trip had been scheduled for the Wedge, but was changed to McHugh peak due to poor skiing conditions on power line road. Eight people signed up for the trip. One person showed up.

Joe Meyer, visiting from Chicago, and myself had an enjoyable day wandering around on McHugh Pk. We probably could have used crampons or ice skates on the trail in and out.

Tim Neale

Jan 11 and 12 ski trip - cancelled , no snow.

A note from Andy Embick, NCA member in Valdez:

As of November 21, the ice in Keystone Canyon near Valdez was forming up on schedule. Bridal veil Falls was still incomplete in one section but Hung Jury is climbable for those who want to try wading the Lowe River. The Nov-Dec 1980 issue of CLIMBING will carry a partial guide to Valdez ice and I am already expecting visits by Massachusetts, Arizona, Colorado and Washington Climbers. Those wishing to come down and climb are welcome to floor space with us here; advance warning is requested.

Andy Embick
tel 835-4200 home
835-4811 office

EQUIPMENT FOR SALE:

One pair, used, Lowa Triplex ski mountaineering boots in good condition, size 10. Comes with 2 extra pair of felt liners. Price \$50.00. Call Joe Kurtak after 6:00 pm (349-7767)

Sale or Trade: Fischer Europa 99's metal edges Silveretta bindings. 200 cm \$90.00. Call Wally Lewis 274-3740.