



MOUNTAINEERING CLUB OF ALASKA

BOX 2037

ANCHORAGE, ALASKA 99510

January 1986

Volume 29, Issue 01

### JANUARY MEETING

The meeting will be held Wednesday, January 15th at 7:30 p.m. at the Pioneer Schoolhouse, 3rd and Eagle Sts., Anchorage. After the business meeting, there will be a slide program featuring climbs of peaks Bold, Bashful, and Baleful, the three B's, above Eklutna's East Fork.

### MINUTES FOR THE NOVEMBER MEETING

The meeting was held December 18, 1985 at the Fairview Community Center, and was called to order by President Mark Findlay at 7:50 p.m. The reading of the minutes for November was waived.

The club welcomed new people.

### TREASURER'S REPORT

\$ 255.05 - Petty Cash  
3,179.05 - Money Market Rate Plus Acc.  
418.43 - Checking Account  
\$3,852.53 - Total MCA Monies

All dues expired 12-31-85. Dues were at the old rate of \$7.50 and \$10.00 until January 1st. Now they are \$10.00 for individuals and \$15.00 for families. Membership cards are not mailed, unless a self-addressed, stamped envelope is enclosed. Mail dues to:

MCA  
Box 102037  
Anchorage, AK 99510

(Attention: Treasurer)

I. Old Business

- A. There has been no contract from any Insurance Companies.
- B. Doug Van Etten reported getting some information from Sierra Club about insurance.

II. New Business

None.

III. Announcements

- A. The Annual Winter Solstice sleepout on Flattop is scheduled for Saturday the 21st of December. Contact Mark Findlay for departure time or carpooling.
- B. The MCA library is located at Alaska Mountaineering and Hiking, 2633 Spenard Rd. Anyone interested in helping to put the library in order please contact Kathy Burke at 346-2841.
- C. Ed Bovy sold calendars for \$7.95, (\$3.00 of which goes to the MCA).
- D. The American Alpine Club sent the MCA a copy of the American Alpine Journal. This book and many other mountaineering books and pamphlets are available at the MCA library at AMH.  
(Note from Willy Hersman: the club's two copies of the 1969 American Alpine Journal are missing. If you borrowed one of these and forgot to return it, please do so. It is difficult to get a replacement, and is the only AAJ which is not in the library. Among other things it contains no less than 8 articles by Vin Hoeman, and numerous references and pictures of early ascents of our local peaks. A pox on whoever took it!)

Mark Findlay adjourned the meeting at 7:57 p.m. and there was no program since Doug Fesler somehow missed us.

Respectfully submitted,  
Kathy Burke

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Marcia Bandy has taken care of refreshments for the past 12 monthly meetings and has done a great job, but now it is someone else's turn. The club pays for the refreshments, of course, but someone is needed to go and purchase the goodies and juice and then store the coffee pot, cups, plates, etc. at their house. These need to be set at each monthly meeting with water in the coffee pot. If you are interested in helping with this, please contact Kathy Burke at 346-2841.

Meanwhile, much thanks to Marcia.....

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### State to Cut Out Avalanche School

They sound pretty serious this year folks. In years past they kept nipping away at the school's budget. This time we could lose the whole thing: school, staff, forecasting center. All of it.

As one who has participated in the school several times and dialed that Avalanche Forecast number (271-4500) before many a trip, I can assure you who may not know it, that the State would be making a real big mistake to cut the program out. Not only do I urge you to make a statement supporting the Alaska Avalanche School by phone or by mail, I also urge all winter backcountry users to take at least the basic 4-day course. In fact, I don't even like climbing with people who haven't.

The simplest thing to do is call one of the public opinion numbers and make a statement.

Governor's office: 561-4226 (25 words)

State legislators: 278-3668 (60 words)

It won't cost you much time, but if we lose the program we will all lose a lot. Tell a friend to call too.

Willy Hersman

### ADZE

For Sale : one pair Kastinger mountaineering boots  
double boots, size 10 1/2  
plastic outers  
aveolite liners, brand new  
\$100, call Tim Neale 274-4952

### Hiking Committee

The Hiking Committee will be meeting at 11:00 a.m., Saturday, January 18th to organize the 1986 trip schedule. All interested club members are invited to participate by attending the meeting or sending proposed trips to the Hiking Chairman, Jim Pommert. Contact Jim at 344-5656 or mail to 7700 Pleasure View Circle, Anchorage, AK 99507.

Special thanks are extended to those who led the trips this past year. Without these experienced leaders volunteering their time, we would have no hiking schedule. With them, the Hiking Committee looks forward to offering a full schedule from April to October for 1986.

Jim Pommert

### Gravity Sports Film Festival

The third annual GRAVITY SPORTS FILM FESTIVAL will be held at the East High School Auditorium, February 18, 19, 20 and 22, Tue., Wed., Thur., and Sat., 7:30 pm each evening. The addition of a special guest honor (Dee Molenaar) to this year's festival will be of interest to many club members. Dee Molenaar will present two programs; one focusing on his Alaska climbs and one featuring his experiences in the Himalayas. The Alaska presentation will include excerpts from the 1946 ascent of Mt. St. Elias and the 1960 Mount McKinley sixty-man team rescue operation. The second program will be on the Third Karakoram Expedition attempt on K-2 in 1952.

Admission is \$4.00 in advance and \$5.00 at the door. Tickets will be available at REI and Fur Rendezvous Headquarters.

### MAP & COMPASS CLASS

Classes starting the third week in January. There will be four indoor sessions and four field sessions. Interested? Sign up at the January meeting or call Graham Macdonald : hm. 345-5512 or Mark Findlay : hm. 337-8666.

## TRIP REPORTS

### Chitistone River - Wrangell Mountains

We took a charter flight from Gulkana to the Glacier Creek landing strip on Saturday morning the 27th of July. The view on the trip in of Drum, Sanford, Blackburn, and Mt. Wrangell was spectacular. The hike from Glacier Creek to our first campsite was a dry hike along the river with no clear water available until after we crossed Toby Creek and hiked another two miles or so.

The Toby was crossable for the 12 of us with a fixed rope across the stream. Fair camping sites are available at the first clear stream along the river about five miles from Glacier creek. The second day was easy traveling along the gravel bars and banks of the Chitistone with some clear water streams available. We crossed the branch of the Chitistone that comes from the glacier on a rock-covered ice bridge and camped next to the fork of the river coming from Chitistone Canyon.

We elected to cross the river in the morning at low water. Again the rope came in very handy for getting across quickly and safely. We crossed the river first thing in the morning and ate breakfast on the other side. We reached the grassy plateau above the entrance to Chitistone Canyon before noon, after scouting out the location of the trail that leads from a dry stream bed located one mile down the river. The trail runs up through forest and brush to the plateau. This third campsite is very scenic. The rest of the day was spent exploring on day hikes above the bench towards "Hole in the Wall Glacier" where several Dall sheep were seen.

I decided to continue the hike along the Chitistone goat trail and across the notorious scree slopes the following day since the weather was good rather than staying on the bench two days and taking the chance of wet conditions while crossing the steep, exposed slopes. These scree slopes, with their intermittent rock cliffs just below were as impressive this, my second trip, as they were four years ago. The entire group was very relieved after successfully crossing this somewhat physical, but mostly psychologically demanding part of our journey.

We spent the 4th and 5th nights on a sloping bench just above the river at the upper end of the canyon and hiked up to the small lake near Chitistone (Skolai) Pass on the 6th day. Several sheep were seen on the ridge leading towards the lake and pass. The 7th day was the only bad weather day which we spent mostly in our tents and on the 8th day we proceeded down through Chitistone Pass to the Skolai valley and the tundra air strip where we were picked up the following day.

I enjoyed the friendship and company of Jane Stammen, Linda White, Blanche Crandall, Guenter and Sue Rostin, Pam Bearden, Karen Forsyth, Jim Schiewe, Helen and Gayle Nienhueser and Burt Seiver.

Don Hansen

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JANUARY - FEBRUARY

5	6	7 SIERRA CLUB 7:30 ST. MARY'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH 276-4048	8 NORDIC SKI ASSOC. 7:30 CENTRAL JR. HIGH 277-0827	9 REI 7:00 ALASKA WILDERNESS TREKS ALASKA LUNG ASSOCIATION (DENALI AND RESURRECTION) 272-4565	10	11 WOMEN OF THE WILDERNESS TELEMARK CLINIC 10:30-4:30 HATCHER PASS \$35.00 694-7304
12	13 ALASKA WOMEN OUTDOORS 6:30 337-5069	14	15 MCA 7:30 PIONEER SCHOOLHOUSE Slides: BOLD BASHFUL BALEFUL	16 AUDUBON 7:30 CENTRAL JR. HIGH WILDLIFE ON KENAI PENNINSULA	17	18 SKI WITH A RANGER PROSPECT HTS. 11am-4pm 694-2108 HATCHER PASS LODGE MOUNTAINEERS RACE 745-5897 HATCHER PASS LODGE SLIDE SHOW PEAK COMMUNISM 8pm 745-5897
19	20	21	22	23 WALK TO THE POLE 7:30pm. \$3.00 CALL FOR LOCATION 272-4565	24 BACKCOUNTRY AVALANCHE HAZARD EVALUATION AND RESCUE \$95.00 + BOOKS 762-4523 (24TH-27TH)	25 NORDIC SKI ASSOC. FULL MOON SKI TOUR MANITOWA CABIN 277-0827 MANDATORY MEETING FOR ALL IDITASKIERS 376-2046 HATCHER PASS LODGE SLIDE SHOW: FAR SIDE OF ALASKA 8pm 745-5897
26 EAGLE RIVER VISITOR CENTER "WINTER BIRDS" 1-3 pm 694-2108	27	28	29	30 REI 7:00 ALASKA AVALANCHE SCHOOL 274-4565	31	HATCHER PASS LODGE "SKIING RUTH GLACIER" 8pm 745-5897
2 METEOROLOGY FOR MOUNTAINEERS UAA RM118 \$15 NORDIC SKI ASSOC. NANCY LAKE OR HATCHER PASS SKI TOUR 277-0827	3	4	5	6	7	8 WOMEN OF THE WILDERNESS BEGINNER XC SKI CLINIC 10:30-4:30 \$35 HATCHER PASS 694-7304 NORDIC SKI ASSOC. SKI TRAIN 277-0827

JANUARY

FEBRUARY

History Corner

Since the membership dues are going up this year to \$10.00 - single, \$15.00 - family, I thought it might be interesting to take a look back at how much it cost to be a member in the past. The dues have not changed for the past 11 years; from January 1975 to December 1985 they were \$7.50 - single and \$10.00 - family. Before that they were \$5.00 and \$7.50 between October 1959 and December 1975. When the club began in 1958 you could join for \$2.00. It has always been a bargain. These days a membership in the MCA costs little more than 3 rounds at Simon's.

Willy Hersman