



JANUARY 1997

A Publication of the Mountaineering Club of Alaska

Volume 40 Issue 01

Box 102037, Anchorage, Alaska 99510

JANUARY MEETING

Wednesday

January 15, 7:30

Pioneer Schoolhouse, 3rd & Eagle Streets
Downtown Anchorage

Slide Show: The 1994 North Couloir expedition
to *Mt. Everest*, by climbing guide
and MCA hut foreman, Dave Staeheli.

HIKING AND CLIMBING SCHEDULE

Apr 19 - May 4 Grand Canyon and Paria Canyon

The permit for a group of six to do the Boucher-Hermit loop in Grand Canyon has been approved, but as of Jan. 1, that trip is full. On April 28 we will move to the Paria Canyon trailhead in Utah, hike that colorful slot canyon, and drive to Flagstaff May 3, to fly home from Phoenix May 4. This second hike is not full. If interested in either trip, please contact me after Jan 26.

Leader: Bill Wakeland 563-6346

TRIP REPORTS

December 21, 1996

by Cory Hinds



Eight MCA members participated in this annual sleepout on top of Flattop Mountain. Judging by some of the arrival times, it seems that some MCA members had pioneered new routes up the mountain. Some members pitched tents while others used bivy sacks.

What we thought would be a windy night turned out to be quite calm. The moonlight was incredible shining off the snow and many shooting stars were visible; stragglers from the recent meteor shower? A healthy supply of wood was packed up and we got a good fire going and roasted marshmallows in fine tradition. (Our president attempted to feed us marshmallows saturated with hydrocarbons from the Duraflame logs, but most folks waited until the real wood caught). We discussed expedition plans for the spring and toasted the Russians who were just beginning their winter attempt at Denali.

1997 Membership Dues are due now !!

Proposed Revision to MCA By-Laws

Proposed and Approved by Executive Committee 12-10-95

Existing By-Law

VII. Finances

E. Expenditures. A majority vote of the members present at any regular meeting is required for any expenditures of the club, with the following exceptions:

1. Normal operating expenses, such as, publication and mailing of the club newsletter, fees for meeting places for the regular meeting, refreshments for regular meetings, postage for club correspondence, and annual or monthly fees incurred by the club for normal club business.
2. The Executive Committee may appropriate for small expenditures, not to exceed \$50.00 per month, by a majority vote at any Executive Committee meeting. All such expenditures must be reported at the next regular meeting.

Proposed By-Law

VII. Finances

E. Budget. The Executive Committee shall develop an annual budget for the calendar year and publish it in the December and January newsletter for discussion and approval at the January meeting. A majority vote of the members present at the meeting constitutes approval of the budget. The Executive Committee shall be responsible for the execution of the budget and must obtain a majority vote of the members at any regular meeting to vary more than the larger of \$200.00 or 10 percent of the budgeted expense for either a budget item or total budget.

The Treasurer shall inform the members at each regular meeting on the status of the budget.

The budget shall consist of the following standard items:

- Revenue
 - Membership Dues
 - Training
 - Other
 - Total Revenues

- Expense
 - Training (campsite, access fees, etc.)

- Newsletter (postage, mailing, printing, etc.)
- General meeting (rent, refreshments, entertainment, etc.)
- Administrative (office supplies, forms, P.O. Box, banking, awards, etc.)
- Hut construction and maintenance (materials, supplies, hut equipment, etc.)
- Club equipment (climbing gear, slide projector, etc.)
- Library (new books, periodicals, newsletter binding, etc.)
- Other
- Total Expenses
- Due to (from) Reserve

Existing By-Law

IX. Committees

A. Standing Committees. The following are standing committees whose chairmen are appointed by the Executive Committee as soon as practical after each annual meeting, for a one (1) year term, or until a successor is appointed:

1. Programs - Duty of the Vice-President.
2. Hiking and Climbing - Provide active monthly hiking and climbing schedules.
3. Conservation - Advise Executive Committee on methods and plans to assist in the prevention of waste and the unnecessary destruction of the natural scene relative to hiking and climbing in Alaska.
4. Huts - To maintain and improve existing huts and propose to the Executive Committee new hut sites and establish such hut sites when approved by the membership.
5. Geographic Names - Record commonly used names of Alaskan geographic features, propose and review proposed names of such features.
6. Parks Advisory - Receive suggestions relative to State and Federal park use, review park proposals and plans and advise the membership.
7. Equipment - Maintain club equipment and advise Executive Committee regarding replacements or additions.
8. Training - Provide classes of instruction to teach mountain climbing skills and techniques, backcountry travel, and mountain safety.

Proposed By-Law

IX. Committees



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1. Programs - Duty of the Vice-President.
2. Hiking and Climbing - Provide active monthly hiking and climbing schedules.
3. Parks Advisory - Receive suggestions relative to State and Federal park use, review park proposals and plans and advise the membership. Advise Executive Committee on methods and plans for conservation of Alaska's mountain environment and wildlife.
4. Huts - To maintain and improve existing huts and propose to the Executive Committee new hut sites and establish such hut sites when approved by the membership.
5. Geographic Names - Record commonly used names of Alaskan geographic features, propose and review proposed names of such features.
6. Equipment - Maintain club equipment and advise Executive Committee regarding replacements or additions.
7. Training - Provide classes of instruction to teach mountain climbing skills and techniques, backcountry travel, and mountain safety.
8. Honorary Membership - Propose candidates for honorary membership to the Executive Committee and maintain the list of honoraries.

Existing By-Law

VI. Order of Business

Each regular meeting shall be conducted in the following order:

1. Minutes of the previous meeting.
2. Minutes of any Executive Committee meetings.
3. Treasurer's report.
4. Introduction of new members and guests.
5. Standing committee reports.
6. Special committee reports.
7. Old business.
8. New business.
9. Announcements.
10. Adjournment.

Proposed By-Law

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Training Committee Note

The training committee is planning to provide on-going mini-workshops in addition to the traditional glacier travel in spring and ice climbing in fall at the Matanuska Glacier. If you register subjects you are interested in learning, the training committee will contact you as soon as there are minimum of one instructor and place to meet. The workshop could be a short evening session during week (we know how busy you are on weekends) or very informal study group discussion or ..

The possible subject of training are as follows:

Avalanche beacon/rescue practice, Snow shelter, Self-arrest, Snowshoeing, Avalanche awareness, Cross-country skiing, Knot-tying, Placement of protection (rock and ice), Crevasse Rescue, Glacier travel, Orienteering (map and compass), Rock climbing, Stream crossing, Belaying, Camping/Backpacking, Ice climbing, Backcountry first aid/CPR, Expedition planning.

If you are interested in becoming a part of this new idea in any capacity i.e. student, instructor, guru, mentor or just having fun and increase your knowledge in mountaineering, please contact with the committee chairperson Aze Azegami at:

Phone 266-9249
Fax 266-9250 or
E-mail tazegami@alaska.net

Library News



The following is a list of new additions to the MCA library:

DENALI SOLO, by Ed Darack

MEDICINE FOR MOUNTAINEERING, fourth edition, edited by James Wilkerson

ALASKA ASCENTS, world class mountaineers tell their stories. by Bill Sherwonit

CHEATING DEATH, survival stories from Alaska. by Larry Kaniut

HIGH ALASKA, a historical guide. by Jonathan Waterman

HEROIC CLIMBS, a celebration of world mountaineering. edited by Chris Bonnington

BEYOND RISK, conversations with climbers. by Chris O'Connell

IN THE ZONE, epic survival stories from the mountaineering world. by Peter Potterfield.

I would like to thank the club membership for voting to allocate the funds which made these recent purchases possible. Also we are looking for volunteers to go through the library and make a listing of all publications currently on the shelves. A laptop computer would make the job pretty easy. The most difficult part would be keeping on task and not be distracted by all the great book titles. Mac format preferred. Any interested book worms out there please contact me at 345-5512.

Joe Kurtak, MCA librarian

Letter from a Small Island



by Jonathan Rose
December 1996

On writing, thoughts of who cares? On climbing, thoughts of who dares? Middle of middle Scotland and death defying accounts of knife edges in the Wrangles, avalanches in the St. Elias. Thoughts of everyone is doing it. Scree strut your stuff. 24 trips offered, 1482 member trip days done; sit back and relax; feel proud.

Blending into the scenery and the advancing years, the armchair adventure stretches as far as thumbing past editions of mountaineering club journals; like a trip down memory lane spinning the 20 year old vinyl, a pleasant taste for a short time but the appetite is soon satisfied. And this came out in Latin in 1981 - Fools are tortured by the memory of evils, but memory is a jog to the wise for by memory they taste again the pleasure of the past (stick that in your back pocket to fire at whiners).

All of this thumbing takes on a deeper hue as the threads bind. Clubs are the people; what is put in and what comes out; a record of activity, of what they do together; the place and the pinnacle are important only for the moment. Photos capture that fleeting moment of position. Words tell the facts and feelings. Behaviour and aspiration are the lasting legacy - we did it before so more and better - please.

And what of 1996?. All burdened by the encumbrance of security, challenge, diverse thrill and responsibility, 24 each day is not enough. Must cut down on something - as usual it is adventure. This is part of blending into the scenery with advancing years. At least the spirit is willing. Through The Lasting Legacy I know I'm not immortal. Thrills come from elsewhere without the young man growing up part. Deep breath and don't fret at turning away from the route when the temperature is low. No audience these days. Too many guidebooks and too few climbing buddies for a slyly revealed tick to satisfy. Just enjoy the day out and revel in the fact that you're there. Night time bike to camp spot, day time hike to mountain; the first snow of the season in October. Fifteen miles from the nearest road and just a few people. Blueberries naked without leaves - what are they doing there?

Warm days down south on the crags that are classics, but which have satisfied in the past. We always do Little Chamonix but do it again to make sure. Up the unimpressive slabs and then whoosh, swing out over nothingness on holds the size of Prince Charles' ears. Always the same on wet days; willing the drizzle into submission and treading the fine line between give up for ever and committing a life to the sport.

Moving house doesn't score high on the adventure scale; we did plenty of it. Engaging builders likewise. Touring old haunts and meeting new people, a bit warmer. Making plans for trips in 1997 is nearly hot. Back to Alaska will keep me going during the dark days when snow is slush and the days pass like hours.

A happy Christmas to you all, Jonathan.



Mountaineering Club of Alaska Proposed Budget - 1997

To be approved by the membership at the January 15th General Meeting

	Proposed for 1997	Jan 96 -Dec 96	Nov 94 -Oct 95
REVENUE			
Membership Dues	<i>received during calendar year</i> 3,000	2,116	3,260
Training	<i>ice climbing, crevasse rescue, other</i> 1,800	1,870	1,823
Other:	<i>interest, MCA product sales, advertising</i>		
TOTAL REVENUE	<u>4,800</u>	<u>3,986</u>	<u>5,710</u>
EXPENSE			
Training	<i>campsite and access fees, instructors</i> 1,200	1,095	1,968
Scree	<i>postage, mailing, printing (currently free - BP)</i> 1,000	698	1,281
General Meeting	<i>rent, refreshments, entertainment</i> 700	800	704
Administrative	<i>office supplies, forms, PO box, bank fees, rewards</i> 500	676	362
Hut Construction & Maint.	<i>materials, supplies, hut equipment</i> 400		5,351
Club Equipment	<i>climbing gear, misc equipment</i> 200	485	313
Library	<i>new books, periodicals, Scree binding</i> 300	208	288
Other:			
Donation to Pia's Memorial	500		
TOTAL EXPENSE	<u>4,800</u>	<u>3,961</u>	<u>10,266</u>
DUE TO (FROM) RESERVE	<u>NONE</u>	<u>25</u>	<u>(4,557)</u>
CASH BALANCE - All Accounts			
Ending 1996	6,500		
Increase (decrease) during 1997 - proj.	NONE		
Ending 1997 - projected	6,500		