

MOUNTAINEERING CLUB OF ALASKA

SCREE

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MEETING, MONDAY, MARCH 7, 1960

The next meeting of the Mountaineering Club of Alaska will be on Monday, March 7 at 8 p.m. in the Willow Park Recreation Hall.

During the Club's first year of operation, several items in the Constitution have seemed to require modification to allow for flexibility. Instead of taking a multitude of amendments into the existing Constitution and Bylaws, Johnny Johnston rewrote them to include the changes. A copy of the Constitution is enclosed with this issue of Scree. In it, the revised items are underlines. At the next meeting, acceptance or rejection of this version will be decided. We are counting on you to help discuss the Constitution as it stands now and to bring up any suggestions, corrections or questions concerning it on March 7th.

A movie will be shown following the business meeting.

MEETING, MARCH 7, 1960

The last meeting of the MCA was a Potluck supper held on February 1st. The Club is greatly indebted to Leona Wilkerson for organizing a committee of Elinore Schuck and Gloria Wilson who set up all the innumerable and necessary details which made the supper run smoothly. There seemed to be plenty of pots and lots of good things in them! Afterwards the Committee was assisted with the clean-up chores by Jackie Cote and Mill Gardey.

Slides were shown of the attempt last September on Marcus Baker with Paul Crews commenting. Marcus Baker remains a goal for the Mountaineering Club since poor weather prevented Hans Metz, Helga Bading, Gregg Erickson and Paul Crews from making the highest peak in the Chugach Range in '59.

CLIMBING SCHEDULE

March 5-6 Pioneer Peak: Paul Crews leading. Telephone: home - BR 44731
office BR 63455

April Carpathian Peak: date as yet undecided.

MEETING, MARCH 7

A happy 60th Birthday on March 15th to Joe Fichler! In honor of this occasion the March Scree will carry Joe's account of the trip he led over the Old Mail Trail, Ship Creek to Indian House. The official version of this trip will appear below, but this being the best organized and most successful of the Club enterprises to date a second telling seems in order.

"FLATTOP", ANOTHER TRAINING TREK

by Chuck Metzger

Sun., Jan. 31, 6:00 a.m. A windy, rainy, overcast and perfectly miserable day for anyone to be outside, let alone would-be mountain climbers.

A hardy group of MCA climbers, namely Helga Bading, Paul Crews, Andy Brauchli and I met at Hanson's Service Station on the Seward Highway. Objective: To climb Flattop Mountain.

Some of us, notably me, entertained serious doubts as to the saneness of climbing on a day such as this. After long and serious consideration, while driving back to Paul's to retrieve a forgotten pair of climbing skins, we decided to climb, weather or no weather. Some people just plain love to get wet

After picking up the skins we headed out the highway again, stopping at Hanson's so that I could get the "Red Beast" (large red pickup), and from there proceeded up Valley Rd., turned right at the top onto Rabbit Creek Rd., and thence left up the road leading to Clark's homestead. We made it as far as the "short cut", where the snow became a little too deep for Paul's Rambler.

Here it was, "the moment of truth". Out came the skis, skins and packs (the packs, supposedly extra heavy because of the nature of the climb). After said packs were donned, skis and skins adjusted (curses on long-thongs) we started up the hill. By this time, much to my relief, the rain had turned to snow. Onward and ever upward we climbed, through a rapidly increasing snow cover with a fresh breeze (gale force) at our backs.

The road seemed awfully long that day, mainly because we could see only a very few feet ahead of us, but at last we reached Clark's homestead, where as usual, we were invited in for coffee.

After spending a very pleasant hour and half inside their beautiful little home, drying out and consuming copious amounts of their coffee, we again donned our equipment and started over the hill.

A short climb took us to the top of the ridge above Clark's where we stopped for lunch because Helga was on the verge of starvation. Upon spelling finish to numerous sandwiches, handsfull of nuts, etc. we continued southward along the ridge, crossed a windblown gully (try skiing down hill with skins sometime) and climbed the small buttress which leads to Flattop.

The top of the buttress meant the last of our skiing for awhile, so we shouldered the skis and walked across a short hogback to the base of Flattop's north flank. A ten minute scramble over snow covered scree and another ten or fifteen minutes up a relative steep snow face put us on top.

We had conquered "Flattop" (the mighty guardian of the ridge above Clark's) and to make the day complete our friendly cloud layer lifted for five minutes to give us a view of the "flatlands" below.

The climax of the day was the run out, deep (heavy) powder down the gully to Clark's and hardpacked road from there out to the Rabbit Creek Rd. We were back in the city by 3:00 p.m., satisfied and full of contentment from a day spent among the peaks away from the noise and harassment of town.

THE OLD MAIL TRAIL, SHIP CREEK TO INDIAN HOUSE

by Jackie Cote

7:30 . . . daylight was just breaking over the Chugach . . . Joe Pichler in command . . . the party, 6 snowshoers and one skier, assembled at the jumping off spot, Arctic Valley ski bowl. Howard and Elinore Schuck with their caribou "sitzmarkers" were seasoned snowshoers, having had a chance to practice their snowshoeing on an earlier MCA trip. Bob Layman using bear paws, Bill Atwood with one of the most outsized packs I've ever seen (he had everything but a bed in the thing), Gene Horning, looking like a refugee from a surplus store, on snowshoes, and myself on skis were headed for Indian House and would take the old 25 mile mail trail up Ship Creek.

Just as we were about to take off, Sgt. Hernandez, U.S. Army Fish and Wildflower representative spotted us. He had been called out following a report that a wolf had been sighted prowling around the ski bowl lodge. Seeing no wolf, he settled for us. Seems we were off limits. Joe pleaded our cause trying to explain the expedition, but alas, to no avail. Sgt. Hernandez was a man of the rule book, and his book made no provision for mountaineers. We were still off limits. He allowed he would check with the Provost Marshal's office, but he warned us that we were to stay put until he returned, otherwise this could become an "incident" and closure of the Ski Bowl Road to all civilians might follow.

Meanwhile down at the Provost Marshal's office a jeep was dispatched to help the good Sgt. "escort" us down the Mt.!!! Down we went . . . the dangerous mountaineers with an armed guard fore and aft. When we got back to the Provost Marshal's office we explained our trip once again. Finally a sympathetic Co. picked up his phone and made the necessary contacts to get us permission to continue. He warned us though that any future expeditions through the military preservation would have to be cleared with the City Manager and then the Base Commander's Office. Mountaineers, take heed if you don't want to share our fate!

By this time the sun was well up in the sky. We had lost 3 hours . . . well, maybe we could make that extra push and make up our lost time. Back up the Ski Bowl Road we went and this time we got off.

The first half mile was a series of stops: packs to be adjusted, jackets to be shed, snowshoes retied, but at least we were on the trail. It was pretty level going, not much underbrush to trip us, and we were making good time. Joe hoped we'd be able to get as far as the old roadhouse the first day. But with darkness coming on, Joe thought we'd better call a halt, make camp and get an early start next morning, even though we were short of our goal.

In the last bit of daylight left, we hustled about making a camp. Joe and Bob setting up their tent, Howard and Elinore stringing up theirs. While Gene and Bill went in search of likely saplings to construct a lean-to. We were going to be real boy scout type - spruce boughs for a mattress and a thatched roof over our heads (well anyway ground cloths for a roof). By the time darkness was completely upon us, we had a roaring

fire built and dinner cooking ... no dehydrated mush for us! Tonight we were going first class ... steaks! (Helga will probably want to expel us from the club) However, it's so much easier to forget about those sore muscles when you've put away a steak, mashed potatoes and spinach dinner.

After dinner for two of the members, anyway, came the climax of our trip: The announcement of Gene's and my engagement! A toast was proposed. It should have been to MCA, which was responsible for the whole thing since we met at the MCA rock climbing classes last spring.

Sunday morning dawned gray, but with a hint of the clear skies to come. We ate a nasty breakfast, but in spite of all our good intentions were not on our way until 8:30. We'd have to maintain a good fast pace to make up for all our lost time if we were to reach the pass by 3:00 that afternoon. We started off well. The going was still easy since the rise in elevation was steady but so gradual as not to be noticeable. By noon, however, we were a pretty tired bunch, and each step was becoming more of an effort. Would we never get around that bend so that the pass would at least be in sight! Finally, at 2:00 o'clock when we realized that the pass wasn't "just over that next rise", Joe decided we ought to stop for lunch. "Pooped-out-hill" we called it, as we gratefully took off our packs and flopped. Even after a half hour's rest and some food to spur us on, it was only the thought that we were getting close to the pass and from there it would be "all downhill" that made us even consider getting up. Our shoulders by now were crying out in protest ... still another mile or so ... then it started to snow. The last part was agony. Each time we got closer, the pass would tease us by moving further away (anyway that's the way it seemed). When at last we reached the pass, none of us had the energy to do much celebrating. We just stuffed another handful of raisins in our mouths and started off again. At least we were on the "all down hill from here" side. We had reached the pass about 3:40.

Now, at last I wouldn't be tail-end-drag-along. The rest of this trip was going to be fun. Only I hadn't conditioned my tired reflexes to the impossibly flat light! With a "see you later, slowpokes", I skimmed past the plodding snowshoers. This was fun. Next thing I knew, both skis were buried clear to my boots in an unseen snow drift! And Jackie was on her face! Have you ever pitched straight forward over the tips of your skis with a full pack on your back? Don't try it. This is not the recommended method of stopping.

After the snowshoers dug me out, put me back on my feet and helped me on with my pack for the second time I decided caution would be the better part of valor and maintained a much slower pace. It was thus we pushed on, with darkness hastened by the snow-storm beginning to overtake and engulf us. Would we never reach that durned road?!

When it got so dark that we could no longer see to take our next step, Joe decided to stop for the night. To go on in the darkness would be foolhardy. The next big spruce we passed would provide us with shelter for the night. Making camp that night, we were a sorry looking bunch. All of us were stumbling over our own feet from sheer fatigue. That night the menu was pretty bizarre: chicken noodle soup with oatmeal (only pot big enough for soup hadn't been scraped clean of that morning's oatmeal), bacon, tea, raisins, hot dogs, steak scraps, nuts and candy. Maybe not the balanced diet that a nutritionist would prescribe, but it sure tasted good to us.

Next morning, refreshed by our night's sleep, we dug in all the corners of our packs for any remaining food for breakfast. There was still some tea left, and somewhere from the bottom of his pack Bill Attwood pulled out 4 frozen hard boiled eggs. We thawed and ate them, along with the remaining nuts and raisins. Everything was fine, until we noticed that someone's sock had fallen into the tea. Two days on the trail, though, had hardened us. We merely pulled out the sock and drank the tea anyway. No time to brew a fresh pot! We were overdue and families would start to worry. We started off, but it was noon before we finally reached the end of our journey. The Seward Highway at last! And the cars at Indian House! We were 6 tired snowshoers and one tired skier but would we do it again? You bet! Just as soon as the blisters on my heels go away.

MEETING, MONDAY, MARCH 7th

Scree thanks Jackie Cote and Gene Horning for the first scope of its existence! The Mountaineering Club of Alaska extends best wishes on their engagement.

The Ed. wishes to make two corrections. In the January Scree the Trip at Arctic Valley was undated. It took place on Sunday, January 24th. Also in the brief account of the ice skating party, the weather was too cold even for ice skaters, not mountaineers as printed. This was clearly a sub-conscious attempt on the Ed.'s part to reduce mountaineers to the level of other people.

CONSTITUTION

- Article I. NAME:
The name of this organization shall be Mountaineering Club of Alaska.
- Article II PURPOSES:
The purposes for which this organization is formed are as follows:
To promote an active interest in hiking, mountain climbing and exploration of mountains. Cultivation of mountain climbing skills and techniques. To teach and encourage mountain safety. Maintenance of a trained group to be available for technical assistance to mountain rescue. To assist in the prevention of waste and destruction of the natural scene.
- Article III MEMBERSHIP:
Any person concurring with this organization may, upon payment of an initiation fee and one year's dues become a member in the appropriate classification.
- Article IV OFFICERS AND THEIR ELECTION:
At each annual meeting, the membership shall elect, from the membership at large, the following officers for the terms listed:
President - 1 year
Vice-President - 1 year
Secretary-Treasurer - 1 year
Director - 2 years
Nominations shall be made from the floor at the annual meeting. Voting shall be by secret written ballot. Any member may vote for an absent member provided the voting member has written authority from the absent member. Officers shall assume their duties upon adjournment of the annual meeting.
- Article V MEETINGS:
Regular meetings of the MCA shall be held at a place, time and date designated by the Executive Committee, but not less than once each calendar month. An annual meeting shall be called during the month of October of every year in lieu of the regular meeting for the purpose of electing officers and amending the constitution. The membership must be notified by mail as to the time, date and place of the annual meeting, at least 30 days prior to the meeting. Meetings of the Executive Committee shall be held as often as deemed necessary by the President but not less often than every third month with the first meeting convening in October. Three members of the Executive Committee shall constitute a quorum, but one of the members must be the President or Vice-President.
- Article VI AMENDMENTS TO THE CONSTITUTION:
After ratification, this constitution may be amended by two-thirds vote of the members present at any annual meeting provided that the membership has been notified by mail as to the content of the proposed amendment at least 30 days prior to the annual meeting. Proposed amendments must be submitted, in writing, to an officer at least 60 days prior to the annual meeting.

BY-LAWS

ARTICLE I - MEMBERSHIP

- Section 1 A person eligible for membership may join the organization in the appropriate class.
- Section 2 Classes of membership shall be:
Senior Member: A person who has reached his 18th birthday.
Family Member: Spouse and children under 18 years of age.
Junior Member: A person who has reached his 14th but not his 18th birthday.
Absentee Member: A person residing more than 50 miles from the Club headquarters.
Honorary Member: Any person eligible for membership who is elected by the members at any regular meeting. This class shall not pay dues.

ARTICLE II - OFFICERS

- Section 1 Duties of officers shall be:
President: (a) To preside at all regular and executive meetings.
(b) To coordinate the efforts of the officers and committees.
Vice-President: (a) To assume the duties of the President in the absence of the President; or at the request of the President.
(b) All other duties as assigned by the executive committee.
Secretary-Treasurer: (a) To record the minutes of all regular and executive meetings.

- (b) To maintain complete business, historical and financial records of the organization.
- (c) To initiate and answer correspondence as directed by the President.
- (d) All other duties as assigned by the Executive Committee.

- Director:
- (a) To act as an advisor to the Executive Committee concerning matters of policy.
 - (b) All other duties as assigned by the Executive Committee.

Section 2 Upon resignation of any officer, the Executive Committee shall appoint a member to fill the unexpired term.

ARTICLE III - INITIATION FEE AND DUES

Section 1 Yearly dues shall be paid by all members with the exception of Honorary Members.

Section 2 Dues shall be due and payable on October 1 of each year.

Section 3 Members who fail to remit their dues by January 1 following the date on which the dues are payable shall have their name deleted from the membership rolls.

Section 4 Amount of any initiation fee and the dues shall be determined by the Executive Committee and notified by a majority of the membership prior to the due date.

ARTICLE IV - FINANCES

Section 1 All moneys shall be deposited in a bank located in the same city as the organizational headquarters.

Section 2 It shall be the responsibility of the Secretary-Treasurer to maintain complete financial records of the organization.

Section 3 A complete financial statement shall be prepared and presented at each annual meeting.

Section 4 All checks must bear the signature of two of the following three (3) officers:
President, Vice-President, Secretary-Treasurer.

ARTICLE V - ORDER OF BUSINESS

Each regular meeting shall be conducted in the following order:

- Minutes of the previous meeting
- Minutes of any Executive meetings
- Introduction of new members and guests
- Committee Reports
- Old business
- New business
- Announcements
- Adjournment

ARTICLE VI - PUBLICATION

Section 1 The Club shall publish a monthly bulletin for the purpose of conveying news and articles of interest to the membership.

Section 2 The Executive Committee shall appoint an Editor. The Editor shall be responsible for the management of the publication, under the direction of the Executive Committee.

Section 3 The publication shall be distributed to the membership and to other organizations, or persons, of similar interest.

Section 4 Costs of the publication will be absorbed by the Club. Contributions may be solicited or a temporary subscription fee charged should the Executive Committee deem it necessary.

ARTICLE VII - AMENDMENT OF BY-LAWS

Section 1 These by-laws may be amended at any regular meeting, provided that the proposed amendment is not put to a vote until the meeting following the introduction of the amendment.

Section 2 All proposed amendments shall be published in the organization's publication between the date of introduction and the date of action.