

MOUNTAINEERING CLUB OF ALASKA
FEBRUARY 1971

BOX 2037

ANCHORAGE, ALASKA 99501
VOL. 14, NO. 2

FEBRUARY MEETING:..Thursday February 18...8:00 p.m...Central Junior High Multipurpose Room...15th and E st...use E St. parking lot and entrance...PROGRAM: Mini slide show ...business meeting...refreshment break... Chuck O'Leary , U.S. Forest Service ranger will present a program on AVALANCHES.

BOARD MEETING...Thursday March 4...8:30 p.m...at the Spyderys'...2806 Alder Dr.

MCA CALENDAR

February 14 (Sun.) SUMMIT LAKE AREA Nordic Ski Club day tour. Exploring trip to prospect new tour area. Leader: Leo Hannan (277-4748 home).

February 14 (Sun.) THUNDERBIRD FALLS AREA Nordic Ski Club day tour. Meet at Thunderbird Falls parking area, mile 25.7 Glenn Highway 10 a.m. Tony Bockstahler, Leader (694-2323).

February 18 (Thurs.) monthly MCA meeting.

February 20-21 (Sat. - Sun.) FERN MINE MCA overnight ski tour. Leader: Bob Smith (333-8852 home).

February 27-28 (Sat.-Sun.) PORTAGE TO WHITTIER Nordic Ski Club trip. Tour will start at Portage Lake then over Portage Glacier to Whittier with return trip possibly by train. Be sure to check with Leo Hannan (277-4748) before going as we could have the bad ice breakup we had twice last year in attempting this tour.

March 4 (Thurs) monthly MCA executive board meeting.

April 30-May 2 (Fri.-Sun.) GIRDWOOD TO EKLUTNA MCA ski traverse. Leader: Randy Renner.

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CONSERVATION COMMENTARY

Several MCA members met on Jan. 28th as the conservation committee. A discussion was held to determine what the conservation goals of MCA should be this year. As education of the members is of primary importance it was decided that the Conservation Commentary would become a monthly feature in SCREE. The commentary will consist of a conservation-oriented article written by a committee member and any current conservation news of particular interest to MCA members. It was also decided to direct our energies toward three particular subjects rather than become ineffective by aiming at too many. These three areas are:

1. Gates of the Arctic: This area of the Brooks Range, which has been proposed as a National Park, is a mountainous wilderness which is now getting pressure from development. Should it be a park? What should its boundaries be? How can we have a voice in what happens here?

2. Hatcher Pass Area: This nearby mountain area is getting heavy use, not all of it compatible with mountaineering. What should be done in this area? Should a state park be established there? Should the area be zoned? What action can we take to protect the mountaineers' interests there?

3. Snowmobiles: Since many conflicts have arisen between snowmobilers and mountaineers and skiers we should determine how best to deal with them. What regulation should be put on snowmobile operation? What zoning? How can we get meaningful regulations established and enforced?

Other conservation action will be taken when required, but the emphasis will be on the above. The conservation committee is open to everyone and you are urged to let your ideas, interests, qualifications, and enthusiasm be known to the chairman, Hans Van der Laan (277-4649 home) or other committee members, (Members at the Jan. 28 meeting were Marty Corcoran, Marie Lundstrom and John Merrick.)

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The Alaska Rescue Group presents...

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

MAN IN THE COLD ENVIRONMENT: PART II

Cold and the Primary Physiological Responses

Cold affects not just one or two specific tissues or functions of the exposed person, but affects the whole physiological economy in sometimes subtle, yet always complex fashion.

Under cold conditions, humidity plays a minor role, unless the skin is artificially wetted. (rain or perspiration). Should this occur, the resultant evaporation cooling may exceed all other factors in importance. A man immersed in sub-arctic 40°F water can be cooled beyond recovery in about 20 to 40 minutes -- or approximately 10 to 20 minutes in 32°F water. A man in wet cotton clothing must consider he is nearly immersed in water, and act accordingly.

The interactive effects of air temperature and air movement are so inseparable under cold conditions that the term "windchill" is widely used to designate their combined effects.

As with heat, the regulatory process called into play to maintain the 99°F heat balance in the cold environment represents a primary burden on the body, and in turn sets up consequent disturbances that increase the total burden on the body.

The first regulatory action to be initiated when the body cools is constriction of the skin's blood vessels. This tends to reduce the blood flow and lowers the skin temperature so that heat loss by conduction and radiation is decreased. Muscle tone is enhanced and the desire for voluntary exercise is experienced. With further cooling the blood the automatic, involuntary shivering reaction occurs. This increases the heat production to eight-fold for a short time. Such expenditure of energy quickly fatigues the body, and often occurs as the body's last ditch effort to stay warm before succumbing to hypothermia. Other physiological reactions occur during body cooling, but are of secondary consequence, such as increased appetite and blood pressure changes. Frostbite often occurs because the sensory nerve ending becomes less excitable with the constriction of blood vessels. Therefore man often fails to recognize the cold danger in time to prevent freezing the flesh.

... (to be continued next month)

...Information from: Outdoor Living, Problems, Solutions, Guidelines - MRA

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MCA PROFILE: Treasurer John Samuelson

Born in California...came to Alaska with parents in 1944...raised in Anchorage... has a B.S. in zoology from Univ. of Wash...worked as a truck driver...surveyor...janitor ...goldbrick...most climbing and hiking in Chugach and southern Talkeetnas...single... hobbies are climbing...skiing(alpine and cross country)...and hiking.

MT. HOOD Oregon (11,235')

December 4, 1970

Grace Hoeman

(Ed. Note: Mitch Michaud, a 40-year old professional mountaineer, started out on January 12, 1970 in Tallahassee, Fla. to climb the high points of all 50 states in one year. Some MCA'ers met him when he came to Alaska to climb Mt. McKinley in July. The following is an account of the last of the 50 climbs, Mt. Hood, on which Michaud was accompanied by MCA'er Grace Hoeman)

Afternoon plane departure time is nerve-shatteringly close when I finally extricate myself from the operating room and a 350-pound patient. Barely make the Seattle-bound flight and a sympathetic stewardess soothes me with scotch, so I sleep most of the way -- the last rest for 34 hours.

Colorful Mitch Michaud, who months ago had invited me to join him on his last state high point climb, meets me at Portland airport. Late at night he, two handlebar-mustached publicity guys and I drive up to Timberline Lodge in a rented car (courtesy of Avis, of the Portland Chamber of Commerce?). Eat a last supper at Government Camp, enroute. In an especially-for-us-reserved guest room at Timberline Lodge (courtesy of the management or?), we change clothes while news media boys pop in to film and take interviews. Television cameras bid us "so long" in the crystal-clear pre-dawn night outside the lodge; our quest for the dilapidated volcano, called Mt. Hood has begun.

We are joined by Mazama Dick Miller, a pleasant man endowed with perpetual good cheer and strong muscles. Mitch whips out his two-way radio (courtesy of the networks?) to tell the world of the extreme cold and windy elements we have to face on Mt. Hood's trying south slopes. I stick a finger up in the air and don't think it is all that bad, but I'm told not to spoil the act. Up we go, exasperatingly slow, along a rock, through a sulfur-fumes-emitting crater, around a crevasse, stopping frequently to tell sponsors and fans about each step of upward gain. We negotiate an ice-slick chute and, in bright sunshine, reach the top of one of the 50 state high points. With crampons dangling sideways, I, the widow of the man who was first to climb all 50 state high points* am the first to congratulate Mitch, the first to do all fifty in one year. Mitch produces some grass seeds from somewhere in his parka and spreads them on the summit; he looks like Jesus Christ. Is he a fake? Who is a fake? Fake or not, he brought us amazingly clear weather for our trip in this precipitation-ridden part of the globe.

Mitch is in a hurry to meet the press, but I demand five minutes to redirect my crampons slopeward and tighten them securely. "Ladies first" down the chute; when I'm above the crevasse I see something red flash past me. An urgent desire for self preservation takes possession of the remaining rope mates and we crash on top of our ice axes. I manage to consider possible consequences; the crevasse, the sulfur crater with owithout pearly gates or if we're lucky the press conference and party at the Lodge.

We land at the television, radio, newspaper and sponsor booze party in late afternoon. Mitch is much photographed; I want to be in the picture too, take off my old parka to display a lovely borrowed sweater and that works. The Oregon grass and money growers are concerned about our dehydration and soon it is overcorrected. To bed after a sumptuous meal (courtesy of the Lodge, press, Chamber of Commerce? what does it matter) and I am out for hours. Anybody who can sell himself to the public like that deserves a warm a;;lause. Bravo Mitch, it was a good show.

* Credit for the idea of state high point climbs should go to A.H. Marshall; he conceived it in 1919 and completed the climb of all 48 state high points as they were known then in 1936.

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The three really great things in the world are a mountain, the ocean, and an earnest man at his work. The potentialities of each are beyond human calculation.

--Edward W. Bok--

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ALPINE ADVENTURE or...I Remember a Mountain - March 1970

Buddy Jaidinger

Listen, Climbers, while I tell you of the one-day outing undertaken by three young mountaineers in the spring of last year. The three being Buddy Jaidinger, his brother Bill, and their good friend and neighbor, Larry Brink. It seems that it was that time of the year again the ice had melted and skating was no longer possible. They had hung up their skates in exchange for their climbing boots.

This particular day had dawned bright and sunny and quite warm for March. They piled into their ever-faithful steed, "Green River" and made tire tracks down the Seward Highway. Just south of McHugh Creek Campground they caught sight of the rounded summit of their objective. They weren't sure what name it was called by, or even if it had a name at all! They hastily checked maps that were supplied by the U. S. Geological Survey and found that it was in the Anchorage A-8 quadrangle and designated peak 3450 Township 11 North, Range 2 West, Section 21.

Excitement was in the air as they readied their packs for this was to be their first climb of the new season. They started up through the surprisingly snow-free brush and trees of the southwest ridge, following game trails whenever possible. They came upon small cliffs and sharpened up on their bouldering rather than go around them.

Their route took them beyond the place where a year before, Buddy and two other companions had been turned back because of an abundance of deep snow and lack of daylight and snowshoes. But they had taken out their frustrations of not reaching the summit by staging the World Rock-Rolling Championships, huge boulders were sent tumbling and hurtling down the steep mountainside. A winner was never decided.

Our heroes, being in no hurry, just generally took their time, taking in the views of Turnagain Arm and the Kenai Peninsula. Towards the end of timberline snow was encountered and the going was slow and wet. Above timberline their route went through the waist-deep snow fields from one patch of bare rock to another. Soon there was just bare rock leading to the rounded summit. But when our young adventurers reached this, it was found that the true summit was a pinnacle of rock at the end of a quarter-mile ridge. Larry, being stout of heart, but weak of lungs (he admittedly smokes too much), elected to wait at the spot initially reached while Bud and Bill dropped their packs and made a dash for the summit. Just short of the summit, their progress was delayed while a rather ugly-looking cornice was crossed.

Oooh's and Aaah's were uttered by the bedraggled-looking pair as scenic surroundings were viewed from the summit. Finding no cairn or register, they headed back down.

The two summit climbers were soon reunited with their companion and the descent was started down the south face. It was a rather uneventful trip down, the snow was too soft for glissading and with each step they took they sank to their knees or beyond. Route-finding through the alders had its problems, but the highway was reached at a point about two miles from the car. But it happened that a kindly skier coming home from a day of skiing at Alyeska offered the (then) long-haired, scratched-up, blistered, and tired travelers a ride to their car. Even with his heavy Swiss accent they understood what he meant and didn't have to be asked twice. Back at the car our heroes held a celebration feast which consisted of the finest soft drinks and potato chips, then headed home...

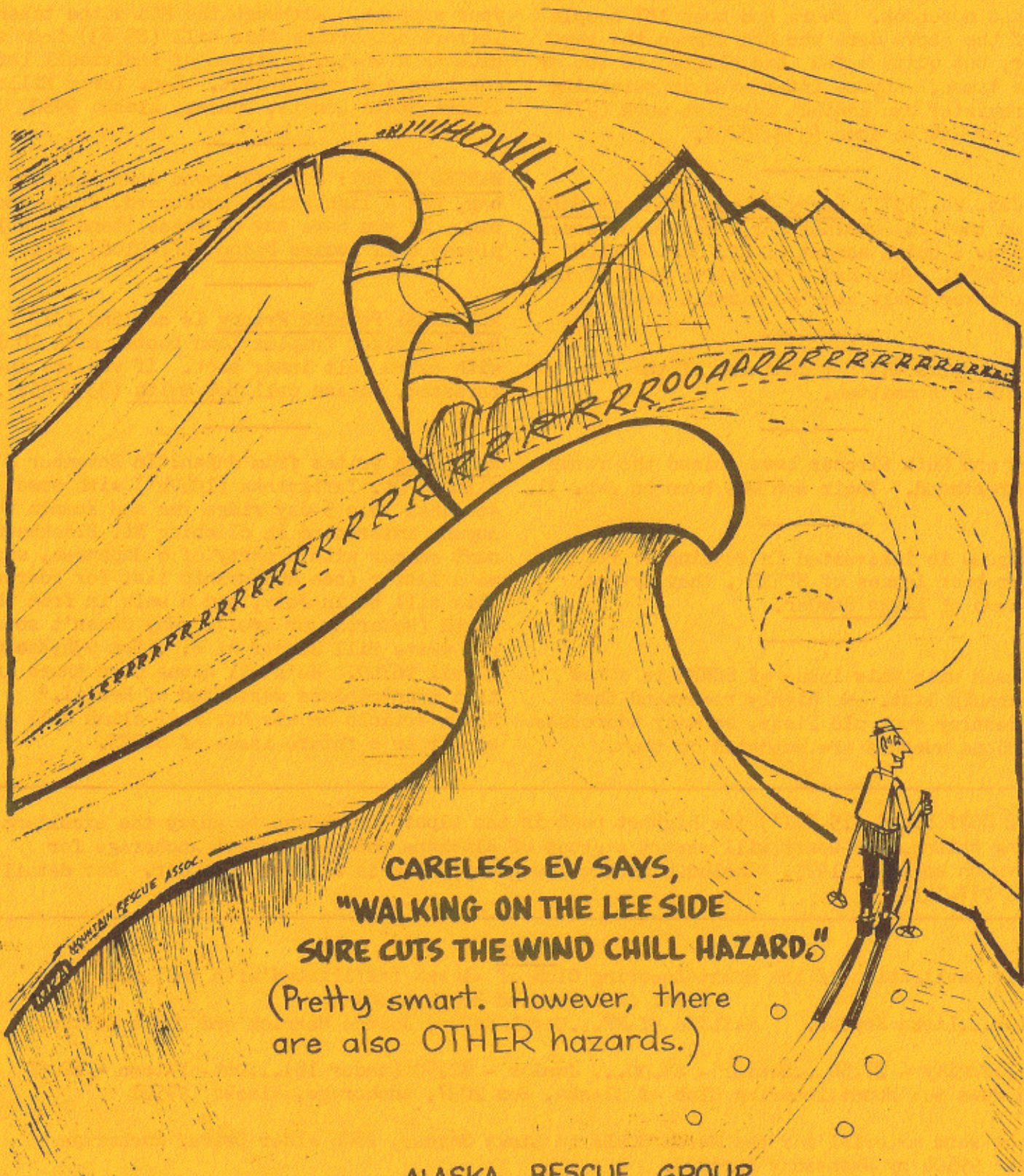
WHAT-SCREE-SAID-WAY-BACK-THEM-DEPT.

10 years ago...February 1961

The February meeting had a highly successful symposium on footgear...14 MCA'ers spent New Years Day ice fishing at 3-Mile Lake and visiting Knik Village...5 lazy MCA'ers had a seven-dog dog team carry their gear to a powerline cabin in the mountains behind Anchorage...then they snowshoed up the valley beyond...and toboganed back down from the cabin!

5 years ago...February 1966

John Wolfe described the hilarious misadventures to the old Ptarmigan ski area with four other MCA'ers...skiing on icy slopes...eating sandwiches atop a 4200' peak with an icy wind swirling around. Helen Nienhueser reported on an MCA trip headed toward Johnson (now Turnagain) Pass which was thwarted by a blinding blizzard and zilch visibility...never-giving-up MCA'ers turned around (so that's why they named it Turnagain Arm...) to ski in the Indian area.



CARELESS EV SAYS,
"WALKING ON THE LEE SIDE
SURE CUTS THE WIND CHILL HAZARD."

(Pretty smart. However, there
are also OTHER hazards.)

ALASKA MOUNTAIN RESCUE ASSOC.



ALASKA RESCUE GROUP
Mountain Rescue Association Outdoor Safety Education

* * * * BITS AND PIECES * * * *

On Jan. 17, 1971, Art Ward and Larry Swanson climbed O'MALLEY and HIDDEN PEAKS. They removed the register from O'MALLEY and recopied it in a notebook. There had been 187 people as of the above date who had signed the register, but quite a few had climbed it two or three times. Anyone interested in returning the register can contact Larry at work (277-4210) or Art at home (333-7870).

On Jan. 24, 1971, Larry Swanson and Art Ward braved the -24 weather for a couple of hours and made a quick ascent of MT. GORDON LYON (4150±50'). They had a beautiful view of the Eagle River peaks and the missile site.

Leo Hannan is the new chairman of the Huts and Cabins committee.

Barry and Ruth Kircher have joined the ranks of parenthood. Their son was born on Jan. 31.

If anyone is interested in reading or referring to back issues of SCREE, they are at the home of Liska Snyder.

Enclosed with this issue of SCREE is a new membership list. We highly recommend that you destroy your old lists, as many addresses and phone numbers are outdated on them.

CLIMB MONT BLANC (15,771') the highest peak in the Alps! Or choose to enjoy the excellent spring skiing. Ray Genet will escort a group of Alaskans who will depart Anchorage for Geneva on April 5, 1971. Included in the low group price is the use of a car. For details phone 277-1414.

SCREE

Monthly publication of the Mountaineering Club of Alaska (affiliated with the Anchorage Dept. of Parks and Recreation)

EDITOR...Liska Snyder. MAILING STAFF...Carol DeVoe, Joanne Merrick and Doris Curtis.

DUES...Family - \$7.50...Senior - \$5.00... Junior - \$2.50 (under 18)...Out-of-town - \$2.50
Send dues to: Mountaineering Club of Alaska, Box 2037, Anchorage, Alaska 99501

Please send material for the March SCREE to Liska Snyder, 2806 Alder Drive, Anchorage Alaska 99504 by Wednesday March 3.

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If you agree with Sen. Terry Miller's bill proposing to ban snowmobiles for non-subsistence hunters, please write to him declaring your support. Although the MCA voted to send letters supporting this bill (SB 63) from the club as a whole, a stream of individual letters can have a strong impact. Sen. Terry Miller, Alaska State Senate, Juneau, Alaska 99800.

WANTED TO BUY: a 2 1/2 pound down sleeping bag, and a lightweight packboard, frame and bag. If you have any of these items to sell, please call Louise DeVoe (277-9108) even.

FOR SALE: Patrick Freeny is selling 1970 Heibler-Eiger Triplex Lowa boots, size 10 1/2 with extra felt inner boot. If you are interested, please call Bob Smith (333-8852).

Ned Lewis writes from Japan: "In November I climbed Mt. Yarigatake (10494') with some students in a 5-day ridge run and scenic tour. Anyone interested in climbing Mt. Blackburn next summer with a party of 6 Japanese, write me a letter (see membership list for address) This will be in July, and a walk in from the south (McCarthy or area). Why doesn't someone write Bill Hauser at R.O. Box 934, Kaeau Hawaii 96749. He's all alone down there in that mountainless wasteland of Hawaii." Ned's article on his Mt. Fuji climb will appear in a future issue of SCREE.