

MOUNTAINEERING CLUB OF ALASKA

BOX 2037

ANCHORAGE, ALASKA 99510

FEBRUARY 1975

VOLUME XVIII No. 2

FEBRUARY PROGRAM

Wednesday, February 19, 8:00 PM, Pioneer School House, 3rd and Eagle
SUE WRENN presents a slide show of the 1972 Cambridge University expedition to the Stavnings Alps on the world's largest island (or smallest continent), Greenland. This was an all-female expedition with both scientific and climbing objectives, and lasted three months.

BOARD MEETING

Time and place to be announced.

SPECIAL PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION

At the February general meeting an election will be held to fill the office of MCA President which has been vacant since November. Fritz Biezer has been nominated for the office. Other nominations will be accepted from the floor prior to the election

CLIMBING SCHEDULE

- Sunday
February 23 THE PINNACLE. Information on the climb will be available at the February meeting.
- Saturday
March 1 VISTA PEAK. An all-day climb or half-day ski tour up a tributary to Eagle River, with a fantastic summit view, weather permitting. Ski tourers welcome, climbers should have ice axe and crampons. Meet at Valu-Mart at 7:00 AM. Leader: TOM MEACHAM. Call 277-2129 for information.
- Sunday
March 2 PASTORAL. Information on the climb will be available at the February meeting.

SKIING SCHEDULE

(Please note changes from the original schedule!!)

- Saturday
February 15 ARCTIC TO INDIAN. One day race or overnight ski tour (your choice). Bus to Arctic is still indefinite but bus pickup at Grandma Hannah's in Indian is definite for Saturday. Sponsored by Nordic Ski Club. FOR ADVANCED SKIERS ONLY. Tour leader: JOHN BAVENDALL.

SKIING SCHEDULE (Cont.)

- Saturday
February 22 IDITAROD TRAIL TOUR. Nordic Ski Club. Bus will leave from Anchorage Westward at 8:30 AM, return late afternoon. Cost: \$3.50. No leader, just start out when you get there. Be back to the bus by 5:00. Easy trail
- Saturday
March 1 PORTAGE GLACIER, BEAR VALLEY SKI TOUR. No bus. Nordic Ski Club. No leader as yet.
- Saturday
March 1 VISTA PEAK. Cross-country tour and climb See climbing schedule for details.
- Saturday
March 8 OPEN.
- Sat.-Sun.
March 15-16 GRANDVIEW SKI TOUR via special train. Because of shortage of Alaska Railroad train cars, plans are still indefinite. However, trip is open to Nordic Members Only and membership must have been received before February 6.

MINUTES OF GENERAL MEETING, MOUNTAINEERING CLUB OF ALASKA

8:00 PM, January 15, 1975, Pioneer School House, 3rd and Eagle, Anchorage, Alaska.

The meeting was called to order by Acting Chairman TOM MEACHAM. Treasurer's report was read as follows: Income \$253.50, Expenses \$98.65, Savings \$612.28, Checking \$383.83, Cash \$74.75, for a Total of \$1869.86.

DONA AGOSTI, Hiking Chairman, noted changes in Nordic Ski schedule and asked for volunteers for leading the Hatcher Pass Ski Tour. She reported on a ski tour starting on Campbell Creek and progressing to the Inlet, then around Campbell Point and ending at Point Woronzoff.

Those who had not yet paid their 1975 membership fee were reminded that they would not be receiving the February issue of SCREE. The new rates are now in effect. However, TOM MEACHAM noted that the By-Laws would have to be amended to include this change.

JOHN PINAMONT listed future climbs as follows: THE PINNACLE and PASTORAL. He emphasized the need for winter boots, headlamps, ice axes, skins, and crampons as well as winter clothing. He also reported on the BARD PEAK climb (Portage area). TOM MEACHAM noted that he still planned to lead the O'MALLEY climb on January 25.

Conservation Chairman, TOM MEACHAM, reported on the progress of our Ship Creek helicopter resolution. He asked JOHN BAXANDALL, Nordic Ski Club President, who was present, if that Club was aware of the helicopter ski lift service being provided at Arctic Valley Ski Area. John reported that it had not been called to his attention.

JANUARY MINUTES (Cont.)

Under Old Business, Tom reported that the MCA Board, at the January Board Meeting, had decided to ask BRIAN OKONEK if he would house the VIN HOEMAN LIBRARY. They also discussed the purchase of book plates to identify the collection and fire insurance rider for OKONEK's policy to cover the collection in case of fire.

At the January Board Meeting, the members formed themselves into a Nominating Committee for the purpose of nominating FRITZ RIEGER for President. The chairman asked for further nominations from the floor, and there being none, nominations were closed, but will be re-opened prior to the special election for President to be held at the meeting on February 19. The election will take place at the next meeting. FRITZ RIEGER was asked to stand up and identify himself.

Under New Business, AL ROBINSON noted that a new hiking book covering Southeastern Alaska was now on the market, published by the Seattle Mountaineers. It is titled DISCOVER SOUTHEASTERN ALASKA BY PACK AND PADDLE by Margaret Piggott.

TOM MEACHAM noted that ANDREW HARVARD, who was a member of the 1973 American expedition on Dhaulagiri in the Himalayas is working in Alaska and will be available for a slide show at the March meeting. The cost of the show was discussed and tabled for later consideration.

DAVE HAWLEY showed his slides of the ascent of the South Peak of Mt. Hunter.

Meeting adjourned.

DONA AGOSTI, Acting Secretary

BITS AND PIECES

On January 25, eight MCAers tackled O'MALLEY PEAK, lead by TOM MEACHAM. Six made the summit in brisk weather, but were unable to locate the register in the summit drift. Those participating were DAVE HAWLEY, BARBARA PURDY, JIM BARNETT, JOHN MCKINLEY, DAN OXFORD, WALT MAAKESTAD, and TIM WILLIAMSON.

White, vapor barrier Korean boots with air valves (otherwise known as bunny boots) may be purchased from: Hastings Cut Rate Shoe Store
114 West State Street
Hastings, Michigan 49058

Price is \$49.95 plus \$3.50 to cover postage and special handling. The store indicates that a wide variety of sizes are available.

FOR SALE: 1 Chouinard Climaxe, used once. \$15.00. (Great for clam-digging or ice climbing!) Call SHAWN OXFORD, 279-3283.

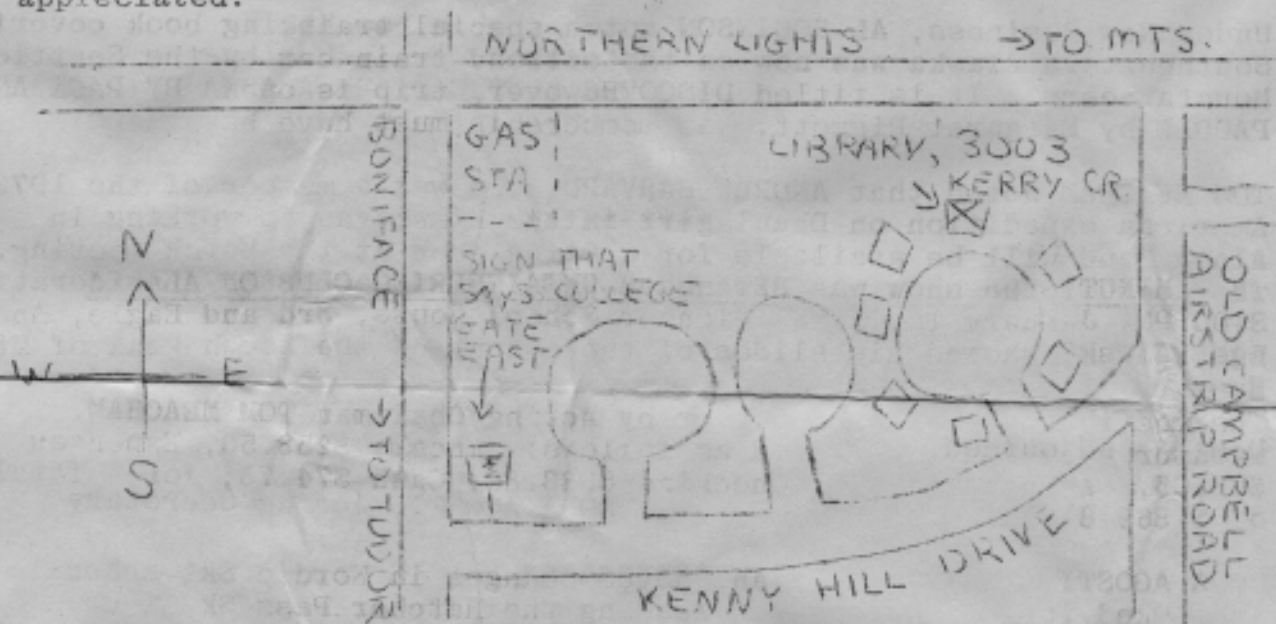
ATTENTION CLIMBERS OR HIKERS! If you are on or around Flattop and find any climbing or camping gear, please call: SHAWN OXFORD at 279-3283 or BRIAN SMITH at 279-2192. It could be some gear we lost on the Flattop sleep-in!

THE HOEMAN MEMORIAL LIBRARY

Brian Okonek

The HOEMAN LIBRARY has now been moved to BRIAN OKONEK's house at 3003 Kerry Circle. A map of how to get to the address follows this article. The library consists of about 300 books, journals, and climbing guides on climbing all over the world. I'm sure anyone would find enjoyable reading and valuable information for planned climbs in the selection of books. It's yours to use, but please call my number at 333-5891 before coming over. Thanks.

DAVE JOHNSTON gave a 1968-69 THE MOUNTAIN WORLD to the library. He couldn't resist it after seeing it on sale for \$1.49! THE MOUNTAIN WORLD, along with the AMERICAN ALPINE JOURNAL and SCREE, need to be updated. Your help and support in getting them updated would be appreciated.



FLATTOP SLEEP-IN - 1974

Shawn Oxford

On December 21, BRIAN SMITH, DAN OXFORD and I skied up to Flattop for the Winter Sleep-in. Somewhere along the way a small husky followed us up the mountain. We reached the summit at about noon. We pitched the tents and crawled in for a snack. The dog, which we nicknamed "Ed" in honor of Mister Whympy, crawled into Dan's tent for a dinner of tomato soup and kool-aid. At about six o'clock the wind started picking up. A few minutes later BILL BRICKLEY and MIKE RICHARDSON arrived. They went off to build an igloo near the cornice. During the night our tents and the igloo were blown down by the wind which was blowing at hurricane force. Morning saw us crawl out of MIKE and BILL's hastily dug snow cave. To our surprise, two of the three tents (Brian's and mine) had blown away leaving only Dan's. We stumbled down the ridge, Brian and I without glasses, to our skis. We left the dog on the powerline road and skied back to the parking lot to meet our ride.

IMPRESSIONS OF THE MT. HAYES CLIMB
Buck Wilson (submitted by Steve Hackett)

I have come away from our climb of Mt. Hayes' north ridge with the feeling that somehow, miraculously, everything worked out incredibly well. The weather was excellent, the logistics worked as planned, the party was capable and benign, the route was difficult, but we did get to the summit.

It was midnight when Steve Hackett came from his crevasse bivouac, where the temperature was a constant 0 degrees F. to our adjacent warmer snow cave to wake us for the summit attempt. It was a cold clear night that would provide excellent conditions for our 13-hour climb from our high camp at 11,000 feet to the summit and back. We had spent thirteen days getting our high camp established, relaying loads all the way from the air strip on the west side of the Trident Glacier with two camps on the tundra and two below us on the north ridge at 8,300 feet and 9,500 feet. We had twice covered all that heaving hacking distance, we had twice climbed all those soft snow breaking steps to be at 11,000 feet; just 2,832 feet below the desired summit with five days of food to support our effort. We had been lucky. By climbing at night the soft snow had been manageable, and with virtually no wind on the entire climb our steps had been, by the following day of relaying, like an ice staircase. The route below us was wanded at the critical points, and Steve and Ken had placed a 300 foot fixed rope on a severe ice ridge just above our camp at 9,500 feet for our safe descent. Our two camps at 8,300 and 9,500 on the ~~north ridge had been placed on level snow saddles where the afternoon~~ sun had provided us with sunbathing after the work of route finding and load relaying while we had prepared our afternoon meal for an early rest prior to another midnight rosy-twilighted go at the mountain.

By 2:30 when Pat Pyne and I on the last rope left our high frosty snow cave, Steve and James Bradey on the first rope were breaking out the drifted-in steps on the way to the north ridge shoulder at 12,500 feet. A one day storm had obscured the route with hip deep snow that Steve and I had wanded two days earlier. There was a cold wind. Hoods were up and hands and feet were cold in the belay positions. The 3:00 AM sunrise drew our focus away from the grinding work of climbing for a spiritual lift given us by the realization of its red-gold alpine beauty.

After 2½ hours we reached the 12,500 foot shoulder of the ridge and saw before us a quarter mile of fantastic doubly corniced ridge separating us from the summit cone of Hayes. In a strong wind we could not have negotiated that rooster-comb ridge for in places it was so narrow and the snow so soft that you could not place your feet side by side! Snow chips dislodged by the right cramponed boot could, with no effort, fall a mile and a half, while snow clods kicked loose by the left boot could start powder snow avalanches on the other side of the ridge that had 6,500 feet of fall! All our snow flukes and pickets were used for protection on this 2½ hour delicate traverse of that wildly beautiful place. The last 800 feet were steep and tiring because of the altitude, but at last we had found hard snow and could

MT. HAYES CLIMB (Cont.)

crampon up without kicking steps. With thoughtful kindness, Steve and James, and Dan and Ken waited for us on the last rope so that we could go to the summit together as a successful party of friends who were given the gift by time and chance of obtaining the highest point in the Eastern Alaska Range.

Vital Statistics:

Party: Dan Osborne, Steve Hackett, James Bradey, Ken Irving, Buck Wilson, Pat Pyne.

Second ascent of north ridge of Mt. Hayes: May 26, 1974.

Length of trip: 18 days.

NEW MCAer

BRIAN MEACHAM born to TOM and JANE MEACHAM on February 6. WELCOME TO THE CLUB!!!

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Peak 7850	December	4
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