



MOUNTAINEERING CLUB OF ALASKA

BOX 2037

ANCHORAGE, ALASKA 99510

February 1986

Volume 29, Issue 02

FEBRUARY MEETING

The meeting will be held Wednesday, February 19th at 7:30 p.m. at the Pioneer Schoolhouse, 3rd and Eagle Sts., Anchorage. After the business meeting, Geoff Radford will show slides of climbs he did in Fitz Roy National Park, in Patagonia. Geoff is presently part of an American expedition which will leave in April to climb Gasherbrum IV and Nameless Tower in Pakistan.

MINUTES FOR THE JANUARY MEETING

The meeting was held January 15, 1986 at the Pioneer Schoolhouse, and was called to order by President Mark Findlay at 7:50 p.m. The reading of the minutes for December was waived.

The club welcomed new people.

TREASURER'S REPORT

\$ 245.15 - Petty Cash
3,396.57 - Money Market Rate Plus Acc.
572.83 - Checking Account
\$4,214.55 - Total MCA Monies

Membership fees have been due since January 1. Single membership: \$10.00
Family membership: \$15.00

Membership cards are not mailed, unless a self-addressed, stamped envelope is enclosed.

MCA
Box 102037
Anchorage, AK 99510
(Attention: Treasurer)

Members gave reports on their recent adventures (despite the lack of snow in Anchorage). They found good skiable snow at Hatcher's Pass, and lots of snow at Turnagain Pass but it's sometimes wet snow and rainy conditions.

The club recieved newsletters from Alaska Handicapped Sports and Recreation Association and Trail and Timberline and there were pamphlets on backpacking and climbing books available from a business in Boston, Mass. and Geographic Names. These could be viewed at the meeting or later at the MCA library.

I. Committee Reports

- A. The Library Committee will schedule a workday in February, after Peg Michielsen sees what needs to be done. Anyone interested in helping contact Kathy Burke at 346-2841. There are lots of books, magazines and American Alpine Journals in the MCA library, some can be checked out and some are there just for reference. It's a good library! The MCA library is located at Alaska Mountaineering and Hiking, 2633 Spenard Rd.
- B. The Hiking Committee announced a meeting (held) January 18th at 11:00 to plan the 1986 hiking schedule. Members were urged to attend and share their ideas or comments on trips, or phone their message in. Meeting place in the January newsletter.

II. Old Business

- A. The club still needs a refreshment person for the monthly meetings, if you are interested contact Mark Findlay 337-8666.

III. New Business

- A. It was brought to the club's attention that certain private Alaskan businesses (such as Genet Expeditions, etc.) are interested in paying the MCA for their mailing list. These businesses want to send equipment catalogs, etc. The board will check the MCA by-laws and non-profit status rules in reference to this, and if it is wanted by the club members, how to go about separating the names and addresses to be released from those not to be released. This will be discussed at the next board meeting (Feb.), please contact Mark Findlay (337-8666) with any ideas or suggestions.

Mark Skok suggested sending them labels with addresses to try to control a "one time only" mailing. He felt it would be a good source of information on equipment and they might provide members with some sort of discount, or be willing to pay us for the mailing list since it would be of commercial benefit to them.

It was suggested this might be a good way to offset the rising club finances.

- B. Another issue to be discussed at the next board meeting will be the mailing out of membership cards; that is, the club may finance and handle this as compared to the current policy of members providing their own

stamped, self-addressed envelope. The board is seeking opinions on this. There are 320 members to date, and bulk mailing only covers 200 items at one time.

IV. Announcements

- A. There will be a Map and Compass Class taught by Graham McDonald Jan. 30, Feb. 4, 6, 11 plus a couple of field sessions. It will be held at Central Junior High, 7:00pm to 9:00pm. The class covers how to read maps and how to use a compass. Call Mark Findlay (337-8666) for the room number or to sign up.
- B. The Alaska Avalanche School (including the Forecast Center) funds have been cut. There were public opinion poll sheets available at the meeting and members were encouraged to use them to state their opinion on this matter.
- C. REI is looking for someone who has hiked and backpacked in Hawaii. They would like them to put on a slide show at one of the Thursday night REI programs. Contact Terry Moulton at 272-4565. (If he can't help you then try Willy Hersman, who is always looking for MCA slide programs.)
- D. Chester Valley Elementary School is looking for someone to present a slide show or program on hiking and climbing (On an elementary grade level) on Feb. 28th, 8:30am to 2:30pm. Contact Mark Findlay 337-8666.

The next meeting (Feb.) will be at the Pioneer Schoolhouse.

Mark Findlay adjourned the meeting at 8:06pm.

Thanks to Ron Van Bergeyk and Mike Miller for their spectacular slides and great talk on the "Three B's". I'll admit they had me hanging onto my chair through more than one slide!

Respectfully Submitted,
Kathy Burke

There will be a board meeting on February 10th (Monday), at 7:30am at Mark Findlay's house. Members are invited. Call Mark for directions; number on back of Scree.

ADZE

T-Shirts commemorating the 1986 American Expedition to Gasherbrum IV.
\$11-short sleeve, \$13-long sleeve

Gasherbrum IV Expedition
515 North 63rd
Seattle, WA 98103

Or available at AMH and REI.

FEBRUARY - MARCH

	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
FEBRUARY	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
	16	17	18	19	20	21	22
	23	24	25	26	27	28	1
MARCH	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
	9	10	11	12	13	14	15

Okay. Scree Trivia . What was the shortest issue of the newsletter since it began in 1958? Answer in next issue.

Gravity Sports Film Festival

As was reported in the January Scree, the third annual GRAVITY SPORTS FILM FESTIVAL will be held at the East High School Auditorium, Tue., Wed., Thur., and Sat., 7:30pm each evening. In addition to Dee Molenaar's program the documentary film "Mountaineering Men" about Bradford Washburn, Terris Moore and Bob Bates may be of interest to many club members. It will be shown on Tue. and Wed. evenings. A special effort was made to have this film completed in time for its debut in Alaska at the film festival. The film consists of a series of interviews in which each of the men describes his most dramatic climbing experience.

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

A short preview of the film schedule is as follows. Each evening the shows begin at 7:30.

Tuesday, Feb. 18

Sports Bloopers, Up, Gravity Never Sleeps, Mountaineering Men
Dee Molenaar's program on climbing in Alaska--including Mt. St. Elias 1946,
and 1960 Denali rescue.

Wednesday, Feb. 19

Mountaineering Men, Adventure in the High Himalayas, K-2 The Savage Mountain
Dee Molenaar's program on the 1953 K-2 climb. (MCA also meets the same night.)

Thursday, Feb. 20

Gravity Never Sleeps, Land of Mist and Fire, Windflight, Up, Across the Main Divide,
Roller Skate Fever, Canadian Mountain Oyssey

Saturday, Feb. 22

Sports Bloopers, K-2 The Savage Mountain, Roller Skate Fever, Up, Paucartambo Inca River,
Gravity Never Sleeps, Windflight, Heli-High

History Corner

This is not the first year that the MCA has taken a look at the question of liability. 18 years ago this month, February, there is a long article in Scree by Frank Nosek titled "Some Interesting Legal Aspects of Mountaineering", in which Frank covers everything from products to obeying the leader to handling death. Back then, perhaps as now, a lot of responsibility was given to the leader of the climb/trip. In some cases he had the same rights that a captain of a ship has, like burial at sea when a passenger dies.

More importantly, he points out that each climber/hiker/student/whatever assumes the obvious and necessary risks of the activity but not the hazards resulting from the negligence of a fellow climber, usually. One has a chance to evaluate the endeavor and to plan for the inherent risks, and therefore assumes such risks or turns the trip down.

Also of interest from the past is the 1960 Denali rescue which involved several MCAers. Dee Molenaar will be giving several programs next month as part of the Gravity Sports Film Festival, including a show devoted to this rescue. Several old Screes are full of information about the 1960 climb and rescue of the Day Party (which included Whittakers, Jim and Lou). On the mountain at the same time was an MCA party with Paul Crews, Rod Wilson, Helga Bading, Chuck Metzger and Andy Brauchli.

They helped considerably with the rescue (which lasted several days), but were not really doing all that well themselves. Helga was suffering terribly from altitude sickness and had to be carried down the West Buttress headwall and then flown out by Don Sheldon, who made a record landing at 14,200 feet.

Perhaps the most entertaining account of the events back then was one by Joe Pichler written a year later. Joe had gone in to help with the rescue operation which was based in Summit and run by the Army. Joe and his fellow rescuers had lots of gear but no food...it was somewhere in a box. They eventually got some C-rations from a Sargeant, but had to give it back when a Captain accused them of stealing. It took quite a while and several helicopter rides to finally get on the mountain; they kept coming back to Summit or landed on the Ruth Glacier to wait for oil. Hungry, they finally stole some food from boxes which they thought belonged to the Seattle rescuers (only to find out days later they were stealing their own food).

Willy Hersman