



FEBRUARY 1994

A Publication of the Mountaineering Club of Alaska, Inc.
 Box 102037, Anchorage, Alaska 99510

Volume 37 Issue 02

FEBRUARY MEETING

Wednesday

February 16, 7:30

Pioneer Schoolhouse, 3rd & Eagle Streets
 Downtown Anchorage

Slide Show: Dave Logan will show slides of the 1993 MCA trip to the *Vampire Peaks* in the Northwest Territories.

HIKING AND CLIMBING SCHEDULE

- | | | |
|-----|-------|--|
| Feb | 23 | <p><u>Flattop</u>
 Mid-evening hike. Meet at Glen Alps at 6:15pm. Bring ice axe, crampons, avalanche beacon, and shovel. Class B. Must know self-arrest.
 Leader: Dave Hart 243-0975</p> |
| Mar | 5 | <p><u>Knova</u>
 Ski/hike up this easy ascent. Western Chugach. Class B.
 Leader: Jonathan Rose 278-3189</p> |
| Apr | 16-30 | <p><u>Grand Canyon</u>
 Backpack in Grand Canyon, Arizona. Down Hance Trail, to Little Colorado River, exit Tanner. Class C. Full with wait list, but who knows?
 Leader: Bill Wakeland 563-6246</p> |

MINUTES

DECEMBER MEETING

December 15, 1993. **Dave Hart** called the meeting to order, and had new members introduce themselves.

COMMITTEE REPORTS.

Huts.

Maxine Franklin announced upcoming meeting.

Hiking and Climbing.

Dave Pahlke volunteered to offer a Telemark Class.

Equipment.

Dave Logan volunteered to be new chairman.

OLD BUSINESS.

None.



NEW BUSINESS.

Dave Hart moved to purchase a new avalanche beacon, seconded, and passed unanimously.

Dave also advised members on the use of beacons and other club gear. If members find themselves borrowing MCA gear more often than not, then they should purchase their own. Also members need to keep in mind that A.M.H. graciously hosts the club's gear. The club would like to see members patronize the store for this reason, and remember that helping MCA members with club gear is secondary to their business.

Raffle results:

- **Mike Miller/Julia Moore** for Scree article.
- **Don Hansen** for trip leader.

Next raffle will be at the MCA picnic in June (just for trip leaders next time).

ANNOUNCEMENTS.

None.

Thanks to **Jonathan Rose** and **James Larabee** for 'Mountains of the Month,' this time featuring Granite Peak and Peak 5450 (Eklutna Lake).

Thanks to all for a fine feast and slides.

Respectfully Submitted,

Roy Smith

JANUARY MEETING

January 19, 1994. **Dave Hart** called the meeting to order, and had new members introduce themselves.

TREASURER'S REPORT.

Total - \$7312.89

COMMITTEE REPORTS.

Huts.

Maxine Franklin reported on the committee meeting. A new hut site is being sought, as well as volunteers and a place to pre-fab the hut. Materials are also being sought. The next committee meeting is February 28, Simon and Seaforts.

Hiking and Climbing.

Telemark class on February 5th, **Dave Pahlke**, Alpenglow

Ski Area. Fee for lift.

Snow shelter class on February 12th, **Willy Hersman**, Skookum Valley (if enough snow).

Don Hansen announced that there will be a committee meeting in March for this year's schedule.

Equipment.

Dave Logan announced that he is taking inventory of all club gear. He asked that all members still holding borrowed equipment to please return it. A complete inventory will be given next month.

Parks Advisory.

Scott Bailey announced moneys and fees available through the Park Service. Contact Scott for recommendations.

Scree.

Jonathan Rose is looking for more volunteers to mail Scree. It takes only a few minutes a month.

OLD BUSINESS.

Dave Hart presented letter addressed to the National Park Service from the MCA to oppose proposed climbing regulations. Motion to send the letter was passed by majority vote.

Dave Hart announced that an avalanche beacon was recently purchased to keep the total at six for club beacons.

Don Hansen suggested that a wish list of trips is needed for the general meetings, like the one at A.M.H.

NEW BUSINESS.

Dave Hart explained to the club that several books are missing from the Vin Hoeman Library again. A plea for their return was given, and a reminder that books marked with a white dot are not to be checked out, including all journals and Screes.

Steve Gruehn has made arrangements with the U.S.G.S. to submit corrections that members wish to have made on topo sheets. He is the one to contact.

The Gear Swap will be held in April.

ANNOUNCEMENTS.

Bill Sherwonit announced another Wilderness Writing Class to be offered by him at UAA via the AWS program. Several endorsements followed.

John Howie is looking for partners for the West Ridge of Mt. Hunter in May.



Dave Hart announced the Ice Climbing Festival in Valdez will be over President's Day weekend.

Thanks to Steve Gruehn for 'Mountains of the Month,' this time featuring Triangle Peak, Cantata and Calliope.

Thanks to Willy Hersman for slides of Mt. Steele.

Respectfully Submitted,

Roy Smith

BOARD MEETING

January 17, 1994. Dave Hart called the meeting to order. Those in attendance:

Dave Hart, Jonathan Rose, Roy Smith, Chris Ernst, Dave Pahlke, Bernie Kazmierczak, Tim Kelley - voting members of the board. Dave Logan - club member.

Topics:

Climber Rescues.

- A letter was drafted by members of the board and club to clarify its position. It will be read at the next general meeting and then voted on by the membership and sent to N.P.S.

7000er Award.

- Tim Kelley presented ideas for the award.
- To qualify, one must have proof of summiting all 21 peaks over 7000 feet in the Western Chugach. Such proof would be a list of dates and partners (this is still being discussed).
- A plaque will be engraved with individuals having accomplished the feat.

Peak Registers.

- Registers will be maintained as in the past, whenever possible, the reason for this is mainly access information and historical information for future reference.
- A register packet will be prepared for anyone heading out to a summit, who wishes to help take registers up.

Huts.

- New hut site is being investigated, probably in the upper Moose Creek drainage, but other sites will be

accepted.

- New site should be a day away from a trailhead and/or a day away from another hut.
- Cement needs to be airlifted to the Mint Hut to construct a more solid outhouse, at the most popular of the club huts. Snow blows between the rocks, filling up the inside at present.
- The club also needs to look into several solutions for waste disposal, such as composting with organic bacteria, hauling it out, etc. and burning trash.
- New volunteers are always needed.

Programs.

- Discussed the Mountains of the Month and the need to give caution about the route information given. Routes described are not necessarily "official" MCA routes, only suggestions. Use at your own risk.
- Declare March or April meeting as "Denali Preparation Month." Hold gear swap, slide show, training, instruction, seminar, guest speaker, question and answer panel, etc.
- Dave Pahlke suggested that every other month we have a "mini-feature" slide show of short duration to inform members of local trips that can be made or will be offered.

Equipment.

- Crampons need repairs: six need straps at \$32.00 each, four need screws. More information needed.
- Discussed auctioning off unborrowed equipment at the next swap and use the proceeds for new gear.
- Inventory to be announced at the next general meeting and ask for missing items to be returned.

Geographic Names.

- Discussed presenting all corrections to Steve Gruehn for submission to USGS.

Library.

- Five AAJ's are missing and plans to replace them are in the works.
- Joe Kurtak, the librarian, is planning to build new shelves during the summer. Need to vote on it at a general meeting.

Grand Canyon Trip.

- Discussed Bill Wakeland's trip in the spring. Its great popularity means it is filled again prior to announcement, but Bill still wants it to be a club trip.
- Board decided it should still be put in Scree.



Mongolian Climbers.

- Mongolian Martial Artists, who recently completed a pilgrimage to Bruce Lee's grave are offering an exchange of climbers between Mongolia and the US.
- Program came to attention of Dolly Lefever, who drafted an endorsement letter on behalf of MCA for the Mongolian government.

Miscellaneous.

- Valdez Ice Climbing Festival will be in February.
- Dave Pahlke said that the N.P.S. is looking for volunteers to help clean up waste along the West Buttress this year.
- Board reviewed the award raffle for article authors and trip leaders. Decided to continue it.
- Snow machine corridor: Dave Hart said issue is dead.
- Portage Pass Annual is off this year due to no leader. The Nordic Patrol plans to be there anyway.
- Park Watch is seeking volunteers.
- Chugach Advisory Board:
 - Reviewed the snow machine corridor.
 - Operation Raleigh will return to do more service projects, probably Chief Alex cabin.
 - Rental fees for MCA huts brought up and dropped, since ownership is in question.
- Dolly Lefever will climb the Seventh Summit soon in Australia.

Votes:

President's Award.

- Decision made to present award to Joel for past year.

Respectfully Submitted,

Roy Smith

ADZE

Himalayan Trek and Climb -

October 1994

Trekking peak Mehra (6431 meters) in the Khumbu Valley. With clear weather there is an excellent view of several well-known peaks.

Trekking only option will be offered. There are a number of trekking routes possible. Trip length 3-4 weeks. Cost \$3500 including air fare. Call Dolly Lefever 243-7027.



Park Watch

Volunteers needed at trailheads. Contact Kris Spencer 346-1658



Freeze-Dry Order

Once again, the MCA will get out a bulk order to Mountain House for freeze-dry items, just in time for the expedition season. You can save 40% through this one-time offer, not open to individuals. The only catch is that you must order a case at a time of any one item (12 in a case). In the past I have allowed people to order less than a case and purchased the rest of the case myself, but it was less than satisfactory to end up with items I would never buy. This time I am restricting everyone to whole cases and if you want to make a trading deal with someone, do it.

I would like to send it off after the March meeting, so you have one month to decide on your order. Copies of the price list will be at the February meeting. Mark what you want, make out a check to the Mountaineering Club of Alaska (at the case cost), bring both to the March meeting and I will distribute the food at the April meeting. To make it easier for me, I only want to do this at the meetings.

Willy Hersman

History Corner

Rod Wilson

So you think you made a first ascent?

Scree, Volume 1, No. 9, June 1959, contains an account of the "First Ascent of Mount Iliamna (10,016 ft.)" by Helga Bading. She climbed from tidewater with Paul Crews, Sr., Erik Barnes, and Gregg Erickson. Paul described the climb in A.A.J. 1960, p. 106.

While studying the history of Cook Inlet, I recently came across a book by Eliza Ruhamah Scidmore, published in 1893 by D. Appleton and Company, N.Y., titled: Appleton's Guide-Book to Alaska and the Northwest Coast. On page 136 is this:

"Iliamna was ascended by a party sent from the Imperial Academy of Sciences at St. Petersburg in 1852, and by several parties of U.S. officers while the garrison was maintained at Fort Kenai, 40 miles distant across the Inlet. There was an eruption in 1854 and in 1869 climbers found running lava near the lower crater, a vast oval bowl full of sulfur crystals, and were driven from the upper crater by the volumes of dense black smoke."



The author's source for the above is not given.

Paul Crews has been first up many mountains in Alaska and elsewhere. He has never crowed about his feats. The passage above amused him immensely...

Congratulations

To Dolly Lefever for making a major step towards a major accomplishment. Only one of the Seven Summits remains for her. In January she bagged Mt. Vinson in Antarctica's Sentinel Range. ☺

Call for Gear

Inventory of club gear has shown that we are missing five of the six pairs of Messner Scissor Step-In crampons that Mike Miller purchased for the club last year. Anyone who may have walked away with one of these missing items is asked to return them. Abuse of the club's policy of lending gear will eventually lead to a very restricted system, or none at all.

The club's policy is simply that you return what you borrow within two or three days after your outing, and that you do not borrow the same itmes over and over. It would be nice for the MCA to offer more gear than it does, but if it is going to end up missing, it simply will not be worth it.

Valdez Ice Climbing Festival

10th annual, February 19-21. Slide shows, spaghetti feeds, speed climbing competition, *tons* of ice climbing (careful with that description, Dave), cross country, alpine and telemark skiing at Thompson Pass! Contact: Joe Loffredo (Valdez) 835-2867, Steve Locher (AMH) 276-4898, Village Inn (Valdez) 835-4445



Denali Preparation Meeting - March 16th

The March meeting will have an extended program to help those of you who are planning to climb Denali this spring (or at any other time). In addition to a slide show of climbing the West Rib, Nick Parker will introduce the Alaska Mountain Rescue Group, and there will be a panel to answer questions on the many aspects of an ascent of Denali. The panel will be made up of people with a wide variety of experience from the Park Service, the local professional climbing community and the Mountaineering Club.

So, come prepared with your questions. It promises to be a lively meeting.

Jonathan Rose



Hut Committee Meeting

Will be held February 28th, 6:30 p.m., at MCA's "other" meeting place, Simon and Seaforts. More discussion of hut plans and outhouses.

