



# SCREE



FEBRUARY 1998

A Publication of the Mountaineering Club of Alaska

Volume 41 Issue 02

Box 102037, Anchorage, Alaska 99510

## FEBRUARY MEETING

Wednesday

February 18, 7:30 pm

Pioneer Schoolhouse, 3rd & Eagle Streets

Downtown Anchorage

Slide Show: *Trekking in the Swiss high country,*  
by Bob Shipley.

### HIKING AND CLIMBING SCHEDULE

Feb 15 Cumulus Mt.  
Western Chugach. Class D. Elevation gain 5500 feet. Crampons, ice axe, appropriate clothing, helmet, headlamp.  
Leaders: Richard Baranow,  
Wendy Sanem 694-1500

Feb 21-22 Deep Lake  
Possible climb of O'Malley Peak. Class B to Deep Lake, class C to O'Malley.  
Leader: Kirk Towner 344-5424

Mar 6 Mt. Significant  
Western Chugach. Class D. Eight miles R.T. 4500-foot elevation gain. Snowshow or ski.  
Leaders: Richard Baranow,  
Wendy Sanem 694-1500

Mar 27-31 Scandinavian Peaks  
Class D & Glacier Travel. Fly into MCA's hut on Friday morning. Skiing and climbing trips from

the hut Fri, Sat, Sun - no specific goals. On Mon. ski to Bock's Den, 9 miles. Ski the remaining 9 miles to the Glenn Hwy on Tues. Competent skiing ability required, plus glacier travel gear and experience. Temperatures can be very cold, so appropriate equipment and experience is also required. \$100 per person for the flight. Full payment due to trip leader by March 1. After that, unclaimed spots go to wait list. Max group size 8. Currently 4 spots remain. Crampons, ice axe, and good physical fitness also required.  
Leader: David Hart 338-0554

Apr 11-19 Grand Canyon (Clear Creek)  
Class C.  
Leader: Dennis Morford 522-1179

Jun 19-21 Mt. Ascension, Lost Lake  
Kenai Mountains. Class B to Lost Lake. Class D to Mt. Ascension.  
Leaders: Tom Choate 333-5309, Dennis Morford 522-1179, Matt Nedom 278-3648

MAR. 14 - PYRAMID PEAK (END OF TURNAGAIN ARM)  
SKIS, SKIDS (ONDS THAT WORK), AVALANCHE GEAR (BEACON, SHOUL). NOT-TECHNICAL. WAYNE TODD 522-6354.  
CLASS C.

Jun 29- Jul 4 Chilkoot Trail

Class C. Elevation gain, 3680 feet. Backpack 33 miles from Dyea (near Skagway) to Bennett, following the trail of the Klondike stampedeers in 1898. Canadian Park Service requires \$10 reservation fee and \$35 backcountry permit. Leader: Diane Sallee 907-790-4970

**TRAINING SCHEDULE**

- Feb 2 Expedition Planning  
6:30 – 8:00 P.M. Kaladi Brothers at Brayton. How to be organized for backcountry travel, by Dave Hart.
- Mar 2 Map Reading / Route Finding  
6:30 – 8:00 P.M. Kaladi Brothers at Brayton. How to be organized for backcountry travel, by Joan Marsh, from the map place.
- Mar 6 More Ice Climbing Training  
To be held at Candyland. Mandatory equipment: harness, crampons, climbing boots, cold weather gear, and permit (available free from Alaska Railroad). Meet at Carrs Huffman 9:00 AM. Anyone without mandatory equipment or permit will be turned away.  
Coordinator: Dawn Groth  
If interested in instructing call Dawn 338-0554.
- Mar 15 Women's Ice Climbing Training  
To be held at Candyland, this class is designed for new female climbers and women who want a refresher on climbing techniques. It will be taught by women. Mandatory equipment: harness, crampons, climbing boots, cold weather gear, and permit (available free from Alaska Railroad). Meet at Carrs Huffman 9:00 AM. Anyone without mandatory equipment or permit will be turned away.  
Coordinator: Dawn Groth  
Also, any woman available for instructing please call Dawn at 338-0554.

**TRIP REPORTS**

Ice is Nice in Eagle River Valley  
by Steve Davis



large number of local climbers have begun the year right by improving their ice climbing skills out at Echo Bend in Eagle River Valley on January 10, 1998. The weekend began with an ice climber's orientation provided by

Steve Davis. Fifty-five people attended his slide show hosted by the Eagle River Nature Center. His slides, music and narration provided an overview of ice climbing areas from Homer to Valdez and a few areas in between.

On Saturday, Steve led a group of 33 climbers to Echo Bend. With the assistance of several experienced climbers, a series of 8 top-rope routes were established ranging in grade from WI2-4. Temperatures were mild for this time of year and with all the routes, no one got cold. People were able to rotate through the climbs, testing a variety of tools, all the while receiving pointers from the more experienced climbers. The ice conditions were perfect; some pitches were wet and plastic, while others were brittle and chandilied. By mid-afternoon, everyone was pretty tired but happy with the day. People who had chosen to bring their skis were the envy of those on snowshoes or on foot as the 3.5 mile hike out seemed to take a little longer than usual.

All reports following the trip have been positive. People learned that waterfall ice is more fragile than glacier ice and thus requires more finesse and better technique to climb. The importance of good footwork was stressed and climbers learned to "stem" The success of the trip would not have been possible with out the help of several club members who offered their assistance. I wish to particular thank, Ralph and Thor Tingey, Pete Panerese, Willy Hersman, Mark Miraglia, Richard Baranow, and Wendy Sanem.



ADZE



Film Festival

Banff Mountain Film Festival will be in Anchorage Friday, March 27, 1998



For Sale

Scarpa mid-weight hiking/mountaineering boots. Black leather, Vibram sole, size 41-1/2 (Euro) = 8-1/2 mens. Made in Italy, One-year old. \$100/obo post-paid. Call Raj at (213) 486-2981

For Sale

Scarpa Denali boots (For climbing/randonee skiing), brand new, never worn, Mens size 8, \$320 Call Jill at 345-3566.

Partner Wanted

Interested in climbing beautiful Mt. Redoubt? I'm planning a spring trip. Possibly south ridge traverse or the northwest buttress. Dates and route flexible! Contact Bethan 345-3632.

Seeking Information

Have you had any unusual encounters with ravens or seen them engaged in strange behavior? I'm collecting such stories to use in an article on ravens. Call Max 373-4734 (or e-mail, mca@alaska.net)

For Sale

- ♦ Integral Design XPD3, -40F sleeping bag, \$450
- ♦ N.F. Assault 22 tent, lightwt., easy set-up, \$350
- ♦ Foot Fangs, standard crampon for vertical ice, \$50
- ♦ MSR Coyote picket, 24", \$10
- ♦ SMC snow fluke, \$15
- ♦ Charlet Moser Goulette axe, 65 cm, \$70
- ♦ Black Diamond Spectre, \$15



MINUTES

DECEMBER MEETING

There were six visitors/new members.

TREASURY REPORT

**Kirk Towner** reported breaking even. He is urging everyone to buy a calendar for the new year. For a budget printout or more detailed information, please see Kirk.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

*Huts*

The Mint Hut stove was acting up, a new generator was put in. Dnigi Hut improvements were discussed.

*Parks Advisory*

**Scott Bailey** reported

*Geographic Names*

**Tom Choate** is looking for any input on names at the head of Eagle Glacier.

*Training*

**Dawn Groth** mentions crevasse rescue up in the Ruth Glacier. She is looking for discount airfare. There will be three sign-up sheets for trips: a five-day trip, one glacier fly-in trip and climb, and one walk-in base camp trip. The preplanning of trips will hopefully encourage participation of member sign-up. Expedition planning and ice climbing sign-up sheets were also available. Map reading will be held in February.

*Hiking and Climbing*

**Steve Gruhn** covered trips to Echo Bend and the Grand Canyon.

OLD BUSINESS

Purchase of the **Snowbird Hut** will probably not be possible since lease payments are one thousand dollars. However, the possibility will be further considered. The club is possibly considering a new hut instead.

**Patches and t-shirts** have been redesigned. The cost of producing them is under investigation. Also, trailhead sign costs are being investigated.

NEW BUSINESS

**Joe Kurtak** announced new books will be placed in the library. **Ron Kruse** is the new librarian. Please call him if you have library questions.

**Mark Helmaricks** representing the UAA Board of Advisors was present and discussed the **Ptarmigan Peak accident**. He encouraged everyone to read the accident report and give feedback to the administration. He is requesting individual support through the community to continue the climbing program.

**Don Hansen** was the winner of a gift certificate from AMH for leading trips. **Steve Gruhn** also won a certificate for trip reports.



## ANNOUNCEMENTS

Ice climbing members were reminded to have permits for Candyland.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Helga Bashor

### Snow and Weather Information

The Alaska River Forecast Center (AKRFC) is sending daily snow and weather information to their home page at <http://www.alaska.net/~akrfc> on the internet. The data can be found by clicking the "data" button on the home page. The data are made available to help the recreational user to do a preliminary assessment of the snow conditions and avalanche potential before leaving for the site. On-site evaluations will still be necessary for a safe trip. The daily data includes snow depth, snow water equivalent, accumulated precipitation since October 1, maximum and minimum temperatures, maximum and minimum wind speeds, and maximum wind speed direction. Some hourly data are also planned. Some sites do not collect all of these data types.

The data are provisional data - that is, the data has not been checked for accuracy prior to it being sent to the home page database. Thus, the user should evaluate the data for reasonableness before using it to make decisions. The user should also be aware that the locations of most of the sites are located in the valley bottoms for the collection of precipitation data, so the wind data, and even the precipitation data, may not be representative of the snow and winds at higher elevations and in the avalanche starting zone. As you know, precipitation and winds can be extremely variable in mountainous terrain. The AKRFC plans to add upper level wind information to their home page to assist in the preliminary evaluation of ridge-top snow loading.

Data is provided for sites throughout Alaska, with a heavier concentration of sites in Southcentral Alaska. Sites in Southcentral Alaska include Independence Mine in Hatcher Pass, Turnagain Pass, Summit Creek, Grandview, Cooper Lake, Indian Pass, Sheep Mountain Airport, Talkeetna, Portage Visitor Center, and others. As was mentioned above, the data collected at one of the gauge sites may not be representative of your location of interest, but you may be able to evaluate a pattern to forecast the difference. For example, there is an indication that the precipitation at Turnagain Pass, which is measured on Center Ridge, is less than what typically falls on nearby Tincan Mountain.

The AKRFC home page is being updated and will change with the seasons. Comments and suggestions are welcome by email at [akrfc@alaska.net](mailto:akrfc@alaska.net) or by calling 266-5160 on weekdays. Additional weather data, including upper level wind forecast data, can be found on other National Weather Service home pages at <http://www.alaska.net/~aawu> and <http://www.alaska.net/~nwsfoanc> on the web.

