

SCREE

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MOUNTAINEERING CLUB OF ALASKA
Box 2037
Anchorage, Alaska
March 1963

MEETING, TUESDAY, MARCH 26

MCA will meet with the Alpine Club of Alaska Methodist University on Tuesday, March 26 at 7 p.m. The meeting will be held in the Auditorium on the campus. To reach A.M.U. drive east on Northern Lights Blvd. to Lake Otis Road, turn right. There is a sign approximately 1/2 mile on Lake Otis Rd. where one turns off to the left onto a road which will wind to the campus, past the Providence Hospital and to the left.

If you have not already done so, be sure to vote and mail your ballot into Davie Duncan. The issue is whether to have the regular MCA meeting at Willow Park Recreation Hall on the third Monday of the month or the second Tuesday.

CLIMBING SCHEDULE:

Monday, March 24, Arctic Valley. Leader: Tony Bockstahler

A easy cross-country outing in the bowl above the tows. Meet Tony in the chain changing parking lot at the bottom of the hill, across from the Moose Run Golf Course at 8:30 a.m. Bring skis or snowshoes, as you prefer, and lunch. Call Dave DeVoe, FE 3-1492, if you need a ride or can take passengers.

Tuesday evening, March 29, Fireside & Planning session for following trips:

- (1) March 30-31 Overnight to Girdwood Cabin
- (2) April 20-21 Independence to Willow (Sleep at lodge or out)

Whether trip on skis or snowshoes (or just feet if the rain keeps coming down). Session to be held at Lloyd Morris' house on Huffman Rd at 8 p.m. See Lloyd for directions, DI 4-47.

HELGA MT. March 16

by Lloyd Morris

Like to glissade? Then try Helga Mountain in the wintertime! Saturday (the 16th) was a muggy day, but we didn't mind. "We" were three DeVoes, Carol, Dave, and Don, Keith Olson and Lloyd Morris. Nobody led, we just went. To Rainbow, to be exact, add up the homestead road to the first grassy gully. It looked like a good route and was, leading onto the thin side ridge of the peak behind Helga proper. We left the car around 9 am and made the top of the ridge, after lunch, around 1 p.m. A nice walk, 3300 ft up. In spite of the clearing weather and sharp wind, Keith, Don and Lloyd headed for the main peak, but bagged when they saw they would have to rope up. That would have meant slower going, too slow, so they turned back, and they soon caught up with Dave and Carol, just starting to slide home. There's a beautiful firm chute just below the peak, and a dozen short runs from there to the trees, and then the trees really aren't too close together ---a nice run to go. The main hill should be fun this summer too, with a beautiful view. Anyone interested?

"Day in the Deep Powder Snow" or "Observations by a Four-Footed MCA'er"

by Isokluk, with a push on the paw by Sherpa M. Prescott

Early Sunday morning Feb 17, I was aroused by much activity in my household. Soon after breakfast snowshoes, skis and other gear went into the car and we were underway for Independence Mine and a day in the snow. The roads were typical for this time of year. There were a few rough icy spots near Little Susitna Lodge, one in particular jarred me out of my mid-morning nap. Not far from Independence Mine we noticed four skiers on a slope to our right. Later we learned that they were Lloyd Morris, Marge Prescott, Carrie and Peter Zaun. Carrie and Peter are potential MCA'ers.

Shortly after arriving at the ski area we are organized, my master, Tony Bockstahler, skis and my mistress Betty on snowshoes and me on my four feet. I don't need any sunglasses so I've been raring to go ever since I got out of the car. The day is warm and sunny just right for being outside. We head up the valley above the ski slope, past the buildings, now deeply buried in snow. But, here are ski tracks so we are not trail breakers. That's O.K. with me as I prefer a broken trail in all this white stuff. Wow is it deep. I'm almost swimming in it! We follow the ski tracks and where they turn around we turn around also. Back near the Lodge my master makes a graceful descent down a steep slope. I take off after him up to my neck in this darn stuff. By the Lodge we meet Marge and the others are off down the valley to Little Susitna Lodge again. Also we learn that on Saturday they had been up the valley above the ski slope and were responsible for the ski tracks that we had followed. Later we met Betty Clement and Hank Thelsson who came from the weekend and learned that Jim Messick who had come for the day had tried a pair of shortie skis and thought they were great.

The last glow of the sunset is fast fading away, the skiers have returned making their second trip in much less time than the first, traveling in their earlier trail and so had no problem poling to do. I overheard plans for a Ski Tour from Independence to Willow over the weekend. It seems that this trip can be made in one day. Sure hope I'm invited.