

SCREE

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Mountaineering Club of Alaska
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NEXT MEETING: March 16, 1964 at the Willow Park Hall at 8 p.m. There will be a panel discussion "Psychology of Mountaineering" with Paul Crews, Bill Davis and Rod Wilson. Should be very interesting.

FIRESIDE MEETING: March 27, 8 p.m. at 1800 Arctic, Parkdale West Town House #1 - Lundstrom & Prescott, BR 8-0922. Bring your suggestions for summer trips and any suggestions for trails (see editorial).

SCHEDULED TRIPS - Hatcher Pass Ski Touring, March 21-22, Contact Tony Bockstahler, EA 694-2323. Climb to Hatcher Pass and ski the slopes on either side of the pass in untrodden snow. Stay at Independence Mine Sat. evening - come for one or both days. Climbing skins required - the sign-up sheet will be available at the next meeting.

Alyeska Ski Tour ... April 5, Contact Gegg Erickson FA 2-1378. Climb on skins above the Chair Lift and ski in unbroken powder snow ... scoff at the downhill skiers standing in line. Sign up at the next meeting.

Editorial. Several MCA members attended a meeting conducted by Mr. Gladdis of the B.L.M. who is interested in obtaining suggestions on possible trails and cabin sites. Mr. Gladdis would like interested groups - clubs such as ours - to submit recommendations and suggestions on location of trails and their length, possible cabin sites and any other pertinent information. If enough interest is shown, he can request an appropriation of funds for a trails project.

At the last board meeting, Dave DeVoe, Tony Bockstahler and Ruth Schmidt were appointed to a committee to delineate recommendations for trails and cabins. The Eagle River mail trail, Ship Creek to Bird Creek mail trail, Eklutna-Crow Pass traverse and others were discussed. The committee then sent in one suggestion, a survey plan for the trails and a plan for trail shelters. The committee will welcome any ideas MCA members care to bring forth.

EXPEDITIONS - A German expedition led by Walter Welsch will arrive here during the month of May to climb either Mt. Huntington, Moose's Tooth, if unclimbed, or the ridge to the south of the Muldrow Glacier including Mt. Fatum, Mt. Karpe and Mt. Koven, thence up Karstens Ridge to Denali. They are only four climbers and wish to invite any interested MCA members to contact them. If anyone is interested in a 4-6 week expedition of this sort, please contact Helga at FA 2-4880.

Sometime in April Lionel Terray will arrive with an 8-man French party. Their chief goal is the south face of Mt. McKinley where they wish to open a new route slightly to the east of Cassin's ridge. Most of us know of Lionel Terray through Herzog's book 'Annapurna' - he is internationally known as one of the world's best climbers, but also has made himself popular through his outstanding performances in mountain rescue, his even and outgoing personality. I am sure all of us will welcome the opportunity to meet him and make him feel welcome in Alaska. Mr. Terray will stay in town for a few days to purchase food and re-pack equipment maybe a few of us will have a chance to be of assistance to his party.

SHIP CREEK TO INDIAN VIA INDIAN PASS

Feb. 29 - Mar. 1 by Rod Wilson

Five members, Lee Mann, Tom Kiester, George Wichman, Joe Pichler and Rod Wilson, and one Club guest, Marshall Simpson of Eagle River, negotiated the 22 miles between Arctic Valley Ski Bowl and Indian on the Seward Highway February 29 - March 1. Rod Wilson was leader while Joe Pichler was guide. Jow has made the trip three times now (see Cree March 1960 and Apr. 1962). He and Simpson were on snowshoes while the others used skis, each man with differing boots and bindings, but all satisfactory. Snowshoes went just about as fast in the deep snow of Ship Creek Valley, but slower, of course, downhill later. The weather was superb... clear, windless, with temperatures varying from +6° F to +30° F.

We left the Army ski area at Arctic Valley (forearmed with permission from the Military) at 0700. Artie Bracutigam, Joe's grandson, drove our one car back to Anchorage and later delivered it to Indian for us. Plunging down the hill into Ship Creek Valley, we tracked through deep powder snow for about 10 miles, camping at 1630 just short of the dilapidated roadhouse which lies on the old mail trail used here at the turn of the century. The cabin is on the South Fork of Ship Creek about a mile above the confluence of the North and South Forks.

Off at 0800 the following morning, we moved out of timber slowly upward for about 6 miles to the top of Indian Pass, arriving at 1230. The Pass is 2300 feet above Turnagain Arm which shimmered in the distance another 6 miles ahead. After lunch and hot tea, we shouldered our loads once more and slithered down the steeper south side of the Pass with little difficulty. Pieces of the old route were occasionally identifiable here, as earlier, by ancient blaze marks on trees. The trail finally debouched onto a logging road about 1½ miles from Indian. We were all out by about dark.

The straight line distance between Ski Bowl and Indian is 20 miles, but the trail route is estimated to be about 22 miles.

ALYESKA SKI TOURS March 1st by Gregg Erickson

Your faithful President and companion climbed Mt. Alyeska, skied into Virgin Creek, climbed Max's Mountain and finally skied down to the lodge through deep and wondrous powder.

For those individuals who are interested in ski touring this is a very enjoyable four hour trip. If climbing is desired, there is a long corniced ridge extending north east from Mt. Alyeska that would be exciting, to say the least. The trip we took requires moderate skiing ability and climbing skins. On the ridge traverse, rope, ice axes and plenty of snow and ice experience would be needed as well.

SUCCESSFUL VISIT FROM DR. CAMPBELL. by Bill Davis

Dr. Med. Rudolf Campbell, President of the International Commission for Alpine Rescue (IKAR), of Pontresina, Switzerland, visited Anchorage over the weekend of February 21-23. His visit was sponsored by MCA, AAG, and Denali Ski Patrol.

Highlight of his stay was a talk on Monday evening, Febr. 24th, at ANU. Dr. Campbell spoke of the work in Switzerland on avalanche rescue and gave some practical hints on prevention of avalanche accidents. The general reaction seemed to be that we are up to date in this country on our avalanche work. Currently dogs are being used to locate avalanche victims in the Alps and we probably should consider adopting this technique of rescue.

Dr. Campbell finished his talk with a general discussion of the prevention of cold injuries. His lecture was accompanied by pictures from some of his publications and a few slides of his frostbite treatment cases. Everyone agreed that Dr. Campbell was an engaging and charming visitor.

Thanks are in order to those who helped during his visit. Dave and Mary Duncan waited patiently at the airport for him to arrive. Helga Bading had an enjoyable open house for MCA and AAG members. Dr. and Irma Duncan chauffeured him about. Dr. Campbell himself had a wonderful time at the Fur Rendezvous activities so maybe we should thank everyone who put on that festival for making his visit a success.

Ed Note: It was Bill, of course, who co-ordinated the whole affair in his non-chalant and efficient way.