

**MARCH MEETING:** Monday, March 21, 1966, 8:00 PM, Willow Park Community Center. The program will be "Expeditions in the Northern St. Elias Range" slides and narration by Bill Davis.

ACTIVITY SCHEDULE

- MARCH 20** Lake Eklutna scouting trip, anyone interested call Dave DeVoe 333-5492 or Ron Linder 272-4401 AMU
- MARCH 26** Glacier Trek - 5 days - Eklutna Glacier - Ron Linder Leader 272-4401 Glacier and ski touring experience required

Interest sheets will be available at the next meeting, please state your desires. No trips have been planned for April so if you have any ideas please let Leo know.

THIRTY FOOT DIRECT AID ICE CLIMB

Bill Hauser

Bill Hauser and Scott Foster put up a thirty foot direct aid ice climb using ten ice screws on a frozen waterfall on the Seward Highway. For those interested in technical ice work without actually going to the mountains the Seward Highway area offers tremendous challenges. The climbers found the biggest danger was not to themselves but rather to motorists losing control of their cars while trying to see what was happening on the ice.

ALASKAN SLEEP IN CENTRAL AMERICA

Vin Hoeman

The Alaskan Andean Expedition (David P. Johnston, Peter H Robinson and I) is still far from its loftiest goals, but there was a grudge to be settled with Volcan Tajumulco, 13,816, the highest point in Central America. In March 1959 I climbed the eight highest mountains in Mexico, but failed in an attempt on Tajumulco. Dave and Pete climbed Mexico's eight highest last year and were also anxious to cap Central America and we decided the proper way would be to camp on top as Dave and I did on McKinley and Dave and Pete did on Orizaba (Mexico's highest).

This time on 1 February we had the essential roadmap lacking on the 1959 attempt and were able to take buses and trucks around to the north side of the extinct volcano avoiding the long southern approach. Potato fields, ancient trails, and epiphyte-laden pine fir and alder trees were encountered before the final steep rocky cone. On top Volcano Tacana, Central America's only other 4000 meter peak stood out a short distance NE and other symmetrical volcanoes pierced a cloudy sea to the south.

That night the temperature dropped to 30°F. and we were comfortable in our tents with the moon so bright it felt like summer in Alaska.

Misadventure came the next day on descent when I lost my pants (I'll never live it down) containing \$150, a considerable portion of our finances considering that our transportation to here from Colorado had only cost us \$13, thanks to freight trains, hitchhiking, and 2nd class trains and buses. But our spirits are undaunted and health good save for sunburns. We now wait in crowded station for narrow gauge steam-driven train to El Salvador. Perhaps we'll reach the Andes.

SCREE is published monthly by the Mountaineering Club of Alaska, Box 2037, Anchorage, Alaska; Staff Marge Prescott, Helen Wolfe, Carrie Lewis.