



MOUNTAINEERING CLUB OF ALASKA

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ANCHORAGE, ALASKA 99510

~~FEBRUARY~~ 1977
MARCH

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MARCH MEETING

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 16TH, 8 PM, Pioneer School House. North Ridge Routes on Hayes, Hess and Deborah, giants of the eastern Alaska Range (including August 1976 3rd ascent of Deborah) by Steve Hackett.

SKIING SCHEDULE

April 16 - 17 Denali State Park, Currey Ridge, Mile 135 Parks Highway. Overnight ski tour. For information call Dona Agosti 279-2901.

MINUTES OF THE GENERAL MEETING, Mountaineering Club of Alaska
Wednesday, February 16, 1977, West High School Cafeteria, 1700 Hillcrest Drive

The Meeting was called to order shortly after 8:00 p.m. by President Tom Meacham. Preceding the business meeting Tom Meacham presented a slide show on the MCA Ice Climbing School at the Matanuska Glacier last fall.

The Treasurer's report showed - Checking \$718.30; Cash on Hand \$41.00; Saving \$433.77 for a total of \$1193.07.

Due to the absence of snow on the Resurrection Trail the ski-tour was cancelled. A Fern Mine ski-tour for February 19th through 21st was scheduled instead. Tom Meacham announced that the O'Malley and Vista Peak climbs, which were cancelled due to bad weather, would be re-scheduled sometime in March, weather conditions permitting.

After the January 24th hearing on snowmobile use of the Resurrection Trail, the Forest Service announced that, as of now, the current rules on snowmobile use would not be changed because they felt that the rules had not been in use long enough to adequately determine if they were unsatisfactory.

It was announced that the University of Oregon is continuing its programme for removing trash off Denali. A motion was then made and passed that the MCA contribute \$100 to this programme. The Denali Rehabilitation Project is also sponsored in part by the Jim Satterwhite Memorial Climbing Fund. Jim was an Oregon University student who was later active in MCA programs and outings.

It was announced that the Park Service has requested help in assessing safety and accident data on Mt. McKinley, and offering suggestions for management. MCAers Jim Hale, Steve Hackett and Ned Lewis were nominated to act as club liaison with the Park Service on this project.

Due to the development of a porcupine hole in the Mint Glacier Cabin and the fact that the other MCA Cabins need some form of maintenance, it was suggested that the MCA adopt a specific program for maintaining the MCA cabins. Volunteers for helping in such a program would be appreciated.

Terry Becker suggested that the MCA should have an annual used-gear sale in which members could bring old gear that they wanted to sell. The MCA meeting on April 20 will be devoted to the swap-and-sell meet.

Following the break for refreshments, Earl Redman presented an interesting slide show on the first winter ascent of Mt. Drum. The meeting was adjourned.

David Newcombe, Secretary

PRESIDENT'S PEN

The MCA is in dire need of PARTICIPATION !! Slide shows, trip write-ups, special programs, and the other monthly activities use the Club's usual volunteers, but we also need extra help to make the monthly programs lively, and to make certain that Scree is something more than a one-page account of last month's treasurer's report. This month's Scree, for example, contains no trip reports--we have none on hand, and none were submitted. When was the last time you wrote something for our newsletter?

By asking for help, twisting arms, and cajoling, some of the Club's activities look more promising right now. At the February meeting, for example, Dick Thaler stepped forward to volunteer the coordination of MCA's Huts and Cabins repair program for this summer. The first task is to learn what needs to be done, in terms of labor and materials. Dick will gather some information during a planned Eklutna-Girdwood traverse in late May. Anyone with information on repairs for other cabins, contact Dick at 274-6038.

The National Park Service has requested MCA's help in assessing the Mt. McKinley accident and climber management problems, made more acute by last year's Bicentennial hoards. Three MCAers volunteered, all very qualified: Jim Hale is a professional Denali guide, and Steve Hackett and Ned Lewis are both former climbing rangers at the Park. They'll report back to the Club on their analysis and proposed recommendations.

A long-standing MCA responsibility which has languished for several years (in fact nearly ten years!) is the Geographic Names Committee. When Vin Hoeman was its leader, the Committee actively submitted proposed names (with appropriate justifications) to the state and national geographic names boards. The philosophy of peak-naming also received Vin's guidance. Since Vin left us, the opportunity to give meaningful names to features of interest to climbers has largely been forgotten by MCA. The task of filling out forms and sending them in is largely mechanical, but it requires some imagination and willingness to seek out pet names of Club members with some connection to the peak (such as a first ascent). So if you don't want to see a 4500' shapeless blob named Perilous Pinnacle, or conversely, an icy landmark spire dubbed Mt. Smith or Atwood Tower on your latest USGS quad, do something! I've got the forms, and would be willing to coordinate the Club's efforts.

Tom Neacham

GALLOPING REGIMENTATION DEPT.

"Last year public access to Jenny Creek ski touring was threatened by operators of Lake Eldora, who established a system of private touring trails over routes formerly public. Under pressure from the Forest Service and traditional users,.... an alternate access to Jenny Creek was opened. In December the ski area announced that this year the alternate route will be closed. Any practical route to Jenny Creek will cost \$2.00 per person trail fee. Family trips to Jenny Creek and land beyond will be expensive even without inevitable price increases after the principle of paying is established, and claim to public access by proscriptive use is abandoned. The Forest Service granted Lake Eldora a permit to operate ski lifts and facilities in part of public land. Can we now expect them to represent us in keeping access to forest lands open?"

From Trail and Timberline, Colorado Mountain Club, Jan. 1977.

The following letter was received from MCA member Nancy Lethcoe:

Thank you again for letting me give a brief slide show last year on cruising in Prince William Sound to the Mountaineering Club's members. We are beginning to book again this year and thought some of your members might be interested. We are offering this year a special group rate.

For the past eight years, we have been attempting to keep abreast of proposals for the use and development of Prince William Sound with special regard for the Forest Services Land Management Plan and the proposed Nellie Juan Wilderness Study areas. On a week's cruise it is possible to visit portions of both zones or to take a more extended cruise into the proposed wilderness area.

If the Mountaineering Club would like to combine a recreational sailing and hiking/climbing tour in the Sound with an opportunity to become more familiar with its special features and problems, we would be happy to share our limited knowledge and would look forward to hearing your views in return.

Sincerely, Nancy Lethcoe

(Dona Agosti will have the information from the Lethcoe's Alaskan Wilderness Sailing Safaris for any Club members who would like to see the Club have a sailing hiking/climbing tour this summer or in the future)

BICENTENNIAL PARK AND THE ROAD BUILDERS

On March 1 the Alaska Dept. of Highways announced their intention to extend Bragaw Street north and south of Tudor Road. The north extension (Phase I) would be $\frac{1}{2}$ mile long and would only reach to University Drive (at least for now). The south extension (Phase II) would go $3\frac{1}{2}$ miles to Abbott Loop Road, following the western edge of the Far North Bicentennial Park and dividing the Park from about 400 acres of flood-plain land which the Municipality has attempted to obtain from the State. Two forks of Campbell Creek join in this environmentally sensitive area, which should logically be part of the Park.

MCA has been a strong supporter of the Bicentennial Park plan. The Highway Dept. is now drafting an environmental statement, and all comments must be received by March 28, 1977. Write to Rowe D Redick, District Engineer, Dept. of Highways, 5700 East Tudor Road, Anchorage, 99502, attn: Environmental Section. Do it Today!