

SCREE ✓



MOUNTAINEERING CLUB OF ALASKA

BOX 2037

ANCHORAGE, ALASKA 99510

Vol 23 #3

MARCH 1980

MARCH MEETING

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The meeting will be held Wednesday, March 19th, at 8:00 p.m. on the top floor of the Pioneer Schoolhouse, Third and Eagle, Anchorage, Alaska. After the business meeting there will be a slide show featuring either Bill Wakeland's slides of his recent trip into the Brooks Range or the Iditarod Committee's official slides on the Iditarod race.

MINUTES OF FEBRUARY GENERAL MEETING, Mountaineering Club of Alaska Wednesday, February 20, 1980, Romig Junior High School, Anchorage, Alaska

The meeting was called to order at 8:09 p.m. by President Tim Neale. The secretary read the minutes of the January meeting. Paula Quering gave the Treasurer's report. Current balances are: Checking account \$506; cash 59; and \$1,500 in money market fund.

Guests introduced were Steve Hansen, Graham McDonald from Scotland, and Barb Mahar, typist of the SCREE. The following committees reported:

Equipment: Tim Neale announced that Club equipment must be returned promptly after use.

Program: Tim Neale and John Dillman will arrange for programs the rest of this year. They really are looking for interesting slide shows and volunteers are welcome. Something on the Iditarod Trail Sled Dog Race is a possibility.

Chugach State Park Advisory Council: Paula Quering reported this committee had enough members without an MCA representative. Tim Neale warned members to watch the local newspapers for an attempt to put a road through Chugach State Park from Eagle River via Crow Pass to Girdwood. The road to the end of Eklutna Lake can be repaired but the Park has insufficient funds. The Park is also trying to get public access for easier hiking start up the South Fork of the Eagle River to Eagle and Symphony Lakes. State road maintenance now crosses Throg's Neck Bridge a short distance. An avalanche awareness course is scheduled on Saturday, March 1, at 1:00 p.m. by State Park personnel at the UAA Library. The Park has recently issued its schedule of 1980 summer nature walks and hikes on Saturdays and Sundays from June 7 to September 6. The MCA summer hiking schedule will be prepared to avoid conflicts with this.

Dr. Peter Hackett and Dr. Janet Smalley were thanked by Tim Neale for conducting the class on high altitude illness. The ice climbing class on February 17th benefited from instruction by Peter Hoose, Chad Price, Graham McDonald & Steve Risse.

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MINUTES OF FEBRUARY GENERAL MEETING - Continued

MCA Potluck: Meg Leonard announced details of the potluck dinner on Friday, February 29th at the Chalet on 6-mile Lake on Elmendorf AFB. She provided maps for convenience in driving there in time for dinner at 7:30 p.m. Dishes were allotted by three groups of last name initials. A sound system or record players and musical instruments would be welcome. Bring kindling and wood for fire, refreshments, your own dishes and cutlery. Because the cabin costs \$45 for the evening, donations may be made at the door. Observe speed limits on the Base.

Hiking: Volunteers are needed to lead hikes and a schedule should be prepared in time for the April SCREE.

Old Business: Dona Agosti asked for information on the whereabouts of Dr. Bill Brant. She also announced about the MCA Summer Hike July 26 - August 3, which will include round-trip to Kotzebue, flight to Kiana, river boat trip to the Kobuk Sand Dunes, Ambler, and Ulaneak Creek, upstream on the Ambler River. Estimated cost of the trip is about \$450 from Anchorage for air and river boat fares.

Party Bassett announced a kayak trip from Old Crow down the Porcupine River to Fort Yukon on the Yukon River at a cost of about \$250, June 28 to July 12, including air fare from Fairbanks. Anyone knowing of a red sled available, see Jim Eason, where it is available and the cost.

New Business: SCREE may be mailed soon under a bulk rate permit to reduce postage costs, although taking longer to reach out-of-state addresses. A map-reading class will be held Wednesday evening, April 9th with the help of several members. Sign-up can be done at the March meeting.

After the intermission for refreshments, Tim Neale gave a slide show on Club hikes the past fall and winter, including West Twin Peak, Goat Mountain, Ptarmigan Mountain, and O'Malley Peak overnight.

Meeting adjourned at 9:38 p.m.

Al Robinson, Secretary

SUMMER TRIP PLANNING SESSION - March 20

Do you like to participate in this summer? We are beginning to put together the summer trip schedule, but we need input from all members to find out what you really want to do. All MCA members with ideas for summer trips or who may be willing to lead a hike or other outing this summer are strongly encouraged to attend a meeting on Thursday, March 20th, 7:30 p.m. to plan summer activities. The meeting will be held at Tim Neal's residence at 1 Sunrise Drive, Anchorage, phone 274-4952.

If you will not be able to attend this meeting, please fill out the suggestion card at the back of the SCREE and bring it to the March meeting. We need suggestions from all MCA members to have the best possible trip schedule.

ACTIVITY SCHEDULE

March 22 - Climbing-Self Arrest Class

Learn and perfect this skill vital to any mountaineer, and have fun at the same time. Meet at 10 a.m. UAA Sports Complex parking lot. Bring ice axe. Sign up at the March Meeting or call Tim Neale at 274-4952.

March 23 - Climb - Hicks Creek area off Glenn Highway

Meet at 6 a.m. UAA Sports Complex parking lot. Bring ice axe, crampons, and swami belt. Sign up at the March meeting or call Tim Neale at 274-4952.

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April 9 - Map Reading Class.

Sign up at the March Meeting. Further details will be available at that time.

MAJOR SUMMER TRIPS - 1980

Kobuk Valley - July 26 through August 3

Dona Agosti has already managed to arrange most of the details of this unique backpacking/riverboat trip into the Kobuk Valley National Monument. The group departs Anchorage July 26 and proceeds to Kotzebue via commercial airliner. Another flight is then taken to Kiana where we will be met by Lorie Schuerch and taken in his riverboat about 75 miles upstream on the Kobuk to the mouth of Kavet Creek. From here it is a short hike to the Great Kobuk Sand Dunes area which we will explore before returning to the Kobuk River. Then we will continue in the riverboat to Ambler and spend 2-3 days backpacking in the vicinity of Ulaneak Creek, said to be as spectacular as the Arrigetch Peaks area. Then it is back to Kiana to catch our flights to Kotzebue and Anchorage. Approximate cost for transportation is \$450. If you are interested in participating in this unique trip, or would like additional information, call Dona Agosti at 248-0089.

Porcupine River-Old Crow to Fort Yukon - June 28 through July 12

This flatwater river offers an excellent opportunity to enjoy striking scenery and to explore historic settlements in an Alaskan wilderness environment. We will be driving to Fairbanks on or about June 28 where a charter flight will take us directly to Old Crow, Yukon Territory. After spending the night in the Old Crow area, we will be off to explore the river. The following description of this section of the river is taken from a survey conducted by Ian Donaldson of the Canadian National Parks Service during the summer of 1971.....

Old Crow to Fort Yukon.....From Old Crow to Caribou Bar Creek the river meanders and winds between high bluffs, with the Old Crow Range still dominating the view to the north. An excellent cabin and campsite exists on the left limit about 35 miles below Old Creek.

At Caribou Bar Creek, the river valley narrows and the river is canyonized between 500 ft walls. This marks the beginning of the Upper Ramparts. The Ramparts are the high point of the trip down the Porcupine in terms of scenery. The current becomes swift and

Porcupine River-Old Crow to Fort Yukon Trip - Continued

a few chutes are encountered. This section lasts for about 50 miles. Excellent campsites are found throughout this section.

New Rampart House is an exceptionally scenic location. The buildings, although they are collapsing and not habitable, are very interesting. Sunagun Creek enters from a picturesque valley to the north, the mouth of which marks the Yukon-Alaska border.

At Salmon Trout River is Old Ramparts. Excellent grayling fishing is to be found in a 400 ft canyon a mile up from the mouth of this small river. At Red Gate, the Upper Ramparts ends. For a 35 to 45 mile reach, the surrounding landscape is flat and islands are more frequent.

Canyon Village, 5 miles below Red Gate is a fairly recent but abandoned native community. It appears as if some people will still live here occasionally. A trapper lives in a cabin on the right limit above Coleen River.

The Lower Ramparts are far less spectacular than the upper section. The current through here is slow and the canyon walls are about 300 ft high. This marks the last immediate relief before entering the Yukon River Flats.

Below Lower Ramparts, the Porcupine enters the Flats which are part of the more extensive Yukon River flats. This section extends for roughly 120 river miles and is distinguished by meanders, sloughs, gravel bars, and severely eroded cut banks. At intermediate and high levels of water, short cuts through sloughs save miles and are often more intimate than the main channel. Throughout the Flats, cabins are fairly numerous and some are abandoned and habitable. Joe Ward Camp is locked and boarded up. Fort Yukon lies 2 miles above the junction of the Yukon and Porcupine Rivers.

From Fort Yukon we will take scheduled air transportation back to Fairbanks (if available) or arrange a charter flight. The cost of air transportation round trip from Fairbanks will be approximately \$250 per person including gear. Collapsible kayaks are highly recommended since special arrangements must be made if rigid boats are to be taken and flown in. Be sure to bring your fishing gear...fishing is said to be excellent in certain parts of the river. If you would like to sign up or would like additional information, call Marty Bassett at 694-3917.

WAY BACK WHEN

The following account is reprinted from the August 1959 edition of SCREE to remind readers that MCA members were conquering mighty Alaskan peaks over 20 years ago in the same spirit as we do today.....

The Tale End by Tailend...

"About a fortnight ago, while on a recent world tour, we had the opportunity of visiting the new 49th state of Alaska. The hospitality of the city of Anchorage was unexcelled. In the business

of mountaineering, keeping in shape is important, and it was with great pleasure that I joined an excursion into the country with the Mountaineering Club of Alaska. They had mountains that are mountains and scenery that is unexcelled. Lots of these mountains haven't been climbed, at least not by the mountaineer type people who leave records on the top in pretty orange cans for wandering sheep hunters and other mountaineers. Yes sir, Alaska builds them, mountains great in number and size and people to match her mountains. When glaciers covered the land and receded, they hewed out jagged peaks to form the mighty Chugach Range, an area rich to all who enter it, the hunter, fisherman, prospector, mountaineer and photographer.

This mountaineering group had just the proper combination of foot gear, food, clothing, camping equipment, transportation and people working together to achieve the goal. On just this perfect day, the ground was dry, the sun was shining brightly, and with all the gear ready, the climb began. The mountains were sharp and rugged against a clear blue sky. The route took us through fields, over fences, and up to our armpits in alderbushes. A tired group made the first camp and the weather remained clear. The next day was spent on long, long grassy slopes, the Alaskan type, very steep. After resting at the base of the rocks, our route took us up jagged ridges of rotten rock where each step was threatened by a steep drop. The final assault was made the following day by all the teams and to the climbers a rewarding view of the valley below, the rivers, and the glaciers and the mountains all around. Need they ask why we climb?

So to us, who dream and make our dreams come true, the conquest of the Bodenbug Butte may equal that of Everest.

May be willing to lead trip

Name: _____

Phone: _____

Please turn in at the March meeting and include your name and phone # so that we can contact you for additional information.