



MOUNTAINEERING CLUB OF ALASKA

BOX 2037

ANCHORAGE, ALASKA 99510

March 1986

Volume 29, Issue 03

MARCH MEETING

The meeting will be held Wednesday, March 19th at 7:30 p.m. at the Pioneer Schoolhouse, 3rd and Eagle Sts., Anchorage. After the business meeting, Ed Bovy will present a 30-minute sound/slide show of backpacking in the Rockies.

MINUTES FOR THE FEBRUARY MEETING

The meeting was held February 15, 1986 at the Pioneer Schoolhouse, and was called to order by President Mark Findlay at 7:42 p.m. The reading of the minutes for January was waived.

The club welcomed new people.

TREASURER'S REPORT

\$ 339.15 - Petty Cash
3,417.23 - Money Market Rate Plus Acc.
628.99 - Checking Account
\$4,214.55 - Total MCA Monies

Membership fees have been due since January 1. Single membership: \$10.00
Family membership: \$15.00

Membership cards are not mailed, unless a self-addressed, stamped envelope is enclosed.

MCA
Box 102037
Anchorage, AK 99510
(Attention: Treasurer)

I. COMMITTEE REPORTS

- A. The Library Committee announced a library work night Thursday, March 6, 6:00-9:00 p.m. Anyone interested in helping to straighten up and organize the MCA library contact Peg Michielsen 264-0585(work).

- B. The Hiking Committee had a productive trip scheduling meeting in January. Anyone with suggestions for trips or interested in leading a trip contact Jim Pommert 344-5656(h) or 563-3585(w).

II. OLD BUSINESS

- A. It was announced that the MCA board decided that private businesses can make themselves known to the MCA members either by leaving brochures or pamphlets on the front table at the monthly meetings or by a short announcement in SCREE .

- B. It was also announced that at the MCA board meeting the motion to mail out membership cards was defeated. We will continue with the current policy: if a member is unable to pick up their membership card at one of the meetings, they can provide a self-addressed, stamped envelope for the Treasurer to send their card to them.

III. NEW BUSINESS

- A. It was announced that any decision concerning more shelves for the MCA library will be postponed until we can contact Dave Pahlke (the shelf-builder) for a price estimate.

IV. ANNOUNCEMENTS

- A. The club thanks Becky Voris for volunteering to handle the monthly meeting refreshments. Anyone interested in helping, especially during the summer months, contact Becky at 243-5911.

- B. The Map and Compass class taught by Graham McDonald was a big success. The class started with 22 people, and by the end of it 19 people could still find their way to the classroom and outdoor sessions. "360 degrees of True-Undeclinated Thanks" to Graham Mc Donald for his excellent instruction and for all that mind-boggling Scottish trivia; and thanks to Mark Findlay who assisted and who always knew the shortest route!

- C. There was an overnight ski trip to Lost Lake March 8 and 9. They skied from the Seward side and it's 5-7 miles. Contact Mike Miller 345-5718 or Ron Van Bergeyk at 345-1800.
- D. The MCA Library and equipment is at Alaska Mountaineering and Hiking, 2633 Spenard Road. It was, again, emphasized that the equipment available to MCA members (crampons, ice axes, Pieps, helmets and snow shovels) should be used for MCA classes or only to experiment with a couple of times until you buy your own equipment.

The next meeting (March) will be at the Pioneer Schoolhouse.

Mark Findlay adjourned the meeting at 7:58 p.m.

A special thanks to Geoff Radford for the fascinating talk and incredibly beautiful slide show on Patagonia. The big wall climbing, alpenglow and recipe for "Patagonia Lamb Chops" will be remembered for quite a while!

Respectfully Submitted,
Kathy Burke

MINUTES FOR THE EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING

The meeting was held February 13, 1986 at Mark Findlay's house and called to order by President Mark Findlay at 7:45 p.m.

First, it was decided that board meetings will not be changed once published in SCREE, due to not knowing who might show up, therefore, not being able to notify those people of any changes in the meeting time or place.

The issue of selling the SCREE mailing list was discussed. It was felt that since the club was a non-profit organization it did not need to sell the mailing list, not to mention it being unethical to give out member's names and addresses. The board agreed it would be alright to inform the membership of the availability of outdoor-related catalogues, etc. and how to send off for them through a short paragraph in the SCREE. It was also agreed that outdoor catalogs could be on the front table at the monthly meetings, available to those who are interested.

In connection with this issue, any of these outdoor groups can present a slide show as long as it is presented as a personal adventure and not as an advertisement for their organization, club, or class.

The board defeated the motion to mail out membership cards. This vote was reached after a general feeling by the board that the people already volunteering a substantial amount of their time, either handling the membership dues or mailing out the SCREE, should not have another duty imposed upon them. (i.e. it is not too much for an individual member to take a few minutes to provide his/her own self-addressed, stamped envelope to receive their membership card if that member cannot pick it up at one of the monthly meetings.)

The status of "tax-exempt" as compared to the present "non-profit" status of the club was looked into. It was learned that the amount of time it would take to do all the paperwork each year is not worth the amount of money it would save the club.

The club is still without insurance. We are still following up on any leads of insurance companies with outdoor insurance, and are keeping in touch with some of the large mountaineering/outdoor clubs and organizations for any information they might have. It was pointed out that other organizations are working around their uninsured state by providing high quality instruction the year 'round and being sure that people are participating in activities that match their skills.

Concerning the MCA's holding classes without insurance; the club has been legally advised to be sure to inform people that the club, at present, has no insurance, so that those people know that any risk they are taking, they are taking upon themselves.

We are looking into updating the club's waiver form. The club has copies of the waiver used by the rock climbing section of the Sierra Club, which we are studying, and we are checking with lawyers for any suggestions they might have. It was suggested that a waiver be printed on the hiking trip sign-up sheet.

There was discussion on how to better enforce the club's policy of knowing of a leader's qualifications or backcountry knowledge before letting them lead a trip. This will be handled by the Hiking Committee.

There will be an option to recruit for personal trips in the SCREE. This would give the leader total control on the skill of that trip's participants. These trips will appear separate from the usual scheduled hiking list.

There was discussion on having more detailed trip descriptions. Possibly by a "hiking difficulty" grading system similar to that used by rock climbers or whitewater enthusiasts. The suggestion was made to survey hikers at the end of a trip, hopefully to get a majority opinion on the difficulty of that trip. It was also stressed that leaders should be sure the other hikers know of any and all difficulties on that trip.

The board discussed a 5X7 card that would be filled out upon the paying of membership dues. This card would be kept on file by the club. Besides a waiver, this card would contain such information as an interest survey (hiking, climbing, backpacking, skiing, ice climbing, etc), a section on club jobs one might like to help out on, etc.

The board passed the motion to have Dave Pahlke build two more bookshelves for the MCA Library for the cost of the wood.

e decided there would be no out-of-state membership discounts. Complementary memberships will continue on as they are, and any new Honorary memberships will be voted on by the general membership.

A letter of introduction for the club is being worked on.

The board decided it was not a good idea for the MCA to have a booth at the Sportsman's Show at this time.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:30pm.

Those present: Mark Findlay, Willy Hersman, Kathy Burke, Doug Van Etten, Barb Byrne, John Lohff, Mike Miller and Ron Van Bergeyk.

Respectfully submitted,
Kathy Burke

TRIP REPORTS

Carpathian and Skareum

As advance scouts for an ACC class, Greg Dubois and I started down the tracks in the early morning hours for an assault on Carpathian Peak. Carpathian is located in the Portage area and is part of the same ridge system as Byron Peak, except farther east. This makes it more remote, and as it is a little higher (6,000 ft.), it is quite a prize.

One of the approaches involves hiking three miles south down the railroad tracks to the mouth of the Skookum Valley. We got off the tracks at the first bridge in the valley. We immediately found that it was important to keep away from the bogs and streams in the center, and the better going was to be had on the north or left side. After a couple of miles of bushwacking, we broke out onto the moraine field at the end of the glacier. As snow conditions were excellent, we were able to walk on top of the snow with little difficulty, and once reaching the glacier, able to ski with ease. Earlier accounts related slow going through the brush and on the lower levels of the moraine field. We were able to occupy a 2,500 foot level camp in only seven hours. During the summer this might take more time.

The next day we climbed up an icefall to gain the High Pass which is just to the south of the summit. This icefall is also described as slow going, but for us it went with ease. From the 4,500 foot pass, the route leads up the south ridge. The ridge is fairly steep and exposed, and can be described as knife-edged. Yet as snow conditions were excellent, we were soon directly under the summit cornice. With no way around, there was only one way to go. Out came the shovel, and soon we had a six foot tunnel to freedom. A hundred yards later we were on the summit. As the weather was great, the view can only be described as incredible. Then back down the hole, and after only 6.5 hours after leaving camp, we were back.

The next morning we got up with the rest of Todd Miner's ACC class, and while they set out to do Carpathian, we set out for the 4,600 foot peak on the opposite side of the valley. Easy glacier climbing brought us to the 3,700 foot Low Pass. From there an easy ridge and mixed scrambling took us to the summit. As there was no sign that Vin Hoeman had been there, we built a cairn and named the peak "Scareum". A short time took us back to camp where we packed our bags and set out for the tracks. It was a wonderful five mile run down the glacier.

Staeheli

Mar 86

New Ice Climbs (?)

Byron Glacier, November 9, 1986

Marco Radonick, Ron Van Bergeyk and I climbed a frozen waterfall in the Byron Glacier valley near Portage.

Follow the main trail to Byron Glacier. Continue up on the glacier approximately one-quarter mile to a point directly opposite the two waterfalls coming down the valley wall to the right. Stemble up the streambed toward the falls.

Two falls exist; we climbed the left falls. The first pitch was 80-85 degree ice which was 30 feet high. Sloped back to a 35-45 degree snow slog for 200 feet to the next pitch: 60 feet of ice from 80 degree to overhanging (depending on the route chosen); some hollow. Reach the top with nowhere to anchor. The waterfall tops out at the bottom of a big bowl, a prime target for large avalanches later in the year. I brushed snow off nearly 1 acre of rock to find a solid crack to take a piton. Stumbled back down the streambed, once glissading as the bottom dropped out six feet to the river. Walked back to the car in a typical blizzard.

KERN RIVER, November 24, 1985

Marco and I climbed two frozen waterfalls in the Kern River valley near Gridwood: grades II and III.

Kern River flows down the first valley past Gridwood on the way toward Portage. Park at the Chugach National Forest sign and walk back along the railroad tracks to the valley.

Walk up the river ice approximately one-quarter mile to the first waterfall on the left. Scratch up 50 feet of grade II brittle ice, bombing your partner as you climb together. On top, walk along the bench upstream another one-half mile (on the left side of the river walking in) to encounter the top of the second waterfall.

Downclimb trees and tundra to the bottom. Many routes on this wide waterfall range from 40 feet of 70 degree ice to 80 feet of 80-90 degree ice with some overhanging curtains. Climb one route up the middle sticking clear ice and watching the water flowing beneath. The top belay is against a spruce in the sunshine. Walk out along the top bench to the tracks; WATCH OUT FOR TRAINS!!!

Mike Miller

HIKING AND CLIMBING SCHEDULE

- April 12 BIRD PT/RIDGE
 Meet at 8:00 a.m. at UAA parking lot. 4-5 miles; 2900'
 elevation gain; moderate.
 Leader: Don Hansen 279-0829
- 19 SHIP PASS ski tour
 Meet at 8:00 UAA; 10 mi
 es: 2000' elevation gain; moderate
 Leader: Mark Findlay 337-8666.
- 20 GUNSIGHT MOUNTAIN
 Leader needed
- 26 WOLVERINE PEAK
 10 miles; 3000' elevation gain; moderate. Meet at UAA at 8:00am
 Leader: Jim Pommert 344-5656
- 27 JOHNSON TRAIL
 Leader needed
- May 3 LANGILLE MOUNTAIN
 Leader: Jim Pommert 344-5656
- 4 LAZY MOUNTAIN
 Leader: Rob Swebland
- 10 RAINBOW PEAK
 Leader: Don Hansen
- 11 MCHUGH PARK
 Leader: Bill Wakeland
- 17 BLUEBERRY HILL
 Leader needed
- 18 PTARMIGAN LAKE
 Leader needed
- 17-18 GULL ROCK
 Leader: Reggie Buchanan
- 24-26 BENCH PEAK/JOHNSON LAKE TRAIL
 Leader: Jim Pommert 344-5656
- 31 MOUNT EKLUTNA
 Leader needed
- 31-1 EAGLE RIVER TRAIL
 Leader needed

June 1 PENGUIN RIDGE
 Leader: Kathy Burke

7-8 TRAIL MAINTENANCE WEEKEND
 Leader: Bill Wakeland

14 IDAHO PEAK
 Leader: Jim Pommert 344-5656

14-15 DEVIL'S PASS
 Leader: Bill Wakeland

21 O'MALLEY PEAK
 Leader needed

21-22 FLATTOP SOLSTICE SLEEPOUT
 Leader: Willy Hersman 338-5132

28 O'MALLEY, THE RAMP AND THE WEDGE
 Leader: Jim Pommert 344-5656

29 BIRD CREEK

28-29 THE SUICIDES VIA FALLS CREEK
 Leader: Bill Wakeland

July 4-6 CROW PASS-GLEN ALPS
 Leader needed

13 SUMMIT CREEK-COLORADO CREEK
 Leader: Jim Pommert 344-5656

12-13 MATANUSKA PEAK
 Leader: Don Hansen/Bill Wakeland

19 CROW PASS
 Leader needed

20 PIONEER PEAK
 Leader needed

19-20 MILLS CREEK-BENCH LAKE-JOHNSON PASS TRAIL
 Leader: Jim Pommert 344-5656

26 TWIN PEAKS TRAIL
 Leader: Pat Thompson

26-27 LOST LAKE
 Leader needed

Aug. 2 HOPE POINT
 Leader needed

- 3 GULL ROCK
Leader needed
- 2-3 UPPER RUSSIAN LAKE
Leader needed
- 10 RABBIT LAKE
Leader needed
- 9-10 MT. WILLIWAW - TANAINA PEAK
Leader: Jim Pommert 344-5656
- 16 MCA PICNIC AT EKLUTNA LAKE CAMPGROUND
- 17 EAST TWIN PEAK
Leader needed
- 16-17 WINNER CREEK
Leader needed
- 23 CRESCENT LAKE
Leader: Don Hansen
- 24 PETER'S CREEK
Leader needed
- 23-24 CASTLE MOUNTAIN
Leader needed
- 30-1 INDIAN CREEK PASS - EAGLE LAKE
Leader needed
- Sept. 6 KNOYA PEAK
Leader: Jim Pommert
- 7 ROUNDTOP AND BLACKTAIL ROCKS
Leader needed
- 13 THE SUICIDES
Leader: Mike Miller
- 14 PORTAGE PASS
Leader needed
- 20 WOLVERINE PEAK
Leader: Mark Findlay
- 20-21 SWAN LAKE
Leader: Kathy Burke
- 27-28 ICE CLIMBING SCHOOL
Meet at the Matanuska Glacier

- Oct. 4 RAINBOW PEAK
 Leader needed
- 11 INDIAN CREEK PASS
 Leader needed
- 18 EAGLE RIVER TRAIL
 Leader needed

The hiking committee is seeking suggestions and leaders for week-long, weekend, and day trips. Contact: Jim Pommert 344-5656 work: 563-3583; Jane Stammen 563-7703; or Linda White 274-4989, or Kathy Burke 346-2841.

BYRON GLACIER TRIP

April 27th. Meet at 7:00am at the UAA parking lot. Be ready to ski to glacier and then climb from there. You will need: skis, ice axe, crampons, harness. Leader: Paul Denkewalter. Call AMH (272-1811) for more details. Sign up the the March meeting.

SLIDE SHOW

April 1st.1984 Attempt on Gasherbrum IV, Karakoram Range, Pakistan. 7:00 pm at the Bear Valley Elementary School. Mile 3 up Rabbit Creek Road. If you're coming from the other direction, it's where Hillside meets Rabbit Creek Road. \$1.00 at the door. This is a community school event.