



MOUNTAINEERING CLUB OF ALASKA

BOX 102037

ANCHORAGE, ALASKA 99510

MARCH 1991

Volume 34, Issue 03

MARCH MEETING

March 20

7:00 pm Wednesday, University of Alaska, Cuddy Center. Please see map. Because of the coincidence of the following slide show with our meeting night, it was felt that many of our members would not want to miss either the meeting or the show, so for this month only we moved the meeting place.

Park in the North Lot if you come before about 7:15, or you could get ticketed.

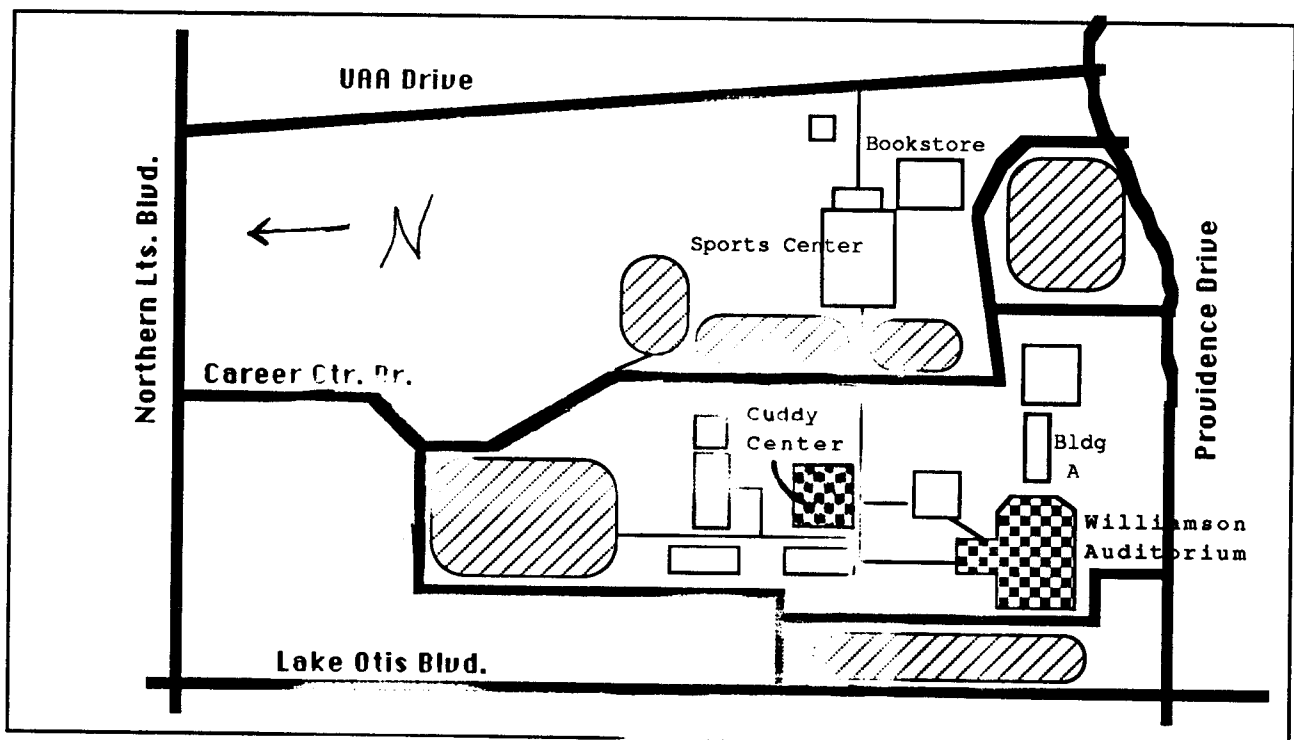
SLIDE SHOW

"Preservation and the Spirit of Adventure," by Galen Rowell.

- * UAA Williamson Auditorium
- * Admission \$5.00
- * Tickets sold at UAA Campus Center Information Desk (tickets will not be sold at the door)
- * Sponsored by UAA.

**Meeting 7:00 at
Cuddy Center**

**Slide Show 8:00 at
Williamson Auditorium**



HIKING AND CLIMBING SCHEDULE

- March 8-9 MANITOBA MT.
 Second annual MCA trip to Manitoba Cabin, near Summit Lakes. The cabin has been reserved for Friday and Saturday nights. Sleeps 10. Each person using the cabin needs to contribute \$5.00 to the Nordic Ski Club (via the leader), others can use a tent. Great skiing plus a sauna! Cush approach, a definite Class A.
 Leader: Neil O'Donnell 274-5069
- April 13-28 GRAND CANYON HIKE
 Assemble at Phoenix or South Rim and spend 11 days in eastern un-maintained trail area, exiting at Grandview.
 Leader: Bill Wakeland 586-6246
- May 11-18 SARGENT ICEFIELD
 We will fly to the crest of the Sargent Icefield for skiing and climbing.
 Leader: Dan O'Haire 561-1141
- May 24-27 AUGUSTINE VOLCANO
 Fly in to the lagoon on the west side, climb the volcano and explore the island. Reputed to be a walk-up but there is a 4000-foot elevation gain. \$200 air fare out of Homer. Get information sheet.
 Leader: Dan O'Haire 561-1141

HIKING and CLIMBING COMMITTEE

Karen Cafmeyer announced that there will be two meetings held to schedule events for the next few months. The first meeting, Tuesday, March 26th will be held at Karen's house at 6:30 pm. This one will be for scheduling hikes.

The second meeting will be held on Tuesday, April 2nd at 6:30 pm, also at Karen's house. It will be for scheduling climbs. Anyone interested may attend either meeting. Input is needed for trips that people would like to see done and from people who would like to lead trips.

For information on how to get to the meeting call Karen, 345-7546.

TRIP REPORTSPilgrimage Over Portage

Ken Farmer

On January 27, the Mountaineering Club staged its annual Superbowl Sunday ski trip to Whittier. Once again the trip proved to be a successful recruiting event. Several participants joined the Mountaineering Club, paying their dues in the parking lot.

Cyndi Davis and I went out to the lake on Thursday before the trip to study the ice and snow conditions. The top of the ice was soft about 1/2 mile out and the snow was as solid as cement. However, the temperatures had already begun to drop, so I knew that the lake would be a smooth skating surface by Sunday.

We left the Huffman Carrs parking lot at 7:22 am. We were already seven minutes behind schedule. Those people who did not heed my warnings of punctuality were forced to catch up with me at Portage. The first group of skiers began skiing at 9:00 am, on schedule.

The ice was smooth and bare. Some people discovered that the tail wind was enough to push them along at a good speed after they took off their skins. We were not able to congregate anywhere long enough to get a good head count. However, I estimate approximately 45 people skied to Whittier.

When we climbed to the pass, the skins proved invaluable. The snow was rock hard and slick. Many people took off their skis to climb to the pass, and when the group arrived at the top, it was hidden in clouds. The front group, led by Steve Cook and Dan O'Haire, resorted to a map and compass to get through the pass. When I reached the pass with the stragglers, there was no sign of the other 40 people who had been in front of us. Fortunately, my skill and training allowed me to use three scientific tools for finding the route:

1. I had traveled through the pass many times, so I had a general idea of which direction to go.
2. The wind was howling through the pass, so I knew to follow the wind.
3. Cyndi was sure the pass was on the right, so it had to be on the left.

These three clues led me unerringly, although not directly, to through the pass. When we reached Whittier, Prince William Sound had clear skies. The group had made the trip to the Anchor Inn in between three and five hours. All in plenty of time to catch the Superbowl. If the game had only ended before we had to get on the train...

IN MEMORIAM
L.A. "Tony" Bockstahler (1911-1991)

MCA Charter Member and Honorary Lifetime Member Tony Bockstahler passed away in Colorado Springs, Colorado on January 30, 1991, just two months short of his 80th birthday. He was a quiet person, who spoke only when he had something to say. His voice was always cheerful, and he had a permanent twinkle in his eye. Tony was 56 years old when we first met, he never seemed to age a bit - his frequent and strenuous outdoor adventures in the ensuing 25 years attested to his remarkable ability to slow the march of time.

Tony was the first ski-trip leader I remember meeting when I joined the club in 1967. His specialty was ski touring in Eagle River valley and related side valleys, and he knew the area intimately, having homesteaded there since 1949. His homesteader's practicality was evident in the way he did everything, from working in his woodshop (which was his livelihood) to waxing his skis (if he was unsure of the right wax for conditions, he would wax one ski with blue, and one with green and try them for a mile or so).

I only recall going on one hike (about 1970) which Tony led, an attempt to climb Mary's Mountain (4895) from the Knik River Road past the Eklutna Power Plant. It was a real alder thrash in the classic manner. The homestead trail which Tony had remembered from years before was so overgrown it couldn't be found, and Tony was apologetic.

Tony was a frequent hike leader and contributor to Scree, and he worked hard on the Eklutna East Fork trail which led to the "Stivers Gully" route on Bold Peak. Tony was renowned for his "oatmealers," the special oatmeal cookies he baked by the dozens. He always had some on hand, even when our family visited Tony and Betty in Colorado in 1988. And they tasted as good as I had remembered.

Tony was made an honorary member in a little ceremony shortly before he and Betty moved Outside. In the club's early days he was a moving force behind the MCA huts program. He designed, cut and prefabricated the first two club huts, Pichler's Perch and Hans' Hut. I recall helping Tony and other club members pre-assemble Hans' Hut in June of 1968 in an empty warehouse on Ft. Richardson, before the hut was disassembled and packed into helicopter loads.

Tony never once mentioned to me his five years of World War II combat service or his active membership in the Colorado Mountain Club before he moved to Alaska, but I gathered from Betty's comments that he had done some fairly serious climbs in the Rockies in his younger days.

By the mid-60's he was ready to enjoy the outdoors without the high-risk factor, and most of his club trips were hikes and ski tours. He continued this pace in Colorado right up to the end, taking up mountain biking when hikes on rough trails began to bother his knees.

Tony showed us all that there is life after 40 (or even 75!) and his cheerful companionship will be missed very much by all who knew him.

Tom Meacham

FOR TONY BOCKSTAHLER

Tony Bockstahler, who died on January 30, 1991, was an Honorary and Charter Member of the MCA. His wife, Betty, recalls that he designed and helped build the first two huts. John Dillman, who was then in high school, remembers one of his early MCA hikes in 1960 was with Tony up Eagle River and over Crow Pass before there was a trail.

Tony acquired his yen for the mountains and skiing on a 1933 trip to Germany and Switzerland, where he climbed the Matterhorn. In a message to those attending the memorial service for Tony, Betty recounted how it took the sting out of Tony's 70th birthday to discover he could thencforth ski for free at most places!

Tony had come to Alaska in 1949, after meeting his bride-to-be on a Colorado Mountain Club outing. Prior to that he had served in the South Pacific in WW II as an ordinance supply officer, in four major campaigns.

He and Betty were married in 1958, and his woodworking business expanded to include gifts and native crafts. In 1972 they retired to a new home on Tony's homestead, three miles out of Eagle River. Seeking a warmer climate, they moved to Colorado Springs in 1980, where Tony remained an active skier, but arthritis in his knees were taking a toll on the hiking and climbing. They continued to travel extensively, however, worldwide, and their favorite vehicle was a VW camper.

Tony and Betty first came into the lives of my wife and I on an MCA trip to the Kobuk River in 1980. He was 69. Tony was rather taciturn, with an ever present twinkle in his eye, while Betty was more talkative. We still chuckle over the one sided arguments emanating from their tent, especially an occaisional and rather shrill, "now Tonyyyyyyy" reprimand.

On a visit to our cabin in Colorado in the fall of 1983, Tony, then 71, hiked with me to Chasm Lake, to show me his route, done many years before on the East Face of Longs Peak. As I recall, it was Tony that inspired the MCA to adopt a similar grading system for hikes, by giving me a set of Colorado Mt. Club guidelines that were adopted with minor changes by the board.

Only last fall Tony and I mountain biked in an area near Wolf Creek Pass, in Colorado. Earlier that year he had been on a bike tour of Holland, and late last fall traveled extensively in Southeast Asia. On the way home Tony developed a severe case of asthmatic bronchitis, from which he never recovered. As Betty pointed out, it was best that he went as he did, he would not have wanted to live as an invalid.

Betty will remain at their home for at least a while: Mrs. L.A. Bockstahler, 3310 Oak Creek Drive, Colorado Springs, CO 80906. I will miss Tony, who I respected, admired and loved. He was an inspiration to the rest of us to stay young in spirit!

Bill Wakeland

PETER BADING

February saw the passing of MCA Charter Member, Peter Bading, who died February 26th at the age of 67. He had been in the U.S. for most of his life, coming here from Germany in 1952. Peter was an avid photographer and in the late 1970s he produced a one-hour documentary on polar bear research for German television.

Peter joined the club at its beginning. According to old Screens he gave the club's second slide show, December 1958, on the subject of spending a year in the Brooks Range, 100 miles above the Arctic Circle with his wife, Helga (now Helga Byhre), the club's first secretary.

Funeral arrangements were held for Peter at First United Methodist in Anchorage. In lieu of flowers, the family has asked that donations be made to The American Cancer Society, 406 W. Fireweed Lane, Suite 204, Anchorage, Alaska 99503.

MINUTES OF THE FEBRUARY MEETING

The February meeting, held on the 20th at the Pioneer Schoolhouse, began with the introduction of new members, Karen Cafmeyer presiding. There were 45 people present.

<u>TREASURER'S REPORT:</u>	Money Market -	\$2231.48
	Checking Acct -	460.88
	Petty Cash -	<u>52.10</u>
	Total	\$2744.46

COMMITTEES:

Hiking and Climbing. Cabin at Manitoba is expected to be full, so bring a tent. Grand Canyon hike is filled. Augustine Volcano has about 25 people so far. There will be a Gates of the Arctic trip July 20 to August 3, led by Don Hansen. There will be a return to the Sargent Icefield in mid-May led by Dan O'Haire.

Parks Advisory. There is a proposal to allow horse operations in the interior of Chugach State Park. For information call 345-5014, or come to the next meeting of the Chugach Advisory Board, March 11, at the Federal Building at 5:30 pm.

OLD BUSINESS:

None.

NEW BUSINESS:

The club approved \$275.00 for Marcy Baker to buy/update club gear, especially the stuff used for ice-climbing.

The April meeting will feature Peter Hackett, who will speak on

altitude sickness: HAPE, AMS, HACE, etc. Peter is responding to a strong amount of inquiries on the subject. Many questions can be answered by reading his book, Mountain Sickness, available at local mountain shops. Jeff Young arranged for the talk.

There was discussion about trailhead vandalism and a couple of recent bills in the State Legislature that deal with Victims' Rights. Dan O'Haire submitted copies of House Bills 90 and 100 and a legal document stating charges from the District Attorney's office against two culprits who were caught on film by the Alaska Railroad, as they vandalized vehicles at the Whittier Train Station.

It seems that, although the two were convicted of criminal mischief in August last year, and directed to pay restitution by the court, it has not yet happened, and probably won't, as things tend to go. Citizens may direct inquiries to the probation officer, D.A., or judge.

Support for the bills can be voiced by calling the public opinion number, 561-7007, and directing your opinion to your legislator.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Jane Slaughter of Travel Services, Inc. has a need for qualified intermediate to advanced skiers to help 23 who are coming from Atlanta to ski locally.

Funds are being collected in the name of Tony Bockstahler, who died recently in Colorado. The Board has yet to determine where the Tony B. Fund will be directed. Please see memoriums this issue.

The Alaska Mountain Safety Center still has openings for its Safe Glacier Travel Workshop and Technical Mountaineering Skills Workshop.

The Alaska Wilderness Studies at UAA is still looking for more participants for a spring trip to Ruth Glacier.

REI is still looking for input for its Service Project.

The directory for MCA is still being worked on.

Someone is needed to man a table at the next meeting to sell memberships and t-shirts, contact Karen.

Karen's "Revel Bars" were so popular at the meeting that all copies of the recipe disappeared early. Look for it in this issue!

Respectfully Submitted,
Stefan Otterson

BHUTAN: LAND OF THE THUNDER DRAGON

Dolly LeFever

Bhutan is perched precariously between India and Tibet, a remote and little known kingdom which until 1974 did not admit foreign tourists. For many years the outside world had no name for Bhutan, although its people call it Druk Yul, Land of Thunder Dragon. In 1974 the ruling family cautiously opened its doors to limited travel. The government controls the number of visitors each year and permits trekking in only a small portion of western Bhutan.

Bhutan is a Buddhist nation, ruled by a forward thinking king, Jigme Singye Wangchuck, whose father began the modernization of Bhutan. The concern for possible damage caused by a rush into the modern world is reflected by the current king's statement to Newsweek, 1980, "What we want to achieve is a balance between gross national product and gross national happiness."

The country is remote, isolated physically by the great Himalaya to the north and thick jungle to the south. It is also divided by three mountain ranges lying north-south. Tourists are allowed in the western third where agriculture and yak herding provide livelihood for the inhabitants.

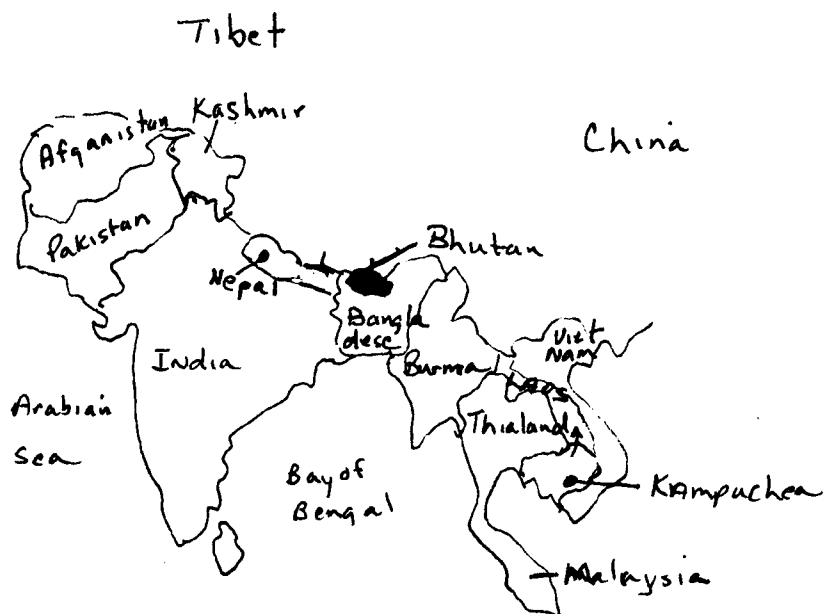
Two of the largest cities are in this area: Thimbu, the capital, and Paro, a prominent religious center. The land is governed from gigantic castle-like monasteries called Dzongs. Archery is the national sport, and the barter system provides its economic structure.

Trekking in Bhutan is over rough forested trails that ascend and descend for a thousand feet in a day's walk. Views of the Himalayas are awesome! The Lunana valley trek is already taken for October 1991, but a similar trek is available. This trek is on part of the Jomolhari Trail that turns north to Laya and Lingshi villages, then circling back down the Mo Chi River to Ghasa and Thimbu.

This trek is 14-16 days which allows a few days in the Thimbu/Paro area and travel time to and from the US, a total of 21 days. We would fly Seattle-Bangkok-Paro on Thai Air. Total estimate: \$4500. A \$300 deposit would be expected, 1/2 payment by 90 days, and full payment by 60 days prior to leaving. We need to leave in the second week of October. The high passes (16,000 feet) on this trek often have heavy snows in November, making them impassable.

The trek is supported by Bhutanese porters, cook, and yaks. The government sets the price. Tourism helps provide for hospitals, hydro-electric projects, schools, etc. Please call me at 243-7027 (leave a message if I'm not home).

Mar 91



CHOCOLATE REVEL BARS

Karen Cafmeyer

mix until fluffy: 2 cups brown sugar
1 cup butter, softened

add: 2 eggs
2 teaspoons vanilla

sift together and add to butter mixture:
2 1/2 cups flour
1 teaspoon soda
1 teaspoon salt

stir in: 3 cups Quick oatmeal

Filling

heat in microwave (or double boiler) until melted:
12 oz. pkg. chocolate chips
14 oz. can Eagle Brand Condensed Milk
1 cup chopped nuts
1/2 teaspoon salt
2 teaspoons butter

press 3/4 dough mixture into greased baking pan
pour melted filling over dough
dot filling with remaining dough
bake at 350 degrees for 25-30 minutes

You may vary the pan size depending on desired thickness. Cookies are rich. I use 2 brownie-sized pans.