



MOUNTAINEERING CLUB OF ALASKA

BOX 102037

ANCHORAGE, ALASKA 99510

MARCH 1992

Volume 35, Issue 03

MARCH MEETING

March 18 7:30 pm Wednesday, Pioneer Schoolhouse, 3rd and Eagle Sts.,
downtown Anchorage, Alaska

Slide Show Cristof and Jacek, our Polish friends, continue their South
American saga. Slides of the Bolivian Altiplano and ascent of
Mt. Sajma (world's highest volcano at 6542 meters), and Iguaza
Falls on the Argentina-Brazil border.

HIKING AND CLIMBING SCHEDULE

March 21 ARCTIC - INDIAN
Celebrate the first day of spring with a 21-mile ski trip.
Must be a strong enough skier to make it through in one day.
Class D.
Leader: Joel Babb 688-3885

April 16-20 MT. RAINIER
Low cost fares to Seattle prompted this trip. Climb this
spectacular volcano via the standard route (Disappointment
Cleaver). Class: GLACIER TRAVEL. Must be a competent
climber.
Leaders: Dan O'Haire, Maxine Stoddard 561-1141

May 2-17 GRAND CANYON
Ten-day backpack trip into remote west end of the Grand
Canyon. Limit 6 people. Class C.
Leader: Bill Wakeland 563-6246

July 4-16 PORCUPINE RIVER
Charter plane from Fairbanks to Old Crow, Y.T. 300-mile
descent of the river to Fort Yukon. Moderate pace, from 10
to 14 days. Participants may permanently break from the
group and proceed on their own. Cost of the charter
estimated to be \$350.00 per person. The flight from Fort
Yukon to Fairbanks is around \$100.00. Collapsible boats
must be used.
Leader: Marty Bassett 694-3917

18-25 HARDING ICEFIELD
Tustamena Glacier to Exit Glacier. Glacier travel skills
required. Get equipment list from leader. Class: GLACIER
TRAVEL.
Leader: Dan O'Haire 561-1141

TRIP REPORTS

Little O'Malley

Dan O'Haire

Brian Bannan, Tom Bell, Tom Church, Dorn Fites, Amy Frankenberg, Vivian Mendenhall, Glenn Stuart, Maxine Stoddard, Aldan Worechek and I participated in the half-day ski up the gully on the back side of Little O'Malley. After tea and cookies on the saddle, the group split into expert and intermediate skiers, taking the direct and roundabout ways back to the parking lot.

Salix Peak

Willy Hersman

George Rooney, James Larabee and I spent three cloudless days skiing back into the Talkeetnas to reach this peak in mid-February. It was my third try to beat the weather on this climb. The peak is 12 miles from Independence Mine using the most direct route.

We left our tarp-trench camp, which was located beside The Hatchethead, early on February 16th to ski the remaining four miles to the base of the SE face. Hardly a moment was spent dawdling because it was about -5 degrees with a bit of wind. Skis came off where an avalanche cone empties the right side of the face. This was Vin Hoeman's descent route during his climb in October 1967. Snow conditions appeared safe (4 on a scale of 1 to 5), so we went straight up the gully and across the face on 30 to 45-degree snow.

The last 300 feet were along the corniced east ridge. On top we dug down to find Vin's old register and recorded the fourth known ascent, first in winter. I broke the coffee jar getting it open, so if you ever go there, bring a container. The skiing was excellent once the skins were removed, powder everywhere. In fact, it makes a better winter trip because there are no boulders to crawl over. Rock climbers will be interested to know that there is a 600-foot untouched vertical granite face on The Hatchethead. (It's only 1 1/2 miles west of the Lane Hut.)

Snowhawk

Chris Tomsen

Alan Trout busted a fresh trail from the Ship Creek dam up to the hut on snowshoes, while Tom Choate, Joe Kurtak and I followed an hour later on skis and skins on February 1. After lunch at the cabin the three skiers explored up the Snowhawk valley and climbed the ridge on the west side, finally gaining a few minutes of sun before telemarking back down to alder level and then to the hut.

The next morning all headed up the valley to the upper hut (which is an octagon with bunks, but no stove), ate lunch, made our log entries, and skied down through gray conditions. A 5-hour round-trip from lower to upper cabin. We vowed to return for a try at Temptation.

The ski down from the lower hut to the trailhead is a tough ski for many. I left three head-plant markers. Note: the cabins are military, but with an offer of assistance to work on improving the trail; marking/maintenance, I feel that we could ask for MCA-scheduled usage in the future.

Avalanche School - Hatcher Pass

Chris Tomsen

On February 21-23 the Alaska Mountain Safety Center provided a packed three-day weekend of instruction which drew several members of the MCA as students. Jill Fredston had drawn some super professional instructors together, and classes were held in both classroom and "on the mountain" settings. Day one was rescue-oriented. Day two was snow stability. Day three was hazard evaluation and route-finding. Contributing to the event were good skiing, a packed sauna, and plenty of northern lights (rory bory). Take this class!

ADZE

For Sale: Koflach plastic mountaineering boots, used
Men's 8 1/2
Call Dan 561-1141

OUTDOOR CONFERENCE

An Alaska Outdoor Education Conference, combining environmental, adventure and experimental education will be held March 27-29, with workshops, presentations and activities. The event is sponsored by APU and UAA. Call 278-8821. Paul Petzoldt, of Outward Bound and NOLS, is one of the speakers.

SLIDE SHOW

March 19th, Thursday 7:00 pm at REI, Dan O'Haire will give a slide show of MCA Harding Icefield crossings.

TRAINING IDEAS

Paul Berryhill is anxious to hear from those of you who want to learn more. Mountaineering, glaciers, hiking, knots, skiing, orienteering, you call it. It's easier to put something together if we know what you want. Paul 248-6271, or at the meetings.

MINUTES OF THE MARCH MEETING

Dan O'Haire called the meeting to order and introduced new members at 7:45 pm.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

Money Market	-	\$4211.05
Checking Acct	-	895.02
Petty Cash	-	<u>52.10</u>
Total		\$5158.17

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Hiking and Climbing.

Don Hansen announced a committee meeting for March 19; call him at 243-7184(h) or 271-6656(w). Future trips will be discussed and planned.

Training Committee.

Paul Berryhill is looking for members to express their desires in terms of classes and skills. Paul can be reached at 248-6271.

Hut Committee.

Maxine Stoddard announced a sign-up for buying discount gear as a one-time fund raiser. Orders were to be in by the end of February.

Willy Hersman noted that info sheets on the club's six huts are available at Alaska Mountaineering and Hiking.

OLD BUSINESS

The remaining ice screws were announced as 'on sale.'

NEW BUSINESS

Dan O'Haire has met with the Nordic Ski Club to combine efforts to support legislation on trailhead vandalism.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

REI is holding a mountaineering symposium on March 10-12. MCA will man a info/sign-up booth on those nights. Contact Dan(561-1141) or Chris(428-2250) if you care to help.

Dan apologized for the late Scree this month.

After the break, Julius Brecht presented an outstanding and informative account of climbing Denali's West Buttress.

Respectfully Submitted,

Chris Tomsen
Acting Sec'y

President's Notes:

Organizations such as the Mountaineering Club of Alaska are built upon the effort of volunteers. Please volunteer your services. The club needs people to serve on the standing committees and to lead trips.