



MOUNTAINEERING CLUB OF ALASKA
APRIL 1976

BOX 2037

ANCHORAGE, ALASKA 99510
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APRIL MEETING

Wednesday, April 21, 1976, 8 PM, Pioneer Schoolhouse, Third and Eagle, Anchorage, Alaska. Preceding the business meeting will be a short slide show by Earl Redman of an attempted climb of Mt. Hayes. The featured program will be a slide show presented by Jim Satterwhite, AAI pilot, of aerial photos of numerous peaks including Mt. McKinley, Mt. Spurr, Carpathian, and Mt. Augustine.

BOARD MEETING

Monday, May 3, 1976, 8 PM, 4107 North Star Street.

HIKING AND SKIING SCHEDULE

- April 24
Sunday HATCHER PASS AREA ski tour (Craigie Creek, Fern Mine, or Mint Glacier, depending on snow conditions). This is a beautiful area at this time of year and the road is well-plowed. Meet at Fred Meyer at 8 AM. Call 279-2901 for details.
- May 8
Saturday Hike to LAZY MOUNTAIN, overlooking the Matanuska Valley. Meet at 9 AM at Fred Meyer. Leader, Tony Bochstahler, 694-2323.
- May 16
Sunday BIRDSEYE RIDGE hike (Bird Creek). Wear gaiters and well-greased boots just in case Nature doesn't cooperate. Meet at 9 AM at Fred Meyer. For information, call Terry Roes, 274-9127.

NOTE: MIDWEEK SKI TOURS on Tuesdays or Thursdays to Turnagain Pass, Glacier Creek, Knik River, Eklutna--your choice. Call Dona at 279-2901.

MINUTES OF GENERAL MEETING, MOUNTAINEERING CLUB OF ALASKA

March 17, 1976, 8 PM, Pioneer Schoolhouse, Third and Eagle, Anchorage, Alaska

The meeting was called to order at 8 PM by President Bill Stivers. Preceding the business meeting he presented a slide show on various trips to Organ Mountain.

The minutes of the previous meeting were approved. The Treasurer's report showed Expenses for March, \$139.40; Income for March, \$72.50; Cash on hand, \$25.28; Savings account, \$412.69; Checking account, \$760.84; for a total of \$1198.81.

Bill Stivers announced that an ad was to be placed in the Anchorage Times stating the MCA position against hunting in the Chugach State Park. The decision for this ad was based on a majority vote at the board meeting.

The Hiking Committee announced that all tours are as scheduled in SCREE except for the Hatcher Pass day trip which is postponed to March 20.

MINUTES OF GENERAL MEETING continued.

The Conservation Committee announced that there would be a Game Board meeting on March 23. Bill Stivers asked for MCA support of Tom Meacham for Chairman of the Game Board. A motion was then made and passed that the MCA would support Tom Meacham. Bill Quirk asked for opinions on the Department of Fish and Game wolf control program. A motion was then made and passed that the MCA oppose the wolf control.

Fritz Rieger, last year's president, was presented with an engraved ice axe in appreciation of his services.

After the break for refreshments, Phillip Upton from the Arctic Institute gave a talk about their activities. Their basic aim is arctic research. He then gave a very interesting slide show on the Institute's study of high-altitude physiology on Mt. Logan.

The meeting was adjourned.

David Newcombe
Secretary

ANNOUNCEMENTS

SUMMER CAMPING INSTRUCTION. Dona Agosti will display equipment and explain its use. This class will meet at the Turnagain School on Thursday, April 29, at 7 PM. Register at the April meeting.

BASIC MOUNTAINEERING SCHOOL. Barry Kircher, Mike Richardson, Gil Todd, and Bill Erickley have volunteered to instruct a basic mountaineering course. Roger Kempel has agreed to assist with the rock climbing session. All these instructors are experienced and well qualified. Register for the course at the April meeting. All students must sign waivers prior to enrollment. A parent or guardian must co-sign for those under nineteen years of age.

Personal equipment needed for the class will be twelve-point crampons, ice axe, and rock helmet. The Club has a limited stock of this equipment which may be loaned on a session by session basis. The recommended text for the course is Mountaineering, the Freedom of the Hills.

The course is scheduled as follows:

1. Wednesday, May 5, 6:45 PM, Clark Junior High School multipurpose room. Introduction, slide show, equipment display.
2. Saturday, May 8, 10 AM, meet at Fred Meyer - Glen Alps. Self arrest training.
3. Sunday, May 9, 8 AM, meet at Fred Meyer or Glen Alps. Class IV climb, Ptarmigan Peak from the northeast ridge.
4. Wednesday, May 12, 6:45 PM at AMU ski jump (AMU requires a release from each student). Rope management: knot test, belaying, prussiking.
5. Saturday or Sunday, May 15 or 16. Class V climbing. Students will be selected by invitation only.
6. Saturday and Sunday, May 22 and 23. Meet at Fred Meyer at 8 AM on May 22. Matanuska Glacier--overnight: glacier walking, ice climbing.

ARCTIC VALLEY TO GIRDWOOD

March 27 to 30, 1976

by Bill Stivers

Hugh Cargill, Dick Griffith, Mike Hunt, Joe Kurcak (and his dog), Bill Lindsey, Bill Stivers, and Vernon Tejas departed Arctic Valley Saturday morning for the annual tour to Girdwood via Ship Creek, North Fork Ship Creek, Camp Creek, Raven Creek, and Crow Pass. They were accompanied until noon by Tony Bockstahler, Roger Crosby and David Newcombe, all of whom made a one-day tour returning to Arctic Valley.

The first day's route was modified from that taken previously. During past years the route closely followed Ship Creek and the North Fork in the confluence area. This year a gradual traverse up the north side of the valley was started a few miles downstream from the confluence. The traverse was continued on a shelf above the drainage. The remains of a cabin were passed above the confluence, and the traversa was continued to the somewhat difficult crossing of the next valley which drained south into the North Fork. About a half mile beyond the valley, a descent off the shelf was made into the North Fork drainage. Tents were pitched a short distance upstream above the timber.

Sunday we camped below the waterfall near Camp Creek. The weather had been partly cloudy with some intermittent snow showers. The temperature remained well below freezing, and the snow condition was good.

Monday the group apprehensively crossed the ridge into Raven Creek, as the warm sun heated the east slope. Sleeping bags were dried during a pleasant lunch period above the lower Raven Creek Gorge. Dick broke trail and set the route (as usual) to the Crow Pass cabin. At 4:30 PM the group was socializing over hot rum drinks as the whirring camp stoves warmed the cabin.

The day began Tuesday at 4:30 AM to beat the avalanches on the south slope of Crow Pass. The cabin was departed at 6 AM. The corn snow on the upper slope provided good skiing, however, the irregular, crusty surface above the old mine was much easier to walk down than to ski. The Crow Creek drainage was skied from the mine to open water, then a traverse up the east side to the summer trail. At one point Dick kicked off a small slab avalanche. It was 9 AM when a series of uneasy switchback traverses on a warm south slope led to the summer parking lot. The summer road was skied for the final six miles to end at the Double Muskie.

ALASKAN EXPEDITIONS: Denali Traverse, Ruth Glacier Alpine Climbing Schools, Guided Expeditions to Ruth Glacier and Kichatna Spires. Contact: Mountain Trip, P.O. Box 10078 Klatt Station, Anchorage, Alaska 99502, 349-1161.

WANTED. Long MSR or equivalent ice axe in partial exchange for nearly new Chouinard 70cm bamboo axe. Also pairs of broken crampons needed. Call Sue Wren, 277-3344 home or 279-4523 work.

THE SCREE EDITOR is deeply appreciative of the MCA's recent purchase of an electric typewriter for use in preparing SCREE and for other MCA uses. This should result in a better quality SCREE production, and definitely in a happier editor! And the 3333333333333333 key works!!

ALASKA RESCUE GROUP NEWS

RESCUE STANDBY FOR MT. MCKINLEY. At 10:35 on April 6, 1976, I was called by Bob Gearhart, Ranger, McKinley Par, Headquarters, and informed of a possible rescue mission and that the Park Service might require the assistance of ARG. A standby call was issued and I received seven volunteers, who prepared their equipment. The Park Service had asked for four climbers, but we had back-up's in case the mission escalated. As it turned out, the climbers took care of their own problem and at approximately 2 PM a civilian helicopter, called by the Park Service, picked up the ill climber at 14,000 feet on the West Buttress. However, we were ready to go and I was pleased at the response I received from ARG members. Everyone contacted is to be commended for their assistance. If you don't think ARG is going to be called this climbing season, you'd better think again. McKinley has 50 parties registered at this time and expects another 15 or 20 parties to register soon. The action is going to be hot and heavy in the Park this season, so be prepared. We will all have a chance to go out on some sort of rescue mission this season. Just ask yourself this question: ARE YOU AS PREPARED FOR A MOUNTAIN RESCUE MISSION AS YOU WOULD WANT YOUR RESCUERS TO BE?????????

ALASKA RESCUE GROUP BASIC MEMBERSHIP REQUIREMENTS

There are two classes of membership: Support and Rescue.

SUPPORT MEMBERS. Members who do not go on SAR missions. They provide assistance in town: radio operators, etc. They are persons having the ability and desire to contribute constructively to mountain rescue activities in non-field support activities.

FIELD SUPPORT MEMBERS.

Age--minimum 16.

Possess current American Red Cross Advanced first aid card or equivalent.

Be a Basic Climbing Course graduate or equivalent.

Possess basic mountaineering clothing and equipment.

Have basic avalanche training.

Have at least five participations in ARG field training sessions.

Have field experience in at least one actual SAR mission.

RESCUE MEMBERS.

Age--minimum 19.

Possess current American Red Cross Advanced first aid card or equivalent.

Possess equipment and have extensive knowledge and experience in wilderness and mountain travel.

Have knowledge of mountain rescue techniques, search techniques and be capable of leadership on ARG SAR missions.

Have at least ten participations in ARG field training sessions.

Have field experience in at least two actual SAR missions.
