

SCREE

APRIL 1978
MOUNTAINEERING CLUB OF ALASKA

BOX 2037

ANCHORAGE, ALASKA 99510

APRIL MEETING

Wednesday, April 19, 8PM, Central Junior High School, 15th and C St., Anchorage. This meeting will be given over to the equipment swap. Members may bring any of their old and used equipment to the meeting and sell or trade it. There will be a short business meeting before the exchange opens.

HIKING & CLIMBING SCHEDULE

Up to Memorial Day

- APRIL 15 FALLS CREEK RIDGE. This hike and climb begins at the Falls Creek trailhead, south of town along the Seward Highway, about mile 117. A rope and some slings should be taken. A good view of Turnagain Arm can be had from along the route. Meet 7 AM Fred Meyer parking lot. Leader still needed.
- APRIL 22 THE SUICIDES. This will be a climb of one or both the Suicide peaks
& 23 located at the head of the Rabbit Creek Valley. This may or may not be an overnight trip. Climbing gear (rope, crampons, axe, etc.) will be needed. Call: Dave Pahlke for further info 344-2964.
- MAY 13 GULL ROCK. Trail along Turnagain Arm from campground near Hope. Leave Fred Meyer parking lot at 7 AM. Leader: Dona Agosti 297-2901.
- MAY 14 O'MALLEY PEAK. This climb will require rope, crampons, axe, heardhat, etc. The north couloir will be the target, if conditions are right. Leave Fred Meyer parking lot at 6:30 sharp. Leader: Paul Denkwalter 272-2811.
- MAY 20 PTARMIGAN PEAK. This prominent peak in the Powerline Pass valley can be done at this time of year in one long day. Leave Fred Meyer parking lot at 6:30 AM and bring a rope, crampons and axe. A leader is still needed.
- MAY 27 & 28 CHICKALOON, KNIK, NELCHINA TRAIL. Leave Anchorage 7 AM, May 27, Fred Meyer parking lot. Depart trailhead at Purinton Creek (Mile 89) about 9 AM. Hike to Simpson Cabin about 7 miles. From here climbers have access to peaks 5866 and 5748 across Boulder Creek and up the Black Shale Creek tributary. At this time of year there may still be ice bridges which will facilitate crossing Boulder Creek and also traveling up Black Shale Creek. Hikers can explore Anthracite Ridge where a band of Dall Sheep can usually be sighted. It is about 11 or 12 miles to the Glen Highway from the Simpson Cabin site so it will be necessary to start back early on May 29. It is all downhill however. We will exit at about Mile 79 rather than Chickaloon Village. Leader: John Nevin 349-1707
- MAY 28 & 29 EAGLE RIVER. This three day weekend is a good chance to go after some of the beautiful peaks up the Eagle River valley. Kiliak and Korahusk are two potential targets. Leave 7AM from Fred Meyer's. A leader for this trip is needed. A three day weekend like this is one of the few chances for many to get back to these peaks.

MCA CLIMBING CLASS

A general mountaineering course for beginners will be held this spring, if enough interest is shown. All interested students should sign up at the April meeting - or call: 272-1811 - so that plans may be finalized as soon as possible. The following dates are approximate.

Friday, April 28, 7 PM. A classroom session that will cover knots, equipment, clothing, slide show, etc.

Saturday, April 29, 7 AM. A seminar near Flattop on self-arrest, belays, rope management, etc.

Saturday or Sunday, May 6 or 7. Rock climbing seminar on the Seward Highway.

Saturday, May 20. Climb of Ptarmigan Peak.

Saturday & Sunday, July 15 & 16. Glacier school and overnight at Byron Peak.

September 30 Weekend. Matanuska Technical Ice Climbing Seminar.

Remember to sign up at the meeting or call the above number if you wish to take the class. It is important for us to know how many students there will be.

MINUTES OF EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING, MOUNTAINEERING CLUB OF ALASKA

Wednesday, March 15, 1978, Pioneer School House, Anchorage

The meeting was called to order by President DENKEWALTER. A report was made that Far North, the helicopter-ski group at Alyeska, has obtained a permit from the State Parks Division to fly skiers into the Park and use MCA's Eagle Hut. MSP that MCA allow Far North to fly in materials to repair these two huts with the help of MCA members, with the MCA paying for roofing materials and windows.

MINUTES OF MARCH GENERAL MEETING, MOUNTAINEERING CLUB OF ALASKA

Wednesday, March 15, 1978, Pioneer School House, Anchorage

The meeting was called to order at 8:05 PM.

JOHN DILLMAN and JEFF BABCOCK presented a mini-slide show of their ice climbs of Bridalveil Falls near Valdez. VALERIE LARUE showed slides of the Mint Glacier area where a MCA ski trip was planned for April 1-2 weekend.

Business Meeting: Minutes of the February meeting were approved. Treasurer's Report: Checking: \$1,016.03; Savings: \$454.18; Cash-on-hand: \$34.93; Undeposited checks: \$17.50; Total: \$1,522.64.

President DENKEWALTER reported that the Club had bought six Pieps. These may be used on ski trips at a fee of \$1.00 for each time used, in order to pay for batteries periodically; the member's MCA card must be left with Equipment Chairman, TERRY BECKER, when checking them out. They will be brought on all Club trips and Club school practices. Copies of a hiking schedule have been prepared by Dona AGOSTI and two copies were posted on the meeting room wall. A Club climbing schedule is being prepared but is not yet complete. Teachers are needed for the Spring climbing school. BILL BABCOCK at U.A.A. is planning a climb in South America, his booklet on this is available. Also on hand were some more of Dick THALER'S maps of the Mint Glacier Hut location. It was announced that Far North helicopter-ski group had obtained a permit from the State Parks and will be repairing the Eagle Hut. MCA will pay for the roofing, some siding, and windows. Far North will pay for the heater and other improvements. It will charter in by a Beaver or Otter for five days of skiing; they are limited to the period from April 1 through May 10 of this year. Dick THALER will lead a climb of Mt. Sanford (continued)

MINUTES cont.

this spring; be at the next meeting for more details. There will be a meeting of the American Alpine Club - Alaska Chapter on March 24; Earl Redman is the new chairman. He can usually be contacted at the Club meetings. JOHN DILLMAN suggested that the Club buy an electric food dehydrator, about \$140. This will be discussed at the next meeting with, perhaps, some illustrated materials.

After the intermission for refreshments, PETE PANARESE, Chugach Park Ranger, gave a talk on the park and the hazards of mountain travel and safety precautions to be taken. He emphasized that there are pressures from many groups for diverse uses of the park. There was a good question and answer session after the talk. It was announced that JIM WICKWIRE of Seattle will present two special movies on April 5 at East High School on the 1975 K-2 expedition and a climb in the Fairweather Range in Southeast.

Meeting was adjourned at 9:45 PM.

E. ALLEN ROBINSON, Secretary

K-2 SPECIAL

Two outstanding color movies, one on the 1975 American expedition to K-2 in Pakistan, the world's second highest mountain, and the other on a 1977 climb in the Fairweather Range in Alaska, were shown on April 5 at East High. The movies were given by Jim Wickwire of Seattle, a member of both expeditions, who will be on another K-2 attempt this year. The first movie was excellent, considering the outcome of the 1975 expedition. The second dealt exclusively with climbing a peak in the Fairweather Range in Southeast and lived up to its advance billing. Some 230 people showed up and were well rewarded. MCA Secretary, Al Robinson, is to be congratulated for his efforts to bring Wickwire and his films to Anchorage.

EXPLORING IN THE ENDICOTT MOUNTAINS

Brooks Range.....Summer 1977

In late July I spent a few days in the headwaters of the East Fork of the Iniakuk River, 6-8 miles north-northeast of Ernie Lake in the Central Brooks Range. The approach was up and through a series of unique canyons with stair-stepped waterfalls and spillways over smoothed schistose bedrock. Two high peaks (Lat. 62°28-29'N., Long. 152°52-55'W) with steep cirqued north faces dominate this region, between the Alatna and John Rivers.

Iniakuk Peak (6539') and Shukok Peak (6235') were climbed in a day from the south over fairly good 5th class meta-igneous rock. Peak 6539' was ascended first from the south via the easterly buttress and ridge. The descent was down the true east ridge to a col, then up a sharp west ridge to the top of Peak 6235' and returning down the south buttress to the valley below. A complete panorama view of the Central Brooks Range was seen including the Arrigetch Peaks to the west and the pointed summit of Doonerak to the east.

In mid-August Barb Cambell, Dick Jablonowski and myself met at Takahula Lake which is along side the Alatna River and is 15 miles due east of the Arrigetch Peaks. We cached a week supply of food and our inflatable kayaks and trekked up the alder-choked Aiyagomahala Creek valley, through Independence Pass and into the headwaters of the Kobuk River. Continual rain and fog prevented us from reaching any summits or completing a planned circumnavigation of the Arrigetch Peaks. We went back to Takahula Lake via the Takahula drainage and paddled down the Alatna River arriving at Allakaket on August 27th.

STEVE W. HACKETT

TO FRY AND FRY AGAIN

Noses fried in the Little Su oven. A horde of skies slid up the valley toward a hut, the Mint Glacier hut, following those who went before. Purple wax, yellow wax, purple klister- some slid up, some slid down, some didn't slide at all. A white wee beast with her people, a man who tried to ski without poles, a geologic gigolo and el presidente were all there simmering up the trail while the sun laughed.

All followed a trail, an eleven hour trail made by others, most adventurous. A dark, deep trail for others, too, one from which great tales will be told.

Many skis stopped below but a few floundered up. To a hut. There, Beauty and the Beast plus another, whose nose was the color of his hair, did telesitzmarks in the snow. Carpenters arrived and, within the hut, there was light. Courtesy of plexiglas. Popcorn, steak and yawns to be followed closely by snores.

A new day with the oven on high. Down again, smoothly for some, erratically for others. There could be seen, that day, the gracious glider and the snow-covered klutz. But all laughed, with the possible exception of one, the geologic gigolo whose nose was far too red for comfort.

From skinny skis to mud-encrusted wheels. And a brew-cold and out of the sun.

El ROJOHOMBRE

A ROSE BY ANY OTHER NAME

The idea for the following article came from the ALASKA ALPINE CLUB publication, DESENT (sic). As the original author explained he was "drifting through the dictionary of Alaska Place Names and thought you might be interested in the trivial explanations of the names of the local hills."

DEBORAH: named in 1907 by James Wickersham, for his wife!

DICKEY: Named in 1914 by Dora Keen for W.A. Dickey, who was responsible for naming Mt. McKinley. However, B. Washburn disputes this. He claims he was the first to mention to the U.S.G.S. that it should be named Dickey!

FLATTOP: Local descriptive name reported in 1963 by the M.C.A.

EAST TWIN: Descriptive name reported in 1960 by U.S.G.S.

WEST TWIN: Oddly enough, same as the above.

PIONEER: Local name reported in 1939 by U.S.G.S., named for the pioneers of the Matanuska Valley.

Mt. ALYESKA: Named by USFS in 1959 "after the Alyeska Ski Area which has been improved with a lift and buildings by the Alyeska Ski Corp., immediately to the west of this mountain."

BYRON GLACIER: Local name reported in 1951 by U.S.G.S.

CARPATHIAN: Named in 1959, when the "first ascent was made by Keith Hart, Ted Barrett, and Mat Nitsch," for the Carpathian Mts. of Middle-Europe.

SUICIDE PEAK: Local name reported in 1951 by U.S.G.S.

BOLD PEAK: So named by members of the MCA in 1958, because of its bold appearance when viewed from Eklutna Lake!!

BASHFUL: So named in 1958 by members of the MCA because "it is often hidden by other peaks, ridges, or clouds."

BALEFUL: So named in 1963 by members of the MCA, because "of its rugged and sinister appearance."

KINGS MOUNTAIN: Name used by prospectors; reported about 1905 after a prospector who had a cabin at the junction of the Kings and Matanuska rivers.

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A ROSE cont.

- CHUGACH MTS.: Eskimo tribal name recorded by the Russkies and written by them "Chugatz" (what d'you expect from them) and "Tchougatskoi"; in 1898 Capt. W.R. Abercrombie, USA, (& Fitch), spelled the name Chugatch and applied it to the mountains.
- TALKEETNA: Tanaina Indian name reported in 1898 to mean "river of plenty" by G.H. Eldridge and Robert Muldrow, U.S.G.S. (the well known glaciers were named after these two).
- KNIK: Tanaina Indian village name, meaning "fire" originally applied to a settlement of several villages at the head of Cook Inlet. The principle village was listed by Ivan Petroff as "Kinik" and "Kinnick" in 1880 U.S. Census with a population of 46; in 1890, 160. The present village called "Knik" developed around a trading post called "Palmer's Store" in 1903.
- PALMER: Agricultural supply town, established as a railroad station on the Matanuska Branch of the A.R.R. Thought to be named after Geo. Palmer, trader in the Knik area in the late 1800's.
- PORTAGE GLACIER: Local name reported in 1898 Mendenhall, U.S.G.S. So called because it was on a portage route between Prince William Sound and Turnagain Arm.
- RESURRECTION BAY: Named by A. Baranov in 1792. It was called "Port Andrews" by Capt. N. Portlock, in 1787. The first ship to be built in Alaska, the Phoenix, was built here in 1794.
- MOFFIT: Named after Fred Moffit in 1950, a U.S.G.S.er who worked in AK. for 40 years.
- MOOSES TOOTH: A translation of the original Athabaskan Indian name obtained in 1953 by U.S.G.S.; originally named "Mt. Hubbard" in 1910 by the Browne-Parker Expedition for T.H. Hubbard, then president of the Peary Arctic Club.
- SPURR: Named after a U.S.G.S.er of 1898.
- REDOUBT: Translation of the Russian name, but also perhaps from the native name "Ujakushatsch" meaning "fortified place", but it is difficult to determine if one name is derived from the other.
- CATHEDRAL SPIRES: Named by J.E. Spurr. If you have seen them you know why!
- KICKSTEP: Name proposed by MCA in 1962 for the technique of kickstepping.
- SILVERTHRONE: Climbed and named by the U.S. Army Forces Cold Weather test party about March 1945. "So named because of its stately appearance at the head of Brooks Glacier."
- MCKINLEY: Named after William McKinley of Ohio, who had been nominated for the presidency. UGH!

The above facts were not typed verbatim, but most were taken from the DICTIONARY OF ALASKA PLACE NAMES put out by the Feds. It is interesting reading, to say the least.

FILLER

Due to the fact that I haven't received many articles, I am forced to put some filler in. The following is for your edification:

- ARETE: A sharp ridge. Originally from the Latin arista - ear of corn, fishbone, or spine.
- COL: Depression in a mountain chain. From the Latin collum - neck
- GLACIER: River of ice. Again from the Latin glacies - ice.
- COULOIR: Steep gorge. French couloir - colander, lobby, steep incline down which felled wood is run.
- KERNMANTEL: From the German, Kern - core; Mantel - sheath.
- BERGSCHRUND: German, Berg - mountain; Schrund - cleft, crack, crevasse.
- CREVASSE: Fissure in a glacier. From the Latin crepare - rattle, break, crack.
- GENDARME: Mounted armed soldier. Also a ticklish bit of rock, in the way, on a ridge. From the Latin gens - people; arma - arms.

tidbits

John Dillman has brought up the idea that the Club should invest in a food dehydrator so that Club members could do their own dehydrating (e.g. fruit) for their trips. Sounds like a good idea. John will report more later.

This August the American Annapurna III Expedition will leave for Nepal. This expedition has the sponsorship of the A.A.C. and the Arizona M.C. They are in need of contributions. All donations are to be sent to the A.A.C., 113 East 90th St., N.Y.

Charles Higden has written a brief account of his McKinley climb of 1973 in the current issue of TOUCH, published by the Alaska Hospital and Medical Center.

V-P Valerie LaRue has asked for mountain climbing/skiing/hiking recipes to be brought to the Club meetings so that she can put a number of them together so that all members will be able to benefit ; so bring yours so she can get on it!

Someone was throwing candy wrappers around on the way up to Mint Glacier Hut on April 1; and thats no joke! Tsk, tsk. Things are getting bad when that happens.

A nice write-up appeared in the winter edition of "PERSPECTIVE, a journal put out by the U of Denevr, about Paul Pollack. He had entered the Law School there after graduating from the U of N.C. cum laude in 1970. He fled Czechoslovakia in the mid-sixties for political reasons, and after spending some time in an Italian Refugee Camp, came to the U.S.

He had just arrived in Anchorage in time to take part in the ill-fated Taylor Creek ski tour.

BLACKCAP

I wanted to get into the mountains for a little bit. Fairbanks had gotten rather old. So on the spur of the moment in August I set out for the Castner basin. Alone I hoped to set my mind at ease and do a bit of scrambling about on some of the lesser peaks accessible from the Thayer Hut.

Arriving at the Castner late in the day I set right out. One car parked at the base - climbers or hunters? On the way up I stopped to admire a covey of Ptarmigan and gain the evening's dinner. Up at the hut, as dusk was rapidly encroaching, I found that I was not to be alone. Laying about in his sleeping bag was another climber, namely, Marc Friedman. Our stories were rapidly exchanged and sleep ensued.

That morning with a late start, a light haze, and the common notion that : Wouldn't it be nice to climb Blackcap, we were off Mary's Rock and on the glacier. The glacier was in fine shape, the lateness of the year had made all the crevasses open and visible. Staying to the middle of the glacier we were able to avoid most. The Princess branch proved a little bit more difficult with snow partially camouflaging the crevasses, several which we had to leap over. Acrobatics over we reached the base of a gentle snow slope of about 200 ft. The snow gave way to scree; a long looking slope of about 2,500 ft. The combined thought of that toil and the weather, which was rapidly closing in on us, made for a break in conversation while we readjusted our attitudes to the climb. We continued slogging our way through the scree until Marc discovered a gully, a drainage gully frozen from the night's cold. It afforded reasonable footing. Two hours later we emerged on top of the ridge in a blowing snowstorm. A break in the clouds revealed the summit about 1,000 ft. higher and some nasty looking exposed rock a little below.

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BLACKCAP cont.

Crampons on, we quickly ascended the two ice pitches unroped and were able to climb through the rock easily, as it was broken up and there were many large hand and foot holds. Another 200 ft. of corniced ridge and we stood on what we thought to be the top in the gale which blew around us. Swift congratulations, an "Oh goddam its cold", and we began our marathon descent. Skrunning down the scree was pure joy. I only had to stop twice for unacceptable topography.

Finally we once again arrived at the Thayer Hut. This time exhausted but elated. After scavenging through the "Thayer Bear" remnants we were able to contrive an excellent polish stew.

JIM BOUCHARD
(taken from DESENT)
