



MOUNTAINEERING CLUB OF ALASKA

BOX 2037

ANCHORAGE, ALASKA 99510

APRIL 1982

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APRIL MEETING

The meeting will be held Wednesday, April 21, at 8:00 PM on the top floor of the Pioneer Schoolhouse, Third and Eagle, Anchorage, Alaska. After the business meeting, Graham Macdonald will present a slide show on walks and climbs in Scotland and he and Ernie Borjon will also present a slide show on ice climbing in the Valdez area.

GENERAL MEETING MINUTES - MARCH 17, 1982

The March meeting of MCA was held on Wednesday, March 17, 1982 on the top floor of the Pioneer Schoolhouse, Third and Eagle, Anchorage, Alaska. President Dillman called the meeting to order at 8:05 PM. Reading of the previous months meeting minutes were approved as published in SCREE.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Checking Account	\$ 470.96
Petty Cash Fund	101.32
Money Market Fund	4130.04

Guests and New Members Introduced

Keith Rizer, John Kerr, Richard Sisson,
Burton Janis and Hal Christenson

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Hiking Committee - Donna Agosti 248-0089. Donna reported that the revised cost of the Lake Clark National Park Preserve Trip scheduled for July 24-Aug 1 would be \$300.

Conservation Committee - Mike Frank 243-7645. The Chugach State Park Trail Association has requested local assistance with trail maintenance due to federal budget cuts. MCA help has been requested and ex-presidents Tim Neale and John Lohff have attended several planning meetings. John Lohff moved "resolve that MCA become an organizational member of the Chugach State Park Trail Association." Reggie Buchanan seconded and the motion was duly passed.

Hut Committee - Nick Parker. The hut plans and specifications are completed. The location of this proposed hut has not been determined. Plans are that it be located in the Talkeetna Mountains in skiing and hiking proximity to the Mint Glacier Hut.

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Program Committee - Rick Severin 344-7269. We are in need of good quality slide presentations which would be of interest to the general membership.

OLD BUSINESS - None.

NEW BUSINESS - None.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Al Robinson reported that we received \$728.29 from royalty sales of "55 WAYS TO THE ALASKA WILDERNESS". These guides are usually available at the local book stores and at some outdoor shops.

Anyone interested in joining the Alaska Section of the American Alpine Club can contact John Dillman 279-1246.

Dave Pahlke - 344-2964 - offered to lead a climb up Suicide Peaks on March 20th.

50 Minute Photo Express in the Aurora Mall continues their offer of a free roll of film development to the first MCA member into the shop on the Thursday following the regular meeting. (Editors note: Thanks to Dave Worrell).

Contact Jim Eason - 337-3515 - if you are interested in the address of a special bookstore with a large inventory of rare mountaineering books.

John Nevin - 276-666 - wants to borrow a small chainsaw for clearing the trail on the Chickaloon-Knik-Nelchina trip scheduled Memorial Day Weekend.

The slide show for this evenings program will be presented by Bill Wakeland (with assistance and comments from Donna Agosti) of their Goat Trail (Wrangells) trip in the summer of 1981.

Meeting adjourned at 8:45 PM

Respectfully submitted: Sandi Macdonald, Secretary

TRIP REPORTS

SEARCHING FOR A NEW HUT SITE IN THE MINT GLACIER AREA

Dave Pahlke, Graham Macdonald, Dave Staeheli and I spent three days in the Mint Glacier area scouting a possible location for the proposed hut. The original plan was to locate the hut in the headwaters of Moose Creek. On Friday March 26th we left the Hut and skied over Grizzly Pass (just east of Spearmint) telemarking down several thousand vertical feet in sun and powder. Unfortunately, this route did not appear to be feasible as a seasonal route and the mountains north of Moose Creek are generally uninteresting, at least those within one day from the Mint Glacier Hut. After tracking up the glacier for the rest of the day we decided that the area between Reed Lakes and the existing hut would probably be the best location. The next morning we attempted to scout this out, but only Staeheli would venture up the avalanche gully directly west of the hut.

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Under stable conditions travel up and down this gully should be routine for intermediate or advanced ski tourers and just another scree slog during the summer. The weather was rapidly closing in, so we packed up and two hours later were eating cheeseburgers at the Roadhouse.

COMMENTS: The two burner Optimus stove at the hut is in need of some minor repairs. These models are not now available so we plan on replacing it with a regular Coleman two burner (white-gas). Anyone interest in carrying this new stove to the hut and returning the Optimus, please contact me. A small reward will be offered.

Anyone who has completed the circuitous route from Reed Lakes over the glaciated area to the Mint, either in summer or winter is urged to contact the MCA to assist in locating a site for the proposed hut.

JOHN DILLMAN

HISTORY CORNER

From the earliest days of hiking and climbing in the Anchorage area, O'Malley Peak has been the most popular 5000 footer. The name is unofficial and was derived from the fact that it was initially known as the mountain behind O'Malley Road. Its summit is surveyed at over 5100 feet which ranks it with Tikishla and Koktoya among the skyline 5000 footers. The top of O'Malley offers what is probably the finest view of the Anchorage Bowl.

The fierce demeanor of O'Malley's North Face seen from Anchorage is belied by the gentle nature of its other exposures. The East Ridge from the top reaches to Hidden Peak (5105') less than one mile away. The West Ridge towards Little O'Malley (4200') is the usual route to the summit. It is gained either by using the rocky couloir to the south of tiny Deep Lake on the mountain's west side, or by coming to it from the south. A peculiar bench on the mountain's north side offers an unusual, but not easily accessible campsite.

Recorded trips to the top of O'Malley began in 1957 when Johnny Johnston made the first known ascent. The first trip to the top listed in SCREE was in 1959 by Larry Johann, Joe Hill and Rod Wilson (1:9:3). Rod Wilson was back in 1963 to lead the MCA sponsored 1st winter ascent. In that group were Kim Degenhardt, Don and Dave Devoe, Dale Hagen, Ted Shohl, and Steve Shrader (5:4:1).

GREG HIGGINS

BOOK REVIEW

MOUNTAINEERING: The Freedom of the Hills. Fourth Edition. Ed Peters, editor. 562 pages, photos, sketches; 6" x 9", clothbound. The Mountaineers, 719-B Pike, Seattle, WA 98101. February 26, 1982. \$15.00

Publication of the fourth edition of "Freedom of the Hills" brings back to Al and me vivid memories of some of the planning meetings for the first edition, in our living-room on Mercer Island, in the late 1950's. We had been active members of the

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Mountaineers, involved in climbing, skiing, back-packing, and we knew the members of the Editorial Committee and many of the local experts whom they called in to help construct this definitive American text on methods and equipment for travel in the mountains. During the intervening years we have been proud and happy to see "Freedom " so widely used and trusted.

As the publicity material on this new edition makes clear, the changes are largely in the technique chapters. New material on snow and ice climbing, including the recognition of avalanche hazards, will be of particular interest to Alaskan climbers. Rock climbing is also brought up to date as to equipment and technique.

It seems to us that the great strength of "Freedom" over the years, and through its several editions, has been the fact that it was the production of a group of dedicated mountaineers, skilled and experienced, and representing all aspects of mountain travel, from expeditions and the most severe rock climbing, to family wilderness travel, equipment, and cuisine. It represents the kind of information to which people long familiar with the hills would trust their health and safety. Enjoy this newest "Freedom of the Hills"!

LIZ ROBINSON

MISCELLANEOUS NOTES

Best wishes to Doug Van Etten for a fast recovery after his crevasse fall and subsequent helicopter rescue on Mount Spurr.

John Dillman received a post card from Susan Havens, MCA member and member of the American Womens Ama Dablam Expedition. On March 26 they were three days from Namche and about five days from base camp. They expect to summit in mid April. This is Susans fourth expedition to Nepal since 1977. In 1980 she was a member of the Womens Dhaulagiri Expedition.

FOR SALE: Galibier Makalu Double Boots, size 11 1/2. \$100. Peter Hoose, 271-4573 days, 243-0694 evenings.

The Basic Rock Climbing School will be held in early May, and details will be available at the April 21 meeting. This school is for beginners only. There will be a \$5.00 fee for the two day class.

There isn't space to publish the complete summer hiking schedule in this issue. Copies will be available at the April 21 meeting, or call Donna Agosti - 248-0089.

MOUNTAINEERING CLUB OF ALASKA OFFICERS - 1981-1982

President	John Dillman	279-1246 (home)	278-3537 (work)
Vice President	Rick Severin	344-7269	279-6522
Secretary	Sandi Macdonald	345-5791	
Treasurer	Reggie Buchanan	333-7649	272-0504

EDITOR'S NOTE: Gregg Higgins compiled the following list of peaks mentioned in the 1981 issues of SCREE. The references are to the appropriate issue number and page number.

INDEX TO PEAKS IN SCREE - 1981

Abercrombie	7:6	Magnificent	6:5
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Annapurna	8:6	Marcus Baker	8:5
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		McKinley	see Denali
Bagley Icefield	8:4	Montana	6:5
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		St Elais	7:6
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		Thorkona	9:3,4
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Koktoya	6:5/12:5	Wolverine	6:5,6
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Logan	7:6/9:2		