



MOUNTAINEERING CLUB OF ALASKA

BOX 2037

ANCHORAGE, ALASKA 99510

April 1986

Volume 29, Issue 04

APRIL MEETING

The meeting will be held Wednesday, April 16th at 7:30 p.m. at the Pioneer Schoolhouse, 3rd and Eagle Sts., Anchorage. After the business meeting, Tom Williams will present a slide show... "The Haute Route: Chamonix to Saas Fee", about his ski trip to the Swiss Alps.

MINUTES FOR THE MARCH MEETING

The meeting was held March 19, 1986 at the Pioneer Schoolhouse, and was called to order by President Mark Findlay at 7:47 p.m. The reading of the minutes for February was waived.

The club welcomed new members and guests.

TREASURER'S REPORT

\$ 255.65 - Petty Cash
3,917.23 - Money Market Rate Plus Acc.
442.85 - Checking Account
\$4,615.73 - Total MCA Monies

For membership in the Mountaineering Club, the following fees are in effect:

Single membership: \$10.00
Family membership: \$15.00

Send a self-addressed, stamped envelope to:

MCA
Box 102037
Anchorage, AK 99510
(Attention: Treasurer)

I. COMMITTEE REPORTS

- A. The Hiking Committee is anxious to hear from anyone willing to lead a hike, climb, or who may have suggestions for trips. Contact Jim Pommert 344-5656(h). The mid-week hikes will also be published in this Scree. Hiking sign-up sheets are on the front table (during meetings) for upcoming hikes.

II. Old Business

None.

III. Announcements

- A. Each month the MCA receives many pamphlets or newsletters from other outdoor clubs. These can be seen either on the front table (during meetings) or at the MCA library which is located at AMH in Spenard.
- B. Chugach National Forest is considering operating tourist boats on Portage Lake and the Placer River. They would like to hear any ideas or opinions on this issue. Contact them at 1701 18th St. N.W., Washington, D.C. 20009
- C. The American Hiking Society has a summer volunteer program. Anyone interested contact them at 1701 18th St. N.W., Washington D.C. 20009.
- D. Kathy Burke is trying to get together a large enough bulk order of topo sheets for a 50% discount. The order is halfway there already, so if you are in need of maps and know which ones then contact her at 346-2841.
- E. The club thanks Becky Voris for helping with refreshments. Anyone else interested in helping, especially during the summer, contact Becky at 243-5911.

Mark Findlay adjourned the meeting at 7:58.

Thanks to Ed Bovy for an incredible adventure through Canyonlands and the Rocky Mountains. Your music to match the mountains was as brilliant as your pictures of the beautiful, serious and funny sides of trips to the wilderness.

Respectfully Submitted,
Kathy Burke

About a year ago someone in the club was looking for addresses of Scottish Mountaineering or climbing clubs, possibly for some type of exchange. Here are two:

Association of Scottish Climbing Clubs
Queen Victoria School
Dublane
Perthshire, Scotland

Mountaineering Council of Scotland
11 Kirklee Quadrant
Glasgow W2, Scotland

The answer to the trivia question posed in the February issue, "What was the shortest issue of Scree?"...October 1961, no issue came out, the only time it ever happened.

Notes on the December Scree :

Willy Hersman's article on the early American trips to Dhauligiri stirred old memories. The picture of "the man with baggie army pants" is firmly implanted in my mind.

No one would argue that a flyover in either year might have changed the route selected. Due to tight budget and time constraints, I don't think one was even considered in 1969. Such arrangements in Nepal then were not always easy to make.

I appreciated the comment on the CMC's criteria on separate peak status. This is an old debate. The criteria I have come to use over the years (quite arbitrarily) is a vertical drop between 2 summits in a dividing ridge of at least 500 feet, or a separating ridge of severe difficulty (the fudge factor).

Greg Higgins

TRIP REPORTS

MAP AND COMPASS CLASS

or

Do Australian Compasses Point to Magnetic South?

I'm not sure what made me do it. After spending years in the woods perfecting my technique of getting lost, something made me sign up for Graham McDonald's Map and Compass Class.

We started off in classroom sessions, learning such things as map reading, using a compass to take bearings or adjust for declination and using contour lines to figure terrain angle. Although Graham was an excellent instructor, he had no way of knowing of the incredible student intelligence he had to work with.

Later we headed into the mountains for some "real life" map and compass use. Bjorn Kjellstrom would have been proud of the orienteering enthusiasm that showed up on the first morning (remember that day - when the wind was so bad that it forced the closure of Alyeska and the cancelation of the Ski Train?). Triangulations were used to pinpoint the exact location of the Glen Alps parking lot. We learned to figure out the elevation of the parking lot by reading the elevation sign on the bathrooms. (That Graham, he knows more tricks!). As we turned onto the Powerline Trail the wind and snow blasted us unbelievably, we hiked from one bush-shelter to the next. The 50 mph winds made it almost unbearable to take bearings, and the clouds that came in and out his the peaks we were shooting. It made us feel we were definitely at "true-north".

Field trip two. Russian Jack and calm weather. Mark Findlay even equipped us with orienteering maps of the park. After a brief reminder to keep our compasses away from magnetic objects (pack frames, ice axes, underwire bras,...) we had several hours of good orienteering practice. We called it quits only when our fingers started aching with "compass-dial-turnitis".

The last field trip found us up on the O'Malley "ballpark". What a day for fine-tuning our map and compass skills: clear, sunny skies, spectacular mountain and valley views in all directions and occasional magical showers of ice crystals. Besides the map and compass work there were bonuses of a tour of a snow cave, fun with altimeters and a lesson in ice axe arrest (you have the right to remain silent...). Good thing we had the ice axe lesson - it was a fast trip down the snow gully.

All kidding aside, we learned a lot in the map and compass class, and we now feel comfortable with our maps and compasses. In fact we learned so well, that no matter how hard Graham and Mark tried to lose the rest of us - they just couldn't.

Kathy Burke

HIKING AND CLIMBING SCHEDULE

- April 12 BIRD RIDGE
Meet at 8:00 a.m. at UAA parking lot. 4-5 miles; 2900'
elevation gain; moderate
Leader: Don Hansen 279-0829
- 19 SHIP PASS SKI TOUR
Meet at 8:00 UAA; 10 miles; 2000' elevation gain; moderate
Leader: Mark Findlay 337-8666.
- 20 GUNSIGHT MOUNTAIN
Leader needed
- 26 WOLVERINE PEAK
10 miles; 3400' elevation gain; moderate. Meet at UAA at 8:00am
Leader: Jim Pommert 344-5656
- 27 BYRON PEAK
Meet at 7:00am at the UAA parking lot. Be ready to ski to
glacier and then climb from there. You will need: skis, ice axe
crampons, harness, glacier gear.
Leader: Paul Denkwalter, AMH (272-1811) for more details.
- 27 JOHNSON TRAIL
10 miles, 700' elevation gain; moderate. Way #34 in 55 Ways.
Meet at UAA at 8:00 am.
Leader: Gene Klymko 346-2953
- May 3 LANGILLE MOUNTAIN
6 miles, 3000' elevation gain, moderate. Located north of Kenai
Lake; no trail. Meet at UAA at 8:00 am.
Leader: Jim Pommert 344-5656
- 4 LAZY MOUNTAIN
5 miles, 2900' elevation gain, moderate; near Palmer, nice
views, may be windy. 55 Ways #43. Meet 8:00 am at UAA.
Leader: Rob Schwebel
- 10 RAINBOW PEAK
5 miles, 3400' elevation gain; moderate; trail part way. Meet
UAA 8:00 am.
Leader: Don Hansen 279-0829.
- 11 McHUGH PEAK
7 miles, 4000' elevation gain; moderate, trail part way. Meet
UAA 8:00 am.
Leader: Bill Wakeland 563-6246
- 17 BLUEBERRY HILL
Leader needed

- 17-18 GULL ROCK
9 miles, 700' elevation gain; easy and enjoyable family trip.
55 Ways #17. Call leader. Meet UAA 8:00 am.
Leader: Reggie Buchanan 333-7649
- 24-26 BENCH PEAK-JOHNSON LAKE TRAIL
Leader: Jim Pommert 344-5656
- 31 IDAHO PEAK
Leader: Jim Pommert 344-5656
- 31-1 EAGLE RIVER TRAIL
Leader needed
- June 1 PTARMIGAN LAKE
Leader: Eileen Cavanaugh 337-1394
- 7-8 TRAIL MAINTENANCE WEEKEND
Leader: Bill Wakeland 563-6246
- 14 MT. EKLUTNA
Leader needed.
- 14-15 DEVIL'S PASS
Leader: Bill Wakeland 563-6246
- 21 O'MALLEY PEAK
Leader needed
- 21-22 FLATTOP SOLSTICE SLEEPOUT
Leader not needed. Just show up. Keep eye out for the weather.
- 28 O'MALLEY, THE RAMP AND THE WEDGE
Leader: Jim Pommert 344-5656
- 28-29 THE SUICIDES VIA FALLS CREEK
Leader: Bill Wakeland
- June or July EKLUTNA-GIRDWOOD TRAVERSE
Glacier trip and hut repair. We'll hope for some carpenters in
the group. 7 days minimum to work on all 3 huts. Supplies to
be flown in.
Leader: Willy Hersman 338-5132
- July 4-6 CROW PASS-GLEN ALPS
Leader needed

- 13 SUMMIT CREEK-COLORADO CREEK
Leader: Jim Pommert 344-5656
- 12-13 MATANUSKA PEAK
Leader: Don Hansen/Bill Wakeland
- 19 CROW PASS
Leader needed
- 20 PIONEER PEAK
Leader needed
- 19-20 MILLS CREEK-BENCH LAKE-JOHNSON PASS TRAIL
Leader: Jim Pommert 344-5656
- 26 TWIN PEAKS TRAIL
Leader: Pat Thompson
- 26-27 LOST LAKE
Leader needed
- Aug. 2 HOPE POINT
Leader needed
- 3 GULL ROCK
Leader needed
- 2-3 UPPER RUSSIAN LAKE
Leader needed
- 10 RABBIT LAKE
Leader needed
- 9-10 MT. WILLIWAW - TANAINA PEAK
Leader: Jim Pommert 344-5656
- 16 MCA PICNIC AT EKLUTNA LAKE CAMPGROUND
- 17 EAST TWIN PEAK
Leader needed
- 16-17 WINNER CREEK
Leader needed
- 23 CRESCENT LAKE
Leader: Don Hansen
- 24 PETER'S CREEK
Leader needed
- 23-24 CASTLE MOUNTAIN
Leader needed

- 30-1 INDIAN CREEK PASS - EAGLE LAKE
Leader needed
- Sept. 6 KNOYA PEAK
Leader: Jim Pommert
- 7 ROUNDTOP AND BLACKTAIL ROCKS
Leader needed
- 13 THE SUICIDES
Leader: Mike Miller
- 14 PORTAGE PASS
Leader needed
- 20 WOLVERINE PEAK
Leader: Mark Findlay
- 20-21 SWAN LAKE
Leader: Kathy Burke
- 27-28 ICE CLIMBING SCHOOL
Meet at the Matanuska Glacier
- Oct. 4 RAINBOW PEAK
Leader needed
- 11 INDIAN CREEK PASS
Leader needed
- 18 EAGLE RIVER TRAIL
Leader needed

The hiking committee is seeking suggestions and leaders for week-long, weekend, and day trips. Contact: Jim Pommert 344-5656 work: 563-3583; Jane Stammen 563-7703; or Linda White 274-4989, or Kathy Burke 346-2841.

MIDWEEK HIKES

No leader designated for these hikes. Meet at 6 pm at UAA or call one of the hiking committee people.

- May 21 Flattop
- 29 Rainbow Point
- June 4 Rendezvous Peak
- 10 Near Point

GENERAL RULES FOR MCA SANCTIONED HIKES

(April 1983 Scree, amended)

1. Proper equipment is required as follows:

Day Hikes

Compass & whistle
Raingear that works
Warm clothing (not cotton)
Hiking boots
Sunscreen & dark glasses
Mosquito dope
Water
Energy food
Fire starter
First aid kit with moleskin
Pocket knife

Additional for Overnight or Special Situations

Down or synthetic equivalent
sleeping bag
Tent (or prearranged sharing)
Sleeping pad
Stove (if need to cook or melt
snow)-fires usually prohibited
Adequate food for extra day
Dry clothes, socks, headgear, gloves
Stream crossing footwear
Climbing or winter gear if specified
by leader

2. No dogs are permitted on MCA hikes (among the reasons are bear problems).
3. The leader's suggestions are to be followed. Do not go off alone, return or rush ahead without his (her) permission, and don't ford a stream before the leader assesses the situation. Remember, this is a club hike and the leader must know where all hikers are.
4. All hikes commence at UAA Sports Complex, the west entrance, unless otherwise instructed, at a time determined by the leader.
5. You must be signed up on a trip roster (club meetings) or through contact with the leader to accompany a club sanctioned hike-or take your chances on being asked not to go.
6. When carpools are arranged, please plan to pay the driver your share without his (her) asking you. Generally, \$5 for shorter trips, \$10 to \$20 for longer ones.
7. If at the last minute you find you can't go, please let the leader know both for transportation planning and so someone else can go. If you are a leader, help find a replacement.
8. Total number of hikers on club sanctioned hikes:
Minimum: 4 (for safety reasons)
Maximum: leader option, depends upon the trail and
campsite conditions, but generally limited to 12 in
trail-less areas or State and National Parks (for
environmental reasons and maintain a wilderness experience)
9. Firearms are not encouraged, and please let the leader know if you want to carry one-it will be leader's option.

History Corner

Two winter climbs of note were completed this year which should be mentioned. In February Steve Davis and Charlie Sassara made the first winter ascent (we believe) of Polar Bear Peak by a new route. Polar Bear is located above Eagle River valley. It is one of the more prominent peaks visible from the visitor's center (a large hanging glacier just below the summit is very distinguishable). Steve and Charlie woke up to a beautiful sunny day on the weekend of the 15th, picked a line directly up the face over-looking the valley, and climbed straight through to the summit. Polar Bear does not get climbed very often. Its first ascent came in 1966 (Hoeman, Serfoss) and was found by Vin to be so narrow on the summit ridge with loose rotten rock that he was extremely delighted to be done with it.

Just before winter ended six climbers, all from Anchorage, led by Vern Tejas, made the first winter ascent of Mt. Logan in Canada by the standard King Trench Route. A trip report will be in the next Scree. It had been attempted in winter twice before. In 1984 four Canadians gave up at 17000 feet after reaching the large plateau at the top of the mountain probably due to the weather. In 1985 a group of four, including locals John Tuckey and Chris Leibundgut tried a winter climb via the East Ridge which reached 13500 feet. They reported only 4 good days out of 22, and considerable avalanche potential.

Willy Hersman

APRIL - MAY

SUN	M	T	W	TH	F	SAT
6	7 ALASKA WOMEN OUTDOORS 337-5069	8	9	10	11	12 MCA BIRD RIDGE DON HANSEY 279-0829
13	14	15	16 MCA 7:30 PIONEER SCHOOL HOUSE SLIDES: HAUTE ROUTE SWITZERLAND	17 AUDUBON CENTRAL JR. HI. 7:30 272-4694 REI 7:00 SUMMER LEADERSHIP COURSES FOR ADULTS AND YOUTHS	18	19 MCA SHIP LAKE PASS MARK FINDLAY 337-8666
20	21	22	23	24 REI 7:00 AK. LUNG ASSOCIATION SUMMER WILDERNESS TRIPS BICYCLING AND BACK PACKING	25	26 MCA WOLVERINE PEAK JIM POMMERT 344-5656
27	28	29	30	1 ACCESS TO RECREATION IN ALASKA. ALASKA HANDICAPPED SPORTS AND RECREATION REI 7:00	2	3 MCA LANGILLE MTN JIM POMMERT 344-5656 REI BIKE DAY
4 MCA LAZY MTN ROB SCHWEIBEL	5 SIERRA CLUB 276-4048 ST. MARY'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH ALASKA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY 8:00 WENDLER JR. HI.	6	7	8 REI 7:00 SEA KATAKING IN ALASKA	9	10 MCA RAINBOW PEAK DON HANSEN 279-0829

APRIL

MAY