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MOUNTAINEERING CLUB OF ALASKA

BOX 102037

ANCHORAGE, ALASKA 99510

APRIL 1991

Volume 34, Issue 04

APRIL MEETING

April 17 7:30 pm Wednesday, Pioneer Schoolhouse, basement level, 3rd and Eagle Sts., downtown Anchorage.

PROGRAM

Dr. Peter Hackett will speak on high altitude medical problems. Dr. Hackett, author of Mountain Sickness, Prevention, Recognition, and Treatment, is an authority on acute mountain sickness. This will be a good opportunity to ask questions if you are planning any expeditions to big peaks in the future.

HIKING AND CLIMBING SCHEDULE

- April 13-28 GRAND CANYON HIKE
Assemble at Phoenix or South Rim and spend 11 days in eastern unmaintained trail area, exiting at Grandview.
Leader: Bill Wakeland 586-6246
- May 4-5 MOUNTAINEERING SKILLS TRAINING
Two days of instruction in:
- crevasse rescue
- glacier travel
- ice axe use
- snow anchors and belays
Instructors: Karen Cafmeyer 345-7546, Dan O'Haire 561-1141
- 11 RAINBOW PEAK
One day climb, CLASS C. Fun, easy, scramble above Turnagain Arm.
Leader: Bill Wakeland 563-6246
- 12 TIKISHLA PEAK
Scramble over Knoya Peak and follow the connecting ridge. CLASS D. Elevation gain 4000 feet. Trip 35, 55 Ways.
Leader: Willy Hersman 338-5132
- 11-12 GULL ROCK
Explore sea caves near campsite. CLASS A. Trip 17, 55 Ways.
Leader: Curvin Metzler 333-8766
- 11-18 SARGENT ICEFIELD
Fly in to the crest of the Sargent Icefield for skiing and climbing. TECHNICAL: GLACIER TRAVEL.
Leader: Dan O'Haire 561-1141

- 18 EKLUTNA LAKE
One day mountain-bike around the lake. 9-13 miles one way, some hills. CLASS A.
Leader: Allan Shayer 338-0341 eves.
- May 25-27 AUGUSTINE VOLCANO
Fly in to the lagoon on the west side, climb the volcano and explore the island. Reputed to be a walk-up but there is a 4000-foot elevation gain. \$200 air fare out of Homer, deposit required. Get information sheet. CLASS D.
Leader: Dan O'Haire 561-1141
- 29 WEDNESDAY EVENING ROCK CLIMB
Rock climbing along Turnagain Arm. Meet at Huffman Carrs 5:30 pm. Call Wednesday afternoon if weather looks questionable. No instructions given, you need to have your own gear. TECHNICAL: FIFTH CLASS.
Leader: Pam Kirk 274-2233
- June 1-2 GRANITE PEAK
Overnight trip. Climb is in Talkeetnas, above Sutton, elevation 6729'. TECHNICAL: FIFTH CLASS.
Leader: Ken Zafren 346-2333
- 5 WEDNESDAY EVENING ROCK CLIMB
See above description.
Leader: Pam Kirk 274-2233
- 8 MYSTERY MOUNTAIN
Leader: Tom Choate 333-5309
- 12 WEDNESDAY EVENING ROCK CLIMB
Leader: Pam Kirk
- 15 MT. EKLUTNA
Leader: Neil O'Donnell
- 22 FLATTOP SOLSTICE
Leader: Karen Cafmeyer
- 26 WEDNESDAY EVENING ROCK CLIMB
Leader: Pam Kirk
- July 4-7 CROW PASS TO BIRD CREEK
Leader: Allan Shayer
- 4-7 SCANDINAVIAN PEAKS AND HUT
Leader: Tom Choate

The Hiking and Climbing Committee is always looking for leaders. If you have an idea for a trip, whether an afternoon or several weeks, give Karen Cafmeyer a call at 345-7546. H and C Committee: Karen Cafmeyer, Chairperson, B. Wakeland, T. Choate, A. Shayer, N. O'Donnell, P. Kirk, C. Metzler, W. Hersman, K. Zafren, D. O'Haire.

TRIP REPORTSGulkana Glacier Climbs

March 14-17

Karen Cafmeyer

The Gulkana Glacier is a great destination for an extended climbing trip. Tom Choate told us this area was popular in the sixties before the Parks Highway was built. Climbers from Fairbanks would meet MCA people from Anchorage for joint climbing trips in the Gulkana area.

The drive to Summit Lake takes 5-6 hours from Anchorage. We met at Summit Lake Lodge (822-3969) on the night of the 13th and slept in a room there so we could get an early start on the next day.

The access to the Gulkana begins at Isabel Pass, just north of Summit Lake. We parked the cars and skied eight hours to our base camp just below the pass to the Canwell Glacier. From there we could see peaks above 7000 and 8000 feet in every direction, all day-climbs from camp.

Our trip was a mixture of sun and snow. We climbed Cony Mountain and Minya Peak one day, but had to stay in camp watching snowflakes fall the next day. On the morning of the 17th, we awoke to a gale. At 3:00 pm the clouds thinned a little, so we zoomed downglacier and out across the flats before the weather socked in again.

We arrived back at the cars just as night fell. A snow machiner from Fairbanks greeted us with steaming cups of moose stew to warm us up. He said he used to ski the Gulkana, but discovered he could cover the same ground in an hour and a half on a snow machine. It took us five hours just to ski down. It makes me want to convert to motorized mountaineering.

I was told the Gulkana is a good place for summer trips, too. There's an access road across the flats that can be driven which takes you almost to the toe of the glacier. We saw cables across the river as well.

Trip members: John and Karen Cafmeyer, Tom Choate, Frank Jenkins, Ken Sun, Ken Kohns, and Julia Moore.

Maps: Mt. Hayes Quadrangle, B-3, B-4

ADZE

Lost and Found:

One ski pole from Superbowl Sunday trip. Grabbed the wrong pole. Leki brand. Sizes do not match anymore. Whoever has the same mismatch might want to trade: **Bill Cole 243-6327**

TUNNEL SECTION ICE CLIMBS
APPROACH

Roger Pollard

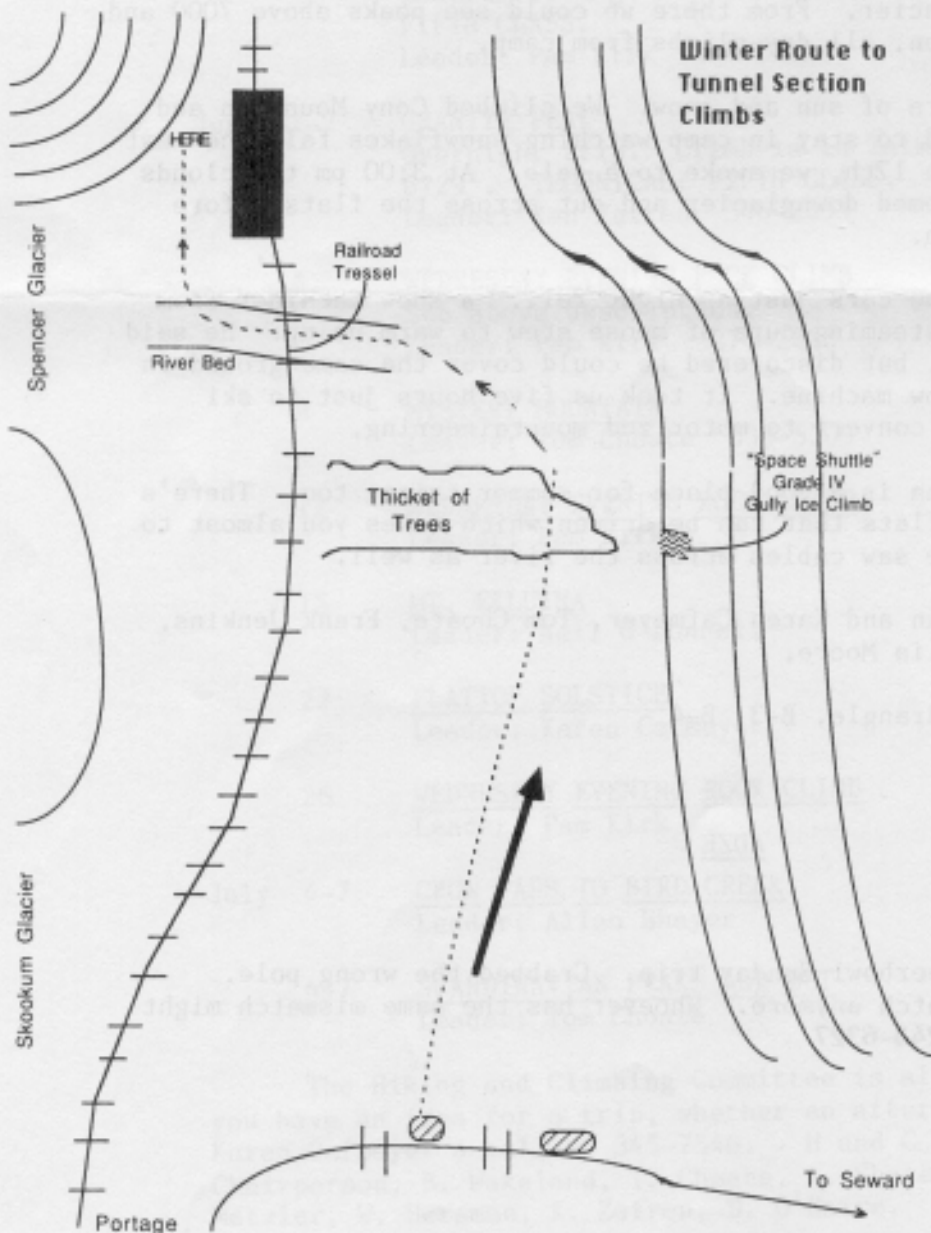
Here is a map which I feel would be helpful to anyone wanting to get into the Tunnel Section (See: Fat City and Urban Ice, D. Whitelaw, S. Davis, and R. Pollard, Adventure Images Co., Anchorage, 1989). It is very quick in the right snow conditions and avoids the railroad tracks, which of course are illegal and dangerous.

Park at one of the Placer River overflow bridges past the Portage turnout. Follow river beds and flats, staying as far right as possible until reaching the only forested area of thick alders. On the right, on the hillside, is a distinct climb called "Space Shuttle", grade IV, a pillar dropping from a rock wall into a gully.

From here follow along the tree line until locating a passage marked by pink ribbons on the trees. It is helpful to look for old snow machine tracks which will probably show the way. Many snow machines use the route, too.

Head for the canyon ahead, eventually meeting with a river that flows under a railroad tressel, after coming from the Spencer Glacier. A short distance later the tunnel will come into view. The first climbs are visible from the opening of the canyon.

Please help ensure that access to these climbs is not closed, stay off the tracks.



WORLD EXPRESS TRAVEL

Margaret Timmerman

Adventures Assured
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(907) 561-8838 FAX Out of State 1-800-284-6450

MINUTES OF THE MARCH MEETING

The March meeting, held on the 20th at the UAA Cuddy Center, began with the introduction of new members, Karen Cafmeyer presiding.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

Money Market	-	\$2309.48
Checking Acct	-	539.88
Petty Cash	-	52.10
Total		\$2901.46

Tony B Memorial Fund - \$160.00

COMMITTEES:

Equipment. Marcy Baker announced that the club had rented 12 pairs of crampons to the Star Trek film crew for \$180. The money will be used to replace damaged equipment.

Hiking and Climbing. The club is looking for ideas and leaders for day hikes, evening hikes, as well as extended backpacking trips. Committee meeting on 3/26, 6:30 p.m. at Karen Cafmeyer's home. Also looking for club members to do training in climbing skills. Karen suggested that a weekly rock climbing outing be organized. Committee meeting 4/2, 6:30 p.m. at Karen Cafmeyer's home.

Dan O'Haire promoted the Memorial Day weekend expedition to Mt. Augustine. Dan distributed free postcards of Mt. Augustine.

Sargent Icefield trip scheduled May 11-18.

Gates of the Arctic still open, limited to 9 people. July 20-August 3.

NEW BUSINESS:

The meeting was attended by an Anchorage Daily News reporter seeking stories relating to trailhead theft and vandalism.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Eric Hall announced that a new Explorer post is being established. He is seeking volunteers to teach outdoor skills.

Next month's MCA meeting features Dr. Peter Hackett, speaking on high altitude medical problems.

Respectfully Submitted,
Stefan Otterson

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