

# SCREE

MOUNTAINEERING CLUB OF ALASKA - BOX 2037 ANCHORAGE, ALASKA 99510

MAY 1972 VOL. 15, No. 5

MAY MEETING, Thursday, May 13, 1972, 8:00 PM. Central Junior High Multipurpose Rm. Program: Minislide presentation - Come Seel . . . Business Meeting. Refreshments. Maxislide presentation by Ted Moore and George Barnard on the Ruth Glacier area.

BOARD MEETING, June 5, 1972, 7:30 PM. Tom Meacham's, 1410 H St.

## WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

		Home	Work
BRUCE, Trefanny	PSC 2, Box 4028 Elmendorf AFB Anc 06	753-8297	754-5223
GREELEY, Glenn	P.O. Box 1088, Eagle River 99577	694-2656	753-5204
HARDING, Peter & Mrs.	21-481-A Citrus, Elmen- dorf AFB Anc 06	752-8264	753-2275
HIGGINS, Gregory & Mrs.	1144 E. 9th, #9 Anc 01	274-3304	
JAGEMAN, Harry	USAF Hosp, PSC #4 B-9784, Elmendorf 06	752-3235	753-2290
LEE, Vincent	2128 Providence St Anc 04	277-3098	
PETERSON, William	Box 395 Hillside Dr. Anc 02	344-3116	
RAINERY, Mark	P.O. Box 2196 Anc 10	272-0844	
RIEGER, Durhane & Fritz	1526 F St. Anc 01	274-5768	279-8461
RODDA, Susan	1336 W 15th Ave Anc 01	272-3934	277-9018
TODD, John Jr., LTC	Combat Dev. Section USA Alaska Ft Rich 05		863-7194
WATT, John	Indian Rural Stn Indian, AK		279-9411

## CHANGE OF ADDRESS

- BROLSMA, Ken & Loretta 485 Appleton Road,  
Stmi, Calif. 93065
- LESLEY, Charles 3708 McCall St, Apt #2, Salt Lake City, Utah 84103
- PEASE, Chuck 7 Caldwell Rd. Bloomfield, Conn. 06002
- SARTOR, Robert & Charlotte Box 58, Palmer, AK 99645

CONDENSED MINUTES OF MCA MEETING OF APRIL 20, 1972

Slides of the Portage Glacier area were shown. All visitors welcomed. Minutes accepted as written. The MCA treasury shows a balance of \$529.22; Brooks Range Fund, \$193.43. Rock School is scheduled for the last three weekends in July. Glacier School set for the last two weekends in August. Sign-up sheet was available. For ideas on programs for coming meetings, call Barry Kircher. 55 HIKES due out June 1st. The Brooks Range Trust Fund should be in operation soon. The Freenys will be moving to Portland June 1st and the Bob Smiths to Washington May 10th.

Respectfully submitted, Kathy Gorham, Secretary  
PRESIDENT'S PEN

Pat Freeny, our treasurer, leaves Alaska June 1st with his wife, Marsha, and their new daughter, Kristen. Marsha has coordinated the cookie-Kool-Aid thing for us at our monthly meeting. Both have been active MCA members and will be quite missed. It will be three years before they have a chance to once again live in Alaska.

The Board of Directors has appointed Gil Todd to fill out Pat's term as treasurer, and Gil has agreed to do so.

The summer Flattop Sleep-In is approaching, so plan ahead to attend this fun-filled spectacle.

Wendell Oderkirk & Peter

The Alaska Rescue Group presents  
**FOOD FOR THOUGHT - General Problems of Survival**

Evaluating Circumstances

In starting any survival effort, remember that the intelligent discipline and organization with which the individual or group approaches the problems will determine the success of any survival procedures. The establishment of an unhurried routine will bring about the calm and confidence without which considered decisions are impossible. In a survival situation, every decision is important.

One of the most important things for you to learn as a potential survivor is to make decisions which will increase your chances of successful survival. You must recognize that such decisions will have to be based upon your previous survival training. You should have the ability to evaluate all of the circumstances with which you are faced and come up with a course of action which will profit you to the greatest degree.

Decisions are difficult to make at any time. Under survival conditions, they are even more difficult to make since there is little room for error. You might say that survival is one thing which must be done properly the first time.

If you have a frame of reference through which to appraise the problem areas, you will be much better prepared to make decisions under survival conditions.

At no time should you attempt to move unless you have an accurate idea of where you are and where you are going. To wander aimlessly will use up vital energy which is very difficult to replace under survival conditions. You must also analyze the equipment and materials at your disposal before attempting cross-country travel.

Whether you plan to stay in one place or to travel, you will want to know where you are. If you are traveling, you need to know what direction to take. If you are staying, you want to know your location so that you can help your rescuers.

No movement should be undertaken unless you have the necessities of survival to support you during travel. You should have sufficient water to reach the next possible source of water as indicated on your map or chart, and enough food to carry you through the immediate travel period until you are able to procure additional food. To leave shelter and travel, if the weather is so adverse that travel would be excessively dangerous, would be foolhardy.

In addition to the basic requirements of food, water, and shelter, your physical condition at the time of starting travel must be considered, and you must also consider your ability to maintain travel. If you are in good shape, you will be able to move an appreciable distance, but if you have allowed yourself to get badly out of shape, extended travel will be very difficult, perhaps impossible. You must analyze any injury that you may have received during the emergency and this must enter into the decision and be given an appropriate degree of importance.

A typical decision is the one you may be required to make in a desert area, as illustrated by the following example. The water supply that you have available will play the key role in making all decisions in desert areas. Therefore, if you are near a source of water, stay near the water supply and allow time for recovery from any injuries that you may have suffered. If, however, you are in an area which is devoid of water, you must move to an area where water is available. This must be done regardless of injuries or other considerations which are mentioned above. To remain in any location without water will surely compromise your chances of survival.

Making decisions under the handicap of the emotional upset accompanying the emergency will be exceptionally difficult. Recognizing this, you should hole up for a period of time to allow yourself to recover from the mental--if not the physical--shock surrounding the situation. When the extreme shock has subsided, you will be able to evaluate the situation, analyze the factors involved, and make a decision upon which you can rely.

If the survival incident involves a group, you should organize your party and your temporary camp. The first step in organization of the party will be to appoint individual members to specific jobs, based on previous knowledge of their abilities and their physical and mental capacities to handle them. Pool all food and equipment in charge of one man. Prepare a shelter to protect all personnel from rain, sand, snow, wind, cold, or insects. Collect all possible fuel, the variety of which will be determined by your geographical location. Always try to have at least one day's supply of fuel on hand.

Weighing the factors under survival conditions will be a trying thing to do. Keep your head; do not panic; and realize that the decisions are purely your own. You should not be satisfied with a plan which has many if's, and's, or but's. The most workable plan in most instances will be the simplest plan. Any plan can be interrupted by circumstances over which you have no control. For this reason, it is extremely wise to have an alternate plan which can be implemented when your initial plan of action has been interrupted.

If you recognize that any plan is only as good as your ability to carry it out, you will realize that an alternate plan is just as important as the initial plan itself. Providing you recognize the difficulties in establishing plans of action under survival conditions, you should be able to take positive action which in the long run will be to your benefit. -from OUTDOOR LIVING: Problems, Solutions, Guidelines MRA

GUNSIGHT MOUNTAIN 6441' April 9, 1972 Larry Swanson

It was a cloudy day Sunday but we (Art Ward, Mike Evans, my brother Trent and I) decided to have a go at the peak anyway. We left our car at about 8:45 AM and started up toward the peak, but it was slow going since our skis broke through the crust with every step. About half way up, the snow got harder, and we were able to make better time after that. Trent, however, did not have skins on his skis and was thus forced to sidestep up most of the way so he decided to wait for us since he was falling behind. About three-fourths of the way up, Art decided to ski back and wait for us with Trent since he did not feel like slogging up the rest of the way.

Mike and I finally got to the top about 3:30 PM and could not find a register in the cairn, so we left a little one in a plastic bag and then headed down. We had skied up to within 800 vertical feet from the top and thus it did not take long to bomb back down to Trent and Art. We all had a real good time skiing down to the car even though we all managed to fall quite a bit in the irregular snow except Art who had his downhill skis.

CLASSIFY MOUNTAINEERS?

by Marty Corcoran

At first glance, to attempt to classify mountaineers seems an impossibility. Each mountaineer is a staunch individualist, priding himself on his independence and uniqueness. Yet, perhaps it is this same individualism which lends itself to some type of classification.

The professional mountaineer lives to climb. His sole purpose in life is to climb, and he will go to extremes to accomplish this goal. He makes excuses about conducting high-altitude research, frostbite studies and glacial studies--none of which can be done below 10,000 feet. Normally, these "studies" can only be done on the slopes of some as yet unscaled peak. The professional has quite a few supporters including governmental agencies, institutions and individuals (all retired mountaineers?), as well as the most obvious, the mountaineering club.

The amateur or "weekend" mountaineer lacks the support of the professional and must scrimp and save for all his equipment. He sometimes becomes fanatical about this and thus becomes an equipment freak. Any mailman can testify to this since the equipment freak's mailbox is constantly crammed and stuffed with mountaineering booklets, pamphlets and catalogs.

If the weekender does not become an equipment freak, he is bound to become a thank-God-it's-Friday-and-five-o'clock freak, especially during the summer climbing months. With his car bulging at the sides with all his equipment ready to go, he sits poised by his office door counting off the seconds til five o'clock. If you look closely at .0001 seconds after five o'clock, you can see a blur whiz from the office building. This could happen earlier in the day if the poor guy can wrangle a way to get off early, but not too early--he's saving as much leave time as possible for a two-week climb, one he has been planning all winter.

Within the professional and weekend mountaineering asylums, one finds the rock climber and the snow and ice climber. The rock climber finds challenge and beauty untold in what seems a simple boulder to the average person. The locations of prized boulders are quickly spread among this group, and the discovery of anew one brings about strange physical changes in the boulder bug--his eyes enlarge into a hypnotic stare, his body begins moving into contorted positions as he anticipates climbing, and his fingers twitch uncontrollably as he contemplates finding finger holds on his route up the boulder.

The glacier rat scoffs at rock. His love is for cotton-colored snowfields and blue ice, yet invariably he must climb over and around rock to reach his icy playground. Tempers flare as he slips and slides on rocks wet from spray from the glacial stream, as he slides back two steps for every one taken on a scree slope, and as his ice axe bangs and clangs against the rocks as he scrambles over small boulder fields. With his verbal christenings of the rocks, it is no place for tender ears.

After his hassle with the heathen rocks, the glacier rat is apt to be a little more deranged upon reaching the ice--more deranged because he is thought to be somewhat deranged in the first place for wanting to climb a glacier.

Perhaps, in truth, these are merely pseudo-classifications or extreme examples, but mountaineers do have a few things in common. They are fiercely independent individuals, they believe in "doing their own thing," and they hate being classified.

## CONSERVATION COMMENTS

by Tom Meacham

This month, a collection of random items of interest:

- 1) RABBIT CREEK DEVELOPMENT--Bruton Enterprises of Anchorage has purchased a 310-acre piece of land on upper Rabbit Creek which it intends to develop as a "recreational site." With a purchase price in the neighborhood of \$300,000, the "recreation" will have to furnish a high return on investment, which indicates that hiking, climbing, snowshoeing and cross-country skiing won't be high on the development's list.

This land, I understand, straddles Rabbit Creek and extends up the valley slopes on both sides of the creek. The MCA has as large an interest here as any member of the public, since our historic access to Flattop, Rabbit Lake, Ptarmigan Peak and the Suicides may be affected by the restrictions and types of use which Bruton Enterprises may develop.

In addition, the land is surrounded on three sides by Chugach State Park, and this valley is not contemplated to be a high-density or mechanized-use area. Will a private "Little Mineral King" adversely affect the adjacent Park land? MCA should keep its eyes and ears open on this one.

2) WILDERNESS INACTION--Unofficial word has apparently gone out to all Federal agencies to hold their pending wilderness proposals in whatever stage they are now, until the 1972 elections are over. While it's nice to know that wilderness now has a political impact, it would also be nice to know that the momentum generated by the Federal agencies in Alaska (notably the Fish and Wildlife Service and the National Park Service) will not be lost. But don't worry about any "pending" Forest Service wilderness proposals: This agency plans no action on Alaskan wilderness suggestions until the Wilderness Act expires in 1974, and then only when and if a new "Wilderness Act" is enacted by Congress for each area the USFS in Alaska may recommend for wilderness classification.

3) BIKE DAY IS MAY 20--Watch the newspaper for the "parade" schedule. Get your wheel out and who the City Fathers and the highway engineers that bikers are a force to be reckoned with! Bike Day is sponsored by the Bike Day Committee. Do join your cycling friends at 10:00 AM at 9th & L of the Park Strip on May 20th.

4) CAMPBELL AIRSTRIP PLANS--With the City and Borough competing for the chance to develop Campbell Airstrip Reservation as a subdivision or as an open space O'Hare Field, take your pick. The BLM may surprise them with a plan which recognizes the natural values of the area and gives them top priority. And the BLM presently manages the property, so this should give their plan some added weight, but vocal support from local citizens will help, when the plan is unveiled.

#### WHAT-SCREE-SAID-WAY-BACK-THE N-DEPT.

10 years ago... May, 1962--A "do-it-yourself canape party"--Each member of the club was asked to bring his favorite camping dish - a sample serving not potluck size portion. SCREE informed there may be a prize for the most delicious though least appetizing looking selection. Armour Company sent a representative to demonstrate their new camping products.

5 years ago... May, 1967--While on the 4500' level of Byron Peak, 10 feet from the end of a cornice, the cornice fractured. William Hauser managed to heel into the snow using the rope which was tied to Chuck McLaughlin who was hurled down. Bob Spurr stopped using a sitting hip belay with his ice axe and dangling at the end of his rope was Nick Parker. For an hour and a half the two men dangled below the cornice overhang. Parker was able to prussik up to an ice axe stuck in the snow 80 feet above him. An ice axe was lowered McLaughlin, enabling him to climb over the last six feet to the top.

SCREE YAM

BITS & PIECES

On March 31st, Trent Swanson and Scott Mueller climbed Hidden Peak 5105' and afterwards had an enjoyable ski run out the valley.

On Thursday, April 6, 1972, Bob Smith, Art Ward and Larry Swanson left Art's house at about noon and headed up toward Eagle River Valley. They then made a quick ascent of Mt. Magnificent 1285'. They were lucky enough to see six sheep even though three dogs from an Eagle River homestead that accompanied them to the summit did their best to scare off any game.

On April 8, 1972, Larry Swanson hiked up Birdseye Ridge 3505' and on the way up met two guys from Bird Creek who were out for some afternoon sun. About 600' below the top there were five more guys setting up their tents for the night. Most of the way up summerlike conditions were encountered but toward the top there was still quite a bit of snow.

Pat Freeny, Larry Swanson and Pat's dog, Jumar, made the fourth recorded ascent of Mt. Significant 5450+50 (highest on Anch B-7 quad) on Saturday, April 15, 1972. This is the first time it has been climbed in four years. They saw a bear on the summit ridge but luckily it went down into Peters Creek Valley before they got too close to it.

Scott Mueller and Trent Swanson climbed the Wedge 4600' on April 15, 1972.

Bill Barnes and Steve Jones broke in the summer Seward Highway rock climbing practice several days ago. Bill fell while on a lead. Seems there were so many fire engines, ambulances, police cars, etc. roaring by with sirens at full blast that he wasn't paying enough attention to what he was doing and peeled. Sirens and flashing lights--do they come under objective dangers?

Mt. McKinley? Mt. McKinley, that's where you'll find Wendell Oderkirk, Barry Kircher, Bill Barnes, Steven Jones, Everett Wenrick and Bryan Forbes after May 20th. Best wishes for a whole group of good weather and a fantastic climb for you fellows!

GOODBYE (for a short while only we hope) to Bob and Anne Smith and young son, David Merrill. He will be setting up a business to drill and fill (teeth, that is) stateside. Good luck in your business venture, Bob!

GOODBYE (for three years, Pat says) to Pat and Marsha Freeny and daughter, Kristen. Good luck in your residency stateside, Pat!

Do be sure and write up your hikes and climbs for either for the illustrious Bits & Pieces or a separate article--any length. Do share your experiences with other mountaineers. You need not be an experienced climber or writer I will put them in the first SCREE after they are submitted if at all possible. If you wish your write-up to be in a particular issue or place, just indicate what you want on the top of your write-up.