



MOUNTAINEERING CLUB OF ALASKA
MAY 1987

BOX 2037

ANCHORAGE, ALASKA 99510
Volume 30, Issue 05

MAY MEETING

The meeting will be held Wednesday, May 20th at 7:30 pm at the Pioneer Schoolhouse, 3rd & Eagle Streets, Anchorage. After the business meeting, Don Hansen will present a slide show on hiking in the Wrangells and also some slides of several past MCA hikes.

MINUTES FOR THE APRIL MEETING

The meeting was held April 15th at the Pioneer Schoolhouse, and called to order by President Mark Findlay at 7:50 pm. The reading of the minutes for March was waived. New members and guests were welcomed.

TREASURER'S REPORT

\$ 97.57 - Petty Cash
735.24 - Checking Account
4,606.57 - Money Market
\$5,439.38 - Total MCA Monies

I. COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. Outings

Jim Pommert asked for members to sign up for trips. As of yet no release form has been initiated, so until it is activated all trips are private and not officially MCA. There are still openings for more trips. Jim is the one to call if you want to lead. One correction for the April Scree is that the Crow Pass trip is July 2-5, not July 25.

B. Parks Advisory

Congratulations went to Rick and Tim for the stay in the Chugach Park helicopter landing decision.

II. OLD BUSINESS

A. Hotline

If you are having trouble getting through check the instructions in the

April Scree. Be sure to hold down the push buttons on your phone long enough for the machine to catch the tones. If you are still having problems, call Mark Findlay (before 10 pm.)

B. Manitoba Cabin

Tom Choate reported that he attempted to visit the cabin. The woman who is part owner on the lease said she was sorry but he could not use the cabin that weekend, it was being occupied. Tom drove by the cabin and found no one there. There is a red cabin, outhouse, and sauna. It is immediately off the road at the highest point of the pass. The situation is still being checked into to determine the legitimacy of the offer.

III. NEW BUSINESS

A. Amendments to the By-Laws

Mark introduced several By-Laws changes in writing which will be printed in (this) Scree as required by the Constitution, and voted on at the May meeting.

B. Polish Invitation

Willy Hersman informed the club of a request to the MCA from the High Mountain Club of Warsaw. Some of their members would like to come to Alaska to climb, but need an official invitation to come to the U.S. The invitation would carry no financial obligation for the MCA, other than some floor space for the climbers when they are in Anchorage for a short time. The club voted to send a letter to the High Mountain Club of Warsaw inviting them to climb in Alaska in 1988.

IV. ANNOUNCEMENTS

A. Coastal Trail

Newsletters were made available at the meeting.

B. South Buttress

Mike Frank announced that he, Greg Higgins, Ted Laska, Tom Meacham, and Ken Richter were looking for a sixth partner to climb Denali this spring. If interested, contact one of the above.

C. Outdoor School

Barb Byrne informed the club of the Outdoor Program for the Anchorage School District. It is looking for volunteers to fill their talent bank. They are in need of field guides. Barb presented a short slide show about the school after refreshments.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:15.

Thank you Barb Byrne for slides of the Outdoor Program. Let's keep that worthwhile program afloat. Willy - what a show! I felt like I experienced a bit of the Pamirs myself.

Respectfully Submitted,
Marcy Baker

Proposed Amendments to MCA By-Laws

II. MEMBERSHIP

B. Classifications

Single Member: A person who has reached his/her 18th birthday.

Family Member: Spouse and children under 18 years of age

Junior Member: A person who has reached his/her 14th but not his/her 18th birthday. This class pays single membership, unless covered by a family membership. Participation in club activities without direct supervision of guardian requires written permission.

Honorary Member: Any person eligible for membership who is elected by the members at any regular meeting or by recognition of the Executive Committee. This class shall not pay dues.

C. Membership is limited to 2,500 memberships.

IV. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Vice-President - (c) Provide programs and entertainment at club meetings and other club social activities.

V. DUES

A. Amount

Single Membership: \$10.00

Family Membership: \$15.00

Junior Membership: \$10.00 (not covered by family)

B. Due Date . Change September 1 to October 1.

IX. COMMITTEES

1. Programs - Duty of Vice-President

2. Hiking and Climbing (Instead of Outings)

*** GENERAL CHANGES : Pronouns "he" or "him" revised to "he/she" or "him/her".

ADZE

ACC Wilderness Studies
Summer Classes

Prices start at only \$55.00.

Beginners and intermediates for backpacking, mountaineering, rock climbing, survival, tracking, canoeing, whitewater rafting, sea kayaking and wildflowers. Classes are smaller than fall or spring.

Call Todd Miner: 688-9958 h, 786-1468 w

CLIMBERS for WRANGELL-ST. ELIAS RANGE

Looking for partners:

Ken Omerra (not sure of spelling)

1560 County Hill Dr.

Ogden, UT 84403

801-399-9905

At the April meeting there seemed to be a lot of buzzing about all kinds of trips over the state. Here's a book list of interest from the MCA Library:

Nameless Valleys, Shining Mountains (expeditions to the Brooks Range)

Brooks Range Passage

Wildlife of the North Slope

White Winds (Denali)

Hall of the Mountain King (Denali)

Mt. McKinley: The Pioneer Climbs

Minus 148 (Denali)

Exploring Mt. McKinley National Park

Mountain of My Fear (Huntington)

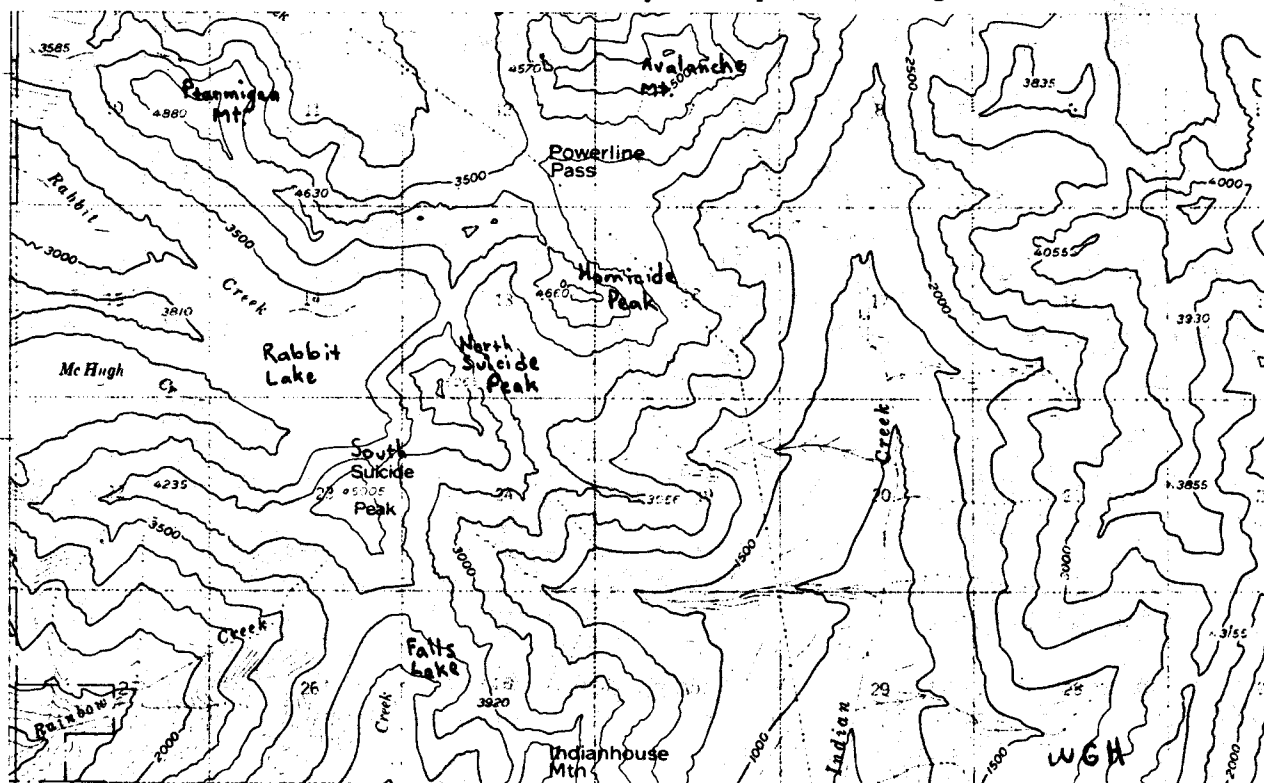
Deborah: A Wilderness Narrative

Alaska Paddling Guide

Kathy Burke

MAP TRIVIA

Just some names to add to your maps; Anchorage A-7.



May 87

TRIP REPORTS

Mitre Might 1400' Grade V Waterfall

On March 14, Charlie Sassara, Brian Cannard, Karl Swanson and I completed a first ascent on a Grade V waterfall off the west face of the Mitre above Eklutna Glacier. I first saw this waterfall on a ski traverse up the East Fork and down the Eklutna Glacier in 1985. This area offers a tremendous opportunity for ice climbing large waterfalls comparable to those of Valdez.

We left the parking lot at Eklutna Lake at 7:30 Saturday morning and quickly made our way across the lake and up the road to the old campgrounds by a snowmachine pulling three skiers and three sleds. Speeds of 35 mph and hills and corners on the road made for an exciting approach.

A short ski up the river and climb up the glacier about 3/4 mile brought us to the base of the waterfall. The immensity and majesty of the entire Eklutna Valley with sheer rock walls rising thousands of feet threw off our perspective. Each feature on the climb was at least half again as big as we anticipated.

At 1:00 Charlie and Brian started up the right side of the waterfall while Karl and I climbed the left side. The falls is split at the bottom 300 feet and converges at the base of the crux pitch: 130' of vertical ice with overhung roofs to the left. Karl and Charlie climbed independently side by side in the sun, sharing screws for protection. Charlie reached a comfortable belay stance using his 300' rope while Karl ran out our two shorter ropes just below the stance. I climbed to the first screw as Karl climbed on to Charlie. Brian and I then climbed side-by-side on the blue ice. A 20-foot vertical step brought us to a short section of snow and about 400 feet of ice ranging from 45 deg to 80 deg steps. I belayed Karl up a 30-foot section of vertical ice to the base of the last pitch.

Dying of thirst we chopped a hole and used an ice screw to suck out cold water. I led the last 150-foot pitch in excellent March, plastic ice up a couple of vertical steps. As we gathered on top at about 7:00 pm we decided not to rappel the route as it would have taken ten ice screws. We climbed another 1000 feet up the Mitre and traversed south across benches to gain access to the glacier about 3/4 mile up glacier from the waterfall. We roped up and walked down glacier, negotiating crevasses and icefalls by the dim light of the moon. We reached our packs at the base of the waterfall at 9:30 to wolf down some much needed and wanted food and drink. Camp was reached at about 10:30 to end a good 15-hour day.

Sunday we climbed three pitches of ice just behind the old campground, graded II, III+, and IV+ respectively. After another exciting ride across the lake and a beer in the Eklutna Bar during a St. Patty's Day celebration, we decided to call the climb "Mitre Might".

Mike Miller

HIKING AND CLIMBING SCHEDULE

- May 9 O'MALLEY PEAK
10 miles round trip; 2700' elev. gain. Call leader for details and sign-up. Class B.
Leader: Don Hansen 279-0829
- 10 WOLVERINE PEAK
10 miles round trip; 3400' elev. gain. See 55 Ways #34 for details. Meet UAA parking lot at 9 am. Slow pace. Class B.
Leader: Mark Findlay 337-8666
- 16-17 MATANUSKA PEAK
14 miles round trip; 6000' elev. gain. See 55 Ways #43 for details. Call leader for sign-up. Class D.
Leader: Jim Pommert 344-5656
- 23-25 CHICKALOON-BOULDER CR
18 miles, 1000' elev. gain. This has been a favorite MCA Memorial Day hike in years past. It offers relatively flat and widely varied terrain. The middle day is available for loafing or other day hikes to any of the many peaks in the area. Call leader for details and sign-up. Class B.
Leader: Marty Bassett 694-3917
- 30-31 BOLD PEAK
20 miles round trip; 6500' elev. gain. This year is the 40th anniversary of Bold's first ascent. Ride your mountain bike around the lake for an easy first day (walk if you like). Climb on Sunday and return the same day. Ice axe, one prussik loop and swami required for the climb. Mostly a scramble. Class E.
Leader: Willy Hersman 338-5132
- June 6 PYRAMID PEAK
10 miles round trip. 2300' elev. gain. Hike/ski trip from Turnagain Pass. Spring snow conditions will prevail. Fishscale style skis or klister will be needed. Call leader for sign up. Class C.
Leader: Rick Maron 338-6969
- 6-7 BRUSH TRAIL TO MINT HUT
Leave UAA at 8:30 am. 16 Miles round trip. We will not be going as far as the hut. Bring bow saws. May do an easy climb if work gets done. Come help for one day if you like. Class B.
Leader: Willy Hersman 338-5132
- 14 MYSTERY MOUNTAIN
Climb something with Tom. About Class C. Call for details and sign-up.
Leader: Tom Choate 333-5309

- 20-21 FLATTOP SLEEPOUT
4 miles, 1200' elev. gain. No sign-up. JUNE MEETING will be held on same night at 8:00 pm, on the summit. Call Mark Findlay for questions.
- 27 CURRY RIDGE
10 miles, 2000' elev. gain. Call leader for details and sign-up Class B.
Leader: Kathy Burke 346-2841
- July 2-5 CROW PASS-GLEN ALPS
Jim Pommert
- 11-12 GLEN ALPS
Don Hansen
- 18 TURNAGAIN PASS RIDGE
Rick Maron
- 18-19 REED LAKES
Bill Wakeland

TRIP CLASSIFICATIONS

The classifications below do not consider individual trip hazards such as river crossings, scree slopes, snow fields, bears, etc. Trip leaders are required to inform the trip participants of any such hazards either verbally, on the sign-up sheet, or in the trip description. Leader approval is required for all trips.

NON-TECHNICAL: Following are a few standards used to classify non-technical trips. The classification is made in terms of hiking distance and altitude gain. Many trips are not on established trails.

CLASS A: Easy hikes with a maximum distance of 8 miles for day trips or 4 miles per day for overnight trips. Altitude gain up to 1200 feet.

CLASS B: Trips involving a maximum distance of up to 12 miles for a day hike or 6 miles per day for an overnight trip. Altitude gain of 1200 to 2500 feet.

CLASS C: Trips up to 15 miles for a day hike or 8 miles per day for an overnight trip. Altitude gain up to 3500 feet. Scree, steep grass, or other rough terrain problems may be encountered.

CLASS D: Hikes and climbs with an altitude gain of over 3500 feet or a distance of greater than 15 miles for a day hike or greater than 8 miles per day for an overnight trip. Peaks in this classification may require minimal climbing skills.

CLASS E: Hazardous climbing conditions may be encountered. A Basic Mountaineering Course may be required.

TECHNICAL: Technical trips are open to all qualified climbers. However, the registration on any particular trip must be restricted to a safe and manageable number of climbers. Registration is made directly with the leader who determines the qualifications needed for the trip.

TRIP PARTICIPANTS have the obligation to acquaint themselves with the nature of the trip and to verify that it is within their capability and experience. Anyone wishing to participate in any trip above CLASS A must have completed one or more trips of the next lower classification, or the equivalent.

Approved by MCA Board, March 1987

GENERAL RULES FOR MCA SANCTIONED TRIPS

1. Proper equipment is required as follows:

<u>Day Hikes</u>	<u>Additional for Overnight or Special Situations</u>
Map, compass, whistle	
Raingear that works	Down or synthetic equivalent sleeping bag
Warm clothing (not cotton)	
Hiking boots	Tent (or prearranged sharing)
Sunscreen & dark glasses	Sleeping pad
Mosquito repellent	Stove (if need to cook or melt snow) fires usually prohibited
Water	
Food	Adequate food for extra day
Fire starter	Dry clothes, socks, headgear, gloves
First aid kit with moleskin	Stream crossing footwear
Pocket knife	

(This is a minimum list, it does not include equipment for climbs or winter.)

2. No dogs are permitted on MCA trips (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 trip and the leader must know where all participants are. Anyone separating from the group without the leader's approval is no longer considered a participant in the MCA Sanctioned trip.
4. Non-sponsored, informal, mid-week hikes meet at UAA Sports Complex, west entrance, unless otherwise instructed.
5. You must be signed up on a trip roster (club meetings) or through contact

with the leader, and have signed the club waiver to be on a club trip.

6. When carpools are arranged, please plan to pay the driver your share without his (her) asking you. Generally \$5 - short trips, \$10 or more for longer.
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 the leader, help find a replacement.
8. Total number of people on club trips:
Minimum: 4 (for safety reasons)
Maximum: Leader option, depends upon the trail and campsite conditions, but generally limited to 12 in trailless areas or State & National Parks
9. Firearms are not encouraged, and please let the leader know if you want to carry one - it will be leader's option.

Formulated January 1987 by Hiking and Climbing Committee

NOTE THE FOLLOWING CHANNEL 7 PROGRAM FOR MAY

Saturday 23, 8:00 pm Eiger Solo

Climbing Notes

In February Charlie Sassara and Mark Williams did an ascent of the west face of Williwaw (5445); 9 pitches of steep ice. Very enjoyable Charlie said.

Mt. Palmer (6940) saw some attention this winter as well. Stuart Grenier, Greg Griffin and I almost made it up in December but short days and weather stopped us 600' short. Leo Americus succeeded in February to become the first male on top. Palmer has only been ascended twice, both solo. It was first climbed by Grace Hoeman, October 1970 from Lake George. Leo climbed from Hunter Creek Glacier, and up the northwest ridge.

History Corner

The MCA Flattop Sleepout is a tradition that has been carried out each year on the summer and the winter soltices (missing the winter soltice only twice since it was started). The first time this event took place was June 21, 1967. It wasn't actually a sleepout, in fact it was the monthly meeting, held on the flat summit of Alaska's most climbed mountain. To honor that event, and our tradition, 20 years old, the MCA will hold its June meeting on Saturday evening, June 20th on the top of Flattop.

Willy Hersman