

MOUNTAINEERING CLUB OF ALASKA

BOX 102037

ANCHORAGE, ALASKA 99510

MAY 1992

Volume 35, Issue 05

MAY MEETING

May 20 7:30 pm Wednesday, Pioneer Schoolhouse, 3rd and Eagle Sts.,
downtown Anchorage, Alaska.

Slide Show Dave Pahlke will show slides of climbing Mt. Fairweather and the
first winter ascent done in 1984.

HIKING AND CLIMBING SCHEDULE

- May 16 O'MALLEY PEAK
Ski or climb up Little O'Malley notch and cross over ridge
to base of O'Malley and up the snow gully. Need ice axe and
skins for the skis. Class C.
Leader: Don Hansen 243-7184
- 16 BASIC SKILLS PRACTICE
Noon at the notch on Little O'Malley. Bring ice axe.
Leaders: Paul Berryhill 248-6271, Dan O'Haire 561-1141
- 23-25 CHICKALOON-BOULDER CREEK
Memorial Day weekend. Class B. Backpack trip on
established trail.
Leader: Marty Bassett 694-3917
- June 6 LAZY MT.
5 miles r.t. Elev. gain 3120'. Good trail. Class A.
Leader: Marty Bassett 694-3917 h, 276-1317 ext 210 w
- 14 EKLUTNA LAKE
Mountain bike trip around the lake. Class A.
Leader: Don Hansen 243-7184
- 20 EAGLE LAKE
11 miles r.t. Elev. gain 750'. Good trail. Class B.
Leader: Marty Bassett 694-3917 h, 276-1317 ext 210 w
- 20-21 FLATTOP SOLSTICE
Traditional overnight on the summit. Class C.
Leader: President O'Haire 561-1141

- June 20 - July 5 LOGAN MOUNTAINS, N.W.T., CANADA
 (Not the same as Mt. Logan.) Will charter from Watson Lake, Yukon to Glacier Lake. The terrain contains numerous spectacular Yosemite-like walls so the route will depend on what we can hike. There are no trail systems. There will be some glacier travel and possible fourth-class climbing. Moderate pace. Cost of the charter is estimated to be \$500 (U.S.). Limit 4 people. Class: GLACIER TRAVEL.
 Leader: Dave Logan 243-4887
- June 27 CROW PASS - EAGLE RIVER
 Second annual 27-mile hike. One-day hike on good trail, approximately 11 hours. Class D.
 Leader: Allan Shayer 338-0341
- 27-28 WILLIWAW LAKES
 Easy beginner's overnight trip on good trail. 12 miles round trip. Class B.
 Leader: Eric Teela 349-4292
- July 3-7 HUT CONSTRUCTION ON MATANUSKA GLACIER
 One day to hike in, one day to hike out, three days for construction. Tools will be needed. Call leaders. Class: GLACIER TRAVEL. Crampons, ice axe, etc. No skis (no snow).
 Leaders: Willy Hersman 338-5132, Neil O'Donnell 274-5069
- 3-12 WOOD RIVER FLOAT TRIP
 Bill's excellent adventure in Wood-Tikchik State Park. Fly to Dillingham, charter to the park. Call for details.
 Leader: Bill Wakeland 563-6246
- 4-16 PORCUPINE RIVER
 Charter plane from Fairbanks to Old Crow, Y.T. 300-mile descent of the river to Fort Yukon. Moderate pace, from 10 to 14 days. Participants may permanently break from the group and proceed on their own. Cost of the charter estimated to be \$350.00 per person. The flight from Fort Yukon to Fairbanks is around \$100.00. Collapsible boats must be used.
 Leader: Marty Bassett 694-3917
- 7-12 SCANDINAVIAN PEAKS
 Continuation of July 3-7 trip, after hut construction. Club hut built in 1990 will serve as base for climbs. Class: FIFTH CLASS for the climbs, GLACIER TRAVEL for approach. Members may elect to fly in to the hut, approximate cost \$100. It takes two days to walk out.
 Leader: Tom Choate 333-5309
- 11 or 12 MYSTERY MOUNTAIN
 Only if July 7-12 trip does not go.
 Leader: Tom Choate 333-5309
- 18-25 HARDING ICEFIELD
 Tustamena Glacier to Exit Glacier. Glacier travel skills required. Get equipment list from leader. Class: GLACIER TRAVEL.
 Leader: Dan O'Haire 561-1141

- ? SHIP LAKE or REED LAKES
Eric Teela
- 25-26 ROGAINE MOUNTAIN ORIENTEERING
A rough outdoor group activity involving navigation.
Leader: Chris Tomsen 428-2250
- July 25-Aug 8 BROOKS RANGE
Two-week backpacking trip. Optional nontechnical climbs.
Upper Alatna River area. Class C. Strenuous packing with
easy rock scrambling day-trips.
Leader: Don Hansen 243-7184
- August 8 or 20 BLACKTAIL-ROUND TOP
Class C.
Leader: Scott Bailey
- 15-16 MINT HUT
Nine-mile hike to the club's hut and then do rock climbs and
walk-up climbs. Class: FIFTH CLASS or Class E.
Leader: Tom Choate 333-5309
- ? BLACKTAIL-ROUND TOP-VISTA
Elevation gain 4000', 10 miles r.t. Class C.
Leader: Tom Brigham 276-4405

LEADER GUIDELINES

1. Follow the general rules for MCA Sanctioned Trips.
2. Must have a sign-up sheet with all participants' names on it and turn it in to the Hiking and Climbing Committee at the end of the trip.
3. Select a meeting time and place disclosed only to those persons on the sign-up sheet, unless call-ins are acceptable to the leader.
4. Must verify that each participant has signed a valid waiver and that it is on file.
5. Can require special equipment and refuse participation to any person that is ill-equipped (including clothing).
6. Has the authority to split the group (fast and slow), but must select a co-leader to help.
7. Must report any injuries to the MCA President.
8. Must report any personnel problems to the Hiking and Climbing Committee.

Approved by the MCA Board, March 1987

GENERAL RULES FOR MCA SANCTIONED TRIPS

1. Proper equipment is on the next page.
2. No dogs. (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. You must sign up on a trip roster (club meetings) or contact the leader, and you must have signed the club waiver to be on a club trip.
5. 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.
6. If you find you cannot participate after signing up on the roster, please let the leader know, both for transportation and gear-planning and so someone else can go. If you are the leader, help find a replacement.
7. 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 and National Parks
8. Firearms are not encouraged, and please let the leader know if you want to carry one - it will be leader's option. Aerosol bear repellent is preferred.

Formulated January 1987 by Hiking and Climbing Committee

Summer

Raingear that works	Moleskin/Spenco 2nd skin
Windgear	Ace bandage
Wool or fleece pants	Surgical tape
Shorts	Aspirin
Light polypro or wool longjohns	Gauze
Wool shirt	Anti-bacterial ointment
Jacket	4" x 4" pads, band-aids
Baseball cap	Wire
Gloves	Vice grips or pliers
Extra socks	Utility cord
Wool or pile hat	Sewing kit
Hiking boots	Tent (or prearranged sharing)
Stream-crossing footwear	Sleeping pad
Sunscreen	Sleeping bag
Mosquito repellent	Backpack cover
Whistle	Cook pot
Large plastic bag	Stove (fires not allowed)
Lighter, matches	Fuel bottle
Map, compass	Walking stick or ice axe
Aerosol bear repellent (if desired)	Water bottles (not canteens)
FOOD	

Additional for Glaciers

Ice axe	Mittens
Gaitors	Crampons
Climbing boots	Seat Harness
Slings, carabiners	Ice screw(s)
Rappel device	Pulleys
Belay device	Prussiks/ascenders
Rope	Picket (?)
Wands	Skis or snowshoes (?)
Shovel (?)	Glacier glasses/cream

TRIP CLASSIFICATIONS

The classifications below do not take into account 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 participation on 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 trip 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 a 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.

GLACIER TRAVEL: Trips requiring roped travel over glaciers. Knowledge of crevasse rescue, and ice axe and crampon skills are required. Basic understanding of ice and snow anchors is also required.

FIFTH CLASS: Trips which involve fifth class climbing. A Basic Mountaineering course or equivalent is required. Knowledge of belay and rappel techniques and placing anchors is required. Climbing difficulty varies widely with each 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.

TRIP REPORTS

Mt. Rainier Attempt

Dan O'Haire

After a spooky descent with sweaty palms through turbulent clouds, we landed in Seattle. It was springtime and the apple trees were in bloom. twelve strong, we rented a pair of blue vans and drove through rain to the Longmire Inn in Mt. Rainier National Park.

The next day, we awoke to a power failure and pouring rain. Where was the forecasted clear weather? We deliberated over coffee by candlelight in the darkened dining room of the inn. Up at Paradise, it was snowing heavily, and the road was closed. The outlook was not good for our climb.

Even so, when the road was plowed, the group could not be stopped and had to face the storm raging on the mountain. We drove to Paradise and took off, breaking trail through heavy, clinging snow. We staggered on up to treeline, barely able to see.

Briefly, we climbed above the trees, but the storm rented its fury on us. Barely able to stand in the wind, a torrent of ice and snow blinding us and stinging our faces, we retreated to the nearest clump of trees and used our shovels to survive.

The storm raged all that night, but we slept securely behind walls of snow five feet high. In the morning, we burrowed out of tents, half drifted over. The snow continued to fall and we assessed our chances of making the summit. Low on time and dry clothes, and knowing of the extreme avalanche hazard, we reluctantly decided to go back down.

As we started down, we encountered hordes of weekend skiers going up for the day. That afternoon, we hiked in the forest and saw giant trees.

On departure day, the mountain finally came out from its mantle of clouds. From our breakfast table at the inn, we had a bittersweet view of Mt. Rainier, under a perfect blue sky. We vowed to return.

Temptation Peak

4-5 April

Chris Tomsen

Joe Kurtak, Chris Tomsen, Trisha Herminghaus, and Eric Teela skied up the right hand side of Ship Creek from the dam, had lunch at the lower Snowhawk Hut, and reached the Upper Snowhawk Hut well before sunset, about 4 1/2 hours. That evening's highlight was strawberry slush daiquiris courtesy of Eric and a super sticky tapioca pudding which I made and the others refused to share! The next morning we skied in sun up the valley, and then began a slow series of traverses up Temptation on our skis and climbing skins. We cached our skis and poles and continued kick-stepping (carrying ice axes) up to the top, climbing to a large Dall sheep ram perched atop the peak itself. After group photos at the top and basking in the sun a while, we rapidly descended, Joe and Trisha carving fine telemark turns and Eric and I tumbling occasionally. The trip back was also in sun, with sighting of a coyote, numerous ptarmigan, and some grouse.

Joe has offered to take some hikers in this summer; if any of you desire to either work on the trail or on the huts let Joe or myself know and we'll schedule a date to hike in!

ADZE

For Sale:

Asolo Summit ski mountaineering boots
 New soles and liners
 Men's 8 1/2. \$150
 Dan 561-1141

MINUTES OF THE APRIL MEETING

Dan O'Haire called the meeting to order and introduced new members.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

Money Market	-	\$4236.27
Checking Acct	-	1403.36
Petty Cash	-	<u>52.10</u>
Total		\$5691.73

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Hiking and Climbing.

Don Hansen reviewed the extensive upcoming trip schedule. Bill Wakeland cancelled the Paria Canyon trip and will lead a trip to Wood-Tikchik.

Huts.

Willy Hersman reported on the fly-in of the Bockstahler hut. The hut is now ready for a crew of workers in July.

Dan O'Haire asked for information on the condition of the Mint Hut stove and asked for a volunteer to haul in a new one.

Parks Advisory.

Bill Wakeland, former Chugach Advisory Committee member, reported that Ron Crenshaw will meet with members of the MCA to select a suitable route, avoiding the Miller property in Rabbit Creek. Willy Hersman, Peter Sennhauser and Chris Ernst volunteered to meet with Ron.

Training.

Paul Berryhill reported on the recent crevasse rescue practice and noted upcoming climbing practice in May. He hopes to organize a "rock practice" night, as well as an upcoming "mountain skills" class.

BUSINESS

Dan reported several organizations are seeking to work against trailhead vandalism. He outlined the "O'Haire Plan," his proposal:

1. No secrecy/immunity.
2. Transfer money to the victims from the vandals' permanent fund.
3. Confiscate and sell the vehicles used in crimes.
4. Three days in solitary.

Dan announced that he would lead a geology field trip as part of the May 3 March for Parks. The march will raise money with 15 other organizations to fight vandalism.

NEW BUSINESS

A motion was made and passed to give Paul Claus a family membership for one year and to send him a letter of appreciation for the outstanding job he did for the club in flying the Bockstahler hut.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chris Tomsen mad a correction to the April Scree. In his Outdoor Conference report, the quote from Paul Petzolt should read, "...beyond the roadhead. No shrinks, ministers, or policemen (are available) out there!" And, noted that we may soon see a local chapter of the AEE, Association for Experiential Ed. (rather than experimental).

Mountain Trip donated several used Svea and Optimus stoves to members.

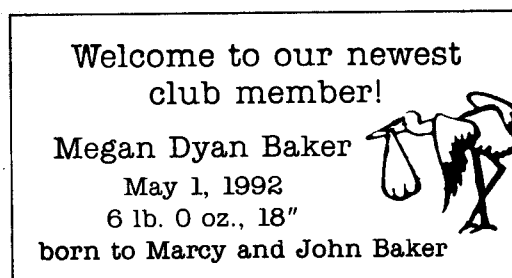
Dan Hourihan, ranger for Wood-Tikchik State Park, presented an outstanding slide show of the nation's largest state park and its lake, river, and climbing potential.

Respectfully Submitted,

Chris Tomsen

President's Notes:

One definition of true wilderness is 'a place where no human has set foot before.' By that standard, true wilderness is a vanishing commodity. We should treasure this time in Alaska, while there is some true wilderness left.



AN ULTIMATUM TO CLUB MEMBERS

Willy Hersman

The following letter was received by the Mountaineering Club of Alaska in reference to access to Rabbit Creek. Read it and make your own conclusions. I include it with the newsletter this month because the hiking season will soon be upon us and members should be aware of the problems with the Miller property, if they are not already.

I would like to comment on three items in the letter:

1. The Mountaineering Club of Alaska as a corporation has no rights to or authority over what goes into 55 Ways. Members of the club gave input to the book's original version years ago in terms of trip descriptions and maps. The club is not and has not been active in contributions to subsequent versions. The club is, however, very supportive of the publication and its authors for many reasons.
2. Unless the Millers have somehow been able to purchase all land between Rabbit Creek and Russia, their comment that "it is virtually impossible to gain access around the parcel in access to Rabbit Lake or the Suicide Peaks area from the west," is absurd.
3. Officials of the club do not condon or support destruction of private property, as the letter states. In terms of destruction, the Millers seem to have done a good job of their own along the trail with bulldozers.

I recall when, in 1979, Jimmy Carter wanted to add millions of acres of Alaska to the National Park system; the so-called D-2 issue. Many people in the state were outraged. "When you take land and put it into the public trust, you lock it up," they said.

If nothing else, the Miller case should serve as evidence that just the opposite is true. Nothing locks up the land like private ownership.

Members should do their best to avoid crossing the Millers' property, as they request. Don't destroy any signs or fences or antagonize the owners in any way. Be good neighbors as we always have been in the past.

24 April 92

Helen Nienhueser
Nancy Simmerman
The Mountaineers

Certified Mail RRR

**RABBIT CREEK VALLEY
MILLER PROPERTY**

P 905 136 319

Invited public trespass on this property for decades as promoted by "55 Ways", the Mountaineering Club must cease immediately.

We had in the past, as well as the former owners, given the public permission to use the the property for access to parklands, Rabbit Lake and the Sucide Peaks in the back of the valley.

The liability for public use of private property became prohibitive for individuals such as ourselves.

We closed the property to public use on September 22, 1988.

Public notice of this closure was widely distributed via media coverage, fencing and on site signs.

Our fencing and signs were torn down. Reclamation landscaping violated. Our lives threatened and the State of Alaska attempted to acquire the property by "adverse possession" for the "right of public use of private property" **without compensation or consideration of private property rights**".

Undoubtedly these actions and views are condoned and supported as Helen Nienhueser and officials of the Mountaineering Club testified as key witnesses for the State.

Needless to say, we were not happy that "55 Ways" continued to invite public trespass by advising.... in the Third Edition, pg 102.. Hikers have picked their way through...." (the revegetated area).

Mountaineering Club Officers and members on behalf of the Club, presented, in court testimony and exhibits, Newsletters and testimony of a persistent promotion and performance of trespass in violation of our private property rights.

Former hospitable public permission has caused us years of legal battle and hundreds of thousands of dollars to protect our private property rights and the right of peaceful possession of the property.

The recent Jury verdict (Superior Court AN 88 10139 Civil) confirmed there is **No Public Access or Right of Public Use** on this property.

Trespassers will be prosecuted.

You are hereby placed on notice that all reference to a "trail" to Rabbit Lake or the Sucides through our property via "55 Ways" must cease immediately and all copies of "55 Ways" showing "a trail" through the property must be removed from public sale and disbursement within 30 days of receipt of this correspondence.

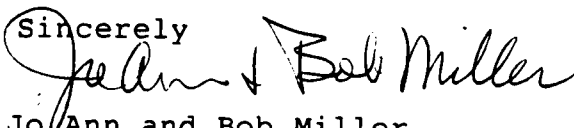
We further request the Mountaineering Club advise all members by Newsletter of personal responsibility and liability for further trespass within 30 days of receipt of this correspondence.

Unfortunately for the public, our property does block the entire Rabbit Creek valley so it is virtually impossible to gain access "around" the parcel in access to Rabbit Lake or the Sucide Peaks area from the west. Inquiries for alternate routes should be directed to Chugach State Park.

We will be happy to work with you in any helpful way to effect deletion of all trespass promotions in your publications.

We do wish to make it very clear however, we will not tolerate any further public encouragement to use our private property for public use **anywhere** in the State of Alaska.

Accordingly you must be most cautious in dealing with any access described in your publications which may involve use of any Miller properties in the State.

Sincerely

JoAnn and Bob Miller

CC" E.G. Boyko, atty/Millers