

MOUNTAINEERING CLUB OF ALASKA
Anchorage Alaska

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October, 1958

MEETING, NOVEMBER 6, 1958, KENI AUDITORIUM, 8:00 P.M.

Please come.

Ernst Bauman will show his slides of Mt. McKinley climbing. The ice axe will be awarded to the winner of the club emblem contest after the members present select the winning design.

The Executive Committee is going to ask the membership for their choice on the following questions:

1. Do you want short training lectures at each meeting during the winter?
2. What particular trips and/or climbs would you like to make?
3. How many can get away for three or four days (including a Sat & Sun) for a minor expedition type trip?

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This rather voluptuous parcel of words is another one of our brain storms. We have been sending out at least one notice per month; so why not work a little harder and put out an informal paper? It's a gamble and an experiment, but if you like it, let us know; a good word or two will keep us publishing. We hope to transmit all pertinent poop as climbing schedules, meeting notices, trip reports, etc. However, most of the material will come from you people plus whatever we can "borrow" from publications of other climbing clubs. Shoot the stuff in to us; by-line credit will be given. We'll put her to bed on the twentieth of each month.

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Don't forget to submit your design for the M. C. A. emblem. Give it to John Robertson by 1 November. An experienced ice axe is the first prize. Among other things, the insignia will be used for club patches.

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OUR LAST MEETING was held on September 3 at the Northern Lights Service Club. If you can remember, it rained cats and dogs that night. Attendance was not large. Due to this, no new business was discussed. Eric Barnes projected his slides of his Ship Rock climb. Those absent missed some very good pictures and a story of the type of rock work outside the scope of many climbers.

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CLIMBING SCHEDULES are being worked out by Bob Rankin's Operations Committee. For the past month or so, they've worked like Sherpas to compile it. We'll publish the schedule next month.

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Wayne Rhodes was by to say so long. He's going out to Louisiana.

John Robertson started out to lone wolf a trip over the Eagle River Trail but got snowed out the night of the heavy fall. We're glad that the white stuff didn't catch him enroute.

Summit Magazine of Big Bear Lake, California, is a real good buy for climbers and hikers. Published monthly and filled with articles by people who do these things; not professional writers. Costs \$3.00 a year.

Have any of you made the trip over the Eagle River Trail or the Indian Creek - Old Mail Trail? We need info on these areas in order to plan jaunts. If you know anything about them, please tell Johnnie Johnston.

Here's a thought: If you need climbing rope, check Sears Roebuck. They have nylon and their prices are the best I've seen yet.

Try this mixture for munching on your next trip. Raisins, chocolate chips, cashew nuts, brazil nuts and cheese hunks together. Rig the portions to suit your taste and eat by the handful. Sounds horrible but goes down easy.

When climbers start talking about mountains, a certain problem is encountered when one wishes to describe just how tough a route may be. What's a bird walk for old Hans-Metz may be a tension job for me. The Europeans use a formal system starting at Class I and going through Class VI. Here again, it depends on the person assigning the classification. Evidently, other people have had this problem as witnessed by the following. It was stolen from a Sierra Club Publication:

EASY - The second party's appraisal of a pitch described as difficult by the party making the first ascent.

MODERATE -- Ditto for a pitch the first party called severe.

MEDDLING - Pertaining to a pitch you'd rather not climb again.

DIFFICULT - obsolete, forced into disuse by second party's penchant for downgrading climb so described.

SEVERE - Obsolete for same reason.

INTERESTING - Describes a climb one grade higher than you'd care to lead just now.

FASCINATING - One grade higher than you would care to lead ever.

IMPRESSIVE - Pertaining to a climb on which expansion bolts are required for direct aid, but cannot be placed.

IMPOSSIBLE - This adjective, along with inaccessible, is long gone into limbo; the 19th-century writer used it to describe climbs subsequently made by girls in their teens, and no one will repeat his mistake.

-Dave R. Brower-

DON'T FORGET THE MEETING

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A MEETING OF THE MOUNTAINEERING CLUB OF ALASKA WILL BE HELD THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 4TH AT 8:00 O'CLOCK IN THE CHUGACH ELECTRIC ASSOCIATION AUDITORIUM. COMMITTEES FOR 1958-59 WILL PRESENT THEIR TENTATIVE PLANS. HANS METZ WILL SHOW HIS SLIDES OF EUROPEAN MOUNTAINS AND CLIMBING. PLEASE PASS THE WORD TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS YOU MAY KNOW.

ALL YOU MEMBERS WHO HAVE SIGNED UP, PLEASE FILL OUT THE ENCLOSED APPLICATION FOR THE RECORDS. ALL YOU PEOPLE WHO HAVE NOT JOINED AS YET, BRING THIS APPLICATION WITH YOU TO THE MEETING. ALL WHO JOIN BY SEPTEMBER 5TH BECOME CHARTER MEMBERS.

THE CLUB WILL SPONSOR A TRIP ON BYRON GLACIER, SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 7TH. WILL ASSEMBLE BY PORTAGE LAKE AT 4:30 A.M. WILL PLAN TO BE OFF THE GLACIER BY 5:30 P.M. JOHNNIE JOHNSTON WILL LEAD. CALL HIM AT 38625 FOR RESERVATIONS AND INFO. THE NUMBER OF ROPES WILL BE LIMITED DUE TO AVAILABLE EQUIPMENT. EACH PERSON WILL NEED GRAMPONS, ICE ANNE, LUNCH, ZINC OXIDE OR SUNBURN CREAM AND DARK GLASSES OR GOGGLES. ONE CLIMBING ROPE FOR EACH THREE CLIMBERS WILL BE REQUIRED. GLACIERS ARE MISERABLE WHEN IT'S WET, SO IF IT RAINS, THE TRIP IS OFF.