

**OCTOBER MEETING:** The annual meeting of the Mountaineering Club of Alaska will be held October 18, at 8:00 PM in the Willow Park Community Center, 9th & Fairbanks. The nominating committee presents the following slate of officers

President:

Ron Linder

Vice President:

Bill Hague

Gayle Nienhauser

Secretary:

Hel'en Wolfe

Treasure:

Leo Hannan

Perry Mead

Board of Directors:

Ruth Schmidt

Nominations will be accepted from the floor.

**Notice:** Membership dues are payable by October 18, 1965, members joining on or after August 1, 1965 are paid up until 1st October, 1966. Members must have paid in full their 1966 dues to be eligible to vote at the annual general meeting Oct 18.

Arrangements are being made to obtain Dr Mills movie on Frostbite. This is a very excellent movie on the treatment and the effects of frostbite and freezing.

#### TWO SUICIDES

Oct 3

Nick Parker

Having a long Sunday at our disposal, Bill Hauser, Scott Foster, and I decided to climb two of the local Anchorage Peaks. We left Anchorage at 4:00 AM, arrived at the end of the road at 5:00 AM, and promptly went to sleep until 6:00 AM. The short nap was due to rotten weather, a blizzard! Around six the weather abated slightly, and we charged up Rabbit Creek Valley, with comments like "I never dressed up this much in Oregon in the middle of the winter!" (Scott and Bill both were amazed by the conditions we encountered at these low elevations). Trudge, trudge, trudge and we arrive only slightly the worse for wear at the base of Suicide Peak. We decide the face and ridge can wait for summer and go up a gully to within 200 feet of the summit. We are blown about a bit, but gain the top at noon. After dall'ying a bit we descend to the col at 4,000 feet which connects the summits of both peaks.

This summit, also called Ptarmigan Peak, proved to be slightly higher, and more interesting. We followed the ridges backside to about 4,900 feet, where we were forced to scramble onto the ridge itself. After a jaunt over some slabs we followed the narrow summit ridge to its apex. Eating a meal (our third for the day) we dashed off, planning to follow another gully to the base of the peaks. The chute we chose was very direct, and we landed at the bottom a short while later.

The day had cleared off somewhat, and we fully enjoyed the view of the two mountains we had scaled. A pleasant walk out and we were Anchorage-bound, wrapped up in plans for more one day expeditions in the surrounding hills.

#### MOUNTAINEERING AS A "CARRY-OVER" PHYSICAL EDUCATION ACTIVITY FOR STUDENTS AT AMU

By Ron Linder

More Americans are participating in a great variety of outdoor recreational activities. Among these activities can be found mountaineering which is gaining popularity. Many people associate mountaineering with the conquests of such well-known giants as McKinley, Aconcagua, Annapurna and Everest. Mountain climbing is not limited to those few experts who scale the vertical face of a peak which has a trail on the opposite side well-worn by a local boy scout troop. A Sunday afternoon picnic excursion to an alpine meadow and a large scale Mt. Everest expedition represent two extreme concepts of mountaineering. The physical and mental adventure of mountaineering is not solely possessed by those few great heroes of climbing. It is also found in the reactions of a group of college students as they tread those last few steps to the summit of old Flat Top and view the rugged snow capped peaks across the valley below. In nearly every area of the United States can be found a challenging peak that anyone of sound health and some skill can climb. Most Americans have their own personal Mt. Everest within a few miles from where they live.

The need for greater emphasis on instruction in the use of the outdoors for recreation is echoing throughout our country. Alaska offers one of the world's largest playgrounds for the sport of mountain climbing. We have capitalized on our great natural resource by offering a physical education activity course in beginning mountaineering at Alaska Methodist University.

This new physical education activity for  $\frac{1}{2}$  semester hour credit was designed to promote the following objectives:

- To develop in the students a sound philosophy of mountaineering
- To develop in the students skills suitable for beginning mountaineering
- To provide experience in beginning mountaineering for the students
- To give the students a lifetime recreational outlet

Class sessions are held on four Saturdays throughout the semester, terminated by a two day weekend climbing excursion. The first session is held in the classroom and subsequent sessions are held in appropriate areas of the nearby Chugach Mountains. Basic principles of hiking, rock climbing, snow climbing and ice climbing, are included in the four sessions. Selection, care and maintenance of equipment--especially ropes--is of paramount importance in beginning mountaineering. Each student is provided a class syllabus with detailed information on all the areas included in the four class sessions. Class size is limited to fifteen students with equal enrollment opportunity for women and men. Previous mountaineering or camping experience is not required for enrollment in the course. The final class session, consisting of a weekend excursion in the mountains, provides a most significant final learning experience--the first big step up the trail to good mountaineering. In spite of sore muscles and exhausted enthusiasms these students are ready the following weekend for more recreation in the mountains.

Many students find their class experience in mountaineering to be of value for hunting and fishing activities in the more rugged terrain of Alaska. Those students who wish to pursue their interest in mountain climbing are encouraged to join the Mountaineering Club of Alaska.

Basic equipment (purchased by the University) includes ice axes, crampons, and ropes.

Many accidents in the mountains might be prevented by sound programs of mountaineering instruction. Some physical educators challenge the appropriateness of mountaineering as a legitimate physical education activity. Let the critics step forward after challenging first the nearest mountain trail.

#### RESUME: SIMULATED ARG RESCUE PRACTICE

On Thursday July 15th a simulated rescue practice was called. The message called for A.R.G. members to assemble in the vicinity of McHugh Creek, at a well marked location. Several people went only to McHugh Creek Campground.

Shortly before 5:00 PM the "victim" secreted himself in the woods about three miles beyond McHugh Creek. At 5:05 PM Gary Hansen, Kerstin Pettersson, and Nick Parker arrived. By 6:25 PM no one else had shown up so the search party consisting of the above three people departed. At 6:35 PM Frank Nosek and Ray Genet arrived and immediately departed after the search party. Hartmut Pluntke arrived at 7:20 PM.

It seemed likely that the victim would be in the vicinity of a ridge running parallel to Turnagain Arm. First the hasty search party scouted along a homestead road, but considerable brush was encountered so they returned to a gravel pit. Here the party split into two groups and entered the brush, one party heading for the upper part of the ridge and the other for the snout. At 8:00 PM Ray Genet found the "victim" Dale Hagen on a rock ledge on the lower part of the ridge. The mission was completed by 8:45 PM.

The CB radios were used during this practice session and they are invaluable. Transmissions were initiated with the call letters of the station and then the number of the unit being called. Under FCC rules and regulations swearing is not permitted.

#### Note:

A search and rescue operation is not the place for a rifle. It should be kept in mind that some of our victims may be hunters who naturally would be carrying guns. If this victim were not unconscious he might panic, if the guns in the hands of the rescuers were being misused, and open fire, endangering the lives of the rescue party.

From this experience all persons concerned might well take heed for this operation did not run as smoothly at any phase as is necessary for our group to be truly effective.