

SCREE



MOUNTAINEERING CLUB OF ALASKA

BOX 2037

ANCHORAGE, ALASKA 99510

November, 1980

Volume 23, Issue #11

November Meeting

The meeting will be held Wednesday, November 19th at 8:00 PM on the top floor of the Pioneer Schoolhouse, 3rd and Eagle, Anchorage. After the business meeting, Dick Tero, who will be flying in from his home in Kodiak, will be presenting his excellent show of recent and historical slides of the Chilkoot trail in addition to selected slides of Katmai National Monument.

MINUTES OF OCTOBER GENERAL MEETING, Oct. 15, 1980

The meeting was called to order at 8:10 PM by President Tim Neale. Minutes of the September meeting were read by the Secretary and approved. Paula Quering gave the Treasurer's report as follows: Cash, \$48, Checking account, \$427, Money Market Fund, \$2,060; total \$2,535. One guest was introduced.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Equipment: Inventory of Club equipment now includes 4 ice axes, 10 pairs of crampons, and 2 climbing ropes. The Board will discuss the need to buy more ice axes and crampons.

Program: October, Bill Wakeland on 1980 summer trip to Kobuk Valley area; November, Dick Tero from Kodiak on Chilkoot Pass and Katmai National Monument; December, movies in Room 114 at downtown gym at 6th and G.

Trails: John Lohff mentioned a report on Alaska Trails sent by Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service to Washington D.C. The Lands near Anchorage, Eklutna, and Nelchina. Donna Agosti moved that the Secretary write BLM concerning need for Simpson Cabin campsite area easement where MCA has gone on several previous Memorial Day weekends. Motion seconded and passed. Other BLM easement notices were referred to the new Board for review and action. President Neale reported that the State Parks Department had recently renewed use permits to MCA for the White-Out and Eklutna huts built by MCA on Chugach State Park land with the provision that no private profit use may be made of them. They are also subject to 30 day notice of cancellation. MCA will get a permit for the Eagle Hut.

Library: This is still located at Tom Meacham's house. He is not moving until February.

SCREE: Paula Quering asked that all volunteers to help with SCREE meet with her for a few minutes after the meeting.

Outings: Sign-up sheets were made available for: O'Malley on October 18 and Tikishla on October 25-26. Rick Severn will put his phone numbers in SCREE for leading family hikes with children, to be coordinated with Hikes Chairman Lavonia James. Rick's home phone is 337-1394 and work phone is 279-6522.

New business: Notice will be in SCREE later about Intermediate or Advanced Ice Climbing class in December or January. The American Alpine Club is interested in any special climbs in Alaska to be written up in the AAC's Journal.

Elections: One nomination was made from the floor for Madeline Jones as Secretary to replace Al Robinson who desired to retire after 3 1/2 years in the post. The following officers were elected by acclamation:

- President: John Lohff
- Vice-President: Jim Eason
- Secretary: Madeline Jones
- Treasurer: Paula Quering

The new board members elected were John Nevin and Peter Sennhauser.

Business meeting adjourned at 9:02 PM.

After refreshments, Bill Wakeland gave an excellent slide show on MCA's summer hike of eight members to the Kobuk Valley with visits to the Kobuk sand dunes and the Jade Mountains near Kiana and Ambler.

Meeting adjourned at 9:55 PM.

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TRIP REPORTS

Glacier Orientation Class

Fifteen students participated in the 1980 glacier orientation ice climbing class. The class was divided into two parts. A two hour classroom session at Central Jr. High School and a one day exercise at Byron Glacier. Students included Jim Morrison, Ted Laska, Ron Rhodehamel, Pat Murray, Regi Buchanan, Anita Beeman, Dick Stooraldsen, Pete Ritzgerald, Karen Kissler, Mark Collins, Judy Potter, Ron Jacobs, Rick Severn, Andy Hemingway and Ron Baird.

Instructors for the class were Peter Sennhauser, Janet Smalley, Pat McManus, Tim Neale, John Lohff and Ed Olmstead.

Tim Neale

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O'Malley Ridge Climb Oct 19

Everyone agreed they had been out in better weather. High winds and lack of visibility greeted us the minute we set foot on the ridge. We all wandered up the ridge as far as little O'Malley before heading back to Anchorage for a tub of hot water and dry clothes. The seven on the climb were: Anita Beeman, Mark Finley, Pat Murray, Ted Laska, Madeline Jones, Helene Antel and Tim Neale.

Tim Neale

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Tikishla Oct 25 & 26

It turned out to be a great weekend for an outing. A group of people started from Chugach foothills subdivision Friday night. The best of us had a leisurely start Saturday morning from the Stuck-gain Hts. area.

Late in the afternoon on Saturday everyone met and climbed the west ridge of Tikishla. The register was placed in a rock cairn. Had a spectacular view of the sun setting over Anchorage on the way back down the ridge to camp. Those people along on the outing included Pat Murray, Karen Rosene, Mark Collins, Anita Neeman, Rick Severn and Tim Neale.

Tim Neale

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The Porcupine River in Autumn

Liz Cuadra (MCA member living in Juneau) was determined to have a trip on the Porcupine River this year but was unable to go on the MCA trip. So she and her college age daughter Dione arranged a private trip (by rubber raft) with an outfitter in Eagle, for the second week in September.

Ignoring friends' predictions of "getting snowed in," they left Juneau Sept. 5 on the ferry for Haines and drove to Eagle through the splendid, brilliant reds and yellows of autumn in the interior. A stop at Chicken turned up Ann Purdy (who wrote of her experiences as a school teacher in Chicken and Eagle in the book "Tisha.") A long chat in Ann Purdy's kitchen revealed that she was about to leave on a lecture tour to the southwestern states and Australia. May all of us still be as "bright-eyed and bushy tailed" as she is at her age!

Arriving in Eagle after two days travel, the Cuadras found a homey welcome. Their guide took time out from removing salmon from his fish wheel (winter provisions for the sled dogs he uses for his winter trapline) to shoot some wild ducks for dinner and gave the Cuadras bed and bath in his house.

Next morning the outfitter airlifted the raft, guide and supplies to Old Crow and then returned for the Cuadras and their gear. Enroute to Old Crow, parts of the Porcupine caribou herd could be seen on snow-covered high ground south of the Porcupine, headed for the Olgivie Mountains. Hopes were kindled that the timing might be perfect to see many migrating caribou cross the Porcupine after the raft journey began.

After a quick tour of Old Crow, the two Cuadras, accompanied by rifle-equipped guide, began the raft trip. Being as interested in the people as in the wildlife, they stopped at every habitation visible from the river. The first visit was to the (year-round) wall tent of Bill Smith and wife Tabitha, to hear Bill's tales, exchange trappers' craft, and exchange meals (they served us a caribou dinner and we served them a bacon and eggs breakfast.)

Grayling were caught in the Porcupine, at the mouths of tributary streams, as they had started coming down into the deeper water for the winter.

No mosquitoes, or insects of any kind, were ever seen, heard, or otherwise experienced! The lowest temperatures at night were about 24 F and it never rained (nor snowed) until the morning we

were being flown out (having been picked up by the pilot/outfitter, at the appointed time, on the handiest gravel bar.)

Gliding through the Ramparts area, the travelers saw their first caribou in river crossings. In groups of 6 to 12, the caribou would appear on the skyline on the northern side, and in the time they took to descend the steep near-cliffs, the rafters could beach their raft on the southern shore, hide in the bushes, and wait there the paths showed the caribou would likely emerge from the river before climbing the southern rampart. In this way, they were able to have caribou come within 50 feet of them, and take many close-range photos.

Other wildlife seen on the trip included many peregrine falcons a silver fox, a young grizzly swimming in the river, and many porcupine squirrels. The trip was made much more interesting by having a guide who was familiar with the wildlife and who could swap stories and skills information (making snares, training sled dogs, etc) with the people living along the river. The travelers had a short but memorable trip, tailored to their interests, and made more special by the personalities of their pilot/outfitter and their river guide. For someone with only a week or 10 days to spend, early September and this method of outfitting are highly recommended.

Anyone wanting more details can write Liz Cuadra, 9151 Skywood Lane, Juneau 99801.

P.S. Liz Cuadra offers (by prior arrangement) housing overnight to small parties coming to Juneau to hike the Chilkoot Trail.

Liz Cuadra

A THANK YOU

I would like to thank all the people that donated their time and energy to help with the Mountaineering Club of Alaska activities during the past year. Without the participation, support and assistance of many people the MCA would cease to exist. I was very impressed with the number of people that have helped in the many club activities, whether it be printing the SCREE, instructing in classes, making and placing registers, leading climbs and hikes, picnics, slide shows, taking care of equipment, etc. Rather than try to list everyone and forget someone, I would just like to again say thanks. Your help was appreciated very much.

Tim Neale Past President MCA

History Corner

Early in the Club history, slide shows became a regular feature of the monthly general meetings. The first show reported in SCREE was that of a climb on Ship Rock by Eric Barnes. At the November, '58 meeting Ernie Baumann showed his slides of his 1954 ascent of Benali. Ernie was a well known local pilot who met an untimely death only 6 months later in a plane crash enroute to Kotzebue. Skiers at Alyeska should think of Ernie every time they see Baumann's Bump (also called incorrectly Max's Mtn) which was commemorated to him for his early work in promoting skiing there.

The first tip report appeared in the November, '58 SCREE. This was an attempt on Pioneer Pk on Nov. 11 by John Robertson, Jerry Nelson, Don Sparrow, and Bernie O'Gara. Deep snow was encountered up high and the climbers turned back when they ran out of daylight. Other trips reported in this issue were extracted from the AAC News and included successful trips on Fairweather, Denali, & Blackburn.

In that same issue the Club printed its first trip schedule. Heading the list appropriately was Rendezvous Peak. In those days however it was known as "the mountain at the top of Tow No 7, Arctic Valley". Paul Crews, the Club's first president was the leader.

Naming local mountains was also an early Club interest. The Club's policy which was later espoused by Vin Hoeman on choosing descriptive names for peaks was foreshadowed in the SCREE's second issue: "Descriptive titles which are accurate and not likely to be duplicated are a good choice." Eventually the Club's Geographic Names Committee would be responsible for naming dozens of local and statewide features. (to be continued)

Greg Higgins

BITS & PIECES:

The "Old Men's Mountaineering, Chess, and Bridge Club Society" recently spent a week in the Prince William Sound trying to do some rock climbing in an area dubbed the "Seven Cities of Cibela". In general the weather was terrible, but the company pleasant. Our skipper, Wendy Simpson, out of Whittier comes highly recommended for charters in that area.

Greg Higgins

Doug Billman informed me that he & Steve Gerlik made a direct climb up the North Face of Eagle Peak on Sept. 20. They came out on the NE ridge about 200 feet from the summit. Descent was down the NE ridge with eventual rappels in the dark and bad weather to the main couloir north of Eagle. They approached the mountain from the South Fork of Eagle River.

I believe the North Face route is the same one described by Brian Dkonek on the climb he made on May 18, '76 with Matt Donohue, Vaughan Hoefler, and Dirk Bodnar. Their approach, however, had been from Eagle River.

Greg Higgins

Peter Sennhauser and I made a visit to the top of Harp Peak in the South Fork of Eagle River on October 3rd. We were unable to find the old register, and left a new one in a jar. Anyone finding the two simultaneously should combine them.

Greg Higgins

Korohusk had its 4th recorded ascent Oct 4-5 by Doug Billman and Steve Gerlick. Their route was a 1st ascent up the elegant N. side snow and ice couloir that splits the summit at 7030' from the prominent 6500'+ gendarme on the West ridge.

Greg Higgins

Karen Rosene requests that anyone interested in climbing the volcanoes in Mexico "POPO" and "IXTY" between December 20th and the 5th of January, should get in touch with her at the November meeting or call her at 337-4141.

Nov. 1980

With the snow season upon us, a reminder that PIEPS avalanche transceivers are available at AMH for MCA members to check out free of charge. Users must supply their own batteries. The club is currently developing a basic winter mountaineering course which will include instruction in the proper use of the PIEPS among many other topics. Details to follow.

We are planning to publish a list of all MCA members in the February SCREE. If you do not want your name, address and phone number published call Paula Quering at 277-3982.

A pair of gloves was left at the October meeting. If they were yours, call John Loff at 276-8714.

Ice Climbing Class: Seven two day classes will be held when local areas are in condition. Each course will include a Friday night classroom/equipment adjustment session and two field days. Very limited amounts of equipment will be available. Details will be in the December issue of SCREE, or call John Dillman, 278-3537 279-1246.

EQUIPMENT FOR SALE

Backpacks for sale: (1) Northface "Pack & Frame", large green frame, new \$105.00, for \$60.00.
(2) Wilderness Experience "Backpacker" medium blue frameless, new \$82.50, for \$48.00.
(3) Kelty "tour Pack II", medium blue frameless, new \$110.00, for \$66.00.
(4) REI "Summiteer Rucksack", teardrop shape, orange, leather bottom, new \$25.95, for \$15.00.

All in very good condition. Mike or Diane after 7 PM. weekdays, all weekends at 243-7645.

Vasques hiking boots for sale. Good condition. Size 7½-8, full grain leather, vibram sole, \$20 or best offer. Call Karn Kissler 264-0603 (w) 248-4151 (h).

Misc. climbing equipment for sale: crampons, boot, packs, clothes. call John Dillman days 278-3537, evenings 279-1246.

NOTE: Current members may place equipment ads free of charge. Send your ads to the editor by the 25th of the month for