



MOUNTAINEERING CLUB OF ALASKA

BOX 2037

ANCHORAGE, ALASKA 99510

NOVEMBER 1982

Volume 25, Issue #11

### November Meeting

The meeting will be held Wednesday, November 17th, at 8:00 p.m. on the top floor of the Pioneer School House, Third and Eagle, Anchorage, Alaska. After the business meeting, Donna Agosti will present a side show on her summer MCA trip to the Lake Clark area.

### MINUTES FOR MCA GENERAL MEETING

The October meeting of MCA was held on the 20th, October, at the Pioneer School House, 3rd floor, Third & Eagle, Anchorage, Alaska. The meeting was called to order at 8:10 p.m. by President, John Dillman. The reading of the September general meeting was approved as published in SCREE. Treasurer, Reggie Buchanan, reported:

\$ 114.56 - Petty Cash  
1,388.22 - Bank Account

2,860.98 - Money Market Fund  
\$4,363.76 - Total

Year ending report was presented. Total income \$2,910.01 and total expenses \$2,670.18.

No new members were introduced as acceptance of dues for new members was postponed until the November meeting when dues paid will cover the balance of 1982 and the full year of 1983. Dues for old members will be accepted for 1983 starting with the November meeting. Members who wish to avoid the time consuming hassle of standing in line at meetings can mail their dues direct to MCA, P.O. Box 2037, attention of Reggie Buchanan, and enclose their \$7.50 single membership or \$10.00 family membership. Membership card will be sent by return mail.

### COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Hiking: Donna Agosti 248-0089  
The hiking trips are deactivated until next Spring. Please contact Donna with any ideas for next season.

Chugach State Park Trails Association: Tim Neale 274-4952

The California Creek Trail brush out was not completed because the trail could not be located. Thank you to those who did turn out, another date will be scheduled for this work.

NOVEMBER 1982

Hut: John Dillman 279-1246

No Action was taken on the hut repairs. This state of affairs is pending due to weather conditions.

Programs: Rick Severn 344-7269

The December presentation will be "No World for Men". Anyone with after meeting slide entertainment please contact Rick.

CLASSES:

Beginning Winter Mountaineering class is being conducted by Tim Neale (274-4952). Classroom session November 9th @ 7:30 p.m. at Central Junior High School. Outdoor session November 13th at Sheep Mt. overnight. Cost is \$5.00.

Telemark class is being conducted by John Dillman (279-1246). Classroom session November 18th place to be announced at the November MCA meeting. Outdoor session November 20th walk up Arctic Valley and November 21st chair lift \$10.00 at Arctic Valley. No class fee.

OLD BUSINESS:

The Dept. of Natural Resources held a meeting pertaining to the 'Study on Hatcher Pass' which Pete Martin talked to the club about during the Sept. MCA meeting. Tim Neale and John Dillman attended and requested that the MCA hut which is in the vicinity of the Pass not be shown on the maps of the area. With the hut located on public maps, further damages to the hut is anticipated. As we are already subjected to this problem, the club does not want to encounter more of the same. They were told it would be on the maps. The procedure for avoiding this circumstance is to lease the surrounding land. To do this an appraisal is needed. Arrangements are being made.

NEW BUSINESS:

Election of Officers was held with Tom Meachem presiding. The results were:

President	Rick Severn
Vice President	Ernie Borjorn
Secretary	Bernie Helms
Treasurer	Reggie Buchanan
Board Members	Mark Findlay Graham Macdonald

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Nov. 27th & 28th a Telemark Class is being held at Hatcher Pass. Steve Barnett and Erik Sanford are teaching. Cost is \$60.00.

Dec. 16th through Jan. 5th Jim Easton has scheduled a rock climbing vacation at Joshua Tree, Taquitz, California. If interested please contact Jim.

The meeting adjourned at 8:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sandi Macdonald

BASIC TELEMARX CLASS

Dates: November 18 (Indoor Class) 7:30 p.m. Top Floor Pioneer School House  
November 20, 21 - Arctic Valley 9:00 a.m.

This class is designed as an introduction to basic telemark techniques. We do request that you have some knowledge of cross country touring such as diagonal stride. If you can already link telemark turns, please do not plan on attending this class.

The indoor class is mandatory. It will cover telemark equipment, clothing suitable for back-country touring and a short slide show of our favorite telemarking areas. If you have questions about your present ski equipment, bring it along.

The Saturday class will meet at Arctic Valley Ski Area at 9:00 a.m., near the left side of the day lodge, at the base of the Poma lift. We will then proceed to ski up the valley until we find a suitable slope, which we will side-step. Basic techniques and exercises will be emphasized during this first day.

We will meet at the same time and place on Sunday. After skiing to the same area as Saturday, we will continue with basic techniques. Depending upon conditions and individual desires, after lunch the more advanced students can purchase a one-half day lift ticket and ski the upper slopes with an instructor. Safety-straps will be required to ride the lift. Tickets will be about \$6-8.00.

The Club decided to charge the regular \$5.00 per student for this class, which you can pay at the next meeting on November 17th, or at the indoor class on the 18th.

If you have additional questions, call John Dillman at 274-8691 days or 279-1246 evenings.

MAP & COMPASS CLASS.

About 20 members attended 3 classroom sessions and 3 day trips. The class worked on map reading and compass navigation skills in good visibility through "white-out". Regardless of weather, everyone stayed keen and active throughout the course.

Thanks go to Barb Kafhler and Doug Gerke for their help in running the class, and to all those who attended. For those who could not attend all the classes, this course may be offered again if there is sufficient interest.

Graham Macdonald

POSSIBLE UPCOMING CLASSES

Classes which may be scheduled for future months include topics such as knots, crevasse rescue, mountain weather, mountaineering clothing, etc. Please let Graham Macdonald know your preferences (345-5791).

NOVEMBER 1982

TRIP REPORT

Attempt on Mt. Hayes

John Fritz and I attempted Mt. Hayes during the first two weeks of March, 1982. Lowell Thomas Jr. landed us on the Tridant Glacier at about 7,000 feet. We followed the same route as Dan Osborne's group (p. 105 AAJ 1972). Our climbing times were similar, however we had extraordinary weather for 6 solid days. We got one rest day when I fell into a crevasse, two rope lengths out on an already late start. Later on we were hoping for a rest day but the perfect weather kept us moving. We arrived at a marvelous plateau right at the base of the East summit ridge with four days food and fuel and were feeling real good. Vast quantities of caffeine tea and the altitude (11,000 feet) caused us to sleep a little cool that night. So the next morning we set off without cooking gear but changed our minds and brought the sleeping bags along. Even after a good early start, with belayed climbing, it took most of the day to get to the top of the ice blocks which comprise the lower third of the ridge. Above the ice blocks we were faced with steadily deteriorating weather and here we decided to return to our 11,000 foot cave. The storm hit the next night and lasted 3 days.

Robert Frank  
Mountaineering Club of Alaska

HISTORY CORNER

Ranked ninth among the Skyline Peaks is Hidden Peak at 5,105 feet. It takes its name from the fact that it is well concealed from most viewpoints by the O'Malley Massif. A small lake to its southwest is appropriately named Hidden Lake.

By most criteria Hidden Peak should be Hidden Point since it is only separated from O'Malley by a ridge drop of about 300 feet, and a distance of less than one mile. However, it has been conventionally afforded separate peak status since the 1960's. Besides connecting to O'Malley, a ridge to the southeast links it to the Ramp. This latter ridge is not as easily traveled as that to O'Malley.

Early climbs on Hidden Peak are not well known. Vin Hoeman's records list Bill Hauser and Dub & Harry Bludworth as the 1st recorded ascenders in the mid 1960's. Grace Hoeman and Dave Meyers climbed the West Ridge on Jan. 11, 1970 for what they thought was the 1st Winter ascent (SCREE: 13:4:2), but Bill Hauser had noted one month prior that he and Scott Foster had made what was probably the 1st Winter ascent on March 6, 1966 (SCREE: 13:3:5).

As late as 1973, there was a good register on the top of Hidden Peak that clarified some of the early history of climbs. Denny Camp, Loretta & I found it after an exhaustive search, but unfortunately did not record the data. We had difficulty deciding which was the true high point, and because we were short on time, did not construct an elaborate cairn. To my knowledge this register has not been located since.

Greg Higgins

NOVEMBER 1982

BOOK REVIEWS

THE HIGH-COUNTRY BACKPACKER - - Dona Agosti. 252 pp. Paperback, photographs and drawings. Winchester Press, P.O. Box 1260, Tulsa, OK 74101. \$11.95. (Available to card-carrying MCA members for \$10.00 from Dona.)

Our own Dona Agosti's new book, "The High-Country Backpacker", is an impressive achievement, and a book any Alaska mountaineer would enjoy owning. It will have particular value for the new or aspiring mountaineer, the person who is drawn to the hills, but lacks the experience to know how to travel there comfortably and safely.

The special flavor of this book is its practicality, as might be expected from an author who began her alpine travel after bearing and nurturing her seven children. Her broad experience shows clearly, as does her sense of humor (a quality which might well be added to the famous list of "ten essentials" for mountain travel), and her concern both for people and for the land.

Dona has drawn in the help of various experts, as Dr. Rodman Wilson on health in the mountains, Kelly Weaverling on cross-country skiing, Jack Duggan on technical climbing, for example. She includes valuable reference lists and tables, and many pertinent illustrations. Many of us will recognize pictures from Dona-led trips we have enjoyed.

Although this is a comprehensive book, it is not designed to replace some of the other classics of mountain travel, such as "Mountaineering: Freedom of the Hills", Harvey Manning's new edition of "Back-packing-One Step at a Time", and those invaluable wilderness cook-books, Hasse Bunnelle's "The Back-Packer's Food Book" and Prater and Mendenhall's recent "Gorp, Glop & Glue Stew". It is a splendid addition, however, and particularly for Alaska mountaineers may will be the beginning of a library. Non-Alaskans will enjoy this book for the real feeling it gives for the experience of alpine travel in Alaska, as well as for much wisdom applicable to any mountain trekking.

Liz Robinson

BROOKS RANGE PASSAGE - - David J. Cooper. 205 pp., map and drawings, hard-bound. The Mountaineers, 715 Pike Street, Seattle, WA 98101. \$14.95.

This is a rather surprisingly gripping small book. Cooper is a plant ecologist, not a professional author, and he writes about an area which has been described in various ways by a number of other people. Yet somehow, in this account of a solo trip, on foot and by hand-built river raft, from Anaktuvuk Pass to Allakaket, his experiences come across with great intensity and vividness. The book is well worth reading, especially by people who already have some knowledge of Alaskan wilderness.

Among the feelings which Cooper communicates so well are: the drudgery of foot-slogging over unending tussocks with a 100-pound back-pack; his naked fear in near encounter with a massive grizzly; delight in juicy blueberries after days of unrelieved cereal and wild tuber diet; reaction to the friendliness of the first humans he met after many days alone; his thrill over and respect for untouched wilderness; terror during the minutes he struggled to save all his supplies after his raft crashed into a log-jam.

Cooper's achievement in making this trip is impressive. He travelled alone across Arctic wilderness in summer, some 120 miles on foot and 160 miles river-rafting, safely and mostly happily. He respected the land, living off it to a considerable extent, without a gun, being careful not to scar or destroy, but using the resources, other than large mammals, which had sustained Native residents

NOVEMBER 1982

for centuries. His knowledge of ethnobotany is impressive, and he manages to make the reader drool over his descriptions of skillet blueberry pie, and grayling grilled or made into soup, after proteinless days.

Highly recommended!

Liz Robinson

+EXTRAS+

Looking for a place in Co-op style house. 35 year old male RPCV, work one week on-one week off the slope. X-Country skier, some glacier and climbing experience. Non-smoker, liberal. Call Tom. 263-5292, Ext. 4315.

LIBRARY: Pete Sennhauser 345-5577

MOUNTAINEERING CLUB OF ALASKA OFFICERS & BOARD MEMBERS, 1982-1983.

<u>TITLE</u>	<u>NAME</u>	<u>HOME PHONE</u>	<u>WORK PHONE</u>
President	Rick Severn	279-6522	344-7269
Vice-President	Ernie Borjon	344-8661	---
Secretary	Bernie Helms	243-3124	248-2758
Treasurer	Reggie Buchanan	333-7649	272-0504

Board Members

John Dillman	279-1246	274-8691
Jim Eason	337-3515	276-2653
Mark Findlay	337-8666	263-1377
Graham Macdonald	345-5791	---
Tim Neale	274-4952	

NOTE FROM THE EDITOR

SCREE is the monthly publication of the Mountaineering Club of Alaska. I would like to remind you that all items for publication must be submitted at the monthly meeting or mailed to my home at Star Route Box 9204, Eagle River, Alaska 99577. Articles should be received by the 25th of the month for the following month's issue. Your cooperation will be appreciated. Marty Bassett, Editor.

Editor: Marty Bassett 694-3917  
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