

SCREE



MOUNTAINEERING CLUB OF ALASKA

BOX 102037

ANCHORAGE, ALASKA 99510

NOVEMBER 1990

Volume 33, Issue 11

NOVEMBER MEETING

November 21 7:30 pm Wednesday, top floor of the Pioneer Schoolhouse,
Third and Eagle Sts., downtown Anchorage.

SLIDE SHOW Ascent of The Tusk. The second ascent of this feature in
the Neacola Mountains of Lake Clark National Park will be
shared by climbers, J.J. Brooks and Jay Rowe.

HIKING AND CLIMBING COMMITTEE MEETING

The Hiking and Climbing Committee will have a meeting on November 27th to entertain ideas for future club trips. Call Karen Cafmeyer for details about where to meet. **All members are welcome.** At present there are no trips to put on the schedule, which is one reason there needs to be a meeting. A new chairperson needs to be appointed as well. If you want to be a leader or want to have input into the schedule, come to the meeting, or let the club know. Phone numbers of all officers is always on the back page of Scree. In lieu of a schedule, some of the rules and club policies concerning leaders and trips will be in this issue.

TRIP REPORTS

ANWR-Kongakut to Sheenjak Traverse

Don Hansen

This two-week adventure in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge began with nice weather on Friday, July 20th, and an Alaska Airlines flight that included spectacular views around Denali and Foraker en route to Fairbanks, and with the connecting flight on Frontier Air to a smokey Fort Yukon, due to fires in the interior. We flew into the upper Kongakut from Fort Yukon with Roger Dowding of Yukon Air Charters on Saturday. Our drop-off point on the Kongakut was a gravel bar on the river, two to three miles upstream of the mouth of Drain Creek. The river was low and clear. We made camp near the strip since it took the rest of the day and into the night for all nine of us to be flown in.

Bill, Clare and I were the first to be flown in and we explored a sculptured ridge above camp 1. We found many fossilized pieces of coral on this ridge, which was once under the ocean in another geological time period. The first day of backpacking to camp 2 took us across a large ice patch on the river, that was a few feet thick in some places. A remnant of the severe arctic winter. We set up camp 2 in a sandy cove along the river where Jim and Breck caught several arctic char in a hole along the rocky bank.

The following morning our camp was visited by a band of 20 or more caribou that crossed the river just downstream of the camp. Before breaking camp another single caribou ran nervously down the gravel bar past our camp, followed a few minutes later by a wolf which spotted us and hightailed it back upriver. That was a special experience. We continued to travel upriver on gravel bars crossing river braids several times rather than fight meadows of tussocks and ravines along the upper bank. Where the river finally widens and becomes brushy, we headed for the upper north bank where we set up camp 3 on a series of tundra knolls, one for each tent with lots of blueberries for breakfast cereal. Jim went up and downstream before he caught an acceptable fish or two for dinner (the fish got smaller as we went further up the river). We spent the next day scrambling up Peak 5242 in back of (north) camp on probably the warmest day of the trip, with lots of sun and great views of the mountains in all directions including 7232, a mountain I planned to go up later in the trip. The next day we decided to continue traveling along the gravel bars of the river to camp 4, which we located on a broad, flat tundra plateau just above the river on the north side of the valley, where we had earlier seen sheep on the slopes to the north.

From there we traveled across tundra slopes with small meadows of tussocks in between, as we headed through a low pass that led us to the North Fork Kongakut River. Our course up the North Fork took us past a series of narrow, deep canyons where the river runs. We stopped to take pictures of these impressive cavernous canyons. After a long day of hiking we camped within one mile of the drainage that would lead us to Peak 7232. The next day we climbed up a sawtoothed ridge which we called Bill's mountain because it was his idea to climb it and he led it. We saw sheep on an adjacent ridge. Bill's mountain turned out to be more of a scramble than we expected, up and down and around false summits and large boulders before the true summit at 5498 feet.

The following day we climbed Peak 7232 by following the ridgeline up steep talus and more gradual scree slopes to the summit. There was supposed to be two glaciers on the north side of the ridge leading to the summit, according to the maps, but the glaciers were pretty much gone with only moraine and a small amount of ice left under an inch or so of fresh snow from the day before. The views were great of other 7000-foot peaks to the north and west. From that camp (camp 5) we headed towards a narrow pass that Bill knew of from an earlier trip with his son, that leads to the Sheenjak River. We set up camp 6 near the pass and spent the next day exploring this uppermost part of the Kongakut River. Bill, Bruce, Fred, Breck and I hiked up a summit which we called Divide Mountain because it is directly on the Continental Divide between the arctic slope drainage and the south drainage.

The next day we headed up the pass and down the steep scree slope on the other side to a fork of the Sheenjak River. The water below the pass was high and swift in this fork of the river, so we hiked about two miles upstream to where the river levels out and braids and to where we had no trouble crossing it. We camped there and headed downstream the next day to the main river and crossed it just upstream of where the fork enters the main river and where the river braids into several channels. From there we hiked downriver along gravel bars until we reached a good grayling hole, where a clear tributary parallels the Sheenjak. Jim, Breck and Bill caught fish here, while the rest of us hiked to the location of camp 8, just upstream of the mouth of "Dry" Creek, a gravel drainage that had no water flowing on the surface. This camp was located on a flat tundra and willow bank along the dry creek bed.

The next day Bill, Pam, Linda and I scrambled up an interesting ridge in back of camp while Fred, Breck and Clare hiked up the dry creek bed to a magnificent waterfall in which all the water disappeared into the gravel and they found interesting boulders in the middle of the creek bed. The following day we hiked the remaining nine miles to our pickup point on the Sheenjak, an airstrip on a gravel bar on the west side of the river. Roger happened to be in the area and picked up three of us that Friday night and flew to Fort Yukon. On Saturday he returned and picked up the rest of us. The trip members included Bill Wakeland, Linda White, Pam Page, Clare Lattimore, Fred Kampfer, Jim Scherr, Bruce Abramson, Breck Tostevin and myself.

MCA POLICIES AND RULES CONCERNING TRIPS

LEADER QUALIFICATIONS

1. Must be a member of the MCA.
2. Must have approval of the Hiking and Climbing Committee (A simple majority.)
3. Must have participated in trips of the same or higher classification than the one being led, showing competence in the opinion of the leaders of those trips; or equivalent experience acceptable to the Hiking and Climbing Committee.

Approved by MCA Board, March 1987

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 required as follows:

<u>Day Hikes</u>	<u>Additional for Overnight or Special Situations</u>
Map, compass, whistle	
Raingear that works	Down or synthetic equivalent
Warm clothing (not cotton)	sleeping bag
Hiking boots	Tent (or prearranged sharing)
Sunscreen and dark glasses	Sleeping pad
Mosquito repellent	Stove (fires are usually prohibited)
Water	Adequate food
Fire starter	Dry clothes, socks, headgear, gloves
First aid kit with moleskin	Stream crossing footwear
Pocket knife	

(Obviously this is a minimum list, it does not include equipment for climbs or winter.)

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 have signed up on a trip roster (club meetings) or otherwise contacted the leader, and 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 at the last minute you find you can't go, please let the leader know, both for transportation 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.

Formulated January 1987 by Hiking and Climbing Committee

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, ice axe and crampon skills are required. Basic understanding of ice and snow anchors may be required.

FIFTH CLASS: Trips which may 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.

Approved by MCA Board, March 1987

ADZE

For Sale: Titanium Climbing Gear

Ice Screws - 60 available
Chocks - 3 complete sets, 10 sizes per set
 cables included
Friends - 3 complete sets, 7 sizes per set
TCUs - various sizes

All made of titanium, all made in the Soviet Union. Contact Gene Pognetti
Bob Sloane 563-8855

Climbing Notes

MCA member George Rooney is off to the Himalayas again for another climb. George is part of a mostly British expedition attempting Pumori, a 23,494-foot peak just northwest of Mt. Everest. Their route will be a variation of the SW ridge, and will be preceded by several other climbs while enroute via the Khumbu Glacier. Good luck, George!

HISTORY CORNER

Willy Hersman

This month's slide show will cover the second ascent of the Tusk. Many members probably don't know the bit of MCA history involved with this peak. In July of 1971 several club members made the first attempt. The party included then-president, Steve Hackett, next-president, Wendell Oderkirk, soon-to-be-president, Bill Barnes, Barry Kircher, Bob Smith and Steve Jones. Kircher wrote:

"For months we had looked forward to climbing on good granite, had savored the thought of feeling small yet secure holds. Oh, it was granite all right, but it was as rotten as Chugach Crud." "We plucked fist-sized samples from the face with no effort to show the others." "...so weathered that it resembled sandstone more than granite." "If The Tusk were in any other state it would be a national monument."

They made it less than half-way to the summit. In June 1977, the next attempt of this 1000-foot tower was made. Fred Beckey, Craig Martinson and Eric Bjornstad decided to turn around with about two thirds of the mountain below them. Beckey's comment: "worst rock I've been on in 20 years." He and Martinson had been hit by rockfall. At one point a TV-sized rock narrowly missed Bjornstad.

With the benefit of these previous attempts, Gary Speer and Paul Bellamy finally did climb to the summit on June 21, 1986 (they rated the climb a Grade IV, 5.8). They, too, had very close encounters with rockfall. Bellamy was hit by a baseball-sized piece of the tower while on a fixed line.

Barry Kircher's intuition about the peak being worthy of wilderness protection was realized in 1979 when Jimmy Carter set aside land for national parks. The Tusk is now in Lake Clark National Park. Should be an interesting show this month.

ACTIVITIES QUESTIONNAIRE

We would like to expand our year-round program of outdoor activities, outings and training sessions for members. To make this happen first requires knowing where interests lie. Please take a minute to fill out the following questionnaire and bring it to the November meeting or mail it to the Hiking and Climbing Committee, c/o The Mountaineering Club of Alaska, Box 102037, Anchorage, AK 99510.

ALSO: On the back of this sheet is a form to fill out with your name and phone number if you want to be included in a new **Member Directory**. This directory will list only those who wish to be contacted for outings by other club members and will specify their areas of interest. Eventually, a permanent file of names and interests could be maintained and updated with new members.

What activities would you participate in? From the following list choose **five** activities (or less), then prioritize them in order of preference: (a 5 being the highest priority)

- Weekend Backpacking Trips
- Day Hikes
- Mid-week Hikes
- Extended Backpacking Trips
- Alpine Climbing (local peaks)
- Non-technical Climbing
- Rock Climbing
- Extended Mountaineering Trips
- Expedition Mountaineering
- Mountain Biking
- Physical Training Programs
- Ocean Kayaking
- Trail Clearing

- Winter Camping Trips
- Cross-country Ski Trips
- Mid-week Skiing
- Ski Mountaineering
- Glacier Traverses
- Winter Climbing
- Ice Climbing
- Trips to the Huts
- International Trips (summer)
- International Trips (Christmas)
- Snowshoeing
- Nature Trips
- Other _____

- 5. _____
- 4. _____
- 3. _____
- 2. _____
- 1. _____

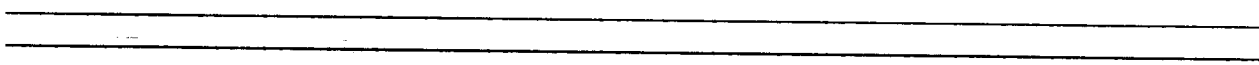
Perhaps the club should offer more training programs. Which programs would you sign up for? Put a check mark next to the ones you would sign up for.

- Wilderness First Aid
- Backpacking Skills
- Camping with Kids
- Sewing and Gear Modification
- Back Country Travel
- Stream Crossing
- Backpacking/Expedition Cuisine
- Cross-country Skiing
- Trip Planning
- Orienteering
- Snow Shelter Construction
- Avalanche Awareness, Rescue
- Winter Mountaineering
- Winter Camping
- Glacier Travel, Crevasse Rescue
- Ice axe Self-arrest Practice
- Avalanche Beacon Practice
- Rope Handling Techniques
- Ice Climbing
- Rock Climbing

Relative to training, which format appeals to you the most? (check one)

- Mid-week Evening Program
- One Day Weekend Combination Talk and Outing
- Full Weekend Combination Talk and Outing
- Mid-week Talk followed by Weekend Practice Session

If you have an area of expertise or special interest you would like to share with club members, call us!



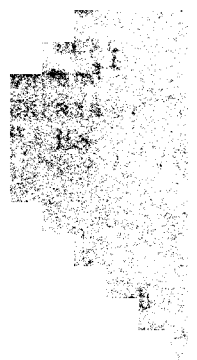
The following is optional for those who would like to participate in a membership directory. The directory would aid the participants in finding outdoor partners for their specific interest, especially when there isn't time to advertise a trip in the newsletter.

Member Directory Information

Name _____ Phone: work _____ home _____

Areas of interest:

- Backpacking
- Rock Climbing
- Ice Climbing
- Expedition Mountaineering
- Day Hikes
- Mountain Biking
- Mid-week Evening Trips
- APU Rock Climbing Wall
- Local Weekend Climbing
- Skiing



CROSS COUNTRY SKI CLASS

Wednesday, November 28 6:30 pm
 Thursday, November 29 6:30 pm
 Russian Jack Park

If we have snow! Sign up at the Nov. meeting or call Mark Findlay at 337-8666, leave message. Need skis, poles, boots and warm clothing. Track and backcountry techniques shown. Other instructors welcome.

MINUTES OF THE OCTOBER MEETING

The October meeting was held on the 17th at the Pioneer Schoolhouse. New members and visitors were introduced.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

Money Market	-	\$ 941.76
Checking Acct	-	322.73
Petty Cash	-	<u>52.10</u>
Total		\$1316.59

COMMITTEES:

Hiking and Climbing. Dan O'Haire talked about his upcoming trip to Blueberry Hill.

Training. Fifty-five people attended the annual Ice Climbing School at the Matanuska Glacier. Marcy Baker announced that several pairs of crampons and foot fangs are still out on loan. Please return these club and personally-owned items!

Parks Advisory. A proposed expansion of the Hilltop Ski Area threatens the existing Spencer cross country ski trail, as indicated by Ken Zafren. There was discussion about this.

Neil O'Donnell talked about the Recreational Rivers proposed by the Alaska Dept. of Natural Resources. Copies of a letter from Neil, which others could use as a template were available at the meeting. At issue is the proposed ban on motorized travel along portions of the rivers: Dshka, Talachulitna, Little Su, Alexander, Teklanikla and Talkeetna. Members feeling strongly enough about the issue were asked to write to DNR before the end of the comment period, October 22.

OLD BUSINESS:

None.

NEW BUSINESS:

The question of having available a means for members to announce their trips to other members without having to use the Scree was discussed. Neil addressed the question by reminding the club that we recently had a hot line telephone for such a purpose. It failed in practice, though it was a good idea in theory. The club paid a monthly phone bill for the service, but found it got rare use, and the board voted to disconnect it after trying the experiment for about two or three years. The issue was then referred to the board for consideration at its next meeting.

Elections:

Neil conducted the election of officers for the next year. For the first time in recent memory votes had to be taken for most offices, as follows (winner is marked with an asterisk):

President	Dan O'Haire * Karen Cafmeyer Ken Zafren	Vice President	* Alan Julliard Stephan Otterson
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Secretary	* Mindy Baum * Stephan Otterson	Treasurer	* Marcy Baker
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Board Members (2-year term)

Joel Babb
Jeff Young
* Ken Zafren
* Dan O'Haire

The office of Secretary will be shared for the year, by proclamation vote. Board members Mike Miller and Tom Brigham will serve for another year and Neil O'Donnell will also serve one year on the board, in the Past President position as provided in the By Laws.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

None.

Respectfully Submitted,
Dan O'Haire

MCA COMMITTEES

Standing Committees:

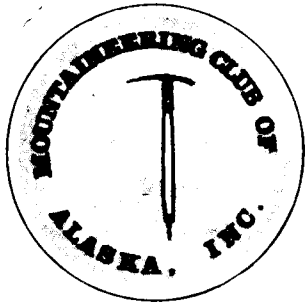
Programs	Alan Julliard
Hiking and Climbing	Open
Conservation	Inactive
Huts	Jeff Young
Geographic Names	Willy Hersman
Parks Advisory	Tom Brigham
Equipment	Marcy Baker
Training	Mike Miller
Honorary Membership	Tim Neale

Special Committees:

Library	Alan Julliard
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Tidbit

Mt. Kenya is the only mountain in the world for which a country was named.



NEW OR RENEWAL
MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

P.O. Box 102037 Anchorage, Alaska 99510

Annual membership dues are \$10 for an individual, \$15 for a family. Check should be made payable to the Mountaineering Club of Alaska, Inc. Any individuals who intend to participate in MCA outings must complete the release on the back side of this form.

NAME: _____

DATE: _____ NEW MEMBER _____ RENEWING MEMBER _____
(Please check appropriate box)

ADDITIONAL FAMILY MEMBERS (must also complete release form):

YOUR MAILING ADDRESS: _____

PHONE: _____

INTERESTS (check appropriate box or boxes):

- ___ day hikes
- ___ ski trips
- ___ overnight backcountry trips
- ___ technical climbs (requires basic mountaineering skills including proficiency with ice axe and rope)
- ___ instructional classes, including for rock climbing, ice climbing and glacier travel
- ___ others, please list:

NUMBER OF MCA OUTINGS YOU PARTICIPATED IN DURING THE PAST YEAR: _____

Please send the completed form (front and back !!!) and check to the MOUNTAINEERING CLUB OF ALASKA, P.O. Box 102037 ANCHORAGE ALASKA 99510. Membership cards can be picked up at the monthly meeting. If you wish to receive your card in the mail, please include a stamped, self-addressed, envelope.

REMEMBER TO ATTEND THE MONTHLY MEETING AND SLIDE SHOW, THIRD WEDNESDAY OF EACH MONTH !!!

Release of Liability Agreement

I, _____, am aware that mountaineering sports (including rock, snow and ice climbing, mountaineering and ski mountaineering) are hazardous activities. I wish to participate and/or receive instruction in these activities with the Mountaineering Club of Alaska, Inc., ("MCA"). I have full knowledge of the dangers involved, and agree to accept any and all risks of injury or death that may occur.

_____ (initial that you have read this paragraph)

Giving Up My Legal Rights

By signing this Agreement, I agree to give up for myself and for my heirs, certain legal rights which I may have in the event I become injured or killed while participating or receiving instructions in mountaineering sports with MCA. I am giving up my legal rights against MCA and my fellow participants in MCA activities. As used in this Agreement, the word MCA shall mean the Mountaineering Club of Alaska, Inc., and all of its leaders, instructors, guides, assistant guides, officers, and directors.

_____ (initial that you have read this paragraph)

My Promise Not To Sue

I agree that I will not sue, or otherwise make any claim against MCA or my fellow participants in MCA activities for injury, death or damage to me or my property which occurs in the course of my participation or instruction in mountaineering sports.

_____ (initial that you have read this paragraph)

My Release of Liability

I also agree to release and discharge MCA and my fellow participants in MCA activities from all actions, claims, or demands, both for myself and for my heirs, dependents, and/or personal representative, for injury, death or damage to me in the course of my participation or instruction in mountaineering sports.

_____ (initial that you have read this paragraph)

My Promise to Indemnify

I agree to pay all costs and expenses, including attorney's fees and court costs, that MCA may incur as a consequence of any legal action arising out of injury, death or damage to me or to someone else as a result of my conduct.

_____ (initial that you have read this paragraph)

My Consent to Medical Treatment

I consent to any hospital care or medical or surgical diagnosis or treatment which may be necessary as a result of my participation in activities with MCA. I also understand and agree I am solely responsible for all applicable charges for such medical treatment, including evacuation and/or rescue cost.

_____ (initial that you have read this paragraph)

I understand that the MCA requires that I execute this Agreement as a condition of participating in mountaineering sports with MCA. I also understand that all the terms of this agreement are binding upon me, my relatives, heirs, dependents, and/or personal representatives.

I HAVE CAREFULLY READ THIS AGREEMENT AND FULLY UNDERSTAND ITS CONTENTS. I AM AWARE THAT THIS IS A BINDING, LEGAL AGREEMENT BETWEEN ME AND MCA AND I SIGN IT OF MY OWN FREE WILL.

Dated: _____ Signature: _____

Signature of Parent or Guardian (if under 19): _____

Accepted for MCA by: _____ Dated: _____

MOUNTAINEERING CLUB OF ALASKA

OFFICERS

BOARD

President	Karen Cafmeyer	345-7546	Tom Brigham	276-4406
Vice-President	Alan Julliard	243-3816	Mike Miller	248-2299
Secretary	Mindy Baum	338-6396	Dan O'Haire	561-1141
	Stefan Otterson	276-3550	Ken Zafren	346-2333
Treasurer	Marcy Baker	274-0105	Neil O'Donnell	274-5069

Annual membership dues: Single \$10.00 Family \$15.00
Dues can be paid at any meeting or mailed to the Treasurer at the MCA address.
Please sign and mail the club waiver found on the reverse side of this page
and include it and a self-addressed, stamped envelope to receive your card.

SCREE is a monthly publication of the Mountaineering Club of Alaska.
Articles and notes submitted for publication and other communication related
to the newsletter should be mailed to my address at Box 141666, Anchorage,
Alaska 99514. Articles should be received by the 25th of the month for the
following month's issue.

Paid ads may be submitted to the attention of the Vice-President at the
club address and should be "camera-ready" and pre-paid. Your cooperation
will be appreciated. Willy Hersman, Editor.

EDITOR: Willy Hersman
MAILING: P. Berryhill, D. Willworth

DUPLICATION: Mark Findlay

Mountaineering Club of Alaska
Box 102037
Anchorage, Alaska 99510

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