

DECEMBER 1994

A Publication of the Mountaineering Club of Alaska, Inc.
Box 102037, Anchorage, Alaska 99510

Volume 37 Issue 12

DECEMBER MEETING

Wednesday

December 21st, 7:30

Pioneer Schoolhouse, 3rd & Eagle Streets
Downtown Anchorage

Potluck Dinner - Please use the following guideline:

Last name starts Bring

A-D

Relish Plates/Juices

E-I

Deserts

J-N

Vegetables

O-Z

Salads/Fruits

M.C.A.

Turkey, Drinks, Plates

Slide Show: Bring in 10-15 slides from trips
you did during the last year to share with us.

HIKING AND CLIMBING SCHEDULE

Dec 17-18

Flattop Sleepout

Meet at Glen Alps between 4:00 and 5:00. Bring winter overnight gear, shovel, avalanche beacon, headlamp, tent, etc. And be prepared for gusty, windy, chilly, blizzardy, possibly rainy weather. Leader: Pres. Mike Miller 243-6521

TRIP REPORTS

The Chilkoot Trail

by Roy Smith

"C'me on guys! That's an awful long drive to Skagway just to hike a trail, can't I get you guys to go just a little closer to home?" And I had a list of them on the chalkboard, but they wouldn't hear of it.



"No Roy, we want to do the Chilkoot Trail; besides, we haven't done a 'high adventure' trip for two years, and that's where we want to go." So that's what we did.

If any of you have ever volunteered to be a Scout leader, you know how much planning is involved when it comes to a Scout trip, and this Varsity Scout group was no exception. For most of us, when you want to do a trip, you give your friends a call, and you get together and do a little planning and then go. Well, sometimes I wish it was just that and nothing else.

So, four of us adults took six boys down the Alcan to Skagway. It's a 24-hour drive straight through, and we took our time to show some of the Historical Sites to the boys. That's the first time I have ever taken my time driving the Alcan. Also, there are approximately 100 miles or so of some heavy construction going on on both sides of the border, which keeps one at a maximum speed of 35 MPH.

Two days were spent in Skagway, seeing the sites. Never have I seen a town built and established solely around a trail, and living off the tourism that comes to town just to visit and not even hike it. Kind of sounds like Graceland. Only this Elvis is the Klondike Gold Rush of 1897 and 98.

During those two days, we flew a boy out to Juneau when his symptoms went from complaining about stomach pain to vomiting and severe dehydration. So after paying two visits to the local clinic, Juneau was the best option available. In Juneau, surgery was performed on him to unblock intestinal passage, due to scar tissue build-up from an earlier surgery. I'm just glad it didn't happen on the trail.

Anyway, the remaining eight of us hit the trail late on Monday and camped five miles up the Taiya River at Finnegan's Point. Mike Mason and his son Jeremy, Dick Traini and his son Philip, Ryan Cropper, Kalic Quiroz, Jacob Wessell and me. The week-long weather was very warm at 75 deg. and humid on the Alaska side and dry on the British Columbia side. We "tried" to take our time hiking this trail, spending five days, but it can be done in two and a half, and for some, one day. The second day was spent exploring the Canyon City Site where the remains of cabins and cast iron stoves, a boiler, whip saws, etc. are all that's left. Then on to Sheep Camp for our second night. There are shelters at every camping area, some are cabins of wood, others of canvas. There are N.P.S. rangers who patrol the trail, with five of their stations posted along the trail, at the Dyea trailhead, Canyon

City, the summit, Lindeman City and near the train depot at Bennett Lake.

From Sheep Camp, we hiked up to the Scales, where the largest amount of artifacts are found, left over from the Klondike Stampeders. From a point lower down the trail you begin to notice that the trail follows an old telegraph wire all the way to the Scales. The same wire, I believe, that told the press of goings-on during the gold rush, such as the avalanche that buried many. From Canyon City, you follow the tram that runs up the valley and over the summit to Stone Crib.

From the Scales, you climb the infamous Golden Stairs to the top of the pass, where you find more artifacts and ruins, namely old canvas canoes, and the remains of a bunkhouse, used by the Mounted Police to collect Customs Fees. The Golden Stairs aren't really that hard to climb. I rather thought that the hike up to the Scales to be a bit harder, and even that wasn't too bad. August is a good time to hike this trail, it's bone-dry, the pinks are jammed in all of the lower creeks, the berries are ripe, the mosquitoes are gone and so is the snow.

Happy Camp on the Canadian side is a pretty place, but usually quite windy. If you can make it to Deep Lake, the ten miles is well worth it, perhaps the most beautiful spot on the trail. From there you follow a series of rapids and a chain of lakes to trail's end at Bennett Lake. On the way, Lindeman City has quite a presentation for hikers who decide to spend a night. A miniature pageant of sorts, and a photo display; such a wilderness experience.

Bennett Lake has the only standing building on the whole trail, a church, left by the Stampeders, along with a ton of trash in the form of old bottles, tin cans and a washing machine, as well as some cast iron stoves. Forest fire smoke in the form of a fog bank enveloped us for the remainder of the trip. So, the train ride back to Skagway was rather "breath-taking" and "spell-binding." The train fare this year was approximately \$60.

The Park Service on both sides are very informative, extremely friendly and helpful. Our hats off to them. And, by the way, there is no fee to hike, and if you get sick or injured, it will cost you upwards of \$500.00 for a helicopter, all arranged by the rangers.

Lots of beautiful summits just asking to be climbed around Skagway and near the Chilkoot Trail, and this MCAer took lots of snapshots of them and plans to return to climb them. A beautiful place, wish I was still there.



Membership Directory Information

The MCA plans to publish a Membership Directory in early 1995. The directory will aid members who are looking for outdoor partners to find others with similar interests. If you wish to participate, fill out the following form. Include an address to receive the directory; those who do not participate will not receive a directory.

NAME: _____ Phone(s): _____

Mailing Address: _____

Interests:

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Backpacking | <input type="checkbox"/> Mountain Biking |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Rock Climbing | <input type="checkbox"/> Mid-week Evening Trips |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Ice Climbing | <input type="checkbox"/> Climbing Wall |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Expedition Mountaineering | <input type="checkbox"/> Local Weekend Climbing |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Day Hikes | <input type="checkbox"/> Skiing |

Activities Questionnaire

The club would like to offer more activities year-round. This partly depends on willing volunteers to lead, and partly on knowing where members' interests lie. Please take a minute to fill out the following questionnaire and bring it to a regular meeting or mail it.

From the following list choose five or less activities you would participate in as a club-sponsored event and prioritize them in order of preference (5 being highest).

- | | |
|----------------------------|-------------------------|
| Weekend Backpacking Trips | Winter Camping Trips |
| Day Hikes | Cross-country Ski Trips |
| Mid-week Hikes | Mid-week Skiing |
| Extended Backpacking Trips | Ski Mountaineering |
| Alpine Climbing (local) | Glacier Traverses |
| Expedition Mountaineering | Trips to the Huts |
| Out of State Trips | International Trips |
| Physical Training Programs | Snowshoeing |
| Ocean Kayaking | Nature Trips |
| Trail Clearing | None |

5. _____

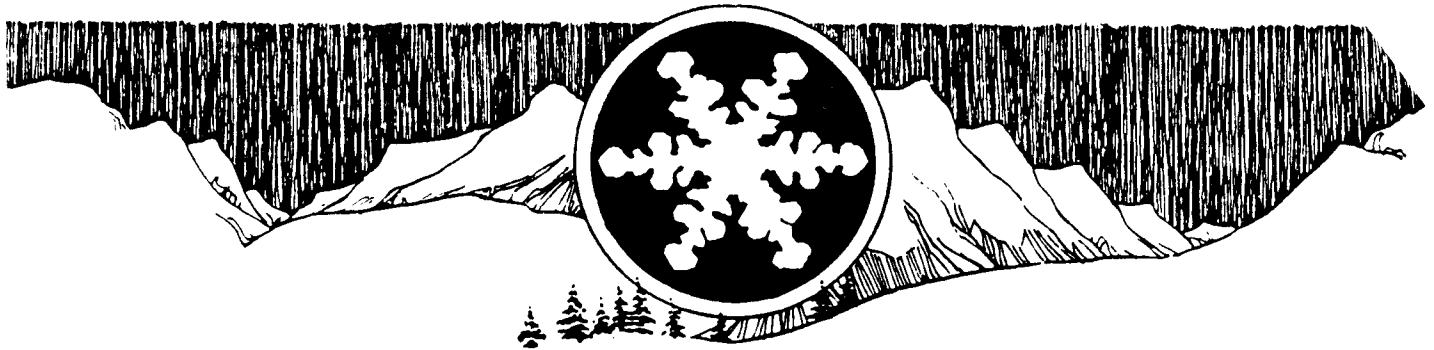
4. _____

3. _____

2. _____

1. _____

PLEASE POST



ALASKA MOUNTAIN SAFETY CENTER, INC. and the ALASKA AVALANCHE SCHOOL

1994-95 SCHEDULE

Date	No./Name Workshop	Location	Cost
11/12	1. Avalanche Hazard Recognition Workshop	CIAA Bldg., Soldotna	\$ 20**
12/10	2. Avalanche Hazard Recognition Workshop	U of A, Room 118, Anchorage	\$ 20**
12/11	3. Avalanche Rescue Field Training	Anchorage/Chugach Mts.	\$ 45***
1/14-16	4. Backcountry Aval. Haz. Eval. & Resc. Techniques	Hatcher Pass, Talkeetna Mts.	\$198
1/20(e), 21-22	5. Snowmachiners' Avalanche Safety Field Workshop	Anchorage/Chugach Mts.	\$175
1/28(a/e)-29	6. Avalanche Hazard Evaluation Refresher	Anchorage/Talkeetna-Kenai Mts.	\$ 85
2/4	7. Avalanche Hazard Recognition Workshop	U of A, Room 118, Anchorage	\$ 20**
2/5	8. Avalanche Rescue Field Training	Anchorage/Chugach Mts.	\$ 45***
2/11-13	9. Backcountry Aval. Haz. Eval. & Resc. Techniques	Aspen, Colorado	\$198****
2/11-12	10. Backcountry Telemark Skiing	Hatcher Pass, Talkeetna Mts.	\$ 85
2/15(e),18-21	11. Intensive Ice Climbing Seminar	Anc(e), Mat. Glacier & Talkeetna Mts.	\$210
2/25-27	12. Backcountry Aval. Haz. Eval. & Resc. Techniques	Hatcher Pass, Talkeetna Mts.	\$198
3/3(e), 4-5(am)	13. The Art of Snow Shelter Construction	Anchorage(e), Hatcher Pass, Talkeetna Mts.	\$ 85
3/6 (6-10 pm)	14. Adult Heartsaver CPR	Anchorage	\$ 38
3/11-13	15. Backcountry Aval. Haz. Eval. & Resc. Techniques	Hatcher Pass, Talkeetna Mts.	\$198
3/8e,14e,16-19	16. Safe Glacier Travel & Crevasse Rescue	Anc(e), Matanuska Glacier, Chugach Mts.	\$210
3/23-26	17. Wilderness Advanced First Aid	Kenai Lake Work Center, Moose Pass	\$240
3/27e,28e,31-4/3	18. A Travelling Workshop in Glacier Country	Anc(e), Matanuska Glacier, Chugach Mts.	\$210
4/6-9	19. Applied Mountain Rescue Workshop	Turnagain Arm, Chugach Mts.	\$210
4/21-23	20. Mountaineering Skills Workshop	Turnagain Arm, Chugach Mts.	\$185
5/19-22	21. Ocean Kayaking Workshop	Resurrection Bay, Seward	\$210
Open	Custom Workshops for your Organization	Open	Open

Abbreviations: a/e= afternoon/evening session, e=evening session from roughly 7-10 pm, am=workshop ends by noon.
 * Cost does not include required reading materials, food, or travel but in some cases, does include accommodations (see below & course descriptions. Matanuska Glacier access fee of \$5/day per person is not included).
 ** Cost is \$15 per person for students under 17 or families of three or more.
 *** Cost is \$40 per person for families of three or more.
 **** For registration, call Scott Messina, (303) 925-6618.

CURRICULUM: The Alaska Mountain Safety Center, Inc. (AMSC) is a non-profit organization created for the purpose of promoting public safety in and around the mountain environment through education, research, publishing, and consulting. To this end, we offer a variety of programs, including the Alaska Avalanche School. Because we believe that people learn best by doing, we emphasize intensive, hands-on field training at all of our major workshops. Participants will have the opportunity to involve themselves in small groups with daily exposure to different concepts, methodologies, and skills. *Pre-registration is required.*

REGISTRATION: Fill out the registration form (reverse side), enclose the appropriate tuition and materials fee, and mail to:

The Alaska Mountain Safety Center, Inc.
 9140 Brewsters Drive
 Anchorage, AK 99516
 Phone/Fax: (907) 345-3566



BOARD MEETING

The MCA Board met at Mike Miller and Julia Moore's house on November 2, 1994. Present were Mike Miller, James Larabee, Mark Flanum, Julia Moore, Dave Pahlke, Willy Hersman, Jonathan Rose, Dave Logan and Mark Miraglia. Ron Rickman was called during the middle of the meeting.

Topics:

Board.

- Reviewed who is on board and their responsibilities.
 - Dave Pahlke - 1 year remaining
 - Mark Miraglia - 1 year remaining
 - Dave Logan - 2 years remaining
 - Julia Moore - 2 years remaining
 - Dave Hart - past president - 1 year

Policies.

- Dave Pahlke asked about rules regarding member list. MCA policy is the MCA will not sell member list. This is a pre-existing rule but was confirmed again at this meeting.
- Board appointed Willy Hersman as "Trip Leader Overseer" to evaluate all trips submitted for publishing in the *Scree*.
- Mike Miller asked Willy Hersman to write a list of guidelines for leading trips (compile criteria for winte and dangerous summer trips)
- All trips in winter in avalanche areas require avalanche training for the leader.
- Discussion of MCA's non-profit status. MCA must maintain this to protect itself from liability.
- Board agreed that any political correspondence by MCA must have a majority vote by the board.
- Board agreed to hang onto MCA waivers indefinitely.

Huts.

- Voted to approve construction / rehab of outhouse at Mint Hut.
- Suggestion by Mark Miraglia to use Alaska Helicopter instead of ERA for next hut construction haul in.
- General discussion of permits, costs and logistics of building and maintaining a new MCA hut.
- Need to inspect existing huts and find out status/ repair needs. (This should be researched at next general membership

meeting.)

- Board voted to pursue construction of a new hut in 1995. Willy Hersman has a proposed site. The repair of the outhouse at the Mint hut has priority over the construction of a new hut.

- Dave Pahlke will be foreman for new hut project (Blue print, design, construction supervision). Mike Miller will do organization of workforce, etc.

Programs.

- Discussion of the value/interest in having a ten minute training session at each general meeting. No strong support for this proposal.
- Proposal to have 3-4 different mountains (Shorter programs) at one meeting two to four times a year.
- Richard Baranof has agreed to take over refreshment duty.

- Board agreed to pursue the development of a club membership directory. -Julia Moore to compile MCA membership directory.

Training.

- Jonathan Rose suggests that MCA provide a scholarship program for past trip; leaders to take additional advanced courses (e.g. medical, leadership, avalanche, etc.)
- James Larabee volunteered to be chair of the trainin committee. Jonathan Rose agreed to help.

Miscell.

- Board votes to support the Chugach 25th Anniversary celebration by hosting the Flattop Summer Solstice sleepout.
- MCA to respond to letter from Russian group regarding trips in Alaska.
- Discussion of new climber's fee for the Alaska Range (McKinley, Hunter and Foraker). Board agreed to draft letter to park service regarding this issue.
- There is a possibility of building a ice climbing wall at Kinkaid sometime in the future. Announcement to be made at next general membership meeting to explore the level of interest.
- Willy Hersman proposed that MCA participate in the Adopt a Trail program.

Meeting was adjourned at 9:20 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Mark Flanum



MINUTES

NOVEMBER MEETING

Mike Miller called the meeting to order at 7:45, and introduced the new officers and board. Mike read the club Goals and By-Laws, which he pledged to follow and try to advance the goals for the coming year.

TREASURER'S REPORT.

Money Market.	\$7533.90
Checking.	2150.42
Petty Cash.	<u>100.00</u>
Total	\$9784.32

COMMITTEE REPORTS.

Huts.

Chr. **Mike Miller** announced a meeting on December 7th, 1994 at 6:30 pm at his house, 7150 Dawn Drive. There are many positions available including designing, material acquisition, construction, transportation, etc. A new hut will be built in town, dismantled, transported to the site and re-built. The purpose of the new hut will be to further the chain of huts in the Talkeetna Mountains. **Willy Hersman** has proposed a site in Moose Creek. Please contact Mike if you have any other proposed sites or area of interest for a new hut.

Also the club needs to know of any hut repairs needed to any of the Eklutna traverse huts. Call Mike.

Library.

Librarian **Joe Kurtak** talked about the new books purchased for the Vin Hoeman Library. Also thanks to **Jonathan Rose** for the new chair, and to the anonymous donor of a box of mountaineering books left at the library.

Training.

Chr. **James Larabee** announced the club is hoping to provide advanced training to trip leaders. There will be a meeting on November 30, 7:00 pm. at James' house for those interested in training issues. (522-3854)

NEW BUSINESS.

Mike Miller reported on the MCA board meeting. See board minutes.

The club will once again publish a **MCA Membership Directory**. Please fill out the directory form, if you wish to participate, and mail the form back to the club or bring it to a meeting.

The club will help **Chugach State Park** in its 25th Anniversary celebration by opening its annual summer solstice sleepout on Flattop to the public.

ANNOUNCEMENTS.

Thanks to the **Great Harvest Bread Company** which donated bread for the MCA meeting. The store is owned by **Dirk Sisson** and **Barbara Hood**. It is located in the Metro Mall. Please stop by the store and show your thanks for their support.

Mark Flanum announced that several people are interested in exploring the possibility of constructing an ice climbing wall at Kincaid Park. He is trying to find out what level of interest there is from MCA members. Please call him at 258-6993 if you would support the idea or if you have any ideas on construction.

Despite efforts of the climbing community to stop it, the **National Park Service** has implemented a \$150.00 administrative fee for climbing Denali and Foraker. MCA is concerned that this might spread to include fees for peaks in Wrangell-St. Elias.

The annual winter solstice climb will be held December 17; meet at Glen Alps between 4:00 and 5:00. **Mike Miller** will lead.

Julia Moore announced that the **Alaska Mountain Safety Center** provides high quality avalanche and backcountry training. See brochure this issue.

Your memberships for 1995 are all due by year's end, unless you just paid in October or November.

Thanks to **James Larabee** and **Dave Pahlke** for their slide shows of Carpathian and Southern Utah, salvaging the pre-announced play which did not happen.

Respectfully Submitted,

Mark Flanum

