

MOUNTAINEERING CLUB OF ALASKA

Anchorage

Alaska

SCREE

No. 5, Vol. 1

February, 1959

MEETING, MONDAY, MARCH 2nd: KENI Auditorium, 8 p.m.

The change of day from Thursday to Monday could have been responsible for the relatively few members present at the last Mountaineering Club of Alaska meeting on February 2nd. We certainly hope that this new date of meeting is convenient with most of you. However, if it is a difficult night, the Executive Committee would appreciate hearing about this from you. Drop a postcard to: Helga Bading - 700 5th Ave., or Mr. Paul Crews - 1905 E. 27th St., Spenard.

The next meeting will be on Monday, March 2nd at the usual place - KENI Auditorium and the usual time - 8 p.m.

The last meeting was interesting. Johnny Johnston showed slides he had made on several trips in the local areas. Those were appealing because they indicated the sort of climbing the members of M.C.A. will be attempting this season. It was good to have the opportunity to see something of what the near-by climbing regions are like before venturing into them. Paul Crews and Johnny Johnston have made several attempts on Marcus Baker (13,176 ft.) only to be frustrated by weather or by impractical routes. Hope the next assault will be a success!

Before the slides were shown, the uninitiated were given a demonstration in knot tying. Andy Branchli brought sufficient ropes so that it was possible for those present and interested to practice this necessary mountaineering technique. This was a pleasant way to acquire a useful bit of knowledge which could be handy in other situations too.

CLIMBING SCHEDULE:

March 1	- Call Paul Crews - 38625
March	- Twenty-Mile
April	- Burns Glacier or Portage Glacier or Thompson Pass

For those of you who were not present at the last meeting, the Patch Committee was appointed when the matter of the design for a patch had seemed to come to an impasse.

Patches are a problem! Most of the good ideas for designs are not feasible since the size of the patch and the material from which one is made are limiting. The Committee thinks the most important thing is striking color contrast with some symbol pertaining to mountaineering. This isn't easy to decide on because the range of appropriate symbols isn't great. There are as possibilities - animals (mountain goats, for example) or the Big Dipper or crossed ice axes or a mountain (though McKinley, the Committee feels does not make a good patch image). The Committee would certainly welcome any suggestion a member might have. The Chairman is R. Wilson - home phone 44572. There will be a report about patches at the March meeting.

20

2

The climbing committee solicits your aid in organizing a schedule of activities for this summer that is sufficiently diversified to encourage maximum participation of our membership. This first season ... of necessity ... will be an exploratory one, but nevertheless it will form the foundation for future seasons. So help lay a solid foundation by contributing suggestions based on your experience in climbing and hiking in this area.

We want to ferret out every nook and cranny that you have climbed or think should be climbed so don't hold back with your suggestions even though you may not be particularly interested in returning to some of them a second time ... it may offer a challenge to others.

Most of our trips will be for one day or overnight; on a few occasions when the holidays fall right they may be for three or four days, or perhaps a week's outing may be in order. Some trips will also be included strictly for us "Valley Pounders".

Please list:---

1. Places to climb or hike
2. Time required
3. How difficult
4. Which ones you would volunteer to lead.

Share your knowledge for the enjoyment of other by sending your suggestions to:

Bob Rankin  
Martin Arms Apt. 19F  
Anchorage, Alaska

Don't you discard this matter without first suggesting one place to climb or hike besides Mount McKinley... we're all going to climb that anyway. I can see that Mountain now cringing before a mass assault by every able bodied man, woman and child belonging to the Mountaineering Club of Alaska.

GIVE !!!      GIVE !!!      GIVE !!!      RIGHT NOW !!!      (PLEASE)

Make the climbing committee work overtime sorting out and classifying your suggestions. At least 73 suggestions from 73 members. The other 72 have promised to send in their reply... but we are especially interested in yours, because we know that you know some good places to.

A group from outside has plans for spending about four weeks doing scientific study and climbing in the Chugach Range near Valdez. It will be their fourth trip. They've asked if one or two of our people want to tag along. Write: Mr. Lawrence Nielsen, 47 Brainard Rd., N. Wilbraham, Mass.

August 1960, will see the Iowa Mountaineers visiting Alaska for the third time. Previous visits were to Mt. McKinley Park and the Eastern Alaska Range. The group will consist of a hiking group and 8 to 10 serious climbers. They ask MCA to suggest areas and if there's anyone who'll join them to help acquaint them with the area and approach problems. See Paul Crews if interested.

In the last issue of SCREE, a list of the membership with addresses and phone numbers was included. In this issue we are making an appeal for any additions or corrections to appear in the next issue. Helga Bading would be the person to give information to and her address is listed above.

It seems that this section is becoming one man's opinion. Despite the fact that contributions from everyone dissertating on favorite subjects are urgently requested, it's up to old J.H.J. to write it again. This time, I'm going to take the bull by the tail and write on one of my most favorite but least qualified subjects - Leading a Trip. A large book would be required to cover this art adequately so I'll just flit around and try to hit the high spots by making a series of statements:

1. Leading a climb or trip consists of more than walking at the head of the line.
2. Climbing ability is secondary to good sense and leadership.
3. Know where you're going.
4. Be sure all of your party is properly equipped.
5. Set up your trip and keep those who are going informed of changes.
6. If the trip is beyond the abilities of a tentative participant, tell him or her so.
7. Inform a stay behind member so someone will know your plans if you don't get back.
8. Set pace for the slowest. Allow no stragglers or lone wolves. Count noses ever so often. Appoint a steady climber to bring up the rear.
9. "He who fights and runs away  
lives to win another day".