

FEBRUARY MEETING: Monday, February 21, 1966, 8:00 PM, Willow Park Community Center, 9th and Fairbanks St. The subject will be "Mountain Living and Climbing Leadership" by Bill Davis. All of us from the Sunday hiker to the serious Mountaineer can benefit by this discussion. This discussion, although part of the regular meeting, is the first in a series of four meetings designed to acquaint everyone with various aspects of mountaineering and outdoor living. The other sessions are as follows:

Feb 28 - "Mountaineering Equipment, Knotsmanship and the Ten Essentials" Paul Crews. This will be a demonstration and discussion of equipment, some basic knots and the ten essentials which should be on every trip.

March 7 - "Playing it by ear".
This could be a very interesting evening

March 21 - Regular Meeting: "Climbing Expedition - Mount Logan". Slides and narration by Bill Davis

All meetings are at Willow Park at 8:00 PM

ACTIVITY SCHEDULE

Feb 19 - 20 Johnson Pass to Moose Pass with the Nordic Club - Barney Seiler leader
This is a two day trip. 277-9018

Feb 26/27 Fur Rendezvous - Ski or snowshoe out to the dog trail and view the dog races. Ruth Schmidt leader 272-2887

March 5-9 Chilkoot Pass "Trail of 98" with the Nordic Club - 5 days cost approx. \$120 - \$150

March 12/13 Ptarmigan Ski Area Tour - 1 day - Leo Hannon leader 277-4748

March 20 Lake Eklutna scouting trip, anyone interested call Dave DeVoe 333-5492 or Ron Linder 272-4401 AMU

March 26 Glacier Trek - 5 days - Eklutna Glacier - Ron Linder leader 272-4401
Glacier and ski touring experience required

No weekend or day trips have been planned for March 5-6 or March 26. Anyone interested in Independence Mine or Johnson's Pass?

PTARMIGAN SKI AREA

February 12

Little Peter's Chukarra

John Wolfe

This was a typical MCA trip..... It all began logically with an "interest sheet" at a meeting. Originally, it was to traverse the ridge behind Arctic Valley and connect to Hiland Road. Originally, Dave DeVoe was billed as Leader. By the week prior to the trip, the scene had shifted to Ptarmigan at Chugiak. The morning of the trip, the Leader dissipated into thin air - and the rest of us went anyway.

We were Leo Hannan, Roger Crosby, Gayle Nienhueser, Bill Hague, and myself. Leo's car of course came nowhere close to getting up the three-mile hill to Ptarmigan. We parked it in a nearby pile of snow; no one felt like putting on chains, and we had Bill's new Scout to ferry men and gear. Trouble was, the Scout wouldn't go into 4-wheel drive and low-range; one or the other but not both. Bill flipped a coin, used 4-wheel high range, and roared off up the mountain with equipment inside and men hanging on outside - with one terrible exception, me. I was still where he made his decision and did the obvious; I walked most of the way up and, guess what....? Sure, Bill came back to give me a "lift" - not even to the top; the Scout went only 3/4 of the way up. So we parked it in a convenient pile of snow, too, and trudged on carrying packs and skis.

Sure enough, we found Ptarmigan, and it didn't seem bad; nice A-frame shelter, two rope tows, and lots of wide-open country for skiing. Two problems: The place was all closed up and the snow was hard as a brick. So, we broke out some food and wondered what to do next.....

As always in this outfit, some nut said "Why don't we go up to that saddle and maybe we can see something on the other side?" You could guess the rest. Some other

screw ball said "O.K., and we'll be just under that little peak there on the left, maybe we can go up there, too."

So we put away all our nice sandwiches (no one ever suggests we not go), put on skis, and went "skiing" off up the icy slope on our tails. There were drifts, holes, even tufts of tundra among the crust, but we really had a ball. Only problem in most minds was how in Sam Hill we were going to get down from there with skis on all that stuff. Then we made the saddle and looked out all across Eagle River, the bases, Anchorage, and the inlet so we half forgot our problem of getting home again. And we decided to have some food.....

You're right. Some damfool looked around and saw how "close" that stupid peak was now. So we put away all our nice sandwiches and started off again. Now, at least, we didn't have skis; the slope was almost bare as in summer except a few drifts so hard they had not blown away the day before.

The end of the whole thing, of course, was that we did make our "little summit" at 4200'. And there we sat, in the middle of winter in arctic Alaska, atop a knoll in a snowdrift, with the cold wind whistling about our ears - that's right - munching sandwiches.

We got down without mishap, on our tails, and the two-mile "schuss" down to the car was great. Excellent day, lots of fun, good company, and hilarious time. Try Ptarmigan - it really offers (with snow) excellent family skiing. Ray Beam, the owner, talked to us at one point and specifically invited MCA people to "come on up" - winter skiing, summer camping, or hiking and climbing anytime. Only one set restriction: ABSOLUTELY NO HUNTING ALLOWED. Respect this and we'll have access to a fine recreational area throughout the year.

INDIAN INSTEAD OF JOHNSON PASS

January 23

Helen Wolfe

Early Sunday morning, January 23, three cars left Anchorage, headed for Johnson Pass and a day of ski touring. They contained Gayle Nienhuesser, Roger Crosby, Sally Hague, Helen Wolfe, Steffen Maagoe, Marge Prescott, Carrie Lewis, Ruth Schmidt, Bill Hauser, and Scott Foster. We were to meet Leo Hannan and Bill Hague at Johnson Pass where they had spent the night. As we neared Portage the roads grew slicker, the number of cars resting on their roofs beside the road increased, the visibility decreased.... and finally we were plowing our way through a blizzard and drifting snow. At Portage we met Leo and Bill who had been routed out of Johnson Pass the night before by the highway patrol—told it they didn't leave then they probably wouldn't get out.

After much debate we decided to go back to Indian, where the clouds had at least been slightly higher, and see if we could find the power line road. Our first attempt deteriorated into a road covered with much windfall. Bill Hauser and Scott Foster had long since disappeared over and under the fallen trees; the rest of us decided to have lunch before choosing a course of action. We then went back to the fork we should have taken and headed up it. Bill and Scott shortly passed us, heading out, and before long most of the rest of the group turned back. Leo, Roger, and I continued on, finally finding the power line itself, and climbing quite steep pitches merely on waxed skis. Leo had climbing wax, Roger had red, and I had blue. We later concluded that the only reason I, at least, had done so well was because I had done everything wrong about waxing and was carrying with me a good deal of snow stuck to the bottom of the skis! However, I was no longer slipping backwards with each step, and I was happy. On the return trip my skis went just as fast as I wanted them to go, too.

We returned to the cars before dark, pleased with our day but still hoping to get to Johnson Pass some day.

In order to publish a membership roster telephone numbers are needed for the following people:
Marion Bee, Joan V Burns, Cliff Ellis, Bill Hauser, Leo Miller, Kerstin Pettersen, Robert Schermer, Clarence Serfoss, Margaret Wherritt, Daniel Wolfe.
Please call me 277-2001 (Marge Prescott) or see me at the next meeting. We would like to get our files up to date.

SCREE is published monthly by the Mountaineering Club of Alaska, Box 2037, Anchorage, Alaska: Staff Marge Prescott, Helen Wolfe, Carrie Lewis.