

SCREE

MOUNTAINEERING CLUB OF ALASKA
Box 2037 Anchorage, Alaska 99501

Volume 12, Number 1
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With this issue of SCREE is presented an index to the mountains (over 250 of them) in the pages of the first ten plus years of publication. This seems a good time to begin a new volume in order that the numbers of our issues from now on will correspond to the numbers of the months. The editorial staff who worked on the material in this issue include K. Courtright, C. DeVoe, G&V Hoeman, J. Merrick, H. Nienheuser, L. Snyder and R. Spurr.

JANUARY MEETING...Ben Crawford Memorial Park, 3rd & Eagle, Monday, 13 Jan. 8:00 p.m.
SWAP & SELL NITE: Bring any outdoor equipment or apparel you wish to swap or sell, or your money if you care to buy. Also we hope to show The Mountaineers' training color sound movie "This is Self Arrest?".

FEBRUARY MEETING...TENTH ANNIVERSARY POT-LUCK DINNER...7 p.m. Friday evening, 7 February
Each person or couple bring either a salad or a main dish, enough to feed themselves plus four. Dessert & coffee will be provided by the club. Bring your own place-setting. Keg beer will be available to those who desire it at a flat rate-bring your mug. Members without kitchen facilities, you can bring extras like chips, Pickles, olives, etc. Remember, your food contribution is your ticket!

WHERE: Herbst Residence, Alpine Terrace subdivision off Hillside Road. From O'Malley Rd and Hillside Rd. intersection, travel south on latter almost one mile to Park Drive on left. After turning onto Park Drive, take first left onto Terrace Drive followed by 2nd right up driveway to house. Limited parking at home-suggest leaving people and food at the door and parking below one-lane driveway. Members needing transportation, call Joanne Merrick, 272-5243. Those wishing to contribute to entertainment, call Sharon Cissna, 272-0858.

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VISTA PEAK, 5070. Sunday 19 January...Prominent peak on the ridgeline behind Mt. Magnificent above the town of Eagle River. $3\frac{1}{2}$ miles of cross-country skiing followed by ascent of steep snow slope to the summit. Views of Anchorage area and interior of W. Chugach, weather permitting. An invigorating outing for skiers, hikers and climbers. Meet at Carrs' parking lot, Eagle River at 7:30 a.m. LEADER: TCM MEACHAM, 688-2671 evenings.

PASTORAL PEAK, 4764. Saturday 25 January...Leave 6:00 a.m. from Sears parking lot, Seward Highway and Northern Lights. Climbing Pastoral requires only genuine enthusiasm and skis or fast snowshoes. Beautiful mountain surroundings will accompany us to a high valley and the view from the summit will amply reward all climbers. Bring your skins, skiers. Everyone out for this one. For encouragement or information, call NICK PARKER, 279-4619.

KICKSTEP MOUNTAIN, 4660. Sunday 2 February...Annual MCA climb...Prominent peak in the Turnagain Pass area near the head of Tincan Creek. Four mile approach and a one-day climb for skiers. Those wishing to make a weekend of it can snowshoe or ski in on Saturday. Roped climb on enjoyable NW Ridge. Ski or snowshoe out under full moon. Ropes required for every three climbers. Good physical condition assumed. Bring crampons. See index of SCREE for accounts of former winter ascents. LEADER: JOHN DILLMAN, 344-2904.

N. FACE of PTARMIGAN-HOPK (rescheduled-see description November SCREE) or EXPLORER GLA & PK. Sunday 9 February...Choice of objective depends on interest. For latter, from Portage Road climb westernmost glacier to saddle at 3000 and ascend short west ridge to 3550 plus or minus summit. Good views of Skookum and Placer River valleys. Snowshoes or skis. Indicate peak preference on sign-up sheet. LEADERS: NIENHAUSER, PARKER, and SPURR.

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Short Climbs for Short Days

Vin Hoeman

What to climb in the winter-time. It's discouraging to make big plans then fail to even reach the base of the climb in these short cold days. Moonlight is fine, but our US Space Guard light-tenders have not yet figured out how to regulate the periodicity or pierce cloud layers with that beacon. And who wants to spend 18 hours in the sack in order to link two 6-hour days? Better, it seems, to choose short climbs.

Any climb is long if we must walk from Anchorage, but our wheeled transportation is reliable enough, unless it is very cold, and even a long highway approach can be made in darkness to leave the day for climbing. Southward on the Kenai one can park at about 1000 on Turnagain Pass, slightly higher near Summit Lake. The touring is nice, but few named or independent summits can be reached from these spots in a day and avalanche danger is often high. Rather than risk a slide, continue to Kenai Lake. The frozen lake opens up something rare in Alaska, named summits forested to their tops, Black Mtn. 2213, and Porcupine Island 715. Grace and I traversed the latter this cold, windy New Year's Day and wished we'd had ice skates for the approach. Round Mountain 3875, and the Mystery Hills 3520, north of Sterling Highway on the Kenai Moose Range are also good snowshoe climbs.

The Portage Road kept open all winter now provides quick access to peaks hard to reach in the summer. On 8 December Bill Babcock, Grace and I started and finished in the dark in order to ski & web up Bear Valley and ascend the NW Ridge of Maynard Mtn. 4050, for a first recorded ascent overlooking Whittier. Bard Peak 3850 (at the corner of 3 post glaciers) and its subsummit, Shakespeare Shoulder 3517, as well as our old standby, Byron Pk. 4750, and Explorer Peak 3550, are suitable winter objectives. Bramble Knoll 3255, between Kern and Peterson Creeks is steep and accessible. At Alyeska ski area one needs to start before the lifts open to get anywhere but the walk up is economical and invigorating. On 24 December Grace and I climbed the West Ridge of Mt. Alyeska 3937 (rather than the more frequently used North Ridge which curves around to the Roundhouse), and descended the SW Ridge now known as Baumann Ridge after our former member, Ernie (1922-60), whose idea Alyeska was traversing the 3302 bump formerly known as Max's Mountain (that name is now incorrect) atop which are a 1959 USGLO brass cap and a large cairn sporting bamboo slalom sticks.

Closer to home, the roads to the South Fork of Campbell Creek, Basher, and the Skibowl are frequently open to elevations 2200, 1000, and 2500 respectively for approaches to Flat-top, O'Malley, Ramp, Wolverine, Rendezvous and Gordon Lyon. Harp Mountain 5001, up the South Fork of Eagle River can be approached on skis. The brush is not so bad as in summer on Highland Mtn. 3650, or Mt. Significant 5485 (highest on Anch. B-7 quad), but one can avoid any at by using the Ptarmigan Ski Area road to reach Blacktail Rocks 4446, Roundtop 4755, and Vist Peak 5070. For a real brush battle where devils club was invented, try the couloirs & ridge of the wide end of the west ridge of Mt. Eklutna. Eklutna Road is usually open far enough to approach the Twin Peaks and Goat Rock.

In the Palmer area there's always Bodenburg Butte 881, for a really bad day. The origin of its name is unknown, perhaps it was intended as Boden-berg, bottom mountain? Up the Little Susitna, Government Peak 4781, is fun if there's a lot of snow, but take a shovel to dig your car port. On 15 December Sharon Cissna led the snowshoe and ski trip to Hatcher Pass, Tom Jane Meacham, Jerry & Mrs. Smith joining her in contending with snow machine trains for right of way on that narrow road while Grace and I branched off to almost reach the 4811 first summit of Bald Mountain Ridge, the wind being rather fierce up there. A named summit can be reached on the other side from the pass, Skyscraper Mtn. 4850.

For stouter hearts and the better prepared, The Pinnacle 5550, is a good winter climb, also Pinnacle Mountain 4541, and Kings Mountain 5809, across the ice of Matanuska River, and winter ascents of Granite Peak 6729, Castle Mountain 5530, and Strelshla Mtn. 5450, have yet to be accomplished. Further up Glenn Highway Gunsight 6450, Table 4350, and Slide 4015, Mountains are all good ski tours from starts as high as 3000 feet, but temperatures in and near the intermountain basin are apt to be colder than nearer the coast.

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Dave Johnston writes from Nepal that the only summit reached was Kalapuchar, 18,192, above Everest basecamp by Sally, Ang Guyurmi, & him, though he and Geo. Menard reached 20,500 on Ganesh, before Bernbaum & Fletcher following avalanched off (unhurt but gear lost). Now he & Sal cross-country to Europe, marry in New Jersey in April, and home to Alaska!