

MOUNTAINEERING CLUB OF ALASKA

BOX 2037

ANCHORAGE, ALASKA 99501

MARCH 1971

VOL. 14, NO. 3

MARCH MEETING...Thursday March 18...8:00 p.m....Central Jr. High Multipurpose Room... 15th and E...use E. St. parking lot and entrance...PROGRAM: Mini slide show by Grace Hoeman...business meeting...refreshment break...film "By Nature's Rules"...comes to grips with the #1 killer of outdoor recreationists-HYPOTHERMIA (exposure, freezing, exhaustion, etc.)...learn the causes and effects...join a party of hikers faced with a life and death emergency...beautifully photographed in color in Mt. Rainier and Olympic National Parks.

BOARD MEETING...Thursday April 1...8:30 p.m....at Bob Smith's...4337 Dorothy Drive.

MCA CALENDAR

March 21 (Sun.) MT. ALYESKA SKI TOUR. Ski up Center Ridge of Mt. Alyeska, down to Virgin Creek Basin, then up to Baumann's Bump (Max's Mountain), and finally back to Alyeska Cirque. Bring downhill skis and skins. Meet at 8:00 a.m. in front of the Day Lodge at Alyeska. Leader: Steve Hackett (279-7681 Ex521, days).

March 27-28 (Sat.-Sun.) MONTANA PEAK SKI TOUR. On the first day, ski in to base of Montana Peak in the Talkeetnas (about 8 miles). Camp overnight and ski back out on Sunday. Meet at the new MacDonalds (corner of Boniface and DeBarr) at 7:15 a.m. Leader: Randy Renner. Sign up at March meeting.

April 3 (Sat.) ARKOSE PEAK SKI TOUR in the Little Susitna Valley. (See SCREE vol. 12, no. 6 June 1969, p. 3) Day trip or overnight depending on the weather. Ski in about 3 or 4 miles. Meet at Valu-Mart parking lot at 6:30 a.m. Leader: Grace Hoeman. Sign up at meeting.

SUMMIT LAKE AREA - "Leo Hannan will lead a couple of exploring trips in the Colorado Creek and Fresno Creek areas some time this month. No date has been set but if you are interested, call him at 277-4748. Neither trip is recommended for beginners as he is not sure what type of terrain might be encountered. There will be some brush cutting to do on Colorado Creek but not enough to spoil a days trip." --from Nordic Ski Club Newsletter.

April 30-May 2 (Fri.-Sun.) GIRDWOOD TO EKLUTNA SKI TRAVERSE. Leader: Randy Renner.

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MCA BUSINESS

Minutes of the February 18, 1971 meeting

Vice president Elvin Brudie called the meeting to order at 8:07 p.m. Wendell Oderkirk presented a short slide show on the June 1970 climb of 13,186' Mt. Marcus Baker. Conservation committee chairman, Hans Van der Laan reported that the BLM has asked various conservation group representatives to meet on March 15 to discuss the proposed Gates of the Arctic.

Leo Hannan, chairman of the Huts and Cabins committee, reported the committee held its first meeting on Feb. 17. Assistance is needed to help on improvements to cabins. He also had historical information available on the MCA cabins. Leo has set up a tentative program for improving the 3 cabins from Eklutna to Girdwood, and a list of proposed cabin improvements and maps was made available to the members. The cabins need extensive work this summer starting with Pichler's Perch in July. A large group is needed to put on the siding that is already at the cabin. Air transportation of siding to the Whiteout cabin has been promised. If anyone knows of any cabins that would be available to MCA'ers, please contact Leo. If possible have photos and description or map of location of cabin. These cabins will eventually be compiled into a booklet for club use.

Bob Smith urged anyone having material for a short program at the beginning of the meeting to please contact him. The program does not have to be on mountaineering; it could be on conservation, ecology, hiking, ski touring, etc. or even just a short talk.

Barry Kircher reported the MCA Winter Mountaineering School would be held Sat. Feb. 27 with the objective being West Twin Peak near Palmer.

Forty-two of the 50 trips in "50 Wilderness Routes in Southcentral Alaska" had been sent to Seattle and were circulating through the review committee. Publication was tentatively scheduled for the end of June.

Leo Hanna moved that we send letters of support only to the 20 senators concerning SB 63--Terry Miller's ban of snowmachines from all forms of hunting except subsistence. If the bill passes the Senate, we will also send letters of support to the representatives. The motion was seconded and passed.

John Samuelson presented past president Randy Renner with an engraved ice axe, a club tradition. Carol DeVoe informed us that Jack Doyle of the YMCA needed people who were interested in leading teenagers on trips this summer. Rod Wilson introduced Howard and Elinor Schuck. Howard was the 4th president of the MCA.

After a short break Chuck O'Leary presented an informative program on avalanches,

Respectfully submitted,

Marty Corcoran...acting MCA sec.

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The Alaska Rescue Group presents...

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

MAN IN THE COLD ENVIRONMENT: PART III
Effect of Clothing in Cold Environments

Clothing is only a protective shelter that we carry around. The immediate effect of adding clothing to the nude body is to trap a certain thickness of virtually dead, body-warmed air from the cooler air that was formerly circulating past. The effectiveness of the clothing will depend upon the rate at which heat passes across the space between the skin and the clothing barrier and through this barrier.

Transfer across the space between skin and clothing depends upon the distance between them and on the rate of air movement within the space. Where clothing touches the skin, as when clothing is pressed against the body by contact with the colder ground or solid objects, by wind or by the hang of the clothing, the transfer of heat will be rapid. And where wet clothing touches the skin, the resultant conduction and evaporation heat loss will be rapid--often at the same time as immersion heat loss.

Transfer of heat through clothing, itself, may take place in several ways: through conduction through the fibers, such as metallic fibers in the clothing, nails in boots, buttons, etc.; through conduction or convection, radiation, or through the dead air held in the interstices between the fibers of the weave. If water replaces a large part of the interstices, then the heat conductivity of the fabric is greatly increased. Such wetness greatly increases heat loss by evaporation and conduction. This can become the outdoorsman's greatest problem in stormy weather.

The radiation absorption effect of clothing can be a great help in cold environments. Dark clothing absorbs radiant heat from the sun and reflective clothing repels heat. The openings of clothing--neck, arm and leg cuffs, zipper openings, all contribute to heat loss to some degree, and often allow the greatest amount of heat loss due to the pumping action of warm air next to the skin during body movement.

Cold that affects the body can be minor or severe. The backyard wind that chills the skin and numbs the fingers is just a reminder that the body surfaces need better protection or a change of environment. The cold felt by a person out in a wet, windy winter snowstorm can set up physiological reactions in the body that can be fatal in a few hours without adequate body protection.

The severe cold of the arctic or the wind and blizzard of the plains are prone to freeze unprotected flesh in minutes. Even the animals with hair and fur coats struggle to live through wind and rain storms accompanied by low temperatures.

(to be continued next month)

...Information from: Outdoor Living, Problems, Solutions,
Guidelines - MRA

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INDIANHOUSE MT. ATTEMPT

July 25, 1970

Buddy Jaidinger

It was 5:00 a.m. and the skies were clear. Our prayers to the Weather-God had been answered! (We had thought of a sacrifice, but could find no one to volunteer.) We parked at Green River near the mouth of Falls Creek and began sorting the food and gear for our mini-expedition up the south face of Indianhouse Mt. Expedition members included my brother, Bill, our neighbor, Mark Seward, and myself.

There was little bushwhacking and we were soon hiking up a rock-strewn slope below the ominous-looking cliffs of the south face. We found good rock-scrabbling on the cliffs and spent the next few hours route-finding and taking pictures. We reached the ledge where, over a year before, two other guys and myself had been stranded for awhile by low clouds, wind, snow, and rain during my first attempt at this over-grown hunk of rock.

This was Mark's first try at climbing and he seemed to be enjoying it. He took full advantage of our route-finding stops to take in the view of the rising sun hitting Turnagain Arm and the mountains beyond. I could hear him mumbling threats to himself of quitting his job and spending all his time climbing.

At long last we peered over the top of a ridge and suddenly we were in the sunlight. It was the beginning of the summit ridge. The high point looked as if it might be the summit. But upon reaching it we found, to our disappointment, that the summit was at the end of a long ridge and at least two hours away. We had great views in all directions, the Suicide Peaks, Bird Ridge, Indian Valley, and so on.

We felt it our duty to go for the summit so that we could inform any prospective members of the Alaska Chapter of Future Climbers of America what the route along the ridge was like.

We proceeded along the ridge and dropped our packs at the top of a grassy knoll which was to be the beginning of our descent route. From here we thought that we could reach the summit and be back in about an hour. The ridge offered good scrambling for the most part except for a bit of fancy footwork needed to cross a scree slope that had around a thousand feet of exposure down to Falls Creek. Everything was going fine and the summit seemed close enough to touch. Then abruptly the ridge became rather knife-edged. It was a small distance but it looked as if a person would have trouble crossing it if his hair was parted on the side. Bill and Mark volunteered me to go first. I shimmied across very slowly (leaning a little to the side to compensate for having my hair parted). I reached the end and peered over the edge of a large gully (gully hell, it was a gorge!). I yelled a few things back at the guys that related neither to good grammar nor good taste and reluctantly scurried back to them. I explained the situation to them and we all agreed that the gully, like the devil's club on Pioneer Peak, was a Communist plot.

With a little time we probably could have descended and traversed below the gully, but it seemed too far and we were all too tired. I hadn't been to bed all night and I was starting to feel the effects of it, coupled with the discouraging thought that this was the second time this mountain had turned me back.

We headed back down the ridge and took a rest stop where we had dropped the packs. The descent wasn't difficult over the grassy hillside and we sort of galloped down. Only a few hundred yards from the highway we hit a thicket of alders and devil's club that was thicker than the high-priced spread. We crawled on hands and knees through what appeared to be bear trails until reaching some birch woods and finally the highway. After a few moments of standing under a small waterfall of ice-cold water we headed for the car and home.

(Ed. Note: Indianhouse Mt. is between Falls and Indian Creeks, 16 miles SE of Anchorage, on the Seward Highway.)

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WINTER MOUNTAINEERING SCHOOL-O'MALLEY

January 23, 1971

Bill Barnes

This, the third session of the Winter Mountaineering School, separated either the boys from the men or the wise from the foolish. The mercury was up to -30°F when our group comprising of instructors Dave DeVoe and Barry Kircher along with students Jack Bruckner, Jim Miller, Mo Mathews, Bill Barnes and one other Bill, whose surname nobody knows, left the Sears parking lot at 7:30 and headed for the hills. Half a mile into the state park a hillock stopped our van and despite offers to carry it over to easier terrain, Dave decided to park. O'Malley was the first full-day climb for the climbing school and no practice sessions were undertaken. The climb proved to be easy snow and rock climbing. The summit was gained by all at perhaps 2:00 in the afternoon and once rested, refreshment and pictures were taken and the temperature determined (-21°F with a stiffening 15-20 knot breeze) we started down. Unbeknownst to the party, the difficult part was yet to come: with darkness coming on the party wandered into a scrubby area at the base of O'Malley and only after much struggling, cursing and many threats of destruction of the area by arson was the road finally won. Once back at Dave DeVoe's van with its lovely gas heater, one and all agreed that the day had been most successful.

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I am glad I shall never be young without wild country to be young in. Of what avail are forty freedoms without a blank spot on the map?

...Aldo Leopold...

MT. FUJI Japan (12,408')

January 28-29, 1971

Ned Lewis

After riding the bus for 5 hours, I arrived at Gotenba (east of Fuji). Went by taxi to Shin-nigo, where I was warned of the conditions, weather, and danger of climbing alone. I met some Japanese Self-Defense Force troops on the way up, and was told that very few people had climbed the mountain lately. Made Go-gomei (hut) at 4:30 in a white-out. Thanks to the trail markers the route was easy to follow, but the hut was locked, so I pitched a bivouac tent which I brought along in case. Dug out a tent platform, then I saw a cabin a little higher up. But, the oncoming night, wind, and ice drove me back to Go-gomei. I awoke at 6:00 under a clear sky. After debating over the weather forecast and a hurried breakfast, I'm off for the summit. Summit at 11:25 a.m. It was a slog, but the summit and route views were great. I managed to get caught in a white-out for an hour and a half on the descent. Broke camp and got a ride from Shin-nigo at 4:30.

The lower half of the mountain had an average of 3 feet of snow. The upper half was a virtual sheet of ice mixed with lava. I had a 1/3 cup of water turn to ice, when a slight gale blew up. Also, I was blown down the mountain for various distances about 5 times during the ascent.

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WHAT-SCREE-SAID-WAY-BACK-TUTN-DEPT.10 years ago...March 1961

Helga Byhre, Paul Crews, Howard Schuck, Joe Pichler, Rod Wilson, and John Dillman attempted to climb Suicide on crumbly Chugach rock coated with solid ice. "Unmoved by the uproar behind him (leader) Paul continued to chop his way up the icy crags..." until he got stuck and to the relief of the others tied to his rope had to turn back. "A most enjoyable weekend" nonetheless, it was reported.

5 years ago...March 1966

"Bill Hauser and Scott Foster put up a 30-foot direct aid ice climb using ten ice screws on a frozen waterfall on the Seward Highway"...The Alaskan Andean Expedition (Vin Hoeman, Dave Johnston, and Pete Robinson) climbed Volcan Tajumulco (13,816'), the highest point in Central America, on their way to the Andes. Vin lost his pants containing \$150 on the descent (but he didn't say how...).

MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

		<u>HOME</u>	<u>WORK</u>
BAILY, Douglas & family	3035 Madison Way, Anc 04	277-6733	
CALLEN, Kenneth & family	7-7306 J St., Elmendorf AFB Ak 06	753-7162	753-1102
GRANSE, Richard R.	432 G 7th St., Ft. Rich, 05	863-5203	
LEWIS, Caroline	938 1/2 P St., Anc 01	277-2001	279-6684
NOSEK, Frank & family	640 Karluk, Anc 01	272-2966	277-4924

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CONSERVATION COMMENTARY

The Central Brooks Range Proposal
or
What's Happening to the Gates of the Arctic?

The Bureau of Land Management has put forth a proposal to classify 24,500,000 acres of public domain land in the central Brooks Range. This classification

completely encompasses the area which has been proposed as a Gates of the Arctic National Park. It provides for four categories of land: I Subsistence-Settlement area (24.5%), II General Multiple Use (62.5%), III Sixteen scattered tracts containing high-value public access, recreational, and scenic key lake tracts (2.4%), and IV Walker-Alatna area, an area of national significance for natural, scenic, recreational, and wilderness uses. (10.6%).

This proposal should be commended as a step in the direction of protection of this area against exploitation. The Walker-Alatna area is more or less the area proposed for the western half of the Gates of the Arctic. However, BLM classification does not give it the strong protection of National Park status. The effect on most of the area (87%) would be the restriction of homesteads. Mining, mineral leasing, state selection, and hunting would continue to be allowed. With a road and/or railroad bisecting the area, such potentially destructive activities will certainly increase. The marvelous mountain and wilderness areas proposed as the eastern section of the Gates of the Arctic would be largely classified as General Multiple Use.

Mountaineers in particular should be concerned about protection of this area. It is largely mountainous, with many of the mountains unclimbed. The area is for the most part still untouched by man. If our National Park system is to be completed, it must include a representative section of all the different natural, geographic, and scenic areas of this country. The one area not yet represented, the Arctic, can probably best be included by selecting a portion of the Central Brooks Range. BLM should be urged to make its classification as restrictive as possible with a view of the next logical step being the establishment of a National Park.

Hearings on the proposal will be held in Fairbanks and Anchorage at a time still to be announced by the BLM. Robert Marshall's "Alaska Wilderness" makes excellent reading for those wanting to become more familiar with the area.

Hans R. Van der Laan--Conservation Chairman

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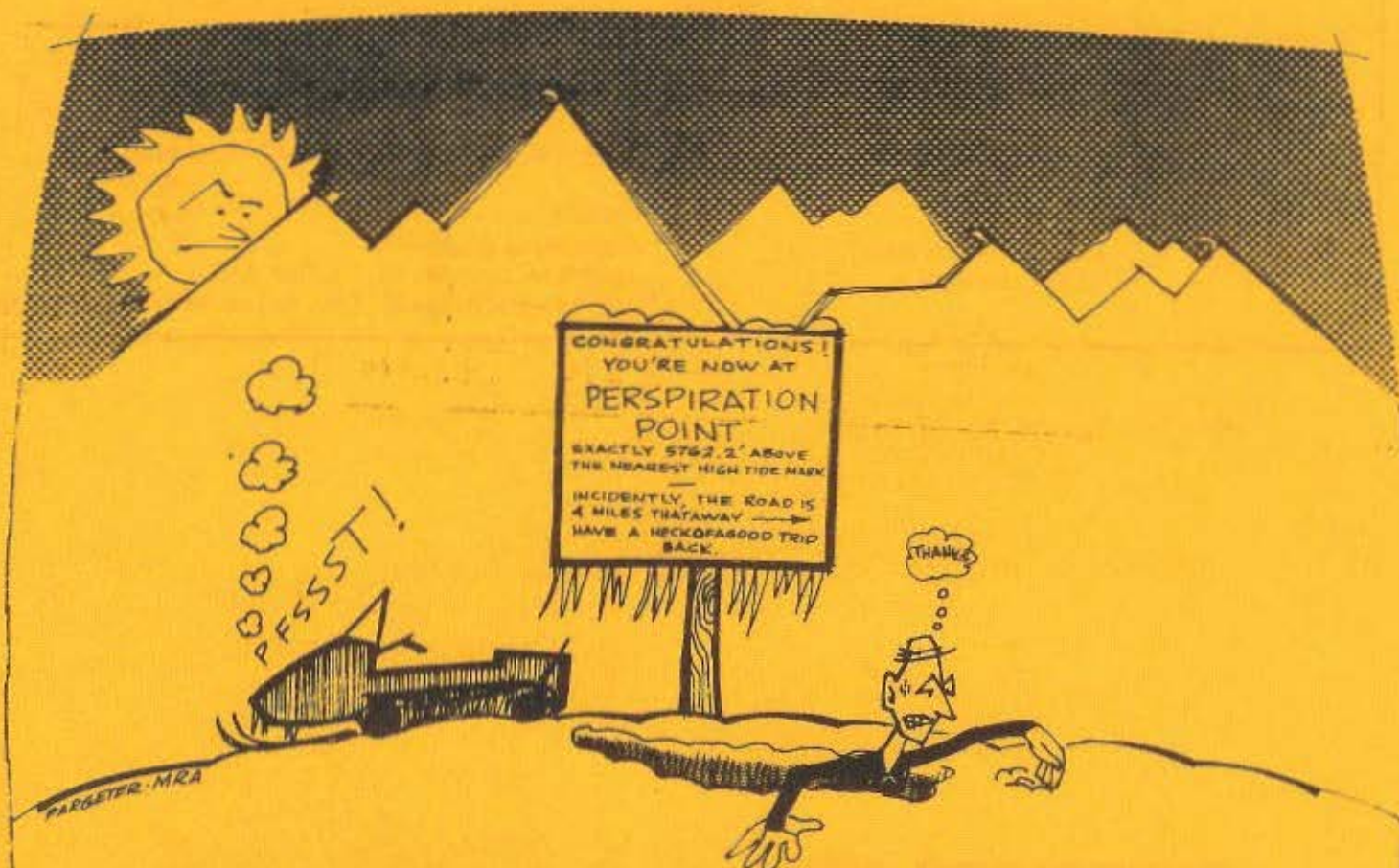
BITS AND PIECES

The MCA has been invited to participate in some informal cross-country ski relay races on Thursday evenings at 7:30 p.m. at Russian Jack Springs. If interested call John Samuelson (277-2328-even).

MCA has received an updated copy of the "Climbing History of Mt. McKinley" which lists the dates, names, and peak ascended of all the successful ascents of the mountain. The list starts with Peter Anderson and William Taylor's ascent of the north peak on April 3, 1910 and ends with Ray Genet's August 31, 1970 expedition. Anyone interested in seeing the list, contact Liska Snyder (279-2808).

MCA'ers Steve Hackett, Betty Ivanoff, Henry Nolden, and Ludwig Ferche were joined by Dr. Warren Bowman (Montana) and Robert Watkins (Calif.) to attempt the first winter assault on Mt. St. Elias (18,008'). Unfortunately bad weather foiled their plans; they waited a week in Cordova before finally giving up.

Grace Hoeman reports the Geographic Names Committee: Information was received that Baumann Bump (variant Max's Mountain) has been approved by the Federal Board on Geographic Names. Baumann Bump is located 3 miles ENE of Girdwood and borders the ski slope. It was named for Ernst Baumann (1922-1960) who was instrumental in the building of Alyeska Ski Resort. It is not an independent mountain but part of a system of ridges to which Mt. Alyeska (3939') also belongs, and which culminates in "June" Mt. (4435') (name not approved yet) located 4 miles east of prequake Girdwood and 4 miles NW of Blueberry Hill.



CARELESS EV DIDN'T BELIEVE IN THESE BASIC RULES OF SNOWMOBILING:

1. DON'T TRAVEL ALONE: AT LEAST TWO PEOPLE
AND TWO SNOWMOBILES
2. CARRY TOOLS AND KEY PARTS
3. CARRY BEAR-PAW SNOW SHOES



Outdoor safety education - by Mountain Rescue Association

ALASKA RESCUE GROUP