

MOUNTAINEERING CLUB OF ALASKA

BOX 2037

ANCHORAGE, ALASKA 99501

APRIL 1971

VOL. 14, NO. 4

APRIL MEETING...Thursday April 15...8:00 p.m...Central Jr. High Multipurpose Room...15th and E...use E. St. entrance...Program: Mini slide show...business meeting...refreshment break...Chuck Wirschem of the Nordic Ski Club will show films of the Eklutna to Girdwood ski tour taken last May. (See SCREE Oct. 1970, p. 6) A similar trip sponsored by the MCA is being planned for the last weekend in April.

BOARD MEETING...Thursday May 6...8:30 p.m...at Grace Hoeman's...2500 Glenwood.

MCA CALENDAR

April 25 (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 ext 521 days).

April 30-May 2 (Fri.-Sun.) GIRDWOOD TO EKLUTNA SKI TRAVERSE. Leader: Randy Renner (home 333-4025).

May 16 (Sun.) Skiing in the TURNAGAIN PASS area. This trip should provide excellent spring skiing. Leader: Steve Hackett (279-7681 ext 521 days).

May 22-23 (Sat.-Sun.) Okay all you people who have been waiting for the rock climbing season to start, here's your first chance. Rock climbing in the FERN MINE area. Leader: Bob Smith (home 333-8852).

May 29-31 (Sat.-Mon.) Have you ever thought about going climbing somewhere, but you were not sure how to go about it? What equipment you might need, etc.? You can learn the basic fundamentals of rock climbing in three sessions with MCA instructors. The first of these ROCK CLIMBING CLINICS will take place this weekend. For more information come to the April and May meetings or contact: Barry Kircher (home 333-5871) or Randy Renner (home 333-4025).

You will notice that the weekends of April 18th, May 2nd and May 9th are empty. No leaders??? Could YOU do something on these dates (or any other dates)? If so call up your new Climbing & Hiking Chairman-Bill Barnes (333-4609 home)-and offer your services as a leader.

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The Alaska Rescue Group presents....

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

MAN IN THE COLD ENVIRONMENT: PART IV

Effect of Clothing in Cold Environments

The type of fabric and the cut of the clothing have much to do with its insulation value, freedom of movement, constriction of blood flow, warm air transfer, water retention, and ventilation of excess body heat generated by muscle action during outdoor exercise.

To outdoorsmen dependent upon the clothes they wear and carry to keep their bodies

warm, dry and sheltered during their travels, the choice of clothing should have highest priority. Because of weight limitations, weather factors, seasonal conditions and the environment, their clothing must serve many purposes, yet be strong enough to withstand the abuse of the rough, rugged environment.

Several layers of easy on-easy off, lightweight clothing offer layers of dead air for insulation between the fabrics. Wool fabric is preferable, as it is a non-absorbing fabric and has the unique property of keeping the body warm even when it is wet. However, the loose weave of the woolen fabric leaves much to be desired in a windstorm. So a wind stopper is advisable as an outer garment to minimize loss of the body-warmed air that is trapped in the large air sacs of the weave.

Cotton fabric has excellent properties in warm or moderate climates, and even provides excellent layer system dead air spaces for insulation against cold, as long as it remains dry. The danger of cotton fabric is that it absorbs and retains water, making it a deadly combination when it gets wet from rain, snow, or perspiration. Cotton is very slow to dry because of the complete saturation of the fibers. Cotton clothing can become so saturated with water that the body heat loss can be nearly as great as when the body is totally immersed in water. Very wet cotton can lose heat nearly 240 times faster than dry cotton clothing.

To the man who continually produces excess heat by nearly constant burning of energy to move muscles, perspiration wetness is a perplexing problem that requires alert and constant attention to ventilation. Often the outdoorsman has to slow his pace considerably just to prevent wetness of underclothing. In extreme cold, windy conditions, he must quickly substitute dry clothing or warm shelter once the muscle activity is halted, or experience chilling and excessive body heat loss. Anywhere, any time, clothing/shelter is what allows man to live in harmony with the environment.

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

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CONSERVATION COMMENTARY

The "Needle"*, the Snowmobile and Independence Mine

It was one of those days when bad weather seems to multiply every few miles farther south to Portage, and you know that the Talkeetnas will be calm, crisp, and clear. One of those days when your intentions draw you to the Kenai Peninsula, but you have to turn around in desperation somewhere along Turnagain Arm (was that name invented because of the weather?), mumbling: "all right, so we'll go north". Back home you go to pick up down-hill and cross-country skis, because it is October and the first substantial snowfall in the Talkeetnas entices you to go skiing.

At Independence Mine my mind about the down-hill or cross-country ski dilemma is made up for me, as the ski lift is out of order. I step into my touring ski bindings and move leisurely across the valley towards the "Needle". Weather, snow and mood all add up to make this one day trip a joy. A few snowmobiles are running around; they stay below the ski area and do not interfere with my activity. Soon I reach the bench and skin-ski up to the base of the "Needle" where I leave my skis and indulge in the most difficult route on this short snow and rock climb to the summit. The "Needle" offers just the proper combination of skiing and climbing; it so pleases me that I want to share it with somebody. Later that day, in total ignorance of what is in store for us, I telephone my daughter, who has expressed her desire to be taught skiing and mountaineering, and we make arrangements for the outing.

Fine October weather promises another good day-it is Sunday the 25th of October-and we switchback up to the mine. But soon we start to feel uncomfortably embarrassed, as the road becomes clogged with cars. Cars and trucks which carry other vehicles or tow them long on trailers. The mine is jam-packed; we cannot park there and have to back down to almost the A-frame, where we find a small space for Redback the VW. Snowmobiles roar up and down the road and in the valley during our consideration of "go ski" or "go home". We should have decided the latter but we try the former. Across the valley we flee on skis, constantly frightened by collision situations, and don't dare take a deep breath till we reach the "Needle", not an official name, but common usage. el. 4950', +50', Anch. D7, D6 quads.

steepness where snowmobiles cannot go. We are safe here, finally take that deep breath, but cough almost in unison as the gas-oil fumes enter our lungs. Skins under our skis help us up to the bench, where the odor and noise will be less. This proves true and we stop for a tea and candy break-we can't agree on the number of snowmobiles below us in the valley and count them: two hundred plus, at least. We retreat farther up the hill, away from the hubbub and here enjoy nature. The ascent of the "Needle" we have to forego due to the late hour, much to Marianne's chagrin as she wanted to try her skill on the short rock climb. What should have been an exhilarating downhill run becomes a reluctant descent back into the noise and small sphere of the valley. The snowmobiles have invaded the cross-country ski area and the few skiers who still persist fight at intervals to save limb and life. I ski between the noise makers and can avoid them pretty well. My daughter almost encounters disaster and with relief we reach the relative safety of Redback. The trip was only partly satisfactory; sad thoughts are on our minds as we ride down Little Susitna Valley.

This, then, used to be one of our favorite mountaineering and ski areas. Not long ago-August 1966-I was here to try the Pinnacle solo, there was nobody in the upper valley but me. Not long ago-November 1966-Vin, Dave Johnston and I climbed "Skyscraper"; Dave singed his beard on a Bleuett stove, which didn't matter since he has enough hair; we were all alone near Hatcher Pass. Not long ago-January 1967-we did the first winter ascent of the Pinnacle; a marvellous weekend and our injured leader showed us what heroic pain endurance is; no strangers were shocked by his strong language. Not long ago there was room for us in this beautiful valley: the mountaineers, the skiers, the snowshoers, the hikers, the flower and berry pickers. Now the valley has been invaded by the dune buggy, the trail bike, and the snowmobile; there is room for none of us any more.

Is not one of the aims of a climbing club, besides the promotion of mountaineering, the preservation and the protection of mountainous regions, so that they can be enjoyed by all, now, and in times to come? Don't misunderstand me, I am a snowmobiler myself, but I believe that the vehicle should be used for transport over distances to places, where it is not possible to go on foot within a reasonable time. This, unfortunately, is not what most snowmobilers consider the vehicle's purpose. Our Independence Mine experience bears this out. It is not only the Independence Mine area which has suffered. The same situation exists at Fern Mine, Snow Bird Mine and in the Little Susitna Valley. If we wish to conserve this land for unhindered mountaineering, skiing, snowshoeing, etc., we must act, NOW. Before it is too late.

...Grace Hoeman...

* * *

WHAT-SCREE-SAID-WAY-BACK-THEN-DEPT.

11 years ago...April 1960

Howard and Elinor Schuck and Joe Pichler made a snowshoe trip to the head of Eklutna Lake. They had lunch 7 miles up the lake while sitting on cakes of ice in the sun, enjoying the spectacular scenery surrounding the head of the valley...In preparation for their McKinley trip, Andy Brauchli, Helga Byhre, Paul Crews and his sons camped out, hiked, climbed and skied in the Upper Rabbit Creek area.

5 years ago...April 1966

This issue of SCREE was a summary of four sessions held in preparation for the summer climbing schools: 1) "Mountain Living and Climbing Leadership"-a talk by Bill Davis. 2) Making and maintaining a high altitude camp. 3) Problem session. 4) Slide presentation of an expedition in the St. Elias Range. A list of Ten Essentials, recommended for day trips or weekend trips, was given. We think it is worthy of reprinting:

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|--|
| 1. Flashlight and spare batteries | 6. A little extra clothing sealed in a plastic bag (socks, underwear). |
| 2. Compass | 7. A little extra food. |
| 3. Map of the area | 8. Matches |
| 4. Minimum first-aid kit | 9. Fire starter or candle |
| 5. Pocketknife | 10. Sunglasses |

WINTER MOUNTAINEERING SCHOOL-WEST TWIN PEAK

March 20, 1971

Mo Mathews

The last Winter Mountaineering School class of the year consisting of Jack Bruckner, Bill Barnes, Mo Mathews and instructor Barry Kircher departed the Mountain View Safeway at 7:00 a.m. and drove up the Eklutna Lake road to a point just short of the lake, where we examined the skyline for a more direct route than we had taken last month. Picking out a ridge to the west of last month's route, we checked with a homesteader and at 8:30 began our climb by crossing his fields to the gently wooded slopes of the base. It was easy going through the snow in the woods but we soon climbed to the steep grassy slopes where the snow had melted. The ground remained frozen though and the hill was very long and steep. After a long time we reached the top and then proceeded along the ridgeline of undulating knolls and gradually increasing slope.

"It's already noon and we've just started climbing", said our leader as we reached the rocky outcrops joining our ridge to the main mountain. We found lots of climbing and scrambling on these rocks and then on the main mountain over rocks, mostly rotten, ice-covered rocks, snow-covered rocks and snow. We changed from one to another so often it was tough to decide whether the ice axes belonged on our hands or on our backs. Near the top we crossed a long scree slope, scrambled over a large outcrop, climbed up a mixed scree and snow slope and then slithered up a snow gully at 3:00 to the summit, or almost. We found a knife-edge with a several-thousand-foot drop on one side and several hundred on the other. Unfortunately the far end of the knife-edge, a hundred or so feet away, was a few feet higher than we. There was no good safe way to it from where we were. After admiring the view and since the day was bright and sunny, it was truly spectacular on all sides, we roped down the snow gully. Our two more intrepid members, Bill and Barry, searched long and hard for a way to reach the elusive true top but to no avail. After they roped back down again we started our descent about 4:30.

We made good time by following the scree and snow slopes. When we did have to scramble down rocks we found that the rotten rocks bothered us even more than they had on the way up. Since the mountain is pretty well covered with rotten rock we were bothered most of the way down. We really rushed down in order to get through the woods before dark, and we just barely made it. We arrived back at the car at 7:00, tired and content.

All of us who were students in the Winter Mountaineering School this year, want to thank the Mountaineering Club for sponsoring the school. We're very grateful for the time and effort expended by club members in order to teach us beginners the tricks and techniques of enjoying the mountains in winter. It really opened up a new world to us. Our special thanks go to instructors Bob Smith, Dave DeVoe and most important of all to Barry Kircher, director and chief instructor.

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CHUGACH STATE PARK ALERT

The State Division of Parks has indicated that it is considering prohibiting camping in the Anchorage watershed. (This is primarily the North and South Forks of Campbell Creek.) This would mean no more camping at Williwaw Lakes, the Ramp, Knoya-Tikishla, and possibly Flattop. There is a possibility that this regulation would include the Eagle River and Peters Creek areas, too. The division plans to hold hearings in May and hopes to have the regulations in effect by July. Is MCA concerned about this proposal? Should we question whether it is justifiable or necessary at this time? We hope that all MCA'ers will keep abreast of developments, attend the hearings, and let the Division of Parks know our opinions. (The MCA executive board, at its April meeting, agreed that controlled, overnight camping by people on foot should be allowed in the watershed.)

* * * * *

Now I see the secret of making the best persons. It is to grow in the open air and to eat and sleep with the earth.

...Walt Whitman

MAIL ORDER COMPANIES-OUTDOOR EQUIPMENT

compiled by Barry Kircher & Bob Smith

Looking for outdoor equipment? Here's a list of 30 mail order companies who might have what you want. There are others. The fact that a company does not appear in this list simply indicates that neither of us had their catalog or maybe we just couldn't find it. An "M" in the Remarks column indicates that the store caters to mountaineers as opposed to general outdoor equipment. Parentheses () around a number indicate that the company carries only a limited line of that item. Here's the code:

1. BOOTS (hiking, climbing and/or skiing)
2. CLOTHING (M-rated companies usually only carry down and wind clothing)
3. COOKING GEAR (stoves, pots, misc.)
4. FOOD (dried, freeze-dried)
5. LITERATURE (books and/or maps)
6. PACKS (framed and/or day packs)
7. SKIING (downhill and/or touring; most, however, carry only touring)
8. SLEEPING BAGS (mostly down; a few non-M types have dacron)
9. TECHNICAL CLIMBING GEAR (ice, snow, rock)
10. TENTS (anything from ultra-light mountaineering tents to portable houses)

<u>NAME & ADDRESS</u>	<u>CODE: 12345678910</u>	<u>REMARKS</u>
ALASKA SLEEPING BAG CO. 13150 S.W. Dawson Way, Beaverton, Ore 97005	123 6 8 (10)	Some Gerry Co. products.
ALPINE DESIGNS P.O. Box 1081, Boulder, Colo. 80302	2 6 8 10	M formerly "Alp Sport"
BISHOP'S ULTIMATE OUTDOOR CO. 6804 Millwood Rd., Bethesda, Md 20034	10	M
BLOCK'S CAMPING EQUIPMENT 930 Ford Street, Ogdensburg, N.Y.	(1) 3 6 8 9 10	
CAMP AND TRAIL OUTFITTERS 112 Chambers St., New York, N.Y. 10007	(1) 34(5)6 (8)9	M Gerry, C.M.I., Drawtite
CAMP TRAILS P.O. Box 14500, Phoenix, Ariz. 85031	6 10	also some fishing gear
CHOQUINARD EQUIPMENT Box 150, Ventura, Calif 93001	(2) (8)9	M Technical information explained
COLORADO MOUNTAIN INDUSTRIES 580 E. Jewell Ave., Denver, Colo 80222	9	M
EASTERN MOUNTAIN SPORTS 1041 Commonwealth Ave., Boston, Mass 02215	12345678910	M variety of brands
EDDIE BAUER 1737 Airport Way South, Seattle, Wash 98124	12 (6) 8 (10)	Specializes in outdoor clothing
EIGER MOUNTAIN SPORTS P.O. Box 161, Montrose, Calif	1(2)3 (6) (8)9	M
FABIANO SHOE CO. INC. South Station, Boston, Mass 02110	1	M
FORREST MOUNTAINEERING Box 7083, Denver, Colo 80207	9	M Specializes in rock climbing equip.

NAME & ADDRESS	CODE: 12345678910	REMARKS
FROSTLINE OUTDOOR EQUIP. P.O. Box 2190, Boulder Colo 80302	2 8 10	M precut kits with instructions
HANCO IMPORTS Box 2083, Anchorage, Ak 99501 Tel 333-4566	1 7	Specializes in cross country ski equipment
HIGHLAND OUTFITTERS 3579 Univ. Ave., Box 121, Riverside, Calif 99502	123456(7)8910	M variety of brands
HOLUBAR Box 7, Boulder, Colo 80302	123456 8910	M
KELTY 1801 Victory Boulevard, Glendale, Calif 91201	23 56 8910	M Best known for their own packs, other items-various brands
MOOR AND MOUNTAIN 67 Main Street, Concord, Mass. 01742	12345678 10	Black's sleeping bags
MOUNTAIN PRODUCTS CORPORATION 123 South Wenatchee Ave, Wenatchee, Wash 98801	2 (6) 8 10	M
NORTH FACE 308 Columbus Ave, San Francisco, Calif 94133	123 56 8910	M
PINDISPORTS 373/5 Uxbridge Road, Acton, London W.3	3 (8) 10	mainly for family and car camping
POWDERHORN MOUNTAINEERING Box 1228, Jackson Hole, Wyoming 83001	23 5(6)(7)89	M various brands
RECREATION EQUIPMENT, INC. 1525 11th Ave, Seattle, Wash 98122	12345678910	M "Co-op"; skiing equip in winter supplement
SIERRA DESIGNS, INC. 4th & Addison Streets, Berkeley, Calif 94710	2 4 8 10	M
SKI HUT 1615 Univ. Ave, Berkeley, Calif 94703	123 56 8910	M
SPORT CHALET 951 Foothill Blvd, La Canada, Calif 91011	1234(5)6 8(9)10	M Gerry products and others
STEPHENSON'S WARMLITE EQUIPMENT 23206 Hatteras, Woodland Hills, Calif 91361	8 10	M Radical designs; explanation in ca- talog
WILDERNESS WAYS 12417 Cedar Rd, Cleveland Hts, Ohio 44106	2 6 8 10	M Alp Sport products
YHA SALES 29 John Adam Street, London WC2	12 6 (8)910	M also caving equipment

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This page can be detached for future reference!

MINUTES OF MCA MEETING-MARCH 18, 1971

The meeting was called to order promptly at 8 p.m. by President Steve Hackett. Grace Hoeman took us on a slideshow tour of various local points of interest. John Samuelson reported that the treasury has a balance of \$1125.41. Announcements featured another MCA attempt at West Twin on March 20, and cancellation of Steve Hackett's March 21 ski-tour due to poor snow conditions at Alyeska.

In regard to the "Gates of the Arctic" Hans Van Der Laan said more area should be under a restrictive classification. Since the BLM is lacking in information of activities in use of the area, Hans asked anyone who has been up there to please forward their information to the BLM or Hans who will pass it on to them. Copies of the BLM proposal were laid out for us. Hearings will be conducted in Fairbanks/Anchorage. However, the state has requested postponement until this fall to study mineral quality and value. If any members have an interest in conservation, coordinate with Conservation Chairman, Hans Van Der Laan. In the same vein, SCREE is open to people who wish to expound on conservation issues.

There's been no word from the By-laws committee as yet.

The final touches are being put on "55 Hikes". Hans says Seattle wants the whole package before the book can be laid out.

Anyone interested in leading hikes, YMCA is calling for volunteers. Contact Carol DeVoe on that.

A petition to get the Federal and State governments and the Bureau of Outdoor Recreation interested in a study of the potential for a recreational trail route along the Iditarod Trail was presented to the group by Steve Hackett.

Nike Merritt, a representative of the Sierra Club, presented a proposed Anchorage-Homer trail. In addition to being a national scenic trail near major populated areas, it would link already existing trails. There was discussion of trail accessibility problems.

MCA member, John Wolfe, who is also an Eagle River homesteader, claims that we are faced with commercialism in the Chugach State Park. A liquor license has been applied for by a neighboring homesteader who has constructed a lodge in the Eagle River Valley. John will go before the Borough Assembly March 29 to protest the issuance of the license to protect our wilderness. He asked that concerned MCA'ers please write to Acting President of the Borough, Wilda Hudson.

The Austrian Ski Expedition will be here April 6-8. They are travelling in the USA speaking to various groups promoting skiing, mountaineering and touring in their homeland.

During our break, we were treated to cookies, coffee and koolaid prepared by Jane McNeely and Elizabeth Witherill.

A film well-documented on "Hypothermia" was shown.

Thanks to Bob Smith for preparing a collection of rucksacks for display.

...Respectfully submitted, Betty Ivanoff...MCA Secretary

MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

		HOME	WORK
ALMAN, Richard & Family	1514 Marten St., Anch 04	333-5667	279-5577, 220
ANDERSON, James	Box 5-522, Fort Rich., 05	862-4167	863-0108
BIERBOWER, Barbara	934 W 8th Ave., Anch 01		
CORN, George	Co. O (ARC) 75th Inf., Fort Rich 05		
HENDY, William	2361 Lake George Dr, Anch 04	333-4684	
JONES, Steven A.	c/o R.S. Smith, 4337 Dorothy Dr		
MILLIGAN, David	2921 229th St, Torrance Calif 90505		
MOORE, Terris	123 Brattle St, Cambridge, Mass 02138		
SHERMAN, Martin R.	4004 Iowa Dr., Anch 03	277-9026	753-7201
SPIVEY, Donald & Family	3313 Madison Way, Anch 04	272-6397	272-6551
VOLLMER, John J.	5499 Claremont Ave; Oakland Calif 94518		

ADDRESS & PHONE CHANGES

SHRADER, Stephen D.
IVANOFF, Betty
CURTIS, Dayton & Doris

Box 5-505, College, Ak. 99701

726 W 20th Ave, Anch 03

279-9666

* * * * *

"These earliest spring days are peculiarly pleasant. We shall have no more of them for a year. I am apt to forget that we may have raw and blustering days a month hence. The combination of this delicious air, which you do not want to be warmer or softer, with the presence of ice and snow, you sitting on the bare russet portions, the south hillsides, of the earth, this is the charm of these days. It is the summer beginning to show itself like an old friend in the midst of winter. You ramble from one drier russet patch to another. These are your stages. You have the air and sun of summer, over snow and ice, and in some places even the rustling of dry leaves under your feet, as in Indian-summer days.

...Henry David Thoreau...

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BITS AND PIECES

MCA extends a belated but hearty welcome to old-time members Howard and Elinor Schuck who have returned to Anchorage after an absence of several years. Howard's office phone is 279-5501 and the Schuck's home phone for the time being is 344-5954.

Gary and Fani Hansen are now three! Their daughter Milla was born in mid-February in San Francisco.

WANTED: TO BUY: lightweight packboard frame and bag. Louise DeVoe (277-9108, eves.)

CHUCK PEASE is leaving this month for a year's tour of duty in Thailand. We are losing one of our most dedicated members. Not only was Chuck the Trips Chairman, but he also devoted many hours of work on SCREE. We'll miss you, Chuck. Good Luck and Hurry Back!

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SCREE

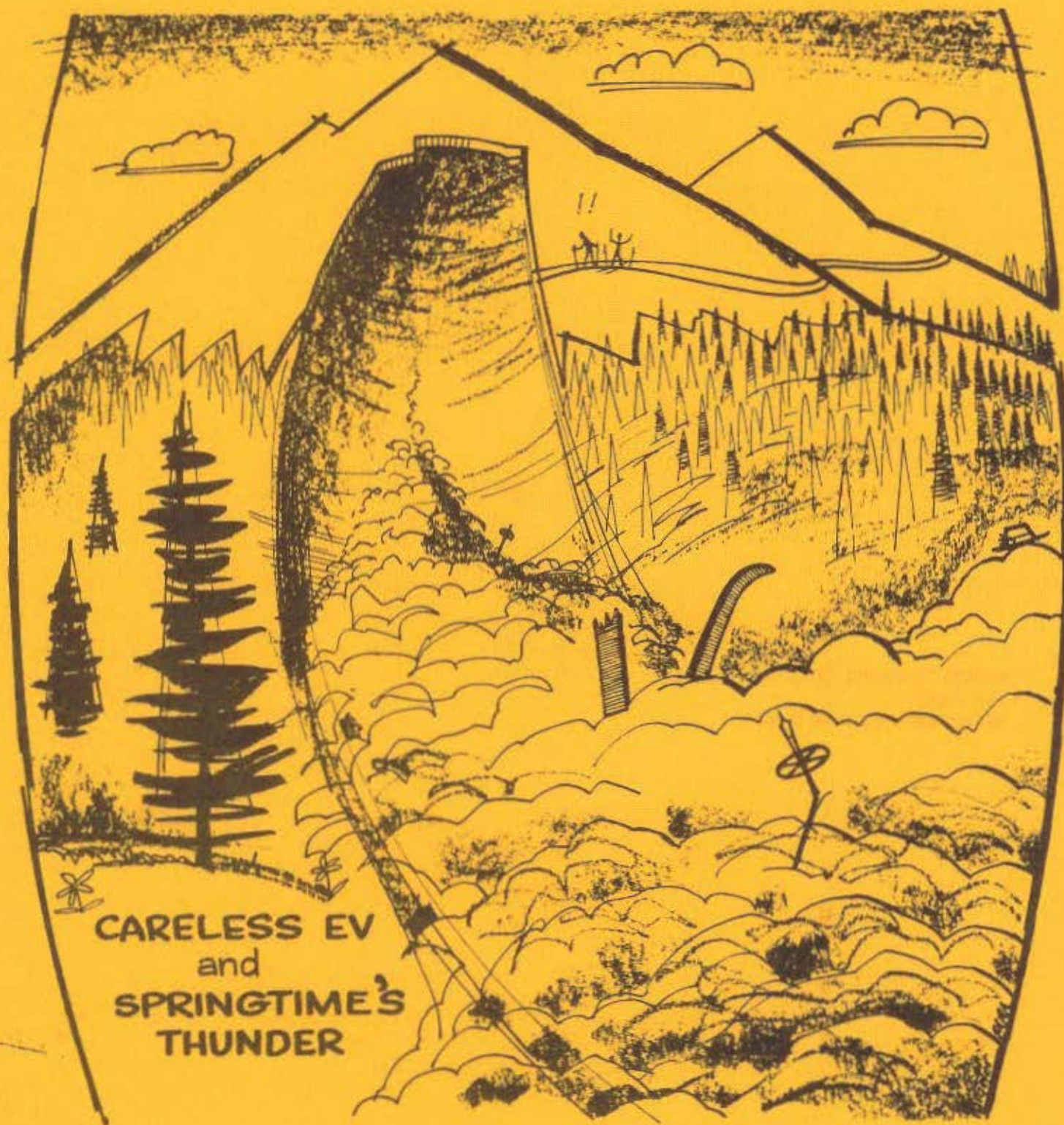
Monthly publication of the Mountaineering Club of Alaska (affiliated with the Anchorage Department of Parks and Recreation). Please send material for the April SCREE to Liska Snyder, 2806 Alder Drive, Anchorage, Alaska 99504 by Thursday May 6.

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 TYPIST.....Doris Curtis
 MAILING STAFF...Carol DeVoe
 Joanne Merrick
 Betty Newman

DUES (Send to MCA, Box 2037, Anchorage, 99501)
 FAMILY.....\$7.50
 SENIOR.....\$5.00
 JUNIOR.....\$2.50 (under 18)
 OUT-OF-TOWN...\$2.50 (50 miles from Anchorage)

APOLOGY TO NORDIC SKI CLUB

On Wednesday, April 7, the Austrian Skiing Expedition presented a program on skiing in Austria. The MCA sent out flyers to its members announcing this event, but due to a negligent oversight, failed to mention that this program was in conjunction with the Nordic Ski Club's monthly meeting. Our deepest apologies for the confusion and misunderstandings which arose due to this oversight.



**CARELESS EV
and
SPRINGTIME'S
THUNDER**



Outdoor safety education - by Mountain Rescue Association
ALASKA RESCUE GROUP