

SCREE

MOUNTAINEERING CLUB OF ALASKA

BOX 2037

ANCHORAGE, ALASKA 99510

MARCH 1972

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MARCH MEETING... Thursday, March 16, 1972...8:00 p.m...Central Junior High Multi-purpose Rm...**PROGRAM:** Selected Shorts - 16 mm films of the local area taken by Art Ward...Business Meeting...Refreshments...**FITZROY--FIRST ASCENT OF THE SOUTH-WEST BUTTRESS.** This is a color film with dialogue and music which records the third ascent of one of the world's greatest mountains--Fitzroy in Patagonia--at the tip of South America by a team of California Funhogs (The producer is Funhogs, INC.). The movie portrays Patagonian storms where "the wind sweeps the land like the broom of God." It shows technical climbing on verglas-covered rock and the monotony and frustration of ice cave living. Personalities of the climbers are developed through actual dialogue.

To defray costs of rental of FITZROY, a \$1 per person over 16 years of age will be collected at the door. This action was approved at the January Business Meeting.

Pass the word about this tremendous film--FITZROY--and do bring a friend!

BOARD MEETING... Monday, April 3...7:30 p.m...at Kathy Selken's...2600 W. Northern Lights Blvd., Bldg. 1, Apt #5 (upstairs).

CLIMBING AND HIKING SCHEDULE

March 19 (Sun) BYRON PEAK, 4750'. Leave Rabbit Creek Inn 6:00 AM sharp. Bring rope for every two climbers, sling, carabiner, prussicks, crampons, axe and skis (skins optional). Leader: Bob Spurr (344-6067).

April 2 (Sun) NORTH SUICIDE PEAK (5065') & SOUTH SUICIDE PEAK (5005'). Easter ascent approaching from Rabbit Creek Valley. Skis probable. Depart 7:00 AM from Rabbit Creek Inn. Leader: Wendell Oderkirk (344-8744)

April 9 (Sun) GUNSIGHT MOUNTAIN 6450'. Beautiful drive on good highway to nearly 3000 ft. Easy snow hike in good cold interior conditions. Two miles to summit. Views of Chugach, Talkeetna, Alaska and Wrangell Ranges; sheep and caribou often seen. Traverse of the notch available for hotdogs. Leader: Larry Swanson (279-4210 - work).

MINUTES OF THE CA MEETING, FEBRUARY 17, 1972

The meeting was opened by our vice-president, Tom, eacham, who invited all guests to sign the Guest Book and acquaint themselves with our organization.

The minutes of the last meeting were accepted as printed in the SCREE.

Pat Freeny showed the treasury having \$108.50 in January. Recent expenses

incurred were \$121.00 for an ice axe for the past president, refreshments and SCREE. With the dues, the new balance showed \$376.90. The Brooks Range Fund increased to \$193.43.

John Baxandall reported he is making plans for the repair work needed on our present buildings, and if anyone knows of work needed, please contact him.

Bob Spurr's Outing Report was read. It was noted all his climbs are listed in SCREE. However, the East Creek tour was canceled and may be rescheduled for Caribou Creek later. Sign-up sheets on all climbs were made available.

Barry Kircher reported that on March 16, the Chouinard film on the Fitzroy climb will be shown. Everyone was urged to spread individual word of this excellent showing.

The Brooks Range Committee Trust Agreement will be worked out after the Department of Interior finish their work.

Tom Meacham of the Conservation Committee reported to us on the new Environmental Center and referred those not familiar with it to the article in the February SCREE. He also presented a draft on the use of snowmachines in the newly proposed wilderness areas. It was moved and seconded that this draft be adopted.

A letter was read by Tom Meacham from the Department of Interior on the pending hearings for the Bristol Bay area where Tom will present our view on this matter. His resolution on this was read and also adopted for later presentation.

It was also noted that we might keep an open ear for the coming issue on traffic regulations in the Mt. McKinley Park area so that we might communicate our feelings to: Ernest Borgman, General Supt. Park Service, Federal Bldg., Box 2252, Anchorage, AK.

An interesting letter was read from some Japanese climbers who expect to come to Alaska in the spring and explore mountains in the Chugach Range. A reply will be going out to them soon on their varied pertinent questions.

Leo Hannan presented some important bills which will need our support if they are to pass and aid our own Alaska Rescue Group. It was noted we should write our legislators regarding House Bill No. 354 and 353. Leo also gave a report on our climbers on Mt. Foraker as he was in radio contact with them. They did not get off until Monday and Tuesday (February 14 and 15) due to plan problems. It was assumed they are on their way. Thus far, they have had good weather. Hopefully, we will have a good report by our next meeting.

The meeting was adjourned for refreshments and the slides on the search for an abominable snowman.

Respectfully submitted,
Kathy Gorham, MCA Secretary

CONSERVATION COMMENTARY

by
Barbara Winkley

Recent concern during the past two to three years over the Chester Creek Greenbelt has expanded and many concerned Anchorage residents are beginning to realize the need for an overall plan for Anchorage which would include open space along streams.

Open space and park lands within the Anchorage area are well below national recommended standards. The newly created Parks and Recreation Division of the

Department of Environmental Quality of the Greater Anchorage Area Borough is presently catching up on a late start to acquire lands for open space.

The present program to acquire land for a greenbelt along Campbell Creek Flood Plain is a "now or never" situation. A concerted effort is needed to preserve this area that serves many purposes. It would provide parkland as well as preserving the quality of a presently nonpolluted Campbell Creek. Campbell Creek does support a large anadromous fish population, both salmon and Dolly Varden. The writer has eaten fish caught in this stream with no ill effects and can vouch for their quality. The third factor is one not to be overlooked lightly, for it involves all of our taxes. The cost of reclamation from flood damage could be 10 to 15 times greater than that of acquiring the land. The final decision to provide funding to buy privately owned property along the stream will be up to the voters.

A three-million-dollar bond election will be held on April 4, and when passed, may be doubled by Federal matching funds. Strong community support is needed to accomplish the goal for open space and well planned and designed parks and recreational sites.

MCA DIRECTOR PROFILE: MARIE LUNDSTROM

First hiked around old mines in hills near home farm in eastern Washington state (usually to find lost cattle and horses)...first climbing instruction and experience at UW, Seattle (pressure from roommates: "Get out and do something different!")...came to Alaska to teach high school, 1961...joined MCA 1962...then experienced various MCA rock and glacier schools (in less organized days)...miscellaneous hiking and small climbs (usually make Flattop at midsummer) ever since...MCA treasurer for two years - 1963-1965...SCREE Editor for two years - 1966-1968...Likes writing (poetry, articles, misc. junk), taking photos, parties, conversation, reading, singing, movies, travel, sewing, camping...currently trying to become respectable at cross-country skiing.

BODENBERG BUTTE

January 23, 1972

Jeannette DeVoe (9 yrs. old)

Sunday afternoon, January 23rd, I started with my daddy and sister, Donna, to climb Bodenberg Butte. On the way there we saw nine moose, two first, then seven. When we got there, Donna and I started out. I was higher than my dad. I started to slip and down I went--I hit a tree on the way down and Daddy caught me. We started again, and we got up a little. I said, "Daddy, you better lead now." So he did.

Finally we got to where we could see the top. We climbed up a little and it got pretty steep. It sure was scary! It was a long way down, and I did not want to fall.

We finally reached the top. Daddy saw a metal piece and read it. He said there was another one around, too. I found it and he read that one also. It had the date on it. We could see farms and mountains and other things from the top. We went down a little and ate our snack and then went down.

Donna and I went down on our bottoms and it was fun. One time we came to a real steep hill. First my dad went, then Donna and I. Donna went faster and faster and when she was at the bottom she didn't go down the same path as Daddy. Once she went about a foot off the ground and landed with a plop, but she was all right. That sure was funny!

We were at the bottom then. We were going down the last hill. It was so much fun that Donna and I went down again. My dad put a thermometer on the car. It was about 8 below 0° F.

VISTA PEAK, 5070'

February 13, 1972

Tom Meacham

The weather forecast was gloomy, and dawn substantiated the weathermen's predictions--low ceiling, snow showers all day, they told us. No time to be climbing a Chugach peak with enticing name of "Vista."

But the forecast proved wrong. Jack and Helen Farleigh, Alan Smay, Gil Todd, John and Carol Dennis (with young Jed in backpack and eager shepherd dog Tara alongside) and I headed for Eagle River with the sure knowledge that a typical, short, snow-blind ski tour was in store for us. Even as far as Ft. Rich, the weather confirmed this. We couldn't see even the base of the peaks. But miraculously, the closer we got to Vista Peak, the better the weather became, until the peak itself was poking a bright blue hole in the clouds.

Encouraged by the good omen, we set out from the Meadow Creek Road on the valley side, and made our way through new, light snow on the faint snowmachine track which hastened our pace. After skiing most of the way in, the Dennis family decided that Jed's feet were getting chilled and turned back for the car after an invigorating tour on new skis. The weather by this time had disappeared entirely, and it looked as though Vista would live up to its name, perched in an absolutely cloudless sky.

The rest of us skied to the base of the peak, removed skis, punched through past our knees, remounted skis and side-stepped a couple hundred feet up the slope to the wind-swept righthand ridge. Up the ridge, watching two snowmachines buzzing 500 feet below we wondered how could we hear them with a 25-mile wind at our backs? Sounds such as that overcome all known obstacles! We found the very recent beds of Dall sheep and their tracks as they watched our approach, but caught no glimpse of them.

Our summit deadline was 2:00 PM, and we found ourselves still thirty minutes short of the top at the appointed time. Should we push on? As Gil said, "The climb has been great, and the peak will still be here." So we turned back, missing the Chugach vistas lying on the other side, but taking in the view of McKinley, the Inlet and the Talkeetnas. Down the left-center ridge, across the snow gully, mount skis, zoom and fall down to the flat, out the trail in the setting light, and back to the cars at 4:30. Our summitt unattained, but a good trip in unpredictably perfect weather. In fact, the first time in recent memory that the weather has actually improved during a climb! Mark it on your calendar...

THE OLD MAP MAKER WINS AGAIN*

Randy Renner

This, the fourth attempted attempt for one member of the group, ended as usual--a bummer. As a side note, this was also the second go-round for the group this winter.

The toll for this trip consisted of the following, the measure of loss not necessarily in the order listed:

One each, Piper PA-14, the left ski folded after hitting a drift. The plane nearly flipped, but finally went into a slow-motion ground loop bending the left wing and struts.

One each, Bishop Ultimate Tent, the tent took off and flew better than the plane. A couple of 'flying tackles' brought the tent down--broke a few poles and bent some others and tore the fly.

(At this point Aerlaus was offered a sacrifice of the evening dinner and many Amens were said. The Gods must have heard as the winds soon subsided.)

We had allowed four days to climb Baker and Goode, but we had already lost Saturday and Al Curtis' rescue didn't materialize until 3:00 PM, Sunday so we realized we couldn't attain our objectives. In addition, Al didn't know of another plane in Anchorage we could use to extricate us from the glacier. Therefore, the decision was made to hang it up for another year.

Not only is this annual trip to the Knik expensive--it's beginning to get a bit frustrating.

*Marcus Baker

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE POLICY REGARDING AIRDROPS

Randy Ranner

The following letter, written by Ernie Bergman, General Superintendent for the National Park Service was sent in response to a discussion outlining Park Policy regarding airdrops on McKinley's north side.

The letter should be of interest to some members of the Club and for that reason I'm passing it on. It should be remembered that Ernie has the job of protecting both the National Parks and the people who visit them. This letter reflects an aspect of interest to the Mountaineering Community.

"Dear Randy:

"As I told you, it is our intent in the future to try and conform more closely to park regulations governing use of aircraft than has been the case in the past.

"Air delivery of any person or thing by parachute or other means can only be authorized in extreme emergencies involving the safety of human life or threat of serious property loss. No mention is made in the regulations about authorizing airdrops for convenience of mountaineering expeditions. I think we have really stretched the meaning of the word 'safety' by rather routinely authorizing airdrops to parties climbing on the north side of Mount McKinley; because of the long distances involved.

"Better pre-planning by expedition leaders would, we feel, negate the need for airdrops. Commercial sled dog freighters are available, and we know of at least one climbing party that has made advance arrangements to freight supplies into the McDonnell Pass area by dog sled this spring. We feel this is a very appropriate use, and encourage mountaineers to utilize this service rather than aircraft. We do not have anything against aircraft, but we do have an obligation to preserve as much as possible the pristine character of the park and compatible historic uses of it. Dog teams fit better than airplanes.

"I know you recognize the philosophy I am trying to convey here. I sincerely hope all future expeditions will be worthwhile experiences. Any advice you have as to how to maintain or improve the quality of future mountaineering experiences in a park environment would certainly be appreciated."

"Sincerely yours, Ernest J. Bergman, General Superintendent"

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

10 years ago...March, 1962: Fifteen Girl Scouts and their three counselors who were all MGA members went on a winter survival campout and snowshoe hike in the Indian Creek area on February 17 and 18, 1962.

Helga Bading*reported "A Ski Climb on the Kenai" on March 3 and 4, 1962, with John Dillman and Vin Hoeman. They camped in Johnson's Pass. They crossed a small glacier to climb the southwest ridge. (*Helga Bading Byhre)

5 years ago...March, 1967: On a -20° F day, Nick Parker, Bob Spurr and Bill Hauser made a first ascent of Mooswa Peak, 5020'. They decided on Mooswa because moose were in evidence on the climb and the peak's location near the passes to Seward.

Bill Hauser and Bob Spurr made a one-day ascent of Kickstep Mountain, 4660' on February 19, 1967.

Nick Parker, Bob Spurr and Gerry Garland made a first winter ascent of Pastoral 4765' in Johnson Pass via Taylor Creek Valley. They unofficially named the mountain "Pastoral" referring to the excellent conditions they had. The party found their car stripped; one of the party hitchhike to Anchorage for assistance.

B I T S & P I E C E S

STATUS REPORT: 55 Hikes. Helen Nienhueser advises she doubts it will be available the first of April. She has been assured that it will be out this hiking season. She has not yet seen the proofs for the introduction, forward and maps.

The Index to 1971 SCREES is being compiled and will be in a future issue.

HELP! HELP!! HELP!!! Right, you! Many volunteers are needed to assist with mailing staff duties. Rather than having one committee of people doing the work time after time, it is hoped that each person will only need to help every other month. PLEASE VOLUNTEER. Contact Carol DeVoe (333-5492)

THEY'RE BACK!--SAFE & SOUND!! Cheers, fellows. Kurt Bittlingmaier, Hank Noldan Wendell Oderkirk and Dr. Bowman reach Anchorage Saturday, March 4th, from Mt. Foraker. Steve Hackett and John Samuelson were flown out Sunday, ruining a planned ski trip out, due to Hackett's frostbitten toes (not serious). The highest point reached was 13600'. Due to other commitments, Norm Stadem returned earlier. In order to reach their objective the climbers would have had to cross a dangerous area between 13600' and 15000' in the form of cornices. Also, the winter weather made the climbers decide not to continue the trip after nineteen days. A longer report is promised.

On February 5, 1972, Pat Freeny and Steve Jones skied up the south fork of Campbell Creek to Powerline Pass, set up their camp and made a quick reconnaissance of Powerline Pass Peak, 5050' +50'. On February 6, they were joined by Larry Swanson and Art Ward. The four then made the first winter ascent of Powerline Pass Peak. (Art and Larry had climbed it on March 25, 1971, but lacked a first winter ascent by about a week.)