

SCREE

MOUNTAINEERING CLUB OF ALASKA BOX 2037

ANCHORAGE, ALASKA 99510

APRIL 1972

VOL. 15, NO. 4

APRIL MEETING, Thursday, April 20, 1972, . . 3:00 PM. . . Central Junior High Multipurpose Rm. . . Program: Minislide presentation of the Portage to Whittier Traverse. . . Business Meeting. . . Refreshments. . . Maxislide presentation by some of the climbers who made the first winter attempt of Mt. Foraker.

CLIMBING & HIKING SCHEDULE

April 16 (Sun.) **BYRON PEAK 4750'** Leave Rabbit Creek Inn 6:00 AM sharp. Bring rope for every two climbers, sling, carabiner, prussiks, crampons, axe and skis (skins optional). Leader - Bob Spurr (344-6067 evenings)

April 30 (Sun.) Climbers Hiatus take your ensolite to Turnagain Pass and sunbathe to the music of the avalanches. No leader.

May 7 (Sun.) **NORTH SUICIDE 5065'** Approach from Rabbit Creek Valley. Depart AMU Student Union 6:30 AM. Leader - Bob Spurr (344-6067 evenings)

May 14 (Sun.) **EAST TWIN PEAK 5373'** Birdseye Ridge - Climbers and runners start training for Seward Mountain Marathon Race! By East Ridge after ascending good trail from Lake Eklutna (probably snowy and muddy). Southern exposure should offer the first snow-free rock of the summer season (probably plenty of snow). Depart AMU Student Union 5:00 AM. Leader - Bob Spurr (344-6067 evenings)

May 21 (Sun.) **BIRDSEYE RIDGE 3505'** A ridge separating Bird and Indian Creek. Two miles to summit. Register housed in a big cairn. Leader to be announced at meeting.

JUNE 24 - JULY 3 **Kenai Wilderness.** June 24 through 27 Surprise Mountain area (This is tentative.) June 28 Caribou Creek Cabin. June 29 East Creek Cabin. June 30 Swan Lake Cabin. July 1 Juneau Lake Cabin. July 2 through 4 Russian Lakes Trail. Anyone interested in hiking part or all of the above, contact Kathy Selken. This is an opportunity to take plenty of time to enjoy the Resurrection Trail.

Believe I see the whole

CONDENSED MINUTES OF MCA MEETING OF MARCH 16, 1972

Minislides were shown. Wendell welcomed all visitors and members. It was moved and seconded to accept the minutes of the previous meeting as printed in SCREE with the cost of the ice axe being noted. Treasury report showed no expenses; income \$62.50, balance \$415.20 and \$193.43 in the Brooks Range Fund. Bob Spurr announced one hike will be rescheduled for later, that of Byron Peak. He encouraged everyone to join in on all hikes. Bob Smith noted there will be a July Rock School and another later in August. Program for next meeting may be presentation by climbers of Foraker. Kurt Bittlingmaier spoke on Alaska Rescue Group (ARG) activities, meeting, and bills before the legislature which would aid ARG. Mention was made by Pat Freeny of a meeting on April 2nd with Larry Penberthy of Mountain Safety Research on the safety of mountain equipment and some of his newly designed equipment. An ice axe was presented to our past president, Steve Hackett by Randy Renner. The meeting adjourned for the Fitz Roy film.

Respectfully submitted, Kathy Gorham, Secretary

PRESIDENT'S PEN

I had the good fortune to be trip leader on a recent MCA weekend trip. It was a very pleasant trip and everyone quite enjoyed themselves. Those of you who have not been on a Club outing are missing a good thing.

Probably the most important area of concern directly affecting the MCA now is the repair of our chain of cabins from Eklutna to Raven Glacier. There are literally a couple hundred MCA members who have never been in these areas. A cabin repair expedition will kill two birds with one stone for these people. John Baxandall, Huts and Cabins Committee Chairman, is now in the planning stage for a summer repair trip. It, too, will be a good experience. Will you help?

It's avalanche time! If in doubt, turn back. If you must go on, obey the avalanche rules. - Wendell Oderkirk -

SUICIDE PEAK 5005'

April 2, 1972

Wendell Oderkirk

A scheduled MCA outing, this trip went well and smoothly. Those who met at Rabbit Creek Inn at 7:30 AM were Bill Barnes, Gil Todd, Rhett Wise, Jim Rogers, Pete Sennhuser, Lee Jones and myself. We met Barry and Ruth Kircher and Dave DeVoe at the parking place on Upper DeArmour Road.

A long ski/snowshoe trip in had all members at Rabbit Lake, ready to climb up to the West Ridge and attempt the summit. Blowing snow and a cloud cap on the summit were the only detriments to an otherwise excellent day.

Everyone reached the top by 3:00 PM except Ruth and Lee who were not feeling well. The wind made for a short summit stay and we returned to our skis on the crampon-hard snow.

The ski run out on a half inch of powder snow was enjoyed by Jim, Dave and Ruth - all good skiers. It was, shall we say, "accomplished" by the rest of us.

By 7:00 PM all were at the parking area commenting about the good day we'd had. And to the person who left his gorp bag in my truck, may I say -- "I can't believe I ate the whole thing."

Eklutna to Girdwood Traverse March 16-20, 1972

Larry Swanson

At noon Thursday, March 16, Art Ward and I thanked Art's brother, Cal, and another friend for a snowmachine ride across Eklutna Lake. When they dropped us off at the Army camp close to the snout of Eklutna Glacier, it was snowing lightly, but Art and I started up the glacier anyway. After a while, it began to clear up a little, and we were making pretty good time up the glacier toward Pichler's Perch when the cable of one of my ski bindings broke. Art and I managed to fix up a temporary substitute out of one of my prussiks. Then we proceeded on to the cabin which we reached at about 4:30 PM. (The aluminum siding is still inside the cabin waiting to be put up even though the cabin was built back in 1964.)

The next day, March 17, we were greeted by a beautiful sight when we arose at 6:00 PM, that of a cloudless sky. After we ate breakfast and took a few pictures, we packed up our stuff and started up Eklutna Glacier toward Whiteout Glacier. The snow was perfect for skiing. As we got further up the glacier, the sun got higher and at ten o'clock both of us swore that it must be at least 70° although we knew it couldn't be. By the time we were about half way up the Whiteout Glacier, we both had a combination suntan and sunburn. About a mile from the Whiteout cabin, the cable on my other ski broke. I again had to make a substitute out of the other prussik rope and some light cord we had with us. My makeshift bindings were about as awkward looking as they were for skiing.

Art and I had been planning on climbing Whiteout Peak either the 17th or the 18th, however, when we reached the point where we could either continue on a short distance to the peak or climb up to the Whiteout cabin, we decided to put off climbing the peak until the next day and went on up to the cabin. We laid around in the sun for the rest of the day. We arrived at the cabin a little after one o'clock and after shoveling away the snow so we could open the cabin door, we had a long lunch out in the sun and took it easy for the rest of the day.

We had planned on climbing Whiteout Peak Saturday, March 18, and then continuing on to the Eagle cabin. But when we got up Saturday, it was snowing and windy and the visibility was too poor to do any traveling. After breakfast Art and I started a twelve-hour card playing marathon by candlelight since there are no windows in the Whiteout cabin. (Art won 2999 to 2350 or something like that.)

The next day, Sunday, the 19th, it was still snowing and a partial whiteout still existed on the glacier but the wind was gone. Art and I decided to make a dash for the Crow Pass cabin. It didn't take long to get up to the top of Whiteout Glacier where it meets Eagle Glacier. What would have been a pleasant ski run down Eagle Glacier in the sunlight turned out to be anything but that as we skied down roped together, trying to go slow enough so that we could avoid any crevasses we might come to. When we reached the bottom of the slope, we had lost 2000 feet in altitude. It cleared up enough so that we could see the Eagle cabin and the branch of the Eagle Glacier which goes up toward the headwall of Raven Glacier. We had to climb 2000 feet to get to the top of it, and when we got to the top and looked down, one of the headwalls of the Raven Glacier, frankly, we were a bit worried to put it mildly. The snow was above knee level, and we were surprised that it could even stay on such a steep slope. We belayed each other across a few pitches at the top and walked down backwards

the rest of the way, staying as close to a rock rib on one side of the slope as possible. We breathed a heavy sigh of relief when we reached the bottom and put our skis back on and had a nice ski run down Raven Glacier over to the Crow Pass cabin. We had been looking forward to the oil stove which we knew was there, but when we arrived at about 4:30 PM, we found that it was out of oil. We spent most of the remaining daylight hours digging an eight to nine-foot deep hole to get to the storage barrels which are about twenty feet from the cabin. When we finally got the stove going, we discovered that it had a leak and we were forced to turn it off, much to our disappointment. The little bit of oil which leaked out onto the cabin floor smelled so we retreated to the loft for another night without heat.

When we arose Monday, the 20th, it was snowing and the wind was blowing pretty hard, but we were determined to get out that day since we were already a day late. A couple of times, right below the cabin, Art and I could not see each other when we were only about twenty feet apart, but once we were down in the valley a ways, the wind disappeared, and we were able to make it down to Girdwood just in time to hitch a ride into town with Steve Hackett.

This traverse is very enjoyable and offers spectacular views as well as comfortable cabins to stay in. The Whiteout and Eagle cabins were built in the summer of 1968, but they haven't received much use and should be taken advantage of more often as they are the MCA's cabins.

Mt. Foraker (17,400')

Wendell Oderkirk

First Winter Attempt - Feb. 12 - Mar. 4, 1972

On Tuesday morning, February 15, after all the normal gear preparation, several "Last Suppers" and the usual amount of lost time due to the nonfunctioning airplane, Cliff Hudson is able to land our party of seven near Mt. Foraker's S.E. ridge. The team includes Hank Noldan, leader; Dr. Warren Bowman, co-leader (Doc) from Billings, Montana; Norm Stadem; Kurt Bittlingmaier; John Samuelson; Steve Hackett; and myself, Wendell Oderkirk.

The original and only climb of Foraker's S.E. ridge is written up in the American Alpine Journal 1964. An air examination of their route to 10,000 feet led us to try the next ridge to the west where we hoped to avoid both the avalanche slope the original party crossed and the huge 2,000 foot rock buttress we had originally planned to climb. Later examination would find us in general agreement that the original route was faster--it didn't need fixed rope like our chosen route did just to get to 10,000 feet. But for now, a variation in the route seems fine and after building a three-igloo base camp at 6500' off we star

Steve and Kurt put in the first and second day's lead, stringing 600+ feet of rope up a snow gully which had slabbed out by the time we came down to base camp more than two weeks later.

On Friday, the 13th, while John, Hank and I carry food, gas and fixed rope loads, Norm and Doc carry their personal gear to the point of Camp I at approximately 8200 feet. The temperature has warmed up from -35 to an incredible -8 in bright sunlight--really neat. We have used 1200 feet of fixed rope to get to Camp I which eventually consists of three igloo-caves dug into a cornice.

Norm, Doc, John and I, along with Steve and Kurt, use up three days and a great deal of fixed rope traversing the ridge--a very narrow, very exposed, very corniced ridge--from Camp I to Camp II at 9000 feet. The ridge requires shoveling and lots of pickets for a fixed rope. A cornice breaks off, the break occurring between Steve's legs, cutting our track for thirty feet. Steve jumps aside and Kurt is ready for the fall, but only the cornice crashes to the glacier floor. (Progress is incredibly slow!)

Norm sees the light. He only has two weeks off and one week is gone so he leaves the group after living at Camp I for two nights.

Tuesday, February 22, Steve, Kurt, John and I carry loads to Camp II at 9000 feet where we construct an igloo. Doc and Hank are leading above us and should penetrate the icefall. They don't. (Obviously this mountain is going to take longer than Flattop!)

On Wednesday, John and I carry our personal gear from Camp I to Camp II. We dump it and push through on Hank and Doc's fixed ropes to their high point. We penetrate the icefall to 11,000 feet stopping at a crevasse which is more of a bergschrund. We are proud of our day and figure Steve and Kurt will easily hit the ridge above us tomorrow. It will be five days before we hit the ridge at around 11,650 feet because Thursday finds Steve and Kurt leading some very steep ice above 11,000 feet in blowing snow and cold wind. They make two rope lengths, amazing under the conditions. John and I carry loads from 9000 feet to the 11,000 foot stopping place. The wind frequently has us on our knees, ice axes in the arrest position. Today, Doc and Hank are supposed to move from Camp I across the ridge to Camp II. Surely they wouldn't dare in this wind.

Steve and Kurt are ready to descend as John and I finally struggle to the top of the fixed rope. We drop our loads and rappel down. On one pitch Kurt slips and Steve's belay fails. Steve is talking to me one minute and the next he's falling down 15 feet of near vertical ice. But quick as a cat he's in arrest position and the snow at the bottom of the ice stops him. We continue down in the miserable wind and stumble into Camp II near dark to find Hank and Doc there with warm soup and food. They describe their windy and hairy traverse of the ridge, and we agree to wait out the wind for a day. We wait it out two days--lots of sewing, reading, singing and resting. (Wish my foam pad hadn't blown away; my bag is getting icier.)

Sunday we decide to move again. John and I establish Camp III at 11,000 feet. It is a two-man snow cave cut into the drifted snow under the schrund-like crevasse wall. Later, it is enlarged to hold all six of us. Steve and Kurt lead almost to the true schrund near the top of the ridge. Their leads are the toughest yet--on 60 degree ice.

Monday comes. John and I lead today while Hank and Doc move to Camp III and Steve and Kurt carry loads from II to III. They will move to III tomorrow.

John and I hit the ridge (finally) at 11,650 feet. It is badly corniced so we remove our fixed rope and walk along the cornices (belaying each other) up to around 12,000 feet where the ridge flattens. Topping the ridge has exposed us to the bitter north wind. We refix the rope and rappel down it over the schrund where we take a ten-foot drop. How can we climb that tomorrow?

To h--- with it. Let's get out of here. It's cold. But it's amazingly beautiful.

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*Indicates a first ascent

NOTE: This page can be detached and placed with your 1971 copies of SCREE.

WHAT-SCREE-SAID-WAY-BACK-THE-N-DEPT.

10 years ago... April, 1962--It was reported that MCA was sponsoring a team from the Club to compete in the Seward Marathon on July 4th. The team consisted of John Dillman, "Vin" Hoeman, Hartmut Pluntke and Gregg Erickson with Scott Hamilton Team Captain and Bill Davis Manager. Jim Branch offered the Alyeska lift from the top of the mountain down for training purposes. There was publicity in the Times regarding the MCA team.

5 years ago... April, 1967--Steve Stewart and Hans van der Lann climbed Suicide Peak 5065'. Upon reaching the top, they found no previous winter ascents recorded on the register. Roundtop 4755' was climbed by twelve members. A lesson learned by one of the members of the group who did not reach the top was to always take ice axes and crampons on early spring trips.

BITS & PIECES

Ev Wenrick led a group of hardy souls consisting of Dave Jones, Paul Landis and Ruth and Barry Kircher across Portage Lake and onto Portage Glacier where they camped for the night in the Igloo Hilton which was built by the light of the full moon. On Sunday they skied through Portage Pass and into the Whittier Valley. Upon attempting to walk through the tunnel, they were politely evicted by the Railroad official and had to take the train through the tunnel.

Bill Barnes and Will Cottrell did Kickstep the weekend of February 26 and 27. The following weekend, on March 4th, Barry Kircher did it using their trail.

Pat Freeny, Paul and Marilyn Duncan and Jumar (Freeny's dog) climbed O'Malley on April 2nd in super weather, but forgot to take the register up. (It's still at Art Ward's home.)

Bill Barnes recently flew the Mint Glacier area--The cabin is still there! Some avalanche activity, though none have reached the valley floor. A nice two-day ski trip. Take a bolt kit and cable to tie the cabin down if you're planning a trip in this area.

Former MCAer John Bousman (RD #2, Delanson, NY 12053) reports plans for Nanga Parbat in July, 1973 or failing that, McKinley via the Cassin Ridge.

RE: 55 HIKES. Helen Nienhueser reports they have received galley proofs for the remainder of the book. Also, the unofficial word from Seattle is maybe June.

A very special thank you to Doris Curtis who compiled the 1971 Index. This girl is great help. She formerly typed SCREE. She is continuing helping the mailing staff. Doris, we appreciate all your hours of work for us.

Gayle and Helen Nienhueser are operating a special kind of weekend lodge, Camp Call-Of-The-Wild, near the Matanuska Glacier. It is a 2 1/2 mile ski or snowshoe trip or hike in to the remote cabin, located on a ridge with magnificent mountain views. Good hiking or ski touring and lots of photographic opportunities. Guests provide and carry their own sleeping bags, gear and lunches. The Nienhuesers will provide breakfast and dinner--camp style. Rates for one night are \$10 per adult and \$5 per child 12 and under. Gayle and Helen say it is designed for MCA's kind of people. Call them at 277-9330 to make arrangements.

NOTICE!!!

Conservation Committee Meeting - Monday, April 24, 7:30 PM at Tom Meacham's (1410 H St.) Some of the topics which will be discussed: Arctic Wildlife Refuge Wilderness Proposal, specific suggestions as to conservation projects we can execute as soon as the snow is off the ground and the City-wide Cleanup Day. There will be a signup sheet at the April meeting for people

willing to hike into an area and clean it up on May 13th--the City-wide Cleanup Day.

On March 11, 1972, Trent Swanson and Scott Mueller climbed East and West Ptarmigan from the Rabbit Creek side and then went down over Flaketop 4550+50 and Flattop.

MASS ASCENTS OF WOLVERINE PEAK 4455'

-Larry Swanson-
Wolverine has always been a frequently climbed peak, but there must be something about it this time of year that makes people want to swarm to the top. It could be the sight of the virtually snow-free ridges leading up to the summit. But whatever it is, it has sure drawn the people this year. The following is a list of the people who have been on the summit already this year:

January 30, 1972 - Pat Freeny and his dog, Jumar

February 19, 1972 - Mike and Becky McGoodwin, Ross Brudevell and Dan Chisim

February 25, 1972 - Harry Lacy, John Jones and Rick Berne

March 1, 1972 - Art Ward arrived at the summit only 1 hour and 40 minutes after leaving his car.

March 8, 1972 - Larry Swanson and Marty Corcoran reached the summit. Rose Henderickson who was with them got within 200 ft. of it, but her feet were too cold to let her continue since she had ski-touring boots on.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

		Home	Work
CRANE, Richard	3230 Seaview, Anc	344-3956	
FLEMING, Terrill & family	1505 W. 31st Ave. Anc 03	279-2167	
HODGES, Hal	3301 Arctic Blvd. #7 Anc		
MARSHALL, T. R. Jr.	1569 Birchwood St. Anc 04	279-4705	
RIGDEN, Charles	1145 H St. Anc 01	272-2815	279-8593
SALVATIERRA, Andrew	3801 Arctic Blvd. Anc		279-0931
SEMAN, Scott	Box 1565 Anc 01		272-7372
SENNHAUSER, Peter	Box 3-4052 Anc 01		279-8581

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

CADY, Fred	RD 1, Mayville, NY 14757
ELLS, Cliff W.	Box 134, Coos Bay, OR 97420
MATHEWS, Mo & family	80 Halibut Dr. Fort Richardson 05

Are there items of equipment you wish to purchase used? Do you have gear you wish to sell? Wanted and For Sale items will be put in SCREE for you. Write to the Editor--address & name on page 10.