



MOUNTAINEERING CLUB OF ALASKA

BOX 2037

ANCHORAGE, ALASKA 99510

JANUARY 1973

VOL. 16, NO. 1

JANUARY MEETING...Thursday, January 18, 1972...8:00 PM...Central Junior High Multi-purpose Rm...PROGRAM: Business Meeting...Refreshments... Randy Renner will show slides of climbing in the interior of the Talkeetna Mountains.

BOARD MEETING: Monday, February 5, 1973, at Tom Meacham's, 1410 H Street.

#### CLIMBING AND HIKING SCHEDULE

SUNDAY, January 21 - POWERLINE PASS PEAK, 5050+50 About five or six miles of cross-country skiing to the pass then a nice ridge climb to the summit. Beautiful views in all directions. Cross-country enthusiasts welcome to come along to the pass and then ski back for a nice half day outing. LEADER: Trent Swanson Home PH: 279-3804.

SUNDAY, January 28 - MT. EKLUTNA, 4110 Ski up Peters Creek and then nearly to the summit before removing skis. Cross-country Skiers welcome to come along and then continue up Peters Creek valley if they wish. LEADER: Larry Swanson Work PH: 277-4210.

SUNDAY, February 4 - VISTA PEAK, 5070 Prominent peak on the ridgeline behind Mt. Magnificent above the town of Eagle River. Can be seen from Anchorage. Three and one-half miles of cross-country skiing followed by ascent of a steep snow slope to the summit. Views of peaks in all directions. An invigorating outing for skiers, hikers and climbers. LEADER: Tom Meacham Home PH: 277-2129.

SAT-SUN, February 10-11 - RESURRECTION PASS SKI TRIP Ski from Cooper Landing to Hope with a nice warm cabin to stay in Saturday night. We need lots of skiers to help break trail on this one. LEADER: Art Ward Home PH: 333-7870.

Anyone who has a special peak or ski trip he would like to lead or just see scheduled, please contact Larry Swanson at work 277-4210 or leave a message at 279-3804. Sign-up sheets for all of the above climbs and trips will be at the January meeting; please feel free to sign up.

#### MCA WINTER SCHOOL

WHEN: January 28 - Regardless of weather (except if rain)

MEET: Carr's Diamond - 7:30 AM to 3:00 PM

WHERE: Slopes of Flattop - Will drive up Upper Huffman if snow allows

WHAT: Basic winter mountaineering techniques (NO ICE)

1. Ice axe arrest
2. Crampon use
3. Knots and rope use
4. Belaying
5. Keeping warm

BRING: Axe, Crampons, warm gear, 10 ft. one-inch tubular webbing for waist harness, locking carabiner, lunch

LIMIT: Twenty students

FEE: MCA membership

Theory session on knots and gear after MCA general meeting in January.

INSTRUCTOR: Wendell Oderkirk PH: 344-8744--7:00 PM to 9:00 PM ONLY

CONDENSED MINUTES OF THE GENERAL MEETING HELD ON DECEMBER 14, 1972

The meeting was called to order by President Tom Meacham. The minutes of the last meeting were corrected by Tom Meacham. It was erroneously reported that Art Davidson was an MCA member. Treasurer Gil Todd reported: \$267.14 in Checking, \$157.97 in Savings and \$200 in the Brooks Range Fund. Tom Meacham reported that the Brooks Range Trust papers were about ready for execution and named the first Board of Trustees as follows: Sharon Cissna, Ruth Schmidt, Will Troyer, Pete Martin and Mark Ganopole. Mr. Nobuo Iwanaga was introduced. He is presently engaged in discussions with the Seattle Club regarding translating 55 WAYS TO THE WILDERNESS IN SOUTHCENTRAL ALASKA into Japanese.

Respectfully submitted, Donna Agosti

P R E S I D E N T ' S   P E N

MCA BROOKS RANGE FUND

The Brooks Range Trust has become a reality, with the execution of the Trust document by five local trustees and the transfer of the bulk of Hans Van der Laan's estate into the Trust by his parents, Mr. and Mrs. H. F. Van der Laan of Voorburg, The Netherlands. The Mountaineering Club's contribution, the \$200.00 Brooks Range Fund, will be transferred to the Trust if the membership approves a resolution to that effect at the January meeting.

The five persons appointed as Trustees (future trustees will be elected by the present trustees) are Mark Ganopole, Ruth Schmidt, Sharon Cissna, Pete Martin and Will Troyer. Ruth and Sharon are MCA members and the other trustees have also been active in Alaskan conservation matters.

A copy of the Brooks Range Trust document will be available at the January meeting for any member to examine. Basically, the Trust sets priorities of trust activity as follows: (1) to promote establishment of a "Gates of the Arctic" National Park in the Brooks Range, and to designate a Wilderness area inside the Park; (2) to promote a Wilderness area alone in the same area; (3) to promote Wilderness areas throughout the Brooks Range; (4) to promote wild river systems in the same area; (5) to set up a library or collection of literature on the Brooks Range; (6) to promote Wilderness and wild river systems throughout Alaska.

The Mountaineering Club, if it approves of Club participation in the Trust, will have a supervisory role concurrent with Hans Van der Laan's parents. The Club will not be directly involved in Trust activities, but it will receive reports and can make suggestions for Trust activities.

This supervisory function will be the job of the MCA Executive Board and the Conservation Chairman will coordinate between the Trust and the MCA Board.

The MCA will supervise the Trust in relatively few ways: (1) reports and suggestions, mentioned before; (2) veto power over new trustee-nominees; (3) annual accounting to MCA; (4) veto power over dissolution of Trust. The MCA will be able to exercise as much or as little direct influence over Trust activities as its members wish, within the limits set by the Trust document itself. The Club will in a sense be acting as the local advisor to the Trust, since Hans' parents, who have the same powers, are located a continent away.

Hans Van der Laan was an active climber and MCA member who had a purpose behind much of his exploring--the preservation for future outdoorsmen and women of a significant and irreplaceable chunk of the Central Brooks Range. He worked hard toward that goal, but his personal involvement was halted in a moment on Eklutna Glacier. Added to the personal loss is the fact that many of the "political" decisions which will determine the fate of the Brooks Range are being made right now--the Natives Claims Settlement, the Federal-State Land Use Planning Commission, the pipeline corridors and public land withdrawals. Hans' parents recognize the critical moment intine which we are seeing now, and hope to carry forward their

son's momentum and energy toward the goal he sought--a true "Gates of the Arctic" wilderness park, which will remain a wilderness park long after Prudhoe Bay has run dry and the Native Regional Corporations have merged with IIT and General Motors.

-Tom Meacham-

#### O P I N I O N

The presence at our last meeting of a Japanese gentleman interested in translating "55 Ways to the Wilderness in South Central Alaska" into Japanese is yet another indication to me of the rapidly increasing numbers of Japanese groups we will be experiencing in Alaska.

Many of you, I know regard me as paranoid on this subject. However I doubt you receive one or two letters a month from Japan and I doubt you have had as much occasion to meet Japanese as much as I have in the field and on the job.

Let me state I hold these people in the highest regard, both as climbers and as individuals. To the man they are friendly and very considerate of Americans. They research the climbs well, they are interested in first ascents, they come from a "climbing" nation, and they have an intense interest in Alaskan and Himalayan ranges.

I do not advocate keeping the Japanese out any more than the Lower 48 Americans (though personally I'd like to see a law passed saying no one admitted to Alaska from now on, but this isn't realistic, is it?). I feel even the current back-packing and climbing boom in America will result in fewer Americans than Japanese in "our Mountains" in the next few years.

What shall we do? Dedicate ourselves as Alaskans to hitting the first ascents first. And Beyond that?

I would like to go on record as supporting actively all the National Park expansion plans in Alaska. Further, I'd like to have Park regulations specifically prohibit aircraft landings in the Parks for other than strict emergency reasons. This of course is the current ruling and I'd like to see it continued and enforced.

Naturally, this will mean long pack-in trips for us, but by the same token it should materially reduce the number of parties that get into theremote areas.

Sayoonara, Wendell Oderkirk

#### B I T S     &     P I E C E S

The Climbing Committee Chairman chosen by the Board is Larry Swanson.

The January 1973 National Geographic contains an article entitled "Alaskan Family Robinson" featuring several MCA'ers in the Talkeetna area: Johnstons, Menards, Robinsons, etc.

We are sorry to hear about the injury of our fellow mountaineer, Chuck Munns, in a car accident. He is in the Elmendorf Hospital.

Also hospitalized is MCA Board Member Bob Spurr. He is in Providence.

Already we are proud to announce the recipient of MCA's Enviabile Achievement of the Year!! Bill Barnes, Jr. is currently taking Advanced Mountaineering, a directed studies program, under Bob Spurr.

CONGRATULATIONS & BEST WISHES to Fred Janvrin and Judith Ashley who were married recently. They live at 1310 Nelchina.

In the February SCREE will be the Index for 1972.

Also, in the February SCREE there will be a list of people who have paid their membership dues for the 1973 Club year (Jan.'73-Dec.'73).

BITS & PIECES IS CONTINUED ON PAGE 7

WINTER FLAT TOP SLEEP-IN December 30-31, 1972 Gil Todd

The MCA winter sleep-in on Flat Top was carried on in fine tradition by seven members of the Club during the weekend of December 30-31, 1972.

BILL CRANE, ED COLEMAN, MARK RAINERY, MIKE RICHARDSON, and GILBERT TODD left the vehicle at the entrance to the Chugach State Park on Upper Huffman Road at approximately 11:00 AM, walked into Glenn Alps and approached Flat Top from the Rabbit Creek side. The weather was warm and snowing.

The climb was completed with very little difficulty. To make things interesting, a short cut, up a snow chute, was taken. At one point on this pitch we were considering setting up a belay with Mike's avalanche cord to help Ed over a particularly treacherous area but this proved to be unnecessary.

Upon arrival at the summit, camp was set up, and by 3:00 PM we were standing around looking at each other wondering what to do now. Shortly thereafter Bill Stivers and Mike Hunt arrived and proceeded to show how a pro sets up camp.

The evening meal was cooked and ingested by 6:00 and with nothing else to do most retired to their sleeping bags by 6:30. The night passed slowly with the weather good, some snow and wind and temperature around 10 degrees above.

Activity began the next morning at daylight and by 9:00 we began the decent. A pleasant sitting glissade down the prominent snow chute on the west face shortened the descent considerably and by 11:00 we were back to the vehicle. A quick ride home and we all arrived with ample time to prepare for the New Years Eve festivities.

Two comments should be made on the choice of food taken by one of the stalwart members. First spaghetti and meat sauce should not be taken. At least two of us can attest to the difficulties of eating spaghetti, in the dark, with a spoon.

Secondly, raw eggs, sans shell, in a tupper ware container have a tendency to freeze. Eggs in this condition make suitable marbles but resist proper cooking. To solve the freezing problem it was decided to bring the eggs into the sleeping bag. However this gambit was aborted when, after an hour or so, it was noted the eggs were winking at the occupant. Fresh eggs are of course desirable but this was ridiculous.

#### CONSERVATION ITEM

The U.S. Forest Service (Chugach National Forest) has announced that it is closing Winner Creek Trail (near Alyeska Ski Area) to mechanized vehicles (i.e. snowmobiles). This seems due in part to Nordic Ski Club's hard work in rebuilding the trail over the past few years.

Since this is one of the few trails (if not the only trail) in the entire Chugach National Forest which is closed to the motorized locusts, a big vote of thanks and praise should go to Duane Annis, District Ranger. May we hope (fingers crossed, of course) to see similar recognition of the more athletic winter activities elsewhere in our forest?

- Tom Meacham -

The following people are delinquent in returning gear borrowed and rented from the Club: (The gear is drawing back rent, so please get it back!)

Bob Spurr	#6 large adjustable Simond crampons
Bob Peterson	#9 Army crampons
Ed Coleman	#43G Grivel 12 pt. crampons
Dirk Greeley	#46G Grivel crampons
Bob Coleman	#8 ice axe
Bob Coleman	goldline rope
Durhane & Fritz Rieger	Red perlon rope
Bob Spurr	orange perlon rope
Paul Landis	3/8" goldline rope
Bill Barnes, Jr.	soft lay goldline rope
Bill Barnes, Jr.	blue tent fly
Bob Spurr	tent stakes

#### "MISCELLANEOUS COMMERCIAL MESSAGE ITEM"

For one thin dollar (or for free if you are a regular customer) any MCA member or SCREE reader may send for the 1973 Eastern Mountain Sports Catalogue-Encyclopedia, 240 slick-paper pages of products, comparisons, commentary and information on everything from Svea-stove parts to Mt. Logan expeditions. Undoubtedly the best catalogue in the business. Address: Eastern Mountain Sports, Inc., 1041 Commonwealth Avenue, Boston, Massachusetts 02215.

-Tom Meacham-

#### MOUNT MCKINLEY POLITICS REVISITED

or SEQUEL TO THE SYLVAIN SAUDAN SUMMER '72 SKI SAGA

The following, "A Tale Not Topped," is quoted verbatim from SKI magazine, the January, 1973, issue.

#### A TALE NOT TOPPED

"SKI's big September story on Sylvain Saudan's descent off the 20,320-foot summit of Mt. McKinley hinged mainly on the fact that the 13,300-odd feet that Saudan claimed he skied was the longest vertical ski descent made by man. But this has now, it appears, turned out to be a bit inaccurate. Saudan never reached the summit but skied from a point 300 to 800 vertical feet below it, depending on whom you talk to.

"What remains is the fact that Saudan skied the longest recorded vertical and skied down the southwest face, a route that had never even been climbed. It was a feat of technical virtuosity that could have stood on its own.

"For reasons still not clear, Saudan forgot to tell his sponsors, including SKI, that he had failed in his original objective, to go from the top. In fact, Saudan's prepared press release, which was released after the descent, stated that he had gone from the top. In Saudan's interview with SKI on tape, the transcription reads:

"'Q: How many vertical feet did you actually ski?'

"'Saudan: About 6,000 feet. The first 600 were very difficult. After that it was easier...That represents the descent from 20,300 feet--the summit--to 14,00 feet, so it represents 6,000 feet on a slope of between 50 and 55 degrees...After 14,000 feet we went down to 7,000 feet the next day...If you add the two sections, from the

summit to the 7,000-foot level, it represents the longest descent that I have ever done'

"It was on the basis of this interview in which Saudan clearly claimed a descent from the summit that SKI wrote the story.

"DEL MULKEY, our photographer, made it only to the 14,400-foot level. The picture in SKI, captioned as being at the summit, was taken by one of the expedition's cinematographers who accompanied Saudan as far as he got. It was a picture of a ridge below the summit.

"STEVE HACKETT, former president of the Mountaineering Club of Alaska and one of the packers for the expedition, says he accompanied Saudan and his cameramen to the expedition's high point at 19,600 feet, just below the Kahiltna Horn, 800 vertical feet or an hour's climb from the summit. They reached this point at 6 p.m. Hackett says, 'We tried to get him to go to the summit. Saudan said he wanted to think about it and thought about it for quite a while.'

"The Anchorage (Alaska)Times, which interviewed Hackett, wrote: 'By 9(p.m. with the light still on the mountain) after nearly three hours of debate in the debilitating cold and thin air which climbers say sometimes makes for irrational decision-making, Saudan decided to go down instead of up'.

"Hackett said, '... By the time he got ready he could have climbed to the summit and skied all the way down. Still, he skied down the hardest part of the mountain.

"When contacted about the problem by Harvey Edwards, our correspondent in Chamonix (where Saudan lives), Saudan merely said, 'The top of the mountain had no ski interest.'

"But undoubtedly Saudan did ski over 12,500 feet of vertical descent, a distance which, until someone skis all the way down from the very top of McKinley, will have to stand as the title of SKI's story put it, 'He Broke The World's Vertical Record.'

"Unfortunately Saudan's failure to clearly state what happened, and his statements quoted above, cast a shadow on the Mt. McKinley expedition.

"The edge has definitely been taken off a fine story. SKI was misled and thus misled its readers."

#### HISTORICAL NOTE

Mrs. Eleanor Bliss, 51-year resident of Anchorage, says that she walked the Ship Creek to Indian trail in about 1928 and 1938. At these times "Eighteen Mile House" at the present Arctic Ski Bowl site and "Twenty-five Mile House" against the mountain on the west near the confluence of the two main sources of Ship Creek were intact but no longer operating as inns. A friend, however, had lodged at "Twenty-five Mile House" as late as 1915, but Mrs. Bliss doesn't know when the lodge closed. "Eighteen" miles and "Twenty-five" miles referred to distances along the trail from the mouth of Ship Creek at Anchorage. The one-room "Twenty-five Mile House" had collapsed when I saw it in 1964. So far as I am aware there are no traces of "Eighteen Mile House."

- Rod Wilson -

BITS & PIECES, CONTINUED

ANNOUNCING! ANNOUNCING! A son was born to Jane and Tom Meacham on December 21, 1972. His name is Scott Blackford Meacham.

ANNOUNCING! ANNOUNCING! A son was born to the Will Cottrell's 30 seconds after midnight on January 1, 1973. His name is Zachary Cottrell.

FOR SALE: One REI Cruiser Pack, undivided, medium use, \$13.00

00.22 . . . One Latuma frameless rucksack, \$5.00

02.52 . . . One Tuma alcohol stove plus some extra fuel, \$5.00.

Call Mark Rainery at 272-0844 or he will have them next meeting.

Paul and Marilyn Duncan write: "We will be in Albuquerque for at least two years. We have enjoyed reasonably good hikes in northern New Mexico this fall and we had a terrific three days hiking in the Grand Canyon in mid-December. We cannot compete with Pat Freeny's record number of climbs. We were turned back at 13,500 on Ranier in July by a storm."

Anne and Bob Smith write: "We miss all our friends in Alaska and hope some of you can stop and visit us sometime. Bob is keeping busy with his dental practice. We haven't had much snow either so skiing hasn't been the best. Last year they had 4-5 feet on the ground in Leavenworth.--This year we're here. Our David is one year now and on his way to being a climber. Let us hear from you all soon."

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

Brickley, William V.	1409 W. 29th Ave., Anchorage, AK	99503
Frankfourth, Jo	Box 403, Eagle River, AK	99577
Williams, Tom	Dept. Earth Sciences, Montana State Univ., Bozeman, MT	59715

ADDRESS CHANGES

Cady, Fred & Katie	52 Aorangi Rd., Christchurch 5, New Zealand
Duncan, Paul & Marilyn	7624 Winter Avenue N. E., Albuquerque, NM 87110
Mobley, Mike	ASH/E - 45, 31380 Overhulse Rd. N. W., Olympia, Washington
Rigden, Charles	Box 4-453, Anchorage, AK 99509
Smith, Robert S.	Box 99, Leavenworth, Wash.
Smith, Warren, Dr.	Dept. Chemistry, Univ. of Alaska, Fairbanks, AK 99701

HAPPY NEW YEAR !!!

MORE NEW MEMBERS

		<u>HOME</u>	<u>WORK</u>
Carnicelli, Paul A.	11 E Manor, Anc		
Heins, Michael J.	General Delivery, Anc 99501	279-8788	
Johnston, Michael J.	PSC-1, Box 1321, Elmendorf AFB		
Pinamont, John	PSC#1 Box 939, Elmendorf 99506	753-7208	753-3219
Sikorski, Jo	7220 E 21st Ave, Apt #3, Anc 04	333-2370	