



MOUNTAINEERING CLUB OF ALASKA

BOX 2037

ANCHORAGE, ALASKA 99510

DECEMBER 1973

VOL. 16, No. 12

DECEMBER MEETING...Wednesday, December 19, 1973...8:00 PM...Pioneer Schoolhouse--3rd & Eagle Streets...MINISLIDE SHOW: May be straight but then again it may be unusual--Come See!...Business Meeting...Refreshments...MAXISLIDE PRESENTATION: John Pinamont will show slides of backpacking in the Grand Canyon.

THE DECEMBER MEETING IS AT A NEW LOCATION and ALSO ON A NEW DATE.

BOARD MEETING...Thursday, January 3, 1974, 7:30 PM, at Steven Jones and Bill Barnes, Jr.'s--4304 Forest Road.

This is your last issue of SCREE for this year. RENEW your subscription today! Mail your check/money order to MCA, Box 2037, Anchorage, AK 99510 by JANUARY 1st. If your subscription renewal is not in by January 1st, you will not receive a January SCREE. (Membership runs from January through December.)

THE NEW HUTS AND CABINS CHAIRMAN IS MARK RAINERY.

M C A W I N T E R T R I P P I N G

Requirements: During the summer months MCA climbs are directed towards just about everyone; complete novices are normally welcomed on Club climbs in the Chugach. The situation is not the same in the winter and the complete novice is only welcome on one-day ski tours. The specification of required equipment for an MCA winter climb should shed some light on this matter.

In addition to normal winter climbing clothing, the following items are required for one-day climbs: ice axe, crampons with boots to fit, two carabiners of unspecified type, ten to twenty feet of one-inch webbing, heavy lunch, at least one quart of water, day pack, skis and wax.

Recommended items: I recommend the Justrite battery headlamp (cannot be obtained in Anchorage buy from the Co-op), double boots or bunny boots for extreme cold, a rope if you have one and would prefer not to use the Club's and last but not least, a big down parka. Overnight trips demand even more and a person who doesn't know what to bring, shouldn't contemplate making the trip.

YOU OWE THE LEADER OF A TRIP THE COURTESY OF INFORMING HIM THAT YOU ARE GOING TO BE IN HIS PARTY A DAY OR TWO AHEAD OF TIME.

CLIMBING & SKIING SCHEDULE

Saturday, DECEMBER 15 -- PTARMIGAN PEAK. A skyline peak. Hopefully, by the gully. Skiing by headlamp in and out. Long day. Leader: Bill Barnes, Jr. PH: 272-2205. Meeting Place: Valu Mart, 5:30 AM.

Saturday & Sunday, DECEMBER 22-23 -- ANNUAL FLATTOP SLEEP-IN. Bring wood & sustenance. No leader.

Sunday, JANUARY 13 -- INDIAN VALLEY SKI TOUR. Meet at 7:00 AM in front of Eberhard's. Leader: Bill Barnes, Sr. PH: 333-9218.

Saturday, JANUARY 12 -- VISTA PEAK. Up Meadow Creek on the east side of Eagle River. Ski tour and climb. 3/4 day for ski tourers. Full day for people climbing. This area is now closed to snowmachines, but be prepared to be vigilantes just the same. Leader: Tom Meacham PH: 277-2129. Meet at Value Mart at 6:30 AM.

P R O P O S E D A M E N D M E N T

The Executive Committee, at its meeting on December 5, 1973, voted to present an amendment to the Articles of Incorporation of the Mountaineering Club at the next regular meeting. However, since a period of fifteen days will not elapse between publication of the proposed amendment in Scree and the next regular meeting as required by the Articles of Incorporation, the amendment will be presented here, and a vote of the members will be taken on the amendment at the January meeting. A two-thirds vote of the membership in favor of the amendment is required to pass it. Discussion of the proposed amendment will be entertained at both the December and January meetings. Set forth below is Article II, paragraph 2 of the Articles of Incorporation as it presently stands. The portion proposed to be amended is underlined:

ARTICLE II, Paragraph 2.

This corporation is a non-profit corporation. It is not organized nor shall it be operated for pecuniary gain or profit. It does not contemplate the distribution of gains, profits or dividends to the members thereof or to any private shareholder or individual and no part of the property, profits or net income of the corporation shall even inure to the benefit of any member, officer or director or trustee of the corporation or to the benefit of any private shareholder or individual. No substantial part of the activities of this corporation shall ever consist of carrying on propaganda or otherwise attempting to influence legislation or of participation or intervention in any political campaign. The carrying on of the business at a profit shall be merely incidental to the specific and primary purposes of the corporation as herein set forth and in furtherance thereof. Upon the dissolution or winding up of this corporation or upon abandonment of its purposes, which shall be designated by the Board of Directors.

The proposed amendment, which would replace the sentence underlined above, is as follows:

The activities of the corporation may consist in part of the adoption by the majority of the members at any regular meeting of an official position of the corporation concerning those issues, whether political, legislative or otherwise, which directly affect the stated purposes of the corporation or the practice of enjoyment of mountaineering skills, experiences or opportunities; provided, however, that the Executive Board of the corporation may, when urgent time circumstances require, adopt by majority vote and express an official position of the corporation concerning any of the foregoing subjects; which position so adopted shall be subject to ratification by a majority vote of the members present at the next regular meeting. Such qualification shall be so stated at the time such official position as adopted by the Executive Board, is publicly announced.

MATTERHORN 14,701'
Shouldn't We Consider Flattop?

SAM PESTINGER

On Sept. 4, 1973, I woke up to find myself sick at my stomach on top of the Matterhorn. To articulate for you why I was there would take the entire article. I will limit myself to how I got down.

After hearing the Matterhorn had been humbled by Swiss Guides running their clients up the Hornli Ridge, much like a dog on a leash, I decided to climb the mountain via the Zmutt or most difficult ridge. To assist me in my labors I offered a case of beer to an instructor at the University of Geneva. Much to my surprise he accepted my offer and in late August I found myself in Zermatt, Switzerland.

Upon my arrival in Zermatt I knew from the Birds Eye Vegetable commercial on television the mountain should have been visible. It was not. Nevertheless I headed for my much discussed meeting place with my Geneva friend. The Genevan had instructed me to bring no climbing gear as he would provide it all. At the meeting place I was greeted by a note apologizing for the blizzard hiding the Matterhorn and the absence of my friend.

Having money in my pocket at this time I decided to hire a guide and try the blizzard. My prospective guide informed me that the snow had covered the hand holds and he could earn a living via the Hornli Ridge on brighter days. With this my wife convinced me we should depart for the easy life in Paris and I agreed.

After 5 consecutive days of French cuisine and the 95° heat of Paris my thoughts returned to the Matterhorn. I found myself flying out of Paris at 4:00 A.M. going back to the mountain. I now, however, had no money for a guide and had lost my climbing connection with my Geneva friend.

Upon my arrival in Zermatt there was not one cloud in the sky. And even considering all the excessive commercialism dumped upon the Matterhorn it stood out as one of the most majestic mountains I've ever seen. But the mountain was covered with snow and ice so I was off to rent my crampons.

While in line to rent the crampons, I noticed one nervous American trying unsuccessfully to obtain crampons from the proprietor who had learned the American was without a guide. When my turn arrived, I looked the proprietor in the eye and said I have a guide and I want

two pairs of crampons. Outside I shook hands with the American and handed him his crampons. Dale and I next formulated our plan for the Matterhorn--to keep our eyes on the little guys in the red and white sweaters--the guides.

Guides only climb the Hornli Ridge--which should have told us something. We knew that on this ridge guides belay their clients and that the clients don't belay their guides. We believed that the risk was falling rock and not falling. We decided not to rent a rope.

At the end of town we grabbed a cable car which would take us to a valley below the Matterhorn. It was our pleasure to ride with a Swiss guide who proceeded to put a great deal of shit on us for trying the climb without his services. His theme was simple. Americans are terrible climbers. The Matterhorn was a magnificent mountain. We as Americans were incompetent to climb the Matterhorn. He did, however, follow up with a dozen stories of how he had rescued nauseated American climbers.

We got off the car at what I hoped would be hotel Hornli Hut at 10,000 feet where we'd start the climb in the morning. Surprise! The hut wasn't a hotel. It was a hut several miles away which was reached by a very comparable hike to Crow Pass! At 4:00 A.M. I had roasted in the 95° heat near sea level; at 7:00 P.M. I was chilled in the 25° temperature near 10,000 feet.

I hate to sound like a novice, but that nite in the hut was one of the finest experiences in my life. The late climbing season had attracted some bona fide European climbers. I didn't talk with men who had been on the summit of Everest, but I talked to men who had climbed with men who had been on the summit of Everest. Before we retired, Dale and I were toasted by the English speaking men. We were the only Americans on the mountain without guides. A distinction I would later challenge.

The guides no longer challenged us. It was our right to try, and the guides knew too well the cemetery in Zermatt where graves are marked with ice axes rather than crosses--which by the way, Dale and I didn't have.

We awoke at 4:00 AM and began to move more decisively. The 40 men in the hut were also seriously checking their gear.

The Hornli Hut offered us breakfast and then Dale spotted a man in a red and white sweater with a light on his head. We were out the door, moving towards the Matterhorn.

The lower slopes of the Hornli Ridge were not difficult. We continued to traverse the ridge, keeping our eyes on the moving light. This morning there were three different types of climbers: European rope teams, guides with one older European climber on the end of a rope and guides with a young American on the end of a rope.

On the lower slope, Dale and I came behind a slower moving European rope team. Dale became impatient and scrambled around them. I hesitated and then chose a shortcut to join him above the rope team. I was not to climb with Dale again. We had lost each other in the darkness.

I was now on the Matterhorn alone and those publicized footsteps were disappearing rapidly. As the sun began to rise, for the first time I appreciated the remaining 3,000 vertical feet I had chosen to encounter.

THIS WRITEUP CONTINUED IN THE JANUARY SCREE.

CONDENSED MINUTES OF THE MCA GENERAL MEETING OF NOVEMBER 15, 1973

President Bill Barnes, Jr. announced that Bob Spurr would head the Geographical Names Committee. He also announced that Tom Meacham would work with Barbara Winkley on the Conservation Committee. Bill Barnes, Jr. will temporarily head the Climbing and Program Committees.

The date and place of the December meeting were announced.

Members approved a proposal to purchase a movie screen, coffee pot and projector table.

The film, "Solo," was shown. It proved to be so engrossing that it was shown a second time.

(Minutes provided by Bill Barnes, Jr.)

PORTAGE LAKE WARNING

On December 2nd, Larry and Kathy Tedrick and Steve Tandy visited Portage Lake for a day of skiing and scrambling. They had originally intended to practice some ice-climbing techniques on the icebergs which had calved during the summer and were now apparently locked in the ice of the lake. One berg in particular looked inviting since it was near the parking lot and appeared to be grounded on the bottom of the lake. However, Larry learned before the trip that these bergs were dangerously unstable and they decided not to do any climbing after all. Just how unstable, they were to soon learn.

They drove to the lake on Sunday and just as they arrived they saw two men walking on the ice toward the nearest berg. One man tossed a rope up on the berg, whereupon it immediately broke free and rolled 90 degrees, breaking the thick lake ice like an eggshell. The men, a couple of Japanese pilots, ran like crazy and escaped injury.

Larry's theory for such unstable icebergs is that during the cold winter months the exposed part of the berg does not melt, while the submerged portion is constantly melting into the surrounding water. This causes the berg to become top-heavy and after a time, it will tip over. This could occur at any time and may even be triggered by the weight of a rope touching it as in the present case. Even the ice of the lake is not strong enough to prevent an iceberg from rotating without warning.

So climbers, beware! The life you save may be your own or your friends. And pass the word on.

-Tom Meacham

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

10 Years Ago - December, 1963 - Dave Johnston reported "An Attempt on Peak 4419' East of Sunrise." Several factors--cold feet and hands, a white-tipped nose, a broken ski binding, the fact that no one had skis or showshoes compelled the party to turn back. However, "... even if we did fall a wee tad short of our goal, the beautiful winter scenery, fine opportunity to field test our cold weather gear and the constant nutty spirit maintained by the whole group the whole way made our day well worthwhile."

5 Years Ago - December, 1968 - Bill Babcock and Hans Van der Laan made a second ascent of Granite Peak 6729'. They stated, "It was an excellent climb and could be done by most intermediate climbers with a competent leader." On Oct. 15, 1968, Vin and Grace Hoeman celebrated the formation of the Alaska Section of the American Alpine

Club by climbing what they named Harp Mtn. (from shape) 5001'. ". . . a first recorded ascent, east of the South Fork of Eagle River, up NW, down SW Rgs."

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

Michael D. Lee, St. Rt A, 1743 E, Anchorage, AK 99507
 Bill Stanley, Honolulu, Hawaii
 Steve and Gary Tandy, 3537 Lore Road, Anchorage, AK 99507

C O R R E C T I O N S

NOVEMBER SCREE--Page 9--The paragraph which begins "The Kenai River Trail..." was typed incorrectly. The error begins in the fourth sentence. Here is the entire paragraph typed correctly; the fourth and fifth sentences are correct here. The paragraph is part of the TRAIL INFORMATION, 1973 writeup by Dona Agosti.

The Kenai River Trail winds through bog and woods and across log bridges until the river itself is reached. Here it continues for several miles, then leaves the river and climbs steeply to a ridge. At the junction 2 1/2 miles further, take the left fork to Skilak Road, a distance of about 1/2 mile. Go straight ahead at the junction if you intend to complete the full trail. From this first exit, turn left if you intend to return to Hidden Creek Campground or if your car is parked at Hidden Creek Trail. This is an 8-10 mile round trip, depending on where your car is.

AUGUST SCREE--Page 3--The peak which is mentioned but not identified in the writeup entitled SOUTH FORK, EAGLE RIVER July 19-22, 1973, by Mark Rainery is Organ Peak 6980'. Mark Rainery states it is a second ascent.

B I T S & P I E C E S

Chester Creek Bike Trail dedication will be celebrated with a Winterfest on December 22 from 12:00 PM to 2:00 PM. Meet at the Rocket Park at the foot of E Street and ski, dog team, ski-jor, pulhka or use any other non-mechanized means to get to Goose Lake where a bonfire will await the hot dogs and marshmallows which you have brought with you for roasting. INDEED, A GRAND WAY TO CELEBRATE THE TRAIL & WINTER FUN ALL AT THE SAME TIME. See you there!

On November 25, Dave DeVoe led an MCA climb of O'Malley Peak under overcast skies. Other participants were Larry Tedrick, Mike Heinz, Jerry Kurtz, Jim Renkert and Tom Meacham. It was Dave's fourth ascent of O'Malley and his third under winter conditions.

Bjarne Holm reports he has climbed the following peaks:

May 1971	Institute Peak 8000' - Eastern Alaska Range
April 1973	White Princess 9700' - Eastern Alaska Range
April 1973	Little Princess 9700' - Eastern Alaska Range
May 1973	M'ladies 3800' - Eastern Alaska Range
May 1973	Mt. Sanford attempt-- reached 15,500' (summit is 16,100')
	Climbed 13,300' side vent of the volcano (altitude sickness of one of the other members of the party forced early retreat.

INDEX to 1973 SCREEs will be published in January.

Dick Montague has written: (Information below paraphrased letter.)

ALASKA TRAVEL PUBLICATIONS, has released its first guidebook on a major travel destination area in Alaska. Entitled **EXPLORE MOUNT MCKINLEY NATIONAL PARK: by car/camper, bus, bicycle or on foot**, the 300-page guidebook (5 3/8 x 8 3/8 inches) covers what there is to see and do in Alaska's sole national park from stem to stern. The 12 chapters cover such subjects as how to travel to the park from the "gateway" cities of Anchorage and Fairbanks; visitor facilities in and near the park; history of the Mount McKinley region; geology, climate and weather of the area; wildlife and plantlife of the park; how to travel the 85 miles of park road and what to look for; 25 hiking routes for backcountry travel; mountaineering on Mount McKinley and other high peaks of the park; and a bibliography.

The text is supplemented by more than 25 specially drawn color maps which describe each of the hiking routes and trails. These maps are superimposed on USGS sectional maps of the park. In addition to this series, 31 specially drawn color maps illustrate the 85 miles of park road between Riley Creek Visitor Orientation Center and Wonder Lake Campground on a scale of 1 inch equals 0.5 miles. Additional maps provide overviews of the park and describe the major mountaineering ascent routes (Kahiltna/West Buttress and Muldrow Glacier routes).

The chapter on hiking follows the general format of 55 WAYS TO THE WILDERNESS IN SOUTHCENTRAL ALASKA, but deals, of course, only with hiking routes within the park.

The book aims to bridge the information gap between visitors and their wilderness park. It is written, hopefully, to appeal and to provide meaningful information not only for the senior citizens who sightsee by tour bus but also for the younger generation who family-camp, explore and tramp the backcountry. In short, it has information for all forms of "explorers," including those who explore from the comfort of their armchairs.

The text has been carefully checked with the National Park Service. We plan to issue periodic editions to update the material.

The newsstand price is \$4.95 per copy. MCA members may obtain copies at any of the local sporting goods stores or by contacting ALASKA TRAVEL PUBLICATIONS, INC --their number is 274-3912.

If you need more information, just give Dick (Richard Montague) a call, and he'll be glad to fill you in. Dick and his wife, Jeanne, are members of MCA.

CONGRATULATIONS! Dick--The book looks fantastic. (I'm saving my pennies to purchase it.)

MCAers HAVE A VERY MERRY CHRISTMAS AND GREAT NEW YEAR!