



MOUNTAINEERING CLUB OF ALASKA BOX 2037 ANCHORAGE, ALASKA 99510

JANUARY 1974

VOL. 17, No. 1

JANUARY MEETING...Wednesday, 16, 1974...8:00 PM...Pioneer Schoolhouse--3rd & Eagle Streets...MINIMOVIE SHOW: Bill Barnes, Sr. will show movies of a canoe trip to Red Lake which is in the border lake country of Minnesota. They're neat! Come see them. ... Business Meeting... Refreshments...MAXISLIDE PRESENTATION: Rod Wilson will show slides of his Sierra Desert trip.

BOARD MEETING: February 6, 1974, at 7:30 PM at Bill Barnes, Jr.'s, 4304 Forest Road.

#### IN MEMORIAM

Mark B. Rainery

June 28, 1957 - January 1, 1974

Only those who throughout long years nourished a great, almost an intemperate, desire, and have then seen it realised exactly as they most wished, can understand the feeling of profound gratitude and satisfaction which filled our hearts on the descent. It was not pride of conquest. It was rather the sentiment of communion, granted as a privilege, with the high places of the earth; the sentiment that we had been permitted not only to lift up covetous eyes unto these hills, secret and lonely since the beginning of the world, but to come at them hardily, to take a place in the hither to sealed-up intimacy of their retreats, to be alive there, and from their heights to look on all things as from the windows of the sky

--Hudson Stuck, Mt. McKinley, 1913

The lifeblood of our Club is its younger members, enchanted by the mountains and eager to test their skills and dreams. The avalanche which took Mark from our fellowship also took with it the exuberance and ambition of a young man who reveled in the adventure he found in the mountains, and who looked eagerly toward a lifetime of physical and mental fulfillment at the "windows of the sky." Contemplating the loss of this vital, inquisitive, energetic person, the sudden

Mark's finality of his departure, we try to find some partial answer which will explain our tragedy, which will be a good fortune and our continued presence in the mountains. We find none. Mark is gone, leaving us only the memories, good climbs and the promise of what might have been.

Mark was among the most active of our younger climbers, joining the Mountaineering Club in April of 1972. Climbing with Club members or often with friends who felt his eagerness to explore and to experience the mountains, he was a frequent SCREE contributor, sharing with us the adventures and companionship he found on Pioneer Peak or in the South Fork, Eagle River. His climbs included second ascents of Organ and Flute Peaks and on his final trip, first winter ascents of Tanaina and Koktaya.

Mark was eager to learn all he could about our mountains, their history, routes, ascents, foibles. He regularly pumped older members for background information, tips and opinion on future objectives, ambitious expeditions and day climbs alike. And he passed along the gossip and adventure of his contemporaries, bridging the generation gap with his desire to absorb and build upon the advice and knowledge of long-time Alaskan climbers. Mark was the scholar-historian of his group, and the future promised many contributions from him.

Two months ago the Club president made a plea for a new Huts and Cabins Chairman to assume a post which had not seen any activity for a year. After the meeting, Mark asked apologetically if he might have the job, worried that some might view him as "just a high school kid" and not equal to the task. The Board unanimously and enthusiastically endorsed his request, and Mark quickly got things moving, scheduling an Eklutna traverse and lining up air support for cabin inventory and repair trips. But misfortune has cut short his plans and hopes, and ours.

The Mountaineering Club of Alaska extends its members' deepest sympathy to the parents of Mark and to his brother upon their loss.

If adventure has a final and all-embracing motive it is surely this: we go out because it is our nature to go out, to climb the mountains and sail the seas, to fly to the planets and plunge into the depths of the oceans.... We extend our horizon, we expand our being, we revel in a mastery of ourselves which gives an impression, mainly illusory, that we are masters of our world. In a word, we are men, and when man ceases to do these things, he is no longer man.

--Wilfred Noyce

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## MCA WINTER TRIPPING

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.

THE ILLEGAL USE OF RECREATIONAL DRUGS IS PROHIBITED ON CLUB CLIMBS!

CLIMBING SCHEDULE

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 climbers. This area is now closed to snowmachines, but be prepared to be vigilantes just the same. Leader: Tom Meacham. PH. 277-2129. Meet at Valu-Mart at 6:30 a.m.

Sunday, JANUARY 13 -- Indian Valley Ski Tour. Pleasant day of skiing in the rear Chugach. Leader: Bill Barnes Sr. PH. 333-9213. Meet at Eberhard's at 7:00 a.m.

Saturday, JANUARY 19 -- Wolverine Peak (4455). A prominent skyline peak overlooking Anchorage (Trip 34 in 55 Ways). Pleasant skiing almost all of the way to the top. Leader: John Merrick. PH: 272-5243. Meet at Valu-Mart at 7:30 a.m.

Sunday, JANUARY 20 -- Pastorale (4763'). Kenai Range. Up Taylor Creek. Bring climbing skins. Possibility of some really excellent powder skiing. Leader: Nick Parker. PH: 277-2030. Meet at Valu-Mart at 5:45 a.m.

Saturday, FEBRUARY 2 -- Tikishla (5150'). A skyline peak in the North Fork of Campbell Creek. Leader and Meeting Place to be announced at January meeting. Date may be changed.

Sat. & Sun. FEBRUARY 16th & 17th. -- Beginner Climbing Seminar. A basic school for those who have no experience at all. The first day's instruction to be held on the Seward Highway and the second day's instruction on Flattop Mtn. Limited to ten people; sign up



at January meeting. Don't come unless you first learn how to tie a bowline, figure-eight and a fisherman's knot (see Mountaineering-the Freedom of the Hills) Need Help? Call Mike Richardson (274-5044) or Bill Barnes (272-2205). For those who need more advanced work, a two-day Crevasse Rescue Seminar will be held on the Matanuska Glacier sometime in late April or early March. Meeting place and time found on sign-up sheet.

Sunday, FEBRUARY 24 -- Kickstep (4660') A nice ski tour and climb from Turnagain Pass. Meet at 7:00 a.m. at Valu-Mart. Leader: Bill Barnes Jr. PH: 272-2205

### P R E S I D E N T ' S   P E N

The general membership will vote on the proposed amendment to the Articles of Incorporation at the January meeting. The text of both the paragraph to be changed and the proposed change appeared in the December SCREE and appear below in this issue. Since it could possibly be construed that the Club has been in violation of its own Articles of Incorporation in the past, I urge the passage of this amendment.

The subject of building an artificial climbing wall here in Anchorage was raised at the December meeting. The benefits of such a wall would be great for our Club, considering the distance, quality and climate of our present practice area on the Seward Highway. The matter will be discussed further at the January meeting. By February or March's meeting the Club should be able to decide whether or not it wishes to pursue this project. Mike Richardson has already volunteered to chair a committee to build a wall. A considerable portion of the Club's funds would probably be allotted to this project over the next few years, so come to the next few meetings; if not to oppose, then to contribute ideas.

By now all members are probably aware that our Huts and Cabin Committee Chairman, Mark Rainery, was killed on New Year's Day in an avalanche while climbing in the North Fork of Campbell Creek. Although I was not his close friend, I was very fond of him and I expected much to come of his new chairmanship and of his association with the Mountaineering Club of Alaska. I am very saddened. He was just sixteen.

- Bill Barnes, Jr. -

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 even consist of carrying on propaganda or other-

wise 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, its assets, after paying or adequately providing for the debts and obligations having the same or similar 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 or 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' (cont'd. from Dec. SCREE)  
Shouldn't We Consider Flattop?

SAM PESTINGER

But I was fresh as I spotted a 3-man German rope team that knew the way. A rope was essential on the higher slopes but a hindrance on the lower slopes. The middle man on the German team was weak, and their rope kept tangling and hooking on the rocks. I found myself scrambling easily on the vertical ridges continuously untangling the rope for the Germans! I was, however, to later claim my reward.

Much to my displeasure those incredibly predominate handholds the Hornli Ridge is famous for began to disappear. Suddenly, I found myself on a 100-foot wall and the handholds were all but gone. From this point on the overly commercialized peak began to challenge my life. The summit, however, was pulling me forward. The mid-German slipped and was belayed. I noted his awkwardness and quickly moved past him.

Above the wall, I reached a second hut filled with warm blankets. I felt its utility as I recalled the previous blizzard.

Upon leaving the hut, I was greeted by another wall with bad handholds. The mid-German was slipping above me and I wasn't on a rope. While clinging tenaciously on the wall, my face touched a metal plaque. It conveyed the same message I had read in the cemetery. The theme: "In memory of ...." Once again, I was moving freely over the wall. Never moving one point until the other three were secured. I was still strong. And as long as I was strong, I was confident.

One wall was leading to another now. But I began to spot fixed line. And I wasn't in the mood to complain about the ethics. The fixed line must have ranged over a series of vertical walls totalling

about 600 feet. These walls were covered with ice. I clung to line after line with my crampons grating against the vertical walls of rock and ice. But I was still strong. Next it was my distinct pleasure to share the line with a guide and his client. I was going up, and they were coming down; and in the middle of a 50-foot line we met. I spread my hands far apart on the line so they could grab the line between my hands in their descent. We had met at a place where, with the ice, my feet could not help my hands support my weight.

They passed, but as I recalled the heat of Paris and two sleepless nights, I found myself beginning to faint. I knew this was where four of Wymper's 7 fell to their death during the first descent of the mountain. Once again I found myself moving freely up the fixed line. But I lost my strength and it was not to return.

Past the line the walls became gentler. I found myself traversing snow and ice similar to Alaskan conditions. My fatigue, however, was quite real as I stumbled on the summit ridge unaware of the German climbers. The magnificence of the summit strengthened me but not enough.

Gradually climbers began to emerge upon the summit. The icy conditions had taken their toll. I later learned only about 15 men had succeeded this day, all via the Hornli Ridge. The Germans shook my hand and offered me a beer and I downed it. I noticed a very large cross on the end of the summit ridge. I was too tired to inspect it. I was content to sit precariously on the higher snow summit.

I loved that summit. And for those of us who sat on it that icy day, it made no difference where we were from. I know, however, I was in a little trouble. I was only at 14,701 but I couldn't eat my chocolate bar. Weakly, I began to follow the Germans again in my descent.

The gentler sloping snow and ice field proved the most dangerous part of the climb. I began to realize that if I'd fall here, I'd experience a 15,000-foot slipperly slide ride. And then that mid-German fell in front of me. I watched him slide helplessly towards the edge before his belayers stopped him. I couldn't help but laugh as they hauled him in much the way a fisherman pulls in his net. This process, however, wasn't good for my mental attitude. As I moved down I realized unbelayed I could slip as easily as stand. But I believed and I reached the fixed lines.

As difficult as these lines were to go up, they were easy to come down. I felt myself a fireman on a pole. And I was grateful this dreaded experience turned out to be a pleasure.

Now it was time to collect my due for untangling the German's rope on the lower slopes. I began to rappel wall after wall with the rope that had proven so tiring to ascend. Soon I found myself on the lower slopes and I knew I was safe. It was at this point I shook hands with the Germans and waved them on. The mid-German was now stronger than I.

I decided to stay the night at the Hornli hut because it was cheap. Hours later in early evening I stumbled into the hut having climbed my first mountain. Again, the Americans toasted my debatable success. A climber from Chicago asked where I was from. I said Alaska and he noted that I had had a chance. I met an Austrian, however, who spoke excellent English. He and three other Austrians had just hired their guide. I remember him looking me in the eye and saying, I must tell



## FERN MINE SKI TOUR Nov. 24 &amp; 25, 1973

Bill Barnes, Jr.

The heavy snow on Thanksgiving eliminated all of the climbing plans considered for the trip and delayed our departure until the 24th. A surprising number of people turned up on Saturday for the tour. This trip completely tested the capacity of the Fern Mine cabin. The capacity is nine which could be increased to eleven if two of the bunks downstairs are repaired. The absolute capacity of the loft is seven, but only if some of the people are rather small and the end man nails his bag down.

We drove the unplowed Hatcher Pass Road as far as the Little Susitna Roadhouse, proving that a VW is the equal of any snowmachine. After an easy ski to the Fern and Snowbird Mine cutoff, we broke trail towards Fern Mine alternating the lead every five minutes, which made for a easy day for all concerned in spite of the heavy snow. The tour was uneventful and the weather continued to clear as forecasted (Amazing!).

Having learned the Art Ward trick well, John Pinamont and I skied out last the next day. The weather was incredible and the ski run just fantastic, 55 minutes to the cars; a distance of about seven miles.

## CONDENSED MINUTES OF THE MCA GENERAL MEETING OF DECEMBER 19, 1973

President Bill Barnes, Jr. called the meeting to order. Leo Hannan suggested that we establish emergency caches at our cabins. The President stated that it cost \$1,050 to build a cabin; therefore, no plans to build more cabins in the near future.

It was announced that a new Equipment Chairman is needed as Fritz and Durhane Rieger will be leaving Alaska to go to school. With respect to equipment, the Club needs more ice axes and adjustable crampons. Two new headlamps have been purchased for use by leaders of Club climbs. They are available by contacting President Bill Barnes, Jr.

Since there has been trouble finding cabins, it was decided that we will publish some type of map booklet indicating their locations.

Treasurer's Report: Checking \$554.35 and Savings \$170.23

The President reported that programs for future meetings will include a lecture on mountain sickness. Also, the Alaska Alpine Club has suggested exchanging programs.

An amendment to the Articles of Incorporation has been proposed as it would appear that we are presently in violation with respect to taking a stand (public position) on conservation matters. To be voted on in Jan. Construction of a climbing wall in Anchorage was discussed.

It was announced that the Board has agreed to print MCA membership applications and posters which will be placed in the sports shops in Anchorage.

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

10 years ago--January, 1964 - The policies and purposes of the MCA Committee on Geographic Names were given. Paul Crews, Sr. described a "Businessman's Economy Climb" he took in Cordova. He wore street shoes "reinforced by light rubber overboots," a business suit and light raincoat. He was "thus equipped complete with pocket slide rule, hotel key and rotary pin...." He climbed Mt. Eccles (1500-1700'). Dale Hagen reported on a climb of Penguin Ridge, West End 3255'.  
Continued next page.

you, honestly, you are a fool. The irony is that his words didn't provoke a response as I recalled my day on the Matterhorn.

Now it was time to leave Zermatt and find my wife in London. As I ran after a train, I turned as a man yelled my name; it was Dale. He had made it. He asked if we could climb Mt. McKinley together next summer. As I boarded the train I grinned and said, "Shouldn't we consider Flattop?"

#### WHAT-SCREE-SAID-WAY-BACK-THEN DEPT. (Cont'd.)

5 years ago--January, 1969 - Vin Hoeman wrote on "Short Climbs for Short Days." He gave a number of good winter climbs for each direction from Anchorage.

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Alaska Rescue Group (ARG) is always short of manpower and is looking for volunteers of all skill levels. Meetings are the fourth Wednesday of each month at 7:30 PM at the City Gym Room 101. Training Sessions are usually the first Sunday of each month. Contact Norm Stadem at 277-3338.

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INDEX to Volume 16 of SCREE will be in the next issue.

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The January SPORTS ILLUSTRATED magazine has a long article on cross country skiing in Anchorage.

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CORRECTION TO DECEMBER SCREE: The price of Exploring Mount McKinley National Park is \$5.95 per copy, not \$4.95.

MOUNTAINEERING CLUB OF ALASKA  
BOX 2037  
ANCHORAGE, AK 99510



# MOUNTAINEERING CLUB OF ALASKA

## Ski Touring - Hiking - Backpacking Schedule - 1974

Leaders are urged to make note of their dates, and if necessary, secure their own substitutes. November and December 1974 events will be coordinated with the Nordic Ski Club. Sign-up sheets will be provided at the meeting the month before the scheduled outings. Those wishing to make only one-day trips may go for a day on the weekend trips. Because of the energy crisis, car pools will be necessary; if required, gas or gas coupons will be shared. For additions or changes, call Dona Agosti at 279-2901.

JANUARY			FEBRUARY			MARCH		
DATE	PLACE	LEADER	DATE	PLACE	LEADER	DATE	PLACE	LEADER
			2-3			2-3	Arctic Winter Games Week	
13 Sun	Indian Creek Trail One-day Ski Tour	Bill Barnes Sr	9-10 Sat. Sun.	Mint Glacier Hut Ski Tour	Steve Jones	8-9-10 Fri-Sat-Sun.	Eklutna Traverse (Allow extra days in case of whiteouts)	
19-20			16-17	Fur Rendezvous Weekend		17 Sun.	Eagle River One-day Ski Tour	Gil Todd
26-27 Sat. Sun.	Arctic Valley to Indian Ski Tour	Bill Stivers	23-24 Sat-Sun.	Caribou Creek Cabin Resurrection Trail Ski Tour	Bill Barnes Sr.	22-23-24 Fri-Sat-Sun.	Arctic Valley to Crow Pass Ski Tour	Bill Stivers
APRIL			MAY			JUNE		
7 Sun	Wolverine One-day Ski Tour	Tobbin Spurkland	5 Sun.	The Wedge One day Ski Tour	Ed Coleman	1-2		
14 Sun.	Gull Rock One-day Ski Tour	Ron Lautaret	12			8-9 Sat-Sun.	Bench Lake Cabin Backpacking Hike	Bill Stivers Dona Agosti Bill Barnes Sr
Easter						15 Sat.	Ptarmigan Valley Hike	Dave & Carol DeVoe
21 Sun	Birdseye Ridge (Bird Creek) Hike	Terry & Joyce Muehlenbach	18 Sat	Skilak Overlook & Kenai River Trail Hike	John & Joanne Merrick	23-24 Sat-Sun.	Annual Flat Top Sleep-out	Bill Barnes Jr
27 Sat	Winner Creek Ski Tour or Hike	John Pinamont	25-26 27 (Mem. Day)	Hicks Creek Caribou Creek Hike-Backpacking	Jerry Gottheuet	29-30 Sat-Sun.	Emerald Lake Knoya Backpacking Hike	Rod Wilson

## Ski Touring - Hiking - Backpacking Schedule 1974

JULY			AUGUST			SEPTEMBER		
DATE	PLACE	LEADER	DATE	PLACE	LEADER	DATE	PLACE	LEADER
4-5-6-7 or 6-7-8	Crow Pass-Camp Cr. Bird Creek Backpacking Hike	Bill Stivers Bill Barnes Sr	3-4 Sat-Sun.	Peters Hills (4-wheel drive to be procured)Backpack- ing Hike.	Gayle & Helen Nienhueser	31-1-2 Labor Day	Lost Lake-Cooper Lake Trail-Upper Lower Russian	Bill Barnes Jr Bill Barnes Sr
13-14 Sat-Sun.	Craigie Creek Backpacking Hike	Marie Lundstrom	9- 10-11	Surprise Creek Mt. (Rubber raft to be procured for Kenai crossing)	Ray & Kathy Causton	7-8 Sat-Sun.	Hicks Creek Monarch Peak (Those not wishing to climb peak may wait)	Bob Spurr
19-7 Fri-7	Chilkoot Trail Depart Whitehorse on train to Skag- way:hike toBennett	Dona Agosti	17-18 Sat-Sun	Bold Peak (Camp at 3500) Backpacking Hike	Bill Stiver	15 Sun.	Peters Creek Hike	Gayle & Helen Nienhueser
Sat Sun	Williwaw Lakes Backpacking Hike	Charles & Mary Evans	25 Sun.	McHugh Peak Hike	Tom Meacham	22 Sun.	Lake George "Attempt"-Hike	Bill Barnes Sr
OCTOBER			NOVEMBER *			DECEMBER*		
DATE	PLACE	LEADER	DATE	PLACE	LEADER	DATE	PLACE	LEADER
6 Sun.	To be announced; dependent on weather	Terry & Joyce Muehlenbach	3			1		
	Rainbow Creek	Dave & Carol DeVoe	10			8		
20			17			15		
27			24			21-22	Annual Flat Top Sleep Out	Club President
						29		

\* To be coordinated with Nordic Ski Club

