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MOUNTAINEERING CLUB OF ALASKA

BOX 2037

ANCHORAGE, ALASKA 99510

DECEMBER 1975

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## DECEMBER MEETING

Wednesday, December 17, 1975, 8 PM, Pioneer Schoolhouse, Third and Eagle, Anchorage. The main program will be a movie, "The Fitzroy," about climbing in South America. There may be a short slide show preceding the movie on skiing in the Chugach Mts.

## BOARD MEETING

Tuesday, January 6, 1976, 8 PM, 4107 North Star Drive.

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## HIKING AND SKIING SCHEDULE

December 20-21

ANNUAL FLATTOP SLEEP-OUT. Meet at 9 AM at Fred Meyer's. Hike to the top of Flattop Mountain. Leader: President Bill Stivers, in keeping with tradition.

January 3-4

ARCTIC TO INDIAN SKI TOUR. Meet at Fred Meyer's at 7 AM.

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MINUTES OF GENERAL MEETING, MOUNTAINEERING CLUB OF ALASKA, Pioneer School House, Third and Eagle, November 19, 1975.

HILL STIVERS opened the meeting at 8 PM. He introduced park ranger DOUG FESLER who presented some of the rules and regulations for using the Park: 1. Special events such as the Flattop Sleep-In need permits; 2. Any party with twenty or more people needs a permit; 3. Bushhacking is illegal in the Park; 4. Permits are required for camp fires; 5. Gear left at a campsite for more than 72 hours will be impounded. DOUG also warned of the danger of avalanches and discussed the proper emergency gear such as probes, pieps detectors, and dogs. Information about Park rules may be obtained at Park offices at 2601 Commercial Drive or on the second floor of the Mackay Building.

The business meeting was opened and HILL announced that the biweekly meetings will be held at A.M.H., 2633 Spenard Road, every other week. He asked for all MCA equipment to be returned. TERRY BECKER announced that he and JIM HALE will hold an ice climbing class, details to be available at the December meeting. BRIAN OKONEK asked the Board to consider putting some money into buying books for the MCA Library. A representative of the Arctic Gas Brooks Range Recreational Study asked for information from anyone who had recently been to the eastern Brooks Range. The business meeting was adjourned and EARL FREEMAN gave a presentation on the eastern Alaska Range.

Secretary, SHAWN OXFORD

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PRESIDENT'S PEN

WINTER CAMPING SCHOOL. Those interested in learning the basics of winter camping, contact MARKUS ABERKALNS, 278-4219, or register during the December 17 meeting. Initial classroom instruction will be followed by practical training in the Chugach State Park.

BASIC ICE CLIMBING CLASS. Class will tentatively convene on January 10. Register and sign a waiver at the December meeting. Instructors: JIM HALE and TERRY BECKER.

MCA LIBRARY. Members may borrow books or research information from the MCA Library. BRIAN OKONEK, 333-5891, is the Custodian. Contact BRIAN concerning recommendations for new additions to the Library.

AVAILANCHE RESCUE BEACONS. There are two compatible avalanche rescue transceivers in general use in the United States today: Skadi, a U.S. product, and Pieps, produced in Austria. The retail price of Pieps is \$49.50. Skadi prices vary from \$155 for one unit to \$115 per unit for orders of fifty units or more. These transceivers operate on the audio frequency of 2275 HZ, which has been endorsed by the U.S. Forest Service and the International Commission for Alpine Rescue. They are about the size of a cigarette package and can be carried in the shirt pocket. Operation is simple. Before a party enters an area exposed to avalanche, each member turns his transceiver selector switch to "transmit." If a member is buried by an avalanche, the rest of the party would select "receive," and home toward the victim. Rescue should be accomplished within 5 to 15 minutes. Significance of the revolutionary reduction in elapsed search time required is reflected by the statistics which show only 50 per cent survival probability at thirty minutes. Inquiries concerning the wholesale price schedule for Pieps have been addressed to the manufacturer and to a distributor Outside. The price of units bought in wholesale lots last winter was \$27.50 each. A survey is being taken among MCA and Nordic Ski Club membership to determine buyer interest. The Alaska Rescue Group is already committed for twenty units. If interested, call BILL STIVERS, 277-2869, or sign the sheet at the December meeting.

HUNTING, TRAPPING, AND SHOOTING WITHIN THE CHUGACH STATE PARK. The State Division of Parks is currently reevaluating conflicting uses of the Chugach State Park. The study primarily evaluates the compatibility of hunting, trapping, and shooting with hiking, backpacking, crosscountry skiing, wildlife viewing, and de facto wilderness preservation. On December 1 the MCA Executive Committee unanimously adopted a motion to recommend a total ban on hunting, trapping, and shooting within the Park. The position of the general membership will be requested at the December meeting. The following factors influenced the Board's decision:

1. Discharge of firearms within high-use areas significantly endangers human life.
2. Traps ensnare animals which are nominally protected, e.g., wolves and wolverines.
3. Trapping has significantly reduced the population of small animals. Although the bag limit for beaver is forty per season, evidence indicates that this animal has already been trapped to extinction.
4. Sheep hunters have habitually trashed the Park--torn tents, poles, plastic, game bags, cans, and blankets have been strewn across the landscape in some remote areas.
5. The wildlife could manage its own balance without interference from man. This could be accomplished by natural/predators and wildlife emigration from the Park boundary. This concept has been confirmed by the McKinley Park experience.
6. The wildlife could not withstand the heavy hunting incident to our rapidly growing population.

(continued)

PRESIDENT'S PEN continued.

7. The Chugach State Park is an outstanding de facto wilderness area, and conveniently located at the edge of the Anchorage municipality. We should refuse to forfeit this extremely unique and valuable recreational resource to human predation.

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THAT BIG HILL REVISITED

Spring 1975

by Earl Redman

*Denali - Muldrow → Kahiltna*

Let's see, it was sometime back last March that the bunch of us were sitting around at Kantishna. DAN SOLIE had heard rumors of a fine, cheap brew available in a place called Talkeetna, so, being bored with Kantishna, we decided to go see for ourselves.

There was quite a crowd; besides DAN there was BJARNE HOLM, OLA ROYRVIK, STEVE CLAU-TICE, MONTE PLUMLEE, DAVE HAWLEY, and I think I was there, too.

Since we could see only clouds to the south, that seemed to be a good direction to start. A couple days later we found ourselves wandering through rising hills. We managed to be lost in these hills for a while, then fell into this valley filled with ice. Strange place, this ice valley, but we'd heard that some French guy, who lived in Talkeetna, ran about in ice valleys, too, so that brew lured us onward.

Well, now, this valley had lots of holes and cracks. Every once in a while one of these holes would pop open under someone's foot, or, in the case of OLA, one's seated posterior. This was all quite disconcerting, but, after a week, we ran into a BIG cliff over which a bunch of ice kept falling. We were feeling a little lost at this point until I remembered that some old miners, sourdoughs really, had wandered up the left-side ridge. Up we went.

By the time we had straggled up to the big brown tower at the top of the ridge we were pretty thirsty. But still no Talkeetna. I'm not sure why we went on, but it looked easier than going back down that ridge.

Well, we hiked on up this big white valley, prodded on by DAN's increasingly glowing descriptions of this Inn in Talkeetna. But we still couldn't see any Talkeetna from the pass at the end of the valley. So we figured that the only way we'd find out where we were was to take a look from the top of the nearby hill.

For some reason it took us a long time to get to the top of that little hill. But we finally got there and, son of a gun, there was the old Fairview Inn, right by that river. It didn't take us long to run down to that pass and head south. Met some guys from Montana who told us that Talkeetna was just over the hill, then got a ride from a fellow named CLIFF who took us right to that Inn.

And, yes, it was a mighty fine brew.

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GRANITE PEAK

November 23, 1975

by Brian Okonek

Granite Peak is the very prominent Talkeetna Mountains' skyline peak, whose summit is 6727 feet, nearly 1000 feet higher than its neighboring peaks that make up the southern border of the Range. It's the one that always seems to have sun on it when

## GRANITE PEAK continued.

you're off doing something else! Friday night JOHN PINAMONT had a brain storm to do it, and after a few phone calls had the rest of us. DON PAHLKE, our driver, and his dog Smokey, JOHN MUCHA, and myself, plus JIM RENKERT who was wholeheartedly welcomed and stuffed in after he called to find out if anyone was climbing anything.

After driving through a maze of tailing piles above Eska, the jeep was parked at 1200 feet. Since there was virtually no snow, our skis were left in the car. At 8:15 AM we headed straight for Granite Peak under clear skies. After a little bushwhacking we intersected a higher road that we followed to a group of small hills at the head of Knob Creek. From here the rock fan below the southeast face of Granite Peak looked so close, but we weren't taken in that easily so we headed across the small wooded valley to it with determination. We found easy moose trails all the way. The only thing that slowed our pace considerably was blueberries we ran into at brushline. We headed for the eastern side of the southeast face to where a backward Z gully system, our route, headed up it. Easily seen from a distance it became lost in a jumble of rock towers once on the face.

Finding excellent snow in the gullies, we strapped on crampons and headed up at 11 AM. The sun hit us strongly and it seemed more like summer than winter. After a few maybe routes we found our way up the Z and into the summit gully. The snow conditions remained excellent except for a few short struggles in deep stuff, and we gained the top at 1 PM. Fine views of the back Talkeetna Range and the Alaska Range met our eyes. "You could climb for a whole life time out there and still not get them all!" Signing the summit register, we noted we had a fifth ascent. I later found out it was a sixth.

As usual we carried rope and a minimum of climbing gear that wasn't even drug out of the bottoms of the packs, but was there only for the carrier to "get in shape." Glissades and easy walking got us to the car at 4 PM, perfect timing, for it was just getting dark.

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FOR SALE

MCA EQUIPMENT. There will be a sale of MCA equipment at the December meeting. Bring your money!

RELTYSERAC (unused), a backpacker's dream pack. New \$90, will sell for \$65. Bill Quinn, 867-7185 days or 277-0197 evenings.

VERCORE MOUNTAINEERING BOOTS, size 7, never used; warranty for repair or replacement during life of the original sole; \$68. BUCK WOODSMAN BUCK KNIFE, never used; 4" blade with sheath; \$18. Contact G. P. Menard, Star Route, Box 384, Willow, Alaska 99606.

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