



MOUNTAINEERING CLUB OF ALASKA

BOX 2037

ANCHORAGE, ALASKA 99510

APRIL 1975

VOLUME XVII No. 4

APRIL MEETING...Wednesday, April 16, 1975...8:00 PM...Pioneer School House...
3rd and Eagle. Program: Paul Crews, first president of MCA, will present a
slide show of his first ascents of Mts. Torbert, Gerdine, and Illiamna.

BOARD MEETING...Monday, May 5, 1975...8:00 PM...2106 W. Northern Lights.

SPRING SCHOOLS SLATED...Something for everyone is the hope of the MCA this spring.
We've noticed lots of new members and increased interest in all phases of climbing
and hiking. So...not one, but two instructional courses are being planned:

I. Introduction to Backpacking April 30 - May 26;

II. Basic Mountaineering & Climbing May 20 - June 16.

Details are included on inside pages.

ARG GLACIER & CREVASSE RESCUE PRACTICE...Tuesday, April 22 at 7:30 PM in the
Turnagain School Gymnasium. Sat. & Sun., April 26 & 27 on Matanuska Glacier.

Aimed at the general membership--all levels of skills welcome, except the very
beginner. Participants should have basic knowledge of rope handling, crampon
and ice axe use. A "dry land" session will be held the week before the glacier
practice. These techniques will be covered again in the Basic Climbing school
so beginners will get their chance in June. Sign-up sheets at the meeting or
contact Mike Richardson, 274-5044, evenings.

HUTS COMMITTEE...Two reconnaissance trips are planned for May. An organizational
meeting will be announced at the April Meeting. Committee members (you are a
committee member if you signed the sheet at the last meeting) are encouraged
to attend the ARG Glacier practice.

EASTERN ALASKAN RANGE CLIMB...MCA is investigating the possibility of a club
climb of ICEFALL PEAK 8250' or SILVERTIP 9450' this spring, perhaps over the
Memorial Day weekend. A strong leader, much planning and investigation are
needed. Sign up at April meeting or call Ned Lewis, 277-4672.

C L I M B I N G S C H E D U L E

- SAT & SUN
April 18 & 19 CANWELL GLACIER STAMPEDE. Annual weekend ski trip/outing sponsored by ALASKA ALPINE CLUB. Ski 8 miles up Canwell Glacier in Isabel Pass area of Eastern Alaska Range, and camp overnight. SPECTACULAR AREA. Bring tent and overnight gear. For information, contact Bob Spurr, 333-7157. For information on car pools, call Fritz Rieger, 277-8979.
- SATURDAY
April 18 EAST TWIN. 5873'...Challenging scramble at this time of year. Leave Valu-Mart at 7:00 AM. Leader Ned Lewis, 277-4672.
- TUESDAY
April 22 Gymnasium practice of Crevasse Rescue Techniques. Turnagain School, 3500 W. Northern Lights, 7:30 PM. For information contact Terry McWilliams, 274-4328.
- SAT & SUN
April 26 & 27 ALASKA RESCUE GROUP GLACIER PRACTICE. Matanuska Glacier. Bring equipment and overnight gear. Meet Valu-Mart, 8:00 AM Saturday. Contact: Mike Richardson, 274-5044. NOTE: Tuesday April 22 Session.
- SAT & SUN
May 3 & 4 MINT GLACIER CABIN RECONNAISSANCE. Depends on Snow Conditions. Long ski trip in to MCA cabin. Requires full day, one way. Bring tent in case we do not reach the cabin. Those who wish to ski along part of the way are welcome. Leave Valu-Mart 7:00 AM Saturday. Contact Fritz Rieger, 277-8979.
- SATURDAY
May 3 PTARMIGAN. From Rabbit Creek. Sunny slopes, easy access. Skiers are welcome and may continue to Rabbit Lake while climbers attempt peak. Leave Valu-Mart 7:00 AM. Leader needed.
- SATURDAY
May 10 MATANUSKA PEAK. 6119'...Landmark peak behind Palmer. A long and satisfying scramble along windswept ridges. No technical difficulties but good legs required. (Will be repeated in the summer.) Suitable trip for less energetic who can stop at Lazy Mountain. Leave Valu-Mart 7:00 AM. Leader needed.
- SUNDAY
May 11 WEST TWIN. Challenging scramble. Leave Valu-Mart 7:00 AM. Leader needed.
- SATURDAY
May 17 EKLUTNA GLACIER CABIN RECONNAISSANCE. Glacier experience required. Check out Pichler's Perch Cabin for repairs. Contact Ned Lewis, 277-4672. Leave Valu-Mart, 7:00 AM.
- May 24, 25,
& 26 MEMORIAL DAY WEEKEND
--Graduation Overnight for Backpack Class;
--MCA Trip to Eastern Alaska Range (tentative);
--Tazlina Lake Ski Tour or Hike.

H I K I N G S C H E D U L E

- SATURDAY
April 19 BIRDSEYE RIDGE (Bird Creek Area). First Hike of season. Meet Valu-Mart 9:00 AM. Leaders: Bob and Maryjo Cadieux, 279-1143.
- SATURDAY
April 26 LAZY MOUNTAIN HIKE (Palmer area). Anchorage hikers meet Valu-Mart 9 AM. Leaders: Tony & Betty Bockstahler, 694-2323, will meet group at Eagle River Shopping Center about 9:30.

HIKING SCHEDULE (cont.)

SUNDAY WINNER CREEK (Girdwood). Anchorage skiers or hikers meet
May 4 ValuMart at 9 AM. Leader, Nancy Simmerman, will meet group
in Nugget Inn parking lot about 10:15.

KATMAI information sheet will be available at next meeting or sent to those who have already signed up. Group will leave Anchorage via Wien Air to King Salmon on Flight 5, 11:45 AM July 19. We will be shuttled to Brooks River ten at a time on a float plane. Camp that night at Brooks, take bus next day for Overlook, and hike down into Valley. Return Thursday July 24th or later if desired. Reservations must be made with Dona Agosti by May 1 AND CHECKS made out to Wien Air in the amount of individual or family total (109.00 round trip) by JULY 1. In this way, we can assure a minimum of delay in King Salmon and also bus space for the following day.

PRESIDENT'S PEN

We're off to the races! The response to our call for volunteers was gratifying. No less than 12 members volunteered to get the huts in shape. Terry McWilliams took over the organization of the backpacking and climbing schools and both projects are well on their way.

The climbing school will teach 4th class Alaskan mountaineering---roped climbing, belaying, and glacier travel. We've tried to minimize the imposition on instructors' time by dividing the formal instruction into units so that individual instructors are not necessarily tied up for all the school sessions. The formal instruction will be supplemented with progressive "experience climbs" throughout the summer.

Ned Lewis takes over as climbing chairman next month. Leaders are needed throughout the summer---especially as the program of experience climbs progresses. If you have an idea for a trip, by all means contact Ned at 277-4672.

Speaking of climbs, five of the six scheduled climbs in March and April went off as planned. Twenty-one MCA members made three summits.

Minutes of General Meeting, MCA, March 12, 1975, 8:00 pm, East High School, East Northern Lights, Anchorage, Alaska.

Meeting was called to order by President Fritz Rieger.

February's minutes were approved as printed in the March issue of Scree.

The treasurer's report showed: Expenses \$50.00, income \$137.50, for a total of \$1277.12.

Conservation committee: Tom Meacham reported there is legislation being discussed in the state legislature to create a wilderness park in the Talkeetna Mts. MCA members' input to the legislature would be useful.

Nordic Ski Club is considering sponsoring a bus to the Carwell Glacier Stampede April 18-19. MCA may work to coordinate a bus with the Nordic Club. Contact Bob Spurr for more information at 333-7157.

Minutes, cont, March 12, 1975

Huts Committee: Volunteers are still needed for the huts committee. Dedicated people are needed to develop and implement a maintenance and repair program. MCA has four huts, all in need of some repairs, especially the Whiteout hut. The board feels some club money should be used to repair the huts.

Climbing schools: Terry McWilliams has volunteered to coordinate a climbing school to meet needs of club members.

Wanted: Volunteers to serve on the several standing committees---programs, climbing, geographic names, parks advisory, and safety. If you would like to serve, contact Fritz Rieger.

The meeting adjourned to view the excellent presentation of the 1973 American Dhaulagiri Expedition slides narrated by Andrew Harvard.

Nina Faust, Secretary

A N N O U N C E M E N T S

HIKEOUT PROGRAM--Last year MCA joined St. Mary's Creative Institute in sponsoring a "hikeout" program for youngsters 8-13. We've been asked to join again this year in a month long program beginning mid-May. Weekly hikes (weekday or weekend) are planned and trip leaders needed. Please contact Sally Gilbert-274-3621, Dona Agosti-279-2901, or Mary Brudie-344-2261.

FIRST AID--We are trying to arrange an intensive "pre-season" first-aid course for MCA'ers through either the ski patrol or the Red Cross. Information will be available at the April meeting. Contact Terry Reese-274-9127.

HATCHER PASS STATE PARK--Proposals to create a state recreation area at Hatcher Pass and a Talkeetna Mountain State Park were discussed at public hearings in Palmer and Anchorage on April 5. Chuck Evans represented MCA and the apparent outcome of the hearings is that legislative action will not take place this session. Areas of interest to rock climbers and wilderness lovers are included among the proposals. Those interested in forming a task force to investigate the proposal's impact on MCA interests should call Tom Meachem-277-2129.

SEWARD MT. MARATHON RACE--Will MCA field a team to compete in this annual 4th of July classic? Team competition is really heavy, but MCA has an enviable record. Some members decry the event as "breaking every rule of mountaineering". With rockfall presenting a real hazard, twisted ankles are common as competitors overshoot the descent snowfield. Nevertheless, interested team members can contact Fritz Rieger (who will enjoy the race through binoculars)-277-8979. This could be part of an "MCA descends on Seward weekend" which could include club climbs of Mt. Ascension (5781') and Sheep Mountain (6250'-3rd ascent) and hiking on the Lost Lake and Ptarmigan Lakes trails.

EQUIPMENT CHAIRMEN--Shawn Oxford is our new equipment chairman. Ron Lauteret served with dignity in the post for over a year. Congratulations to you both.

ANNOUNCEMENTS (cont.)

SPRING SCHOOLS--Introduction to Backpacking: sign up at April 16 meeting. No fee; membership required.

Course Outline:

- Wed, April 30 - Wilderness Ethic, Equipment & Clothing, First Aid, Hypothermia
- Wed, May 7 - Weather & Avalanches, Campsites, Shelter & Stoves, Nutrition & Trail foods
- Wed, May 14 - Signals, Maps & Compass reading, Knots
- Sat-Mon, May 24-26 - Graduation overnight trip

Basic climbing school: A short course on Alaskan 4th class climbing--scrambling and roped for safety--to be supplemented by progressive experience climbs throughout the summer. Sign up at April 16 meeting. No fee; membership required. Attendance at all sessions required.

Course Outline:

- Tues, May 20 - Introductory classroom session on Basic Theory and Techniques
- Thurs, May 22 - Rock practice (Seward Highway)--Rope Handling, Climbing Signals, Belays, Rapelle.
- Sat-Mon, May 24-26 - Holiday Weekend, instructors demand a rest.
- Wed, May 29 - Classroom session--Glacier techniques, equipment, crevasse rescue
- Sat-Sun, May 31- June 1 - Glacier practice at Matanuska Glacier
- Sat-Sun, June 7-8 - Byron Glacier Sat-Practice snow techniques
Sun-Climb the peak
- Sat-Sun, June 15-16 - Graduation weekend at Independence Mine. Open to all WCA members. Climb the Pinnacle, Boulder, eat hot dogs, be energetic or relax.

Instructors and leaders are still needed for both courses. To volunteer or to obtain further information call Fritz Rieger-277-8979 or Terry McWilliams-274-1879.

MOUNT FORAKER (17,400')

Larry Tedrick

On February 13th, Steve and Gary Tandy, Don and Dave Paulky, Brian Miskie, Gayland McCord and I squeezed into Two Wheel Taxi's van and drove to Talkeetna. The weather had been clear for the last two weeks, but the day we were to fly in dawned cloudy. At 1 pm it finally cleared slightly and our pilot, Cliff Hudson, dropped Don and Dave on the west fork of the Kahlitna Glacier. The weather closed in again, making another flight too risky, so the rest of us ended up spending the night in Ray Genet's camper.

Day One dawned clear. Soon Gary and I had landed at the Kahlitna base camp. All of us and our gear was flown to the camp in four trips. While Don and Dave skied a short reconnaissance toward the South Ridge, the rest of us built two igloos adjoining the one which had been built by them the evening before.

The next day Don, Dave, and Gary headed toward a spur leading onto the ridge while the rest of us prepared to establish an advance base camp near the base of the spur. It became apparent as we watched them that this route was going to be a slow one.

On Day Three despite falling snow, leaders Dave, Don and Steve pushed to within 600 feet of the first rock band, at a level of 8600 feet. Often fixing

April 1975

MOUNT FORAKER (cont.)

line to their high point, they descended to advance base while the rest of us went down to base. The weather had been bad for three days and we expected it to start clearing. Little did we know that we were in for 13 more days of the same.

The next day we brought another load up to advance base, and the leaders reached the rockband. On the fifth day, Gary and I carried food and fuel to a cache just below Camp One.

Day Six was taken up in carrying supplies to the cache and building a snowcave.

On Day Seven Gary and I broke trail through the powder, jumared a 150 foot ice wall and climbed into Camp One. There we found a very comfortable-looking and spacious cave. We carried up another load, and could see Steve and Don above the rockband working on a spooky-looking ice wall. We spent the night back down at advance base.

On Day Eight the weather was still bad. Gary and I proceeded to Camp One. We could see Steve and Don as they topped out on the ridge proper. They had 1000 feet of three-eighths inch poly out above Camp One and were ready for Gary and I to lead for a few days. We sorted and packed our personal gear for the move up.

All of us were moved into Camp One by the evening of Day Nine. We finished the day off by digging a two man sleeping room in the side of the main cave.

The weather was worse than usual on Day Ten, and it took us two hours to climb the 1000 feet of fixed line up to the ridge. The wind was blowing from the west, exposing us to 30-40 mph gusts. We moved three rope lengths before we gave it up and went back to the rappel lines.

On Day Eleven Gary and I moved up to try again on the ridge. We moved along easily for awhile but soon we ran into a section that had to be fixed. I had frostbitten my fingers and it was hard to work with them, so I traded places with Steve. By late afternoon Gary and Steve had pushed up to the base of a vertical rock problem, so they left the hardware there and returned to Camp One by dark.

On Day Twelve, Gary had made one short lead when the wind came up and we all retreated back to Camp One. Day Thirteen was declared a holiday due to weather and for the same reason Day Fourteen was spent in the cave.

The next day Brian and Don were leading. They made it past the high point of the day before. Don led a 100 foot jumar section before they finally decided to come back to Camp One.

Finally, after 16 days of bad weather, the morning of Day Seventeen dawned clear. We spent the day drying things out, enjoying the sun, and watching Don and Dave move slowly towards the Dome.

Day Eighteen dawned clear and Brian, Steve, and I started up the fixed lines with Mac and Gary not far behind. Dave and Don wanted to try to get onto the Dome the next day.

The following day, Dave and Don wanted to get onto the Dome, so Steve and I started down to bring up a load from the cache. Steve rappelled down a 90 foot section of fixed line; I then checked the line for cuts, clipped in and backed over the edge. The next thing I knew I was gaining speed rapidly as I went backwards head over heels. I bounced two or three times on the rocks, then once or twice in the snow; then the ropes stopped me 180 feet below the start of the rappel.

MOUNT FORAKER (cont.)

I got away with a broken rib, bruises on my left knee and right foot, and some damaged equipment.

It had taken 19 days to do 4000 feet. We were almost out of fixed line with more than half of the climbing ahead. We had about 8000 feet of line out, and would need about twice as much and of much better quality. It was decided by all of us with no hesitation that we could not continue with any degree of safety.

On Day Twenty we all started down, bringing fixed line, anchors, and food and fuel from the cache.

The next day the weather looked like it would hold, and we went down to base camp. Gary and Steve said they would like to try the Southeast Ridge, but no one else seemed to share their enthusiasm. I tried to convince myself that with another rest day I could go with them so on Day Twenty-Two I enjoyed the sunshine while everyone else went up to advance base and made the last carry down.

We had tried many times to talk to someone on our base camp radio and never had any luck. We heard an airplane and Brian went inside to try to contact him. I heard the person say they would call Cliff and tell him we wanted to be picked up. Brian and I flew out, then Don, Dave and Mac. Soon we were back in Talkeetna hoping Steve and Gary had luck with the weather.

BITS AND PIECES

Ned Lewis and Fritz Rieger under the adroit leadership of Tom Meachem climbed Vista peak in warm spring sunshine on March 9.

MCA Vice-President Raj Bhargava has returned from India with a new bride! Manju Bhargava is an accountant by profession and is looking forward to married life in Alaska. Congratulations and best wishes to you both!

Shawn and Danny Oxford, Charles Kibler, Harvey Bowers, Dave Hawley, Barbara Pierce, Fritz and Durhane Rieger, Brian Smith and leader Ned Lewis were frustrated by very deep snow on Byron Peak. MARCH 16.

March 23 saw Bruce Hilliard, Danny Oxford, Harvey Bowers, Charles Kibler, Bill Quirk and two friends, Durhane and Fritz Rieger and leader Ned Lewis on top of Pastoral. Only after much persuasion did Charles Kibler remove his skis after breaking trail all the way to the ridge and walk to the summit. Probably the best ski out of the season!

April 5---Bruce Hilliard, Shawn and Danny Oxford, Paul Janke, Durhane and Fritz Rieger, Bill Bart and Ken Norsworthy took off in heavy snow and partial whiteout to climb Gunsight Mt. Navigating by compass the party was beginning to disintegrate when a rising ceiling saved the day. All 8 reached the top after a long snow slog.

Dr. Rod Wilson and Bob Spurr have agreed to co-chair the Geographic names committee.

Dr. Bob Smith, an active MCA'er until he moved to Leavenworth, Washington to set up a dental practice, has discovered a good way to combine business with pleasure. His dentist's office is next door to his mountaineering store, and he probably sells more climbing huts than he does teeth. His professional-quality catalog is available from Der Sportsman, 837 Front Street, Leavenworth, Wash. 98826. He makes great packs and other items on a custom-order basis.