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MOUNTAINEERING CLUB OF ALASKA

BOX 2037

ANCHORAGE, ALASKA 99510

## MARCH MEETING

Wednesday, March 17, 1976, 8 PM, Pioneer Schoolhouse, Third and Eagle, Anchorage, Alaska. PHILIP UPTON from the Anchorage office of the Arctic Institute of North America will talk about the activities of the Institute. There will be a short slide show on a local area.

## BOARD MEETING

Monday, APRIL 5, 1976, 8 PM, 4107 North Star Street.

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## SKIING SCHEDULE

March 13  
Saturday

HATCHER PASS-SNOWBIRD MIKE. Leave Anchorage at 8 PM from Fred Meyer or meet at the Inn on the switchback at 9:30. Leader, CHUCK HEATH. Call DONA for details, 279-2901.

March 27-30  
Saturday-Tuesday

ARCTIC VALLEY TO GIRDWOOD over Crow Pass. Meet at 7 AM at Fred Meyer. Start at Watershed sign on Arctic Valley Road. Ski up the scenic Ship Creek valley as far as you wish, or go the entire route. Leader, BILL STIVERS, 277-2869.

April 3  
Saturday

TURNAGAIN PASS. Ski up "middle Tin Can valley" away from avalanche slopes, lunch and return. Leave Pass about 3 or 4 PM. Meet at Fred Meyer at 9 AM. No leader. Call DONA for details, 279-2901.

April 10-11  
Saturday-Sunday

DO YOU HAVE SUGGESTIONS? Let us know where the snow is!!!

April 18  
Sunday

Picturesque BENCH CREEK TRAIL valley (about mile 62, Seward Highway). Ski along center creek away from avalanche slopes to bridge or beyond, lunch and return. Meet at 8 AM at Fred Meyer. Leader, DONA AGOSTI, 279-2901. This is easy enough for neophytes.

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## MINUTES OF GENERAL MEETING

MOUNTAINEERING CLUB OF ALASKA, 8 PM, February 18, 1976, Diamond High School Cafeteria, 2909 West 88th Avenue, Anchorage, Alaska.

The meeting was called to order at 8 PM by President BILL STIVERS. Preceding the business meeting MIKE HSINZ presented a slide show on the 1974 Arctic to Girdwood Ski Tour and also on another skiing trip up Tin Can Ridge.

## MINUTES OF GENERAL MEETING continued.

The minutes of the previous meeting were approved. The Treasurer's report showed: cash-on-hand, \$19.78; checking, \$809.98; savings, \$412.69, for a total of \$1242.45.

The Hiking Committee reported that the Williwaw Lakes Ski Tour would be held on March 6, and that the Prospect Heights Ski Tour would be hold on March 2, 3, or 4.

CHUCK EVANS then read his letter on O.R.V. travel which he was to send to the following people: Superintendent Chugach National Forest, Director Alaska Division of Lands, State Director B.L.M., LTC Cowles of Fort Richardson, and the Commissioner of Alaska Fish and Game. The letter stated that the MCA is concerned about the effects of O.R.V. travel on the land, and that we are interested in developing measures for O.R.V. control and would like to participate in the zoning of land for protection. The MCA believes such controls should apply to all lands. A motion was made and passed that the letter should be sent to these people. BILL STIVERS then mentioned that on the Resurrection Trail Ski Tour two snow machines were encountered. This was reported to the police and he is awaiting further news on what action was taken.

CHUCK O'LEARY presented a lecture on avalanche safety. His lecture covered slab and loose snow avalanches, snow settlement and change, snowfall and temperature factors, avalanche force and wind, and safety precautions which should be taken.

The meeting was adjourned.

David Newcombe  
Secretary

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PRESIDENT'S PEN

CHUGACH STATE PARK. The movement to ban hunting, trapping, and shooting within the Chugach State Park is presently in limbo. At one point the Division of Parks and Division of Game had compromised on a proposal to be submitted to the Board of Game during its meeting on March 23. The compromise proposal granted only token concessions to nonhunter users. Some restrictions were recommended for the lower Eagle River and Hillside areas in consideration of safety for humans and their pets. The Indian Creek drainage would be closed to sheep hunting! Yet this farcical compromise was too much for the Director of the Division of Game, who rescinded it in its entirety. Evidence that the State bureaucracies have any sensitivity to the values incident to preserving the wilderness qualities of the Park is lacking. On the contrary, it appears that Governor Hammond's concept of Alaskan wildlife as "Big Business" still prevails. Our career oriented bureaucrats are reluctant to upset the interests of the manufacturers and merchants of firearms and the destructive appetite of many gun users.

It cannot be argued that hunting within the scope of the regulations would seriously deplete the Park's wildlife. Yet there are other considerations. An area free from human hunting would develop more mature animals, particularly bull moose and rams. Natural predators, such as wolves and coyotes, would benefit from a more adequate source of food. In the absence of hunter disturbance, wildlife would be less apprehensive and more accessible to the photographer or viewer. Littering, particularly by sheep hunters, would be significantly reduced. Enforcement of the present regulations governing poaching and indiscriminate discharge of firearms is ineffective. For example, on February 29, I heard a long series of shots in the Ship Creek valley--apparently the result of impulsive shooting at random targets. Enforce

## PRESIDENT'S PEN continued

ment of a total hunting closure could be accomplished effectively by prohibiting transport of firearms into the Park.

During the past few years I have toured extensively within the Park and have observed that nonhunter use predominates. Gunning is incompatible with both the safety and the wilderness experience of the backpacker and wildlife viewer. The Board of Game should, in the interest of equity, set aside this one tract of Alaskan land for the enjoyment of those who appreciate its unique wilderness value.

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ARCTIC VALLEY TO INDIAN

February 7-8, 1976

by BILL STIVERS

BILL LINDSEY, MIKE McCLELLAND, DAVID NEWCOMBE, STU SCHWARTZ, BILL QUIRK, JOHN TOENES, MARK WOJTOLIK, and BILL STIVERS completed this annual MCA ski tour at 3:00 PM Sunday. The party broke trail over most of the route with little difficulty. The temperature dropped to five below zero Saturday night. Sunday was clear with a cold north wind on our backs as we traversed the upper Ship Creek drainage and Indian Creek Pass.

There was a little excitement Saturday when one of BILL QUIRK's skis dropped into Ship Creek as he was scrambling from a broken snow bridge. Fortunately, the ski became lodged between a rock and an ice shelf until it was fished out with ski poles.

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RESURRECTION PASS SKI TOUR

February 14-16, 1976

by BILL STIVERS

The MCA party split into two groups. GENE KLYMKO, HUGH CARGILL, BILL STIVERS, ALLEN MANSFIELD, GARY MICHAELSON, and JERRY O'MALLEY skied from the Hope Airport to Schooner Bend. JIM SCHWEITHELM, AL WORLAND, MARCEL TERBEEK, JEAN McDOWELL and three skiers (I misplaced their names) from Palmer skied the opposite route. The weather was clear and mild for the entire three days. A number of glaciated areas were encountered downstream from Caribou Creek on an otherwise compacted snowmobile trail.

AL, GARY, and JERRY (all from Palmer) enjoyed skiing under a full moon from the Devil's Pass cabin on Saturday night. Two snowmobilers were met near the Juneau Creek bridge on Monday, the first day of trail closure to motor vehicles. The violations were reported to the Forest Service with a request that MCA be advised of the complaint's disposition.

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CLIMBS UP THE MATANUSKA GLACIER

February 6-22, 1976

by ERLAN ORONEN

We were looking for a place with plenty of peaks to climb, a little altitude to get to, and something that would make an enjoyable ski trip. The upper Matanuska Glacier seemed to fit our dreams perfectly. So on February 6, ROBIN BOWEN, GREG DUROCHER, CHARLIE HAMMOND, and myself started skiing up the Matanuska Glacier from Glacier Park with 20 days of supplies. Not finding the ideal route, we spent two days wandering in and out of moraines and crevasses in a light snow fall wondering

## CLIMBS UP THE MATANUSKA GLACIER continued.

if we'd ever got to smooth ice. The third morning dawned clear (a clear that would unbeliavably last the rest of the trip), but we went backwards instead of forwards. CHARLIE had fallen with a heavy pack on and hit his knee on a rock, spraining his knee. He had to go back. Unfortunately for him the trip was over. We found a much easier way back through the moraines and by mid-afternoon the remaining three of us were past our high point moving up glacier. On the fifth day we got a view of our first objective--Marcus Baker. With fantastic snow conditions for skiing and red sled hauling we gained 6800' on the Matanuska Glacier, sight of our base camp, with over 100 pound pay loads apiece. We were ready to do some climbing!

FIRST WINTER ASCENT OF MARCUS BAKER, 13,176. With a snug igloo for base camp we had all the comforts of home, but the weather was too fine to stick around. On the 12th we lifted eight days' worth of food, shovels for caving, and climbing hardware onto our backs and skied to the foot of the north ridge of Marcus Baker. We left skis and donned crampons at 7200'. The snow was a little deep in places, but on the whole it was good step kicking. The first day got us to 9300' where we dug into the side of a drifted crevasse. From this point we left the ridge and cut across a bowl heading for a 10,900' saddle where we'd intersect the ridge once more. In this way we cut off the longer route that follows the ridge proper. The wind had been blowing almost every day of the trip and still was at around 20mph out of the south, the temperature was below zero always (quite often dipping to -30 degrees F.), but it was clear as a bell, and that's all that mattered to us. At 11,900' we found soft enough snow to dig camp II into the lee side of a serac. This was high camp.

The 14<sup>th</sup> of February found us arising at 3:30 AM to start breakfast for summit day. Ahead of us was a seven mile round trip and 3000' total vertical rise to the summit and back to camp, all of which was over 11,600'. We wanted to have all the available light ahead of us. In a short time from camp we were on the narrow top of the north summit looking across the plateau to the higher south summit. The day couldn't have been much better: a cloud layer below 10,000', clear above, windy again, but not too bad, maybe thirty mph and -20 degrees F. Climbing the 700' down to the plateau off the south side of the north peak was the only real climbing we ran into. It went from exposed knife edge to 60 degree hard snow. But the cramponing was excellent and we only put in running belays every 75' for four pitches. Once down on the plateau we began a long, but beautiful, slog to the middle summit. The scenery of neighborin mountains was always great. A little route finding through crevasses and seracs got us down off the middle summit to the 12,200' saddle just short of the actual summit.

While having a bite to eat and resting before our final push to the top, my Dad flew over in his Cub giving us an air drop of apples, cookies, ice cream, letters, and Olympic news. Air mail is the greatest! Charlie was with him, wishing for the world he was with us!

The final 900' to the summit we did via the eastern side. Gained the top at 1:30 in the hazy sparkle of an ice-foggy cloud cap. Ran around peering off down into the Harvard and Knik Glaciers, but didn't see too much detail due to the lower clouds. "You cannot stay on the summit forever; you have to come down again. . ." and down we headed. As usual we headed back to the safety of high camp with as much determination as we headed for the summit--if not more. We had dreaded the 700' ascent back over the north peak knowing we'd be tired. But it went easily--our spirits were high! With the eastern side of the ridge illuminated under the eerie light of the moon and the western side in the deep shadow of a waning alpine glow, we reached high camp at 6:30 PM. It had been a great day.

We slept in the following morning knowing it would be an easy day down to base camp. When we finally crawled from the cave the most unbelievably clear skies met our eyes.

## CLIMBS UP THE MATANUSKA GLACIER continued.

Nowhere was there a cloud! Such mountains as the Spurr Group, Russell, Donali Massif Hayes group, Kimball, Sanford, Drum, Blackburn, and Bonna could be seen. We were amazed--at the view and our luck! By late afternoon we were back at the igloo.

FIRST ASCENT OF PEAK 10,955. Peak 10,955 is located north of Marcus Baker at  $61^{\circ}32'15''$  north latitude and  $147^{\circ}42'15''$  west longitude on the Seward Meridian. It had looked like a nice climb coming up the Matanuska Glacier and after seeing it from Marcus Baker it became the next peak we would try. We were back at base camp on the 15th and decided to head out the next day for a one day bid on over 10 miles of horizontal and 4400' vertical to the summit and back. GREG decided he'd sit this climb out in the comforts of the igloo for a recoup day. ROB and I were out of camp by 6:30 the next morning skiing up to the divide between the Matanuska and Marcus Baker Glaciers. By 10:00 we had gained the Marcus Baker Glacier and sun at 9000' after a short climb up a steepish snow and rock slope. We were now in the south facing bowl below our peak soaking up the sun as we ski-toured upwards. We were the warmest we'd been since leaving the road. We had found a piece of Spring and it sure felt good! At 10,000' we left our skis for the finish to the top via the west ridge. The views were even better than the day before! Really incredible! 1:30 found us on top of the huge summit cornice gazing at the surroundings in a perfect calm. This was one of those days we had so often dreamed of! It was hard to leave, but the thought of a great ski run back to camp drew us down. It was indeed great! The only thing that could have happened wrong was to miss the igloo in the huge expanse of ice in which it was located--we almost did, too, in the failing light at 5:30, but not quite. We called the mountain "Icing Peak" because of the glaciers that slip down off its sides, the huge cornices that curl on top, and the fact that it was ROB's birthday and all we could think of was a delicious birthday cake covered with icing.

FIRST ASCENT OF PEAK 8660. Peak 8660 is located at  $61^{\circ}34'35''$  north latitude and  $147^{\circ}26'30''$  west longitude on the Seward Meridian. After climbing Icing Peak we called a rest day to relax and reorganize at base camp. On the 18th we picked up and moved down the Matanuska Glacier to the "big bend" (place where the glacier makes a major direction change from northeast to northwest and divides into two forks). Here we built another igloo and awaited the dawning of the next day so that we could climb Peak 8660 just north of us across the east fork of the Matanuska Glacier. It clouded over a bit during the night, but the next day, although not perfectly clear, was ideal for climbing. ROB elected to stay in camp so it was just GREG and I kicking our way up a gully system on the southwest face on the 19th. As we gained altitude the whole Marcus Baker Massif came into our view. Things sure did look closer and smaller than they really were! The snow was good, the sun warm, and the scenery was once again at its best. There was a little scrambling up steep, frozen scree and around gendarmes once on the summit ridge, but it was easy even in VB boots. It was once again another 1:30 summiting. There were two points about the same height on the summit and we spent some time in a cairn building contest trying to out-top each other. The peak is now just a bit higher! We had an enjoyable descent to camp studying the rock and whatnot. What a fine place! We dubbed the peak "Pharaoh Peak" because of its impressive pyramidal shape that dominates the view on the way up the Glacier to the big bend and the fact that it overlooks and guards the two forks of the Matanuska Glacier.

We had had a great time climbing around and decided we'd better head to the road before our luck with the weather turned. No use ruining a good trip by sitting storm bound or drowning in snow! On the 20th we started out with easy loads and perfect snow conditions following our old tracks. By the 22nd we were on the East Fork River below Lion's Head almost back to Glacier Park. The trip was over as we stepped from the below zero temperatures to the dry, stifling heat of the lodge that some people call comfortable.

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ARG NEWS

If anyone has any material that belongs to ARG please turn it in. This includes all records, papers, files, and climbing equipment. ARG is trying to get an accurate inventory of their resources and needs your help. Call LEO HANNAN, 277-4748, if you have any ARG property in your possession.

ARG Emergency Call List

This information is published for you. As a member of ARG, you may be called on at any time. The ARG call-out works in this manner:

An emergency call for SRA assistance to the Alaska State Troopers sets in motion an organized sequence of events. The State Trooper Rescue Co-ordinator determines if a valid SAR emergency exists. He also determines which rescue organization is best suited to handle the emergency. If it is ARG, the Trooper Coordinator contacts the ARG by using the ARG Call List. Once the Trooper has contacted a person on the ARG Call List who accepts the call-out for ARG, the organization of the ARG operation becomes the responsibility of the ARG member accepting the call. The ARG leader call ARG members individually until a large enough team is committed. ARG team members provide their personal equipment and arrange their own transportation to the designated rally point. Team and specialized rescue equipment is provided from ARG's rescue equipment cache.

Members are listed in order of their availability. The first person reached on the Call List who accepts the call-out for ARG becomes the Operation Leader. When you assume this obligation it is your responsibility to contact enough ARG members to form the required team. Consult the "ARG Rescue Operation Plan" for information on how to organize and conduct a SAR operation.

Alaska Rescue Group  
Membership Call List

Name	Work Phone	Home Phone	Address
HANNAN, Leo	752-3531	277-4748	2413 Chilligan Drive, -03
BEER, Truman	752-3819	344-7662	3201 West 71st, -07
FISCHER, Udo	752-4888	753-3465	21-745 "B" Fig, Elmendorf
LaPOINT, Bob	752-4888	753-6142	21-600 Plum, Rm 2A, Elmendorf
HALE, Jim	272-1811	349-1161	P.O. Box 10078, Klatt Sta., -07
RICHARDSON, Mike	274-7910	274-5044	533 North Klevin, -04
TODD, Gil	272-6414	279-7794	3850 Sharon Court, -04
BRICKLEY, Bill	None	333-1500	1611 Atkinson, -04
KIRCHER, Barry	337-2122	333-5871	1501 Atkinson, -04
MUEHLENBACH, Terry	274-1665	277-4058	2434 Forest Park Drive, -03
STRANSKY, George, M.D.	279-0622 x245	344-5096	SRA 62B, 5800 Yukon Dr., -07
BITTLINGMAIER, Kurt	277-5605	344-2250	SRA Box 471C
COWALS, Dennis	344-4157	344-4157	P.O. Box 1044, -10
O'LEARY, Chuck	344-5601	344-5601	SRA 1777B, -07
MODEROW, Mark	277-6412	278-3380	820 West 8th Avenue
HENDRICKSON, Dave	279-9461 x237	344-1782	Box 1714, SRA, -07
STADEM, Norm	277-3338	277-3338	2446 Spurr Lane, -03
SYLVESTER, Rick	863-8181	376-5969	P.O. Box 841, Wasilla, -687
SHERMAN, Marty	---	277-9036	4004 Iowa Drive, -03
BOITNOTT, William	752-4888		71st ARRS, Elmendorf
BUONAUGRIO, Mike	"		"
UNDERWOOD, Keith	"		"
BERGIN, Steve	"		"
WARREN, Warn	"		"
GILHAM, Robert	"		"

## ARG EMERGENCY CALL LIST continued.

Name	Work Phone	Home Phone	Address
WILLIAMSON, Denny	752-4883		71st ARRS, Elmendorf
WEATHERS, Paul	"		"
TERRY, Rich	"		"
KOESER, Paul	"		"
WERBER, Bill	"		"
MORRIS, Bill	---	344-6515	SRA Box 261M, -07
BERTMAN, Jack, M.D.	279-6661	337-6101	1419 Terpin, -04
SPROTT, Jim, M.D.	279-6661	344-9234	2414 East 52nd, -07
MOTII, Mike	---	344-1118	Box 4-1313, Spenard, -09
WILD, Mike	---	265-5326	---
SCHNICK, Les	274-8069 and 277-3022	274-0459	2064 Cliffside Drive
BECKER, Torry	272-1811	274-7844	2633 Sponard, -03

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MT. MCKINLEY EXPEDITIONS! Now taking applications for climbs to North America's highest peak. Contact: R. E. GENET, Talkeetna, Alaska 99676.

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