



MOUNTAINEERING CLUB OF ALASKA

BOX 2037

ANCHORAGE, ALASKA 99510

November 1977

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### NOVEMBER MEETING

Wednesday, November 16, 8 PM, Pioneer School House, Third and Eagle, Anchorage. A Mini-Slide Show will be presented by El Rojohombre who will show slides of the ascent of Sundum Peak (6,666 ft.) in Southeast Alaska and rockclimbing in Tancross (!). The main program will be Chris Arend's slide show of his recent trip to Peru.

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### MINUTES OF OCTOBER GENERAL MEETING, MOUNTAINEERING CLUB OF ALASKA

Wednesday, October 19, 1977, Pioneer Schoolhouse, Anchorage

The meeting was called to order at 8:10 PM by President MEACHAM. First there was a Mini-Slide Show by Jim Hale about a climb of Mt. Hunter in April.

At the business part of the meeting the Treasurer's report showed: Checking, \$562.60 Savings, \$448.53; and Cash-on-hand, \$37.20 for a total of \$1,048.33. The President reminded everyone that annual dues are payable on January 1, 1978, but anyone paying a full year's dues after October 1 is considered a paid-up member through the following calendar year.

Under OLD BUSINESS, President MEACHAM reminded all members that anyone can testify at the Public Hearing to be held November 10 in the Municipality's Assembly Chambers, 3500 Tudor Road, on the proposed renaming of Mt. McKinley to Denali. Chris Arend, manager of the Book Cache, will take contributions in memory of Linda HESTING, Jeff MOELLER, and Don PAHLKE. Books can be given or paid for by donors for the MCA Library. About six copies of 55 Ways are still available for sale by the Club to members at \$7.20 Each.

Under NEW BUSINESS it was announced that two copies of the proposed Bottle Bill Initiative are available for signatures by Alaska registered voters. Paul LOWE, Executive Director of the Alaska Center for the Environment, asked for volunteers to help at the Center, and said that the Center is sponsoring a newspaper recycling depot in a van at the Fred Meyer parking lot every Saturday from 10 AM to 4 PM. The Center has received a grant for four statewide environmental meetings, the first to be held in Anchorage on Nov. 12-13; also meetings to be held later in Fairbanks and Juneau. A potluck supper will be held at Vera Engelbach's home on Saturday evening, Nov. 12.

Elections were then held for officers and Board members for the 1977-78 year. As required by the by-laws, a meeting of the Nominating Committee has been held.

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MINUTES OF NOVEMBER MEETING continued.

The following officers were elected by unanimous ballots:

President	Paul Donkewalter
Vice-President	Valerie Laine
Secretary	E. Allen Robinson
Treasurer	Pierre McIntosh

The following were elected for two-year terms to the Board of Directors:

Dave Klinger	Richard Thaler
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After the intermission, DONA AGOSTI showed slides of the July 15-30 outing of 15 members through part of the Arctic Wildlife Range.

Meeting adjourned at 9:40 PM.

E. Allen Robinson, Secretary

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#### SKIING & CLIMBING SCHEDULE

November 26 & 27 Firm Mine-Snowbird Nine overnight ski tour. Leader-Ned Lewis (333-0003). Call Ned for departure time, transportation, equipment, etc.....

December 10 & 11 Kickstep Peak overnight ski tour and climb. Leader-Mick Parker (274-7844) Climbers will ski in Saturday, climb Sunday. Those wishing to ski both days are more than welcome. (Mick says that the ski out is great for alpine-touring e.g. Marker bindings). Must contact Mick if interested in the climb.

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A SPECIAL THANKS TO TOM NEACHAM. Having once been President of the MCA, Tom proffered to take over the office again last year in a caretakers role until someone else could be found. That never happened and TOM'S term lasted the whole year. He did an excellent job and deserves every MCAer's THANKS!!

LETHA MARIE HUFFMAN also deserves our thanks for service above and beyond the call of duty. She edited and typed SCISE (and loved!) every month. An often thankless job which she performed admirably.

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#### DON VIVANTS IN MONTREAL

FRIE & DUNHANE HINCH are now living in Montreal, where Dunhane will study for her doctorate at McGill University, (C'est la vie). Frie was MCA President in 1975 and will be remembered most for the enthusiasm he showed while in office. In the last 3 summers, Frie & Dunhane held an MCA Picnic in their backyard--always a huge success. They were avid climbers, hikers, runners, and nordic skiers. Both will be missed!!! Au revoir. (It is reported that Frie is a busboy at "Le verde Galant"- soup du jour).

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#### REPORT ON MCA TECHNICAL ICE CLIMBING SCHOOL

The second annual ice climbing school was held the last weekend in September. The instructors meeting the previous evening was a rousing success- judging by the big heads in the morning (evidenced by the various degrees of incapacity!) in spite of that, or maybe because of it, everyone seemed to have a good time (continued)

## REPORT ON ICE CLIMBING SCHOOL continued

and maybe learned something in the process. All 15 of the students were initiated into the joys of ice climbing & are getting ready for the new season. A special thanks to instructors Nick Parker, Bill Brickley, Mike Richardson, Doug Billman and Earl Rodman. (People interested in ice, rock &/or mountaineering MCA classes should contact the President.Ed.)

TERRY BECKER

### MCA EQUIPMENT

Terry Becker, the new equipment chairman says that MCA equipment- helmets, crampons, and ice axes- are available. Call on Thursdays evenings from 6-8 PM- PH. 274-7844 Daytime call PH. 272-1811.

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### VIEWPOINTS ON EXPEDITIONS

"The first hurdle and the most important one any expedition faces is financial. Money is the bottom line and as everyone knows the money and the attention recently has gone to the monsters like Whitaker's K2 embarrassment and the superfluous American Bicentennial production. Expeditions like these are not only in contrast to the shifting ethical standards but they make it virtually impossible for smaller more competent groups to get involved. The people holding the money are seldom mountaineers themselves and despite the tax deductible status of most donations, see their gifts as a form of investment. They want to see a success. A piece of one of the big one. They have little or no interest in backing a small group taking a shot at a harder line on a smaller face when they can give the money to another party and be associated with big business on Everest. No American mountaineer has ever demonstrated a more shrewd business mentality or a more highly developed sense of location for the financial jugular of the public than Jim Whitaker. The boot that Big Jim placed upon the summit of Everest has become the cornerstone of mountaineering in this country as it appears to the general populace. Never mind that he is not a particularly accomplished alpinist or that he has about as much understanding of current attitudes as Farrah Fawcett does blemishes; he has the attention of the folks with the power and the money. When he and his wife and friends got to less than 22,000 feet on K2 instead of crawling back into the country and disappearing until the laughter blew over, Jim overwhelmed the public with movies, books, slide shows, more ads and articles and somehow managed to convert a humiliation into another quarter of a million for a second shot. The armchair enthusiasts could hardly get the money out of their wallets fast enough and in New York the AAC smiles upon the whole affair with parental approbation. Meanwhile, lesser expeditions are left to either turn their trips into guided tours by inviting wealthy sponsors along or just drop their plans."

from LOWE ALPINE JOURNAL 1978

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HIGHER SPIRE, 6135'  
USGS Anchorage D-6  
Talkeetna Mountains

October 15, 1967

Bob Spurr

On October 15 under sunny skies, Jim Iethcoe and I made the third ascent of Higher Spire (Davidson, Hoeman, Aug. 20, 1965, south gulch; Fraser, Kaufman, nine days later, route unknown). Higher Spire is prominent on the Talkeetna skyline as observed from Anchorage; it is the highest of the peripheral peaks on the large cirque glacier whose northern drainage is Bartholf Creek and whose southern exposure overlooks Reed Lakes. We ascended Glacier Creek above Snowbird Mine, and by hugging southerly exposed slopes, avoided most of the snow on route to the col at 5100'. (I recalled wallowing in waist-deep powder exactly one year earlier near this same area.) After traversing 3/4 mile across glacier, we kick-stepped up a finger gully on lousy snow to gain the short north ridge; three rope lengths over snow-laden rock gave us the summit and beautiful views of the northwest Chugach.\*\*\*

Mary's Mountain

October 18, 1967

Bill Babcock

Al Morey, Dave DeVoe, Dub Blodworth, and I met at Safeway at 4 AM, and by 5:30 we had arrived at the foot of Mary's Mt. Initially, we missed the jeep road, but soon found it. The jeep road is northwest of the deserted cabin. One follows the powerline trail to the highest poles; then another trail, partly overgrown, leads north for a few hundred yards then another cuts back south for one mile. When this logging road ends, there is a clearing. Turning east or up the mountain, a deep gully can be found to the south after a 100-yard walk almost straight up. Keeping to the north of this gulley paralleling the steep gulley all the way out of the tree and bush completely avoids any bushwacking. We arrived on the summit at noon. Enjoying beautiful weather, we rested there and consumed lunch until about 2 PM. We then started down and enjoyed a close-up of a half-dozen sheep on our descent. By 5:00, we were back at the car. We enjoyed reading the notes left over the years by Joe Pichler.

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SOME OF THE MINUTES OF EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING, MOUNTAINEERING CLUB OF ALASKA  
Tuesday, November 1, 1977, President Denkewalter's Home, Anchorage

The meeting was called to order at 7:40 PM.

It was announced that the Anchorage Rescue Council, part of the Alaska Rescue Council, is planning a two-day avalanche symposium on Nov. 19-20 in Anchorage. Dick Thaler has signed up for it and will represent MCA.

There was discussion of the desirability of having MCA cloth patches and Membership cards, the latter being helpful when visiting other outdoor clubs in the U.S. and foreign countries. Motion was MSP that membership cards be obtained for those members who want them, cards to be numbered, dated, and signed by an MCA officer, and name to be filled in by member. In this connection it was suggested that a record of all members current on their dues payments be kept up to date.

Sometime during the current winter it was proposed that a special meeting be arranged where a doctor would lecture on frostbite and hypothermia, this meeting to be open to members only.

It was mentioned that free copies of SCREE have been sent to numerous outdoor clubs in the U.S. in exchange for their bulletins and journals. Apparently some breakdown has occurred in this exchange. Measures will be taken to revive it and also to resume subscription the Sierra Club's ASCENT.

There was general discussion of Club hikes and climbs, the difficulty of finding climb leaders and screening out neophytes who cannot climb well. There is also a problem of newcomers to the area getting acquainted at Club monthly meetings. There are hikers and climbers, with little interaction between the groups. It was suggested that wherever possible climbs be arranged so that hikers could come along for a day hike.

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MINUTES continued.

Some discussion was held about the location of the Club Library at Tom Meacham's house. Until such time as the Club may be able to have a small office or clubroom, it was decided to keep the Library where it is.

E. Allen Robinson, secretary

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A NOTE FROM THE PRESIDENT

As the new President of the MCA I would like to state my philosophy concerning the club: To further mountaineering. Everything else is secondary. The MCA should help mountaineers (in the broad connotation of that word) meet one another and climb, hike and explore throughout Alaska.

There are clubs for conservation, preservation of endangered species, etc. There are agencies to protect animals from illegal hunting, to plan road building, etc. However, the MCA's time, energy and money should be spent not on these peripheral issues but on mountaineering.

There has been a lack of club climbs this past summer. Hikers and climbers do not mix well at the meetings. There is little enthusiasm for office holding in the club. Many people who come to the meetings do not pay their dues. There were not reports on hikes or climbs for this issue of SCREE. These are the problems on which the energies and time of the MCA should be spent.

Members with ideas that would help the club should bring them up at meetings or drop a note to the club. Feedback from the members is what keeps the club alive.

Paul Denkwalter, President

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bits and pieces

Valerie LaRue would like pictures and slides that were taken at the MCA Technical Ice Climbing Class. Please contact at the meeting.

The MCA needs a ski-touring co-ordinator for the duration of the winter. This co-ordinator would not have to lead the various ski-tours but merely arrange them.

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