



MOUNTAINEERING CLUB OF ALASKA
NOVEMBER 1979

BOX 2037

NOVEMBER MEETING

ANCHORAGE, ALASKA 99510
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The meeting will be held Wednesday, November 21st, at 8:00 p.m. on the top floor of the Pioneer Schoolhouse, Third and Eagle, Anchorage, Alaska. After the business meeting a Swap and Shop will be held for members to sell or trade their excess equipment. This is an excellent opportunity to pick up that much-needed pair of skis or sell that extra pair of crampons for a good price. So bring your equipment and your checkbook Wednesday night.

PLEASE NOTE: A SWAP AND SHOP will be held immediately following the business meeting on November 21st. (see above)

MINUTES OF OCTOBER GENERAL MEETING, MOUNTAINEERING CLUB OF ALASKA
Wednesday, October 17, 1979, Pioneer Schoolhouse, Anchorage

The meeting was called to order by President LaRue at 8:04 p.m. The Treasurer's report was as follows: Checking account \$843.39; Savings account \$414.52; and Cash \$51.25 for a total of \$1,309.16. Dona Agosti, Hiking Chairman, announced that next year's summer hike will be in the Kobuk National Monument. She also reported that Ellen Dufresne's body had been found in the Taylor Creek area where a snow avalanche buried four MCA skiers two and a half years ago. At the request of his brother, George Pollock, the ashes of Paul Pollock were scattered. He had been found earlier by Mark Moderow, an Alaska Rescue Group member. The bodies of Alan Worland and Charles Kibler had been found earlier this year. The thanks of relatives were conveyed to all members of MCA and ARG who assisted in the many search missions. Tim Neale announced that the special slide show on the 1978 climb of Nanda Devi by Michael Clarke on November 2 at 8:00 p.m., reported in last month's SCREE, will be at Clark Junior High School. He also announced the three climbs, all mentioned in last month's SCREE. The basic winter mountaineering class will be held at Central Junior High School, Room 68, 8:00 pm October 24th. President LaRue inquired whether members would be interested in a Swap-Shop earlier in the winter than the usual February monthly meeting when this is held at Central Junior High. There was an interest shown in changing the customary February event to November. Tim Neale announced that a free slide show would be presented on November 7th at 8:00 p.m. at East High School on Free Climbing on Half Dome, narrated by Robert Redford.

Former President Tom Meacham was invited by President LaRue to conduct the annual election of officers and Board members. In addition to those nominated at the preceding September meeting, additional nominations could be made from the floor before each position was elected. Two non-member counters were appointed. The following were the election results:

President: No more nominations - Elected: Tim Neale
Vice President: No more nominations - Unanimous ballot cast for Mike Richardson because Peter Sennhauser had earlier requested that his name be withdrawn.

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Secretary: No more nominations - Unanimous ballot cast for Al Robinson.

Treasurer: Additional nominations were made for Barbara Hamilton and Paula Quering. Marty Basset withdrew to have time to continue as SCREE editor. Elected: Paula Quering.

Board Members: Additional nominations were made for John Lohff, Karen Rosene, and Laura Bunnell. Because Tim Neale, just elected President, had one more year to serve on the Board, the presiding officer ruled that three elections would be held; two for two-year terms to replace retiring Board members Dave Klinger and Dick Thaler, and the third to replace Tim Neale for one year. Elected: John Dillman and John Lohff for two-year terms and Dave Pahlke for one year.

After the intermission, Dr. Susan Clift, Marty Bassett, and Dona Agosti gave a slide show of the MCA Summer Hike on Kodiak Island from Middle Bay via American River Valley to Center Mountain and returning to Woman's Bay near the mouth of Russian River. The slides were a composite from the entire group.

Meeting was adjourned at 9:32 p.m.

E. Allen Robinson

SLIDE SHOWS WANTED

Mike Richardson, MCA Vice-President, is looking for volunteers to present slide shows, movies, etc., at club meetings. Appropriate subjects would include climbing or hiking trips not only in Alaska but anywhere in the world as well as any other topics likely to be of interest to MCA members. If you would like to volunteer or if you have suggestions for shows, call Mike at 274-5044.

POT LUCK DINNER

Several members have suggested holding a potluck dinner sometime during December. This could possibly be in conjunction with a short ski touring trip. Bring your ideas to the November meeting.

TRIP LEADERS

Anyone interested in leading any short ski touring trips or non-technical climbs should call Tim Neale at 274-4952.

CLIMBING EQUIPMENT

MCA feels that it is important to provide some basic mountaineering equipment on a short-term loan basis to beginning climbers in order to encourage their participation in the sport. The Club currently has available some crampons, helmets, ice axes, and beepers in good condition which it is willing to loan to MCA members in accordance with the rules stated below. Paul Denkwalter of Alaska Mountaineering and Hiking has agreed to keep the Club's equipment at AMH at 2633 Spenard Road. Under no circumstances will this equipment be rented to anyone. The following rules will be observed when borrowing this equipment.

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- 1) The equipment is to be checked out and used only by MCA members.
- 2) An MCA member may have only one set of equipment checked out at any one time and may not check out equipment for other MCA members.
- 3) The Club membership card must be surrendered to AMH when the equipment is picked up. The card will be returned to the member when the equipment is returned to AMH.
- 4) The equipment may be used for no more than three consecutive days.
- 5) Members participating in announced club activities will have priority over those participating in private outings.

Again, this equipment is primarily for beginners. Experienced mountaineers who would tend to take longer trips would be expected to have their own equipment. Please use this equipment with care so that it can continue to be available for many years to come.

CLIMBING SCHEDULE

DECEMBER 8th - The Wedge

Moderate one-day trip. Meet in parking lot of UAA by Sports Complex at 7 a.m. Equipment: Ice axe, crampons, swami belt, wind gear, cold weather gear and flashlight. Will NOT use skis for benefit of those that would like to go but do not have skis. Contact Tim Neale - 274-4952

DECEMBER 15th - King Mountain Area

Will find something to climb that does not have avalanche hazard. Moderate one-day climb. Equipment same as above, and again, no skis. Meet same place as above EXCEPT time will be 6 a.m. Tim Neale 274-4952

Note: Please check out Club equipment from AMH on Friday before climb and return on Monday. Sign up for climbs at November meeting.

TRIP REPORTS

WEST TWIN PEAK CLIMB - Eleven members of the MCA Club turned out for the October 20th West Twin Peak Climb. The group climbed to the summit from the N.W. ridge behind Chelley's store. We had beautiful weather, sunny skies, and no wind. The following people made the climb: Rick Severn, Reggie Buchanan, Pat Murray, Steve Hale, Lynne Hale, David Agosti, Janet Smallie, Roger Megard, Ken Johnson, Dave Pahlke, and Tim Neale.

O'MALLEY PEAK CLIMB - October 27th and 28th - Sixteen people showed up on a wet Saturday morning for the MCA Class/Climb in the O'Malley Peak area. Camp was set up at base of O'Malley. Fourteen people climbed O'Malley Saturday afternoon. Visability was poor but snow conditions from 3,500' to the summit were excellent for climbing. Sunday everyone participated in classes on basic techniques of belaying and repelling. I would like to thank the instructors: Tim Pearce, Jim Eason, Paul Denkwalter and Stephen Pauli. The following took part in the two-day climb: Barb Adams, Evelyn and Laura Jurgy, Diane Olson, Pat and Claudia Slater, Jim and John Ramey, Mark Findley, Brandon Gentry, Pat Murray, Reggie Buchanan, Drew Commer and Ross

TRIP REPORTS (Continued)

GOAT MOUNTAIN - NOVEMBER 3rd - Weather for this climb was almost perfect, sunny skies, no wind, temperature about 30°F. After a healthy breakfast at McDonalds, all 10 MCA members that turned out for the climb were ready to give it a go. We parked the cars and started out from a point where the road crosses Milk Creek near the "A" frame cabin. (not the forest service cabin in the pass) We ascended the N.E. ridge between Milk Glacier and Glacier Gulch. Snow conditions on the climb to the top of the ridge were very poor. Had there been any quantity of snow, avalanche conditions would have made this route too dangerous. The ridge was quite wide and made for comfortable climbing. The high point on our climb was a bump on the ridge 5,600'. Beyond the bump the ridge gets considerably narrower. It was decided to descend rather than try for the summit and have to make the complete descent in the dark. We made it back to the cars at dark and headed back to the nearest pub. The following members were on the climb: Pat Murray, Diane Olson, Drew Commer, Janet Smalley, Jim Eason, Evelyn and Laura Jervey, Ann Honhart, Barb Adams, and Tim Neale.

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KOBUK VALLEY NATIONAL MONUMENT - SUMMER 1980

After careful consideration, the Kobuk Valley National Monument in northwestern Alaska has been chosen as the destination for next summer's main backpacking trip. There is much of interest for the backpacker and photographer in this immense land of arctic wilderness. The monument lies in a broad valley along the central portion of the Kobuk River, approximately 75 miles east of Kotzebue. The Baird and Waring mountain ranges form respectively the northern and southern boundaries, while the villages of Kiana and Ambler are situated on the western and eastern sides of the monument. The northern edge of the boreal forest reaches into the valley, resulting in small trees scattered over the thick tundra. The Great Kobuk Sand Dunes cover some 25 square miles and can be easily reached by hiking south from the Kobuk River. Much of the flora of the area are remnants of the Pleistocene and continue to survive since the climate of the valley still approximates Ice Age conditions. The peaks and foothills of the Baird and Waring ranges provide interesting areas in which backpackers will be tempted to linger and explore for several days. The terrain throughout the monument is generally conducive to easy hiking.

Tentative plans for the trip include a commercial flight to Kotzebue, connecting flight to Ambler, riverboat charter on the Ambler River, backpacking to the Great Kobuk Sand Dunes, and exploration of either the Baird or Waring mountains. Trip length is expected to be about 9 days and will take place in late July or early August.

Anyone with questions or suggestions concerning this trip should contact Dona Agosti at 279-2901.

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RED CROSS ADVANCED FIRST AID COURSE

Could you give emergency first aid care to a victim of a serious accident if professional help was far away? Or would your friend or loved one die before your eyes because you were unfamiliar with emergency first aid techniques? In MCA the nature of our activities makes it even more important that we be thoroughly trained in these life-saving skills. The time to learn is now.

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The Red Cross offers a free comprehensive 60 hour course on Advanced First Aid and Emergency Care which includes a 12 hour segment devoted to Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR). The techniques taught in this course are as useful in the backyard as they are in the Brooks Range. This course is not just for trip leaders, it is for everyone. For information call the Red Cross at 277-1538

BOOK REVIEW

THE LAST BLUE MOUNTAIN by Ralph Barker - 210 pages - paperbound
The Mountaineers, Seattle - September 1979 - \$6.95

The publisher's blurb on this book, just put out by the Mountaineers as one of their re-issues of mountaineering classics, summarizes well....."Sometimes the real story lies in the failure of an endeavor rather than in its success.....A recounting of a failed 1957 expedition to Haramosh (24,270') in the Karakoram, the book becomes totally engrossing just as the climb's participants realize they cannot achieve the summit and decide to head for home."

Without putting down the great courage, selflessness, and physical feats of many climbers on "the roof of the world", one must admit that accounts of hardship in the Karakoram and Himalayas, appalling weather, the everchanging and unpredictable ways of snow and ice, the tedium of long confinement in close quarters have become almost a dime a dozen as each of the many expeditions seek to cover its costs by publishing an account of its experience. Not that there aren't tremendous stories....just that it becomes almost impossible to tell anything new. For this reviewer the unique thing about this book is the way in which the author, a non-climber and skilled writer selected by survivors of the expedition and having access to their records and accounts, is able to make vivid the personality of each man in the small party, his motivation for the climb, and the way in which he acted and reacted in the crises on the mountain. It is worth reading!

EDITOR'S NOTE: This and hundreds of other books of interest to mountaineers are included in MCA's VinHoeman Library which is kept at Tom Meacham's residence at 1410 "H" Street. The library is open to all club members and browsers are welcome. Tom is home most evenings, but give him a call before you come, if possible, at 277-2129. A list of recent additions was published in the September 1979 SCREE.

CASSETTE PLAYER STOLEN

During a movie presented by AMH at East High on Wednesday, November 7th, a cassette player was stolen from a brown VW Rabbit parked at the east end of the parking lot. The theft took place between 8 and 9 pm and involved the removal of the cassette player from the dashboard. In his haste, the thief turned on the 4-way flashers. If anyone has information concerning this incident, please call Craig Renkert at 277-9783 (home)