



MOUNTAINEERING CLUB OF ALASKA BOX 2037 ANCHORAGE, ALASKA 99510
PLEASE NOTE: 1) Change of meeting place 2) prizes will be awarded!!

DECEMBER 1979

DECEMBER MEETING

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The meeting will be held Wednesday, December 19th, at 8 p.m. in the multi-purpose room of Central Junior High School, 15th and C Street, Anchorage, Alaska. Our normal meeting room in the Pioneer Schoolhouse is unavailable in December. In the spirit of the season, the MCA Board has decided to award several valuable prizes at the December meeting. All MCA members who have currently paid their dues and are present in the meeting room at 8 p.m. are eligible for the prizes which will be awarded on a lottery basis. Come join the fun on the 19th and you may come away with more than cookies and punch!

At the meeting Dr. Andy Embick will present a slide show of his and Jim Bridwell's recent first ascent of the Northwest Face of Katchatna Spire. This alpine face has had numerous attempts over the years and its ascent marks one of the most difficult routes completed in North America. Andy is also presenting this slide show at the annual meeting of the American Alpine Club at Mt. Hood, Oregon, which is an indication of the quality of the climb and the presentation. Andy now lives in Valdez and says that any water-fall climbers visiting the area are welcome to crash at his home. He reported that as of about December 1st several of the falls had marginal conditions and that Carl Tobin (Fairbanks) had been climbing near Keystone Greensteps over Thanksgiving weekend. Hopefully, our local water falls will soon be climbable.

MINUTES OF NOVEMBER GENERAL MEETING, MOUNTAINEERING CLUB OF ALASKA
Wednesday, November 21, Pioneer Schoolhouse, Anchorage, Alaska.

The meeting was called to order at 8:10 p.m. by President Tim Neale. Tim Neal read the minutes of the last meeting. Paula Quering gave the Treasurer's report as follows: Checking \$1128.00; Savings \$535.00; Petty Cash \$65.00; for a total of \$1,728.00. At the Board of Directors meeting on 11-6-79 several committees were established:

1. Programs - Mike Richardson in charge
2. Hiking - Dona Agosti
3. Climbing - Tim Neale
4. Trails Committee - Barb Adams and John Lohff
5. Library Committee - Tom Meacham
6. Huts - John Dillman

Tim Neale reported that about 80% of the volumes in the MCA Library, which is located at Tom Meacham's residence, belong to VonHoeman's Library, currently on loan from VonHoeman's heirs. This precludes the possibility of donating the library to a third party.

The equipment has been moved to Alaska Mountaineering and Hiking at 2/1. Paul Denkwalter is in charge of the equipment. At present
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the Club owns 5 ice axes, 16 helmets, 12 crampons, and 6 peeps which are available to club members on a loan basis in accordance with the rules published in the November SCREE.

John Dillman reported that at the December meeting Andy Embick may present a slide show on his recent first ascent of the Northwest face of Kitchatna Spire. Also, Tim Neale requested that participants who have slides from the last three climbs please contact him so that a mini-slide show can be assembled.

The business meeting was adjourned at 8:42 p.m.

IT'S DUES TIME AGAIN!

All Current MCA members should have their 1980 dues paid as of the December meeting. Those members who have not paid their dues as of January will no longer receive SCREE. Dues have remained unchanged for several years and are \$10.00 for a family, \$7.50 for an individual, and \$5.00 for juniors and those members who live more than 50 miles from Anchorage. If you cannot be present at the December meeting send your dues to Paula Quering, 524 E. 11th Avenue #18, Anchorage, Alaska 99501.

NO POTLUCK IN DECEMBER

Due to the lack of volunteers, we will be unable to hold a Potluck dinner this month. Hopefully, this event will be rescheduled in the near future but to do so we will need your help! If you have suggestions or wish to volunteer, contact Meg Leonard at 337-7701.

CLIMBING & TOURING SCHEDULE

Climbing and ski-touring outings for next month will be announced at the General Meeting on Wednesday, December 19th. If you are unable to attend the meeting, call Tim Neale at 274-4952 for the latest trip information.

WINTER SOLSTICE ON FLATTOP - 1979

Perhaps the most honored tradition of the Mountaineering Club of Alaska has been the semi-annual ascent of Flattop Mountain each summer and winter at the Solstice. Mike Richardson, MCA Vice-President, has proudly volunteered to continue this long-standing tradition and will lead the winter assault on Flattop on Saturday, December 22nd. Plans include spending the night on the mountain (perhaps in a snow cave) and enjoying a roaring fire from wood left over from the summer Solstice as well as wood hauled up by current participants. Mike would like to encourage members to take part in this unique event, however, be cautious that this is not an appropriate outing for families and pets. If you do not fall into the latter two categories and are prepared for severe winter conditions, call Mike at 274-5000 for further details.

Nineteen mountain touring types visited the Mint Glacier Hut during the post-Thanksgiving weekend. The 7-8 mile trip in was on excellent snow and the hut was reached by two skiers in 5.5 hours, then nine others arriving within 6-8 hours. The hut was in good condition but buried to the eaves. As noted in the hut book, it had last been used by two climbers from California and a Swiss guide from Muldoon. Poor wax on the part of two skiers and being over-equipped on the part of two others resulted in their spending Friday night in the valley below the hut. Saturday eventually turned into a glorious day and telemark tracks were soon appearing on every slope of the Mint Glacier, along with thousands of bomb craters. That afternoon, one couple left and eventually eight others found their way to the hut, one carrying a gallon of wine, which was hastily consumed. Seventeen trying to cook dinner on the two-burner proved moderately successful considering the hut didn't explode or burn down.

The ski out on Sunday took anywhere from 2 hours to 2 days. Most made it within 4-6 hours, including those who broke skis and bindings. It is a real shock arriving at the Roadhouse to the roar of snowmachines after several relaxing days in the wilderness, although the cold beer and Gene's great french fries are always incentive to push hard the last mile or so.

A few notes about the Mint Glacier ski tour: We left the Roadhouse at 7:15 a.m., had excellent skiing conditions and most reached the hut easily by early afternoon. With shorter days you should leave by headlight, unless you're traveling light and fast. If you haven't been to the hut before, good luck. Better get some good directions. The ski in is moderate but there is an 800 foot elevation gain at the end to reach the hut, which is not visible until you are almost at the front door. This potentially dangerous slope takes from 1 hour to being nearly impossible depending upon conditions. Many have spent the night in the rocks below the hut. The ski out usually can be done in 3-5 hours under average conditions if you push.

SOME BASIC HUT RULES:

1. There is a two-burner stove and a Coleman lantern at the hut. Take your own fuel and please fill the tanks before leaving.
2. The large pot is for melting snow not for cooking.
3. Remember the "right hand rule" and don't defecate on the doorstep.
4. Haul out your garbage.

John Dillman

VIN HOEMAN LIBRARY NOTES - Tom Meacham

The library has acquired the following new items since the last report:

The Red Snows (Hunt & Brasher, 1960) - gift of Steve Hackett
Schoolhouse in the Clouds (Hillary) - MCA purchase
Sivalaya (Baume 1979) - The Mountaineers review copy
Mt. Logan First Ascent (June 1926 National Geographic) gift of Rod Wilson

MISSING PERSONS: Any MCA member or friend who knows either of the following persons or their whereabouts, please contact Tom Meacham (277-2129)

J. Brottem (last address, Juneau, Ak)

Dick Prasil (last address, Seattle, Wa)

We need to reach them regarding overdue MCA library books.

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HISTORICAL NOTE: John Dillman says that one of the key figures in the classic mountaineering book reviewed by Liz Robinson last month, (The Last Blue Mountain by Ralph Barker) was an MCA member in the early 1960's. Scott Hamilton apparently lived in Anchorage for a few years, after the tragic 1957 Haramosh expedition, and organized the MCA Mt. Marathon running team for the annual Seward race. The Mountaineers' reprint reviewed by Liz gave this up-date on Scott:

Scott Hamilton is an urban planner and ecologist working for the U.S. Navy in Hawaii. He is also an active conservationist and a keen marathon runner.

Thus the "MCA Connection" furnishes an additional reason to read this epic mountaineering tale.

MCA's VinHoeman Library is located at 1410 "H" Street, Anchorage, Alaska. Telephone 277-2129 (in advance if possible) All MCA Members welcome to browse and check out books.

Editor's note: The following is information prepared by the Mountaineers on a book recently added to the MCA Library:

EXPLORING THE YUKON RIVER, by Archie Satterfield. 132 pages, 6x8½ paperbound, Maps, photos. The Mountaineers, 719-R Pike St. Seattle, Washington 98101
July 1979 \$6.95

Is there a canoeist anywhere worth his thwarts who hasn't dreamed of paddling down the might, historic Yukon River? The dream can easily be a pleasant reality for those who pick up a copy of a new book, Exploring the Yukon River, by river-runner, Archie Satterfield.

Just published by the Mountaineers, Seattle, the book is an illustrated, fully mapped guide to the first 500 miles of the Yukon, from its headwaters in the mountain lakes of British Columbia to Dawson City, Yukon Territory--the area through which Jack London and hundreds of assorted gold-seekers fought their way north to the Klondike.

Satterfield's text provides an almost stroke-by-stroke description of the river, accompanied by excellent strip maps, photos of "then" and "now" and a fine sense of the unique history of the area. A special feature is the addition of details on side trips and hikes to sites of ghost towns, old mines, and other scenic stops for a break from the boating. Maps of townsites are included for the major stops where the traveler would be looking for food, laundromats, etc. A strong point of the book is its solid information on how to organize, equip, and prepare for a river trip of this length. Interesting to read, the book is also invaluable to use.