



NOVEMBER 1981

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NOVEMBER MEETING

The meeting will be held Wednesday, November 19, at 8:00 p.m. on the top floor of the Pioneer Schoolhouse, Third and Eagle, Anchorage, Alaska. After the business meeting, a select group of MCA members will present slides of their most memorable trips.

MINUTES - OCTOBER 21, 1981 MEETING

The meeting was called to order at 8:05 p.m. by President John Lohff. The reading of the minutes of the previous meeting was waived due to their having been published in the SCREE.

Minutes of the Executive Committee - there were none, as there was no meeting.

Treasurer's Report

Bank Balance	\$3,547.84	(Money Market was cashed in to obtain signatures of all newly elected officers on all accounts.)
Petty Cash	78.65	
	<u>\$3,626.49</u>	

Also, the Annual Report was filed by Reggie Buchanan, Treasurer, and copies made available to the membership. Reggie also asked that all members please mail in their dues for 1982 so we do not have a rush at the next several meetings, of people coming up during the break to pay their dues. They are \$7.50 for individual and \$10.00 family membership, and must be paid by the end of the year to keep our mailing list current. If you do not pay, you will not receive the January SCREE. John Lohff complimented Reggie for a job well done for Treasurer in 1981.

New members and guests were introduced.

Standing Committee Reports

Outings: The Ice Climbing/Glacier Travel School was reported as a great success. Reggie Buchanan pointed out that an outstanding job was done by John Dillman, who organized the school.

Huts: Greg Higgins reported that he and George Ferry took three windows up to Pichler's Perch, but were unable to install them because they did not have adequate tools.

Geographic Names: Gregg Higgins reported that he is trying to get names approved for peaks around Seward.

SCREE: John Lohff commented that we now have a new format, thanks to the efforts of our staff, including our new "Publisher," Mark Findlay.

Old Business:

John Lohff read the nominations for election of new officers. President: Jim Eason, who withdrew his name; Vice President - no nominee; Treasurer, Reggie Buchanan; and Secretary, Sandi McDonald. Board positions: Tim Neale, Tom Choate, and Ernie Borjon. John Lohff then turned the election over to Tom Meacham, who conducted it with the following results after numerous nominations from the floor:

Our new President is John Dillman
Vice-President - Rick Severn
Treasurer - Reggie Buchanan
Secretary - Sandi McDonald
New Board Members are - Tim Neale
- Jim Eason

CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL!

John Lohff was then asked by incoming President John Dillman to complete the meeting, and John thanked Tom Meacham for conducting the election for us. Thanks were extended to all outgoing officers.

Announcements: John Dillman announced that there will be a Basic Mountain Rescue Class conducted by Julian Mason, for experienced climbers only. This will be December 12 and will be limited to 25 people. Also, an Avalanche Class will be held later in the year.

Forest Service advised us that cabin reservations will be handled on a drawing basis from now on for those which have a lot of reservation requests on the same night.

John Dillman introduced Susan Havens, who will be part of a women's expedition to Ama Dablan.

Madeline Jones shared a post card from Peter Hackett, a member of a team of physicians attempting Mt. Everest. The card was written from the 24,000 foot level. Peter is an Alaskan known to many in the Club.

Program was Tom Choate's slides of the Himalayas, along with some live "sound track." This combined to make an extremely interesting program. Thank you, Tom.

Meeting was adjourned at 10:10 p.m. This is my last occasion to say: "Respectfully submitted, Madeline Jones, Secretary."

NOTE FROM THE PRESIDENT: "It's Your Club"

Considering the circumstances of my recent "election" as President of MCA, there probably aren't many campaign promises to keep. However, I would like to say a few words about issues that I feel are important to the Club. As Past President Tim Neale wrote in the November 1980 SCREE, "... without the participation, support and assistance of many people, the MCA would cease to exist." I've been a member of this Club for many years and I know most of you, at least by sight or name. I'm probably in a good position to "twist a few arms" in order to enlist help so that the Club can continue to exist. Instead, I would like more volunteers to lead Club climbs and hikes, present slide shows, instruct at classes and participate in all phases of MCA functions and activities. It's your Club, so contribute to it. John R. Dillman, President.

MOUNTAIN RESCUE CLASS

A class in basic mountain rescue techniques will be taught on Saturday, December 12. Meet at Fred Meyer parking lot at 7:30 a.m. There will be several practice rescue situations requiring raising and lowering of litters on vertical and overhanging walls, long "jumaring," and the Tyrolean traverse. Participants must have basic climbing skills and know how to handle ropes, belay, and rappel. Required equipment is a sit harness, a chest harness (or 20 feet of 1" tubular for tying one), a helmet, several slings, 5 or 6 carabiners and a rappel device such as a "figure 8." Bring jumars, gibbs, etc., if you have them; otherwise bring several feet of 5 to 6 mm perlon for tying prusik knots.

Class is limited to those who have already registered. For further information, contact Julian Mason at 278-9174. Class will be held unless weather is absolutely terrible. (Note: Another class is planned for later in the season for those who could not sign up this time.)

TRIP REPORTSPINNELL MOUNTAIN TRAIL
September 1981

In three mid-September days of 1981, just a week before the first snow fell, my son, Tom, and I hiked the 27-mile Pinnell Mountain Trail, little known to southcentral Alaskans, but a beautiful way to see a portion of the White Mountains northeast of Fairbanks. We drove out the Steese Highway, which is paved for the first 44 miles and improved wide gravel much of the rest of the way. Base camp was at BLM's nice Cripple Creek Campground at Mile 60, which is on the narrow part of the gravel road soon to be widened and straightened to accommodate the gold miners' big trucks. The Pinnell Mountain Trail extends from 12-Mile Summit (Mile 85.6) to Eagle Summit (Mile 107.3) on the Steese. It swings away from the highway to the north up ridges, over hills, across saddles (some dampish), eventually over the top of Pinnell Mountain, around Porcupine Dome, and finally back to the Steese. It is all on tundra, considerably above timberline. BLM has a good pamphlet with a rough map and out-of-date mileages (23 miles instead of the actual 27 miles), but good details are found on USGS Quads Circle B-3, B-4, C-3, and C-4.

Take plenty of water and use it sparingly. We found one small pool near the first shelter and a dry spring near the second. Each shelter is comfortable 3½-sided with a heavy tarp over the wide doorway. Porcupines have eaten parts of the floor in each, but there is sleeping room for about four persons. In clear weather, one can see the Alaska Range (Deborah, Hayes, Hess, etc.) and to the north the beginnings of the Brooks Range. The trail is marked by posts in rock cairns spaced within sight of each other. When fog occurs, a compass and the quads are essential. It's a fairly rugged hike.

Al Robinson

SECOND RECORDED ASCENT OF MT. RUMBLE (7530')

October 1981

I had mistakenly thought that this massive peak at the headwaters of Peter's Creek had three previously recorded climbs, but review of the SCREE index revealed that the only reported successful ascent had been noted by Vin Hoeman & Dave Meyers in 1966 (see SCREE 8:11:1,2). An unsuccessful attempt to repeat their route in 1967 by Bill Hauser, Gayle Nienhueser, Jim Jeliffe, and John & Helen Wolfe is the only other report of a climb on Rumble (see SCREE 9:4:4).

Vera Hollingshead saw Rick O'Kelly, her husband Frank, and I off on October 27 with a fine breakfast and a ride up Prudhoe Bay Road deep in the Eagle River drainage. Clearing skies greeted us as we slogged up the long valley leading to Bombardment Pass, the 5,000 foot notch that nestles beneath Korohusk's North Face. The last hours in the snow-covered moraine were particularly trying. We eventually dropped into the southern fork terminal drainage of Peter's Creek to make camp at about 2800 feet.

Light snow and fog kept us in bed late, but we gradually stirred next morning and set out to do a "day hike" in the glowering weather. Hiking up the creek we spied the great southern gully on Rumble's west side, and made this the object of our hike reasoning that we would be able to come back down easily in case of white-out. As Vin and Dave did in 1966, we went to the right when the gully split (the Wolfe party went left). Kickstepping up the snow-filled chute was easy, and as we went higher, the weather kept improving.

About 100 feet from the gully's apex, we went east over a single pitch of steep ice-covered rotten rock. From here it was easy scrambling to the NW ridge, and the summit at 1:00 p.m. The original pickled onion jar register was still on the top, but the contents were soaked and matted together. We replaced this with new paper wrapped in plastic and left the original jar. Camp was reached at 4:00 p.m. by retracing our route.

After a clear and cold night, we set out for the Pass in drifting snow. The higher we went, the stronger the wind blew. We were quite happy to reach the Pass even though it meant re-entering the knee-wrenching moraine. By the time we reached Vera at the car, the skies had again cleared, and as we drove home, we were charmed by the beauty of the Eagle River Valley in its new snowy coat.

Greg Higgins.

BLUEBERRY HILL
October 25, 1981

Under clear skies, 11 folks from the MCA had an enjoyable day climbing Blueberry Hill. The hill is close to the Twenty Mile River near Portage. After a short stroll through a little brush, we broke into an opening, and on up to a ridge that led to the summit. Most of the large peaks in the Chugach Range were visible from the high point on the ridge - point 4490. The ridge had a couple feet of snow. A few interesting cornices were developing on the west side of the ridge.

We found tracks of a critter on the ridge that probably were made by a wolverine. Judging from what we saw of his route on the ridge, we figured he was close to a 5.8 climber on rock.

The group that basked in the sun on this fine October day included: Jim Morrison, Don Hansen, Mark Findlay, Ted Laske, John Lohff, Bruce McCune, Pat Murray, Willy Hersman, Peter Sennhauser, Greg Higgins and Tim Neale.

By Tim Neale

MT. DRUM - WRANGELL MOUNTAINS
August 1981

In late August, Julian Mason, Daniel Blake, Diane and Mike Frank, and John Dillman spent a week in sunny calm weather wandering around the lower slopes of Mt. Drum. The only summit attempt failed when it was discovered that all the Jack Daniels had been left in base camp.

By John Dillman

CABIN STATUS REPORT

George Ferry and I visited Pichler's Perch on October 15 through 18 planning to place new plexiglass windows. We overlooked the keyhole saw, and were unable to cut openings for the windows. The plexiglass was left at the hut.

The hut is in fair shape with only two appreciable holes that had drifted inside from wind-blown snow. We caulked these and reinforced them with overlying boards. We also dug a new designated latrine area to the right, in front, and marked it with a tripod.

A copy of the first hut book was replaced on this visit. The original is in the Club Library. There have been six visits to the hut this year with the most recent having been John Fritz & Ron Rhodehamel in September.

An inventory of materials there is as follows: 2"x2" boards (35) about 4 to 5 feet in length; 1½ tubes of caulk; 3 pieces of plexiglass 18' x 24'; 2 small bore caulk guns; 1 hammer; approx 3 lbs. #4p galv nails; approx 1 lb #6p nails; 20 pieces aluminum roofing 4'x8'; 6 aluminum ridge pieces; 3 shovels; 2 brooms; several homemade benches; 3 assorted plastic sheets about 10'x10'; 4 old air mattresses; 4 old mummy sleeping bags (one leaks and is in a plastic bag on the ground floor); 35 wands; about 50' of 7/16 climbing rope; 1 Optimus stove (needs some repair); about 1½ gallons fuel; teapot; 1 12" cast iron skillet; 4 assorted potlids and bowls; spatulas; assorted silverware; and a small amount of food.

By Greg Higgins

BITS AND PIECES

Richard Wise, a local Seward resident, was killed on Mt. Alice on October 27. After spending a forced bivouac high on the mountain, Richard and his partner were descending when an uncontrolled slide sent him over one of the steep buttresses of the West Face. Mt. Alice was the site of a similar tragedy in 1963 when Dennis Hitt, the team captain of Seward's Mt. Marathon team, fell to his death on July 1.

El Capitan, acclaimed as the best climbing film ever made, will be shown at the December meeting. Don't miss this classic.

The MCA Library will be moved to Peter Sennhauser's residence in Anchorage. Call Peter for directions. Home - 345-6499 or Work 276-8536.

Craig Renkert will be holding a wine and cheese party to kick off the ski season in style. It will be held on Friday, December 4 at 8:00 p.m. at his residence, 4135 Hood Court (near Earthquake Park). All MCA members are welcome. To make things interesting, please bring only imported wines (Please no Italian wines). To keep things balanced, if you were born in an even year, bring cheese or bread. If born in an odd year, bring wine. Craig will provide some Australian wine. Phone 243-2075.

HISTORY CORNER

Since Alaska is now to be represented on the National Board of Directors of the American Alpine Club, a bit of history on the Alaskan Chapter of the A.A.C. is in order. The M.C.A. has a long and cordial relationship with the A.A.C. and the Anchorage contingent of the A.A.C. generally reads as a sub-set of the M.C.A. The most recent meeting of the Alaskan Chapter of the A.A.C. was September 19, and a record 19 voting members attended from Fairbanks, McKinley Park (Denali), Anchorage, and the Kenai Peninsula.

It will probably come as no surprise that Vin Hoeman was the driving force behind the formation of an Alaskan Chapter. Vin had been officially nominated to the A.A.C. in May, 1965 and was approved for membership shortly thereafter. His qualifications were paraphrased as: "An exceptionally long list of climbs in the U.S., Alaska, Mexico, Central America, Colombia, and Hawaii."

The formation of an Alaskan Chapter was not completed until 1968 when the National Council formally recognized the Alaskan Section. Vin was chosen as the 1st Section Chairman.

With Vin's death in 1969, the Chairmanship was passed to Bill Long with Paul Crews (1st President of MCA) as Vice Chairman, and Grace Hoeman as Secretary. Membership in Alaska has increased slowly over the years from a total of 25 in early 1971 to the present number of about 50 statewide. There are many qualified people in the state who are presently not members, so this number is expected to continue growing.

By Greg Higgins

MEMBERSHIP DUES TIME

Please remember everyone's dues for 1982 are payable by the end of December to remain on the January SCREE mailing list. We have almost 250 members now, and to avoid a real hassle at the meetings, I encourage everyone to mail their dues to:

M.C.A.
P.O. Box 2037
Attn: Treasurer Anchorage, AK 99510

Your 20¢ investment will make recordkeeping much more efficient. Thanks. Reggie Buchanan.
(Family - \$10.00; Individual - \$7.50; Jr. and out of town - \$5.00)

Change of address notices: Send to M.C.A., Box 2037, Anchorage, AK 99510 - Attn: Pauline.