



Volume 24, Issue #12

Conservation & Parks Committee Report by Mike Frank - The State Parks Department is

considering a policy change from "closed" to "opening" the Parks for horse travel by commercial and private parties. The discussions on this matter have not been opened to the public, although those interested may attend the Department meetings. A motion was made to request that: "The State Parks Department hold public meetings prior to any major policy change in the existing master plan affecting Chugach State Park." Seconded and passed. The next Citizen's Advisory Meeting will be held at the Holiday Inn on December 16.

School Committee Reports

1. Maps and Compass Work Class by Graham MacDonald and Ernie Borjon - A Map Reading and Compass Work in the Field Class with overnight camping is being prepared. There will be several sessions designed for the various skill levels from beginner through intermediate. Class date to be announced.
2. Mountain Rescue Class by John Dillman - (279-1246) - The Mountain Rescue Class is scheduled for December 12. Those already signed up in the October meeting, please show up at the Fred Meyer's parking lot at 7:30 a.m. Those who signed up at the November meeting will have another date scheduled.
3. Ice Climbing Class - Beginning and intermediate classes are being planned. Dates and details to be announced.
4. Basic Telemark Class - Basic Telemark Classes are being planned. Dates and details to be announced.

Equipment Committee Report - The club has available for members' use 4 Forrest 70 cm axes, 3 ice hammers (donated by Peter Sennhauser), 3 MSR clubs, 6 pieps-need your own batteries, 6 shovels, helmets, crampons and ice axes. These are stored at Alaska Mountaineering & Hiking on Spenard Road and can be checked out with a current MCA membership card.

Climbing and Hiking Committee Reports - The NE ridge of Ptarmigan is scheduled for November 22. Meet at the Fred Meyer's parking lot at 7:30 a.m. Susan Havens will lead. Bring ice axe, harness and crampons.

Programs Committee Report - Scheduled for tonight's entertainment are Tim Neale presenting slides of past club activities, and John Lohff with slides from his recent climb of Mt. McKinley. The December program will feature "El Capitan" a 60 minute film. This is a special arrangement for the holiday meeting. Normal slide shows are to be held to a 45 minute presentation.

Refreshments Committee - Thank you to Karen Rosene and Madeline Jones for the food and drink here tonight. Membership help with the after-meeting cleanup would be appreciated.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The cost of topographical maps is going up 60%. If anyone wants to purchase maps at current prices, please contact Richard Hall at 265-3365.

Congratulations to Peter Hackett on his successful climb of Mt. Everest. And to Gary Bocarde for coming back alive from the East Face.

Susan Havens still has tee shirts available for support of Ama Dablam Women's Expedition in 1982. Prices are \$10.00 for men's and \$12.00 for women's.

Craig Renkert has a wine and cheese party scheduled for December 4. Please bring an imported wine or cheese and yourself to the party at his house.

Club patches are available for \$2.50.

The DECEMBER MEETING will be held at West High Cove on December 16 at 8:00 p.m. In celebration of the holiday season, there will be door prizes and the award-winning BEST film El Capitan with sound for 60 minutes of pleasure viewing.

Meeting adjourned at 8:50 p.m

Respectfully submitted: Sandi Macdonald, Secretary

MOUNTAIN RESCUE CLASS ROSTER

Due to the large number of MCA'ers registering for the Mountain Rescue Class, we have selected the following named individuals to participate in the December 12 training session. Those of you whose name does not appear will have to take a similar course at a later date. We are sorry for any inconvenience, but due to the material to be covered, and the short days, this is the best we can do for now.

Dan Cain	Don Hansen	Ted Laska	Glenn Oliver
Diane Dabroski	Trish Herminghaus	Cathy Leary	Bob Reister
William Dunagan	Peter Hoose	John Lohff	Karen Rosene
Jim Eason	John Ippolito	Roger Maggard	Mark Skok
Paul Farmer	Phyllis Johnson	Jim Morrison	Don Spurlock
John French	Keith Jost	Pat Murray	Craig Tillery
	Greg Higgins		

If your name is above and you can't attend, please call Julian Mason at 278-9174 or John Dillman at 278-3537 or 279-1246. The meeting place will be the Fred Meyer's parking lot at 7:30 a.m. - December 12.

TRIP REPORTS

PTARMIGAN PEAK
November 22, 1981

On the morning of November 22, nine MCA'ers left the Glenn Alps parking lot for Ptarmigan Peak. Included on the climb were Peter Sennhauser, Frank Hollingshead, Jim Morrison, Don Spurlock, Don Hansen, Sam Dunagan, Fred Emmel and Susan Havens (leader). The 10th member of the party - John Dillman, our new President, backed out at the last minute because it was snowing. Most of the season's early snowfall had blown off the Powerline Road and we had no trouble walking to the base of the North Gully. Several moose were spotted along the creek. We followed Peter's fine line of steps to the east summit then traversed to the west summit. After lunch, we descended the southwest face, glisading most of the way to the tarn. We arrived at the parking lot just as the sun was setting. Let it be known that some MCA'ers will always continue the fine example set by ex-president Tim Neale, and will embark on great adventures, even in snowstorms.

Susan Havens - Leader

PHOENIX PEAK - 5155'
November 21, 1981

This mountain is the highest of the complex west of Seward; that includes Mt. Marathon, Bear Mountain, and Iron Mountain. It was first climbed in 1964 by Stockard and Tyone from the south. Since then there have been a number of local attempts, but no recorded successes. Vin Hoeman gave the mountain its name which commemorates the first Russian ship built in nearby Resurrection Bay in 1794.

George Peck and I planned to climb the mountain by the East face on the 15th, but I had the flu so the trip was canceled. Before we could regroup to make our successful trip on the 21st, Dan Cain hiked in and picked off our line to the top on the 17th. The route was from Jap Creek to the Jap Glacier then up the steep snow chutes of the East Face to the South Ridge just below the summit.

Gregg Higgins-Leader

BITS AND PIECES

Mt. Alice - A group from Seward has submitted the name Mt. Alice for official recognition, and the Club's Committee on Geographic Names has written a letter of support for the proposal. The Club had first submitted this name in 1967, but it was rejected. Local data reveals that it has been known by this name since 1908. Mt. Alice is the most dramatic skyline peak above Seward.

MCA LIBRARY

The library is now located at Peter Sennhauser's residence. His home phone is 345-6499, and 276-8436 at work. Call before visiting since it's 12 miles from downtown. It's the second house on the downhill side of Ginami Street, which is just below the first switch back on the road to Glenn Alps. This house is chalet style with a red roof.

SKIING IN THE BACK COUNTRY THIS WINTER?

Don't forget to check with AVALANCHE FORECAST - 271-4500.

AVALANCE SEASON

Last year Doug Fessler brought to our attention that "one third of the backcountry avalanche fatalities (7) in Alaska during the past ten years, were MCA members." Review of attendance records from last year's State sponsored avalanche seminars reveals that at least ten MCA members completed the multi-day course of instruction. This indicates that as a Club, we are not interested in repeating certain aspects of history.

These avalanche workshops were held at various locations during the months of February to April last winter. Their purpose was to increase in the participants the awareness and knowledge of the tremendous avalanche hazards present in Alaska. This information is timely and necessary because of the expanding backcountry winter use as Alaska's population grows.

Having attended the Summit Lake Seminar last year where we had the good fortune to have Don Bachman and Ed LaChapelle as guest instructors, I feel confident in recommending this course to other Club members. We spent much time in the field, and the course was both practical and useful. While waiting for the State to announce this year's schedule, now would be a good time to refresh our memories by re-reading Collin Fraser's Avalanche and Snow Safety.

Greg Higgins

BOOK REVIEW

White Winds - Joe Wilcox's White Winds (Hwong Publishing Co., Los Alamitos, Calif.; 1981) has finally become available. It has been 14 years since America's most tragic climb took place on Mt. McKinley. Seven members of the 12-man party perished high on the mountain during a fierce windstorm.

This book is revealing both for the glimpses it offers of the man whose name will forever be associated with the climb, as well as for the broader and more balanced perspective it gives of the tragedy. It is mandatory reading for any "McKinley-phile," and will be especially interesting to those who have read The Hall of the Mountain King.

This work has not come easily. After years of reliving painful memories, the author created this book. In the Preface he states, "Only a strong feeling of obligation to mountaineers, to the public, to history, and to my dead friends has prevailed, driving this work to completion and relieving me of an immense burden." It is indeed hoped that the painful birth of this book will release the author from the trip of a "unique segment of history."

The Club Library has a copy of this book along with the author's booklet, A Reader's Guide to the Hall of the Mountain King.

Greg Higgins

BOOK REVIEW

THE ROOTS OF TICASUK - An Eskimo woman's family story--by Ticasuk (Emily Ivanoff Brown). Anchorage, Alaska Northwest Publishing Company, 1981. Paper, 107 pp. \$4.95.

TICASUK adds to the growing body of Alaskan a welcome contribution by a Native author. In addition to the authenticity of history and legend personally learned from her Eskimo family and contemporaries, Emily Brown's book carries a unique story of the successive contributions to Athabaskan, Russian, and American cultural elements to the life of an Eskimo family. There is a lot of interesting history of the Norton Sound coastal area, as seen through the experiences of Brown's forebears, and vivid glimpses of the daily lives of these people. An anthropologist would be fascinated by this material, but it is also just plain good story. Chart, map, and cover pictures.

Liz Robinson

HISTORY CORNER

In the coming issues of SCREE, I have decided to feature the peaks of the Chugach State park near range. It is most fitting to begin with Mt. Williwaw, the queen of the front range. At 5445 feet, it is the highest of the local Park's 5000 footers.

From Anchorage the symmetric pyramid of Williwaw's upper slopes makes it one of the most attractive of the visible mountains. It is separated from higher peaks by 2250 foot Indian Pass giving it the second most free height in the Western Chugach at 3095 feet. The closest taller mountain is over 5 miles distant in the Eagle River drainage. Williwaw's NE Ridge eventually links up with Koktoya (5100+), while to the SW, the ridge runs down and up to the Ramp (5240). Beneath the precipitous NW Ridge lie the magnificent Williwaw Lakes.

The name for this mountain is taken from the cold windstorms that periodically sweep its slopes. One such storm in 1962 caught a company of unprepared soldiers nearby, and three of them died from exposure. This name became official one year later in remembrance of these unfortunate men.

Climbers have traditionally approached this peak either from the S Fork of Campbell Creek over the Glacier Pass, or from the North Fork of Campbell Creek by way of Near Point. It has also been approached from the Pass between the Ramp and the Wedge leading to the Ship Creek drainage.

Williwaw's first ascent did not come easily although a number of non-technical routes to the top are available. Dave Meyers reported success on the fourth try on June 11, 1965 (SCREE: 7:9:1). Nick Parker and Mike Judd were his partners. The first Winter ascent was a scheduled Club climb led by Vin Hoeman on February 18, 1968 (SCREE: 10:5:5). Going to the top with him were his wife Grace, Bill Babcock, Dub & Harry Bludworth, Karen Courtwright, Dave DeVoe, and Steve Shrader.

Greg Higgins

MOUNTAINEERING CLUB OF ALASKA
OFFICERS
1981-1982

<u>TITLE</u>	<u>NAME</u>	<u>HOME PHONE</u>	<u>WORK PHONE</u>
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Secretary	Sandi McDonald	345-5791	
Treasurer	Reggie Buchanan	333-7649	272-0504

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

NOTE FROM THE EDITOR: SCREE is the monthly publication of the Mountaineering Club of Alaska. I would like to remind you that all items for publication must be submitted at the monthly meeting or mailed to my home at Star Route Box 9204, Eagle River, AK 99577. Your cooperation will be appreciated. Marty Bassett, Editor.

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