

# SCREE

MOUNTAINEERING CLUB OF ALASKA

BOX 2037 ANCHORAGE, ALASKA 99510

MARCH 1981

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The meeting will be held on Wednesday March 18th at 8:00 pm on the top floor of the Pioneer Schoolhouse Third and Eagle, Anchorage, Ak. After the business meeting Tom Choate is planning to show the classic climbing film "Abyss." Tom has climbed extensively throughout the world and was one of Vin Heeman's frequent climbing companions. If Tom is unable to obtain the film, he will present a slide show on one of his spectacular climbing expeditions.

## February meeting minutes

The meeting was called to order by President John Lohff at 8:03 pm. The reading of the minutes of the last meeting was waived due to their having been published in the Scree. There had been no executive Committee Meeting, therefore there was no minutes.

In the absence of our Treasurer, Reggie Buchanan, John read our Treasurer's report: Checking Account: \$991.45, Money Market Fund: \$2,163.35, Petty Cash: \$87.70. The treasurer's report was accepted as read.

John called for new members and guests to be introduced. These included Jack Heidemen, Mike and Carol White and Family, and Stan Rocky, who was attending in hopes of finding a rock-climbing partner or group. Our program provider was introduced, John Ireten. John is a photographer for the Corps of Engineers. After this John briefly outlined the advantages of membership in the Club and the cost of membership.

Our Educational Committee gave its report: John Dillman advised us the March 14 and 15th Ice Climbing Class is tentatively scheduled due to ice conditions. The class on the 14th will be for beginners; the 15th will be for advanced. Equipment Report, was that our Ice Axes have been ordered.

## OLD BUSINESS

Regarding insurance coverage on our MCA Library: John Dillman has been consulting with Eugene Short, who estimated it will take about two hours to appraise the library for insurance. Members had no objection or discussion regarding the expense of approximately \$50.00 for the appraisal, nor regarding the subsequent costs of insurance. The Club wishes to express its thanks to John Dillman for his efforts.

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Regarding Helicopter Skiing Upper Ship Creek: The Club's position of opposition has been presented to Chip Dennerlein's office. A decision will be made Tuesday February 17th. Some discussion took place on this issue.

Secretary Madeline Jones brought up the subject of having coffee at the meetings. She advised the members that Sam Dunagan had been making our coffee for quite some time, and that she wished to thank him in behalf of the Club. She then asked for volunteers to help in providing coffee and snacks for the meetings. Anyone interested in helping make our evening more enjoyable with snacks should contact Madeline at 276-0332 evenings or 265-3815 days.

#### NEW BUSINESS

There was some discussion regarding the Avalanche School being given by Alaska Division of Parks. The schedule of Schools is as follows: Thompson Pass: Feb. 14-16, Eaglecrest: Feb. 23-25, Hatcher Pass: March 10-12; Kenai Lake: March 20-22, Black Rapids: April 10-12. For more information about these courses, please contact Doug Fesler at the Division of Parks 274-4676 X280. A member mentioned that in his opinion this was an excellent course Jack Dugan noted that Doug Fesler is soliciting slides to aid in the presentation of this course.

#### CORRESPONDENCE

Some discussion regarding a Memorial Fund for Women Climbers; the Club did not show an interest in donating. John Dillman spoke briefly about the American Alpine Club. If anyone is interested in joining, there is limited membership available in Alaska. The Club does provide exchange programs for climbers with Eastern Block (and other) countries. The membership fee is \$50.00 total, \$15.00 initial membership and \$35.00/year. Members are eligible for certain discounts, and a monthly newsletter. Any one interested should contact John Dillman.

#### PROGRAM

Our program, given by our guest John Iretson, was a very entertaining and informative slide presentation about an early rescue attempt/climb of our famous Denali/Mt. McKinley. John's humor added to our enjoyment, and we do appreciate his having shared the experience with us. Meeting was adjourned at 10 pm.

In Memoriam: Pat Sorsby  
I find it difficult to believe that I have just recently learned that Pat has been dead for some months now, the victim of an automobile accident around Thanksgiving. I last saw Pat at the MCA picnic at Eklutna Lake which is how I will remember him, young, energetic, full of life. Pat was new to mountaineering, but in the brief time I knew him I was impressed tremendously by his refreshingly sincere and intense approach to climbing. I will miss his energy.

Greg Higgins



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Word has it that Lowell Thomas Jr. has recently acquired majority interest in Talkeetna Air Taxi Inc. Lowell has assisted the Club in many instances and recently showed us films of his mountain flying exploits with the legenday Don Sheldon. Lowell will be operating the air taxi service together with Doug Geeting and will be providing service to both mountaineers and sightseers alike. We wish Lowell the best in this new endeavor.

Bartlett Mobile Production Team- Keep up the good work

Since December the Scree has been collated by a mobile production team at Bartlett High School. They have relieved me and other volunteers of many hours of work and have provided this service to the mountaineering club free of charge.

A mobile production team is a group of special education students who work together in a joint effort to complete a job. They are presently establishing a place in the community as a resource for paid piece-meal and short term work. They are experienced and efficient collators. They have also done assembly line type projects and are willing to try anything once. Gary Donnelly, their director, is keen to discuss any project that could potentially be work for these students, particularly if it involves travel away from school. If you or your organization has a need for this type of community resource contact Gary at 337-2618, Mon. -Fri. 7 am-3:30 pm.

Pauline Chase

#### Summer Trips

Several MCA members have expressed interest in exploring the 40 mile River which is in the vicinity of the Yukon border. This would be about a 180 mile river trip including a 60 mile stretch along the Yukon River. This nine day trip would probably take place in June or July. For more information call Marty Bassett at 694-3917 H

Come explore that great unspoiled wilderness at our doorstep, Prince William Sound. If the past is any guide, the whales will be returning to the Sound again this summer in great numbers. Observe these magnificent creatures and the many other wonders of the sound while paddling a touring kayak. For more information call Marty Bassett.

#### History Corner

Club members were involved in many successful climbs during the Summer of 1959, but one of the most impressive was the first ascent of Mt. Iliamna. This Aleutian Range volcano was named by the Russians and was printed on Tebenkov's map of 1852 as "Sopk Klymna" which reputedly means burning mountain. It is

probably the same mountain described as "Volcan de Miranda" in 1779

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by Arteaga. It wasn't until 1958, however, that an attempt was made to reach its upper slopes; an attempt that was to add impetus to the formation of the Club.

Iliamna is not a technically difficult mountain, so the beauty of its first ascent sprang from the elegance of its execution. In the classic tradition of mountaineering, the climbers began their trip from sea-level after crossing Chinitna Bay by boat. The team consisted of Erik Barnes, Paul Crews, Gregg Erickson, and Helga Bading.

Their first day and a half was a nightmare of slogging through mosquito laden swamps and dense alders carrying heavy packs with snow shoes strapped on top. By noon the 3rd day the "assault camp" was established around 3700 feet. After resting the afternoon, the four set out in light rain that evening to make their summit dash. In the wee hours of the next morning, June 4th, they reached the top, but the fierce wind and cold quickly sent them back down to the shelter of camp.

Rather than re-battle their way back through the swamp and alders the group built a raft dubbed the "Iliamna Queen" and floated down the river. Two days later on Sunday they flew back to Anchorage. This remarkable climb took only 6½ days. On their return to Anchorage; the Daily Times printed their account, and on June 11th featured pictures of the climb.

Greg Higgins

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#### Advertisements

Need a roommate? Climber, skier looking for a place to live by the end of March. Call Bob at 337-3072 (home) or 279-0483 ext 39 W.

NOTE: Free advertisements are available to MCA members to buy, sell or trade outdoor gear, etc. Get some extra spending money or pick up that much needed piece of gear at a bargain price. Send your advertisements to Marty Bassett, Editor.

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