



JANUARY 1982

Volume 25, Issue #1

JANUARY MEETING

The meeting will be held Wednesday, January 20, at 8:00 p.m. on the top floor of the Pioneer Schoolhouse, Third and Eagle, Anchorage, Alaska. After the business meeting, slides will be shown on a memorable Alaskan climb.

MINUTES - DECEMBER 16, 1981 MEETING

The December meeting of the Mountaineering Club of Alaska was held Wednesday, December 16, 1981, in the Cove at West High School. Meeting was brought to order at 8:20 p.m. by President John Dillman. Reading of minutes of previous meeting was waived.

<u>Treasurer's Report</u> - Money Market	\$2,505.32
Bank Balance	1,191.96
Petty Cash	102.27

OLD BUSINESS

We are still in need of volunteers to help with the SCREE.

John Dillman's telemark classes are temporarily suspended.

The mountain rescue course had a rather poor showing; of 25 who signed up, only 14 showed up.

Presentation: In recognition of his year as president of the Mountaineering Club, John Lohff was presented with an MSA stove with an engraved cup.

NEW BUSINESS

There will be a beginner's ice climbing class January 23 & 24 at 5 Fingers. Sign up sheets were up front and the club has requested that "beginners only" sign up for the course.

Dave Pahlke will lead a climb on West Twin January 17, 1982.

Paul Farmer will lead a climb sometime in the first part of February.

Committee Reports

No executive meeting was held, therefore there was no executive committee report.

Program Committee

Vice-President Rick Severn urged any members to bring their slides in as we need new programs.

Huts Committee: Nick Parker will be working on our new hut.

Classes: Basic Compass and Orienteering will be given by Graham McDonald in January; dates and time will be published in the SCREE.

Due to the time factor, introduction of new members and guests did not take place.

John Dillman introduced an honored guest, Dr. Peter Hackett, who recently returned from his successful ascent of Mt. Everest.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Doug Fesler's Alaska Avalanche School was announced. Tuition is \$40.00 per person per workshop (pre-registration only). Food and lodging costs are additional and separate. Level I classes will be held in January, February and March. Level II classes will be held in March and April. For more information, call 274-4676.

Winter Solstice on Flat Top was announced for December 19 & 20.

Dr. Hackett will show his slides of his Everest Climb the third week of January.

A "mountain" of donated items were awarded as door prizes during the break. Thanks to Susan Havens, Barney's Sports Chalet, Rental Room, AMH, Eberhards, REI, Gary King, and Chugach Mountain Adventures.

The film "El Capitan" was shown to the enjoyment of all.

Meeting adjourned around 10:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted: Sandi McDonald

STATE LAND DISPOSAL PROGRAMS

The Department of Natural Resources would like input into their Land Disposal Program in western and northwestern Alaska (including areas in the Brooks Range.)

There will be a meeting on January 20 at 8:30 a.m. at the Downtown YMCA.

DECEMBER MOUNTAIN RESCUE CLASS

Early Saturday morning, December 12, 14 MCA members gathered in the Fred Meyer parking lot with representatives of the Alaska Mountain Rescue Group. After a short wait for the 11 "no-shows" who were registered, everyone departed for a short drive down Turnagain Arm to the vicinity of "Boy Scout Rock," where we met the remaining instructors from the Alaska Mountain Rescue Group.

Instructors divided the MCA members into small groups comprised of three to four members each. Each group was then rotated through a series of three stations at which demonstrations and "hands-on" practice of valuable rescue-related skills were conducted. Activities included rigging ascending systems, ascending fixed lines and free-hanging lines, constructing anchors and selecting protection systems, and rigging and performing steep terrain litter evacuation.

After about seven hours of enjoyable learning, the group gathered all the equipment beneath typically leaden Turnagain clouds and retreated through the rain to the parking lot. There Julian Mason graciously distributed beers to everyone and began a debriefing of the participants. Based on the comments received, it was obvious that everyone had learned some new and potentially invaluable skills.

Many thanks to the Alaska Mountain Rescue Group members, led by Julian Mason, who generously shared their time and knowledge with us conducting this excellent training session.

BASIC COMPASS AND ORIENTEERING

Graham McDonald will conduct basic compass and orienteering classes on January 19 & 21, and January 26 & 28. Time and location not yet confirmed. Call Graham at 345-5791 if interested.

CHUGACH STATE PARK

In response to a Club resolution sent to him, Chip Dennerlein, Alaska State Parks Director, has written MCA President Dillman and promised that no changes in horse use policy in the Park will be made before consideration of any proposals by the Chugach State Park Citizen's Advisory Board and notice to the public generally so that both can comment. The Club will be notified in advance of any proposed changes. Mr. Dennerlein further said that there has been increased interest in the commercial use of horses in the Park, and an increased number of complaints by skiers about horse use of trails.

Interested Club members are encouraged to attend monthly breakfast meetings of the Citizen's Advisory Board, held the 1st Wednesday of each month at 7:00 a.m., Ketchikan Room, downtown Holiday Inn in Anchorage. Pete Panarese, Chief Chugach Park Ranger, can be contacted for details about a particular meeting's agenda.

TRIPS

January 17 - West Twin Peak - Dave Pahlke is leading this hike/climb up West Twin Peak. Ice axe, crampons, etc. will be necessary. Meet at UAA Sports Center parking lot at 7:00 a.m. Please let Dave know if you are planning to go. Phone 344-2964 (nites).

January 23 & 24 - Ice Climbing School - Our sign-up list is already full for this class, so if you have already signed up, call Rick Derrick at REI or John Dillman at 279-1246 for details.

TRIP REPORTSFLAT TOP WINTER SOLSTICE - 1981

Some parties can be dull.

The Flat Top Winter Solstice (non) celebration was a case in point. No one showed up. Not even any rangers to enforce Chugach State Park fire regulations (as they did two years ago, when the party got somewhat out of hand). The total lack of party-goers is known because a reporter of Alaska Outdoor Social Scenery was there early Sunday morning, December 20, to cover the non-event.

The reporter even broke away from another party late Saturday evening to make the non-scene, but the night wasn't a total loss by any means. Though the actual solstice still was a day away, (winter officially began Monday), and company was scarce, the weather was beautiful - a balmy 10 degrees, slight breeze from the north, the light of a crescent moon filtered through a high overcast, Anchorage sparkled below, and the reporter came well supplied with two cans of beer.

The non-story started Saturday afternoon with a call from Ed Miner, who wondered if anybody was going up that night. Actually, the story began Wednesday at the Mountaineering Club meeting when Tom Meecham asked whether anything was planned (apparently attorneys worry about such things). Club President John Dillman diligently set out a sign-up sheet for those interested in making the annual trek. No one signed. The scuttlebutt at AMH Saturday was that no one was going because nothing was organized. Are people forgetting spontaneity?

Then Miner called to get the skinny on the solstice celebration. He wanted to know whether anyone was going to dig a snow cave. He planned to go up Sunday night, and would leave his tent behind if a used cave was to be available. A child's sickness prevented Miner from making it on the eve of the actual solstice, but he promises to make the climb sometime during the winter.

I left Anchorage about 11:30. Apart from the usual survival items (beer), I had several Sunday copies of the Anchorage Times, fresh off the press, to be delivered to tent door steps along with packages of not-so-fresh powdered milk.

Only one other vehicle was in the Glen Alps parking lot, and it looked like it had been there awhile. I unloaded all but one copy of the paper, figuring somebody might be on the mountain, but kept the beer.

The trip was an epic (hey- no one was along to say otherwise). The day had been long, and too many rums and coke earlier in the evening had taken their toll on my system. Also, the paper was heavy with holiday advertisements. I carried the whole thing; delivering only the front section would have been somewhat tacky for such a formal occasion.

Often I considered turning back as I alternately floundered through thigh-deep drifts and skittered across wind-packed pitches. The breeze whipped through my Gore-tex where too many sitting glissades had worn a gaping hole. The bare steel of my ice axe sapped warmth from my mittened hands. Frost coated my beard and crackled each time I grimaced dramatically. And always there was the mountain, the great facade of Flat Top, looming ominously above.

Tradition was at stake, but the inspiration of Doc Hackett's recent assault on the summit of Everest kept me going. If that scrawny guy could reach the top of the world alone, surely I could reach the top of Flat Top. I just wished I'd been fortified as he had.

Finding no party-ers on the summit, I unstuffed my sleeping bag, crawled in and slept until spindrift filtering down my neck woke me at the break of noon.

Mark Skok

MT. WILLIWAW

Charlie Sassara and I did a very satisfying winter solstice ascent of Mt. Williwaw NW ridge. We left town at 2:00 a.m. and experienced some severe attitude problems as we postholed across Campbell S. Fork drainage. We arrived in Williwaw Valley in time to study the face and ridge. Out of the sack at midnight and climbing by two, we again experienced some awesome lack of enthusiasm and waited for first light to start the ridge. Our progress through deep unconsolidated snow and over rocks encrusted with atmospheric ice was closely monitored by several dozen ravens early on the ridge. Virtually the entire ridge proved interesting and challenging. Our two-roped pitches got us through a particularly airy section using natural protection.

We arrived at the summit at 1:00. We were happy to be back in camp for a daylight dinner - we discussed the joys of 16-hour forced bivouacs.

Robert Frank
December, 1981

SPRING CLIMB IN THE KATMAI

7064' Mt. Douglas, a volcano 80 miles south of Mt. Iliamna, seemed a logical choice for our Spring climb. Pyramid shaped, surrounded by glaciers and lesser jagged peaks, the mountain (and nearby Shelikof Strait) is known for its bad weather. It was attempted once, but apparently never climbed. Our party, Eric Barnes, Dan Barnes, Charles Ridgen and Jon Thomas decided to begin our climb on the beach north of the mountain (park rules allow only beach access) and attempt via Spotted Glacier.

We flew down early Saturday, April 4, 1981. Iliamna and Augustine were both blowing off a little steam as we passed. After several minutes of searching, a clear stretch of beach was found and we put our Cessna 180 and Piper PA 12 down on a point on the north shore of Cape Douglas. The airplanes were secured above high tide level.

We hiked east on the beach 3/4 mile to the mouth of the stream below the glacier. It was difficult to resist the urge to beachcomb in the abundant debris along the way. I stumbled across one of those green glass fishnet floats. We coursed up the stream making numerous crossings and by midafternoon were on the moraine. The moraine provided an easy 500' of elevation gain and the smooth, slowly rising glacier took us to our first and only camp at 1800'. So far the weather, except for a stiff west wind, was very cooperative. Clouds occasionally cleared from the summit, giving us a chance to plan our route.

Next morning we were off early on snowshoes with light packs. Eric was skeptical about the weather, having experienced too many abrupt changes to expect the clear calm conditions to hold all day.

"This glacier didn't get here because the weather is nice all the time." Eric said, adding, "Remember how often nearby Shelikof Strait has gale warnings on the marine forecast?"

As the glacier steepened, we removed snowshoes and strapped on crampons. We climbed on the right side of the glacier and at 3500' began encountering numerous crevasses. The thin snow bridges made these our main objective hazard. The rope leader repeatedly fell through to the waist, leaving an ominous black hole.

Several times we smelled sulphur gasses reminding us of the mountain's volcanic potential. As we neared 5000', we could see a small crater northwest of the true summit. Shaped like a larger pillar with a hole in its top, it was covered with ice and reminded me of Broken Tooth near the Ruth Glacier.

The weather kept us guessing. As we neared the summit, a moderate wind came up from the east and the top 500' of the mountain was capped by a turbulent cloud. The most exciting part of the climb was obtaining the southeast summit ridge. Gaping crevasses and bergschrunds complicated the 45 degree hard ice slope. Boxcar size ice blocks poised above us, destined to someday break loose from their icefall and crash down the glacier. I commented that a chunk that size would keep a person in ice for a long time. To which Eric quipped, "especially if it fell on top of you."

The summit ridge gave us easy access to the 7064' summit at about 3:00 p.m. The cloud cleared and the winds calmed soon after our arrival. We were surprised to see a second much larger crater to the south of the summit. Its walls were steep, forming a perfect round crater at 7000'. We rested on the summit one-half hour enjoying the view and wishing we could have spent hours instead of minutes enjoying what had taken so much effort to attain.

We descended briskly to camp at 1800' and arrived at sunset.

Next morning brought the expected weather change with storm clouds to the north. After a quick hike back to the planes, we loaded up and took off. We were forced to fly low and close to the shoreline to stay under the clouds. Flying low gave us a good view of the numerous beaches, rocky cliffs, islands, and the bird nesting grounds of Kamishak Bay.

Jon Thomas

SKIING IN THE BACK COUNTRY THIS WINTER?

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

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.

HISTORY CORNER

If Mt. Williwaw is the Queen of the near Chugach, then Temptation Peak is the Crown Prince. The sharply serrated margins of its upper slopes splits the major drainage of Ship Creek from the blue-green waters of Emerald Lake on its west side. Only Williwaw and possibly East Tanaina are higher on the near-range peaks.

From Temptation's summit a gentle ridge runs north for about three miles to Survey Point 3790 before dropping off steeply to the creek below. To the south the ridge descends a thousand feet before rising again to connect with the east summit of Tanaina about two miles distant. Approaches to the mountain have been made from the drainage to the west, from Ship Creek (bushwhacking required), and from the North Fork of Campbell Creek.

Vin Hoeman was tempted to try to climb this peak from the highway in 1953. Muskeg and mosquitoes turned him around well short of his goal, but the experience eventually gave birth to the mountain's name in the 1960's. The first report of a successful climb was on April 23, 1966 by Bob Spurr, Bill Hauser, Barney Seiler, and Ron Sullivan (SCREE: 8:9:1). One year later, however, a man by the name of Pettijohn wrote in the summit register that he had been there in 1956, and in fact had shot a ram near the top.

Grace Hoeman found the register placed in 1966 intact on October 18, 1969, but by June the following year, the jar that had contained it was found broken. Most of the records were lost (SCREE: 13:11:4,5) at this time. Vin Hoeman's file fortunately contained accurate data until 1970. I do not have records of a Winter climb on Temptation.

MOUNTAINEERING CLUB OF ALASKA OFFICERS - 1981-1982

<u>TITLE</u>	<u>NAME</u>	<u>HOME PHONE</u>	<u>WORK PHONE</u>
President	John Dillman	279-1246	278-3537
Vice-President	Rick Severn	344-7269	279-6522
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, 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.

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

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.

Editor:	Marty Bassett	694-3917
Typist:	Esther George	
Duplicator	Mark Findlay	
Mailing:	Pauline Dickey	
	Bartlett High Mobile Production Team	