



MOUNTAINEERING CLUB OF ALASKA

BOX 2037

ANCHORAGE, ALASKA 99510

MARCH 1982

Volume 25, Issue #3

MARCH MEETING

The meeting will be held Wednesday, March 17, at 8:00 p.m on the top floor of the Pioneer Schoolhouse, Third and Eagle, Anchorage, Alaska. After the business meeting, Bill Wakeland and Dona Agosti will present a slide show on their trip to the Wrangells last summer.

GENERAL MEETING MINUTES - FEBRAURY 24, 1982

The February meeting of MCA was held Wednesday, February 24, 1982 on the top floor of Pioneer Schoolhouse, Third and Eagle, Anchorage, Alaska. The meeting was called to order by Vice- President Rick Severn at 8:07 p.m. Reading of the January meeting minutes were approved as published in SCREE.

TREASURER'S REPORT - Checking Account - \$ 341.99
Petty Cash Fund - 268.32
Money Market Fund - 3,557.76

Guests Introduced - Jim Larson

OLD BUSINESS

There has been a continuing problem with members signing up for classes, but not showing up for classes. For instance, 26 signed up for the ice class and 10 showed up. 35 signed up for the map and compass class with 12 attending. Approximately 2 of each 3 who sign up do not show up. Therefore, the February meeting of the Executive Board passed a motion: "To have a \$5.00 registration fee, non-refundable, paid in advance at the time of signing up for MCA classes." Hopefully this will help correct the imbalance between sign up and show up.

The Chugach State Park Trail Association has scheduled a meeting for Thursday, February 25, at Pioneer Schoolhouse for public discussion of regular maintenance of existing wilderness trails. At the February Executive Board Meeting, a motion was passed: "For MCA to assist Chugach State Park Trail Association in obtaining and maintaining access trails within the park system at the direction of the park authorities." Those members interested in attending the Chugach State Park Trail Association meetings, please do so.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Program Committee - Rick Severn 344-7269.

The March slide show will be presented by Bill Wakefield on the Wrangells.

NEW BUSINESS

None.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The offer from 50-Minute Photo Express of a free roll of film development was such an instant success that it will be a monthly event. The first person into the shop on the Thursday after the MCA meeting will win a free roll of film development. No one will be allowed successive monthly wins.

The Fred Meyer parking lot was erroneously named as the gathering spot for MCA hikes and climbs in the schedule published in the last SCREE. This is not the gathering place as overnight parking is prohibited with tow-away results. The correct gathering place is the UAA Sports Center parking lot.

Thanks to Dave Worrell for the February slide show. His Snow White - Eastern Alaska Range slides were flashed by our very eyes with much exclamation.

Meeting adjourned at 8:35 P.M.

Respectfully submitted: Sandi Macdonald, Secretary

TRIP REPORTSWEST TWIN PEAK - 5401

January 17, 1982

On a clear bright Sunday, five club members -- leader Dave Pahlke, Mark Findlay, Jeff Eustis, Janet Smalley and Peter Porco -- set out to climb West Twin Peak overlooking Eklutna Lake and the Eklutna Valley. The team left the UAA Sports Center lot at 7:15 a.m. in semi-darkness and with temperatures around 15 degrees, made it up the slick valley road with little trouble and parked off a homestead behind the General Store.

At 8:40, with packs settled and gear arranged, the party began to ascend West Twin's southwest shoulder in full daylight. There was minimal bushwacking, but the snow all the way to the crest was soft and dry and offered poor footing. From the top of the shoulder the route went northeast along an easy ridge with firmer snow.

Around noon, Jeff, Dave and Mark had reached a point on the southwest ridge near 4,000 feet, cut left into a long leftward gully on the mountain's southwest face and began punching holes in hard snow, occasionally postholing on soft stretches. Jane had been to West Twin's summit twice before and stayed back at about 3,500' with Peter who fell behind getting up the shoulder. Their consolation was spectacular weather and crystal clear views of the mighty Chugach peaks up the Eklutna Valley.

The easiest route up West Twin, once the commitment to the left gully is made, is to go about 7/8th of the way up the gully, or to where it opens up on the right to the first snowpatch that leads directly to the south ridge. There a traverse is made across the ridge to the east side of the mountain and the long, main snow gully. The route follows the gully, which leads to a saddle below the summit -- a ridge connecting West Twin's summit with a false summit on the southwest face. A traverse is made from the saddle below the true summit to the northwest ridge connecting West Twin with Goat Rock. This ridge goes straight to the top.

Jeff, Dave and Mark did not take the easy way. Looking for a new route, they rode the first, lefthand gully to its end, where the incline steepens past the better traverse point. Winding up at a dead end, beneath a buttress supporting the false summit, they moved up a different snow slab, traversed beneath the false summit and ended up at a point on the south ridge where it was necessary to rappell or downclimb to reach the main gully just east of the south ridge -- the normal route to the top. (The ridge has its problems -- unstable rock, several aretes and generally tricky climbing -- and is usually passed over for the gully.) So Dave rappelled and Jeff downclimbed. Mark had decided to skip the summit and remained on the ridge.

The peak was taken a little before 1:00. The pair was rewarded on such a stunning day with great views of numberless Chugach and Talkeetna peaks. Dave snapped some pictures. Fifteen minutes later, still without taking lunch, they headed down, joined Mark who rappelled off the ridge, and glissaded 1,500 feet down the main gully. It was a difficult glissade on snow that was neither deep nor hard enough and which had them bouncing along the rocks. Soon afterward, they reached a broad saddle in the south ridge -- an easy walk-around traverse to the other side of the mountain. A sheep trail made getting through the scree slopes a breeze.

The climbers joined the other two around 2:00 and Jeff and Dave had lunch. The five then started down. It was possible to glissade down several sections of the shoulder, but these were feeble slides on miserable snow. The car was reached before 3:30, allowing an easy drive to town in time for supper.

Peter Porco

MCA Mt. Sanford Climb - 1981

Four members of the MCA climbed Mt. Sanford last June. The group included Pat Murray, Mike Hill, Tony Reikert and Tim Neale. We left Anchorage on June 7 and ran into bad weather the minute we arrived in Gulkana. After a two-day wait, we flew to the Wendy Ridge landing strip with Ellis Flying Service.

We made one carry-up to the Sheep Glacier and got an air drop with our extra food and equipment at about 6,200' level of the glacier. There was about 18" of snow cover. Ten days later we found all the snow had been washed off by the rain. What had been a skiable glacier was reduced to blue ice. Ellis Flying Service would throw in an airdrop at no charge for 6 or more folks, or at a slight fee with less than 6.

Spent a few days at 11,000' waiting for weather to clear. One day it would be 20° F, the next would be humid with 40° F temperatures. Lots of wind out of the N.E. Seemed to be the kind of a wind that if you set anything down it would be gone whether you wanted it to leave or not. During one of the more boring moments, we dug out the 5 watt C.B. radio. Could talk to people along the Nebesda Road and around Chistochina.

Made final camp at around 13,300' on June 16. Skied to the summit (16,237') the next day. Strong winds were blowing clouds around the summit, but finally cleared enough so we could see Mt. McKinley and Foraker to the west.

The real excitement of the trip came on getting the fully loaded super cub off the little dirt strip at Wendy Ridge and into the air for the trip back to Chistochina.

Tim Neale

PORTAGE PASS January 24, 1982

The continuing recession of Portage Glacier has made this ski trip easier than one might expect from the latest topo sheets. Ten MCA members crossed Portage Lake in the early dawn, passed several immobilized icebergs, and reached the glacier front in short time. After bypassing the quiet ice front along the left, we switchbacked up to Portage Pass, arriving just as the wind picked up. Four retraced tracks to the lake, as six of us continued down to Whittier just in time for the Super Bowl. A train ride back to Portage completed a short but enjoyable trip.

Willy Hersman

MARCH 1982

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PROPOSED HIKING SCHEDULE
May-September 1982

MAY

Sat. 15 Bodenburgh Butte, Palmer (Elevation 800'). This is an easy beginner's hike designed to loosen up those winter weary muscles. Meet at UAA Sports Center parking lot 10 AM and we'll have lunch overlooking the Matanuska Valley. Leader, Dona Agosti. 248-0089.

Sat/Sun 22-23 Slaughter Gulch, Cooper Landing. Trail leaves near Kenai Lake Bridge and climbs steeply to high view point, then levels to a small lake and long valley where there is excellent camping and good climbing. May be some snow this time of year. You can make this a day hike or overnight. Okay for families. Leave UAA Sports Center parking lot at 7:00 AM Two hour drive to Cooper Landing. Leader, Pat Klouda, 243-3216.

Sat/Sun/Mon 29-30-31 Memorial Day Chickaloon, Knik-Nelchina Trail. This trip is a long-time MCA tradition. The trail begins at Mile 89 Puritan Creek on the Glenn Highway, then climbs about 800' to a ridge. It then turns west to the Simpson Cabin site on Boulder Creek where we have camped in the past. (This site has been claimed but we will try to get permission to camp here for two nights.) The second day is usually spent exploring places like Anthracite Ridge and the Boulder Creek forks. The third day, we hike downhill about 12 miles along the Chickaloon River to the Glenn Highway. Leader - John Nevin - 276-6665. Meet at UAA Sports Center parking lot at 6:00 AM.

JUNE

Sat/ 5 Bird Ridge, near Bird Creek Bridge, Seward Highway. High point 3205'. This is a trail which climbs steadily to its high point, but can be done by beginners. There may be some snow on the ridge at this time of year. Meet at UAA Sports Center parking lot 9:00 AM. Leader- Roger Kennedy- 243-6105.

Sat/Sun 12-13 Caribou Creek Trail. Leaves Glenn Highway at Mile 106.4 near the Caribou Creek bridge. There is a gap in the trail about two miles from the beginning, so the general course of Caribou Creek is followed for about 3 miles to mouth of Bitter Creek, where the trail resumes. Sheep, moose and caribou may be seen. Rock hounds might find agates, jasper and other mineral rocks. Leave UAA Sports Center parking lot 7:00 AM. Leader needed.

Sat/Sun 19-20 FLAT TOP SLEEPOUT, Annual Solstice event. Leader, President John Dillman. Come up the mountain any time Saturday afternoon. If we get a fire permit, bring a log for the fire. Enjoy the long hours of daylight on this longest day of the year.

Sat/Sun Ptarmigan Lake - Kenai Peninsula. Good views, good climbing in Paradise Valley beyond the lake, but trail is badly overgrown. See Hike #12 in 55 Ways to the Wilderness. Some may wish to camp near the lake, others will want to explore Paradise Valley. Okay for families. Leave UAA Sports Center parking lot at 6:00 AM. Leader - Greg Higgins.

JULY

- Fri/Sat/Sun/Mon
2-3-4-5
For experienced
hikers) Independence Day Weekend. Crow Pass to Arctic Valley. Chugach Mountains. Drive to Girdwood and Crow Pass parking lot Friday afternoon as early as hikers can get there, and hike to first cirque beyond pass that evening. (See Hike #25 in 55 Ways to the Wilderness) From here, leader Bill Stivers, has a short cut over a ridge to eliminate the long trek around through Camp Creek Valley. Follow North Fork drainage out to Arctic Valley exit. Meet at UAA Sports Center parking lot Friday afternoon at time to be designated by leader. Call Bill Stivers - 277-2869.
- Sat/Sun
10-11 New trail, north end Curry Ridge. This trail leaves the Parks Highway further north than the Byers Lake Trail (about Mile 140). It climbs to Curry Ridge overlooking Mt. McKinley. Hikers can then proceed south along the ridge which has numerous small ponds and camping sites, and exit at several points - Byers Lake, Troublesome Creek or near McKinley View Lodge. Meet UAA Sports Center parking lot at 6:00 AM Saturday or drive up Friday night. Determine departure time with Bill Wakeland, 279-2270.
- Sat/Sun
17-18 Carter Lake to Crescent Lake Trail. The trail to Carter Lake leaves the Seward Highway at mile 33.1 and it's an easy climb of about two miles to the lake. This is a good stopping point for families with small children. Others can continue on to Crescent Lake and down to Crescent Creek Campground, a distance of about 18 miles. There is much brush and little trail on the steep slopes around Crescent Lake, so only experienced hikers should try it. Leave Anchorage either Friday night or early Saturday morning. Tom and Jane Meacham - 349-4850.
- Sat 24th
thru
Sun Aug 1 Lake Clark National Park and Preserve. Fly into Portage Lake north of Lake Clark (across Cook Inlet) and spend a day or two hiking in this area. Should see sheep. Hike through pass to Twin Lakes (this is the locale of One Man's Wilderness). Cross between the two lakes and head north to Turquoise Lake. Spectacular views of sheer cliffs, rugged mountains and wild life. Pickup will be at Turquoise Lake. Estimated cost of Beaver flight from Anchorage (five and gear in one load), pickup at Turquoise and return to Anchorage is about \$267.00 each. Leave Rust's Flying Service location, Lake Hood, early Saturday morning, or maybe even Friday evening. Leader Dona Agosti - 248-0089.
- Sat/Sun
31-Aug 1 Reed Lakes (Hatcher Pass area)
Reed Lakes is located in the Talkeetna Mountains and few have been disappointed with this neat camping site above a turquoise mountain lake. Roads to Snow Bird Mine have been improved recently, but four wheel drive is still necessary. Leader needed.

AUGUSTSat/Sun
7-8

Peters Hills. The view of Denali from a high point on this hike is breathtaking. However, the Petersville Road from Parks Highway has deteriorated in recent years and usually requires four wheel drive. The trailhead is about 31 miles in. (See #47 in 55 Ways to the Wilderness). There are excellent camp sites near water and the hike is easy enough for kids. Leave UAA Sports Center parking lot at 6 AM. Leader Harmut Pluntke - 279- 9252.

Sat/Sun
14-15

Jim Creek Trail to Friday Creek. This trail starts at Mile 40.6 Old Glenn Highway and goes nine miles up Knik River to Friday Creek. If Friday Creek can be crossed, we will continue as far as possible towards Knik Glacier; if not, there are good campsites near Friday Creek, and side trips can be made up the creek to above timberline. Consult with leader for departure place and time. Leader Bill Wakeland - 279-2270.

Sat/Sun
21-22

Bird Pass. Leave Seward Highway near Bird House and drive back as far as road will allow. Cross Bird Creek, then follow old horse trail to Pass. Good view and camping in pass. Return same route. Consult with leader for departure time and place. Leader - Bill Stivers - 277-2869.

Sat/Sun
28-29

Lost Lake. This beautiful alpine lake may be reached via a trail from Mile 5 of the Seward Highway on the Kenai Peninsula or from Primrose Campground near Mile 17.1. It can also be a hike from one point, exiting at the other. Should be lots of berries at this time of year. Consult with leader for departure time and place. Leader- John Nevin - 276-6665.

SEPTEMBERSat/Sun/Mon
4-5-6

Labor Day Weekend. Wolverine Canyon and Wolverine Lake Horse Trail. Leave Old Glenn Highway at Mile 45.9 and follow Clark-Wolverine Road to trailhead. This is strenuous but beautiful country. Consult with leader for departure time and place. Leader - Bill Wakeland-279-2270.

BOOK REVIEW

E. T. BARNETTE--The Strange Story of th Man Who Founded Fairbanks--by Terrence Cole
Paper, 163 pp. Anchorage 1981, Alaska Northwest Publishing Company. \$7.95

The Alaska Northwest Publishing Company continues to publish interesting Alaskana, history, geography, natural history, and art. This book is the somewhat incomplete history (no one knows what happened to him in the end!) of the colorful character who founded Fairbanks after his cargo of supplies destined for sale to gold miners on claims up-river had to be off-loaded from a riverboat near the junction of the Chena and Tanana Rivers because of low water. He was determined to profit from gold, whether by development of a successful claim, or by dealings with anything else which might turn a profit, from land to supplies to eventually banking. The somewhat limited material available demonstrates that he was always a man with an eye to a good deal, but there is a lot of suspicion, little proof, that he might approach the deal in ways shady if not criminal. After amassing a considerable fortune which enabled him to acquire a stock farm in Kentucky and a large rancho in Mexico, he left Fairbanks secretly when his bank affairs were being seriously questioned, and this author has been unable to find evidence as to his later life.

Alaska is noted for colorful characters, and E. T. Barnette ranks in the forefront. One could wish for more specifics--while the author has done a careful research job apparently, and there are lots of interesting historical photos, the figure of Barnette does not quite flesh out from a biographical standpoint. Interesting to ready, anyway.

Liz Robinson

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 Macdonald	345-5791	
Treasurer	Reggie Buchanan	333-7649	272-0504

MEMBERSHIP DUES TIME

If you haven't paid your 1982 dues, they are payable now. We have almost 250 members, so to avoid a 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 the same address but to the attention of Pauline.