



MOUNTAINEERING CLUB OF ALASKA

BOX 2037

ANCHORAGE, ALASKA 99510

May 1983

Volume 26, Issue #5

MAY MEETING

The meeting will be held Wednesday, May 18th, at 8:00 p.m. in the multi-purpose room of Central Junior High School, 15th and C Streets, Anchorage, Alaska. After the business meeting Doug McCarty and John Market will present a slide show on the 1982 American Expedition to the People's Republic of China which was by veteran climber Fred Beckey. The slides portray cultural aspects of the region as well as the successful climb to the summit of 22,500 foot Ru-Dshe-Konka.

In Memory of LAVONIA JAMES

On a hike some years ago you came into my life like morning into camp - quietly, but with dignity. Probably most others in the club who knew you had a similar experience. But you were easy to get to know, and many of us came to enjoy your quiet humor, dependability, forgiving nature, and endurance. On several back country trips I observed you taking the initiative and putting other's welfare ahead of your own desires. We came to enjoy sharing with you your love of the trail, skiing, the mountains, animals, a good challenge, and life itself. Many of us are little aware of the jobs you undertook for the club and just did in your quiet and deliberate way.

We began missing you when you started participating in Stan's first love, flying. And then some of us found you were very sick. Cancer plagued you all last summer. But your faith and determination got you back on the trail, and some had the joy of hiking and skiing with you again. Then pain struck hard and yesterday the Lord took you from it and us. We will miss you on the trail, Lavonia, but you have enriched each one of us in a different way, and we'll carry this the rest of our lives.

MINUTES FOR MCA APRIL GENERAL MEETING

The April meeting of MCA was held on the 20th, at Central Junior High School, 15th and C Streets, Anchorage, Alaska. The meeting was called to order by President Rick Severn at 8:11 p.m. The reading of the March general meeting was approved as published in SCREE. Treasurer Reggie Buchanan reported:

\$ 243.71	- Petty Cash
550.79	- Bank Account
5,025.12	- Money Market Fund
\$5,819.62	- Total

The MCA's percentage of the door for the Scott Woolums slide show was \$135.00.

New members were: Alex Sisson, Steve Schroeder, Susan Cross, Tim Gillis, Jackie Winer, Kris Carl Ericson, Mark Van Meter, Dorothy Oster, Jim Pommert, Bernie Schmeck, Steve and Jacquelyn Repp, David Mayerson, Barbara Kalbach, Peter Doman, Pace Wilkens, Kathryn Rogers, Buck Walsky, Donald Guimary, Don Spurlock, Bob Bartholomew, and Edward Anderson.

I. COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. Hiking: Dona Agosti 248-0089

First hike of the season will be May 14, Rainbow Peak via Old Johnson Trail. Drive to Rainbow Valley, then hike back on Old Johnson Trail to a starting point about midway between the Valley and McHugh Creek. May be some snow yet, but this is a good spring conditioner. Meet at UAA Sports Complex at 7:30 a.m. By leaving early, we may have time to hike the ridge back towards the Suicide Peaks. Leader: Gene Klymko, 349-4258.

B. Library: Mike Frank 243-7645

Nothing to report.

C. Programs: Ernie Borjon 344-8661

The slide show for the May meeting will be presented by Doug McCarty on his trip to China.

D. Schools: Tim Neale 274-4952

Tim Neale will be teaching a Beginning Introduction to Mountaineering Class May 7 and 8. Any questions should be directed to Tim.

E. Board Meeting Topics

1. American Alpine Club Symposium in Denver, Colorado
2. Alaska Airlines Outdoor Symposium, June 4 and 5
3. Advisory Representative to the Alaska Wilderness Study
4. Proposed hut - Bomber Glacier
5. Nordic Club use of hut at Mint Glacier

F. Special Committees

None

II. OLD BUSINESS

None

III. NEW BUSINESS

A. Bomber Glacier Hut (Reed Lakes Area)

The proposed site for a new hut will be off the Bomber Glacier, in the Reed Lakes area. Upon the completion of this hug, a 2½-day traverse from the Mint Glacier will be possible. This hut will be of the same design as the Mint Glacier Hut except it will be 2 feet shorter. Dave

Stalli has proposed going into the area around June 27. Motion to allow committee to appropriate money to build hut was passed.

B. Alaska Airlines Outdoor Symposium, June 4 and 5

Contact Mark Skok, 561-1204 at the Sheraton Hotel.

The symposium will present to novice backpackers and anglers places to fish, hike, climb, float. Speakers and displays will show how to explore streams and hills safely, what equipment to use, how to dress properly.

The symposium will be divided into two major sections in the Sheraton Ballroom: seminars and Display Workshops. The seminars, given by experts in their field, will provide factual information about various aspects of outdoor recreation. The seminars will be divided into two topical blocks: Wilderness and Fishing. The Display Workshops will provide a "hands on" opportunity to set up tents, load canoes, see what gear experienced backpackers wear and carry on outings of different lengths. Government agencies, local non-profit outdoors oriented organizations, and some retailers will participate. Though the retailers will display equipment they sell, their function will be to educate people about the use of the equipment rather than to market it.

On Saturday night, June 4, a dinner is being planned with the guest speaker, Ted Kerasote. A noted camping expert, Kersote writes a monthly camping column for *Sports Afield* and periodically contributes to *Outside* and *Backpacker* magazines. The charge will be \$3.00 to the public, which represents a commitment on the part of those attending to take a sincere interest in the workshop.

The MCA will be represented, and volunteers will be solicited from the club membership. Several hours would be appreciated so that the work load won't fall to just a few people. Working a shift at the symposium will qualify the volunteer for free admission. Any questions about the symposium should be directed to Mark Skok. Any volunteers for working the booth should be directed to Rick Severn, 344-7269, or Bernie Helms, 243-3124.

C. Once again the Alaska Avalanche School will be trying to obtain funding for the 1984 year. Tom Mecham will bring up the MCA's support of school at the Chugach State Advisory Board. For additional support, it was suggested that people write their legislators now, so that the legislators are aware of the interest in this issue.

D. The club will try to obtain a fire permit for the Soltice Sleepout this June. A real effort will be put forth this year.

E. ACC will be offering summer courses in "Natural History". There will be classes covering the peninsula birds, Katchemak glaciers, and sea-coasts. There will also be a 10-day trip to Denali at the end of the summer. For more information contact ACC.

F. The National Park Service is currently considering reinstituting the land regulations that were in effect before the 1980 Lands Act. This would allow 35% of McKinley to be opened up to snowmachines and unrestricted aircraft. Tom Mecham will give the details and status of this at the next meeting.

G. Announcements.

1. If anyone knows the whereabouts of the MCA projector stand or some bookcases, contact Rick Severn.
2. Avalanches can still happen in the spring. Call Avalanche Forecast, 271-4500.
3. Alpenglow Climb - April 23 and 24. Meet Saturday at 8 a.m. in the Fred Meyer parking lot. Bring ice axe, harness, pulley, and gear for overnight. Any questions should be directed to Willy Hersman, 278-9829.
4. If you left a white Tupperware bowl at the April meeting, contact Bernie Helms at 243-3124.
5. Thank you, Ashley Young, for your slide presentation on the Pacific Crest Trail, through Oregon, Washington, and California.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:59 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Bernie Helms

SPRING AVALANCHES STILL POSSIBLE

Although spring seems to be here with its warmer temperatures and most of us are thinking about summer outings, snow avalanches, usually associated with winter, are still a danger in the Chugach and Kenai Mountains.

TRIP REPORT

Slice of the Pie

Doug Van Etten and I were just itching for a first winter ascent of something. We wanted a piece of the action, or "slice of the pie" as Andrew calls it. Opportunities for such are everywhere, but the reality of having chosen Mt. Iliamna really hit home when I lit my last candle at 3 p.m. in our shrinking cave. Iliamna must be a native word meaning "storm magnet". Nick Parker and Gary Bocarde would agree. They were probably mumbling similar complaints last winter as they probed through ten feet of new snow for their missing camp.

Our party of four included Peter Flournoy and Peter Reed. Things never really started out normal for us. We were flying in with Dean Carroll from Anchorage in a Beaver. The light was a little flat but Dean made a couple of touch and goes and decided to land. We landed alright; upside down. Just as we touched down one ski dug in and flipped the plane over. Suspended from our seat belts I heard P. Reed exclaim something.

"Hey, gasoline is running towards the engine!"

Forget those crevasses, man, I was out of my seat belt and gone! Luckily no one was hurt and the plane never blew, but it sure left us shaken.

Anyway, Dean simply called for a taxi, and we went climbing. Our route would be from the Tuxedni Glacier at 2500 feet, up to the north ridge, and along the ridge to the 10,000 foot summit. The last 500 feet or so promised to be interesting ice climbing. However, before this trip was over the tool most used would not be an ice hammer, but a shovel.

A two day storm on the Tuxedni had us burrowing into Cave 1 near the injured Beaver. We also made an igloo to store gear. A couple of days later we established camp on the ridge next to an unmistakable 30-foot gendarme. We were not gonna let a storm hide our camps, Jack, we had big markers. The weather was excellent as we dug Cave 2 and a radio call confirmed at least three beautiful days to come. We had it bagged. Next day we took off with three days of food up the ridge.

Gradually visibility went to zero. At about 6800 we started Cave 3 using headlamps (December gets pretty dark) and once again P. Reed was exclaiming something.

"Hey, a crevasse!"

I stuck my headlamp down in and the whole floor of the cave lit up like Christmas Eve (which it was). OK, let's dig that way. Soon another crevasse. Great. Outside the wind was howling in the darkness. The angle of our slope was 30°, so tents would require a lot of digging. On with construction! It turned out that the crevasses were long enough and deep enough to reach the other side of our ridge. A blast of cold air came through whenever one was uncovered. We were on a knife edge of ice.

The cave was small to start out, but it actually got smaller every day. Hemmed in by crevasses we could only shave the roof as it crept lower. Outside the storm got serious. A radio call to Anchorage told us that they had 90 MPH gusts on the hillside. I figure that was pretty close to our winds. The tunnel entrance, when shoveled out, would seal off in about one hour. Fear of blowing away like kites kept us in the cave. We stayed a wonderful six nights. Ran out of food, ran out of candles, ran out of games. Masochists note: Iliamna is a great place for Christmas.

Then at 4 a.m. one morning P. Reed again exclaimed something.

"Hey, there's the moon!"

It took us no time at all to run down that mountain in the moonlight. We simply called for a taxi and got the hell out. Before leaving we retrieved gear back at the Beaver, which was almost buried. Eight feet of new snow, and another storm on its way.

Willy Hersman

MCA MEETING REFRESHMENTS

According to the letter of your last name, all members are requested to bring edible refreshments of their choice (cookies, cake, sweet rolls, chips, etc.) to the MCA meeting for the month designated. Liquid refreshments will be provided by the club.

May	I J	Sept	Q R
Jun	K L	Oct	S T
Jul	M N	Nov	U V
Aug	O P	Dec	W X Y Z

And thank you to all!!

LIBRARY

The new library committee consists of Dona Agosti, Jim Morrison, and Mike Frank.

The library is now located at Mike Frank's house which is at 2224 Turnagain Parkway, phone 243-7645. Take West Northern Lights towards Earthquake Park. At the traffic light about two blocks beyond the ARR crossing, turn right on Turnagain Parkway. The Franks are home most weekday evenings, some weekends, usually every Sunday evening after 7:00 p.m. Feel free to come over anytime, but it is advisable to call in advance to make sure someone's home.

HIKING SCHEDULE for the MOUNTAINEERING CLUB OF ALASKA SUMMER 1983

Editor's note: If you have comments or suggestions please call Hiking Chairman Dona Agosti at 248-0089.

May 14 Rainbow Peak via Old Johnson Trail. Drive to Rainbow Valley, then hike back on Old Johnson Trail to a starting point about midway between the Valley and McHugh Creek. May be some snow yet, but this is a good spring conditioner. Meet at UAA Sports Complex at 7:30 AM. By leaving early, we may have time to hike the ridge back towards the Suicide Peaks. Leader: Gene Klymko, 349-4258.

May 28, 29, 30 Sheep Valley via Kings River and Young Creek. This will be a new adventure for MCAers and anyone expecting groomed trails and no surprises, should not sign up for this one. Trail leaves from Kings River on the Glenn Highway and crosses Young Creek enroute to Sheep Valley and Sheep River Glacier. Leave UAA Sports Complex Saturday morning at a time to be determined by leader Bill Wakeland. Phone, 563-6246 (home).

(Memorial Day Weekend)

June 4 Near Point and beyond, if desired. One day hike. This peak is on the ridge between North Fork Campbell Creek and an unnamed valley in the Chugach Mountains above Anchorage. Leave UAA Sports Complex at 9:00 AM. Leader: Larry Brys, 265-4509 (Days), 243-5932 (Evenings).

June 11, 12 Squaw Creek Trail via Gunsight Mountain Trail. Road leaves gravel pit at Mile 117.6 (opposite Powerline Pole No. 7151) on the Glenn Highway. This hike is described as "No. 49, Squaw Creek to Belanger Pass" in *55 Ways to the Wilderness...* However, the hike is too long to complete in two days, so we will aim for Twin Peak about 9 miles in and return by the same route. Leader to be announced.

June 18, 19 Annual Flat Top Sleepout. Leader: President Rick Severn. Amble up to Flat Top at your convenience Saturday afternoon or evening and enjoy the summer solstice with fellow hikers. Tent overnight or leave when you wish. If we get a fire permit, we'll have a fire.

June 24, 25, 26 Blackstone Bay, Prince William Sound. Take train to Whittier Friday. Board cruise boat to Blackstone Bay. Camp out and hike or ski on the glacier. You will need downhill touring skis with good edges, also skins; it will be necessary to rope up while crossing glacier. Those who prefer to walk will find delightful beachcombing. There are also fish in the bay. Ludwig Ferche, who will lead this group, believes this is one of the more beautiful places in North America. Call Ludwig at 344-9881 for further details. Round trip train fare will be \$18.00. Trains will probably leave Portage around 1:20, 3:20, and 6:20 PM. Cruise boat fare estimated to be about \$50.00 round trip.

- July 1, 2, 3, 4 Girdwood-Arctic Valley Traverse. Call Bill Stivers for details, 562-4885.
- July 2, 3 Victor Creek Trail to Andy Simon Mountain area. Leader: Dona Agosti, 248-0089.
- July 8, 9, Eklutna Glacier hike to Pichler's Perch. Leader: Tim Neale, 274-4952.
- July 16, 17 Castle Mountain. Leader: Mark Skok. Call Dona for reservations and details, 248-0089.
- July 23 - Aug. 2, 3 Gates of Arctic National Park and Preserve, Brooks Range. Reservations are now closed for this trip.
- July 30, 31 Reed Lakes. Leader: Joy Hornberger, 561-1933 (Days), no home phone.
- Aug. 5, 6, 7 Wolverine Canyon from Wolverine Road, Palmer. Leader: Bill Wakeland, 563-6246.
- Aug. 13 - 27 Arrigetch Peaks, Brooks Range. Call Ludwig for further details, 344-9881.
- Aug. 13 - 17 We would like to schedule a hike through Chitna Pass via Hicks Creek and Boulder Creek, but need a volunteer. Call Dona if you'd like to offer your help, 248-0089.
- Aug. 20, 21 We have a choice this weekend of either Surprise Creek or the Harding Icefield. Leader needed for either one. Call Dona, 248-0089.
- Aug. 27, 28 Bird Pass, via Bird Creek. Bill Stivers and Michael Frank will lead this one, 562-4885.
- Sept. 3, Curry Ridge, via Byers Lake entrance. Leader Ludwig Ferche, 344-9881.

If the weather holds, we'll schedule September hikes. To be announced later.