



MOUNTAINEERING CLUB OF ALASKA

BOX 2037

ANCHORAGE, ALASKA 99510

December 1984

Volume 27, Issue 12

DECEMBER MEETING

The meeting will be held Wednesday, December 19th at 7:30 p.m. in the multipurpose room of the Fairview Community Center at 9th and Karluk St., Anchorage, Alaska. After the business meeting, a film of general interest will be shown.

MINUTES FOR NOVEMBER MCA MEETING

The meeting was held on November 21, 1984 on the top floor of the Pioneer Schoolhouse, 3rd and Eagle St. The meeting was called to order at 7:40 p.m. by President Doug Van Etten. Newly elected officers were introduced.

Treasurer Bernie Helms reported:

\$ 231.74- Petty Cash
1236.11- Bank Account
3185.46- Money Market Rate Plus Account
\$4653.31- Total for Nov. 21

Dues all expire on 12/31/84. Will accept dues now for 1985. Please renew as soon as possible so you can continue to receive SCREE. Send a check to the post office box--

MCA
P.O. Box 102037
Anchorage, Alaska 99510

\$7.50 for single membership
10.00 for family membership

I. OLD BUSINESS

A. Huts Committee

Mark Skok reported the committee had asked Chugach State Park Superintendant Bill Garry to discuss with MCA board members the future ownership and management of our huts in the park. Garry promised to send a representative to the December board meeting.

B. Hiking Committee

Bill Wakeland said the club is looking for someone to take over the organization and coordination of hikes in 1985. Anyone with ideas for hikes is welcome to discuss them with Hiking Committee members. Also, the club needs leaders. It's a great way to volunteer and have fun!

C. Chugach State Park Advisory Board

Tim Neale asked that MCA members apply to become members of the advisory board, which oversees the decision-making process for the park. The application deadline was December 4, but the meetings are open to the public. MCA members are encouraged to attend. The Chugach State Park Advisory Board meets at 7 a.m., the first Wednesday of the month in the Federal Building cafeteria. Topics currently being discussed include the MCA's huts, opening of the Eklutna Lake Road to autos, and a comprehensive trails plan.

D. Equipment

Mark Findlay reported that the new ropes, crampons, and ice axes were not yet in.

E. First Aid Committee

The board formed a First Aid Committee at its past board meeting with the intent of improving members' knowledge of first aid techniques. The committee hopes to organize a series of seminars led by physicians and others knowledgeable about backcountry first aid and rescue techniques. Anyone interested in participating please contact M. Skok or D. Van Etten.

II. NEW BUSINESS

A. Programs

Vice President Mark Findlay is in charge of programs for each meeting. If you're interested in seeing a particular program, or have ideas for programs, please contact him.

B. New projector

The club approved a motion to pay \$200 for a Kodak 4600 slide projector.

C. Announcements

The Wedge Ski Trip-- Two people showed up for last month's planned ski to the Wedge. Because lack of snow made the practical application of instruction somewhat difficult, the trip will be rescheduled.

Board Meeting-- Was held November 27th. Chugach State Park officials attended to discuss the future of the club's three huts in the park, located on Eagle, Whiteout, and Eklutna Glaciers. Details of the meeting unavailable at press time.

New Meeting Place-- Please note that the meeting place has been changed to the Fairview Community Center at 9th and Karluk Streets.

Hut Courtesy-- Dave Pahlke asked that those who use the Mint Glacier Hut pack out all their food, as there is a surplus there already. Hut courtesy involves keeping the premises clean (use the outhouse, even if that means shoveling out the snow!), and shoveling off the porch roof, which can't withstand severe snow loading. Also, please leave the shovel on the roof so it can be found.

Thanks to Doug Fesler for his timely presentation on Avalanche Awareness. The meeting was adjourned at 8 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Nan DeGood, Secretary

Ice School Report

On Saturday morning, Sept. 29th, it looked pretty grim as we left Anchorage. The thought of ice climbing in the horizontal rain wasn't all that appealing, but upon arrival at the Matanuska Glacier, the rain stopped and the sun appeared. For the 39 students, 10 instructors, and 5 assistants, the weekend was letter perfect. Everyone had a good time and hopefully learned something in the process. The new management at Glacier Park Lodge was very cooperative and provided some entertainment for the party on Saturday night, which certainly added to a memorable evening, and almost everyone was ready for the ice on a sunny Sunday.

A special thanks to Gary Bocarde of Mountain Trip for the loan of some ropes and A.R.G. for the use of a litter. The most thanks must go to the instructors and assistants, without whom this annual event could not be held.

Each year the school keeps getting better, the quality of instruction continues to be high and the morale and caliber of students keeps increasing. Next year will be the 10th ice climbing school and it should be the best ever. Remember the first sign-ups are in August. See you then.

Terry Becker

UPCOMING TRIPS

March 1985

TALKEETNA GLACIER SKI/CLIMB TRIP

We will fly in, establish base camp and ski or climb on various one-day outings from camp. This trip is open to folks with limited experience; only requirement is some limited cross-country skiing experience. Exact date will be determined in February. Approximate cost will be \$270. Will fly out of Talkeetna on a Sunday and return Saturday. For more information contact Tim Neale. (274-4952). You must do so before mid-December.

December 16

Near-Chugach Ski Trip

Sunday. One-day ski trip. Bring appropriate clothing for winter weather. Meet at 8 a.m. at the usual place...UAA Sports Complex Parking Lot. Leader Doug Van Etten 243-1550.

December 21 or 22

Flattop Solstice Trip

The actual solstice is Friday, but check with the leader as to which day the climb up to Flattop will be. Overnighter. Meet at the Glen Alps parking lot. Leader Doug Van Etten 243-1550.

BOOK REVIEW

Mountain Names. By Robert Hixson Julyan. The Mountaineers, Seattle. 234 pages. \$8.95 paper, \$11.95 cloth.

Ever since Mt. McKinley was first climbed in 1913, Alaskans have pushed to have its name changed to Denali, the Athabascan Indian name meaning "great one". But the Ohio Congressional contingent and its allies never have, and likely never will stand for the idea.

Still, Alaskans can take one consolation for the naming of the continent's highest peak after an incongruous source. At least William McKinley made good and became a U.S. president.

One can't say so much for a fellow Ohio senator, Joseph Benson Foraker. It was for him that the 17,400-foot peak alongside McKinley was named in 1899. Alaskans don't publicly question whether Foraker is an appropriate name for the second highest mountain in the state. Yet Joseph Foraker was drummed from office after being exposed for accepting fees and loans from Standard Oil Company. (Typist's note: Mt. Foraker is actually third highest.)

A historical trifle? Sure. But knowing that fact might come in handy. Some day you could need a rejoinder when someone points out that the Alaska Range bears a name once applied to an island that did not exist.

Julyan, a climber and member of the American Names Society, has compiled these and other interesting, if not earthshaking, facts about the names of mountains from around the world. On the matter of Alaska's appellative origin, the author notes that in 1762 a Siberian merchant named Bechevin saw a point of land he thought was an island in the Aleutian chain. He named it "Alaksu", probably on the advice of an Aleut sea otter hunter who knew the truth. The word means "mainland", or "great country".

The Russians eventually discovered Alaksu to be the western end of the Alaska Peninsula. The island was gone. The name, in a slightly different form, survives.

Mountain Names includes 18 entries for Alaska's peaks and ranges. That's a healthy proportion, considering that the book is all too non-comprehensive, and that Julyan apparently never has climbed here. Still, it's fitting for a land often enough equated with mountains.