



MOUNTAINEERING CLUB OF ALASKA

BOX 2037

ANCHORAGE, ALASKA 99510

NOVEMBER 1986

Volume 29, Issue 11

NOVEMBER MEETING

The meeting will be held Wednesday, November 19th at 7:30 pm at the Pioneer Schoolhouse, 3rd & Eagle Streets, Anchorage. After the business meeting, a slide show featuring Antarctica will be presented by Nigel Young.

MINUTES FOR THE OCTOBER MEETING

The meeting was held October 15th at the Pioneer Schoolhouse, and called to order by President Mark Findlay at 7:51 pm. The reading of the minutes for September was waived.

TREASURER'S REPORT

\$ 211.33 - Petty Cash
1,522.44 - Checking Account
3,328.23 - Money Market
\$5,061.98 - Total MCA Monies

Income Statement For Year Ending October 15, 1986

Income :

1985 Membership Dues	\$ 407.50
1986 Membership Dues	1100.00
Class Fees	200.00
Interest on Money Market Account	230.48
Miscellaneous Income (Refunds, etc.)	<u>437.63</u>
Total	\$2375.61

Expenses :

Scree Printing	\$ 224.00
Scree Bulk Mail Postage and Permit Fees	400.00
Meeting Place Fees	185.00
Subscriptions and Memberships	113.75
P.O. Box Rental	29.00
Bank Service Charges	91.00
Refreshments for Meetings	178.79
General Supplies	86.55
Picnic	87.40
Class Expenses	190.00
President's Award	93.25
Mint Hut Permit	128.00
Repairs to Whiteout and Eagle Huts	536.84
Total	<u>\$2343.58</u>

Net Gain :

Income	\$2375.61
Expenses	- <u>2343.58</u>
	\$ 32.03

We mail no membership cards unless you include a self-addressed, stamped envelope with your dues. You can pick them up at any general meeting if you wish. Also...dues are PAYABLE BY DECEMBER 31ST for 1987, if you want to continue getting this newsletter. Dues will be accepted beginning now for 1987. If you pay your dues at this time they will count for the rest of 1986 and all of 1987. You must have a valid card to take part in club activities, borrow club gear, or use the club library.

MCA
Box 102037
Anchorage, Alaska 99510
Attn: Treasurer

I. COMMITTEE REPORTS

- A. Tim Neale has made a proposal to the Chugach Advisory Board that the road around Eklutna Lake be closed to ATV traffic. He also made a proposal to open that road to a concession. These two items will be on the agenda at the next Chugach Advisory Board Meeting. Anyone with comments or needing information contact Tim Neale at 274-4952.

II. OLD BUSINESS

- A. Avalanche Beacons
Todd Miner is still checking on their repair.

B. Elections

Officers for 1987 are as follows:

President - Mark Findlay
Vice-President - Willy Hersman
Secretary - Marcie Baker
Treasurer - John Baker
Board Members - Michael Rees
Dan O'Haire
Bill Wakeland (1-year term)

Since Mark Findlay was voted to a second term there was a vacancy on the board which the past president usually fills. The club voted to allow the election of an extra board position for one year. Bill Wakeland was voted to that position.

Thanks to John Lohff for running the elections once again.

C. Mint Hut Outhouse

After a lengthy discussion:

A motion to spend \$425.00 to buy an outhouse passed.

A motion passed unanimously to form a committee to look into Mint Hut repairs and materials needed, to install the outhouse and to find transportation for all this within a \$650.00 spending limit.

"Outhouse Committee" volunteers: Mike Miller, Willy Hersman, Chuck Chapman, Dave Pahlke, Pete Sennhauser, Dave Staeheli, Mike King, Ron Van Bergeyk and Jerry Minick.

III. NEW BUSINESS

- A. Linda White and Jane Stammen, after three years of unending service, are retiring from mailing the Scree. We have two volunteers to do the mailing and anyone else interested in helping out can please contact Mark Findlay at 337-8666. Thanks again to Jane and Linda for their devotion.

IV. ANNOUNCEMENTS

- A. The club wishes Rick Maron well in recovering from his recent illness. We hear he is doing well. For more information contact Tim Neale at 274-4952 or Kathy Burke at 346-2841 or write Rick at 1191 Essex Rd., Westbrook, CT 06498.
- B. The club thanks Paul Denkwalter for organizing the Ice Climbing Class. It had a successful turnout of 40 students and 16 instructors. (And a cameo appearance by Terry Becker.) There may be a further ice climbing class at Five Fingers in Jan. or Feb. for a smaller group. Watch for an announcement in Scree.
- C. Dr. Terris Moore was in Anchorage recently for a visit. Mark Findlay and Willy Hersman met with him for a few hours during his brief stay. Dr. Moore is a renowned mountaineer, with many ascents in Alaska (including first ascents of Sanford, Bona, Fairweather and third ascent of McKinley) as well as abroad (Minya Konka in China). He is also an Honorary Member of the MCA. His book, Men Against the Clouds, can now be found in our Vin Hoeman Library at AMH in Spenard, as well as in many bookstores.

D. The Bench Lake Park Group in Eagle River has received funds to light 5K of ski trails behind Chugiak High School and will work on that next year.

E. Ed Bovy had his Northern Lights calendar at the meeting for \$7.95. It has beautiful photographs of Alaska and part of the proceeds sold during the meeting go to the club.

V. MAIL

Pratt Museum Honor Society of Natural History, Decisions on Geographic Names in the U.S., Trail and Timberline, REI, International Mountain Equipment Inc., and Great Pacific.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:51 p.m.

Too bad for those of you who didn't make it. There was lots of wheeling, dealing, swapping, bartering, selling and buying at the equipment swap after the meeting. (There was some of that during the meeting too!)

I had a great year, guys
Respectfully Submitted,
Kathy Burke

ADZE

Found: a very important book to someone

When: at the last meeting

By: Willy Hersman 338-5132; you describe it, you claim it; I already have one

The register for Ptarmigan Peak is now typed and ready to be placed back on the summit. Add it to the list in last Scree. Willy Hersman 338-5132.

Annapurna Circle Trek, Nepal

Dates of September 26 - October 24, 1987

Including flight time, trek and 4 nights in KTM: \$1810. Seven years experience in Nepal. Write: Kathleen Byrne

Box 4864

Davis, CA 95617

916-756-5168

Friends of the Chugach State Park

This group meets on the first Tuesday of each month. The next meeting will be on November 4th at the East High School library and will feature the Geology of the Chugach as a program. Interested people can contact Tim Neale 274-4952.

ALPINE ALTERNATIVES NEEDS YOUR HELP

Alpine Alternatives is a nonprofit organization which provides recreational opportunities to handicapped children, youth and young adults. Alpine is best known for its alpine ski school which operates throughout the winter serving hundreds of students at the Hilltop and Artic Valley ski areas. Through the use of adaptive equipment, and their own inspirational guts and determination, Alpine students learn a skill which gives them the chance to participate in the fun of winter with family and friends, and also hopefully gives them confidence for confronting life's other challenges.

This year Alpine will receive no state funding due to state budget cuts. We are determined however, to keep the program alive on the strength of volunteer efforts, on half of last year's budget. Volunteer instructors are urgently needed. You need not be a pro, since our professional trainers will be on hand at all class sessions. If you can help out, please call Stuart Ollanik, 279-4506 or 272-7913, or call the Alpine office, 276-6655, or attend the volunteer meeting at Wendler Junior High at 7:00 p.m. November 12.

RESURRECTION PASS TRAIL ENDANGERED

The state department of transportation is considering a plan to move a stretch of the Seward Highway near Cooper Landing north a couple of miles, in the area of the Resurrection Trail. Under the plan, a very large steel bridge would be built across the creek just below the incredibly beautiful Juneau Falls. A two mile stretch of the trail would be sandwiched between the old and new highways.

The department wants to make these changes because: (1) Their reports lead them to believe traffic on the highway will triple in the years to come (where have they been this last year) and (2) because federal money is available.

The department is now asking for people to express their view on what things they should consider in deciding whether and how to implement this plan. It is important for those of us who hike and ski on the Trail to write and let them know this cross-Kenai traverse, a National Interest Trail, is used alot and is worth protecting. Please send your views before Nov. 21 to State DOTPF, Environmental Section, P.O. Box 196900, Anchorage, AK 99519.

Outdoor Adventure Series at ACC

Campus Center Room 104

12-1 p.m. Thursdays FREE to all

11/6 "Iditaski-the Ultimate Challenge" by Christy Moore of the Iditaski Race Organizing Committee

11/20 "Avalanche Safety: Know Before You Go" by Doug Fesler of the Alaska Avalanche School

12/4 "Ski Trek '87: Talkeetna and Alaska Range" by Margaret Timmerman of Alaska Wilderness Treks

12/11 "Sea Kayaking in Baja" by Patty Dolese of Ageya

TRIP REPORTS

Annual Ice Climbing Class

The annual MCA ice climbing class took place at the Matanuska Glacier on Saturday, September 27th and Sunday September 28th. There were forty-one students and sixteen instructors taking part in the two day affair. The weather was threatening but stayed good both days and the temperature was unseasonably warm. Most participants drove up early Saturday morning and tented in the campground that evening.

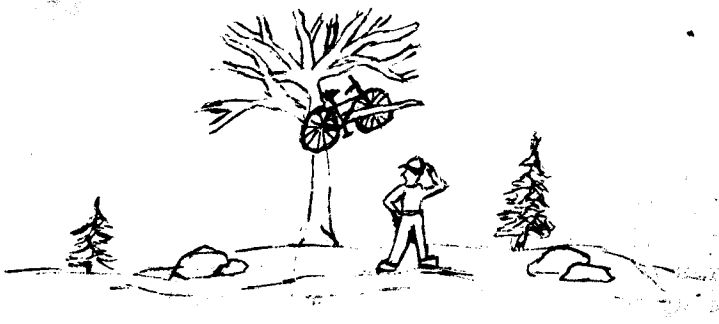
The class covered techniques from French-technique to vertical front-pointing. Climbing with two tools, one tool and no tools was practiced. Even a Tyrolean traverse was set up by two of the groups.

The instructors were led by our Great Leader, El Presidente, Mark Findlay and including Ned Lewis, Keith Diehl, Mike Howerton, Steve Davis, Charlie Sassara, Dave Pahlke, Willy Hersman, John Dillman, Chief Gourmet Chef, Tom Evans, Gerry Minick, Ron Van Bergeyk, Rick Maron, Rich McManus, Mike Miller and Rik Derrick.

The students were Jim Benning, Jerry Blitz, Jim Bruen, John and Karen Cafmeyer, Kris Cassity, Cecil Colley, Darrin and Doris Curtis, Marian Doctor, Eric Franklin, Kathy Free, Bernie Helms, Kathy King, Neil O'Donnell, Mike King, John Proffet, Mike Raven, Tom Saville, Mike Smith, Kathy Williams, John and Marcy Baker, David Beckwitt, Sue Braumiller, Mike Cady, Allison Cook, Bill Dobbins, Sylvia Lane, Clare Lattimore, Jim Lavery, Mary Martinez, Valerie Millen, Dan Miller, Mike Serofchuck, Dave Walters, Diane Will, and Jim Ackerlund.

Same time, same place, next year!

Paul E. Denkewalter



Two Wheel Taxi Takes to the Trail

or

Next Time I'm Strapping a Pillow on that Seat and Bringing My Snorkel Gear

What? A mountain bike trip report in a "mountaineering" newsletter? Well, excuse me. That's right you guys, it's time to confess. It seems that after a couple of hiking trip rest stops some of you actually came out of the closet and admitted to wheeling down some of the trails. Well I was glad to know some of you mountaineers had broadened your horizons and discovered the kid in you again through the great fun of mountain biking.

Riding the road around Eklutna lake is always a good way to warm up your biking muscles. A couple of stream crossings are the only obstacles you might come upon, yet it takes a little endurance to get you the nine miles around the lake and then the four more miles to the road end (1/4 mile from Eklutna Glacier.) It takes one to two hours to get to the end of the road and then it's just a quick ten-minute hike to a great view of the glacier's blue snout and the brown silty river rushing from it. It's a good place to spot mountain goats, Dall sheep, black bear, moose and spruce grouse.

Now that your muscles are warmed up, take a short but good workout trip. One evening Mary and I decided to bike the Middle Fork Loop (Glen Alps to Prospect Heights.) I knew from hiking this trail that parts are pretty wet, so I went prepared wearing my knee-high rubber boots - ha, ha, should've worn my snorkel and fins! The half mile from the parking lot to the powerline road was snow and ice left over from the first light snowfall. It was amazing to feel the good traction that our studless tires got on the crusty snow, it was even more amazing to see how fast I could fall on the ice. It took both Mary and me to untangle my body from the bike. The trail proved to be wetter than usual between the first and second bridges; one spot the water almost went over the top of my knee-high boots, we may have done more swimming than biking.

This is where Mary did an acrobatic act over the top of her handlebars. After passing some bear scat, that was more blueberried than scat, and watching three moose and a bunch of Dall sheep we connected with the wide trail to Prospect Heights (four miles or one hour 45 minutes.) From here it was a fast (1 1/2 miles or 20 minutes) trip to the Prospect Heights parking lot. I think it was after this trip that my husband increased my life insurance!

After surviving (or healing from) the Middle Fork Trail, Mary and I were feeling pretty good about ourselves and our bikes and one beautiful fall day we decided to try Johnson Pass Trail in and out from the Turnagain side (20 miles round-trip.) The trail was frozen ground most of the way going in, there were foot-wide paths through tall grass and frosty bridges. This trail proved to be a little more than we expected, those annoying little ditches were just big enough for our front tires to get stuck in, usually at the bottom of a hill so what we couldn't go bombing down the hills and up the next hill. You have to remember we weren't experienced enough to wheelie over these ditches. We got pretty good at steering around big rocks, flying over the small ones and dodging our pedals from the medium ones.

From the parking lot to the pass sign took us four hours and 20 minutes; imagine, we hiked this same trail this summer and we hiked it fifteen minutes faster than we biked it! We attributed this slow pace to the time it took to rescue my bike and me from falls. The first fall was ten feet down the embankment below the trail; the last fall was only three feet off and below the trail, but it was in a creek and when I sat up water poured out of my helmet! I could pick myself up from the four falls in between. I wonder if there is any death-wish mentality associated with mountain biking?

A quick lunch and then the trip out. Going out was faster going down the elevation we had gained coming in, but the trail had defrosted and there was some slip-sliding around. By the end of the trail our legs were tired and our bikes were considerably heavier from all the mud stuck all over them.

There are many ways to take to the mountains; experiment with a few.

Pedal pushers were Mary Savage and me.

Kathy Burke

Hidden Peak

Somewhere along the ridge between O'Malley Peak and the Ramp is another peak. Now I don't know which came first, the name of the peak or the name of the lake below it, but they're both hidden. In fact you can stand at the lake and swear there isn't even a peak up there. But there is. Five of us spent a very pleasant Sunday, on October 5th looking down from its summit.

Doris Curtis, Jim Pommert, Priscilla Lukens, Marcia Bandy and I extended this little MCA trip to include O'Malley on our way to Hidden Peak (5105). The snow cover was light, which didn't cause any problems, but did make the final fifty feet of rock more challenging. The two people camped at the small tarn below the peak probably thought they were at Hidden Lake. We didn't tell them any different.

Willy Hersman

Climbing Notes

The Tusk (5730) is a remote tower of crumbling granite near Merrill Pass, which has tempted climbers since it was first attempted by six MCA members in July 1971 (see Scree Feb. 1972, p. 4.) The peak seemed unclimbable when an attempt by Fred Beckey several years ago also failed. Lowell Thomas, Jr. reports that the Tusk has finally been climbed. Gary Spear and Paul Belamy reached the summit on June 22 of this year. It was once said that if it were in any other state it would be a national monument. The Scree is seeking more details on the climb, hopefully we can get an article from the successful climbers.

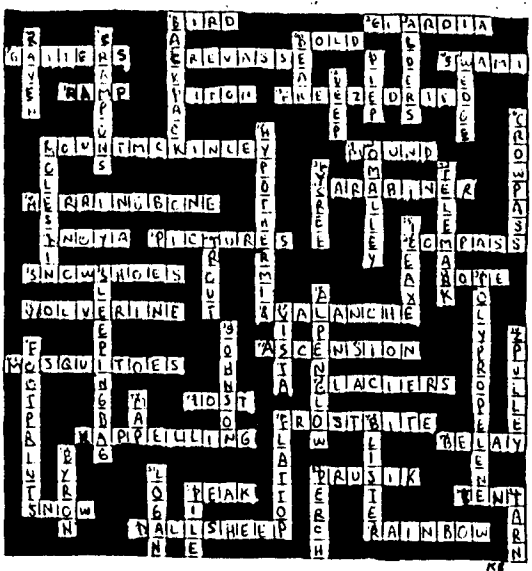
Nov 86

Kathy Burke

MAP TRIVIA

On the Lime Hills Quad, in Lake Clark N.P.:
What peak is just north of the word LAKE?

Answer to last month's puzzle.



Last month's answer: Matanuska Peak

MOUNTAINEERING CLUB OF ALASKA OFFICERS AND BOARD MEMBERS

<u>TITLE</u>	<u>NAME</u>	<u>HOME PHONE</u>
President	Mark Findlay	337-8666
Vice-President	Willy Hersman	338-5132
Secretary	Marcy Baker	248-7309
Treasurer	John Baker	248-7309

BOARD MEMBERS

Mike Miller	345-5718
Ron Van Bergeyk	345-1800
Michael Rees	563-8276
Dan O'Haire	248-3634
Bill Wakeland	274-7539

Annual membership dues: Single \$10.00 Family \$15.00

SCREE is a 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, Alaska 99577. Articles should be received by the 25th of the month for the following month's issue. Your cooperation will be appreciated. Marty Bassett, Editor.

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