



MOUNTAINEERING CLUB OF ALASKA

BOX 2037

ANCHORAGE, ALASKA 99510

FEBRUARY 1987

Volume 31, Issue 02

FEBRUARY MEETING

The meeting will be held Wednesday, February 18th at 7:30 pm at the Pioneer Schoolhouse, 3rd & Eagle Streets, Anchorage. After the business meeting, Bill Wakeland will show slides of skiing in the Tokosha Mountains and a summer trip in the Brooks Range.

MINUTES FOR THE JANUARY MEETING

The meeting was held January 21st at the Pioneer School House, and called to order by President Mark Findlay at 7:45 pm. The reading of the minutes for December was waived.

TREASURER'S REPORT

\$	108.97	-	Petty Cash
	710.60	-	Checking Account
	<u>4,172.95</u>	-	Money Market
	\$4,992.52	-	Total MCA Monies

A reminder that we are still accepting membership dues for 1987. You will need a current card to check out any club equipment or books. It is \$10 for an individual and \$15 for a family. Dues can be mailed into the club with a family. Dues can be mailed into the club with a self-addressed, stamped envelope, (if you wish your card to be mailed to you).

I. COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. Outhouse Committee

The Mint Hut Outhouse escorted by eleven people arrived at the Hut safe and sound. It will be installed in the spring.

B. Library Committee

Kathy Burke and Willy Hersman cleaned, straightened and organized the library. (You won't believe the difference - It is great! You can actually sit down and relax up there now. A BIG THANK-YOU TO KATHY AND WILLY). Kathy has organized all of the business papers and maps. Kathy suggested that we may consider starting a library fund to purchase new books. As soon as the new book shelves (thanks Dave Pahlke for building the shelves) arrive at the Library, Party Time! Contact Kathy if you are interested in helping one evening filling up the new shelves.

Kathy announced that there are duplicate magazines from the library free for the taking after the meeting.

C. Scree

It was announced that we need a volunteer to type the February Scree.

D. Trip Reports

1. Dave Pahlke and Mike Miller announced the snow shelter work shop, see Upcoming Trips.
2. Mark Findlay announced the beginner ski classes, see Upcoming Trips.

E. MCA Directory

The purpose of the Directory is to provide interested members with a list of other MCA member's activities and interests. This directory will hopefully prove to be helpful when planning trips. An interest form was in the back of the January Scree and at the January meeting. Please feel free to still fill one out.

F. MCA Trip "Hotline"

At the last board meeting a trip Hotline was discussed. This Hotline would be used for members to call in and find out about any last minute trips or adventures. It could also be used by members to call in and leave a message that they need ice climbing partners or ski partners etc. for a certain date. Mike Miller has located a phone recorder that can receive phoned in messages and play them back over the phone for up to 30 minutes. The cost of the recorder would be around \$88. Mark Findlay volunteered his phone line for the initial stages of the hotline. More discussion on this matter will be brought up in the February meeting. If you are interested in this idea let the Club know.

II. Old Business
None

III. New Business
Kathy Burke made a motion to allocate \$60 or less for a new or used 4 drawer file cabinet for the Clubs maps and business papers in the Club Library. The motion passed.

IV. Announcements

- A. A public meeting on State Parks Regulations (snow machines, hunting, trapping etc...) on January 28th at 7:00 pm at the Anchorage Museum. Anyone interested please attend.
- B. Announcement was made about joining the Friends of the Chugach \$10 an individual and \$20 a family.
- C. Michael Reese announced that comment and discussion was still open on Gates of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. Contact the Parks office at Tudor and the Seward Highway for information.
- D. Twenty MCA patches will be available for Sale at the next meeting. These patches are from 10-15 years ago.

V. Mail

Women of the wilderness schedule, Final Draft of the Hatcher Pass Management Plan, NFRA Newsletter, Friends of the Chugach Newsletter.

What a great way to travel! Thanks Becky Voris and Melan Shea for enlightening us on the Norwegian way of Nordic travel!

The meeting was adjourned at 8:15 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,
Marcy Baker

UPCOMING TRIPS

February CROSS COUNTRY SKI CLASSES

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These classes are intended for the beginner skier interested in touring in set tracks or the backcountry. Techniques of waxing, skiing the flats, the uphill and the downhill will be covered. We will meet for several consecutive Wednesdays starting January 28th at 7:00 pm in the chalet at Russian Jack Springs Park.

You will need skis, poles, boots and warm clothing. If you need more information or would like to help teach this class please call Mark Findlay at 337-8666.

February 21 SKI TOUR 20 MILES (PLUS/MINUS)
Location dependent on weather/snow conditions. Some possibilities are: Arctic Valley to Indian, Mills Creek on the Kenai, or a loop around Wolverine Mountain. Required equipment: headlamp, shovel, beacon, and proficiency at using these items. More details at the February meeting. Contact Rick Maron 338-6969 hm.

February 24 AVALANCHE BEACON RESQUE PRACTICE.
This is NOT a beginner class, but a session for brushing up on beacon skills. Bring a beacon, shovel, probe or ski pole and an old daypack (to hide beacon in). Meet at 7:30 pm at East High Soccer Field. Contact Rick Maron 338-6969 hm.

February 28 SNOW SHELTER SCHOOL
Saturday and Sunday; tentative dates. Overnight ski trip. Learn how to make snow caves, igloos, trenches, etc. Don't forget your headlamp, snow saw, and shovel, if you have them. Instructors: Mike Miller, Dave Pahlke, Willy Hersman. Call Mike 345-5718

TRIP REPORTS

Sheep Mountain

or

Eat, Ski, Eat, Ski, Eat, Ski, Eat, Ski

Early Saturday morning, before it was light, a bunch of friends and I headed up the highway to brave the sheep Mountain Lodge and all it had to offer. Actually the drive alone consisting of off-key rounds of Chug-a-Lug, Chug-a-Lug and Bazooka bubble blowing contests should have been a sign to me of what the weekend was to hold.

We settled in at the Lodge and ate lunch. We heard that part of the Nelchina Caribou Herd were still wintering in the Knob Hill area so we all took off (in 10⁰ weather) to ski in search of caribou, and we weren't disappointed. Skiing down a side road from the Highway we were quickly rewarded with sites of small bands of caribou. Some were eating and lying down, there were two bulls lustfully chasing a cow and two other bulls playfully charging each other. We would get to within about 150 feet of them and then they would cautiously move on, prancing through the snow with their noses held high. Most of them still had their antlers.

Sun and clouds made varied light patterns on different peaks and ridges, besides the caribou tracks we also saw tracks of ptarmigan, coyote or fox and mouse. The snowmachining-packed trail ended at the bottom of Knob Hill and here the group divided into two groups--the caribou watchers and the summit assaulters. We summit assaulters plodded through the unpacked snow on the road which switch-backed up the hill, getting blasted by the wind every once in a while. A couple of Pine Grosbeaks played in the bushes. After fifty minutes we were all on top admiring the view of the broad valley lined by magnificent mountains. We stayed on top just long enough for a summit photo and to eat some quick snacks. We also did some howling (this was attributed to some puppy chow that we all ate) (it looked like puppy chow, it didn't taste like puppy chow). Coming down that hill was something else, some of us just sailed down like eagles, the rest of us looked like an obstacle course between those of us that were still up on our skis and those that were floundering in the snow.

Meanwhile down on the windy flats the caribou watchers had a snack and skied off in search of more caribou, some even saw a medium sized owl. It was dusky by the time the last of us reached the highway. It was a wonderful ski trip and I felt I was wearing a glow that could match the orange sunset clouds.

We found that life at the lodge offered many tests to be endured. There was potato-cheddar soup, 4x4 cinnamon rolls smothered in butter, sourdough rolls and huge spaghetti dinners to be stuffed. There was a sauna to be sweated. There were rugged grey and white mountain peaks to be stared at and the list just goes on and on and on! (May I always be tortured this way).

After dinner we all gathered at the cabin for a bit of tall tail swapping, wine tasting, fun loving insult throwing, apple throwing (!), more eating (will somebody please roll me out of here), and blackmail photography.

Sunday morning some of us rose to 20⁰ weather and got in a good ski before breakfast (before it was light for that matter). Breakfast almost went into lunch, but there was a telemark class, so we all waddled out to our skis and discussed our Guicci of REI clothing. Telemarking class was great, by the end we all felt like a bunch of simi-telemarkers. A quick lunch and we were on the road back to Anchorage. Now if you'll excuse me I have to go practice my Bozooka Bubble blowing techniques, I'm gonna be ready for you guys next time!

Kathy Burke

MAP TRIVIA

Answer to January's Map Trivia will be in the March Scree.

ADZE

FREE: Old Copies of Scree

From 1960 to 1982. We are cleaning out the MCA Library of old duplicates. Some of you may wish to check your collections to see if there are any gaps you wish to fill in. Call Willy Hersman 338-5132.

"Nigel Young is interested in day/overnight back country ski trips but must work weekends. His off days are Monday and Tuesday. Anyone interested and with a similar 'anti social' schedule, Please contact: Nigel at 276-3075

February 19, Thursday: Slideshow of Kayak circumnavigation of Iceland by John Bauman. ACC/UAA Campus Center, 7:30 pm. Tickets at the door: \$3 public and \$2 college students.

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

FUR RENDEZVOUS GRAVITY SPORTS FILM FESTIVAL

The fourth annual Anchorage Fur Rendezvous, Gravity Sports Film Festival will be held February 20, 21, and 22 (Fri., Sat., & Sun,) at 7:30 pm at the Fourth Avenue Theatre. The special guest of honor this year is mountaineer and author Art Davidson, who will be presenting a twentieth anniversary program of the first winter ascent of Denali (McKinley). Participating again this year will be Lowell Thomas Jr. who will personally narrate his film on the 1986 USSR (Soviet) Denali expedition. Other films that promise to be of interest to club members include "HELL AND HIGH WATER" featuring rafting and kayaking in the Grand Canyon of the Stikine and "BUST OUT AND CUT LOOSE" featuring mountaineering and "tele~skiing on cross country skis. Admission is \$4.00 in advance and \$5.00 at the door. Tickets and programs will be available at Fur roudy headquarters in February.

HELP SUPPORT FUR RONDY 1987!

NEW BOOKS AT MCA LIBRARY: The Six Mountain-Travel Books Greece on Foot Everest Grand Circle

The MCA library has acquired three books published by The Mountaineers-Books. One of them, "The Six Mountain-Travel

books, is a compilation of classics by the British climber Eric Shipton.

The other two include a guide to Greece for those of us who prefer to travel on a tight budget and in the backcountry, and an account by two mountaineers who circumnavigated Mount Everest on a not-at-all-tight budget provided by a cigarette company.

Anyone interested in the world history of mountaineering will appreciate the anthology of Shipton's works. Born in 1907, Shipton began climbing in the Alps in the 1920s, and in Africa in the 1930s. Later in the 1930s Shipton began exploring and mapping the glaciers and mountains of the Himalaya. "The Six Mountain-Travel books" are his accounts of those explorations.

"Greece on Foot," by Marc S. Dubin, provides directions, details and suggestions on how to best explore the Greek backcountry. Dubin begins his preface with the comment that "The Greek backcountry offers something -- solitude -- that has all but vanished from trails in the rest of Europe, the Americas and the Himalays." Dubin apparently hasn't been to Alaska. Still, even if a person can find solitude in Alaska, a hungry hiker would be hard-pressed to drop out of our own hills, find a mangali (counter barbecue) and enjoy a meal of moussaka and kokkinelli.

"Everest Grand Circle," by Ned Gillette and Jan Reynolds, is a beautifully produced book with fine photographs. It tells the story of Gillette's two-year trek around the world's highest mountain.

Gillette, incidentally, is a master at generating sponsorships for the things he wants to do (all of which are pretty amazing). Still, the foundation of backcountry travel is health and vitality. It's ironic that this trip was underwritten by the producers of a product that diseases and kills people.

Reviewed by Mark Skok

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History Corner

Here's one from the past for all you ice climbers: "Bill Hauser and Scott Foster put up a thirty foot direct aid ice climb using ten ice screws on a frozen waterfall on the Seward Highway. For those interested in technical ice work without actually going into the mountains the Seward Highway area offers tremendous challenges. The climbers found the biggest danger was not to themselves but rather to motorists losing control of their cars." -- March 1966

Willy Hersman

In Memoriam

I was saddened to hear recently that Liz Robinson has passed away. Her memory stirs thoughts of a sweet woman with unbounded energy and youthful enthusiasm. She was a devoted club member and wrote many book reviews for the SCREE sharing her thoughts and reflections.

But I will best remember Liz for an all too brief day we spent on Rendezvous Peak one bright summer day, racing from flower to flower guessing their names and pondering their meaning. Winter has claimed another flower - goodbye Liz.

Greg Higgins

Climbing Notes

During the last MCA trip to the Mint Glacier the Hut Log was taken out for typing and inclusion in the club archives. This particular section of the log covers July 1983 to January 1987, and contains the accounts of several ascents done during that time period. A few should be mentioned for the record in Scree.

March 22, 1984 - first ascent of TELEMINT, 5850', Section 14, R2E, T20N by Graham MacDonald et al. So-named because of the telemark turns made from its summit.

October 15, 1984 - first ascent of TENEMINT, 6050', Section 4, R2E, T20N and Section 33, R2E, T21N; just south of Backdoor Gap. Climbed by Dave Staeheli, Gretchen Reeve, Mark Musial, Priscilla Lukens, Greg Rupert, Ron Beier and Scott McGee. So-named because of its proximity to the hut.

August 14, 1986 - first ascent of PARLIAMINT, 5800', Section 32, R2E, T21N by Christine Linesch, Kevin O'Sullivan and Forrest Baldwin. So-named because it stands above the "Penney Royal" Glacier.

One other party claimed to climb and name peak 5950 on July 13, 1986. They called it Amusemint. Sorry. This peak just north of Backdoor Gap was first climbed 18 years ago (before the members of this party were born) by Curtis and Gretchen Wagner who then named it HUNCHBACK SPIRE in a Scree article in December 1968.

Willy Hersman

The Alaska Center for the Environment's SEAFOOD DINNER • SQUARE DANCE !

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 27

6:30 P.M.

ROOM 16 JR. HIGH - 2500 MINNESOTA DR.

6:30 - 8:00 - DINNER

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