



MOUNTAINEERING CLUB OF ALASKA

BOX 2037

ANCHORAGE, ALASKA 99510

MARCH 1987

Volume 30, Issue 03

MARCH MEETING

The meeting will be held Wednesday, March 18th at 7:30 pm at the Pioneer Schoolhouse, 3rd & Eagle Streets, Anchorage. After the business meeting, Chuck Chapman will show slides of spelunking in the caves of West Virginia, Tennessee, and Kentucky.

MINUTES FOR THE FEBRUARY MEETING

The meeting was held February 18th at the Pioneer Schoolhouse, and called to order by President Mark Findlay at 7:45 pm. There was one correction to the published January minutes: IV. C. Michael Rees announced that comment and discussion was still open on the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. Contact the Fish and Wildlife office at Tudor and the Seward Highway for information.

TREASURER'S REPORT

\$	78.58	- Petty Cash
	633.60	- Checking Account
	<u>4,589.49</u>	- Money Market
	\$5,301.67	- Total MCA Monies

We are currently accepting membership dues for 1987. It is \$10 for an individual and \$15 for 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.) See address on back page. Dues can also be paid at any meeting. The grace period runs out after this issue if you have not paid.

I. COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. Scree

MCA interest sheets are still being accepted. You can find the forms in the back of February Scree or pick one up at the front desk. If you do not wish to receive phone calls at either work or at home just leave it blank. (See directory this issue.)

B. Library Committee

Kathy Burke announced that books had been reorganized, sections labeled, lists made of missing periodicals and Screens readied for the next binding. Thanks to all who helped. The library is located at AMH, 2633 Spenard Rd.

C. Parks Advisory Committee

Tim Neale informed the club of the proposed amendments to Chugach State Park regulations. The amendments are to be discussed and commented upon by February 20th. He recommended that the club send a letter in regards to two of the amendments as follows:

1. Discharge of firearms. The old regulations read that you could not discharge firearms one half mile from developed facilities. The new amendment would take roads out of the definition of developed facilities and shorten the distance from one half mile to a quarter of a mile. Tim recommended that we support leaving roads in the definition of a developed facility and keep the distance at a half mile.
2. There is a recommendation to the Division of Parks and Recreation to close Peter's Cr. and Little Peter's Cr. to the use of snow machines. Tim recommended that we support this. As of now there are no drainages on the north side of Chugach State Park that are closed to snow machines. This would give the skiers, snowshoers, mushers, etc. one drainage on the north side of the park free of snow machine noise and disturbance.

The club voted unanimously to send a letter in support of the two recommendations as presented by Tim Neale.

D. Hiking Committee

Members wanting to lead a trip or having an idea for a trip were urged to fill out the list at the front desk. The list will be available at the March meeting as well. You can also contact a member of the committee (Jim Pommert, Bill Wakeland, Don Hansen, Kathy Burke) or a board member. The schedule will first appear in the April Scree .

II. OLD BUSINESS

A. Hotline

Last month the club discussed purchasing a phone recorder for an MCA "hotline". Mike Miller motioned that the club purchase a phone recorder for \$89. After lengthy discussion the motion was amended to also include a separate club phone line so as not to tie up anyone's private line and consequently having an MCA listing in the white pages. A vote was taken and the motion passed to allocate the \$89 for the recorder, \$50 for installing a line, and a \$13 monthly service fee.

B. File Cabinet

John Baker announced that since NBI's The Office Place donated a four drawer file cabinet, the \$60 allocated for it could go back to the Club Coffers. Thank you NBI and John.

III. NEW BUSINESS

A. Wilderness Challenge Course

Marion Doctor informed the club that the Service High Wilderness Challenge Course was going to be closed down if no group or organization took over the responsibility of maintaining it. A committee was formed to look into the matter and report to the Board.

IV. ANNOUNCEMENTS

- A. Rick Maron announced a 20-mile ski tour on February 21st, an avalanche beacon practice session at East High on February 24th at 7:30 pm, and an evening ski tour to Rabbit Lakes for the next full moon: 3/10, 3/11, or 3/12. Rick also announced tentative plans for a 20-mile tour on March 21.
- B. Dave Pahlke announced the snow shelter class for Feb. 28-Mar.1 at Hatcher.
- C. Tom Choate announced that the IDITABIKE was going to run the same 200-mile stretch as the Iditaski. It will start the day after the Iditarod race. The Iditabike is still in need of volunteers so if you are interested contact Tom at 333-5309.
- D. Mellen Shea, who presented last month's slide show with Becky Voris, left the club with some information on pulks and costs. If interested in ski jouring contact Mellen.
- E. Nigel Young's phone number was incorrect in last month's Scree . It should be 274-3075.
- F. Old MCA patches are available at \$2 each.
- G. A cabin was offered for club use on weekends. It is a private cabin that sits on leased Forest Service land. The leasee is offering use of the cabin in hopes of swaying the Forest Service to change their ruling to destroy it. The Hut Committee is looking into the matter.
- H. Rick Maron has moon tables available.
- I. Sandy Foster made an announcement about the Lung Association Ski Treks. Contact her for more information.

Thank you Bill Wakeland for the slide show. Your slides were great advertisement for the Alaska Lung Association Ski Treks! It looked like a great time. Your trip into the Brooks Range looked like it was full of adventure and good times. The river crossings and bath time were my favorites!

Respectfully Submitted,
Marcy Baker

ADZE

FREE: Old Copies of Scree

From 1960 to 1982. We are cleaning out the MCA Library of old duplicates. Lots of trip reports, which can be valuable for trip planning. Call Willy Hersman 338-5132.

Nigel Young is interested in day/overnight ski trips on Mondays and Tuesdays. Anyone with similar days off contact Nigel at 274-3075.

DICTIONARY OF ALASKA PLACE NAMES is back in print!!!

by Donald J. Orth

USGS Professional Paper #567

\$50 + \$3 postage; available from:

The Devonian Institute
Alaska Pacific University
Anchorage, Alaska 99508
(907)564-8225

over 50,000 named features; the '71 ed. was going for \$175 at rare book stores

MCA member Will Eason is offering a 10% discount on his rates for a charter service out of Whittier to other MCA members. His 32-foot powerboat can take up to six passengers. Contact:

Alaska Marine Adventures
Box 91227
Anchorage, Ak. 99509
258-0584

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

UPCOMING TRIPS

March
21

SKI TOUR

Saturday. Long day ski tour. Depending on weather and snow conditions we'll try either Mills Creek, Center Ridge (Turnagain Pass area) or Arctic Valley to Indian. You must bring a headlamp, shovel and beacon and you must know how to use them.
Leader: Rick Maron 338-6969

LIBRARY COMMITTEE REPORT

MAGAZINES OUR LIBRARY IS MISSING

Anyone wishing to donate one of these magazines can either leave them at the library or contact Kathy Burke at 346-2841.

BACKPACKER

1983 #59
#61
1984 #63
1985 #67
1986 #72
#73
#77[Oct.?)

MOUNTAIN

9, 13, 14, 23, 25, 27, 37, 41, 45, 47, 54, 62, 63, 64, 65, 66, 76, 79, 81, 82, 84, 85, 87, 88, 91, 92, 93, 94.

CLIMBING MAGAZINE

1970 Jan, Feb, Mar, Apr, May, June, Aug, Sept, Oct, Dec.
1971 All months are missing.
1972 Jan, Feb, Mar, Apr, July, Aug, Sept, Oct.
1974 Jan, Feb.
1975 Jan, Feb, July, Aug.
1977 Jan, Feb, July, Aug, Sept, Oct.
1978 Jan, Feb, May, June, Sept, Oct.
1979 Nov, Dec.
1980 Mar, Apr, July, Aug.
1982 Sept, Oct, Nov, Dec.
1983 Jan, Mar, Apr, May, June, July, Sept, Nov.
1984 Jan, Mar, May, July, Sept, Nov.
1985 Jan, Mar, May, July, Sept, Nov.
1986 Jan, Mar, May, July, Aug, Sept, Oct, Nov, Dec.

OFF BELAY

1, 2, 6, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 16, 19, 25,

Thanks again to Willy Hersman for input on organizing the library, Dave Pahlke for building the shelves, The Office Place for donating the file cabinet, John Garretson, Linda White, Jim Breun, Laurie Daniel, Ron Van Bergeyk and Doris Curtis for the work they did, and Paul Denkwalter for allowing us to work late hours and for housing the library.

On the library work night we reorganized the books, labeled the shelves, took off the dried-out orange dots and marked the books with whiteout, made lists of missing magazines, got Screees ready for binding (at the end of this year), and put all the business papers, maps, and old mountain registers in the new file cabinet. Thanks to all the people who have donated books, etc. to the library.

TRIP REPORTS

HATCHER'S PASS TRAVERSE 2-22-87

One Sunday morning a couple of friends and I joined the Nordic Ski Club on their Hatcher's Pass Traverse Ski Tour. Both Mary and Doris had done this before and they baited me with stories of the uphill and the downhill.

From the Hatcher Pass Lodge we headed up toward the pass. We had skins on our skis and the going was great. This was the first time I had used my skins and they were terrific fun -- I'm now totally addicted to up hill skiing -- I mean we could have walked straight up a wall. [I now have fantasies of skiing up the hill at Alyeska and riding the lift down!]. Although the skiing was good the seeing was impossible. The clouds were high and the views of the mountains were beautiful, but they were those grey clouds that make white-out conditions on the snow. Going down the steep backside of the pass we had to ski very slow because you couldn't see if you were skiing into a ditch or over the edge. Everyone headed down the hill in their own style, there were the graceful telemarkers and then there was me with my "death-grip snowplow for my life" stance.

My leg muscles were past due for a break by the time we stopped for lunch, the downhill and the couple of miles of sidehilling had just left them like painful putty. The ski club newsletter said this was a fourteen mile tour, but at lunch our illustrious leader, Mike Smith, informed us it was actually eighteen miles but not to worry because we had already covered seven miles. Good grief eleven more miles to go! Actually we were all confident we could get out to the bus (after all that's where all the "liquid refreshment" was), but it was nice to know that there were members of the National Ski Patrol along (you know, just in case my mind turned into painful putty).

After lunch and a few more powder snow hills and skiing through some nice spruce forest we reached the level road. Here the packed snow-machine trail (sorry 'bout that Tim and Rick) made the skiing considerably faster and the white-out conditions were gone. We had a good breeze at our backs and gentle snow flurries were starting to fall, and ghosts from the old cabin ruins seemed to cheer us on.

We didn't see any animals, But there were tracks of moose and ptarmigan and one ptarmigan turd. It was nice to ski through the change of windy alpine pass to quiet valley spruce forest. The wind was singing through the sprucetops just right and Willow Creek gurgled at us here and there.

It took us six hours and fifteen minutes to ski the eighteen miles, and we all reached the bus within about half an hour of each other. About an hour down the road most of the bus had a good case of the grins. It was a good thing everyone was in such a good mood, because the real time of truth was still to come, and that was when we got back to Anchorage and had to stand up to

get off the bus!

Besides myself, Mary Savage, Doris Curtis and a whole bunch of other fun people braved the pass that day.

Kathy Burke

Snow Shelter Fun!

It finally happened! A very successful snow shelter class and practice was held over the weekend of February 28 - March 1 at April Bowl above Hatcher Pass. Skies were clear blue with lots of sun but cold temperatures as four snow caves were dug, two igloos constructed and one small trench was built. The hard digging and block cutting kept everyone warm in the near-zero temperatures. As the sun set over the Alaska Range on the horizon, most people disappeared into their homes to cook. The evening was spent cave and igloo-hopping to check out each other's shelters. The builders learned not only how to build a shelter to get out of the weather, but also how to build warm shelters.

Lanterns and stoves offset design inefficiencies while burning. Morning shelter temperatures ranged from 20 to 30 deg. with outside temperatures under starry skies dropped to about -10 deg. F. Sunday was spent skiing (mostly breakable crust), glissading, chopping cornices onto snow caves, and cornice-tunneling. Willy Hersman and Barb Byrne came up Sunday and gave us moral support for the ski, with heavy packs, down to the lodge.

The success can only be attributed to the eighteen who participated: Ellen Abramson, Mark Grenier, Mark Stewart, Jim Hill, Vicky and Marco Radonich, Jim Breun, Marcy and John Baker, Dave Konkle, Ron Van Bergeyk, Brian Siff, Marion Doctor, Doris Curtis, Michael Rees, Mark Findlay, Dave Pahlke and myself.

Mike Miller

Winter Day On Granite Peak

Granite Peak (6729) is about a day and a half climb above Sutton, where the Jonesville Rd. comes to an end. I guess that means you can either carry enough junk for overnight and make it a pleasant two-day trip or you can punish yourself a little and go for it in one day. Mike Miller and I decided to go for the punishment. A one-day climb in the summer would be one thing, but since this was March 3rd, we really had to watch the clock. We skied up the snowmobile tracks to the pass northwest of Knob Hill by headlamp after leaving the car at 5:45, and just in time to catch the early morning light for the easy bushwack over to Granite.

We chose a gully route on the right-hand side of the south face. Somewhat to our disappointment the gully led to nothing but cliffs and towers. After sitting for a while in the sunshine and unwilling to go down, we exited the gully via a rock step, void of protection but not void of handholds (the granite on Granite is mostly deteriorating). Eventually this gave a clear route to the top. Only nine entries in the register (but there have been several more

ascents that I know of) follow the first ascent of Vin Hoeman and Scott Hamilton done in 1962.

We found a different way down, nearly all glissading from the summit, except for one overhanging cliff, where Mike found the Munter hitch useful and a swami not so comfortable for the rap. We were pretty beat by the end of our 13-hour day but glad not to spend the night as the wind began to howl and most of the snow was already hard and windswept.

Willy Hersman

Amulet Peak - Winter Ascent

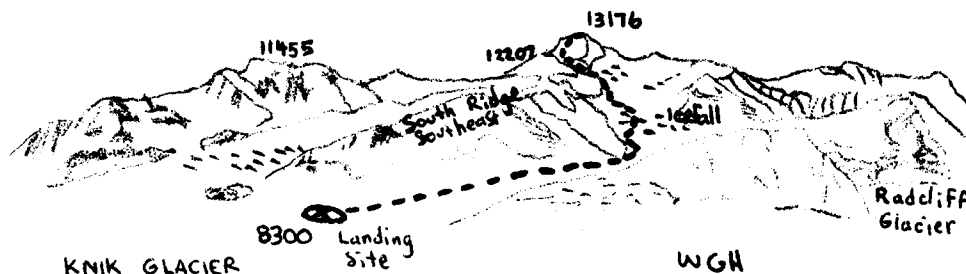
On February 15th Bob Antonson, Phil Fortner and Todd Miner of the ACC Mountaineering Program summited Amulet Peak. The 8920-foot mountain, first climbed in 1968, proved to be long but technically easy. We followed the Hoeman-Babcock-Meyers route, only deviating by taking the SE rather than the SW ridge.

While the climb was great. The exciting part of the 3-day weekend was exploring the south side of the Matanuska River. Despite warnings to the contrary, the river was frozen, this in a relatively warm year. Gravel Creek drains an impressive array of no-doubt unclimbed peaks. Other drainages also offer a host of virgin summits but, with the exception of Glacier Cr., appear to be bushwacking nightmares. The snow is usually unconsolidated sugar anywhere along this part of the Glenn Hwy, Amulet being no exception.

The next time the weather forecast is for wind and sleet in the Anchorage area, consider checking out this sunny, little-explored area of Alaska's mountains.

Todd Miner

Map Trivia answer to January: Mooswa Peak (5020').



Several people have expressed desire to go to Marcus Baker soon. Here's a crude drawing of the standard route.

BOOK EXCERPT

From Annapurna by Maurice Herzog

---I would go alone. If he wished to go down it was not for me to stop him. He must make his own choice freely.

"Then I'll follow you."

The die was cast. I was no longer anxious. Nothing could stop us now from getting to the top. The psychological atmosphere changed with these few words, and we went forward now as brothers.

I felt as though I were plunging into something new and quite abnormal. I had the strangest and most vivid impressions, such as I had never before known in the mountains. There was something unnatural in the way I saw Lachenal and everything around us. I smiled to myself at the paltriness of our efforts, for I could stand apart and watch myself making these efforts. But all sense of exertion was gone, as though there were no longer any gravity. This diaphanous landscape, this quintessence of purity--these were not the mountains I knew: They were the mountains of my dreams.

The snow, sprinkled over every rock and gleaming in the sun, was of a radiant beauty that touched me to the heart. I had never seen such complete transparency, and I was living in a world of crystal. Sounds were indistinct, the atmosphere like cotton wool.

An astonishing happiness welled up in me, but I could not define it.---

---"To the left, Lionel!"

"You're crazy Maurice," said Lachenal, "it's to the right, straight down."

Terray did not know what to think of these conflicting views. He had not given up like me, he was going to fight; but what, at the moment, could he do? The three of them discussed which way to go.

I remained sitting in the snow. Gradually my mind lost grip--why should I struggle? I would just let myself drift. I saw pictures of shady slopes, peaceful paths, there was a scent of resin. It was pleasant--I was going to die in my own mountains. My body had no feeling--every thing was frozen.

"Aah . . . aah!"

Was it a groan or a call? I gathered my strength for one cry: "They're coming!" The others heard me and shouted for joy. What a miraculous apparition! "Schatz . . . it's Schatz!"

Barely two hundred yards away Marcel Schatz, waist-deep in snow, was coming slowly towards us like a boat on the surface of the slope. I found this vision of a strong and invincible deliverer inexpressibly moving. I expected everything of him. The shock was violent, and quite shattered me. Death clutched at me and I gave myself up.---

---Oudot ran his fingers over my skin. I felt an acute pain in the groin and my legs began to tremble; I tried to control

myself. He had to try again, for the artery rolled away from the needle. Another stab, and my whole body was seized with convulsions; I stiffened when I should have relaxed, and felt all my nerves in revolt.

"Gently!" I could not help myself.

Oudot began again: my blood was extremely thick and clotted in the needle.

"Your blood is black- it's like black pudding." he said in amazement.

"That's got it!" This time he had succeeded in spite of my howls which, I knew very well, made the operation all the more difficult to perform. The needle was now in position: ----

---After several hours, and goodness knows how many attempts, the injection was successfully made. In spite of frightful pain I remained immobile as the syringe was emptied. Deftly Oudot replaced it with another without removing the needle from the artery. ----

---"Right arm finished! Now for the left!"----

---I felt the awful needle being pulled out. It was over, and now I could relax. Oudot was very pleased: it had been almost a whole day's work, but he had managed to do everything he wanted. Never had I suffered so much in my life; but if my feet and hands were to be saved it would be because of Oudot and his perseverance.---

---Great beads of sweat were pouring off Oudot. He trimmed and trimmed again without paying attention to poor Biscante's cries: there was only half an hour and he still had another toe to cut. Altogether it made a considerable number since he had started. This time the scissors were too big.--- Things had to be cleaned up now; the nauseating smell drove even the natives away. Sarki and Foutharkey set to work, they opened the door wide and with a sort of old broom made of twigs, they pushed everything onto the floor. In the midst of a whole heap of rubbish rolled an amazing number of toes of all sizes which were then swept onto the platform before the startled eyes of the natives. Whistles blew, the cars jolted, and amid cries and shouts the train started. We drew out alongside a mass of humanity. I just had time to spot Terray, who waved us goodbye with a pair of boots.---

Just another day in the mountains, right? I have a confession, I only read the second half of this book, starting with the chapter named The Assault, but you've got to agree this is pretty dramatic stuff. It seems that only the medical and technical things have changed, the mountains still have their magnetic pull and the climbers still have their tremendous mental and physical strength, pain and rewards. Check it out at your local MCA Library (get it, "check it out"). --Kathy Burke

1987 MCA MEMBERSHIP DIRECTORY

1- Hiking, backpacking
2- Kayaking
3- Ski-touring

4- Mountain Climbing
5- Rock Climbing
6- Ice Climbing

<u>NAME</u>	<u>PHONE-Home/Work</u>	<u>INTERESTS</u>
Argo, Charles	333-7151/863-2186	3,4,5,6
Baker, John	248-7309/786-5102	1,2,3,4,5,6
Baker, Marcy	248-7309/271-1811	1,2,3,4,5,6
Bassett, Marty	694-3917/277-5627	1,2
Bernton, Ann	276-7580/257-4313	1,3,4,5
Bernton, Hal	276-7580/257-4313	1,3,4,5
Bersok, Catherine	248-1377/243-4424	1,2
Bovy, Ed	562-5723/271-5555	1
Breun, Jim	694-9838	1,2,3,4,5,6
Burke, Kathy	346-2841	1,2,3
Byrne, Barb	276-0925/263-4678	1,3,4,6
Chapman, Chuck	428-1427/863-3202	1,3,5,6
Chapman, Karen	428-1427/863-3202	1,3,5,6
Choate, Tom	333-5309/786-1344	1,2,3,4,5,6
Cooke, Alison	345-3502/564-4838	1,2,5,6
Curtis, Doris	272-9663	1,2,3,4
Dailey, Ron	344-4365/563-3066	1,3
Dobbins, Bill	276-4165/563-8878	1,4,5,6
Docter, Marion	338-3437/346-2111	1,2,3,4,5,6
Eason, Will	258-0584/276-2761	1,3,4,6
Embick, Andrew	835-4200/835-4811	1,2,3,4,5,6
Findlay, Mark	337-8666	1,2,3,4
Findlay, Ward T.	274-4208/276-6628	1,2,3,6
Gerace, Betsy	274-8367/279-0516	1,2,3
Grenier, Mark	694-4356/562-1619	1,3,4,6
Haines, Alan G.	863-2112/863-6110	1,3,5
Hill, Jim	349-6703	1,2,3,4,5,6

1987 MCA DIRECTORY - continued

<u>NAME</u>	<u>PHONE--Home/Work</u>	<u>INTERESTS</u>
Jackson, Jim	345-1248/274-2502	1,2,3,4,5,6
Konkle, David	349-6143/786-5123	1,2,3,4
Lattimore, Clare	653-7536/264-1222	1,3,4,5,6
Littlepage, Dean	333-3485/271-5508	1,2,3
Lohff, John R.	337-2291/276-8514	1,3,4
Lukens, Priscilla	248-9254/762-2475	1,2,3,4,5,6
Matisinez, Mary	563-3419/338-0471	1,3,4,5,6
McBride, Curt	344-3968/272-2457	3,4,6
Miller, Mike	345-5718	1,2,3,4,5,6
Miner, Todd	688-9958/786-1638	1,2,3,4,5,6
Moxness, Diane	277-3189/258-7806	1,2,3,4,5,6
Moxness, Mike	277-3189/258-7806	1,2,3,4,5,6
O'Donnell, Neil	274-5069/276-1700	1,2,3,4,5,6
O'Haire, Dan	248-3634/786-1238	1,2,3,4,5,6
O'Hearn, Daniel	276-3038/552-4355	4,6
Pahlke, David H.	344-2964	1,3,4,5,6
Porco, Peter	345-7090/786-1731	1,3,4
Puschak, Frank	243-8066/563-2163	4,5,6
Rees, Michael	563-8276/786-3410	1,2,3,4
Ressel, Brigitte	562-5948/562-2266	1
Robinson, Al	279-8873	1
Saigh, Denise	345-5999	1,3,4,5,6
Savage, Mary	248-6280/265-5043	1,3
Scherr, Jim	333-6295/261-4118	1,3
Shayer, Allan	277-1365/264-6184	1,3
Shea, Mellen	345-1248/274-2502	1,2,3,4,5,6
Sherwonit, Bill	276-4630/263-9163	1,2,3,4,5,6
Shipley, Todd A.	274-7101/522-5200	1,3,5
Smith, Matthew	345-3502	1,2,3,4,5,6
Spano, Mark	272-9639/266-5217	1,2,3
Stammen, Jane	563-7703/563-4733	1,3,4
Van Bergeyk, Ron	345-1800/243-3133	1,3,4,5,6
Voris, Becky	243-5911/274-2502	1,2,3,6
Zafren, Christina	346-2333	1,3,4,5,6
Zafren, Ken	346-2333	1,3,4,5,6

1987 MCA INTERESTS

Survey Count: 62 members

Survey: Directory Questionnaire

