



MOUNTAINEERING CLUB OF ALASKA

BOX 2037

ANCHORAGE, ALASKA 99510

APRIL 1987

Volume 30, Issue 04

#### APRIL MEETING

The meeting will be held Wednesday, April 15th at 7:30 pm at the Pioneer Schoolhouse, 3rd & Eagle Streets, Anchorage. After the business meeting, Willy Hersman will show slides of climbing Peak Communism, USSR.

#### MINUTES FOR THE MARCH MEETING

The meeting was held March 18th at the Pioneer Schoolhouse, and called to order by President Mark Findlay at 7:45 pm. The reading of the minutes for February was waived.

#### TREASURER'S REPORT

\$ 101.97 - Petty Cash  
703.60 - Checking Account  
4,606.57 - Money Market  
\$5,412.14 - Total MCA Monies

Membership into the Mountaineering Club is only \$10 for an individual and \$15 for a family. Dues can be mailed into the club with a self-addressed stamped envelope (see address on back page). You can also wait until the next meeting and pay in person.

#### I. COMMITTEE REPORTS

- A. Library Committee - Check out the new and improved library at Alaska Mountaineering and Hiking, 2633 Spenard Road. All you need to check out a book is a current MCA card.
- B. Hiking Committee - Jim Pommert announced that the new hiking schedule for the spring, summer and fall would be

printed in the next Scree. If you are interested in leading a trip contact Jim.

- C. John Nevin will no longer be able to notify the newspapers about time and place of our meetings. If any one is willing to take over this job, please notify Mark Findlay. Thanks John, for all of your efforts.
- D. Tim Neal informed the club about the big proposed development (huge resort-1500 rooms) up the south fork of the Eagle River. Tim also informed us of a local helicopter company that is petitioning the Chugach State Park Advisory Board to allow them to land in the Park. Tim informed us of the US Biathlon and Nordic Ski Association's plans to build a training camp up on the Eagle glacier approximately three miles from the MCA Eagle hut. The facility will consist of permanent buildings that can facilitate 24 skiers. The Chugach National Forest will be taking comment on this matter at some future date. Tim recommends that the Club think on the matter and make a comment on the proposal at a later date. Tim supplied the Club with a fact sheet on the ski camp proposal.
- E. The board met on 3/11/87 after the printing of the Scree. The following topics were discussed:
  - 1. Hiking committee
    - a) Leaders needed for MCA trips.
    - b) Discussed a need for waiver being signed before a person could participate on a club trip. Decided a once in a lifetime (lifetime of a MCA membership) signing would be better than a waiver signed prior to every trip.
    - c) Discussed classifying trips in regards to difficulty.
    - d) Discussed a need for leadership qualifications, guidelines, and liabilities.
  - 2. The board decided on an answering machine for the MCA Hotline that would maintain itself rather than require periodic manual maintenance.
  - 3. The board discussed the insurance issue once again.
  - 4. The board discussed the status of the Clubs non profit and tax exempt filings.
  - 5. The board discussed gross negligence and the need for a leadership workshop.
  - 6. The MCA directory was discussed.

7. The cabin by Manitobou mountain that was offered for MCA use was discussed.
8. The board voted to extend the lease on the Mint Hut for another year.

II. OLD BUSINESS

- A. The MCA Hotline was installed. The number is 337-6679. See MCA Hotline instructions.
- B. The Wilderness Challenge Course that was discussed last month has been dismantled and put into storage.

III. NEW BUSINESS

- A. Tim Neal proposed to send a letter to the Parks and National Resources in opposition to allowing helicopter landings in the Chugach State Park. The motion passed unanimously.
- B. Mark Findlay informed the Club that during the April meeting we will be voting on some bylaw changes. See proposed By-Law changes.

IV. ANNOUNCEMENTS

- A. Rick Maron announced a Center Ridge ski tour on Saturday March 21.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:15 pm.

Thank you Chuck Chapman for your Caving slides. Your show was quite informative. Who would have guessed that there had been a Chernobyl spelunking exchange. Fun Show Chuck, thanks.

Respectfully submitted  
Marcy Baker

MCA TRIP HOTLINE

The phone is up and working just great. By following the instructions closely you should have no problem leaving or hearing trips.

Instructions for using the hotline are on page 10.

## NEW POLICIES FOR MCA TRIPS

The Board of Directors of the MCA and the Hiking Committee have established some new guidelines and rules for all future MCA-sanctioned trips. These guidelines and rules are only very basic. It is impossible to be very specific about many details since each trip is unique, but it has become clear that in the past the club has had only vague guidelines for its trip leaders and participants. This is an attempt to change that, and there will probably be several refinements in rules over the next few seasons. Some of this may all seem very silly, but it should be remembered that past MCA trips have experienced injuries and even deaths.

### V. LEADER QUALIFICATIONS:

- A. Must be a member of the MCA.
- B. Must have approval of the Hiking Committee (A simple majority.)
- C. Must have participated in trips of the same or higher classification showing competence in the opinion of the leaders of those hikes, or equivalent experience acceptable to the Hiking Committee.

### VI. LEADER GUIDELINES:

- A. Follow the general rules for MCA Sanctioned Trips.
- B. Must have a sign-up sheet with all participants' names on it and turn it in to the Hiking Committee at the end of the trip.
- C. Must select a meeting time and place disclose this information only to those persons on the sign-up sheet, unless call-ins are acceptable to the leader.
- D. Must verify that each participant has signed a valid waiver and that it is on file.
- E. Can require special equipment and refuse participation to any person that is ill-equipped.
- F. Has the authority to split the group (fast and slow), but must select a co-leader to help.
- G. Must report any injuries to the MCA President.
- H. Must report any personnel problems to the Hiking Committee.

Approved by MCA Board, March 1987

## TRIP CLASSIFICATIONS

The classifications below do not consider individual trip hazards such as river crossings, scree slopes, snow fields, bears, etc. Trip leaders are required to inform the trip participants of any such hazards either verbally, on the sign-up sheet, or in the trip description. Leader approval is required for all trips.

**NON-TECHNICAL:** Following are a few standards used to classify trips. The classification is made in terms of hiking distance and altitude gain. Many trips are not on established trails.

**CLASS A:** Easy hikes with a maximum distance of 8 miles for day trips or 4 miles per day for overnight trips. Altitude gain up to 1200 feet.

**CLASS B:** Trips involving a maximum distance of up to 12 miles for a day hike or 6 miles per day for an overnight trip. Altitude gain of 1200 to 2500 feet.

**CLASS C:** Trips up to 15 miles for a day hike or 8 miles per day for an overnight trip. Altitude gain up to 3500 feet. Scree, steep grass, or other rough terrain problems may be encountered.

**CLASS D:** Hikes and climbs with an altitude gain of over 3500 feet or a distance of greater than 15 miles for a day hike or greater than 8 miles per day for an overnight trip. Peaks in this classification may require minimal climbing skills.

**CLASS E:** Hazardous climbing conditions may be encountered. A Basic Mountaineering Course may be required.

**TECHNICAL:** Technical trips are open to all qualified climbers. However, the registration on any particular trip must be restricted to a safe and manageable number of climbers. Registration is made directly with the leader who determines the qualifications needed for the trip.

**TRIP PARTICIPANTS** have the obligation to acquaint themselves with the nature of the trip and to verify that it is within their capability and experience. Anyone wishing to participate in any trip above CLASS A must have completed one or more trips of the next lower classification, or the equivalent.

Approved by MCA Board, March 1987

GENERAL RULES FOR MCA SANCTIONED TRIPS  
(amended from March 1984 Scree)

1. Proper equipment is required as follows:

Day Hikes

Map, compass, whistle  
Raingear that works  
Warm clothing (not cotton)  
Hiking boots  
Sunscreen & dark glasses  
Mosquito repellent  
Water  
Food  
Fire starter  
First aid kit with moleskin  
Pocket knife

Additional for overnight or  
Special Situations

Down or synthetic equivalent  
sleeping bag  
Tent (or prearranged sharing)  
Sleeping pad  
Stove (if need to cook or melt snow)  
fires usually prohibited  
Adequate food for extra day  
Dry clothes, socks, headgear, gloves  
Stream crossing footwear

(This is a minimum list, it does not include equipment for climbs or winter.)

2. No dogs are permitted on MCA trips (among the reasons are bear problems.)
3. The leader's suggestions are to be followed. Do not go off alone, return or rush ahead without his (her) permission, and don't ford a stream before the leader assesses the situation. Remember, this is a club trip and the leader must know where all participants are. Anyone separating from the group without the leader's approval is no longer considered a participant in the MCA Sanctioned trip.
4. Non-sponsored, informal, mid-week hikes meet at UAA Sports Complex, west entrance, unless otherwise instructed.
5. You must be signed up on a trip roster (club meetings) or through contact with the leader, and have signed the club waiver to be on a club trip.
6. When carpools are arranged, please plan to pay the driver your share without his (her) asking you. Generally \$5 - short trips, \$10 or more for longer.
7. If at the last minute you find you can't go, please let the leader know, both for transportation planning and so someone else can go. If you are the leader, help find a replacement.
8. Total number of people on club trips:  
Minimum: 4 (for safety reasons)

Maximum: Leader option, depends upon the trail and campsite conditions, but generally limited to 12 in trailless areas or State & National Parks

9. Firearms are not encouraged, and please let the leader know if you want to carry one - it will be leader's option.

Formulated January 1987 by Hiking Committee

#### UPCOMING TRIPS

- April 25 BIRD RIDGE  
4-5 miles, 2900' elev. gain. See 55 ways #26 for details.  
Call leader for details and sign-up.  
Leader: Don Hansen 279-0829
- May 2-3 TIKISHLA PEAK  
18 miles, 4100' elev. gain. See 55 ways #35 for details. Call  
leader for details and sign-up.  
Leader: Jim Pommert 334-5656
- May 2 BYRON PEAK  
6 miles, 5500' elev. gain. Be ready to ski to glacier and then  
climb from there. Call leader for details and sign-up.  
Leader: Paul Denkwalter, AMH 272-1811
- May 9 O'MALLEY PEAK  
10 miles, 2700' elev. gain. Call leader for details and  
sign-up.  
Leader: Don Hansen 279-0829
- May 10 WOLVERINE PEAK  
10 miles, 3400' elev. gain. See 55 ways #34 for details. Call  
leader for details and sign-up.  
Leader: Mark Findlay 337-8666
- May 16-17 MATANUSKA PEAK  
14 miles, 6000' elev. gain. See 55 ways #43 for details. Call  
leader for details and sign-up.  
Leader: Jim Pommert 344-5656
- May 23-25 MEMORIAL DAY WEEKEND - OPEN
- May 30-31 BOLD PEAK  
20 miles, 6500' elev. gain. Call leader for details and  
sign-up.  
Leader: Willy Hersman 338-5132
- June 6 PYRAMID PEAK - Rick Maron

Jun 13-14 REED LAKES - John & Marcy Baker  
 June 14 MYSTERY MOUNTAIN - Tom Choate  
 Jun 20-21 FLATTOP SLEEPOUT - Mark Findlay  
 June 27 CURRY RIDGE - Kathy Burke  
 July 25 CROW PASS TO GLEN ALPS - Jim Pommert  
 Jul 11-12 GLEN ALPS TO INDIAN - Don Hansen  
 July 18 TURNAGAIN PASS RIDGE - Rick Maron  
 Jul 18-19 REED LAKES - Bill Wakeland  
 Jul 18-25 4TH ANNUAL HARDING ICEFIELD TRAVERSE - Dan O'Haire  
 Jul 25-26 CASTLE MOUNTAIN AREA - John Lolff  
 July? BRUSHING TRAIL TO MINT HUT - Willy Hersman  
 Aug 1-2 INDIAN HOUSE MOUNTAIN - Sylvia Lane  
 Aug 8-9 SUMMIT PEAK - Ron Van Bergeyk  
 Aug 15 CRESCENT LAKE - Don Hansen  
 Aug 15-16 LOST LAKE - Bill Wakeland  
 Aug? MCA PICNIC ON A FRIDAY NIGHT AT THE PARK STRIP - Bernie Helms  
 Sept 12 INDIAN PASS - John & Marcy Baker  
 Sep 19-20 SWAN LAKE - Don Hansen  
 Sep 26-27 ICE CLIMBING CLASS

#### ADZE

Found Ski by the Wedge. BCP with Ramai Binding, check with AMH.

#### ALASKA CENTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT

Equipment sale May 2 & 3, 1987 UAA/ACC STUDENT CENTER CAFETERIA. Deliver equipment Saturday morning between 9 - 11 a.m. and pick up unsold equipment between 4 - 6 p.m. Sunday. Sales will begin at 9 a.m. and end at 6 p.m. We will sell the equipment for you. A.C.E. is charging a 15% handling fee on all sale items. We will also accept donations for the sale.



## ANCHORAGE COMMUNITY COLLEGE

16,390 ft Mt. Blackburn Expedition May 2nd to May 17th a one credit class. Cost will be approximately \$500 plus tuition and covers food, air charter, and most group equipment. Expedition Mountaineering techniques such as decision-making, steep snow and ice climbing, high altitude concerns, group dynamics, logistics, weather and equipment needs will be learned.

### Rock Climbing Classes Schedule:

#### Beginning Rock Climbing - 001

Classroom: Tuesday and Thursday, 6:30-8:30 p.m.: 5/21, 23, 28, 30

Field: Saturdays: April 25, May 2, ALL DAY

#### Beginning Rock Climbing - 002

Classroom: Tuesday and Thursday, 6:30-8:30 p.m.: 5/26, 28; 6/2, 4

Field: Saturdays: May 30 and June 6; ALL DAY

#### Intermediate Rock Climbing

Classroom: Mondays and Wednesdays, 6:30-8:30 p.m.: 6/15, 17, 22, 24

Field: Saturdays: June 20, 27; ALL DAY

For further information call Todd Miner at 786-1638 days or 688-9958 evenings.

## ALASKA SEA KAYAKING SYMPOSIUM '87

Sea kayaking instruction, plenty of kayaks, and a weekend of fun will be offered again this year at the second ALASKA SEA KAYAKING SYMPOSIUM, in Seward, AK, June 12, 13, 14, 1987.

Water skills and safety will be a primary emphasis of the symposium. On-water activities will focus on demonstrations and instruction in paddling techniques, personal and group rescue, reading the water, hypothermia and emergencies.

Kayaks and equipment will be available for Symposium participants to see and tryout. You need not have a kayak to participate at ASKS'87!

For experienced paddlers, trip leaders, and sea kayaking guides there will be the ALASKA OPEN OCEAN PADDLING WORKSHOP, also at Seward, June 9, 10, & 11, 1987. British Canoe Union coaches and authors John Ramwell and Derek Hutchinson will be featured instructors for this special on-water workshop. Other instructors will include John Bauman, who recently circumnavigated Iceland, Doug Fesler, and Robin Ziperman. Topics will include surf landings and launchings, kayak surfing, coastal and open water navigation, group dynamics and leadership, emergency kayak repair, emergency situation management, and discussion of off-season training techniques. Instruction will take place in the classroom, swimming pool, and at sea.

The deadline for registration for both events is May 15th with registration being limited to 350 participants for ASKS'87 and 40 participants for the Open Ocean workshop. Registration forms are available at kayaking retail shops, in the April issue of BLUE WATER PADDLER, or by contacting:

Doug Van Etten  
ASKS'87  
P.O. Box 10-1387  
Anchorage, AK 99510  
(907) 243-1550

#### MCA TRIP HOTLINE

The phone is up and working just great. By following the instructions closely you should have no problem leaving or hearing trips.

The phone number is 337-6679. You must have a push button phone to hear the trip messages, but can leave a trip from any type of phone.

To hear the recorded trips: dial 337-6679. The message you will hear is called the outgoing message and it explains how to play the tape with the trip messages. While the outgoing message is still playing PUSH 0, you will hear one to eight beeps tell you how many messages have been left. Immediately after the last beep PUSH 66 and another beep will be heard. There is a delay while the tape rewinds. After all the messages have played, three beeps will sound. Hang up. To hear the trips again during the playback push 3. The tape will rewind and replay 15 seconds of tape, to rewind further push 3 again.

To leave a trip just wait for the beep at the end of the message. It is a good idea to have the trip written out before you call. Leave your name, phone number, day of the trip, and a short description. Do not leave a meeting place.

Any problems call Mark Findlay before 10:00 p.m. 337-8666.

#### CHANNEL 7 PROGRAMS TO CATCH IN APRIL

Monday 13, 8:00 p.m. K-2 The Elusive Summit

Monday 20, 8:00 p.m. To The Ends of The Earth

Monday 27, 8:00 p.m. Iceland Breakthrough

A big thank you to MILA ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES for the use of there word processor.