



MOUNTAINEERING CLUB OF ALASKA

BOX 102037

ANCHORAGE, ALASKA 99510

FEBRUARY 1988

Volume 31, Issue 02

FEBRUARY MEETING

The meeting will be held Wednesday, February 17th at the Pioneer Schoolhouse, top floor, 3rd and Eagle Sts., downtown Anchorage. After the business meeting, Michael Rees will show slides of his trip to the Grand Canyon.

MINUTES OF THE JANUARY MEETING

The meeting was held at the Pioneer Schoolhouse on January 20th and called to order by President Willy Hersman (I believe it's the first one he could make since the election, welcome). A motion was passed to not read the December minutes.

Willy announced the death of member Sylvia Lane, who died on an expedition to Mt. Marcus Baker.

I. COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. Training

1. A car pool was encouraged to help folks get to the avalanche workshop, with members leaving as early as Friday.
2. Willy announced a snow shelter class slated for late February, more details in this Scree.

B. Huts

Jerry Minick announced that Lowell Thomas, Jr. would fly supplies to Pichler's Perch and that there will be a session at Simon & Seafort's that matter on the 27th at 5:30 pm.

C. Equipment

1. Marcy Baker filled us in as of what the club has to loan to members in need: helmets, ice axes, crampons, and avalanche beacons. You must have your card for proof to get those items and only one item is available at each checkout. (See article this newsletter.)
2. Marcy announced that several of the beacons would be retired from use due to age and made a motion that three more beacons be purchased by the club. Motion was seconded, discussed at length, and passed.

D. Hiking and Climbing

1. Kathy Burke informed us of the first committee meeting in late March, those interested should call her to help set up this year's schedule.
2. Don Hansen reminded us of a couple of trips in the making, one to the Arrigetch and another to Lake Clark.
3. Willy mentioned the Portage Pass trip and for folks to bring their cards on all trips.

E. Library

Kathy assured us that the library is in great shape, that the Screens for the past five years will be bound into book form soon and that members can leave donations at the library, where they will be properly processed.

F. Programs

John Baker has shows through April. We will be experiencing a multi-media extravaganza by Michael Rees on the Grand Canyon, a trip to Nepal by Mark Findlay, Chris Erickson will take us to Africa, Dave Staeheli to New Zealand. If you're in the market to show something exciting to the club, contact John.

G. Parks Advisory

Rick Maron announced that Friends of Chugach State Park will have their next meet on Feb 2, a slide show on the aurora borealis will be featured.

II. OLD BUSINESS

The Poles finally acknowledged our invitation, but declined due to cost. They are asking for a rain-check. Peru seems to be more affordable for them now.

III. NEW BUSINESS

A. Willy appointed a committee to form guidelines for selecting honorary members of the MCA. Tim Neale volunteered to chair the committee.

B. Amendments to the By-Laws as printed in the past two Screens came to a vote and passed unanimously.

C. A motion was introduced by John Baker that the MCA donate \$250 to the Alaska Mountain Rescue Group in the name of those members who have died in the mountains in the past. Motion seconded and passed.

TREASURER'S REPORT

27	Petty Cash	-	91.27
19	Checking	-	1520.68
21	Money Market	-	4804.82
7	Total Monies	-	\$6416.77

John Baker announced the requirement to sign a waiver to obtain your membership card, which will be kept on file.

Respectfully Submitted,
Pete Sennhauser

Respectfully Submitted,
Pete Sennhauser

ADZE

I am planning a 2-month trip to Iceland this summer and wish to talk with anyone who had visited there recently. Any information is welcome. Please call me at 333-6295 or 99504 to Jim Scherr, 1611 Elmendorf Dr., Anchorage, AK 99504.

For Sale: KOEBAH VIVA mountaineering boots. Men's size 8. Gary Lawton, 337-8883.

Wanted: Cabin and dogsitter. Nonsmoker. Woodstove, gas range, elec., phone, well. References. Upper DeArmoun. Start May or June. Doug, 345-6898.

IN MEMORIAM FOR SYLVIA

I only knew Sylvia Lane for a year, but we became really good friends in that time. I've found that friendships born among climbers form quick and run deep; partly from the need to know and trust the person holding your belay, and partly from the hours and hours spent together on the mountain or waiting out a storm in a tent.

I met Sylvia when we both signed up for the Expedition Class at ACC last January. --At first glance, she didn't look like an athlete to me, but I soon realized she was stronger and more intense than I could ever be. She missed a couple of the class outings, but it wasn't because she stayed home to watch TV. One weekend she raced the Iditaski, another she went ice climbing in Valdez. I was with her when the class scaled Bard Peak near Portage and for five days on the Castner Glacier going after M' Ladies Peak.

Outside of class we continued to climb. She summited Kiliak with John Cafmeyer, Jim Saylor and Larry Hartig last May and stood on top of Icicle Peak with us in July. She loved expedition climbing. She tried a McKinley trip in 1986 and another to Gerdine in 1987. She didn't summit either time, but I know it wasn't because Sylvia held up the group.

She had interests outside of climbing too. She ran the Mt. Marathon race last year and completed the Crow pass crossing in 1986. She also biked to Valdez and figure skated competitively in high school.

When Sylvia set her mind to do something, she threw her heart and soul into it. She prepared for her McKinley trip by loading 70 pounds into a backpack and hiking up and down Skyline Dr. in Eagle River for four hours at a crack. For the Iditaski, she would load up a sled and ski Powerline Pass by headlamp by herself after work.

She packed a lot into each day. After dinner I usually think of kicking back and taking it easy, but Sylvia would call up and drag us out of the house to climb Flattop or Little O'Malley, or go rock climbing along the Arm. One day she lured us away from work to climb ice at Eklutna.

My favorite story about Sylvia is an adventure she had in Hatcher Pass last winter. She was a member of the Nordic Ski Patrol and accompanied a club day trip from the Pass down to Willow, a distance of 20 miles. At the end of the trip, she and Jenny McGee turned around and skied back up to Hatcher Pass (more training for the Iditaski) as a storm had kicked up and was blowing so violently at the higher elevations that they almost lost the road. They decided to play it safe and ski back down to Willow, arriving around 7 am. Total trip: 60 miles in 24 hours. I was astounded listening to this epic, but I had the funny feeling that Sylvia didn't think it was that big a deal.

I will miss her vitality and the way she was able to wring full value out of the hours in a day. Maybe remembering her will bring out better efforts in us.

Karen Cafmeyer

for Saylor and Koflach
355-6295 Karen Cafmeyer

for Saylor, KOFLACH

ICE CLIMBING FESTIVAL

Valdez will host once again the AAC's annual Ice Climbing Festival over President's Weekend, which this year is Feb. 13-15. Valdez is filthy rich with incredible frozen waterfalls, many of which can be climbed just off the Richardson Highway, many more require only a mile or two of travel to reach. There's anything from easy Grade I and II for beginners on up to Grade VI+ for those whose confidence is unbounded. A traditional spaghetti dinner will be held on Saturday evening and there will be videos, films and slide shows (\$10 donation asked).

If you plan to go down you may make arrangements to stay with one of the local climbers; please call Andy Embick 835-4200, 8335-4811w early. For more information call Charlie Sassara, AAC Section Chairman, 344-8204, 258-6565.

MCA Gear Policy

MCA gear is for use by MCA members. Its intent is for members who are beginning mountaineering and winter travel or members who may only need to use this type of equipment 1-3 times a year. The gear is not meant to be used by a member over and over again. Members should purchase their own gear when they begin to use the equipment more than a few times a year. The following policy applies to checking out MCA gear at AMH.

1. Checking out equipment can only be done by card-carrying members. Members are responsible for obtaining their own cards, AMH does not issue cards.
2. Only one piece of each type of equipment can be checked out per card. If it is a family membership, one piece per member listed on the card can be checked out.
3. Members may be asked to sign a release form prior to issuance of the equipment.
4. Beacons will not be issued with batteries so that the user can install his own and be certain of its condition.
5. Club ropes are for class use only.
6. Any period over 2-3 days must be arranged with the folks at AMH first.
7. MCA-sanctioned classes and trips take precedent over the equipment if the trip leader arranges for the equipment in advance.
8. If equipment is not returned in a timely manner, borrowing privileges will be revoked.

TRIP REPORTS

Eureka - Valdez

Willy Hersman

In April 1987 Tim Neale, Rick Maron, Leslie McDaniel and I skied from Eureka Lodge to Valdez. We left one day behind a race of the same route. We had hoped to use the tracks of the racers but the wind took care of that within one day.

We followed snowmachine tracks from the lodge which eventually led to the Nelchina River, about three miles below the Nelchina Glacier. Accessing the glacier on the left we found snow conditions a bit better above the river and infinitely better than Tim and Rick had found them the year before. The remains of the racers' first camp were found about 32 miles in from the race start.

We left the Nelchina via the 6650 pass just NE of Audubon Mt. and found our way down to the Tazlina Glacier. We'd had no views of much until we reached the far side of the Tazlina, at which time we were thankful for Rick and Tim's compass skills, for the unmistakable landmark of Mt. Cashman stood before us. Here we got a view back at our route and ahead of the pass we would have to cross.

Skiing Alaska's Back Forty refers to this as Cashman Pass. (Mt. Cashman was named for Edward Cashman, who crossed over the Valdez Glacier to the Copper River in the winter of 1898-99.) At 6350 it is the only obstacle of the traverse, being at an angle classic for avalanches and guarded by a large crevasse. Probably the best way to cross is to ascend just to the right of a small rock outcrop about halfway to the pass and climb directly up to the pass well to the left of the large pinnacle.

Beyond the pass is the long descent of the Valdez Glacier, about 25 miles to the Valdez Airport. You could do it in a long day, but we were met by a storm and had to sit out a day part of the way down. The skiing is excellent, with lots of snow on the Valdez side of the pass, but storms are quite frequent. There are several benches separated by short icefalls which we passed with no problems.

At about 4000 feet there is a long ridge connecting Mt. Mahlo and Mt. Schrader which may be an alternate route to the Valdez Gl. if there is avalanche danger back at Cashman. The detour, however, is very discouraging, you would probably be better off just going back to the Glenn Highway, abandoning the traverse.

We skied about 72 miles, taking 8 days because of storms. The racers did much better...something less than 72 hours.

Harding Nunataks

from the diary of
Steve Gardiner
Jackson, Wyoming

(edits in parentheses by W. Hersman)

June 10, 1987: Carried one load up the trail and onto snow to a rock band at approximately 2600. Left load there and returned to parking lot, got second loads and reloaded where we left the first packs and made camp. Two carries required nearly 11 hours. Clouds filled the sky, blocking our view back down Exit Glacier.

June 11: Having moved onto snow, we could now pull sleds and we

double-carried to the Harding Icefield. From there we single-carried 125 pounds of gear each to a camp at 3700 near the line dividing sections 22 and 27 on the Seward A8 topo map. On all sides peaks broke the surface of the icefield and we were surrounded in beauty. Clouds moved in and out all day.

June 12: We established our base camp near the center of Section 36 by noon and spent the afternoon soaking up the sun, drying clothes and discussing potential routes on the peaks.

June 13: Up at 4:00. Skied to the base of the rocky buttress on a nunatak in Section 25 (Peak 4850). We found three pitches of fair rock, the last being solid and about 5.4 in difficulty. Some scrambling and easy snow took us to our first summit. The sky was perfect and we had views in all directions of the hundreds of nunataks, the icefield and numerous glaciers and the two tiny dots which were our tents. We spent more than an hour on the summit. All winter this was what we had dreamed about.

June 14: Up at 4:00 again, but snow kept us in camp until 6:00. Skied to the base of a nunatak which had been named "Connie" in a field report by park ranger Bud Rice (7/2-11/85). Rice had climbed the northeast ridge of this nunatak (Point 5050, Section 35). We traversed beneath this ridge and climbed an excellent snow couloir which, in places, approached 45-50 degrees. We reached the summit at 11:00. We noticed an arete leading to another summit (Point 5050 to the NW). We found exposed and exciting climbing crossing this arete and reached the second summit at 12:30. This summit was a small knob which allowed only one person at a time at the actual top. We descended via swirling snow slopes on the north face and returned to camp in the early afternoon. These two peaks are in the southern portion of Section 35.

June 15: We skied 3 miles around the southern side of (Peak 5178) to a 1000-foot rock wall on the south face. We chose a likely-looking buttress and began roped rock climbing. We climbed two full lengths on loose rock, crossed a rocky couloir and began a vertical climb on a pinnacle. The leader had climbed 70-80 feet above the belay and was making a small traverse when a large block beneath his feet gave way. He was left suspended by his hands. The rocks crashed down into the couloir and very near the other three climbers. The larger stones rattled down and embedded themselves in the icefield below. More loose rock prompted a decision to divide the party into two groups and ascend quickly via two routes to the summit.

We met on the summit and descended a snow couloir just east of the climbing routes. Loose rock on the climb and suspect snow conditions on the descent made this the least enjoyable climb on the trip. We returned to camp at 3:00 and by 5:00 heavy snow was falling.

June 16-17: Blizzard conditions. We cannot see any landmarks; in fact, we can barely see the other tent 15 feet away.

June 18: Over a foot of snow fell on the flat and drifts of 2 1/2 feet surround our tents. We break camp and make a dash east across the icefield to a camp near the small hill in Section 34. We must travel much of the time by compass in a whiteout.

June 19: Snow all morning. At noon, a break in the weather lets us ski east to Peak 4815 on the line between Sections 35 and 36. We climb a beautiful snow ridge to a steep summit block. A very steep snow section takes us onto the summit in poor visibility.

June 20: We have seen a classic snow ridge on Peak 5450 in Section 3 and are keeping our eye on the weather. We would love to finish our trip with a climb on that ridge. Snow has turned to heavy rain with strong wind. We wait, but cannot get the break we need to climb.

June 22: We break camp and navigate by compass to the top of Exit Glacier. Three times we cross bear tracks. At the Kenai Fjords Ranger Station we were told about a lady who was killed by falling ice at the foot of the Exit Glacier.

My partners on these climbs were Rick Dare, Dallas Virchow and Joe Sears. We shared equally in the leading. We found no registers or anything else on the summits or sides of any peak we climbed. We know "Connie" was climbed by Bud Rice, but as far as we can tell from park records, conversations with rangers, and AAJ articles, the other four peaks are first ascents.

(Peaks 5178 and 4850 were climbed in May 1981 by a party from the Anchorage Community College, Babcock, Miner, Farmer, et al. They found a cairn on the summit of 4850. On the same trip they also climbed Peak 6103 to the north.)

Bicycling to Crescent Lake
Or, Kathy Burke where are you?

Mary Savage

Last year when we went to Crescent on a day hike, Sue Axxe and I had met four mountain bikers steaming up the trail. It had looked like fun and fairly easy since the trail is relatively smooth and not very steep. After we started riding mountain bikes this year Sue suggested we ride to Crescent Lake someday. Summer was gone by the time we started planning. The day was set for October 3.

Doris Curtis, always up for adventure, came along. We hauled our bikes to the trailhead behind the Sunrise Inn at mile 45 on the Sterling Hwy. The Crescent Lake trail is 6.4 miles long and the elevation gain is less than 1000 feet. We did not know when we left Anchorage whether we would run into rain or snow and had changes of clothes and were prepared to hike instead of bicycle.

The weather was overcast at the trailhead and there was a thin layer of snow on the ground but the temperature was comfortable. We peddled up the trail through birch trees, whooping and hollering and feeling good about getting out, but soon we discovered there were rocks and sticks hidden underneath leaves and snow that constantly tested our balance and recovery skills.

Then the trail deteriorated. There were steep places, mud holes, ice patches, and the snow was wet and heavy although it was never more than two inches deep. It made for difficult peddling and as long as we remained upright on the bikes we moved slowly up the trail. There were stretches where it was easier to walk and push. Sue declared about halfway that this was not the day to ride a bicycle to the lake, and tossed it aside and walked. Doris abandoned hers on the side of the trail when Sue overtook her. I was still under the illusion that it would be a great ride out and wanted to get all the way to the lake. We stopped for lunch at the bridge over Crescent Cr. The sun had come out and Sue seemed to lose interest fast in doing anything except sit in that sunny place.

Doris and I went on. She started first since there was little chance that I would overtake her. I would catch up enough to get a glimpse of her striding around a bend and then there would be the inevitable incline that meant walk and

push, pant and sweat and talk to myself, but I was sure the ride out would be worth the struggle. This was a Kathy Burke kind of outing: the plan would always sound good but the execution of it would nearly ruin us. She had not been able to come today.

I got to the lake at the same time as Doris, three hours. I had hiked to the lake in less time two summers ago carrying a 38-lb. pack. Oh well, that had been under optimum conditions.

I started first on the way back and was ready for a whoopee ride down but found out quickly after being splatted on the trail that I had better use the brakes and go slow. The last mile to the lake is a narrow path and the mud and snow greased the sides to lightning quickness whenever the front wheel touched. Even where the trail was wide, rocks under the snow seemed more treacherous on a downgrade than on an uphill. I took some spills that Kathy would have admired, especially the crash and burn on a downhill curve when my front tire slipped over the edge, the bike jack-knifed and I slid head-first down the trail in snow, mud and water.

Sue had retrieved her bicycle and was waiting at the car when Doris and I got there. It had taken less than two hours to go out, which was a little faster than walking. Sue and Doris still looked clean and dry but it was necessary for me to change clothes and shoes. After sprawling on the trail the first time there was no incentive to stay dry although I still tried to be careful so as not to break the bicycle or myself.

Yes, Sue had a good idea about bicycling to Crescent Lake. It would be more easily done when the trail is firm and dry but not nearly as adventurous. Hey Kathy, what are you doing next October...there is this trail to a lake...

MCA Winter Solstice on Flattop

Tom Meacham

It was a dark and stormy night on December 19, 1987 when a few MCA members and friends battled their way up Flattop to perpetuate the club's long tradition of a winter solstice sleep-in. Evidence of recent avalanche activity in the form of large, jumbled snow blocks loomed out of the darkness. Most hikers do not consider avalanches to be a serious threat on Flattop, but under the right conditions, with sufficient wind-loading, even the shorter slopes may move. The fracture line for this avalanche provided a short vertical challenge for Greg Higgins and me, climbing without headlamps in total, cloud-covered darkness. It was to be Greg's first winter solstice sleep-in, and my sixth or seventh.

We finally noticed two odd, dull-glowing objects up ahead, on the slope rising from the pronounced saddle below the summit ridge. One turned out to be the entrance to Mark Findlay's snow cave. The other was the crater where the roof had collapsed, the weather being kept at bay (not too effectively) by a tarp stretched over the hole. Greg and I dug a tent platform nearby, pitched our tent which rapidly accumulated a load of fresh snow, and joined the crew in the snow cave for dinner and fellowship. In addition to Mark, John Baker, Mike Miller and Charles Lane were enjoying the relative warmth and comfort of the snow cave and assorted liquid refreshment. We were later joined by Marcy Baker and Dave Pahlke, who arrived on skis. Dave rapidly dug an efficient one-person snow hole, while Marcy joined the group in the snow cave.

Although we were not in fact on the summit of Flattop, we justified our

bivouac by concluding that it was "just as good" as the summit, and didn't require digging a snow cave in the unstable-looking cornice at the top of the peak. The MCA tradition thus carried on in spirit and intention, if not literally.

Later we learned that a party of four had in fact camped on Flattop's summit, arriving by way of Rabbit Cr. Valley, and laying to rest any suspicion that the club tradition had not been fulfilled. Ted Moore and his son Ian, together with Chris Allard and Ian's friend Marcus Burtner spent the night in two tents on the summit plateau, after reaching a similar conclusion regarding snow cave construction in the summit cornice.

There was no panoramic view, a surprising amount of snow accumulated during the night, and the slopes were again wind-loaded the next morning. We triggered one short slippage of snow on the way down, reminding again that all mountains, including Flattop, demand respect under adverse weather conditions.

Marcus Baker: 13176

Frank Jenkins, John Cafmeyer, Sylvia Lane

We set off from the Mat Glacier Resort parking lot on skis with sleds packing sixteen days' of food and fuel. There was very little snow cover on the glacier snout and we spent almost three full days fighting our way across it. The routine each day was the same: stash the gear, ski up and down the moraine debris looking for a route, then go back for the sleds.

Once past Mt. Wickersham, the ice smoothed out and we could finally put some miles behind us. When planning this trip we assumed we'd be traveling only during the daytime hours, but in fact we skied well into the night by headlamp or by the light of the full moon. The snow cover improved as we headed up glacier, but even at the "Y" there were big patches of wind-scoured ice and lots of open crevasses.

We turned right at the "Y" to follow the West Fork of the Mat Glacier toward Marcus Baker's NE Ridge. The first icefall was a route-finding nightmare. We stuck to the east side of the glacier to avoid the worst crevasses and seracs, then cut west to set up base camp at 7200 on the east side of our ridge. It took a total of six traveling days to reach this point from the parking lot.

Sylvia told us that she had decided to stay in base camp rather than climb the peak. It didn't rally surprise us as we had discussed the possibility in Anchorage. We left her the tent, her stove, two shovels, her storm gear and fourteen days of food so she could wait for a rescue in case something happened to us on the ridge. We took four days of food and fuel, our bivy gear and climbing equipment.

We ascended the ridge via an easy snow slope below the first saddle. From there it was a snow and rock walk to the first obstacle at Point 10540. What started out as a snow slope soon turned to blue ice. The angle steepened to 45 deg and we ended up committed to the route. We climbed it with single tools, but it went on for 600 feet or more and the consequences of a slip didn't bear thinking about. It was dark by the time we finished with the ice so we made camp in a saddle right below the North Summit. It took three hours to hack out a snow hole large enough for the two of us.

The next morning we climbed up and over the North Summit, au cheval at the crest, then down-climbed approx. 700 feet of white and blue ice to the South

Summit plateau. It was tricky deciding which peak was the summit as there are several in the area that look to be about the same height. While sitting on one of these points, we saw what we thought was our summit another couple of miles away. I knew then I was too trashed to go any farther and hoped Frank wouldn't be too disappointed. We took some bearings and determined that the other "summit" was actually Peak 12207 and we were in fact taking our break on the top of Marcus Baker! It was -6 deg and clear.

By the time we returned to our snow hole that night, the wind was buffeting our ridge. The next morning we awoke to a gail. No snow, but the stronger gusts sent tremors through our shelter like mild earthquakes. the storm weakened after 24 hours, but it was another six before the clouds dissipated enough to travel. We packed up and left at 3:00 pm, dropping down the east side of the ridge to avoid the ice on 10540 and the winds above us.

By 6:00 pm we were down and heading toward base camp. We were pretty drained from the climb and the anxiety of waiting out the storm in our snow hole (wondering if it would last a day or a week). Frank was thinking up a joke to tell Sylvia when we arrived. The closer we got to the tent, the more light-hearted we felt, thinking the difficulties were behind us now.

But the camp lights that greeted us were not the warm glow of the tent or Sylvia's headlamp, bobbing as she ran outside to meet us. All we saw were the cold white reflective decals on our skis and poles jammed in the snow around a ruined tent site. The snow walls were eroded and filled to the top with snow. The only sign of the tent was broken poles protruding from the drift.

The utter desolation of that moment was absolute for Frank and me.

At first we thought she might somehow be alive in the buried tent, but before we could even begin to dig, our headlamps picked out her form lying in the snow about 30 feet below camp.

We spent the next day excavating the tent and trying to piece together what happened, but no clear picture emerged. Speculation is pointless unless we can also answer positively questions relating to our own ability to face what Sylvia did. How can any of us know our limits until tested?

On Saturday, Jan. 9th, we packed up to ski back out. As soon as we turned the corner from the West Fork to the main branch of the Mat Glacier, we came upon our old tracks as clear and fresh as if we had set them the day before. With no route-finding to do we made good time, camping that first night at Big Bend. The second night found us tunneling under a boulder past Mt. Wickersham, using the wrecked tent body as a storm fly. By the end of the third day we were back in the parking lot.

In researching and planning this trip, we anticipated having to deal with really bad weather. We went dressed for the cold, expecting to spend days in the tent being hammered by winter storms. Instead we had 14 days of clear weather and temperatures in the low teens...and just one day of wind to bring tragedy.

HIKING AND CLIMBING SCHEDULE

Feb. 27 SNOW SHELTER CLASS
Learn to dig snow shelters for survival and fun. Bring shovel and snow saw. If you want to stay overnight in your shelter, bring your overnight gear. Location depends on the best snow. Leader: Rick Maron 349-3064

March TAZLINA GLACIER
Glacier skiing and possible easy climbing. Fly-in trip to Tazlina Glacier in the Chugach Range. Glacier experience not required. Practice and training will take place prior to the trip. Date is not set yet, but will be late March. Cost will depend on the number of participants, limit 8 people. Contact leader early.
Leader: Tim Neale 274-4952

March PICHLER'S PERCH
Sometime after the March MCA meeting, depending on the pilot's schedule. Supplies will be flown in for hut repairs this summer. Ski up to Eklutna Glacier, meet the plane and sled the stuff over to the hut. Glacier experience necessary, glacier gear mandatory. Some people may want to ski the whole traverse afterwards, this can be worked out. NOTICE: if you plan to do the Eklutna-Girdwood Traverse any time this year and want us to take some fuel up there for you on this flight, now is the time to buy it and give Gerry a call.
Hut Chairman and Leader: Gerry Minick 274-7389

Climbing Notes

Mike Miller, Rick Maron and Willy Hersman made a ski ascent of Mooswa Peak (5020) on January 2nd, going up from Manitoba Mt. along the ridge which connects the two peaks, and then descended via the west ridge. There was no extra time for digging out any possible register, but there are only two accounts listed in Scree for this peak. Nick Parker, Bob Spurr and Bill Hauser did the first ascent in early 1967 and the MCA led one in May 1968, both trips being up the northeast ridge.

1987 Statistics for Denali National Park

McKinley Attempts:	Successes:	Fatalities (McKinley):	(Elsewhere Alaska Range):
1978	459	270	2
1979	533	351	2
1980	659	283	8
1981	612	321	6
1982	696	310	0
1983	709	474	2
1984	695	324	2
1985	645	321	2
1986	755	406	4
1987	817	251*	2**

* Lowest success rate since 1971

** In addition, 16% of the climbers had symptoms of AMS and 7% reported some degree of frostbite.

-- No one reached the summits of Foraker or Hunter in 1987.

30% of the climbers on McKinley were guided, 23% of these were successful.

84% of McKinley climbers were on the West Buttress.

New Routes in 1987:

Mt. McKinley : none.

Broken Tooth : South Face (M. Stump, S. Quinlin), West Ridge (T. Bauman, J. Lewis)

Mt. Bradley : East Ridge (East Pillar) (A. Orgler, S. Jochler); this was also the First Ascent of the mountain.

Huttenturm : (Ruth Gl.) West Side (A. Orgler, S. Jochler); also a First Ascent.

Gurney Peak : (7360) Southeast Face (J. Garrett, C. Anker)

Peak 9810 : (near Mather) First Ascent (C. Zappelli et al)

West Tripyramid Peak : Northwest Ridge (S. Gill, R. Waitman, C. Beaver)

In addition, Brian and Diane Okonek and Rick Ernst made the First Winter Ascent of Mt. Silverthrone via the Brooks Glacier and Silverthrone Col.

Tips...Ideas...Techniques

Mike King

Beginning with this issue of Scree, we will print helpful tips from members that will hopefully be informative and useful to you. If you have a favorite tip or a good idea for customizing gear, or a backcountry recipe, share it with others. Contact Mike King (see back page for number) to have your idea in the next Scree.

Do you use vapor barrier socks? Those are the coated nylon socks designed to be worn between your liner sock and your heavy wool sock to help keep feet warm and inner boots dry. They work quite well. On the back of the VB sock is a seam that should be seam-sealed to keep the inner boots even drier on those long trips. Some people like to use neoprene diving socks, but they do tend to pinch toes a bit. Plastic bags from the store work fine although they slide towards your toes; larger bags seem to be less of a problem because you can wrap them around your ankle more. The price is pretty hard to beat too.

A pile patch sewn onto the top of your mitten shell is great for warming cold cheeks and dealing with a runny nose. Try first sewing velcro strips on the top of the shell, then sewing the other side of the velcro strip to the pile patch. This makes it easier to clean or switch patches.