



MOUNTAINEERING CLUB OF ALASKA

BOX 102037

ANCHORAGE, ALASKA 99510

DECEMBER 1989

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DECEMBER MEETING

The next monthly meeting of the MCA will be held Wednesday, December 20th, \*\*\*\*\* 7:00 pm, at the Kincaid Outdoor Center. \*\*\*\*\* After the short business meeting there will be a potluck dinner, including turkey, and slides presented by you, the members. In addition there is a promise of surprise entertainment, and there will be a film about a free-climb of the NW Face of Half Dome. So, bring your skis, a few slides from this past year (ten or so) and something to eat for dinner using the following scheme:

Last name begins with:

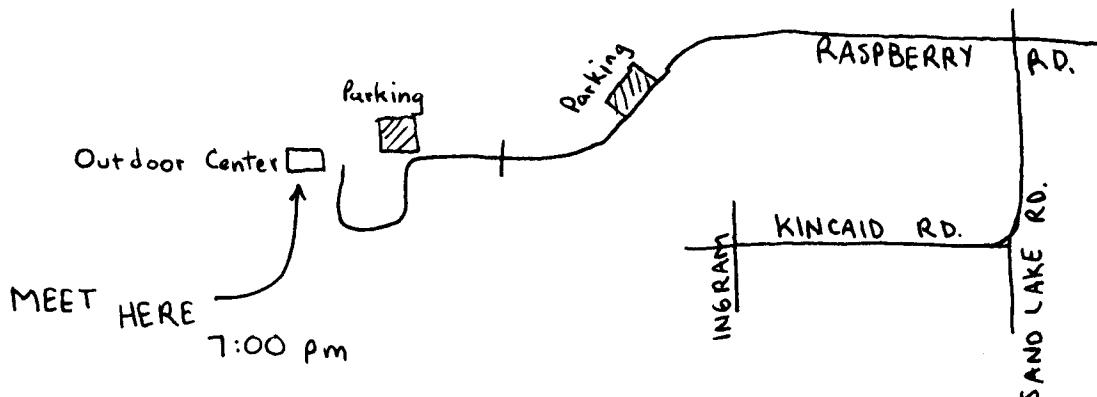
A-C  
D-H  
I-N  
O-Z

Bring:

Salad  
Bread  
Desert  
Vegetables

If you don't know how to find the meeting location, call Dan O'Haire 561-1141, or try to follow this map:

KINCAID / PT. CAMPBELL OUTDOOR CENTER



## HIKING AND CLIMBING SCHEDULE

- December 8-10 MANITOBA MT.  
First annual MCA trip to Manitoba Cabin, near Summit Lakes. The cabin has been reserved for Friday and Saturday night. Each person using the cabin needs to contribute \$5.00 to the Nordic Ski Club via the leader (others can use tents.) Great skiing and a sauna. Contact leader, please. Class A.  
Leader: Neil O'Donnell 274-5069h 276-1700w
- 16-17 ICE CLIMB AT EKLUTNA  
Many waterfalls, from easy grade II to hard grade V. Access around Eklutna Lake by snowmobile and skis. Go in early Sat., come out late Sun. Pick your own partners before going.  
FIFTH CLASS. Not a school.  
Leader: Mike Miller 345-5718
- 23-24 ANNUAL FLATTOP SLEEPOUT  
Help maintain a club tradition. Come see the Northern Lights, listen to the wind, peer into the fog, jump in the sack. Be prepared for cold and wind. No leader. Class B.
- 23 NORTH FORK CAMPBELL CR.  
Ski up North Fork, cross pass and down Middle Fork, from Prospect Hts. Skins and metal edges recommended. Headlamp required. About 8-9 hours. Class C.  
Leader: Alan Julliard 243-3816
- 29 GOVERNMENT PEAK  
Ski climb in the Talkeetnas, all day Friday. Elevation gain 2200'. Class B. Cross country ski gear, with skins.  
Leader: Willy Hersman 38-5132
- January 28 PORTAGE PASS ANNUAL  
Superbowl Sunday. Ski across Portage Lake, over Portage Pass to beautiful downtown Whittier to watch the football game. What else is there to do, right? Take the train back same day. Class A. Train fare: about \$7.50.  
Leader: Phil King 349-8288

The Hiking and Climbing Committee is always looking for leaders. If you have an idea for a trip, whether for an afternoon or several weeks, give Tom Brigham a call at 276-4406. H and C Committee: Tom Brigham Chairman, D. Hansen, B. Wakeland, A. Shayer, J. Baker, N. O'Donnell, W. Hersman.

## TRIP REPORTS

### Arctic Valley to Indian Ski Traverse

Kathy Burke

On April 1 three other April Fools and I skied the 21 miles from Arctic Valley to Indian. Good grief! Either the miles are getting longer or the hills are getting steeper. The winter of 87-88 this trip was a breeze - good weather, good snow and plenty of energy left over at the end. Last winter started by walking down the hill to Ship Creek. This was a good sign, at least we'd learned something from the previous years of skiing that icy downhill and falling acrobatics would have made Marylou Reton jealous. Wolves howled at the sunrise and there were lots of lynx tracks. We passed a couple of beaver lodges and Ship Creek was beautiful as always. At the lunch spot on a patch of dry windblown tundra we celebrated someone's birthday with carrot cake.

Skiing through Ship and Indian passes we didn't dare get off the trail or the skis would really sink down. On the downhill to the woods along Indian Creek the snow had become a deep slushy mess. We chose to follow the main branch of tracks down to the gully rather than staying high. We decided later that these tracks had been made by ski-twerps of the most sadistic mentality. We entered the gully at its uppermost end and were stuck in there for the entire length, skiing forward ten feet, then sidestepping down ten feet, and this went on and on and on. Some of us have renamed the gully "death valley," and I will deny and rumors that I hit a new level of totally exhausted-grouchy-pissed-offedness and threatened to hang myself by my skins rather than continue on.

I finally quit lying down on the snow and whimpering and got myself out of there. (Pizza promises did the trick.) Well, we went from skiing to walking on our skis with skins to finally walking out on snow that didn't punch through. We were out before dark and I was tired from my feet to my wrists. I could hardly push the car key into the ignition. Our minds were rum-dummy from tired exhaustion. As for the pizza, forget it, it would have taken too much energy to chew. Wonder what that trip will be like this year?

Arctic to Indian April Fools: Linda White, Mary Savage, Jane Stammen and Kathy Buurke.

### Southeast Alaska News

Dianna Fehring  
Ketchikan

Dianna Fehring and Denise Saigh are alive and well and promoting MCA in S.E. Alaska. Believe it or not, we found climbable rock in S.E. Had a great weekend (Oct. 20) exploring rock on the road to Harriet Hunt. Great cracks - some Alaskan friction and lots of fun! It took days to clean and once free of wet moss, along with a sunny day we were stoked to go. Local climbing partners and soon to be MCA members Bruce Blatchley and Ron Kauer provided good leads. We've had less rain than Anchorage - come visit and explore S.E. Alaska where the combination of rock and eagles please the adventurous spirit! Happy holidays.

Ice Cream Cone  
Second Ascent

Mike Miller

Ice Cream Cone Mt., aka Skybuster, 8675', is located north of the Knik River and east of the Matanuska River. It was first climbed by MCAers Dave Johnston, Hans Van der Laan, and John Samuelson on July 3, 1957. Their route (see AAJ, 1968, p. 124 and Scree, July 1967, p. 4) followed Carpenter Creek and up the glacier at the end of the valley to the saddle at 6400'. They then climbed diagonally up the hanging glacier on 45-degree ice overlain with 8" of snow, unroped. While "rock and snow pillars plunged valleyward like the Eigerwand" they climbed on up the NE Ridge through rock bands (wearing crampons) and couloirs, over and around false summits, finally reaching the summit at 10 pm.

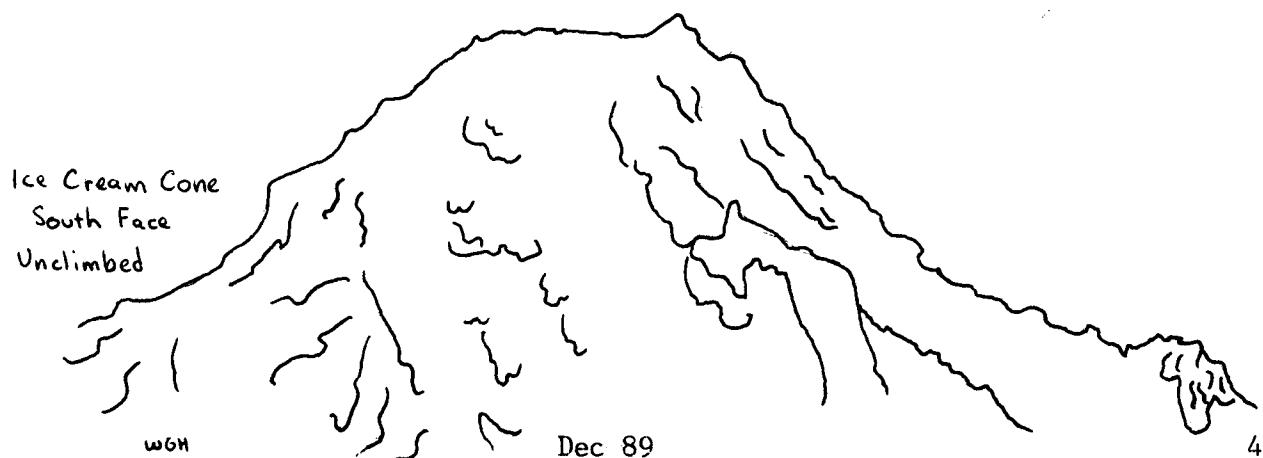
The second ascent was made on May 5, 1984 via a new route up the NW Face from the Carpenter Cr. valley. Dan Shearer describes the climb:

"Eldon Elder, Dan Shearer and Scott Hickoff crossed the Matanuska River at about Mile 74 late in the afternoon and floated to the mouth of Carpenter Cr., then cached the raft. After hiking through dense devil's club, we spent the night on the first bench on the left side of Carpenter Cr. valley."

"Leaving early and hiking along the first bench level we encountered knee deep, wet snow and were soon soaked. Next day was more of the same up this awesomely beautiful valley. Approximately one hour after reaching a large boulder basin with plunge pools we were on a bench looking up at the route, camp here as avalanche conditions dictate."

"Left early the next morning and proceeded up the left hand snow chute, working up steep snow to mid-face put us at the crux - 20 to 30 feet of steep ice followed by more very steep snow and rock. We then worked up and to the left and gained the double-corniced summit ridge. From there we traversed about 100 yards to the summit dome at 4:45 pm, May 5th. Made the trip out and across the Matanuska River from the summit in 24 hours. Many cats were heard, but none seen!"

They used snow pickets, flukes, ice screws and pitons for protection.



## MINUTES OF THE NOVEMBER MEETING

The monthly meeting was held on at the Pioneer School House on the 15th. President Neil O'Donnell presided, with the other new officers present.

### Treasurer's Report:

Petty cash	- \$ 52.10
Checking	- 1183.83
Money market	- <u>3797.41</u>
Total	- \$5033.34

### Committees :

Huts - Gretchen Staeheli reported that she hopes for new t-shirts by the December meeting. A benefit slide show, Nov. 30, featuring Dave Staeheli's solo winter ascent of Denali will be used to raise more money. A list of materials needed for the new huts was read and members were reminded that donations are tax-deductible. The next meeting of the Hut Committee will be November 29th.

Hiking and Climbing - Neil reported, giving details of the upcoming Thanksgiving trip to the Mint Hut and winter ski trip to the Manitoba Cabin. See hiking and climbing schedule for other trips. The H and C Chairman is Tom Brigham 276-4406.

Training - Todd Miner reported that the Municipality is not able to commit to allow the Climbing Wall at Kincaid. Final word on that may come in December. The university option looks better. A motion was passed favoring the university location and the club gave its support to Mike Miller as emissary. Mike announced an upcoming Winter Mountaineering Class scheduled for December 2nd.

### Old Business :

none.

### New Business :

Thanks and patches to those who served the club during the past year. A list of accomplishments were read. The members passed a motion to get the past President a token of appreciation, as is traditional.

The Club has a new display, now featured at REI. Gretchen Staeheli was thanked for doing such a great job creating it.

### Announcements :

Todd Miner announced a January 6-13th, \$295 Wilderness Search and Rescue Course at the university.

Todd also announced public hearings at the Loussac Library regarding a proposed mega-resort on the north side of Denali State Park, on Kseugi Ridge (some people call this Curry Ridge, which is really farther south).

The December meeting will be at Kincaid Park, not at Russian Jack as mistakenly reported in the last newsletter.

The Alaska Department of Natural Resources will be holding meetings on logging along the Susitna River, as reported by Vivian Mendenhall.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Dan O'Haire

ADZE

The American Lung Association announces its annual ski trek for this next year. There will be treks of one, three, four and eight day durations. The first will be a one-day trek on February 3rd near Anchorage. Other treks will follow in March.

Trekkers get a chance to meet new friends and enjoy a safe experience while raising funds to help fight lung disease and promote clean air. All trekkers taking part in the longer treks will be required to take part in two training sessions and an overnight shake-down.

For more information about the ALAA's Ski Treks, please call Lisa King at 276-LJNG.

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Don't forget when making reservations, if you use Sanctuary Travel, the Mountaineering Club can receive part of your fare. Just tell them that you are designating the MCA as the non-profit organization which you want to get this benefit. Sanctuary Travel Services, 3701 E. Tudor Road, 561-1212.