



MOUNTAINEERING CLUB OF ALASKA
JANUARY 1990

BOX 102037

ANCHORAGE, ALASKA 99510
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JANUARY MEETING

The next monthly meeting of the MCA will be held Wednesday, January 17th, at the Pioneer Schoolhouse, 3rd and Eagle Sts., downtown Anchorage. After the business meeting there will be a special slide show presented by George Rooney. The subject will be last year's climb of the West Ridge of Mt. Everest, including slides of the trek in to Base Camp.

HIKING AND CLIMBING SCHEDULE

- January 21 McHUGH PEAK
Ski up from Rabbit Creek Climbing skins, shovel and avalanche beacon. (MCA has a few beacons available at AMH.) Elevation gain, 2600'. Class B.
Leader: Neil O'Donnell 274-5069
- 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: \$5.00.
Leader: Phil King 349-8288
- February 10-11 ECHO BEND ICE WEEKEND
This trip is with the American Alpine Club - Alaska Section. Sort of a warm-up for the Annual Valdez Festival. Ice climbs of all difficulties can be found at Echo Bend along Eagle River. TECHNICAL: Fifth Class. Snowmachine in to the climbs and camp along the river. Bonfire! Film-making! Prizes! Fun!
Contact: Paul Denkwalter 272-1811 Steve Davis 694-3556
- March 3 CREVASSE RESCUE PRACTICE
Leader: Dan O'Haire 561-1141
- 9-18 MATANUSKA GLACIER SKI TRIP
Join us at MCA basecamp to play in the mountains. Ski, climb and explore. Crevasse rescue practice is required to ski around on the glacier.
Leader: Dan O'Haire 561-1141

TRIP REPORTS

Thanksgiving Trip

Neil O'Donnell

The report for the Thanksgiving trip to the Mint Hut is very short. We never saw the hut. Randy Howell and Tim Flynn headed in the day before Thanksgiving, but were rebuffed by thigh deep snow. This was several days after heavy snows and avalanches had closed the road to Hatcher Pass. Randy's and Tim's descriptions of their difficulties were sufficiently detailed to convince us to stay in bed Thanksgiving morning and drink our wine out of a bottle that weekend. Day trips were made by some or all the planned participants to Arctic Valley, Tincan, and Winner Creek.

Manitoba Weekend

Neil O'Donnell

The Nordic Ski Club's cabin, a quarter mile from the road, proved more accessible than the Mint Hut. MCAers in attendance included George Barrett, Mindy Baum, Mark Findlay, Bill Heubner, Jim Gavin, Alan Johnson, Clare Lattimore, Priscilla Lukens, Rick Maron, Mike Miller, Pete Murphy, John Pinamont, Jim Saylor, Joe Shulte, Neely Taylor, Ron Van Bergeyk, Bob Wemple, Mary ---, Juliasa --- and Glacier the dog. The skiing was good on Saturday and great on Sunday (after 12" overnight.) Rick Maron did the honors of breaking trail to the top of the mountain and putting in the first set of flawless turns. Much philosophizing was accomplished in the sauna Saturday night. Pete Murphy extolled the virtues of his all-purpose multi-bean stew. All in attendance agreed that Mindy's cheese cake alone made the drive worth while. The great skiing was simply a bonus!

MINUTES OF THE DECEMBER MEETING

The monthly meeting was held at the Kincaid Outdoor Center on the 20th. There were two turkeys and lots of good food. There was no business meeting this time, only some announcements, and a treasury report.

Treasurer's Report:

Petty cash	- \$ 52.10
Checking	- 2632.50
Money market	- 3829.84
Total	- \$6514.44

Of the Total, \$1737.99 has been collected for Huts.

Money received from Sanctuary Travel was \$39.34.

Announcements :

Gretchen Staeheli asked for volunteers and a flatbed truck to move donated materials from the Willow Creek Apartments demolition.

Marcy Baker asked for volunteers to lead a Heart Association ski trip.

During desert, members took turns showing slides from trips of the past

MINUTES OF THE BOARD MEETING

Vicki Jorgensen reported that as of Nov 30, the Hut Committee has nearly \$1400 in profits towards huts, about \$650 was netted from Dave's slide show. The board discussed discontinuing the lease for the Mint Hut but decided to pay for 1990 anyway. An emergency sled, donated for the hut cannot be snowmobiled up the valley due to the regulations. This was discussed.

Upcoming trips were discussed by several trip leaders. Mike Miller postponed the Basic Mountaineering Class due to lack of interest, but announced several other ideas for training members in several different areas.

Gretchen Staeheli reported on progress for the hut project. There is nearly enough material collected for one hut and almost enough for two. This spring there will be a pre-fabbing party. Dave Pahlke has drawn up detailed designs for the Bomber Hut and a model for the other hut is being sought. Funding for helicopter transportation and permits are the major hurdles in the project. Applications for both sites are pending with the State Department of Natural Resources.

Future slide shows were discussed. Alan Julliard gave ideas for meetings and fund-raisers. Alan also reported on the library. Under no objection from the board, Alan announced that several duplicates at the library will be taken out to the club's different huts. This would not include any from Vin Hoeman's collection, of course, since those are from Vin's estate and must be kept intact, along with his files.

Your board voted unanimously to suspend the MCA Hot Line, thus saving the club about \$125 a year.

Respectfully Submitted,
Dan O'Haire

Dave Staeheli Slide Show a Big Success

Dave's slide presentation of his first solo winter ascent of Denali's West Rib was well-received and well-attended. The talk was held at Providence Hospital on November 30th, where the auditorium was filled to capacity. 192 individuals contributed \$768 in gross revenue (\$648 net) to hear the presentation. Dave has donated the proceeds to the Hut Committee to be used for new huts. Many thanks to Dave for an excellent show!

History Corner

Neil O'Donnell

The President's Box

One of the fascinating aspects of being President of the MCA is rummaging through the collection of memorabilia and records known as the "President's Box." Most of us have only been members of the club for the last few years and do not appreciate the long history of our organization. The first meeting of the MCA was held on July 30, 1958 at the old Loussac Library. There were 42 charter members. The dues then were \$2.00.

A popular function of the club today is the maintenance of summit registers. Summit registers are now generally short, light-weight capped PVC pipe. The following minutes describe the origin of our register system:

Minutes of December 4, 1958

John Johnston brought up the question of registers that could be taken to mountain peaks and left there. Members were asked to bring up any ideas as to the type of container and material that would be light in weight and yet strong enough.

This suggestion was pursued at the next meeting:

Minutes of January 8, 1959

Ron Wilson showed us an empty ammunition canister which he proposed for summit registers. The box seemed to be relatively light in weight, yet roomy enough to hold notebooks and pencils. Ron was authorized to purchase two boxes at 75 cents each for a start.

So began the register system. Other interesting entry indicate that, contrary to common wisdom, progress has been made in the club:

Minutes of January 2, 1961

The general meeting of the MCA was called to order by President Rod Wilson at 8:00 pm at Willow Park Hall. The first item of business was the impeachment of the Secretary for not having the minutes prepared. It was also discovered that the SCREE had not been received by the subscribers and was still in the back seat of a black VW belonging to the Indoor Program Chairman. Copies were passed out to those present, thus saving the club 60 cents in postage. (I believe postage was 3 cents then.)

Finally, a timely comparison in light of Dave Staeheli's recent slide show is the entry concerning Jim Whittaker's presentation in May 1965. Jim had been the first American to climb Everest two years earlier.

Minutes of May 17, 1965

Gary Hanson announced that the club had more than broke even on the Whittaker slide show and estimated the profit to be about \$25.00.

Dave should be gratified to learn that even accounting for inflation, he is a bigger draw than Jim Whittaker!