



MOUNTAINEERING CLUB OF ALASKA
MARCH 1990

BOX 102037

ANCHORAGE, ALASKA 99510
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MARCH MEETING

The next monthly meeting of the MCA will be held Wednesday, March 21st, at 7:30 pm at the Pioneer Schoolhouse, 3rd and Eagle Sts., downtown Anchorage.

* * After the business meeting, there will be a slide show on early climbs done in Chugach State Park and other parts of the range, presented by Denali guide, Brian Okonek. * *

HIKING AND CLIMBING SCHEDULE

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|-------|-------|---|
| March | 9-18 | <u>MATANUSKA GLACIER SKI TRIP</u>
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. Class: GLACIER TRAVEL.
Leader: Dan O'Haire 561-1141 |
| | 18 | <u>HIDDEN PEAK</u>
Ski from Glen Alps. Bring boots, crampons and ice axe, also shovel and avalanche beacon. Elevation gain 2500. Class C.
Leader: Tom Brigham 276-4406 |
| | 31-01 | <u>BOMBARDMENT PASS</u>
Ski from Eagle River to Peter's Creek via the pass. 22 miles one way. Class D. Must be a strong skier.
Leader: TBA |
| April | 7 | <u>ARCTIC TO BIRD</u>
Ski from Arctic Valley to Bird, Alaska via Bird Creek Pass. Distance: 30 miles. Class D. Must be a strong skier.
Leader: Alan Julliard 243-3816 |
| | 14-15 | <u>HIGHER SPIRE</u>
Reed Lakes area. Ice axe, crampons, avalanche beacon, shovel. Basic mountaineering skills required. Class D.
Leader: TBA |
| | 22 | <u>CREVASSE RESCUE CLASS</u>
Glacier travel and crevasse rescue will be covered. Class takes place at a local glacier for the day. Need ice axe, harness, carabiners and prussiks. Learn how to stay out of those slots.
Leader: Mike Miller 243-8838 |

Addendum to last month's Scree:

The guidebook to southcentral Alaska's ice climbing routes is titled: Fat City and Urban Ice, written by Steve Davis, Dave Whitelaw, and Roger Pollard. It is due out in mid-March, available at your favorite climbing store.

HUT MATERIALS WISH LIST

The following is a list of materials needed to build the Mat. Glacier and Bomber Glacier huts. Contact Gretchen Staeheli 344-3986, if you can donate something.

1/2" plywood	visqueen
1/4" plywood	metal roofing
1x4s	caulking
1x6s	lanterns
2x6s	stoves
2x4s	fire extinguishers
insulation	flat-blade shovel
brooms	hammers, saws
screw drivers	tin snips

MINUTES OF THE FEBRUARY MEETING

The monthly meeting was held at the Pioneer Schoolhouse on the 21st. Neil O'Donnell presided. Neil appologized to the members on behalf of the club for late Screes this month. Seems that a tardy payment of the bulk mail permit caused the shipment to be held hostage until the Treasurer came up with a check.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

Petty cash	- \$ 52.10
Checking	- 1370.60
Hut Fund	- 1297.99
MM	- <u>3682.41</u>
Total	- <u>\$6403.10</u>

COMMITTEES :

Huts: Gretchen Staeheli reported that we still need materials for donation o the hut cause. Please contact her if you can help (344-3986). We are still waiting for word on the permit applications. New t-shirts are being made for the committee to sell in the near future.

Hiking and Climbing: Trip leaders touted upcoming trips. And as usual, the committee is looking for leaders to do trips in the future.

Training: Dan O'Haire gave some details for the crevasse rescue training session scheduled for the 3rd of March. Mike Miller said there would also be another such session, to be held out in the field sometime soon.

Alan Julliard gave an update on the climbing wall, which will probably go in at APU campus. Call Todd Miner at 786-1122 if you are interested in helping. So far, \$1000 of materials have been ordered for the wall.

Parks Advisory: Ken Zafren reported that a proposed expansion of Hilltop Ski Area would impinge on the Campbell Cr. natural area in Anchorage. The expansion would alter the wilderness character of existing cross-country ski trails.

Honorary Membership: Willy Hersman gave a short background for the committee, formed in 1988. There will be a presentation at the next meeting to the newly elected honorary members.

OLD BUSINESS

There was one complaint about not getting Screes. Neil O'Donnell explained once more about the bulk mail foul-up.

NEW BUSINESS

Willy Hersman announced a bulk order for freeze-dried food, if folks are interested in participating. It means a substantial savings at wholesale. Order forms were available, and will be for the next meeting.

Neil showed a copy of an IRS request for employee status from the club. The club of course has never had employees.

Thanks to Steve Davis for his slides of Southcentral Ice Climbing.

Respectfully Submitted,
Dan O'Haire

MINUTES OF FEBRUARY BOARD MEETING

The meeting was held at Neil's house, with most board members present. Discussion was held about a possible glacier travel class in April and other ideas for training. Gretchen Staheli showed a new t-shirt design for a new order of shirts, approved by the board. Gretchen also announced that she would be retiring as hut chairperson in April. Hut permits and material transportation were also discussed.

Tom Brigham reported on upcoming trips, and mentioned a planning meeting for spring and summer to be held sometime in April. The board approved purchase of a light pointer for slide shows, John Baker would be responsible for buying it.

Respectfully Submitted,
Dan O'Haire

NO. 4 Mountain Goat

The mountain goat is a true mountaineer, although not always found in the alpine in Alaska. In Montana it spends most of the year high in the mountains, but in Alaska it is common to find mountain goats on low, south-facing cliffs, perhaps even near the ocean in winter. At a great distance it is not easy to tell mountain goats from Dall sheep, since both are white. Both species occur in overlapping ranges on the peaks around Tern Lake, on the Kenai, and near Girdwood. The general pattern is that Dall sheep occupy the high country of the Talkeetnas (where some mountain goats occur), Alaska Range and other northerly areas, while mountain goats occupy the more coastal regions of the Kenai, Chugach, and Wrangell Mountains.

Mountain goats have longer, more shaggy hair, a "beard," a shoulder bump, and short, spike horns in both sexes. * It could be argued that they are even more specialized for cliff life, since a rubbery center the their hoof gives additional traction on slippery rocks.

males live on their own in small groups for most of the year and join the females during rutting in November. You should see some real battling for mating rights then, because goats use their horns to inflict damage on their rivals (unlike sheep, which display ritual head-butting). Mountain goats do not collect females into harems like sheep do, and mixed mating groups can be seen well into December.

Single kids are born in May and June (twins are uncommon) to nannies that have left the main group. By late June nursery groups have formed and the flocks may contain over 50 goats, where they are not hunted. It is always amazing to watch one-week old kids scramble after the nanny up Grade 4 pitches where we would call for a belay!

During these summer days goats are truly alpine animals, eating grasses, herbs and tiny shrubs. In their low winter ranges, browse is the main food and they may even resort to eating hemlock. Some groups may remain in high, wind-swept areas but I have never seen one on a winter climb. Have you?

* Unlike sheep, where males have massive distinctive horns, it is difficult to sex goats. Unless females have kids with them, they can only be distinguished at close range, by comparing with males whose horns are heavier but not longer. Males weigh a bit more, but this is hard to see, unless they are wearing the shorter hair of summer.