



MOUNTAINEERING CLUB OF ALASKA

BOX 102037

ANCHORAGE, ALASKA 99510

NOVEMBER 1992

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NOVEMBER MEETING

Nov 18 7:30 pm Wednesday, Pioneer Schoolhouse, 3rd and Eagle Sts.,
downtown Anchorage, Alaska.

SLIDE SHOW Bill Wakeland will show slides of the Gates of the Arctic in the
Brooks Range.

ELECTION RESULTS

President.....Joel Babb
Vice President.....John Maltas
Treasurer.....Dave Hart
Secretary.....Julia Moore
Board Member.....Mindy Baum
Board Member.....Bernie Kazmierczak

TRIP REPORTS

Snowhawk II Hut Work & Temptation Peak

Scott Bailey

The joint MCA-military work party had dwindled to two by the 3:10 pm liftoff at Bryant Army Airfield on September 19th, delayed since 8:30 am by a snowstorm and visibility. Wood for a new outhouse door, shelving, wands, ten pounds of tools, two gallons of emergency fuel and a snow pot were ferried to the hut. Chris Tomsen and Joe Rappahan (Ft. Richardson ITR) briefly visited the hut for an inventory and left with the chopper. Much thanks to the Army for the transport.

After a brief assessment of the site, Tom Choate and I set to work. We put up shelves, the new outhouse door, a drop-leaf cook shelf, dry-line for clothes, etc. Work continued late on Saturday with the outhouse door ready to varnish on Sunday morning. The weather was clearing and an attempt of Temptation Peak seemed possible, the last climb of "summer."

Once the door was varnished Sunday we had to leave, due to vapors and good climbing weather. After a nice pace with time for views we reached the summit in perfect weather and three hours. Back to the hut with time left to finish chores. By Sunday we finished the inside/outside planned tasks.

Monday morning was cold, 10 F, but clear and the hut was marked with reflective tape for night time "winter" visitors. We had a brief visit from a Huey Chopper practicing landings. Off just before noon, we wanded and taped our way down the trail to the "real" work of the trip, clearing brush. Using leaf loppers and a handsaw, a 3/4-mile section through the worst part was cleared, giving some parts a do-able teleski turning area and sufficient marking to follow from Snowhawk I to Snowhawk II.

From Snowhawk I to my car at the rappel area, we followed fresh bear tracks for a half mile. At the car we had a tame black fox pester us for a handout, which he did not get.

MCA-sanctioned trips should be possible to visit the hut when scheduled through the ITR office and Joe Rappahan, 384-1649. The MCA outings chair would be the first contact point by rated leaders. **A Note of Warning* The path to both huts crosses LIVE fire zones, so scheduling and clearing one's trip with the ITR office and MPs is a must! The cabins are not available for casual general use.

Granite

Jonathan Rose

Tom Choate, James Larabee and Beaver rolled up at 8:30 on Saturday, October 17th. Beaver, who had been working until midnight had forgotten only his breakfast, so we tried McDonalds somewhere on the way, for an egg biscuit. Heading down the Glenn Highway in the comfort of the back of James' Dodge camper, we could see Granite for most of the journey to Palmer. We stopped to drain ourselves by the old bridge over the Knik River and heard a loud crash of breaking ice - it was a car full of youngsters who were testing the strength of newly frozen river without stepping outside. It ended in failure, and as we only had quality climbing rope we weren't able to help. Fortunately the river was only one foot deep where the car was stuck, so they only got wet.

The approach is up the Jonesville Road to the north of Sutton, following the road to the Coyote recreation area. Just before the main parking lot, we took a shallow left fork and bumped up the hill until the front wheels span. Fortunately there was a pullout there, and after testing our beacons, we packed in for a leisurely 3 1/2-hour hike. The ATV trails are confusing, but not half as confusing as the south face of Granite. Luckily we had the Man of Mystery Mountain, who doubled for the Man of Mystery Trail. Along the trail, a 1/2 mile after the fork, loop around to the right, then take a left uphill; at the next tee junction go straight on, then next left, heading for a small, open bluff. You're then on the track to Granite. After about three miles, as you pass Knob Hill on your right, but before Point 2387, there is a left turn which heads down to Knob Creek. Cross the creek and follow the trail north and then along the top of the bluff northeast to a campsite at the end of the trail under a moraine.

We examined the southeast face on Saturday night, and picked a route. Tom said it would be a cake walk once we found the summit snowfields, which seemed to start about 2/3 of the way up.

There are three obvious gullies; the first is way to the left, almost on the edge of the south ridge, which Tom declared as tried, tested, and failed. The next to the right, is an S-shaped gully which leads to some jumbled rock. The last is a straight gully, which leads to a small snowfield with exits on upper left and right. We chose a line immediately to the right of the straight gully, from another snowfield. A deep chimney heads up towards the left, and a gully to the right. We chose the right and were soon scrambling around on soft snow-covered rock at the gully end. Climbing to the lip, we were confronted with a 40-foot rappel and further steep snow below a 20-foot wall. The crux, we thought. We surmounted all of the obstacles with not a little effort, ending up on the top of a pinnacle at 5200 feet (or was it 5800 feet?) in the shortening day and increasing wind. Tom's view was that there wasn't enough time to make it to the summit; my view was that I didn't want to be in those rocks in the dark; Beaver was bushed and James was quiet. On the way down we descended the deep chimney, which had conveniently joined up with our route. The wind was getting stronger, and so was the snow slab; Palmer was then suffering 60 mph winds.

It had taken us from 8:30 on Sunday morning to 3:30 in the afternoon to get to our high point, mostly because of route-finding and ropework. To do the mountain in a weekend will require not doing what we did, but finding the 'magic gully.' It seems like all of the lower gullies end in pinnacles, and all summit gullies start from pinnacles. We'll be back.

Spooky Climb

Tom Choate

The weather was cold and clear on Halloween, and several signed-up people had a hard time getting out of bed. By the time the last person arrived, others had gone off to trade skis for snowshoes, etc. I thought there was perfect weather for a Portage area exploration, but we were disappointed to find a partial cloud cover hiding the tops of the peaks.

It was 10:30 when we finally set off along the railroad tracks, heading south. There was very little snow, and rain had crusted the remainder and kept open the streams and marshes. We were frustrated several times in attempting to cross to the ridge leading toward Explorer, but snowshoes and skis were useful on thin ice. At noon we finally started up through steep hemlock forest and practiced log-climbing and pigeonholing technique in frozen moss. Skis and snowshoes only occasionally jammed on alders and louder groans could be heard in response to typical humor such as, "Be sure Mindy doesn't wear my skis, it would be a very dangerous combination." "Why?" "It would create an atomic Baum!"

At 1:00 we emerged from the forest and stopped for lunch, admiring the view of the Placer valley and Turnagain Arm from 1000 feet up. Skiing and snowshoeing (except for trudging Dan) up a snowy gully led us to a ridgetop within a half hour, and provided a pretty good view of our Halloween objective - the Spook-em Glacier. We climbed another 20 minutes toward the ghost-like peak above, but when it vanished we stopped for another view break and decided to turn back. Who knows what lurked above? The late start and cloud provided an excuse not to provoke the Halloween spirits further. In just over an hour we slithered down the last cliff to the stream bank and soon were seeking a shorter path across alternating ice and wet patches to the railroad track. Another hour of pretending to be a train brought us back to the highway and civilization's outposts. Party: Tom Choate, Dan O'Haire, Mindy Baum, Tim Shear and Roy Smith.

ADZE

Glacier Park Resort 745-2534 (Matanuska Glacier)
Under new management (Bill and Kelly Stevenson). Has new services that may interest members this winter:

- A) Cross country ski trails on the island.
- B) Snow machine trails off the island.
- C) Snow machine rental.
- D) Air taxi service, ski-equipped.

MINUTES OF THE OCTOBER MEETING

The meeting was called to order by president Dan O'Haire. New members introduced themselves.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

Money Market	-	\$4306.89
Checking Acct	-	1344.15
Petty Cash	-	52.10
Total		\$5703.14

COMMITTEE REPORTS.

Huts.

The Pichler's Perch water pot has a crack in the bottom. It will be replaced, however, check the pot before you throw snow in it to see if it is the new one.

OLD BUSINESS

None.

NEW BUSINESS

Mark Findlay moved that the club buy paper for printing Screens. Motion passed.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Max Stoddard announced that club t-shirts were still available.

Dan announced that the MCA photo album needs photos. If you have any photos of MCA events (up to 4x6), bring them to the next meeting.

Bill Sherwonit is working on a story about Park Watch and vandalism and would like your stories on vandalism. Call him if you have been a victim.

Tom Choate announced a spooky trip on October 31st. It will be a mysterious four-hour trip.

Dan announced that Park Watch is growing. A club park watch representative is needed. If you are interested, contact Dan O'Haire.

Respectfully Submitted,

Marcy Baker

Release of Liability Agreement

I, _____, am aware that mountaineering sports (including rock, snow and ice climbing, mountaineering and ski mountaineering) are hazardous activities. I wish to participate and/or receive instruction in these activities with the Mountaineering Club of Alaska, Inc., ("MCA"). I have full knowledge of the dangers involved, and agree to accept any and all risks of injury or death that may occur.

_____ (initial that you have read this paragraph)

Giving Up My Legal Rights

By signing this Agreement, I agree to give up for myself and for my heirs, certain legal rights which I may have in the event I become injured or killed while participating or receiving instructions in mountaineering sports with MCA. I am giving up my legal rights against MCA and my fellow participants in MCA activities. As used in this Agreement, the word MCA shall mean the Mountaineering Club of Alaska, Inc., and all of its leaders, instructors, guides, assistant guides, officers, and directors.

_____ (initial that you have read this paragraph)

My Promise Not To Sue

I agree that I will not sue, or otherwise make any claim against MCA or my fellow participants in MCA activities for injury, death or damage to me or my property which occurs in the course of my participation or instruction in mountaineering sports.

_____ (initial that you have read this paragraph)

My Release of Liability

I also agree to release and discharge MCA and my fellow participants in MCA activities from all actions, claims, or demands, both for myself and for my heirs, dependents, and/or personal representative, for injury, death or damage to me in the course of my participation or instruction in mountaineering sports.

_____ (initial that you have read this paragraph)

My Promise to Indemnify

I agree to pay all costs and expenses, including attorney's fees and court costs, that MCA may incur as a consequence of any legal action arising out of injury, death or damage to me or to someone else as a result of my conduct.

_____ (initial that you have read this paragraph)

My Consent to Medical Treatment

I consent to any hospital care or medical or surgical diagnosis or treatment which may be necessary as a result of my participation in activities with MCA. I also understand and agree I am solely responsible for all applicable charges for such medical treatment, including evacuation and/or rescue cost.

_____ (initial that you have read this paragraph)

I understand that the MCA requires that I execute this Agreement as a condition of participating in mountaineering sports with MCA. I also understand that all the terms of this agreement are binding upon me, my relatives, heirs, dependents, and/or personal representatives.

I HAVE CAREFULLY READ THIS AGREEMENT AND FULLY UNDERSTAND ITS CONTENTS. I AM AWARE THAT THIS IS A BINDING, LEGAL AGREEMENT BETWEEN ME AND MCA AND I SIGN IT OF MY OWN FREE WILL.

Dated: _____ Signature: _____

Signature of Parent or Guardian (if under 19): _____

Accepted for MCA by: _____ Dated: _____

MOUNTAINEERING CLUB OF ALASKA

OFFICERS

President	Joel Babb	688-3885
Vice-President	John Maltas	272-6546
Secretary	Julia Moore	563-6957
Treasurer	Dave Hart	561-3867

BOARD

Don Hansen	243-7184
Dolly Lefever	243-7027
Mindy Baum	338-6396
Bernie Kazmierczak	562-6734
Dan O'Haire	561-1141

Annual membership dues: Single \$10.00 Family \$15.00

Dues can be paid at any meeting or mailed to the treasurer at the MCA address. Please sign and mail the club waiver found on the reverse side of this page and include it and a self-addressed, stamped envelope to receive your card.

SCREE is a monthly publication of the Mountaineering Club of Alaska. Articles and notes submitted for publication and other communication related to the newsletter should be mailed to my address at 3324 Lee St. #2, Anchorage, Alaska 99504. Articles should be received by the 25th of the month for the following month's issue.

Paid ads may be submitted to the attention of the Vice-President at the club address and should be "camera-ready" and pre-paid. Your cooperation will be appreciated. Willy Hersman, Editor, 338-5132.

DUPLICATION: Mark Findlay

MAILING: P. Berryhill, D. Willworth, J. Rose, L. Stanton, B. Kaye