



MARCH 1993

A Publication of the Mountaineering Club of Alaska, Inc.
Box 102037, Anchorage, Alaska 99510

Volume 36 Issue 03

MARCH MEETING

Wednesday

March 17, 7:30

Pioneer Schoolhouse, 3rd & Eagle Streets
Downtown Anchorage

Slide Show: Bill Wakeland will show slides of last years's *Gates of the Arctic* trip in the Brooks Range.

Open Invitation: To all senior members, honorary members and club founders to help celebrate 35 years as the *Mountaineering Club*. Cake will be served.

Phoenix for a two-week trip to and in the Grand Canyon. A 10-day hike into the Royal Arch area west of the Bass Trail. The group was full, with a waiting list, before I got our backcountry permit, but there could be cancellations.

Leader: Bill Wakeland 563-6246

BOARD MEETING

The topic for this board meeting will be MCA trips. If you have an idea for a trip, or wish to lead a trip, please attend the meeting. Joel invites anyone to attend the meeting, to be held at 6:30 pm, at the Pioneer Schoolhouse, one hour prior to the monthly meeting.

HIKING AND CLIMBING SCHEDULE

March 20

ARCTIC - INDIAN

Celebrate the first day of spring with a 21-mile ski trip. Must be a strong enough skier to make it through in one day. Class D.
Leader: Joel Babb 688-3885

27-28

MT. ALPENGLOW

Overnight trip. Excellent snow climb, located along Turnagain Arm. Ice axe, crampons, shovel, avalanche beacon. Harness needed for river crossing. Class D. Steep exposure near the summit. Call leader first.
Leader: Julia Moore 243-6521

April 17

GRAND CANYON

A maximum group of 8 will assemble in

TRIP REPORTS

A Report from Super Bowl Sunday

by Gordy Vernon

Whittier - "The trip is a lot like the game," I think heading into town on the ice. At the end, skiing out of control, the wind pushing me at eye-watering speeds, the quivering muscles of my legs turn to a shake and then full blown palsy. The wind careens me toward the icy berms that will hurt when I hit, tomorrow, and leave a faint ache weeks later.

The first quarter I came out of the heated visitor center at Portage, exuberant, energetic, skate-skiing across the frozen lake. The wind blows, cold seeps between the layers when I stop, but like a linebacker in from of the



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roaring crowd, I don't notice pain. I stop occasionally for breath and friends to huddle up. Full of piss and vinegar, I'm into the second quarter, herringboning up to the pass. The bright white of noon fades to silvers, the lenticulars over Turnagain Arm wreath me like the ominous quiet of a stadium. The wind stings like a team taking a thrashing and then all contours disappear in a gust. I'm in the Big Leagues. Wanting to be here, and being here are two different things.

Up in Portage Pass the wind knives through my clothes. I grab my crotch, hold on to it, let it warm, waiting for the wind to die and the slope to take shape in the white.

I crest the pass and head down into the third quarter, hoping that the thumping will stop. My cheeks are white, my hands numb, my skis out of control on the windblown ice. The prayer of a comeback fades. "You might die," penetrates the blanket of optimism, this game is for real. I shout to communicate. Team be damned, reputation cast to the howling gusts, "Every man for himself," underlies the blurts, I'm a candyass. In a rout, there is only the instinct to survive. Snow packs my ears and pockets as I perfect the method of quickest descent - controlled falls.

The worst part of the fourth quarter is that in my mind the game is over, before ass-kicking. I'm on the level, on the ice into Whittier. It's a road, but the only tip is the dozer tracks rutted in the ice and an occasional patch of gravel, that sends me sprawling. The wind pushes me along, the freezing spray of Passage Canal whipping past. I must use my frost-nipped hands in desperate efforts to stay upright. There are still a few more hits to take before the game is over, the strategy is to minimize them. And then above the haze of howling snow, the concrete buildings of Whittier rise.

I blow down Main Street, not a soul to be seen, strip my skis off, wedge then into the snowbank, no wasted moves and then I'm through the frosted pane of the door. I hear hooting and hollering from upstairs. I walk into the bar, the heat scalds my skin. Icicles drip from my eyebrows. I strip off the outer layers, frozen into position as the mayhem of the game unfolds. I take a seat among a table of friends who sit with their backs to the big screen, who have risked their life in the pass, who are more engrossed in the conversation and the mountains that loom above the freezing spray of the Sound than the Game. And then it's off to catch the train.

They do it every Super Bowl. Last year the weather was no better than this. See you next.



ADZE



Crampons. Salewa hinged, strap-on style.
Great for overboots or teleboots. New. \$80.00.
Jarvinen Telemark Skis, 185 cm. \$125.00 OBO.
Marsh Hodson - 346-1204

You are cordially invited to view an art exhibition produced by MCA member

REBECCA J. VORIS

This exhibition of recent work is in partial fulfillment of a Master of Fine Arts degree from Texas Woman's University, Denton, Texas

MARCH 15 - MARCH 20

Reception Monday, March 15, 5 to 7 pm

ARTIQUE LTD GALLERY

**314 G Street
Anchorage, Alaska**

Gallery Hours: Mon-Sat 10 to 6 pm, Sun, 12 to 5 pm

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Introducing **PARK WATCH**

What is "Park Watch"?

Park Watch is a new, organized effort to reduce criminal activity at Chugach State Park facilities.

Why, "Park Watch"?

In recent years, theft, vandalism and other crimes have escalated to unmanageable proportions. Cut backs in State spending have greatly reduced the resources necessary to adequately control our parks. The amount of personal loss in the destruction and theft of private property is enormous.

Who is "Park Watch"?

"Park Watch" is a volunteer cooperative program involving park visitors, park neighbors, and various user groups such as outdoors clubs and organizations.

How will "Park Watch" work?

Modeled after *Neighborhood Watch*, "Park Watch" volunteers use the non-aggressive approach keeping watch at trail head parking lots and greeting visitors. State Park Rangers supervise and train volunteers in observation and reporting techniques.

How can I get involved in "Park Watch"?

Contact:

- Chugach State Park Headquarters 345-5014 (Mon-Fri 8-4:30pm)
- Kris Spencer Park Watch Volunteer Coordinator 346-1658



Get Involved!

Please call and leave your name and phone number for contact.

SEE BACK →



Working together to enjoy and protect Chugach State Park

P A R K W A T C H N E E D S Y O U !

How You Can Help:

VOLUNTEERS

Spend time at your favorite trailhead, greet and inform visitors and assist in the upkeep of facilities. A Park Watch Volunteer sign will mark your presence in the park. Stay for a few hours or campout overnight with friends. You'll receive training in observation and reporting techniques. NOTE: Park Watch is NOT Vigilante!

Plan to attend one of two upcoming Volunteer Orientation/Training sessions

Tuesday March 23, 7pm at REI

OR

(272-4565)

Wednesday, March 31, 7pm REI

(not necessary to attend both)

VOLUNTEER COORDINATOR FOR NORTH-SIDE TRAILHEADS (Eagle River/Peters Creek/Eklutna)

This is a volunteer administrative position which involves recruiting volunteers, scheduling 'Watch Patrols' and could include speaking with local groups and organizations, area community councils and park neighbors. Work under the supervision of park staff. A super opportunity to learn about the management of Chugach State Park.

DONATIONS

"March For Parks" Sunday May 2, is an important fundraiser. Last year's event helped establish the Park Watch Program making it possible to purchase metal signs and magnetic decals for vehicles that identify the presence of volunteers at the trailheads. This year, the proceeds will go towards the purchase of two-way radios for the safety and convenience of volunteers, AND, help start a Park Watch program for municipal parks like Kincaid and Far North Bicentennial.

Donations to Park Watch can be made thru the "Friends of Chugach State Park" organization. (Patricia Joyner 762-2289)

IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER-

March 23- Volunteer Orientation/Training 7pm REI

March 31- Volunteer Orientation/Training 7pm REI
(not necessary to attend both)

May 2- March For Parks - Turnagain Arm Trail

June 5 "National Trails Day" A day for all user groups to join together to work on improving park trails and promoting the wide range of recreational opportunities in Chugach State Park. (Debra Brown

272-4565)

Picture the cobalt blue sky, the ranges of high peaks, white and sharp, piercing the atmosphere, empty, serene, with all the hidden flurry of the elements masked by a sunny day. Remember the sound of yak herders flutes, flowering plains, the nomad tents, the friendly look in the eyes of Tibetans...

Then imagine 60 million Chinese setting up factories and farms, where the blue sheep and snow leopard once played...

This is the situation facing Tibetans today. Tibetans have already become a minority in their own land and since the opening of new "economic zones" in Tibet, even more Chinese settlers are streaming into the country. The Chinese government plans to settle 60 million Chinese in Tibet.

Tibet has been an occupied country since the Chinese invasion in 1949. In the last 40 years Tibetan people have suffered every form of cultural genocide, torture and imprisonment. The natural wealth of their land has been plundered and polluted while their cultural wealth has been destroyed or sold on the international market. Since 1980, 54 billion dollars worth of timber has been taken out of Tibet; uranium and other toxic minerals are being mined without any safeguards; and atomic testing is being done in Amdo province. This is the situation on the roof of the world.

However there is hope. We can be effective in halting the illegal population transfer. How? By conditioning Most Favored Nation Status for China. China is sensitive and does respond to economic pressure.

You can help by writing to President Clinton and our Alaskan representative and requesting them to vote FOR A CONDITIONED MFN. The Alaska Tibet Committee in conjunction with The International Campaign for Tibet, and other support groups nation wide are asking you to help. This vote on the MFN is very very important for the future existence of Tibet. Please take a few minutes to write today and once each month until June.

For printed postcards, sample letters or more information on how you can help, contact the Alaska Tibet Committee at 235-4277, or Nancy at 345-5595, Neville at 456-4780 or Sam at 586-2827.

Thank You.

Denise Lassaw Paljor
director, Alaska Tibet

Sample postcard.

Dear _____

I urge you to vote to *condition* China's MFN trade status specifically to halt population transfer of Chinese into Tibet.

Population transfer is a recognized violation of human rights under the Geneva Convention and recent United Nations resolution. The citizens of America want you to stand up and lead our nation by upholding the values that we hold so dearly for ourselves-freedom, justice and respect for human rights for all.

China has continued its policy of merciless repression in Tibet. China regularly imprisons and tortures non-violent demonstrators, continues to use slave labor for exports and aids the proliferation of nuclear weapons.

For the sake of Tibet, China and our own future security, let's send a clear and unequivocal message to Beijing by conditioning MFN status *now*.

Sincerely, name and address

(From: Denise Lassaw Paljor, Alaska Tibet Committee, 235-4277)