



MARCH 1995

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

Volume 38 Issue 03

MARCH MEETING

Wednesday

March 15th, 7:30

**Pioneer Schoolhouse, 3rd & Eagle Streets
Downtown Anchorage**

Slide Show: Slides of **Bhutan** will be shown by Ron Rickman.

TRAINING SCHEDULE

Mar 18-19

Snow Shelter Training

Location depends on snow. Need shovel, snow saw, bivi sack, overnight gear. Learn to make a cave, an igloo, a Logan trench, and more. Then sleep in it. If conditions are good, we may do a climb as well next day. (Bring ice axe, avalanche beacon, crampons, if interested.) Limit 12 people.

Leader: Willy Hersman 373-4734

Apr 3-8

Leadership Training

There is another opportunity to participate in the Mountain Leadership Training during the week of 3rd April. The aims will be the same as before but the course will be run through Community Schools. The cost will be \$34 for two evenings and a day out. The number of places will be 3-

4 for MCA members. The purpose of the workshop is to promote safety, encourage new leaders, improve the skills of experienced leaders and have fun. It will focus on the softer skills associated with leading a group in the mountains, and will apply to hiking and backpacking as well as technical climbs. The sessions will cover safety, liability, trip planning, situation analysis and expedition behaviour. Contact: Jonathan Rose 278-3189

Apr 8-9

Glacier Travel Training

See description of training session in this issue.

Leader: Mike Miller 243-6521



Huts Report

Mike Miller

Glacier Travel/Crevasse Rescue Training Class

April 8-9, 1995
Matanuska Glacier

Objective:

Students will attain a rudimentary skill in techniques of safe glacier travel and effective crevasse rescue.

Course outline:

Glacier Travel: Equipment and its proper use to travel in parties of two and three on a rope, helpful hints to safe and quick glacier travel, how to travel and not piss off your partners, how to find a crevasse, what to do when you find a crevasse, alternate and optional methods of safe travel.

Crevasse Rescue: Equipment and its proper use, self-evacuation, assisted evacuation, total surface evacuation, multiple systems of mechanical advantage, safe procedures.

Time spent on each will depend on skill and desire of the class.

Each day we will plan to leave the upper parking lot at 10:00am. Car camping is available (for a fee \$??) or lodging is available at the Long Rifle Lodge, about 5 miles away. Bring lunch and drink as we will be out all day. Entry to the glacier will cost a small fee also.

We will be on a glacier, so it is absolutely mandatory to have proper equipment. You must bring this equipment with you, I will not have spare equipment.

Mandatory:

Ice axe, helmet, crampons, seat harness (or 20' of 1" webbing), chest harness (or 10' of 1" webbing), 1-locking carabiner, proper clothing, ideas and enthusiasm.

Preferred: Ascenders, prusiks (7 or 8 mm perlon prusik material - 10' piece will make a 4' loop), misc. slings, pulleys, ice screws, belay device, firewood, sunny skies.

Call Mike Miller for details, who will be calling everyone on the sign-up list before the event.
243-6521

One of the longest-lasting, most used and most valuable achievements of the Mountaineering Club of Alaska since its inception has been with the huts that have been put in place in Alaska's backcountry. The history of the huts that are in now is very interesting. There are some great tales of hut building that are still surfacing today.

To carry on this worthwhile goal, we are in the process of installing another hut, or huts this year. The two basic criteria that are absolutely required to achieve placing a hut in the backcountry are people willing to devote time and resources to the project, and money.

We have enough money to certainly put in one hut this year, and maybe two. The money in the treasury comes mostly from dues. Other sources of income have been a grant of \$750 from BP Exploration specifically for huts, and odd sales of T-shirts, patches, etc.

We also have some people that are committed to building and installing huts this year. But, we will need more help, both with physical help in construction and help with materials.

Two hut sites are under consideration, both in the Hatcher Pass area to compliment the Mint and Bomber hut system that is already in place. Construction of one or two huts will depend on site surveys, personnel availability and finances. The hut(s) will be pre-constructed in either Anchorage or the Mat. Valley, trucked to a staging area, flown by helicopter to the site(s), and re-assembled. labor will be required about May or June for the pre-construction and then in about July for the on-site construction. We are already starting to collect materials to build the hut(s) with and to furnish them.

One hut site is in Section 32 up the Moose Creek valley, next valley east of the Mint Hut Valley. The other potential site is farther up Moose Creek Valley, then over Moosehead Pass and into the Kashwitna drainage. An attempt was made Feb. 26 to perform a site evaluation and route hazard assessment by Willy Hersman, Brian Carey, Mike Miller and Nick Parker as Avalanche Hazard expert. After many wrong turns, and even more belly-laughs as we floundered our way around the area of upper Buffalo Mine road, we were unable to get up the valley. But we think we found the way! Next time we will have more to report.

So, save up some time this spring and summer to help, and keep an eye out for anything that will help in construction or furnishing of the huts. We will be presenting updates of the progress, and will solicit support from the membership for installation once we firm-up the costs and final plans.

