



FEBRUARY 1996

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

Volume 31 Issue 02

FEBRUARY MEETING

Wednesday

February 21st, 7:30

Pioneer Schoolhouse, 3rd & Eagle Streets
Downtown Anchorage

Presentation: Stacy Tanaguchi will show slides of
traversing Mt. Kilimanjaro after a
short presentation for the *American
Alpine Club*

HIKING AND CLIMBING SCHEDULE

Apr 20- May 5 Grand Canyon & Havasupai

There are two openings for the Grand Canyon and one for the Havasupai. Bill Wakeland will be out of state until March 4, so contact Don Hansen at 243-7184. Leader: Bill Wakeland

TRIP REPORTS

January Ice Climbing Class

Dave Hart



he entire month of January dealt frigid cold temperatures to Southcentral Alaska. Ice climbing became a grim endeavor, as weeks of sub-zero temperatures created brittle ice and threatened to freeze ill-prepared climbers. Fortunately, the weather warmed a bit just in time for the January 21 ice climbing seminar held at the new "Candyland" ice cliffs.

Candyland is located along the new, yet still incomplete, section of the Seward Highway, near Bird Point. For the time being, Candyland offers a wonderfully quiet and scenic setting for ice climbing. Quiet, that is, until the highway is opened to cars, presumably next



winter. This three-tiered area has climbs ranging from Grade 3 to Grade 4, with lengths of up to 300 feet. It is a good location for large instructional groups, as there is sufficient room to set up many top ropes.

After meeting at Carrs, we carpoled to the trailhead and divided into small groups with two to three students per instructor. All totaled, there were 16 students and 6 instructors in the class; a healthy turnout for such a cold and early Sunday morning.

The fifteen minute approach allowed everyone a chance to warm up and stretch their legs; a rare occurrence for most Seward Highway ice climbs. After we arrived at the base of the climbs, most groups chose a section of ice to top rope, while Willy, Chan and his two daughters instead decided to climb the three short pitches to the top of the cliff.

Some of the skills practiced during the day included trying out unfamiliar ice tools, practicing lead climbing, removing ice screws while following a leader, climbing steep ice more efficiently, climbing without tools and learning the difference between hard brittle ice and soft wet ice.

The only scary moment of the day came when a railroad support truck stopped to chat with us. We feared they would ask us to leave. Instead, they just wanted to let us know that the next train would be through in an hour.

Thanks to the leaders Willy, Ron, Aze, John, and Paul for their help. And, of course thanks to everyone else for attending.

Another Summit for MCA

by Bill Wakeland



Yesterday, January 27, five MCAers of senior vintage met at 7:00 something AM at a camp in Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument. Bob and Mary Jo Cadieux and I, from Anchorage, had joined Sid and Edna Moglewer from Prescott, Arizona to climb Mt. Ajo, the highest peak in the park, at 4800 feet. Bob, Mary Jo and Sid are veterans of both Grand Canyon and Brooks Range MCA hikes.

Shortly after 9:00 AM the sun had been up over an hour and we were on our way, hiking from the trailhead. Signs with names and distances lasted only 1 1/2 miles and with no reference at all to Mt. Ajo. We were on our own. The trail got rougher and

fainter, suggesting that more and more hikers had turned back.

The rangers had said it was a nine-hour round trip, so we figured our old hands would lop off a few hours from that. It took us eight, including an hour at the top and we got back before sunset. Saw no one else, but a register on top proved that quite a few others had been there in the last few years. Even from Nome and two from Anchorage.

The gorgeous, clear day, with humidity and temperatures perfect for hiking reminded us of how so much of the nation was suffering through cold, snowless weather, or too much moisture! All we suffered were sunburn and cactus "bites."

Our vertical gain was only about 2500 feet and the distance maybe eight or ten miles, but boy, what a workout! Constant rocks, steep, ball-bearing chutes, cactus, and even some exposure. But as Bob said, "This is the best day yet in Arizona!" All kinds of cactus and shrubs, even juniper higher up, great scenery with rock faces, pinnacles and even some arches, plus views into Mexico.

My wife Marlin and I are staying in Ajo, Arizona for a few weeks, a most fortunate circumstance for the April Grand Canyon hike, which had been wiped out by the government shutdown, plus the number of applications. We drove to the ranger station and eventually got an acceptable route and timing.

ADZE



Clearing out the Closet

Lowa leather double boots, size 10, \$50.00
Bunny boots, size 9, \$100.00
Kastinger plastic boots, size 10 1/2, \$100.00
150-foot, 11mm climbing rope, \$75.00
Chouinard ice hammer with 16" shaft, \$100.00
Generic ice hammer with 12" shaft, \$60.00
Pair of Clog ascenders, \$60.00
Foot Fangs, \$40.00
11" ice screws, \$8.00 each
Carabiners, \$3.00 each
Climbing helmet, \$35.00
Mark Skok, 274-3934

Found

Figure 8, at the Ice-Climbing day class.
Belongs to Kirk T(?).
Call Aze, 266-9249.



MINUTES

DECEMBER MEETING

TREASURY REPORT

Money Market:	3870.08
Checking:	2291.69
Petty cash:	<u>52.00</u>
Total in treasury:	\$6183.77

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Hiking and Climbing.

The club's winter solstice Flatop sleepout was a lot of fun with 10 club members braving moderate winds for half the night.

OLD BUSINESS

The president thanked all the active members for making 1995 a good year for the club. He emphasized that the club will be focusing on providing a lot of hikes, climbs and training opportunities for the membership.

NEW BUSINESS

The club had its annual holiday dinner and enjoyed a great slide show from individual and club trips.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

None.

Respectfully submitted,

Mark Fouts

JANUARY MEETING

TREASURY REPORT

Money Market:	3878.03
Checking:	2095.84
Petty cash:	<u>52.00</u>
Total in treasury:	\$5998.87

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Hiking and Climbing.

The Hiking and Climbing committee chair **Mark Fouts**

reported that approximately 30 members have agreed to lead at least one club sanction trip in 1996. The trips will be announced in the Scree, with most trips expected to occur during the summer.

Parks Advisory.

The Parks Advisory committee chair **Scott Bailey** reported that Road Service Boards do not have the funds to maintain bike or foot trails adjacent to roads. The committee is making an effort to get the ordinance modified to provide maintenance funds for trails.

Scott plans to coordinate a clean-up effort at Mile High Pass on National Trails Day in June. More on this later.

Huts.

James Larabee announced that **Mark Miraglia** is the new Hut Committee chair.

OLD BUSINESS

None.

NEW BUSINESS

James Larabee solicited help to document the MCA's history. **Mark Fouts** added that the effort would help the new and old members appreciate the value and accomplishments of the club. Reading 37 years of Screes would be part of the effort, which the members at the meeting seemed to recognize as a lot of pure work. Nevertheless, by the end of the break between the business meeting and slide show, five MCA members offered to help get the process started — two had already read all the Screes! **Mark Fouts** will be coordinating the effort as one of his responsibilities as Secretary.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

MCA members were invited to attend the **American Alpine Club** meeting to be held January 28, 1996 at 6:00 p.m. at the Alaska Rock Gym.

Outgoing President Mike Miller was presented a gift from the club for his outstanding service to the club in 1995. The Board learned Mike needed some ice screws, so the gift was well received.

Great Harvest Bread provided bread once again; and once again everyone enjoyed it. **Wendy Sanem**, speaking on behalf of Great Harvest, also announced that Great Harvest Bread is looking for photos of Alaska to display in their store. Contact **Barbara Hood** at Great Harvest for details.

In an effort to encourage members to write articles in the Scree and lead club trips, all authors and leaders in the

prior year become eligible for a \$50 gift certificate. For the year 1995, Dave Hart's name was pulled out of the hat for members that contributed to Scree. Dave wrote a trip report on the Crevasse Rescue Workshop held in April 1995. Bill Wakeland's name was pulled out of the hat for leading a trip. Bill led a club trip to Katmai in July 1995.

Nick Parker gave a superb lecture on avalanche safety for mountaineers. Thanks Nick!

Respectfully submitted,

Mark Fouts

BOARD MEETING

January 10, 1995

AAC

The local chapter of the American Alpine Club had contacted the MCA about working together on issues common to all climbers in Alaska. The board agreed that James Larabee, President of MCA, will act as a liaison with the American Alpine Club.

Hut Committee

Mark Miraglia has been approved as the new Hut Committee chair. It is expected that the high priority maintenance items for 1996 will be installation of new Mint and Dnigi Hut out-houses.

Hiking and Climbing

The Hiking and Climbing committee reported that plans for providing a lot of trips in 1996 are proceeding on schedule.

The Board discussed various mechanisms to encourage member participation by leading a club trip or writing an article in Scree. James Larabee and Aze Azegami have agreed to propose a plan to the Board at the next Board meeting.

New Members

The Board agreed to provide a brief orientation about the club to visitors at the regular monthly meeting. The 5-minute orientation meeting will take place after the business meeting, but before the slide show. This is intended to help welcome prospective members and increase the membership. The Board also plans to produce a one-page handout about the club to help prospective members learn more about the MCA.

Home Page

James Larabee introduced the concept of a home page on the Internet. James intends to maintain the homepage to see if members are interested in using it. Contact James for details.

Policy Documentation

Mark Fouts suggested the board document the club's procedures and processes in an effort to provide better continuity in club leadership. Contact Mark if you would like to help.

Respectfully Submitted,
Mark Fouts

American Alpine Journal Notice

As H. Adams Carter has passed away, please discontinue sending any notices, publications, trip reports, etc. to his address. The new editor for such information is:

Jed Williamson
7 River Rd.
Hanover, N.H. 03755

2001





Trust in the Greatland!

Southcentral Alaska has a new land trust – **The Great Land Trust**. The Great Land Trust is a non-profit, charitable organization working in partnership with landowners to protect Southcentral Alaska's open space, wetlands, waterways, forests, farmlands, and places of cultural and recreational value.

Come and learn more about your local land trust and meet others interested in conserving our wild and recreational lands.

*You are invited
to a wine and cheese reception
hosted by the **Great Land Trust***

**Thursday, February 29th, 5 to 7 pm
at The Nature Conservancy
421 West 1st Ave., Suite 200 (the old Alaska Railroad building)**

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