

MOUNTAINEERING CLUB OF ALASKA

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MEETING, TUESDAY, APRIL 24

The program for the meeting on Tuesday, April 24th will be a panel discussion of mountaineering which will be moderated by Johnny Johnston. Since there are as many opinions as there are people, it is hoped that each member will come prepared to express his own ideas regarding the subject for the evening.

CLIMBING SCHEDULE:

Sulicide Peak: date as yet unset. Contact John Dillman: FE 3-2053

Emesian Lake: May 5. with the Prospector's Club. The group will leave Anchorage at 3 a.m. Sunday for a one day trip. For further information contact Hartmut Pluntke.

Eklutna Lake and Knik Glacier: May 13th. For additional details check with Gene Horning BR 8-9395.

ROCK SCHOOL: will meet Thursday evenings beginning early in May - when the rocks become a little warmer! The School is looking forward to having lots of instructors and hopes to give some good training. There probably will be one indoor session on the tying of knots.

SEWARD MARATHON: It was decided at the March meeting to sponsor a team from the Mountaineering Club to compete in the Seward Marathon on July 4th. The team was organized with the following members: John Dillman, "Vin" Hoeman, Hartmut Pluntke and Trygve Erickson kindly volunteered his big brother, Gregg. Scott Hamilton will serve as Team Captain and Bill Davis as Manager. Jim Branch offered the Alyeska lift from the top of the mountain down for training purposes. There has been publicity in the Times regarding the MCA team.

REPORTS ON PAST CLIMBS

by John Dillman

Mar. 20-21: Ed Fisher, Clayton Cooper and John Dillman attempted to climb O'Malley Peak from the South Fork of Campbell Creek. They were turned back about 300' from the summit by winds estimated at 60 m.p.h.

Feb. 4: Jim Messick, Ed Fisher and John Dillman climbed "Flattop" by the ridge that leads from Clark's Homestead. Descent was made by glissading down the snow chute and first.

March 10-11: Ed Fisher and John Dillman climbed "Flattop" by a new route. They climbed from camp, which was pitched on the ridge below "Flattop", along the "North Wall" (Campbell Creek side) to a steep snow chute and after two hours of alternating snow and rock reached the "summit". They then climbed the two higher peaks east of "Flattop". The return was made by climbing back over "Flattop" and down the ridge to camp. } Fickeltop

"Flattop" March 11

by Marguerite St. Palley

Early Sunday morning, March 11, this writer escorted Dave Devos, Werner Egloff and Mascot (Werner's police dog) on a one-day snowshoe expedition to "Flattop" Mt. It was a beautiful day but definitely on the windy side, quite a contrast to the mildness of the day before. We stopped at the home of Joe Pichler to pick up Joe, & then proceeded to the area where we were to leave the car and meet some others. Soon after we arrived, Howard Schmuck and Hartmut Pluntke drove up, & we started hiking up the road which leads to the Clark residence, a distance of about 3 miles. I say "hike" because it turned out that in most areas the snow was too hard and ice-coated to encourage much snowshoeing. We noticed that several Mountaineers had already preceded us the night before, leaving a note on the windshield of their car, but as it was, we never did catch up with them. We noticed their tent as we started our climb and caught a glimpse of them from the summit, but they were busily scaling the peak beyond. Before starting our ascent, we had an enjoyable visit at the Clark home. We brought snowshoes along but soon decided we did not really need them after all & left them on the lower slopes. The walking was pleasant, though rather icy in places, and thanks to Joe cutting steps with his ice axe, we were able to maneuver over the shaker places. All along the way the view was very impressive and all, including (or, especially) the mascot, made very good time in climbing the mountain. Flattop really lives up to its name, and we stayed up there for about an hour. If it had not been for the cold wind, I'm sure we would have been willing to spend much more time there. The descent of the mountain seemed trickier than the ascent, and I for one was glad I did not have to carry snowshoes during this time, as some parts were pretty steep. The only regret is that the day went by too quickly, and all too soon we were back in Anchorage. This was the first trip to "Flattop" for some of us, & I feel it is a very worthwhile trip for a one-day or overnight, depending on how much of the area you wish to explore.