

SCREE

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MOUNTAINEERING CLUB OF ALASKA
Box 2037
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MEETING, TUESDAY, JANUARY 22

Film from Gnosher
Did not shower.
Climbers of Denali
Did not sally
Forth from Fairbanks!

The meeting on Tuesday, January 22 will be strictly a "do it yourself and have it done" affair. There will be a Potlatch at 6:30 p.m., followed by slides of members of the Club (the limit is 20 per person) and a short film (approx. 11 min.) taken by Emil Rokita of the Mt. Marathon Fourth of July Race in which MCA entered a team.

The Potlatch will be conducted as follows: all couples will bring sizeable casseroles (a couple is: Bading, Fisher, Kiester, etc.); all stalwart working girls will bring the salads (i.e. Prescott, St. Palley, Willard, etc.); and all the bachelors will bring the desserts (a Bachelor is a Scott Hamilton, a Davis Duncan or a Jim Messick, etc.)

NOTE: Would the members please make sure that Harriet Kiester, our able secretary-treasurer, has your correct mailing address for Scree and especially your current phone number for special occasions and ARG. The next issue of Scree, with the cooperation of each of you, will carry a membership roster with all this information.

ALASKA RESCUE GROUP

by Jim Messick

The Alaska Rescue Group has become a section of the Mountaineering Club of Alaska. This action was deemed necessary in view of the limited number of rescues that the group has been called upon recently. The first year of its formation saw many missions performed by the group, but as time progressed, the number of missions requiring a ground rescue and support party steadily diminished. The majority of rescues in the local area can be handled by CAP, or with the help of the air support from RCC at Elmendorf in the form of helicopters. Thus the need for the Rescue Group has lessened and consequently there has been a lessening of interest on the part of its members.

Because of this, the Executive Board of the Rescue Group voted to make their organization a part of the Mountaineering Club, and thus be able to share programs, meeting places, and the talents of both groups. Actually for the most part, the membership of both groups is almost the same.

However, the Rescue Section of the Mountaineering Club will keep an up-to-date "Call List" of its members. Training sessions will be MCA trips and climbs, so that members are kept in physical shape for rescue work should the occasion demand. Also Rescue Section members will keep the climbing and rescue gear available for missions should a call come for a ground party for assistance. Thus the Alaska Rescue Group will go into semi-reserve status as part of the Mountaineering Club, but will still be available to answer rescue calls.

RELATED NEWS BULLETIN: John Harlin became the first American to climb the Eiger Nordwand. His rope mate was Konrad Kirsch of Munich.

D'MALLEY PEAK OUTING:

Saturday, January 26

Climbing leader: Rod Wilson - BR 4-7833 Hiking leader: Marguerite St. Palley
SK 3-2330

A one-day winter climb via the South Fork of Campbell Creek. For those not wishing to climb the peak, there will be snowshoeing and/or skiing in the vicinity. Those who are interested, please attend a meeting to discuss the outing and required clothing and equipment at Dave DeVoe's, 311 South Park Street (BR 3-1492) on Friday, January 18 at 8:00 p.m.

Dave DeVoe, Chairman, Climbing Committee

KATAMI OR GO NOW BE ONE MORE ROAD ARE BUILT.

How about an MCA outing this summer in the Katami area? Twenty-one miles of road has been built in the area. This road terminates at the foot of the valley of 10,000 Smokes. From there we can hike into the valley. There is good hiking and climbing and probably some first ascents for the climbers. Round trip air fare Anchorage to Brooks Camp is \$54.00 + tax. Round trip bus fare over the 21 miles of road is \$13.00 making a total of \$67.00 + tax and cost of food for duration of the trip. Travel by U27 to King Salmon and by 2 engine Cessna to Brooks Camp. So let's save our pennies and have a week long MCA outing next summer.

Marjorie Prescott, Chairman, Hiking Committee

"CARIBOU YEAR" - The Life History of the Barren-Ground Caribou

Immediately following the Fur Rendezvous on February 26th, a Tuesday night, the Mountaineering Club will co-sponsor with the Alaska Conservation Society, a color film and commentary by Dr. William C. Pruitt, Jr. of Fairbanks. This one hour program was presented to standing-room only audiences in Fairbanks. Tickets for the Sydney Laurence Auditorium presentation on the regular MCA meeting night will be \$1, and members will be asked to help in the advance sale, distribution of posters, and general support of the project.

"Caribou Year" is the story of a year in the life of caribou in the North American tundra and taiga. The film was taken in north-central Canada and northwestern Alaska. The

story begins in early spring when the caribou does have just returned to the tundra to give birth to their fawns. They are followed by the camera during summer life on the tundra, migration to the forest, fall rutting time, retreat to the taiga to spend the winter, and the great spring migration back to the farming grounds. The film shows, in addition to Caribou, Arctic Hares, Wolverines, Wolves, Muskoxen, Crossbills, Richardson's Owl and other ecological associates of the caribou.

The film was made in 1957-58 from over 4,000 feet of film taken while moving from camp to camp following the Caribou. Dr. Pruitt estimates that he spent about 570 hours in the air, and the migration itself covered about 1,000 miles.

Dr. Pruitt was reared in Virginia, received his Ph.D. in Zoology at the Museum of Zoology, University of Michigan. He moved to Alaska in 1953 and lives with his family near College, Alaska. He has been associated with the Arctic Aeromedical Laboratory, the Univ. of Pennsylvania, the Univ. of Alaska, and the Univ. of Colorado. After spending 1957-58 participating in the Cooperative Caribou Investigation of the Canadian Wildlife Service, he was from 1959-61 Senior Scientist of the Terrestrial Mammals Investigation of Project Chariot, making an ecological study of the mammals of northwestern Alaska. He has published scientific papers on the ecological effects of snow in the taiga, effects of snow on Caribou and on Caribou behavior.

Jill Gardy and several A.C.S. members will work with the Program Committee in the arrangements, and we hope to have displays or tables in the Auditorium lobby illustrating the work of the two organizations.

Scott Hamilton, program chairman

YOU ARE THE SURVIVOR

with thanks to John Dillman

10 Steps to Avalanche Rescue - Read Them All

The following 10 steps to an avalanche rescue are taken from E.R. LaChapelle's **THE ABC OF AVALANCHE SAFETY**. This small booklet was written to fill the need of skiers and mountaineers for a ready "in the field" reference on avalanche conditions and rescue operations. Ed LaChapelle is one of America's foremost authorities on avalanches, having spent 11 years doing research and study on them. Because many of you will be either climbing or ski-touring in remote areas in the next few months, it is hoped that you will read and remember these steps on avalanche rescue:

1. **DON'T PANIC** - the lives of your buried comrades may depend on what you do in the next hour. **CHECK FOR FURTHER SLIDE DANGER** - pick a safe escape route in case of a repeat.
2. **MARK LAST SEEN POINT**. Mark the point on the avalanche path where the victim was last seen as he was carried down by the snow. This will narrow the area of your search and that of the rescue party. Use a firmly planted ski, pole, or large branch which will not be lost under a subsequent snowfall.
3. **QUICK SEARCH**. If there are only two or three survivors, they must make a quick but careful search of the avalanche before going for help. If at all possible, one man should be left at the accident scene to continue the search and guide the rescue party.
4. **SEARCH SURFACE BELOW LAST SEEN POINT**. Search the surface of the avalanche for evidence of the victim or clues to his location. Mark the location of any pieces of his equipment you may find -- these may provide additional indicators of the path taken by the flowing snow. Search carefully and kick up the snow to uncover anything which may lie just beneath the surface.
5. **SOLE SURVIVOR**. If you are the sole survivor, you must still make a thorough search of the avalanche before going for help. This may seem obvious, but it is a rule all too often neglected. Even the simplest search may enable you to find the victim & free him alive.
6. **THOROUGH SEARCH**. If a rescue party can be summoned only after several hours or longer, the survivors must concentrate on making as thorough a search as possible with their own resources. The chances of a buried victim being recovered alive diminish rapidly after two hours.
7. **PROBING**. If the initial search fails, begin probing with the heel of your ski, inverted ski pole, or collapsible probe below the last-seen point. Trees, ledges, benches or other terrain features which have caught the snow are most likely places to search. If there are several survivors, probing can continue until a rescue party arrives. If you are alone, you will have to decide when to break off the search and seek help.
8. **SEND FOR HELP**. If there are several survivors, send only two. The remaining survivors must search for the victim in the meantime.
9. **GOING FOR HELP**. When going for help, travel carefully, avoiding avalanche dangers and injuries from trying to ski too fast. The victim's chance of survival depends on your getting through. Mark your route, especially if fresh snow is falling, so you can find your way back. Try to avoid complete exhaustion. The rescue party will expect to be guided by you back to the accident scene unless the location is very clear.
10. **FIRST AID**. If the victim is found, treat immediately for suffocation and shock. Free nose and mouth of snow and administer mouth to mouth respiration if necessary. Clean snow from inside clothing and place victim in sleeping bag with head downhill. Any further injuries should then be treated according to standard first aid practices.

The following three pieces of equipment are considered essentials when touring or climbing in remote areas where avalanches are likely to occur: (1) Sectional or collapsible probe; (2) Small aluminum snow shovel; (3) Avalanche cord 50' of a brightly dyed nylon, $\frac{1}{4}$ ". This equipment can be obtained from: (1) Recreational Equipment Cooperative -- 523 Pike St., Seattle 1, Wash.; (2) Ski Hut -- 1615 University Ave., Berkeley 3, Calif.; (3) Gerry, Inc. -- Box 910, Boulder, Colo. Anyone who wishes further information should read: (1) **The ABC of Avalanche Safety** by E.R. LaChapelle; (2) **The Handbook of Ski Mountaineering**, published by the Sierra Club & (3) **Snow Structures & Ski Fields** by Gerald Seligman.