



MOUNTAINEERING CLUB OF ALASKA

BOX 102037

ANCHORAGE, ALASKA 99510

APRIL 1989

Volume 32, Issue 4

#### APRIL MEETING

The next meeting of the MCA will be held Wednesday, April 19th, 7:30 pm, at the Pioneer Schoolhouse, top floor, Third and Eagle Sts., downtown Anchorage. The slide show will be a presentation by Larry Williams and Rick Maron on canoeing the Noatak, the North Fork of the Koyukuk, the Delta, the Forty Mile, and Birch Creek. And tangential discussions of the federal management for the protection of these waterways.

#### HIKING AND CLIMBING SCHEDULE

- April 1 GOAT MT.  
5000' elev. gain, 4 miles round trip, Class D.  
Ice axe and self-arrest skills required.  
Leader: Pete Sennhauser 345-5577
- 1 RAINBOW PEAK  
4-5 miles round trip. Bring ice axe, since there may be some snow on the ridge. Class B.  
Leader: Don Hansen 279-0829
- 15 MATANUSKA PEAK  
13 miles round trip, gain 5500'. Bring ice axe. Class D. Could be an overnighter if people prefer shorter days. 55 Ways No. 43.  
Leader: Neil O'Donnell 274-5069
- 22-23 PTARMIGAN PEAK  
Round trip about 8 miles, elevation gain of 3000'. Overnight trip, camp and climb. Class C. Bring ice axe and camping gear. If you want to come in on Sunday and just do the climb, call Gretchen first.  
Leader: Gretchen Reeve 344-3986
- 22-23 BASIC MOUNTAINEERING CLASS  
Teaches ice axe self-arrest and glacier travel skills.  
Leader: Tim Neale 274-4952
- May 6 RABBIT CREEK  
Hike up to Rabbit Lake. Round trip 11 miles. Elevation gain 1300'. 55 Ways No. 30. Class B.  
Leader: John Baker 274-0105

- May 6-7 MT. SOGGY  
Hike 9 miles up Eagle River Saturday, climb Sunday and return.  
6400' elev. gain on the climb, strenuous Class E, may be some  
roped sections, basic mountaineering skills required.  
Leader: Willy Hersman 338-5132
- 13-14 TIKISHLA and KNOYA PEAKS  
Round trip 18 miles. Overnight trip. Need ice axe and ability  
to use it. Class C. 55 Ways No. 35.  
Leader: Alan Shayer 277-9085
- 13 INDIANHOUSE MT.  
Elevation gain 4000'. Ice axe may be required, rock scrambling  
definitely required. Class D.  
Leader: Neil O'Donnell 274-5069
- 20 O'MALLEY PEAK  
Round trip about 6 miles, elevation gain 3000'. Class C. Bring  
ice axe.  
Leader: Gretchen Reeve 344-3986
- 26-29 SHEEP VALLEY  
Leave Friday night. Optional climb of Lava Peak. Class B.  
Leader: Bill Wakeland 563-6246
- 27-28 WILLAWAW PEAK  
Round trip about 16 miles, elevation gain 3000'. Class C. Bring  
ice axe.  
Leader: Don Hansen 279-0829
- June 2-4 LOWER RUSSIAN LAKE to RESURRECTION CR.  
Leave Friday night. 31 miles one way. Class C. 55 Ways No. 8.  
Leader: Alan Shayer 277-9085
- 17-18 FLATTOP  
Solstice overnighter on the summit. Traditional. Class B.  
No leader.
- 24-25 Tom Choate will do another mystery mountain. 333-5309
- 30-04 Amphitheatre Mountains with Don Hansen over 4th of July. 279-0829
- July 8 Neil O'Donnell mountain biking/climbing to Homicide Peak. 274-5069
- 15-22 Harding Icefield Traverse with Dan O'Haire. 561-1141
- July 22-05 Katmai Traverse with Don Hansen. 279-0829

The Hiking and Climbing Committee is always looking for leaders. If you have an idea for a trip, whether an afternoon or several weeks, give Don Hansen a call at 279-0829. H and C Committee: Don Hansen, Chairman, B. Wakeland, A. Shayer, J. Baker, N. O'Donnell, W. Hersman.

### ADZE

Anyone who has done any climbing in the Ketchikan area is encouraged to contact Dianna Fehring, 410 Cedar St., Ketchikan, Alaska 99901, who is new to the area and not familiar with where to go in the mountains. Rock climbing especially.

Wanted: new wind shell, crampons, ice axe.  
Call Dave Scheer, 258-6671.

### MINUTES OF THE MARCH MEETING

The March '89 meeting was called to order by Jerry Minick, sitting in for John Baker, who was out of town on business. It started at 7:37. The reading of the minutes was waived. Numerous guests and new members were welcomed. The evening's slide show was presented by Ken Zafren M.D. on trekking in Nepal. Thanks for your contribution, Ken.

#### TREASURER'S REPORT:

Money Market	-	\$3688.86
Checking Acct	-	657.16
Petty Cash	-	57.53
Total		\$4393.55

#### COMMITTEES:

Training Committee. Mark Findlay has a 3-day training program for folks interested in learning more about cross country skiing.

Hiking and Climbing. A number of sign-up sheets were at the front desk, each for one of the trips offered through the club. Don Hansen, the committee chairman, has a major trip planned for the summer and there are some vacancies at the moment. This one will take you to Katmai, between July 22 and August 5th. Call Don if you are interested, 279-0829.

Hut Committee. Gretchen will take people up to the Mint Hut on the 18th of March to haul in aluminum.

Parks Advisory Committee. There appears to be an interest to have the Army do their future training on the Knik Gl. rather than the Eklutna, which will be in the best interest of all involved.

OLD BUSINESS:

The phone recorder has been used a total of two times in the last month. Considering the cost of the service its value is being questioned by some members. A discussion ensued, but no results could be recorded.

NEW BUSINESS:

REI will have a big hoopla on April 1st, giving outdoor-oriented organizations a chance to present their group and introduce their activities. The MCA has been encouraged to man a table and to have information available for potential new members. Sounds like a great opportunity for us and of course for REI. John Baker was nominated to man the table. Nat Goodhue offered to show maps of the Hatcher Pass Ski area development plan for those interested in more details.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Alan Julliard had news on the climbing wall project. Jerry Walton of the Municipality informed him that one of the old bunkers near Kincaid may be available as a site for this purpose. Even though the height would be lower than desired, the price is right. Things which still need to be worked out are liability and the actual construction and design. According to Todd Miner the University may also be a possibility for a site, at the Performing Arts Building. Well, it would certainly be tall enough.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Pete Sennhauser

TRIP CLASSIFICATIONS

The classifications here do not take into account individual trip hazards such as river crossings, scree slopes, snow fields, bears, etc. Trip leaders are required to inform the trip participants of any such hazards either verbally, on the sign-up sheet, or in the trip description. Leader approval is required for participation on all trips.

**DOWN WITH ASR-BREAD**

- NO MORE SENSELESS CALORIES
- NO MORE LOSING THE BEST OF THE GRAIN TO UNHEALTHY PROFIT-MONGERS
- NO MORE FALSE "HEALTH BREADS"
- NO MORE SALT, SUGAR, GREASE, LARD OR ADDITIVES

**INSTEAD - NOW**

YOU CAN TURN TO SOMEONE WHO KNOWS NATURAL MEANS:

- STONE-GROUND WHOLE GRAINS NOT BLEACHED GRAIN STARCH
- HONEY NOT 'PULE' (PROCESSED) CANE SUGAR

**FACTS:**

ASR-BREAD HAS LITTLE NUTRITIONAL VALUE  
ASR-BREAD DOES NOT PROVIDE AIR (O<sub>2</sub>) AT HIGH ELEVATIONS, HOWEVER, IT MAY PROVIDE SUFFICIENT PADDING TO CUSHION A 40 FT FALL

**FULL-FIBRE, NATURAL, WHOLE-GRAIN****BREADS**

HOME-MADE by DAVE

258-6671

\$2.25 CHEAP  
DELIVERY AVAILABLE  
YOUR RELIEF OR MINE (DOZENS!!)

NON-TECHNICAL: Following are a few standards used to classify non-technical trips. The classification is made in terms of hiking distance and altitude gain. Many trips are not on established trails.

CLASS A: Easy hikes with a maximum distance of 8 miles for day trips or 4 miles per day for overnight trips. Altitude gain up to 1200 feet.

CLASS B: Trips involving a maximum distance of up to 12 miles for a day trip or 6 miles per day for an overnight trip. Altitude gain of 1200 to 2500 feet.

CLASS C: Trips up to 15 miles for a day hike or 8 miles per day for an overnight trip. Altitude gain up to 3500 feet. Scree, steep grass or other rough terrain problems may be encountered.

CLASS D: Hikes and climbs with an altitude gain of over 3500 feet or a distance of greater than 15 miles for a day-hike or greater than 8 miles a day for an overnight trip. Peaks in this classification may require minimal climbing skills.

CLASS E: Hazardous climbing conditions may be encountered. A basic mountaineering course may be required.

TECHNICAL: Technical trips are open to all qualified climbers. However, the registration on any particular trip must be restricted to a safe and manageable number of climbers. Registration is made directly with the leader, who determines the qualifications needed for the trip.

TRIP PARTICIPANTS have the obligation to acquaint themselves with the nature of the trip and to verify that it is within their capability and experience. Anyone wishing to participate in any trip above CLASS A must have completed one or more trips of the next lower classification, or the equivalent.

Approved by MCA Board, March 1987

#### LEADER QUALIFICATIONS

1. Must be a member of the MCA.
2. Must have approval of the Hiking and Climbing Committee (A simple majority.)
3. Must have participated in trips of the same or higher classification than the one being led, showing competence in the opinion of the leaders of those trips; or equivalent experience acceptable to the Hiking and Climbing Committee.

Approved by MCA Board, March 1987

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LEADER GUIDELINES

1. Follow the general rules for MCA Sanctioned Trips.
2. Must have a sign-up sheet with all participants' names on it and turn it in to the Hiking and Climbing Committee at the end of the trip.
3. Select a meeting time and place disclosed only to those persons on the sign-up sheet, unless call-ins are acceptable to the leader.
4. Must verify that each participant has signed a valid waiver and that it is on file.
5. Can require special equipment and refuse participation to any person that is ill-equipped (including clothing).
6. Has the authority to split the group (fast and slow), but must select a co-leader to help.
7. Must report any injuries to the MCA President.
8. Must report any personnel problems to the Hiking and Climbing Committee.

Approved by the MCA Board, March 1987

GENERAL RULES FOR MCA SANCTIONED TRIPS

1. Proper equipment is required as follows:

<u>Day Hikes</u>	<u>Additional for Overnight or</u>	<u>Special Situations</u>
Map, compass, whistle		
Raingear that works	Down or synthetic equivalent	
Warm clothing (not cotton)		sleeping bag
Hiking boots	Tent (or prearranged sharing)	
Sunscreen and dark glasses	Sleeping pad	
Mosquito repellent	Stove (fires are usually prohibited)	
Water	Adequate food	
Fire starter	Dry clothes, socks, headgear, gloves	
First aid kit with moleskin	Stream crossing footwear	
Pocket knife		

(Obviously this is a minimum list, it does not include equipment for climbs or winter.)

2. No dogs. (Among the reasons are bear problems.)
3. The leader's suggestions are to be followed. Do not go off alone, return or rush ahead without his (her) permission, and don't ford a stream before the leader assesses the situation. Remember, this is a club trip and the leader must know where all participants are. Anyone separating from the

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group without the leader's aproval is no longer considered a participant in the MCA Sanctioned trip.

4. You must have signed up on a trip roster (club meetings) or otherwise contacted the leader, and have signed the club waiver to be on a club trip.
5. When carpools are arranged, please plan to pay the driver your share without his (her) asking you. Generally \$5 - short trips, \$10 or more for longer.
6. If at the last minute you find you can't go, please let the leader know, both for transportation planning and so someone else can go. If you are the leader, help find a replacement.
7. Total number of people on club trips:  
     Minimum: 4 (for safety reasons)  
     Maximum: Leader option, depends upon the trail and campsite conditions, but generally limited to 12 in trailless areas or State and National Parks
8. Firearms are not encouraged, and please let the leader know if you want to carry one - it will be leader's option.

Formulated January 1987 by Hiking and Climbing Committee

### Climbing Notes

#### CONGRATULATIONS TO DAVE STAEHELI !

Dave just completed a successful Winter Solo Climb on Denali's West Rib. It should go without saying (but I'll say it anyway), that this is a major accomplishment, done in an impressive and GRAND style! Done without great fanfare, etc. I can only wonder if he laughed all the way down from the summit too. Dave, to this guy it's the way to go - lots of guts and yet no glory, but surely great satisfaction, wished I could do it too. My sincere admiration to you.

Pete Sennhauser

#### MCA MEMBER TO EVEREST !

George Rooney is headed to Mt. Everest, even as the Scree goes to press, he and Alaskans, Bob Jacobs and Paul Claus are joining the Polish in an international West Ridge attempt. The West Ridge was first climbed in 1963 by the Americans when they traversed the mountain and put the first American on top. The expedition has about 12 climbing members, from Poland, Mexico and the U.S. This is not the same expedition as Vern Tejas', which will be on the mountain at the same time, but coming in from Tibet.

It remains to be seen just what will happen with that group, also with other Alaskans, since their arrival coincided with much political unrest in the province. Vern and company will be trying out something new for Everest, liquid oxygen. You pour it out of a thermos!

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George started out a little behind his buddies, having sprained an ankle just before departure date, but is on his way now. Good luck George and Vern.

Willy Hersman

### TRIP REPORTS

#### Matanuska Glacier Ski Trip

March 18-21

Dan O'Haire

Winter conditions prevailed at the 5000-foot level of the Matanuska Glacier, where we landed and camped in tents and a snow cave for two nights. The first night there was a spectacular display of northern lights. During our first full day on the glacier we toured the upper left fork and explored potential hut sites, taking photos along the way, then cruised to say hello to the neighbors, fellow MCA members Tom Choate, Chris and Ken Zafren and Gary Lawson. The next day Ken Farmer, Ron Van Bergeyk, Tom Grenier, Curt Smith and I soon began our two-day journey down the glacier.

To descend the Matanuska Glacier, stick as much as possible to moraines near the middle of the glacier for about two thirds of the way down, or risk being delayed by crevasses and seracs, as we were. Then about a mile past the largest drainage on the left, and at the last major drainage on the right, more over to the trough that parallels the glacier on the right side and follow it all of the way down. Once off the glacier, we bushwacked for two hours across alder-covered moraine before reaching the frozen Matanuska River. We finished the trip by skiing the unplowed road along Caribou Creek in the dark.

#### Hearth Mountain

Willy Hersman

Before Vin Hoeman's death in April 1969 he had been very interested in exploring and naming several features on the Kenai Peninsula north of Seward. Some of the names are on the maps today but several others never became official. Vin characteristically would use a central theme for naming things in an area, which seems to work quite well if the Geographic Names Board cooperates; often they do not. Until last month very little appeared in the Scree about the "fireplace" names which had been given to the area from the Godwin Glacier to Paradise Peak, but I first learned about them from Greg Higgins. Another Map Trivia will go into this issue, in case anyone wonders what I'm talking about.

In the Kenai Mountains there is no point which reaches as high as 7000 feet, but at last count Todd Miner came up with 21 peaks over 6000, a figure which seems to agree with Hoeman's estimate. It is doubtful that all of these have been climbed yet, but the ones which are within easy access without an airplane are all climbed. Todd, Rick Maron, Mike Miller and I spent three



days of spring break exploring the Fireside Glacier and climbing up Hearth Mountain (6182), much of that time spent negotiating an interesting canyon.

The canyon formed by Fireside Creek (for lack of a better name) can only be entered in the winter, in fact April may be too late. It looks like a turbulent place any other time, with whirlpools, severely scoured walls and plunging waterfalls. We saw at least one climbable grade V waterfall in shape along our way in, and a few grade III and IV's and spent more than a little time hauling packs and skis up one grade II. After getting past all the obstacles in the canyon we were relieved to see that we wouldn't be forced to back off in the dark and at 2000' we put our camp on the glacier.

The sun and moon were always hidden by clouds during our stay but it was never cold, in fact we were lucky that spring snow slides hadn't started yet, because it was down right warm. On Friday, March 24, we were able to use skis to 5200' and then Rick kicked most of the steps to the top. Mike dug down through surface snow and put a small register in the rocks and soon we were on our way back down. The skiing, once below a short icefall, was wonderfully consistent. For two miles I may have touched my poles down once and just enjoyed the view along the sides of the glacier, feeling more like a tourist on a bus ride than a skier on a glacier.

