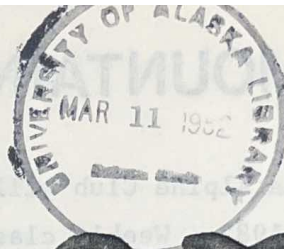


# Descent



Volume XIV: Number 1

January, February 1982

Contributors to this "DESCENT"

John Keller

Fire

Roger Kaye

Joanne Groves

## MEETING SCHEDULE:

~~On Tuesday, February 9, at 7:30 PM in Schiable Auditorium on the Univ. of Alaska campus, a do-it-yourself slide show on Gates of the Arctic/Arrigetch Peaks is being organized by Fire.~~

→ On Wednesday, February 10, at 7:00 PM in Schiable Auditorium on the Univ. of Alaska campus, Dr. William Doolittle, former director of the Arctic Medical Research Laboratory at Fort Wainwright, will talk to the Alpine Club on Frostbite and Hypothermia.

On Tuesday, March 2, at 7:30 PM, Rob Walkinshaw of the Dept. of Natural Resources will discuss the Tanana Basin Area Plan.

On Tuesday, March 9, at 7:30 PM, Gary Bocarde will present a slide show on Mt. Everest. Bocarde is asking \$125 to give the slide show and approximately \$300 which is roundtrip plane fare to Fairbanks from Kasilof. The AAC will be asking a donation of as yet indeterminate amount for this show. Schiable Auditorium.

On Tuesday, March 16, Tom Kuleck of Bassett Army Hospital will talk to the AAC on First Aid in the Mountains. It will start at 7:30 PM in Schiable Auditorium.

## EMERGENCY TRAUMA TRAINING COURSE:

Interior Region Emergency Medical Services, Inc., a nonprofit Corporation, will be giving an Emergency Trauma Training First Responder Course in May at a time to be announced. This is a 40 hour intensive course concentrating on wilderness conditions. The fee is \$60.00 which includes the purchase of a text. Call 456-3978 to be put on the roster or for more information.



# SKI MOUNTAINEERING COURSE

The Alaska Alpine Club will offer a ski mountaineering course spring semester 1982. Weekly classes beginning with a program on WEDNESDAY, FEB 10<sup>th</sup> in SCHAIBLE AUDITORIUM will be given on various aspects of ski mountaineering. Weekend trips beginning FEB. 27 will be taken to the Delta Mountains and local cliffs. All functions will be conducted by experienced mountaineers.

The course is designed for persons who already have some skiing and winter camping experience and who wish to learn how to travel among, and ascend, glaciated mountains. It is a practical course, aimed at developing mountaineering skills in the mountain setting. Some basic equipment may be available from Club supplies, but for the most part participants will be expected to provide their own gear.

A \$20.00 registration fee will be charged which includes a year's membership in the Alaska Alpine Club. Additional fees for transport may also be necessary.

## TENTATIVE SCHEDULE

Classes\*: Feb. 10 Frostbite  
2 3 Camping  
Mar. 2 Slide show  
9 Crevasse rescue  
16 First aid  
23 Avalanches  
April 6 Slide show  
13 Ice climbing  
20 Mountain weather  
27 Rock climbing  
May 4 Slide show

Trips: Feb. 27, 28: Deltas  
Mar. 6, 7: Deltas  
13, 14: Deltas  
April 10, 11: Canwell Stampede  
17, 18: Deltas  
24, 25: Deltas  
May 1, 2 : local cliff  
8, 9: local cliff

\* Tuesdays, 7:30 pm, Schaible Auditorium, UAF Campus; except Feb. 10--7 PM  
For further information, contact John Keller, 479-3630 or Joanne Groves  
479-3079



Letter From Fairbanks

Greetings! The spring climbing season is fast approaching and I think now is a good time to resolve to continue (or renew) your affair with the mountains! There will be ample opportunity to do this by participating in the events we have planned starting in February and continuing through May (see page ). The ski mountaineering class will be given again this spring. In years previous to 1981 the class was given during the fall. It was first given in the spring last year and was very successful, due to the sunny weather we experienced and perhaps also to a feeling of momentum which grew as the days lengthened and the sun got hotter. I feel that the class is the most important activity of the Club. If you feel the same, please help out! We will need help in both evening classes and weekend trips. Call me at 479-6042 or 479-3630 or Joanne Groves at 479-3079 for more information.

How is the Alpine Club doing? Certainly the intensity of activity is less than in the past. I think this is primarily due to the fact that Fairbanks climbers are split between two clubs-the Alaska Alpine Club and the Alaskan Alpine Club. This division reduces the impact of both clubs. It also creates tension which ultimately discourages participation in club-associated activities. Nevertheless, I feel there is an important role for the Alaska Alpine Club-namely the encouragement of mountaineering for its own sake. It seems to me that the expression of political sentiment within the club is healthy and desirable, but should be of secondary importance. I would go so far as to say that the future of the club depends on placing our priorities in this order. It also depends on dedicated members-both new and old- caring enough about the club to participate in its activities.

So let's do it this spring!

John Keller  
President

The Articles of Incorporation of the Alaska Alpine Club require we have our Annual Meeting sometime in March. Persons wishing to submit nominations for the offices of President, Vice President, Sec.-Tres. and Counsellor, can do so at the above phone numbers.

An Alaska Alpine Club member of many years' standing, Shigeo Rikimaru, MD(Kanazawa, JAPAN) has sent the AAC a beautiful Japanese Alpine Calendar to be awarded to a member who have worked in an especially unselfish manner for the Club. This year the Calendar went to JOHN KELLER.

FOR SALE: 111-B Optimus. Who knows where it's been. Clemm suggests \$20.00 would be a fair price for it for someone who likes to fix up well-used stoves. It's had a big fire, and some pieces are missing. Ask to see it at an AAC meeting.



## CLIMBING GRANT

The first grant from the Peter MacKeith Endowment Fund will be considered for announcement at the March 1983 Annual Meeting of the Alpine Club. By March 1983 the accumulated interest and the maximum award will be approximately \$1500 (if the interest rate remains as it is now.).

Persons who wish to apply for the award should submit the following to

Alaska Alpine Club  
P. O. Box 81174  
Fairbanks, Alaska 99708-1174

by December 31, 1982 to be considered for a grant in March 1983.

- a) A description of the climb
- b) A statement of financial needs
- c) A description of the qualifications of individual members in the party.

Requirements on receiving a grant are:

- a) Acknowledgment that the climb is partially/wholly funded by the Peter MacKeith Fund.
- b) An article with pictures is to be submitted to the Alaska Alpine Club publication, "Descent", on completion of the climb.
- c) A slide show on the completed climb is to be given for the Alaska Alpine Club membership.
- d) All climbers must be Alaska Alpine Club members at the time of the climb.

Criteria to be used by the Alaska Alpine Club for selecting recipients of a grant are:

- a) Financial need of the party
- b) Difficulty of the proposed climb
- c) The potential for a successful climb

The proposals will be evaluated by the Executive Committee, Registered Agent, and two Club members of three years standing. The Executive Committee consists of John Keller, Pres.; Mike Masters, Vice-Pres., Joanne Groves Sec.-Tres.; and Dan Osborne and Buck Wilson, Counsellors. Buck Wilson's term expires in March 1983; all others are up for re-election in March 1982. Buck Wilson is Registered Agent. The two Club members of three years standing will be selected after the Sept. 1982 membership year starts.

General Information:

The AAC is not required to award all or any of the MacKeith Fund in any given year. The AAC may award many small grants or one large one.

Proposals may be submitted for funds to promote climbing safety and to purchase rescue equipment. However, these will be considered after the climbing grants.



## GATES OF THE ARCTIC MANAGEMENT PLAN:

In November 1981, the Alaska Alpine Club joined with other organizations concerned with Alaska land management issues in signing a letter to ask the National Park Service to consider an innovative management plan for Gates of the Arctic.

Roger Kaye first introduced this letter to us. Carol Kasza, a member of the Alaska Association of Mountain and Wilderness Guides (a group dedicated to "minimum impact guiding"), made the presentation at our November 4 meeting.

As a follow-up to the November 4th letter, a broad outline of this management plan has been written by Roger Kaye requesting support from individuals.

I quote selected parts from this four page letter.

"We propose two primary management goals for the Gates of the Arctic:

- A) The National Park Service (NPS) shall preserve and protect the Gates in its pristine and undeveloped character.
- B) NPS management shall essentially be limited to protecting resources.

Specifically, we propose that the following shall in general not be objectives in the Gates of the Arctic:

- 1) Advertising, publicising, promoting or featuring the area.
- 2) Construction of facilities in the Park.
- 3) Development of interpretive themes, programs, materials and services.
- 4) Establishing visitor safety and protection programs and services."

In a section of the letter expanding on the reasoning behind 1) thru 4), the following justifications were suggested.

1) More advertising means more visitors; more visitors means more potential damage to resources; more potential damage means more need for regulation and regimentation.

2) Signs, trails, cabins etc. are a crutch which seduce visitors to enter the area with a lesser level of psychological and material preparation. The Gates is a place for people willing and able to meet it on its own terms. This is also true for Park Rangers.

3) Ample interpretive material is already available in existing publications. The Gates is a place for people willing and able to research interpretive material for themselves. Mountains, creeks, and other natural features that are currently nameless should remain so.

"The NPS should only provide information that will encourage behavior by users that will minimize the impact on the resource and promote self-compliance with regulations (i.e. The Gates' single brochure should describe the fragile nature of alpine ecosystems, minimum impact camping techniques and bear avoidance precautions."

4) "Evidence suggests that when recreationalists enter the wilderness with an appreciation of the inherent risks and understand that they are solely responsible for their well being, the agency liability is reduced." Roger recommends reading "Mountains without Handrails" on this topic; it is available in the Univ. of Alaska library.



The addresses to send your views on Gates of the Arctic are:

Mr. Dick Ring, Superintendent  
Gates of the Arctic National Park  
National Park Service  
P. O. Box 74680  
Fairbanks, Alaska  
99707

Mr. John Cook, Regional Director  
National Park Service, Alaska  
540 West Fifth Avenue  
Anchorage, Alaska  
99501

Roger Kaye identifies this group as "an informal group working in coordination with the Fairbanks Environmental Center." The Fairbanks Environmental Center (now known as the Northern Alaska Environmental Center) supports these concepts.

Persons wishing copies of the above-mentioned four page letter, desiring to discuss Gates of the Arctic management, or wishing more information on minimum impact camping or the benefits of total personal responsibility for safety, can contact Roger Kaye at 479-3449.

GENERAL ALASKAN NATIONAL PARK MANAGEMENT PLAN:

The Alaska Alpine Club submitted the goals (A) and (B) and objectives (1) thru (4) as stated by Roger Kaye's group for Gates of the Arctic to Andrew Embick, American Alpine Club Alaskan representative, as representative of the views of a significant percentage of Alaskan mountaineers and suitable for all National Parks in Alaska. We emphasized personal responsibility for acquiring adequate training to enable one to participate in a potentially dangerous activity and personal responsibility for rescue.

In addition, we called Dr. Embick's attention to the Alaska Lands Act of 1980 (94-STAT-2457; Public Law 96-487, Dec. 2, 1980; Title XI--Transportation and Utility Systems in and across, and access into, Conservation System Units. Sec. 1110 (a); Special access and access to inholdings (16 US 3170).

I quote directly from Sec. 110 (a):

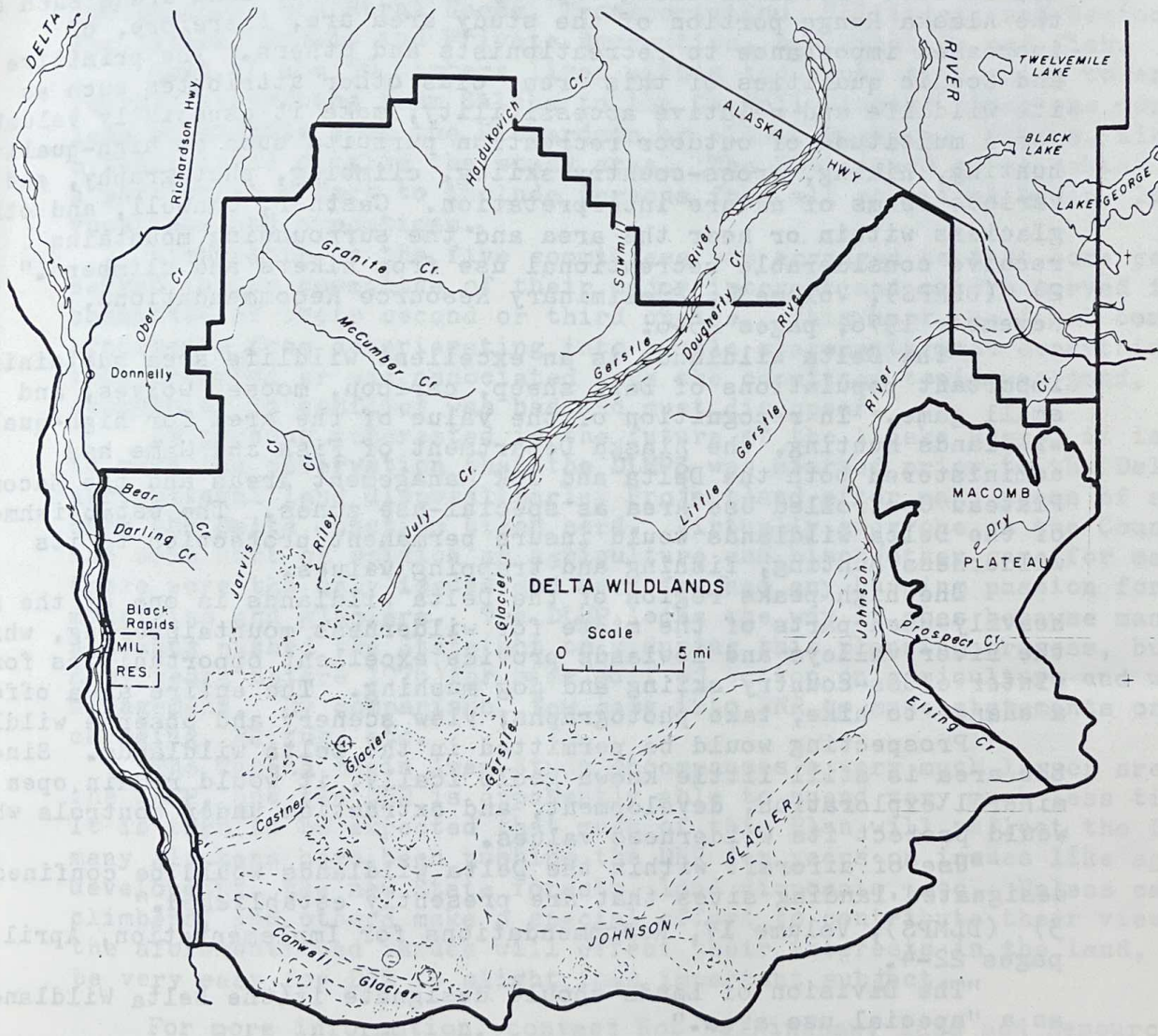
"Notwithstanding any other provision of this Act or other law, the Secretary shall permit, on conservation system units, national recreation areas, and national conservation areas, and those public lands designated as wilderness study, the use of snowmachines (during periods of adequate snow cover, or frozen river conditions in the case of wild scenic rivers motorboats, airplanes, and nonmotorized surface transportation methods for traditional activities (where such activities are permitted by this Act or other law) and for travel to and from villages and homesites. Such use shall be subject to reasonable regulations by the Secretary to protect the natural and other values of the conservation-system units, national recreation areas, and national conservation areas, and shall not be prohibited unless, after notice and hearing in the vicinity of the affected unit or area, the Secretary finds that such use would be detrimental to the resource values of the unit or area. Nothing in this section shall be construed as prohibiting the use of other methods of transportation for such travel and activities on conservation system lands where such use is permitted by this Act or other law."



This paragraph of the Alaska Lands Act of 1980 is the one which is said to be interpreted to permit airplane access and air drops (see underlined part). Persons should insist that airplane access and air drops for climbing and ski mountaineering are "traditional uses" and protected by this part of the Act.

Persons wishing to contact Dr. Embick in his capacity as American Alpine Club Alaska representative may write him at:  
 Andrew Embick, MD  
 Box 1889,  
 Valdez, Alaska 99686

THE DELTA LAND MANAGEMENT PLANNING STUDY





## TANANA BASIN STUDY:

Rob Walkinshaw, of the Alaska Department of Natural Resources and a planner for the Tanana Basin Plan, has informed the Alaska Alpine Club that the Delta Mountains part of the plan will conform to that given in the older Delta Land Management Planning Study. The rationale for this is that the Delta Land Management Study (which began in 1976 and continued until 1980 with the aid of a Citizens' Advisory Council) was a much more comprehensive study than the State will be able to undertake with the much larger land area of the Tanana Basin Study.

The Delta Land Management Study describes the Delta Wildlands in these terms:

- 1) Delta Land Management Study (DLMPS), Volume I, August 1976, pp. 28-31.  
"Lands with wilderness values can never increase in abundance and in fact are diminishing rapidly world wide. Land areas such as the Alaska Range portion of the study area are, therefore, of increased importance to recreationists and others. The primitive and scenic qualities of this area, plus other attributes such as its wildlife and relative accessibility, make it especially valuable for a multitude of outdoor recreation pursuits such as high-quality hunting, hiking, cross-country skiing, climbing, photography, and various forms of nature interpretation. Castner, Canwell, and other glaciers within or near the area and the surrounding mountains receive considerable recreational use from hikers and climbers."  
2) (DLMPS), Volume II, Preliminary Resource Recommendations, November 1976, pages 25-6:

"The Delta wildlands is an excellent wildlife area sustaining important populations of Dall sheep, caribou, moose, wolves, and small game. In recognition of the value of the area for high-quality wildlands hunting, the Alaska Department of Fish and Game has administered both the Delta and Tok Management Areas and the Macomb Plateau Controlled Use Area as special-use zones. The establishment of the Delta wildlands would insure permanent protection to its wilderness hunting, fishing and trapping values.

The high peaks region of the Delta wildlands is one of the most heavily-used parts of the state for wilderness mountaineering, while the river valleys and lowlands provide excellent opportunities for winter cross-country skiing and dog mushing. The entire area offers a chance to hike, take photographs, view scenery and observe wildlife.

Prospecting would be permitted in the Delta wildlands. Since the area is still little known geologically, it would remain open to mineral exploration, development, and extraction under controls which would protect its wilderness values.

Use of aircraft within the Delta wildlands would be confined to designated landing sites that are presently established."  
3) (DLMPS), Volume IV, Recommendations for Implementation, April 1976, pages 22-4.

"The Division of Lands should designate it (the Delta Wildlands) as a "special use area."



Before restrictions are placed on activities permitted in the wildlands, the departments responsible for the area's management should hold public meetings in Delta Junction. Until a management plan is developed, all existing activities should be allowed to continue at present levels. Construction of new roads, airstrips, and buildings should not be permitted in the wildlands."

4) (DLMPS), Volume V, Progress Report, pages 12-3. December 1979

"The wildlands have not been designated as special use lands as recommended in Volume IV. It is believed that the public recreation classification, memoranda of understanding between the Departments of Fish and Game and Natural Resources, and current procedures are adequate to protect recreational use of the Delta wildlands."

#### DELTA LAND MANAGEMENT PLANNING STUDY vs. TANANA BASIN AREA STUDY:

I was a member of the DLMPS Citizens Council from its beginning in 1976 until spring 1980. This Council of some 50 people was organized into five committees: Natural Resources Materials (i.e. mining, gravel), Agricultural and Rural Needs, Transportation, Utilities, and Regional Facilities, Public and Private Recreation, and Wildlife and Fish.

Most of the 50 members lived within the study area which covered roughly everything from Salcha to the Canwell Glacier which was more or less accessible from the Richardson or Alaska Highway. Others, like myself, lived outside the study area. The DNR seemed to be making a particular effort to include persons from all political bents, lifestyles, vocations and avocations.

Membership in the five committees was arranged so that some persons served in the committee of their major interest and others served in the committee of their second or third choice. This kept the final committee statements from deteriorating into simple statements that everything that promoted or was associated with the committee topic was good, and everything in conflict was bad and must disappear.

As persons interested in the future of the Alaska Range, it is well to make the observation that the DLMPS was started prior to the Delta I agricultural land disposal (Barley Project) and after many years of strife over the Delta Junction bison herd. Virtually everyone on the Council had some sort of opinion on agriculture and bison/other game (for many, these were the only issues) and very few had any burning passion for high mountains and glaciers. The DLMP looks the way it does because many Alaskans pushed the State (not only during this planning process, but for many years before 1976) for some sort of action on agriculture and wildlife management. By comparison, few came into DNR to make statements on climbing, canoeing, skiing, etc.

The Tanana Basin Area Study encompasses a very much larger area than the DLMP, and the DNR is apparently able to spend very much less time on it. It is then to be expected that much of this Plan will reflect the fact that many Alaskans have been pushing the DNR for years on issues like agricultural development, the new State forests, land disposals, etc. Unless canoers, climbers, and others make a special effort to contribute their views on how the aforementioned issues will effect their interests in the land, it will be very easy for DNR to slight this important subject.

For more information, contact Rob Walkinshaw, Land and Resource Planning, Dept. of Natural Resources, Tanana Basin Area Plan, 4420 Airport Way, Fairbanks, Alaska 99701. 479-2243.







FOR NEW AND/OR OVERDUE CLUB MEMBERS:

Send \$6.00(\$10.00 family membership)and this form, completed, to:

ALASKA ALPINE CLUB  
PO Box 81174  
College, Alaska 99708-1174

to insure your membership for the coming year. Membership includes "Descent".

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ TELEPHONE \_\_\_\_\_

MAILING ADDRESS\* \_\_\_\_\_ LOCAL ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

\*STUDENTS!! Please include a summer address, so you will not miss your summer "Descents".

Please make checks payable to: ALASKA ALPINE CLUB

Cut along dotted line

ALASKA ALPINE CLUB  
P. O. Box 81174  
College, Alaska  
99708-1174

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ALASKA ALPINE CLUB  
P. O. Box 81174  
Fairbanks, Alaska  
99708-1174

*Out of a Library  
Periodicals*

ALASKA AVALANCHE SCHOOL:

Everyone who has attended this workshop sponsored by the Alaska State Parks and Alaska Division of Geological and Geophysical Surveys with assistance from the US Forest Service and the US Army is sure to be away impressed with its quality.

Workshop locations and dates not yet passed are:

Thompson Pass	Feb. 29-30	
Watcher Pass	Mar. 2-3	Level I
Black Rapids	Mar. 11-14	
Summit Lake Pass	Mar. 27-28	
Thompson Pass	April 2-3	Level II

The cost is \$40.00 with food and lodging extra. These classes fill up rapidly, and it may already be too late for this spring. However, information can be had on these classes and future ones.

From: Alaska Avalanche School phone: 907-274-4676  
Alaska State Parks  
619 Warehouse Drive, Suite 210  
Anchorage, Alaska 99501