



DESCENDANT

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Editors: Moss Mead and John Keller

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

FALL ACTIVITIES. The first AAC meeting and slide show is scheduled September 26, Monday evening at 7pm in Schaible auditorium on the UAF campus. Come and get acquainted with fellow Alpine clubbers. Others interested in learning about mountaineering are welcome also. Informative handouts including an equipment list for the Alaskan mountains will be available at the door. There will also be a preview of next spring's ski mountaineering course. A show and meeting is scheduled by the club every month this fall semester.

ANNUAL MEETING. At the spring 1983 annual meeting club officers were elected. President: Michael Masters, Vice-President: Howard Ferren, Secretary-Treasurer: Moss Mead, and Counselor: Joanne Groves.

McKEITH FUND EXPEDITIONS are back! We are looking forward to hearing details of the trips from award recipients Jim Bouchard, Ev Wenrick, and Bruce Rasmussen.

CLUB EQUIPMENT. The club has new crampons and ice axes plus old gear available for member use. Also, ropes: MSR and goldline.

COMPUTERIZED MEMBERSHIP. On the back of this Descent is the current membership list. The 3 letter code indicates our record of when your next dues are due. S (spring) or F (fall) 8?.

RURPS 'N BONGS

by John Keller

KEN GREEN is on the mend after a drop into a crevasse on the Kahiltna in late May. Spent some time in the "Climber's Ward" in Providence Hospital in Anchorage but is up and about now. Kudos to CINDY FOLSOM-GREEN for a starring role as Nurse Ratchet.

BARB POWELL was on Mt. Foraker at the same time as Ken and WILLI HERSMAN. She was with DEBRA PAGE AND CAROL KACZA on the Southeast Ridge; rappelled most of the route after deteriorating snow conditions forced a halt to the climb.

Seems like almost everyone in Fairbanks is building something this summer and LORI BABB and STAN JUSTICE are no exception. Their two story house is rapidly taking shape on a lot off Farmer's Loop Road.

DICK STOLZBERG is seeing a lot of the North this summer: he's taking a kayak trip in Glacier Bay N.M., a climbing trip to sunny Banff National Park and finally a backpacking trip into the Brooks Range.

Ron Yarnell of Wilderness: Alaska/Mexico nabbed MOSS MEAD as an expedition helper on two trips this summer: one into the Brooks Range and another on a Yukon boat trip.

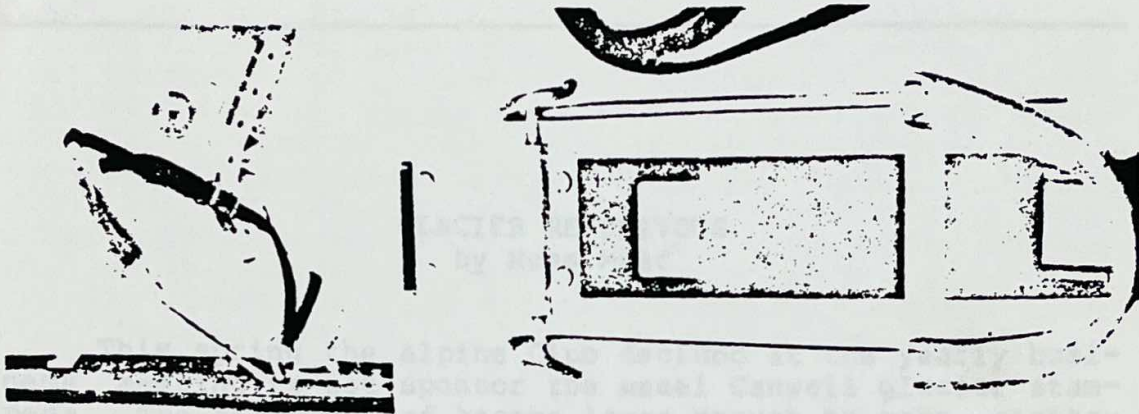
Climbing class graduate JEFF NIEDERMEYER placed a respectable seventh against stiff competition in this year's Nenana Classic kayak races July 10. Claims he's going to wear his wet suit into the mountains next year to stay warm!

Long time Ester residents MIKE and RICHIE MUSICK attended the climbing class this past spring. They alternated weekends on trips to the Deltas so that someone would be home to watch their three kids.

BUNNY BINDINGS

by Stan Justice

There have long been various homemade, Army and modified commercial bindings which work adequately with bunny boots. There is also the Ramshorn binding made specifically for VB boots and pac boots. It consists of an aluminum toe plate with a nylon bearing, two bent steel rods which thread into the nylon bearing, an aluminum heel yoke which fastens to the steel rods with set screws, a rubber heel strap which bolts to the heel yoke, a heel plate, and a long nylon strap as shown in the drawing.



The binding comes in 3 sizes so be sure to indicate the size and type of boot you will be using. The width between the horns is adjustable by screwing them in and out of the nylon bearing.

The heel yoke adjusts forward and back, sliding along on the steel bars.

Ramshorn Inc. , being a small company selling a non-safety binding, can't afford product liability insurance so orders must be accompanied by a signed and dated statement which says: _____ (name of buyer) shall hold harmless Ramshorn Incorporated, its suppliers, subcontractors, agents, and employees

from any liability arising out of any personal injuries and or property damage resulting from the use of Ramshorn Touring Ski Bindings.

The most current price is \$25 plus \$2.50 for shipping and handling. If you ask for spare parts and claim to be planning a major expedition you may get a whole extra binding minus the straps.

The long nylon strap which comes with the binding is difficult to use, often requiring bare hands to fasten. I like using a simple toe strap and a neoprene (crampon strap material) loop for pulling the rubber strap up. The toe strap must be snug on the steel bars or it tends to slip down off your toe. The neoprene loop should be big enough

for your mittened hand. A safety strap is not a bad idea, just to prevent runaway skis.

So, if you are tired of cold feet and don't mind sacrificing some sole rigidity and ankle support, this is an option. If you are worried about looking like Mickey Mouse, make a pair of overboots to fit. Oh yes! The address:

Ramshorn Inc.
421 N. 36th Ave. E.
Duluth, Mn. 55804

GLACIER RENDEZVOUS by Moss Mead

This spring the Alpine Club decided at the yearly business meeting to not sponsor the usual Canwell glacier stampede. The stampede had become large enough to make sanitation and cleanup an unpleasant hassle and concern was expressed over the beat up condition of the Canwell Hut. On the other side of the coin, concern was expressed over discontinuing such a popular public institution. There were a few dissappointed people who have in the past considered the stampede their annual opportunity to get out of town and into the spring sun. The Glacier Rendezvous was the alternative created. This trip would be for club members and their guests only, as a means to reduce numbers to a more reasonable level. The Gulkana glacier was chosen as a change from the Canwell. It is an easy ski up with direct southern exposure.

I went along as the official Rendezvous wand-fairy, and also brought along two friends. Another friend Barb Powell and I were hoping to get a shot at climbing Coney Mt. Although the weather was very good, the avalanche danger was high. So, we ditched the idea of climbing. Instead, two groups of us skied to the top of the pass overlooking the Canwell glacier. Stan Justice and Lori Babb peeked over the edge here and there to scope out a possible descent route to the upper Canwell glacier. The McKeith Hut (upper Canwell hut) is visible from the pass. Other participants in the Rendezvous used our tried and true trail to the top of the pass. We all enjoyed the good ski conditions and spectacular views of Snow White, Icefall Peak, and Gabriel Icefall.

Personally, I have mixed feelings about continuing the Rendezvous

idea. There were good points: weather, parking, a nice bunch of people, location, route, and all. But, some things bothered me, too. A small group not associated with our group, were skiing in the hills above our route across the valley bottom. They set off many avalanches and a member of their group broke his knee. I can see the potential for other groups like this accidentally sending avalanches down on the Rendezvous group. Because of the delay caused by helping the injured person, people from our Rendezvous group who were inexperienced skied off ahead and broke trail under a dangerous slope. This slope avalanched and fortunately did not hurt anyone. These inexperienced people stayed and sat just below the deposition from the slide until John Keller got them back on to a safer course. This event frightened me because so many people followed the mis-directed trail like sheep. Many thought that those on ahead must "know better" and that it must be safe. If we are going to have such an activity again we should want the trail the day before inexperienced people in such large numbers appear on the scene. It would also be better if the club had an established leader or leading group.

My friends and I had a fine trip and were excited about it. Everyone in general seemed to have a great weekend on the Gulkana. An alternative idea I've had is for more experienced people to voluntarily take small groups of a limited number (two to eight depending on experience level) up one of the easier glaciers in mid-April, non-commercially. I'd be willing to try this, or the Gulkana Rendezvous with alterations, or hear anyone else's ideas and input. I'm all for encouraging the indoorsey people to get outdoorsey, if the safety margin is comfortable.

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

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

NAME _____ TELEPHONE _____
with home

MAILING ADDRESS _____ LOCAL ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____ DATE _____

*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

TANANA BASIN AREA MANAGEMENT PLAN

The State of Alaska Department of Natural Resources conducted hearings on the Tanana Basin Area Management Plan during June and July. On July 1st the Club officers sent a response to the Fairbanks office of the DNR. Of four possible plans, the officers supported alternative No. 3 which emphasizes wildlife and recreation. Alternatives emphasizing land sales, agriculture, or minerals were not supported. Club President Mike Masters' letter is included below.

Dear Sirs,

In response to your brochure inviting public comment on the Tanana Basin Area Plan, the Alaska Alpine Club is in favor of retaining State Lands in the Alaska Range and Delta Mountains in public ownership, and classifying them to include recreation as a primary use. In cases in which lands along roads through the mountains are sold, we would prefer that trails be retained in public ownership with 100 to 600 foot wide corridors (referring to the issues on page 10). If no trails can be identified, feasible access for foot travel through disposal areas should be reserved. If mining operations result in blockage of trails or access routes to peaks the company should provide a feasible alternative trail or route.

Areas in which Alaska Alpine Club members commonly climb and which are located on State Land within TBAP boundaries include the following. Possible conflicts, if any, with proposed land use designations are noted.

1. Canwell and Fels Glaciers, and peaks from White Princess south to Snow White off the Richardson Highway. The AAC maintains two huts on the Canwell glacier, frequently used for weekend and three day trips.
2. Gulkana and College Glaciers. This area south of the including peaks from Rainbow Mountain east to Icefall Peak, provides a wide variety of climbs and is popular for 2-3 day trips. Access is via the road to the Alyeska pipeline camp, then up Phelam Creek.
3. Panorama Mtn. Located north of Cantwell on the Parks Highway, snow chutes along the south face of this mountain are used for practice and instruction each spring.
4. Creeks draining from Sugarloaf Mountain, north of McKinley Park, across the Parks Hwy. Frozen waterfalls both east and west of the highway provide ice climbing opportunities in late winter and spring, for practice and in-

struction.

5. Yanert Fork. A trail from the airstrip south of McKinley village to the Yanert fork at Revine creek provides access to the river for major climbs of Mt. Deborah or Mt. Hess and for ski touring. At a minimum, access along both sides of the river should be maintained if land is disposed, as extensive overflow often makes travel on the river difficult.

6. Major Peaks. The Black Rapids Glacier, off the Richardson Highway, is used for access to several major peaks and lengthy ski tours. The moraine opposite Black Rapids is a difficult traverse, and no trail can be identified. Public access should be retained if land east of Mt. Pillsbury is sold, to allow approaches of McGinnis Peak from the northeast. Lands around Mt. Gakona and Mt. Kimball and major peaks east of the Canwell Glacier should be classified to include recreation as a primary use.

Overall, the AAC is in favor of Alternative 3, with its emphasis on public recreation.

Sincerely,
Officers, Alaska Alpine Club

FALL 1983 MEMBERSHIP, PHONE, AND DUES LIST:

These addresses, phone numbers, and due dates need to be updated. Please notify the Alpine Club of any changes necessary. Names with ***s by them indicate that we have no address for that person on file at this time. This list is not alphabetical. Your speedy cooperation is much appreciated as we reorganize behind the scenes to accommodate a very large increase in membership over the past year.

Shigeo Rikimaru, M.D. ph:0762-64-3433 (Japan) F83

Mrs. Elizabeth McKeith (England) S99

*Jim Skelton hm:456-7775 S84

*Bruce Rasmussen S84

*George Orth hm:479-3228 S84

*Kathy Echols S84

*Paul O. Sullivan S84

*Janet Warburton hm:474-7518 S84

*Mike Beck S84

*Ray Finch S84

*Bill Strauss S84

*Er Wenrick S84

*Mike Schonoker S84

*Joni Snellgrove S84

*Carol Buttimore S84

*Paul Prusak S84

*Pete Williams S84

Alston Paige S99

Buck Wilson hm:479-2419 S99

Chester Errett (213)851-2528 CA. S99

Dennis and Sandra Bolz hm:456-6845 S83

Catherine Cochrane hm:479-3607 S83

Ron and Carol Johnson hm:456-7999 S83

Roger Whatrey S83

Rudi Schmid hm:456-6551 F83

Bill Bacia hm:474-7451 F82

Janey Brancheau hm:474-7665 S83

Brad Clark F83

John Keller hm:479-3630, wk:474-6042 S83

Jesse Venable hm:479-2273, wk:452-1531 F82

Francis Schultz F82

Moss Head hm:(509)722-3263 S84 Washington St.

Dan Osborne hm:479-4535 S83

Marlene Mandt hm:(408)733-0798 Ca. S84

Frank Sommer hm:456-2106 S83

Mike McKee hm:456-1658 S83

Roger Kaye hm:479-3449 (winters) S84

Clem Rawert hm + wk:456-6314 S83

Stephen Murphy hm:479-3739 F82

Ron Rosser wk:452-2823 S83

Keith Hart S99

Terris Moore S99

Les and Teri Vierick hm:479-2879

Bill Strauss hm:895-4840 S83

John Rose S83

Peggy Glynn hm:452-2750 S83

Bernie Fowle hm:377-5488 S84

Steve Hackett mess.:452-5809 S84

Lori Babb hm:479-5017 S83

Mark Blong hm:479-5454 F83
 Michael Brodie hm:474-7326 F82
 Andrew Embick 835-4200(Valdez) S83
 Nancy Lewis hm:455-6510, wk:452-1761 F83
 Dennis Stephens hm:479-5826 F82
 Dick and Kathy Klapstein hm:488-3241 S83
 Nancy Rychlik hm:452-5967 F83
 Michael Parise hm:456-5792, wk:452-1666 S83
 Kathleen Todd 835-4200(Valdez) S83
 Cydney Hansen hm:455-6537 S83
 Mike Masters wk:479-3104 F83
 Rob Walkinshaw wk:479-2243 S83
 James Mery F82
 Jack Taylor hm:479-5283 F82
 Stephanie and Ron Paoletti hm:488-9807 F82
 Paul Livingston (Oregon) S99
 George Argus (Canada) S99
 Gordon Herried hm:479-5551 S99
 Ken and Cindy Folsom/Green hm:479-3298 S83
 Jay Hughes hm:479-3566 S83
 Donna Weihs (Boston) S83
 Blake Morgan hm:474-7603 S84
 George Bassler (Penn.) S83
 Stan Justice hm:479-5017 S83
 Dan Aka Anu McKee hm:479-5205 F83
 Jim Chiles hm:452-2920, wk:452-4956 S83
 Michael Fallon hm:479-3607 S83
 Willi Hersman hm:278-9829 S83
 Dick Stolzberg wk:474-7525 S83
 Joe Wilcox (WA) S83
 Barbara Powell wk:452-4761 S83
 Howaerd Ferrer hm:479-3362 S83
 Gary Kendall hm:455-6541 S83
 Scott Starbuck hm:474-7612 F82
 Joanne Groves hm:479-3079 S83
 Ed Speer wk:452-1980 F82
 Tom Kulek wk:353-4147 F82
 Kurt Johnson hm:452-2823 F82
 Julie Byer hm:479-5475 S84
 Frances Randall hm:479-6597 S84
 Gloria Wingenbach S84
 Doug Blockcolsky hm:479-6901 S84
 R. + M. Rundquist hm:456-1963 S84
 Keith Nelson hm:452-1241 S84
 Thomas Edgerton hm:452-2092 S84
 Mike Rundquist hm:456-1963 S84
 Ray Finch (Anchorage) S?
 M. + R. Musick hm:479-5336 S84
 Mark Standley S84
 Jim Bouchard S84
 John G. Gerard wk: 452-1241 S84
 John Dahl Fennie hm:474-7788 S84
 Bob Sutherland wk:474-7074 S84
 Bob Watson wk:832-5222(Nenana) F83
 Ross Perrine (Idaho) F83

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 Leslie Attebery (Ester) F84
 Joe Finkel hm:479-2550
 wk:452-1022 S84
 Ken Syverson wk:452-3663 S84