



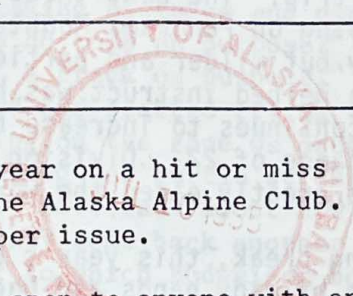
DESCENT

Volume XVI: Number 2

June 1985

The DESCENT is published 1-4 times per year on a hit or miss basis. Copies are sent to members of the Alaska Alpine Club. Nonmembers may receive DESCENT for 50¢ per issue.

Membership in the Alaska Alpine Club is open to anyone with an interest in the mountains. Meetings are open to the public and are scheduled monthly, September through May, on the UAF campus. Tea and cookies are provided.



ALASKA ALPINE CLUB OFFICERS for the 1985-86 year, elected at the annual meeting in March are:

Stan Justice	President
Rex Rundquist	Vice president
Liz Andrews	Secretary/Treasurer
John Keller	Counselor
Mike Masters	Counselor

GENERAL MEETING, MONDAY, JUNE 10, 7:30 pm, Schiable Auditorium, to award PETER MACKETH GRANT and discuss summer activities. Films to be shown are:

- "From The Ocean to the Sky" - Sir Edmund Hilary's trip up the Ganges River in India by jet boat and on foot - 50 min.
- "Kayak - American Sportsman" - 20 min.
- "Wildwater" - US Kayak and Canoe Team in training (New Hampshire) and in competition (Merano, Italy), 1971 - 20 min.
- "Ride the Wind" - Hang gliding - 25 min.
- "Three Peaks of LaVeredo, Italy" - Rock climbing - 17 min.

Instructional Canoe Series

Instructional Canoeing Series - 28 min. each - "Solo Basics", "Solo Whitewater", "Doubles", "Doubles Whitewater".

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President's Message

This spring, thanks to substantial contributions of time and effort by club members as well as by officers, we taught both beginning and intermediate courses in ski mountaineering and held monthly general meetings. The general meetings included excellent and informative slide shows: one on Kinabalu - summit of Borneo, by Phil Marshall, and the other on trekking and climbing in Nepal, by Nancy Lewis and Mike Ruckhaus. The film "Eiger", a skillful and dramatic blend of a solo ascent of the north face with recreations of historic climbs of the same route, directed by Leo Dickinson, arrived barely on time for two well-attended showings.

Despite generally cooler and cloudier weather than is usual in late winter, the beginning ski mountaineering class was well attended, both the seven classroom sessions and the five weekend trips. The first two trips, a day ski with packs on White Mountain summer trail, and a snow cave weekend and ski to the hut on the Canwell Glacier, were quite brisk, making the snow shelters greatly appreciated. After a few cases of incipient frostbite and a lengthy session of jump-starting and heating cars after the Canwell trip, continued cold led to cancellation of the following weekend's trip. The next three weekends, crevasse rescue on the Fels Glacier, snow climbing on Panorama Mountain, and the graduation climb of McCallum Peak, were windy but milder and participation by class members and the many other club members who helped instruct was high, making for very enjoyable trips. Interest in the class continues to increase by the year, with 29 paid students and an average trip attendance of 22. Division of the weekly lectures among eight different instructors greatly eased the workload.

After spring break, this year's Glacier Rendezvous was a repair trip to the Thayer Hut. Help by many hands and backs returned the hut to good condition, the only minor repairs remaining including weatherstripping the door and possibly fixing pile damage to the south end wall, after the snow which half buried the hut has melted. The intermediate climbing class, a first this year, then began with an ice climbing day at Fox Creek. Two snow climbs, one of Panorama Mountain and the other of Institute Peak from the south followed, both blessed by good weather, bombproof snow conditions, and spectacular views from the summits. The class concluded with a climbing trip to Angel Rocks, a bit cool for optimal climbing, with a few snow flurries, and a difficult hike in and out through thawing deep snow, but enjoyable nonetheless. A good trail, useful when the Chena River is high, has been cut from the bridge south of Angel Creek. The break between the two classes and the opportunity to do more challenging climbs with a lower student:instructor ratio (maximum 5:1) in the intermediate class were appreciated both by students and instructors.

At the annual meeting, additional topics discussed included the Peter MacKeith Climbing Grants and the status of the lower Canwell Hut. The deadline for climbing grant applications was extended for this year only. Two applications were received during the extended period and evaluated by the executive committee. Awards, to be made at the 10 June general meeting, will be to Terry Gacke and Doug Blockcolsky for a climb of Mt. Osborne on the Seward Peninsula (\$216.), and to Kevin Berg, John Hiltenbrand, and Mark Mattson for a climb of Mts. Skarland and Geist in the Alaska Range (\$384.), both to be completed early this summer. We wish both parties challenging, safe and successful climbs. The plywood end walls of the Lower Canwell Hut require replacement with parky squirrel resistant 1 x lumber, and the leaking roof needs repair. The MacKeith Hut is in excellent condition. In other business, an equipment swap was suggested for the fall. The annual Japanese alpine calendar was awarded to John Keller for his directing both climbing classes.

Again, many thanks to all who volunteered themselves to make this spring a successful and enjoyable time for the club. Keep the summer activities listed elsewhere in the newsletter in mind.

Hanging out at the Peter MacKeith Hut on March 29 after a long ski in, I stepped out of the hut to find we had visitors (the Budweiser brothers) - just in for a day trip from Paxson Lodge via Gakona Glacier and Yeti Pass on snow-machines. It took the guy a few tries to get up the hut hill but by going out in the crevass field he was able to get a running start and made it to the hut and passed out a few beers. His friends could be seen speeding up the Canwell rather independent of one another. One of them made a run towards the big train eater of a crack (20 feet wide - 40 feet deep with a snow filled bottom) right below the hut. At the last second he saw the crack and pulled a U turn on the cornice. Later, another snowmachine comes speeding along following the track his Budweiser buddy left for him and at 50 mph flies off the lip and burns it in on the far wall, the machine into blue ice while the rider hit the snowbank and then follows the machine into the crack. We grabbed all our glacier gear and rushed down to find the guy, apparently unhurt, trying to walk out the end of the crack. (He probably would have punched in deeper near the bridged ends.) Keith rappelled down to the guy, tied him in and gave him an ice axe thinking he could climb out with a belay - wrong-- bunny boots and beer belly were too much. By this time we hear other snowmachines cruising around looking for their friend. They pull up next to Andy who is busy taking pictures and notice someone down in the crack so they ask "Did you guys do this on purpose?" To which Andy replied "Only when a snowmachine drives in a crack on purpose." They were shocked when they realized what had happened and started trying to figure out how to extract the machine. With four pulling on the rope we drug Budweiser brother out of the crack him helping with the mating sea turtle stroke (belly, arms, belly, arms) snow building up in his face. More talk about how to get the machine out ensued. I casually suggested that they come back another day as their friend took a nasty fall and might be hurt to which Budweiser boss flipped me the bird. They started counting all the skiers around thinking we could pull the machine out to which Andy replied that his time was worth \$40 per hour on a Sunday. They finally piled on the remaining machines and drove off. Apparently soberer thoughts convinced them the machine was probably totalled anyway as they didn't come back for more. Some skier in thousands of years will probably find the metallic remains poking out of the moraine. It is pure luck that a body wasn't left with the machine.

There will be a SPORTS DAY at the Tanana Valley State Fair, Saturday, August 17, 9 am to 6 pm, in the Coliseum. AAC would like volunteers to set up and man a booth that day. We could sponsor some mountaineering/climbing activities, show slides and photographs as well as answer questions about the club. Bring suggestions to the general meeting June 10 or call Stan, 479-5017 to sign up.

PETER MACKETH GRANT UPDATE: Terry Gacke and Doug Blockcolsky have declined their grant and will not be going on the proposed trip. Mark Mattson is unable to go to Mts. Skarland and Geist with Kevin Berg and John Hilttenbrand.

Informal club meetings are being held at the PUMPHOUSE 7:30 pm, Tuesday evenings, to plan weekend outings and socialize. Bring friends.

There were 29 paid students in the beginning mountaineering class and 10 in the intermediate class. \$14 per student was raised and the only cost to the club was tea and cookies. There is about \$500 in the CLASS FUND which could be used wholly or in part, or kept for future class expenses. Some suggestions have been: avalanche beacons, avalanche probes, probe poles, hut repair, climbing rope/equipment. AAC can purchase some of these items from Ramer at a good discount at this time. Other ideas? Liz, 479-7136.

There is one Ramer ECHO-2 Avalanche Beacon left, \$60. Liz, 479-7136.

LOWA Ski mountaineering boots for sale. Men's size 9½, worn twice, \$150.
Jon Stahl, 488-6454.

The Wood Center Programs Office has issued new policies and procedures about obtaining and maintaining recognition (i.e. University organization status - the ability to use facilities, services, grounds and/or equipment" and to maintain a university account.) They require biannual reports which include information on:

- 1). Officer changes resulting from open election...
- 2). Activities/number of meetings
- 3). Regular meeting times and places
- 4). General Financial activity
- ** 5). Membership information
- 6). Plans for next semester

**Campus Organizations: All regular members must be University of Alaska-Fairbanks faculty, staff, students (3 cr. min.), or spouses/dependents. Other members are recognized as associate members. Associate members are not entitled to hold office or to be listed on the organization's University account. No more than 35% of the organization's membership may be associate members."

This information was asked for before (once a year) but the requirements were not as strict. In the future, new members will be asked their University status but in the meantime we must get this information from all current members. I believe that we have many more than 35% "associate members" but considering the longevity of the AAC and the opportunity and service provided students each year, we may be excepted (or overlooked). A decision must be made about the stipulation that associate members not hold office.

Fill out the membership application below and return (especially if you owe dues) or call 479-7136 with the information. THIS IS MANDATORY. Those with new addresses please correct (no S.R. boxes). Mailing label on this newsletter is the address we have for you. If you no longer wish to be on the mailing list (a dues paying member) please specify, this will clean up the paperwork. If you are not heard from shortly, you will be removed from the mailing list.

MEMBERSHIP DUES: Send \$6.00 (\$10.00 family membership) to:

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

to insure your membership for the following year.
Dues should be sent by JANUARY 1. Membership includes DESCENT.

NAME _____

TELEPHONE _____

MAILING ADDRESS _____

CITY _____

STATE _____

ZIP _____

UAF STATUS 1984-85 (check all that apply)

Student (3 credit or more) _____

Faculty _____

Staff _____

Alumni (graduate) _____

(4 semesters or more) _____

Other _____

Spouse/Dependent _____

Female _____

Male _____

Other _____