



# DESCENT

---

17  
Volume XVIII: No. 1 Alaska Alpine Club January 1986

---

### Officers

President	Stan Justice (479-5017)	Councilor	Mike Masters
Vice-President	Rex Rundquist (456-1963)	Councilor	John Keller
Secretary/Treasurer	Mike Nobel 457-7788		
Editor	Joanne Groves (479-3079)		

---

### Contents

Spring Calendar	2
President's Message	3
Peter MacKeith Climbing	4
Avalanche School in Danger	5
1986 Ski Mountaineering Course	9
AAC goes to the Fair	-10

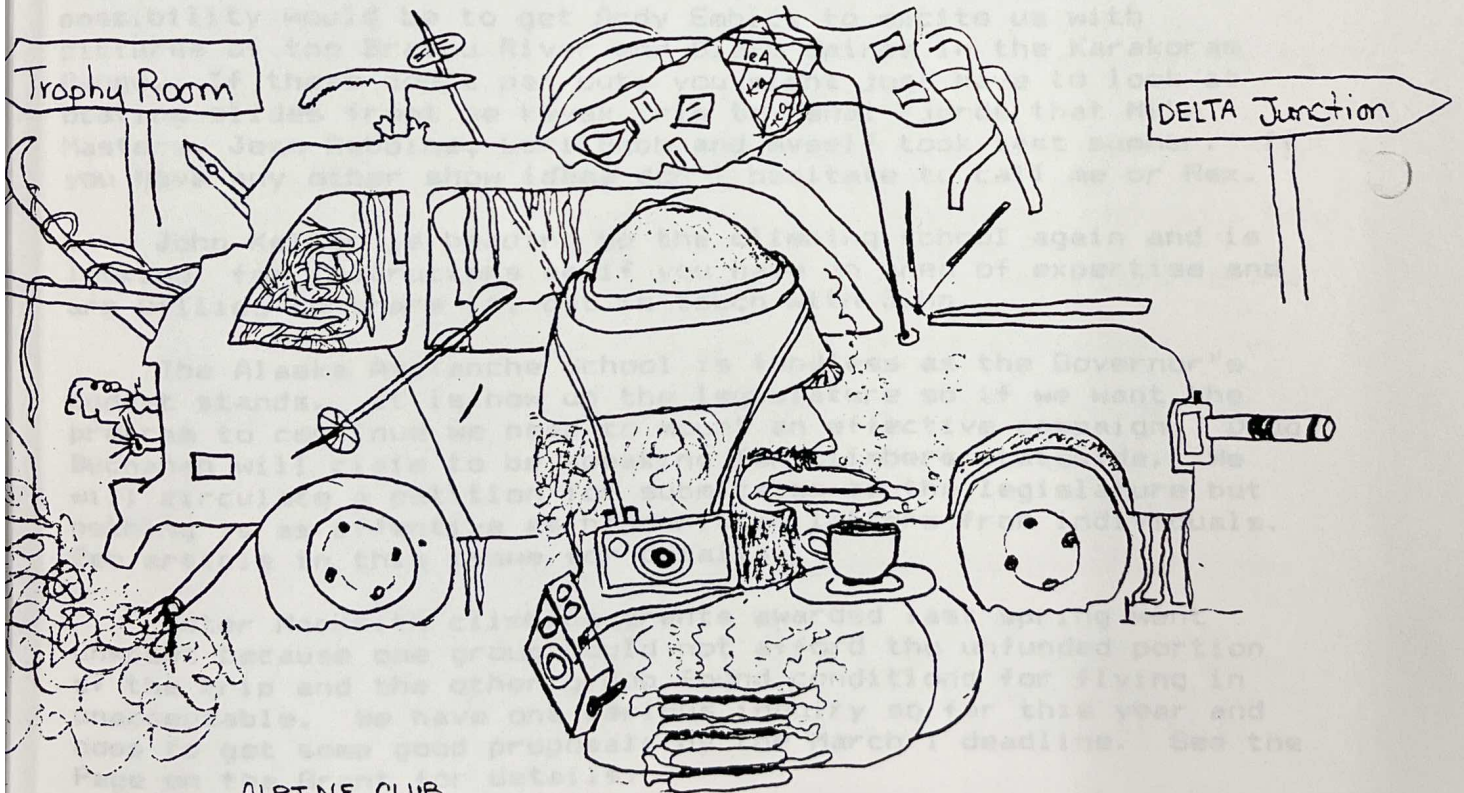
---

The DESCENT is published 1-4 times a year on a hit or miss basis. Copies are sent to members of the Alaska Alpine Club. Non-members may receive DESCENT for \$0.50 an 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 thru May, on the UAF campus. Tea and cookies are provided.

SPRING CALENDAR

January 21	First meeting of Ski Mountaineering	Eielson 111 7:30 PM
February 3	Monthly meeting	Schaible 7:30 PM
February 21-24	Alaska Avalanche School	Black Rapids Glacier
March 3	Monthly meeting	Schaible 7:30 PM
March 22-29	Spring Break	Mountains
April 5-6	Glacier Rendevous	TBA, Patty Bldg 6:00 AM
April 8	First meeting of the Intermediate Climbing Class	Eielson 111 7:30 PM
April 14	Monthly meeting	Schaible 7:30 PM



ALPINE CLUB  
VICE-PRESIDENT  
PETER MACKETH

from AAC files

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

The plan was to send out more frequent Descent's but lack of material and energy to assemble has delayed us. You will find articles on upcoming events such as the climbing school, Peter MacKeith grants and the peril that the Avalanche School is in. We are always looking for articles so write up those trips or anything else you feel inclined to write about.

Monthly meetings have been well attended and enjoyed by all. We started off with a rerun of the movie "El Capitan"---thanks to the efforts of John Keller. In October we co-sponsored the annual Avalanche Seminar along with the Nordic Ski Club. Doug Fessler put on his usual excellent class in spite of Doug Buchanan's distractions. Matthew Sturm called me one day to ask if we would be interested in a slide show by Bob Jacobs on his attempt to walk to the North Pole. This turned out to be a beautiful and interesting show which prompted a number of good questions from a well informed audience. The final meeting of the semester was a good slide show of an attempt on Mt. Doonerak by Randy McGregor and Randy Lippincott. For the spring we hope to have Doug Yates show his China slides and as a sequel to Bob Jacobs we want to get Olli-Pekka Nordlund to narrate the successful Finnish ski expedition to the North Pole. Another possibility would be to get Andy Embick to excite us with pictures of the Braldu River and Biafo Spires in the Karakoram Range. If these don't pan out, you might just have to look at boating slides from the kayak trip to Kenai Fjords that Mike Masters, Jean Robbins, Lori Babb and myself took last summer. If you have any other show ideas don't hesitate to call me or Rex.

John Keller is heading up the climbing school again and is looking for instructors so if you have an area of expertise and are willing to share it, get in touch with John.

The Alaska Avalanche School is fundless as the Governor's budget stands. It is now up to the legislature so if we want the program to continue we need to mount an effective campaign. Doug Buchanan will claim to be speaking for climbers statewide. We will circulate a petition for submission to the legislature but nothing is as effective as handwritten letters from individuals. See article in this issue for details.

Peter MacKeith climbing grants awarded last spring went unspent because one group could not afford the unfunded portion of the trip and the other group found conditions for flying in unacceptable. We have one serious inquiry so far this year and hope to get some good proposals by the March 1 deadline. See the Page on the Grant for details.

Stan Justice

## Peter MacKeith Expedition Climbing Grants

The "Peter MacKeith Memorial Endowment Fund for Climbing" was established in 1981 by the family of Peter MacKeith, late president of the Alaska Alpine Club, in honor of Peter's love for climbing and of his climbing achievements in Alaska, Afghanistan, Greenland, and Iceland. The Alaska Alpine Club was given the responsibility of distributing the earnings from the endowment for the purpose of supporting worthwhile mountaineering ventures by Club members in Alaska or elsewhere in the world.

### Requirements for submitting a proposal:

1. All expedition members must be Alaska Alpine Club members for at least a year prior to receiving the grant.
  2. The proposal must contain the following:
    - a. Names, addresses, and resume of climbing experience for each expedition member.
    - b. A description of the climbing objective.
    - c. A description of how the party plans to carry out the climb and approximate dates of the climb.
    - d. A budget for the expedition explaining how a climbing grant will be used.
  3. DEADLINE for submitting a proposal is March 1 of each year.
  4. Send proposals to AAC, PO Box 81174, College, Alaska 99708
- Obligations of the expedition upon receiving a grant:

1. Use the grant money for the original climbing expedition described in the proposal or return the money to the Alaska Alpine Club.
2. Provide an acknowledgement that the expedition has received a Peter MacKeith Climbing Grant from the Alaska Alpine Club.
3. Submit an article (with pictures if possible) about the climb for the Club's publication Descent.
4. Present a slide show about the climb for the Alaska Alpine Club.

NOTE: These obligations hold even when the objective of the climb is not attained.

### General:

1. Grants will be awarded at the March Annual Meeting of the Alaska Alpine Club.
2. Expeditions are not limited to Alaska or to the United States.
3. Expeditions are not limited to first ascents or climbs of unusual difficulty although these aspects will be taken into consideration.
4. The financial need of the expedition's climbers will be given high priority.
5. The Alaska Alpine Club does not assume any liability for the expedition.
6. In any given year, the Club may distribute the entire earnings of the endowment, part of it, or none of it, depending on the merits of the proposals. Grants may be awarded to one or several expeditions.

## Alaska Avalanche School in Danger.

The Alaskan Alpine Club (Doug Buchanan) is again protesting the Avalanche Seminar put on by Doug Fessler of the Alaska Avalanche School and sponsored by us. It hardly seems necessary to respond to his lies but some comment seems in order.

Doug's complaints (from "And they did it again"):

"Without informing the Alaskan Alpine Club or the Alaska Alpine Rescue Group (the primary mountaineering organizations in Fairbanks), or the general public, the Alaska Division of Parks has again granted its political supporters a tax paid and subsidized public relations program based on mountaineering: ("sponsorship" of a tax funded service).

"Why weren't all local outdoor organizations informed of the opportunity to "sponsor" this tax funded, state government service so they could benefit from the free publicity?.

"Why are our public funds wasted on an expensive local office of the Division of Parks (with all of its employees, including TWO highly paid Director level positions) if Park programs are coordinated through private political supporters?

"Sheffield and the Division of Parks run a sleazy government that slips publicly funded favors to its friends. Where lies honesty in government and its supporters?

"Perhaps you like Sheffield and the Division of Parks: But if you tolerate this practice, never complain when the Republican side of the machine is in power and duplicates this practice to benefit your most disliked political opponents. How can you then complain of dishonest government and maintain your personal integrity? How can you maintain your personal integrity and complain of military contracts slipped to political supporters?

"There are always dishonest politicians, bureaucrats and political supporters.

"If you want to destroy good public programs and good government, cover-up and support their wrongs, so that the wrongs are rewarded and grow.

"If you want to build good public programs and good government, publically denounce ALL government wrongs, and withdraw support from the bureaucrats and organizations that support those wrongs.

"The previous lessons of government and society demonstrate that we don't have a choide or workable alternative. Those who ignore history are destined to repeat it.

"The Division of Parks and its supporters are not involved

legislators and the Governor by writing letter, sending POMS (free messages you can send from the Legislative Information Office at 5th and Barnette) phone calls or telegrams. A listing of addresses for the Interior delegation and Governor Sheffield is included.

On November 6 a business meeting was held and a resolution in support of the School was passed. A copy of it is included in this Descent and copies were sent to the Fairbanks delegation, Commissioner Wunnicke and the State Parks Advisory Board. The only response so far has been a letter of support from Commissioner Wunnicke and some discussions with one of Bettye Fahrenkamp's aides.

Stan Justice

UPDATE!!!

Avalanche School Update January 7, 1986

The entire avalanche program (except for road and railroad danger) has been cut and will cease as of 30 June 1986 unless funding is reinstated by the legislature. Programs eliminated include: avalanche education (the Avalanche School), data collection, State avalanche experts, backcountry snow stability and mountain weather forecasts. Write to the Governor, the local representatives, and these key members of the Legislative Affairs and Finance Committees.

Ask to have the funding reinstated because of (list the reasons you want to have the programs retained) and recommend that funding be transferred from Department of Public Safety to Department of Natural Resources, at the FY 85 level. Some cuts have already been made in the FY 86 budget.

Letters are more effective than Public Opinion Messages and should reach legislator as soon as possible after the Legislature meets on 13 January.

Mike Masters

The Addresses:

Governor Sheffield: Pouch A; Juneau, Alaska, 99811

The Interior Delegation: Pouch V; Juneau, Alaska 99811

Senators Don Bennett and Bettye Fahrenkamp;  
Representatives Mike Davis, Steve Frank, Niilo Koponen, Mike W. Miller, and John Ringstad.

Key Members of the Legislative Affairs and Finance Committees:  
Pouch V, Juneau, Alaska 99811

Mike Miller, Ben Grussendorf, Jan Faiks, Paul Fischer, Pat Pourchot, Don Bennett, Bill Ray, and Ron Larson

RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF THE ALASKA AVALANCHE SCHOOL

- Whereas;  
Snow avalanches kill unsuspecting travelers in Alaska every year.
- Whereas;  
Ninety percent of the avalanches which cause accidents are triggered by the victims.
- Whereas;  
Education of winter outdoor sportsmen is a proven technique for preventing avalanche accidents.
- Whereas;  
The Alaska Avalanche School is a viable, cost effective program within the Division of Parks.
- Whereas;  
The Alaska Avalanche School provides quality instruction at a reasonable cost by a series of four-day workshops and distribution of educational materials.
- Whereas;  
The Alaska Avalanche School is supported by nearly all the mountain climbers and cross country skiers in Alaska.
- Whereas;  
The Alaska Avalanche School saves lives.

Be it resolved that the Alaska Alpine Club this 6<sup>th</sup> day of November 1985 requests that funding levels for the Alaska Avalanche School be increased to fiscal year 1985 levels.

*Stan Justice*  
Stan Justice, President

*Rex N. Rundquist*  
Rex Rundquist, Vice President

*Mike Noble*  
Mike Noble, Secretary/Treasurer

*Michael A. Masters*  
Mike Masters, Councilor

*John W. Keller*  
John Keller, Councilor

ALASKA ALPINE CLUB

# Ski Mountaineering/1986

The annual Alaska Alpine Club Ski Mountaineering Course will be given during the spring of 1986. Two sections will be offered:

Introduction to Ski Mountaineering. Jan. 21-March 16. For persons with cross-country skiing and cold weather camping experience. Will teach the basics of camping and ski travel in Alaskan mountains, including introductory crevasse rescue and safety topics.

Intermediate Ski Mountaineering and Climbing. April 8-May 4. For persons having successfully completed the introductory course or with other mountaineering experience.

Tuition for each course is \$20.00. Anyone in the Fairbanks community with the appropriate experience is invited to participate. These courses are a great way to get into the mountains and to meet other mountaineers!

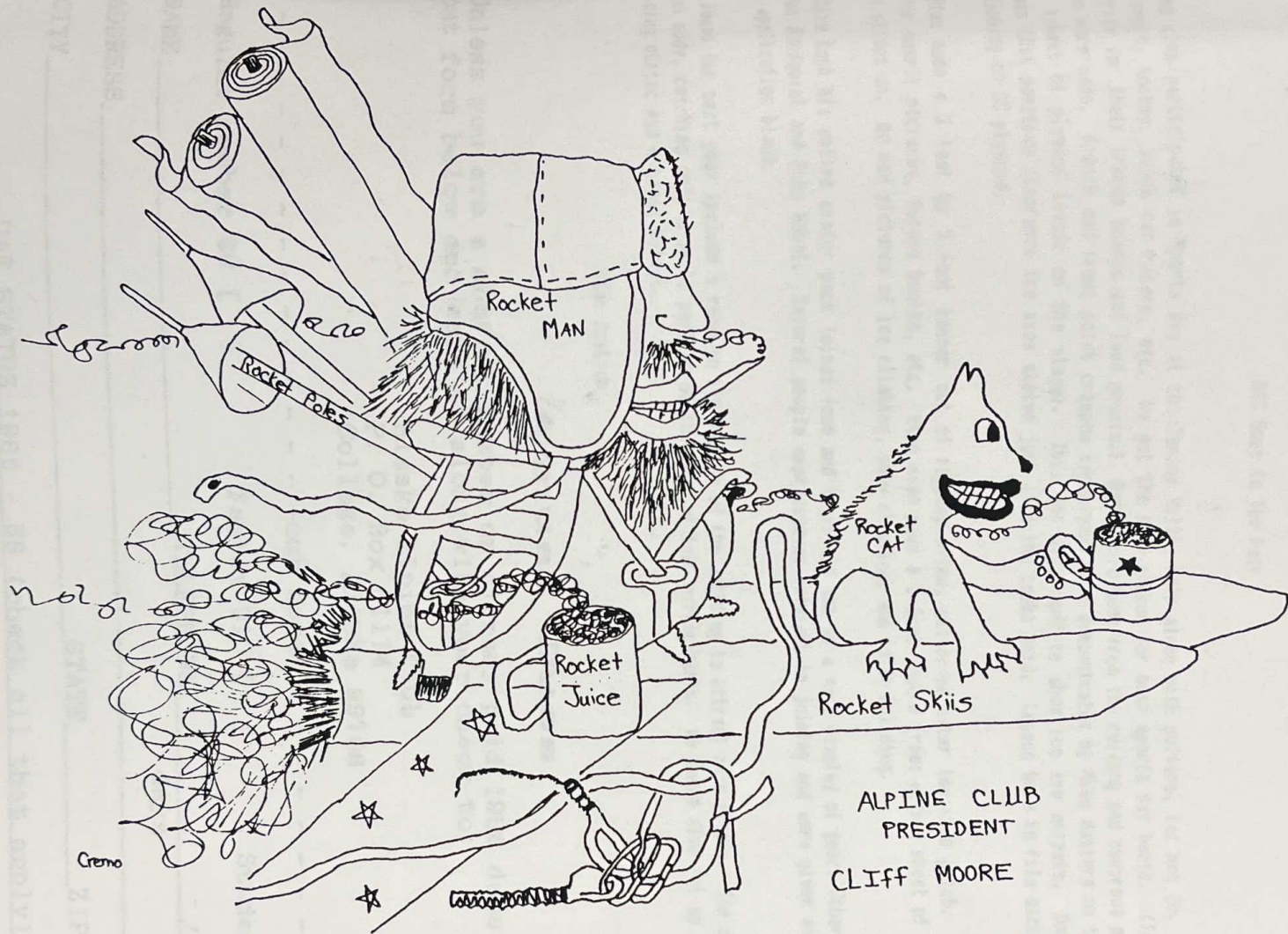
The courses consist of weekly lectures or discussion sessions held TUESDAYS at 7:30 pm in a room to be announced on the UAF campus and weekend trips (early Sat to Sun evening) to areas in the Alaska Range.

## SCHEDULE

Date	Class Topic	Weekend Trip
Introduction to Ski Mountaineering		
Jan 21	Gear construction	-
Jan 28	Winter camping	Feb 1: day trip/ski
Feb 4	Snow shelters	Feb 8,9: Deltas
Feb 11	ropes/prusik/self arrest	Feb 15,16: workshop/FBS
Feb 18	frostbite(no trip due to	Black Rapids Avalanche Workshop)
Feb 25	crevasse rescue	Mar 1,2: Fels Glacier
Mar 4	snow climbing	Mar 8,9: Panorama area
Mar 11	avalanche awareness	Mar 15,16: McCallum Pk.
Intermediate Ski Mountaineering and Climbing		
Apr 8	ice climbing	Apr 5,6: Glacier Rendevous
Apr 15	snow climbing	Apr 12,13: Healy ice
Apr 22	leadership	Apr 19,20: Panorama Pk
Apr 29	rock climbing	Apr 26,27: Deltas
		May 3,4: local cliff

For further information contact John Keller (479-3630, 474-6042) or club officers Stan Justice (479-5017) or Rex Rundquist (456-1963) or write to the AAC, P. O. Box 81174, Fairbanks, AK 99708.





ALPINE CLUB  
PRESIDENT  
CLIFF MOORE

from AAC files

