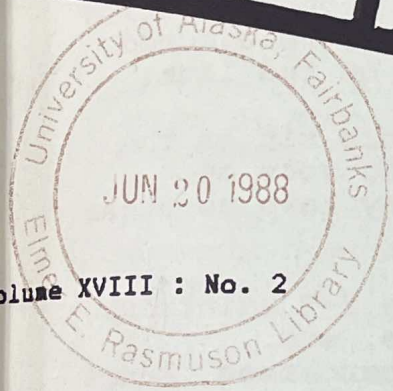


DESCENT



Volume XVIII : No. 2

Alaska Alpine Club

April 1987

Officers

President.....John Keller	479-3630	Vice President....Clarence Griffin	479-5635
Secretary/Treasurer..Stan Justice	479-5017	Councilor.....Mike Masters	479-????
Councilor.....Howard Ferren	479-3362	Editor.....Stan Justice	479-5017

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Calendar

April 4 & 5	Glacier Rendezvous	Rainbow Basin	6:00 a.m.
April 6	History of Climbing Denali by Jon Waterman	Schaible	7:30 p.m.
April 8	Climbing Class - Ice Climbing *	Eielson 111	7:30 p.m.
April 13	Annual Meeting	Wood Center Conf. Room	7:30 p.m.
April 15	Climbing Class - Snow Climbing *	Eielson 111	7:30 p.m.
April 22	Climbing Class - Leadership *	Eielson 111	7:30 p.m.
April 29	Climbing Class - Rock Climbing *	Eielson 111	7:30 p.m.
May 9	Pot Luck	Yak Estates Commons	7:30 p.m.

*Weekend field session follows each class session.

The **DESCENT** is published 1 to 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 normally the first Monday of the month, September to May, on the UAF campus. Tea and cookies are provided. The Alaska Alpine Club is a student organization of the University of Alaska, Fairbanks.

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UNIVERSITY OF ALASKA-FAIRBANKS

Please Come to the Annual Meeting

Every year in late March or early April the Alaska Alpine Club has its annual meeting. This year it will be on Monday, April 13 at 7:30 pm in the Memorial Conference Room in the Wood Center on the UAF campus. All members are encouraged to attend. This will be a business meeting: we will discuss club activities, the internal workings of the club, and mountaineering in general. It is also that time when new officers are elected. Below is the list of offices which will be filled on the 13th:

Councilor: Presently Howard Ferren. The councilors sit on the executive committee and dispense advice; they also vote on issues before this committee. Other than that they have no other responsibilities. Former office-holders only.

Secretary-Treasurer: Presently Stan Justice. The S-T maintains the club database of names, addresses, dues status, etc., collects money, writes checks as needed for club purchases, keeps records of income and expenditures, and takes notes at the annual meeting. Stan is currently the Editor of Descent, too, although we would like to have someone else do this. Voting member of the executive committee.

Vice-President: Presently Clarence Griffin. The V-P is responsible principally for arranging the monthly programs (one each on the first monday of Sept, Oct, Nov, Dec, Feb, Mar, April, and May). Also handles (or delegates) various responsibilities like making and posting posters, radio announcements etc for these functions. Voting member of the executive committee.

President: Presently John Keller. The pres coordinates all activities, filling in where needed; calls meetings of the executive council (several times per year). Performs other official duties like wandng the route of the Glacier Rendevous; presides at monthly meetings.

The other officers of the club include another councilor and the Registered Agent of the club, Charles R. ("Bucky") Wilson.

Recently the offices have tended to rotate among several persons willing to continue to serve. This is NOT a good practice: NEW blood and new ideas should get into this club or it is going to shrivel up and blow away! In particular Keller cannot be an officer next year due to the pressures of work. If you know someone you think would serve the club well as an officer, encourage them to come to the meeting and nominate themselves; if YOU think YOU would like to help carry on the fine traditions of the Alaska Alpine Club, then nominate YOURSELF.

SHANGRI-LA RESEARCH

BY KEN LEARY

If you had your summer off from work, how would you spend it? Highly motivated individuals go searching for their own Shangri-las. In retrospect, thirteen weeks isn't that much time, but if you have a few minutes --please join me on some of last summer's Shrangri-la research.

June 6 to June 19: Tim Schorader and I ascend the West face of Mt. Balchen (11,140) electing not to go to the summit. We hike out of the Alaska Range in three days crossing fifty miles of moraines, alders, tundra, and tussocks to reach the Richardson Highway (see Mt. Balchen article).

June 26: I meet Tom Wells at Portland's International Airport. We drive towards Donner Summit, California via a Shakespearean Festival, river swimming and cold beers at Hat Creek Lodge (outside Lassen Nat'l Park).

June 27: Stuffing our faces with large homemade cinnamon rolls, we make dust out of Greenville, CA. (one rest room community). By mid morning we're rolling down the windows to catch the cool breezes off Lake Tahoe. Securing a bivy ledge over looking Squaw Valley ski resort, we touch hot rock at the summit after a quick lunch break at Charlie Tomatoes.

Most people recognize Donner's name for the camping techniques of a few Donner party members during the winter of 1846 (I wish that were still true today). Typical California crack climbing can best describe routes at the summit (typical meaning: superb, clean, and quality granite). The summit is today recognized for numerous crags, short hard routes, and accessibility.

Tom and I spend the afternoon top-roping on Goldilocks Wall: Baby Bear, 5.9; Green Hornet, 5.11b not today; and my goal for this trip Goldilocks, 5.10d a thin crack and face climb that overhangs slightly. The evening is consumed at Tahoe's Hacienda Del Lago in search of females who display their own Shangri-la.

June 28: Our skins the color of zinc oxide, the Sun Wall is our objective today for obvious reasons. This twenty-foot wall offers nine routes, Tom and I climb eight: Take it Easy, 5.8 left-facing corner; Smoke, 5.9 left-facing corner; Sundance 5.10+ flake to right-facing crack; Between the Lines, 5.10 right-facing corner under a roof; Pistol Grip Pillar, 5.10 small fingers; Day Dream Drummer, 5.9 right-facing crack; Rocking Chair, 5.10+ thin crack and face move; and attempt Dominoes, 5.11 face climb. Taking a break at the base of Snowshed Wall, we watch as there are a couple of guys cruising up 5,12's without even flexing their muscles or using ropes. I give Goldilocks another try and

climb up to the crux and flame off. Calling it a day, we stop along the road and I lead Eyes of Silver, 5.10b face climb.

June 29: Desiring a multi-pitch route, One Hand Clapping 5.9 on the Black Wall is the choice. The Black Wall is the largest crag at Donner and is a complicated section of cliffs with smooth and broken rock formations. I led all three pitches with the crux on the second pitch moving around a small roof that leans to the left. Up the route and down in a couple of hours and still wanting to reach my goal, we move up to the Goldilocks Wall and I climb to the crux again and can only visualize the finish. Driving directly to the Hacienda, we fill our bellies with free chips/hot sauce and dollar fifty beers: SHANGRI-LA.

June 30: Weather still perfect and stays that way all summer according to the bronzed locals. Bashing through manzanita bushes and thorns on vain roses, we waste an hour trying to locate Grouse Slab. Finding only a secluded clear mountain lake, I feel Goldilocks a dead man today. Once at the Goldilocks Wall, a few lycra clad climbers are chalking up Wolf Crack 5.12. On my first attempt at Goldilocks, I'm the dead man. On my second, I move up the slightly overhung face and rest when my fires smear to the smooth granite. "Keep your heals down," is the encouragement from the climber next to me on Wolf Crack (he was hanging from one little finger and chalking up at the same time). I remind myself that one must hold onto the rock with arms, hands, fingers and climb up with the feet... why are my arms burning then? My pulse slows a little (220 to 219bpm) as I rest below the move that will put an end to this damn anticipation. I close my eyes, feel the exact moves, and then go --Rambo style: Hanging on two fingers covered with chalk, I lift my left leg and place my left foot on a dime ledge; my body moves up the rock left but my body position is diagonally right; with my left hand, I reach a smaller hold and pull my self straight again reaching with my right hand to a fair sized knob; my feet follow and place themselves on small ledges as I look to terra incognita above me. The route now moves back to the right and up to the finish. Anticlimacticly, I climb three more moves that are as difficult, but less technical and laugh as I look down from the top (now I can move onto something different). I repeat the route twice just to make sure that it's not luck. In celebration, I ride a mountain bike to the top of Squaw Peak (8900) later that afternoon.

July 1: Fly over Donner and Lake Tahoe areas with our host Glenn Foulson. In the pm we are at the most popular wall at the summit: Snowshed. Tom takes the day off and just belays as I climb four crack climbs: Pea Soup, 5.8, Split Pea, 5.9, Nova Express, 5.9, and Farewell to Arms, 5.10b.

July 2: Today is a quantity day. Water skiing on Lake Tahoe at 6am; breakfast at Smokies (best fresh fruit pancakes in the area); and hook up with Hansi Standteiner a professional ski racer who rock climbs in the summer months for balance, strength and fun. We begin on the Snowshed Wall at Rapid Transit, 5.8 face and small flakes; I follow Hansi on Night Country, 5.11a (small finger crack and a few small face holds), Sanitation Crack, 5.10c straight-in narrow line and finished the Wall on Karl's Gym, 10c overhanging roof problem. Hansi wanting to work on the Wolf at Goldilocks Wall and I on Mama Bear, Papa Bear, and Hot Shit --we drive the half mile up the road. Hansi runs up Mama Bear, 11a and Papa Bear, 11b while I claw my way to the top of both. Moving onto Wolf Crack, Hansi has a little problem at the crux which is the fifth move off the ground and I climb to the second move and scrape off with arthritic fingers and joints.

July 3: Tom was rested and ready (not eager) to climb again. Do a couple of routes on the Snowshed Wall to warm up: Bottom Topless, 5.10a and The Thing, 10d which is named accordingly. The afternoon crowd was starting to arrive and Tom and I moved down the road to the Black Wall for a few climbs in the sun and to get away from the girls who hang around the Snow wall in their California swimwear (belayers have a hard time belaying with such distractions while climbers have better concentration on the route). Because Donner Summit is at 7000 feet, usually the temperatures stay in the 80's and low 90's during the hottest times of the day. On the Black Wall, we climb Rated X, 5.9, Black September, 5.9, and Yellow Zonkers, 5.8.

July 4: Too windy to water ski in the am. Drove over to Donner and catch John Bachar top-roping and then soloing Panic in Detroit, 5.12c at the Snowshed Wall. Too crowded at the Snowshed so Hansi and I head to School Rock crossing the old Donner suspension bridge made of concrete. I think about Mad-Dog Dick Buek who flew his plane under this bridge in the late 50's. Climbing Teacher's Pet, 10b, Hansi and I hike over to Goldilocks and work top-rope problems. Spent the evening with fifty thousand other people on the shore of Lake Tahoe under the bright lights of a fireworks display.

July 5: Water skiing in the am. Take my first rest day from climbing and run to Donner via the Pacific Crest trail (20 miles). Party at the Hacienda in the pm.

July 6 and 7: Tom and I attempt to drive his subaru to Yosemite only getting a little past the casinos at South Lake Tahoe. Spending the night along highway 89, the vehicle breaks down the next morning five miles out of Markleeville, CA. Replacing the voltage regulator, it blows out again a little closer to Markleeville this time.

Aborting the Yosemite goal, we limp back to Tahoe and relate our troubles to our favorite barkeeper at the Hacienda.

July 8: I buy Tom's car. Putting in a genuine subaru voltage regulator, the ol' ru runs quite regular (clean living and constant prayer I tell Tom). Peter Demattii, Hansi, Glen, and I grab a bag of chips ahoy and drive over to the Summit and Pete leads By Pass, 5.10c.

July 9: Drive Tom to the Reno airport and he heads home. I go to the Summit and run up Sugar Bowl (8900) in a couple of hours. Peter, Hansi, Arlene, and I climb at Snowshed. Hansi leads his first 5.12, Manic Depression and I follow falling many times, but finally climbing to the top.

July 10: Climbed Squaw Peak in the am. Worked on top-rope climbs at Goldilocks: Hot Shit, Mama Bear, Papa Bear, and Wolf Crack.

July 11: Water skiing in am. Hansi, Peter, and I go swimming in the Truckee river down at the River Ranch. Have a chinese pull-up contest back at the house.

July 12: Hansi and I boulder most the day at Green Phantom rock.

July 13: I splurge my last day at the Summit at Grouse Slabs with Hansi and couple of his friends.

July 14: Drive to San Francisco and pick Bonnie up at the airport. By 12:30am we're sleeping illegally at Camp 4.

Research can be enjoyable. A few individuals will label this research trip as playing. I guess it comes down to attitude and perspective of one's own meaning of success. Yes there was a lot of playing... and success.

2/20/87

NEW ICE

Ken Leary

Just when you thought that you needed a road trip to Valdez, you pick up this article and realize you only need to drive to the Healy area. Truancy, The Quill, and Healy Coil: do these sound familiar? If not, you have not been down to Healy lately or you missed the climbers' grapevine news at the Patty gym.

TRUANCY/200ft./Grade 3/first ascent: 11-7-86 Mark Lockwood, Roman Dial, and Ken Leary.

Driving back from Anchorage, Mark spotted new ice on Panorama's West Face a week prior to the first ascent. I mentioned to Mark that unless he took me with him, I would drive down on Thursday and bag the route by myself. News of new ice travels quickly. Mark, Roman, and I figured that we had better skip school and get down there on Friday before the weekenders had their chance.

Driving down early Friday morning, we notice a familiar van sitting at the turnout at the base of Panorama Peak (mile 218 Parks Highway). We had been beaten, or had we? After a few prosaic MF's and SOB's, we looked up and the boys (Mark Wumkes, Jeff Keener, and Terry Gackie) were on Phoenix. Phoenix had been climbed two seasons ago and we jumped for joy.

Mark, Roman, and I drove down to the next turnout, parked, and headed up the scree slope through alders to the base of the climb. We soloed the first pitch of thin moderately angled ice up to the vertical pillar in a rock groove.

Roman took the rope on the second pitch and climbed up to an ice bulge secured a belay. I followed and was able to take a few pictures as Mark came up behind with the rope. Mark led the third pitch of narrow ice to an alder belay (descent: gully on right). A perfect day to skip school.

THE QUILL/250ft./Grade 4/first ascent: 11-8-86 Ken Leary, Eric Breitenberger, Keith Echelmeyer, and Steve Meier.

The Quill is in the area known to some as the Vanenkevort climbs for its previous attempts. Located in the avalanche gully to the left of Phoenix and Third World, The Quill should be avoided if there is any probability of avalanche danger.

The 1st pitch is snow mixed with water/alpine ice on slab rock angled about 70 degrees and leads to a vertical pillar. The 20-foot pillar leads to a larger snow platform and the crux at the 3rd pitch. Eric claimed the rights to the crux when I lose paper, scissors, and rock. The 3rd pitch is 135 to 140 feet; the lower 60 feet is thin ice on slab rock with small rock protrusions and thin cracks on the right-hand side; the remaining 80-foot consists of a vertical curtain

or large icicle (30-feet) on the left. Above the curtain is moderately angled ice mixed with snow to a rock belay. Descended a steep gully to the right after walking right (south) about 300 yards. The descent was halted when I discovered my siberian husky, Hank had found a porcupine and we stopped along the way to pull the quills from his mouth.

HEALY COIL/200ft./Grade 3/first ascent: 2-1-87 Ken Leary and Tim Schroader.

This is the most accessible climb of the three. Take the Healy exit off the Parks Highway and cross the Nenana river. About three miles from the Nenana bridge, is the Suntrana Mine. Healy Coil is on the cliff area that is directly south of the mine shaft that is underneath the road. Follow Healy creek to the base of the climb and ascend up low angle ice to small alders. Cross the slope to the left and stop at a small runnel of ice that is hidden in rock cover. Climb the runnel and stop below a 20-foot pillar to belay. Once above the steep twenty-footer, lower angle thin smear ice runs out into loose, crumbly rock and dirt clods (crux). There is a slightly longer pillar to the right of Healy Coil, but leaving a screw to descend will probably be necessary because of unclimbable rock above it. Descend to the east down a gully that leads back to Healy creek.

POT LUCK DINNER AND SLIDE SHOW

Yak Estates Commons

Saturday May 9 @ 7:30 p.m.

Everyone is invited to cook up their favorite dish to serve 6 - 8 **HUNGRY** climbers and bring it up to the Yak Estates Commons (building @ far east end of Yak Estates). **\$** we don't end up with 30 freezer burned salmon here is a guide;

If your last name begins with:

M - R....Bring....Main Dish

S - Z....Bring....Dessert

A - L....Bring....Salad or Vegetable

Bring your own Beverage.

For entertainment bring 10 - 15 slides of people in compromised positions. We will provide a projector & stack loader.

FIFTH ANNUAL VALDEZ ICE-CLIMBING FESTIVAL--1987

Sponsored by the Alaska Section of the American Alpine Club, and by the Valdez Alpine Club, the 1987 Ice-Climbing Festival will be held on the Washington's Birthday Weekend, Saturday through Monday, February 14-16. The Festival is an occasion when ice-climbers from all over Alaska gather, along with some out-of-state and foreign climbers. Originally just a sociable climbing weekend for members of the Alaska Section of the American Alpine Club, the event grew as interest spread. Past years have seen visits by Japanese, Austrians, Canadians and New Zealanders as well as those from Washington, Colorado, California, Kentucky, Arizona and elsewhere. Floorspace, and use of kitchens and bathrooms, is available in the homes of several local residents, though there are motels available as well. During the weekend, climbing slide shows, films, and videos are shown, and a potluck spaghetti dinner is traditional on Saturday evening (participants should bring items to put in or go with spaghetti).

The appeal of Valdez is partly that it contains some of the best and most highly concentrated ice climbing anywhere in the world. For example, in or near the city limits there is more climbable ice than in all of Colorado, Montana and Wyoming, and as many routes as are listed in the guidebook for the entire Canadian Rockies. In addition, climbing conditions are exceptionally consistent. Moderate temperatures (20 to 30 F), sea-level location and lots of precipitation ensure thick, relatively plastic ice and greater comfort than in most places. Especially in Keystone Canyon, approaches are minimal (100 yards or less from the road). More than 160 routes have been climbed, so far, in or near the city limits, of all ranges of difficulty from the easiest to several of the harder routes anywhere. Several are longer than 600 feet, and there are new route possibilities. A guidebook is in the final stages of preparation. There is some skiing available, both cross-country on a course up Mineral Creek, and downhill at Thompson Pass.

Those interested in coming to the Festival this year are encouraged to do so, and no registration is required. Those hoping to stay with local climbers must, however, call in advance as space is limited. Those wishing to check on conditions, should call ahead as well. Those wishing to come for a longer period than just the weekend may do so, beginning the previous weekend (February 7). The traditional center of activities (slideshow and films, mountaineering library, and sauna) has been the home of Drs. Andy Embick and Kathy Todd (see below). Other local contacts are John and Karen Weiland (835-2626), Bob Shelton (835-5127), and Brian Teale (835-5182). For motel reservations, contact the Village Inn (835-4445). In Anchorage, for ride-sharing arrangements, and general information on the Festival, and the American Alpine Club and its Alaska Section, contact current Section Chairman Charlie Sassara (344-8204h, 258-6565w), or AAC Board member Steve Davis (694-3556h, 274-4563w)

The actual ice climbing season is from some time in November or late October, to March or early April. Before February, thin, brittle ice, short days, cold, and wind can be less than idyllic, but climbing is very feasible.

Andrew Embick M.D./ Festival Chairman/P.O. Box 1889/Valdez, Alaska 99686
telephone (907)835-4200(home); 835-4811(work); 835-2249(24-hr message/radio)

The 5th Annual Valdez Ice-Climbing Festival, sponsored jointly by the Alaska Section of the American Alpine Club, and the Valdez Alpine Club was a great success. The more than sixty participants came from Fairbanks, Anchorage, Cordova, Talkeetna, Girdwood, California, Colorado, Washington, and Oregon. Vast numbers of routes were climbed, of both moderate and extreme difficulty. Steve Davis of Eagle River, who will be leading an American expedition to climb the North Face of Ama Dablam in the Himalaya next fall, brought three of his Lower 48 expedition members Dr. Fred Ziel, Bob McGown, and Mick Holt) up here to train on steep waterfall ice. Climbing conditions were good, with temperatures a little below freezing, light winds through Keystone Canyon, and several days of sunshine. Luckily, the Lowe River was frozen, permitting hiking across the ice to climbs on the other side of the river from the Richardson Highway. Though some participants flew in, most drove and the lines of parked cars in Keystone Canyon and on Cottonwood Drive in front of Andy Embick & Kathy Todd's house were long. The Smithsonian Magazine sent a climbing writer-photographer team (Jon Krakauer and Jim Balog) to do a story on ice climbing. Jon and Jim decided to come here rather than go to Norway or anywhere else in the world for their story, which is planned for an issue some time next winter. They were delighted with the coverage they got, both of climbs and of the climbing scene. The Anchorage Times sent a reporter, Yereth Rosen. Prince William Sound Community College did a video. KCHU Radio did an interview.

Some of the very difficult ice routes climbed were these:

Wowie Zowie (Grade VI) by Steve Garvey and Jim Sweeney of Girdwood, with Jim Balog hovering in a helicopter shooting roll after roll of film

Sans Amis (Grade VI), a new route by Garvey and Sweeney, in Keystone Canyon

Love's Way (Grade VI-), climbed by Roman Dial and Kate Bull of Fairbanks, Jon Krakauer of Seattle, and Brian Teale of Valdez

Synapse (Grade IV+), a new route by Brian Teale, Chuck Comstock and Joe Lofredo of Valdez, in Keystone Canyon

Most of the visitors stayed with Andy Embick and Kathy Todd, who somehow accommodated almost 40 climbers. One of the participants, Lindsay Garvey, was 3 1/2 years old, and her father climbed with her in his pack. Others took advantage of the proximity of Prince William Sound, and Martin Leonard, Arlene Williford, Don Logan and Sandra White went out sea kayaking. The highlight of the weekend (which actually for some visitors was a whole week, as they came early and/or stayed late) was a spaghetti dinner (for 50) and then slide shows on Saturday, at the Embick/Todd house. One can imagine the shopping list! Roman Dial showed his incredible slides of an ice climbing trip to the "Valley of the Pillars", the Chitistone Canyon in the Wrangell Mountains. Embick showed slides of climbing Astroman in Yosemite with Ron Kauk, taken by Galen Rowell.

On Sunday, the first ice speed-climbing contest was held, organized by Bob Pudwill. Participants climbed the first, 150-foot, vertical pillar of Keystone Green Steps in Keystone Canyon, with a top-rope belay from above for safety. The stopwatch was running, and anyone who fell off was disqualified. This was a new event, inspired by Russian speed-climbing contests on rock (in which several Americans have done quite well). First up the pitch was Andrew Embick, recovering from a ski accident 6 weeks before in which he broke his back. Other contestants, following, went much faster:

- 1 Bob Crawford, Anchorage 3:56
- 2 Bob Plumb, Cordova 5:39
- 3 Bob Shelton, Valdez 5:49
- 4 John Freeman, Fairbanks 5:54
- 5 Bob Pudwill, Cordova 6:33
- 6 Mike Miller, Anchorage 7:50
- 7 Bruce Bates, Fairbanks 8:03
- 8 Tom Evans, Anchorage 8:28
- 9 Mike Howerton, Girdwood 10:04
- 10 Andrew Embick, Valdez 14:13
- 11 Eric Bacon, Anchorage 19:22
- DQ Greg Miller, Anchorage
- DQ Jim Mays, Anchorage

Crawford went amazingly fast, and for his effort won a Russian titanium ice screw, put up by Embick. Crawford had himself put up a pack as first prize (he makes superb mountaineering packs) but got to keep it himself.

Everyone seemed to have a good time, both climbing and socializing. The Ice Festival (the only one held anywhere in the world) is a great opportunity for climbers to get together, to find out who else shares their passion for the sport, and to exchange information. It is a great opportunity for Valdez to show off its wealth of ice climbs, which is seemingly the best anywhere for concentration, easy access, long season, consistently good conditions, and after-climbing amenities. The Festival seems to be growing every year in popularity, as word gets out. Next year's will again be held the Washington's Birthday weekend.

ANDREW EMBICK (AA)
 Andrew Embick M.D., Festival Chairman
 P.O. Box 1889, Valdez Alaska 99686
 (907)835-4200h, -4811w, -2249m

1987 VALDEZ ICE CLIMBING FESTIVAL PARTICIPANTS

Valdez:

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John Carter c/o Box 1889 Valdez, c/o 835-4200
Chuck Comstock, c/o Box 1889 Valdez c/o 835-4200
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Joe Loffredo Box 1708 Valdez, 835-4234
Scott and Julie Etherington, c/o Box 1498 Valdez, c/o 835-2626
Doug Cranor Box 384 Valdez, 835-2872

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Tim Schroader, Box 1126, Fairbanks 99707 457-2828
Don Logan & Sandra White, Box 82931 Fairbanks, 99708 479-4544
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Eric Bacon, 2906 Lily, Anchorage 99508
Bave Whitelaw, 1415 LaTouche St, Apt #1, Anch 99501
Jerry Minick, 1421 L St, Anch 99501
Jim Breun, 10465 Chatanika Loop, Eagle River, 99577
Steve Davis 19822 First St, Eagle River 99577
Bob Lohr 10831 Trails End, Anchorage 99516 346 1802
Bill Lorch, 10340 Stewart Dr, Eagle River 99577 694-1099
Cecil Colley II, S.R. 2126, Wasilla, 99687
Ned Lewis, 2617 Raspberry, Anchorage 99502 243-5322
Jim Mays, Anchorage
Greg Miller, Anchorage

Outside:

Russ Roberts, 3763 Park Dr. Auburn, CA 95603 (916) 823-2084
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Fred Ziel, 2007 N Villa Heights, Pasadena, Ca 91107
Bob McGown 2535 SW Palatine St, Portland Oregon 97219
Jon Krakauer 2915 NW 75th St, Seattle WA 98117
Mick Holt 640 NW 82nd, Seattle, WA 98117

TOTAL: 64

GLACIER RENDEZVOUS

RAINBOW BASIN

April 4th and 5th

Leave @ 6am from Patty parking lot ~~OR~~ meet us @ 8am in the Evergreen in Delta ~~OR~~ see you @ 10 am at Rainbow Ridge.

The Glacier Rendezvous is a replacement for the Glacier Stampede which was dropped as a club activity when it became an event club members did not want to continue. It was considerable work to wand a safe path in and pack trash and excrement out just to have the hut trashed by a bunch of people who weren't even members of the club. The rendezvous on the other hand is for AAC members and their invited guests. This is a great opportunity to get new members so if you have any friends that you think might be interested in joining invite them along. Please be sure they are properly prepared - it can be real winter that time of year as we found out last year.

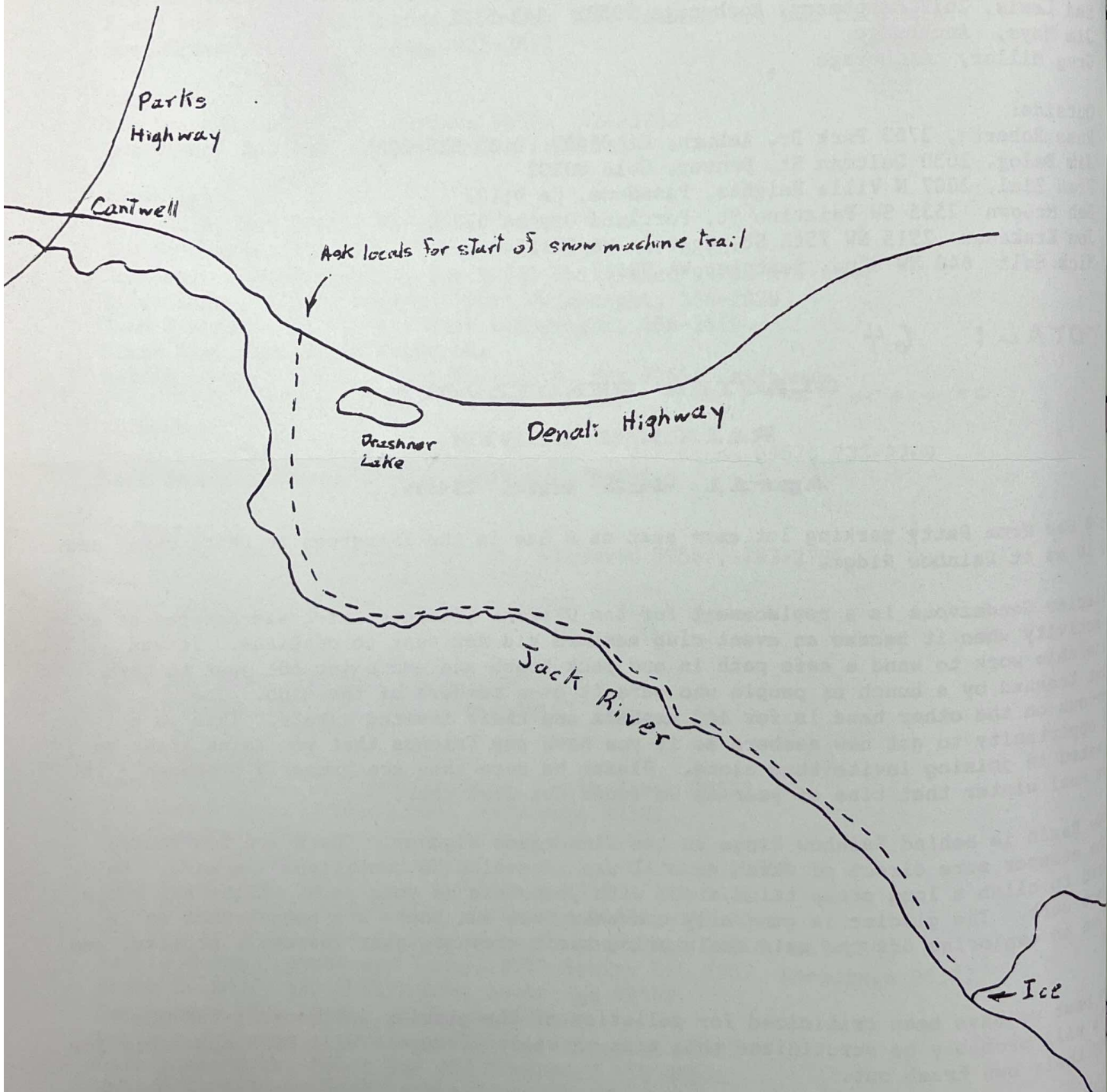
Rainbow Basin is behind Rainbow Ridge on the Richardson Highway. There are two routes in, the steeper more direct of which we will use if avalanche conditions are safe. Be prepared to climb a long steep talus slope with your skis on your pack. Light ski boots will not work. The glacier is generally crevasse free but there are bergshrunds so if you plan on exploring off the main basin bring basic crevasse gear (harness, prusiks, and ropes).

In the past we have been criticized for pollution of the glacier environment and our actions will probably be scrutinized this time as well. Everyone will be responsible for picking their own trash out.

For more info call any officer.

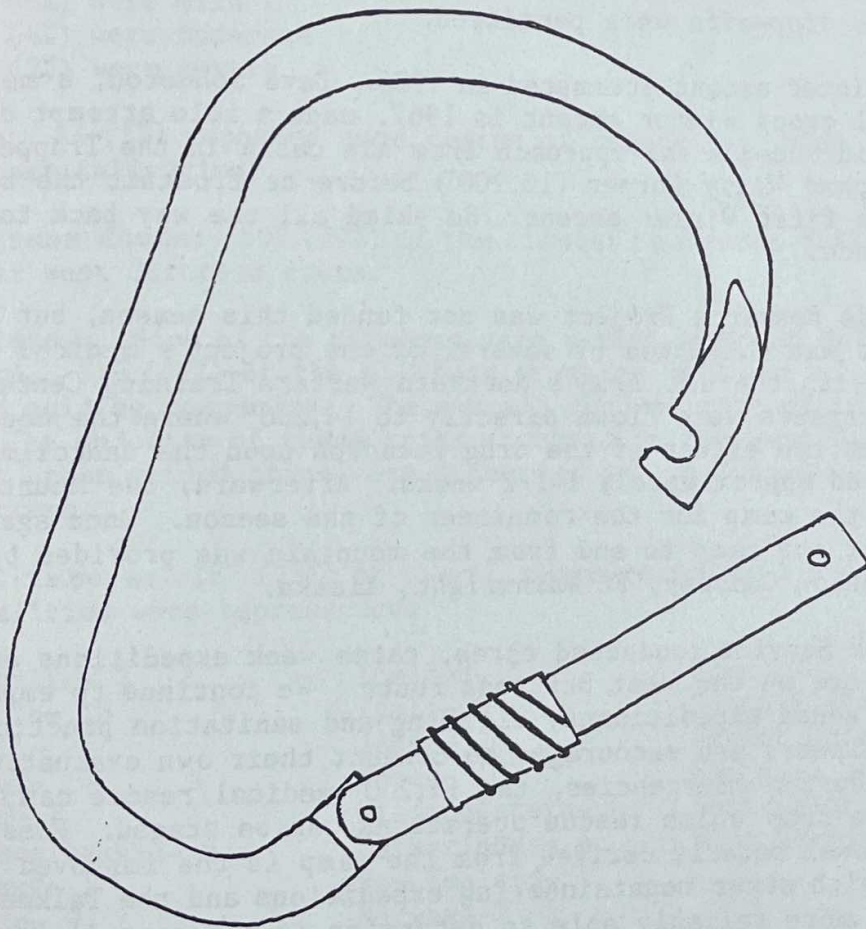
JACK RIVER ICE

Jose probable got the first ascent but there is more ice climbing to be done up the Jack River near Cantwell. I was on a ski tour last spring and could not help but notice nice ice on the cliffs above the valley. This would be especially nice for you snowmobile climbers as there is a good trail. So if you are tired of Fox and Dragonfly travel a bit further and you will be rewarded.



BROKEN BINER

forty foot leader fall? No a static load at the wrong angle opened this Chouinard Pearabiner during last years prusik practice. The student was half way up a 50 foot ice wall using the Texas technique when he suddenly popped off the rope when he went to sit down in his harness. Fortunately he was able to regain his footing in the etriers. For security he then clipped everything to everything and had to be pulled up with a 2 - pulley rig. It is unclear if the biner was locked and had to start with or came loose during the ascent but somehow the gate opened and with a side load it was pulled out of position. Later we attempted to push the gate back into position but no amount of force we could muster would return the gate to it's former position. There is one student who will use two carabiners with gates opposed from now on!



DENALI NATIONAL PARK AND PRESERVE

1986 MOUNTAINEERING SUMMARY

Record numbers of mountaineers, unusual weather patterns, light winter snow pack and volcanic eruptions set the scene for an interesting mountaineering season in the Alaska Range. The 1985-86 winter was extremely mild with many sunny days and few major winter storms. As a result, snow accumulation was far below normal for both Talkeetna and the entire Alaska Range. During the spring, Mount Augustine volcano, located in the Cook Inlet approximately 125 miles southwest of Anchorage, erupted. Ash from the eruption was carried by prevailing winds and deposited throughout much of southcentral Alaska including parts of the Alaska Range. As the already reduced snowpack melted during the spring, the grey ash layer was eventually exposed. The ash absorbed more heat from the sun which further accelerated the snow melt. The surface of the glaciers melted with an exaggerated cup shaped surface pattern, making ski equipped aircraft landings difficult. By early July, the 7,200' base camp airstrip was unusable. Since a number of expeditions were still on the mountain, special authorization was given for the air taxi operators to land at 9,700' on the Kahiltna Glacier to pick up those remaining expeditions. No drop-offs were permitted.

There was one winter ascent attempted in 1986. Dave Johnston, a member of the first successful group winter ascent in 1967, made a solo attempt on the West Buttress which included a ski approach from his cabin in the Trapper Creek area. Dave reached Windy Corner (13,200') before he frostbit the toes he froze during his first winter ascent. He skied all the way back to his cabin without assistance.

The High Latitude Research Project was not funded this season, but a short research project was conducted by several of the project's medical personnel in conjunction with the U.S. Army's Northern Warfare Training Center. A group of military volunteers were flown directly to 14,200' where the medical personnel studied the effect of the drug Decadron upon the unacclimatized men. The project lasted approximately 1-1/2 weeks. Afterward, the Mountaineering Rangers staffed the camp for the remainder of the season. Once again, the transportation of the camp to and from the mountain was provided by the U.S. Army, 242nd Aviation Company, Ft Wainwright, Alaska.

The National Park Service conducted three, three week expeditions on Mount McKinley. All were on the West Buttress route. We continue to emphasize environmentally sound expeditionary climbing and sanitation practices. In addition, mountaineers are encouraged to conduct their own evacuations when ever possible. During emergencies, the 14,200' medical/rescue camp provides an excellent base from which rescue operations can be staged. Possibly the greatest operational benefit derived from the camp is the improved communications with other mountaineering expeditions and the Talkeetna Ranger Station. We are more reliably able to determine if a rescue is really needed, and if so, the urgency and the appropriate level of the response.

Two Americans and one New Zealander were issued citations for guiding without a permit.

In 1986, new all time records were set for the number of persons attempting to climb Mount McKinley:

1978	=	539
1979	=	533
1980	=	659
1981	=	612
1982	=	696
1983	=	709
1984	=	695
1985	=	645
1986	=	755

Interesting Statistics:

Success Rate:

- * 406 (54%) of those attempting the summit of Mount McKinley were successful.
- * 7 (33%) of those attempting the summit of Mount Foraker were successful.

Acute Mountain Sickness: 105 (14%) had symptoms, of these:

- * 58 (8%) were mild
- * 30 (4%) were moderate
- * 16 (2%) were severe

Frostbite: 41 (5%) reported some degree of frostbite. Nine of these required hospitalization.

West Buttress Route: 597 (79%) of the climbers on Mount McKinley were on the popular West Buttress route.

Mount Guiding: More of the climbers were guided on Mount McKinley than ever before. 319 (42%) of the climbers traveled with one of the authorized guiding companies. The overall success rate of these groups was 61%. The majority of these trips occurred on the West Buttress route, but other guided trips were attempted on the Muldrow, Cassin and South Buttress.

Foreign Climbers: 187 (25%) of the climbers were from foreign countries. 23 nationalities were represented:

Australia- 2	Iceland- 5	Romania- 1
Austria- 16	Italy- 9	South Vietnam- 1
Brazil- 2	Japan- 24	Soviet Union- 9
Canada- 14	Korea- 10	Spain- 4
Chile- 1	Liechtenstein- 6	Switzerland- 12
Czechoslovakia- 6	Netherlands- 4	West Germany- 33
Finland- 1	New Zealand- 1	
France- 9	Norway- 2	
Great Britain- 14		

Temperature: On July 10th, a party reported the summit temperature to be 30° F.! For the second year, a minimum recording thermometer was left at 17,200' along the West Buttress route. It recorded a low reading of -58°F for

the previous winter. This is the exact reading recorded last winter. During the 1987 season, the Mountaineering Rangers will place a second minimum recording thermometer to check the accuracy of these readings.

Record number of climbers on Mount McKinley during a given week: A new all time high of 308 climbers were on the slopes of Mount McKinley for the week ending May 20th.

New Routes and Interesting Ascents:

Mount McKinley: No new routes were completed during 1986, however four Canadians completed the third circumnavigation of the mountain. The East Buttress was climbed. There were two noteworthy speed ascents made this season. In the first, a well acclimatized Austrian, Rudi Mayr, left the Kahiltna Base Camp at 7,200' and climbed to the summit ridge in 30 hours. He returned to Base Camp 52 hours after his departure. In the second rapid ascent, Australian Gary Scott, who was serving as the volunteer 14,200' rescue/medical camp manager, made an 18-1/2 hour ascent from the 7,200' Base Camp to the summit. Gary had spent nearly a month at 14,200' prior to this record ascent, so he was very well acclimatized. A French climber completed a ski descent from the summit ridge to the 7,000' Base Camp. He skied the Rescue Gully between 17,000' and 14,200'. A group of Soviet climbers completed a climb of the Wickwire variation of the West Rib. This team was part of a Soviet/American climbing exchange program.

Mount Foraker: Two Czechoslovakians, Jaroslav Orsula and Dusan Becik climbed a new line on the East Face. This route is just right of the Pink Panther route. There was a second ascent of the Talkeetna Ridge by a two person American team which then descended the Southeast Ridge. There was also a second ascent of the 1934 route up the West Northwest Ridge (sometimes called the West Ridge) which was the original ascent route of Mount Foraker.

Accidents:

The season began on a tragic note when one of the first expeditions lost two members in a crevasse fall on April 20th. A four person French team was ascending the Kahiltna Glacier at about the 9,000' level. The team was traveling up the west side of the glacier (the "normal" route was further to the east). The two members involved in the accident had decided to travel side-by-side with their ropes attached to a single sled so they could both pull the sled. A large snowbridge collapsed under them. Both were killed in the resulting 75' fall. During the investigation, it was determined that the two had used standard glacier travel techniques during the first two days of travel, but had decided to forego the safety of roped travel for the convenience of pulling the sled. The survivors said the safety aspect of the decision was discussed, but the victims felt there was no crevasse hazard. One of the victims was a professional mountain guide in his homeland.

In the middle of May, a four person expedition began a descent of the South Buttress from their high point of 15,000'. Conditions were icy and one person would belay from above while the others descended. At the end of one of these belays, the rope became tangled in the belayer's ice tools. He unclipped from his anchors to clear the rope. While he was unprotected, the ice knob he was standing on sheared off. He sustained a tumbling fall for the entire rope length and then another 150' until the rope stopped the fall. No intermediate anchors were placed by those descending. During the fall, his crampons caught in the ice severely injuring his ankle. The party lowered the victim to a saddle at 12,500' but felt they could not safely proceed further and requested, via CB radio, a rescue. The victim was flown off the mountain via helicopter.

In mid May a member of a large German party was skiing from 15,000' to the 14,200' basin on the West Buttress route. During the descent he fell and severely twisted his knee. He was flown from 14,200' via fixed wing aircraft at his own expense.

In mid June, four members of a Swiss team were camped at the 14,200' basin on the West Buttress. They had just completed a carry to 17,200'. Weather was deteriorating, everyone was tired from their long day's carry, so they retired to their tents (two men to each of two tents) to cook dinner. The storm continued throughout the night and into the next day. It broke later that afternoon. The two survivors left their tent and noticed the other tent was sagging. There was no response from within the tent. When they opened the tent to investigate, they discovered the two young men dead. Investigation showed the two died from carbon monoxide poisoning from their butane cook stove. Their tent was made in Europe of a coated nylon with a full coverage rainfly (including a complete vestibule). The roof vents were closed and snow had either been packed around the bottom of the fly or had slid off the tent during the storm. Thus, there had been no allowance made for fresh air exchange. It appears the two had prepared and eaten dinner the first night, then were in the process of cooking soup when they were overcome by carbon monoxide. The survivors stated the group had discussed the importance of providing ventilation while operating the stoves prior to the accident.

Also in the middle of June, two members of a seven member Korean team began a rapid ascent of the Cassin Ridge. One of the team members began to develop a headache at 16,500' but decided to continue on to their high camp at 19,700' which they reached on day four. Here, the headache became severe, so they decided to rest the following day (day 5). On day 6, they broke camp but discovered both were too weak to ascend and one was showing definite signs of cerebral edema. They felt descent was impossible because they carried only a single rope. On the 7th day they began broadcasting for help, but the language barrier prevented their message from being understood until day 9. What followed was three days of one of the most logistically complex rescues to be conducted during the past five years. Volunteers were selected from climbers already acclimatized who were either on the mountain or who had just come off. The team was flown to 14,200' (weather prohibited the planned drop off at 17,200'). Of the four members in the advance team, two contracted altitude illness by the time they reached 17,200'. The remaining two

were able to reach the summit ridge, descend the upper Cassin and assist the two Koreans back to the summit ridge. Fortunately, the Koreans were able to make the ascent with minimal assistance. Once at the ridge, the Korean suffering from CE collapsed, became comatose and did not regain consciousness for the remainder of the rescue. The team descended to 18,000', where they spent the night with a large guided party. The following day, they met the support rescue team which lowered the comatose Korean down Denali Pass to 17,200' where he was eventually helicoptered to a hospital. The remaining Korean and the rescuers descended to 14,200' and were flown back to Talkeetna. The entire rescue took only three days. No one was injured and both Koreans recovered from their ordeal. The success of this mission must be attributed to a supreme effort on the part of the rescuers and a great deal of good luck.

Trends and items of special concern:

Percentage of foreigners requiring rescues: Ten persons required some sort of organized rescue effort during 1986. Four of the evacuations were body recoveries. Nine of the ten (90%) were mountaineers from foreign countries. Even though foreign mountaineers comprised only 25% of all climbers, they accounted for 90% of all SAR incidents. All four of the fatalities were foreigners. In 1985, foreigners accounted for 19% of the climbers, but 50% of the fatalities (there were two) and 40% of the SAR incidents. In 1984, foreigners accounted for 28% of the climbers, but 100% (there were two) of the fatalities and 57% of the SAR incidents.

For 1987, we are planning to expand the slide/tape mountaineering orientation to include French and Spanish in addition to the German, Japanese and English versions which are currently available. The information brochure Mountaineering will also be available soon in the same languages. It is difficult to state the exact causes of the disparity in SAR incidents between the foreign and American climbers. I believe that the majority of foreign mountaineers are leaving Talkeetna for their climb with a fairly good grasp on what the National Park Service recommends pertaining to high altitude, cold and crevasse related hazards. It seems more likely the higher accident rate is a result of many of the foreigner's seeming willingness to accept a higher level of risk in their mountaineering. Year after year, we see foreign parties traveling unroped on the lower glaciers or traveling Denali Pass without ropes and ice axes, or making rapid ascents which result in altitude illness. Clearly, for the majority of these groups, they have made a conscious decision to adopt specific techniques even after extended discussions with the mountaineering rangers in Talkeetna.

Solo ascents: We have been seeing increased interest in solo ascents. During 1986, there were approximately six different solo ascents attempted. A number of other climbers arrived in Talkeetna with the intention of climbing solo but were convinced otherwise by the mountaineering rangers. It is clear that the majority of the persons attempting solo climbs have made no allowance for nor have given much thought to their safety while traveling the heavily crevassed lower glaciers.

Carbon monoxide poisoning: In 1985, cooking in poorly ventilated areas such as tents with all doors and vents closed, or old ice-glazed igloos and snow

caves caused two serious cases of CO poisoning. In 1986, two young Swiss mountaineers died of CO poisoning while cooking in a tent. It is very likely that mild cases of CO poisoning are a contributing factor to Acute Mountain Sickness.... especially pulmonary edema. CO poisoning might very well be a greater threat to mountaineers using the new tents with full coverage water-proof rain flies.... especially those with vestibules which encourage cooking in the tent while the coated vestibule can be kept closed. It is imperative for personal health and safety to allow adequate ventilation when cooking with stoves in enclosed areas.

For more information, or to request mountaineering information or registration forms, please contact me.

Robert R. Seibert
South District/Mountaineering Ranger
Talkeetna Ranger Station
P.O. Box 327
Talkeetna, Alaska 99676
(907) 733-2231

DENALI NATIONAL PARK AND PRESERVE

1986 MOUNTAINEERING SUMMARY

<u>MOUNT MCKINLEY</u>	<u>EXPEDITIONS</u>	<u>CLIMBERS</u>	<u>SUCCESSFUL CLIMBERS</u>
West Buttress	111	361	181
West Buttress (Guided)	30	236	152
Muldrow	3	9	4
Muldrow (Guided)	3	40	22
West Rib	12	38	27
Cassin	10	28	15
Cassin (Guided)	2	9	3
South Buttress	3	9	0
South Buttress (Guided)	2	18	0
East Buttress	1	3	2
Messner Couloir	<u>2</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>0</u>
	179	755	406 (54%)
<u>MOUNT FORAKER</u>	5	21	7
<u>MOUNT HUNTER</u>	10	27	2
<u>MOUNT HUNTINGTON</u>	1	2	0
<u>LITTLE SWITZERLAND</u>	4	13	N/A
<u>MOUNT DICKY</u>	2	7	7
<u>MOUNT BARRILLE</u>	5	16	15
<u>MOUNT DAN BEARD</u>	3	9	U/K
<u>MOOSES TOOTH</u>	11	34	14
<u>BROKEN TOOTH</u>	1	2	U/K
<u>KITCHATNA SPIRES</u>	1	2	2
<u>MISCELLANEOUS SKI TRIPS</u>	<u>15</u>	<u>70</u>	<u>N/A</u>
	58	173	

NOTE: Since registration is required only for Mount McKinley and Mount Foraker climbs, statistics for other climbs represent those climbers who voluntarily checked in with the Mountaineering Rangers. Other climbs, especially in the area of the Ruth Glacier, are likely to have occurred.



MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Dues

Individual	\$6
Family	\$10
Student	\$3

(circle one)

NAME _____ TELEPHONE _____ / _____
 days evening
 ADDRESS _____
 CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

UAF STATUS 1985 - 86 (check all that apply)

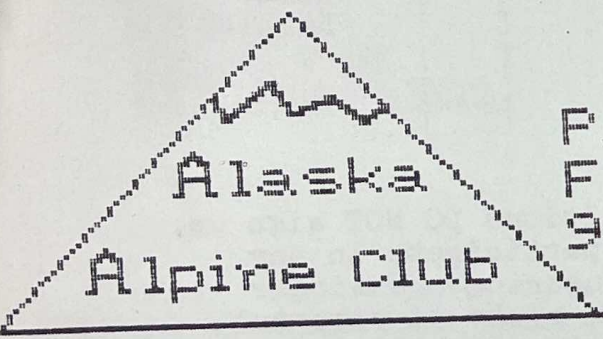
Student (3 credits or more)	[]	Spouse	[]	Sex	
Faculty	[]		[]	Male	[]
Staff	[]		[]	Female	[]
Alumni (graduate)	[]		[]		
(4 or more semesters)	[]		[]		
No UAF Affiliation	[]		[]		

If you do not accept fully the following conditions DO NOT sign up, attend training sessions or in any other way participate in any event. I under signed, know that ski mountaineering and winter camping are action sports carrying significant risks of personal injury. Ice climbing, rock climbing or mountain climbing is even more dangerous. I know that there are natural hazards such as crevasses, avalanches and environmental conditions, and risks which in combination with my actions can cause me very severe or occasionally fatal injury. I agree that I, as a participant must take an active role in understanding and accepting these risks, conditions and hazards. I also agree that I and not the Alaska Alpine Club or its officers, or its instructors, or other participants, am responsible for my safety while I participate in or train for these events. This statement of risk and the signatures thereto shall be valid for all Alaska Alpine Club events.

Signature _____ Date _____
 Signature _____ Date _____

Send To - Alaska Alpine Club P.O. Box 81174 College, Alaska 99708

Records indicate you owe dues for the circled year 1986 1987
Year is not circled your dues are paid up. Please let Stan know if this
long.



P.O. Box 81174
Fairbanks, AK.
99708