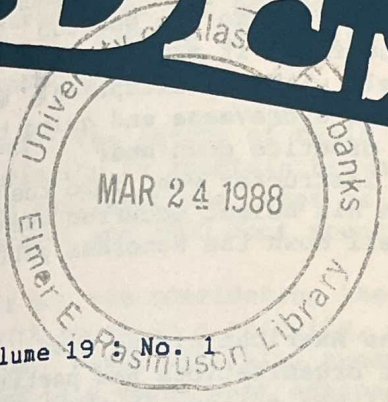


19/1



DESCENT



Volume 19, No. 1

Alaska Alpine Club

March 1988

Officers

President.....	Vacant	Vice President.....	Bob Groseclose	457-5498
Secretary/Treasurer..	Stan Justice	479-5017	Councilor.....	Mike Masters
Councilor.....	John Keller	479-3630	Editor.....	Stan Justice
				479-5017

Contents

	Page
Calendar of Events - - - - -	1
Editor's Message - - - - -	2
Upcoming Events - - - - -	3
Avalanche Beacon Round-up by Bob Groseclose - - - - -	4
Thayer Hut Update by Bob Groseclose - - - - -	5
Alaska Mountain Safety Center & Alaska Avalanche School Schedule - - - - -	6
Denali National Park and Preserve 1987 Mountaineer Summary - - - - -	7

Calendar

March 30	Galen Rowell Lecture	Davis Concert Hall	8:00 p.m.
April 2 & 3	Glacier Rendezvous & Hut Repair	Lower Canwell Hut	6:00 a.m.
April 4	Monthly Meeting - Roman Dial	Brooks 204	7:30 p.m.
April 6	Climbing Class - Ice Climbing	Brooks 204	7:30 p.m.
April 11	Annual Meeting & Election of Officers	Wood Center Conf. Room	7:30 p.m.
April 13	Climbing Class - Snow Climbing	Brooks 204	7:30 p.m.
April 20	Climbing Class - Leadership	Brooks 204	7:30 p.m.
April 27	Climbing Class - Rock Climbing	Brooks 204	7:30 p.m.
May 6	Reunion and Graduation Party	Yak Estates Commons	7:30 p.m.

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.

EDITORS MESSAGE

Thanks to Bob Groseclose, Bob Thompson, John Keller, John Rose, Mike Masters, Mark Wumpkes, Richard Foutch, Doug Noon, and Michael Harney for their help with the climbing class. 25 people are signed up and 12 to 16 have been going on the trips. The weather has been cooperative except for a cold Saturday for the skills workshop in town (even that was good for teaching what it takes to stay warm in -15 and wind). There have been some humorous times such as when we caused quite a stir and made the campus security report in the Sun Star for ropes in the ice rink. The University has no insurance this year so they are very paranoid. Still, it seemed ironic for them to be concerned about people firmly fastened to strong ropes while caring little about guys slinging pucks at each other. Then there was the student that added a .22 and a box of shells to his pack for the Fells Glacier trip. Never know what you might find up there. No one was too surprised when Nancy lost a contact but all were amazed when she found it many hours later....in the latrine. The schedule has worked out fairly well with one exception. We neglected to teach rappelling until we were poised on the edge of a crevasse and going to the bottom for prusik practice. Then there was ice axe arrest practice down near Panorama in snow that wouldn't work (too soft). More than one instructor went into the willows trying. Roger will never tell people that the holes in his helmet occurred when his head was not in his helmet (they got there as his helmet fell down the Panorama gully without climber).

Thanks to the efforts of Michael Harney the UAF Archives and the American Alpine Club library will soon have complete sets of Descent. Both of these organizations had partial sets but instructions on who should get copies didn't get to all the editors so they were missing many issues. Michael also discovered that the current editor fouled up the volume numbers as he didn't know roman numerals. Note this edition no longer uses roman numerals. The plan is to change volume number every calendar year (some editors changed volume every school year).

You probably took little notice of the address label on this newsletter. Think for a moment on how long it might take to punch that data into a computer. Then multiply by 150, and add time to correct errors and you have some idea how much effort Sue Keller put into generating the labels. She has done this task for a number of years! We owe Sue a big thank you.

In an volunteer organization such as this it is impossible to list everyone who pitched in and made room reservations, put up posters, bought cookies, repaired huts, etc., so a big thanks to everyone else that helped.

We are desperate for some help on a couple of projects. Howard Ferren is working on the near bankrupt local lumber yards for supplies to repair the Lower Canwell Hut end walls. While he is willing to provide some leadership on this project he has no time to gather materials, pre-cut them, arrange transport to the hut and do the construction. A critical need is someone to make some measurement on the hut to facilitate pre-cutting materials, so if you are headed up that way let Howard know. We have the April 2 & 3rd scheduled as a hut repair trip but much remains to be done if we are going get this project done this year. Call Howard at 479-3362 and offer to help.

The annual Pot Luck Dinner and Slide Show is nothing more than a date on the calendar at this point. There are room reservations to be made and advertising to be done. Someone suggested we make it an AAC reunion as well - great idea but someone needs to work on contacting past members. I've gone ahead and put the event in this Descent but help is needed to pull it together.

The intermediate climbing class needs instructors so look at the schedule and if there is some part of it, no matters how small, that you feel you could lecture on call a club officer. We also need experienced people to go on the trips and serve as rope leaders and instructors.

Then there is next year to consider with a need for people willing to be a officer. The elections occur at the annual meeting April 11 at 7:30 in the Wood Center Conf. Room, so if you will have some time next year and would like to run the club please come to the meeting and volunteer.

DENALI DASH: A Blend of Mountain Magic and Madness

The 1988 Alaska Mountain Wilderness Classic's "Denali Dash, a race from Black Rapids on the Richardson Highway to the Parks Highway boundary of Mckinley Park, is scheduled to begin April 22. This race is not your ordinary winter mountaineering fare.

Do your trips to the mountains find you laden with ridged double boots mounted on heavy alpine skis? I suppose you also carry an ice axe, snow shovel and a number of carabiners, not to mention snow pickets, flukes, rope, and 50-plus pounds of camping gear. Nothing wrong with going well equipped, except you are not apt to set any speed records.

Until the advent of rapid mountain ascents and wilderness races, speed has not been a priority in mountain travel. A mountain and wilderness race, like "Denali Dash", is both an equipment challenge as well as a physical one. How do you pack light for glacier travel and 7000 foot mountain passes?

If you are considering the "Denali Dash" or want to know how some people equip themselves with speed as a priority, come to the April 4 monthly meeting at 7:30 p.m. in Brooks 204. Roman Dial will present slides of last winter's race from Eureka Lodge to Valdez and talk about what equipment he brings (and does without). Bear in mind, as the race release form specifies, "you can die out there," and only you know what compromises you can make to your mountain travel arsenal.

Bob Groseclose

ALASKA ALPINE CLUB REUNION AND CLIMBING CLASS GRADUATION PARTY

Yak Estates Commons

Friday May 6 @ 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). So we don't end up with 30 freezer burned salmon here is a guide;

If your last name begins with:

- S - Z....Bring....Main Dish
- A - L....Bring....Dessert
- M - R....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.

AVALANCHE BEACON ROUND-UP: A Proposal to a Problem

One of the common comments of the lucky survivors of an avalanche is "I will not travel into the mountains with anyone who does not carry a shovel and an avalanche beacon." Although back-country skiers and mountaineers generally practice what they preach when it comes to carrying a shovel, how many of us carry an avalanche beacon with the same zeal?

Instead, how many of us avoided the \$180 investment (REI's current list price) by kidding ourselves:

- 1) I don't go into the mountains during avalanche season.
- 2) I know how to select a safe route to avoid avalanches.
- 3) Where I travel avalanches are sufficiently uncommon I'll assume the risk.
- 4) Unless I'm dug out of an avalanche within 5 to 15 minutes, I'll probably be dead anyway and I doubt whether a beacon improves my chances.
- 5) Since none of my friends carry beacons, there's no value to my carrying one.

As Doug Fesler with the Alaska Mountain Safety Center, Inc., aptly summarizes, avalanche evaluation and the decision whether to use a beacon boils down to one's attitude about life. Much like the school of thought which emphasizes using a rope for glacier travel, wearing a beacon falls into the same category of being prepared for what you are trying to avoid. If you want to improve the odds of surviving an avalanche, you'll carry a beacon, know how to use it, and insist that your traveling companions do the same.

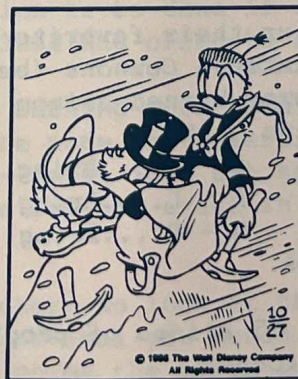
Proposal I would like to see the club acquire a number of beacons which would be available for member use. A special fund raising project might be considered. Naturally, because beacons are fragile and expensive, a user fee would be appropriate.

Alternatively, I encourage members owning beacons to "share" (rental fees/deposits are understandable) them with others. Although the "sharing" arrangement would be worked out on a private basis, beacon owners could list themselves with the club so others would know who to contact.

We are probably not to the point where we want to insist that participants in club activities have beacons, providing a limited outlet would be a first step.

Bob Groseclose

DONALD DUCK



Thayer Hut Update

Beginning in 1966 the club leased from the federal government a five acre site adjoining the Castner Glacier for a recreational and mountain safety cabin which has come to be known as the "Thayer Hut". In 1983 the club applied for patent to the site and has since completed the acquisition process. As is oft the case, however, there's a snag.

The snag is litigation brought by the Sierra Club which questions and clouds BLM's land transfer authority. Although that litigation focuses largely upon BLM's oversight of federal mining claims, BLM's other land management functions are part of the fracas.

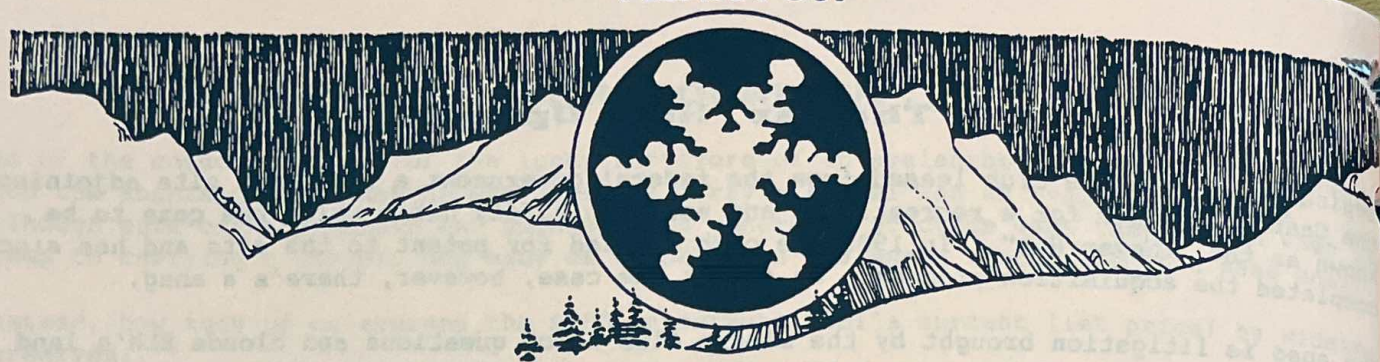
According the BLM ranger Joe Morris, with the Glennallen District Office the BLM agrees with the club's request for patent but is hamstrung by the Sierra Club litigation in being able to deliver patent. Morris expects the purchase price to be \$250, the appraised figure, bearing in mind the limited nature of the patent. Any patent that BLM might eventually deliver will reserve mineral rights to the federal government and will limit the land use to its present form. Sorry folks, no multi-million dollar ski resort on the Castner. When might the club expect patent, you ask.

Ranger Morris didn't know when the Sierra Club litigation would be resolved but hoped prior to the expiration of the club's current lease which is good until 1991. Mindful that lawsuits have a way of dragging on, Morris suggested that if the club doesn't receive patent by 1990 the should club request another five year lease extension.

For the time being, the joys of property ownership are definitely "on hold". Of course, that isn't all bad--no mortgage payments, no property tax (rumor has it that the Mat-Su Borough is in an expansionist mode and covets areas north of its present boundary), and no worry of landlord responsibility.

Well, not entirely. We still need to keep the hut in good order. Some club members, notably Michael Harney, are keen to give the hut a bit of a face lift, at least installing a sign which identifies the hut as a club facility and setting forth maintenance and use rules. On that score, the user fee is a bargain an \$5 per person per night and helps defray up keep costs. If your interested in helping with hut upkeep chores, contact Bob Groseclose at 457-5498.

Bob Groseclose



ALASKA MOUNTAIN SAFETY CENTER, INC. and the ALASKA AVALANCHE SCHOOL 1987-88 SCHEDULE

Date	Type of Workshop	Location	Cost*
12/5	Introduction to Avalanches	U of A, Bldg. K, R. 166, Anchorage	\$ 15**
1/15-18	Comp. Backcountry Av. Haz. Eva. and Resc. Tech.	Big Cottonwood Canyon, Utah	\$175**
1/29-2/1	Comp. Backcountry Av. Haz. Eva. and Resc. Tech.	Hatcher Pass, Talkeetna Mts.	\$175
2/12-15	Comp. Backcountry Av. Haz. Eva. and Resc. Tech.	Hatcher Pass, Talkeetna Mts.	\$175
2/26-28	Special Snow Studies Workshop	Talkeetna-Kenai Mts.	\$120
3/12-13	Alaska Wilderness Medicine Symposium	U of A, Library Bldg., R. 118	\$ 50
3/18-20	Backcountry Medicine Workshop	Hatcher Pass, Talkeetna Mts.	\$120
3/25-28	Comp. Backcountry Av. Haz. Eva. and Resc. Tech.	Hatcher Pass, Talkeetna Mts.	\$175
4/15-18	Applied Mt. Rescue Technology Workshop, Level 1	Turnagain Arm	\$185
4/22-25	Applied Mt. Rescue Technology Workshop, Level 2	Turnagain Arm	\$185
5/20-23	Ocean Kayaking Skills Workshop	Resurrection Bay, Seward	\$175
Open	Custom Workshops for your Organization	Open	Open

*Cost does not include required reading materials, food, or travel but in some cases, does include accomodations (see below)

**\$15 if pre-registered, \$20 at the door

***For information locally, call (801) 524-5304 or (801) 272-7613

CURRICULUM: The Alaska Mountain Safety Center, Inc. is a non-profit, tax-exempt organization created for the purpose of promoting public safety in and around the mountain environment through education, research, publishing, and consulting. To this end, we offer a variety of programs, including the Alaska Avalanche School, which are staffed by top professionals who are specialists in their fields and familiar with field conditions. Because we feel people learn best by doing, we emphasize hands-on field training at all of our major workshops. Participants will have the opportunity to involve themselves in small groups with daily exposure to different concepts, methodologies, and skills. **PRE-REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED.**

Funding for these programs is derived entirely from individual donations, foundation grants, in-kind contributions from agencies and organizations, program receipts from public workshops and the sale of educational materials. In short, the Alaska Mountain Safety Center, Inc. is dependent upon your help. We value your suggestions and ideas and look forward to serving you.

REGISTRATION: Fill out the attached registration form, enclose the appropriate tuition and text fee, and mail to:

The Alaska Mountain Safety Center, Inc.
9140 Brewster's Drive
Anchorage, Alaska 99516
Phone: (907) 345-3566

Please make checks payable to the Alaska Mountain Safety Center, Inc.. Upon receipt, we will send you further detailed information. NOTE: Tuition fees are **NON-REFUNDABLE** unless we receive your cancellation at least 20 days prior to the starting date of a workshop or we are able to fill your vacant position with an alternate participant. Eligible cancellations will receive an immediate full refund less the cost of reading materials (unless returned) and a \$20 service charge.

A word to the wise: If you're interested in a particular workshop, **DON'T DELAY**; send in your application now. These workshops fill quickly and it is not unusual for late registrants to be turned away or placed in alternate status.

DENALI NATIONAL PARK AND PRESERVE

1987 MOUNTAINEERING SUMMARY

For the second year in a row a new record was set for the number of mountaineers attempting to climb Mount McKinley. Despite the increase in attempts, extended periods of poor weather throughout the Alaska Range resulted in the lowest success rate since 1971.

Previous winter's snow falls were about average for the Alaska Range. However, extended periods of clear weather during the late winter and early spring created extensive avalanche conditions throughout the Range. At least five and *possibly six persons died in avalanche related accidents this season.

An Alaskan team, Art Mannix and Chris Leibundgut, attempted a winter ascent of the South Buttress of Mount McKinley from the West Fork of the Ruth Glacier. They reached 15,000' before frostbite caused their retreat. The only other winter mountaineering activity in the park was a first winter ascent of Mount Silverthrone by a party of three Alaskans. Brian and Diane Okonek and Rick Ernst reached the summit via the Brooks Glacier and the Silverthrone Col.

The High Latitude Research Project was not funded this season, but a short research project was conducted by several medical personnel. Dr. Peter Hackett coordinated the project in which they investigated a possible link between retinal hemorrhaging and cerebral edema of climbers at altitude. Following completion of the project, 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 two, 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 serves as a base from which most Mount McKinley rescue operations are coordinated.

* All statistics in this report are for portions of the Alaska Range within the boundaries of Denali National Park and Preserve. Where specifically noted, statistics apply only for Mount McKinley.

Interesting Statistics:

In 1987, 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
1987	=	817

Success Rate:

- * 251 (31%) of those attempting the summit of Mount McKinley were successful. This was the lowest success rate since 1971 when 29% of the 163 climbers reached the summit.
- * None of those attempting the summit of Mount Foraker were successful.
- * None of those attempting the summit of Mount Hunter were successful.

Acute Mountain Sickness: 128 (16%) had symptoms, of these:

- * 91 (11%) were mild
- * 32 (4%) were moderate
- * 5 (1%) was severe

Frostbite: 55 (7%) reported some degree of frostbite. Two of these required hospitalization.

West Buttress Route: 687 (84%) of the climbers on Mount McKinley were on the popular West Buttress route.

Mountain Guiding: 244 (30%) of the climbers traveled with one of the authorized guiding companies. The overall success rate of these groups was 23%. The majority of these trips occurred on the West Buttress route, but other guided trips were attempted on the Muldrow, West Rib, Cassin and South Buttress. No guided expedition reached the summit of Mount McKinley by any route other than the West Buttress.

Foreign Climbers: 232 (28%) of the climbers were from foreign countries. 16 nationalities were represented:

Australia- 23	Netherlands- 6
Austria- 18	New Zealand- 2
Canada- 27	Romania- 1
France- 21	Mexico- 4
Great Britain- 40	Poland- 6
Israel- 2	Switzerland- 29
Italy- 4	West Germany- 14
Japan- 33	Yugoslavia- 2

Record number of climbers on Mount McKinley during a given week: A new all time high of 314 climbers were on the slopes of Mount McKinley for the week ending May 19th.

New Routes and Interesting Ascents:

Mount McKinley: No new routes were completed during 1987. The Northwest Buttress was climbed by a team of four, two of which reached the North summit. The South Face, Haston-Scott route, received its third ascent by a party of two Americans, Paul Cagner and Bill Crouse.

Broken Tooth: Muggs Stump and Steve Quinlin climbed a new technical route on the South Face. Tom Bauman and Jack Lewis completed a first ascent of the West Ridge.

Mount Bradley: In early July, two Austrians, Andi Orgler and Sepp Jochler completed a new line on the 5,000' East Ridge that ascends from the Ruth Glacier. They called the impressive route the East Pillar. This was not only a new route, but also a first ascent of Mount Bradley.

Huttenturm: Orgler and Jochler then crossed the Ruth Glacier and put up a short, new line on the west side of a physical feature they called the Huttenturm.

Kichatna Spires: Seth Shaw, Robert Tingle, James Garrett and Conrad Anker climbed the Southeast Face of Peak 7360' (Gurney Peak). Jack Tackle and Jim Donini climbed the South Buttress of Peak 6847'. Tackle and Donini may not have actually reached the summit.

Mount Mather area: A new route Peak 9810' was completed by an Italian team of six, led by Cosimo Zappelli.

West Tripyramid Peak: A National Park Service patrol completed the first ascent of the Northwest Ridge. Team members were Scott Gill, Randy Waitman and Cliff Beaver.

Accidents:

On May 3rd a large group from the United Kingdom was descending the West Rib on Mount McKinley. At about the 14,800' level, one of the members slipped and fell 800', sustaining serious head injuries. The group's CB radios were set to broadcast on a frequency not monitored by basecamp, the air taxi operators or the National Park Service. Thus, a member of the group had to ski out to basecamp to report the accident. Word of the accident was relayed to the Talkeetna Ranger Station at 2230 hrs of the same day. Insufficient light remained to conduct a rescue that day, so plans were made to attempt a helicopter hoist evacuation early on May 4th. No private helicopters with winch capabilities were available. Assistance was requested through the Rescue Coordination Center at Elmendorf Air Force Base. The following morning, an Air Force C130 arrived to orbit the mountain to provide radio communications and the Army Chinook Helicopters lowered an Air Force "PJ" to the accident site. The injured climber was stabilized and then hoisted from the accident

site. This was only the second hoist operation to ever be conducted on Mount McKinley.

Also in early May, an experienced team of two Yugoslavians arrived for a climb of the West Buttress. They had been delayed several days when their luggage was lost by their airline, and they hoped to make up their lost time by climbing rapidly. They moved to 14,200' in three days. The next day they began to ascend, but one team member felt ill and returned to 14,200 to rest while his partner continued. The following day, the ill climber's condition deteriorated and he became severely ataxic. Fortunately, he was met by a NPS patrol who sledged him down to Windy Corner where his condition improved enough for him to begin his own descent. In the mean time, oxygen was flown via helicopter from Talkeetna but clouds prevented direct delivery to the Yugoslavian. It was dropped to another party who shuttled it to the Yugoslavian who was able to ski back to basecamp without further assistance.

At the beginning of May, two Alaskans registered for a climb of the SE Ridge of Mount Foraker. The following day, two Canadians registered for the same climb. On May 15th, the American team's due out date, their air taxi operator was unable to locate any sign of anyone on that route. The National Park Service searched the route by helicopter and found tracks leading into an avalanche starting zone. Mountaineering equipment was discovered mixed with avalanche debris at the bottom of that avalanche nearly 3,000' below where the tracks were seen. A ground search/recovery was determined to be too hazardous. Although no bodies were seen or recovered, observations of the equipment seen from the hovering helicopter and the recovery of a stuff sack, positively linked the American climbers to the accident. A yellow climbing suit was also seen which matches the description of a suit worn by one of the Canadians. All evidence points to the four men having been swept to their deaths in the avalanche. In 1978 two Japanese were killed in an avalanche just above where the the Americans and Canadians were hit. During the intervening years, climbing parties have regularly reported close calls near the 10,500'- 12,000' level of the SE Ridge.

On May 15th, a two person team from Anchorage registered for an ascent of the West Ridge of Mount Hunter. On May 22nd, the two men were approaching the summit when they triggered a soft slab avalanche which swept both men about 200 yards down the slope they had just ascended. One man was almost completely buried. After considerable effort and between 30 and 45 minutes, he was able to extricate himself. He then followed their rope to his partner who was completely buried. Another 10 to 15 minutes were required to extricate him. There was no sign of life. The weather was severe and the pair had carried no bivouac gear, so the survivor was forced to begin an immediate solo descent of the heavily crevassed and corniced West Ridge. After several close calls, he was able to reach another climbing party at the 10,600' level. Poor weather prevented their descent until May 27th and covered the body which was not recovered.

Toward the end of May, a female member of a three person Japanese expedition became ill at 17,200' on the West Buttress. Weather began to deteriorate so the group descended to the 14,200' basin. Once there her condition did not improve but members of her own expedition did not seem

concerned. A member of a nearby French expedition noticed she was unable to walk and sledged her to the medical camp where she was diagnosed as having pulmonary edema. There she was treated with Diamox and continuous oxygen. The following day she was still unable to walk. Weather prevented an air evacuation, so a ground team was organized to sled her to the 11,000' level where a French and American team then continued on to basecamp. Throughout the entire evacuation the other members of her party seemed unconcerned and unwilling to assist in the evacuation. She recovered once back to sea level in Talkeetna.

At the end of May, a West German team of two made a very rapid ascent of the West Buttress. They climbed from 7,200' at basecamp to the 17,200' camp in five days. On the sixth day they began their summit push, each travelling separately. Bad weather turned one man back at the 19,200' level. That night both men were tired but seemed ok. The following morning one man was unresponsive and had a pulse of 90 and respiration rate of 56/minute. He was placed on supplemental oxygen and lowered down the Rescue Gully and reached the 14,200' medical/rescue camp at 1400 hours that same day. His condition remained serious but was stabilized. He was air evacuated the following day. The diagnosis was severe pulmonary edema and cerebral edema.

In early June, an American was descending the Messner Couloir, plunge stepping into soft snow. During one of the steps, his cramponed boot snagged on either a pack strap or some other item dangling from his harness. He lost his balance, pitched forward and took a 1500' tumbling fall. A soft patch of snow stopped the fall but the climber was battered and sustained a fractured hip. Fortunately, the fall had been seen by climbers in the 14,200' basin. A rescue team was quickly organized and the injured climber was lowered to a landing site and air evacuated by helicopter.

In early July, a Polish team of two ascended the Messner Couloir. Their final camp was placed at 18,900'. From there they went to the summit, descended back to their camp, then began to glissade diagonally toward the 17,200' camp on the West Buttress. During the glissade down the 30-40 degree slope, the lead man hit an icy patch, lost control and fell 2600'. His partner cut over to the West Buttress and made a rapid descent to the 14,200' basin. There, climbers were able to ascend and locate the lifeless victim. The team brought the body down to 14,200' where it was flown off the mountain.

In Early July, an eleven member guided expedition was camped just below Windy Corner on the West Buttress at about 12,900'. It had been snowing during the past evening but the guides said the large couloir and adjacent face of the West Buttress had been sloughing off there by cleaning itself. At about 0530 hrs the following morning, the deposition zone created from the sloughing of the upper reaches of the couloir broke loose and the resulting slide tore through the camp, and buried four of the five tents including nine of the eleven expedition members. The two guides were able to extricate themselves, then with the help of the two team members who were not buried, all of the other people were located and extricated. Miraculously, no one was seriously injured. Four of the tents were destroyed. An additional piece of good fortune was excellent,

rather mild weather, with little or no wind. All members had been sleeping at the time of the accident, so protective clothing was at a minimum. This is the third avalanche related incident at this location.

In mid June an American soloist registered to climb the SE Ridge of Mount Foraker and the Cassin Ridge of Mount McKinley. Other climbers were able to persuade him to change his plans to the West Buttress. Once at the 14,200' camp he switched to the upper West Rib and successfully reached the summit. He descended to the NE Fork of the Kahiltna Glacier and announced his plans to another party to travel up to "take a look" at the Cassin. He was never seen again. During the search, which took place after his due-out-date of July 20, tracks were seen proceeding up the NE Fork but then turning into a cirque below and to the west of the start of the West Rib. The tracks ended in avalanche debris.

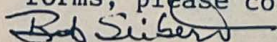
Trends and items of special concern:

Fatalities: Seven people lost their lives in mountaineering related accidents in Denali National Park and Preserve during 1987. This is a significant increase over the past five years and the greatest number of fatalities since 1980 when eight people died. The quadruple avalanche fatalities on Mount Foraker were a major contributor to the increase. In addition, this was the first year since 1979 that a fatality occurred on a mountain other than McKinley (four on Mount Foraker and one on Mount Hunter). The number of fatalities on Mount McKinley was two. Below is a representation of fatalities over the past 10 years:

YEAR	MT. MCKINLEY	ALASKA RANGE EXCEPT MCKINLEY
1978	2	0
1979	2	1
1980	8	0
1981	6	0
1982	0	0
1983	2	0
1984	2	0
1985	2	0
1986	4	0
1987	2	5

For 1987, we expanded the slide/tape mountaineering orientation to include French and Spanish in addition to the German, Japanese and English versions which were available previously. We also constructed a storage box to house rescue equipment at the 17,200' level on the West Buttress. That cache is now in place. The information brochure Mountaineering was revised and we hope to expand it to Spanish and French for 1988. It is currently available in English, German and Japanese.

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



Bob Seibert

South District/Mountaineering Ranger

Talkeetna Ranger Station

P.O. Box 588

Talkeetna, Alaska 99676 Phone: (907) 733-2231

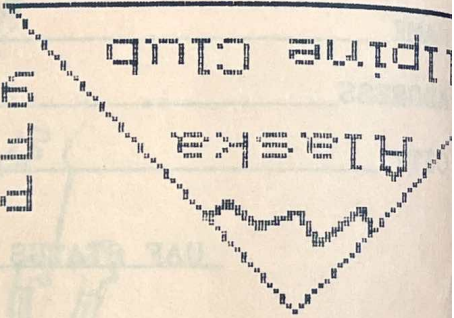
DENALI NATIONAL PARK AND PRESERVE

1987 MOUNTAINEERING SUMMARY

<u>MOUNT</u>	<u>EXPEDITIONS</u>	<u>CLIMBERS</u>	<u>SUCCESSFUL CLIMBERS</u>
<u>McKINLEY</u>			
West Buttress	154	483	165
West Buttress (Guided)	27	204	56
Muldrow	1	3	0
Muldrow (Guided)	1	14	0
West Rib	6	44	12
West Rib (Guided)	2	13	0
Cassin	8	17	9
Cassin (Guided)	1	4	0
South Buttress	4	11	2
South Buttress (Guided)	1	9	0
East Buttress	1	3	0
Messner Couloir	3	6	3
South Face	1	2	2
Northwest Buttress	1	4	2 (N. Peak)
East Buttress	<u>1</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>0</u>
	211	817	251 (31%)
<u>MOUNT FORAKER</u>	4	8	0
<u>MOUNT FORAKER (Guided)</u>	2	11	0
<u>MOUNT HUNTER</u>	6	17	0
<u>MOUNT HUNTINGTON</u>	2	4	2
<u>MOUNT HUNTINGTON (Guided)</u>	1	4	0
<u>KAHILTNA DOME (Guided)</u>	1	4	4
<u>MOUNT BRADLEY</u>	1	2	2
<u>MOUNT BARRILLE</u>	1	2	2
<u>MOUNT DAN BEARD</u>	1	2	0
<u>MOUNT DICKEY</u>	1	2	0
<u>PEAK 11,300</u>	4	12	6
<u>PEAK 11,300 (Guided)</u>	1	4	4
<u>MOOSES TOOTH</u>	11	34	14
<u>MOOSES TOOTH (Guided)</u>	1	3	3
<u>BROKEN TOOTH</u>	3	6	4
<u>MOUNT SILVERTHRONE</u>	1	3	3
<u>WEST TRIPYRAMID</u>	1	3	3
<u>KITCHATNA SPIRES</u>	2	6	4
<u>MOUNT RUSSEL</u>	1	2	0
<u>LITTLE SWITZERLAND</u>	3	3	N/A
<u>MISCELLANEOUS SKI TRIPS</u>	<u>23</u>	<u>116</u>	<u>N/A</u>

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



P.O. Box 81174
Fairbanks, AK
99708



Our records indicate you owe dues for the circled year 1987 1988(due Jan)

If a year is not circled your dues are paid up. Please let Stan know if it is wrong.

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