

Club Activities

EDITED BY FREDERICK O. JOHNSON

The Mountaineering Club of Alaska. The Mountaineering Club of Alaska swelled to over 650 members in 2000. The club offered 34 hiking and climbing trips and over 20 different training courses to its members during the past year. The vast majority of trips were in the Chugach, Talkeetna, and Kenai mountains of south central Alaska. However, trips were also made to destinations in the Alaska Range, Brooks Range, and Wrangell-St. Elias Mountains, as well as to the Grand Canyon. Through the combined efforts of MCA members Steve Parry, Gary Runa, and other volunteer instructors, the club's Training Committee offered instruction in ice climbing, winter camping and survival, glacier travel and crevasse rescue, snow climbing, knot-tying, orienteering, avalanche-hazard recognition, mountain rescue, basic mountaineering, and snow shelter construction.

Individual members of the MCA engaged in trips throughout Alaska and the world, including Africa, New Zealand, the Himalaya, South America, and Europe. In addition to other climbing activities reported in this volume, MCA members Dave Hart and Paul Barry, with Jeannie Wall and Dick Dorworth, made successful ascents of Mt. Steele (16,664') and Mt. Lucania (17,147') in the Wrangell-St. Elias Range in April. Dave Hart and Tim Thomas also summited Mt. Wood (15,885') and Mt. Macaulay (15,387') during a five-day trip in mid-May.

As a result of increased membership, new activities and training, the MCA Board undertook efforts to address risk-management issues, including the need for insurance and improved leader training. The club updated its policy on club-sanctioned trips, revising leader qualification and trip rules, and adding detailed language on trip-leader responsibilities, as well as a trip-leader checklist. A "Leader Orientation Course" was established by the Board to familiarize all current and potential trip leaders of the Club's trip policy and proper procedures, to ensure the safety of club trips. At the Board's request, the Hiking and Climbing Committee, chaired by Matt Nedom and Paul Templeton, adopted written procedures for approving club-sanctioned trips, and established an MCA Leader database to assist in approving club trips and leaders. At the Board's request, Bill Romberg attended the 2000 NOLS Wilderness Risk Management Conference in Anchorage to obtain information for the Board on a variety of topics related to risk management.

The club also undertook a number of efforts to improve services to its members. Under the superb guidance of our webpage editor, Willy Hersman, the club added a number of new features to its webpage (www.mcak.org), including posting of back issues of the club's newsletter, an online bulletin board, an online membership database for password-protected access by club officers and club members for address updates. The club also recently established an e-mail listserv for its members to improve communication among members. The club produced a 2001 photo calendar, developed a series of MCA t-shirts, arranged for a bulk purchase of avalanche beacons, probes, and shovels at a discount for members, and purchased 16 new ropes, ten new helmets, and four radios for use at the club's annual Ice Climbing School.

In terms of community involvement, the club entered discussions with Chugach State Park regarding the ~~issue~~ ownership and liability of the three of the club's mountain huts located along the Eklutna Glacier within the park. Club members Cory Hinds and Tom

Choate organized trail-clearing activities in partnership with Alaska State Parks and succeeded in clearing brush from approximately one mile of the Gold Mint Trail before winter set in. Future trail-clearing efforts are planned. The club also solicited and received an \$11,000 grant from the State of Alaska to complete the construction of a new public use cabin on Eklutna Lake under an arrangement with Chugach State Park.

BILL and WENDY ROMBERG

The Alpine Club of Canada. The highlight of 2000 was the Mount Alberta climbing and trekking program held in commemoration of the first ascent of the peak 75 years ago. One climbing team and six trekking groups composed of 80 Japanese members of the Japanese Alpine Club and volunteers from the ACC took part in the program. While the climb of Mount Alberta was not successful, owing to poor conditions, all of the trekking programs based at the ACC huts were completed by all.

The Mount Alberta Hut was renovated as part of the above program, and the Peter and Catherine Whyte (Peyto) Hut on the Wapta Icefield was extended and virtually completely renovated. A vestibule was added, as were corner windows in an eating alcove, which provide unlimited views of the surrounding peaks to the south and west. Renovations continue on the clubhouse in Canmore.

The North Face Leadership courses, held in both summer and winter, continue to draw qualified applicants from the Club's sections across Canada. One week in length, this program is designed to upgrade and refine the skills of already qualified volunteer leaders. These leaders then return to their sections to pass on their skills on section trips.

There were two major member recognitions in 2000. Chic Scott was awarded Honorary Membership. Chic has a long history in Canadian mountaineering, and his most recent publication, *Pushing the Limits*, details the history of Canadian mountaineering. The club was saddened by the passing of Bob Hind, its Honorary President, in 2000. Peter Fuhrmann was approved by the Board of Directors to become the next Honorary President. In addition to being a past president of the ACC (1984-1988) and the major organizer behind the Canadian Alpine Centre in Lake Louise, Bob was instrumental in the development of many alpine rescue techniques still in use today. Other awards were the Distinguished Service Award presented to David Myles and Mike Haden, while Allan Main received the Silver Rope for Leadership.

A new Members' Handbook was published in the spring, and the first publication of a "Summit Series" appeared in the fall. This edition chronicled the life of member Don Forest, the first person to ascend all 11,000-foot peaks in the Canadian Rockies.

The full edition of the Club's Access and Environment Policy was approved by the Board of Directors at their fall meeting. (The abridged version was approved several years ago.) At this meeting, the Annual General Meeting date was approved for spring 2001 and annually each spring thereafter to coincide with the Board of Directors meeting. The Mountain Guides' Ball and a Board of Directors meeting will continue to be held each fall.

BEV BENDELL

The Mountaineers. The Mountaineers' Seattle climbing program, under the leadership of Ron Eng, has maintained its traditional focus on alpine climbing in the Pacific Northwest. The Basic and Intermediate Climbing courses, which compose the core of the program, continue to command high demand from club members. However, the program has now expanded to match continuing growth and diversification of "climbing."