

*Mountaineering Club of Alaska.* All in all, 1977 was a quiet year for the Mountaineering Club of Alaska. The club continued its interest in the Chugach Mountains, which lie at our doorstep. However, we also had members climbing in the Talkeetnas and Alaska Range as well as on the Kenai. Longtime member Dona Agosti led a trek through the Arctic Wildlife Refuge in the northeastern sector of Alaska. Brian Okonek and Roger Robinson made numerous first ascents in the area known as "Little Switzerland" in the Alaska Range, southwest of Mount McKinley. Among their first ascents were The Royal Tower, South Troll, Your Highness, and The Throne.

Terry Becker held his now annual ice-climbing class in September for MCAers at the Matanuska Glacier.

Three members were killed in an accident on Carpathian, south of Anchorage, near the Portage Pass area. Don Pahlke, Linda Hastings, and Jeff Moeller apparently fell while descending from the summit. A rescue party located the site of the accident, but was hampered by very severe weather.

Upcoming events include the celebration of the club's 20th anniversary, repair of the Whiteout and Eagle Huts, the summer's major trek through the Wrangells, plus numerous hikes, climbs, and ski tours.

PAUL E. DENKEWALTER, *President*

*The Mountaineers.* The Mountaineers Climbing Committee sponsored a number of programs to serve all levels of climbing competence in the club. The best known of these is the Basic Climbing Course which enrolled 227 students and graduated 129. Graduates attended seven field trips and five lectures, completed three summit climbs and completed a mountaineering-oriented first-aid course or equivalent. An outstanding feature of the 1977 course was the reinstitution of a hard-snow ice-ax field trip, conducted in August at Mount Rainier National Park in the Castle-Pinnacle Basin. The snow was so hard that even veteran instructors had difficulty in performing individual arrests on moderate slopes. Nearly perfect form was necessary, and the shape of the ice-ax pick was a consideration.

The Intermediate Climbing Course requires a minimum of two years to complete. Graduates have attended six lectures and five field trips, instructed at basic course field trips, performed as rope leaders on five intermediate and five basic climbs, are current in first aid, and have demonstrated climb leadership. The Rescue Methods Field Trip at Mount Erie was highlighted by an actual rescue of a hang glider and pilot from a 105-foot Douglas Fir tree. The 31 course graduates comprised the largest graduating class ever, pushing the total to 327. The Club Climbs program for course graduates provided climbs ranging from easy basic-type to fairly hard intermediate climbs. The emphasis