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MOUNTAINEERING CLUB OF ALASKA

SCREE

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April, 1960

In Memoriam

Ernst Baumann

1922-1960

MEETING, MONDAY, MAY 2

The Mountaineering Club of Alaska will meet, as usual, at the Willow Park Recreation Hall on Monday, May 2nd at 8 p.m.

Howard Schuck, the newly-appointed program chairman, notes that the entertainment for the meeting will be slides of Squaw Valley and the VIII Winter Olympics.

CLIMBING SCHEDULE:

- May 15 - Bird Creek Ridge: Norm Pichler, leader. Phone BR 8-7951. Norm calls this a "nice hill with little or no brush".
- May 21-22 - Explorer Glacier: This glacier, near Portage, will be an easy two day trip. No crampons or snowshoes necessary. But will need ropes, sleeping bags, ice axes, tents and stoves. There will be instruction in technique. Johnnie leading. Office: BR 7-0251 or Home: DI 4-1603.
- June 4-5 - Peak behind Eagle River. Norm Pichler, leading.
- June 19 - Exploratory Trip: from Girdwood over Eagle glacier onto glacier leading toward Lake Eklutna and Lake George. We'll take a peak if there is time but won't kill ourselves. Johnnie (or possibly Heidi?) leading.
- July 16-17: Up river to glacier at far end of Lake Eklutna. We'll need a boat and motor for this one. Everyone interested should work on this. Leave Friday, July 15th. Easy trip.

JOHNNIE JOHNSTON COMMENTS:

Notes of April 4 meeting: Takeichi Katano, Leader, and Susumu Takahashi, Sub-leader, of the climbing party of Meiji University (Tokyo) Scientific Expedition in Alaska which commemorates the University's 80th anniversary were guests at the Potluck Supper on April 4.

Both spoke limited English but better than our Japanese. We managed to carry on spasmodic conversation. Mr. Katano presented MCA with a complete list of the expedition's equipment. A study of the list indicates that it was not compiled in a day. The copy is in the club library. MCA presented both guests a club patch. Slides of Mt. Iliamna and Alaskan wildlife were shown by Helga Bading and Joe Pichler gave one of his famous narrations while we viewed slides of the Indian Trail Trip.

Potluck was handled by Elinore Schuck who did an excellent job. Plenty of very delicious food was prepared.

Trail to Byron Glacier: As you know present access to Byron Glacier is via the riverbed. The Forest Service indicates that they are going to put a trail from the end of the road to the Glacier in 1961. In June of 1960 they will run a survey line. What say, we take a Sunday, after the line is in, and brush out the line to make a passable trail and spend the rest of the day in a school on ice technique? We have the blessing of the USFS.

Climbing School: It is time for climbing school to resume. Definite date will be set at the May 2nd meeting of the MCA.

SNOWSHOE TRIP TO THE HEAD OF EKLUTNA LAKE

by Howard A. Schuck

On Sunday, March 27, Joe Fichler, Elinore and Howard Schuck snowshoed in to the head of Eklutna Lake. This trip had been suggested by Gene Horning, but neither he, Jackie Cote, or others contacted could make the trip when we decided on Friday to try it.

The 10 mile road to the foot of the lake had not been plowed all winter, but a few vehicles had been using it and with chains we managed to get up the hill and to the lake. We put snowshoes on at 8:20 a.m. at the foot of the lake and mushed up the lake, traveling on the ice. It was easy going there as only 6 inches of snow covered the ice, and the snow was still hard that early in the day.

We stopped often to admire the scenery and the sheep on the slopes and to take pictures. The day was clear and warm. It was a pleasure to be out on such a day.

Joe observed that the lake level had dropped over 30 feet since the ice originally froze last fall. The ice was actually at too steep an angle along the shoreline to travel on, and we kept away offshore where the ice was level.

Just beyond the last bend of the shoreline, 7 miles up the lake, we had lunch. We sat in the sun on cakes of ice that were buckled against the shoreline and from here we could thoroughly enjoy the spectacular scenery surrounding the head of the valley.

We were so impressed that we decided it would be nice to explore beyond the head of the lake someday. One feasible way to do this might be to go by boat to the head of the lake, and start out on foot from there. A two day expedition appears better than one day, in which case the base camp might be set up close to the boat at the head of the lake. Anyone interested as soon as the ice goes out?

(Ed. note: Howard Schuck's number, for those interested in this proposed Eklutna trip is 114 - SK-2-9448).

UPPER RABBIT CREEK

April 9th and 10th

by Andy Brauchli

Paul Crews in charge, his boys David and Paul Jr., Helga Bading and I got together for a late start Saturday afternoon. The rain turned to wet snow on upper O'Malley Road. Paul parked his wagon at the bottom of Clark's Hill where everybody piled into Helga's jeep for another two miles. We started on foot just a few hundred feet below timberline and were soon forced to put on skis and climbers. After hiking some three miles dusk set in. The snow had stopped falling.

We found a fairly level spot where we pitched the 5 man Gerry tent we were trying out for this trip. The telescopic pole did not easily slide open, but it was decided to use this tent with a different pole, rather than the homemade one on our planned Mount McKinley trip.

Next morning after breakfasting on oatmeal mixed with dried fruit, we broke camp and proceeded on a course headed for the lake at the foot of Suicide Peak. The Peak incidentally stayed wrapped in clouds the whole time.

We headed directly into a 25 mph wind according to Paul's "velometer". Several miles later we arrived at an area at the foot of a very impressive looking snowslope located on the ridge separating us from Campbell Creek, which we decided to climb after lunch. We set up the tent to eat and observe its behavior in the wind and with the exception of Paul Jr., who decided to rest, set out for the ridge top without the packs. We climbed 1600 vertical feet to 4700 in about 90 minutes. The skiing down through four inches of powder snow on top of a hard surface was excellent. Reaching the tent we packed up in short order and started the tiring onesided 8 mile traverse which ended in alternating snow, mud and more snow. It proved a bit rugged for the bottoms of the skis as well as some other bottoms. We arrived home tired and hungry around 5 p.m.

GOOD LUCK TO THE MCKINLEY CLIMBERS; Helga Bading, Andy Brauchli, Paul Crews, Chuck Metzger and Rod Wilson!