

APRIL 1993

A Publication of the Mountaineering Club of Alaska, Inc.
Box 102037, Anchorage, Alaska 99510

Volume 36 Issue 04

APRIL MEETING

Wednesday

April 21, 7:30

Pioneer Schoolhouse, 3rd & Eagle Streets
Downtown Anchorage

Slide Show: Jonathan Rose will show slides
of traveling through the French Alps.

May 29-31 Sheep Valley and
Lava Mt.

Backpacking trip with optional
snow climb of Lava Mt.

Class C. Talkeetna Mountains.
Memorial Day Weekend.

Leader: Don Hansen 243-7184

HIKING AND CLIMBING SCHEDULE

- April 7 Grand Canyon
A maximum group of 8 will assemble in Phoenix for two weeks in the Grand Canyon. A hike into the Royal Arch area west of the Bass Trail. The group was full, with a waiting list, before I got our backcountry permit, but there could be cancellations.
Leader: Bill Wakeland 563-6246
- 26 McHugh Peak
From Rabbit Creek Road. Need sturdy boots and ice axe. Class B. Chugach State Park.
Leader: Mindy Baum 338-6396
- May 2 March for Parks
Class A. Seward Highway. Contact Debra Brown, REI: 272-4565
- 9 Gull Rock
9 miles round trip. Class A. Good trip for kids. See 55 Ways Trip 17. Kenai Peninsula.
Leader: Don Hansen 243-7184
- June 5 Rabbit Lake Trail Construction
Work on trail to Rabbit Lake. Chugach State Park. Contact Debra Brown, REI: 272-4565 or Joel Babb: 688-3885
- 12 Blacktail Rocks, Roundtop, Vista
Roundtrip 10 miles. Chugach State Park. See 55 Ways Trip 39. Elevation gain 3500 feet. Class C.
Leader: Joel Babb 688-3885
- 13 Eklutna Lake Bike Trip
Mountain bike around the lake.
Leader: Don Hansen 243-7184
- 19-20 Flattop Sleepout
Summer solstice tradition. See 55 Ways Trip 31. No leader needed. Class C. Contact Joel Babb.

June 19 or 26 Crow Pass - Eagle River
27 miles one way. Chugach State
Park. Class D.
Leader: Alan Shayer 344-3280

25-26 Williwaw Peak
Leader: Dennis Morford 522-1179,
266-1528

July 25- Aug. 8 Hula Hula River
Two week backpacking trip, with
optional non-technical climbing.
Strenuous. Class C. \$750 ea. from
Fairbanks.
Leader: Don Hansen 243-7184

31- Aug. 15 Logan Mountains, NWT, Canada
Backpacking trip to the Vampire
Peaks area. *Not* Mt. Logan. Char-
ter from Finlayson Lake. \$300 ea.
Moderate pace. Alpine terrain, ice,
optional peak-bagging. Class:
Glacier Travel. See leader for gear
needed, etc.
Leader: Dave Logan 243-4887



TRIP REPORTS

New England Journey Journal

by Bernie Kaye

In September I climbed the highest mountain in each New England state...Bear, Greylock, Mansfield, Washington, Katahdin and Jerimoth Hill.

Bear Mountain (2316) anchors the northwest corner of Connecticut. The trailhead is adjacent to route 41, just north of Salisbury. The trail goes west, joins the Appalachian Trail and turns north and branches off to the summit. An enormous WPA cairn crowns the mountain. From here you can see the green hills of New York and Massachusetts. The round trip was an easy six miles.

Mount Greylock (3491) lies in northwest Massachusetts. Greylock is in a state park off Route 7, just north of Lanesboro. The Appalachian Mountain Club (AMC)

maintains the Bascom Lodge on the summit. Food and lodging are available at a fair price. I recommend the lentil soup. The Appalachian Trail passes this way. There are several monuments on the summit. This is a fantastic early 20th century setting. Since I stayed on the summit, I hiked down and up, for a total of eight miles. The trail was excellent.

Mount Mansfield (4393) lies in north central Vermont. The trailhead is in Underhill State Park, east of the brew pub in Burlington, just off Route 15 at Underhill. Limited camping is available. There is a map at the trailhead. My trail selection was poor. I should have stayed with the well-marked, three mile, main trail. A seasonal "monsoon" confirmed my preference for sunshine over showers. The grouchy ranger was prowling..

Mount Washington (6288), the northeast's highest mountain, is in the heart of the White Mountains in east central New Hampshire. The trailhead is off Route 16, at Pinkham Notch, just behind the AMC lodge. It is a cross-roads for hikers. The lodge provides moderately priced food and lodging and manages eight full service high mountain huts. The trail is well marked, steep and very rocky. Sturdy hiking boots are required. You must share the alpine summit with a cog railroad and an auto road terminus. I climbed on a beautiful New England fall day; however, Washington's bad weather is legendary. In seven hours I covered about eight miles.

Mount Katahdin (5267) is in Baxter State Park in central Maine. Camping facilities are abundant. Bring food. I selected the most frequently used trail and reached the summit and returned in six hours. The alpine summit is the northern terminus of the Appalachian Trail. There was no shortage of summit markers. Trail condition necessitated sturdy boots. The upper mountain is reminiscent of Alaska.

Jerimoth Hill (812) is in central west Rhode Island. It is on Route 101, just west of North Foster. I parked my car at the foot of the hill, put on my London Fog, declined several lifts along the highway, and reached the rainy summit in 1/2 hour I was greeted by an unchained junkyard dog, and so, rather than look for a summit register, I retreated.

The trip required eight days. I beat the leafers, enjoyed the AMC facilities, and visited the L.L. Bean "shrine" in Freeport, Maine. The New England seafood and blueberry pancakes were incredible. Ben and Jerry seemed to be everywhere. I came to realize how rural New England is and how friendly the people are "in their way." This is Norman Rockwell country.

B.K. (562-6734)



Ecuador : Imbabura, Cayambe, Cotopaxi and Chimborazo

by Ken Schoolcraft

Ecuador's central highlands are composed of a long, undulating valley broken into a mosaic of rich, hand-hewn farmlands, high sandy paramos and scattered towns and villages; the valley is bounded on the east and west by ranges of volcanic mountains. These ranges are not continuous ridge lines but rather, are chains of either ice-capped or rocky volcanic peaks and crowns, which when viewed from above, rise from the frequent low clouds like distant relatives.

Many of the people in these highlands are the short, round-faced descendants of a native population conquered by the Incas, and still wear the distinctive hats, ponchos and shawls of their roots. Others are the products of the mixing of native blood with Spanish, starting with Pizarro's army in the early 1500's. The remainder are Blacks and Whites. The wealth in Ecuador is concentrated. Most small farmers, shop-keepers, craftsmen and laborers have little money, but are quietly proud and clean with a strong sense of family and community. To the stranger, they are kind and helpful, with a polite reserve.

On January 13, Barry Bruninga, Dan Shearer and I flew from Anchorage to Quito, Ecuador to climb volcanoes in these highlands and among these peoples. The climbs were great, the country beautiful and mildly exotic, and the people a joy to be among.

We visited Imbabura, our first volcano in Ecuador, to acclimatize. Starting in Otavalo, two hours by crowded bus north of Quito, we took a taxi through Ibarra to the mountain village of La Esperanza. On the far side of the village, as the houses along the cobbled road became fewer, a bridge spanned a draw. Just before the draw, a well-maintained cobbled road headed right toward Imbabura.

We walked the secondary road as it slowly gained altitude. We passed scattered, brown-brick houses and barns, with tiled or thatched roofs, and fields of corn and beans. Cows and rooting pigs were staked out. The cobbles gave way to dirt as the road continued up the flanks of Imbabura. Clouds slyly began to obscure the mountain. As we passed the last of the farms, the road became a trail. The locals assured us that we were on the right track, until they too were left behind.

The trail followed a buried water pipe and passed cement water storage tanks until it leveled briefly. There the faint true trail went up a grassy slope, while the main trail continued toward the water source in the canyon to the left. The summit was lost now in a blanket of light gray clouds. Continuing up we gained the rocky ridge, then

turned left towards the 15,122-foot summit. Nearby thunder turned us on a dime and we hurried back down the ridge and into the relative safety of the grass slopes and farmlands. Local buses took us to Ibarra and Otavalo. No summit, but a gentle walk through beautiful country.

Our next mountain was Cayambe. At 18,997', it is Ecuador's third tallest mountain. On its slopes is the highest point along the equator. To get to the mountain, we went to the town of Cayambe and found Gallo Yopez, who owns La Pantera Rosa, a store on the main square. Gallo had a four-wheel drive truck which was able to take us through farmlands on a cobbled, then dirty, then rocky and potholed road to the door of the Berge-Oleas-Ruales hut. It had a guard who sold sodas, beer and candy. There were gas stoves, running water, toilets and locked rooms with bunks and mattresses. We and the guard were the only people there.

We spent the remainder of our first day relaxing, going for short hikes and watching the mountain and the weather. The weather seemed to have a pattern: clear skies through the night and until about 10:00 am, then light clouds would start drifting in; by noon the upper mountain would be lost in wispy clouds; in early evening the clouds would move away. This pattern was similar on the other mountains we climbed as well.

Our climb of Cayambe started at 2:00 a.m. under a clear, moonless sky. We climbed the rocky hill above the hut, crossed a sandy bench, and gained the glacier by slipping between a rock outcrop and an icefall. We gingerly went up the glacier, weaving through a crevasse field, heading toward the second star in the Big Dipper's handle. When the snow covered the ice more consistently, we veered right and climbed to the Picos Jarrin, a rock prow. From there, we followed a short, rounded ridge until we came to the edge of a large, serac-filled bowl.

We turned east and, as the sky lightened, followed the broad western shoulder into the steeper reaches of the upper part of the mountain. There were huge seracs and crevasses higher up, which we avoided using convenient snow bridges. The wind increased as we climbed a series of snowy rises. By 9:00 am there was no more up.

19,348-foot Cotopaxi was next. It is the world's highest active volcano. To get there, we hired a jeep at the Plaza El Salto in the town of Latacunga and rode into Cotopaxi National Park. Llamas, deer, and pine trees and light rain. After leaving the pine trees, the road entered a wide, sandy paramo and eventually ended in a windy, but sunny parking lot, downhill from the Jose Ribas hut. We humped our packs up to the hut.



The hut had guards, light foods, matted bunks, lockers without locks, gas stoves, and dysfunctional toilets. The surrounding hillside was littered with human waste and toilet paper. Because it was the weekend, there were many day-trippers.

We started the climb at 3:00 am, in a still, light fog. The route went directly uphill from the hut until it met the tongue of a glacier pushing down the mountain. We skirted right onto the glacier to follow the winding, firmly packed trail that generally headed up and to the right. Many open crevasses. The fog and low clouds had been left below, so we climbed through the calm, star-filled night. Dawn arrived rather abruptly as we neared the steeper summit section. After a short push we were looking down into the summit crater. Pictures, videos, food and water followed and then we jetted back to the hut by eleven. A smooth, wonderful climb.

A taxi dropping off other Cotopaxi climbers took us to the Hosteria La Cienega, a magnificent 400-year-old hacienda 15 miles north of Latacunga. The mansion has been converted into a hotel, with beautiful fountains and gardens, tall lazy trees, and a good restaurant. A great, but surprisingly cheap place to kick back.

After a brief stop at the Banos mineral baths, we hired a pickup and driver at the Hostal Montecarlo in Riobamba and moved on to Chimborazo. At 20,703', it is Ecuador's tallest peak and because of the equatorial bulge, the world's tallest mountain, if measured from the center of the earth. The upper hut on Chimborazo is named after the English climber Edward Whymper. In the 1880's, Whymper and Carrels, Italian cousins, were the first to climb this and other Ecuadorian peaks. The hut had locked rooms, gas stoves, water, toilets, and a guard selling simple foods. Near the hut were the Bolivar Rocks, named after the Venezuelan liberator Simon Bolivar, who reached the snowline on Chimborazo in 1822 and later wrote an epic poem about it.

We started our climb at 11:00 PM of the second day. The night was clear and mild, with a half-moon. Instead of following the normal route, we headed north over rocks and scree to gain a rock-covered ice bench, then staying left, wound our way north up the crevasse-marred ice slope to the snow-covered ridge. This rounded western ridge steepened into a continuous series of crevassed slopes, which led to the lower Veintimilla summit. The main summit was a half mile away, across a gentle basin. Because of our concern of the softening snow and ice lower down, we quickly crossed still firm snow, arriving on top at nine o'clock. Short celebration in the warming sun, then we scooted down. Instead of dropping off the ridge onto the ice slope, we went down through the steep scree slopes west of the ice. Another beautiful day of climbing, thanks to the gods.

After another soak in Banos, we headed back to the Anchorage winter, our three weeks over. Ecuador is a fine place. The people are friendly, the government stable, the food, lodging and transportation inexpensive, and the climbing great. While the peaks we climbed were the highest, they probably weren't the most interesting. We'll go back; you should go there.



Note from the Vin Hoeman Library

Joe Kurtak

I am seeking input in regards to new book purchases for the library. If you have any ideas on books you would like to see added to the shelves, please contact me at 345-5512.

Reminder on Club Gear

When checking out club gear at AMH, please remember that the folks at AMH are providing a home for our gear as a courtesy. At times the store can be very busy. It takes time to adjust crampons to boots, so if you are checking out crampons you should do your own adjusting. If you need instructions or help on adjusting, contact someone in the club, such as one of the officers on the back page of SCREE. Your cooperation will be appreciated.

Also, it should be pointed out that club gear is not intended as a long-term substitute for personal gear. The MCA bought the gear mainly for club activities. If you find you are having to check out the same gear all the time, then perhaps you've decided to stick with climbing and it's time to fork out the dough for something decent.

Mailing Labels

Paul Berryhill has been doing mailing labels for SCREE for several years now, and would like to pass the fun on to someone else. If you have access to a computer program capable of doing labels and are interested, please contact Paul at 248-6271.



ADZE



MINUTES

MARCH MEETING

March 17, 1993. Joel Babb called the meeting to order, and had new members introduce themselves.

TREASURER'S REPORT.

Money Market -	\$3119.39
Checking Acct -	4356.01
Petty Cash -	<u>50.00</u>
Total	\$7525.40

COMMITTEE REPORTS.

Hiking and Climbing.

Dave Logan re-announced his trip in August to the Northwest Territories. The trip will be to the Vampire Peaks area. \$300/person.

Leaders are needed. Call Don Hansen.

OLD BUSINESS.

Gear.

Someone still has not returned a rope used at the ice climbing school. Return it to AMH immediately!

NEW BUSINESS.

Vin Hoeman Collection.

Dr. Rod Wilson kindly donated a collection of Vin Hoeman's notes which had been at his home to the club library.

ANNOUNCEMENTS.

REI is looking for MCA support for more Rabbit Creek trail work in June.

Prudhoe Bay Road users should be aware that they are on private property when heading to Ram Valley. Park very discretely, or take the risk of all of us loosing the access.

Respectfully Submitted,

Julia Moore

Kneissel Telemark Skis
 210 cm
 Brand New (never mounted)
 \$100

Trak Backcountry Telemark Skis
 200 cm
 Includes Volle releaseable bindings
 Good Condition
 \$100
 Amy B. or Chris P. 333-1278

Soviet Titanium Ice Screws
 After many requests, the MCA has again arranged a bulk purchase of these for sale to MCA members. The cost will be \$12 per screw, \$2 of which will go to the club. I will have 100 of them available at the May meeting.
 Dave Hart

Asolo AFS101 Mountaineering Boots
 Size 11-12 (too big for me)
 1 year old
 \$195

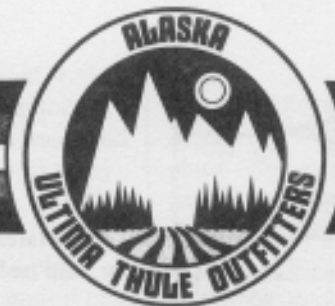
Brooks Ranger Expedition Overboots
 Size XL (10-13)
 Used one trip
 \$65
 Dave 263-4361(w), 561-3867(h)

For Sale: Double Kayak made by Current Design, Libra Model. Fiberglass, used 5 times, excellent cond., with 2 paddles, worth \$3400, all for \$2200 or trade for a single Pacific Water Sports Sea Otter plus cash.
 Wanted: Single fiberglass kayak, preferably Pacific Water Sports Sea Otter.
 248-5930

Hiking Partners Needed
 for a one-week trip in Katmai National Park from Sheikof Strait through Katmai Pass to the Valley of Ten Thousand Smokes.
 I need to make reservations soon for flying and so on. Looking for experienced hikers. Katmai Pass can be very windy. Group size may be as large as needed.
 Gloria Gill 248-9908

Adrenaline Junkie Film Fest
 April 13
 7:00 - 10:00 APU
 Atwood Center, 2nd floor
 for only \$2.00. Three shows:
 John Bauman, Winter on the West Face of Mt. Huntington.
 Karen Jetmar, Arctic Rivers.
 Roman Dial, Hell Bikes on Ice.
 Proceeds benefit Park Watch.





ULTIMA THULE OUTFITTERS

Your key to the Wrangell/Saint Elias Mountains! Air charter and guided mountain adventures to the largest glaciated area in North America.

Family operated since 1961, Ultima Thule Outfitters is owned and operated by Paul and Donna Claus. Paul is an active climber and a highly experienced glacier pilot with over 8,000 flight hours in the Wrangells. Paul and his father, John, can fly you into some of the most remote and pristine mountains on earth. With more peaks over 16,000' than anywhere in North America, this International Heritage Park is one of the last undiscovered alpine playgrounds.

In addition to aircharter and mountain guiding services, Ultima Thule operates a year-round wilderness lodge. Located in the park, the lodge offers cozy guest cabins, family-style meals, sauna and gear rental. Depending on your needs, you can choose from a wide variety of services offered. From air charter to scheduled expeditions to custom guided first ascents, Ultima Thule Outfitters is the premier wilderness adventure company operating in the Wrangells.

For 1993, Ultima Thule is proud to offer three exceptional high mountain adventures for all skill levels; Mt. Saint Elias, Mt. Logan and Mt. Bona. These will be trips of a lifetime, so come join us in our alpine wonderland!

Mt. Saint Elias	18,008'	May 8 --- May 30, 1993
Mt. Logan	19,500'	May 12 -- June 6, 1993
Mt. Bona	16,500'	June 5 - June 15, 1993

If you have an interest in the above expeditions, or any of the other services offered by Ultima Thule Outfitters, please contact Siri Moss at (907) 258-0636 (phone & fax) for more information.

ULTIMA THULE OUTFITTERS

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