

MOUNTAINEERING CLUB OF ALASKA

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MEETING, JUNE 8, 1959

The Mountaineering Club of Alaska will hold its June meeting on Monday, June 8, at "The Rocks". The same arrangement as used for the May meeting will be followed. We had planned for an indoor meeting, but a place to gather was unavailable. Effective with the July repeat July meeting, we will meet at the Willow Park Hall. Call Helga for questions. Kieth Hart will show slides at the July meeting.

DEHYDRATED MINUTES, MAY MEETING

The May meeting of MCA was held outdoors. About 50 people, including children, met at the City Ice Rink on May 4th and drove to Mile 23 on the Seward Highway. The earliest explorer-climbers of Mt. McKinley observed that the winds were strong out of the Turnagain Arm of Cook Inlet and this was certainly so for us. The group moved to a more sheltered picnic area about five miles nearer Anchorage. There was plenty of food, firewood, mosquitoes and fun. Climbing techniques were demonstrated and the climbing students practiced.

CLIMBING SCHEDULE

- May 30/31 Bear Valley Leader Erik Barnes, phones 32602 & 31055
- Jun 6/7 Mary's Mountain Leader: Joe Pichler, phone 51066
- Jun 13/14 Glacier School, Leader: Hans Metz, Phones SK 36165 or Y6695
- Jun 27/28 Girdwood Area, Leader, Paul Crews, Phones 38625 & 44731

Interested persons please contact leaders. Leaders have sole responsibility for reservations. They also have the privilege of refusing any member who does not have enough experience or who does not appear properly equipped.

CLIMBING SCHOOL

The climbing school has had one meeting indoors at the Johnstons, has been rained out once and has held two meetings at the "Rocks" on May 14 & 21. It is not too late, if you are interested. The Rocks are at Mile 23, Seward Highway and meets each Thursday at 7:30 in any weather short of a downpour.

EQUIPMENT

MCA's Executive Committee authorized the purchase of two mountain tents to be made available for use by the entire membership. Scheduled trips will have first priority with the non-skeds coming next.

Our experiences ice axe (remember the patch contest) is now in the hands of our little Helga. Any member can borrow it, but it'll cost two bits a day.

Gary King told us over the phone that he now has the following equipment in stock: 3/8" & 7/16" Goldline, ice axes, crampon, rock & ice pitons, backpacks, tents, climbing boots and carabiners. He also has a stock of rental ice axes and crampons.

THUNDERBIRD FALLS

The Mountaineering Club of Alaska had a very good time on their first outing of the season with a hike into Thunderbird Falls on Sunday, May 3.

Many in the group were Chechakoes and stood up well to their first real attack by Alaskan mosquitoes met at the entrance of the trail. However they soon outdistanced most of them.

The trail was in the last stage of breakup with several muddy spots to be skirted. There is still much snow right up to the Falls. A new railing up the mountainside is a great help to those who care to climb above the trail for a higher view of the Falls.

Leona Wilkerson was the leader of the group. Other members and guests were Gwynneth Wilson & son, Stella Abbott, the Howard Schuoks, Clara Shake, Evelyn Emerson, Stephanie Studnicki, Peggy Resnak, Marguerite St Pauley, Audrey Channess, Margie Hancock, Marion Johnson, Alice Muth, Alma Usenius, and Paul Leader.Leona Wilkerson.

CASTLE MOUNTAIN

Eleven hardy souls gathered at the Eagle River Shopping Center on the Saturday evening of May 16th. This crew drove to the base of Castle Mountain at Mile 78, Richardson Highway, where the hikers walked into the Pichler cabin while the four climbers drove onward and camped at the old strip coal mine. On Sunday, the hikers scouted out new trails and generally explored the area while the climbers sought a route to the top. After crossing a large snowfield, they pushed up a steep gulley to the top. The climb was moderately difficult. The register can was deposited by 1:00 and the hikers rejoined by 4:00. The rock there is not safe for pitons..... NORM PICHLER.

"CANNY MOUNTAINEER"

He knows the mountain passes, so
Climbs not, nor leaps crevasses,
But sits and waits and will not go
Until the mountain passes.

Richard Armour (Sports Illustrated May 18, 1959)

PORTAGE CABIN SITE

Situated above timber on a small mountain overlooking Portage Glacier is a magnificent location to build MCA's first alpine hut. From here, countless climbs and hikes can begin and it could be used for skiing in the winter. The location is about an hour's drive and a half-hour hike from Anchorage. The problems facing us are nil. All we must do is obtain the land, make a trail and build the cabin. An engineer reconnaissance party is scheduled to visit the site in June and a full report, with photos, will be made at the July meeting. Now please don't get impatient, we must plan first. We'll hit this with a bang and have it ready by Fall, 1960.

MOUNT CARPATHIAN

The Anchorage Daily Times printed pictures of Ted Barrett, Keith Hart and Matt Nitsch climbing a 6,000 foot mountain near Portage and Skookum Glaciers on May 7th. It was a large spread of six pictures showing the three men in action and the accompanying paragraphs identified them as members of MCA. To date, YE Ed has not had a first hand report from the boys.

BEAR VALLEY

Erik Barnes requests that all those making the Bear Valley trip confirm with him at 32602 by May 27. Equipment must include boots, extra socks, parka, gloves, sleep bag, air mattress, ice axe, crampons, rope, a change of pants and shoes for wading streams and cooking equipment. Each group should arrange for their tents. Food is to include 2 lunches, a breakfast and a supper. The ice axe, rope and crampons are not required for those not going on the glacier.

FROM THE SOUTH 48

John I. Shonle who requested information and a support party agreement for McKinley wrote that due to pressures to complete his PhD thesis he is forced to cancel out this year. John thanks us for our assistance and hopes that it's only a postponement.

THIS IS HOW A MOUNTAIN IS NAMED

The Daily News printed an article on the "Woman's Page" about a Mrs Ollie A. Tower who decided to name a mountain she has admired since her arrival in Alaska. It took six years beginning with filling out an application, being put off by the head of the Bureau of Geographic Names in WashDC, who felt the name was more than the mountain deserved, placing the name before the Alaska State Senate who requested the Domestic Names Committee to approve it, and finally having the Board of Geographic Names consent. The mountain, 4,204 ft high, North of Eagle River - the name "Magnificent Mount". We wonder if Barrett, Hart and Nitsch will have the persistence to make their name possible.

AMERICAN YOUTH HOSTELS

A gentleman by the name of J.M. Baptinski approached ye ed last month. He's working with several organizations to establish a Hosteling system here in Alaska. Europe has a very excellent system and the Southern states have started. Questions will be gladly answered.

IN CLOSING

After the excellent work by Gwy Wilson and all the contributors, old Johnnie had to louse it up by hunt and pecking it. Troutchen let him down at the last minute by bugging up her Y,U,H,J,N,M finger.

SEE YOU ALL AT THE JUNE MEETING ON MONDAY JUNE 8, AT THE ROCKS