

SCREE



MOUNTAINEERING CLUB OF ALASKA

BOX 2037

ANCHORAGE, ALASKA 99510

MAY 1976

VOLUME XIX, No. 5

MAY MEETING

Wednesday, May 19, 1976, 8 PM, Pioneer Schoolhouse, Third and Eagle, Anchorage, Alaska. A slide show will be presented following the business meeting.

BOARD MEETING

Future board meetings will be scheduled by the president when there is business to transact.

HIKING AND CLIMBING SCHEDULES

See pages 3 and 4 for 1976 summer hiking schedule. This page may be removed and kept in a convenient location for reference throughout the summer. The 1976 summer climbing schedule is outlined on page 4.

MINUTES OF GENERAL MEETING, MOUNTAINEERING CLUB OF ALASKA

April 21, 1976, 8 PM, Pioneer Schoolhouse, Third and Eagle, Anchorage, Alaska

The meeting was called to order at 8 PM by President Bill Stivers. The minutes of the previous meeting were approved. The Treasurer's report showed: Cash-on-hand, \$20.28; Checking, \$409.51; Savings, \$417.83; for a total of \$847.62.

The Hiking Committee chairman reported that the ski tours were successful. Dona Agosti announced that she would instruct a summer camping course at Turnagain School where she would display her equipment. She also announced that the Lacy Mountain hike would be on May 8 and that the Bird's Eye Ridge hike would be on May 16. There was no Conservation Committee report.

Paul Denkwalter announced that he and Fritz Rieger are presently the climbing coordinators. He then said that there would be a variety of climbs this summer. There was an interest sheet on which members could indicate what climbs they were interested in.

Roger Fulson mentioned that the Hike-Out program needed volunteers to load some of their hikes this summer, or to help out with the transportation. Hike-Out is a program which leads children on hikes during the summer (3rd through 9th grades).

Dona Agosti expressed her disapproval of the Wolf Control Program resolution at the previous meeting. She stated that she does not believe that the MCA should be involved in such controversial programs as this that do not directly affect or involve the activities of the MCA.

MINUTES OF GENERAL MEETING continued.

Jim Satterwhite then presented an interesting slide show on aerial photographs of various peaks in Alaska, such as Denali, Carpathian, the Cathedral Spires, Mount Spurr, and Mount Augustine.

The meeting was adjourned.

David Newcombe
Secretary

PRESIDENT'S PEN

BASIC MOUNTAINEERING COURSE. The first session of the MCA's annual basic mountaineering course received enthusiastic response from thirty students plus additional observers who attended Barry Kircher's introductory slide show, lecture, and equipment display on May 5, 1976. Barry's excellent slides and interesting narration were particularly impressive. Instructors Bill Brickley and Mike Richardson assisted. The course will consist of six sessions, which will terminate with glacier training on the Matanuska Glacier on May 22 and 23.

ENVIRONMENTAL INVOLVEMENT. The relevance of environmental involvement by the MCA is periodically questioned. Such an attitude implies an indifference toward the incessant forces which are desecrating our remaining wilderness, exterminating wildlife, and polluting the air and water. I do not believe that the mountaineer, hiker, and cross-country skier are not saddened by the continuing deterioration of the wilderness environment.

Environmental involvement is not new to mountaineers. The American Alpine Club has an active Conservation Committee. The MCA Conservation Committee has supported the Chugach State Park and Talkeetna Mountains State Park among other issues during past years. An amendment to the MCA Articles of Incorporation, dated March 26, 1974, established the prerogative of the membership to adopt an official position on legislative, political, or other issues.

The environment, particularly the wilderness environment, is directly related to the quality of climbing, hiking, and cross-country skiing experiences.

MCA EQUIPMENT. The state of MCA equipment accountability is deplorable. There is no inventory record, and records of equipment on loan are incomplete. The only items remaining from last year's inventory are three ice axes, four small helmets, two sets of crampons and eight ropes. The Club has recently bought ten rock helmets and ten sets of crampons to partially replenish the inventory. The equipment shortage will significantly hamper the activities of the basic mountaineering class this spring.

The equipment problem is patently simple. Members who borrow it fail to return it in a responsible and timely manner. Such practice indicates a disregard by a minority for the equity of the general membership. It is the dues of all members that provide funding for the equipment inventory. An Equipment Chairman is needed to maintain accountability for loaned equipment and to contact delinquent borrowers. Volunteers call Bill Stivers, 277-2869. It is present MCA policy to loan equipment only for club scheduled climbs and training. I suggest that an equipment accountability report be submitted annually to the general membership. Unless club equipment is controlled responsibly in the future, the equipment loan service should be discontinued.

HIKING SCHEDULE

MAY through AUGUST 1976

- May 22
SATURDAY EAST TWIN PASS, Eklutna Area. Leave Fred Meyer at 9 AM. Leader, Dona Agosti, 279-2901. Easy hike, lovely view.
- May 29-31
MEMORIAL DAY
WEEKEND CHICKALOON-KNIK-NELCHINA TRAIL. Family hike; 14 miles. Start at Purinton Creek and hike back to Chickaloon. Leader, Dona, 279-2901. Leave Fred Meyer Saturday morning at 8 AM.
- June 6
SUNDAY PROSPECT HEIGHTS to Near Point to lake at head of North Fork, then over pass into Williwaw Lakes and out Middle Fork back to Prospect Heights. Leader, Bill Stivers, 277-2869. Meet at Fred Meyer at 8AM.
- June 12-13
SATURDAY-SUNDAY CROW PASS area overnight. Leaders, Pat Kampfer and Rosemary Kobus, 333-5336. Meet at Fred Meyer at 8 AM.
- June 19-20
SATURDAY-SUNDAY
FATHER'S DAY LARSON LAKE overnight. (One of the proposed capitol sites near Talkeetna.) Leave via Bartlett Station Road, hike 3-5 miles to Cliff Hudson's cabin on lake. Lazy fishermen can fly with Cliff for \$40.00 per trip (3 passengers) or \$13.33 each, one way. Leader, Wes Howe.
- June 19-20
Alternate FLAT-TOP sleepout. Annual outing to celebrate longest day of the year. Host: President Bill Stivers, 277-2869.
- June 26-27
SATURDAY-SUNDAY IDITAROD TRAIL out of Knik. Need leader.
- July 2-5
FRIDAY-MONDAY TONSINA TO KIMBALL PASS. Leave Friday afternoon at 4 or 5 PM, drive approximately 250 miles to Squirrel Creek Campground near Tonsina on Richardson Highway. (One car will be left 16 miles down highway.) Depart early Saturday on Bernard Creek Trail; hike 11 miles to lake at Kimball Pass or camp enroute if going gets too rough. Spend half of Sunday exploring scenic area, depart at noon via creek descending from Pass southeast to Richardson Highway approximately 16 miles south of Tonsina. Return to cars at Squirrel Creek Monday, drive home Monday afternoon.
- July 2-11
Alternate For hikers with more time, Leader Charles Kibler has expertly plotted a scenic 35 mile trip following ridges and passes into Chitina on the Copper River, or if preferred, a second cross-country via Haley Creek to Wood Canyon on the Copper River, then about 8 miles or more on "Copper River Highway" into Chitina. This would take approximately nine days. Call Charles, 277-8464, or Dona, 279-2901.
- July 10-11
SATURDAY-SUNDAY Any ideas?. Call Dona, 279-2901.
- July 17-18
SATURDAY-SUNDAY LOST LAKE via Primrose Campground, out at regular Lost Lake Trail on Seward Highway. This hike was completed last year, and we all agreed that the new access makes it a doubly unique and beautiful trail. Leader, Terry Rees, 274-9127. Leave Fred Meyer at 7 AM.

SUMMER HIKING SCHEDULE continued.

- July 24-25
SATURDAY-SUNDAY ORGAN MOUNTAIN area. A joint venture with the climbers. Start with them, stop at your leisure. Make it a one-day or overnight. Call Fritz Rieger or Paul Denkewalter for details. 277-8979.
- July 29 -
August 5
THURS.-THURS. BROOKS RANGE. Sorry, all openings are filled. However, if a leader will come forth, a second trip might be planned for the week beginning July 31. Call Dona, 279-2901.
- July 31 Any ideas? Call Dona.
- August 7-8
SATURDAY-SUNDAY REED LAKES. This will be a joint venture with the climbers. Beautiful alpine area for camping, moderate hike. See Fritz Rieger for details, 277-8979.
- August 14
SATURDAY MT. VIGOR (near Palmer). Joint trip with climbers. Call Fritz or Paul, 277-8979.
- August 21 Any ideas? Call Dona.

Wherever possible, we will try to pool transportation. However, riders should understand that sharing gas cost is an MCA tradition. Also, please see that your equipment is in shape, that you have good boots and are prepared for any kind of weather. HAPPY HIKING!!

SUMMER 1976 CLIMBING SCHEDULE

- May 29-31 EAST TWIN, WEST TWIN WEEKEND. Leader, Paul Denkewalter.
- June 5-6 EKLUTNA CABIN WEEKEND. Leader needed.*
- 12-13 WILLAWAW PEAK. Leader needed.*
- June 19-20 FLATTOP SLEEP-IN. Leader, Bill Stivers.
- 26 PIONEER PEAK. Leader needed.*
- July 4 MINT GLACIER WEEKEND. Leader, Paul Janke.
- July 10-11. BOLD PEAK. Leaders, Paul Denkewalter and Bill Stivers.
- July 18 BYRON PEAK. Leader, Paul Denkewalter.
- 24-28 ORGAN MOUNTAIN. Backpack in Chugach Range. Leader, Bill Stivers.
- August 7-8 REED LAKE WEEKEND. Leader, Fritz Rieger.
- August 14 MATANUSKA PEAK (MT. VIGOR). Leader, Bill Stivers.
- August 21 THE PINNACLE. Leader, Paul Denkewalter.

*Leader not available at present time. Call 277-8979, Fritz Rieger, for information

BY THE EAST RIDGE

February was almost half over when the first skis of the year slid up to the Thayer Hut. Two fellows, a fireman and a geologist, took up residence with the idea of wandering about on the east ridge of old Silvertip.

Clouds squashed into the valleys as skis left the hut and set off up the glacier. The clouds, however, not wanting to associate with such obviously disreputable folk, soon left for places unknown and the would-be mountaineers ascended with the sun, shadows leading the way. A fine camp-site at 7800 feet bid the pair stop and later provided a balcony seat for a display of the full moon.

The sun had taken a liking to the pair so returned the following morning. Crampons and ice axes did astonishing things across steep couloirs and other fun spots on the ridge. The summit spire, though, is of exceptional beauty from the north, a tall, slender needle inviting superlatives. A brief, but exciting, journey up this spire resulted in a rather crowded stance atop the hill.

A fine place, that view point, but a planned trek back to the world of the civilized soon brought about the descent. Cowardly fellows that we were, we bent out ankles down the east face to avoid those situations which had given us pause on the ascent.

Truly a fine part of the vertical world for those who aspire to the insanity of climbing.

El Rojohombre

LAZY MOUNTAIN

Saturday, May 8, was MCA family day on Lazy Mountain. Thirty-two, yes 32, hikers followed leader Tony Bockstahler on this traditional spring trail. We won't name names except to say that Volker Hruby and about 9 or 10 others planted the flag on the summit while more sizeable numbers lunched at base camps I and II. Those who had not comprehended what it means to climb 2900' in 2½ miles were wiser, and more than one questioned the name of the mountain. However, the hiking chairman assured them that if they could handle Lazy Mountain, they could breeze through the rest of the scheduled hikes this summer. The day was sunny, and the view outstanding; MCA hiking season is off to an enthusiastic start! Hikers were Dona and Tim Agosti; Betty Bockstahler; Sue, Christine, and Michael Albright; Ellen Dufresne; Hugh and Lannie Fleischer and family; Jeff and Sandy Freethy; Elaine Hildahl; Wes Howe; Eleanor and Volker Hruby; David and John Kampfer; Rosemary, Judy, and Matt Kobus; Jean McDowell; Emily, Kathy and Mike McIntosh; Eileen, Jerry, Joey, Nancy Reetz; Connie Smith.

Dona Agosti

HIKE-OUT 1976

Summertime is approaching fast and very soon school will be out! This is the third year of Hike-Out, a program designed to give third through ninth graders a chance to take day-hikes near Anchorage, and we are looking forward to a bunch of enthusiastic kids. We really need adult and junior (16-21) volunteers to lead hikes and/or help with transportation. There will be an organizational meeting on June 2, 1976, at 7:30 PM in the downtown Community Center, room 101. Sponsors for the program are the Alaska Center for the Environment and the Alaska Mountaineering Club. For more information call the Center at 274-3621, Eric Hoemer at 279-0201, or Roger Fuson at 279-8087.

BITS AND PIECES

FOR SALE. MCA surplus McKinley tent. \$10.00 or best offer. Tent needs some repairs
Call Bill Stivers, 277-2869.

Brian Okonek, in whose home the MCA library is currently housed, is moving. A
volunteer is needed to provide a place in his home for the library. Please call
Bill Stivers, 277-2869.

Articles for future issues of SCREE should be mailed directly to Letha Marie Huffman,
8712 Pluto Drive, Anchorage, Alaska 99507 instead of to the MCA.

ARG NEWSA REAL TECHNICAL ROCK RESCUE.

On April 24 at 8:18 PM the Alaska State Troopers contacted ARG with a call for assistance. One person was stranded on the rock face adjacent to the waterfall at McHugh Creek on the Seward Highway. The ARG call list was activated, six members responded, equipped for a technical rock rescue. In addition to the personal equipment brought by each member, ARG's ropes and hardware were used. The first rescuer had climbed the trail above the wall, fixed a rope, and ascended to the climber all shortly after 9 PM. From then on it was a matter of fixing more ropes, getting another rescuer down to the two people already on the wall, getting the climber into a harness and lowering him. This was all accomplished and the stranded climber was off the wall at approximately 10:30 PM.

This rescue was a story of classic unpreparedness on the part of the climber. The victim and his girl friend were at McHugh Creek. Victim wanted some photographs of himself rock climbing to send home, so he ascended the wall from the creek bottom. He got up about 80 feet, and then ran into an overhang. He could not go up and found when he tried to come back down he could not go that way either. This occurred about 5 or 5:30 PM. Victim's girlfriend went to the highway and flagged down a passing State Trooper. Victim was wearing only a light sweater, jeans and engineer boots. He was in the Army, stationed at Fort Richardson, and had only superficial experience with technical rock climbing. When the first ARG rescuer reached him he was already in the first stages of hypothermia. He had stopped shivering about 9 PM. (Weather was intermittent, light snow, wind about 10-12 knots, temperature approximately 34 degrees.) He had been exposed to the weather for about four hours before ARG was able to get a down jacket, hat and gloves on him. After getting him clothed it was still another hour or hour and a half before he was down from the wall. How much longer would he have been able to withstand the effects of hypothermia?? The victim was young and in good physical condition and after being examined by an M.D. with ARG he was released, although it was recommended he report to a hospital for observation. The victim declined to do so. This could have been another recovery incident instead of the safe rescue it turned out to be.

Thanks to the ARG members who responded quickly and efficiently. They did an excellent job!

THE AVALANCHE SEASON IS NOT OVER YET.

There is still plenty of snow lying in wait for the unwary. Take care. Through March 1976 there have been 7,065 avalanches reported in the United States this season. There have been 16 fatalities from avalanches. The season is not over yet, so don't become a statistic!
