

Why Climb A Mountain? Cont:

and ill-respected summit); partly aestheticism (because their sport takes them to such beautiful places); partly mysticism (because they wallow sensuously in a spiritual challenge); and partly masochism (because they actually enjoy the discomforts they undergo, crevasses, avalanches, cold, loneliness, squalor, fatigue and all)." (Reprint from January, 1959 SCREE, extracted from Coronation Everest, James Morris)

!SNOW AVALANCHE COURSE WAS OFFERED!!

Fourteen people recently completed a 4-day course in snow, avalanches, and stability evaluation in Southcentral Alaska. Individuals who received course certificates were: Sandy Mapes, Nancy Simmerman, Lewis Leonard, Ward Knous, David Perea and Bill Glude of Girdwood; Jane Penny, Don Mag, John Baxandall and Doug Johnson of Fairbanks. The backcountry snow avalanche course, sponsored by the American Avalanche Institute, operated out of the Summit Lake Lodge at Mile 45 of the Seward Highway.

The course curriculum was structured for the backcountry skier and mountaineer who wanted a comprehensive and in depth study of snow and avalanche. Emphasis was given to field sessions on nordic or alpine touring skis which complemented classroom lectures. Subjects that were covered in the classroom were: The mountain snowpack, avalanche characteristics, mountain weather, avalanche mechanics, wet snow and avalanche dynamics. Field sessions consisted of slab avalanche recognition, identification of weak layers, routefinding, backcountry rescue, snow pits and avalanche stability evaluation in the Summit Lake and Turnagain Pass area. Course instructors were Jim and Steve Hackett of Girdwood, Alaska; Rod Newcomb of Wilson, Wyoming and Art Mears of Gunnison, Colorado. Instructors were assisted by Doug Fesler of Bird Creek, Alaska.

*** BOOK REVIEWS***
Liz Robinson

Recent additions to the MCA library include three titles of special interest to rock climbers, all recently published by The Mountaineers, Seattle. They are re-issues of mountaineering classics: "Gervasutti's Climbs", by Guido Gervasutti, Italian climbing giant of the 1930's and 1940's, especially in the western Alps, and "K2, The Savage Mountain" by Charles S. Houston, M.D. and Robert H. Bates, describing the tragic American attempt in 1953 including Pete Schoening's famous life-saving belay of five men high on the mountain. The third book, "Rock Climbing", is the first American edition of a new text by British climber Peter Livesey.

"GERVASUTTI'S CLIMBS" describes many severe rock climbs, including classic big walls, by a famous climber who writes with feeling for his routes and his experiences on them. Probably it would have most meaning for someone familiar with the western Alps, (some other areas are covered), but the descriptions of severe pitches and of dedicated climbers come through to a reader.

Book Reviews, Cont:

K2, THE SAVAGE MOUNTAIN is a superb story of what an unsuccessful and tragic attempt on the world's second highest peak meant to the men who did it, and how the hardships, danger, and tragedy of the 1953 effort forged permanent bonds of companionship, celebrated last year in a 25-year reunion which is described in a postscript to the new edition. The account of Peter Schoening's famous belay is one of the classics of mountaineering literature, in itself reason for any mountaineer to own this book, though there is much more of interest.

Peter Livesey's book ROCK CLIMBING is a detailed description of the ever-increasingly popular sport of rock-climbing, going through techniques and equipment from beginning to advanced, and illustrated with many excellent photographs and drawings. (Cheers, BOB, there are lots of pictures of British gals high on the walls, some leading, no less!) Occasionally American readers may need a spot of translation from British lingo--pliers to solis, for instance. Looks like a very useful reference.

((FWOC CONVENTION))

24-26 August 1979

The San Francisco Bay Area is the setting for the 48th annual convention of the Federation of Western Outdoor Clubs, of which our club is a member. The convention will be held at "Headlands" (Old Fort Cronkite), which is close to the ocean beach near Point Bonita in the Golden Gate National Recreation Area, north of San Francisco. This year's convention will focus on how far we've come and where we are going in our conservation efforts to protect our endangered wildlands. Further details will be forthcoming as plans for the convention develop. Win Hayward, Convention Chairman, FWOC.

ADVANCE INFORMATION - GULL ROCKS TRIP, 19-20 May 1979

This trip is designed as a training trip as well as the first MCA overnight hike of the season. Sign-up will be at the MCA meeting on 16 May 1979 or you can call me at 862-5170.

If this is your first time for carrying a pack on an overnight trip, let me give you some tips. Begin by hiking a couple of weeks in advance to give your feet and back a chance to get in shape. Don't forget to use mole skin on your feet as soon as a hot spot starts to develop. Your pack should include everything that you plan to take with you including food and water. With your pack on your back, hike around the block down the road or through the park for 30 or 45 minutes until you work up to two hours. You should do this at least every other day for a week or as often as you can. Daily exercise will do wonders for a more pleasurable hiking experience!

The following is a simplified checklist of certain essential items for a trip (a display will be available at the May MCA meeting):

Advance Information, Cont:

Pack	First aid kit (incl. Moleskin)
Sleeping Bag	Insect repellent
Insulating Pad	Whistle
Stove	Sunscreen
Fuel	Sunglasses
Pots and pans and cups	Map
Utensils	Compass
Food	Pocket Knife
Water bottle w/water	Camera w/film
Matches	Rain Gear
Flashlight	Hat
Trowel	Extra Socks
Toilet articles/include towel	Change of clothes
Toilet paper	Other appropriate items.

We will be using map "Seward D-8, 1/63,360".

The meeting place is at Fred Meyers (west center of parking lot) at 6:4 a.m., Saturday, May 19, 1979, and depart at 7:00 a.m. Please be on time. We'll drive to Porcupine Creek Campground at Hope, Alaska then hike to Gull Rocks (approximately 4 1/2 miles with an elevation gain of 620 ft.). The experienced hikers can proceed ahead but someone will remain behind with those who are new to backpacking or don't travel as fast. It should be a lot of fun and a chance for all of us to learn something. Dave Klinger, Leader.

TENTATIVE HIKING SCHEDULE

- May 19-20, GULL ROCK. Round trip 9 miles. Dave Klinger, 862-5170
- May 26-28, CHICKALOON TRAIL. Round trip 20 miles. Dona Agosti, 279-290
- June 2, DAY HIKE TO MOUNT EKLUTNA. Tony Bockstahler, 694-2323.
- June 3, BIRD CREEK RIDGE. Leader needed.
- 2-3, LAZY MOUNTAIN, MATANUSKA PEAK (Mt. Vigor). Valerie LaRue, 277-7074.
- 9-10, HATCHER PASS ROAD TO HOUSTON. Only adventurous need apply
Chuck Heath, 376-5790.
- 16-17, COOPER LAKE TO UPPER RUSSIAN TO LOWER RUSSIAN. Total mileage is about 20 miles. (No cabin as previously described)
Pierce & Emiley McIntosh, 337-7418.
- 23, FLAT TOP SLEEPOUT. An annual tradition for 21 years. Don't miss this one! President, Valerie LaRue, 277-7074
- June 30-July 1, EMERALD LAKE (NEAR BASE OF TIKISHLA). Dave Klinger, 862-5170.

Tentative Hiking Schedule, Cont:

- July 4, PORTAGE PASS (Trip No. 21 in "The Book"). Al Robinson, 279-887.
- July 7-8, PTARMIGAN LAKE. Dick Thaler, 243-5241.
- July 14-14, KING MOUNTAIN TRAIL. Moderately difficult. Bill Moss (Call Dona Agosti, 279-2901).
- July 21-22, INDIAN VALLEY. Gene Klymko, 274-6753
- July 28-Aug 5, KODIAK ISLAND. This promises to be a fun trip complete with scenery, King Crab and good theatre. Dick Tero (Call Dona Agosti, 279-2901).
- July 28-29, REED LAKES. (Trip No. 44 in "The Book"). Leader Needed
- August 4-5, OPEN (Suggestions solicited)
- August 11-12, PETERS HILLS. Leader needed.
- August 13-19, GUNSITE MOUNTAIN, SQUAW CREEK, BELANGER PASS. Jim Nagan, 822-5509, (Tentative).
- August 25-26, COLORADO CREEK TO RIDGE. Dona Agosti, 279-2901.
- 1-3, LOST LAKE. Valerie LaRue, 277-7074.
- 1-2, PINOCHLE CREEK (Mile 99, Glenn Highway). Margaret Leonard 333-9105.

AN UNRENEWABLE RESOURCE

Much discussion in Alaska in recent years has centered on "renewable" versus "non-renewable" resources. A non-renewable resource not yet mentioned is that of mountaineering "first ascents." While Alaska is one of the few places left in the world where numerous unclimbed routes and peaks remain, it will not always be that way. Climbing activity has increased tremendously in recent years, especially on the lesser peaks of the Alaska Range, and some day every significant mountain will have been climbed. But perhaps if future parties can climb without leaving a trace of their travels, their subsequent groups can have the same excitement and challenge of a first ascent. "Leaving no trace" of course means to travel without leaving trash or altering the area in any way. But it also means to leave no written record of what you have done. At Mount McKinley, we plan to adopt an informal policy of not making records of ascents on the lesser peaks in the Alaska Range (generally, those without a given name). Hopefully, this will allow all mountaineers visiting an area the opportunity to experience the planning for, approaching, and climbing of a peak that apparently has not been climbed before. This sort of a climb is more of a true test of the total skills of a mountaineer.

An Unrenewable Resource, Cont:

However, this scheme can only work if the climbing community wants it to. Will climber's egos allow them to refrain from publicizing their efforts just so subsequent parties can have a similar experience? We would like to know what others think of this idea. Any climbers who agree with it can help by refraining from formally naming peaks in the range and by not writing specific accounts of some of their climbs in the range, particularly those on the lesser peaks.

(Extracted from an article written by Robert Gerhard, Mountaineering Ranger for McKinley National Park, published in the Dec-Jan 1979 issue of Summit.)

A NOTE FROM THE EDITOR

SCREE is the Monthly Publication of the Mountaineering Club of Alaska. I would like to remind you that all items for publication must be submitted at the monthly meeting or mailed to my home at 1236 W. 5th Av. Apt. 3, Anchorage, Alaska 99501, no later than the FIRST of each month to be considered for that month's publication. Your cooperation is appreciated. Vickie L. Crawford, Editor

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DUES: Send to Pierce McIntosh at 4231 Chess Dr., Anchorage, AK 99504
Family: \$10.00; Individual: \$7.50; Junior and Out of Town (50 Miles): \$5.00.

EDITOR: Vickie Crawford: Phone No. 274-5877

TYPING: Beverly Ackerman

DUPLICATING: Meg Leonard

Mailing: Pauline Chase