



MOUNTAINEERING CLUB OF ALASKA

BOX 102037

ANCHORAGE, ALASKA 99510

MAY 1991

Volume 34, Issue 05

MAY MEETING

May 15 7:30 pm Wednesday, Pioneer Schoolhouse, basement level, 3rd and Eagle Sts., downtown Anchorage.

SLIDE SHOW Slides of last year's MCA outing to the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge in the Brooks Range will be presented by Bill Wakeland.

HIKING AND CLIMBING SCHEDULE

- May 11 RAINBOW PEAK
One day climb, CLASS C. Fun, easy, scramble above Turnagain Arm.
Leader: Bill Wakeland 563-6246
- 12 TIKISHLA
Scramble over Knoya and follow the connecting ridge. CLASS D.
Elevation gain 4000 feet. Trip 35, 55 Ways.
Leader: Willy Hersman 338-5132
- 11-12 GULL ROCK
Explore sea caves near campsite. CLASS A. Trip 17, 55 Ways.
Leader: Curvin Metzler 333-8766
- 11-18 SARGENT ICEFIELD
Fly in to the crest of the Sargent Icefield for skiing and climbing. GLACIER TRAVEL.
Leader: Dan O'Haire 561-1141
- 18 EKLUTNA LAKE
One day mountain-bike around the lake. 9-13 miles one way, some hills. CLASS A.
Leader: Allan Shayer 338-0341 eves.
- May 25-27 AUGUSTINE VOLCANO
Fly in to the lagoon on the west side, climb the volcano and explore the island. Reputed to be a walk-up but there is a 4000-foot elevation gain. \$200 air fare out of Homer, deposit required. Get information sheet. CLASS D.
Leader: Dan O'Haire 561-1141

- 25-27 CHICKALOON - BOULDER CREEK
Approximately 20 miles. One rest day to explore. CLASS C.
Leader: Marty Bassett 276-1363 w 694-3917 h
- 29 WEDNESDAY EVENING ROCK CLIMB
Rock climbing along Turnagain Arm. Meet at Huffman Carrs
5:30 pm. Call Wednesday afternoon if weather looks
questionable. No instructions given, you need to have your
own gear. TECHNICAL: FIFTH CLASS.
Leader: Pam Kirk 274-2233
- June 1-2 GRANITE PEAK
Overnight trip. Climb is in Talkeetnas, above Sutton,
elevation 6729'. TECHNICAL: FIFTH CLASS.
Leader: Ken Zafren 346-2333
- 5 WEDNESDAY EVENING ROCK CLIMB
See above description.
Leader: Pam Kirk 274-2233
- 8-9 MYSTERY MOUNTAIN
One- or two-day climb of little known peak. CLASS D.
Leader: Tom Choate 333-5309
- 12 WEDNESDAY EVENING ROCK CLIMB
See above description.
Leader: Pam Kirk 274-2233
- 15 MT. EKLUTNA
Fun, easy scramble in the Peter's Creek valley. CLASS B.
Leader: Neil O'Donnell 274-5069
- 21 FLATTOP SOLSTICE
Traditional sleepout, Friday night.
Leader: Karen Cafmeyer
- 22 CROW PASS - EAGLE RIVER
One day hike on good trail. 27 miles, approximately 11 hours.
CLASS D.
Leader: Allan Shayer 338-0341
- 26 WEDNESDAY EVENING ROCK CLIMB
See above description.
Leader: Pam Kirk 274-2233
- July 4-7 CROW PASS TO BIRD CREEK
Three-day hike, one day rest at headwaters of North Fork Ship
Creek to explore or climb. CLASS C.
Leader: Bill Wakeland 563-6246
- 4-7 SCANDINAVIAN PEAKS AND HUT
Fly in to new hut location. Relax. Do a few climbs. Enjoy
the fabulous scenery. Fly out on Sunday. GLACIER TRAVEL and
FIFTH CLASS for the climbs, otherwise CLASS A.
Leader: Tom Choate 333-5309

TRIP REPORTS

Grand Canyon 91

Bill Wakeland

Five of us found a neat way to expand the hiking season, get warm and have a good time seeing new country. And spend a few bucks, but what the heck, you only go around once! Besides, most of us had cheapie fares or freebies.

Reservations for the hiking area, the South Rim campground for the first two nights, air transportation and the car rental were made in Nov.-Dec. That kind of lead time is necessary in what is probably the most popular time of the year for hikers down in the hot part of the canyon.

We assembled in Phoenix on April 13: Linda White, Maxine Stoddard, Don Hansen, Fred Kampfer and me. Our car was a nifty Plymouth Voyager, 7 seats. That evening we stayed at a KOA. Remarkable how fast the sun sinks and it's dark!

It is about 230 miles from Phoenix to the South Rim via Flagstaff, with an elevation gain of about 6000 feet. We stayed two nights on the South Rim, doing the tourist bit at the many overlooks, and getting acquainted with the hotels, stores, back-country ranger station, getting our permit and sorting and packing gear. On the rim it got down to freezing at night, some snow still on the ground, and in the 50s and 60s for a high.

We headed for Lipan Point, near the eastern park entrance, where we left the car, and descended the Tanner Trail 11 miles to the river. We took two days for this "break-in," carrying two gallons of water each, because there's no reliable water source. There was snow during the first 1000 feet or so, however, and it was icy and a bit dicey.

The trail is a series of steep, short switchbacks, and is called an unmaintained trail, for experienced hikers only. We all had hiking sticks of one kind or another, thank goodness. That first night was windy. Only Fred and I were without tents, and my fly blew away. I was trying to keep my pack light, and didn't even have a thermarest pad. Big mistake! The rocks there are harder than ours.

As we descended through the zones from Canadian to Sonoran, the pines, junipers and cedars gave way to a variety of desert plants, more and more of which were in bloom. Thanks to Maxine's prior experience in the Utah desert, we learned what most of these plants and cactus were. Linda and Don knew the birds and reptiles, we saw hundreds of lizards. Plus some deer, long-eared rabbits and my first rattle snake in sis trips to the canyon.

We stayed down along the river for five days, covering the 15 miles of the Escalante route at an easy pace with layover days and day hikes. A lot of rafts and boats came through the first few days, but very few after that. When Maxine read the written description of our route she tried to hitch on a raft to avoid the more hairy parts of it, but the rafts had quit! We did have some tricky going on exposed places, steep "ball-bearing" chutes, and some minor rock work. Also, a beautiful, winding gorge, some 200 feet deep and about 6 feet wide in places.

May 1991

At Hance Rapids, we spent a couple of days, our last on the river. Incidentally, the river was thick and red, from high water in the Little Colorado, above which it is a constant, nearly clear green, thanks to Glen Canyon Dam and 48 degrees year round. We had to settle the water for an hour or two. Then boil it. Don had a filter, but it was useful only in the side streams.

Leaving the river, we climbed up the Tonto Trail to a camp spot and the next day climbed the short, very steep route to Horseshoe Mesa, where we spent the last two nights. Had to climb down 800 or 900 feet to a spring for water, and had some good day hikes and scenery. But cold and windy nights again. Down on the river it usually reached the mid-80s in the shade, and about 50 at night. Where the heat and dry air really got me, was a constant dry throat. I eventually learned to drink a lot of water each time, and not just sip. And we got up at 5:00 am when climbing.

We met a few hikers in the more remote area, but a lot of people were camped at the Hance Creek and Cottonwood areas; they turned out to be groups of "Creation Christians" with some elaborate text books to study - their theory is that the Grand Canyon is a sort of geologic disaster, rather than having evolved over millions of years. They believe the earth was formed only thousands of years ago, not millions.

The guide book says one can hike from the mesa, 5000 feet, to the rim, 7400 feet, in three to six hours. On the 26th, Don made it up in two! Even with that big pack of his. So he hitched a ride and had our car waiting for us. We headed for Flagstaff to clean up and pig out. Next day we returned to Phoenix via Oak Creek Canyon and Sedona. Words cannot convey my appreciation to this little group of trekkers, for their warmth and competence, nor can words begin to describe the scenery we wandered through. Come to the slide show!

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

1. Librarian

Duties include:

- shelving new additions and periodicals
- typing cards for the file
- tidying up the library area
- deciding what the library needs
- The Vin Hoeman Library is located at Alaska Mnteeing and Hiking.

2. Refreshment Person

Duties:

- buying and bringing treats to monthly meetings (club will reimburse you of course)
- arriving early to plug in coffee
- staying a few minutes late to help clean up

3. Hiking and Climbing Committee Chairperson

Duties:

- coordinating and organizing club hikes and climbs
- describing upcoming schedule at monthly meetings
- preparing sign-up sheets

- relaying updates to schedule to Scree editor
- We need an enthusiastic person, this is one of the more important positions in the club.

4. Temporary Helper for president

Duties:

- helping organize, alphabetize and type up new MCA directory

International Summits Quiz #5

Alaska - Part 1 (Courtesy Tom Choate.)

1. The highest peak in the Aleutian Islands is:
A) Vesevidov B) Shishaldin C) Tanaga D) Pavlov E) Veniaminof
2. The island on which the highest peak is found is:
A) Unmak B) Unimak C) Unalaska D) Chuginadak E) Tanaga
3. The elevation of the second highest peak in the Aleutians is:
A) 9000+ B) 8000+ C) 7000+ D) 6000+ E) 5000+
4. The island on which the second highest peak is found:
A) Unmak B) Unimak C) Unalaska D) Chuginadak E) Tanaga
5. The highest peak in the "far east" of the Aleutians (Asian side of 180 degrees longitude) is:
A) Mt. Cleveland (5675) B) Korovin Volcano (4852)
C) Great Siskin (5710) D) Anvil (4007) E) Kiska Volcano (4000)
6. Which of the following Aleutian volcanoes is active (as of 1990)?
A) Vesevidof B) Akutan C) Korovin D) Shishaldin E) Tanaga

MINUTES OF THE APRIL MEETING

The meeting opened with the introduction of new members, and other visitors. There were many new faces, in fact it was a packed house, with 80 to 100 people. Among those present was Rod Wilson, the club's third president.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

Money Market	-	\$3217.68
Checking Acct	-	723.88
Petty Cash	-	52.10
Total		\$3993.66

Tony B Memorial Fund - \$220.00

COMMITTEES:

Hiking and Climbing. The club is looking for leaders for summer outings, especially for July and August. We would like to see some easier day and backpacking trips in the schedule. Please note that Pam Kirk is leading Wednesday-evening rock climbs every week (except meeting nights).

May 1991

Allan Shayer noted a mistake in the schedule for his trip from Crow Pass to Bird Creek. It should be a one-day trip.

Dan O'Haire had updated information for his Augustine Volcano trip. He is also thinking of putting a Mt. Rainier trip together later in the summer and would like anyone interested to contact him.

Parks Advisory. Allan Shayer reminded us that the Alaska Railroad is again considering using herbicide for weed control along the tracks.

Equipment. Marcy Baker said that the new MCA equipment will be shown at the next meeting.

Library. Alan Julliard is looking for someone to replace him as club librarian.

OLD BUSINESS
None.

WORLD EXPRESS TRAVEL

NEW BUSINESS
None.

Margaret Timmerman
Adventures Assured
Dover Center

200 W. 34th Ave., Suite 393, Anchorage, Alaska 99503-3969
(907) 561-0309 Instate 1-800-478-0309
(907) 561-8838 FAX Out of State 1-800-284-6450

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Gretchen said that there are enough 2x4s at her place to build another hut. Other building materials would be needed, such as doors and windows.

Karen reminded everyone to fill out the directory sheets for the club directory.

Kurt Pollock discussed the Explorer Post project that he is leading in Anchorage to get youth interested in outdoor activities. He is looking for people to get involved in the Post's outdoor education and adventure program.

Flyers were available regarding American Mountain Guide training and the May 17-19 APU Sea Kayaking Symposium.

Robert McGimsey presented an interesting slide show of Augustine Volcano for Dan's upcoming trip.

After the business meeting, Tim Neale, chairman of the Honorary Membership Committee, presented a lifetime honorary membership in the Mountaineering Club of Alaska to Peter Hackett. This was in recognition of his many contributions to the mountaineering community in Alaska and the world. Dr. Hackett is a leading authority on the recognition and treatment of acute mountain sickness (AMS).

Founder of the Himalayan Rescue Association in Nepal, Peter spent five seasons directing a medical aid facility at Pheriche at 14,000 feet. He was also director of the Denali Medical Research Project which conducted experiments between 1982 and 1990, investigating cold-and-altitude-related medical problems on Denali at 14,200 feet.

He is author of Mountain Sickness: Prevention, Recognition and Treatment, a guide for climbers, published in 1980, and over 50 articles on mountain sickness. He has also been a board member of the American Alpine Club and Wilderness Medical Society.

Respectfully Submitted,

Mindy Baum

Quiz answers: 1. B) Shishaldin, 9372' 2. B) Unimak Island 3. D) Vesevidof, 6290 4. A) Umnak Island 5. D) Anvil and E) Kiska are on the Asian side 6. D) Shishaldin was smoking in Sept 1990