



MOUNTAINEERING CLUB OF ALASKA

BOX 2037

ANCHORAGE, ALASKA 99510

JUNE 1976

VOLUME XIX, No. 6

### JUNE MEETING

Wednesday, June 16, 1976, 8 PM, Pioneer Schoolhouse, Third and Eagle, Anchorage, Alaska. A slide show will be presented following the business meeting.

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### HIKING SCHEDULE

- June 12-13  
Saturday-  
Sunday
- CROW PASS AREA overnight. Leaders, PAT KAMPFER and ROSEMARY KOBUS, 333-5336. Meet at Fred Meyer at 8 AM. This trail starts at the Milk Creek Parking lot on the Crow Creek road. Round trip is 8 miles, elevation gain 1950 feet. There may be some snow at the Pass. The cabin has not been reserved but may be available.
- June 19-20  
Saturday-  
Sunday
- LARSON LAKE overnight. Not only can you treat Father on Father's Day, but you will have a chance to look over one of the proposed capitol sites. Anchorage hikers leave Saturday at 7 AM. Others can meet us at the Bartlett Station in Talkeetna. Cliff Hudson is available for \$40.00 per trip and his cabin is available on Larson Lake. Others will hike cross country. Cliff's plane will hold three passengers, making it \$13.33 per person each way.
- June 19-20  
Saturday-  
Sunday
- FLAT TOP sleepout. Celebrate the longest day of the year with this annual MCA event. Meet President BILL STIVERS at Fred Meyer at 7 PM or come up at your leisure. Each person bring one log--we will get a fire permit.
- July 2-5
- TONSINA TO KIMBALL PASS. Leave Friday afternoon at 4 PM, drive approximately 250 miles to Squirrel Creek Campground near Tonsina on the Richardson Highway. Depart early Saturday on Bernard Creek Trail hike 11 miles to lake at Kimball Pass. Descend via creek to southeast ending at Richardson Highway approximately 16 miles south of Tonsina. Return to Anchorage Monday.
- July 2-11
- ALTERNATE. For hikers with more time, Leader CHARLES KIBLER has planned a scenic 35-mile trip following ridges and passes into Chitin on the Copper River. Takes about 9 days. Call CHARLES at 277-8464 or DONA at 279-2901.
- July 10-11  
Saturday-  
Sunday
- BOLD PEAK, joint venture with climbers. Hikers can hike to circ and camp, climbers will try for the top. Leaders PAUL DENKEWALTER and BILL STIVERS. Leave Fred Meyer 6 AM Saturday. This peak is in the Eklutna Area and commands an awesome view. Call Bill, 277-2869.

## HIKING SCHEDULE continued.

July 17-18 LOST LAKE via Primrose Campground, out at regular Lost Lake Trail on  
Saturday- Seward Highway. This is a uniquely beautiful trip. Leader TERRY  
Sunday REES, 274-9127. Leave Fred Meyer at 7 AM.

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CLIMBING SCHEDULE

June 12-13 WILLAWAW PEAK. Call Fritz for information, 277-8979.  
June 19-20 FLATTOP SLEEP-IN. Leader, Bill Stivers. Meet at Fred Meyer at  
June 26 PIONEER PEAK. Call Fritz for information, 277-8979.  
July 4 MINT GLACIER WEEKEND. Leader, Paul Janke, 272-0982.  
July 10-11 BOLD PEAK. Leaders, Paul Denkwalter, 337-3889, and Bill Stivers,  
277-2869. Meet at Fred Meyer at 6 AM.  
July 18 BYRON PEAK. Leader, Paul Denkwalter, 337-3889.

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MINUTES OF GENERAL MEETING, MOUNTAINEERING CLUB OF ALASKA

Wednesday, May 19, 8 PM, Pioneer Schoolhouse, Third and Eagle, Anchorage, Alaska.

Preceding the business meeting, DEE LEITHCOE presented a slide show on the Prince William Sound Area. She asked that people who had climbed in the Chenega area please contact her concerning the B.L.M. Easement.

BRIAN OKONEK then presented an entertaining slide show on climbing in the Chugach Mountains. Slides were shown of Bold Peak, Goat Summit, East Twin, and various other peaks in the Chugach.

The meeting was called to order by President BILL STIVERS after the slide shows. 7 minutes of the previous meeting were approved. The Treasurer's report showed Cash on Hand, \$55.00; Savings, \$417.83; Checking, \$364.14, for a total of \$836.97. JAN LEMKE is now the new treasurer.

DONA AGOSTI announced that the hikes had gone off quite well. There was a sign-up sheet for each of the numerous upcoming hikes. PAUL DENKEWALTER announced the various upcoming climbs, for which there were sign-up sheets also. There was no conservation committee report. TOM MEACHAM was congratulated on his new Game Board position. DEE FRANKFOURTH discussed the D-2 lands. She asked that anyone having input on the matter to please contact her at the Alaska Center for the Environment.

BILL STIVERS asked for volunteers for Club Equipment Chariman. He said that equipment has disappeared from the Club supply. A McKinley tent and a Glacier tent are both presently missing. It is believed that these tents were loaned by the borrowers to other people who have since moved out of the State. BILL then asked about the President's climbing rope. MIKE RICHARDSON said that he has the rope but that it is damaged.

TERRY BECKER warned that there have been various frostbite cases due to tight-fitting neoprene inner booties which some climbers use on McKinley in conjunction with double boots. He said that some climbers wear neoprene booties which are too tight and thes.

MINUTES OF GENERAL MEETING continued.

can cause severe frostbite. He recommended that climbers using these neoprene inner booties or socks should wear them loosely with plenty of room inside.

EARL REDMAN (EL ROJOHOMBRE) presented an interesting slide show on an attempted climb of Mt. Hayes. The meeting was adjourned.

David Newcombe, Secretary

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FRESDENT'S PEN

BASIC MOUNTAINEERING COURSE.

The MCA's annual Basic Mountaineering Course was concluded on May 23 following an active weekend on the Matanuska Glacier. The course was completed in six sessions, which included an introductory slide show and lecture; practical training in self-arrest and team arrest; a Class Four climb; rope management, including knot tying, prussiking, and static and dynamic belays; Class Five and Six rock climbing; and glacier travel, including ice climbing and crevasse rescue.

The enthusiastic response and participation generated by the course will highlight it as the event of the year. Student participation varied from the maximum of thirty at the introductory session to the minimum of eleven at the rock climbing class. A record twenty-nine instructors and students simultaneously perched on each of the Ptarmigan peaks during the traverse on May 9.

The Club is especially grateful for the services of BARRY KIRCHER, MIKE RICHARDSON, BILL BRICKLEY, DOUG BILMAN, VERNON HAYES and GREG HIATT, the volunteer instructors who organized and conducted this excellent course. Any suggestions from participants concerning improvements which might benefit future courses will be appreciated.

MCA EQUIPMENT POOL.

The Executive Board met on May 25 to establish policy for administration of the Equipment Pool. The primary objective of the MCA Equipment Pool is to provide a climbing equipment loan service for novice mountaineers participating in club-sponsored training activities. On a lower priority basis, equipment may be rented to members for other uses. The following policy was approved:

RULES AND PROCEDURES GOVERNING MCA EQUIPMENT POOL.

1. Equipment will be loaned to MCA members only. Members will not borrow Club equipment for use by non-members.
2. All loans will be transacted through the Equipment Chairman. Transfer of equipment from borrower to borrower is not authorized.
3. Borrower will be responsible for restitution of any equipment lost or stolen.
4. The Equipment Chairman will collect a deposit plus anticipated rent, if required for each item of equipment loaned.
5. Rent will be charged for all loans except those incident to MCA training activities.
6. The Executive Board will establish the deposit and rent required for each item and make any changes thereto.

## PRESIDENT'S PEN--MCA EQUIPMENT POOL RULES continued.

7. Equipment not returned within one week following the last day of its authorized use will be considered overdue. A charge of 25 cents per equipment item will be assessed for each day overdue. Loan extensions may be granted at the option of the Equipment Chairman with the understanding that the scheduled rent will accrue until return date.
8. Due to safety considerations, MCA ropes will be used only under the supervision of instructors during training sessions.
9. The Equipment Chairman will make an inventory report at each general meeting.

## SCHEDULE FOR DEPOSIT AND RENT OF MCA EQUIPMENT:

Ice axes, crampons, and rock helmets are available for loan. A deposit of \$5.00 will be required for each item loaned. Rent for each item will be 25 cents per day or \$1.25 per week.

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BIRD'S EYE RIDGE  
May 16

The trailhead for this "55 Ways" hike begins at the turn-off on the left side of the road just before crossing the Bird Creek Bridge. On hand this year were SANDY DAVENHAUER, ROSEMARY and JUDY KOBUS, HOPE VIG, CONNIE SMITH, PIERCE, EMILY, KATHY AND MIKE McINTOSH, TONY BOCKSTAHLER, AL and LIZ ROBINSON, and I.

Lulled by a decisive and flawless start, somebody, somewhere along the way, missed one of the correct branches in the trail and got us all lost. A little healthy work-out climbing up scree, talos, boulders, and clutching at handholds in the moss finally put us on course again. For some inexplicable reason all this was accompanied by much blaming and counter-blaming, muttering, booing, and hissing from some of the participating ingrates. Anyway, after a pleasant lunch, those of us who weren't too gorged lurched on up for the final assault on the 3505 summit.

Notwithstanding all of the above, it was a pretty nice spring hike, with cooperative weather and good views all the way up.

Terry Rees

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EAST TWIN PASS

On Saturday, May 22, the following drove out to Eklutna Lake for an assault on East Twin Pass: JEFF and DONNA ABBOTT, CONNIE SMITH, CLAY NUNNALLY, PEGGY McKAIG, JEAN McDOWELL, LOTTIE VON WALTER, MAX PRINSEN, COLLEEN BLACKBERG, MARIA NATTA, CAROL BRADSHAW, BETTY and TONY BOCKSTAHLER.

We drove a half mile beyond the parking area and sign at the north end of the lake and found the road to the trail head cut off. We parked at an adjacent camping area and walked a few hundred yards to the trail head, where there is a sign. Soon thereafter the trail divides; both have the same goal but the left is shorter. We hiked up to the end of the trail and then headed cross-country toward East Twin. We reached the elevation of the pass (4800') but couldn't safely reach the pass without dropping down and reascending, as we had climbed too far to the west. So, we glissaded down a snow gully and headed back.

EAST TWIN PASS continued.

This is a pleasant hike with a minimum of bush whacking. We took about seven hours for the round trip.

Tony Bockstahler, Leader

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FOR SALE

Surplus MCA McKinley tent, needs some repairs, \$25.00. Surplus MCA Simond crampons. Need welding at toe hinges. Fit size 11 or 12 boot, \$5.00. Call BILL STIVERS, 277-2869.

ANNOUNCEMENT

TOM MEACHAM , 277-2129, is the new Club Librarian.

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ALASKA RESCUE GROUP NEWSLITTLE KNOWN FACT

ARG does not practice sex discrimination, however, the Alaska Rescue Group does not have any women members. How about some of you women climbers, or even non-climbers who are willing to work as Support members, joining us and helping out????? ARG has had women members in the past who were active and well-qualified.

ARE YOU PREPARED FOR A SURVIVAL SITUATION?????

Summer is here and everyone is out and about. Give your survival some thought. From the "Litter Letter," newsletter of the San Diego Mountain Rescue Team, is a rescue operation report regarding the search for two San Diego teenagers overdue on Mt. San Jacinto during a snowstorm: "It should be noted that this was a successful search and rescue and not a body recovery, only because the two boys did everything right and had the proper equipment to survive. Unfortunately, this is not the way it usually happens."

RESTRICTIONS ON CLIMBERS????

"Costs Mount on McKinley Rescues," Daily News, May 25, 1976, and May 22, 1976 editorial "Mt. McKinley Liability," Anchorage Times, have laid it out for climbers. Not everybody out there feels that climbers should be rescued at the expense of the general public. The Times editorial said: ". . . the thought is to establish procedures for advance [emphasis added] financial responsibility on the part of adventurers [climbers, in this case] who may run into costly trouble."

When the Times said "adventurers," did they mean climbers venturing on Mt. McKinley only?? Or did they mean climbers anywhere in McKinley Park??? Or did they mean climbers anywhere in Alaska???? Or did they mean all adventurers, including those who fly airplanes, sail boats, hunt in the wilderness, white water kayak, and on and on, . . .

The question is: "Should climbers be singled out of the "adventuring" public, isolated as a group, and be forced to provide liability bonding before they are allowed to practice their sport???????"

This approach was attempted in 1968 when S.B.361, An Act Requiring Bonding for Major Mountaineering Parties, was introduced into the Alaska legislature. S.B.361 did not pass, that time. How about the next time?????

Due to the large number of incidents occurring on McKinley this season (as this is written ARG is on standby for two injured women climbers on the Southeast Face), it is felt that the Park Service will institute restrictive regulations governing climbing parties within McKinley Park. Although we do not know what these restrictions will be we can look for them to be in effect next season.

We can also look for the Anchorage Times to again lead the movement for climbing restrictions, probably posting of a liability bond, on climbing parties anywhere in Alaska. The Times will receive support for their position because a portion of the non-climbing public is already in favor of "climbers paying their fair share."

This question is not going to go away. With climbing becoming more popular, and more people entering the sport each year, the accident rate is going to increase, and costs of search and rescue are going to greatly increase. Anyone who climbs, hikes in the wilderness, and prefers to be unregulated by government edict had better give this question some thought.

ARG News is submitted to SCREE by LEO HANNAN,  
Chairman, ARG

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