

SCREE



MOUNTAINEERING CLUB OF ALASKA BOX 2037 SPOON ANCHORAGE, ALASKA 99510

June 1981

Volume 24, Issue #6

JUNE MEETING

The meeting will be held Wednesday June 17th at 8 pm on the top floor of the Pioneer Schoolhouse, third and Eagle, Anchorage Ak. After the business meeting there will be a mystery slide show.

May meeting minutes

The meeting was called to order at 8 pm by President John Johff. The reading of the minutes of the previous meeting was waived. President Johff then outlined and discussed the minutes of the Executive Committee meeting:

Discussed was the issue of the liability of those group leaders involved in Club sponsored hikes. Insurance may be a possible necessity, and John Johff will continue to research its necessity in our behalf.

The first Mountaineering Club Picnic of the summer was Sat. May 30 at Eklutna Lake.

Further discussed was the issue of possibilities for expenditure of Club funds. The most well received ideas were to upgrade our huts. Members were to investigate needed repairs. Tim Neale related that one hut needs completely rebuilding; he will provide us with a report on needed materials. Another suggestion which seemed well received was to procure some new sites for cabins on our usual hiking trails, where possible. We encourage all members who might have suggestions as to where we could obtain a use permit or lease to build a cabin for overnight stay to contact the Beard.

Treasurer's Reprt :

Bank Balance: 625.16 Petty Cash: 69.00 Money Market: 2.754.89

Old Business

The library is still located at 1410 H Street, now the residence of Jack Dugan. Please advise him before planning to use the library. Tom Meecham announced that he was the former "informal chairman" of the library. It was decided unanimously (and informally) that Jack Dugan be the new "informal chairman" of

June 1981

Donna Agosti requested that the Board draft a letter in support of public use of the Simpson Cabin trail area. This was the area previously thought to have been claimed and no longer accessible due to the Native Lands Selection.

Pauline Chase appealed to the members for assistance with the Scree. Now that school is out, she will be losing her able-bodied helpers from the local high schools. Please, readers, let's lend her a hand, she does a tremendous job seeing that this little newsletter reaches our mailboxes each month; it's only a small amount of time to ask if a lot of people will pitch in occasionally. Thanks.

New Business

A sign-up sheet was put up front for those interested in a basic rockclimbing class. Instructors were asked to volunteer some time.

Correspondence was discussed regarding the Federation of Western Outdoor Clubs. They wrote to advise us that Lisa Huffman is no longer the Alaskan representative of the Club. They requested that we appoint a new representative, and it was posed to the membership whether the Club continue its involvement. The members expressed an interest in knowing exactly what the Rederation does and how much the dues are. The Board will take up the issue at its next meeting.

Also this week is Anchor Tree Week, when citizens can obtain trees free for planting from Chugach National Forest.

Mike Kennedy, Editor of Climbing Magazine has offered to do a slide show of the Kara Koram. A sign up sheet was put up for June 8, 1981, a Monday. John Lohff will try and get the Pioneer School for this event, and notify interested parties of the confirmation of location.

A guest, Ken Johnson, advised that there would be an informational program at the Lucy Cuddy Center on the ACC campus on June 11, regarding Petrochemical Development in Alaska.

Lavonia James put sign-up sheets for the upcoming hikes, and Donna Agosti reminded everyone of her Chikaloon Climb, which has had excellent response.

Our programs were two: Pete Sennhauser gave a short program of mountain climbs in the Revelations.

George Ferry gave a program of an exciting attempt of Mount Russell quite recently by he, John Dillman, and Dave Paulke. We thank them both for sharing some excellent photography and good outdoor experiences.

Meeting was adjourned at 10:15 pm.

Summer trip schedule

June 13-14

Gull Rock, easy family hike, overnight, about 9 miles round trip, elevation gain 620'. The trail begins near Hope in the Porcupine campground. A delightful walk along the South west of Turnagin Arm, with a gentle gradient. Leader Reggie

June 1981

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June 20-21

Flat Top Sleep out. An annual tradition for 23 years. Come join our summer solstice celebration up on this honest to goodness flat top over looking Anchorage. We will have a fire permit so be sure to bring firewood and add a warm glow to the evening. The trail is slightly steep at the end, but with a little perseverance it is within the capabilities of most hikers. There will be no coordinated departure. Just drive up to Glen Alps parking lot and hike up anytime Sat. afternoon or evening and plan to spend the night. Get further details at the June meeting.

June 27-28

Crow Pass to Paradise Haven (Eagle River) A beautiful hike through our local mountains. For details come to the June meeting or call Leader Ron Rhodehamel at 333-5159.

June 27

Eagle Lake, Symphony Lake, Ten mile round trip over gentle terrain in South Fork Eagle River Valley. Leader Bill Stivers 277-2869. Meet at 6:30 am at Bill's residence, 4107 North Star St. (near Arctic and Tudor.)

July 3-5

Lost Lake. This is a beautiful hike on the Kenai peninsula, near Seward. We camp at the lake for two nights so the middle day can be used to explore the area. This trip is suitable for families with backpacking experience and the proper gear. Leader Marty Bassett 694-3917.

July 12

Dew Mound, Eagle River. Family hike. For details come to the June meeting or call leader Rick Severn 344-72-69 for details.

July 11-18

40 mile river, Yukon River. A Kayak/canoe trip through the historic gold country around Chicken and Eagle, Alaska. Leader Marty Bassett 694-3917.

July 18-19

Resurrection trail, Cooper landing in to Romig Cabin, 20 miles round trip. Leader Lavonia James 345-51-52.

July 25- Aug 2

Wrangells, Castle Mt. to Chitistone Falls to Glacier Creek. Leader Dona Agosti 248-0089.

Aug. 1-2

Peters Creek Valley, climbing and hiking. Leader Greg Higgins.

Aug. 8-9

Crescent Lake trail overnight

Aug. 15-16

Peters Hills.

Aug. 22-23

Rendezvous Peak, Day hike. Leader Al Robinson

- Aug. 29-30 Powerline Pass to Indian. Leader Lavonia James 345-5152.
- Sept. 5-7 Crow Pass to Camp Creek out Bird Creek for very experienced backpackers, 3 1/2 days. Leader Bill Barnes
- Sept. 12-13 Skilak Lake to Cottonwood Creek, Leader Dona Agosti

Trip Reports

Mt. Russell Attempt May 1-9 1981

John Dillman, Dave Pahlke and George Ferry attempted a new route on the west face of 11,670 foot Mt. Russell during the first week of May. Mt. Russell is located at the southwest boundary point of McKinley Park and has had only two previous ascents.

Lowell Thomas Jr. flew us to the 5000 foot level of the Chedolothna Glacier on Friday and by Sunday afternoon we had established Camp 2 at about 8500 feet.

The route attempted in May 1980 by Dillman and Pahlke (the northwest ridge) had changed significantly and was not considered feasible. A new line generally through the center of the west face appeared reasonable, although exposed to extreme ice fall during the latter part of sunny days.

Poor weather caused a late start for the summit on May 4. The route above camp 2 was straightforward for about 1/2 mile, although suspect since it involved threading around blocks of ice which had fallen previously. Difficult ice climbing above this ramp included a 600' traverse to a moderately difficult soft snow ridge. Minutes after gaining this "safety zone" a tremendous ice avalanche swept the route which would have to be crossed on the next two pitches. Above that the southwest ridge offered a probable route to the summit. However, considering the slim chances of crossing these two 150 foot pitches without being caught by falling ice, and the lateness of the day, we decided to retreat. Ice was now falling down the 600 foot traverse area, so we were forced to downclimb and then rappell 600 feet off the snow ridge/buttness. Seven hours after leaving, we reached the safety of camp 2. Since we had used all but one picket on the rappells another attempt was not possible, and we retreated back to base camp on May 5.

John Dillman

Lazy Mountain - 3720' May 3, 1981

The following hardy mountaineers met at the Lazy Mountain trailhead on a dull, cloudy Sunday morning: Barbara Adams, Jana Hayenga, Lavonia James, Terri Pollock, Ed Goss, Don Hansen, Roger Kennedy, Jim Morrison, John Nevin, Al Robinson, and Tony Bockstahler. We encountered no rain but, after climbing about a thousand feet, we received the full benefit of a lusty Knik wind. After eating lunch on a semi-sheltered slope, four frozen souls decided to return. The other seven got to the peak. We had some trepidation on the ridge just before the peak where the wind threatened to blow us off.

To get to the Lazy Mountain trail, drive north thru Palmer, then right on the Old Glenn Highway to Clark Wolverine Rd., 30 miles north of Eagle River. Turn left on Clark Wolverine Rd. for 0.7 miles, then right on Huntley Rd. for 0.9 mile to a locked gate. Hike up a private road forking left for several hundred feet to the start of Lazy Mountain trail on the left.

Tony Bockstahler

Bird Creek Ridge May 9, 1981

Under mostly sunny skies, Marilyn Kamm, Don Nausen, Ed Goss, Marty Bassett, John Nevin, Gotz Tessmer and Bob Jume headed for Bird Creek ridge. The temperatures were in the low 60's and the wind was a constant 5-15 mph perfect hiking weather. Close to a dozen types of flowers were out, including forget-me-nots, lupine and violets. Among the rock outcrops on the east side of the ridge three eagles soared in the wind. Snow drifts and cornices covered occasional portions of the upper part of the trail, but did not prevent everyone from reaching point 3505 for lunch. While some napped, others enjoyed the magnificent views or explored the ridgeline and played tag with a ptarmigan just beginning to change from white to brown. After returning to the car, Don gave a guided tour of the backroads and byways of suburban Bird Creek in his ATV Thunderbird. An enjoyable time was had by all.

Bob Jume

Ascent of "Jezebel"

Pete Sennhauser and Janet Smalley's ascent of Peak 9650 in the Lime Hills D-3 quad on April 25 probably represents a first. Vin Hoeman listed this as Peak A-27 and had written: "Excepting only Hesperus, 7 1/2 miles away in the Revelation Mtns, this is the highest mountain in the Southwestern Alaska Range. It has a broader 9450 summit to the east, but the high peak will probably be easier reached by the NW Ridge from a small glacier draining into Big River." This peak is unnamed, but old records reveal that the name of "Jezebel" was considered for it at one time.

Greg Higgins

Registers

The following registers have yet to be placed. They may be picked up from Tim Neale 274-4952.

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|-----------------|--------------------|------------------|----------------------|
| Bold Byron | Hidden Magnificent | Pinnacle Koktoya | Temptation West Twin |
| Goat Mt. (west) | Montana | Tanaina (east) | Williwaw |
| Gunsight | Pioneer | " (west) | Wolverine Ramp |

On top their cloudy weather cleared sufficiently to reward them with good summit views. The group was successful to find no pencil in the register can. Seven year old pencil stays

Notes from Seward

The Geographic Names Committee is alive and well in Seward. However as feared, the state gave a cool reception to our recent submissions on some of the local features in our area. The reasons for rejection were somewhat vague, but they suggested that by soliciting support from other groups and local governments, our submissions would receive more consideration in the future. Presently I have been appointed to a committee in Seward by the City Council to gather and submit the data in our area to them on local names. Anyone who would like to help out in a similar manner in the Anchorage or Eagle River areas should contact me.

Summertime will soon be upon us and I hope to see the first stage of the register project move towards completion. It has been reported to me that some of the registers on more traveled peaks like Wolverine may be missing. Our policy will be that if a register is stolen twice from a peak, then we will no longer maintain it.

A recent visit to Matanuska Peak (6119') confirmed the loss of all the old records there. Besides this two hikers (Sid Richards and Mark Hotchkiss) had preceeded us with cans of spray paint and had placed their names and initials all over rocks on the summit. Anyone going in that direction should carry a can of flat black paint to correct the situation.

For those who may be interested in the trip I am to lead up the Peters Creek Valley in August. The headwaters of this valley are split by monolithic Mt. Rumble which is seldom climbed. Other possibilities include Mt. Bellicose, Mt. Soggy and Mt. Kiliak, some of whose subsidiary summits are unclimbed. The trail is generally excellent with only an occasional thin spot. The hike would be a good (but strenuous) family trip. I will be at the July meeting if anyone would like to discuss it with me.

Greg Higgins

History Corner

One of the Club's strong points over the years has been the offering of experience trips for beginners and those who would rather hike than climb. These trips have enabled family members of different ages to share adventures, and have served meeting places for making new friends. Leona Wilkerson led the first such trip recorded in the SCREE on May 3, 1959 to Thunderbird Falls. She wrote, "Many in the group were Chechakoes and stood up will to their first real attack by Alaska mosquitoes met at the entrance to the trail."

Later that Summer on Aug. 4th Joe Pichler led a group up Lazy Mtn that included children from 6 to 11 years. They reported, "There are three false summits which were a bit disillusioning to those under 12." On top they found a register can and a single sign-in from earlier in the year. In their opinion: "Lazy Mtn is actually a hiker's domain...no rocks, glaciers, problems- just breath is needed to reach the top."

A 2nd Lazy Mtn "lilliputian" hike was organized on Aug 15th by John and Helen Wolfe. They had children ranging from 7 to 13 years on the trip. On top their cloudy weather cleared sufficiently to reward them with good summit views. The group was "crushed" to find no pencil in the register can. Seven year old Carol Straley

June 1981

7

had doggedly persisted in the hike with visions of signing her name at the top of her first mountain.

These kind of outings have continued as regular features of Club activity through the years and are well-received. The Rendezvous Peak trip last year led by Al and Liz Robinson had over 30 participants from three generations.

Greg. Higgins

112

Send to Regie Bohman at Box 103 Anchorage
Equipment for individual

112

Wanted: Good used, lightweight 1 to 2 man tent and backpacking stove.
Madeline Jones 276-0332

Misc. climbing equipment for sale. John Dillman (days) 278-3537.