

# SCREE



MOUNTAINEERING CLUB OF ALASKA BOX 2037 ANCHORAGE, ALASKA 99510

June 1983

Volume 26, Issue #6

## JUNE MEETING

The meeting will be held Wednesday, June 15th, at 8:00 p.m. on the top floor of the Pioneer Schoolhouse, 3rd and Eagle Streets, Anchorage, Alaska. After the business meeting a mystery slide show will be presented.

## ATTENTION! - GATES OF THE ARCTIC PARTICIPANTS

Cost of the charter flight out of Bettles and returning to Bettles (\$190 per person) must be paid to Dona Agosti no later than the June meeting (June 15). If any participant must withdraw from the trip, no refunds for the charter flights may be made after June 15. Also, please pick up airline tickets from Polaris Travel in the Northern Lights Center.

## MINUTES FOR MCA MAY GENERAL MEETING

The May meeting of MCA was held on the 18th at Central Junior High School, 15th and C Streets, Anchorage, Alaska. The meeting was called to order by President Rick Severn at 8:11 p.m. The reading of the April general meeting was approved as published in SCREE, with the following exception:

"The National Park Service is currently considering not reinstituting the land regulations that were in effect before the 1980 Lands Act."

Treasurer Reggie Buchanan reported:

\$ 321.71	- Petty Cash
646.28	- Bank Account
<u>5,061.53</u>	- Money Market Fund
\$6,029.52	- Total

Welcome to all new members and guests.

## COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. Hiking: Dona Agosti 248-0089

First hike of the season to Rainbow Peak was a success with 26 people attending.

The next hike will be to *Sheep Valley via Kings River and Young Creek*. Trail will leave from Kings River on the Glenn Highway and crosses Young Creek enroute to Sheep Valley and Sheep River Glacier. Leave UAA Sports Complex Saturday morning at a time to be determined by leader, Bill Wakeland, (home) 563-6246. This will be May 28, 29, and 30 (Memorial Day Weekend). Hikers will need USGS maps, Anchorage C5 and D5, for this trip.

For future reference, hikes will leave from the "old" UAA Sports Center parking lot - the west end of the building.

If anyone is interested in a hiking partner during the week, Dona has a list of people.

Doug Gerke will be leading the *Squaw Creek Trail* hike, June 11 and 12.

B. Library: Mike Frank 243-7645

Committee is currently looking into prices for binding past copies of SCREE and various periodicals for the club.

C. Programs: Ernie Borjon 344-8661

There is no program planned for the June meeting. If anyone has something they would like to present, please contact Ernie.

D. Huts: John Dillman 279-1246  
Nothing to report.

E. MCA Equipment and Alaska Mountaineering and Hiking - Terry Becker

Alaska Mountaineering and Hiking on Spenard Road has club equipment for use by members upon presentation of a current membership card. There are crampons, helmets, ice-axes, shovels, and peeps. (First preference for use of shovels and peeps goes to those involved in any club trip for that specific weekend.) Use is on a first come, first serve basis.

F. Executive Committee Report  
Nothing to report.

## II. OLD BUSINESS

A. Proposed Regulation Changes for Denali National Park and Preserve

In 1980 when the Alaska Lands Act was passed, new parks and monuments were officially established in Alaska. During this process there was no overt intention to affect the management or objectives of existing parks and monuments: (originally) Mount McKinley National Park, Glacier Bay National Monument, Katmai National Monument.

After the Act was passed, the Department of the Interior claimed that one of the provisions that guaranteed access for traditional uses on all newly created park lands also covered the old parks and monuments. They reasoned that the phrase "conservation system unit", as used in the traditional access section of the Act (Section 1110), was not limited to new units but covered the old ones also.

There was no overt intention by anyone on any side of the D-2 issue to affect the management of the existing parks, but the definition, at least according to some people's interpretation, now mandates that motorized access for the traditional uses be allowed within the old parks' boundaries. In other words, the parks which were closed to indiscriminate snow machine or aircraft use prior to 1980 are now open unless the park officials close them by regulation.

The Park Service has recognized that there may have been an oversight in the Act; that there was an unintentionally broad definition that covered the old park areas. However, the Park Service, in draft regulations, proposed to correct only a part of this oversight by closing 35% of the old Mount McKinley National Park area, for example, to snow machine and aircraft uses.

The only areas which would be closed are (1) the road corridor - McKinley Park Station to Wonder Lake, (2) a one-mile area on each side of the road corridor, and (3) two wildlife habitat areas on the north side of the Alaska Range.

For some reason or another, the Park Service decided that there is no need to protect the rest of the park in the manner in which it was protected prior to 1980.

Tom Meecham recommended that the MCA adopt a resolution urging the Parks Service amend the draft regulations thereby placing the entire old park area under the protection which existed from 1917 to 1980.

The American Alpine Club, Alaska Section, has already adopted a resolution supporting this position.

The motion was seconded and adopted unanimously. Tom Meacham was requested to draft the club's letter to the Parks Service.

#### B. Solstice Sleepout

Round One of the on-going battle for the fire permit for the Solstice Flattop Sleepout has ended in a "verbal no" from the Ranger who manages that area. The Sleepout is part of a 25-year tradition that is in observance of the summer and winter solstices. For the last two years the MCA has been denied a fire permit for various reasons. However, this year the club will pursue this matter to the fullest extent.

C. Avalanche Classes/Workshops  
Anyone who is interested in these classes should write to Neal Johansen, Director of Parks. Doug Fesler said that all the letters were funneled to him. Although \$275,000 has been earmarked for the workshops, the legislature has not yet voted on the appropriation.

D. Anchorage Times/Alaska Airlines Outdoor Symposium  
The Symposium will be held June 4th and 5th at the Sheraton Hotel from 9 a.m. - 6 p.m. The MCA will staff a table that will provide information about the club.

III. NEW BUSINESS

- A. ANNOUNCEMENTS
1. Basic Mountaineering Class - Tim Neale will be teaching this class Saturday, May 21. Meet at the UAA/ACC parking lot at 8 a.m. Bring food, water, and rain gear as well as an ice axe, webbing, and a carabiner.
  2. Thank you, Doug McCarty for your slide presentation of the 1982 American Expedition to the People's Republic of China (sponsored by Quaker Oats).

The meeting was adjourned at 8:59 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Bernie Helms

TRAIL CLEARING - JUNE 25 AND 26

Become a member of the MCA Trail Clearing Crew. No experience necessary. An enjoyable way to spend a rare weekend deep in the Chugach State Park.

This will be an overnight event that is open to any and everyone willing to help clean brush from a remote wilderness trail. The trail is located at the far end of Eklutna Lake following up the East Fork River. The word is there will be motorized transportation to carry packs to the far end of the lake. Bicycles can be used on road around the lake.

More information at the June meeting or call Tim Neale, 274-4952.

RETURN OF LIBRARY MATERIALS

The Library Committee will be sending the unbound volumes of the Alaska Journal, Scree, magazines Mountain Gazette, Summit, and Climbing, and the American Alpine Club Newsletter to the College Bindery for binding within the next month or so. Those club members who have checked out any of these materials from the Library should return them to the Library headquarters, 2224 Turnagain Parkway, phone, 243-7645.

CLIMBS

On April 27, 1983, club members Julian Mason, Harry Johnson, Pete Panarese, and Dan Hourihan climbed the steep German route on the Mooses Tooth to the West Summit, taking 17 hours from the Ruth Gorge. Snow and alcohol conditions prevented further climbs during the week of the party's visit.

Julian Mason, Daniel Blake, and Mike Frank placed an MCA Pipe Register on Sovereign Mountain 8849 feet (Talkeetna A-4, T24N, R5E, Section 31) during the last week of March. The walkup route was up the Southeastern ridge. An argument ensued over whether or not the true summit may be in Section 32. A picket and film canister with a poem inside were found on the summit. The party also climbed Mt. Lonely 8517 feet (T23N, R5E, Section 7), Peak 8100 (T23N, R5E, Section 5), and a nunatak at the four corners of Sections 5, 8, 4, and 9 (T23N, R5E) during a week of skiing under clear skies. Round-trip airfare through K-2 Aviation from Talkeetna was \$220 each.

On May 1, Daniel Blake and Mike Frank climbed Bird Peak 5505 feet (Anchorage A-7, T11N, R1E, Section 33) by walking up from Penguin Creek and over Point 4840. The last, and third, SCREE-recorded ascent was apparently by Tom Meacham and Larry Tedrick (SCREE, Vol. 16, No. 8, p. 6) on July 14, 1973. First recorded ascent was by Vin Hoeman, Dave Johnston, and Cliff Lewis on June 9, 1963. Every 10 years is about right for this long march over talus and scree.

HIGH VALLEY POSTED NO TRESPASSING

The High, or Ram, Valley access road in Chugach State Park has been gated shut by the landowner at the end of the road and posted with no trespassing signs. High Valley is reached by taking Prudhoe Bay Road left off the Eagle River Road just before the pavement ends. High Valley provides access to the uppermost portion of Big Peters Creek and to Peeking (Peekaboo), Kulik, Pleasant, Yukla, and other beautiful peaks in the area. The Chugach State Park needs acquisition money to correct this and other Park access problems. Please express your concerns to Neil Johansen, Director, State Division of Parks, and to your State Senator and Representative.

MEETING PLACE FOR ALL HIKES

It was originally announced that hikers would meet in the new parking lot in the southeast corner at the University of Alaska complex. However, most people are more familiar with the parking lot which is located immediately in front of the sports complex, between ACC and UAA. Therefore, we will meet there for all future hikes. However, you will find that there is a bit more meandering to get into the lot because of new buildings. This is probably a good time to explain why we meet at the UAA. In earlier days, we met in either the Sears or Fred Meyer lots, but evidently the cruisers caused the store owners to become very suspicious of anyone parking in their lots during hours that the stores are closed. Hence, our move to the somewhat out-of-the-way campus; but at least we won't be arrested for trespass.

NOTE: ONE TIME ONLY - Because of the Nordstrom's Women's Run, the meeting place for the June 11 hike will be Wendler Junior High School, Lake Otis Drive.

TRIP REPORTS

MCA Mt. Alpenglow Trip April 23-24 1983  
The calm, cloudless weather which lasted all day on Sunday the 24th seemed a mixed blessing as the three of us approached the final 1000 feet on Mt. Alpenglow. Barely out of the shadows, the 45-degree face was already getting sloppy. We were thankful to have had an early start and easy time on the heavily corniced west ridge. The view from the top would be worth the effort and so setting aside our apprehensions about avalanche debris across the face, we chose the safest line and continued to the 4419' summit. Ron Van Bergeyk, Peter Reed, and I stood a short while, straining to see the Alaska Range through a haze, picked out a few closer peaks, and hurried back to the ridge.

It was posthole city going to our camp at treeline where Patsy Garret and Mark Van Meter were lounging in the Chugach sun. Even the 2-mile bushwack back down to the Six Mile crossing seemed inoffensive on such a perfect day. The five of us sped lazily across the sturdy steel cable (how convenient), jumped in our cars and reached Anchorage in time for sundown.

Willy Hersman

Rainbow Peak (3250)

The hiking season started off with a bang when 26 people showed up Saturday, May 14, to test their skills on Rainbow Peak. Led by Gene Klymko, the group found its way through the construction at Rainbow Valley road, then parked in a gravel pit about a quarter mile up. From here, they walked to the beginning of the Old Johnson Trail near the bridge over Rainbow Creek and hiked steadily upward to the highpoint of the trail. From here, two groups were formed, one led by Gene and the second by Don Hansen. This was to minimize erosion and the danger of falling rocks. There is no trail, so the groups picked their way ever upward to the ridge above timberline. By this time, the steepness was becoming quite apparent to those who had not exercised all winter, but eventually all but three made the peak. Gene deposited the newly-typed register. Now don't anyone decide to bring it down again. There are plenty of pencils and lots of paper to add your two cents. By this time, a small squall had blown over, and the sun came out. The group again split - one descending via the near ridge and the second via a route further east. We hear the second group beat brush toward the last. Those taking part in the kick-off were: Dona Agosti, John and Marilyn Balcerak, Marty Bassett, Jim Bendell, Mary Pat Brudie, Will Davis, Kris Ericson, Patsy Garrett, Juliet and Dick Janes, Don Hansen, Gene Klymko, James Lasche, Joyce Leonard, David Mayerson, Curvin Metzler, Marlin Mixon, Michael Rees, Jane Stammen, Dr. Chick and Ruth Trush, Dale Wilkins, Brian Williams, Linda White, Jackie Winer. Pat Murray came sailing by about midpoint in the trip, but he was in training for Mt. Sanford, and was soon a dot on the horizon.

Game count: three sheep, one moose, a few ptarmigan, and lots of birds. (Bear signs, but no body.)

Dona Agosti

## Pleasant Days on the Kahiltna

Most people seem to fly into the Kahiltna for the big ones or the hard routes. People looking for easier climbs and ski touring usually go to the Ruth. I had planned to attempt Foraker as a celebration of the 20th anniversary of our traverse of McKinley, and when the others couldn't get free til a week after my committed vacation time, I decided to go into the Kahiltna anyway to look at some easy peaks and see the spectacle of mass tourism on McKinley for myself.

There are several pretty high easy peaks, the most obvious being Mt. Crosson (12,800'). The weather was good our first two days (early May) so we left "base camp" at the airstrip shortly after landing and made a bee-line for Crosson (actually traveled somewhat south around crevasses and then north up the trough to camp at the base of the east ridge). A late start and lack of acclimatization (plus a little bright sun and soft snow lassissitude) resulted in an evening arrival on top. The low golden sun bathing Deanli and Hunter was fantastic.

The next day we explored to the north, around the glacier under the north face of Crosson. An easy ridge leads from here to peak 9300' (apparently previously climbed only from the east as an acclimatization jaunt from the "main trail"). We didn't get the anticipated views due to patchy clouds, but saw some interesting possibilities on the ridge to the west on the south peak of Kahiltna Dome (11,390'). Another day, more good weather prompted an early start back across the glacier to try a new route on peak 10,450. This was thwarted half way up by freshly fallen seracs on the route so we descended and soon were back on the quiet west side of the Kahiltna, exploring the glacier south of Crosson. For an afternoon viewpoint we climbed the little point 8300' on the ridge to the south. The soft snow on the east ridge of this point didn't help, but the Foraker ice avalanches falling almost ten thousand feet made this a spectacular place to be.

Another fine day prompted the most technical climb of the trip - back up our tracks north and onto a southeast rib leading to the east ridge of Kahiltna Dome (11,390'). The rib had avalanchy cornices, a rotten rock tower and a small ice wall to entertain us before the easier snow slopes of the east ridge. We descended the main ridge to the col and down the face to the small glacier which led back to where the skis were left. The other two ways to this col, from peak 9400 and from the north both are feasible variations on this interesting, long way up Kahiltna Dome.

We spent the last 3 days on the "Tourist Route", so I could see how it had changed after 20 years. We passed 74 people coming down on the day we climbed up to Windy Corner peak (13,350'). This is a great view point if you want a marked route and don't mind the company (we saw only one other party on the mountain 20 years ago!). On the descent I made "snakes" in 7 inches of new powder for nearly 3 thousand feet, puffing spume into the sunset glow.

In closing, I hope it's clear that there are lots of opportunities for ski touring and easy peak day climbs on the Kahiltna. One can even do peaks 10,450 and 12,200 without even camping away from the airstrip, e.g., a 3-day weekend if you can afford the airfare!

MCA MEETING REFRESHMENTS

According to the letter of your last name, all members are requested to bring edible refreshments of their choice (cookies, cake, sweet rolls, chips, etc.) to the MCA meeting for the month designated. Liquid refreshments will be provided by the

May I J Sept Q R  
Jun K L Oct S T  
Jul M N Nov U V  
Aug O P Dec W X Y Z

And thank you to all!!

LIBRARY

The new library committee consists of Dona Agosti, Jim Morrison, and Mike Frank.

The library is now located at Mike Frank's house which is at 2224 Turnagain Parkway, phone 243-7645. Take West Northern Lights towards Earthquake Park. At the traffic light about two blocks beyond the ARR crossing, turn right on Turnagain Parkway. The Franks are home most weekday evenings, some weekends, usually every Sunday evening after 7:00 p.m. Feel free to come over anytime, but it is advisable to call in advance to make sure someone's home.

Dog backpacks made to order. Call Denise Saigh, 345-7712.



HIKING SCHEDULE for the MOUNTAINEERING CLUB OF ALASKA  
SUMMER 1983

Editor's note: If you have comments or suggestions please call Hiking Chairman Dona Agosti at 248-0089.

June 11, 12 Squaw Creek trail via Gunsight Mountain trail. Road leaves gravel pit at Mile 117.6 (opposite Powerline Pole No. 7151) on the Glenn Highway. This hike is described as "No. 49, Squaw Creek to Belanger Pass" in *55 Ways to the Wilderness...* However, the hike is too long to complete in two days, so we will aim for Twin Peak about 9 miles in and return by the same route. Leader: Doug Gerke, (days) 274-7507, (evenings) 278-1818.

Note: One time only - because of the Nordstrom's Women's Run, the meeting place for this hike will be Wendler Junior High School, Lake Otis Drive.

June 18, 19 Annual Flat Top Sleepout. Leader: President Rick Severn. This is our annual celebration of the summer solstice. Amble up to Flat Top (from Glen Alps parking lot) at your convenience Saturday afternoon or evening and enjoy the summer solstice with fellow hikers. Tent overnight or leave when you wish. There will be a kite flying contest - so be sure to bring your kites. Remember - Flat Top can be cold, wet and windy so have appropriate gear. Come to the June meeting to find out if we can have a campfire.

June 24, 25, 26 Blackstone Bay, Prince William Sound. Take train to Whittier Friday. Board cruise boat to Blackstone Bay. Camp out and hike or ski on the glacier. You will need downhill touring skis with good edges, also skins; it will be necessary to rope up while crossing glacier. Those who prefer to walk will find delightful beachcombing. There are also fish in the bay. Ludwig Ferche, who will lead this group, believes this is one of the more beautiful places in North America. Call Ludwig at 344-9881 for further details. Round trip train fare will be \$18.00. Trains will probably leave Portage around 1:20, 3:20, and 6:20 PM. Cruise boat fare estimated to be about \$50.00 round trip.

July 1, 2, 3, 4 Girdwood-Arctic Valley Traverse. Leave Friday evening from Crow Creek Parking Lot. Camp in Clear Glacier cirque Friday night. This is an energetic 40 mile hike through some very beautiful country. Call Bill Stivers for details. 562-4885.

July 2, 3 Victor Creek Trail to Andy Simon Mountain area. This is an untested trail which leaves the Seward Highway at Mile 20. Hiker last year said he was surprised to find a mountain goat at the 3500 foot elevation. Meet at Kenai Cutoff at 10 AM, July 2. Please call leader ahead of time, however, to let her know you are coming. Dona Agosti, 248-0089.

- July 8, 9 Eklutna Glacier hike to Pichler's Perch. Drive to Eklutna Lake Friday evening, boat across to campground at foot of glacier and camp overnight. Climb to Eklutna hut Saturday. Hike out same route Sunday. Elevation gain about 3000 feet. Crampons, ice axes and ropes can be checked out at AMH. Leader: Tim Neale, 274-4952.
- July 16, 17 Castle Mountain. Leave Glenn Highway from Chickaloon Road and exit via Permanente Road, Mile 71.8. There is a trail around the mountain in this very pretty Talkeetna Mountain area. Four-wheel drive volunteers needed. Leader: Mark Skok. Call Dona for reservations and details, 248-0089.
- July 23 - Gates of Arctic National Park and Preserve, Brooks Range. Reservations are now closed for this trip.
- Aug. 2, 3 Reed Lakes. Leader: Joy Hornberger, 561-1933 (Days), no home phone.
- Aug. 5, 6, 7 Wolverine Canyon from Wolverine Road, Palmer. Leader: Bill Wakeland, 563-6246.
- Aug. 13 - 27 Arrigetch Peaks, Brooks Range. Call Ludwig for further details, 344-9881.
- Aug. 13 - 17 We would like to schedule a hike through Chitna Pass via Hicks Creek and Boulder Creek, but need a volunteer. Call Dona if you'd like to offer your help, 248-0089.
- Aug. 20, 21 We have a choice this weekend of either Surprise Creek or the Harding Icefield. Leader needed for either one. Call Dona, 248-0089.
- Aug. 27, 28 Bird Pass, via Bird Creek. Bill Stivers and Michael Frank will lead this one, 562-4885.
- Sept. 3, Curry Ridge, via Byers Lake entrance. Leader Ludwig Ferche, 344-9881.
- If the weather holds, we'll schedule September hikes. To be announced later.