



MOUNTAINEERING CLUB OF ALASKA

BOX 2037

ANCHORAGE, ALASKA 99510

JUNE 1987

Volume 30, Issue 06

JUNE MEETING

THE MEETING WILL BE HELD SATURDAY, JUNE 20th at 8:00 PM on the summit of Flattop. There will be a kite-flying contest after the meeting with prizes. Afterwards the MCA will have its annual sleepout for the solstice.

MINUTES FOR THE MAY MEETING

The meeting was held May 20th at the Pioneer Schoolhouse, and called to order by President Mark Findlay at 7:40 pm. The reading of the minutes for April was waived.

TREASURER'S REPORT

\$ 52.32 - Petty Cash
818.25 - Checking Account
4,625.50 - Money Market
\$5,496.07 - Total MCA Monies

I. COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. Hiking and Climbing

Jim Pommert asked for members to sign up for trips. Jim is the one to call if you want to lead a trip.

Dan O'Haire will be leading the annual Harding Icefield traverse July 18th to 25th.

B. Parks Advisory

Michael Rees informed the club of a meeting that was being held at the same time as this meeting. The matters being discussed were:

- the proposed Eagle River ski resort
- helicopter landings in Chugach State Park
- the proposed Eagle River Greenbelt

Contact Michael if you wish to make comments on these issues or need more information.

II. OLD BUSINESS

A. Amendments

There was a motion to accept the amendments to the By-Laws as printed in the April Scree. The motion passed. The new version of the By-Laws can be viewed at the MCA library. Thanks to Bernie for helping with these amendments.

III. NEW BUSINESS

None.

IV. ANNOUNCEMENTS

A. Arrigetch Peaks

Don Hansen announced that there is still space available for his backpack trip into the Arrigetch area of the Brooks Range July 25th through August 8th. Contact Don for further information if you are interested. 279-0829

B. There was an announcement for a group called the Alaskans Concerned About Winter Olympics. They will be meeting every third Wednesday of the month (which is when the MCA meets). The group is concerned that the Olympics is not in the best interest for the people of Anchorage.

C. June Meeting

The June meeting will be held on top of Flattop at 8:00 pm June 20th to celebrate the 20th anniversary of the club's annual sleepout for the solstice. Bring your overnight gear for the summer solstice sleepout.

Thanks Don Hansen for the slides of the Wrangells. I am sorry I missed it. Thanks Kathy Burke for filling in for me and thanks Bernie Helms for filling in for John. We had a wonderfully snowy time in the Ruth Glacier.

Respectfully Submitted,
Marcy Baker

ADZE

Alaska Sea Kayaking Symposium

ASKS will be held June 12-14 in Seward beginning with a square dance on Friday. Indoor classes and on-the-water instruction is scheduled for Sat. and Sun. An outdoor dinner will be offered on Sat. night with a slide show afterwards on kayaking in the Aleutians and the Alaska Peninsula. On Sunday there will be a Mayor's Race in double kayaks.

Many kayak manufacturers and dealers will be represented with demos available for paddling. Cost for the symposium is \$50 before May 15, or \$75 after that.

Alaska Open Ocean Paddling Workshop

This will be held for more advanced kayakers on June 9-11. Emphasis will be on skills for paddlers who want to organize or lead kayak trips. Instructors include John Ramwell, Derek Hutchinson, Doug Fesler, John Bauman and Robin Ziperman. Cost is \$120; limit of 40 people.

Registration for either of these is available at REI in Anchorage, Alaska Treks and Voyages in Seward or call Doug Van Etten 243-1550.

TRIP REPORTS

The Standard Route

Let me tell you about a little trip I did once with a couple of friends to a place we knew little about and found out fast that popular does not always mean safe in mountaineering. First, we needed a little information, so we asked the local climbing community, "What's the best way to go up this mountain?" "Oh, well most people go up such and such ridge. It takes about a week. They go early, like April or May. It's kind of exposed in places, but not too steep."

That didn't sound too bad. It's a popular enough mountain for guiding, so we looked over some of the brochures. Sure enough, same ridge we'd heard about was the way. We called one of the guides, "Oh yea, no problem. It's nice and direct. Should be a good time for you."

We got a hold of one of those 8x10 glossies that Bradford Washburn does so well. Nice picture. We couldn't pick out details or camps, but we'd figure that out when we got there. We pulled out the AAJ and looked up the first ascent. Somewhat sketchy, but they didn't mention any particular difficulties or dangers. It seemed pretty straightforward. You know. Standard.

Finally we flew in for the climb. The pilot put us down real close. No long approaches to do; no particular reason to sit and watch the weather go bad while acclimating; no real excuse to lounge and get used to the mountain's mood. How comforting that a regular base camp with a 24-hour manned radio was just a few short miles away. How comforting to know that others were above us and that this was a route where people who knew more than we did had been successful. How comforting to follow behind in their tracks.

Such a nice sunny day, hardly a cloud. Up a gully we started, towards the ridge. Within two hours of the start of the climb...woosh! Holy cow, I was in an avalanche! It had started somewhere way above us. No escaping it now. No fighting it. I tried hard to think if there had been any cliffs below me, couldn't remember. I hoped that at any moment my two friends, who were not in the avalanche but roped to me would somehow stop the fall. They were no help. For a while I swore they'd cut the rope. Later they told me they had tried. Together we went to the bottom of our mountain. It wasn't far, maybe 400 feet down.

Man did that shake us up! We couldn't believe that it had happened so easily and so fast. We weren't hurt and we ran away from the gully and looked back. Two people, fifteen hundred feet above were descending; turns out that they had knocked it off. Just bad luck we thought.

Next day, instead of going home, we went back up. No one mentioned quitting, this was just the standard route, not the Eigerwand. We met another party at the top of the gully; they were quitting the climb. "Too many close calls up there." We continued on to Camp I.

The next day was spooky. The snow seemed to be the same. I kept looking down and there were no run-outs anywhere, just lots of air. We hurried and made it to Camp II. Getting apprehensive, I asked Ken, who was the most experienced, what was the scariest climb he'd ever done. "This one," he said. We looked ahead at the route some more. Nowhere; nowhere at all was there a place to escape if an avalanche started. I began to wonder how people had been so lucky. I began to wonder how this route had gotten so popular. I began to wonder if we should go on. Our stove, damaged in the fall and getting worse, decided for us. We descended, disappointed.

Now, today I read in the News, Dan Daugherty and Mick Pratt are missing. I knew them, and I'm very saddened by this unwelcome news. Of the route Jon Waterman quoted the same feelings that I had felt when our novice party had been there, "It's the most dangerous thing going..." If you are contemplating Foraker, think twice about the "standard" route, the southeast ridge. It's only standard because it's so direct and easy to get to, it's not particularly safe.
Willy Hersman

Tikishla Peak

May 2, 1987

Any number of servings...

Crust	Filling	Topping
4 cups of fog	Jim Pommert (leader)	A clearing sky just
1 muddy trail	Doris Curtis	in time with great
1 large valley	Don Hansen	"Chugach Views"
2 Dall Sheep (optional)	Mike King	
1 long ridge		

Start on trail at 9:00 am in good spirits with heavy packs planning on an overnighiter. Continue up muddy trail into fog until you see 2 Dall Sheep, than angle to the right onto long ridge. At the fairly large snowfield, lighten packs to the the summit essentials and continue up the slightly steep ridge in front of you to its crest. The fog clears here for a few minutes for you to thoroughly enjoy where you're at, where you've been and where your're going.

Go left up summit ridge to false summit, scramble through rocks and one challenging stepping stone to the topping. Bake in the sun until done!

Return to packs, decide to go back to cars, and make it by 9:00 pm. And remember..."Since the world is round-o, we'll be safe and sound-o. Until our goal is found-o, we'll be rhythm bound-o." Thanks Jim, for a great day!

Mike King

HIKING AND CLIMBING SCHEDULE

- June 6 PYRAMID PEAK
10 miles round trip. 2300' elev. gain. Hike/ski trip from Turnagain Pass. Spring snow conditions will prevail. Fishscale style skis or klister will be needed. Call leader for sign up. Class C.
Leader: Rick Maron 338-6969
- 6-7 BRUSH TRAIL TO MINT HUT
Leave UAA at 8:30 am. 16 Miles round trip. We will not be going as far as the hut. Bring bow saws. May do an easy climb if work gets done. Come help for one day if you like. Class B.
Leader: Willy Hersman 338-5132
- 13 HURDYGURDY MT.
5965' peak up South Fork Eagle River. 3500' elev. gain, 15 mile round trip. Light packs, no dallying. Bring ice axe. If it's raining, we stay home. Class D.
Leader: Willy Hersman 338-5132
- 14 MYSTERY MOUNTAIN
Do an unclimbed peak in the Portage area. Class C. Call Tom for details and sign-up.
Leader: Tom Choate 333-5309
- 20-21 FLATTOP SLEEPOUT
4 miles, 1200' elev. gain. No sign-up. JUNE MEETING will be held on same night at 8:00 pm, on the summit.
Call Mark Findlay for questions. 337-8666
- 27 EAGLE LAKE
14 miles, 2000' elev. gain. Class C. A loop trip up the South Fork Eagle River to Rendezvous Peak ridge to Eagle Lake and then back down the South Fork. 55 Ways #37.
Leader: Kathy Burke 346-2841
- July 2-5 CROW PASS-GLEN ALPS
35 miles, 5000' elev. gain, Class D. Hike in Thursday evening to Crow Pass Cabin. Then hike over to Ship Creek and on to Glen Alps. Call for details and sign-up. Limit 8.
Leader: Jim Pommert 344-5656

- 11-12 GLEN ALPS-INDIAN
16 miles, 2000' elev. gain, Class C. One way trip via Ship Lake
55 Ways #27 and #31. Call for details and sign-up.
Leader: Don Hansen 279-0829
- 18 TURNAGAIN PASS RIDGE
10 miles, 2000' elev. gain, Class B. A relatively flat ridge
traverse above Turnagain Pass. Call for details and sign-up.
Leader: Rick Maron 338-6969
- 18-19 REED LAKES
9 miles, 1900' elev. gain, Class B. Overnight trip near Hatcher
Pass. 55 Ways #44. Call for details and sign-up.
Leader: Bill Wakeland 563-6246
- 18-25 HARDING ICEFIELD TRAVERSE
4th annual ski traverse of the icefield from Tustamena Lake to
Exit Glacier. Small fee for motorboat to cross the lake.
Class: TECHNICAL (glacier travel skills.) Call Dan for details.
Leader: Dan O'Haire 338-5132
- 25-26 CASTLE MT. AREA
Hike in the Talkeetnas. Class B. Call for details and sign-up.
Leader: John Lohff 276-8514
- Aug. 1-2 INDIANHOUSE MT.
Sylvia Lane
- 8-9 SUMMIT MT.
Ron Van Bergeyk
- 15 CRESCENT LAKE
Don Hansen
- 15-16 LOST LAKE
Bill Wakeland

Climbing Notes

The American Alpine Club has recently made a move to relax its qualifications for membership. The board of directors has approved a new simplified application form for new members. Instead of requiring two letters of recommendation from sponsors, applicants are now only required to list two references. To be an active member one is required to have climbed for at least two seasons in more than one area, demonstrating proficiency and sustained interest in the art of mountaineering in any of its forms. In the past some climbers considered the application too "intimidating" and too complicated (and I suspect too expensive). The organization is presently trying to recruit more people. Many MCA members qualify who think they do not. If you are interested contact W. Hersman (338-5132), Charlie Sassara (258-6565), Steve Davis (694-3556) or Mike Howerton (783-2048).

Todd Miner, Willy Hersman, Karen Cafmeyer, Blaine Smith, Jim Sayler and Larry Hartig climbed to the summit of Mt. Blackburn (16390) on May 12th via the northeast ridge. Todd, Willy and Karen also made the first ascent of p 10565 from the south, giving it the name Jury Peak (Blackburn was named after a judge.) Blackburn had seen an attempt about two weeks earlier by a party of three, which included John Bauman and Howie Powder, via the adjacent northwest ridge. These three were passing by the mountain on their way to McCarthy, doing a ski traverse from the Sanford Glacier. They also summited steamy Mt. Wrangell (14163).

History Corner

The MCA had a successful trip this last month to Bold Peak (7522), with ten participants making the summit to celebrate the 40th anniversary of the mountain's first ascent. The sunny weather on Saturday, May 30th brought out any who were tettering on not showing up for the climb. The approach is a lot different these days than it was in 1947 when the road around Eklutna Lake did not exist. We rode mountain bikes to the East Fork bridge and the next day made the climb under mostly cloudy skies, which held off raining until we were off the top. It was nice to have the bikes Sunday night to make for a swift return to the parking lot. With me were Tom Choate, Michael Rees, Ken Farmer, Bob Baldwin, Bob Matthews, Jim Pommert, Hal Bernton, Chris Zafren and Ken Zafren.

Our route was via Stivers' Gully, the huge south gully which is invisible from the lake. Mr. Bob Henderson, one of the members of the original first ascent party, was unaware of this gully 40 years ago. In fact he was unaware of it until a few days ago when I talked with him at his home in Anchorage. He and the other four members of the party made their ascent on July 20, 1947 via the NE ridge, after crossing the lake in a boat and camping near Hunter Creek Pass (4850). This ascent remained the only one over 7000 feet in the Western Chugach until 1959 when Bashful was climbed.

In recalling the climb, Mr. Henderson says he remembers a point where he had to make a short leap at a precarious stance just below the ridge. He learned quickly what all of us learn about Chugach rock...it pulled out, but somehow he didn't go with it. Mr. Henderson never climbed any other mountains after that one, in fact only two of the party were really climbers, Captain Jack Easley and Charles Hightower. The south gully is the easiest way up Bold, and is unofficially named after Bill Stivers, former president of the MCA.

Willy Hersman