

SCREE

Mountaineering Club of Alaska
Box 2037 Anchorage, Alaska 99501
Vol. 12, No. 7 July, 1969

JULY MEETING ... Monday, July 14, 6:00 P.M. Family picnic at Goose Lake. Bring your own picnic supper. Suggested after-supper activity: a game of "Capture the Flag" en masse.

CLIMBING AND HIKING SCHEDULE

CROW PASS WEEKEND, July 19,20 ... climbing and hiking in the Crow Pass area; sleep in cabin. LEADER: RANDY RENNER, 279-1192 evenings; 272-8411 days.

PIONEER PEAK, 6398', Sunday, July 27th ... long, arduous ascent requiring good condition and climbing experience. Some members may want to leave Saturday afternoon and camp in bowl. Check with leader. LEADER: FRED CADY, 753-2211 days.

MATANUSKA PEAK, 6119', Sunday August 3rd ... long climb up good trail and easy ridge. Views of northwestern Chugach, Matanuska Valley, Talkeetnas, Knik Glacier, etc. Top guaranteed in return for 12 hours hard work. LEADER: GARY HANSEN, 272-1145.

LOWER TOWER, 6129', Talkeetna Mtns., Saturday August 9 ... fourth and low fifth class rock climb above Snowbird Mine. Ropes of two required. LEADER: CHUCK McLAUGHLIN, 863-7251.

GLACIER SCHOOL will be held over the weekends of August 16-17 and August 23-24. Details will be announced in August SCREE.

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Fred Cady has been appointed Treasurer of the Club by the Executive Committee.

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EAST TWIN PEAK 5873'

May 25, 1969

Hans Van der Laan

Larry Swanson, Lotte Kramer, Charles Gasta, Peter Vlasveld, Wayne Geehman, Al Tomage, Dave Johnston, Dan Kler, and Hans Van der Laan (Leader).

We followed the description given by Tony Bockstahler in the August 1968 edition of SCREE for East Twin Pass to get to the end of the construction road and above timber and brush. (This description is much better than the one given in 30 Hikes) After crossing the main stream at the end of the road we went straight toward the south face of the mountain keeping just to the right of the main gully. We kept on this face until about elevation 5000' when we were forced to the east and onto the ridge coming up from the pass. Went up the ridge for a few hundred feet until steep rock forced us to descend slightly to the snow fields on the north face. At this point we roped up due to the steepness of the snow. The snowfields led us directly to the summit. For the return trip we stayed on the ridge until further down, where we found some scree and snow slopes to bound and glissade on. Time: Departed Anchorage 5:30 A.M., returned Anchorage 7:30 PM. (USGS Anchorage B-6)

FLATTOP MOUNTAIN 3525'

June 20-21, 1969

Dave Johnston

"MIDSUMMER NIGHT SLEEP-IN"

It was really the night before the shortest. And we didn't sleep much. But for tradition's sake, our climb's name should remain constant, for this was the third annual repetition of the event. Thirty-seven people and the great Rocky Horning (dog) rallied round Flattop's highest point, singing songs and roasting marshmallows, pretending it was the shortest night of the year. We would have made it the proper night, but then Sharon Cissna couldn't have come. She couldn't anyway, as it turned out, but she did buzz over in her 707 and wave to us. We all agreed, though, the second shortest night was plenty short enough! Here's who came: Fred Cady, Gene Coté, Larry Donahue (14), Clarice M. Eberly, Sharon Good, Gordon Granger, Sharon Groomer (10½), Myra Gulian, Gary Hansen, Dick Holdaway, Christie Horning (7), Gene Horning, Rocky Horning, Norm Hudel, Dave Johnston, Sally Johnston, Lotte Kramer, Marie Lundström, Carol Neyman, Carol Phillips, Gladys Reckley, Randy Renner, Margaret Rouse, Jim Scheffel, Judy Scheffel, Paul Semp, Hans Van der Laan, Ferein Vlasveld (7), Simon-Paul Vlasveld (9), Dot Whip, Barbara Wilson, Cynthia Wilson, Gwynneth Wilson, Priscilla Wilson, Rodman Wilson, John Wolfe, and Jean Wright.

Singing lasted at least till 2:00 AM (when the writer collapsed) and included numbers made popular by the Kingston Trio, Tom Paxson, Moses and the Vulgarians. Gene Horning, having made his first ascent of Flattop after living 6 years on its flank, recited a long Alaskan ballad and read a fitting excerpt on why we climb, written about the early Everest climbers. Our bonfire, well fueled by the great logs the group carried up and the tree Sally Johnston contributed, burned merrily, if a bit illegally (considering the open fire ban that went into effect at midnight) through the "night." Some cooked their breakfast on it, though cooking access was somewhat limited by a strange, prostrate form. Down mitts cocooned the feet. Lumpy down pants padded the legs. And a villainous black hood completed the disguise, but we all knew it was our leader .. Gary Hansen. He snored with a British accent. Clouds covered parts of Anchorage, and the volcanos across Cook Inlet, but our morning atop Flattop was sunny and warm. Most sleepers-over (probably 20) headed down by 8:00, but Hans and Lotte traversed eastward over Hope and Ptarmigan.

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FLATTOP TO INDIAN CREEK

June 21, 1969

Hans Van der Laan

Not wishing to return to town or make the long drive to Independence Mine as the other participants of the annual M'dsummer Night Flattop Sleep-In were planning on doing that Saturday morning, Lotte Kramer and I went in what we considered the most desirable direction .. UP. We soon discovered one of the sleep-iners (Gordon Granger) asleep on a grassy spot. He had gone up the ridge early in the morning and had fallen asleep on the way down. We followed the ridge until finding a small red flag, cairn, and register placed on "Marmot Point" by Rod Wilson only three days before. The ridge continued making many ups and downs and so did we, until we had crossed over two high points known as Hope and Ptarmigan. Lotte then decided to drop down to Rabbit Creek and go back, and I decided to stay on the ridge and follow it until I could drop down to "Powerline Pass," down to Indian Creek, and along Indian Creek to the Seward Highway. I was fortunate in finding a good route thru the brush to the trail which follows the creek. Time: Departed Flattop 9:15 AM, arrived Seward Highway 9:15 PM. (USGS Anchorage A 7 and A 8)

MOUNTAINEERING SCHOOL - INDEPENDENCE MINE, TALKEETNAS

June 21-22, 1969

On Saturday, June 21, sixteen enthusiastic climbers reached the summit of The Pinnacle via various mixed fourth and low fifth class routes extending from the S. W. ridge to the S. E. ridge and upper S. E. face. Charlie and Andy Renkert, after a late start, traversed the entire S-SE ridge which must be something of a first. On a lengthy rope of five, Fred Cady led Carol Phillips, Randy Renner, Martin Friedrichs, and Clyde Martin directly up the south face. Steve Hackett, enjoying a hiatus from Colorado, used perhaps the first nuts in Alaska, as he led Chuck Pease over the upper S. E. face followed on the 2nd rope by Nick Parker and Chuck Gasta. Bob Spurr led Buddy Jaidinger and Dave Hunke on a S. W. ridge- south face variant followed by Chuck McLaughlin and Dan Kler on the 2nd rope. Bud, Dave, and Dan are high school students and very promising climbers from whom more will be heard in the future.

On Sunday a session of rappeling, belaying, and practice leader-climbing was held on some local ledges where the initiative was passed on to the students (perhaps encouraged by some late Saturday evening imbibing by certain instructors). Other participants were Wayne Groomer, age 13 and youngest member, and Steve Schrader who joined us with his family Saturday evening.

"Very late sleeping non-climbers" (coined by a former SCREE editor) were Margaret Rouse, Gordon Granger, John Wolfe, and Marie Lundstrom. Dave and Carol Devoe and family greeted us Saturday evening as they prepared to return to Anchorage after a Friday night encampment.

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LARK MOUNTAIN 5700'

June 7, 1969

Harry Bludworth

Peak 5700, just above the Moose Pass Townsite on the Seward Highway, has become one of the most talked about and published mountains in the past several months. Lark first came to notice when the committee in Seward on Geographical Names decided they were going to name everything visible from the highway, and then work out from the roadside till there was nothing left. (There may be a little exaggeration here.) For obvious reasons this caused shock in many MCAers and our own committee, headed by Vin Hoeman, started a move to counter the naming purge and to try and influence which names should be used on mountains that seemingly had to be named by the Seward group.

Sometime last winter the news of the new naming committee in Seward was published in the Anchorage Times along with a photo of peak 5700, which Vin dubbed Lark Mountain because it is the breeding ground of the only known lark in Alaska. The other name proposed by people in Moose Pass and Seward was Chase. The reasons were almost as valid: the mine at the base of the mountain was owned and operated by someone named Chase. Fortunately the MCAers prevented the naming of another mountain for a man and were set on the name Lark.

When Vin left for Nepal he stated that he would lead a club climb on the mountain so that our committee could endorse Lark Mountain. However, as most of you all know, tragedy struck and the Seward Committee attempted to make Lark a memorial to Vin. This naming too was stopped, but this time by Vin himself in a roundabout way.

The first ascent was still to be done and Grace scheduled this for June the 7th as a club climb. However, Grace went to Mt. Kimball and asked Dub if he would be willing to lead, since the mountain was in his backyard. Dub accepted the leadership and made arrangements with Lotte Kramer for the climbers to meet at his house at 7 AM on the 7th.

I regret that I failed to get the full names of all five climbers, but they were: Lotte Kramer, Sue Kramer, Peter Vlasvald, Peg, and Randy (please excuse if I'm wrong). Along with Dub and me, we were a party of seven. At 7:50 AM we walked across Dub's backyard to the railroad trestle which was our passage across Upper Trail Lake. From here we went south along the lake till we came to a catroad put in by the miners and is easily distinguished by its NO TRESPASSING. This catroad is muddy, but easily traveled and goes directly to the base of the mountain. Our group went this trail in an hour and a half.

The south ridge on Lark Mountain has a steep bushwack at the beginning but once above this it is by far the easiest and safest route this time of year. We left Sue at the lake, Peg just above the bushes, Randy went down at the beginning of the true ridge, and because of boot trouble, Peter dropped back to take a nap. While he slept, we struggled on to the summit and he joined us on the descent.

The rocks along the true ridge were extremely sharp and I received a cut on my hand that appeared to have been made by a knife. As I think back, it seems that this was why Randy turned back, because he had cut his leg.

The summit of Lark has three high points. The highest is away from the highway and cannot be seen from Moose Pass. Dub, Lotte, and I went to all three points, built a cairn with register and left an American Flag on the highest. The sad part of it all is that we forgot to put Lark in the register. We want the names committee to know that this is the name we desire them to submit to Juneau.

We were at the highest summit at 2:53 PM. Our view was magnificent, although it was clear only while on the summit. We saw birds here, but I am not familiar with the Alaskan Lark so I can't comment on this.

The descent was uneventful, although we had a little tricky route finding through the alders, because of a combination of cliffs. We finally found our old way up and from here it was easy going. Took our time on the trail and were home at 9:30 PM. A long day, but well worth the effort and time. It seems Sue had gone along Grant Lake and back to Dub's along Upper Trail Lake, and confirmed this to be a very enjoyable hike in itself. Our combined parties saw porcupines, goats (20 to 30 to be exact), and many species of birds, including a loon on Grant Lake.

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THUNDERBIRD PEAK 6575'

May 24, 1969

Grace Hoeman

This highest peak of the Thunderbird Creek drainage area attracted Lotte Kramer and me to a one-day trip. In early morning we drove to the head of Eklutna Lake, parked our car and waded the horribly cold Eklutna River. Lotte in shorts and sneakers, I in underpants and barefoot. A game trail facilitated our ascent up a rib south of the gorge. SW of the head of the lake and our first stop was for hydration purposes at the valley creek above the gorge. We sighted a cow moose with a new born calf and luckily for us the mother was totally disinterested in our presence near her. We followed the valley up to the SW, missing our turn, but this worked to our advantage as we discovered an easy access to the SE ridge leading to Thunderbird's summit. The small flowered anemone, ross avens, the white dryad and purple saxifrage gave color to the slope leading on to the SE ridge. Finally only rotten Chugach rock remained, ruining boots and hurting feet. Gendarmes barred our way and Lotte demanded a rope, but I substituted T.L.C. and this brought us past the obstacles.

The summit showed no signs of previous visits by humans. I built a cairn and dropped a rockweighted plastic bag in it, since I had again forgotten to take a summit register with me (this was always Vin's department). A practically cloudless sky opened a fine panorama around us and I proudly pointed Yukla, Kiliak, Rumble, Peekaboo, Benign, Bashful, Baleful, Bold, the Twins, Pioneer, Skybuster, Marcus Baker, and in the distance Hunter, Foraker and Denali out to Lotte.... An unpleasant scree slope took us back to the creek where we quenched our thirst for the second time. Now we spotted two ewes with their lambs. We followed the game trail back to the river and forded it with considerable protest (particularly I), as feet got torn up by the rocks. This can be recommended as a good trip for May, as there is practically no spring snow problem, but the river crossing might deter many.

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PEAK 5220', KENAI MOUNTAINS

June 19, 1969

Harry Bludworth

Upon consulting a USGS Seward C-7 map, in the lower righthand corner, one finds peak 5220 at the head of Quartz and Mills Creeks. On Thursday, June 19, this became my target.

At 7:30 AM Dub dropped me off at the true Moose Pass and I began my 1800' vertical climb of alders. As is typical of many Alaskan climbs, the bushwack on this trip was the worst and hardest part. Came face to face with a cliff and had to descend and look for a way around. Once above the alders, (2 hours and 15 minutes later) I found myself at a small lake at the head of Quartz Creek. Observed three sociable marmots, sun-bathing on the same rock. Exchanged whistles with them and started down Quartz Creek. About a mile down stream my ridge sloped gradually up to the 4500' level; then curved around slowly to the north and the zenith. On the top at 12:30 PM. No sign of a previous visit, except birds. The cairn I built is about to collapse, so stand back when removing the register. I placed an American Flag atop this and enjoyed the view. Lark Mountain, Ismus, Andy Simon, Crescent Lake, and others were wrinkled by the sun's heat.

On the descent I enjoyed a short, but steep standing glissade. Saw snow bunting, sheep, and the Alaskan or Horned Lark. Happened to see both male and female, along with nest and 5 eggs. This was my first encounter with this bird and until now I hadn't known what kind of lark the Alaskan Lark was.

Up Quartz Creek again and down to the highway. Found an old road on the way down and followed it to the highway. Received a ride to Moose Pass Townsite by Hans Van der Laan, on his way to Seward.

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RAGGED TOP MT. $\frac{1}{2}$ 5215'
MAGPIE PEAK 5812'

June 21-22, 1969

Grace Hoeman

Off I go at 9:00 on June 21. Girdwood is cloudy as usual but I decide to do Ragged Top and Magpie anyway. I park the car at the foot of the Crow Pass trail, shoulder my heavy pack, walk up the trail around the bend, cross the avalanche-snow bridge, traverse the slope leading to the SE ridge of Magpie and select a campsite between the "Magpie Glacier" runoff streams. I don't dare set up camp yet, since the tent could be seen from the trail and store my load under a huge boulder. With a day-pack only I head up the valley till a snowfield brings me to the steep NW ridge of

Ragged Top. Cloud shreds start to cut visibility. I reach what I think is the NW summit in an on-and-off whiteout and find a small cairn without register. In order to silence my critics, I traverse over to the lower SE summit 2/; also, I want to check the SE summit register and copy what Vin entered in it on May 30, 1967 when we visited the SE summit and bad weather prevented us from reaching the true summit. I find the cairn on the SE summit, but except for a chewed-on and pecked-at plastic bag, there is no cigar tube register, which I so clearly remember was there in May 1967. Was this register removed by an animal or by man, the worst of all beasts? Disappointed, I scribble a nasty note, put it in the plastic bag, fix the cairn and hurry back over the ragged jags, hands bruising and bleeding. I drop a Néstea glass bottle with proper entry in the cairn on the high point and descend via the NW ridge to my campsite. A golden crown sparrow keeps me company and sings his melancholy 3-tonetune, which I answer till I grow tired of it. I garnish my supper with fireweed sprouts and pass the time with the study of botany.

I cache the tent at 6:30 on June 22 and under marginal weather conditions, I ascend towards Magpie's SE ridge, today loaded down with a rope, hammer and irons for self protection. I visit point 4805 in a blowing storm and whiteout, adding one layer of parkas to another to keep warm. I find the proper landmarks as the clouds lift momentarily and begin the SE ridge, which I'd like to christen: "from bad to worse." It is obvious that the flaky, rotten slabs will make any kind of self protection impossible and as the exposure on both sides grows severe, I dump most of my load, since balance becomes vital. One bad gendarmé follows the other, but finally, after one or two class 5-3 stretches of climbing, I reach one of the high points of Magpie 3/. It has started to spit a bit of snow as I go along the summit ridge and reach the top, where there is no sign of previous ascent. I eat sardines with my fingers, lick the tin clean and dry it with a tissue to make it a fit register. A substantial cairn of slabrock material finishes the job and I start the descent. At the end of the summit ridge I build another smaller cairn and then commence the battle of the gendarmes in reverse. An obliging cloudlift permits me to check the cairn, it is on the high point all right. As the ridge broadens I relax and speed down to my possessions and then off the mountain. Under the clouds the world looks a bit more cheerful.

- 1) Ragged Top received it's name in 1932 (Board on Geogr. Names). First ascent was June 12, 1960, by Hart, Gendzwill, Wescott, B. Wilson, see SCREE 2:10:1
- 2) "Ragged Top Mt." H. Bading, SCREE 6:1:2-3
- 3) Magpie has been attempted at least four times over the past nine years. Hart, Bailey and Gardey claim a first ascent in 1960, but this has not been substantiated.

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INDIAN VALLEY

May 17, 1969

Sharon Cissna

When the Alaska Division of Lands announced plans to auction Indian Creek land for logging, a small number of Mountaineering Club members were quite disturbed. President Bob Spurr met with a number of other local outing group leaders in meetings with the Division of Lands trying to save the property from the mighty sawdust makers. Shortly after a temporary restraining order was placed on the ADL due to a suit brought by a small group of concerned Anchorage residents, President Spurr scheduled a hike up Indian Creek to introduce the membership-at-large to the well hidden, but easily accessible paradise. A record-breaking total of 53 hikers met and challenged numerous balance-testing logs, bogs, devils club, and beautiful, unspoiled deep green forest. Actually, no one lost their balance, and few complained of prickles...a feat considering the age variety (from 3 months to 50+). The hike was lead (in the loose sense of the word) by Sharon Cissna. Participants were: Randy Renner, Barb Winkley,

Peggy Sheft, Tim Schoeneberg, Lotte Kramer, the Groomers (4), the DeVoes (7), Paul Lemp, Carrie Lewis, Dick, Liska and ? Snyder, Chuck Gasta, the Bramans (4), Chuck Pease, the Meachams, Tom Gregory, Vern Luthman, Marie Lundstrom, Carol Phillips and Donald, Louise DeVoe, Virginia Chaney, Beth Bailey, Lisa Walters, Barry and Sue Fisher, Peter Vlasveld and family (3), the Schulze family (5), the Nienheusers (4) and three Girl Scouts. The old Iditerod Trail was very clearly visible in many places and remarkably well preserved in some spots. Hopefully, logging will occur elsewhere and leave this valley for the plastic toothpick generation.

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BITS AND PIECES

Friday, June 13, 1969, marks the first ascent of Mt. Kimball, el. 10,350', high point of the East Alaska Range, by Dan Osborne, Mike Sallee, Tom Kensler (all of the Alaska Alpine Club) and Grace Hoeman. The mountain received it's name in 1885 (Allen) and it took seven major attempts for final success. Reports of the climb will appear in Summit Magazine (Osborne and Kensler) and in the American Alpine Journal (Hoeman):

On June 28, Chuck McLaughlin and Bob Spurr made a first ascent via its eastern exposure and north ridge of Peak 5530', Talkeetna Mtns., prominent spire $1\frac{1}{4}$ mile NW of Fern Mine. They built a healthy-sized cairn and left a register on the not-too-roomy summit and suggest the name Katodoyona, Susitna Indian word for hawk.

On June 1, Larry Swanson and Bob Spurr climbed West Twin via its SW exposure. The register is missing from the small cairn on the summit.

Chuck McLaughlin and Bob Spurr climbed Goat Rock on June 19 via a variant of its west ridge and reluctantly descended after $1\frac{1}{2}$ sun-bathing hours on its summit.

Larry Swanson and his younger brother climbed McHugh Peak directly from the campground on Sunday, June 22, walking our Rabbit Creek valley to Hillside Road before catching a ride home.

On June 2 and 3, Bill Moores and Larry Swanson took advantage of the midnight sun to go on a night climb. We left Stuckagain Heights at 8:30 PM and headed for Knoya (4660'), from there we traversed down the side of the ridge to Kanchee (4310'). After traversing down the face of Kanchee we climbed up the back of the 3215 foot hill and headed back to Stuckagain Heights. At 6:30 AM we arrived back at Stuckagain Heights and were greeted by four Irish Setters.

Scott Hamilton is now a key urban planner for the U. S. Navy at Pearl Harbor, and has just been re-elected president of the Conservation Council for Hawaii. His address: Scott D. Hamilton, Jr., Waikiki P^o Box 8803, Honolulu, Hawaii 96815.

Dub and Harry Blutworth, General Delivery, Moose Pass, Alaska. After the summer Harry's address will be: 516 Sixth Street, North, Nampa, Idaho 83651. Dub will remain at Moose Pass.

SCREE is published monthly by the Mountaineering Club of Alaska, which is affiliated with the Anchorage Department of Parks and Recreation. Editor: Liska Snyder. Staff: Marty Corcoran, Carol DeVoe, Joanne Merrick. Please send material for the August SCREE to Liska Snyder, 2806 Alder Drive, Anchorage, Alaska 99504, by July 25.