

# SCREE

MOUNTAINEERING CLUB OF ALASKA

BOX 2037

ANCHORAGE, ALASKA 99510

JULY 1972

VOL. 15, NO. 7

**JULY MEETING...** Thursday, July 20, 1972, .. 6:00 PM. . . Goose Lake.

We are no longer able to "reserve" the area. However, the Parks Dept. will try to fend off large groups for us, so try to be there early. Remember - Bring your own plates, silverware, food and mosquito dope. Garbage cans will be furnished!

**BOARD MEETING--**Monday, August 7--7:30 PM--Kathy Selken's--Woodlawn Parks Apts., Bldg. 1, Apt. 5, 2600 W. Northern Lights Blvd. **IMPORTANT--** All Board members please attend!

## HIKING AND CLIMBING SCHEDULE

Interested in a good climb between now and the August edition of SCREE? If so, call Bob Spurr at 344-6067.

Be sure and let Bob know if you are planning a climb or hike in the future. He'll let others know so you'll have company.

*Matanuska Pk*

**BYERS PEAK '6119'**

June 10-11, 1972

Fritz & Durhane Rieger

We made a camp Friday night on the first bench of Lazy Mountain and started toward Byers Peak around 10:30 Saturday morning in pleasant weather. We took our time and made the peak at about 10:30 PM and returned to our camp at 6:00 AM Sunday.

We thought it notable that someone had gone through our camp, cooked our food, scattered the dirty pots and food wrappers and stolen the remainder of our food while we were climbing. Our pack frames and sleeping bags were left alone, however, and we were too tired to eat anyway.

BEGINNER'S ROCK AND GLACIER SCHOOL - Details and dates on next page.

## BEGINNERS' ROCK AND GLACIER SCHOOL

One combined beginners' rock and glacier school will be conducted during July, August and into September. Attendance at each session will be required to qualify a student to attend the following session, **except** for the multiple evening sessions which will be held at the First Something on the Seward Highway.

The evening sessions will commence at 7:00 PM the 24th of July and will run through that week as needed. Knot tying and basic rock technique will be practiced to develop the proficiency necessary to climb the north ridge of Ptarmigan Peak the following Sunday, July 30th.

Sunday, August 6th, the school will be climbing the northern side of the Pinnacle in the Talkeetnas. The following Saturday, August 11th, will involve a two-day trip to Granite Peak and will leave Anchorage at 6:00 AM. Camp will be set up at the base of the peak. The peak will be climbed on Saturday and we will walk out Sunday.

A two-day glacier session will be held on the Matanuska Glacier on the 19th and 20th of August for all of those who attended the rock school. It is likely that we will encounter poor weather during this time, and I will shift dates as the need arises, so the school may run into September.

If you wish to attend the climbing school, come to the Club picnic July 20th or call me at 333-4609 (home) or 279-6578 (work). If you have no equipment, buy no more than 25 ft. of 1-in. tubular webbing and one locking carabiner. I will find you a climbing helmet.

The 27th of August will see an attempt on Byron Peak by the standard ice route.

-Bill Barnes-

## CONDENSED MINUTES

There are no condensed minutes for the June, 1972, meeting as there was not a meeting. The school was locked and it took some time to contact a party who had keys. People came and left after visiting with those with faith that a key would be obtained shortly. Those with faith waited until at least 9:00 PM.

## The Alaska Rescue Group presents FOOD FOR THOUGHT

### General Problems of Survival

**Signal Mirror:** It is wise to practice the technique of using the mirror in advance, since aircraft pass over very rapidly. Unless you are ready at the time that the aircraft appears and can aim quickly, the aircraft will be gone without ever seeing your signal. If for some reason you do not have a signal mirror you can easily improvise one from any shiny material available. A piece of the skin of the aircraft or shiny tin may be used for this purpose.

**Shadow Signals:** Providing no other means are available, you may be required to construct signals which will use the sun to cast shadows. To be effective, these shadow signals must be oriented to the sun to produce the best shadow. In areas close to the equator, a north-south line will give a shadow at any time except noon. Areas farther north or south require the use of an east-west line or some point of the compass in between to give the best results. The shadow

signals should be constructed in one of the international distress patterns. Brush, foliage of any type, or rocks may be used to cast shadows. On snow-covered terrain, snow blocks can be piled in a line to do the job.

**Other Signaling Methods:** If you are in a wooded area, spread colored tarps over the tree tops, if possible. If you can climb a tall tree, hoist a large white or colored improvised flag on a pole lashed to the top.

Do everything you can to disturb the "natural" look of the ground. If you are down in grass and scrub lands, cut giant markers--a circular path, 8-12 feet in width and 60-75 feet in diameter is easily seen from the air. A trampled or burned grass pattern will show from the air.

### SUMMARY OF SIGNALING

The most important factors about signals are:

- (1) Know how the signals are to be used.
- (2) Have the signals ready for use on short notice.
- (3) Use them in a manner which will not jeopardize your safety.

Any signaling used successfully is the quickest way to effect your recovery and eliminate the possibility of a long, arduous survival episode.

### SURVIVAL MEDICINE

To fulfill your obligations as an American outdoorsman, you must do more than merely stay alive when placed on your own in an emergency. Just staying alive will probably not be enough to enable you to return to civilization. You can just stand, sit, or lie somewhere and live for an amazingly long time--if you so will it. In addition to the bare maintenance of the "spark of life," you must in some way, tangible or intangible, minute or great, improve your situation with the passage of time.

Survival medicine implies more than first aid in the conventional sense, for it is assumed that competent medical assistance will not be available for some time after the onset of the emergency. You must, therefore, be prepared to administer as much help to yourself and others as you possibly can.

There is no "type" survival situation, each is different. Therefore, any approach to medicine must be flexible. Despite the variation among individual survival situations, survival factors may be categorized as follows:

- (1) The survivor--his mental and physical condition, including his morale and will to survive, state of health, personal hygiene, illness or injury, and requirements for food and water.
- (2) The environment--terrain, climate, weather, flora and fauna, and distance from civilization.

During World War II and Korea, it was noted that while aircrew members generally knew how to administer first aid to others, there was a marked deficiency in their capability to administer first aid to themselves. Further, they had not been taught medical care beyond simple first aid, despite the fact that many of them were to be on their own for long periods of time before medical attention was available. Survivors also reported that minor injuries or ailments became major problems in the survival situation. Thus it may be seen that prompt attention to minor conditions becomes even more important in survival than under ordinary conditions.

EAST TWIN 5878'

June 17, 1972

Bob Spurr

On this Saturday near 8:00 AM, the MCA East Twin cairn-building "expedition" left the parking area at Eklutna Lake, not to return for another 12 1/2 hours. Dogged determination put our casually-moving party of Dale Leslie, Fritz and Durhane Rieger, Gill Todd and me on the summit via an east ridge variant. Erstwhile MCAer Cliff Ellis, now from Coos, Oregon, in the off season and SAS stewardess, Anna Marie Fridberg, called a halt at the pass as did Bob Peterson who was breaking in a new pair of boots. Reduced to almost a one-pitch climb without its snowcover, and although cold, overcast and occasionally spitting snow, we made good time once on the ridge by carrying coils over terrain otherwise calling for careful belays in winter. We found the water-tight ammo box containing assorted registers, and these were consolidated in a large plastic jar, replaced in the ammo box, and finally housed near the top of a fair-sized cairn. Its engineering design and construction required most of our summit endeavors; a human conveyor was formed to assemble most of its components.

Contrary to the inference in SCREE (see 4:8:1, 2) East Twin had an active climbing history prior to 1962. Its apparent first ascent was made on May 25, 1952, by that resident climbing power, Bob Goodwin, now out of "Fairbush," the then Capt. Bill Hackett, who while stationed at Ft. Richardson was running up McKinley almost as often as Ray Genet and a D. Mc Blakemore with whom I'm not acquainted. There were additional ascents in the 50's including those with the familiar names of Horning, Bading, Schuck and Crews. We added to the list several climbs made when the register was buried and hitherto recorded only in SCREE. For early season parties the cairn is located just north of the highest boulder; if that's not protruding, you'll have to probe!

#### HOEMAN MOUNTAINEERING LIBRARY

Acting Custodian: Marie Landstrom, 272-0858

This month's list is mainly Canadian books:

1. CLIMBS IN THE CANADIAN ROCKIES by Frank S. Smythe, 1950, 260 pp
2. THE MOUNTAIN OF MY FEAR by David Roberts, 1968, 157 pp.
3. THE UNKNOWN MOUNTAIN by Don Munday, 1948, 268 pp. Ascent of Waddington.
4. CLOUD WALKERS by Paddy Sherman, 1965, 161 pp. Six climbs on major Canadian peaks.
5. A CLIMBER'S GUIDE TO THE INTERIOR RANGES OF BRITISH COLUMBIA by William L. Putnam, 1963, 253 pp.
6. A CLIMBER'S GUIDE TO THE ROCKY MOUNTAINS OF CANADA by J. Monroe Thorington, 1966, 381 pp. 6th ed.
7. MOUNTAIN WORLD 1953, 1954, 1955, 1956/57, 1958/59, 1960/61, 1962/63, 1964/65 and 1966/67.
8. And many other books of interest.

## Report from Mt. McKinley or Twenty-six Days in a Cloud

by Wendell Oderkirk

Our group of six included Brian Forbes, Barry Kircher, Steve Jones, Bill Barnes and Ev Wenrick. After waiting two days for weather to clear, Cliff Hudson flew us to base camp on the Kahiltna. Twenty-six days later he flew us out.

Inbetween we had a nice storm at 10,200, which badly tore up the Club's four-man McKinley and ripped a Bishop tent. We could hear helicopters and C-BA's above working on a rescue at 17,300 during this storm.

We also took great pleasure from observing the antics of the French ski team "led" by Saudan. Had Steve Hackett and Bob Sartor not been there to bail them out during the big storm, the skier would not have made it to 14,200, let alone Kahiltna Horn.

At our arrival at 14,200 we watched Don Sheldon land (with supplies for the French). We were also able to watch Saudan ski from Kahiltna Horn to our 14,200 camp. The next day as Saudan went down, we went to 17,200 and spent the next four days waiting for the wind to abate for a summit attempt.

It never abated and the weatherman told us it wouldn't for several days, so we retreated. Our trip down netted us much "booty" from the French who left more gear, food and garbage on the mountain than most people take up.

### WHAT-SCREE-SAID-WAY-BACK-THEN-DEPT.

Ten years ago - July, 1962 - Scott Hamilton wrote a rousing report of the action-packed Mt. Marathon Race on July 4th. He began his account with Howard A. Schuck's statement "This race is nothing but 'instant mountaineering.'" He then says, "Gaul is divided into three parts, as every school boy knows, but we didn't know Mount Marathon was divided into four, requiring postures of a Caribou, Chimpanzee, Mountain Goat and swivel-hipped Olympic walker." A challenge had been flung down by MCA members to the Olympic Biathlon boys. He described the difficulty of having a team with humor and recounted vividly the Race including an account of a broken toe, looking for where to drop over the precipice and a team member pausing to help a lady who lost her balance and was about to fall. His conclusion was "To paraphrase the Japanese expression about Fujiyama, 'He who fails to run Mount Marathon once is a fool, but he who runs it twice is a bigger fool.'"

*Calliope*

Fiv years ago - July, 1967 - Bob Hansen reported a first ascent of Icy Peak 6810' Bill Hauser accompanied him. They left a register naming the peak "Icy Peak" because the NW face is a massive sheet of ice of very high angle. They left the summit in a snow storm which later turned to rain. It was reported that THIRTY HIKES IN ALASKA was available at last. Dave Johnston reported an ascent of the jutting virgin peak, Ice Cream Cone Mountain ("Skybuster") 8675' (NE Ridge NCCS IV, F 6), the highest of the Chugach border peaks between the Knik and Matanuska Glaciers.

BITS & PIECES

CORRECTION to SCREE - In the May and June issue of SCREE inadvertently, George Menar's name was incorrectly spelled Maynard. Menard is correct. My apologies. Editor.

Wendell Oderkirk can now be reached at Eberhard's Sport Shop. He will be able to show you the latest in equipment from North Face, Alpine design, Camp Trails and now, Sierra Designs. He invites all his friends from MCA to drop by and see him at Eberhard's.

On June 11, Jan-Erik Neld and Bob Spurr did both the East and West summits of Taniana, 5350' approaching Campbell Creek's North Fork from Prospect Heights via the saddle between Near Pt. and Wolverine's NW ridge. Jan-Erik carried out full-curl sheep horns, only remains with the "feathers" of a bear-devoured ram found at the bottom of Elliot's north slope.

On July 3, Bill Barnes and Bob Spurr made the second ascent of Sheep Mountain 6250' (formerly Wolcot Mtn.) via its northwesterly ridge and located 17 highway miles north of Seward in the Kenai Mtns. (Seward B-7 quad). Ten years to the month had elapsed since Vin Hoeman's first ascent (see SCREE 4:10:1). His honey-jar register, C-ration can and cairn were still intact.

As you have noted in this issue and previous issues this year, there is always room for your accounting of your climbs and hikes. Editor.