



MOUNTAINEERING CLUB OF ALASKA

BOX 2037

ANCHORAGE, ALASKA 99510

JULY 1973

VOL. 16, No. 7

JULY MEETING...Thursday, July 19, 1973...8:00 PM...Central Junior High Multipurpose Room...Minislide show of MCA Flattop Sleep-in and slides of a weekend in South Fork, Eagle River during our glorious two weeks of summer! by Tom Meacham...Business Meeting...Refreshments...Main Program: Ward-Swanson trek to Mt. McKinley this past spring, including an attempt on the summit by Larry Swanson.

BOARD MEETING....August 6, 1973, 7:30 PM at Tom Meacham's, 1410 H St.

CLIMBING AND HIKING SCHEDULE

Nothing definite at this time. Come to the July meeting; hikes and climbs will be announced then and there will be sign-up sheets. **

SPECIAL TRIP

Did last January's -30° get you down? How about spending this January in Australia? Barb Winkley is arranging a group trip with group rates to Australia for three weeks. Regular round-trip fare is about \$1250 but through the group rate, with a limit of 15 people, you get hotel accommodations, with any of 300 to choose from, and 700 miles free travel--all you pay is gas, with car provided (two to a car) for \$1066. The group will leave Anchorage on December 26th. For further information, contact Barb Winkley--Home PH: 344-0458 Work PH: 344-1519

**SCHEDULED HIKE

MCA Family Weekend--Reed Lakes, Talkeetna area. August 4-5 or August 11-12 if weather prevents earlier date. Bring family for camping in scenic setting; hiking and wildflower observation for kids and the moderately motivated; rock scrambling and climbing for the athletes. Call Tom Meacham (277-2129) or Bill Barnes, Jr. (272-2205) for details.

B I T S & P I E C E S

Sam Pestinger and his wife are going to Zermatt, Switzerland, August 28 to meet two University of Geneva students to climb the Matterhorn. They would greatly appreciate hearing from anyone having knowledge of the routes to the summit.

Indian House Mountain 4350+50 was climbed by Jeff Bennett and Scott Mueller during the night between May 26th and 27th.

The south fork of Eagle River was a very popular place for MCAers on July 7th. Jeff Bennett, Larry Swanson and John Pinamont ran into Bob Spurr and Fritz and Durhane Rieger right past Eagle Lake, and then met T.J. Bruce and Mark Rainery who were planning on climbing Organ Mountain, but instead joined the three for a climb of Eagle Peak 6955. They climbed it via the south ridge for a second ascent.

Nancy Simmerman writes, "I feel a bit guilty picking up and running away after the book came out--but I'm on my way back, hopefully a renewed spirit, a better photographer, and ready to tackle Alaska again.

"Is the photo editor of 55 WAYS TO THE WILDERNESS a figment of the imagination? She hasn't been at meetings or on trips. No, I haven't forgotten MCA, the trips, or the meetings.

"A few days after the Sept., '72, autograph party at the Book Cache, I set out down the Highway for a Wanderjahr, in a frightfully overloaded little Saab stationwagen. After stops in Chicago and New York City to show my portfolio and 55 WAYS (both were very well received by those in the publishing and/or photography fields), and Christmas in Ohio with parents, I headed south, through Georgia, Alabama, Mississippi, and Louisiana, sampling the southern mind and scenery. Then to Big Bend Park, Texas, for hiking, and on across southern U.S., stopping and exploring every National Park and Monument I could find.

"Then it was two weeks aboard a 41-ft. ketch in San Diego, an Ansel Adams Photography Workshop at Yosemite, and a 100-mile rubber raft trip down Colorado's Dolores River with noted nature photographer Philip Hyde. (He has three Sierra Club large format books among his many credits.) Most recently, I photographed on a float trip down a portion of the Gunnison River, Colorado, soon to be dammed, and another scenic canyon submerged. At this writing I'm taking a day off from hiking the trails in the Tetons to visit well-known Alaskan naturalist Adolph Murie and his wife Louise. Harvey Manning and family were also visiting the Murie's, and it was a pleasure to meet him after coordinating with him through the mails on the production of 55 WAYS.

"Now for the lost, dusty, but interesting trip back up the Alaska Highway and back to 'normal' life in the Anchorage-Girdwood area."

On July 1, 1973, Fritz and Durhane Rieger and Bob Spurr made the third ascent of Peek-A-Boo 6950 via "High Valley" and its southeast-south ridge. Next ascenders should carry a permanent register with pencil to replace the old original, now almost inadequate as this climb gains popularity.

MOUI MCKINLEY - (DENALI)

Mount McKinley (20,320') is, as most of us know, the highest mountain in North America. On clear days this massif, that extends for 150 miles from the Nenana River on the east to Rainy Pass on the west, catches the eye of all of us, especially the mountaineer. The apex of the Alaska Range, Mount McKinley, rises nearly 3000' above its nearest rival, Mount Foraker, 17,400'. Twenty-odd peaks rise above 10,000 feet around their bases and in the surrounding area. Snow falls have been recorded down to the 4,000-foot level in every month of the year giving the McKinley massif one of the world's greatest vertical snow covers (16,000 feet on Mount McKinley). Mount McKinley National Park encompasses a 3,030-square-mile area part of which is the culmination of the Alaskan Range.

The mountaineering history of Mount McKinley (20,320') began about 1903 when Judge Wickersham and party attempted to climb it from the north. Subsequently numerous attempts, unsuccessful and successful, have been made on Mount McKinley. To date 120 expeditions, that have been successful or partially successful, have trod on "The Great One" and a total of 609 persons have been on the south (20,320') and/or north (19,470') summits.

The following are statistics that have been compiled for the past 1972 climbing season: 14 expeditions were successful or partially successful out of a total of 27 parties on the mountain; of 188 climbers, 86 made it to the south or north summit. A total of 8 injuries, sicknesses and/or fatalities were reported: 3 injuries and 2 altitude sickness required evacuations; 3 fatalities occurred during a descent on the west projection of the south face. Eighty-five foreign climbers (45 percent of the total number) were on the mountain during 1972: 60 Japanese, 11 French, 7 German, 6 Swiss and 1 Spanish.

For the 1973 climbing season the following information has been noted as of this date: 12 expeditions have been on the mountain; the first 6 parties were unsuccessful and the last 6 groups have put 37 climbers on the south summit. All expeditions except one (Muldrow Route) went up the West Buttress Route. Presently there are 7 groups on the mountain: 3 (46 climbers) are on the West Buttress, 3 (32 climbers) on the Muldrow Glacier and 1 (5 climbers) on the south face. Six more expeditions are scheduled to go on Mount McKinley during the rest of the climbing season: 5 parties up the West Buttress Route and 1 more party up the Muldrow Glacier Route. All and all it is another busy season for "Denali" this year.

The number of expeditions and climbers for this climbing season is very similar to the number last year. The trend is more groups traversing the mountain (up the West Buttress and down the Muldrow Glacier) and more use of the northern approach, the Muldrow Route. Both endeavors are more demanding than the route of ascent and descent by the West Buttress. Success seems to be less this year than in the past. Probably the main reason being the unseasonably severe weather conditions during May and the first part of June.

Awareness of the garbage and trash problems on the most popular routes is becoming noticeable to the point that some groups are making efforts to remove it. Two parties with the sole purpose of collecting and disposing of garbage and litter left by previous expeditions were on the West Buttress Route this year. These parties, Denali Arctic Environmental Program #1 and #2, consisted of 16 climbers sponsored

by the University of Oregon's Outdoor Program and the American Alpine Club.

Mountaineering activities in Mount McKinley National Park over the past five years has been on the increase. To help the visitor enjoy his mountaineering experience, the National Park Service has updated "Memo-87," a pamphlet on mountaineering. This information is meant for the mountaineer who plans to climb within Mount McKinley National Park. The regulations and suggestions contained within the pamphlet are derived from experiences of Mount McKinley expedition members, park administrators of four decades and from recent consultants with prominent mountaineers and alpine club.

The following steps are necessary to participate in mountaineering expeditions (over 12,000') in Mount McKinley National Park:

- Obtain all information you can on the scope of your proposed climb. The Superintendent and his staff will be glad to help.
- At least 60 days prior to the expedition, submit to the Superintendent:
 - a) Individual applications
 - b) Physician's certificates
 - c) Radio information (type to be used, frequency, relay, etc.)
- To avoid confusion, it is imperative that one man handle all correspondence with the National Park Service, Air Service and other organizations. The expedition leader must be named and the name of the party must be on all correspondence.

In addition, the Park Service would like parties to report to Park Headquarters by phone and/or in person before and upon returning from the climb. A mountaineering Park Ranger is ready to assist and help expeditions. Those who are unfamiliar with Mount McKinley and surrounding area - foreign groups particularly - can be assisted on the best approach, with equipment and what conditions to expect on the mountain.

Please send all inquires, applications and correspondence to: Superintendent, Mount McKinley National Park, P. O. Box 9, McKinley Park, Alaska 99755.

-compiled and written by:
 Steve W. Hackett
 Seasonal Park Ranger
 6/25/73

The pamphlet referred to above is entitled MOUNTAINEERING, MOUNT MCKINLEY NATIONAL PARK, ALASKA. It gives mandatory requirements, suggested guidelines, equipment recommendations, general information, climbing problems and a list of reference materials. This pamphlet has been placed in the MCA library, presently located at Marie Lundstrom's.

Steve Hackett has stated he hopes to have another article on McKinley backcountry - opportunities, regulations, etc. for SCREE in the near future. -Editor-

KNOYA & TIKISHLA

April 20, 21, 22, 1973

Mark Rainery

On April 20, Dick Greeley, Mike Sawada and I set off up the trail towards Wolverine. We reached the switchback on the trail at about 5:00 because of a combination of late start and wrong trail.

The next day we headed up over Near Point. A helicopter flew

around us and landed there. We went down into the South Fork Campbell Creek Valley. We crossed over the creek and up onto a gentle ridge going up to Tikishla. We set up our second camp here, at about 3,000 feet. Then we went up Knoya. It was an easy climb, and we reached the summit about 5:30. There was considerable wind on the summit.

On Sunday we got an early start and ascended Tikishla on a long sloping ridge. We reached the summit at about 9:00. There was little snow on the southern exposures and throughout the whole trip, except Saturday morning, we had clear skies. It was a well spent three days.

BUMMING IN MCKINLEY PARK
[Quad. Healy (C-6)]

June 20-22, 1973

Larry Swanson

On Wednesday, June 20, I found myself bouncing along with a bus full of tourists and their screaming offspring. When we came to our jumping-off place at Tattler Creek, Dave Gerder and I watched the bus ramble on down the sunbaked road. We felt sort of sorry for them being stuck in a bus on a nice day.

I had just met Dave, who was up from Nebraska, a couple of days before. We got to rapping and before we knew it, we were on our way up to McKinley Park after some pictures of sheep and some fresh mountain air.

We already had our fresh air and sunshine as we walked up Tattler Creek and as we rounded a bend, we spotted 7 rams about 500 feet above us. We dropped our packs and were soon within camera distance. Approaching them in plain sight, they seemed unafraid and we were able to get within 100 feet of them. They continued to graze and rest as if they had little interest in our presence. This was such a contrast to other areas where hunting is allowed that I couldn't believe it.

By the time I had run a roll of film through my camera, they had wandered over into the shade so Dave and I continued on our way. We spent that night at a 4700-ft. pass below Sable Mountain (6050+50).

The next morning we made a lazy ascent of Sable Mountain (Dave's first mountain) and then moved our camp over to the base of Igloo Mountain about two miles away. There was a band of about 35 sheep within 600 feet of our tent and we watched them as we ate an early dinner. After dinner we spent a couple of hours taking pictures and managed to get within 30 feet of a group of 5 rams. We weren't able to get nearly as close to the ewes and lambs, however, from a distance we enjoyed watching the young lambs chasing each other in circles, leaping into air and running up and down the slope without even tiring.

We hated to disturb them, but we wanted to climb Igloo Mountain so we started up by them, and they took off in a flash.

From the top of the west summit of Igloo 4850+50, we spotted a tent on the other side of the east summit also 4850+50 but probably the lower of the two. So I climbed over the east summit and down to it. The guy there, Scott Canavan, was from Connecticut and was up here bumming around for the summer. He had just climbed Igloo before Dave and I and was going to climb Sable tomorrow.

The next day Dave and I went down to the road and Dave waited there because of sore feet while I climbed Cathedral Mountain. It has two summits a mile apart that are both the same elevation (4905). After some deliberation on top of the first one, I went ahead and climbed the other one as well and then rejoined Dave at the road.

On the way back on the bus, Dave said he really dug Alaska and the mountains, and we shared our experiences with some of the other people on the bus.

PETER'S CREEK-KAHILTNA RIVER-YENTNA RIVER-POINT MACKENZIE RAFT TRIP
 Talkeetna B-2, A-2 May 25-June 3, 1973 Charles Kibler
 Tyonek D-2, D-3, C-2, B-2, B-1
 Anchorage A-8, B-8

Fri. Eve May 25--Mostly cloudy, occasional rain along the way.

After work at 4:30 PM, I hitched a ride with an employee from the Highway Dept. office to Big Lake Junction; then immediately got another ride to Petersville Road; and finally 3 miles in a van up Petersville Road to the first big mudhole by 7:00 PM where I camped.

Sat. May 26--Partly cloudy, occasional rain and sunshine.

Helped a jeep get unstuck from the mudhole; rode with it 1 mi. to the next mudhole where it got stuck again. Rode a Coot all-terrain-vehicle 1 mi. to the abandoned Oil Well Road; then walked 8 miles; then hitched a ride on a 4-wheel drive swamp buggy from Kroto Creek to Peter's Creek, where I inflated my raft and camped in a cabin beside Peter's Creek.

Sun. May 27--Mostly sunny.

Floated down Peter's Creek. First 14 miles is easy going--gradient of 20'/mi. 4 mi. downstream, met a group of people camped on their 5-acre recreational parcel they staked out. The next 88 mi. is open to entry. There is a cave with a string issuing from a sandstone cliff on the west side of the creek 9 mi. downstream in Sec. 3, with 50' of walking passage and a crawlway continuing further. The last 10 mi. has a gradient of 35'/mi. with up to 2' rapids around boulders. Saw a cow moose drinking from the creek. Water became calm as Peter's Creek joined the Kahiltna River. Floated 5 mi. down Kahiltna R. and camped across from Shulin Lake at the base of the hill in Sec. 27. Put tarp over raft and slept in raft.

Mon. May 28--Mostly cloudy, occasional sun and rain.

Area is open to entry--might as well grab a piece. Staked off 5 acres beside camp on 150' sand-sandstone cliff above river--spectacular view of Mt. McKinley, Alaska Range, Kahiltna River, etc. Took 4-mile hike to the mile-long lake at T23N,R9W,Sec 4 and Lake Creek--similar spectacular view atop vertical sandstone cliff above valley where others have staked parcels. Camped in same spot.

Tue. May 29--Mostly sunny, wind.

Clear morning--enjoyed spectacular view of Alaska Range from parcel above camp. Floated down Kahiltna River 31 mi. to its junction with the Yentna. Passed another moose along river, along with porcupine, beaver and their forests of felled trees. Upper half of river was smooth with occasional sections of 1'-2' rapids around boulders at a gradient of 23'/mi.; lower part had rougher sections with 2'-3' white-capped rapids around larger boulders at a gradient of 25'/mi. Visited cabin at T21N,R8W,Sec 34--inhabited with electric fence operating, but no one there at the time.

P.S. Being 25 miles and across Susitna River, Kroto Creek, Trappers Creek, etc., etc., from the highway gives one the feeling that he has finally gotten away from it all. But if for some reason one decides to walk out, the highway is on the additional maps Talkeetna A-1, B-1, Tyonek C-1.

Floated 5 miles down the Yentna, camped on an island gravel bar, as protection from game. Awakened by crunching noise--a cow moose had swum across slough, was walking noisily across gravel island, then swam across the wide Yentna. Fell back to sleep.

Wed. May 30--Mostly clear, sunny

Floated 25 mi. down Yentna to junction with Susitna River. Investigated cabin at T19N,R8W,Sec 23--roof had fallen in. Ate lunch on one of the many sandy gravel bars. Sand was hot under bright sun--good place for a sunburn. Yentna River is calm, moving at 3-4 mph. Floated down 12 1/2 mi. of Susitna River, past the village of Susitna--now just a few vacation homes. Saw a moose swimming down the Susitna nearby. The slough that flows by Susitan now all goes through the slough in T16N,R7W,Sec 4. Camped on an island at the T15N-T16N survey boundary.

Thur. May 31--Partly cloudy, southeast winds.

Floated down the last 15 mi. of Susitna River to Susitna Flats (mouth) against wind, passing a motorboat going upriver. Deflated raft 1 mi. below Magot Point and walked 2 mi. along flats to a group of fishing cabins at the bottom of the map and camped in one.

Fri. June 1--Cloudy, occasional light rain.

Next morning, a 32' tide flooded the flats and surrounded the cabins. Inflated the raft, walked flats 6 mi. to Little Susitna River. Very monotonous and muddy, waded many muddy drainage channels and crossed 2 in raft. At Little Susitna River, tide was out and coming in, and air was calm--so floated down Little Susitna 2 mi. across mud to inlet--walking the last 1/3 mile on hard mud as here Little Susitna was drawing in water like a vacuum. Then got on incoming tidal current of 4-5 mph and sped by the last 10 mi. of flats--watching mile after mile of endless 10' mud cliff go by (current is cutting into the flats) and vanish in the distance--much better than walking. Camped on Point McKinzie above a large beached wreck.

Sat. June 2--Cloudy with occasional light rain, southeast winds.

Southeast wind made both incoming tides too rough to navigate--so spent the day exploring the area. Landing strip, navigational installation for Elmendorf, 3 abandoned homesteader's cabins. Camped in one.

Sun. June 3--Morning partly cloudy, calm--

So crossed on the early incoming tide. Landed 1 1/2 hr. later 2 mi. north of the dock (6 mi.); deflated raft, walked to dock on beach apparently used as a dump. Being a quiet Sunday morning, had to continue a couple more miles to the train station where I spend my first dime in 1 1/2 weeks on a phone call.

Monday, June 4

Went to work as usual. Spent \$50 at Division of Lands for first year's lease on recreational parcel.

THE END

FOR SALE: One REI medium pack, undivided - \$10. One Turin alcohol stove and fuel - \$3. Optimus 111B in excellent working condition-\$10. Contact Mark Rainery at 272-0844.

FOR SALE: 1 pair Lambert-LaTrapper climbing boots, size 9, in good shape-\$20. Also Schwinn Super Sport, 10-Speed bike - \$110. Contact Larry Swanson at 279-3804 if interested.