



MOUNTAINEERING CLUB OF ALASKA

BOX 2037

ANCHORAGE, ALASKA 99510

JULY 1976

VOLUME XIX, No. 7

### JULY MEETING

#### NOTE CHANGE IN MEETING TIME AND PLACE!

Time for another MCA GALA SUMMER BARBECUE, July 14, 6:30 PM, RIEGER'S BACKYARD, 2106 West Northern Lights Boulevard (at the intersection of Benson and Northern Lights, west of Minnesota Drive). Park on West 29th Avenue at the rear of the yard. MCA will supply the main course and drinks. Please bring side dishes or a couple ears of corn. GUARANTEED GOOD WEATHER! Hair-raising stories, fun, prizes, games.

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### CLIMBING SCHEDULE

- July 11  
Sunday BOLD PEAK via the northwest ridge. A five mile approach followed by a long ridge run, returning the same route. Meet 6 AM, Fred Meyer's. Leader, Paul Dankewalter, 272-1811.
- July 14  
Wednesday MCA PICNIC. Don't forget. 6:30 PM, 277-8979.
- July 17  
Saturday BYRON PEAK. Summer route via the west ridge. Ice axe and crampons required. Meet 7 AM, Fred Meyer's. Leader, Paul Dankewalter, 272-1811.
- July 24-28  
Saturday-Wednesday ORGAN MOUNTAIN, north fork of Ship Creek. Five-day backpack trip in the Chugach wilderness at Anchorage's doorstep. Meet 8 AM, Fred Meyer's. Leader, Bill Stivers, 277-2869.
- July 31  
Saturday OPEN DATE. Call Fritz Rieger, 277-8979, if you have a suggestion.
- August 7-8  
Saturday-Sunday REED LAKES, Lynx Peak or Higher Spire. Meet 6 AM, Fred Meyer's.

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### HIKING SCHEDULE

- July 10-11  
Saturday-Sunday BOLD PEAK. You have your choice of the south slope with the climbers or the north slope with Bill Stivers. Either route ends in a beautiful campsite. Call Bill Stivers, 277-2869.
- July 17-18  
Saturday-Sunday LOST LAKE via Primrose Campground, out at regular Lost Lake Trail on Seward Highway. This hike was completed last year, and we all agreed that the new access makes it a doubly unique and beautiful trail. Leader, Terry Rees, 274-9127. Leave Fred Meyer at 7 AM.

## HIKING SCHEDULE continued.

- July 24-25  
Saturday-  
Sunday ORGAN MOUNTAIN area. A joint venture with the climbers. Start with them, stop at your leisure. Make it a one-day or overnight. Call Fritz Rieger or Paul Dankewalter for details. 277-8979.
- July 29-  
August 7 BROOKS RANGE. All openings are filled.
- July 31-  
August 1 HATCHER PASS TO HOUSTON via an old trail. For information call Chuck Kibler, 277-8464.
- August 7-8  
Saturday-  
Sunday REED LAKES. This will be a joint venture with the climbers. Beautiful alpine area for camping; moderate hike. Call Fritz Rieger for details, 277-8979.
- August 14  
Saturday MT. VIGOR (near Palmer). Joint trip with climbers. Call Fritz Rieger, 277-8979.

NOTE TO DAY-HIKERS: You may make any of the above a one-day trip and return alone or with other one-day hikers.

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MINUTES OF GENERAL MEETING, MOUNTAINEERING CLUB OF ALASKA

Wednesday, June 16, 1976, 8 PM, Pioneer Schoolhouse, Third and Eagle, Anchorage, Ak.

The meeting was called to order by President BILL STIVERS at 8:15. The minutes of the previous meeting were approved. FRITZ RIEGER announced that the upcoming Pioneer Peak climb had no leader yet. FRITZ then said that during the climb on Williwaw Peak the group encountered a thunderstorm on the ridge. Everyone's hair was standing on end and the ice axes were buzzing. DONA AGOSTI said that the Crow Pass trip went well. She also announced that people could fly into Larson Lake or hike with the group. The annual Flattop Sleepout will be held on June 19-20. FRITZ RIEGER announced that PAUL JANKE would lead the Mint Glacier week-end trip, and that Bold Peak and Byron Peak would be among the upcoming climbs.

BILL STIVERS announced that TERRY REES has now taken over the job of reproducing SCREE.

Following the break for refreshments, TOM MEACHAM presented a very interesting slide show of an attempted winter climb of Mt. Spurr.

The membership of the Mountaineering Club is saddened at the death of JIM SATTERWHITE in a recent air crash.

DAVID NEWCOMBE  
Secretary

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ATTENTION

It is an MCA tradition for riders to share gasoline costs on MCA-sponsored events. Please be sure to offer your share of the cost--don't wait to be asked!

Participation in MCA-sponsored events is limited to MCA members. If you would like to take advantage of MCA trips and are not a member of the Club, please mail your dues to MCA, Box 2037, Anchorage, Alaska 99510.

CHICKALOON-KNIK-MELCHINA TRAIL

May 29-31, 1976  
by John Nevin (Moses)

Being a leader from out-of-town has its advantages when you have hard-working people like TERRY REES and DONA doing the leg work. They rounded up an unbelievable 26 hikers who turned out to be a delightfully congenial bunch. After stowing TONY'S VW van at our exit point, we all met at the head of the Puritan Creek Trail. Under overcast skies we trudged up the 700 foot gain along the weasel trail, following this until the Boulder Creek flats. We then switched to the horse trail--at least most of us did! Our wildlife was a moose bouncing along a hillside looking for less crowded conditions. Camp was at the Simpson Cabin area on the Boulder Flats (my term).

The next day was spent with everyone doing what they felt like: exploring the cabin walking up Boulder Creek, chasing sheep up Anthracite Ridge, relaxing, etc. We finally got it together around 2 PM and started off across the snow in a hail storm. After a mile or so we came to last year's trouble spot and I looked feverishly for the correct trail. TIM AGOSTI had already searched the area and located the trail, so off we went. The trail follows along and overlooks a breathtaking 500 foot drop into Boulder Creek canyon where the river twists and boils its way to Chickaloon. This section to the end is quite pretty with big birches, cottonwoods, and spruce, and excellent views of the Chickaloon and Matanuska valleys. Our destination for the night's lodging turned out to be a dud so JERRY and I scouted around for about an hour until we found a wooded area with a good stream, but marginal tent space. Most were tired and hungry which made the tenting area look better and better.

The final day dawned with sunny, cloudless skies and several late risers who had tented right on the trail so as not to miss any wildlife activity, or something. More beautiful views as we dropped into Sawmill Creek where the kids had a ball catching rainbows. A short climb and a walk through the FLOYD JOHNSON homestead (344-5634 for permission) brought the trip to a good end. Those arriving at the road included: PEGGY MCKAIG, CLAY NUNNALLY, TERRY RETZ, JERRY JOST, TONY BOCK-STAHLER, MARTY BASSETT, CONNIE SMITH, the AGOSTI boys, the MacINTOSH family, the KOBUS family, and the WEST family. My appreciation to all for making it a good hike

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CROW PASS OVERNIGHT

June 12-13, 1976

A group of 17 hikers, including FRED KAMPFER who was not seen after the starting gate, climbed four miles to Raven Glacier on a bright, sunny, beautiful day. Our first clue as to the kind of night we'd be in for came when we found the Forest Service outhouse buried under four feet of snow. PIERCE MacINTOSH rested his pack at the summit sign 3500 only to have it defiled by a lab retriever. As the evening wore on the clouds and wind joined us for libations around the woodless campfire and caused us to turn in early. Come morning we made a hasty departure because of poor visibility. It's a beautiful place and a few of us are going back as soon as it warms up! Hikers were SUE and MIKE ALBRIGHT; EMILE, PIERCE, MIKE, and KATHY MacINTOSH; MARTY BASSETT; JIM DUMONT; CONNIE SMITH; DAVID NEWCOMBE; FRED, PAT, TOM and JOHN KAMPFER; MICHAEL, MAT, and ROSEMARY KOBUS.

Leaders, but always last,  
ROSEMARY, PAT, and EMILE

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HAIR-RAISING ASCENT OF MT. WILLIWAW  
by FRITZ RIEGER

A few Saturdays ago a small party of MCAers, including SHARON CRAWFORD, BOB PLANCK, BOB WILLIAMS, PAUL JANKE, and DURHANE and FRITZ RIEGER slogged up Mt. Williwaw, 5445', which sits majestically at the headwaters of the middle fork of Campbell Creek. Since four of us intended to run in the Mayor's Marathon the following week, the trip turned into something of a training jaunt with SHARON leading the appropriately blistering pace. We followed the route suggested in "55 Ways" to Williwaw Lakes, then around to the snow-filled southwest gully and up to the summit boulder field. While trudging up the gully, we were warned by a thundering rumble of rare electrical storms in the area. BOB PLANCK (who knows something about physics) seate himself atop his pack about 30 feet below the summit crest and began calculating the electric fields at the summit which were capable of making everyone's hair stand "bolt" upright! Noting his metal handled ice axe buzzing, he announced that if any of us had had the foresight to carry a flourescent bulb with us he was sure it would be glowing by now. Fresh snow (hail?) was beginning to show on O'Malley Peak to the southwest and dark clouds boiled over Knoya and Takishla to the northwest. Since Williwaw is 300 feet higher than anything else around, two bolts of lightning to Takishla's summit in rapid succession convinced us to retreat in an orderly (?) fashion. SHARON and BOB P. varied the trip out by following the Middle Fork all the way to the end of O'Malley ridge and then around the shoulder to Glen Alps. They reported it to be somewhat bushy and recommend the standard route.

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LARRAN LAKE  
June 19-20, 1976  
by WES HOWE

The trek from Bartlett Earth Station west of Talkeetna to Larran Lake is best taken only after specific and accurate instructions concerning the easiest route are received. Unfortunately, such directions aren't easily obtained. So, the nine hikers who went had a rough time of it, bushwhacking much of the way--and would you believe, only three returned. The other six? They flew back. The three round-trippers found a fair route back and made the return trip in six hours.

Larran Lake as a Capital site? Consensus: Thumbs down!

Hikers were WES HOWE (nominal leader), VERTA MURPHY, TONY and BETTY BOCKSTAHLER, and JAN, DONA, TOM, JOHN, and TIM AGOSTI who joined Dad who was fishing at the lake.

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ANNUAL FLATTOP SLEEPOUT  
June 19-20, 1976  
by DAVID NEWCOMBE

Expecting to find at least a moderate group of people waiting for the sun to come out over Flattop, I realized that I was the first to reach the top at about 3:30 PM. A few minutes later a group of friendly day-hikers appeared over the top. Other members of the Club began to arrive a couple of hours later. Meanwhile the weather was becoming progressively cloudy and overcast as more members reached the summit.

A total of only ten tents were set up this year compared with about 30 last year. After waiting for more log-bearing members to arrive, we finally collected enough wood for a fire. The cloudy weather turned to rain for a while, but as the rain stopped we all obsdrved a rainbow over in the Rabbit Creek Valley.

ANNUAL FLATTOP SLEEPOUT continued.

The group of day-hikers finally left about 10 PM, after socializing with us most of the evening. Most (if not all) of the food and beverages provided by generous MCAers was finally consumed at about 1 AM as the last of us hit the sack. The next morning we all lounged for a while before departing the summit.

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PIONEER PEAK, 6398'

June 26-27, 1976

by BILL STIVERS

It was 9 AM on a sunny, calm day that our group of fourteen climbers--BARRY KIRCHER (leader), GILL TODD, MIKE RICHARDSON, BILL BRICKLEY, PAT McMANUS, BRAD CRAIG, DAN LOCKE, DURHANE and FRITZ RIDGER, DAVID NEWCOMBE, SHARON CRAWFORD, BILL QUIRK, KEVIN APCAR and BILL STIVERS--departed the road and entered the gully which would provide a brush-free route to the 4800' level on a ridge northeast of Pioneer Peak.

Access to the gully was via a road which departed the old Palmer highway on the Anchorage side of the Knik river bridge. Three-tenths mile from the old Palmer highway a driveway to a log cabin was observed on the south side of the road. The gully was entered from just above a parking area located on the west side of the driveway entrance. The gully is depicted on the quad chart (Anchorage B 6) as immediately west of the gully containing two streams which merge into one. The ridge containing the 3950' peak is the east side of the gully.

The lower 500' of the gully was dry, then a stream flowed until it submerged just below the 2000' lower boundary of a meadow. Below the meadow the gully was shaded by dense vegetation on each side, and a few remaining patches of ice required some delicate stepping.

The gully widened into a meadow, which sloped gently upward between the 2000' and 3000' elevations. The meadow, which was flooded with sunshine, was mostly blanketed with alpine flowers and grasses among some rock and vanishing snow patches. To the north, we had an excellent view of the Matanuska Valley and Talkeetna Mountains. To the south, the gully narrowed between ragged rock walls on each side, and a 1500' snow slope ascended to the 4800' ridge.

By 2 PM the group had gathered for a rest break on the 4800' ridge, and observed to the southeast a large meadow in the cirque about 1000' below. The 6300' peak to the south of Pioneer Peak rose above the ridge to the southwest.

An easy scramble up ridge to the westnorthwest led to the 5600' level on the north ridge of the false peak. BRAD, DAN, BILL BRICKLEY, SHARON, BILL QUIRK and KEVIN followed this more exposed route to the false summit. BARRY and MIKE located a less exposed route for the others by descending a short distance in the large gully to north of peak; crossing the end of a short ridge to south; ascending about 25' altitude in gully just south of short ridge; and traversing to south to ascend the southeast ridge of the false summit. An easy climb to northwest led to false summit.

The true summit lay west of the false summit across an exposed 150' col. Three fixed ropes were set (the only use of ropes during the climb) from the false summit to the base of the col. A scramble up snow, rock, and around patches of ice led to the true summit.

By 6 PM thirteen climbers had signed the new register (JEFF BABCOCK had deposited it only a week before) and were enjoying the panorama in the warm evening sun. The

## PIONEER PEAK, continued.

sky remained clear and there was no wind. An occasional mosquito bite provoked a complaint. A great expanse of the Alaska Range stood out from southwest to northwest. We looked down on the confluence of the Matanuska and Knik rivers to the west, and could follow the Knik River eastward to the Knik Glacier and the icefield beyond. Bold, Bashful, Baleful, and East and West Twin Peaks appeared relatively near from southeast to southwest. The Talkeetna Mountains and Matanuska Valley lay to the north.

Thirteen of the climbers reached the true summit. DAN LOCKE turned back at the false summit due to an engagement in town.

BARRY, MIKE, GILL, BILL BRICKLEY and BRAD bivouacked on the summit Saturday night. DAN, SHARON, BILL QUIRK and KEVIN returned to Anchorage. The remainder bivouacked on the 4800' ridge.

Apparently, late June is an ideal time for this climb--long daylight hours, snow cover on much of the rock, and water as high as the 4800' level. The snow was soft, so crampons were not used, however, this condition would vary.

BARRY is congratulated for his leadership on this very rewarding climb. The experienced assistance of MIKE, GIL, and BILL BRICKLEY further enhanced the safety and success of the climb.

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A NOTE ON THE REGISTERS

We learned that the Ptarmigan Peak register has disappeared after extensive efforts to type it and return it to the mountain. Perhaps climbers would be less destructive if they knew that the original faded scraps of paper are kept in the MCA Library and, as in the case of Eklutna Peaks, used as legal evidence for grandfather rights in matters of access. (Note: I will try to have the Bold Peak register finished by July 10.) I can't believe that an MCAer would maliciously remove a register, but if you know who did it, would you please see if you can have it returned. We were too late in retrieving the ~~Blind Peak~~ register and all the history of that peak, beginning with Vin Hoeman, has been lost.

-Dona-

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OF INTEREST. USGS maps are almost doubling in price after July 15.

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ARG NEWSCAN YOU HOLD OUT THIS LONG?????

The average rescue is performed in approximately 72 hours. The "rescuee" who maintains a positive mental attitude and has sufficient training, experience, and equipment, can, with patience, have the 72 hours prior to rescue become just an "overdue" instead of a survival experience.

McKINLEY 1976

Up to June 24, 1976, there have been 25 climbers lifted off the Mountain by helicopter, during 14 helicopter missions. Cost????? You can bet this is going to be a hot item of discussion among the "pay their own way" advocates.....

RESCUE PLANS

The best rescue operation is a planned operation. ARG is gathering information to be placed in rescue plans for specific areas. Climbers who have been in an area and on a mountain have very valuable information. Memories, photos, and maps. ARG is asking for your assistance. You do not have to go to a meeting, call anyone on the phone, or make an appointment for an interview. Just tell us all you know about an area. At your own convenience, write down everything that you can about a mountain--routes, aircraft landing areas, etc.--and send it to ARG. Information ARG is looking for:

Location. Appropriate topo map numbers and any photos you may wish to donate. If you can, a topo map marked with routes, etc., would be helpful.

Best Access. Indicate best locations for staging rescue parties for transport to the area; most commonly used landing areas, glaciers, roads if any, etc.; any special problems that should be watched for; best alternate should the party be hindered by bad weather.

Transportation Sources. Name, address of flying services, etc. Also, wheel drive, etc.

Camp Locations. The most reasonable for camps based on experience with the route; any special consideration regarding exposure.

Persons Familiar with Area. Names and addresses of anyone familiar with the area along with call signs for radio and extent of their willingness to assist with a rescue.

Technical Equipment. The extent of technical climbing equipment or rescue equipment that may be required; also any special clothing that may be required for this area.

This is just a partial list to get you started. ARG is looking not only for mountains where expeditions will be going but for the close to home locations also. There are more rescues in the Chugach State Park that involve ARG than there are in McKinley Park. Remember, if you are a wilderness backpacker or a climber, you may be requiring the assistance of ARG one of these days. We need your assistance now. Please help!

Send all material to: Alaska Rescue Group, P.O. Box 4-891, Anchorage, Alaska 99509.

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