

MOUNTAINEERING CLUB OF ALASKA

BOX 2037

ANCHORAGE, ALASKA 99510

July 1985

Volume 28, Issue 07

JULY MEETING

The meeting will be held Wednesday, July 17th at 7:30 p.m. in the Pioneer Schoolhouse, 3rd and Eagle St., Anchorage, Alaska. After the business meeting, some kind of slide show will be presented, with smiling people under sunny skies doing fun things in the outdoors.

MINUTES FOR THE MAY MEETING

The meeting was held May 15, 1985 and called to order by Vice-President Mark Findlay at 7:50 p.m. The minutes of the April meeting were approved, and new members were introduced. George Ripley from Homer was welcomed.

The board members were introduced so that new members may know who they are.

TREASURER'S REPORT FOR MAY

\$2,488.51 - Money Market Account
536.46 - Petty Cash
655.59 - Bank Account
\$3,680.56 - Total MCA Monies

Memberships are: \$ 7.50 - Single
\$10.00 - Family

Membership cards from the April meeting were not mailed, but I ran out of them and had to reprint. Cards are not mailed unless members send in a self-addressed, stamped envelope.

I. Old Business

- A. Annual picnic will be held August 17 at Eklutna Lake. Anyone interested in helping to buy and/or shuttle food and gear up there please contact Bernie Helms or Nan DeGood
- B. Annual Flattop Sleepout will be held as per hiking schedule.

II. New Business

- A. Rick Severn will be leaving the state and has submitted his resignation. John Lohff conducted an election for a replacement. Nominated were Michael Reese, Ron Van Bergyk, and Barb Byrne. We would like to welcome Barb as a new board member. Her office will be for one and a half yrs.
- B. Committee Reports

Hiking Committee - Jim Pommert gave the changes in the hiking schedule as noted in the Scree .

Bill Wakeland is leading a trip to Katmai for nine days at the end of June. Approximate cost is \$370. Anyone interested should call Bill at 563-6246.

Programs - Mark Findlay is open for suggestions for programs. They should be up to about 45 minutes in length. This is a good time to show your slides and talk about one of your trips.

Library Committee - The library is open for lending. (At AMH.)

Scree - It is suggested that trip reports be limited to 250 words or half a page so that the newsletter is not unnecessarily long.

- C. Tim Neale had a meeting last month concerning the use of Hatcher Pass. Persons interested in knowing more contact Tim at 274-4952.
- D. Todd Miner will be speaking after the meeting on his Alaska Wilderness Studies Program.

Meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

MINUTES FOR THE JUNE MEETING

The meeting was held June 15, 1985 and called to order by Vice-President Mark Findlay at 7:40 p.m., and new members were introduced.

TREASURER'S REPORT FOR JUNE

\$2,255.59 - Money Market Account
568.71 - Petty Cash
75.00 - Undeposited Checks
148.63 - Bank Account
\$3,047.93 - Total

I. Old Business

- A. Picnic August 17th as per hiking schedule.
- B. Rock Climbing Class is still going to happen, but due to the late spring it will not be until the end of July or early August. Interested persons can contact Mark Findlay, phone number on back page.
- C. Committee Reports

Hiking Committee - Jim Pommert announced the annual Flattop Sleepout, and listed several hikes still in need of leaders.

Huts Committee - A trip is being organized to fix up the MCA huts located on the Eklutna Traverse. This will involve taking of material and paint and fuel up to the huts and spending three or four days working on them. A sign-up sheet was put out for interested workers. Glacier travel will be required. Work will take place the weekend of July 27th, weather permitting. Contact Tim Neale 274-4952 or Willy Hersman 338-5132.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Community Cache published the MCA Hiking Schedule in the newspaper. Trip leaders be aware that they might be called, and that it is up to them who shall go or not go on trips.

Greg Higgins, an active MCA member for many years will be back in Alaska during July. He is looking for hiking/climbing partners for 3 to 7 day trips in the Chugach between July 6th and July 27th. Greg is considering climbing Kiliak, Bashful, and Bellicose, but is also open to suggestions. Greg asks that all interested parties contact him at Seward General Hospital.

Thanks to Karl Swanson for his excellent slides of Africa.

Respectfully submitted,
Nan DeGood

July 85

ADS

MOUNTAINEERING BOOK COLLECTORS:

Send for free catalog of new, used and rare books. Michael Chessler, 90 Hudson St., N.Y., N.Y. 10013. 212-219-1696.

SEWING AND REPAIRS:

Will tailor to your mountaineering and hiking needs. Pants, jackets, gaitors, tent and pack repairs, zippers and much more. Very reasonable prices. Ed Bosco, 345-4530.

TRIP REPORTS

Russian Lakes - Resurrection River

Memorial Day Weekend

After a few problems, 12 MCA members assembled at the bridge near Exit Glacier. The 6-mile trip in to Boulder Creek cabin was typical of the following day, clouds and patches of snow on the trail. A pair of beavers have an active pond in front of the cabin which has flooded part of the trail. They made occasional appearances to check on their new neighbors.

Sunday was to be the long day on the trail. First eight miles along the new trail to the junction with the Russian Lakes trail. Then, eight more miles past Upper Russian Lake to the Aspen Flats cabin. The new trail includes bridges over all creeks and was well brushed out. It will be a first class trail as soon as a few drainage problems are taken care of. The clouds were breaking up so that we had nice views when the trail got above tree line at the junction.

Most of the snow was left behind by the time we dropped to Upper Russian Lake. It was then smooth sailing down the trail to the short, muddy, side-trail to Aspen Flats. We had plenty of bugs for company Sunday night, in and out of the cabin.

Monday was sunny and warm with just nine miles out to the road. The five drivers headed out early to pick up the cars left at the other end. Those making the trip were, besides myself, Jim Hill, Enrique Toro, Scott Hanson, Cary Webber, Barb Byrne, Eric Kaehler, Chris Erickson, Willy Hersman, Aaron Wester, Joe West and Matt West.

Jim Pommert

July 85

4

Devils Creek - Summit Creek Trails

June 15-16

Fifteen people showed up at the parking lot under cloudy skys. After assembling at the Devils Pass trailhead, we spotted a car up at the Summit Lake trailhead five miles away and then were ready to roll. The snow line had risen to about 2000 feet so we only had patches of it the last couple miles before the cabin. The cabin sits at the junction with the Resurrection Pass Trail ten miles in from the road.

After a quick dinner at the cabin, Michael Reese and I headed up the ridge NE of the cabin to see what the trail was like. Robert Schwebel headed up later as Gene Klymko hiked up the ridge just behind the cabin. At the cabin, others were watching a moose and two calves eat dinner by the creek.

Sunday morning, Gene, Jim Lammens and Trudy Black headed back down the Devil's Pass Trail for a date with some salmon. The rest of us headed up to Resurrection Pass, 2 miles away. The snow this year probably will not be clear until early July. We found patches of the Summit Cr. Trail as we headed up to the first pass. By the time we dropped into the East Fork drainage the trail was totally hidden. It could be August before all that snow is gone.

Continuing on snow up to a lunch at the pass leading into the Summit Cr. drainage, we were thankful the cool weather had kept the snow firm. A light snow began falling as we put our packs on once more for the four mile trip to the highway. Fresh mining activity was evident a mile or so from the road.

Besides Michael, Robert, Gene, Jim, Trudy and myself, those making the trip were Mark Lutz, Valerie Leonard, Rick Schockly, Angela Drennan, Rex Good, Holly Kent, Susan Tressler, Terry Thomas and Anthony Hollins.

Jim Pommert

Swimming on Mt. Spurr

All my life, since boyhood, I have noticed the black and dark blue forms west of Anchorage when the bright orange sky of sunset in spring reveals them for all to see. I knew them to be part of the Aleutians and that the more southern group is called the Chigmits and the northern group has a volcano called Spurr. On May 10th we ventured forth to the land of the setting sun where we found a world of hot springs and countless unnamed, unclimbed peaks reaching into the sky from their glaciated plateaus.

Our expedition included Tom Choate and Leo Americus. Our goal was the summit of Spurr and if possible the investigation of the steaming sulphur lake that Doug Van Etten and Willy Hersman had reported seeing a few years ago. We took the summit without incident after trying several routes to reach the southern summit plateau.

July 85

5

On the descent we followed our ascent route around the southern edge of the parasitic cone next to Crater Peak, where we dumped our packs and began exploring possible ways to enter the crater. An extended rappel was one but that would have left us ropeless in a crater full of crevasses, so we elected to descend the eastern outside face of the crater and climb up a snow-filled couloir with overhanging rock walls. The rock is poor and often breaks loose.

When we arrived at the crater we found only one crevasse which was easily jumped. The sound of bubbling water led us to believe the spring was boiling, but as I walked toward the water on a tight belay from Leo it looked less and less like it was. I stuck my ice axe in and pulled it out to test the temperature. It was only warm. I became very excited now as I finished pulling off a glove and skin-tested the gray water. Shouts of joy bellowed out as I shouted to Leo and Tom, "It's perfect for swimming!"

Within four minutes, we were swimming along the beach as Tom and Leo had joined me. We estimated the temperature to be 75 degrees.

After twenty minutes we viewed avalanches rushing towards the lake from the crater walls and felt waves from their plunge into the water washing onto the gravel beach. The sound of falling rocks from the cliffs above also added entertainment as they whistled down.

The steam added a mystical quality to the lake. At one point a small avalanche released and coming down a rock cliff it turned within 50 feet from snow to a harmless waterfall. I would not have believed it possible had I not seen it myself. The place was like a dream.

The sun went down early in the crater due to the steep walls, and this is when I realized that I had stayed too long in the water. We were dehydrated but it was easily remedied by putting snow in the poly bottles and floating them on the warm water until the snow melted. At sundown the air became very cool at 6000'.

We left the volcano for base camp and our flight home. That night the tent had a faint sulphur smell and we were all very relaxed.

We will be returning to the Volcano Springs in August if a landing strip can be found. Depending upon where we land, team members should be equipped for crevasse rescue and rappelling. Will train if necessary. Ice axe and helmet also required. Air fare \$300. If enough people want we may go for Spurr.

Stuart Grenier
337-5127
694-9755

Gull Rock

May 4-5

Bill Wakeland's prediction of snow on a good portion of the trail was true. The abundance of mud on the first part of the well-used trail, normal for any early Gull Rock trip, turned into knee deep snow just past the half-way rock.

Eric Kaehler made a vigorous assault on the way in. The group's general consensus being that it was time for his mother to buy him a larger pack.

The avalanche chute, which had generated discussion at the trailhead, turned out not to be the problem we had anticipated. It was very firm and of a lower angle than expected. The most difficult section turned out to be where a normally small stream crossed in a deeply shaded portion of the trail. Here we found the trail covered to a width of 15 feet by smooth frozen overflow. More suitable for crampons.

The stream at the end of the trail was deep in snow and ice. Barb Byrne and Mark Findlay exhibited great acrobatic ability in getting to the open areas, while others juggled water bottles and bags to be filled.

The rock, by contrast, was dry and warm with ample camping sites. The balance of the day was spent drying boots, sox, and pants. The more energetic members explored while the sedentary types lay around watching the tide roll by.

Members of the group were Marilyn and Bill Wakeland, Barb and Eric, Curvin Metzler, Bernie Helms, Eileen Cavanaugh, Ron and Logan Rodenhammel, Mark, Norma Lopez, and Beth and Hillary Severn.

Rick Severn

Nearpoint - 5 people - 5-22

Still a little snow on the ground
Below, the sun set on Anchor Town.
Pommert was first to the top (so what's new?)
First to see the fantastic view,
Into the back valleys and nearby tall peaks
(This is great, where are we going next week?),
Coyotes howled on another hill
We hiked out fast after a little wind chill.

Old Johnson Trail - 2 people - 5-29

9 miles in three hours,
Boggy trail and few flowers.
Great views of Turnagain Arm,

July 85

7

A noisy varied thrush added charm.

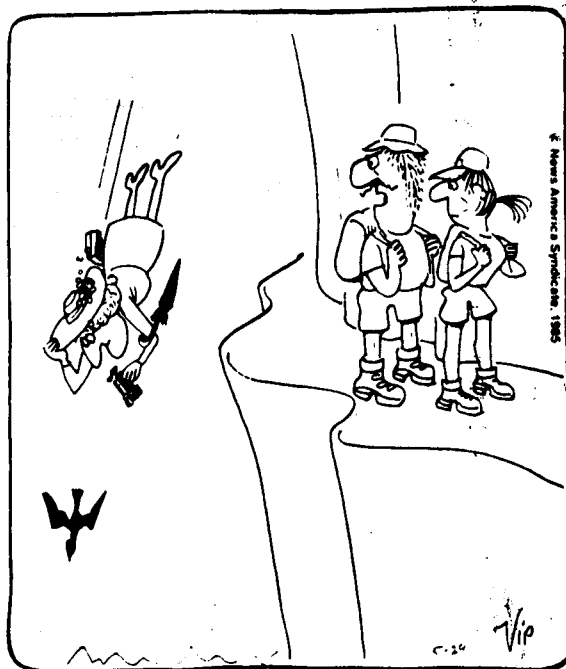
Rendezvous Peak - 5 people - 6-11

Another good hike with great mountain weather
Yellow avens, oxytrope and Arctic bell heather,
Above us a pair of eagles soaring
Below South Fork was roaring,
Findlay chose a route down a gully of snow
The going was wet, but certainly not slow.

Indian Valley - 4 people - 6-18

Woodland trail by a rushing stream
High spruce trees, violets and anemones,
Only Pommert made it to the pass
He reported mountain views, bogs, and tall grass,
We saw not wildlife - too well hidden by the woods
But we had a great hike through their neighborhood.

big george



"Now that's carrying bird-watching a bit too far!"

HIKING AND CLIMBING SCHEDULE

- July 4-7 COOPER LAKE TO LOST LAKE
30 miles, 2000' gain, moderate, a cross-country trip from the Cooper Lake trail past Mt. Ascension to Lost Lake and then by trail to the Seward Hwy. Possible climb of Mt. Ascension or neighboring peaks. Meet 8 a.m. UAA parking lot. Call leader. Leader: Jim Pommert 344-5656, 563-3585
- 4-7 CROW PASS TO ARCTIC VALLEY
40 miles, 4500' gain, moderately strenuous. Cross-country over Crow Pass, above Camp Creek and out Ship Creek. This annual trip passes through some of the nicest parts of the Chugach Mnts. Leader: Bill Stivers 562-4885
- 13-14 WILLIWAW LAKES and MT.
15 miles; 4000' gain; moderately strenuous. Come for a day trip Saturday, camp over night at the lakes or scramble to the summit. Meet 8 a.m. UAA parking lot. 55 ways #33. Leader: Eileen Cavanaugh 337-1394
- 14 EAST TWIN PEAK
10 miles; 4000' gain; strenuous. Meet 8 a.m. UAA parking lot. Views up Eklutna Lake and Mat-Su area. 55 ways #41. Leader: Pat Thompson 344-1167
- 19-20 CROW PASS
8 miles; 2000' gain, easy. Meet 6 p.m. Friday at UAA parking lot. Spend Friday night at Crow Pass. Saturday scramble around the pass for the day or, if another leader can be found, continue to Eagle River Visitor Center. 55 ways #25. Leader: Jim Pommert 344-5656 work: 563-3583
- 18-22 HARDING ICEFIELD TRAVERSE
5-day trip. Tustamena Glacier to Exit Glacier. 40 miles. All on ice except last 5 miles. Glacier travel experience required. Take motorboat across Tustamena Lake. Crampons up to the icefield, then snowshoes or skis to the Exit Glacier. 4000' elev gain is gradual, but heavy packs make this trip strenuous. Contact leader for travel arrangements and gear needed. Leader: Willy Hersman 338-5132
- 27 ROUNDTOP, BLACKTOP, VISTA
10 miles; 4000' gain; strenuous. 55 ways #39. Three peaks above Peter's Creek. Meet 8 a.m. UAA parking lot. Leader: Stuart Grenier 694-9755 337-5127

27-28
TRAIL

BENCH LAKE - JOHNSON LAKE

23 miles; 1000' gain moderate. 55 ways #13. One way trip with cars shuttled between ends. Meet 8 a.m. UAA parking lot.
Leader: John Lohff 337-2291

August 2-4

TEMPTATION PEAK

5350' gain, strenuous. By way of Snowhawk Valley. A seldom-visited peak on the Anchorage skyline. Call leader.
Leader: Stuart Grenier h:694-9755 w:337-5127

3-4

REED LAKES

10 miles, 1600' gain; moderate. Overnight trip to alpine lakes in the Hatcher Pass area. Meet 8 a.m. UAA parking lot. 55 ways #44.
Leader: Nan DeGood 337-4875

10

CRESCENT LAKE

12 miles, 850' elevation gain, easy. Trip may be extended to overnight. Contact leader for details. 55 ways #9. 8 a.m. UAA
Leader: Don Hansen 279-0829

11

GLEN ALPS TO INDIAN VIA SHIP LAKE

15 miles; 2100' elev gain; moderate. One way trip with car shuttle. 55 ways #32. Meet 8 a.m. UAA parking lot.
Leader: Kathy Burke, 346-2841.

10-11

CURRY RIDGE

Leader needed.

17

MCA PICNIC

Eklutna Lake Campground A

17-18

PETERS HILLS

8 miles; 1500' elev gain; easy. Four-wheel drive volunteers needed for this trip to the south side of Denali. Call leader for details. 55 ways #47.
Leader: Harmut Pluntke 279-9252

24-25

PETER'S CREEK VALLEY

Leader needed.

31-2

LOST LAKE

14 miles. Climb Mt. Ascension too. 55 ways #11. Meet 9 a.m. UAA parking lot.
Leader: Willy Hersman 338-5132

Recently the hiking committee has added a schedule of mid-week hikes to be held in the evenings, usually on Tuesdays and Wednesdays. There are not designated leaders for these hikes; simply meet at the UAA parking lot at 6 p.m. (unless otherwise stated). If you want more information about the hike, contact one of the committee members. Phone numbers are listed below the schedule.

- July 9 NEAR POINT
7 miles. 2000' elev. gain. Easy.
- 10 THUNDERBIRD FALLS
2 miles. Easy.
- 16 ALYESKA GLACIER VIEW
3 miles. 2410' elev. gain. Easy. (Even easier if you take the chairlift.)
- 23 FALLS CREEK RIDGE
3 miles; 2400' elev. gain. Easy.
- 30 DEW MOUND
7 miles. 400' elev. gain. Easy.
- August 6 JOHNSON TRAIL
8 miles, 700' gain, easy.
- 13 WINNER CREEK GORGE
7 miles, 200' gain, easy.
- 21 RENDEZVOUS PEAK
3 miles, 1500' gain, easy.
- 27 FLATTOP
4 miles, 1350' gain, easy.

THE LEADER IS REQUIRED NOT TO LET INADEQUATELY EQUIPPED HIKERS PARTICIPATE ON THE HIKE.

The hiking committee is seeking suggestions and leaders for week-long, weekend, and day trips. Contact: Jim Pommert 344-5656 work: 563-3583; Jane Stammen 563-7703; or Linda White 274-4989, or Kathy Burke 346-2841.