

MOUNTAINEERING CLUB OF ALASKA

BOX 102037

ANCHORAGE, ALASKA 99510

JULY 1989

Volume 32, Issue 7

JULY MEETING

The next monthly meeting of the MCA will be held Wednesday, July 19th, 7:30 pm, at the Pioneer Schoolhouse, 3rd and Eagle Sts., downtown Anchorage. A slide show will be presented after the business meeting.

HIKING AND CLIMBING SCHEDULE

- July 8 HOMICIDE PEAK
Mountain bike through Powerline Pass and scramble up this Chugach climb. Class C.
Leader: Neil O'Donnell 274-5069
- 16 HIDDEN PEAK
Round trip 6 miles. Elevation gain 3000'. Class C.
Leader: Don Hansen 279-0829
- 22-
Aug 5 KATMAI TRAVERSE
Cross the Alaska Peninsula from Katmai Bay, on the Shelikof Straits, to Brooks Camp via the Valley of 10,000 Smokes. A two-week trip, with time to explore the mountains and photograph bears and go fishing. Class C-D.
Leader: Don Hansen 279-0829
- Aug. 12 PIONEER PEAK
Elev. gain 6400 feet. Class E. Classic struggle, with no brush.
Leader: Neil O'Donnell 274-5069
- 21-28 SIXTH ANNUAL HARDING ICEFIELD TRAVERSE
Leader: Dan O'Haire 561-1141
- Sept. 1-4 CURRY RIDGE
Denali State Park.
Leader: Bill Wakeland 563-6246

The Hiking and Climbing Committee is always looking for leaders. If you have an idea for a trip, whether for an afternoon or several weeks, give Don Hansen a call at 279-0829. H and C Committee: Don Hansen, Chairman, B. Wakeland, A. Shayer, J. Baker, N. O'Donnell, W. Hersman.

TRIP REPORTS

Prince William Sound Exploration

John Baker

Six MCA members left May 19 for an 11-day kayak trip through the northern borders of Prince William Sound. We chartered out with Sound Water Taxi to the southern edge of Esther Island. The weather was exceptionally clear with very calm waters. We paddled up through Esther Passage and observed oil booms near many of the larger streams, however, the booms were completely free of oil. We crossed College Fjord during rainy skies but fairly calm waters. We spent several days on the western shore paddling within 8 miles of the Harvard and Yale Glaciers. Thick concentrations of icebergs near shore kept us from exploring too close to the caving glaciers. Marcy tried to catch a berg and was successful, however, it managed to get away from her and take her rod and reel too! So much for fishing for the rest of the trip.

We spent the next five days exploring Harriman Fjord and caving glaciers Coxe, Barry, Cascade, Surprise and Harriman. Each of these reach tidewater and managed to give us a show at times. Even small ice chunks look impressive when you are in a small boat. Nightly happy hours were enjoyed while watching Surprise, Baker, Cataract, and Detached Glaciers breaking apart and crashing down into the water or down Mt. Muir. There appears to be excellent mountaineering possibilities in the area as long as you are comfortable with extended glacier travel. Mt. Muir (7605) and Mt. Gilbert (9638) both looked worth another trip.

Saturday the 27th found us paddling south towards Harrison Lagoon in a downpour. This rain kept much of the normal holiday traffic home. We had the fortunate experience of finding the Harrison Lagoon cabin empty, so we moved right in to take advantage of the woodburning stove, jiffy pop, fresh potatoes and onions left by other groups. The warm, dry cabin was just what we needed to lift our spirits after getting soaked all day. We didn't have as good luck the next day as the cabin on the south side of Pigot Bay was taken and we paddled another four miles through another rainy day to camp at Point Pigot. This was the only real rough water of our trip.

We had hoped to get to Entry Cove that night but big waves and wind convinced us that the risks of going another mile were too great. Any form of rescue in that water would have been tough. We ended up paddling back to Whittier the next day as the rain continued to fall. We celebrated the trip at the Sportsman, where Mike danced with everyone in the bar! (Larry will never forget him.) Marcy showed a little less than perfect climbing form while climbing Betty's pole in the middle of the bar. She slipped and bruised a rib, the only injury of the trip. The group was immortalized by having our names written near the dartboard to commemorate the day that kayakers spent more in the bar than they did on the rest of their trip!

All in all it was an excellent trip. Many animals were spotted, black bear, killer whale, meinke whale, porpoise, sea lion, sea otter, eagle, seal and lots of sea birds. The Sound is very much alive and still contains some pristine areas. Thanks to Mike Miller, Priscilla Lukens, Joan Beatty, Julia Moore and Marcy.

Guess Who Came to Dinner?

John Baker

(sung to the tune of "The Beverly Hillbillies")

Let us tell you all a story bout a bear named Griz.
He came in through the Mint Hut roof and took himself a whiz.
He tore up all the insides, downstairs and up.
He ate up all the food and soap and proceeded to throw up.
(Out both ends, that is. Voluminous, and messy.)

That bad bear ate Staeheli's pad and insulation too.
Loud rumblings in his stomach must have filtered through.
The scat then started coming and into the stove it flew,
it landed on the table and floor and even upstairs too.
(Smelly it was, quite odiferous, phew, phew, phew!)

He left the hut the same way, out the roof he shot.
Here left behind a lot of mess and food that started to rot.
We got there at 9:30, thirsty for a shot,
but then we found the bear scat, bear barf and snot.
(Thirst for Jose that is, and lots of it!)

We found the front door window, broken and smashed.
The entire hut's insides wwere shredded and trashed.
There were fresh signs of Porky III and scat spread all around,
it was enough to make you sick and head right back to town.
(Anchor town that is. Spenard and Northern Lights)

It took a long time to get that hut livable for the night.
We scrubbed and swept and drank Jose and made the roof rain-tight.
Porky III showed up that night and made us lose some sleep,
Mike got up to kill him and we didn't hear another peep.
(He missed however. He's still out there. And hungry!)

We woke the next morning with dreading for our task.
"What do you do then?", you might be inclined to ask.
Well, Marcy did the dishes, burned the trash and scrubbed the hut,
John and Mike put up siding and found sheet metal cuts.
(Skin that is. Long and deep, with blood.)

I swear that this whole story is factual and true.
You would not believe what the Mint Hut just went through.
Be sure to treat her with respect the next time that you're there,
but watch out for the nails for they've all grown grizzly hair!

(Mike Miller, John and Marcy Baker)

Mike and Marcy and I went up to the hut on June 16 to do some climbing and put up metal siding. We found the hut as described above. It appears that a bear has finally discovered the hut. Unfortunately, he didn't discover the front door. Most of the sleeping pads are trashed or half-eaten. All of the food is gone. The stove is ok, even though the bear did disgusting things in it. The lanterns are ok but one needs a globe. The entire area around the hut is covered with scat, barf, styrofoam and trash. We did the best we could.

We covered the hole in the roof, but some real roof gable is needed. The window is temporarily visqueened and we salvaged as much insulation as possible, 7 sheets are still needed. The porcupine has been busy eating the hut and most of the outhouse door. The metal will keep him off the hut, but the outhouse will have a great view all the time if we don't get some metal on that door.

If you go up there be sure to take lots of soap and don't leave any food! The bear will be back, they have a memory of such places. There is still some garbage to burn or carry out. Please do more than your share and carry out as much as possible. The hut also needs paint. Red on the outside, white on the inside. Two brushes are up there, but more may be needed.

There was lots of snow at the glacier, though we did make a try at Spearmint. We ran out six pitches of rock and snow protection up the main gully due to avalanche conditions. We got within 300 feet of the summit, but too many avalanches and hot weather convinced us to stop. We glissaded the 700 feet we climbed in about 10 minutes. Lots of postholing got us back to the hut, where we found excellent rock climbing the next day. The weather was perfect for the 5 days we were there. Must be a record for the Mint.

MCA Solstice 1989

Tim Neale

The following camped on Flattop Saturday night, June 17th:

Karen Forsyth, Pete Murphy, Dave Wigglesworth, Nancy Calwell, Sarah Kirk, John Kunesh, Gary and Kathy Lawton, Walter McFarlene, Clinton Woodleaf.

Others making it up for the evening and midnight celebration were Mark Findlay, Pete Sennhauser, Tim Neale and Coleen Kelly.

MINUTES OF THE JUNE MEETING

The June meeting was held on the summit of Flattop on the solstice, June 21. John Baker presided over the short and informal meeting as members hid behind rocks to avoid 40-50 mph gusts raging on the summit. There were less than 20 people present. A treasurer's report was given, but not actually recorded by the Secretary, who arrived late. There was only one order of business of mention, the committee report from Huts.

Hut Committee - on a recent visit by members Mike Miller, Marcy and John Baker it was discovered that the Mint Hut has been sacked by a grizzly. The bear entered the hut at the end of winter, when a large snow bank allowed the beast to get in near the roof at the front of the hut. Once inside, Griz had a party with all the food that people had left behind, and also with many other items inside, foam pads, pots, the walls, you name it. There was more porcupine damage to boot. Porky has been dining on the supposedly poisonous, pressure-treated wood of the outhouse. The gang did get all the aluminum nailed onto the side of the hut, anyway. Anyone going up should bring a gallon of white paint and brushes to paint the inside and cleaning material to scrub up bear discharges. Maybe the Mint Hut should be renamed the Animal House.

John sang an ode to the bear attack on the hut. (See trip reports.)

Respectfully Submitted,
a Bystander

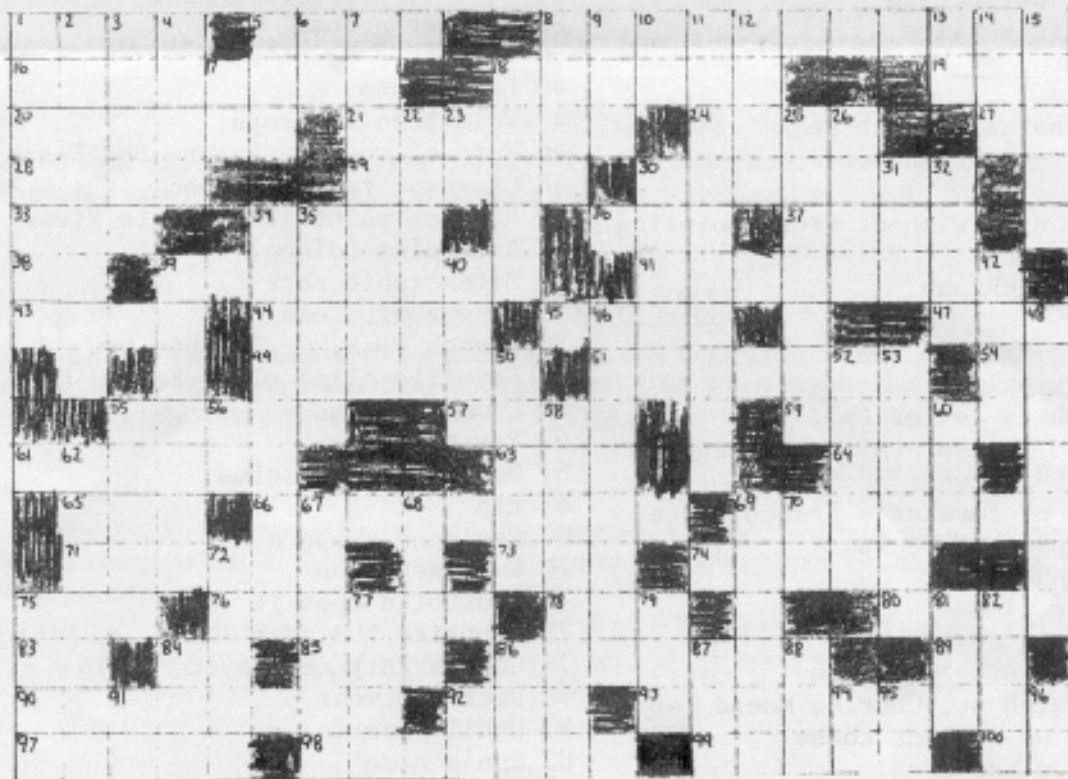
Climbing Notes

MCA members Jim Sayler, Larry Hartig and Phil Menke started up the beaten path on Denali in early June. Catching a window of decent weather in the midst of a stormy climbing season, they made the summit on their 11th day. As they left base camp, two women Polish climbers, here by invitation from the MCA, began their ascent of the W. Butt. As of this writing their progress is not known, but just prior to leaving they were finally convinced that they should carry a shovel. (Europeans are so predictable.) The success rate so far in 1989 is 40%.

Todd Miner, Gordy Vernon and Willy Hersman made a successful 18-day climb of the Sultana Ridge on Denali's Wife. It had been three years since anyone stood on Foraker's top. This is a much preferred route to the more avalanche-prone, but quicker SE ridge. It involves, however, 8 1/2 miles of ridge, 14,000 feet of elevation gain and a 6000-foot summit day. Wind was a constant. The route was first climbed 10 years ago by MCAers Dave Johnston and Brian Okonek and Roger Cowles in the winter.

Tom Brigham reports that he and Greg Dubois made an ascent of Korohusk Peak (7030) from Bombardment Pass early in June this year. The route was via the prominent couloir at the pass to a notch on the west ridge and then up ledges paralleling the ridge to the summit (no register found).

Jim Sayler made solo ascents of Peaks 5120 and 4515 south of Calliope Peak during the week of June 25th, possibly first ascents.



(Puzzle Questions on Next Page)

Climbing Crossword Fun

Courtesy of the Editor

ACROSS

DOWN

- 1 North Face _____ Intention
- 5 Peak near Mt. Logan
- 8 Adventurer, died on Denali
- 16 Superintendent, Chugach S.P.
- 18 Grave
- 19 Bear hand
- 20 Creek near Turnagain Arm
- 21 Popular route on Aconcogua
- 24 Keep these up in powder
- 27 Recent MCA Pres. (init.)
- 28 Require
- 29 Sharp ridge
- 30 Gorp ingredient
- 33 It is
- 34 Fury synthetic
- 36 A small pass
- 37 By mouth
- 38 Overtime
- 39 Camp fuel
- 41 Edema
- 41 _____ Point
- 44 Rescue Group Coordinator, Julian
- 45 Volcano south of St. Helens
- 47 _____ Scaggs
- 49 More than adequate
- 51 Summit collecting
- 54 Newswire service
- 55 Mt. Mck _____
- 57 Certain
- 59 7190-foot Arrigetch peak
- 61 Keeps your attention
- 63 Layton
- 64 Points used without front-pointing
- 65 Fed. agency
- 66 Alaska nickname
- 69 Local
- 71 Fishing method
- 73 Cool drink
- 74 9th Hebrew letter (pl.)
- 75 Used to assess avalanche danger
- 76 Plastic footwear
- 77 Aspect of Foraker's French Ridge
- 80 Stiff part of backpack
- 83 That is
- 84 Earlier time
- 85 Listening device
- 86 Rock-climbing technique
- 89 State high pt. Charles Mound (abbr.)
- 90 Mountains attract these
- 92 Climbing non-free
- 93 4th class climbs
- 97 McCarthy glacier pilot
- 98 Home in the snow
- 99 Hot drink
- 100 Skis for 3-pins

- 1 Editorial comment
- 2 Past MCA President
- 3 Alpamayo is in this range
- 4 Rope construction of goldline
- 5 MCAer, _____ Zafren
- 6 Being
- 7 Asian mountain people
- 8 El Capitan route
- 9 Purveyors of fine mountaineering gear
- 10 Old Business (abbr.)
- 11 Necessary on skis in Alaska
- 12 Wildflower
- 13 Summit direction
- 14 Valley above Eagle River
- 15 Unclimbed peak next to Awesome
- 17 Egyptian sun-god
- 18 Camping locations
- 22 State high point is Mt. Hood
- 23 Swiss peak, _____ Tour Noire
- 25 Peak next to Mt. Marathon
- 26 East Yugoslav resident
- 30 Hot drink
- 31 Wyoming peak, _____ Bonnet
- 32 Type of rock-climb using friction
- 34 Part of primrose family
- 35 Messner's home
- 39 5620-foot Kenai peak
- 40 Camp pests
- 42 Weight on the rope
- 46 Part of the Alps where the Eiger sits
- 48 Crevasse rescue method
- 50 Highest point above Eagle River
- 52 Naturally (slang)
- 53 Metamorphic rock
- 55 Finger of ocean
- 56 French peak, _____ Petit Dru
- 58 Favorite climb along Seward Hwy.
- 60 Woman's name
- 62 Rappel
- 67 Hazelwood's victims
- 68 Rip
- 69 Replaces zippers
- 70 Overused noun
- 72 Frostbite does it
- 75 Opposite the adze
- 77 Cow parsnip causes it
- 79 Rock footwear
- 81 Until (poetic)
- 82 Man's name
- 84 Former Anchorage college
- 86 Ignited
- 87 Babcock and Miner workplace
- 88 African climbing organization (abbr.)
- 91 This state's high pt. near Little Rock
- 92 State high point is Cheaha Mt. (abbr)
- 94 State high point Taum Sauk Mt. (abbr)
- 95 One degree
- 96 State high point Sassafras Mt. (abbr)