

# SCREE



JULY 1993

A Publication of the Mountaineering Club of Alaska, Inc.  
Box 102037, Anchorage, Alaska 99510

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## JULY MEETING

Wednesday

July 21, 7:30

Pioneer Schoolhouse, 3rd & Eagle Streets  
Downtown Anchorage

**Picnic:** The club will provide hot dogs, burgers, buns and drinks. Please bring salads and desserts. Meeting will be held outdoors (weather provided).

31 - Aug 15 Logan Mountains, NWT, Canada  
Backpacking trip to the Vampire Peaks area. Charter from Finlayson Lake. \$300 each. Moderate pace for 10 days across alpine terrain and icefields. Will climb several peaks along the route compatible with members' abilities. See leader for gear list, etc. Leader: Dave Logan 243-4887

## HIKING AND CLIMBING SCHEDULE

- July 10 Mt. Eklutna  
Class B. Chugach State Park.  
Leader: Neil O'Donnell 274-5069
- July 25 - Aug 8 Hula Hula River  
Two-week backpacking trip, with optional non-technical climbing. Brooks Range. Strenuous backpacking with easy rock scrambling on day trips. The route covers about 90-100 miles from the Peter Schrader Lakes to the Hula Hula to the mouth of Red Sheep Creek on the Chandlar River. Class C. \$750 each from Fairbanks.  
Leader: Don Hansen 243-7184
- July 31 Eagle River Overlook  
Class C. High point 5130'. See 55 Ways # 37.  
Leader: Marty Bassett 694-3917

- Aug 28 East Twin Pass  
Class C. See 55 Ways # 41.  
Leader: Marty Bassett 694-3917
- Sept 11-12 Bird Peak  
Class C. Chugach State Park. Third annual attempt to beat the weather.  
Leader: Neil O'Donnell 274-5069

## Congratulations

To Dolly Lefever for reaching her long-time goal of stepping onto the top of the world. The training and persistence paid off. Dolly is the first Alaskan woman to make it to Everest's summit, and best of all, she's back to tell about it. Good job, Dolly, the MCA is proud of you.



## TRIP REPORTS

### Sheep Valley and Lava Mountain Part 1

by: Don Hansen

Only five of the twelve people who signed up for this trip showed up on a beautiful Saturday morning at UAA. They included Dave Logan, Larry Meshkin, Bryan Young, Tom Herrnstein and me. The hike in to the valley goes along an RV road about five miles. The first three, along the King River, are flat, with two stream crossings on logs near the road. Then the trail steepens, gaining about 2500 feet in the next two miles. The main road ends on a slope near the lower part of the valley leading to Sheep valley.

We took our time on the road and followed the stream bed in Young Creek's West Fork. After avoiding brush along the lower part of the stream, we reached our camp site in about 7 hours. Since I had planned to head back to Anchorage on Sunday morning and participate in the Ice Man Triathlon on Monday morning on the Kenai Peninsula, I talked Tom into climbing Lava Mountain that evening.

After dinner we headed up. I had not climbed this mountain in about seven or eight years. We encountered soft snow near the base and post-holed for a difficult start, but I found the route I had climbed earlier in the upper part of a gully, right of the bowl at the base of the peak. We reached the summit ridge in about two hours. Our work was not over though, because the snow on the ridge was soft and we ended up post-holing along it whenever there was no rock. We reached the summit in under three hours from camp with great views in all directions. The sun was setting behind Denali.

We slogged, glissaded, and self-arrested down the mountain and reached camp at midnight. On Sunday morning Dave, Bryan and Larry headed up the mountain while Tom and I "hailed butt" over the nine to ten miles down the West Fork of Young Creek and the RV road to my truck, then on to Anchorage.

### Part 2

by: David Logan

Sunday dawned clear and warm. Larry, Bryan and I would not be returning to the car until the following day. We had the entire day to make the 2500 foot ascent from camp to the summit of Lava Mountain and so... we took the entire day. Thus, after a leisurely breakfast we began our ascent. A chute filled with old winter avalanche debris provided a superb expressway upward past steep scree. Part way up we spent an enjoyable hour of ice axe practice. We found the snow fields in many places to be a post-holing delight.

On Monday, the day of departure, no one felt like leaving. The weather was just too nice. Aside from the moose trail that I decided to follow to the bitter end in the middle of an alder thicket, the trip out was easy and straight forward.

### ADZE



#### Hikers Wanted

Member of *The Mountaineers*, the Seattle-based outdoor organization, seeks hiking colleagues camping and hiking in Denali, July 31 - August 6. Call David Campbell 206-476-3251.

#### Hiking Partners Still Needed

for a one-week trip in Katmai National Park from Sheikof Strait through Katmai Pass to the Valley of Ten Thousand Smokes. Looking for experienced hikers. Gloria Gill 248-9908

#### Alaska Wilderness Studies

##### *Eklutna Traverse Itinerary*

June 19 - June 27 North to South  
June 29 - July 8 North to South  
July 29 - August 7 South to North

If you plan to go up there during these times, expect people.

For more information contact Todd Miner 786-1468.



## Alaska Wilderness Studies July/August Classes

### Rock Climbing

#### Beginning

MONDAY/WEDNESDAY  
6:30-9:30PM, 8/2 & 4  
FIELD OUTING 8/7 & 8  
FEE: \$115

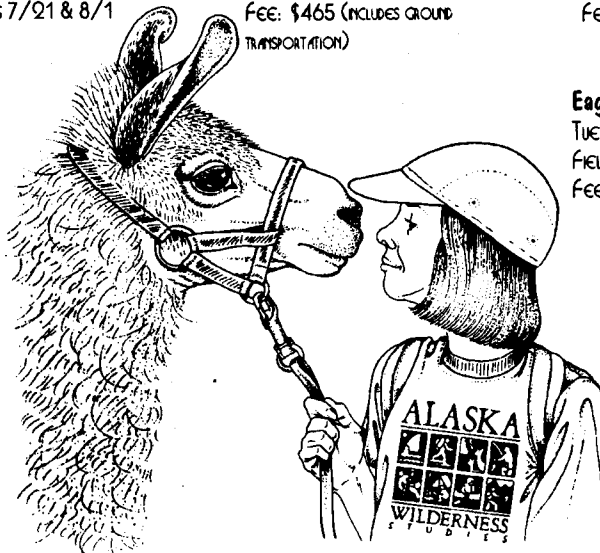
#### Intermediate

MONDAY/WEDNESDAY  
6:30-9:30PM, 7/26 & 28  
FIELD OUTING 7/21 & 8/1  
FEE: \$115

#### Prince William Sound Expedition

WEDNESDAY, 6:30-9:30PM, 8/18  
FIELD EXPEDITION 8/18 - 22  
FEE: \$535

For more information on  
Marine Survival  
Adventure Education  
(graduate credit)  
Advanced Backpacking  
(Brooks Range)  
call 786-1468



### Llama Packing

#### Resurrection Pass Trail

MONDAY, 6:30-9:30PM, 7/12  
FIELD OUTING 7/14-18  
FEE: \$465 (INCLUDES GROUND  
TRANSPORTATION)

#### Crow Pass Traverse

TUESDAY, 6:00-9:00PM, 8/3  
FIELD OUTING 8/6-8  
FEE: \$295 (INCLUDES FOOD)

#### Eagle Lake

TUESDAY 6:00-9:00PM, 8/10  
FIELD OUTING 8/13-15  
FEE: \$285 (INCLUDES FOOD)

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### Walter Wood

As reported in the Anchorage Daily News recently, we note the passing of one of Alaska's early mountaineers, Walter Wood, who died in May. He was 85.

Dr. Wood was very active as a glaciologist and led expeditions to the St. Elias and Coast Ranges in 1939 and 1962 to map and do long-term studies of the region's ice, weather and geography. He was one of the founders of the Arctic Institute of North America, which conducted high altitude research on the slopes of Mt. Logan during the 1960's and 1970's. Dr. Wood also made several measurements determining the height of Mt. Logan in 1974.

As a climber, he led first ascents of Mt. Steele in 1935, Shiva Temple and Wotans Throne in 1937, Pico Bolivar in 1939, Mt. Wood in 1941 (named not for him, but for a Major of the Canadian Mounted Police), and Mt. Vancouver in 1949.

Dr. Wood was declared missing on the Malaspina Glacier in 1951 when a supply plane failed to arrive during Project Snow Cornice. On the plane was his wife, Foresta and daughter, Valerie, and bush pilot Maurice King. He was later rescued but the plane was never found after a long search on the Seward Glacier. Mt. Foresta (11960') and Valerie Glacier now bear his loved-ones' names.

### Climbing Notes



During the great weather of early June, a new route was climbed on Baleful Peak, 7950+. Jim Saylor and Phil Fortner left their camp at "Blissful Lake" in the upper West Fork Hunter Creek drainage for the Northeast Ridge of the mountain to make the fourth known ascent. Plenty of snow in the gullies made the first 4000 feet rather reasonable step-kicking and left only another 1000 feet of scrambling on the ole 'Chugach Crud.' Actually the crud was reportedly not as bad as usual and required very little belaying. The upper part of the ridge was actually wide in a few places, with one descent from a false summit required near the top. No evidence was found of the summit havin been reached since the last time reported in S Cree, July 1990.

This still leaves the north and west faces unclimbed. The west face of Baleful is probably the steepest unclimbed face in the Western Chugach, rising 2400 feet out of a spectacular cirque below this peak and Benevolent Peak. Baleful was first climbed by Vin Hoeman and Art Davidson in 1965.



## Editor's Column



### Climbers' Support for N.P.S. Thinning

Recent developments in National Park Service policies in Denali National Park are whittling away at what was once strong support in the mountaineering community for NPS administrators. Foremost in the controversy is a recent proposal to further regulate climbing in the Alaska Range.

Present policy requires registration for Denali and Foraker. Registration can be done just prior to leaving for the mountains and there is no fee. In addition there are a few regulations concerning litter, guiding and landing. It has been a very flexible policy which suits most climbers' vision of the sport, one of freedom and self regulation. It hasn't seemed to work well for the Park Service, which is bending to a public perception that climbing is dangerous and rescues should not be provided free to "thrill seekers" when they get in trouble.

The proposals include charging a fee to climb in the Alaska Range anywhere in the vicinity of Kahiltna Glacier. It would probably be around \$50.00 per person. Also, registration would be required for all peaks, to be submitted by February 15th of the year you plan to climb. You would need to know *who* is in your party, *when* you plan to climb and *what* you plan to climb. Details of how this would be administered for guiding concessions are unclear.

Foreign climbers will find nothing unusual about this. Peak fees are charged in many areas of the world and regulations, registrations, and waiting lists are not new. (At least the proposals do not include requiring climbers to have sirdars to go up the West Buttress.) Some justification can be conceded for the fee, since climbers do seem to expect a lot of the government. Climbers who do not act responsibly do indeed expect such things as: instant rescue for frostbite, trash removal, doctors on the mountain and constant radio contact so they can catch their flight out of Kahiltna International.

The registration proposal is harder to swallow. Suppose you decide in April to go to Foraker. Too bad. Suppose I purchased my permit on time and decided later not to go. Can I sell it to you? If so, how bad do you want it?

The public still hasn't got it straight. Life is risky no matter what you do. Rescues are needed for all sorts of things. We publicly fund bailouts of fishermen, pilots, drivers, and even the most expensive risk-takers, S&L bankers. Any of these activities has cost the public more than the worst season on Denali. We are being singled out because people don't understand. I'd much rather hang from a rope in a crevasse than face some of the idiots on the Seward Highway on any given weekend. The Park Service should be educating the public not bending to it.

### Huts Notice

If anyone is headed to the Mint Hut or Bock's Den before summer is out there are a few items which are needed to be carried in. Please contact the Hut Chairperson, Maxine Stoddard 373-4734, before you go. Also, please take care to learn how to operate a Coleman stove if you use a hut stove. Directions are on the lid. It's not tough. Thanks.



### MCA Trip Classifications

The classifications below do not take into account individual trip hazards such as river crossings, scree slopes, snow fields, bears, etc. Trip leaders are required to inform the trip participants of any such hazards either verbally, on the sign-up sheet, or in the trip description. Leader approval is required for participation on all trips.

NON-TECHNICAL: Following are a few standards used to classify non-technical

trips. The classification is made in terms of hiking distance and altitude gain. Many trips are not on established trails.

CLASS A: Easy hikes with a maximum distance of 8 miles for day trips or 4 miles per day for overnight trips. Altitude gain up to 1200 feet.

CLASS B: Trips involving a maximum distance of up to 12 miles for a day trip or 6 miles per day for an overnight trip. Altitude gain of 1200 to 2500 feet.

CLASS C: Trips up to 15 miles for a day hike or 8 miles per day for an overnight trip. Altitude gain up to 3500 feet. Scree, steep grass or other rough terrain problems may be encountered.