

SCREE



JULY 1994

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Box 102037, Anchorage, Alaska 99510

JULY MEETING

Wednesday

July 20th, 7:30

Pioneer Schoolhouse, 3rd & Eagle Streets
Downtown Anchorage

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

HIKING AND CLIMBING SCHEDULE

- July 9 Eagle River Overlook
High point 5130'. Class C. See 55 Ways Trip 37.
Leader: Marty Bassett 694-3917
- 9-24 Vampire Peaks, N.W.T., Canada
This is a return to the area visited last year. Varies from easy walking to technical, both rock and ice. We will have 2 or 3 camps from which we will climb nearby peaks. \$500 flight to the peaks. Class: Glacier Travel.
Leader: Dave Logan 276-2666
- 16 South Suicide Peak
Western Chugach. From Falls Creek trail. Hikers to Falls Lake only are welcome. Class D.
Leader: Don Hansen 243-7184 h, 271-6656 w

- 22-24 Mint Hut
Nine miles to the hut. Class C.
Leader: Roy Smith 562-0822
- July 23- Arrigetch Peaks, Gates of the Arctic N.P.
Aug 8 Backpacking trip to this scenic granite mountain area with lots of day hikes and optional easy climbs. Transportation costs are \$600 from Anchorage, but you can save \$200 by driving to Fairbanks. Fly commercial to Bettles, then charter to Circle Lake. Bears may be common. Class C.
Leader: Don Hansen 243-7184 h, 271-6656 w
- Aug 27 Suicide Peaks
Western Chugach. Class D.
Leader: Roy Smith 562-0822



TRIP REPORTS

Grand Canyon 1994

by Bill Wakeland

This year we ten members of the MCA found routes previously hiked by some of us to be much longer, steeper and rougher! We hikers tend to wipe out the bad stuff and remember the good.

This year was my 10th backpack in the vicinity of the Grand Canyon and the weather reached new extremes. Temperatures soon hit 100 degrees in the shade down by the river, and the last few days we had lows of 40 degrees (21 degrees on the rim) and at least some rain for five days in a row. Unheard of! Upon my advice and previous experience, most of us either carried no tent, or omitted the rain fly!

This was a really diverse bunch varying in age from early 30s to early 70s, and all seemed to enjoy the challenge. Especially, we enjoyed each other and the marvelous scenery. And for good measure, we had no flies, mosquitoes or blowing sand.

April 16, Saturday, we seven Alaskans assembled at Phoenix, loaded our rented van and my Subaru - I drove down from Portland - and headed north to a KOA. Sunday morning we drove to Prescott for a delicious breakfast at Sid's house, and then on to our reserved camp spots in the Mather Campground on the South Rim.

On Monday our two members from Prescott, Sid and Jim, plus Tisha from California joined us. We met Sid three years ago fishing along the Colorado River. He later joined us for Don's Brooks Range trip the next year. He is a sprightly senior full of mischief and bs. His friend Jim is also a senior and experienced hiker, and is a bird watcher. The rangers agreed to consolidate our two parties into one. Tisha is an engaging young lady with whom I hiked the Paria Canyon two years ago. These two days on the rim we did a couple of day hikes and got our packs together plus did some tourist things.

Tuesday, April 19, we parked our four vehicles to best advantage and took off down the new Hance Trail - an unmaintained, eight-mile trail that drops from 7000 feet to 2600 at the river. The trail has a couple of lengthy uphill sections that are most discouraging to overloaded, first-day-out hikers. In fact, we ran out of time and energy and overnighted

on a beautiful point, without dinner, since we were low on water.

Next day we descended to a known water source in Red Canyon for breakfast and then a leisurely trip to the river for camp 2 and some time to nurse sore feet. Day 3 was upriver on the Escalante route - not considered a trail - that included three difficult areas. The first was a steep ascent up a scree and boulder chute; the second a 50-foot descent on rock ledges - Fred lowered packs with a rope he carried; and the third was climbing and hoisting packs up a 12-foot "pour-off" (a waterfall chute in rock - fortunately dry) after wandering up a narrow slot canyon. At camp 3 several of us took short dips in the river, which is about 49 degrees the year round, and restores life rapidly!

Day 4 we again rose at 5:30 AM to beat the heat - 71 degrees at dawn. It was another strenuous day, climbing up Escalante Creek route, searching and turning back when a short route through Butchart's Notch proved too steep with packs. The long alternative route a mesa affording a great view. Unkar Rapids lay before us in a lazy "S" with a big expanse of canyon, buttes, points and river beyond. Another reward was our first two rattlesnakes - altogether we saw five or six, plus a coyote, some rabbits, hundreds of lizards and several bird species.

Camping that night at Cardenas Creek (dry) was an event, with many good camp spots sheltered by bushes and trees. As usual we had it all to ourselves. First came a dip in the river from a sandy beach, then "processing" water. Several used filters (the river was clear this year) and others used iodine or Halizone - both of which work with less chemical if water is warm. After dinner we gabbed and sang - Mary Jo blessed us with several solos. Jim caught a lizard in a snare, and we ran off a couple of big squirrels - the kind that chew through packs. Here, there were no rapids and the night was quiet and fragrant with blossoms, enhanced by a two-thirds moon and those Arizona stars.

Days 5 and 6 we moved upriver to Tanner Rapids and Palisades Creek (dry) to establish a three-day camp. Weather was changing and it rained that afternoon. We did some scrambling, innovating and doubling up.

On days 7 and 8 two groups hiked to the Little Colorado River on different days to ensure someone was in camp to ward off aggressive ravens. The scenic Beamer Trail had some "exposure" high above the river, affording grandstand views of several groups of kayakers.

From this camp Sid caught a number of rainbow trout. Spirited bidding and bartering was now in progress for this fresh meat, plus other delicacies in short supply, like dried apricots, tuna in a can, coffee packets, etc. And Bob did wonders with the fish a Boy Scout skillet, pack stove and herbs.

Day 9 we moved down river to find a campsite not far from the Tanner Trail. Don, Tisha and I then set off to move four or five gallons of water up the Tanner Trail to our next campsite. We didn't quite make it - wind, rain and cold made it pretty dicey, and we cached the water and beat a retreat. Two guys coming down had told us it was 21 degrees on the rim the night before!

About midnight that night several of us heard a yelp from Tisha who was holed up against a rock under her small space blanket. Next thing I knew she appeared at my tarp with sleeping bag in one hand and her pad in the other. Seems a varmint ran across her face and she woke up staring into its beady little eyes!

Day 10 was a doozy. About where we had planned to camp on the Tanner Trail, nearly 3000 feet up and maybe 5 miles from our river camp, well past where we picked up the cached water, it got cold and rainy again. So cold that several wanted to continue on to the rim. But Linda and Jane already had a tent up! After soul searching and inquiries I decided we'd go for it. It was too risky to stay there for those already wet or with inadequate bag or shelter. Down came the wet tent and we dumped maybe 15 gallons of water.

Don and Tisha, both strong hikers, forged ahead with car keys, the rest of us strung out at our own pace. By the time we got two more cars ferried to the trailhead, all hikers were out! A remarkable achievement - over 10 miles and 4600 elevation gain.

For our traditional "pigout" in Flagstaff, we substituted a great meal and many toasts with wine and beer at Maswik Lodge, then on to a motel outside the park and another group breakfast before we went our separate ways.

My heartfelt thanks to a group of great companions:

Don Hansen	Mary Jo Cadieux
Fred Kampfer	Tisha Roripaugh
Linda White	Sid Moglewer
Jane Stammen	Jim Morgan
Bob Cadieux	

Ice Meanderings

by Ernie Borjon



In March 7, 1993, Dave Lucy and I discovered a new ice climbing area off the Seward Highway, south of Anchorage. I had known of the area's existence for some time but was always under the impression that the waterfalls there had climbed. Susan Havens had told me of the area many times over a period of years. Early in March she mentioned that she did not think anyone had ever climbed in Bird Creek. She had seen what looked like a major waterfall looking north from the summit of Penguin Peak.

Dave and I climbed the largest of the waterfalls on this date and named it after Susan, "Hawk's Haven," as a hawk was circling during our ascent. We also climbed a line just to the right and left of the main waterfall. The left line is "Them Fourth Avenue Chicks," and the right line is "Water Ouzel," named after the charcoal-colored birds that flutter along the creek and dive into the water, seeking insects. This being Bird Creek we thought the names of the climbs should maintain an avian flair.

In February 1994, Phil Fortner and a friend climbed a waterfall in trees left of "Hawk's Haven" that he called "Pigeon Toes." About 150 yards upstream of these climbs Dave Miller and I climbed the second largest waterfall in this area, "Woody Woodpecker." I think that there may be several more opportunities for first ascents under the right conditions.

The way to get there is to take the road from the Bird House parking lot to its end, about a mile, where you will see a Park Service barricade. From there walk or ski the trail about 3 to 4 miles until you see a ramp marked with two pieces of surveyors' tape on the left. This ramp will take you to the creek, which must be frozen. Walk or ski about 3/4 mile downstream and you will see the waterfalls, all on your right. Very shortly after departing the parking lot you come to a "Y" where you take the left leg. Woody Woodpecker and Hawk's Haven are Grade III. Good Luck and Happy Climbing!



ADZE

Lost & Found

Ice Axe found below North Face of Bold Peak. Still in good shape. You describe it. You claim it.
Jim 345-2419



Mazamas to Celebrate 100 Years

The Mazamas of Portland, Oregon will celebrate their 100th year as a club this summer. On July 19, 1894 the club was formed on the summit of Mt. Hood, with 155 men and 38 women reaching the top, a two-day trek by wagon. Today there are 2900 members. Over those 100 years the club evolved with the changes in outdoor recreation, offering climbing schools and trips and taking an active role in conservation. In 1907 a spin-off group from the Mazamas formed the Seattle Mountaineers.

The club plans a two-day celebration on July 16-17 at Timberline Lodge and several small-group climbs of Mt. Hood.

EDITORIAL

Judge Rules: Park Service Must Do It Over



Federal District Court Judge James Sedwick recently ruled on a case filed against the National Park Service for awarding a climbing concession on Denali and Foraker to Alpine Ascents International. In the case there were many questions about the application evaluation procedure and the accuracy of the information submitted in the application package by AAI's owner, Todd Burleson of Woodinville, Washington. Bob Jacobs, one of the other eight appli-

cants, brought the suit against the Park Service, claiming the evaluators knew little or nothing about mountaineering and that Mr. Burleson had misrepresented his guide service's past experience and had guided illegally on Mt. Baker and had advertised illegally to guide on Denali as well.

The crux of the case was a long document submitted by the American Mountain Guides Association to the Park Service prior to the concession award, at NPS' request. In this document, the AMGA concludes that there was "substantial misrepresentation of the applicant," including his claim of running a guide business for the required 7 years or more, a questionable claim of 20,000 man days above 20,000 feet, and company employees such as Peter Habeler, Alex Lowe and Peter Athens, none of whom had any plans to guide on Denali, and were in the past only "consultants." The court pointed out that the Park Service knew about the advertisement to illegally guide on Mt. McKinley but failed to deduct points from the evaluation rating.

The court also questioned the awarding of points for an applicant's willingness to hire "foreign guides." "What has happened here is that an agency of the United States has awarded a concession to an American employer for work to be done within the United States in significant part because the concession winner promises to base at least some of its employment decisions on national origin." This could be in violation of the Civil Rights Act.

The Park Service was ordered to re-evaluate the original applications or conduct a new solicitation. Another choice not mentioned by the judge would be to leave the concession opened by the dismissal of Genet vacant. In this writer's opinion the idea of concessions for mountain guiding is too confining. When the Park Service proposed charging a fee to climb a mountain we all talked about the "Freedom of the Hills." Is limiting your choice of guides to 6 or 7 considered *freedom*?

Even before one season of guiding on Denali, AAI has lost its permit due to a violation of illegal guiding in Washington State, as notified by the U.S. Forest Service. There is still much respect among climbers for the climbing ranger staff in Talkeetna. It would behoove the Park Service to make more use of that expertise the next time it does an evaluation.

Willy Hersman