

AUGUST 15 MEETING: Picnic meeting at Goose Lake, 6 p.m. Bring food, a stick of wood, and your appetite. If it rains, we will picnic under the Color Dome.

ACTIVITY SCHEDULE

- AUGUST 12-13** PIONEER PEAK. Leave Friday night, August 12, 5:30 p.m., Safeway parking lot, 9th & Gambell. Climb some hours Friday night and make camp. People must be experienced in climbing and in good shape, as Pioneer is a long, arduous climb. Call Hans Van der Laan 277-7525, daytime.
- AUGUST 21** LAZY MOUNTAIN (3723) near Palmer. Views of Palmer, Talkeetna Mts., Pioneer Peak, and the Matanuska Valley. Marge Maagoe, 752-1163.
- AUGUST 27-28** EKLUTNA GLACIER, INSTRUCTIONAL CLIMB. Those interested should sign in on the interest sheet at the next meeting. or call leader Gary Hansen 272-1145. Overnight at Pichler's Perch, the MCA cabin up the glacier. Reserve also the evening of Thursday, August 25 for an indoor session, details to be announced later.
- SEPT 3-4-5** SNOWBIRD MINE CABIN. Could be an interesting way to spend Labor Day Weekend--climbing, hiking, loafing--who's for it? Interest sheet at next meeting or call Maagoes, 752-1163.
- SEPT 10-11** RABBIT CREEK-SUICIDES-McHUGH PEAK AREA...Or whatever interests those who come along. Interest sheet at next meeting. Marie Lundstrom.
- SEPT 17-18** UPPER RUSSIAN LAKE HIKE. 12 miles one way. Attractive country even in rain! Louise DeVoe, 277-9108.

* Rain 6795' *

PEEK-A-BOO PEAK (6950')

July 9

Helen Wolfe

"I've just got to get out!" I fumed. "It's been over a month since I've done anything!"

"Well, Gayle wants to do that 6950' peak across Heavenly Valley. Maybe you could do that with him. It's probably a first ascent," my husband John answered.

"6950! Are you out of your mind? I was thinking about a nice little valley hike someplace. If I haven't been out for a month, I can't go up any six thousand nine hundred and fifty feet!"

But on Saturday morning Gayle Nienheuser and I made a leisurely 8 a.m. start from the Wolfe homestead in Upper Eagle River Valley. We met Marge and Steffen Maagoe and Ruth Schmidt at the foot of our road, headed back toward the mouth of the valley about a mile and up another homestead road to McCumbers' homestead, almost at timberline. From there a trail leads to the high valley we call Heavenly Valley; we hiked up the right hand fork of the valley about three miles and collapsed at the tip of a glacial moraine to take stock of the situation.

We were then at about 3500'. The steep grassy slope up to the ridge (5500') leading to the 6950' peak looked very inviting. The 6425' peak, our alternate goal, which on the map had looked easier, now looked forbidding and far away. (We later learned that 6425' had been climbed in 1960 by an old group and dubbed Mt. Pleasant; evidently it is not forbidding at all!)

I hemmed and hawed and thought about our promise to John to leave the 6950' for him. Ruth, Steffen, and Marge washed their hands of the whole affair and started back. Gayle and I pitched camp and started up about 7 p.m. We told ourselves we couldn't possibly make it anyway, so we weren't really breaking our promise.

The slope was easy (if steep), and we were on the ridge by 5 p.m., contented by a lovely view of Peter's Creek Valley and an enticing

unclimbed 7530' at its head. (It is now climbed and labeled "Rumble" by Vin Hoeman and Dave Meyers.) Clouds were still swirling about us, but we hit the ridge during a clear spell and consumed a second lunch in golden sunshine. 6750', a subsidiary peak en route to the summit, looked close, accessible, tempting. How could we resist?

Clouds came and went, we picked our way along the ridge, across an occasional snow patch, up some scree, hand over hand up some easy rock, and were on top of 6750' by 6 p.m. A cairn! But never mind, the view was magnificent toward Polar Bear, Organ, and Eagle--though clouds engulfed the north side of the mountain, and we still could not see the summit.

Down the 6750' to a saddle and up a lesser "nubbin" for a survey of the situation. Then we could see the summit, a mile-long ridge away. The ridge looked as though it would go, and how we wanted to try it! But it was late, and we would be tired, and what about John?...we went.

The descent from "nubbin" to ridge proved a bit tricky, but not sufficiently so to justify dragging out the rope, we decided. We wended our way over and around rocks; a sheer drop to our left formed the headwall of an S-shaped glacier, but the exposure to the right was not as severe, and the going never became bad enough to make us want the rope. By 8:15 p.m. we were on top--and no cairn! A genuine first ascent, we concluded...with delight! We hastily remedied the no-cairn situation, took many pictures, and drank in the view. By this time, it had really become clear, and we could see what was surely the whole Chugach, bathed in the red glow of the setting sun---Bold, Bashful, Baleful, and what was that distant whiteness? Marcus Baker? And countless others....ah! when you'd love to live forever!

Our descent was made in three hours, through semi-darkness; we reached camp at midnight, tired, but extremely happy....and only a little worried about what John would say.

After much debate in the succeeding days, we called our mountain Peek-A-Boo Peak because it can be seen from Anchorage just peeking over the foreground mountains. #

KIDS OVERNIGHT HIKE TO PTARMIGAN LAKE July 23-24

Leo Hannan

At 10 a.m. Saturday morning, the following members gathered at the Ptarmigan Creek Campground, Mile 24, Seward Highway: Leo Hannan, Sara Hannan (5), Ellen Hannan (7), Bill Babcock, Tucker Babcock (5½), Rachel Babcock (4), Ted and Rosalie Shohl, Peter Shohl (7), and Barbara Shohl (10).

According to the Forest Service, it is an easy 3½-mile hike from the campground to the lake; however, we found it slightly more difficult, as we lost the trail once and had to do some bushwhacking up a steep hillside--rather formidable for 4- and 5-year-olds. Also the temperature soared to a 75° high--this was the hottest trip I have ever been on in Alaska!

In spite of the lost trail and high temperature, everyone arrived at the lake in fairly good condition. After a soothing foot-soaking and swimming by some of the younger members of the group, we picked a camp spot and settled down. The evening passed quickly and so to bed.

We awoke early, but since no one cared to jump up and start breakfast, everyone lazed around until 8. Ellen fished seriously for several hours, and others joined her from time to time, but no one had any success. At about 11 a.m., we started back the trail to the campground. The return trip was enjoyable, and the children all were in very good shape at the end of the trip.

This was my first venture with a group of youngsters this age. I found that the children could go this distance and enjoy it if they traveled at their own speed. It was an excellent trip, and I hope to be able to do on such short "Kid Jaunts" again. #

"Cabin Kaul"

CROW'S NEST HIKE

July 23

Marie Lundstrom

After 5500 miles of car-travel life since leaving San Francisco July 1, I welcomed the idea of a hike to the Crow's Nest as an uncomplicated way to stretch sitting muscles and to see that Alaskan flowers and mountains were the same as they were last year. Luckily my traveling companions, Sheri Fike, of the Mountaineers, Seattle, and Lynn Howe, SF friend on her way to New Jersey, felt the same way. So we joined Marge and Steffen Maagoe (and Malah, naturally), Ruth Schmidt, Grace Jansen, Carrie Lewis, and the five DeVoes--Dave, Carol, Sharon, Jeannie, and Donna--on a comfortably sunny morning to share four convivial uphill miles to the MCA cabin.

The DeVoe girls all showed their training--and Sharon her Crow Pass experience--by plodding surely up the 3-mile long haul from the broken bridge and then positively racing up the steep last-mile scree scramble--lunch was of course waiting for them on top in the cabin.

"In need of some cleaning and replacement but otherwise generally okay" would describe the condition of Crow's Nest. Steffen carted up a large Siggilun can ("of expanding size" he said) for improved storage of food items. The register was a source of considerable interest and amusement, as usual, further supporting Chuck O'Leary's comments about the numbers of people who visit the Crow Pass area.

Carrie and the DeVoes left early, but Ruth, Sheri, Marge, Steffen, and Grace climbed up to the edge of Paren Glacier to see that it was still there and behaving. It was. Grace then stayed on at the cabin to see what night and the next day would bring--weather, climbing company, crows, bears....

Two other parties of people were wandering about in the vicinity that day. We didn't know who they were, but on the way down, we met a third party whom we did know, David and Irma Duncan, who were on their way to the cabin for an overnight stay.

Final comments over beer and ham sandwiches at the Double Muskie--a grand day...and oh, did we ever stretch those sitting muscles! #

ROCK CLIMBING SCHOOL

July 30-31

Dave DeVoe

This year's rock climbing school was held in the Independence Mine area, and about a dozen or so people attended.

The Pinnacle was chosen as an objective, and all those participating in the instruction reached the summit. It was felt that this approach embodied the whole concept of mountaineering, rather than just practicing techniques on relatively short, steep pitches. By doing a real climb, the people have the opportunity to evaluate their reactions to mountaineering. #

EDITORS: Marge Maagoe, Helen Wolfe, Carrie Lewis. Scree is published monthly by the Mountaineering Club of Alaska, Box 20377, Anchorage, Alaska 99501.

BYERS PEAK (6119')

July 17

Gary Hansen

Twelve of a party of 14 completed the Third Annual Climb of Byers Peak on Sunday, July 17, in fine sunny weather. The party comprised Glenn Holmes, Dave Meyers, Gwyn Wilson, Tom Wilson, Brian Wilson, Bud Bergman, Kerstin Pettersen, (& Sialotta, a black Lab), April Allen, Lois Linderwood, Larry Munson, John Ratterman, and Gary Hansen, leader, with Don Kincaid and John Eberle sitting out the summit pitch to nurse sores. The tail of the party returned to the starting point after 14½ hours of rather blistering footwork. #

McKINLEY IN A DAY!

Four ARG-MCA members were guests of the National Geographic Society July 21, when they were flown onto the Ruth Glacier by Don Sheldon to appear in a TV movie which the Society is making on Alaska.

In brilliant sunshine and with perfect skiing conditions, it was not difficult to please everyone. The starring foursome: Hans Van der Laan, Frank Nosek, Jon Gardy, and Gary Hansen. #

...FOR THE RECORD...

Frank Nosek and Gary Hansen enjoyed the privilege of accompanying Eric Whipton, president of the Alpine Club, on a 30-mile round trip behind Cordova, from July 26-30.

The trek, to visit a party from Ohio State University doing research on the Sherman Glacier, involved crossing a varied terrain of dense, wet forest, gravel bars, alder brush, and the crossing of two glaciers, the Sherman and the Sheridan, in their return to Cordova. #