

# SCREE

MOUNTAINEERING CLUB OF ALASKA

BOX 2037

ANCHORAGE, ALASKA 99510

AUGUST 1976

VOLUME XIX, No. 8

## AUGUST MEETING

Wednesday, August 18, 1976, 8 PM, Pioneer Schoolhouse, Third and Eagle, Anchorage, Alaska. The program will be a slide show of a recent Mount Spur ascent.

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## CLIMBING SCHEDULE

- Saturday, August 14 MATANUSKA PEAK (MT. VIGOR). For information call leader, BILL STIVERS, 277-2869.
- Saturday, August 21 THE PINNACLE. For information call leader PAUL DENKEWALTER, 272-1811; days, after August 15.
- Saturday, August 28 SUMMIT MOUNTAIN. Leader: FRITZ RIEGER, 277-8979, or PAUL DENKEWALTER, 272-1811, days.

If you are interested in climbs the weekend of September 4 or September 11, call FRITZ or PAUL to find out what is scheduled.

## HIKING SCHEDULE

- Saturday, August 14 MT. VIGOR (near Palmer). Joint trip with the climbers. For information call BILL STIVERS, 277-2869.

For information on hikes that might be scheduled for the rest of August or the first part of September, call DONA AGOSTI, 279-2901.

## PRESIDENT'S PEN

MCA SUMMER BARBECUE. Congratulations are due all MCAers who made this a very pleasant event. The food was superb, and the social activities stimulated enthusiastic response. Special credit is due FRITZ and DURHANE RIEGER, who planned and organized the occasion.

BRADFORD WASHBURN'S VISIT. Previous reports that DOCTOR WASHBURN had made a firm commitment to attend our August meeting were in error. He has advised by letter that he will be engaged on a complex photographic mission in Anchorage, Talkeetna, Yakutat, and Juneau during mid-August, and that his attendance at our meeting is contingent upon a number of factors, primarily weather. WASHBURN may attend our August meeting.

**PRESIDENT'S PEN continued.**

**GAME BOARD VACANCY.** TOM MEACHAM has resigned from the board of game due to a potential conflict of interest between that position and his recent appointment as Assistant Attorney General. A majority of the Executive Committee has voted to recommend DEE FRANKWORTH'S appointment to the seat vacated by MEACHAM, and the Governor has been so advised. DEE'S philosophy of wildlife management is compatible with TOM'S, therefore her appointment would provide continuity of nonhunter representation on the Board. The membership will vote on confirmation of the Executive Committee's decision during the August meeting.

**OCTOBER ELECTIONS.** Election of club officers and two directors will be conducted at the October meeting. Members are urged to query prospective candidates concerning their availability. Let's have a full slate of candidates for publication in September's SCREE. Submit nominations to BILL STIVERS, 277-2869.

**ICE CLIMBING SCHOOL.** TERRY BECKER is organizing an ice climbing school to be conducted in September. Registration will be accepted at the August meeting.

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Near Hope; Seward D-7, T9N, R1W, Sec 5  
June 26, 1976  
by Charles A. Kibler

There are a number of gentle mountain ridges in the Hope area for scenic above-timber-line hiking without retracing steps on return. CHUCK HELLER and I hiked up past Near House Mine from Coeur d'Alene Creek (up Palmer Creek by Hope), and NE 2 miles to high point of 4600' (bench mark, cairns, no register) beside Turnagain Arm. Here we changed our course from the easy ridge to the south, to the more scenic 4 mile ridge to the NW paralleling Turnagain Arm, where we came out on the Hope Road near Windy Point. Needless to say, there were spectacular views of Turnagain Arm and high mountains beyond throughout the hike on that hot, cloudless weekend. We then hitchhiked back to our car at Coeur d'Alene Creek Campground.

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**EAGLE RIVER "OVERLOOK"**  
June 12, 1976  
by Charles A. Kibler

I climbed Eagle River "Overlook" on June 12, 1976 (no register) according to Hike #37, and returned by the ridge to the NW over Peak 5001' and point 4615' (no registers) before descending to South Fork Eagle River Road. This keeps you up high with a sweeping view longer, and it is an easy ridge. It appears that a road goes just up the south side of Eagle River as Paradise Haven, and there is a cabin above timberline on that side.

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**TONSINA TO KIMBALL PASS**  
Valdez, B-3, B-4, C-3, C-4  
July 2-5, 1976  
by Charles A. Kibler

A three day hike from Tonsina over Kimball Pass to the campground at Little Tonsina River went off as planned. The group included ALLEN WORLAND, DEAN MARCHBEIN, the

TONSINA TO KIMBALL PASS continued.

KOBUS family, MIKE PARKINSON, TERRY REES, CHUCK HELLER, DONA AGOSTI, and myself.

Friday we drove to and camped in a gravel pit at Squirrel Creek campground to get an early start on Saturday.

Saturday we shuffled a couple of vehicles to Little Tonsina River, and then hiked 11 miles up Bernard trail (which follows an old telegraph line) to the lake at Kimball Pass, where we camped on one of the few soft, flat camping spots beside the lake.

Sunday was planned as a do-anything-you-want day. CHUCK HELLER accidentally locked his keys in the house when he left. No problem--a big 100' RCA communications tower happened to be conveniently located on a nearby ridge just across the lake--which a number of people visited, and CHUCK called civilization to rectify his problem. Meanwhile, WORLAND and I made the first ascent of Peak 5310' just west of Kimball Lake, where we built a small 5' high cairn. After eating lunch, we were joined by MIKE PARKINSON. PARKINSON and WORLAND descended as I hiked around a semicircular ridge to the west and north paralleling the highway, and offering views of the Wrangell Mountains and reconnaissance of the route to the highway. An eagle was soaring the high winds that were bringing in clouds (and later rain) from Valdez. When I got back, the rest of the group had moved on, but I was too tired to by then. CHUCK had moved his camp over the top of Peak 5310' along the ridge.

Monday the grass and brush were wet from a rainfall the night before. It was only 5 miles to the highway, but it could all be bushwhacking, so we allowed a whole day. However, the first 2 miles were a trail following the old telegraph line (past another tower) to where I intercepted the rest of the group; and there was another mile or so of game trails, leaving only 2 miles of bushwhacking through a rather disappointingly brushy and swampy black spruce forest. As we were plowing through this stuff fighting mosquitoes, we were grateful for the 3 miles of trail which got us out by noon, and grateful that we didn't have to cross the Little Tonsina River, as three who separated from us did. Some of the group, however, didn't bother to walk a few hundred feet down the Pipeline to the river to see what they didn't have to wade.

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BOLD PEAK 7522'  
July 10-11, 1976  
by David Newcombe

JIM CHAMBERS, GENE KLYMKO, Leader BILL STIVERS, and myself started out for Bold Peak from the end of Eklutna Lake shortly after 8 AM Saturday. We entered the south gully after hiking along the trail and up through wet grass and brush. We then headed up the gully, and after picking our way around the scree and loose rock we reached the lower cirque at 11 AM for lunch. After scrambling over more loose rock, dirt, and grass, we entered the upper cirque about 1:30 PM, set up camp and rested before the summit attempt.

Below our campsite the weather had been mostly sunny, while above us clouds obscured our route. On our climb to the summit we entered clouds and light rain, although occasional patches of blue sky were visible. We reached the summit at 7 PM from which there was no visibility. A light wind was blowing and the thermometer read about 40 degrees F. Our rapid descent to camp and dinner was made possible by the much available scree and snow slopes--and by four ravenous appetites! The next morning we descended the gully to the lake after sleeping in late and catching up on much needed rest.

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LOST LAKE  
July 17-18, 1976  
by Terry Rees

The Fred Meyer parking lot at 7 AM on a bleak and rainy Saturday morning isn't my favorite place to be, but TONY BOCKSTAHLER, DICK LAMB, MARTY BASSET, JUDY KOBUS, KATHY McINTOSH, and LINDA KIMURA were chomping at the bit to go to Lost Lake, so off we went in two VW buses.

After stashing a bus at MP5 on the Seward Highway, we were all at the trailhead on the access road to the Primrose Campground (MP17.5) by 11 AM. The waterfall a mile or so into the trip provided a good spot to lunch and to be lunched upon by the mosquitoes. About two miles farther on we stopped to examine what is left of some log cabins. One has apparently become occupied and another has been torn down during the past year.

Ascending into the clouds, we reached the lake (what we could see of it) at 3 PM. Thinking of continuing on to the trailhead out on the other side of the lake, but not knowing which way around the lake would be the easiest, DICK and I disappeared into the mist to recon the shortest way out (to the left). This way I knew and involves wading the lake's outlet, but it was reported to be waist deep three weeks previously. We found it to be only calf deep and returned to the rest of the group at 5 PM. Since by then we all were either cold, tired, or cold and tired, camp was set up and all more or less flaked out, clouds on the deck and marmots squeaking.

The thought of ice cold feet seemed unbearable the next morning, so by unanimous vote, the longer and unknown but possibly drier route around the right of the lake was chosen. Suffice it to say that this way is not recommended. Two extra miles, brush, marsh, and wading-only multiple lake inlets were encountered; only MARTY and I managed to stay dry. One last inlet within sight of the trailhead was negotiated by constructing a rock pile bridge. I managed to fall in, leaving MARTY the only dry victor of Lost Lake. 8:30 to noon was consumed getting to the trailhead by this route. Again, not recommended; go left! The seven mile walk out was uneventful, as was the motorhome, boat, and overgrossed camper-infested highway drive back to Anchorage.

Thanks to all for being good sports and not stringing up the leader for the poor weather. Too bad we missed the spectacular views enjoyed on last year's trip.

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ORGAN MOUNTAIN  
July 23 - August 1, 1976  
by Bill Stivers

Since there was no response from MCA members to the scheduled Organ Mountain climb, I again made a solo ascent of the mountain. I departed from Glenn Alps at 1 PM, Friday July 23, and followed the same route to the mountain as taken last year (reported in October 1975 SCREE). Base camp was reached at 5 PM Sunday and the mountain was climbed Monday.

There was one modification to the route climbed last year. Upon reaching the wedge-shaped monolith at 6200' (see October SCREE, item 8), I turned left and scrambled up the small tributary gully to the west. From the top of the tributary gully a 100-yard level traverse to southwest led to the 6300' level of the gully to summit (Ibid., item 11).

I reached the cloud-enveloped summit at 2 PM. The temperature was 33 degrees and the wind, light. An hour was spent on the summit, during which the clouds lifted

ORGAN MOUNTAIN continued.

permitting photographs in all directions. I placed a register under some rocks in a niche about three feet below the south side of the peak.

From Tuesday, July 27, until my return on Sunday, August 1, I explored many interesting tributary valleys, cirques, ridges, and passes on both sides of the North Fork Ship Creek. During this period I made frequent reference to a manual to identify the many species of wild flowers observed. Blueberries and cranberries were beginning to ripen.

Wildlife observations were not as plentiful as last year's. Although sheep sightings were many, they were less frequent and in fewer locations. Thirteen sheep were observed on the east side of the Ship Lake cul-de-sac. Not one moose was seen-- tracks indicated that a few were in the area. Bear scat marked the trails traversed by these animals. A wolf was spotted north of Indian Creek Pass on the second day out. We exchanged howls for about a half hour from opposite sides of the creek. He departed when I began to move easterly in his direction. Marmots were infrequently sighted in some alpine meadows.

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#### BITS AND PIECES

On May 23, 1976, STEVE HACKETT and TOM HILLIS of College, Alaska, made the summit of Mt. Hess (11,940'), Central Alaskan Range, via a new route (the N.E. spur of the north ridge).

On July 7 through 10, 1976, STEVE and JIM HACKETT made a successful ascent of Mt. Tatum (11,140') which is on the Muldrow side of Denali, via a new route (N.E. ridge) The trip began at Wonder Lake on the 7th, which was spent walking to McGonagall Pass the ascent was made on the 8th, and the 9th and 10th were spent walking down the Muldrow Glacier and on out to Eilson Visitor Center.

by JIM HACKETT

American Mountaineering Magazine is interested in printing articles, with photo support, by Alaskan mountaineers. Inquiries and manuscripts for possible publication should be submitted to MICHAEL P. KENNEDY, editor, American Mountaineering Magazine, Box E, Aspen, Colorado 81611. Telephone 303-925-3414.

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#### FOR SALE

Kelty D-4 pack; almost new; \$50. Call Larry Johnson, 333-0950.

1 pair white VB bunny/mouse boots; good condition; size 11; used on Mount Logan! \$75 or offers; AND 1 Kelty mountaineer pack-frame (medium); brand new--never used; \$30. Call Sue Wrenn, work--279-4523, home--277-3314.

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MICHAEL P. KENNEDY of American Mountaineering Magazine, Box E, Aspen, Colorado 81611, is interested in hearing from Alaska mountaineers who have participated in mountain rescues, particularly on Mt. McKinley. He would like comments by August 15 for an editorial he is preparing on mountain rescues.

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