



MOUNTAINEERING CLUB OF ALASKA

BOX 2037

ANCHORAGE, ALASKA 99510

AUGUST 1978

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AUGUST MEETING

Wednesday, August 16, 1978, Pioneer School House; Third and Eagle, Anchorage, Alaska. Main program for this meeting will be Jeff Babcock's slides and account of his climb of Mt. Hunter last spring. Mini-slide show will be Al Robinson's pictures of travel in the Mt. Robson area of the Canadian Rockies in 1950.

It was not possible to include minutes of the July meeting in this issue of SCREE. July and August minutes will be included in the September SCREE.

Our warm thanks and good wishes go to Jean McDowell, refreshment chairperson for the last year, who is moving to Colorado, and to Emile McIntosh, who filled in for the July meeting. If refreshments are to be continued, we must have a volunteer to carry this responsibility. Please phone Emile McIntosh, 337-7418, re details, supplies, etc.

HIKING AND CLIMBING SCHEDULES

Please consult July SCREE for August and September schedules. Hiking schedule is as listed. There have been some changes in the climbing schedule - phone Valerie Larue, 333-7919, if you have questions.

1978 RUSSIAN CLIMBING EXCHANGE

Excerpt from American Alpine News, June 1978:

"The six climbers to go to Russia on the American Alpine Club's Soviet-American Mountaineering Exchange were announced in early February by Alex Bertulis, chairman of the Selection Committee. They are Chuck Kroger, leader; Rick Sylvester, deputy leader; Reilly Moss, Steve Hackett, (Ed.'s underline), Carlos Buhler, and Ben Read. Earl Wiggins was named first alternate and Bob Burns second alternate in case any single team member drops out; Brock Wagstaff and Bob Schneider are first alternates in case any partnership of two drops out.

The selection committee under Bertulis consisted of Henry Barker, Jed Williamson, Michael Covington, and R.D. Caughron. Their task, not an easy one, was to choose the final team from 47 applicants, all of whom were strong, and 15 of whom were extremely strong.

Tentative dates for the Soviet trip are July and the first half of August. The tentative objective was announced as the Pik Communism via the Bivach Glacier. It was also planned to visit the Tien Shan area. (Ed. Note: For a moving account and pictures of the 1974 Soviet-American expedition in the same area, see Robert M. Craig's "Storm and Sorrow in the High Pamirs", published by the Mountaineers, Seattle.)

RARE II IN PROGRESS ON THE CHUGACH NATIONAL FOREST

For the remainder of this summer the Forest Service is accepting public input into its Roadless Area Review and Evaluation (RARE II) program. The purpose of this program is to make a final decision over which areas should be managed under the multiple-use principle. This is the only chance that the public will have to comment on potential wilderness areas in Prince William Sound, Afognak Island, eastern Kenai Peninsula and the Copper River Delta.

If you are interested in any of these regions, write the Forest Service (Federal Office Building, P.O. Box 1628, Juneau, AK 99802) and support Wilderness designation for the specific areas that you are concerned with. If you feel you cannot write a letter about a specific area, write a general letter about your interest in protecting Wilderness in the Chugach Forest. If you can, please send a copy of your letter to David or Susan so that they can try to incorporate your concern into the conservationists' proposals. Also, feel free to contact one of them if you would like to receive more information or a copy of the Forest Service's Wilderness alternatives.

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SOUTH FORK EAGLE RIVER VALLEY

June 12, 1978

by Brigitte Ressel

On a lovely summer morning 3 hikers and 6 climbers gathered to explore South Fork Eagle River Valley and the mountains at the end of the valley. The hikers were Marty Bassett, Valerie Wright, and Brigitte Ressel; the climbers were Ernie Dorjon, Peter Lindahl, Jon Van Alphen, Robin L. Bowen, Chuck Barnett, and Orson Smith.

The South Fork Eagle River Road, marked by signs, has been improved over past years and the access can be easily approached if one does not get irritated by many driveways leading off the main road. After a smooth 8 mile drive from the turnoff, Glen Highway and Hiland Road, we reached a parking lot. A jeep trail starts directly at the end of the parking lot. Fallen trees across the trail keep motorists off the path. We walked for a short distance through a cottonwood grove and soon entered the open trail, with a view down to the base of the valley to the south, the mountains to the east, and a low ridge to the north. The jeep trail leads back almost to the end of the valley. The only "thrilling" moment of the entire hike was crossing a creek coming down from the north side of the valley. Finding no easy portage, we helped each other balance over rocks to the other side of the creek. Bright sun under blue skies and a light breeze made walking pleasant. One could see a few pretty flowers, hardly visible because of their small size--moss campion, twin-flower, Siberian phlox.

Shortly before we reached Eagle and Symphony Lakes at 11:00 a.m., we had to cross a large area of rocks. At the lakes we allowed ourselves a good rest so we could enjoy the scenery and decide where to go next. The climbers checked their maps and decided on their further route and bivouac site. We three hikers decided to go on for awhile and then head back to the parking lot. We wished the climbers good luck and continued good weather, and then

took off for a steep slope above the lakes. The sun was hot, the hill steep, and our hiking spirit seemed to deteriorate with the steepness of the slope. We soon sat down to enjoy lunch, the scenery, and conversation. After lunch Valerie and I headed down to Eagle Lake and did some rock hopping along the shore. A cool foot bath in a pond refreshed my walking spirit after the hot sun and dryness of the valley. Returning we stayed on the lower jeep trail, and crossing the creek by a log bridge was easy. Toward the end of the trail and close to the homesteads the vegetation changed--most of the valley is tundra. We continued on a gravel road from homesteads to parking lot. The whole hike took 5 to 6 hours.

A CLIMB ON KOROHUSK

May 27, 1978

by Steve Markiewicz

Saturday, May 27th, found Tom Smayda, John Van Alphen and me heading up the Eagle River Valley, following the river trail a few miles before bushwacking up the northern side. Arms got scratched as we worked our way up to a large snow-filled basin that was once a glacier. Enroute, Tom and I climbed around on a frozen snow waterfall which reminded us of New England ice climbing in late season.

We set up John's mountain dome in the basin, below the south face of Korohusk (7030'). Soon we filled up on tuna helper and Swiss Miss. Not used to all this Alaskan night light, Tom and I sat around outside a few hours before retiring. Next morning we headed towards the head of the basin and climbed towards the East Ridge. We climbed up steep snow gullies separated by some rotten rock traverses. A large rock whizzing past my leg kept things interesting. On the knife-edge ridge, we poked our axes through overhanging cornices and played "enemy spy" though rock and snow was all to be seen. Some light flurries and wind accompanied us on and off and the clouds were all around, but it was still very nice weather and views for us. Next climb I'll remember to bring a pencil so as to write us into posterity on the summit.

The descent was down the south face. We followed a long snow gully to its end, then traversed west over two rock ribs and followed another snow gully til that ended. Traversing east, we found our final snow gully and happily glissaded down to the basin. We ate our mac and cheese, broke camp and headed down. A cold beer at Paradise Lodge and a later pork chop dinner, courtesy of John's wife, Gail, ended a fine trip. And my super guides are finally broken in nice.