



MOUNTAINEERING CLUB OF ALASKA

BOX 2037

ANCHORAGE, ALASKA 99510

AUGUST 1982

Volume 25, Issue #8

AUGUST MEETING

The meeting will be held Wednesday, August 18th at 8:00p.m. on the top floor of the Pioneer School House, Third & Eagle, Anchorage, Alaska. As SCREE goes to press we are unable to confirm the August Program which will follow the business meeting. Hopefully, Jon Waterman, National Park Ranger stationed at Talkeetna, will be able to show slides from his winter climb of the Cassin Ridge, which was the second winter ascent of McKinley. If not, the program will be an assortment of slides from various club members of memorable trips.

CLUB PICNIC

The annual MCA picnic will be held Sunday, August 22nd at Eklutna Lake. Bernie Helms (279-9327) and Eileen Cavanaugh (244-1013) will be making arrangements for the picnic. Be sure to give them your ideas. For further details, call Bernie or Eileen or come to the August meeting.

MINUTES FROM MCA GENERAL MEETING 7-21-82

The July meeting of MCA was held on July 21st at the Pioneer School House, middle floor, at 3rd & Eagle, Anchorage, Alaska. The meeting was called to order at 8:05 by Rick Severn, Vice President. The reading of the June meeting minutes was approved as published in SCREE. The Treasurer, Reggie Buchanan reported:

\$ 139.32	Petty Cash
370.84	Bank Account
3,753.20	Money Market Fund
<u>\$4,263.36</u>	Total

New members introduced were: Cliff Belleau, Ray Emerson, Kathleen Barrow, Sharon Ferrara, Steve Balko, Charles Trush, Ann Shaw, Ed Gross, Bruce Poulin, Jonathan Gulick, Dave Cournoyer, Bill Dougherty, Marcia Bandy, Michele Bergmann, Dan Sakura, Kneely Taylor, Steve Dager and Suzan Mauer.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Chugach State Park Trails Association: Tim Neale 274-4952
The Bold Peak brush out has been completed. The trail is now in excellent usable condition. Tentively planned for the first weekend after Labor Day is the California Creek Trail brush out. The date will be announced.

Library: Pete Sennhauser 345-5577
The book room at Pete's house is in good order with shelves installed and books arranged. The club has a considerable collection of rare books and other printed materials pertaining to mountaineering available to club members.

Hiking: Dona Agosti 248-0089
The Peter Hills outing scheduled for August 7th & 8th is cancelled. The Jim Creek Trail to Friday Creek outing scheduled for August 14th & 15th has a mandatory meeting place of the UAA Sports Center parking lot. Those interested contact trip leader Bill Wakeland at 279-2270. The Eklutna-Girdwood Traverse scheduled August 6th through 10th will meet at the UAA Sports Center parking lot at noon on Friday the 6th. ~~This is a glacier travel trip. Contact Willy Hersman for trip gear details at 278-9829.~~

OLD BUSINESS:

SCREE can use some help for assembling and mailing on August 10th
Please contact Pauline Dickey.

NEW BUSINESS:

The annual MCA picnic is scheduled for Sunday August 22nd. Details forthcoming at the August MCA meeting. Organizers are Bernie Helms (279-9327) and Eileen Cavanaugh (243-1013).

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

The MCA meetings for August, September, October and November are currently scheduled at Pioneer School House, top floor.

The slide show was presented by Lance Leslie from Talkeetna on his 1981 traverse of Mount Huntington with a party of two friends. The ascent was via the French Ridge and descent by the east ridge. Many spectacular scenes were shown.

The meeting adjourned at 8:40p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sandi Macdonald, Secretary

HIKING SCHEDULE

AugustSat/Sun
14-15

Jim Creek Trail to Friday Creek. This trail starts at Mile 40.6 Old Glenn Highway and goes nine miles up Knik River to Friday Creek. If Friday Creek can be crossed, we will continue as far as possible towards Knik Glacier; if not, there are good campsites near Friday Creek, and side trips can be made up the creek to above timberline. Consult with leader for departure place and time. Leader: Bill Wakeland (279-2270).

Sat/Sun
21-22

Bird Pass. Leave Seward Highway near Bird House and drive back as far as road will allow. Cross Bird Creek, then follow old horse trail to Pass. Good view and camping in pass. Return same route. Consult with leader for departure time and place. Leader: Bill Stivers (277-2869).

Sat/Sun
28-29

Lost Lake. This beautiful alpine lake may be reached via a trail from Mile 5 of the Seward Highway on the Kenai Peninsula or from Primrose Campground near Mile 17.1. It can also be a hike from one point, exiting at the other. Should be lots of berries at this time of year. Consult with leader for departure time and place. Leader: John Nevin (276-6665).

SEPTEMBERSat/Sun/Mon
4-5-6

Labor Day Weekend - CHANGED to Byers Lake-Curry Ridge-Indian Ridge-Little Coal Creek. This traverse is 25 miles long with some up and down, rising some 3,000' in elevation - the high point is 4,558' elevation at Indian Mt., with (weather permitting) outstanding views of Denali. Trailhead is Mi 147 on Parks Highway, exit at Mi 163. Please no dogs, can expect windy conditions and some brush. Depart U of A parking lot 6 AM, Saturday, Sep't. 4. Leader: Bill Wakeland, 279-2270 (home) and 274-7539 (work).

NOTE: Trip leaders are encouraged to include in their SCREE reports any significant changes in the trails or access.

BASIC MOUNTAINEERING CLASS

August
28-29

This is a beginning class for the folks that have had no mountaineering experience. The class is non-technical with emphasis on alpine mountaineering. Climbing boots and warm clothing are the only equipment requirements. Ice axes and crampons will be

supplied by the club. Only MCA members may take the class. There will be a limit on the number of students taking the class. One evening classroom session and two days of outdoor sessions will be held. Location and time to be announced at the August meeting. For more information, call Tim Neale (274-4952).

UPCOMING CLIMBING CLASSES

There will be a general mountaineering class in early September. It will include one evening session of equipment and clothing and one day outdoor sessions. This is not an overnight class. Tim Neale is the organizer (274-4952). The fee is \$5.00 and you have to be an MCA member.

The Annual Matanuska Glacier Ice Climbing School will begin with an indoor class on September 22. The classes will be on September 25 & 26 at Matanuska Glacier, Mile 98 Glenn Highway. There will be instruction on basic ice climbing and rescue techniques. The fee is \$5.00 per student plus \$5.00 for access to the glacier. Again, you must be an MCA member. Contact Terry Becker at Alaska Mountaineering and Hiking (272-1811) or John Dillman (279-1246).

Graham Macdonald will hold an orienteering course in October, more details will be available at the August and September meetings.

BOLD PEAK TRAIL CLEAN UP

Over the weekend of July 17 & 18 eight members of the MCA finished work on the Bold Peak Trail. The MCA is a member of Chugach Trails Association, a group of volunteers to help maintain trails in the Chugach State Park. Anyone interested on helping to clear or maintain trails in the Chugach State Park should contact Tim Neale, John Lohff or Mike Frauke with the MCA.

The following people donated their time and energy in clearing the trail: Katy Byrne, Sam Dunagan, Mark Findlay, George Lawrence, Willie Horsman, Barbara Kaehler, Eric Kaehler and Tim Neale.

Tim Neale

TRIP REPORTS

North End Curry Ridge, also Called Indian Ridge, also Called "Train Whistle Mountain"-July 10 & 11, 1982

There were 13 of us, which may explain some things, and we left the University parking lot at 6:30a.m. Saturday: Don Hansen, Karen Forsyth, Patty Drusell, Mark Findlay, Mary Pat Brudie, Helen and Gayle Nienhuesser, Jonothan Gulick, Michael Rees, Pablo Lippe, Esther George, Bernie Helms and myself.

Just beyond Mile 163, the Parks Highway crosses Little Coal Creek, and the trailhead and parking lot is at Mile 163.7. The rain let up for our climb through the forest and alders on a good, and new trail. Leaving the brush line we got one glimpse of Denali through a hole in the clouds—a teaser that proved to be the only look for this trip, the rest of which was in the fog and clouds a good share of the time.

We camped three or four miles in by trail near a pretty lake at 3,200' elevation on a round, mossy knob, and retired to tents and sacks about 6:30 in order to get or stay warm—the wind threatened to remove our encampment and through the night some one-half inch of rain fell. We emerged about 12 to 13 hours later with the wind down and our world encased in fog. Eventually we poked around during periods that holes appeared, exploring toward Indian Peak, 4,559' elevation.

One of us poked a little too far and upon "returning" to camp heard a train whistle ahead, which suggested camp was 180 degrees in the other direction! Meanwhile, our search efforts had been underway for some time, and several hours after our intended rendezvous and departure time we were all united again. Lesson: When in strange terrain or fog, travel in pairs, have a whistle and compass and probably a map in the group. We were lucky—the lost party did not panic and realized the significance of that whistle, which came from the Alaska Railroad along Indian River, to the east.

The fog lifted enough and the rain let up on the way out for us to see up and down the Chulitna River Valley, and to again see what a picturesque trip this would be in decent weather. And we would like to try a longer trek between Byers Lake and this trailhead, some 25 miles. For a finale to our adventures, the author of "55 Ways" took a "shortcut" and was "lost" for awhile at the trailhead! My personal thanks to an excellent group to be with during our mini-crisis.

Bill Wakeland

The Sun Always Shines on the Kenai Peninsula-June 26 & 27

Our 19 member entourage (Dick & Brian Williams, Chuck, Ryan, and Evin Kennedy, Pat Murray and his son Robert, Tom Sheridan, Lloyd & Suzy Sullivan, Tom Sullivan, Bruce Hawkins, Agnes Ely, John Nevin, Michael Rees, Sue Clift, Carol May, Evelyn Jervey, and I) gathered together at Ptarmigan Lake after the pleasant 3½ mile hike from the trailhead. Camping space was a bit tight, but by late afternoon everyone was settled in.

After lunch our group split up with some exploring the lake's north shore for the historic trail that is now in disrepair, while another group climbed up an avalanche chute to the West Ridge of The Unicorn north of the lake for tremendous views of Kenai Lake. The remainder of the group lolled the afternoon away fishing, swimming, or sun-bathing.

Despite six fishing poles, only a single Dolly Varden graced our frying pan that evening. Much of the evening was spent around the campfire built in the high rent district by the lake's outflow where Sue and Agnes treated us to various serenades from old musicals.

By Sunday morning the weather had assumed a cloudy, threatening demeanor, unusual for the Kenai, and we were urged on our way by increasing wind and some spattering raindrops. The more hearty in the group revisited The Unicorn's West Ridge, but most of us were content to stroll back to the cars for the trip home to our various destinations.

Greg Higgins

Editor's note: This was Greg's final trip with MCA, (at least for a while) for he will be moving to California to practice medicine. Greg has been a tremendous asset to the club in numerous ways. We thank him for all his efforts and interest and wish him the best for the future. We'll certainly miss him.

Carter Lake To Crescent Lake To Crescent Campground-July 17 & 18

You parents of small kids who decided to stay home the above weekend missed seeing Carter Lake Valley at its best. The place was covered with wild flowers, the sun was shining and the fish were biting in both Carter and Crescent Lakes. I recommend this hike for families with younger children. It's easy two or three mile walk up and the valley is safe for exploring. I don't want to hear any more complaints about a lack of family hikes.

Those who did show up were Jon Agosti (leading), Dan Sukura, Ken McCarly and Marilyn Kamm. When the guys decided at the UAA parking lot to try a new route over the top, Marilyn elected to return home to get her dog, then took her own car and started from the other end of the trail at Quartz Creek Campground. She planned to meet the others at about 6 PM at the Crescent Lake cabin. They finally showed up at 9 PM. The climb to Peak 5302 takes as long as beating the brush around the crescent of Crescent Lake. They reported seeing sheep on top, as well as a hail storm. Total time-10 hours. "Strenuous but invigorating", said Ken from Georgia and Dan from Boston. They also had nothing but superlatives for Carter Lake valley.

Dona Agosti, Hiking Chairman

Bird Creek Ridge-June 5

Eight hikers took off on a stormy Saturday morning. The participants were Diane Clark, Eileen Cavanaugh, Chip Cox, Pam Flowers, Bernie Helms, Audrey Mattson, John Nevin, and Brigitte Ressel. We traveled to Bird Creek Camp Ground past the Bird Creek Bridge now under construction. From there we walked back just a few hundred yards to the trail head.

I was prepared for a search for the beginning of the trail due to the construction going on in this area, but it turned out to be no problem whatsoever. The first part of the trail is all wooded and as we ascended higher and approached a more open area, we found a carpet of wild flowers such as Forget-Me-Not, Violets, Saxifrage, and Small Jacob's Ladder. Further up the hill we found some Lupins. With a little bit more sunshine we could have enjoyed the first flora of spring and the surrounding mountains at the same time. But rain and wind kept us from concentrating on flowers and view. The latter one is usually magnificent from Bird Creek Ridge. One looks down on the Turnagain Arm with the mountains on each side of the water. Above timberline the wind was pretty strong and cold and three of us departed at this point (one person had already left earlier). John, Chip, Pam and myself looking for a shelter so our lunch wouldn't be blown away. We found one spot under a group of spruce trees. Lunch hour was kept short, and after lunch we decided to descend rather than battle the elements of nature. We were probably 30 to 45 minutes away from the top of the ridge. We also saw new "white stuff" powdered over some peaks. When we again reached the road and parking lot it seemed that the rain was heavier and the wind less than on the ridge. Despite the unfavorable weather condition I think everyone found some joy in going up this scenic route. Good company is just as important as the weather and makes a trip worthwhile.

Brigitte Ressel

Prince William Sound Kayak Trip-June 25-July 4

This was not a club trip, but we were all club members and the precedent is set for future trips. Marty Bassett was our mentor and organizer, having been on a 30 day National Outdoor Leadership (NOLS) class in the Sound two years ago. The others were myself, my son Steve, Gene Klymko, Mark Findlay and Peter Fournay. Between us we had three, two-man Kleppers with Steve and I in one, Mark and Peter in one, Marty using one by himself (he needed it for all the gear and culinary delights he toted) and Gene used a one man Klepper.

We departed on the ferry Tustamena from Seward Friday evening about 10:30 during a spell of clear weather carrying all of our loot aboard via the car ramp. The ferry was shortly in a fogbank which did not lift until well after the intercom announced that we would not be going into Port San Juan, our intended destination near LaTouche, due to the fog. This was a real shock, to both us and some 13 other kayakers with the same destination.

Our group spent Saturday-a beautiful day-on various docks in Valdez, awaiting a big float plane from Cordova to take us back towards San Juan. The others chartered an idle fishing boat to take them to the Columbia Glacier from where they paddled to Whittier. It was close to 7 PM before the guy showed up in a big, beautiful Otter on floats. We and our gear, about a ton, were soon airborne and on our way, landing in Drier Bay on Knight Island. That was our last dood day, but we did get a

glimpse of sunlight on two or three occasions two or three days later. Our route included stops on Knight Island and Chenega Island, then down and across Dangerous Passage to Nassau Fiord and the Chenega Glacier, where we bobbed around amongst the icebergs watching and listening as the one-quarter mile high, one mile wide glacier shed its ice in big slabs. We then crossed through literally miles of ice to Whale Bay and camped on Bainbridge Island.

Camps were always welcome events, rain or no, with lots of drift-wood for fires. We had three big, stable VE24 tents, and always managed to find some grassy shelves above high tide for campsites. Gene's ritual of unloading the kayak and finally downing his snort of brandy relieved any tension left from a hairy paddle session. Then watching the intense drama of Marty preparing pizza or whatever in his skillet-with-sunken-lid, and then ravaging our fire for coals kept us fascinated for hours. By the time he was done we were all hungry again and helped devour his masterpiece.

After leaving Bainbridge Passage and continuing to Prince of Wales Passage, we encountered some 20 members of a NOLS class, split into two groups by weather, traveling in open canoes, and hard shell kayaks! They could not travel in the poor conditions we could, but were doing fine, and the group was at least half women. That day we paddled south with the tide and made nearly 20 miles, going around the south end of Evans Island and up Elrington Passage to camp on Elrington Island. For awhile we were in the big swells of the open Pacific, and saw an unusually large number of sea otters, seals and eagles along the rocks, plus some whales

Our last camp was at Port Ashton, an abandoned cannery near San Juan, and on Sunday we paddled to San Juan, which is now a highly successful fish hatchery run by a non-profit corporation supported by commercial fishermen. The ferry was early and we barely got our kayaks torn down and stuffed into all those sacks and carried aboard, before it left, after all of about a 10 minute stop-the first stop there this year, by the way.

Our route was about 90 miles long, but of course we covered a good deal more than that on side trips. The Kleppers proved very stable, and with the right rain gear and spray covers we stayed dry in heavy, wind-blown spray and rain. Five of us used hip boots, and Peter used knee boots, managing not to step in over them. Several of us plan to do it again, but hopefully with more time to take advantage of the "attitude" one acquires after a week or so, to have more freedom to explore and take pictures and hopefully to experience more good weather spells-which are truly delightful.

Bill Wakeland

HISTORY CORNER

One half mile to the southeast of Emerald Lake lies the true summit of Mt. Tikishla. At 5100+ feet, this is the first 5000 footer encountered above Campbell Creek's North Fork.

This mountain was listed as trip #6 in the original 30 Hikes in Alaska. Its name was derived from the language of the Tanaina Indians and is their word for the black bear. Viewed from Anchorage, the mountain appears to have twin pointed summits with the one to the left thought to be the higher. Some exposed terrain lies between these two points.

To the northeast the ridge links up with Tanaina Peak. This ridge has one difficult section that most people bypass by skirting along the Campbell Creek side of the slope. To the southwest the other ridge from the top descends steeply then gradually rises again to 4600+ Point Knoya (which is Tanaina for beaver).

The traditional approach to Tikishla is made by going over Near Point, to the North Fork of Campbell Creek, and then onto the southern slopes of the mountain. It may also be approached from the north via the drainage system of Emerald Lake.

Rod Wilson and his son Brain made the 1st recorded ascent of this peak on September 4, 1966. They found no evidence of previous visitors (see SCREE: 8:11:2). Tikishla did not receive a Winter ascent until January 10, 1973 when Bill Barnes Jr. and Sam Means went to the top (see SCREE: 16:2:6).

There is a good register on the top taken up by a group led by Tim Neale in 1981. The original was lost years ago when the container housing it was destroyed by weather.

Greg Higgins