



MOUNTAINEERING CLUB OF ALASKA BOX 2037 ANCHORAGE, ALASKA 99510

August 1983

Volume 26, Issue #3

AUGUST MEETING

The meeting will be held Wednesday, August 17th, at 8:00 p.m. on the top floor of the Pioneer Schoolhouse, 3rd and Eagle Streets, Anchorage, Alaska. Details on the program for the August meeting were not available at press time.

MINUTES FOR MCA JULY GENERAL MEETING

The July meeting of MCA was held on the 20th, at the Pioneer Schoolhouse, Third & Eagle Streets, third floor, Anchorage, Alaska. The meeting was called to order by President Rick Severn at 8:09p.m. The reading of the June general meeting was approved as published in SCREE. Treasurer Reggie Buchanan reported:

\$ 678.62	- Bank Account
5,132.42	- Money Market Plus
267.47	- Petty Cash
<u>\$6,078.51</u>	- Total

To expedite collection of membership dues at the monthly meetings Reggie has put together "packets" containing dues information along with a summer hike listing in an envelope addressed to the MCA. Individuals interested in joining the club should mail in their dues. Membership cards can then be picked up at the following meeting.

New members were: Doug Dougherty, Wanda Yarboro, Rod Barnard. Guests were: Elizabeth Gainer, Lisa Crooks, Dave Hoffman, Alicin Woscter. Welcome to everyone.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. Hiking: Dona Agosti 248-0089

1. Victor Creek Trail - 8 people went.
2. Castle Mountain - 10 people went.
3. Wolverine Trail - August 6 & 7. Call Bill Wakeland for details. 563-6246 (home) or 274-7539 (work).
4. Stiver's Gully to Summit of Bold Peak - August 5-7th. Call Tim Neale for details, 274-4952.

B. Library: Mike Frank 243-7645

Now that Paul Denkewalter, owner of AMH, has completed his new addition, the Vin Hoeman Library will have a new home. The cost for installing the library will be between \$400.00 \$500.00. This will include the purchase of bookcases as well as locking cases for the more valuable and expensive books. With the library move will come the following benefits:

- a. Ready access to the library during business hours on a regular basis, and
- b. No feeling of "intruding" into someone's home to use the library.

Programs: Ernie Borjon 344-8661
There is no program planned for the August meeting. If anyone has something they would like to present, please contact Ernie.

D. Huts: John Dillman 279-1246

Due to possible avalanche hazard near the proposed location of a hut at the west end of the Bomber Glacier, construction may be delayed one year so the area may be evaluated. There may also be a need to place snow gauges to measure snowfall in the area. Any input on the proposed area should be directed to John Dillman.

E. MCA Equipment at Alaska Mountaineering & Hiking

Alaska Mountaineering and Hiking on Spenard Road has club equipment for use by members upon presentation of a current membership card. There are crampons, helmets, ice axes, shovels, and pieps. Use is on a first come, first serve basis, although first preference for shovels and pieps goes to those involved in any club trips.

F. Executive Report

Nothing to report

II. OLD BUSINESS

None

III. NEW BUSINESS

A. MCA ANNUAL PICNIC

The annual picnic will be held August 27th (Saturday), at Eklutna Lake Campground "A". Any questions should be directed to Bernie Helms, 243-3124; Eileen Cavanaugh 337-1394; or Joyce Leonard 562-5216.

B. Resurrection Timber Sale

The timber sale - beetle infested timber - along the Resurrection Trail area has been postponed further review.

Thank yous

1. To John Nevin for hauling the "fire pit Flattop" for the Solstice event.
2. To Pat Rager for hauling it down again.
3. To Union Oil for donating the oil drum
4. To David Agosti for cutting the drum in half
5. To Pete Panerese for his understanding.
6. To Peter Sennhauser and Graham MacDonald for their efforts in putting together the Rock Climbing Class on July 8th and 9th.

D. Wayne Bledsoe

Please return the two club ice axes that you borrowed. These are for weekend use only.

E. Thank you Chester Franz for your slide presentation of your trip into the Annapurna Sanctuary.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:42 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Bernie Helms

A special THANK YOU to Alaska Fish and Farm Products who provided the xerox paper and duplicating for the MCA new membership packets at no charge to the club.

HATCHER PASS LODGE

MCA members may be interested in the following events to be held at Hatcher Pass Lodge:

- Sun. August 21st - MOUNTAIN BICYCLE RACE: This 15-mile race will be the first of its kind in Alaska. Run over rugged mountain trails, the race will test the skills of this new breed of cyclist. 11:00 a.m. start - \$5.00 entry fee.
- Sat. September 17th - MOVIE: Climbing in Yosemite.

ICE CLIMBING CLASS

The annual MCA technical ice climbing school will be held the last weekend in September. The course will consist of one classroom session - which is mandatory - and two days of ice climbing at the Matanuska glacier. This class is for learning the basics about vertical ice climbing (i.e. waterfalls and gullies) only. No glacier walking techniques will be covered! Due to the limited availability of equipment, we are forced to limit the size of this year's school to 44 students. Present dues-paying members will have priority. They will be able to sign up at the August meeting. Further details will be published in next month's SCREE. Those interested in instructing should contact Terry Becker at AMH (272-1811).

ANNUAL MCA PICNIC

The annual MCA picnic will be held Saturday, August 27th at Eklutna Lake, Campground "A" - the same place as last year. To get there, take the Glenn Highway north to the Eklutna exit sign. Take the exit; at the stop sign take a right turn and go straight to the crossroad. Take a left and follow the road around - there is a pavement break. The road is nine miles long and is not paved. The campground for the picnic will be the first one to your immediate right at the first parking lot. Look for the MCA arrow.

There will be volleyball and frisbee. Cooking will start at 2:00 p.m. and continue through the afternoon and into the evening - or until the food runs out. Hamburgers and hot dogs will be provided with the appropriate condiments. Please bring a salad, chips, dessert or something else to help expand the menu. There will also be a contest for the 'BEST TRAIL MIX OR SNACK'. Bring a sample to be judged. There will be a prize for the winner.

Any questions should be directed to Bernie Helms (243-3124); Eileen Cavanaugh (337-1394); or Joyce Leonard (562-5216).

CROW CREEK TO ARCTIC VALLEY

July 1, 2, 3, & 4, Crow Creek to Arctic Valley, 40 miles, leader Bill Stivers.

Friday morning it was raining dismally, but eight MCA'ers assembled at 1:00 p.m. none the less, and by about 3:30 p.m. we were on our way up Crow Creek Pass Trail with the weather improving. Dinner #1, or late lunch, was at the Forest Service cabin near Crow Creek Pass, after finding parts of the trail under enough snow to detour in places.

After gaining 2400' elevation at the pass, we had to lose about 1000' along Raven Creek below the glacier before leaving the trail to Eagle River and starting up the sidehill toward a cirque beyond Clear Creek, where we camped at about 9:30 p.m. at elevation 3000' or so. We had already seen a number of sheep and those of us with ice axes were glad we had them. In fact, Don Hanson, leading the

way and punching steps across a steep snow gully, showed us how to self arrest when he slipped and started down fast. Our lone lady hiker, Peggy Michaelson, had no ax, and this was her first overnighiter with the club, and she showed her mettle on these snow and scree crossings.

We had a good camp site - water was never a problem anywhere on this trip. All enjoyed watching Stivers down the two-quart pot of stuff he has for dinner. (He needs all of that to carry the gargantuan pack he handles so easily).

Next morning it was, of course, all souped in at the pass over the 5000' ridge that provides a short cut to the Ship Creek watershed. So, knowing it would clear if we took the long way, but would not if we waited, we took off traversing northerly and upward toward the point between Raven Creek and Camp Creek, 2 1/2 miles away, as the crow flies. (We travelled alot farther than a crow would have, especially when finding "easy routes" promised by "Sheep Trail" John Nevin, who seems to breathe easier at high elevations.)

Compensation for the steep traversing came in the glorious scenery as the fog lifted - far superior to the rocks and show scenery going over the top. It was warm and very hot traveling. After rounding the point, and while glissading down a steep snowfield, Mike Miller unintentionally showed us how to do sort of an Immelmann turn on the snow. (The dictionary says this is a maneuver in which a plane makes a half loop then a half roll). Again there was a tricky save by the old ice ax.

After a long drag up Camp Creek, among the flowers and streams, we finally crossed over the 4000' pass into the Ship Creek watershed. We were about two horizontal miles from Camp 1, after using up most of the day and traveling perhaps seven or eight miles. The only one of this group who holds a candle to me in the sweat department is Tom Macchia, who set a new dress standard. He wore very short shorts, but had forgotten gaiters, so he wore yellow chaps, which often did not make it up to the shorts. And to help ventilate his back, but still keep bugs at bay, he wore his shirt backwards.

Descending through snow and rocks toward Northfork Lake, we hit still another interesting snow patch - which several of us went around - but after some probing and testing by Mike and Don, Kris Ericksen did yet another maneuver on the snow. Witnesses marvelled at how fast he descended, flat on his pack - whether they marvelled over his adroitness or his survival, I'm not sure.

Camp #2 was below the bench and the falls near Northfork Lake at about the brushline, just below a couple of moose that had fled up a hill as their solitude was shattered. We arrived at 8:00 p.m. after 11 hours on the trail and the socializing was again rather brief

Page 6, August 1983

Day #3 was another sunny one and our route was mostly downward through the long Northfork valley of Ship Creek, past the pass to Bird Creek, and around the bend toward the forks. We lucked out pretty well from one game trail to another in the brushy areas. Many modest creeks intervened, and various techniques were demonstrated to cross them, from taking boots off to piling in, boots and all, to hopping between rocks. Your reporter was feeling a little cocky after crossing them successfully, boots on, and staying dry. All but the last one. I slipped and fell, catching myself on my right hand. And threw my right shoulder out, only we did not know it was out then - it did not really show. But the arm was useless and hurt like sin. And I felt about two feet tall. But my feet were dry! Lesson learned: go slow enough as not to slip whether or not you take your boots off.

We reached camp at about 5:00 p.m., with much of my gear carried the last mile of so by the others. We were in the timber and had come across beautiful fields of flowers - and much bear poop- and lots of Ptarmigan with young doing their broken wing act at our very feet. Bill Stivers had showed us some routes up Organ Mt., and a lot of sheep at what looked like a lick. He knows the country like the back of his hand. It had been another good day, except for yours truly.

That night was a long one for me, but between my 1st aid kit and Tom's we had enough pills to ease the pain - and I didn't have to do much. Next day I was relieved of everything except the clothes on my back and the walk out was not bad - even though we hit a lot of brush and sloop between game trails. We made good time and were on Arctic Valley Road by about 3:30 p.m. Some hitchhiking and phone calls secured our rides to town.

My shoulder was x-rayed in a matter of hours, found to be dislocated and it took two men to set it. But the good news came a few days later - Dr. Wickman said I could go on the Brooks Range trip, especially since my daughter-in-law, a physical therapist, would be along. He also said we probably could have gotten the arm back in, right after it happened, had we known what to do. And he advised all such groups to carry really effective pain pills for events far from help.

I wrote this trip up because I wanted to pass on some words of wisdom and eat a little crow, and because Bill does not usually write up trips and I thought this one should be. And because I wanted to thank the other seven for their help - I have no doubt they would have bodily carried me out had it been necessary.

Bill Wakeland

VICTOR CREEK TRAIL - KENAI PENINSULA

July 2, 3, 1983

The trip got off to an inauspicious start when the Anchorage contingent and the leader failed to find each other, but eventually the leader left Tern Lake at the Kenai Cutoff and started up the trail sans group. Later in the afternoon, she learned from a returning hiker that the MCA group was ahead about a mile. Since they had passed up the designated campsite, the leader raced ahead to catch them, and soon we were once again a united, happy group. Under Gene Klymko's leadership, four persons elected to explore the gorge and snowfield up canyon. They learned that the trail ends and getting to the Victor Creek headwaters is a climbing feat. After Juliet experienced an unplanned glissade of 30 feet, the group returned to base camp. The high mountain in that area is named Andy Simon's Mountain, but Andy must have had a secret route.

Back at base camp, amidst a profusion of wild flowers, the group enjoyed an evening of revelry around the campfire. This site, about two miles uptrail is about the only flat spot in the entire drainage - unless it levels out near the headwaters. Since Victor Creek is glacier muddy, we carried water from the "avalanche" drainage about ten minutes away.

That day and the next were hot and sunny with not a cloud in the deep blue sky. Eight of the group climbed to the ridge around 1500 feet, but the hot day prevented their reaching a higher elevation where they might have seen Ptarigan Lake. The trip down through the cool, hemlock and spruce forest was enjoyable. Next base camp was at the Agosti trailer in Cooper Landing where food and drink finished off a really laid-back two day hike. Those partaking were Dona and Dave Agosti, Donna Couvillon (fresh from Texas), Juliet Janes (from Canada), Gene Klymko, Jim Lasche, Norma Lopez, and Jane Stammen. Next day, Jim managed to run up Mt. Marathon and back again. Congratulations, Jim.

Dona Agosti

MCA East Fork Trail Clearing

Nine people from the MCA worked on clearing brush and debris from the East Fork Trail over the weekend of June 25 and 26.

The East Fork Trail starts on the north side of East Fork River where the Eklutna Lake road crosses the river. The trail parallels the river going past the access point to Stiver's Gully on Bold Peak and the waterfalls coming off Bashful and Baleful Peaks. It also provides good access to climb Bashful and Baleful.

An excellent one day trip would be to bicycle from the west end of Eklutna Lake along the road to the trailhead (approx. 9 mi.). Then hike back on the East Fork Trail to the waterfalls (approx. 3 mi.). The trail is in good shape to the waterfalls then becomes

Page 8, August 1983

less maintained. The gradient and nature of the walking surface is very similar to the Eagle River-Crow Pass Trail.

A big thanks to the people that helped clear the trail, Sam Dunagan, Pat Murray, Bernie Helms, Mark Findlay, Anne Leggett, Liz Carey, Michael Rees, Willy Hersman, Tim Neale.

EKLUTNA GLACIER

July 8, 9, 10

Fifteen

turned out to be very agreeable. We used Dona Agosti's zodiac to cross Eklutna Lake Friday evening. Saturday we hiked up to the hut, spent the night and came back down on Sunday. The glacier was in good shape, most of it exposed ice. On the way to Pichler's we traveled up the center of the glacier to a point above the hut and then turned east to exit the glacier.

Saturday evening we celebrated Donna Couvillon's birthday, then went out for a little scree-hopping and snow glissading on the slopes behind the hut. The hut was very clean and in good condition but sleeps 10 better than 15. Two people did opt for a tent outside after finding enough rocks to hold it down from the notorious winds.

On the way out we traveled down the right center of the glacier to a point below the icefall adjacent to the hut, and moved to the extreme east side of the glacier for a mile or so before moving back to the center.

Some ran around the lake back to the parking lot while the rest cruised back on the zodiac. The following people made up the group: Michael Rees, Ron Van Bergeyk, Dwight Anderson, Lois Holley, Tom Williams, Evelyn Jervay, Dona Agosti, Donna Couvillon, Bill Dockerty, Jennifer McCaffrey, Sam Dunagan, Barb Kaehler, David Agosti, Jennifer (a friend of David's) and Tim Neale.

Tim Neale

MCA ROCK CLIMBING MEET SNOWBIRD MINE

TALKEETNA MTNS

More than twenty members walked the easy two mile track to camp by the old Snowbird Mine Village. Fine sunny weather, good boulders and nearby crags allowed members to thrash, grunt and swing on some stiff little climbs, most of which fell prey to the group's efforts and enthusiasm.

Without getting involved in the technical side of rock climbing the first day took a lot of grunt. Everyone clawed, skidded, groped or gripped up most of the climbs on a top rope.

The latter half of the day was spent on a 200' cliff with some nice exposure.

Of particular note that eve was Rudi's gordon bleu cookery - fresh guacamole, pêches flambées, etc. (watch out John Dillman)

Day two, Sunday, was a wet one. A drawing was held that morning, AMH had provided many excellent prizes, including two pairs of rock shoes, worth at least ninety bucks. Thanks Paul!

Intent on discussing a little ropework, we then stalked up to some higher crags and fine scenery, but the darkening skies saw us gathered under a monster boulder for lunch in the rain. The weekend was bagged shortly thereafter.

I feel we touched bases with the essentials of rock climbing; very little technical discussion, but lots of hands-on experience. Members all expressed the desire to do more climbing activities and the volunteer staff are all ready to do more. Let's hear more voice on what you would like to do - there is no reason why we can't do this sort of thing once every month or two. Please Speak Up.

Thanks to all who participated, both students and volunteers, namely: Ted Laska, Ken Clester, Mike Miller, Joyce Leonard, Katharin Engle, Bernie Schmuck, Rod Bernard, Bill Rowe, Bill Spearman, Dave Hoffmann, Dietrich Bertschi, Cliff and Dan Hansen, Laurie and Mike somebody as well as John Dillman, Rudi Bertschi, Micky Hill, Peter Sennhauser and Graham MacDonald.

If interested in further classes, please call Peter Sennhauser at 345-5577.

Graham MacDonald

HIKING SCHEDULE for the MOUNTAINEERING CLUB OF ALASKA

SUMMER 1983

Editor's note: If you have comments or suggestions please call Hiking Chairman Dona Agosti at 248-0089.

Aug. 20,21 Harding Icefield (also known as Keni Fjords). John Morris (former ranger in the area) has agreed to lead this hike. Call him for details at 272-0674. Meet at 8 A.M., UAA

Aug. 27,28 Bird Pass, via Bird Creek. Bill Stivers and Michael Frank will lead this one, 562-4885.

Sept. 3, 4,5 Curry Ridge, via Byers Lake entrance. Even though the trail gets steep at times, this hike to the ridge with its awesome view of McKinley is worth the effort. Meet at UAA Sports Complex either Friday evening or Saturday morning. Check with leader Ludwig Ferche, 344-9881.

Sept. 3, 4,5 Lost Lake. We will be doing the traverse from Kenai Lake to Primrose Campground. This is one of the most beautiful hikes on the Kenai. Leader: John Nevin, 276-6665 (home).

GENERAL RULES FOR ALL MCA HIKES

1. Proper equipment is required for all MCA hikes. This means good hiking boots, warm clothes, and rain gear on ALL hikes. A tent is almost always required for Alaska overnights because of rain, mosquitos and cold.
2. No dogs. Dogs and bears just don't mix.
3. The leader's suggestions are to be followed by all hikers. Do not rush ahead without his permission, and above all, don't ford a stream before the leader has had an opportunity to assess the situation.
4. All hikes will commence at UAA Sports Complex unless otherwise instructed. Because construction is in progress there, look for the group in the southeast corner of the lot.
5. When carpools are arranged, please plan to pay the driver for gas. Don't wait for him to ask you for your share. The best way to divide this expense is to divide the total mileage by miles per gallon and multiply by the driver's actual cost per gallon. Larger cars get lower mileage than smaller ones, so calculate accurately.
6. If you are a leader and discover at the last minute that you can't go, please help the chairman find a new leader.