



MOUNTAINEERING CLUB OF ALASKA

BOX 2037

ANCHORAGE, ALASKA 99510

AUGUST 1986

Volume 29, Issue 08

AUGUST MEETING

The meeting will be held Wednesday, August 20th at 7:30 p.m. at the Pioneer Schoolhouse, 3rd & Eagle Streets, Anchorage. After the business meeting, Mark Findlay will give a slide show on a June 1986 Valdez to Whittier kayak trip.

MINUTES FOR THE JULY MEETING

The meeting was held July 16th, 1986 at the Pioneer Schoolhouse, and was called to order by President Mark Findlay at 7:42 p.m. The reading of the minutes for June was waived.

Mark extended his thanks to Willie Hersman for filling in for him at the June meeting.

The club welcomed new members and guests.

TREASURER'S REPORT

\$ 245.00 - Petty Cash
716.20 - Checking Account
4,018.23 - Money Market Account
\$4,979.43 - Total MCA Monies

Individual membership is \$10.00. Family membership is \$15.00

Send to: P.O. BOX 102037
Anchorage, Alaska 99510
Attn. Treasurer

I. COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. Hiking Committee

The Crow Pass hike was changed from July 19th to July 20th. Twin Peaks hike will be rescheduled from July 26th to another date (check the hiking schedule).

II. OLD BUSINESS

- A. Willy Hersman has applied for the Personal Use Cabin Permit, but has not received anything yet.

III. NEW BUSINESS

None.

IV. ANNOUNCEMENTS

A. Mail.

The club received a Women of the Wilderness workshop schedule, Climbing Magazine, Trail & Timberline, and the July REI schedule. These could be viewed at the front table at the meeting or at the MCA Library located at AMH (Alaska Mountaineering & Hiking), located at 2633 Spenard Road.

B. Dan O'Haire encouraged people to join him on his Harding Icefield Traverse which is scheduled for July 19th.

C. At 9:30 a.m. on Saturday July 19th, you can join a ranger for a hike up Resurrection Trail. You can hear the ranger's view on building a road into this area and clear-cutting to get rid of Spruce Bark Beetles and voice your own opinion. Meet at Cooper Landing parking lot.

D. There was a short update on the Prince William Sound Plan emphasizing their ideas on any development on State Lands, lodge facilities to be built on an island across from Columbia Glacier, and allowing Cordova and Valdez to buy State land adjacent to them for expansion. There was a brochure available for a more in-depth look at the plan. Questionnaires concerning the plan were handed out.

E. The Crow Pass Run is scheduled for July 19th.

F. The MCA Club Picnic is scheduled for August 16th. The club provides hamburgers and hot dogs and attendees bring whatever else is wanted. Contact Mark Findlay at 337-8666, if you would like to help.

G. There was a report on the recent repairs trip to the cabins on the Eklutna Traverse. Pichler's Perch got a window put in and a bench repaired. Whiteout Hut was painted and windows put in and sheet metal added. Eagle Hut had roofing put on and both sides painted and three windows put in.

H. The club owns four huts, three on the Eklutna-Girdwood Traverse and one in Hatcher's Pass. If you are interested in going to one of the huts, contact one of the board members for directions. If you plan to do any repairs on these huts, contact Willy Hersman first at 338-5132 for the repair schedule or advise/permission.

Mark adjourned the meeting at 7:59 p.m.

It's hard to believe that Jim Pommert, alias Swifty, actually slowed down long enough to take the great slides he showed us at the July meeting! Those of us who have hiked with, or behind him, had a rather heated discussion on whether he did a special day hike to go take all those slides, or all weekend? I'm not sure if it is more fun to see slides of places you've been that bring back memories of great fun, or if it's more fun to get inspired by slides of places you would like to go - - whichever, thanks to Jim Pommert for the memories and inspiration.

Respectfully Submitted,
Kathy Burke

ADZE

WANTED . . . Issue 30 of MOUNTAIN GAZETTE, or a copy of one particular article in that issue, which is not available in the Hoeman Library. Please contact Cella Baker at 345-7482.

TRIP REPORTS

Mills Creek/Stormy Creek Traverse

A forecast of poor weather kept several people in bed, but Todd Shipley, Michael Rees and I started up the hillside above Moose Pass under full sun. We "baked" for 2 hours pushing through acres of shoulder-high Fireweed and by the time we gained the pass at the head of Quartz Creek, wondered just how much more fun we could stand. Much to our delight, the little lake at the head of Quartz Creek marked the end of the brush and scenery just kept getting better. We ascended a snow filled creek bed to the pass at the head of Mills Creek and had a little lunch break by a beautiful alpine lake. The Mills Creek valley gently descends past rough peaks and a couple hanging glaciers with a handful of waterfalls thrown in. We had to ford the last side creek before Stormy Creek, but had no problems.

After hiking up the Stormy Creek valley, we scrambled up the easy ridge to our campsite - above lake 3649. The half mile long lake was still half full of avalanche debris, so we set up camp by the ponds on the ridge. We all awoke Sunday with heavy fog all around. With our views now gone, we descended down along the creek to meet the Johnson Pass trail, between Bench and Johnson lakes. From the lakes, we headed out to the Bench Lake trailhead and arrived just before the rain started.

A very nice trip with great company.

Jim Pommert

Crow Pass - A Hike for the Senses

- Sights: Marmot, black bear swimming a creek and running around on the hillside, ptarmigan mother and nine scurrying chicks, blue ice of Raven Glacier, cairns, the chocolatest brown moose you ever saw, dall shiip, the Crow Pass runners fast on the trail and slow and cautious at the river crossing, hermit thrush, arctic ground squirrels, ravens, huge waterfalls, fireweed, wintergreen, yellow-spotted saxifrage, columbine, monkshood, larkspur, wild geranium, dryas, yarrow, wild rose, butter and eggs, moss campion, bunchberry, forget-me-nots, chimming bells, mountain harebell, and devil's club.
- Sounds: Marmot's whistle, gentle nervous call of ptarmigan, light rain lullaby on tent fly, wind high on the mountain tops, thunderous waterfalls, deep hollow footsteps of hiking boots across wooden bridges, rustling of aspen leaves in the breeze, that marble-tinkle sound that large scree makes, and the mosquito buzzing.
- Smells: Sweet musty heather, socks that have been 10 miles that day, and rain.
- Touch: Itchy arms from tall grass, frozen toes from the river crossing, sun and heat too hot for hiking, cold water on sore feet, and sticky tree sap.
- Taste: Fresh mountain water tasting sweet even after being boiled, squirrels enjoyed that apple and plums they snatched.
- Other Senses: Plodding along-exhausted - after the sun and heat have drained my energy, falling flat on my face after tripping over my own foot, good friendship on the trail to share stories, non-sense, or just silence with.

Kathy Burke

MCA ANNUAL PICNIC

The Mountaineering Club of Alaska's annual picnic will be held Saturday, August 16th at the Eklutna Campgrounds. The club will be in the Area A Campground, which is the covered pavillion. The club will provide hamburgers and hot dogs with the appropriate condiments, and soda pop. Please bring fruit, chips, salad and desserts, or whatever, to help fill out the menu. Cooking will start at around 1:00pm. There will once again be volleyball, to confirm the fact for another year that competition in the club is not dead.

To get to the Eklutna Campgrounds: Take the Glenn Highway North and take the Eklutna exit. Take a right at the first stop sign, a left at the second stop sign and follow the 9-plus mile road into the campgrounds. Look for the MCA arrows along the road on the way into the campgrounds. With the use of the covered pavillion, the picnic will be held - rain or shine. Hope to see as many of you out there as possible.

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 Paul Denkwalter at Alaska Mountaineering & Hiking (AMH) at 272-1811.

HISTORY CORNER

While recently working on an update of the master Peak Index for the SCREE, I found several accounts of first ascents which were quite confusing to me, sometimes because of the way they were written, sometimes because the maps then were probably inadequate. Persistence usually cleared up the confusion, but the worst of these puzzling accounts concerns the first ascent of Arkose Peak, the peak at the north end of Arkose Ridge above the Little Susitna drainage in the Talkeetnas.

I wasn't the first to be perplexed, Vin and Grace Hoeman made efforts to find out the story as well back in 1969. Grace made two trips to the area and thought she had cleared it up in an article she wrote in June 1969. She climbed twice the double-summited peak above Lone Tree Gulch (5850') to find only a cairn. She wrote, "There's no doubt in my mind that what the 1961 party climbed is indeed Arkose." The trouble is Arkose Peak is at an elevation just above 5300'. She still had the story wrong.

The account of July 1961 describes a peak with a double summit at about 6000 feet. True, Grace climbed the same one, at least by comparing the descriptions, but it's not Arkose. An article written in December 1968 took the liberty of naming many peaks between the roadhouse and the Mint Glacier. Some of those names faded away, some were not peaks at all, but they did give our peak in question the name of Souvenir Peak, which they claimed was 5715' high. This name cropped up again in a Dec. 1970 article.

It appears to me that Arkose was first climbed in 1960 by an MCA party, with an account by Helga Bading entitled "Little Montana Peak" (Aug. 1960, pg. 2), where she gives the elevation as about 6200'. The only two members on both first ascents were Helga and John Dillman. John confirms the fact that in 1961 he and Helga and Gwynn Wilson climbed the 5850' peak above Lone Tree Gulch, now known as Souvenir Peak; the other climb in 1960 is less certain.

Based on all the descriptions found in the old SCREES, the record should reflect: Arkose Peak (5300') F.A.: 1960 (Bading, Erickson, Dillman, Putschler, Dahlke, Gessel) and Souvenir Peak (5850') F.A.: 1961 (Bading, Dillman, Wilson). Gee, I'll bet you were wondering about that one, right? Right!

Willy Hersman

CLIMBS

Eklutna Climbs

On July 11th, I soloed Ovis Peak (6300+) and The Mitre (6600+) above Pichler's Perch. Vin Hoeman and Bill Hauser reported the first ascent of these peaks on August 28, 1966 (see SCREE 9:1:4), but I believe that Gregg Erickson and Shiro Nishimae did the 1st ascent of Ovis Peak on 3/28/65 (see SCREE 7:6:2). I found a cairn, but no register on Ovis. The Mitre has both with the other entries logged being Vaughan Hoefler, Pete Sennhauser, John Mucha and Ed Olmstead on 7/27/75 and Geoff Radford and Norma Green on 7/14 with no year recorded. The descent down Ovis' North Ridge and the West facing chutes between the peaks is not recommended.

Review of the hut log book revealed a lot of climbing activity. On 5/23, three climbers skied to the summit of Whiteout Peak from the nearby hut. Three MCA members tried a line on Bellicose that took them to the gendarmes on the southwest ridge around 7000'. On 6/30, five climbers recorded the fifth ascent of Moonlight Mountain while Todd Miner and Pam Kirk stole up Beelzebub's North Ridge for what I believe is a second ascent. July 5th saw an attempt on Peril Peak by a large group that included some long time club members.

The hut is in excellent shape. My thank you to the club members who recently stopped and worked there on their way to Whiteout.

Greg Higgins

Mt. Kiliak, East Summit (7100+)

In the 1968 write-up of the first ascent of Kiliak's main summit, Vin Hoeman mentioned the unclimbed eastern summit as a possible future worthy goal - a statement I have long kept in the back of my mind. He particularly mentioned a route from Peter's Creek as the most likely as well (SCREE 11:1:3,4).

From the summit of Mt. Rumble in 1981, I fell in love with the beautiful glacier system on the east side of Kiliak. Last year on an attempt to climb Mt. Bellicose, Jim Sprott and I found a small notch southwest of Bellicose at 5500' that links the Raison Glacier with Kiliak's eastern glacier, and I determined then that I would try this approach as soon as possible.

Ted Laska and I set out from our camp on the West Fork of the Eklutna Glacier on July 10 under drifting cumulus. We moved up and over the notch without difficulty, and then hiked the eastern glacier to the bench at 400' just south of Kiliak's East Summit. While Ted napped here, I kicked up the last 700 feet to the top delicately front pointing over the last 30' on steep ice. Interestingly a set of tracks from 2 (?) climbers from a recent trip could be traced all the way to the ice. No trace of the visitors was found on the top - does anyone out there know who they belonged to?

On the top three blocks vie for the high point with the middle one probably being the highest. I built a cairn and placed a register on the westernmost point as this offered the best terrain. We did not attempt the step to the main summit which looked steep and exposed. We retraced our route back over the notch to the Eklutna Glacier, pausing long enough on the way to record the 6th ascent of Moonlight Mountain (6200+) on the way.

Greg Higgins

August 1986

Kenai Climbs

My climbing partner, Kathy Fiack, had never climbed before so we picked Mt. Eva, an unclimbed 4000' peak east of Seward with a gentle looking southwest ridge as our objective for her first trip to Alaska. According to local information, Mt. Alice (5265'), the prominent Seward skyline peak, and Mt. Eva (4883') were named for two daughters of one of Seward's early settlers.

The hike up the old roughed-out trail to our camp at 1800' on the Godwin Glacier was surprisingly easy this year. From here we ascended the snowfield going southeast to a gap at 3000' that overlooks a frozen lake to the southeast at 2500'. Gradual progress up the southwest ridge with some 4th class roping took us onto the summit late in the afternoon where we had magnificent panoramic views. Retracing our route down was slow; Kathy became an instant master of the self-arrest position descending the snow gullies.

On July 5th, Ron Van Bergeyk, Willy Hersman and I set out to try Paradise Peak (climbed once by Dave Johnston, Fred Cady, Grace Hoeman, Hans Van der Laan, Dub and Harry Bludworth, and Dick Holdaway - see SCREE 12:10:1,2). We naturally chose the worst place to inaugurate Willy's raft in crossing the Snow River. After this we went straight up the hillside to eventually arrive in the alpine zone without having to cross a single alder patch. We dropped our heavy packs somewhere around 2700' by the drainage of the icefield on the west side of the North Andiron (4502'), and hiked to the summit. Heavy clouds prevented any examination of Paradise Peak. No sign of previous visitors was found on the North Andiron, so we made a small cairn, but placed no register.

Our Paradise attempt never materialized the next day as a storm front blew us home. Vin Hoeman proposed the name North Andiron for 4502 in 1960. The South Andiron is Peak 4300+ to the southwest across the Snow River. Together they frame Hearth Mountain, Peak 6182, when one is looking from the west.

Greg Higgins

MAP TRIVIA

Answer to July's question will be in the September SCREE.

HIKING & CLIMBING SCHEDULE

- Aug. 30-1 BOMBARDMENT PASS - TRAVERSE and CLIMBS
3 miles in, climb Peeking (6925), Raina (6798), Pleasant (6425) from Ram Valley; camp beyond the pass after the climbs; hike out Peter's Creek to waiting vehicle. If some people want to return via Ram Valley they can make it a short trip. Climb all 3 peaks 2, 1, or just watch. Ice axe suggested for Pleasant Mt. Many blueberries along the way. 22 miles total. Meet UAA 9 am.
Leader: Willy Hersman 338-5132
- Sept. 7 ROUNDTOP AND BLACKTAIL ROCKS
10 miles; 4000' elev. gain, partly on trail. Maps: Anch B7. 55 Ways #39, These peaks sit above Peter's Creek. Call leader for meeting time and place
Leader: Sylvia Lane 688-2507, 786-3326
- 13 THE SUICIDES
13 miles; 3500' elev. gain. Maps: Anch A7. Twin peaks at the head of Rabbit Creek. Call leader for meeting time and details
Leader: Mike Miller 345-5718
- 14 KNOYA PEAK
14 miles; 4600' elev. gain. Maps: Anch A7, A8. 55 Ways #35
A nice ridge walk to this peak above the north fork of Campbell Creek. Meet at UAA - 8:00 a.m.
Leader: Jim Pommert 345-5656
- 20 WOLVERINE PEAK
11 miles; 3340' elev. gain. partly on trail. Maps: Anch A7, A8. 55 Ways #34. Excellent views of Anchorage. 8:00 a.m. at UAA
Leader: Mark Findlay 337-8666
- 20-21 SWAN LAKE
28 miles, 1500' elev. gain on trail. Maps: B8, C7, C8. Head in by the Devil's Creek trail at the Sterling Highway. Car shuttle involved. Stay overnight in the Swan Lake Cabin. 55 Ways #14.
Meet 7:00 a.m. at UAA.
Leader: Kathy Burke
- 27-28 ICE CLIMBING SCHOOL
Meet at the Matanuska Glacier

Schedule continued on next page.

HIKING & CLIMBING SCHEDULE

- October 4 RAINBOW PEAK
 Leader needed
- 11 INDIAN CREEK PASS
 Leader: Jim Pommert
- 18 EAGLE RIVER TRAIL
 Leader needed

The hiking committee is seeking suggestions and leaders for week-long, weekend, and day trips. Contact: Jim Pommert 344-5656 work: 563-3583; Jane Stammen 563-7703; or Linda White 274-4989, or Kathy Burke 346-2841.

MIDWEEK HIKES

No leader designated for these hikes. Meet at 6 pm at UAA or call one of the hiking committee people.

- 19 Bird Ridge
- 21 Johnson Trail
- 27 Rabbit Lake
- Sept 3 Flattop
- 10 Near Point
- 16 Rainbow Point