



MOUNTAINEERING CLUB OF ALASKA

BOX 037

ANCHORAGE, ALASKA 99510

AUGUST 1987

Volume 30, Issue 08

AUGUST MEETING

The meeting will be held Wednesday, August 19th at 7:30 pm at the Pioneer Schoolhouse, Third and Eagle Sts., downtown Anchorage. After the business meeting Tim Neale will show slides of bicycle trips which he and Marcia Bandy did in New Zealand and Scandinavia.

MINUTES FOR THE JULY MEETING

The meeting was held July 15th at the Pioneer Schoolhouse. The meeting was called to order by the President at 7:40 pm.

I. COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. Hiking and Climbing

1. The club was informed of Jim Pommert's transfer to Seattle. Kathy Burke will take over as the new chairperson. We sure are going to miss you Jim. Thanks for all of your involvement with the club. We wish you luck and happiness in the future.
2. Rick Maron discussed his Turnagain Pass trip (see trip details).
3. Dan O'Haire announced that the Harding Icefield trip was going as planned with a total of 4-6 members.

II. OLD BUSINESS

- ##### A. Polish Invitation
- No word yet from Warsaw.

III. NEW BUSINESS

A. ATV's

Rick Maron made a motion that the MCA send a letter to the Superintendent

of Chugach State Park applauding their recent stand on increased fines for illegal motorized ATV's in the park. In addition the letter addressed the MCA's support of installing and maintaining a gate in front of the old road bed along Peter's Creek. Motion was seconded and passed.

Club members were so impressed with the contents of the drafted letter that a motion was made to send a similar version of it to the Daily News. Motion was seconded and passed.

IV. ANNOUNCEMENTS

New members and guests were welcomed.

The time, date and details of the annual MCA picnic were announced (see article by Bernie).

The MCA received mail which may be viewed at the MCA Library at AMH.

TREASURER'S REPORT

\$79.36	- Petty Cash
569.91	- Checking
<u>4681.39</u>	- Money Market
5330.66	- Total MCA Monies

MCA members benefit from: opportunity to participate on club trips and classes, opportunity to check out books at the club library, use of club equipment such as crampons, helmets, ice axes, avalanche beacons and shovels. See back page for details of paying dues. Also...MCA patches are available at \$2 each.

Thanks to Ken Zafren for the show on Peru and Bolivia. You succeeded in giving me that feeling of unrest with the Traveling Toes Syndrome.

Respectfully Submitted,
Marcy Baker

MCA PICNIC

The annual picnic for the MCA will be held Friday, August 21st, from 6:30 to 11:00pm at the parkstrip downtown. ***The area of the parkstrip that we will be occupying is between I and L Streets and 9th and 10th Avenues, on the west end.***

The cooking will begin at 6:30 and the club will provide hot dogs, hamburgers, and chicken along with appropriate condiments. Soda pop and juice will also be provided. Please bring a salad, chips or some such item to help round out the menu. Since the City of Anchorage has a municiple ordinance

prohibiting alcohol in any of the parks, we were granted an Alcohol Waiver by the Municipal Manager. Beer and wine will be allowed at the picnic. All cans and bottles must be removed as part of this agreement. Beer and wine is BYOB.

Volleyball will be provided; bring frisbees, etc. Any questions can be directed to Bernie Helms, 243-3124.

BYLAWS AMENDMENT

The following is an amendment proposal to the Mountaineering Club of Alaska's Bylaws. If there are any questions, they will be addressed at the MCA's August Meeting.

It is resolved that the MCA Bylaws shall be amended as follows:

IV. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

- F. Trip Officers. All trip leaders of any sanctioned trip organized by the Mountaineering Club of Alaska shall be given the designation as an officer of MCA. The designation as trip officer shall be for the duration of the trip.

HIKING AND CLIMBING SCHEDULE

- Aug. 15 CRESCENT LAKE
13 miles, 900' elev. gain, Class C. Grayling fishing along the way. Call for details and sign-up.
Leader: Don Hansen 279-0829
- 21 MCA PICNIC
Friday night at the park strip downtown, between I and L and 9th and 10th on the west end. 6:30 - 11:00 pm. See article.
Coordinator: Bernie Helms 243-3124
- 22 SUMMIT MT.
4 miles, 4000' elev. gain, Class E. Great trip to learn basic glacier travel and mountain scrambling with some exposure. Call for details and sign-up.
Leader: Ron Van Bergeyk 345-1800
- ? PICHLER'S PERCH
Three day trip to make roof repairs and paint hut. Aluminum would be air-dropped. Check MCA Hotline in mid to late August, maybe even as late as Labor Day. Dependent on club appropriations for the materials and a willing pilot.

- Sept. 5-6 LOST LAKE
 Labor Day Weekend. Easy Class C hike just north of Seward. Stay at the lake can be shortened to make this a one-day hike or extended to make it a three-day outing. Call for details. Leader: Marty Bassett 694-3917
- 12 INDIAN PASS
 12 miles, 2100' elevation gain. Class B. Call for details and sign -up. Leaders: Marcy and John Baker 274-0105
- 26-27 ICE CLIMBING CLASS
 Matanuska Glacier. Leader: Paul Denkwalter 272-1811

TRIP REPORTS

Eagle Glacier Hut

On Thursday, July 10 Rick Maron, Tim Neale and Willy Hersman hiked into Rosie's Roost (Eagle Glacier Hut) to finish repairs. A year ago we had cached three rolls of aluminum at the edge of the glacier on Goat Mt. We hauled the aluminum and nails to the hut in our sleds Thursday and literally worked all night putting the roofing material on the roof. It was too hard to resist not taking advantage of the good weather, no wind or rain. Using ropes and ascenders, two people on the the roof, the third on the ground sliding the aluminum sheets into place, we finished by 1 am.

It takes about 250'x3' of material to cover the roof (leaving enough to overlap a couple of inches). Roofing nails with rubber washers work best. We used over 5 lbs. for 150'. One hundred feet of aluminum was put on in 1986.

Friday morning we painted the back side of the hut with red stain. We also replaced the rocks used to anchor the hut, since they had been moved to put up the aluminum.

Now I realize none of this makes sense to anyone who has not seen one of the three A-frame huts on the traverse so get out there and take a look, then all this gibberish will make sense.

We left the hut about 1 pm, skied back up the Eagle Glacier and over Goat Mt. to Willy's truck by 7 pm Friday night. We wanted to get back to town so Willy could go climbing and Rick could find one more place to ski over the weekend. The only thing we would liked to have done was paint the inside kitchen area of the hut with white paint to reflect what little light comes through the window.

Tim Neale

Mint Hut

On July 18-19 Dave Pahlke built the outhouse which had been stashed at the Mint Hut over the winter. Luckily he brought enough screws along because we hadn't left any for him when we took in the wood and metal last January. The new outhouse is located just to the right as you come out the door, elevated somewhat over boulders.

Dave reported that the porcupine problems were worse, Three big holes having been chewed into the walls of the hut. Repairs were made as best as possible. The varmint had not touched the outhouse material, however, since it is pressure-treated and poisonous. Dave also reported that a new stove had been brought up (by John Stolpman) to replace the one damaged this last winter. There still is a problem of people not carrying out their food when they leave the hut. Bears cannot be ruled out at the Mint, and if one catches wind of the food left there he would make porcupine mischief look like child's play.

On Sunday, July 26, Greg Higgins hiked up to the Mint, then climbed both Montana Peak and Spearmint to place new registers there. Three people and their pit bulls were staying at the hut at the time. Next day Greg departed and met Eric Kaehler and I on our way in. He told us that the porcupine had already started to eat the new outhouse (so much for the pressure-treated wood).

Eric and I brought some insulation to repair the holes and a few odds and ends for the outhouse but our main purpose was to deal with porky. At 4 the next morning he had his last plywood entree. Hopefully there was only one of them. By noon we headed down the trail in the sunshine, leaving the hut to the people and dogs. We carried out the old stove which will be repaired and placed in another hut.

If anyone goes up the hut needs a broom and more insulation. Also bring plenty of fuel because the two gallons we left last January was down to 1/2 gallon. Also be careful using pots and pans, they get used a lot for dog dishes. The hut log shows that in the past year or so more than half of the groups brought pooches. One group had eight. Willy Hersman

Paradise Regained

Paradise Peak (6000+) saw its first ascent on June 29, 1969 by Grace Hoeman, Dave Johnston, Hans Van der Laan, Dick Holdaway, Harry and Dub Bludworth, and Fred Cady (see SCREE 12:10:1,2 and AAJ Vol. 17:113,4). This group did the prominent West Ridge; our route was up the North Ridge which forms the left skyline when viewing the mountain from the Seward Hwy.

While I was officiating on Mt. Marathon for July 4th, Willy Hersman and Ron Van Bergeyk were climbing Peak 5397 on the Godwin Glacier southeast of Mt. Godwin (5800+). This was a first ascent, and they dubbed the peak "4th of July Pk." for the day and its location. The next day Ron decided to stay home while Willy and I went to meet Mike Miller outside of town for the "2nd annual Paradise Peak" trip.

After making the usual ritual sacrifice to the Snow River of some equipment (and almost Willy as he had to dive from our swamped raft to swim the channel), we found a nice bench beneath the North Andiron (4502) for camp. We watched an apparent storm rolling in from the Sound, and assumed we would be weathered out like last year.

Much to our surprise at 7 am on the 6th the summit was in sunshine, but before we set out an hour later, clouds nestled in at 5000' and remained there all day. We traversed to the snout of the glacier that swings south of the mountain on its way to the headwall between Pt 5840 and the summit (an undone and possible future line?). From the snout we went due east to the huge bench at 4200' seen from the road.

From the bench things got serious as we traversed across the North Face in deep, wet and steep snow to the NW terminus of the North Ridge. Occasional rock bands and steep snow on the North Ridge took us to the top at 1:30 pm. The last 1000' we were lost in clouds except for a single brief glimpse of the Hearth Glacier near the top. We were delighted to find the original jar placed in 1969. Grace had written an emotionally painful paragraph lamenting Vin's passing just two months prior.

The West Ridge looked inviting, but visibility was poor so we retreated back down the same way. All the upper slopes sent slough avalanches cascading at our passing. It was a pleasure to get below the 4200' bench where we could ride the chutes without fear. We packed out that night, and since we had already made the appropriate sacrifice, had no trouble rerafting the river.

Greg Higgins

Crow Pass - Glen Alps

This trip, begun on the evening of July 1st and completed on Sunday evening, included a weather spectrum from blazing sun to whiteout, but without a drop of rain in between. The traverse party, consisting of Linda White, Andy Hemenway, Alan Shayer, Anders Esselin and myself, were treated to the opportunity at Paradise Pass to climb into a thick cloud ceiling on the east side, pop above the clouds into the the blazing sun at the 4900' pass and then descend into a whiteout on the western side, where we travelled over snow down to roughly the 3500-foot elevation (Andy did a great job of navigation through this stretch). Ice axes and a light belay rope were used. Crampons were unnecessary.

Russ Fasolino and Chris Hansen spent Thursday evening with the group at Crow Pass but chose from there to drop down in Eagle River rather than climb up into the clouds.

Our route cut the corner at the confluence of the main and north forks of Ship Cr, passing over a saddle to the south at 3400 feet, thereby keeping us above the brush. All the snow we travelled across was firm, thereby making snowshoes or skis unnecessary (perfect for glissading). Dall sheep and a grizzly were sighted along the route. Anders, a visitor from Sweden, who had heard of the trip by word of mouth was both good company and able to discuss the flora and fauna variations between Alaska and Sweden.

Jim Pommert, who had laid the groundwork for the trip, and intended to lead it, was unable to do so, having broken his leg shortly before. All the trip participants thank him for his work and regret that he was not along and wish him a speedy recovery!

Rick Maron

Rainbow Reward

Every summer there seems to be one "Albatross" of a mountain hanging round my neck. Usually this Albatross is somewhere down the Seward Hwy., some mountain that made me chicken out near the top because of the snow and exposure. And, of course, it sits there and laughs at me and dangles the view of its summit in front of my face every time I drive by. Then one summer no-snow-on-the-mountain day I return and finally hike that mountain to the top; not to conquer it, just to discover its treasure - the view from the top and knowing its spirit.

Sunday, July 5th, found me returning to climb Rainbow Peak. (Some of you may remember the article about an Oct. climb where I quit three minutes from the top, and yes Rainbow had laughed and dared me through the winter and my friends have, lovingly, elbowed me asking me about Rainbow.) It was a sunny day with a warm sunny breeze and Mary and I had the mountain to ourselves. About halfway my quadriceps were singing a song that went something like "lactic acid, Remco lactic acid". We took a short rest on the scree slope and watched a pika scurrying around, then I noticed I was sitting on an ant hill and I literally had ants in my pants! After a bit of scurrying we reached the ridgetop and then the top of the peak. We ate lunch, signed the register, watched a moose on the side of McHugh, took a bunch of photos (proof I was there) and headed down.

I felt so satisfied about getting to the top of that mountain I felt as if I never needed to go to the mountains again (that feeling wore off around noon the next day). The most fun on Rainbow is glissading down the scree. Once we hit the rocks on the shoulder I descended using the "five point" technique - hands, feet, rear end. (Last time I shredded my rainpants).

The mountain was covered with wildflowers (yes, it's another one of those long wildflower paragraphs!) Larkspur, Pussy Toes, Dryas, Columbine, Blue Bells of Scotland, Harebells, Wintergreen, Lupine, Forget-Me-Nots, Prickly Saxifrage, White and Purple Clover, Broomrape, Yarrow, Bunchberry, Yellow Paintbrush, Goatsbeard, Woolly Lousewort, Yellow Oxytrope, Arctic Bell Heather, Twinflowers, Moss Champion, Jacob's Ladder and Wild Rose. These paragraphs help keep my journal notes straight.)

We decided to negotiate the hill above the Old Johnson Trail by heading down through the trees and bushes. This was bushwacking in its truest form, I've never been whacked by so many bushes in such a short stretch! So much for one woman's settling things with mountaintops. Stay tuned for further adventures of a peon mountain climber.

Kathy Burke

Three Outlaws Take to the Tracks

OR

It's a Good Thing Our Brains Aren't in Our Rears

One Friday morning three outlaws decided to ride their mountain bikes on the railroad tracks from the Portage Rd. to the Spencer Gl. Tressel. Yes, I know it is illegal and now we know why! *#!! 18 miles of banga banga banga just doesn't leave you the same at the end of the ride.

The day was warm with high clouds and I'm sure there were wildflowers; they were a bouncing blurr in my memory. After several miles my rear end was declaring mutiny, but the sight of the Skookum and a moose swimming across the Placer River took my mind off the pain. Sometimes gravel between ties would shoot from under the tires, sounding like gunshot when it hit the tracks.

At the rest stops we'd watch a family of Surf Scoters swimming across a little lake and engage in important conversation like if we had to be in a hospital for a year who would we choose to share the room. (Mary chose a corpse at first, then decided on Ann Murray, Jane liked Albert Eistein. I couldn't decide between John Muir, Paul Petzolt or a bunch of of other mountain explorers).

We were off again riding past snow-covered mountains and rushing waterfalls. Finally we reached Spencer Gl. and we walked across the tressel and ate lunch. Lunch was almost magical with the view of the wide crevassed glacier and listening to a recording of wolf howls that Mary brought, and there was a moose mooseying up the tracks munching willows.

It took several serious agonizing minutes before I could rest my weight fully onto the bike seat fo the ride back. Of course as soon as I was able to sit down a train decided to come along, so I had to hop off again. The train was great fun, it added a sense of danger to our mission (or was it mortal relief from our mission). It felt good to stand on the side of the tracks and let the train sounds rumble and thunder through us. After the train passed we painfully mounted those bikes again. Mary's rear end was still feeling just fine, and Jane and I were pretty mad about that! A beaver slapped its tail at us on the ride out.

We decided on dinner at Rosie's in Girdwood as the only thing that would help our wounded "prides". You should have seen the mad scramble for the seats with padding. Those of us that participated in what may be the insanity trip of the summer: Mary (Cement Buns) Savage, Jane Stammen and Kathy (Cheechaco Bottom) Burke. July 3, 1987. K.B.

In Search of Mystery Mountain(s)

"Mystery Mountain" is the name I give to a peak I cannot find anyone to tell me about, and is a reasonable objective for a club trip. Last year's mystery mountain turned out to be Begich Peak, 4545' opposite the Portage Visitor's Ctr. We rafted the river and aside from one hour's worth of brush had an enjoyable day climbing to the unmarked summit with fine views. Records show it was first climbed April 1963 by Morris, Underwood, Perry, Olson and Bousman.

This year I planned a similar climb of its neighbor to the north (4300), closer to Portage Station and the Twenty-Mile River. A reconnaissance was required and on May 12 the weather was just right. John Riley and I walked four miles from Portage Station along the tracks, looking for a crossing through the swamp to the mountain. Just after crossing the stream coming from between Begich and "Portage" (4300) there are cottonwoods and a route past beaver dams across the creek to the foot of the southernmost ridge. Ascending in forest is surprisingly easy, following a small stream on a crest which bypasses little cliffs and breaks out onto the flat portion of the ridge near timberline.

An enjoyable scramble leads to a second flat section 1000' higher, which soon becomes gendarmed as it steepens onto the summit ridge. Some careful route selection on poor rock leads to the top: a ridge going to the south and the north for miles. Wolverine and sheep (or goat) tracks and signs of an ancient cairn were found on top. So far we haven't found record of the first ascent. Considering its great view and easy access from the Visitor Center, it should be climbed often! Perhaps a club trip next year.

Since weather is not usually good at Portage, I needed an alternate in the Matanuska Valley for the club outing this year. Several places were checked out following the inspiring outing to Matanuska Peak with Jim Pommert. Having started late on May 20 to only do a road reconnaissance of the route to Granite Peak, Leo Americus, John Riley and I decided to try a frontal route on Eska Peak, to the west. Taking off from the big gravel dump near the end of the mine road, we soon found a flagged (hunters?) route through the brush, which we left at the foot of the peak. Sheep tracks led us to a passage on the left edge of prominent cliffs on the south face and easy scrambling through to the gentle ridge above.

This joins the east-west backbone of Eska about 200' east of the highest summit. This direct frontal route looks more interesting than the easier and slightly longer route of Vin and Grace Hoeman (March 1968). Later we traversed down and along all the bumps and up to the high points closer to Granite. Nice views and ptarmigan too. I thought it's eastern peak, too small for an official name, should be called Later Peak, so I could recommend the Eska-Later Traverse!

A small climb on the same side of the valley was the plan for May 22, when Patti Manhire and I chose to explore roads around Buffalo Mine and access to Arkose Ridge. Leaving the car at the end of a small subdivision, we found remarkably open, grassy going all the way up a gentle ridge to a peak (5245) which bears the triangulation point "Delia" on top. A nice view for the upper Little Su. A hunter's track on the way down led to the west end of the same road system. Surely such an easy place has been used for outings by some of you. It's on a par with Wolverine or Lazy Mt.

On May 25 my climbing partner cancelled, so I went out for a recon of Goat Cr. I heard about Todd's misadventure using that route to Pioneer, but missed finding out how they accessed it. The two residents at the base assured me that there were privately controlled trails and old roads but warned me off. One insisted that the bump on the Twin Peaks side was called Mary's Mt. That jogged my memory of earlier club trips by Joe Pichler, but how?

A mile further east a resident claimed his neighbor was illegally blocking access to the powerlines with his no trespassing signs, so I started up through the brush just beyond them. There were many ancient logging roads choked with alder and devil's club and only after an hour of this did I reach the cleared road to the powerline. From its high point, a poor trail on more logging roads leads to a route directly up onto the ridge. From this viewpoint (an old hunter's messy camp) Goat Cr. could be seen to contain sheep! Traversing several easy knobs gave a close view of my first lambs of the season. The wind was strong and cold but didn't cause the newborns to fall as they jumped up through 5.3 cliffs.

By skirting on the south side, I found safe solo scrambling to the top of the cliffs, a small summit on the ridge with a register claiming it as Mary's Mt. It was named for Mary Nelson, the first woman to reach the summit, apparently part of the first ascent party July 3, 1949 with Joe Pichler, M. Jordan and C. Lubozasky. It was climbed in June 1950 by D. Noyes and in July 1950 by Joe Pichler and his 6 year old grandson, Arthur Brauchtigan. The register then shows two Pichler-led club trips in 1959 and 1960 and only two climbs since then, a club trip in 1974 and a 1983 entry. The lack of climbs is amazing, considering that the powerline goes a lot of the way from the "no trespassing" signs (my route of descent).

On the 26th of May Patti Manhire and I went to inspect Castle Mt. and found there were ways around the private signs leading to the old mine, provided you stopped in to see the residents en route. Now, which of the many summits is the real Castle Mt.? The moderately rough road to the mine gives access to the southwestern peak and a hunter's trail in the area. The SW route has been climbed many times, especially by local residents, since its first recorded one (Hoeman). We went to the east end of this peak to inspect the dubious conglomerate cliffs and just beyond found a gully leading up on snow to near the top. Except for minimum rockfall, this is a great route for April and May. Crampons might be needed and Patti had to stop 200 ft. from the top because she wouldn't risk it without them.

After all this preparation, when the Mystery Mountain date arrived (June 14), it was raining and "Portage", the first choice, was out of the question. Eleven people had signed up but obviously didn't like the weather. Three showed up and one went back home, leaving Ken Zafren and Doris Curtis to explore with me and use the battered canoe Doris borrowed. Like good adventurous souls they agreed to explore a new impressive peak I had not reconned, just west of Kings Mt., called Pinnacle Mt., 4541.

We carried the canoe up the sandbars as far as possible and made a dash across the river, getting stuck on one sandbar, but not quite overturning. Stashing the canoe, we set off into the brush. A moose trail kept going right off our intended direct route to the east ridge, so like a fool I left it and pushed for an hour through small gaps in the brush. We found a good moose trail later on the ridge coming up from the river - probably connecting to the lower one. Occasional views and squalls continued all the way up the route until near the top when we entered a cloud and fumbled with the cliffs and pinnacles.

Descending the south face a ways, the second gully provided a good route to the SW ridge crest. From here a possible route farther west could be reached by a ledge, but I found a narrow route diagonaling east up the south face to the crest. No cairn was found on the highest point (the middle pinnacle; the very steep easterly one is a bit lower).

It cleared allowing photos and exploration. I reascended by the SW gully route and found the way that Vin and Grace Hoeman first climbed the peak in February 1967. Have there been no other climbs? A sling only a few years old was found on the east ridge below the pinnacles. It pays to go exploring on rainy days.

Tom Choate

Climbing Notes

Jim Sayler reports that he, Karen Cafmeyer, John Cafmeyer and Sylvia Lane climbed the north summit of Mt. Soggy, which is just over 7000 feet, from the Icicle Glacier on the weekend of July 18-19. There was no evidence of a previous ascent of this subsidiary summit. The number of actual summits in Chugach State Park over 7000 feet for which there is no record of ascent is about three.

In June Greg Higgins placed a register on East Tanaina (5350) and reported that the register on Temptation (5350) was in tact. Willy Hersman found the register on Koktoya (5150) in good shape in July and a register on Elliot Pk. (4710) in poor shape (needs replacement). All four of these Near Chugach peaks see relatively few ascents.