

MOUNTAINEERING CLUB OF ALASKA

BOX 102037

ANCHORAGE, ALASKA 99510

AUGUST 1989

Volume 32, Issue 08

#### AUGUST MEETING

The next monthly meeting of the MCA will be held Wednesday, August 16th, 7:30 pm, at the Pioneer Schoolhouse, 3rd and Eagle Sts., downtown Anchorage. Todd Miner will present a slide show of climbing Mt. Foraker, Sultana Ridge. The ANNUAL PICNIC will be held on Wednesday evening, August 30th, at about 6 pm on the downtown parkstrip. Look for it near the Veteren's Memorial, 10th and I Sts. The club provides the food and drinks. No alcohol.

#### HIKING AND CLIMBING SCHEDULE

- Aug. 12 PIONEER PEAK  
Elev. gain 6400 feet. Class E. Classic struggle, with no brush.  
Leader: Neil O'Donnell 274-5069
- 21-28 SIXTH ANNUAL HARDING ICEFIELD TRAVERSE  
Up the Tustamena Glacier to the big icefield. Skis only on top, no snowshoe sloggers here. May do some climbing if the group is strong enough. Technical...Glacier Travel.  
Leader: Dan O'Haire 561-1141
- Sept. 1-4 CURRY RIDGE  
Denali State Park. Class C.  
Leader: Bill Wakeland 563-6246
- 23-24 ICE-CLIMBING SCHOOL  
Mat Glacier. Beginning and intermediate ice training for waterfalls and steep gullys. Members only. Sign up at the August and September meetings.  
Leader: Paul Denkewalter 272-1811

The Hiking and Climbing Committee is always looking for leaders. If you have an idea for a trip, whether for an afternoon or several weeks, give Don Hansen a call at 279-0829. H and C Committee: Don Hansen, Chairman, B. Wakeland, A. Shayer, J. Baker, N. O'Donnell, W. Hersman.

#### TRIP CLASSIFICATIONS

The classifications below do not consider individual trip hazards such as river crossings, scree slopes, snow fields, bears, etc. Trip leaders are required to inform the trip participants of any such hazards either verbally, on the sign-up sheet, or in the trip description. Leader approval is required for all

trips.

**NON-TECHNICAL:** Following are a few standards used to classify non-technical trips. The classification is made in terms of hiking distance and altitude gain. Many trips are not on established trails.

**CLASS A:** Easy hikes with a maximum distance of 8 miles for day trips or 4 miles per day for overnight trips. Altitude gain up to 1200 feet.

**CLASS B:** Trips involving a maximum distance of up to 12 miles for a day hike or 6 miles per day for an overnight trip. Altitude gain of 1200 to 2500 feet.

**CLASS C:** Trips up to 15 miles for a day hike or 8 miles per day for an overnight trip. Altitude gain up to 3500 feet. Scree, steep grass, or other rough terrain problems may be encountered.

**CLASS D:** Hikes and climbs with an altitude gain of over 3500 feet or a distance of greater than 15 miles for a day hike or greater than 8 miles per day for an overnight trip. Peaks in this classification may require minimal climbing skills.

**CLASS E:** Hazardous climbing conditions may be encountered. A Basic Mountaineering Course may be required.

**TECHNICAL:** Technical trips are open to all qualified climbers.

However, the registration on any particular trip must be restricted to a safe and manageable number of climbers. Registration is made directly with the leader who determines the qualifications needed for the trip.

**GLACIER TRAVEL:** Trips requiring roped travel over glaciers. Knowledge of crevasse rescue, ice axe and crampon skills are required. Basic understanding of ice and snow anchors may be required.

**FIFTH CLASS:** Trips which may involve fifth class climbing. A Basic Mountaineering course or equivalent is required. Knowledge of belay and rappel techniques and placing anchors is required. Climbing difficulty varies widely with each trip.

**TRIP PARTICIPANTS** have the obligation to acquaint themselves with the nature of the trip and to verify that it is within their capability and experience. Anyone wishing to participate in any trip above CLASS A must have completed one or more trips of the next lower classification, or the equivalent.

Approved by MCA Board, March 1987

## TRIP REPORTS

### Bounty Ascent

Willy Hersman

If the first ascent party of this 6810-foot peak had seen the mountain from a more northerly direction they surely would have named it Lord's Mountain or perhaps Saviour's Summit, for across the north face is displayed an unmistakable giant cross, running perfectly from the summit to the base of the face, visible for miles. It's an inspiring sight for anyone hiking up the East Fork valley to its farther reaches, as our party of six did over the weekend of the 4th. However, their ascent was from the south (Eklutna Glacier), and included Grace Hoeman, Hans Van der Laan and Ned Lewis.

Our party was bent on a climb of Baleful, but after an initial failure we split into two groups on July 4, one to give it another try and the other to head around the East Fork valley to try Bounty, 7 miles away. To avoid numerous crevasses we opted to go for the east ridge of the mountain, whose only obstacle was a long crevasse guarding the 5750-foot pass. Luckily one bridge remained, and after more or less easy scrambling along the ridge we sat on top to enjoy the hot weather we'd had all weekend. Jim Saylor, Randy Howell and I made the first entry in the register in 20 years, then started down for the long hike back to Baleful. The others had put in a longer, harder day, but no summit.

And the cross? It remains unclimbed as yet, but when the snow is right it would be a great route.

### Scramble up Homicide Peak

Neil O'Donnell

Seven MCA members (Marcia Bandy, Barbara Gustafson, Don Hansen, Neil O'Donnell, Margaret Stock, Breck Tostevin and Jim Wright) left the Glen Alps parking lot at 9:00 am on Saturday, July 8th, to mountain-bike up Powerline Pass and then climb Homicide Peak (4660). Gene Klymko joined us for the ride to the pass. We left our bikes just below the Anchorage side of the pass and continued along the trail. There was only a small strip of snow, about 25 yards wide at the top of the pass, and we continued down the east side along the trail until we came to its intersection with the southeast shoulder of Homicide. We then cut across the south side of the mountain until we found a major gully which looked promising. This gully led to a promontory from which we could see the summit a quarter mile west along a wide ridge.

Clear blue skies, temperatures in the upper 70s and no wind made summit lounging the main focus of our afternoon. Our stay intruded upon the rock ptarmigan nesting on the summit, and we could see several sheep wandering through Powerline Pass below. According to the summit register, the last visitors had been to Homicide in July 1988.

As the afternoon progressed the merciless sun forced our retreat. Instead of retracing our steps, we descended a wide, rock-strewn slope on the southern side of the peak, slightly to the west of our ascent gully. We headed up the small valley on the west side of the peak, past the small alpine lake and over the 4000-foot pass on the northwest ridge of Homicide. Much of this route crossed talus, prompting completely unfounded criticism of yr fthfl srvnt and trip leader.

After a leisurely climb down and along Powerline Pass trail again, we reclaimed our bikes and pedalled back to Glen Alps. The ride back from the pass is all downhill.

### MINUTES OF THE JULY MEETING

The July meeting was held on at the Pioneer Schoolhouse on July 19th. John Baker presided over the short meeting, which began at 7:40.

#### Treasurer's Report:

Petty cash	- \$ 27.53
Checking	- 399.06
Money market	- 3720.17
Total	- <u>\$4147.76</u>

#### Committees :

Hiking and Climbing - Trips to Katmai, Pioneer Peak and the Harding Icefield were discussed.

Parks Advisory - There was discussion about the Rabbit Lake Trail access problem. It was announced that Middle Fork Campbell Creek is now open to mountain bikes .

Training - The Ice-Climbing School is held in late September.

#### Old Business :

None.

#### New Business :

Picnic was discussed, but no descision made about it.

#### Announcements :

Today was Mark Findlay's birthday.

Gary Lawton is looking for future partners to do a ski traverse of the Denali Hwy.

Ron Van Bergeyk is looking for members who want to fly in to the Matanuska G1. for a weekend in August.

Jerry Minick showed slides of climbing Orizaba in Mexico.

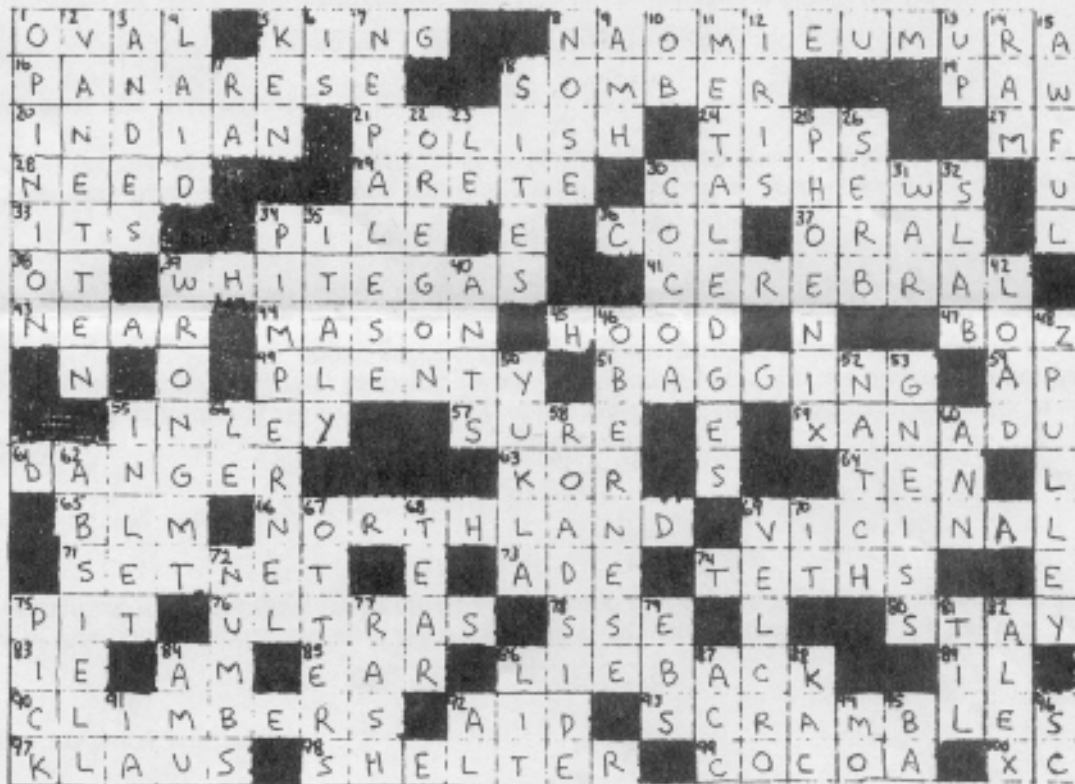
Respectfully Submitted,  
Jerry Minick

Climbing Notes

The Polish party, invited by us to come to Alaska this year, and consisting of only two people, did manage to top out on Denali during the good weather of July. They did not manage, however, to pay the MCA a visit. They went to California instead.

CORRECTION to last month: Jim Sayler climbed Peaks 5505 (SW of Calliope, by way of the S ridge), and 4974 (Section 26, Anchorage A-6, above Bird, California and Penguin Creeks, slept on summit) for possible first ascents. These were incorrectly reported last month. He also climbed Peak 4970, W of Bird Creek Pass by the E ridge, finding a cairn, and Camprober Peak (5855), which still has a register on its western summit.

Mike Miller and Willy Hersman took a register to Benign Peak (7250) on July 13th and Willy and Alan Julliard took a register to Peril Peak (7040) on July 18th.



ANSWERS TO LAST MONTH'S PUZZLE.