



MOUNTAINEERING CLUB OF ALASKA

BOX 102037

ANCHORAGE, ALASKA 99510

AUGUST 1991

Volume 34, Issue 08

AUGUST MEETING

- August 21 7:30 pm Wednesday, Pioneer Schoolhouse, basement level, 3rd and Eagle Sts., downtown Anchorage.
- SLIDE SHOW Climbing in Peru and Bolivia. Jacek Koziel, visiting here from Poland, will show slides of past climbs in South America.

HIKING AND CLIMBING SCHEDULE

- Aug 17 BERRY-PICKING AT HATCHER
One day outing to gather berries. Class A. Bring the kids.
Leaders: Chris and Vera Tomsen 428-2250
- 17-18 SALIX PEAK
Highest peak in the Willow drainage. Drive to Independence Mine on Friday night and hike to Hatcherhead Pass. Climb Saturday. Elevation gain, 2500', 8 miles to the base. Class E.
Leaders: Karen Cafmeyer 345-7546, Dan O'Haire 561-1141
- 31-02 DENALI STATE PARK
Fall foliage hike. Class C.
Leader: Mindy Baum 338-6396
- 31-02 RAM VALLEY - EKLUTNA LAKE
Several stream crossings. 18 miles. Class C.
Leader: Allan Shayer 338-0341
- Sept 21-22 BIRD PEAK
Another try after last year's dismal failure. Hike in Saturday and camp in alpine valley near small lake. Climb on Sunday and hike out. Class D.
Leader: Neil O'Donnell 274-5069
- 28-29 ICE-CLIMBING SCHOOL
Matanuska Glacier tradition. Beginning and intermediate ice training for waterfalls and steep gullies. Members only. Sign up at the August and September meetings.
Organizer: Paul Denkwalter 272-1811

The Hiking and Climbing Committee is always looking for leaders. If you have an idea for a trip, whether an afternoon or several weeks, give Rex Pickett a call at 272-2851. H and C Committee: Rex Pickett, Chairperson, B. Wakeland, T. Choate, A. Shayer, N. O'Donnell, P. Kirk, C. Metzler, W. Hersman, K. Zafren, D. O'Haire, M. Bassett, K. Cafmeyer.

HIKING AND CLIMBING COMMITTEE MEETING

August 26
7:00 pm
at Karen Cafmeyer's house (call for directions)

Anyone may attend. Please come with ideas for fall and early winter trips or training classes.

REFRESHMENTS NOTE

Please call Eric Teela prior to the meeting, if you plan to bring any refreshments, so that there won't be any redundancy.....349-4292.

TRAILHEAD VANDALISM

We are interested in learning the names of suspects caught breaking into cars at trailhead parking lots. We will monitor the legal process and see what consequences result. Contact Dan O'Haire 561-1141.

A recent incident at Potter's Marsh occurred in which two vans were robbed of all backpacks. The occupants were away for 15 minutes! Be aware, these criminals case your vehicle as you arrive. Taking down liscense numbers is not a bad idea.

A Plea for Assistance

Twenty-eight year old Krzysztof Wiecha, who was removed by helicopter from Denali in July, has undergone surgery to amputate both of his feet. He will spend at least 3 months at Humana Hospital in rehabilitation at a total cost of over \$50,000, even after donated services from Drs. O'Malley and Mills.

As Krzysztof's climbing partner, I am remaining in Anchorage to gather support for the medical expenses. Communities around the world, from Warsaw to New York, Chicago and Anchorage are involved in this effort. Holy Family Cathedral has agreed to process checks donated on behalf of Mr. Wiecha. If you are able to become involved in this humanitarian cause, please send a check, payable to Holy Family Cathedral, 818 West Fifth Avenue, Anchorage, Alaska 99501, and note that it is for Krzysztof.

For more information, or to contact Krzysztof or Jacek, please write to Jacek Koziel, General Delivery, Anchorage, AK 99510.

Sincerely,
Jacek Koziel

Aug 91

TECHNICAL ICE CLIMBING SCHOOL

place: Matanuska Glacier
date: September 28-29

fees: \$ 5.00 equipment replacement fee
12.50 access to glacier and camping

meeting: Thursday, September 26, Pioneer Schoolhouse 7:30 pm. This meeting is mandatory, as it is every year, so plan to attend.

The school will present the techniques necessary to become at least a competent second on steep ice, such as waterfalls and gullies. We will not be teaching any glacier travel techniques.

PRE-REGISTRATION WILL BE REQUIRED. Sign-ups are at the August meeting for present members and will be at the September meeting for present and new members. If you cannot attend the September meeting you may call Paul at AMH, 272-1811. We will not be signing up students (or new members) at the organization meeting on the 26th. All students should be members by the September MCA general meeting since AMH does not collect dues.

An equipment check will be done at the organization meeting on the 26th. Students are required to bring their boots, crampons and ice axes for inspection. Club equipment will be handed out. (The club has limited supplies of crampons, ice axes and helmets.) Fees will be collected. Tickets to get in will be handed out. Questions will be answered. ALL STUDENTS MUST ATTEND.

The school will begin at 9:30 am on Saturday, September 28th, at Matanuska Glacier at the parking lot closest to the glacier. Plan on leaving Anchorage no later than 7:00 am or go up Friday night.

ICE CLIMBING SCHOOL EQUIPMENT LIST

Everyone must have all equipment underlined.

Ice axe - 70 cm or shorter, curved pick with a web sling

Ice hammer - get one if you can

Crampons - 12 points, hinged or rigid or foot-fangs

Helmet

Harness - 1 or 2-piece or 22 feet of 1-inch tubular webbing

Locking carabiner - or two regular carabiners

Rigid-sole mountain boots - no hunting boots; plastic boots are best

Lunch - for two days, a thermos is a good idea

Wind parka and pants - Goretex or other semi-waterproof

Pile or wool pants - definitely no jeans or cotton

Pile or wool jacket (or synchilla, polarguard, whatever they have these days)

Wool hat

Wool or synthetic gloves and mitts - bring extras, it's wet out there

Overmitts - water repellent

Gaitors

Sunglasses, sun cream, bandana, camera, guitar, violin, sax, trumpet, drums, walkmann, post-climbing refreshments, etc.

Day pack - for all this junk

Car camping gear, lawn chairs, salmon roasts, barbeque sauce, campfire stories

TRIP REPORTS

Chilkoot Trail

Bill Wakeland

M.C.A. President Karen thought this trip would be of interest to the club, since it has been so long since it had a hike there. Two-thirds of us on the trip were members, anyway. Herb Lang, Lew Dickinson, and I left Anchorage June 11 in Lew's GMC Suburban and drove to Koidern campground in Canada, some 500 miles from Anchorage and 300 miles from Skagway.

After checking in at Klondike Gold Rush National Historical Park headquarters, and learning that we would not need the snowshoes we brought, we finalled out the packs, dined in style and hired a van to take us to the trailhead, 9 miles away at Dyea.

That night, after the first three miles of the 33 total, we pitched our tent on a pile of sawdust (dating back to a goldrush mill of 1898), the only cleared area in the rain forest. A black bear, educated by careless campers, gave us trouble for several hours. Our grub was well between two trees, one oak, but we did not get much sleep. We later learned that bears, mostly black, are among the bigger problems of this hike, and this one was well known and likely will be disposed of by the rangers.

We made about 10 miles the next day on a good trail, gaining about a thousand feet, with trees thinning and getting smaller, the air cooling, with the beautiful weather holding throughout the trip. Several historic places along the way had signs pointing them out. We camped that night at Sheep Camp, the start of the real climb, where we found several other tents and a nice shelter cabin for emergencies.

Next morning we were up early hoping for firmer snow to cross the pass into Canada. Soon we were on snow patches, climbing steadily, with the ski poles coming in handy. The snow held up pretty well, and the sun spared us until we reached the summit! But there was some slow rock-scrambling. By about noon we topped out after a very steep grunt up rocks and snow at the "Golden Stairway" of historical fame, and were soon in Canada.

This was a 7 1/2-mile day, with a 2700-foot elevation gain, and we figured with the gain and nearly half the distance over with, we were home free. But the sun was now out and it was hot! The last 4 miles to Happy Camp seemed to take forever following the wands set in snow by rangers. And we got sunburned to boot! And there was more soft snow and some "postholing," but the wands kept us out of serious trouble. Happy Camp was the first place that we could pitch our tent on the bare ground.

The third full day saw us through more snow and eventually a hard, dry trail around Lake Lindeman and more historical stuff. We camped that night at Bare Loon Lake, taking most of the day to make only 8 1/2 miles, but stopping early because it was only 4 miles to the end of the trail, where we were to meet our ride to Frazier.

At Lake Bennett, the former settlement at the mouth end of the lake, we had reached the head of navigation for the Yukon River, and the White Pass and Yukon Railroads. The depot was boarded up when the railroad shut down several years ago. Now the tourist train runs from Skagway to Frazier, and Bennett is connected to Frazier by a motor-rail jitney. Later that day we caught the first

train of the summer season for the spectacular trip down to Skagway. the price for a ticket, one way from Bennett, is also spectacular...\$69.

If you take this hike, check early by phone with the Park Service, and if you take the train you may need advance reservations later in the year. There is a lot of literature available. While we had a lot of foul weather gear that was not used, this can be a lot rougher trip in foul weather. Be sure to take means to hoist food, and/or have bear repellent. Firearms cannot be legally taken into Canada, and carrying them on the U.S. side is discouraged. Water filters or iodine are recommended, although early in the year there are a lot of side streams and snow melt.

Once you do this route, with all the aids available, and with the lightweight gear available, you will surely have more respect for the stamperders of '98.

Kseugi Ridge

Bill Wakeland

This was to have been the Crow Creek to Bird Creek hike, 4 days, July 4 through 7, as listed in the newsletter. Nobody signed up at the June meeting! But five of us were interested, two could not stay through Sunday, and other problems prompted a change to a three-day hike in Denali State Park along Kseugi Ridge, starting at Little Coal Creek, Mile 164, Parks Highway.

The five of us were to meet Thursday morning, but only four found the right place! We took two cars and eventually met at Byers Lake. It raining steadily. After much procrastinating it was decided that two of us would bag it and go home. It did look pretty grim.

So Margie Schaefer and I parked at the trailhead and about 3:00 pm started up the trail. With all the wet brush and standing water, plus sweat in the 105% humidity, we were rather well-soaked in a matter of minutes. It was only three miles and some 2000 feet elevation gain to the knob and small lake where we camped.

Above the brush line it was really rather pretty and easy going, and we were warm and squishy. But it got cold fast when we stopped to pitch tents, and we were soon in them, changing to dry clothing. It pays to have plenty of polypro, wool and pile. With hot drinks and then dinner, things improved rapidly. It poured rain that night, but quit before 5:00.

We got up late and fiddled around to see if the weather would change enough to dry out our wet stuff, but it didn't. We decided to return to the trailhead and scrap the rest of the trip. We left about noon for a leisurely jaunt back, with dinner in beautiful downtown Talkeetna.

Ironically, this was Margie's first trip with the MCA, who had just signed up!

The trail up to brush line could sure use some brush cutting, it will be nearly impassable in places by next year. Any volunteers? This trail continues along Kseugi-Curry Ridge to Troublesome Creek trailhead, some 36 miles, with exit trails to the Parks Highway in two other places.

Flying to the Scandinavian Peaks Hut just wasn't an option over Independence Day weekend. Seven of us spent the night of July 3rd up at Mike Meekin's lodge waiting on clouds, which were only thicker on the 4th. It was relaxing, but not what we'd planned, so we all went back to Anchorage to regroup.

On the morning of the 5th, down to five people, we met up at Independence Mine, hoping to salvage the weekend. The dripping on the windshield set the tone. How much did we want to sit inside tents listening to it for days?

Though none of us had been there, we decided to go visit Pahlke's Palace up near the Bomber Glacier, where the sound of drips on metal would be a little more pleasant. Only a few of the 10 essentials, including a box of wine, mosquito coils, compass, and a whistle were in the packs as we headed up Reed Creek to Bomber Pass. Visibility wasn't real good, but we were able to locate the cabin easily enough. The hut was still in new condition, having been last visited in March. We were happy.

On July 6th, Pam Kirk, Kneely Taylor, Brian Bannan, Chuck Scheutuze and I climbed the 6350-foot summit north of the hut. The name Nelteni (Tanaina for thunder) was proposed in the register we left. Only one short pitch of 5th class, near the summit, was necessary along our ascent of the NE ridge. Great skiing waits for those who go up in the winter, about 3/4 mile north of the hut.

The next day we exited the area by dropping west and then ascending to the Snowbird Glacier. It rained while we visited the silver-domed shelter off the glacier, then lightened up a bit for a slippery return to the cars. Nice traverse, well worth the effort.

MINUTES OF THE JULY MEETING

.... Karen Cafmeyer conducted the meeting, beginning with the introduction of new members and guests.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Money Market	-	\$4220.71
Checking Acct.	-	249.54
Petty Cash	-	52.10
Total	-	\$4522.35

Tony B. Memorial Fund	-	\$845.00
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(Note: Last month's Money Market amount was reported to be \$4021.16. The correct amount was \$4211.16)

COMMITTEES:

Hiking and Climbing. The turnout for scheduled trips has been tremendous this year. However, there are still several weekends without trips coming up. Volunteer leaders are needed.

Dan O'Haire announced that his next volcano trip will be to Mt. Douglas. Dan is taking names and will schedule the trip when a group has formed.

OLD BUSINESS

Last chance to get your name in the club directory, which will be going to press soon.

NEW BUSINESS

MCA T-shirts are now available in wild colors!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Soviet made titanium ice screws are available through the club for \$10 each. There will be a sign-up sheet at the meeting.

Donations to help with medical expenses for the Polish climber recently rescued from near the summit of Denali are being handled through the Holy Family Cathedral. Donations are tax-deductible. The club voted to make a \$50 donation. The injured climber's partner, Jatzig described the incident. He is looking for work until his partner gets out of the hospital.

The club is seeking volunteers to do workshops or lectures at REI, September 24-26.

Respectfully Submitted,

Stefan Otterson