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mountaineering club of alaska  
box 2037 anchorage alaska 99501

happenings on the way

september meeting... Ben Crawford-Memorial Park, 3rd and Eagle,  
Monday, September 9, 8 p.m. ... program will feature slides of Nepal  
taken by Diane Gudgel, who has just returned from a Far East trip.  
There will also be a few slides of the glacier school trip to the  
MCA Eklutna cabin "Pichler's Perch." Leaders for trips below to  
be announced by VP John Wolfe, Trips Bcgs.

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THE RAMP, Saturday-Sunday, September 7-8. Trip #4 in Thirty Hikes.  
A relatively easy one-day trip into a tributary valley of the south  
fork of Campbell Creek with a very impressive, but easy, pyramid  
peak at its head. Chance to do also the so-called "Wedge," time  
permitting—it's just across the little valley, and makes an  
interesting way to return to the cars.

SNOWBIRD CABIN, Saturday-Sunday, September 14-15. Possibly leave  
town on Friday night--decision up to the leader. A lovely trip in  
the early fall to this little ramshackle cabin in the Reed Lakes  
area (#23 in Thirty Hikes). A nice hike into the cabin as well  
as the chance to either hike or do some serious climbing on good  
granite in the same area.

WOLVERINE PEAK (4455'), Saturday-Sunday, September 21-22. A very  
nice one-day autumn hiking climb to this pleasant Anchorage-skyline  
peak. Not at all difficult; good for almost all comers who can  
take a full day's trip. Delightful views from the summit all across  
the Anchorage surroundings, including both north and middle forks  
of Campbell Creek, the beautiful chain of Williwaw Lakes, the  
Tanaina group of peaks, Williwaw Peak, and O'Malley Peak. Really  
the makings of a delightful day if the weather's good.

SWAN LAKE TRAIL AND CABIN, KENAI PENINSULA, Saturday-Sunday,  
September 28-29. A very nice late fall excursion on one of the  
better U.S. Forest Service trails, and a very nice and cozy Forest  
Service cabin for spending the night by Swan Lake. Not a long  
trip, and one which should be within the easy grasp of nearly all  
comers--come along, one and all, to enjoy the scenic grandeur just  
before the lakes freeze over for the winter.

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MCA's ANNUAL MEETING comes up October 14, at which the main business will be election of officers for the new year. The Nominating Committee (Lotte Kramer, Andy Anderson, Ruth Moulton, Paul Crews, and Marie Lundstrom, chairman) will meet between now and then to arrive at a list of suitable and willing officer candidates. Call them to make suggestions and to indicate interest and availability. They may also call you!) Nominations may also be made from the floor. Members may vote only if their dues are paid for the coming year. New members who have joined since August 1, 1968, have a two-month membership bonus and are paid up until October 1969. Old members who want to vote should pay up in September or plan to come to the October meeting with checks or cash in hand...the MCA's treasurer and/or his representative will be available at the door. DUES: single adult membership, \$5.00; family membership, \$7.50; junior membership (under 18), \$2.50; out-of-town (over 50 miles from Anchorage), \$2.50.

happenings that were

MT EKLUTNA

August 10, 1968

Charles Kibler

Jim Baski and I decided to climb Mt Eklutna Saturday August 10 because the Suicide Peaks were clouded by southeasterly winds. Starting from the Thunderbird Falls parking lot, we followed the creek for about two miles until we intercepted the ridge (about 1/2 mile past where the previous expedition turned off). We then hiked up the ridge on animal trails until we intercepted the trail made by the previous expedition, and followed it to where it ended at 2400 feet, and continued on to 3160 feet, which is right above Mirror Lake. After resting and viewing the civilization creeping in below, we pushed on to hill 3605, ate, and continued to the summit. Mt Eklutna is as easy to climb by this route as McHugh Peak is by the camp ground. No devil's club, and less brush and grass than on the previous route.

Jim waited a few blocks past the summit while I took a side trip 1 mile further east to hill 4040, from which Eklutna Lake is visible. On returning, we descended the east side of the mountain through many patches of big ripe blueberries onto a weasel trail which extends above the timber line. After hiking leisurely back to the highway on 6 miles of homesteader's road and feasting at Peter's Creek Campground, we soon found a ride back to Anchorage. Total walking distance from Thunderbird Falls parking lot to Palmer Highway via Mt Eklutna: only 15 miles (side trip included).

Here then, is an easy way up Mt Eklutna: turn off the Palmer Highway less than 1 mile past Peter's Creek at a small red log cabin; drive the six miles up the homesteader's road and park at a large log cabin at the end, behind Mt Eklutna. Do not cross a creek. Walk less than 1/2 mile further on a jeep trail, where you turn left on a weasel trail which goes straight up the mountain, the peak being only one mile straight ahead. Round trip: only 4 miles.

O'MALLEY PEAK TRIP, Saturday, July 20, led by John Wolfe, included Lotte Kramer, Louise Rydell, Jim Baski, Barbara Winkley, Steven Osborne, Anna Baziak, and Florence Tomic, and was a successful--if long--uphill hike for all. \*\*\*



Gayle and Helen Nienhueser made a nine-day exploratory trip into the Talkeetnas by way of the Hicks Creek Trail (or Pinochle Trail) August 9-18. (See Anchorage D3 Quad for trail leaving Gleen Highway at about Mile 99 near BM 1776). They camped at a lake at 5000' about 3 to 4 miles northwest of the intersection of the trail with Hicks Creek. On Tuesday, August 12, they climbed peak 7108 which they named Monarch Peak because it is the highest for some miles around. Wednesday, August 13, they climbed peak 6869 which they named Crown Peak for rocky circle of sheer cliffs rising at the top out of long scree slopes. Monarch was an easy scree scramble. Crown required one pitch of roped climbing at the top, up via a couloir on the north side, down via the east ridge. Both of these appeared to be first ascents. Cairns were built and registers left.

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The PEAKABOO PEAKS trip, August 24-25 weather-aborted in favor of a Dew Mound Hike on Saturday that ended as a cabin-materials-hauling operation for the very newest MCA cabin in the Eagle Glacier vicinity, then turned into a sack-out-on-the-floor-of-the-Wolfe-Homestead-Cabin overnight, and resumed in a new direction Sunday up Mary's Mountain --with a successful summit bagged by everyone...Peter Vlasveld, Louise Rydell, Lotte Kramer, Charles Kibler, Ruger Fuson, and leader John Wolfe.

#### EAST FACE, ASCENT, AND CIRCUIT OF PERIL PEAK

Early in 1961 I was in the Army when they first used Eklutna Glacier, and we discovered Peril Peak. The eastern face of Peril is the steepest, and I was allowed to lead an attempt on it 9 July 1961, though this really only amounted to a recon, as the sergeants purposely allowed PFCs Jerry Klug, Cliff Vashus, and me insufficient time to get into real trouble on it.

Dave Meyers awakened my dormant interest in that face this year, and with my wife Grace and Bill Babcock, we packed in to Pichler's Perch the afternoon of 20 July. At 3:30 the next morning we continued up and across the main Eklutna Glacier, attempting the face one place nearly even with the summit, but finding this too dangerous for our taste, we continued up-glacier to about 5000' elevation and finally committed ourselves to the wall at 6 o'clock. The angle was somewhat less steep, but the shaly surface was many places covered with such quantities of loose debris that we could hardly breathe or twitch the rope without dislodging missiles, and only two of us had hardhats. However, by wide traverses, care, and prayers, we finally reached the ridgecrest using only one piton for protection. We were immediately north of the 6350 terminal point on the South Ridge of Peril, and the way north was easy at first till the ridge pinched into a spectacular knife-edge we could only straddle for long sections.

At the base of the "Flatiron" our route joined the 1966 descent route (see Scree, January 1967), but Nick and Yoshio had rappelled over this obstacle, something that doesn't work very well going uphill. Search to the right produced an inside corner that went with 2 pitons and a runner for protection. Dave and I each led a rope up it and decided to grade it 5.5, this 20-foot pitch being the most difficult, though not the most dangerous, on the climb. The ridge continued to be loose and exposed, but difficulty eased and we unroped to continue

scree, rose and exposed... (PERIL PEAK, cont.) to the summit, arriving at 12:30 and spending an hour mostly at a meltwater pool north of the summit and entering our third ascent by a new route in the Gerber's Jar on top (for last ascent, see Scree, May 1964). It was warm, and a Snow Bunting visited us. Descending, we tested, reinforced, and used one 1966 rappel anchor, but climbed past or salvaged the other 8. This took us down the gully west from the base of the Flatiron and at 5:00 p.m. we left the mountain for the West Branch of Eklutna Glacier, went around the northern end (Bill falling partway into a crevasse en route), across to the cabin for our overnight gear, and out to our cars as evening brought an end to a long but satisfying day. We saw a lynx on the road as we drove out.

NOTE: The last driving bridge on the Eklutna Lake road has been taken out by the Army, leaving about a 2-mile hike to the end of the lake camping area below the glacier.

ADDRESS CHANGES: Louise Rydell, Box 794, Eagle River 99577, wk 862-0201, hm 694-2254; John Wolfe, Box 1572 (res 1004-lith), new phone to come; Bill Babcock family, Box 365, Bethel 99559. Marge and Steffen Maagoe are moving to San Diego, Calif. and will have a new address there next month. Cliff & Lavin Ellis, Box 397, Pilot Rock, Oregon 97868.

MCA's angels have come through again and found an anonymous donor for a new cabin on Eagle Glacier. Materials have been flown in, and a fourth cabin of the series (Crow Pass, Eagle, Whiteout, Eklutna) is to be (or may already be!) constructed there any day this fall.

New Scree editor and staff members needed pronto--one more issue only for present editor

Scree is published monthly by the Mountaineering Club of Alaska, which is affiliated with the Anchorage Dept of Parks & Recreation. Scree staff includes Carol DeVoe, Florence Grenier, Joanne Merrick, Sharon Cissna, Marie Lundstrom, and others who can be persuaded. Send Scree material to Box 4-964, Anc 99503 or call Marie Lundstrom, 277-0846.

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