

SCREE



MOUNTAINEERING CLUB OF ALASKA, BOX 2037, ANCHORAGE, ALASKA, VOL. 12, NO. 9, SEPTEMBER 1969

SEPTEMBER MEETING . . . Ben Crawford Memorial Park, 3rd and Eagle, Monday, September 8, 8:00 PM. Ned Lewis will show slides of climbing in Japan and climbing in the Pacific Northwest with Japanese friends.

CLIMBING AND HIKING SCHEDULE

LYNX PEAK, 6536', Talkeetna Mtns., Sunday, September 7. Spend the day hiking and climbing in Reed Lakes area above Snowbird Mine, with major effort aimed toward Lynx Peak. (Thirty Hikes #23). Contact Nick Parker, 277-2030.

TANAINA PEAK, 5350', Sunday, September 14 Chugach skyline peak above the north fork of Campbell Creek Good scramble with approach over Near Peak (3050'). Could be a two days climb if climbers desire. Contact Nick Parker, 277-2030.

SWAN LAKE TRAIL AND CABIN, Saturday and Sunday, September 20-21. Good trail and warm cabin in the Kenai Peninsula. Beautiful country for a fall excursion. Contact Nick Parker, 277-2030.

GOAT MOUNTAIN, 6380', Saturday and/or Sunday, September 27 and/or 28. Leader: Randy Renner, 279-1192 Approach from Crow Pass Teams of three best. Alpine experience required

THE RAMP, 5240', Saturday, October 4. Easy one day trip into the South Fork of Campbell Creek. Might also include the Wedge which lies just opposite Ramp. (Thirty Hikes #4). Contact Nick Parker, 277-2030.

Sunday, October 12 open

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TRAIL UP VALLEY SOUTH OF EKLUTNA LAKE

AUGUST 3, 1969

TONY BOCKSTAHLER

On August 3, Bill Stiers and I did some flagging and clearing to improve this trail, which follows the north fork of Eklutna River. It is now in pretty good shape for about

three miles up the valley. Various members of the Trails Committee and others have previously done flagging and exploring on this project. There already was a trail, but some areas were overgrown and in places it was difficult to follow.

To get to the trail, proceed as follows: Turn south off the Glenn Highway at Mile 26.5 onto the gravel road to Lake Eklutna. Drive ten miles to the State Recreation Area at the north end of the lake. Then continue another ten miles to the bridge crossing the first of the two major streams running into the south end of Eklutna Lake. (The second one flows from Eklutna Glacier.) Don't cross the bridge. Park on the north side where an unused road spur runs down to the stream. Walk from the parking area down the spur toward the stream. About half way, look on the left for the start of the trail. It is marked by flagging at the top of the bank along the road.

The trail follows the stream up the valley (southeast) across two tributary streams which can be crossed on logs. These streams come down the cliffs in beautiful waterfalls. Beyond the second stream (the fourth one showing on the Anchorage B-6 topographic map) the trail is partially flagged and cleared for a ways and then peters out. Anyone is encouraged to do further work on extending or improving this trail.

Bill and I took a side trip up (north) the first stream showing on the topographic map to about 5500 feet. It was good going on a medium steep loose rock slope and should give access to Bold Mountain.

TRAIL UP VALLEY SOUTH OF EKLUTNA LAKE

August 5-9, 1969

Bill Stivers

This supplements Tony Bockstahler's information on this trail.

My son Jim and I departed the designated parking area at 10:15 AM, Tuesday, August 5, for a four-day pack trip to the south end of the valley. We found the trail good to within $\frac{1}{2}$ mile north of 2190' hill (SE corner of Anchorage B-6). Since our goal the first day was the lake just to the south of this hill, we followed some meandering game trails up and around the west side of the hill. This route was flagged. We saw a cow moose while descending the south side of the hill. The lake was eventually spotted at about 300 yards distance through dense trees and brush. We did not flag beyond this point.

The lake was a disappointment. It had a mud bottom and contained an abundance of various larvae. We could see no fresh-water streams nearby. We would have searched for a more suitable campsite; however, it was then 8:00 PM with little remaining daylight, and we were too tired to take many more steps.

The tent was erected on a grassy spot near the SW corner of the lake. Jim found a small trickle of water on the NE corner of the lake, from which he could dip small quantities of water. We were thus spared from boiling the lake water.

Just before dark we saw another cow moose about 100 yards from our camp. Wednesday morning we saw a duck and her brood apparently feeding on the larvae in the lake.

Camp was broken at 12:20 PM Wednesday. We departed to the SE across a meadow, which presented an obstacle course of fallen trees obscured by the waist-high grass. We spotted a large bull moose in this area. Eventually we reached the main stream and a welcome gravel bar. From this point we closely followed the stream until we reached our next campsite at 3:00 PM. It was on a gravel bar at the confluence of the main stream and a muddy glacial stream that flowed from a deeply cut gorge (second gorge from the NW corner of Anchorage A-5). In the crack of a large rock at the edge of the feeder stream, Jim found the following note:

"PLEASE ADD A FEW MORE ROCKS TO THIS BRIDGE. C. P."

Thursday morning we departed camp to the SE at 9:15 AM. We waded across the feeder stream and another one a short distance away. (Incidentally, these were the only fords on the trip where wading was necessary.) After crossing the second stream, we followed game trails through alder to get on the ridge running up the SE (Anchorage A-5, Peak 3960'). We saw several marmots and an unhatched ptarmigan egg on this ridge.

There were good views of the valley in both directions. The horn and its glaciers at the south end of the valley were spectacular. To the east and northeast of the peak we could see other glaciers descending from a higher ridge that crossed the horizon. This ridge obscured the Lake George area which lay beyond. A round trip to this ridge from our camp could have been made in one day by taking a different route.

We returned to camp at 5:00 PM and I had a minor accident while preparing supper. The Bleuete butane stove became too hot within the windshield and exploded in my face. A few minor burns resulted.

Friday morning was another clear, beautiful day. We broke camp and started our return trip at 10:15 AM. We followed the gravel bars and game trails close to the main stream until intercepting the flagged trail about 1 mile north of the 2190' hill. Friday night we camped just south of the first (from road) log crossing. We reached the road at 10:15 AM, Saturday morning.

MT. ADAMS, 12,307'

August 7-8, 1969

Ned Lewis

After driving to Killen Creek campground from Seattle, Griffith Way, Toshiro Matsunaga, Takeshi Furkhata, and I walked for $2\frac{1}{2}$ hours to place ourselves at the foot of Adams Glacier. Whilst Toshiro and Takeshi prepared dinner, Griffith and I made a short reconnaissance. After a good Japanese meal, we got to sleep at about 10:00. We rose at 2:30, ate, and were off at 4:00. We worked our way onto the glacier with headlights, and roped-up. After a couple of hours of cramponing up the snow, we were greeted with a beautiful, distant Mt. Rainier. Another hour of cramponing up 50° snow and ice brought us to a large crevasse which required two screws and a little balance. Route finding was enjoyable and the flimsy bridges offered views into the black crevasses. More delicate stepping hear and there brought us to a monstrous crevasse. But a route was soon found through the debris of a few collapsed seracs. Next the upper bergschrund with much weaving around and crevasse jumping for lack of bridges. A few leads along a very sharp crevasse lip, and 2-3' neve pendentante revealed the summit. An hour of eating and resting with a perfect view saw us descending.

And what a horrid descent it was: Down a small ice gully of 50°, thur two long scree gullies of falling rock. A short dash around a corner, and an interesting down climb done unroped by the writer (idiot). A short rappel and a dash down a snow ramp, occasionally peppered with rock, to the glacier. Jump four small crevasses and run a bit; there was a lot of rock fall. Across the glacier, through the slush and mud to camp. And out to the car to drive home not having eaten since noon. (Celery and mayonaise at camp). Arriving home at 2:30 AM.

BARD PEAK, 3850'

August 20, 1969

Grace Hoeman

One cannot enter a stationary or drupstore where picture postcards or slides are sold without the mountain staring at you above the caption, "Beautiful Portage Glacier." No one ever climbed it to our knowledge, and those of you who tried with us to do so last winter know why. We snowshoed and skied across Portage Lake, we rode the train to Whittier (for free, but this might have been just a one-time goodie).to try from that side, but got almost blown into Passage Canal and fled back through the tunnel on foot, a rather daring undertaking in retrospect. The cold, the wind, the short daylight hours thwarted all attempts and summer 1969 came with the mountain still unclimbed. Van submitted "Bard Peak" as an appropriate name (the poet theme for that area) and this was approved by the State Geographic Board.

The problem with Bark Peak in summertime is crossing the Lake and unless one is endowed with divine power (water conveyances being verboten) one somehow has to get to the base of the mountain the hard way. Looking over possibilities I decided to work

myself over the end of the NE ridge of Byron Peak, down to Portage Glacier, across the Glacier, up Burns Glacier and Bard Peak's west face and along the WNW ridge to the summit.

August 18 loomed clear, but I tarried and didn't get to Portage much before noon. Ran into a Seattle mountaineer and tried to talk him into going with me, but he said he knew me and no thank you. I crossed "Byron" Creek, went up a gully relatively free from alder growth, reached alpine slopes soon and rested at Benchmark "Lake", placed in 1964. Sidehilling along, I could take a look at the slope down to Portage Glacier. The hour had advanced awkwardly and hastening along I slid into the lushest Salmonberry bushes I'd ever seen (*Rubus Spectabilis*) and a spectacle it was as I looked at thousands of big red berries. I gave up all thoughts of reaching the summit and filled myself and a big plastic bag with berries. Satisfied that the route would "go", given more time, I returned to the Byron Glacier trail parking spot, descending through the bushes, scratching legs, crushing berries, which later I finally ate as puree. Time permitted me to look at the route above water level; some fine rock climbing there and I went for a while without rope, but it seems that to go all the way to the Glacier one would need at least two people with rope and hardware.

On August 20, I got an early start, again under blue skies, and selected an even steeper gully, completely devoid of alder growth but with plenty of climbing challenges. Before noon I reached the Glacier, which it didn't take long to traverse, and went up the West Face of my target, reaching what impresses as the summit, viewed from the Lake, in early afternoon. Then I proceeded along a most amazing earthquake shattered ridge which required some delicate climbing in one spot, but I got to the end of the Ridge and the summit safely. There I placed a register bottle surrounded by a small cairn. The route from Whittier via Shakespeare Shoulder seemed tedious, and I was glad I'd decided against that. The easiest route would be to go up Burns Glacier farther than I did and get to the summit via the South Ridge. After a brief rest I descended the South Face and struggled back to where I came from. The final stretch down the cliffs to "Byron" valley was the most demanding, and I was glad to reach my car and a can of ginger ale. I had climbed about 7500 feet to reach my 3850 foot summit, enough for one day.

DIDILKAMA, 6119'

June 28, 1969

Helen Nienhueser

It was 6:00 AM, and we weren't at Safeway parking lot yet, thanks to me. But we were by a few minutes after --- and found a very small crowd. By 6:30 we were still missing some of those who had been eager the night before ---- but we did have Peter Vlasveld, Lotte Dramer, Chuck Pease, and Allen Sherry, in addition to ourselves, Gayle and Helen Nienhueser. Wondering what had happened to our missing members (1 man and 2 girls), we reluctantly headed toward the Talkcetnas and Fern Mine.

Later, after a narrow escape for our oil pan on the Fern Mine Road, we arrived at road's end --- to find waiting at least one of our missing crew, Randy Renner ---who had gotten to bed at 4:00 AM after a party --- so had elected to grab an extra half hour's sleep and meet us at the mine. He knew nothing of the missing two girls.

Lotte and I changed to shorts and set out up the old mine road ahead of the others, and as long as the terrain was level we maintained our lead. As the road petered out, and we headed across the tundra carpet, I wondered why I'd never been up this lovely valley before. The day would have been beautiful except for the smoke haze which hung over all Alaska. It lent a ghostly quality to the mountains which loomed out of it only as vague shapes.

In about a mile the trip changes abruptly from horizontal to vertical, and suddenly Lotte was gone and the men were passing me. Only the fact that Randy, still working off the effects of the party the night before, was behind me kept my morale intact! And that didn't last long.

We had lunch on a rocky outcrop beside the glacier, then donned long pants and crampons and headed up the glacier. Chuck, the only one without crampons, managed the ascent without difficulty, but had some trouble coming down. Near the top the crampons came off, and we took turns climbing the last few feet to the tiny summit, some of us roped, some unroped, depending on the state of our nerves and experience.

The descent was uneventful except for Chuck's necessary self arrest and subsequent rerouting. Down in the valley we met Bob Spurr and Chuck McLaughlin who had just completed the first ascent of Katodoyona (Peak 5530') They left us in a bit too much of a hurry, however, for at the cars Chuck pulled cold beer out of the stream and passed it around. Our departure was somewhat delayed.

When we did depart, our car was preceded by the other two. Never mind who -- suffice it to say the first two cars contained three men. When we pursued them, after Lotte and I had picked our fill of wildflowers, we came upon a roadblock about a mile down the road. Parked squarely in the middle of the road were the two cars, standing next to them were the two girls who had been missing that morning, clad in short shorts, and firmly surrounded by the three men. The roadblock made no move to disperse, so after some conversation, we were forced to ask the drivers to move their cars. They did, though no more than necessary, and quickly returned to that little circle. The bachelor in our car looked sadly out the window as we moved part, and all the way back to town bemoaned his fate at being in the wrong car!

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BITS AND PIECES

A Nominating Committee was appointed and includes Nick Parker, Chairman, Grace Hoeman, Hans Van derLaan, and Helen Nienhueser. They will meet between September and October meetings to select a slate of officers for the 1969-1970 year. Interested people should call Nick Parker (277-2030, evenings) or any other member of the committee to suggest nominees for office.

REMINDER: DUES IN OCTOBER!

Congratulations to John Wolfe and Margaret Rouse who were married on August 8.

MCA's newest member is David Karl Snyder, born to Dick and Liska Snyder on August 18.

Members of the Bavarian Section of the Deutsche Alpen Verein (G. Gruber, W. Munster, and G. Mundl) made a first ascent of Mt. Sergeant Robinson, 10,650', SE Ridge via the Assassination Glacier on August 8, 1969. They had just returned from a successful Brooks Range Expedition (led by E. Griessel and R. Neuger, also D.A.V.) where they had done a couple of firsts in the Peters Lake area as well as a climb of Mt. Chamberlin.

NOTICE: A meeting of the Committee on Geographic Names is planned for Monday, Sept. 15, at 8:00 PM at Grace Hoeman's residence, 2500 Glenwood Street. All interested members and those who want to submit names please attend.

Grace Hoeman offers the following additions to the Lost Lake article in the August, 1969 issue of SCREE: Peak 5710' is Mt. Ascension, climbed by Vin and Grace Hoeman on October 6, 1968 (see November, 1968 and March, 1969 SCREE). Peak 5150' is a prominent point on the east ridge of Mt. Ascension rather than an independent mountain.

On July 19, Ken Martinson, Jim Hunke, and Dave Hunke got off to an early start (7:00) and climbed the Ramp and scrambled along the long ridge to Mt. Williwaw, reaching the

latter by 2:00. They found both cairns and registers intact. They descended Williwawa east face via rock glissades and walked the Ship Creek Valley, over the pass to South Fork's northern tributary, reaching the car at 7:30 PM. The weather was cold, wet, and windy.

HELP!! HELP!!

SCREE'S SMALL, OVERWORKED, FAITHFUL MAILING STAFF DESPERATELY NEEDS HELP!! IF YOU ARE WILLING TO DEVOTE JUST A FEW HOURS ONE EVENING A MONTH TO HELPING, PLEASE CALL CAROL DEVOE AT 333-5492.

NEW AND NEWLY PAID UP MEMBERS:

Charles T. Gasta, 3109 Cheechako - Apt. 2, Home: 272-6158, Work: 272-8511. Wayne Gehman, Vet Section, HHC Ft. Richardson, Alaska, Home: 863-3297, Work: 862-3297. Richard Holdaway, One Wellington Downs, Scotch Plains, New Jersey, 07076, Home: 756-6670. George Mark, 435 East 16th Avenue, Home: 277-0842, Work: 277-6652. Ken Martinson, 2815 44th Street, Home: 277-1024, Work: 272-2568. Stephen D. Shrader, 356-B Juneau Avenue, Fort Richardson, Alaska, Home: 863-2132, Work: 862-4200. David Schneider, Box 1272, Star Rt. A, Home: 344-3823.

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