



MOUNTAINEERING CLUB OF ALASKA

BOX 2037

ANCHORAGE, ALASKA 99510

SEPTEMBER 1977

VOLUME XX, No. 9

SEPTEMBER MEETING

Wednesday, September 21, 8 PM, Pioneer School House, Third and Eagle, Anchorage. A Mini-Slide Show will be presented by DAVE KLINGER who will show slides of summer hikes in the Anchorage area. The Main Program will be TOM MEACHAM's presentation of a climbing-kayak reconnaissance of the Revelation Mountains and the Dig River. GWYNETH WILSON, one of the MCA's charter members, will be presented with the Club's Honorary Lifetime Certificate.

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MINUTES OF JULY GENERAL MEETING, MOUNTAINEERING CLUB OF ALASKA

Wednesday, July 20, 1977, Central Junior High

The meeting was called to order. During the short business meeting the Club's Honorary Lifetime Membership Award was made to Helga Bhyre who now lives in Washington but who was in attendance at the meeting. The Club has attempted to honor each of those five or six charter members of the Club who are still members of MCA today by awarding honorary Lifetime Memberships in recognition of their years of faithful support. The remaining awards will be made in the near future.

The main program was based on the Club's hut system. DICK TEALER presented slides of his Eklutna traverse, with a report on the condition of the cabins used in the traverse. JOHN DILLMAN and JEFF MOELLER presented slides of their climbs in the Min' Glacier area of the Talkeetnas, based at the Rainery Hut on Mint Glacier. They and members of their party successfully conquered Montana Peak and Troublemint simultaneously after very challenging ascents.

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MINUTES OF AUGUST GENERAL MEETING, MOUNTAINEERING CLUB OF ALASKA

Wednesday, August 17, 1977, Pioneer Schoolhouse, Anchorage

The meeting was called to order at 8:10 PM by President TOM MEACHAM. The Treasurer's report showed: Checking, \$533.98; Savings, \$443.50; Cash-on-hand, \$41.80; for a total of \$1019.28. JEAN McDOWELL volunteered to handle refreshments at future meetings. TOM MEACHAM announced that the Seattle Mountaineers had written to say that \$996.00 had been received from sales of "55 Ways" in the Seattle area. Ten percent of the \$996.00 belongs to MCA. The MCA is still offering copies of "55 Ways" for a reduced price of \$7.20.

COLONEL DAVE KLINGER announced that a full curl ram has been found shot near Temptation Peak, and asked for any information concerning the incident. TOM MEACHAM said that MCAers should immediately report any such incidents to park rangers. TOM also asked people to salvage peak registers for retyping and returning to the summit

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MINUTES OF AUGUST MEETING continued.

TERRY BECKER announced that an Ice Climbing School will be held the last week of September at the Matanuska Glacier. There will be a \$5.00 fee per person.

After the break for refreshments, JEFF BABCOCK presented a very interesting slide show on the recent Denali Sourdough Commemorative Expedition where the climbers attempted to haul a 14-foot spruce pole to the summit. The meeting was adjourned.

DAVID NEWCOMBE, Secretary

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IN MEMORIAM

LINDA HESTING  
1950-1977

Linda was born, raised, and educated amidst the cornfields of Indiana. She moved to Anchorage in 1973 and was immediately fascinated with the mountains of Alaska. She became an avid hiker. I can remember her enthusiastically telling about arriving from the great plains that first summer and joining MCA. Soon this novice hiker/climber found herself at Williwaw Lakes on an MCA outing, gawking at the peaks she would climb in the years to come.

I met Linda, the accomplished hiker, in the spring of 1975. As I, too, had climbed in Alaska for a couple years, we found we had much in common. Linda was an excellent pot-thrower (not at me, in the ceramics studio), a women's lib activist, and a student of yoga. But after a few weekends in the mountains Linda had the basics down, and being the basic hook, line, and sinker case, she all but gave up these other pursuits. I can't remember all the peaks we climbed together, but I do recall how her enthusiasm for mountaineering grew after each weekend. (Linda's Clark Kent workaday world was spent as an assistant manager for the Book Cache Stores.)

We did the seventh ascent of Hurdy-Gurdy in the rain and fog. The summit of Bashful (fifth ascent) included a rocky bivouac and an earthquake. "Did anyone feel that shake?" I asked. In more of humorous comment on trembling nerves than trembling mountains Linda replied, "I don't know about you, but I've been shaking all the way up this darn ridge." We spent a couple weeks hiking and climbing in the mountains of North Wales. In between logging hours in those fine pubs drinking stout, we managed to do the north ridge of Tryfan in quite a storm. On an unsuccessful winter attempt on Mt. Sanford Linda was ill on the descent but she still carried an 80-pound pack for two days to the landing site. This summer we made the fourth ascent of Montana Peak in beautiful weather. A few weeks later Linda, with the two companions she was killed with on Carpathian, made the difficult second ascent of Troublemint.

Linda, a beautiful person and a good climber, had plans to trek through Nepal this autumn and to climb Sanford and McKinley this spring. Let's hope for Linda's and all our sakes that there are mountains in the next life.

P.S. As many of Linda's friends have hung out at Fern Mine this summer, we have informally decided to call the rock climbing area there "Hesting Rock."

GARNET ROEHL

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IN MEMORIAM continued.

JEFF LUBNER, a friend with whom I have shared the British Mountains, and the wilderness of Greenland and Alaska; a contemporary at University and a fellow member of the Cambridge Mountaineering Club and "Wogs and Togs"; a most gifted, sensitive and charming young lawyer; a true friend.

LINDA HESTING, one of the finest and most enthusiastic lady climbers in Alaska; a unique personality and a friend.

CHRIS AREND and I are going to establish a memorial fund for DON, LINDA, and JEFF-- maybe other members would like to contribute a book to the MCA library in their memory or help towards new gear and equipment for all those amazing people who gave so very much to the search and rescue operation on Carpathian in appalling weather. Please contact CHRIS AREND at 694-9835 (home), or 277-2723 (work).

Thank You,

SUE WRENN

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A SIGNIFICANT THOUGHT

In view of the recent Club and personal tragedy on Carpathian Peak, the following thought, from an old graveyard in Cumberland, England, via Maudie Marie and Audobon Magazine, has special meaning:

The wonder of the world, the beauty and the power,  
The shape of things, their colors, lights, and shades,  
These I saw,  
Look ye also while life lasts.

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The MCA VIN HOFFMAN LIBRARY

The Club is very grateful to the family and friends of LINDA HESTING for the gift of several of her books to the MCA Library in her memory. The gift of LINDA's books to the Club include:

- Mountaineering (Blackshaw)
- International Mountain Rescue Handbook (MacInnes)
- The New Complete Walker (Fletcher)
- Mountaineering and Rock Climbing (Lyman and Riviere)
- The Land Beyond the Mountains (Shinkarev)
- Advanced Rockcraft (Robbins)
- Map and Compass (Kjellstrom)
- Alaska's Back Trails (Carter)
- Glacier Bay (John)
- Exploring Mt. McKinley National Park (Montague)
- Bergsteigen: Basic Rock Climbing (Aloith)
- The Climber's Sourcebook (Schneider)
- Basic Rockcraft (Robbins)
- Annapurna (Herzog)
- Modern Snow and Ice Techniques (March)
- Everest Southwest Face (Dorington)
- Mt. McKinley (Washburn)

The Club is very grateful for this generous contribution to the Hoffman Library.

Other recent MCA Library acquisitions, purchased with funds voted by the membership include:

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MCA Vin Hoeman Library continued.

In the Throne Room of the Mountain Gods (Rowell)  
Annapurna South Face (Donington)  
Mountain of Storms (Harvard)  
Hall of the Mountain King (Snyder)  
Glacier Ice (Post and LaChapelle)  
Downward Bound (Harding)  
The Ultimate Challenge (Donington)  
The Alps (Clark)  
Climbing in North America (Jones)

The Hoeman Library is located at TOM MEACHAM's home, 1410 H Street. MCA members are welcome to use it--please call first (277-2129) to make sure someone is at home.

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#### SUMMIT REGISTERS

TOM MEACHAM now has in his possession the original summit registers (scraps of paper, gum wrappers, business cards, candy bar stiffeners, etc.) from several peaks in the vicinity, recovered by MCA members over the past few weeks. After typing in chronological order, we will replace the registers in water-tight containers with a copy of the typed register. Another copy of the typed register, and the original scraps of paper, will be retained in booklets in the MCA Library.

The registers now awaiting typing are: Homicide Peak, Roundtop, Montana Peak, Powerline Pass Peak, Pioneer Peak, O'Malley Peak, and Bird Creek Ridge (3505). The register at Bird Creek Ridge (3858) has disappeared. TOM also has the registers for East Twin Peak and Blacktail Rock.

Anyone planning an ascent of any of these peaks in the near future should check with TOM to see if a register is ready to return to the summit. We'd like to get them back on top as soon as possible to keep an unbroken chronology of names and dates.

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#### DEPARTING MCA MEMBERS

The MCA has lost several faithful members who have moved to warmer (or rainier, or at least different!) climates this summer. GIL TODD and his family moved to Stockton, California in July. His address is:

c/o Federal Bureau of Investigation

(P.O. Box 1568)

Stockton, California 95201.

SUE WRENN is being deported to England, she says, after four years in Alaska. But we understand that matrimony may bring her back, hopefully on a permanent basis. SUE's address will be:

6, St. Mark's Court

Barton Road

Cambridge, England, U.K.

DAVID NEWCOMBE, who has served faithfully as MCA secretary and equipment chairman, will leave to attend college in England. His parents remain in Anchorage, however, and we hope DAVID will be able to participate in future MCA activities when he returns to Anchorage on vacation from school.

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MCA ANNUAL ELECTIONS

Elections will be held at the October meeting for new officers and board members for the Club. If any Club member wishes to be considered for any office, please call TOM MEAGHAM, 277-2129. Offices up for election are: President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, and Board Members. Volunteers are also needed to help on committees, especially as equipment chairman. PAUL DENKEWALTER has volunteered his name on the slate for the position of President.

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HIKING SCHEDULE

Hiking will be available every weekend as weather permits. If you have an urge to hike somewhere, call DONA AGOSTI to see what's on for that particular weekend. Her number is 279-2901.

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HIKING AND CLIMBING TRIP REPORTS

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HOMICIDE 4660'

(Continued from August SCREE.) GREG HIGGINS mentioned in the August SCREE that he had recovered the Homicide Peak register, with one entry (6-27-76) illegible. JIM RINKERT has informed us that this entry was made by STEVE NYMAN and him, who were accompanied to the summit by a stray dog which met them in the valley and tagged along to the summit.

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BLACK TAIL ROCKS (4446') and ROUNDTOP (4755')  
July 28, 1977  
by GREG HIGGINS

Since the weather had been so good, I decided to take a late afternoon stroll to look at the registers on Black Tail and Roundtop. With hang-gliders leaping off the ridge behind me and blue sky above, I reached Black Tail Rocks around 4 PM. There was a glass jar register there in good shape, but the earliest recorded entry was MARK FOUT's in 1974. Leaving the register as it was, I set off for Roundtop.

Roundtop had a well-protected glass register. The earliest recording was by the DeVoe's in 1967. I replaced this register with a new tablet, pencils, and sharpener, and brought down the original for copying and preservation.

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MONTANA 6950'  
August 6-9, 1977  
by GREG HIGGINS

We left the Little Susitna Roadhouse under cloudy skies on Saturday carrying in a new Coleman lantern and a gallon of fuel to be left at the cabin. The three of us, GEORGE EDGE, my wife LORETTA, and myself, reached the cabin that evening to find RICK PRICE and BRUCE McKEY who had come in the previous day with plans for a ten-day stay.

GEORGE and I set out for Montana late the next morning reaching the summit at 4:15 after a nice 25-foot rock problem on the ridge. We had earlier seen RICK and BRUCE (continued)



MONTANA continued.

on the top of 6693 as we climbed out of the rock gully onto the ridge. The register consisted of a small glass jar within a can. Entries in the jar were intact, but the can lid was loose and entries not in the jar were soaked. There had been five previous climbs with VIN HOEMAN, CLIFF ELLS, and JOHN SAMUELSON's 1963 climb from Reed Lakes being the earliest. We replaced the register with a new plastic container. After copying the original entries on a new tablet, we stored the originals in our packs to be brought out and preserved.

Next morning BRUCE, RICK, and I set off to look at the south ridge of Spearmint which I had been part way up in 1973 with LORETTA. There were a few good moments of rock climbing mounting the huge gendarme seen from the cabin. A rappel on the backside brought us to the summit ridge at 5:30 PM. While trying to work the summit block on the east side a supposedly secure foot stance gave way sending me free-falling 20 to 30 feet where my unfortunate shins met the mountain. Since I was hurting and it was getting dark and glowering weatherwise, we bailed out the snow gully on the west face and a few rappels, one bergschrund problem, and a hike back around brought us to our cached gear. We reached the survey marker overlooking the cabin to find a brilliant beacon of light emanating from the creek below. LORETTA had carried the lantern out to the stream as darkness set in and was awaiting us there.

It rained much of the night. We packed up next day and hiked out amongst the willow, cows, and rain. Reflecting on the cabin: it appears in excellent shape except for two rather large holes to the right of the door, probably caused by some animal. There are now a permanent lantern and cook stove with probably three gallons of fuel present.

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MATANUSKA PEAK 6119'  
August 7, 1977  
by DAVID NEWCOMBE

At about 8:30 in the morning, WES HOWE, BERNIE KAZMIERCZAT, ART TAYLOR, DICK ULRICH, BILL STIVERS, and myself started hiking up towards Lazy Mountain on our way to Matanuska Peak. The sky remained overcast for the day but the visibility was still good. After stopping for lunch we finally reached the summit at about 3 PM. Instead of going up the gully for the last few hundred feet below the summit, as usual, we traversed across the gully and then went up the talus slope beyond. While on the summit we returned the retyped register and placed it in a new container. Our descent took about 4 1/2 hours, as we all arrived back at the road between 7 and 8 PM

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LOST LAKE  
August 13-14, 1977  
by RICHARD ULRICH

Participants were JEAN McDOWELL, PIERCE and EMILY McINTOSH and son MIKE, ROSEMARY KOBUS and sons MIKE, CHRIS, and MATTHEW, and DICK ULRICH. As usual the meeting place was Fred Meyer's parking lot at 6 AM. We arrived at our destination about 8:30 AM. The trip to the lake was a pleasant seven mile journey through beautiful alpine forest, water falls everywhere, scenic glaciers, view of Resurrection Bay, alpine meadows, then barren landscape with tundra cover.

The big question on everybody's mind was "Where is Lost Lake?" and the thrill, when seen, Lost Lake was once again found. A phenomenon does occur that literally one could not find Lost Lake under certain circumstances. The lake was entirely visible, then out of nowhere a blanket of fog settled over the entire lake. All the mountains  
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LOST LAKE continued.

sky, and surrounding terrain were still visible. Approximately 15 to 20 minutes passed, the fog lifted, dissipated, and once again Lost Lake was in its glory.

Fortunately, Saturday was a rain-free day until after all of us sacked out. It poured rain for the rest of the night and Sunday morning until some of us got back to our cars in record time for the trip back. All in all, a very worthwhile trip.

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PIONEER PEAK - SOUTH AND NORTH SUMMITS  
August 27-28, 1977  
by GREG HIGGINS

HUGH FLEISCHER, BOB WILLIAMS, DICK PATSOS, and myself left our car on Saturday morning intent on doing some serious bush-whacking up the ridge that leads to the East Bowl system of Pioneer. We went up the west ridge above the major drainage system of the bowl and set up camp around 2600' above the creek split shown on the map.

We left camp at 8:30 next morning in thick clouds and proceeded up the ridge splitting the two higher valleys, joined the south ridge, and finally reached the south summit around noon. We found no cairn so we built one and placed a new register.

While my companions sun-bathed in what sun was around I proceeded to the true summit. JEFF BABCOCK had placed a fabulous hardbacked book register there last year and everything was in excellent shape. I pulled all of the original sheets (including the first recorded climb of August 16, 1953 by PAUL CREWS, HARRY PURSELL, and WARREN CROSBY) to be copied and replaced at a later date.

After rejoining my compadres on the south summit, I proceeded with them back to camp for a late lunch. Preparing ourselves for the worst, we packed up and refought our way back to the car in failing light.

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WILLIWAW LAKES  
August 27-28, 1977  
by JOHN NEVIN

Needing a change from the workaday world, JERRY JOST and I decided mid Saturday to hike up Campbell Creek's mid fork to the Williwaw Lakes and out the north fork-- unfamiliar territory to us both. We left Prospect Heights at 1:30 PM, passed a few berry pickers, then headed up the middle fork. Two moose watched us as we gorged ourselves enthusiastically on the fantastic blueberry (Alaskan plums??) and cranberry crops. It was evident the bears had been doing the same. A peaceful night was spent at a lake near the end of the valley.

Morning met us with a lot of fog, especially in the pass. We went anyway and in spite of poor visibility, enjoyed the beautiful lakes. The fog prevented us from leaving the narrow pass summit so we waited 45 minutes until we could see to get down. Just as we were going to try a figure approached out of the fog behind us-- BILL STIVERS, hoping to walk the ridge back. The sun came out and the view was superb, including two sheep at a lower lake. We berry picked our way out the north fork, through the cut behind Near Point and back to the car.

Although longer, I feel this is just as beautiful a family trip as Reed Lakes at a lot closer, with less climbing exertion.

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JOHNSON PASS TRAIL,  
 September 3-5, 1977  
 by JOHN NEVIN

Saturday, September 3, found CHUCK KIBLER, ROB WIENER, JIM and DEE SACKS, DAVE KLINGER, and myself at Fred Meyer ready for the Johnson Pass Trail. DAVE and I let the other four off at Granite Creek for an early start into the fog while we took the cars to Upper Trail Lake to leave one and pick up BILL STIVERS and GENE KLYMKO, who had been fishing at Seward. Back at Granite Creek we launched off into the fog on the 9.3 mile trail to Bench Lake along Bench Creek. We covered the first three miles in 45 minutes but slowed as we gained altitude and the sun came out. The trail was in good shape as were most of the bridges. We arrived at the lake after two and found the others had set up camp along with several other parties around the lake. The forest service had said the fishing was excellent, and true that was. Bench Lake produced all the grayling people wanted and Johnson Lake all the rainbows. GENE mentioned he was going to catch breakfast the next day, which he did by pulling in three fish on four casts and had them cooking, all in ten minutes. Bill and I bushwacked to the top of a ridge behind camp to look over prospects for a hike the next day. We could see Upper Trail Lake and people camping on Johnson Lake.

Next morning DAVE led four of us back down the trail a ways and up into a cerq, at the end of which we hoped to gain a ridge overlooking the Placer valley. The plan looked dubious but after some tense moments of trasping for foot holds on hard scree and hand holds on loose rock, three of us gained the saddle and then proceeded up a small glacier to the ridge. The phenomenal view of the glaciers and railroad loops enhanced our lunches. We went back down via a steep snow slope. On the way down we heard a whistle which with the aid of field glasses we found belonged to GENE who had hurt an old foot injury and was lodged high on the mountain in a nearly vertical, narrow crack. Had it not been for the whistle it is doubtful we would have found him, since waterfall noise drowned out voices. With a little help he was down and we rejoined the successful fishermen at camp who had had lots of planes and hikers come through.

After shaking the ice off our tents we headed for Upper Trail Lake, some 12½ miles away via the revised trail. BILL introduced us to mushroom picking, resulting in bulging bread wrappers upon reaching the cars. Wildlife seen consisted of four moose, two sheep, and a porcupine. Weather was excellent and all seemed to enjoy themselves.

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TECHNICAL ICE SCHOOL

September 22 Central Junior High School, 15th and E, at 8 PM in room 67-68 is  
Thursday a mandatory classroom session and equipment check. Bring your  
gear.

September 25 Matanuska Glacier  
Sunday

Required equipment: Helmet, 12-point crampons, curved pick ice axe, swami belt,  
one carabiner.

Fee: \$5.00.

The emphasis of this school will be technical ice climbing, involving ascents of  
60° plus ice, using front points and hand tools. As a result, no self-arrest or  
glacial travel techniques will be taught.

This is a good opportunity for people to investigate the technical aspects of climb-  
ing. Great strength is not necessary; balance is a much more important asset, as  
was evidenced by the number of women in last year's school. Prior experience is not  
essential, but a knowledge of belaying and repelling would be helpful. There will be  
a limit of four students per instructor.

Sign-up is at the September 21 MCA meeting, or see TERRY at AMH, 2633 Spenard Road,  
272-1811.

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