



MOUNTAINEERING CLUB OF ALASKA

BOX 2037

ANCHORAGE, ALASKA 99510

September 1981

Volume 24, Issue #9

September Meeting

The meeting will be held Wednesday, September 16th, at 8:00pm on the top floor of the Pioneer Schoolhouse, Third and Eagle, Anchorage, Alaska. During the meeting, nominations for next years club officers will be taken. Elections will be held at the October meeting. After the business meeting an equipment swap/sale will be held in the meeting room. This is an excellent time to get some extra cash for that equipment that is no longer needed or to pick up just the right item at a bargain price...

MINUTES OF AUGUST GENERAL MEETING

The meeting was called to order on August 19, 1981 at 8:08pm by President Lohff. The reading of the minutes of the previous meeting was waived and they were approved as published in SCREE.

Executive Board Meeting Report: Arrangements were made for an ice climbing class at the Matanuska Glacier September 26-27. A fall picnic is scheduled in the Powerline Pass area Sept. 19-20. A proposal by Mike Frank was considered concerning the proposed hike path from the Ship Creek area over to Potter Marsh along Cook Inlet. Its cost of \$10 million in the legislative appropriation was cut to \$3 million by the Governor. The Board approved a letter which was sent to the Anchorage Municipal Assembly requesting that it add \$7 million of unobligated funds needed to complete the project. The Board also discussed using some of the money in the Club's Money Market Fund to build a new cabin more accessible than those on the Eklutna Glacier. Suggestions will be welcomed. One was to move an existing cabin to a new location by helicopter.

Treasurer's Report:

Cash	\$	73.10	
Checking acct.		405.51	Total \$3,353.90
Money mkt. fund		2,875.29	

Introduction of guests: At least eleven guests were introduced.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Geographic Names: Names for three peaks, Near Point, North and South Suicide; previously submitted to and rejected by the State were approved by the Federal Board on Geographic Names, which automatically required State approval.

Huts: In the absence of John Dillman, who was busy climbing, Peter Sennhauser reported that repairs would be made to some huts as soon as the weather clears.

OLD BUSINESS: Discussion continued from the previous meetings on the Club rejoining the Federation of Western Outdoor Clubs. President Lohff read the FWOC's statement of purposes. A motion was made and seconded that MCA not join FWOC. After further discussion, John Lohff suggested he could phone Ginny Wood in Fairbanks, the last FWOC Alaska representative, and report back at the next meeting. A motion was made, seconded, and passed to table the preceding motion.

NEW BUSINESS: At the next MCA meeting on Sept. 16 there will be a pre-winter equipment swap. Pon Phodhamel announced a special hike from Girdwood to Eagle River on September 12-15 to film a movie. One man asked about hiking routes into the Eklutna and Eagle River areas.

The business portion of the meeting adjourned at 8:44 pm. After the intermission for refreshments, Jim Eason introduced Steve Davis, a recent arrival in Anchorage and former guide on Mt. Rainier. Steve gave an outstanding slide show on the first ascent of the West Ridge of Mt. Logan by four climbers, including himself. The expedition took over 30 days. The fly-in access was from Kluane Lake in the Yukon Territory. Meeting adjourned at 10:00pm.

Al Robinson, Acting Secretary

MCA OVERNIGHT PICNIC

The Mountaineering Club picnic proposed for September 19 and 20 in the Powerline Pass area got a favorable reaction at the August meeting so it is going to happen. A second sign up sheet will be available at the club meeting on September 16. The club will provide food supplies, and those interested in an overnight picnic must provide the people.

MCA OFFICERS NEEDED

The time for the annual business meeting is one month away. This means the election of officers will happen in October. If you have an interest in running for any of the offices of President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer or Board member please contact a current officer and express your interest. Please let us know in time for announcement at the September 16 meeting. Thank you.

TRIP REPORTS

CRESCENT LAKE TRAIL John Nevin

The Seward ranger told me it was raining buckets and we'd have to bring our own weather along. It was partly sunny when six of us left Anchorage for Crescent Lake. Although threatening at the trail head it was not raining. We met Gary Vesperman from Moose Pass (a guest of Glenn Clark- honorary member of MCA and Glenn Alps homesteader) and started up the wide trail. Only Vicky Brown, Charlie Novy and myself were going in for an overnight. Kathy Leary, Kathy Harwood Long, Allen Reed and Gary were day hiking. Mushrooms abounded and Charlie knows mushrooms! Except for one remaining snow slide the trail was good and it took little time to reach the cabin.

A family of six was leaving and had it clean and warm.

I encountered two unsuccessful fishermen and made their day when they found I had just come from the Wrangle mountain area where they were going to sheep hunt. They were eager for river and trail conditions.

A fisherman/game trail hugs the lake shore to the Carter Lake trail. From this I was one young bull moose feeding off the lake bottom. I timed my exposure between trees with his predictable head under water time. However, one clearing was too long and we wound up going in opposite directions.

The snug cabin was welcome with the all night rain. However, some thoughtless person had ripped the outhouse apart for fire wood.

The trip out went quickly with only $\frac{1}{2}$ hour of rain. A fine and very legal bull moose was seen in a clearing near the trail head. We apparently didn't concern him since he turned his back and lay down. No bear or evidence of same was seen.

RENDEZVOUS PEAK August 23, 1981

On one of Anchorage's rare sunny days this summer, fourteen persons, ranging in age from 8 to 75, make the summit of Rendezvous before noon. Views were great from the pass as well as from the peak. The late summer wildflower display along the trail was rewarding, and some of the hikers slowed their ascent to identify such blooms as valerian, goldenrod, Siberian aster, arnica, coastal paintbrush, monkshook, swertia, shiming bells, luetkea, and on the upper slopes mountain harebell with the tiny ground-hugging willows. Returning to the cars down the ridge and between the Arctic Valley ski lifts, we found the opposite hillside thronged with berry pickers, and the parking lots full. Enjoying the good weather were Roger and Jean Kennedy, their son Charles and grandson Ryan Kennedy, Hope Dunlap, Mark Gorman, Rick Weide, Brigitte Ressel, Sandy McDonald, Alan Irvine, John Nevin, Tony Bockstahler, and Al and Liz Robinson. John and Hope also hiked up Mt. Gordon Lyon.

THORKONA, ONE ABOVE THE STORM El Rojohombre

The sun went up and the sun went down as we trudged on ahead. But we saw little of the yellow orb in late February for the valley of the Gakona was filled with dark cloud. The sun teased us with tantalizing splashes of brilliance each morning, only to mischievously sneak away when we had donned skis and sallied forth, leaving us encased in featureless white.

Deep snow and sulking clouds dogged our paths as we searched for elusive peaks. Gakona and the Thorn had existed, at one time, to be climbed but of them we saw no more than the gnarled toes even as we encamped at their respective feet.

An alluring display of sun led us, one day, to dash up an 8000 foot high point two miles south of the Thorn. But the sun snickered and left us there to find our way down, again, into the gloomy white-depths below while freight trains roared above.

March was well upon us before, in near desparation, we took a vague promise of sun on high to grope our way up the southeast buttress of a peak with twin summits- the 9000 foot peaks of Thorkona, the close neighbor west of the Thorn.

Above 8000 feet, peaks did exist. The Thorn, as well as Gakona and small pieces of Kimball broke the billowy blanket. Views were fleeting, however, as cloud sprang upward, overwhelming all that strove to reach the sun. On the summit of Thorkona, however, the sun allowed us to bask in its brilliance. Such benevolence came, though, at the cost of no temperature and much wind. The sight of the magnificent Thorn rising now and again above the seething caldron of cloud repaid all that had been suffered on the long, gloomy journey to these peaks.

A summit we had made but one that was followed by a white, near-viewless return back up the Gakona and down the Canwell.

We departed after thirteen cloud-choked days, and drove away with a sun-drenched view of the peak we called Thorkona.

A RATHER DUM HISTORY OF THE DUM MOUNTAIN RANGE

El Rojohombre

The Dum Mountains lie hidden in the enshrouding mists that lurk around Tracy Arm Fiord in Southeast Alaska. The history of these glacier-clad summits has always been marred by frustration.

The Dum Range derives its name from the conspicuous glacier that hangs above the mouth of Endicott Arm. This prominent landmark was called Sumdum Glacier by early prospectors who reportedly got the name from the local Indians. Evidently the natives got tired of having to pronounce the Indian name for the hordes of early gold prospectors and finally, in utter frustration, began saying it was "just some dumb glacier" which the miners promptly corrupted to Sumdum.

Springing to a grandiose elevation of 6666 feet above the sea, Sum dum Peak commands the approach to the Dum Range. This regal summit has seen several ascents by its east and southwest ridges but acquired its name during the first attempt in the 1890's. A gold panner with no technique decided to give up prospecting and gain fame as a great Alaskan mountaineer. After two days of being soundly thrashed by alders and devils club, thoroughly vampirized by mosquitoes, and totally exhausted by knee-deep postholing he gave up in complete frustration saying he didn't need to climb "some dumb peak". The name stuck.

Climbing languished for over 80 years until a party of two climbed the 5985 foot summit of Someotherdum Peak in 1976. Frustration surrounding this climb was not on the part of the climbers but of the climbers' employer since the climbers were theoretically supposed to be working geologists. Someotherdum Peak got its name from the fact that, compared to NearlySum dum Peak, it was "just some other dumb peak".

In 1978, 4900 foot Anotherdum Peak was climbed for the first time. This climb, above Sweetheart Lake, was an epic 15 hour slog up the west ridge. The name of Anotherdum Peak is also linked to frustration. The summit party, wholly expecting to make a significant ascent, were devastated to find that, on the same day, the peak had seen two earlier climbs- a solo ascent of their own route by a bear and a notable climb of the peak's awesome east face by two goats. Upon arriving back in civilization the climbers, upon being asked how they'd done, were overheard to mutter something about it being "just another dumb peak."

Climbing history of the other peaks in the Dum Range is unknown. Many of the most important peaks, such as Thisdum Peak, Thatdum Peak and Theotherdum Peak, may be as yet unclimbed but since no one knows which peaks these are their history is rather vague.

The Dum Mountain Range awaits the challenge of the worlds' great mountaineers. Many summits lie waiting, needing only to be found to be climbed. Be the first on your block to climb a Dum Peak.

HISTORY CORNER

With elections coming around again I thought it would be a good time to record a listing of all the Club officers who were elected for the first ten years of the Club's existence. During this period there were only two BOD (Board of Directors) positions. Initially the position of S/T (secretary/treasurer) was combined, but in 1963 these were separated.

- 1958 Paul Crews, Pres.; Johnny Johnston, VP; Helga Bading, S/T; Erik Barnes and Larry Straley, BOD.
- 1959 Johnny Johnston, Pres.; Rod Wilson, VP; Helga Bading, S/T; Norm Pichler, BOD.
- 1960 Rod Wilson, Pres.; Howard Schoudk, VP; Lois Willard, S/T; Hans Metz, BOD.
- 1961 Howard Schock, Pres.; Gene Horning, VP; Mary Prescott, S/T; Johnny Johnston, BOD.
- 1962 Ed Fisher, Pres.; John Dillman, VP; Harriet Kiester, S/T; Tony Bockstahler, BOD.
- 1963 Gregg Erickson, Pres.; Dave DeVoe, VP; Vin Hoeman, S; Marie Lundstrom, T; Rod Wilson, BOD.
- 1964 Gary Hansen, Pres.; Ron Linder, VP; Dixie Piersen, S; Marie Lundstrom, T; Dave DeVoe, BOD.
- 1965 Ron Linder, Pres.; Gayle Nienhauser, VP; Helen Wolfe, S; Leo Hannon, T; Gary Hansen, BOS.
- 1966 Hans VanderLaan, Pres.; Frank Nosek, VP; Helen Wolfe, S; Steffen Maagoe, T; Paul Crews, BOD.
- 1967 Frank Nosek, Pres.; John Wolfe, VP; Callie VanderLaan, S; Bob Hansen, T; Hans VanderLaan, BOD.

Greg Higgins