



MOUNTAINEERING CLUB OF ALASKA

BOX 2037

ANCHORAGE, ALASKA 99510

September 1982

Volume 25, Issue #9

### SEPTEMBER MEETING

The meeting will be held Wednesday, September 15th at 8:00p.m. on the top floor of the Pioneer School House, Third and Eagle, Anchorage, Alaska. During the business meeting nominations will be taken for MCA officer and board positions. After the business meeting either John Lohff will present a program on his McKinley climb of last year or Tim Neale will show slides of the club's recent Eklutna traverse.

NOTE: October meeting will feature club elections and an equipment swap.

### MINUTES FOR MCA GENERAL MEETING

The August meeting of MCA was held on the 10th of August at the Pioneer School House, top floor, at 3rd & Eagle, Anchorage, Alaska. The meeting was called to order at 8:10p.m. by John Dillman, President. The reading of the July meeting minutes was approved as published in SCREE. The Treasurer, Reggie Buchanan reported:

\$ 64.87	Petty Cash Fund
110.69	Bank Account
3,794.87	Money Market Fund
<u>\$3,970.43</u>	Total Monies

New members introduced were: Ben Cabric, Bruce Mattes, Richard Holmes, Michael Rees, Richard Williams, Bill Salmon, Beau Bassett, Todd Smith, Faith Szafranski.

### COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Chugach State Park Trails Association: Tim Neale 274-4952  
The California Creek Trail brush out is scheduled for Sept. 18th. More information is given later in this month's SCREE.

Hiking: Dona Agosti 248-0089  
The following changes to the hiking scheduled were noted:  
August 21-22 is Indian Pass not Bird Pass.  
August 28-29 meet at UAA at 6:58 for the Lost Lake trip.  
Sept. 4-5-6 no dogs, please for the Byers Lake-Curry Ridge-Indian Ridge-Little Coal Creek Trip.

Hut: John Dillman 279-1246  
To date no location has been selected for the new hut to be built in the Talkeetnas. Rebuilding of existing huts has been scheduled. Mint Glacier and Eagle huts need sheet metal roofing, wall hole repairs, paint-vandal clean up, and varmit proofing in the form of heavy gauge metal flooring.

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Air fare and materials are estimated to cost \$1,000. Labor by 4 club members will be donated.

**BUSINESS:**

SCREE can use help with assembling and mailing. Please contact Pauline Dickey. Advertisements will be accepted from members with gear to sell.

Slide programs for after meeting entertainment are needed. Please contact Rick Severn at 344-7269.

The annual MCA picnic is scheduled for Sunday, August 22nd at Eklutna Lake. Hamburgers, hot dogs and non-alcoholic drinks will be provided by the club. Members please bring by last name: A-N salads, O-Z desserts, chips, etc.

Map & Compass Class: Graham Macdonald 345-5791  
The class will be scheduled in late Sept. or early Oct. It will consist of four class room and field sessions. Details at the September meeting.

The Sept., Oct., and Nov., meetings of MCA will be held at the top floor of Pioneer School house.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**Equipment Swap**

The annual equipment sell/swap is scheduled for the October meeting. Members bring your unwanted gear and see what bargains can be made.

**Officer Elections**

Election of new officers is scheduled for the October meeting. Positions available are: President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer and 2 Board seats.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**Memorial Fund**

A memorial fund has been established for Gunnar Naslund. A member of long and good standing he will be missed by those who knew him.

The American Alpine Club has a meeting scheduled for Sept. 11th at McKinley Park. If interested contact Paul at AMH.

The slide show was presented by Dan O-Hare on volcanos of Mexico and Alaska. Peaks shown were: Orazaba, 'Popo', 'Ixte', Mt. Spurr & Katamai of 10,000 Smokes. Many interesting scenes were seen.

The meeting adjourned at 8:55p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sandi Macdonald, Secretary

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M.C.A. 1982 PICNIC

The Mountaineering Club of Alaska's annual picnic was held under sunny skies, Sunday, August 22nd, with over 30 people in attendance.

After some discussion on how to start the charcoal, including one suggestion of torching it with 5 gallons of gasoline, the cooking started around 2:00p.m. Real talent showed as the hot dogs were being roasted. Technique varied greatly from those that laboriously turned their skewered hot dog rotisserie style, to those that rolled them in the coals hoping to cut down on the cooking time. For those that had hamburgers (either before or after their hot dogs), necessity was indeed the Mother of Invention. There was a grill attached to the fire pit, but use of it would have made it difficult to roast hot dogs, so the hamburger patties were wrapped in foil and put in the coals-nothing like a broiled hamburger.

The amount of food brought with those attending was that of truly devoted picnic goers. Deviation from the suggested menu resulted in such items as watermelon, cantaloupe, 'Mother's cookies', pickles, and freshly baked blueberry muffins with Alaska picked blueberries that turned the tongues of those that ate them, blue. All in all, a pleasant assortment of food.

After eating, set up and securing of the volleyball net was undertaken. Once again the Mountaineering Club proved that they weren't lacking in the competitive spirit. Members divided themselves up and play got progressively better as John Dillman learned to play the net and Peter Sennhauser got his serve down (or rather, up). At times it was hard to tell which was thicker: the dust, the bugs, or the harassment, but in the end, the game dispersed due to bugs.

As a final effort, there was a tug-of-war for a bottle of Bailey's Irish Cream (that was put up by Sam who won the trail snack contest with a 'freeze-dried drink' of hot chocolate and a bottle of Kaluha).

Fatigue was setting in as evening came and clean up was taken care of quickly and efficiently.

Eileen and I would like to thank all of those that attended the picnic. It was encouraging as organizers to have such enthusiastic participation. I would also like to express a special thanks to Rick Severn and his family for their help of unloading and hauling the coolers, charcoal and such to the picnic site.

Until next year,

Eileen Cavanaugh  
Bernie Helms

REMEMBER: The September Meeting is SEPTEMBER 15th.

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In Memoriam  
GUNNAR NASLUND  
1950-1982

On August 4, 1982, GUNNAR NASLUND, a seven year member of MCA, lost his life when he was struck by a collapsing cornice as he led a rope attempting the first ascent of Needle Mountain in the remote Granite Range.

Gunnar located in Anchorage after his 1975 graduation from Marquette Law School in Milwaukee, Wisc. His attraction to Alaska's mountain wilderness quickly turned to unfailing devotion when the climbing bug bit and he became an inveterate mountaineer and explorer almost from the start. After several years of sporadic legal employment and lengthy mountaineering sabbaticals, he largely abandoned the law for the mountains. He organized Wrangell-St. Elias Mountaineering, a mountain guiding business, and taught climbing classes for Alaska Pacific University and privately.

Whether teaching, guiding or just climbing, Gunnar's star always shown brightest in the mountains. We shared a 68 day Denali epic in 1977. That same year we were unsuccessful in attempting a winter ascent of Mt Sanford (Gunnar returned twice more before finally reaching that summit), and were "earthquaked" off the top of Bashful Peak in the Chugach. Subsequently, Gunnar guided four successful Denali Expeditions by three different routes. He climbed on Mts Hunter and Foraker, in the Alaska Range, and Mts Bona, Churchill, Drum, Blackburn, University, and many other peaks, named and unnamed, in the Wrangells, Mt Hesperus in the Revelations, Mts Newton and St Elias in the St Elias Range and skied 350 miles across the Bagley Icefield with a gang of us last spring.

Gunnar visited many of the world's great mountain ranges. He completed ascents in the Central Andes of Bolivia and Peru on his first visit to South America and he treked and climbed in Nepal and India with club members Sue Havens and John Dillman the next year. On his last visit to South America he climbed alone in the Cordillera Darwin of Tierra del Fuego after he missed shipping out to Antarctica by one day. He then joined an Argentine expedition and with one other made the second ascent of the beautiful Patagonian granite spire, Aguille de Poincenot. The same day I learned of his death I had just completed our application for a permit to climb a remote 24,000 foot peak in Nepal.

A self-effacing "snow cave philosopher", Gunnar spoke little of his mountaineering adventures and often made light of the attendant hardships. His pack was never too full for one more piece of group gear and he was always the first one out to shovel snow from the tent during a storm.

When I stood on the summit ridge of Needle Mountain the week following the accident and watched his brother Eric cut the rope and my friend's body slide into a crevasse on an unnamed

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glacier below, as Gunnar had once requested, I found, at least for myself, the answer to the perennial question, "Why do you climb mountains?" --- For the good company.

Here's to you my Ramblin' Boy  
May all your ramblin' bring you joy  
He left me here to ramble on  
My ramblin' pal is dead and gone  
If, when we die, we go somewhere  
I bet you a dollar he's ramblin' there  
Ramblin' Boy by Tom Paxton

JACK DUGGAN

VOLUNTEER CHUGACH STATE PARK TRAIL ASSOCIATION MAINTENANCE PROGRAM

For those interested in a beautiful fall day hike or an over-nighter on a rarely used trail, come help us brush out California Creek Trail on Sat., Sept. 18, 1982. To participate meet for breakfast at the bakery in Girdwood's Alyeska Lodge on the 18th at 9:00a.m. We'll head for the trailhead not later than 10:00a.m. To get to the trailhead drive down Crow Creek Road in Girdwood; California Creek is a few hundred yards after the Double Musky Inn, and the Creek passes under the road. If you have a four wheel drive take a left down the dirt road just before (10 feet South) the Creek and travel the road to a turn-around, about 1/4 mile, at the trail entrance. The trail will be liberally marked with engineer tape. If you don't have a four wheel drive, cross the bridge and drive 1/8 - 1/4 mile to a turn-around and park there--don't park on the road.

Bring a Sven saw or an ace; we could use a small chain saw, too. There's room at the top of the trail for tents for overnighters. The trail is about a 1-2 hour one way walk through thick woods, and opens up into an alpine area which can lead one to the headwaters of Bird and Penguin Creeks. Overnighters will need standard Alaskan be-ready-to-watch-it-rain/show gear, and whiskey. Ice climbing is a possibility on Sept. 19th at Byron Glacier, so bring appropriate gear. Contact Mike Frank, wk-276-4331, or hm-243-7645 for further details.

If you're interested in helping the Association paint the new wood bridge over the Middle Fork of the Campbell Creek on the way to Williwaw Beau Bassett, Director of the Alaska Wilderness School, will be leading a crew back there in September or October, and needs your help. His home phone is 345-1248. Park Headquarters is supplying paint and brushes and the trail is in excellent shape. A chance to be a da Vinci--don't pass it up.

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TRIP REPORTS

CHANGE TWO--INDIAN TO POWERLINE PASS August 21-22

Since the eight mile road to the start of Bird Creek Trail was reported as passable only by a four wheel drive vehicle, the original objective of Bird Creek Pass was changed to Indian Creek Pass. Then at the start of the hike another change was made. Maybe it was that we wished to camp at a larger lake, or perhaps it was the high alpine meadows that attracted us. Whatever the reason, we chose to hike to Powerline Pass and stay at the lake just Northwest of the pass.

Under sunny skies four of us hiked up the powerline trail Saturday morning. The stroll through the high meadow Southeast of the pass was a welcome relief after the uphill grind from the trailhead (near sea-level to 3200'). Don Hansen spotted 13 sheep in the rocks above the meadow and pursued and photographed them until they displayed Clas 5 climbing talents and moved to higher elevations.

In a cirque 500' directly below the pass, the lake is rimmed by tundra that made nice soft and level tent sites. We were put to sleep by the sound of gentle breezes, and awoke by three very loud dirt bikes at 7 a.m. (are they legal in the State Park?)

Being mostly down hill, we made short work of the trip back out to Indian the next day. Good company, favorable weather and great scenery made the trip enjoyable to all--even if the objective was changed--twice. Along on the hike were: Pat Gries, Jim Morrison, Marcia Brandy, and Don Hansen.

Jim Morrison

"For my part, I travel not to go anywhere, but to go"

ROBERT LOUIS STEVENSON

EKLUTNA-GIRDWOOD TRAVERSE (Well, almost) August

It's odd that with only three months of summer in Alaska some people will actually head up to the high country where winter is still a good possibility. Three days of snowstorms and whiteout were balance by three days of sunshine and the kind of scenery and people which best complement that sun.

Ten club members, Tim Neale, George Lawrence, Barb Kaehler, Bob O'Brian, Trisha Herminhaus, Peter Hoose, Dan O'Haire, Roger Maggard, Jack Hill and myself, left Eklutna Lake on a beautiful Friday afternoon to camp along Eklutna River not far from receding Eklutna Glacier. A short hike the next morning brought us to the ice and crampons. The glacier was snowfree for the 4000' elevation gain to Pichler's Perch located above the second icefall. This tidy hut, full of local mountaineering history and Richard Brautigan sayings, gave good shelter from the wind which picked up, bringing clouds.

Roger was sure surprised the next day when we hit snow to discover a missing toe piece on his ski bindings, but made do on foot. The rest of



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us found snowshoes useful, even in August, as we crossed onto Whiteout Glacier. Recent ski tracks led to the Whiteout Hut as the glacier lived up to its name for the rest of the day. Joke telling, brandy and drying-out followed.

Clear weather helped us find a route off the Whiteout and onto the Eagle Glacier, where we reached the nicely located Eagle Hut. For reasons unknown this hut had a fair amount of abuse with holes in the wall, paint spilled on the floor and leaks in the roof, so we finished the day by cleaning it up and making temporary repairs. The wind brought clouds again and as we set out for Raven Glacier visibility zeroed to the person roped in front and upon reaching the Raven Headwall the snow and wind increased enough to obscure a sure route off the wall and made a rappel unwise. We descended about 25 feet, then backed off and returned to another cozy night in the Eagle Hut.

By then George was short on lunches, so we promptly boogied 17 miles down the Eagle Glacier and out Eagle River, partly in the dark, and to home a day late.

We probably covered 60 miles all together. Nearly everyone in the group had their turn to fall part way through a snow bridge, adding to the excitement. George, who had never seen a crevasse before, was the first to take an unplanned look inside. Many thanks to an excellent group to be with on a glacier.

Willy Hersman

Jim Creek-Friday Creek Trip August 14-15

Six of us showed up August 14 to conquer the wilderness of Jim Creek to Friday Creek, located on the north side of Knik River, an area that used to be a veritable paradise for fish, ducks, sheep, goats, bear and moose.

We drove to within .8 mile of Jim Creek, which was easily crossed, and we headed toward Knik Glacier on hard sand. It soon became apparent that since I was last there many years ago, the channels of Knik River have shifted southward. The old ones have filled in with wind-blown sand, and we had some four miles of hard "highway", followed by another four or five miles of good "road" in the trees and eventually the flood plain of Friday Creek. The greatest hazard was getting run over by an A.T.V. -mostly 4x4 pickups.

Right in the middle of Friday Creek was a 4x4 tilted at a crazy angle, with that dirty glacier water up to the windshield. For some perverted reason that sight made us all feel much better! The feeling was short lived, however, because a character in another 4x4 let us know that "the whole valley" is private property-all 1,129 acres on both sides of Friday Creek where it emerges from the mountains, and there

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were ample signs and colored ribbons for emphasis. It is probably a mining claim from the looks of things, but getting shot at is another possible hazard up there.

That night, after the swamped 4x4 had been winched out by other tribal members, the maintenance required to make it run again was accompanied by shooting of variety of weapons until about midnight-apparently these types get their kicks out of seeing the fire come out the end of the barrel!

On the bright side, we had a nice camp site, the only serious rain was at night, several of us took a short and steep hike up the mountain that evening for some grand views, extending from Sleeping Lady to the Knik Glacier. The next morning Dona and John left early for a prior commitment in Anchorage, while Bruce and I crossed Friday Creek and followed the less traveled road that continues toward Metal Creek, to beyond Wolf Point where the whole river swung in close. At this point some beavers had been doing their thing and we gave up the road when we saw a fish jump in the middle of it! We assume the road dries out and continues to Metal Creek, as it used to many years ago.

It was easy to see where the swamped 4x4 had been beached. The oil (and water and silt) had been drained on the gravel and the empty oil cans and other trash lay where they fell.

Hikers Bernie Helms, Dona Agosti, John Nevin, Eileen Cavanaugh, Bruce Poulin and I suggest that serious hikers wear earplugs getting through this area-the A.T.V.'s, airboats, planes and motorcycles have taken over.

Bill Wakeland

LIBRARY: Pete Sennhauser 345-5577

MOUNTAINEERING CLUB OF ALASKA OFFICERS-1981-1982

<u>TITLE</u>	<u>NAME</u>	<u>HOME PHONE</u>	<u>WORK PHONE</u>
President	John Dillman	279-1246	274-8691
Vice-president	Rick Severn	344-7269	279-6522
Secretary	Sandi Macdonald	345-5791	
Treasurer	Reggie Buchanan	333-7649	272-0504