



MOUNTAINEERING CLUB OF ALASKA

BOX 102037

ANCHORAGE, ALASKA 99510

SEPTEMBER 1991

Volume 34, Issue 09

SEPTEMBER MEETING

September 18 7:30 pm Wednesday, Pioneer Schoolhouse, basement level, 3rd and Eagle Sts., downtown Anchorage.

SLIDE SHOW Dan O'Haire will show slides of recent MCA trips, including Mt. Augustine.

HIKING AND CLIMBING SCHEDULE

- Sept 14-15 HUT PREFAB AT CAFMEYER'S
Call Karen or John, 345-7546
- 21-22 BIRD PEAK
Hike in Saturday and camp in alpine valley near small lake. Climb on Sunday and hike out. Class D.
Leader: Neil O'Donnell 274-5069
- 28-29 ICE-CLIMBING SCHOOL
Beginning and intermediate ice training. Members only. Wait list only at this time, class roster is full. Participants who do not appear at the organizational meeting prior to the class will lose their place. See information later in this issue.
Organizer: Paul Denkwalter 272-1811, Alaska Mntearing & Hiking
- Oct 12-13 OUTPOST PEAK
Reed Lakes area. Class B. Round trip 7 miles. Elevation gain 1900 feet.
Leader: Karen Cafmeyer 345-7546
- 26-27 CROW PASS
Ski nearby glaciers, do a climb. Test all the club's beacons and do beacon search practice. Class C. Bring winter gear and headlamps!
Leader: Willy Hersman 338-5132

The Hiking and Climbing Committee is always looking for leaders. If you have an idea for a trip, whether an afternoon or several weeks, give Rex Pickett a call at 272-2851. H and C Committee: Rex Pickett, Chairperson, B. Wakeland, T. Choate, A. Shayer, N. O'Donnell, P. Kirk, C. Metzler, W. Hersman, K. Zafren, D. O'Haire, M. Bassett, K. Cafmeyer.

TRIP REPORTS

Temptation Peak

Margaret Stock

On Saturday, August 10, six hardy MCAers set out for Temptation Peak under gray skies. We started our hike shortly after 9:00am from the Snowhawk Trail off Fort Richardson's Arctic Valley Road. The first few miles of the trail were well-marked, but pretty wet; the tall grass on either side of the trail had not yet dried from the early morning rain.

It took us about an hour to reach the first Snowhawk cabin, where we stopped briefly to dry off and enjoy a good view of the Arctic Valley ski slope. This cabin is an A-frame with a large wood stove and spacious sleeping loft. Someone had recently repaired the porcupine damage. We left the cabin and headed up the west side of Snowhawk Valley. For a few miles, the trail was easy to follow, but once we got above timberline we lost it several times.

Fortunately, the second Snowhawk cabin was in sight up the valley for most of our hike. This cabin is a small hexagonal structure with four bunkbeds, no stove, and a working doorbell. The Army brought it into the valley by helicopter about five years ago, and the logbook shows that it has hosted many weary hikers. We gathered inside and ate lunch, thankful for some shelter from the occasional drizzle outside.

After lunch, five of us began to head up the ridge to Temptation (5350). The summit was visible from the cabin, and the drizzle soon stopped. The climb was steep but very rewarding, not only did we have spectacular views of Arctic and Snowhawk Valleys, but we also saw lots of Dall sheep. The summit register showed that many other MCA members have been to this peak, although most come across the ridges from Tanaina Peak.

We came down from the summit in record time via some convenient scree slopes. Heading back down Snowhawk, we had less trouble finding the trail, and the lower part was much drier than it had been earlier in the day. We were back at our cars around 7:30pm.

Trip participants included Bob Ashton, Don Hansen, Eric Larson, Vivian Mendenhall, Susan Peck and Margaret Stock. If you are interested in reserving either Snowhawk cabin, contact the folks at Building 636 on Fort Richardson. We're hoping more folks will use this little-known trail so it won't fade into the brush.

Mystery Mountain

Tom Choate

I goofed when I said to meet at the UAA Sports Center on June 8th, since the construction folks had blocked the main access and dug up the main parking lot. So, after playing 'musical parking lots' for 15 minutes (only Stan knew what I looked like!) we eventually stopped driving past one another and at 7:45 we car-pooled southward. Of ten on the list, four had cancelled and four had showed; did we miss the other two? The thought nagged as we wound toward Portage in the sunshine, admiring the Dall sheep. A small cloud was developing over Carpathian and one member only brought track shoes, so the snowy mystery mountain was abandoned.

Sept 1991

We drove on to Granite Creek campground. Just north of it logging is continuing and provides access to the long, nearly snow-free ridge rising directly to Peak 4940, highest on the Turnagain-Sunrise block. We tried one logging road and beat through a short bit of alder on the powerline, then wandered through spruce and hemlock until the main slope was reached.

There were several routes through the alder patches which rose steeply and became slippery because last year's vegetation having been just freed of snow. We crossed a small snow patch and scrambled up steep scree just below where the ridge becomes more gentle. Both rock and white-tail ptarmigan were seen here and views were great, but soon we were enveloped in cloud.

On one false summit, I dug around for a cairn and instead came up with a freshly frozen shrew! We followed wolverine tracks in the snow along the narrowing, corniced ridge to a definite summit, but with slight clearing saw another one 100 yards farther on. Ice axes and step-kicking were required over the exposed route, bringing us to a point with a big drop on the north. No signs of cairns. Surely 'Shrew Top', 4940', has been climbed several times, being so close to the road.

The glissading down was excellent, if slow and wet in places. Party: Stan Aarsund, Eric Teeler, James Larabee, Peter Blumberg, and myself.

Another B Peak

Willy Hersman

Perhaps unnoticed because of bigger brothers nearby, Peak 6865, on the ridge between Bold Peak and Bashful Peak, has remained unvisited for years. Its position is well-guarded, with steep walls on most sides; walls built with rock of the most dubious nature; rock more suitable as valley material than peaks.

Five of us left our camp below Bold's north face at an early hour on September 1, Jim Sayler and Dolly LeFever hurrying ahead of Greg Dubois, Kneely Taylor and myself. We lost 1700 feet from Hunter Creek Pass and marched upstream in cool shadows towards the peak, a red-letter day ahead of us for weather. We passed Bold's east face and hiked up to a moraine north of our peak, at 4500 to 5000 feet.

Given a choice between temporarily suspended metasediments of the distant past and temporarily suspended seracs of the recent past, I let an internal debate go on for several minutes. The ice-climber within me won over, and I announced my intentions to climb up the ice route of the glacier ahead of us. The others had not brought crampons and so continued on to the northeast ridge.

French technique came in handy for much of the remaining 1800 feet, and though crevasses slowed the pace, I found myself alone on the summit ahead of the rest. No cairn was found on the north summit (higher than the nearby twin) and I rested, hoping that the crew had not abandoned the ridge. After a while Jim and Dolly showed up and we built a small cairn and dropped in a register.

Boisterous Peak seemed a good choice for the loud mood of the rowdy little brother of the area and so it was written in the jar. After waiting some more, we decided to descend, passing Greg and Kneely on their way to the top. There was plenty of time on the descent to note the 1200-foot ice hose on Baleful's north face, perhaps the biggest unclimbed challenge in the Western Chugach.

SHOOTING TIBET: SLIDE SHOW AND PRESENTATION AT PAC

Internationally renowned photographer Galen Rowell, and Tibetan lama Geshe Gyeltsen will be in Anchorage to present a lecture/slide show. The event will be held October 8 at 7:00pm at the Alaska Center for the Performing Arts. The presentation is sponsored by the Sierra Club and the Alaska USA Tibet Committee.

Galen Rowell is best known for his world-wide wilderness photography and his efforts to increase people's awareness of the environment. He has published a number of photography books, including his 1990 'My Tibet.' Geshe Gyeltsen is a lama, or Tibetan Buddhist monk from the Ganden Monastery near Lhasa. His studies span a period of 23 years and he recently founded a Buddhist center in Los Angeles.

Tickets are \$6.50 for general admission, and \$5.50 for senior citizens and youths under 18. For more information contact Diane Moxness at 277-3189.

ANNUAL AAC ALASKA SECTION MEETING

The meeting is tentatively set for Saturday, November 9th. Details are not firmed yet, but rumor has it that Jim Denini will be showing slides of Alaskan ascents.

TECHNICAL ICE CLIMBING SCHOOL

place: Matanuska Glacier
 date: September 28-29

fees: \$ 5.00 equipment replacement fee
 12.50 access to glacier and camping

meeting: Thursday, September 26, Pioneer Schoolhouse 7:30 pm. This meeting is mandatory, as it is every year, so plan to attend.

The school will present the techniques necessary to become at least a competent second on steep ice, such as waterfalls and gullies. We will not be teaching any glacier travel techniques.

Sign-ups were at the August meeting for present members, at which time the response was greater than anticipated. A waiting list is presently being compiled, in case some students do not show up at the organization meeting. If you are on the waiting list, come to the organization meeting on the 26th.

An equipment check will be done at the meeting on the 26th. Students are required to bring their boots, crampons and ice axes for inspection. Club equipment will be handed out. (The club has limited supplies of crampons, ice axes and helmets.) Fees will be collected. Questions will be answered. ALL STUDENTS MUST ATTEND.

The school will begin at 9:30 am on Saturday, September 28th, at Matanuska Glacier at the parking lot closest to the glacier. Plan on leaving Anchorage no later than 7:00 am or go up Friday night.

ICE CLIMBING SCHOOL EQUIPMENT LIST

Everyone must have all equipment underlined.)

Ice axe - 70 cm or shorter, curved pick with a web sling

Ice hammer - get one if you can

Crampons - 12 points, hinged or rigid or foot-fangs

Helmet

Harness - 1 or 2-piece or 22 feet of 1-inch tubular webbing

Locking carabiner - or two regular carabiners

Rigid-sole mountain boots - no hunting boots; plastic boots are best

Lunch - for two days, a thermos is a good idea

Wind parka and pants - Goretex or other semi-waterproof

Pile or wool pants - definitely no jeans or cotton

Pile or wool jacket (or synchilla, polarguard, whatever they have these days)

Wool hat

Wool or synthetic gloves and mitts - bring extras, it's wet out there

Overmitts - water repellent

Gaitors

Sunglasses, sun cream, bandana, camera, guitar, violin, sax, trumpet, drums, walkmann, post-climbing refreshments, etc.

Day pack - for all this junk

Car camping gear, lawn chairs, salmon roasts, campfire stories, 60's tunes

MINUTES OF THE AUGUST MEETING

The meeting opened with the introduction of new members.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

Money Market	-	\$4238.40
Checking Acct	-	502.96
Petty Cash	-	<u>12.00</u>
Total		\$4753.36

Tony B Memorial Fund - \$845.00

COMMITTEES:

Hiking and Climbing. There will be a H & C Committee meeting at Karen's house on August 26th. Anybody is welcome to attend. Dinner will be provided.

Training Karen discussed the upcoming ice-climbing weekend.

OLD BUSINESS

Karen announced that the Soviet ice screws have arrived and to contact her if you want any.

REI night is coming up and we need a club volunteer to give an MCA presentation. The club can provide slides.

The Tony B Memorial Fund will be used towards the construction of a new hut in the Matanuska Glacier area. A volunteer sign-up sheet was available at the meeting for work to be done on September 14-15.

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NEW BUSINESS

Jim Sayler reported that the Mint Hut is in excellent shape and thanks whoever did the inside paint job. He noted that a new stove is needed, since the old one (now only 4 years old) leaks gas. Jim also reported that cattle are grazing along the trail again. To express your concern about sharing the trail with cattle write a letter to:

Veronica Gilbert, Regional Manager
DNR, Southcentral Office
Box 107005
Anchorage, Alaska 99510

Mark Findlay needs a volunteer to store a case of paper for the Scree.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mike Miller announced that the trial begins next week concerning access to Rabbit Lake. The State of Alaska vs the Millers (not Mike, of course).

Mike also passed on the news that MCA member Tim Neale won the national championship race for mountain bikes in his age group in Vermont this month.

Registration for outdoor classes begins at UAA soon, as announced by Karen.

Police are asking for assistance in gaining any information about Benjamin Lopez, a hiker who visited Alaska and has been reported missing. If you spoke to him or know anything, please report to them.

Anyone wishing to do volunteer work on the Flattop switchbacks should contact Frank Wesser, 345-5014.

Kathy Burke announced sale of her Chugach posters, the club gets a percentage of the sale.

Neil O'Donnell has the name of an outfit in New York that handles out-of-print climbing books.

A majority of the meeting was taken up by a promotion from Balloon Bungy Jumping of Alaska, which specializes in jumping from hot air balloons. Solicitations were asked for help in training and participating.

Respectfully Submitted,

Mindy Baum

Climbing Notes

Karen Cafmeyer reports that she and students from the Alaska Wilderness Studies 105 summer mountaineering class climbed Peak 6160, above the Troublesome Glacier in Chugach State Park during the July 4th weekend. Though nothing was found on the summit, the peak had been climbed previously by Jim Sayler and Mindy Baum in the summer of 1990. The name "Brittle Peak" was suggested by the class.

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MCA Interest List

<u>Name</u>	<u>Hm phone #</u>	<u>Wk phone #</u>	<u>Interest</u>
Aarsund Stan	337-3373	NA	A E I
Allen Rich	243-5494	NA	A B C E F G I
Allen Sue	243-5494	564-5640	A B C D E F G I
Allmaras Veronica	248-4312	261-3061	A E F J
Babb Joel	688-3885	694-6685	A E G J
Bailey Scott	274-8281	NA	A B C D E I J
Eaum M	338-6396	338-6396	A C E G I J
Bennett Daryl	346-3980	248-7777	D
Berkshire Dan	345-4238	276-2007	B C D I
Berryhill Paul	248-6271	344-4373	B E F H I J
Blitz Beth	349-8226	279-5582	A B C E H I J
Bohl Pam	272-4383	279-1411	A E G I J
Brecht J	345-0117	276-6401	E H I
Breun David	694-9838	348-5134	B E F H I J
Breun Jim	694-9838	348-5134	A E H I J
Buchman Mitchell	247-5932	359-6039	D
Cole Bill	243-6327	561-4085	A D G I J
Custer Marcy	562-1948	276-5363	A E F G I J
Fitzgerald Dan	243-6121	271-5590	A E F G I J
Gardner Dom	277-2332	271-3842	A E F
Graves Matt	274-1877	262-2660	A B C D E F G I J

A - backpacking
 B - rock climbing
 C - ice climbing
 D - expedition mountaineering
 E - day hikes

F - mountain biking
 G - mid-week evening trips
 H - apu rock climbing wall
 I - local weekend climbing
 J - skiing

MCA Interest List

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<u>Name</u>	<u>Hm phone #</u>	<u>Wk phone #</u>	<u>Interest</u>
Hagine Bernice	332-6996	261-3614	ABCDEFGHIJ
Hanneman Dave	344-3087	NA	ABCDEFGHIJ
Hanneman Marcy	344-3087	NA	ABCDEFGHIJ
Hansen Don	243-7184	261-4656	AEFI
Hart David	263-6642	265-6842	ABCDHI
Hempstead Bob	373-2390	NA	BCE
Himber Robert	346-3346	NA	ABDEG
Hutchin-Bailey Kris	274-8281	265-8752	ABCEIJ
Julliard Alan	243-3816	261-2921	DEIJ
Klouda Fred	243-3216	NA	AEG
Larery Jim	NA	273-3078	AE
LaRose Gary	345-6321	NA	BCDI
Lefever Dolly	243-7027	276-4944	AEGIJ
Logan David	243-4887	NA	ABEIJ
Maltas John	272-6546	272-6546	ABCDEHGI
Mapes Jan	345-0301	562-2646	ADEFGIJ
Mason Don	333-2316	NA	AE
Mason Ruthellen	333-2316	NA	AE
Mattern Scott	345-3314	272-8401	BCDIJ
McConnell Annalee	276-5183	276-5183	AEGJ
McGee Lawrence	745-2345	238-4511	ABEI

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Meek Mike	243-2902	564-6623	A D E F J
Metzler Curvin	333-8766	333-8766	A E
Mtuer Mike	248-2299	564-4913	B C D E F H I J
Mixaglia Mark	338-0705	276-5050	B C I
Moore Julia	346-3010	276-4302	B C E F G I J
Morford Dennis	522-1179	266-1528	A D E G I
Mulcahy Ed	346-3596	NA	A E F G I
O'Haire Dan	561-1141	NA	A B C D E F G H I J
Padden Mike	346-1325	561-1250	A E I J
Parks Stuart	258-5761	278-5515	B C D F H J
Pickett Rex	NA	272-2851	A B C D E F
Pierce Mike	243-2960	249-6121	A B C D E G H I
Riley John	345-2029	NA	E F J
Robinson Allen	279-8873	NA	A E G
Rowe Jay	337-8850	349-4608	A B C D H I
Rowe Kathy	337-8850	349-4608	A B C D H I
Runa Gary	243-1614	271-3495	A B C D E F G H I J
Rundquest Larry	279-7395	271-3483	A E J
Sennhauser Pete	345-5984	345-5577	A B E I J
Simonds Chan	373-2898	NA	A B C E G I J

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Sosa Martin	696-7672	564-3027	BI
Sprott Jim	783-3200	NA	ABCDEFGHIJ
Stanton Linda	272-7764	NA	AEGIJ
Stock Margaret	274-5069	NA	ABCDEFGHIJ
Stoddard Maxine	373-4734	745-8211	ABEHJ
Teela Eric	349-4292	NA	ABDEJ
Tomsen Chris	428-2250	863-6161	GJ
Tostevin Breck	272-0813	276-3550	ADEFIJ
Voris Becky	243-5234	274-2502	ADEFGJ
Wagner Janet	563-1904	NA	ABEFHIJ
Wakeland Bill	563-6246	NA	AEG
Walker Karen	243-1405	NA	ADEFGJ
Wemple Bob	274-7375	257-2678	ADEFGJ
Wirkus Lydia	688-3401	376-5341	AEGJ
Wood Ruth	274-3379	274-3621	AEGJ
Woodward Tom	688-9947	265-3615	AEFJ
Zaeren Ken	346-2333	562-0033	ABCDEFGHIJ
Zapotocki Nancy	274-1877	271-2779	ABCDEFGHIJ

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