

MOUNTAINEERING CLUB OF ALASKA

SCREE

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MEETING, NOVEMBER 2, 1959

The next meeting of the Mountaineering Club of Alaska will be in Monday, November 2nd at the Willow Park Recreation Hall at 8 p.m./ Jon Gardey will show his slides of the successful attempt on Redoubt. We'll have coffee, too, so bring a few cookies, will you?

MEETING, NOVEMBER 2, 1959

At the last meeting of the MCA held on October 5th, the following officers were elected:

President:	John H. Johnston
Vice-President:	Dr. Rodman Wilson
Secretary-Treasurer:	Helga Bading

also a member of the Board was elected - Norm Pichler. Dr. Erik Barnes will serve on the board for another year.

Lois Lillard showed her slides of some of the summer outings this past season and added a section on the Middle East (Lebanon, Palestine, Jordan, Egypt, etc.) which she had taken while residing there.

MEETING, NOVEMBER 2, 1959

SCREE will be sent to all members of the Mountaineering Club for 1958-59 until December. It is hoped that some of these former members will want to join us again for 1959-60. Dues can be paid to Helga Bading at Jonas Bros. (address above) - by check, mail order or in person. The dues are \$5 per person, \$7.50 per couple and \$2.50 for juniors. This promises to be a good year so do stay with us!

FROM THE NEW PRESIDENT:

Please allow me to intrude upon your pleasure long enough to scribble a few words. At the first executive meeting, we outlined basic plans for the next year.

Rod Wilson will supervise publicity.
Gwyn Wilson will edit Scree.
Erik Barnes is the training specialist.
Norm Pichler will handle operations.

These officers will be contacting members for assistance. I'm positive that, as in the past, you members will defeat any problem confronting you. All of the officers welcome all suggestions and assistance you may offer.

During the next year, the Executive Committee is promoting the following program:

1. A schedule of trips. This will include winter snowshoe/ski treks as well as summer scrambles.
2. Classes in winter camping, glacier work and rock climbing. More time should be spent on the glaciers. Plans are to visit these areas earlier in the spring.
3. The patches will be available very soon. (1)
4. Accumulation of equipment (snowshoes, ice axes, tents) to be available for rental by club members. The Rod Wilson's are the custodians with P.B. Crews acting as purchasing agent.
5. It is imperative that the Constitution and By-Laws be revised to permit greater flexibility.

6. Greater stress on modest publicity for MCA to attract interested people. To exchange publications with as many other similar organizations as possible.
7. As the great Chugach Range is "our stomping grounds", to systematically compile climbing information concerning this range.
8. Maintenance of a trained team for Mountain Rescue.

Now let's all have a good climbing season!

Johnnie

BYRON GLACIER

(September 20 and Oct 4)

by Helen Wolfe

What started out to be rock climbing with Erik Barnes on Sept. 20 somehow turned into glacier climbing with Norm Fichner. Thus another typical MCA trip was underway.

Not a very big trip this time for Norm, Al Fujimoto and myself were the only ones who appeared at Hanson's Garage at 8:30 that beautiful Sunday morning (you may remember the day -- that nice one.)

What with all the running back for crampons and boots it was nearly noon before we actually reached Byron Glacier. With the enthusiasm of first-timers, Al and I voted to try crampons and glacier first, lunch second. Tentatively we edged across the ice; amazing! the crampons worked!

After a hasty lunch part way up the glacier we headed for the ice falls. This was really "hairy" to Al and me; we moved like ants, leary of the belayer who had no solid tree to be tied into. But the sun was going, and it was time to head back. Descending, we were bent double, groping ahead fearfully with our ice axes. Periodically Norm would have to yell, "Get those axes up hill. You look like a couple of little old ladies!"

The "little old ladies" felt happier when they were back on the comparatively level part of the glacier. Still, they must have enjoyed themselves as they both appeared at the glacier school the following week.

And some people are gluttons for punishment. On Sunday, October 4, after the weather finally decided to be nice, I dragged my husband, John, off to Byron Glacier to pass on to him the wealth of my experience. We spent only about two hours on the glacier, exploring the lower part. Without Norm and his rope we were quite content with that. Yet from this distance that ice fall was rather fun see you at the glacier school next summer.

MIDDLE GLACIER

September 27th

by Lois Willard

This hearty mountaineering club likes breakfast on the trail i.e. packs, ropes, ice axes, crampons topped with eggs, bacon, toast, rolls or what have you.

Those present were Helga Bading, Gwynneth Wilson, Lois Willard, Paul Crews, Helen Wolfe, Alan Fujimoto, Norm Pichler, Joe Pichler, Hans Metz and Betty Clement.

The weather was poor as we started and it got worse progressing toward Portage, in fact it started raining. Over coffee the pros and cons of continuing were discussed, but we ignored them and proceeded anyway. At the point of departure things looks a bit better and all stalwart hearts said, "The weather will clear". Up and over, around and down - Kaplosh - over the wet rocks to the snow field. The ice was a welcome sight. The crampons were adjusted, roped tied and then the rain began to fall. With a slight gain of altitude the elements all joined to our misery finally forcing retreat to Portage House.

MEETING, NOVEMBER 2, 1959

In the New York Times for Sunday, September 27, 1959 an article entitled "Second Thought on Matterhorn Halts Climber" was written by Robert Daley. The following are excerpts from that article which appeared in the Sports Section.

"This is the story of a tourist who decided to climb the Matterhorn. The Matterhorn thrusts upward from the valley floor to 14,710 ft. It has an ugly reputation, but the tourist felt that this was exaggerated Surely the Swiss had removed all risk from the mountain by now. Everyone knows how accommodating the Swiss are.

Accordingly the tourist arrived here (Zermatt) a few days ago and engaged a guide he and the guide hiked up to the funicular, which lifted them in a few minutes to 7,700 feet, eliminating what used to be the first four hours of the climb. Leaving the car, they trudged up a gradually steepening slope to the hut at nearly 11,000 feet where they would spend the night.

.... The guide roped them together, slung his pack, and they started up. The mountain rose straight up, a wall of broken rock. As they climbed in the dark, the tourist was trying to convince himself that he trusted the guide completely.

Then the guide fell. Scrambling frantically, he caught himself. At the other end of the rope, clinging to the mountain by his fingernails, the tourist had been thinking: "I hope he doesn't expect me to stop him."

They went on, clambering up the sheer face of the Matterhorn, the rock slippery with a coating of frost. The tourist's old Army boots kept slipping. The wind blew. He was scared. Looking down, he understood why the mountain had killed so many, and wondered why it hadn't killed more.

Panting, he asked when the mountain got less steep.

"It doesn't", the guide said. "I thought you knew."

The tourist's knees were trembling, whether from fatigue or fright he didn't know. In an hour, they had climbed a precarious 1000 feet. Three hours more up to the summit. If he got there, how would he ever get down again?

..... Fingers searching for holds, he climbed a little higher.

"This," he said, suddenly, "is crazy. It's fantastically dangerous. I'm going down. There's nothing up there I want. I'm going down."

He took the first train out of Zermatt. He watched the mountain from the window, the "easy mountain", the "ladies mountain".

He never had been so glad to see the last of something in his life."

SEE YOU ON THE 2nd.