



mountaineering club of alaska
box 2037 anchorage alaska 99501

vol 10
no 12
october
1968

happenings on the way

october meeting...Ben Crawford Memorial Park, 3rd and Eagle, Monday, October 14, 8 p.m....MCA's ANNUAL MEETING to elect new officers! The nominating committee has been most busy on the telephone to round up willing, able, and available candidates for MCA officers for the coming year. So far the following persons have agreed to run for the following offices--before meeting time, others may have been reached for confirmation of their candidacy.

- President: Bob Spurr
- Vice President: Barney Seiler
- Secretary: Karen Courtright
- Treasurer: Tom Neacham, Tom Cloonan
- Director: Bill Davis

Members may vote only if their dues are paid for the coming year (adult, \$5.00, family, \$7.50, junior (under 18), \$2.50; out-of-town (50 or more miles from Anchorage), \$2.50). The MCA treasurer (and helpers) will be available at the door to take money. New members who have joined since August 1, 1968, are paid up until October, 1969. Voting members may choose from the candidates chosen by the nominating committee and from candidates nominated from the floor.

DIDILKAMA, 6100', Talkeetna Mtns. Saturday, October 19...From Fern Mine Road hike north along Archangel Creek tributary. Continue north over benches and large, grassy (in summer) plain before climbing into NE cirque. Ascend small glacier to 20 ft diorite summit flake. Peer over east face. Frolic on the glacier. Impressive views in all directions...LEADER: GAYLE NIENHUESER, 277-9330. (Conditions permitting.)

PTARMIGAN LAKE, Kenai Peninsula, Saturday, October 26...Depart Ptarmigan Creek campground for Ptarmigan Lake, approx 3 mi. Follow good trail through conifer forest, alder, and elephant grass. Lunch at the lake opposite the north face of glaciated Andy Simonds Mts. LEADER: DAVE DEVOE, 333-5492.

SHEEP MTN, 6250', Kenai Mtns. (formerly Wolcot Mts) Saturday, November 2...Depart from bridge at Snow River inlet to Kenai Lake. Climb initial 4000 ft over steep grass and heather to relay station. Continue along NW ridge to summit. Good views of prominent Seward area peaks... LEADER: BOB SPURR, 272-8330. (Conditions permitting.)

Scree is published monthly by the Mountaineering Club of Alaska, which is affiliated with the Anchorage Dept of Parks & Recreation. Scree staff includes Carol DeVoe, Sharon Cissna, Marie Lundstrom, and others who can be persuaded. Send Scree material to Box 2307, Anc 99501.

happenings that were

ROUND TOP, 4755'

August 18, 1968

Tony Bockstahler

On a fine sunny Sunday morning the following met in Eagle River. Evelyn and Wayne Groomer, Bill and Charlotte Stivers, Bill and Florence Bulen, Lotte Kramer, Peter Vlasveld, Louise Rydell, Florence Tomczyk, Coral Loy, Ruth Neth, and Tony Bockstahler. We drove to the Ptarmigan Valley access road, mile 21 Glenn Highway, and drove up this road to where it crosses Little Peters Creek. We parked there as the stream crossing is too sharp a dip for an ordinary car, and we walked about a half mile to the end of the road (see description in Thirty Hikes).

Instead of following the route up the gully as described in Thirty Hikes, we headed straight up the peak to the east-southeast. When we approached the top, we skirted around to the right of the peak onto a grassy slope leading to the summit of Round Top. Some of the party went directly over peak and some took a route flanking to the left of the peak and then on to Round Top. These latter two routes involved some mild rock scrambling. The climb took about three hours up and as long down due to extended stops for blueberry picking and eating.

LOWER TOWER, 6129' FIRST ASCENT
Talkeetna Mtns, USGS Anchorage D-6

July 6, 1968

Bob Spurr

After old Scree's and subtle enquiries confirmed Lower Tower as the last unclimbed six-thousander in the Independence-Snowbird corner of the Talkeetnas, Nick Parker and I first attempted its south ridge July 30, 1967. Confronted by unexpected gendarmes, we scrambled down the east flank using one rappel and proceeded up its SE slopes in deteriorating weather, finally retreating when lowering clouds made route-finding marginal. By then the August monsoon had arrived so that our next effort progressed no further than the Independence bar. During a sudden break on Aug 18, Dave Schneider and I returned to the SE face by way of Reed Lakes, and after negotiating only one short, wet 5th class lead, optimistically gained the NE ridge just below 6000 ft. The remaining 150 odd feet, vertical and overhanging in places prompted a "not today" sort of decision, and we rappelled off. Vantages from neighboring peaks during some autumn climbs showed the west ridge offered fewest obstacles to its summit. A late October reconnaissance confirmed this, but the already existing winter conditions suggested waiting until spring.

On July 6, the Traleika traverse (McKinley) having become the Traleika reverse, Nick and I, together with Jack Miller, Traleika party member from Washington, and Colorado visitor Bill Burnett, found time to finally make the first ascent, via its west ridge. After ascending Glacier Creek to "Prospect Bass" (name proposed for the saddle at 5100'; location of numerous prospect sites) following a casual afternoon start, we scrambled the west ridge to 5800' before roping in twos. Here the ridge joins 300 vertical ft of summit block and is steady 4th class to its top. Following the line of least resistance, the initial pitches ascended the left (NW) corner of the block for two rope lengths before linking the summit ridge. After switching lead rope, we leaped frogged along a series of slabs until confronted by a vertical step. To avoid a short rappel, we traversed the south face just below the ridge, using one pin for protection. Another lead over mossy slab put

(LOWER TOWER, cont.) us near the narrow summit, and while glacier-hugging stratus scudded below, we made solo visits, shortly after 7 p.m. There was no evidence of a previous ascent. The north face dropped almost vertically to "Aura Glacier" (name proposed for the glacier whose norther drainage is Barthold Creek) while views to the south and east confirmed these less-than-straightforward routes. We built a ramshackle cairn about 30 ft before the actual summit and deposited a plastic register bottle in a crack next to it. Unfortunately it fell beyond expectations, but can be had by anyone with a 40-inch reach. We used one rappel over the initial pitch and after regaining the pass, casually descended Glacier Creek valley in waning daylight, arriving back at the car near 11 p.m.

MT WHITNEY HIKE--or NCA-ers AWAY

Dale Hagen

I would like to comment on Mt Whitney hike we just made. From the parking lot at 8,360 to the summit 14,496 is 10½ very scenic miles. I have to say that Doris and I made a mistake trying to do it by-the-book which programs 1½ days with an overnight at Trail Camp 12,040. Being on the far side of the generation gap and finding jogs in Golden Gate Park not quite enough, we arrived at Trail Camp completely blown. Doris recuperated the next day while I staggered off in search of a summit. The last two miles there were pure subconscious compulsion. Having extra food we camped that night on the way down at Mirror Lake 10,640. The next day unplanned was a very leisurely and very enjoyable stroll down, including several hours at Lone Pine Lake. I would like to make two recommendations for the consideration of others. One, try off season, as it's a very popular trip. Two, take plenty of time to enjoy it.

EAGLE GLACIER CABIN

Frank Nosek

After completion of the Whiteout Glacier Cabin in July, no additional cabin building looked possible until the MCA treasury again built up. However, in early August, director Paul Crews advised that an anonymous party wished to provide funds for the building of the fourth cabin to complete the chain of cabins from Eklutna to Girdwood. The Executive Board accepted the offer and we shortly received a check for \$1,000. The "Bockstahler A-frame" plan, which has worked out well on the Eklutna and Whiteout Glacier cabins, was adopted with the kind permission of Tony Bockstahler of Alaska Woodcraft at Eagle River. Hans Van der Laan acquired materials, and these were cut through arrangements by Andy Anderson at Ft Rich. On August 23-24 Andy Anderson, Keith Bittner, and I pre-cut most of the materials as Hans trucked them to us. Late Saturday afternoon on August 24, we loaded all the materials on the truck and took them up the Eagle River Road just below John Wolfe's homestead, where we stacked them in a clearing amid the raspberry bushes. Sunday evening, with Will Collup and his helicopter, we began lifting the materials in to the site. Barney Seiler of the Sports Chalet and Andy Anderson were on the cabin site to unload the helicopter; they had all the necessary gear with them in the event they might have to walk out.

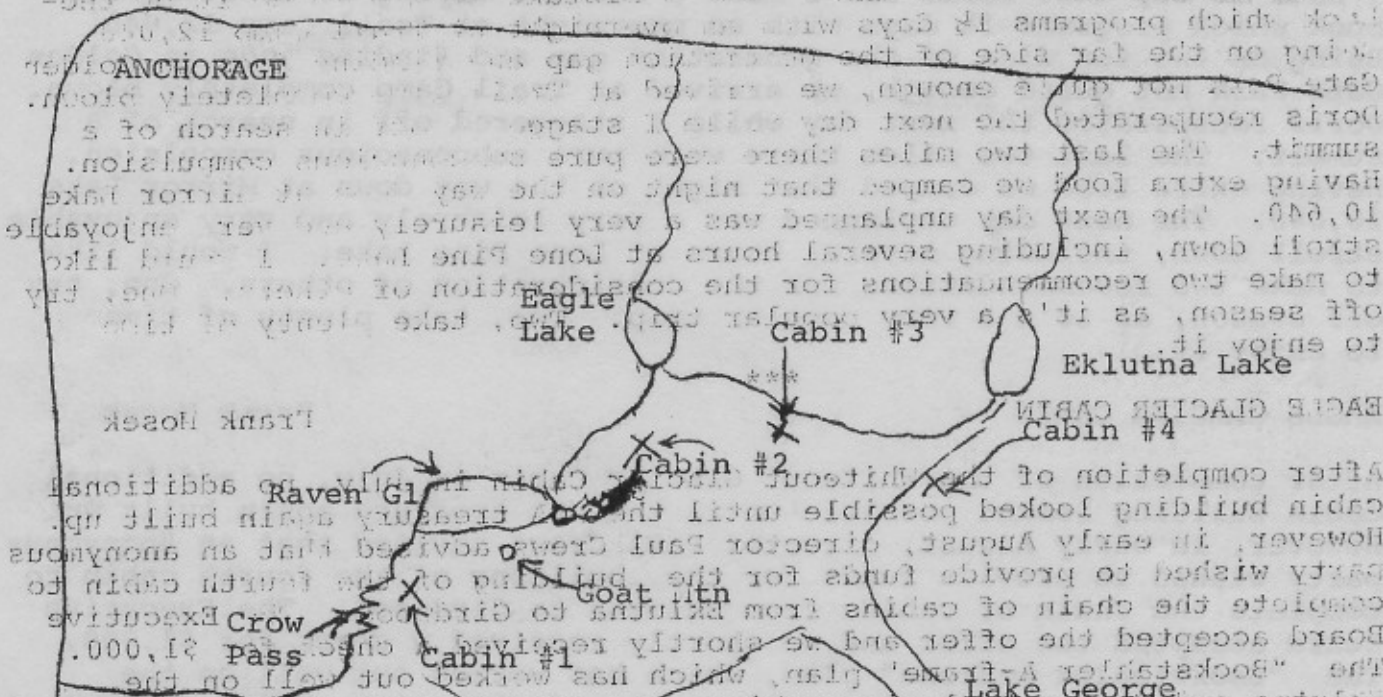
The site is due north of Goat Mtn, the high point of the mountains just NE behind Crow's Nest cabin at Crow Pass. With the airborne assistance of Lowell Thomas (again), Ted Shohl, Dave Meyers, Andy Goulding, Keith Bittner, Andy Anderson, and I were flown onto the Eagle Glacier on Saturday with tools and roofing material--about 1½ miles from the site due to lack of snow. Ted and Andy Goulding returned with Lowell that evening. The construction crew worked at a furious pace, and when

scree

October 1968

(EAGLE GLACIER CABIN, cont.) Lowell came back for us on Monday p.m. the cabin was complete except for roofing and wood preservative. We planned to use rolls of tin on top of black roofing paper, but we couldn't pack it all down to the site and didn't have time to put it on anyway. Luckily we retrieved it from the glacier when the tin had melted in about half way due to sun and heat.

Best plane approach appears to be on glacier spur NW of site given adequate snow. On foot over Raven Glacier Headwall and down NW spur of glacier (standard route), cabin would be on west side of nunataks. Rock by site is clean and firm; covered by deep green mat of crowberry plants. Even this summer (with extreme melting), water and snow patch was only about 200 yds north of cabin. Normal year there will be a sizeable pool and stream of snow melt 15' from front door. GI sleeping bag, 3/4 gal white gas, some food, hammer, staple gun, and tin snips left for use by roofing crew. General area looks like:



(ed note: Scree staff claims no responsibility for fidelity of above.)

PINNACLE PEAK, New Route September 15, 1968 Nick Parker

On Sunday, Sept 15, Bob Spurr and Nick Parker put up a new route on Pinnacle. This route started at the bottom of the Class 3 route in the scree gully and gained the Southwest Ridge behind the first prominent gendarme. One roped pitch (over snowy slabs) was required to gain the southwest ridge at this point. Once on the ridge we went one pitch to the bottom of the anvil-shaped block halfway along the ridge. As the block became very difficult (F8) and led nowhere at its top, we turned a corner beneath it, requiring two pitches. This took us directly onto the south face. Three pitches up the south face brought us to the summit for a fine short climb on excellent quality Talkeetna diorite.

PEAK 5100, Easternmost Peak
of the Front Range

Charles Kibler

A more exact location of this unnamed peak is T12N, R1W, Sec17, SW $\frac{1}{4}$ on the Anchorage A-7 quadrangle; namely, at the left hand end of Middle Fork Campbell Creek Valley, or 2 miles north along the ridge from Mt Williwaw (5445').

Parking my bicycle at Hillcrest Drive and Upper Huffman Road, I followed the route in #5 of Thirty Hikes as far as Black Lake, where by coincidence I caught up with another mountaineer from MCA, Bill Stivers, who was exploring Middle Fork Campbell Creek Valley. We talked about climbing Mt Williwaw as we ate, then hiked up the right hand fork of the valley until we could see the chute climbers use on its southwest face. It still had a snowbank at the bottom, so we went out separate ways. He started checking out what appeared from that position to be a natural ledge going up to the O'Malley-Hidden Peak Ridge. I crossed the creek, contoured back to the left hand fork, passed all of the beautiful blue Williwaw Lakes, and attained the 3700 ft pass. From here you can see two more lakes which empty into the North Fork Campbell Creek Valley. To the right you see the snow and ice which is all that is left of a glacier coming off the north face of Mt Williwaw. Further on, you see a river of gravel --all that is left of another glacier. Both features are shown dotted in on the A-7 quad map. I descended 100 feet to the first lake, contoured around the second lake 300 feet above it, climbed the hill (4100) straight ahead, and continued to the peak. Excellent views. This peak has been climbed previously by Gayle Nienhueser and Bob Spurr of MCA, who claim they found a cairn there with no register--June 26, 1966.

A quick way back to civilization would be to follow North Fork Campbell Creek and descend on Basher's Road over Near Point (Thirty Hikes #6). However, I hiked past the Williwaw Lakes again and on down Middle Fork. To avoid climbing the 3750' pass over the "Glacier" or the 3200' pass just above the parking lot in South Fork Valley, I contoured around both at 2700 feet--and viewed the brightly lighted city in the evening twilight. I recommend the original route in Hike #5 over this one. The road back to Hillcrest Drive could be seen by the lights of the city.

Total round trip distance from Hillcrest Drive by route noted is 23 miles; elapsed time, 14 hours and 28 minutes--which fell between 9:09 a.m. and 11:30 p.m.

bits and pieces

The AMU climbing class numbered 17 on the summit of Suicide I, 5005' via N gully, and 12 on the summit of Suicide II, 5065', via SE ridge, Saturday, October 5, including and with the help of Jim Lethcoe, Ned Lewis, Nick Parker, and Bob Spurr, instructor, who is subbing this year for Ron Linder.

ADDRESS CHANGES: Ann Wheaton, 1504 11th Ave, Anc 01, hm ph 272-2143; Carolyn Wadman, CBQ 1101 19-A, Ft Rich; Bronwen Courtney, 730A Ash Dr, Anc 01, hm ph 272-1775; Marge & Steffen Haagoe, Box 886, La Jolla, Calif 92037; John Wolfe, hm ph 272-8152; Bill & Nancy Davis, 1537 Wintergreen St, Anc 04.

Bob Spurr and Jack Miller finally made the summit of McKinley August 1, 1968, via the West Buttress route after the original Traleika Traverse party had to change plans because of a late food airdrop.

MCA-er Bill Hauser is reported teaching math with the Peace Corps in Venezuela.

Thirty Hikes is getting some revisions for a reprinting to come up soon. Evidently the Mountaineers are all out of copies in the Seattle area.

Dave Johnston and his sister Jill have left for Nepal.

The Alpine Club of Canada (#201, 1310 - W. 10th Ave, Vancouver 9, B.C) wants to add Scree to its collection of mountaineering periodicals devoted to North America and would be pleased to show visiting MCA-ers around its Alpine Club library in the Vancouver Public Library at Burrard and Robson Streets--thus a note from their librarian, Miss Elizabeth Walker.

Gary Hansen has gone off again to Vancouver B C to the U of B C for additional graduate work this winter. His mailing address there is Box 3312, Vancouver 3, B.C.

[Faint, mostly illegible text, possibly bleed-through from the reverse side of the page.]

MOUNTAINEERING CLUB OF ALASKA
BOX 2037
Anchorage Alaska 99501

NONPROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
Anchorage Alaska
Permit No. 311