

SCREE

MOUNTAINEERING CLUB OF ALASKA

BOX 2037

ANCHORAGE, ALASKA 99510

OCTOBER 1972

VOL. 15, NO. 10

OCTOBER MEETING....Thursday, October 19, 1972....8:00 PM....Central Junior High Multipurpose Rm....PROGRAM: Minislide presentation by Mitch Henning....Business Meeting....Refreshments....Maxislide presentation by Steve Jones on Mt. McKinley.

BE SURE TO COME TO THE OCTOBER MEETING TO ELECT YOUR OFFICERS FOR THE NEXT YEAR.

Notice of Nominating Committee Meeting & Candidate Selection

MCA President Wendell Oderkirk appointed Randy Renner as Chairman of the Nominating Committee. The Committee met on September 5, 1972, following the regular Board Meeting.

The Committee is pleased to submit the following persons whom we feel qualified to guide and conduct the Club and its business, in accordance with the Constitution, its Bylaws and Articles of Incorporation, in the following year:

President:	Tom Meacham, ESQ.
Vice-President:	Bill Barnes, Jr.
Treasurer:	Gil Todd
Secretary:	Donna Agosti
Board of Directors:	Wendell Oderkirk
Board of Directors:	Bob Spurr

It should be noted that this slate is only our recommendation. Additional nominations will be solicited from the floor at the annual general membership meeting on October 19, 1972. Upon completion of discussion of qualifications and compilation of the proposed slate of officers, the Nominating Committee was dissolved and adjourned (not necessarily in that order).

It should be further noted that Marie Lundstrom and Frank Nosek will continue as members of the Board of Directors, their term of office has one year remaining.

Respectfully, Randy Renner

BOARD MEETING--IMPORTANT - PLEASE NOTE--Last year's officers and the newly elected officers both are to attend!!! Where? Tom Meacham's - 1410 H St. - 7:30 PM.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT ON 1971-72

The previous year's activities were pretty standard. We had some highly successful climbing schools, thanks mostly to Bill Barnes, Jr. Barry Kircher did his usual impeccable work at lining up programs for the year. SCREE's quality remained high. SCREE's editor, Kathy Selken, did a super job her first

year. The Mailing Staff, headed by Carol DeVoe (her fifth year!), deserves everyone's thanks and appreciation.

The year's most notable "achievement" was the successful conclusion to several past years' efforts--the publishing of 55 WAYS TO SOUTHCENTRAL ALASKA. Helen Nienhueser, Nancy Simmerman and the late Hans van der Laan's book has finally made it, and it was definitely worth waiting for. While the Mountaineering Club in Seattle will handle most distribution operations, there still remains a great amount of work we MCAers can do locally. If you have ideas, contact Helen or myself.

The Outings Committee headed by Bob Spurr was plagued with its same old problem of finding trip leaders. Bob set up some good trips in spite of this.

The Conservation Committee, headed by Tom Meacham, remained very active in fulfilling its main duty--keeping the MCA posted on important issues relating to Alaska's mountains. Tom's intense interest and knowledge of conservation issues allowed MCAers to keep abreast of current developments. In addition, the MCA offered testimony at the Chugach State Park's hearing, the Hatcher Pass Study Area and other hearings which will have an effect on the future of Alaskan mountaineering.

To the outgoing Board of Directors--Kathy Gorham, secretary; Tom Meacham, vice-president; and Pat Freeny and Gil Todd, treasurer--a thank you. John Samuelson and Randy Renner have served ably on the Board for the past year. Board members Frank Nosek and Marie Lundstrom will continue to offer their advice and guidance in the forthcoming year as they have in the past. Marsha Freeny, Shirley Oderkirk and Ruth Kircher have served refreshments this past year.

MCA is an informal gathering of those interested in mountaineering and hiking in Alaska. It can function only as well as its members become "involved." We had some good cooperation last year. I hope you will do the same in the forthcoming year.

- Wendell Oderkirk -
Vice-President

CONDENSED MINUTES - SEPTEMBER MEETING - Sept. 21, 1972

The meeting was called to order by President Wendell Oderkirk. The August meeting minutes were approved as printed in SCREE. Treasurer's report--\$252.28 in savings account and \$297.57 in the checking account. Conservation Committee Chairman, Tom Meacham, said there was nothing definite to report except what had appeared in SCREE. If interested in attending Conservation Committee meetings, contact Tom. 55 WAYS TO THE WILDERNESS IN SOUTHCENTRAL ALASKA is back from the Mountaineers in Seattle. Price is \$7.15 from MCA for MCA members and \$7.95 for non-members. Bob Spurr reported that leaders are needed for the upcoming hikes. Old Business - Last month the Club voted to let the Board decide the type of two-man tent to purchase. A Sierra Designs has been ordered but has not arrived yet. Steve Lester exhibited his sculptures of climbers. It was announced that on Oct. 3, a Bik Pass proposal will come before voters which will provide for up to 35 miles of bike pass trails which can be used for cross-country skiing. Also, there will be a transportation bond which will provide for a mass-transit transportation system with each dollar the local government provides being matched by \$2 Federal money. The meeting adjourned and the movie "By Nature's Rules" on hypothermia was shown. Respectfully submitted, Kathy Selken, Acting Secretary

P R E S I D E N T ' s P E N

The recent summer "glacier" school had two bad accidents this year. The first day saw Durhane Rieger fall some 20-25 feet into a narrow crevasse. She was wedged in and the proceeding rescue involved lowering T.J. Bruce to aid in freeing her and her pack. (A three-point self-equalizing anchor and single Resue pulley were the techniques used.) We had her out in 15 minutes, and she exhibited bruises for injuries.

The second day, after the main school had disbanded, a group of four stayed for more practice. As in Durhane's case, tripping resulted in a fall, and Gary Grinde ended up in the hospital with three broken ribs and some bad lacerations in near the eye and knee area. Gary is pretty tough and is more embarrassed than anything about his fall. As in Durhane's case, we could say "All's well that ends well"--but we should go further.

At its last Board Meeting, the problem was discussed. Other incidents in previous years led to the decision to avoid "hard ice" for our glacier schools. Self-arrest is virtually impossible on such ice, and standard safety measures become quite useless. We will try to hold future glacier schools at a time of the year when softer snow conditions will allow use of standard safety techniques on a glacier.

Hard ice climbing is fun, but it's not for beginning students.

-Wendell Oderkirk-

S U M M E R C L I M B I N G S C H O O L

Despite a great shortage of instructors our summer climbing school was reasonably successful.

This year we departed from our norm of first conducting a rock school and then a glacier school by combining these two schools into one beginning climbing school in a successful attempt at eliminating repetitious teaching of basic mountaineering skills. By the time the school reached the point of teaching practical skills concerning glacier travel all students were well versed in basic skills and the instructors were able to devote their time to teaching the essentials of glacier travel rather than teaching the basic skills which are common to both rock climbing and glacier travel.

Due to the large size of the class (30 students) and the shortage of instructors (sometimes only Barry Kircher and myself were available) I modified my original school plan by eliminating a two-day school climb of Granite Peak and by changing the planned Byron Peak climb into a Club climb. With the curriculum pared down somewhat, the school was left with a week of after-work practice sessions on the Seward Highway, climbs of Ptarmigan Peak and the Pinnacle and a two-day glacier practical session on the Matanuska Glacier. The school succeeded in accomplishing these more limited objectives.

Additional change was seen in the method of administering the school. This year the size of the school had an upper limit of twenty-five (thirty under pressure), a required attendance policy and a barring of mid-curriculum addition to the student body. The changes were designed to promote uniformity of skills among students, to keep students in the school (absences barred a student from further participation), and - as a by-product - to keep instructors with the school. I'd do it again this way despite some student grumbling.

Many thanks are due Barry Kircher without whose help I could not have conducted the school. Further thanks are due all those who took time from their own climbs to lend me a hand.

- Bill Barnes -

STUDENTS WHO SUCCESSFULLY COMPLETED THE CLIMBING SCHOOL, including the glacier school September 23rd and 24th: Steve Victors, Chris Victors, Ed Coleman, James Lacey, Dick Greeley, Fritz Rieger, Durhane Rieger, Ken Manning, Bill Craine, Gary Grinde, Mike Richardson, Paul Landis, Peter Harding, John Watt, Michael Heinz and Mark Rainery. INSTRUCTORS: Wendell Oderkirk, Nick Parker, John Samuelson and T.J. Bruce with assistance from Gil Todd and Paul Landis.

MT. NOYES

John Michaud

For several months now, Jim Carter and I had eagerly awaited the day when we'd bid farewell to civilization for a two-week trek thru some genuine Alaska wilderness. But our destination remained undecided until two days before departure, when we dropped by Eberhard's Sport Shop and rapped a bit with Wendell Oderkirk, who happened to mention that Mt. Noyes, which reigns over the Mentasta Range, just northeast of the Slana-Nabesna Road, had yet to be climbed. Upon studying the topo maps of the Mentastas, we agreed that they seemed to have everything we sought, namely lots of mountains, valleys, glaciers, and streams, and not much of anything else.

So on the morning of August 2nd, we began our trek by hiking up Lost Creek, which flows from the Mentastas and crosses the Slana-Nabesna Road near Mi. 31. It was around six miles to the edge of the Mentastas and though the walking was fairly easy, and the day was grand, our packs were flagrant violations of everything Colin Fletcher et al have written about starting light and easy; so when we reached the entrance to the mountains and set up camp, our sore feet and stiff muscles informed us that we'd indeed done a healthy day's work. Thank the Lord for Dr. Schell and his moleskins...

The going was quite a bit steeper the next day, as we trekked three more miles up the valley, following Lost Creek into the mountains, and taking the center stream where it finally divided into three tributaries. Soon we were forced to climb our left bank, and upon reaching its top, we found ourselves on a narrow ridge, which we followed up to a lush alpine meadow at the foot of a 7,040 ft. mountain. There we set up our first base camp, and there we remained for three days, taking three of the local 7-granders (7,040, 7,080, and 7,420 on the U.S.G.S. topo map - C-5, Nabesna, I think), and getting in shape for our attempt on yon 8,000 ft. ridgeline, upon which rests Mt. Noyes and four or five other formidable-looking 8-grand sisters.

Then we moved a mile and a half further up the valley, and set up another base camp at 6,000 ft. and it rained for four days, so except for a couple of reconnoiters up a branch ridgeline, we remained in the tent. On the fifth day, we decided that we'd figured out the weather pattern in these parts, and agreed that it would undoubtedly clear off late in the evening, allowing us to make a dash for the ridgeline, and Noyes. So early in the afternoon, we dashed to around 8,000 ft.; and there the weather gods spied us, and frowned upon the intrusion into their domain--so they prepared themselves a fine blizzard, with lots of wind, snow and a near whiteout, and hurled it down upon us, and we not-too-reluctantly hustled back into the valley, where it was merely chilly, rainy, grey and nasty.

Our fortunes finally changed on the next day, August 10. The clouds broke around noon, and a joyously sunny sky appeared, and once again we traipsed off in search of a route to Noyes. This time we selected a snow-patch which extended from the back of the second valley south of Mt. Noyes to the 8,000 ft. ridgeline. And though our snow-patch had appeared formidably steep from down the valley, it proved to be no great difficulty, and we kicked steps up 1,100 or 1,200 ft. in less than an hour. Then we were on the ridgeline, about a mile away from

Noyes, which would surely soon be ours. However, this ridgeline was more than it had appeared to be; though the route was mostly simple and straightforward, it was quite narrow, and a couple of spots were downright treacherous. (The Mentastas consist almost entirely of scree and the remaining rocks which aren't scree just yet are exceedingly likely to become scree when used as a handhold or foothold.)

But we took a couple of 8-Granders (8,200 and 8,100 on the U.S.G.S. topo map) on that ridgeline, before encountering a spot which necessitated either crossing a snow cornice (with our limited experience, we know little about cornices (except that they sometimes break with people on them.), cutting steps across an ice slope (which would've meant roping up, and we'd avoided this so far today), or descending in search of an easier route. We chose the latter, and eventually descended 1,000 ft. or so to the edge of the glacier which lies beneath Noyes, on the west side of the ridge. There we cramponed up, skirted the glacier's edge, and then kicked steps again, back up to the ridgeline just where it joins Noyes. And in 20 minutes we were on the summit, gazing across our world of snow and rock, glaciers and valleys, sunshine and blue sky, and feeling that now the days of rain were more than atoned for...

But we were not the first. Some hardy soul had traipsed up here with three poles, a banner or flag and a length of wire, and had built himself a huge cairn, and set up a cross or totem of some sort, which has long since succumbed to the arctic winds. But the poles remain, lying near the cairn in a tangle of wire which had once been used to anchor them and causing us to wonder who climbed Noyes first, and how, and why they brought the paraphernalia. We've no idea...

We descended without crampons and skirted the north edge of the glacier on our way back to camp. (It is this route I'd suggest to anyone who might desire to climb Noyes with a minimum of trouble. One can walk to the base of Noyes in late summer by taking the scree slope just north of the glacier, and then can kick steps up any of several snow gullies right to the ridge and the summit is but a 20-minute scramble away. Would that we had known this earlier...)

EDITOR'S NOTE: Wendell Oderkirk met these men at Eberhard's and they honored his request to report on what they had climbed. The Alaska Magazine article (July, 1972) on Mt. Noyes indicated it had not been "finished off," but these men found differently. We appreciate their report. If only all "outside" climbers would be as courteous and forthright!!

"EMERALD LAKE," Chugach Range, September 2 - 4, 1972
Anchorage (A7)

Rod Wilson

A major branch of Ship Creek enters the main stream from the south 1 1/2 miles above the water treatment plant on Ski Bowl Road. One can look into the valley of this fork from the road but access from Ship Creek is steep and very bushy.

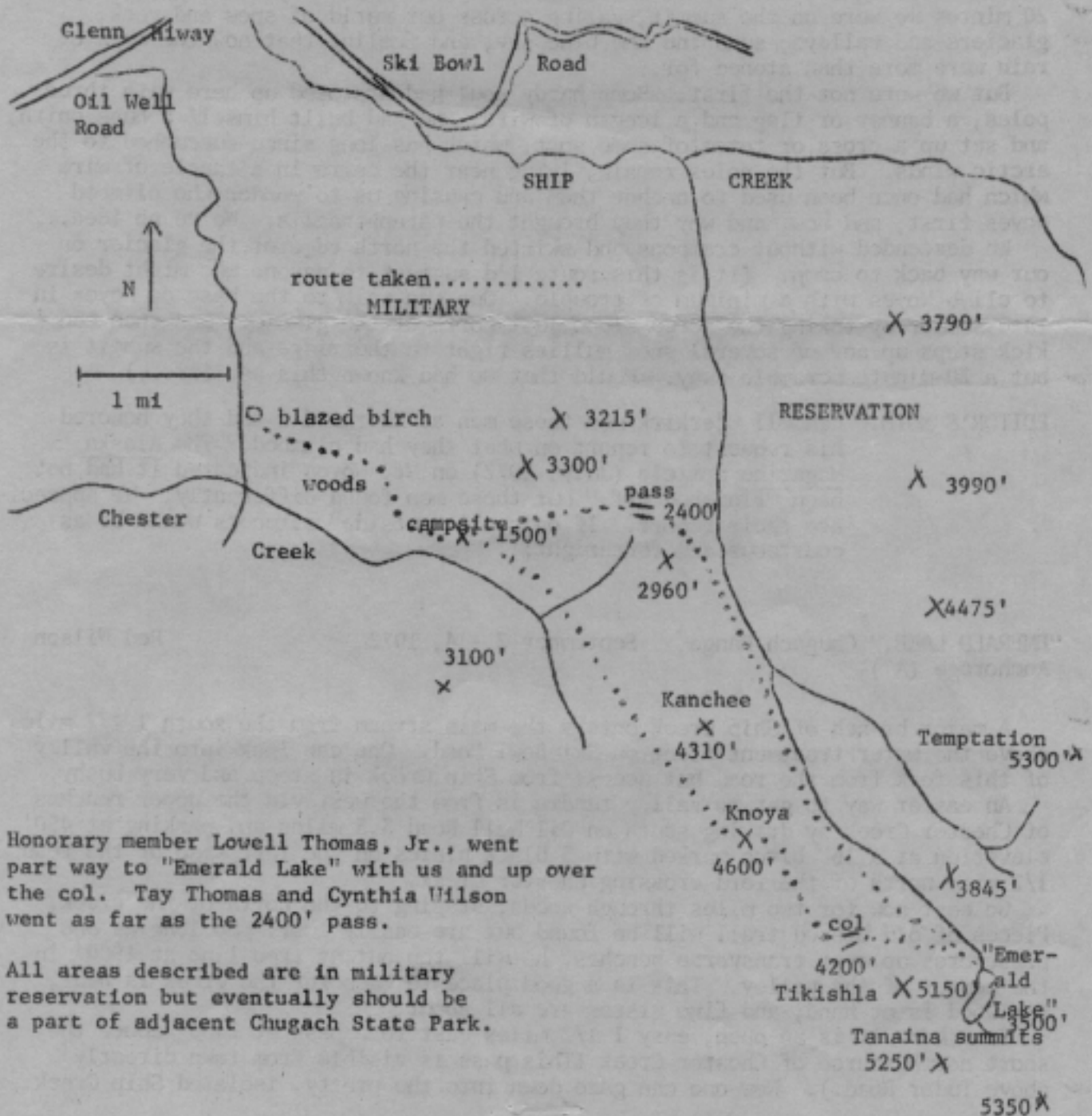
An easier way to get to valley tundra is from the west via the upper reaches of Chester Creek by driving south on Oil Well Road 3.3 miles and parking at 450' elevation at a 16" birch marked with 3 black blazes on the left side of the road 1/2 mile north of the ford crossing Chester Creek.

Go east now for two miles through woods, staying to the north of the creek. Pieces of old blazed trail will be found but are easily lost. So long as one perseveres up over transverse benches, he will top out at tree line at 1500' in the center of the valley. This is a good place to camp for the creek is near, firewood is at hand, and fine vistas are all about.

From here it is an open, easy 1 1/2 miles east to a pass at 2400' above the short north source of Chester Creek (This pass is visible from town directly above Tudor Road.). Now one can gaze down into the pretty, isolated Ship Creek

tributary. Southeast 3 1/2 miles away up a left fork is Temptation Peak, while high out-of-view at the end of the right fork four miles away is "Emerald Lake," 3500', a 20-acre sheet beneath the steep north wall of Tanaina (SCREE, Sept 1966). Between the two branches is a chocolate-drop-shaped wedge, 3845'.

On September 3, 1972, Gwyn and Rod Wilson and non-members Marian and Dick Witt dropped from the 2400' pass 300' into the valley and proceeded on tundra up to the lake, where between rain and hail showers Gwyn took a chilly dip. We then labored from near the lake west up to a col at 4200' on the ridge between Tikishla and Knoya. Next we went a mile up the ridge, over Knoya and three miles in Chester Creek drainage back to camp. Two bands of sheep were seen on the trip.



Honorary member Lovell Thomas, Jr., went part way to "Emerald Lake" with us and up over the col. Tay Thomas and Cynthia Wilson went as far as the 2400' pass.

All areas described are in military reservation but eventually should be a part of adjacent Chugach State Park.

Jury on Williwaw Peak (5445') and Williwaw Lakes

July 3, 1972

Dave DeVoe

As shown in 55 WAYS TO THE WILDERNESS as far as the valley below Black Lake. We then stayed on the right side of the valley up past the first Williwaw Lake, then right, into the bowl rimmed by O'Malley and Hidden Peaks, The Ramp and Williwaw.

Those participating on the outing were: Gil Todd*, Randy Renner and guest, Ann-Marie, Bob Coleman*, Ed Coleman*, Al Sisson, George Peckham, Mike Mobley*, Mike Richardson*, Sue Neil, Carol DeVoe, Dave DeVoe* and dog T.D.* Those * reached the summit.

Williwaw was the substitute for the Matanuska Peak climb which we thought would be "too long." As it turned out, yours truly had forgotten that his winter ascent of Williwaw had required the better part of two days.

This July trip, following the same route as the February one, led the group through less snow and the breezes were balmy, but the creek crossing was a wet-and-wild type, leaving more than one customer with jeans damp up to...gasp!...there.

Randy and Anne-Marie caught up with us at the top of "The Glacier" and as we descended the fully toward Middle Fork, George's basso boomed down to us from the cliff top a solo of "I Love Life." George spent the day exploring the ridge above Deep Lake and adding color to his tan.

Those neck deep willows near the head of the valley weren't there in the winter, either. But neither were the beautiful full flowing streams and green meadows in the bowl above the lakes. Carol and Sue like it so well they got no farther. Al and Anne-Marie decided the hiking was over and the climb was starting by the time we'd reached the snow gully at the base of the peak itself, and Randy said he'd rather make it in the winter (too much McKinley in his veins yet).

Something traditional about being the leader prompted me to try making our efforts in the slush look something like a climb by distributing people on ropes, with an ice axe at the head of each rope for appearances. (Elbows and knees used promptly proved to be good enough stoppers in the deep, soft snow.)

All the while, "T," the mountain-climbing dog, (Williwaw was his fourth skyline summit) tried to keep in touch with Bob, Ed and the two Mikes in the lead, and Gil and I who obviously were more appreciative of such things as the view and the blue sky, judging by our more leisurely pace.

Actually, the final slope to the summit was easier in the winter kicking nice firm buckets in the snow, than it was in July with the large, loose rocks to stumble over. But Williwaw's winter summit doesn't have July's grassy hummocks to flop down on for a nap before the descent, either.

Winter...summer...it's pretty hard to knock either one in the mountains.

WHAT SCREE SAID WAY-BACK-THEN DEPT.

Ten years ago - October, 1962 - SCREE contained an article entitled "History - As She Is Writ" by Alte Icke which contained an interesting account of the first five years of MCA's existence. The first paragraph read, "A gleam in the eye of a bumbling mountaineer appeared during the summer of 1958. With proper cooperation the Mountaineering Club of Alaska was conceived and well on its way by fall. The constitution and bylaws were formed. The first election established Paul B. Crews as President. In October the first issue of SCREE tripped onto the scene. Our artists and artistically minded were at work on an insignia. 1959 closed with 73 members proud of their efforts and looking forward to better accomplishments." Five years ago - October, 1967 - Bob Spurr reported climbing Yisbo 5950' and Didilkama 6100', Vin Hoeman reported climbing the southern gullies and faces of Castle Mountain, 5530' and Hatcherhead 4750'.