



October, 1980

Volume 23, Issue #10

OCTOBER MEETING

The meeting will be held Wednesday, October 15th at 8:00 PM on the top floor of the Pioneer Schoolhouse, 3rd & Eagle, Anchorage. Final nominations and election of Club Officers and Board members will be held at this meeting. Please attend so that your wishes are known! After the business meeting, Bill Wakeland will present a slide show on this Summer's MCA trip into the Kobuk Valley National Monument.

MINUTES OF THE GENERAL MEETING, Sep. 17, 1980

The meeting was called to order at 8:10 PM by President Tim Neale. Minutes of the August meeting were read by the Secretary and approved. In the absence of the Treasurer, there was no recent financial details except that the Money Market Fund is now \$2,044. President Neale reported the Treasurer had earlier listed the Club's expenses for the first ten months of the fiscal year ending Aug. 1st as \$784, with income of \$2,286, for a net gain of about \$1,500. The next monthly meeting in October will be devoted to the election of officers and board members. A financial statement will be available at the end of the year. Several guests were introduced.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Equipment: The ropes, axes, crampons, and helmets will be reserved on September 27th for the Ice Climbing and Glacier Travel School.

Library: This will probably be moved from Tom Meacham's to Pat Murray's home on Telequana Drive when the Meachams move. Details will be worked out later. Books borrowed from the Library increased from 3 in 1978 to 26 in 1979. Part of the Library will be temporarily in the care of Greg Higgins this coming Winter for further research. He has been refurbishing the old scrapbooks of newspaper clippings. These were available for inspection at the meeting.

SCREE: There is always a need for descriptions of trips made in the recent past and also trips planned in the future in Alaska and elsewhere where additional party members may be needed. All such articles should be sent by mail to the Editor, Marty Bassett (see last page). In reply to a question on whether SCREE could accept advertising, President Neale said that this might not be in keeping with the Club's non-profit status. However members may advertise for personal equipment they wish to sell or trade.

Outings: Peter Sennhauser is leading a trip to the Pinnacle on Sept. 21. This is up the Hatcher Pass Road to Independence Mine. The Ice Class will be on Sept. 24 (Classroom session) and Sept. 27 (Byron Glacier).

NEW BUSINESS: Nominations were requested for Club Officers and Board Members, with the understanding that additional nominations may be made from the floor before the elections are held at the October meeting. The following nominations were made:

- President: John Lohff
- Vice-President: Jim Eason
- Secretary: Al Robinson
- Treasurer: Paula Quering
- Board members: John Nevin, Lavonia James, Peter Sennhauser, & Tim Neale.

Rick Severn expressed an interest in scheduling more family oriented hikes that could include young children such as the Club Rendezvous trip this year. This will be taken into account on next year's scheduling.

After the intermission for refreshments, the movie "Solo" was shown. The meeting adjourned at 9:40 Ph.

Al Robinson, Secretary

Trip Reports

LOST LAKE TRIP 30Aug - 1Sep, 80

The Club's 2nd annual Labor Day trek to Lost Lake started off rather slowly with only 6 signing up. However, due to complete disbelief in the weather man, extreme optimism, or a "come hell or high water, I'm going anyway attitude", 20 people and four dogs showed up at the lake by Sat. night.

After stashing cars at both ends of the trail, the dogs Tor, Klute, Missy, and Noopy and 17 people left Primrose campground at 11:30 under dubious skies. Everyone seemed to be bent on getting to the lake; so by 5pm, the 7 miles were covered and tents pitched on the northwest bank of the lake - just in time for rain. Evidence of at least one black and one grizzly bear was seen. The surprising thing was the abundance of flowers - usually all gone by this time. Overcast skies could not hide the beauty of the alpine country and many little lakes. It is a shame the trail follows a little valley to the lake. By walking a few yards to the top of the ridge on the left you can see the Chugach Mountains, glaciers, and many little alpine lakes all along the way. Just before dark John and Jim Ramey and Kim Kruse joined us, having come in on the south trail.

Next morning the gentle all night rain made sleeping in very ~~waxt~~ easy. Breakfast activity increased as the rain stopped. Seven decided to pull out while the rest hoped for better weather. It began looking better so Bill Wakeland, Pat Murray, Anita Beeman, Ron Rhodehamel (also caught the only fish), myself, John Strassenberg and three dogs scrambled up a 4200 ft peak north of Mt Ascension. A spectacular view of Seward, Blying Sound, Kenai Lake and the surrounding area was enjoyed by all. Others took flower pictures or just relaxed as the sun appeared off and on.

The moon and stars put a silver glow on the mountain tops, lake, and tents, and the next day dawned cloudless and warm. Everyone broke camp as the spirit moved them, negotiated the streams at the end of the lake in their fashion and headed out. It was a leisurely berry picking, picture taking pace. The alpine meadows still had lots of flowers and the unusual amount of snow left made for interesting pictures in any directions. Also, the sun and blue sky were definitely a plus.

Others on the trip were Ester George, Reg Buchanan, Kathy Fisk, Ron's son, Paula Quering, the James with niece Gina Hurst from Atlanta, Mark

(continued from page 2)

Findlay, Mrs. Wakeland, Pauline Chase, and Pat Corbine.

John Nevin

Wolverine Peak (Sept 14)

A hike to Wolverine Peak was scheduled for the 14th, but unfortunately, due to poor weather conditions, only three people were brave (?) enough to attend. They were Anita Beeman, Kathy Fisk, and Pat Murray.

We met at the UAA Campus Center parking lot at 9 AM and decided to go ahead with our plans. Leaving at 9:30 for Prospects Heights, the hike started at 10:30 and we finally reached the top at 2:30. Lunch was on top with all of us in rain gear. Immediately following lunch, we proceeded down the mountain rapidly and arrived at the parking lot at 5:30. Even though the weather was against us that day, we still had an enjoyable time together.

Kathy Fisk

MCA PICNIC (Sept 20)

The MCA picnic was a great success with over 50 members and friends meeting at Eklutna Lake to share food, drink, and memories. Congratulations to Lavonia and the crew who did all the organizing. Activities centered around the campfire in the evening with some of the more energetic tossing the frisbee.

In the morning the East Twin Pass area was assaulted by a large group including Steve Robinson, Guy Gadomski, Janet Smalley, Bob Livingston, Ron Rhodehamel, Peter Sennhauser, Marty Bassett, Diane and Kathy Leary, Dianne Olsen, Pat Sorsby, Rick O'Kelley, Kathy Fisk, John Strassenberg, and Greg Higgins. Two mystery climbers on the ridge turned out to be Messers John Lohff and Steve Van Goor.

The group became several in the bowl above with some hiking to the ridge for the view while two other parties went up to Peak 5450 or to the East Twin where we placed the new club register. The views of Denali, his wife, Marcus Baker, Goode, Bold, Bellicose, etc. were spectacular under the high overcast.

/////

Mt. Drum, 12,010 ft, via the NW Central Gully

or "Beat the Drum Slowly"

We had originally planned to do the Japanese Ridge to the NE, but elected to try this route as it was more accessible to our fly in site at Chelle Lake. Any information on previous ascents of this line would be appreciated.

After a quiet flight on Sat. morning, Aug. 23, Valerie Herschberg, Janet Smalley, and I sorted our gear and then carried loads to our base camp site somewhere around 6000 ft overlooking the huge two-fingered glacier coming off the NW side of Drum. We returned to the lake that night and the next day brought up our remaining gear.

On Monday we tackled the ice fields on the glacier along the NE side of Pk 8600 to eventually find a campsite about 150 ft below the ridge low point that connects Pk 8600 to Drum. We had to wend our way through the crevass fields lower down and had to settle for this site which was lower than we had hoped. The following day we moved our other gear to this camp. So far the weather had been fine.

Wednesday dawned windy and as we worked our way up the ridge and then across towards the chute that splits the SW and NE summits, the weather worsened. Thick black clouds scudded in on strong winds from the East. We set up camp around 9000 ft behind an iceblock that was out of the line-of-fire from the huge hanging blocks above. Spindrift was into everything as we fur-

(continued next page)

(continued from page 3)

iously dug out our tent site, and then dived into our warm sleeping bags.

The wind raged for half the night and was followed by 4 to 5 hours of snowfall. By late Thursday morning it had stopped, and we found ourselves sitting under brilliantly blue skies with a sea of clouds below at 8000 ft. We sat in camp all day waiting to see what would happen to the new snow under the bright sun.

We awoke to bright moonlight at 3:30 AM on Friday for a cold breakfast and even colder boots; setting off for the top at 5. We hiked up the mostly knee-deep snow to the saddle low-point and then turned left to walk the ridge to the NE summit at 8:15. After some quick photos, we turned tail because the biting wind was cold reaching our high camp at 10:15. Incidentally we were unable to find the controversial anti-NF-forest Service sign on the top.

That same afternoon we retraced our route back down to our base camp for a much welcome dinner and rest. On Saturday we managed to stuff all our gear back into our packs and haul them down the 7 miles to Chelle Lake to be flown out the next day.

Greg Higgins

Foot Notes to "Beat the Drum Slowly"

Valerie Herschberg

1. Lynn Ellis flew us in from Glenallen to Hotdog (Chelle) Lake for \$120. per person round trip. We went in by supercub and it took 3 trips.
2. Since we weren't able to fly in Friday night (Greg tried but lost out..) we went in to Glenallen to get a bite to eat. 24 hrs later after we had done our first carry and were back at the lake, I got rather sick ie: vomiting and diarrhea. Alas we had eaten at Ptomaine Tommies and the sour cream nailed me. (If you ask me I'll tell you the real name). As a result of this abuse to my stomach my mouth broke out in a progressive series of gross fever blisters causing me to look like I'd been firmly kissed by a grizzly bear.
3. Janet coined a perfect name for an interesting peak to the north of Drum. It is before the Sanford River, to the left of the shorter fingered glaciers. It reads 8 degrees NW from the summit of Drum to the main summit of 7640 ft. There are little spires around the mountain that look like monks in robes walking up the mountain hence the name "Monk's Mountain".
4. It was a good bit of work getting to the top (no cupcake) and enough objective dangers along the way to keep my heartrate bombing.
5. The summit ridge was beautiful with snow plastered on the SE ridge; masses of rock with wind blasted snow on it.
6. We really hightailed it off the mountain after getting the summit. None of us wanted to be a sitting duck for another house size ice block to meander our way or for all the new snow to give us a quick ride down. We did have a few difficulties on the lower ice field, however. Greg fell into some crevasses and I fell into one that was all air under my legs and not filled with snow like the others. We had one crevass we had to cross on a narrow ice bridge from one level to another lower level. The previous carries I had crossed OK, but this time I tried to go at it face on and jump it. well - it didn't happen. I got a bit freaked out. Greg came and took my pack across and then I got over. Janet wasn't able to jump it with her heavy pack so decided to heave it across. As you can guess... yes... down it went 50 feet into the crevass! We put Greg on a double belay and he rescued the pack (which primarily had Peter Sennhauser's gear in it) off a snow bridge. (We just wanted to be sure all the gear we hauled in got used)
7. On the way out to the lake the next day all went well except that Janet was walking amongst some teetering rocks and took a fall slicing her scalp. Greg patched her up, gave her a feather and named her chief. Lynn picked us up Sunday AM before the wind picked up. Diane Olson and Tim Neale greeted us at Glenallen.
8. Lastly, but most important, I thank the Lord for keeping us safe on

(continued next page)

(continued from page 4)

our trip. We had a few problems which were minor compared to the potential disasters inherent in a climbing trip such as this. I appreciate the grace of God to keep the forces of nature under such control as to allow us to have had such an excellent trip. Hallelujah!

Mt Pleasant Revisited

Pete Sennhauser, Ted Laska, and I had hoped to climb Mt Korohusk by skirting along the south side of Ferine Pk on Sept. 19, but it took us too long to reach Ferine's south side. We therefore elected to traverse over Bombardment Pass to hike (?) the ridge up to Mt Pleasant (6400 ft).

Names can be misleading. We found that Mt Pleasant up high via the south ridge becomes a series of huge blocks that made our high angle exposed route a 4th class endeavor with one section of low 5th class. ~~The~~ The summit is a series of three rotten spires with the final one to the NW appearing highest. The southernmost two had cairns, but no registers.

The only known previous ascent of this peak was by Norm Pichler, Lois Willard, and Erma Duncan in June, 1960, and presumably they were the cairn builders. Time was short so we left no register; a project for a later date. Our hike out through the bushes in the moonlight was more enjoyable than anticipated.

Greg Higgins

Some Local Scrambles

Indianhouse Mtn: Two hours of scrambling through the brush and up the steep hillside from the end of the Indian Road on Sept. 10 took me to some of the finest rock scrambling to be found in the near Chugach. The area from the notch to the summit is well worth the effort. A new club register was placed. The first ascent of this peak was in June, 1959 by MCAers N Joe and Norm Pichler, Joe Hill, and Hansl Metz.

North Suicide: After Indianhouse I traversed the NW ridge to its low point and then followed game trails to Windy Gap and from there went to the summit of the North Suicide. Data on early ascents of this prominent peak is woefully inadequate due to the loss of all the early records. Pat Feeny reported them missing in 1971. I know that Steve Stewart and Hans Van der Laan made a March 11, 1969 climb and were unable to find any records of previous Winter climbs then, so this probably represented the first Winter ascent. I left a new club register and departed via the East ridge.

Mt. Ferine: This peak sits above Eagle River just southeast of Korohusk and is 5800 ft high. Doug Billman and I set out Sept 11 planning to climb the SE ridge of Korohusk having mistakenly concluded that this was the route described by Art Davidson in 1965. It wasn't and we didn't! Mt Ferine was a consolation prize after abandoning the rotten rock on Korohusk. I believe this to be the same mountain that the State Park lists as Cumulus Peak. The name Ferine has previously been rejected by the Geographic Names Committee for the state of Alaska and remains unofficial. It may be resubmitted soon by the MCA Geographic Names Committee.

HurdyGurdy: Sept 12 saw Pete Sennhauser and I brave the coming storm to scramble up this beautiful 5965' summit, above the South Fork of Eagle River. The 1st ascent was done Nov 9, 69 by Grace Hoeman, Ned Lewis, and April Allen; their original register was in good shape, although a bit damp. A new club register was placed after copying the originals.

Greg Higgins

BOOK REVIEW

"Everest: The West Ridge" by Thomas F. Hornbein, Seattle--The Mountaineers, 1980. 181 pp. \$17.50.

The Mountaineers have done us all a service in issuing a new edition of this book. Many of us have cherished our copies of the paper-back edition (my circle could never afford the Sierra Club spectacular!) of one of the real classics of mountaineering literature. Now we may have it in more durable format, with additional good photos. So far as I know, the 1963 traverse of Mt. Everest which this book describes has not since been duplicated, though many new routes to the summit have been climbed.

"West Ridge", like all the best mountaineering literature, tells us a great deal about people as well as peaks. This is a particularly good glimpse at what seem to be factors in exceptional feats of endurance. The interaction of climbers' personalities, mutual concerns and responsibilities, are well shown. Appropriately and poignantly the new edition is dedicated to all who knew and loved Willi Unsoeld, Hornbein's companion on the West Ridge, who died in an avalanche on Mt. Rainier only a year before this edition was published.

If you are building a personal mountaineer's library, this book would be a good cornerstone, in this reviewer's opinion. Liz Robinson

History Corner

At the last Board meeting, John Dillman suggested that I write a monthly article on the Club's history. Since I am working on a number of projects that concern the Club early on, I thought this a good idea as it gives me a chance to disseminate some of the fascinating information I have come across. Long-time members (new ones too) should feel free to correct me on any errors that I might make.

The year is 1958, June 17. The Daily Times has an article headlined: "Snow Halts Mt Iliamna Climbers." Five men, Keith Hart, Mat Nitsch, Neal Davis, Roger Waller, and Pete Itso were turned back at 7500 ft by a wall they were unable to surmount. Theirs was the 1st known attempt on this beautiful Aleutian range peak, and on July 5th, the Times featured a full page of pictures of the climb.

This climb crystallized the realization in area climbers that there was a local interest in establishing a club, and on June 27th an inconspicuous article entitled: "Mountaineer Club Organized" appeared in the Times. Organizational work continued that summer. By the Sept. 5th cut-off date the club had 52 charter members. The first officers were: Paul B Crews, president; John Johnston, vice-president; Helga Bading, secretary/treasurer; Dr Erik Barnes and Larry Straley, directors.

In September the Times printed a picture of the 1st MCA climb to receive public notice; the September 14th ascent of Bold Peak by Hansl Metz, Helga Bading, Paul Crews, and John Johnston. The route was via the frontal ridge on the North Face then up the North ridge for a 3rd ascent. (The 1st ascent was in 1947!)

One month later the SCREE was born, but did not receive its name until issue number 3. The 1st issue included an interesting reprint of Dave Brower's system for rating climbs that included: "Easy - the 2nd party's appraisal of a pitch described as difficult by the party making the 1st ascent; Interesting - describes a climb one grade higher than you'd care to lead just now; Fascinating - one grade higher than you'd care to lead ever."

Greg Higgins

Register Project Status

The following summits now have official Club registers: Blacktail, Homicide, Indianhouse, HurdyGurdy, Kanchee, Knoya, O'Malley, Powerline, Ptarmigan, Ramp, North & South Suicides, Roundtop, Vista, Williwaw, E Twin, Wolverine, and the Wedge. Register material is prepared and ready to be placed on the following: Bold, Byron, West Twin, West Goat Mtn, Gunsight, Hidden, Magnificent, Montana, Pioneer, East and West Tanaina, Tikishla, Koktoya, and Temptation. In addition, historical sheets are prepared, but need to be carried up to Williwaw, the Ramp, and Wolverine.

Since Greg Higgins is moving to Seward, the register material will be kept at Tim Neale's house. Anyone planning a trip to one of the above peaks that still needs work may pick up the material there. Any Club member may participate. All that is required is to build a cairn on the summit and then to securely place the ABS pipe register. Tim's number is 274-4952.

BITS & PIECES

Equipment Advertising: Beginning with the November issue, SCREE will be accepting short, non-commercial equipment advertisements from currently paid up MCA members. These ads must be limited to buying, selling, or trading non-motorized outdoor recreation equipment. All ads are free and must be received by the SCREE editor no later than the 25th of the month prior to the month of publication. For further information call Marty Bassett at 694-3917.

Pauline Chase writes: "I'm impressed with the number of people who offered to help collate the SCREE this summer. Many thanks to all of you who lent a hand. It really helped out a lot. I have just retyped the mailing list for SCREE. Please call me if there are any problems such as typos." Pauline Chase. 277-1176.

Greg Higgins wishes to thank Mark Findlay, Pauline Chase, Paula Quering, and Loretta Higgins for helping with the September SCREE. Reg Buchanan also deserves a thank you for the August SCREE reprint job.

The MCA Pinnacle climb on Sept 21st didn't materialize due to lousy weather. A small group did hike into the Armstrong cabin (and beyond), and there met Pat Buchanan who had climbed the Lynx the day before. The register there is intact and will hopefully be replaced with a new one next year.

Bradford Washburn was recently in town conferring on the proposed Tokositna tourist center in the Park. We are pleased that someone of his stature is involved in the planning. His love affair with Denali began long before most of us were born. We look forward to viewing the final plans.

MCA members Steve and Deidre Earle were featured in two photos in the Anchorage Daily Times on Sept 16. They were practicing ice climbing on Byron Glacier.

MCA member, Susan Havens, along with Sharon Kearney of Portland, Oregon pitched camp one at 16,500 ft on Sept 7th on the Women's Expedition to Mt. Dhaulagiri. The most recent word of this climb is dated Sept 18 at which time the route to camp three at 21,000 ft was being prepared.

My apologies if this stencil doesn't print too well. The old Smith-Corona was acting up and I did not have any correcting fluid. Greg Higgins.