



MOUNTAINEERING CLUB OF ALASKA

BOX 2037

ANCHORAGE, ALASKA 99510

OCTOBER 1982

Volume 25, Issue #10

October Meeting

The meeting will be held Wednesday, October 20th, at 8:00p.m. on the top floor of the Pioneer School House, Third and Eagle, Anchorage, Alaska. During the business meeting, further nominations will be taken for MCA officer and board positions. Elections for these positions will follow immediately thereafter. After the business meeting an equipment swap/sale will be held. So be sure to bring your extra equipment and/or your checkbook.

MINUTES FOR MCA GENERAL MEETING

The September meeting of MCA was held on the 15th at the Pioneer School House, top floor, at 3rd & Eagle, Anchorage, AK. The meeting was called to order at 8:10p.m. by President, John Dillman. The reading of the August meeting was approved as published in SCREE. Treasurer, Reggie Buchanan reported:

\$ 50.12	Petty Cash Fund
\$1,184.06	Bank Account
\$2,834.69	Money Market Fund
\$4,068.87	TOTAL

New members introduced were: Catherine Downing, Judy Whitcomb, Wally Lewis, Ron Van Bergeyk, Bill Tatom, John Goerner, Bill Rowe, Terry Slaven, Ed Reeder, Dwight Anderson, Forrest Baldwin, Kent Richter, and Michael Budzinski.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Hiking: Dona Agosti 248-0089
If you have any ideas for trips for next summer, please contact Dona. Season starts in May.

Chugach State Park Trails Association: Tim Neale 274-4952
The California Creek Trail brush out is scheduled for Sept. 18th, Saturday, meet at Girdwood's Alyeska Lodge at 9:00a.m. for breakfast, depart for the trailhead at 10:00a.m. Bring a hatchet, bow saw, chain saw, or axe.

Hut: John Dillman 279-1246
Temporary repairs have been made at the Mint Glacier hut, if permanent repairs cannot be scheduled until Spring, these should hold.

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Programs: Rick Severn 344-7269
If you would like to show your slides at a MCA meeting please contact Rick. The October meeting will not have slides shown due to the scheduled Equipment Swap/Sale.

CLASSES:

General Mountairneering: Tim Neale 274-4952
Please contact Tim for details.

MCA Annual Ice Climbing: John Dillman 279-1246
The annual Matanuska Glacier Ice Climbing school indoor session is on September 22nd at 8:00p.m. at Pioneer School House. The outdoor session is on September 25th & 26th, at Matanuska Glacier at 10:00a.m. Full details were in the September SCREE.

Map & Compass: Graham Macdonald 345-5791
The map and compass class is scheduled for September 28th, Tues., October 5th, Tues., October 13th, Wed., and Oct. 27th, Wed. These are indoor sessions at West High School in the Cove room at 7:00-9:00p.m. Week end sessions will be outdoors and scheduled according to students preference for date and time.

OLD BUSINESS-None

NEW BUSINESS

Election of officers is scheduled for the October meeting. Nominations are: President-Rick Severn, Vice President-Ernie Borjorn and Don Hanson, Secretary-Bernie Helms, Treasurer-Reggie Buchanan. Nominations for the two available board positions are: Bill Wakeland, Graham Macdonald, John Nevin, Mark Findley, and Keith Jost.

ANOUNCEMENTS:

Dona Agosti has had her book "High-Country Backpacker" published and it is available at the Bookcache for \$11.95. Dona offered MCA members a special price of \$10.00 with autograph if you wish to contact her direct.

Pete Martin from the Dept. of Natural Resources is seeking information pertaining to recreational uses of the Hatcher Pass-Fern Mine-Snow Bird Mine-Reed Lakes-Purchase Creek-Peters Creek area.

If you have been parking in the lot adjacent to Simon & Seafort's restaurant...Beware! Your vehicle is liable to be towed away. The restaurant has allowed their parking rights lease to expire and until it is renewed all cars are being removed at the request of the lot owner.

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Thank you to John Lohff for the slide presentation on his McKinley climb. It was a somewhat different aspect of the mountain than usually presented and viewed with much interest.

The meeting adjourned at 8:55p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sandi Macdonald

BITS AND PIECES

Beginning Winter Mountaineering Class

Classroom session November 9th. Outdoor session November 13th and 14th. Class will be set up for those people with little or no winter climbing experience. This will not be an overnight excursion. The class is non-technical and will cover use of ice axe, crampons, snow climbing, avalanches and snow shelters.

Class will be limited to 20 students. Sign up during October meeting or contact Tim Neale at 274-4952. Students need warm clothing, adequate boots for crampons, wind gear, day pack and lunch. MCA has some crampons and ice axes. Boots must be brought to classroom session on November 9th.

KAYAKS AND CRAMPONS

Chris Hawkesworth, in association with Knik Kanoors & Kayakors and Recreational Equipment, Inc., will present an evening of white-water and mountain films at Central Jr. High Auditorium on Friday, October 29th. Admission is \$3.00 in advance and REI and \$4.00 at the door. (REI is located at 2710 Spenard Rd.) Featured Films will include Sun Kosi-River of Gold-1981 kayaking trip in E. Nepal, Susitna-Devil's Canyon-Short, local film clip, Everest-The Winter Ascent-British Attempt, The Raging River of Annapurna-1980 trip up to 17,500' on the Marsyandi River and paddling back down.

REGISTERS

The MCA has registers for the following peaks: Byron, Goat Mountain (West), Gunsight, Hidden, Magnificent, Montana, Pinnacle, Koktoyce, Tanaina (East), Temptation and West Twin. People interested in picking up one of the registers should call Tim Neale at 274-4952.

EQUIPMENT SWAP

Remember that there will be an equipment swap after the general election at the October 20th meeting. Lets make this a successful event for all those involved.

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AVALANCHE WORKSHOPS

Doug Fesler, Division of Parks, is currently putting together a schedule for this year's Avalanche Workshops to be held January thru April. These workshops are suggested for all those who visit Alaska's backcountry. For more information, write Doug Fesler, Division of Parks, 619 Warehouse Avenue, Anchorage, Ak. 99501. Or call, 274-4676.

T-SHIRT DESIGNS

Designs for a club t-shirt are still needed. Please bring sketches to this month's meeting. They need not be final copies, they will be redrawn by an artist before printing if needed.

CLASS REPORTS

General Mountaineering Class

The General Mountaineering class held on Sept. 18th & 19th had a good turnout despite the marginal weather. Saturday was spent climbing on the rock bluffs by Elkutna Lake. Sunday's class took place on a rainy Byron Glacier learning glacier travel, self arrest and what type of fabric worked best at keeping the water out. None seemed to work.

The following people were involved in the class: Lois Holle, Larry Brys, Richard Williams, Kirten Lund, Chuck Trush, Bill Dougherty, Susan Olson, Katy Byrne, Gene Klymko, Judy Whitcomb, Anne Leggett, Jill Parker, and Robert Elmer. Instructors included Brian Williams, Mark Finlay, Rick Severn, Pat Murray, Reggie Buchanan, Steve Dagger and Tim Neale.

Tim Neale

Ice Climbing Class

The 52 students enrolled made this the largest ice school ever and one of the best. The weather we ordered arrived on time and made the first day truly memorable. There was the usual gaggle as classes were formed and people trooped out onto the mat. Glacier, for their introduction to the joys of ice climbing. Saturday night at the Lodge was a great social gathering (as usual). On Sunday, the members of the Alaska Rescue Group gave a cravasse rescue seminar, allowing most students a chance to practice these techniques. All in all, it was a very successful weekend giving students and instructors alike a great learning experience.

The students were Dwight Anderson, Marcia Bandy, Jane and Michael Bertschi, Michael Budzinski, Katie Byre, Jim Bragg,

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Larry Brys, Lorraine Burger, Paula Cullenberg, Steve Cook, Peter Crimp, Steve Dager, Marrilee Engelke, Bill Ennis, Thomas Faulkenberry, Kathy Fisk, Laurie Fouser, Douglas Gerke, John Goerner, Ed Goss, Conrad & Lyde Gunther, Bernie Helms, Trish Herminghaus, Lois Holle, Rich Holmes, Joy Hornberger, Evelyn Jervey, Barbara Kaehler, John Kerr, Wally Lewis, George Lawrence, Bruce Mattes, John Morris, Karen & Martin Mulholland, Will Nicholson, Denise O'Brien, Oscar Piechert, Peter Porco, Jayne Slaughter, Ted Stagg, Wes Sutherlin, Bill Tatom, Ron VanBergeyk, Brian Williams, Eric McCallum, Robin Smith, and Todd Smith.

A special thanks must go to the Alaska Rescue group for their hardwork on the crevasse rescue course, to John Dillman (El Presidente'), my able assistant, to Alaska Mountaineering & Hiking (AMH), The Rental Room, R.E.I., and Mark Moderow for the loan of equipment, and last but not least, the instructors... Ned Lewis, Jack Duggan, Mike Richardson, Bill Brickley, Perry Solmonson, Tim Neale, Dave Paulke, Willie Hersman, Peter Sennhauser, Susan Havens, Rick Severn, Steve Wolper, Ken Blue, Peter Hoose, Jeff Eustis, Teri Wolber, Reggie Buchanan, Mark Findlay, Ted Laska, Pat McManus, Steve Davis, John Lohff, Graham Macdonald.

Terry Becker

TRIP REPORTS

Byer's Lake-Curry Ridge--September 4-5-6

Eleven hikers departed Anchorage at 6a.m. on a so-so looking Saturday, and left Byers Lake trailhead, Mile 147 Parks Highway, about 11a.m., just as the rain quit. It was a steamy trip in the jungle and up the three sharp benches on a good trail to brush line, some 3 miles and 1,600' elevation gain above trailhead. From thereon there was no trail, as we headed north another three miles in open terrain, crossing a few ravines, swamps and the like, to camp near small lakes and streams. We saw Denali briefly that evening, for the last time.

It rained that night and between the shaky looking weather and formidably looking map, we decided to camp there another night and take a day hike north, and not try to go on through to the Little Coal Creek trail on Indian Ridge. That was a wise choice! We would have never made it in three days, even though our group (aside from the undersigned) was young and lean and fast moving. We looked over two quite different routes to the low area between Curry and Indian Ridges and saw some pretty terrain with granite ledges, thick alder patches, brilliant fall colors of bearberry, lichens and dwarf birch and a number of lakes and streams, all in a rising north wind that appears typical there. We noted a lack of squirrels and a number of huge holes where grizzlies have dug them out, but saw no bears--they were probably down on the streams fishing yet.

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That night our tents got a workout in the wind, and we returned to the trailhead next day, picking blueberries along the way. The group included Boug Gerke, Brian Williams, Jane Utiger, Karen Forsyth, Marty Bassett, Bruce Poulin, Cameron Clough, Tom Williams, Mark Findlay, Faith Szafranski, and myself.

Bill Wakeland

Lost Lake

In view of a dubious weather report I was surprised to see a small army show up eager to get on the trail. Mr. Delmore, Jim Laudwin, Tim and Joe Dougan, Matt Snell, Jack Oldenburg, Bob, Chris and Mary Jo Cadieux, Joan and Kim Katz, Katy Byrne, Tom Sheridan, Clare Carder, Trudy Fye, Carol May, Doug Gerke, Mike Rees, Marcia Bandy, Jane Utiger, John Morris, Will Nicholson, Gene Klymko and Bill Barnes showed up at UAA and all but the last two made the whole weekend. Going in Friday night was Jane Birch and Family.

Cars and drivers were shuffled (thanks to Trudy's big wagon) and everyone took off up the well groomed trail. There is even a nice big trail head sign now at Primrose. I'm glad the trail is well defined, since due to a few having equipment problems, I tried to lead from the rear. Only Mike had been in before and he from the other end. Blueberries abounded and the scenery was excellent in spite of the low ceiling. Unfortunately, a small chopper kept flying at tree top level back and forth along our trail all day. The occupants were staying at the one mine cabin. The pilot must have nerves of steel as he dropped the chopper onto an old collapsed cabin site where the trees almost touched the rotor blades.

Two camps were set up and people visited the glacier on Mt. Ascension, climbed the peak (in soup) behind camp, ate salmon berries, fished, etc. The rain set in during the night and the next morning found Tom and Katy treading water in their tents after a long, miserable night. With a light rain falling all but four went around the lake and out the other trail. Due to the equipment problems three elected to go back out to Primrose and I accompanied them.

The group was very congenial and tolerant of my absentee leading. I was surprised to find no animals or tracks (except the abundant fat marmot) and many streams and lakes dried up or low. But it is still my favorite hike in the Southwest area. Cudos to young Kim who put up with a lot on her first overnight with out getting turned off.

John Nevin

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Portage Lake to Twin Lakes-Lake Clark National Park & Preserve

July 24 through July 31, 1982

Eighteen MCAers took off from Lake Hood with Rust's Flying Service in a Beaver, two 206's and a 185 at 8a.m. July 24, destined for a week of hiking in the Lake Clark National Park. Many had never flown through Lake Clark Pass before, and it's beauty, even in cloudy conditions, was spectacular. Most of us were unaware of the degree of development across the Inlet; I counted 18 platforms and much growth at Tyonek and Beluga. We landed at Portage Lake in about 1.4 hours, then Bill Wakeland, Vicki Brown and I proceeded to Twin Lakes to ask Dick Proenneke, author of One Man's Wilderness, if we could leave our two small rafts with him until we used them to cross the Twin Lakes Channel. It was his opinion that the water in the channel was not too deep to wade, so we opted to send the rafts back to Anchorage. Dick was most cordial and showed us his famous cabin and discussed our route. We then rejoined our group at Portage, but not before looking over possible Kijik River crossing points. Dick warned us that the Sierra Club had gone around the Kijik rather than chance a crossing. We selected a braided area due west of Portage and asked part of our group to check it out while we hiked northwest on a trail suggested by someone who had used that route last year. However, we must have gone too high or too low, because we found nothing but unremitting brush. After several hours of that we turned down to the Kijik River, and hiked downstream to the crossing we had asked the others to check. Bill Wakeland was able to cross, but the water was fast and the sands were shifty. We returned to camp through a rather pleasant wooded area and one rather unpleasant swamp. During the night, rain fell without letup and I became increasingly concerned about crossing the river. My fears were confirmed when we arrived at the Kijik the next morning about 9a.m. and found it uncrossable.

We camped that night on a sandbar only a few miles upstream. The next day, we hiked upstream to the suggested crossing (T5N-R26W Section 34) and discovered it to be just as formidable. We sat down on the sunny sandbar for lunch. Suddenly, across the stream, Dick Proenneke appeared. He had hiked the very difficult pass between Twin Lakes and the Kijik because he was worried about us. Bill Wakeland waded a fast channel to an island and tossed notes to Dick. We asked him if he thought it was feasible to throw a rope to him to which we could tie in and he strongly urged that we not attempt it. He apologized for the angry river. We decided to travel to the headwaters of the river, and asked Dick to tell anyone flying into Twin Lakes that we wanted to be picked up there rather than at Turquoise Lake. Dick nodded agreement. (He has no radio or outside contact).

We were not sorry that we had chosen to travel to the scenic Kijik headwaters valley. Its granite spires reminded me of the Arrigetch Peaks. We crossed many small streams enroute, opting sometimes for the gravel bars, sometimes for high benches. As we

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hiked, the river appeared to have dropped a few inches, but when Bill tried a crossing, he very nearly bought the farm on the opposite bank. I discovered why when I fell trying to cross the first channel; the combination of extreme current and shifting sands toppled me. On one of the high benches we encountered a caribou who was quite indignant that we were using his very fine trail. We first saw him warily eying us from the Kijik flats; when he thought all had passed, he bounded up the cliff to the trail; only Ester George and Randy Simpson were still there and Esther thought a big rack attack was imminent. Randy, photographing with a telescopic lens, said he saw the biggest caribou face he's ever seen in his lens. Back to the flats went the caribou and we enviously watched as he bounded across the uncrossable Kijik in three leaps, and on up valley. Shortly after this show, we passed the largest beaver house John Nevin has ever seen, and after reconnaissance by our wonderful advance party, went on to a superb campsite on a bench overlooking some outstanding scenery. Morale leaped as we dried out our soggy tents and watched the sunset. Folks on the penthouse level amused themselves by playing with a porcupine while those on the lower level admired two huge bull moose across the river.

The next morning we vowed to Konquer the Kijik; the first of three tributaries was not all that difficult. The second consisted of a wide, braided glacier stream, and though the current was somewhat fast, everyone stayed upright. It was therefore very disappointing to reach the last tributary and find that it was supplying the major portion of water to the Kijik, and doing it in a big hurry. We had lunch and pondered what to do about this latest obstacle. A glance at the map told us there braids about a mile or so upstream. We were a happy crowd when we saw that the map was right, and even happier when everyone crossed without trouble. Several miles downstream, we found another scenic campsite near a stream and settled in for the night. Several energetic hikers climbed the 1000' knoll above our camp. The next day would purportedly be a short day to the flats opposite the valley we had intended to enter the second day. Ha.

The first few hours of hiking on this fifth day were so easy that with great false hope, we decided to stay high and probably camp on a high bench at the entrance to the valley. Shortly thereafter, we encountered some of the most miserable brush and steepest ravines that I can ever recall crossing in all my years of hiking. There were times when I saw the hikers ahead of me tumble like bowling pins trying to negotiate a steep bank. It didn't help any to see John Nevin and David Agosti stepping spryly along a moose trail down below; nor to see several others of our party high above us trying to get above the never-ending brush. Finally, I said enough of that and down we went to the moose trail. It, also, was boobytrapped with ponds and swamps and brush, but eventually Bob Cadieux detected Dave's smoke signal fire and we veered to join them on

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the river flats. Whistles brought the rest of our party into camp-one exhausted group. Thus ended our "short, easy day".

Sixth day was over-the-pass day. Surprisingly, we gained the 1500' of elevation to the pass entrance in under two hours. A moose trail helped, as did some very fine trail finding by leader Bill Wakeland assisted by Chris Cadieux and others. We were greeted by three magnificent caribou bulls with towering racks. A caribou trail traversed the entire middle level of the pass, sometimes entering relatively steep ravines, sometimes crossing boulder fields. Several miles into the pass, the terrain leveled and paralleled a fresh water stream. Lots of good camp sites in this area, but we were aiming for Twin Lakes by nightfall. Crossing the tributaries at the end of this valley was a matter of jumping rocks and maybe getting your feet a little bit wet, but no great obstacle. We lunched on the highbank bordering the west tributary. One minute we had sunshine, the next a cloud burst. A short climb to the northwest took us to the summit overlooking a V-shaped, steep ravine which led to Twin Lakes. We had been told to use the left side, so via snowfields, talus, scree and boulders, we eventually made our way 2000' down the "90-degree" slopes, thence on to a caribou trail which took us to a series of grassy benches overlooking the turquoise twin beauties down below. Our choice of campsites were the lichen-covered areas near the channel between the lakes, a beach site almost directly north of us or the lichen and spruce covered bench just below us. Because of water considerations, we opted for the beach. Surprisingly, there is very little beach area around this lake. That night, Bill Wakeland and others offered to hike to Dick's cabin two miles up the lake to see if he had been able to send word to our flying service. Had they known it was going to take almost two hours, they may have waited until morning. It was necessary to climb to the high bench behind us and thrash through brush once more. They learned that two young rangers with the Park Service had been at our campsite the previous day cleaning up after hunters, and Dick had rowed down in his aluminum canoe to ask if they would call our flying service. They agreed to do so. We all slept well that night.

Again the rains came. The winds came. The waves rose. And continued into the next day. About noon, even the worst sackhounds crawled out. Bill Wakeland agreed to take eight of them to Dick's cabin, this time using the trail Dick had shown them. They had a marvelous time, drinking Russian tea, eating sourdough pancakes and talking about Dick's adventures. They also learned that Dick ascended and descended the canyon to the Kijik on the east rather than the west side we had used. He says there is a good caribou trail on that side.

The storm continued through that day and following night. We hoped for clearing since we were scheduled for pickup at 10a.m. the next morning. Despite clouds and high wind, we heard the drone of a plane at the appointed time, and the pilot skillfully landed

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the 206 on the high waves. Taxiing into our cove was no easy job. We learned some surprising things when he jumped on to the beach. First of all, the park service had not notified them of our pickup location change. He had gone to Turquoise and not finding us there, came round to Twin. When he saw our 13 tents, he radioed Rust's in Anchorage that he had found us and the weather was okay. The other three planes then took off. About that time, Dick Proenneke showed up in his canoe and those who had not yet met him had a chance to chat with him. Four of our crowd took off, and about an hour or so later, three other planes arrived. The trip home through Lake Clark Pass was even more delightful because the sun was shining brightly on the blue-crevassed glaciers lining the route. We had been bundled in coldweather gear at the lake, but arrived at Lake Hood to find the rest of our crowd stripped to shorts and shirt sleeves.

This group of hikers was an outstanding example of real mountaineers. I heard not one complaint during trying circumstances; instead there was high good humor, positive thinking, mutual assistance and cooperative attitudes. Those MCAers were: David Agosti, Pam Bearden, Vicki Brown, Mary Pat Brudie, Eiven Brudie, Bob Cadieux, Chris Cadieux, Mary Jo Cadieux, Pauline Dickey, Karen Forsythe, Esther George, Doug Gerke, Don Hansen, John Nevin, Sue Rostin, Randy Simpson, Bill Wakeland, and yours truly, Dona Agosti.

HISTORY CORNER

Little known and seldom visited Koktoya Peak (5100+ feet) may be the least climbed of the Skyline 5000 foot peaks. It lies to the east of Tanaina, and marks the point where the ridge turns to the south on its way to Mt. Williwaw. Its name is from the Tanaina Indians and means "moose". It is sometimes spelled Koktaya.

Approaches to this peak have usually been from the North Fork of Campbell Creek, although some have come across from the Mt. Williwaw ridge. In height this peak ranks sixth among the near range summits along with Tikishla and O'Malley (see last two issues of SCREE).

The 1st ascent party of John Dillman (the same!) and Dave Dahlke in 1961 had named this mountain Mt. Elliot in honor of Sgt. Robert Elliot who died on McKinley in 1960.

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This name was eventually transposed to the 4710 foot peak across the valley while the name Koktoya came into usage in keeping with the Indian theme of this side.

The 1st record of a climb on Koktoya in the SCREE was in 1968 when Chuck Libler went to the top and found Gayle Nienhueser and Bob Spurr's register (10:12:5). Their notes indicated that there were signs on the top of previous visitors. The 1st Winter ascent on January 1, 1974 claimed the life of 16 year old Mark Rainery who was then Chairman of the Club's Huts & Cabins Committee (17:1:1).

Greg Higgins

LIBRARY: Pete Sennhauser 345-5577

MOUNTAINEERING CLUB OF ALASKA OFFICERS 1981-1982

<u>TITLE</u>	<u>NAME</u>	<u>HOME PHONE</u>	<u>WORK PHONE</u>
President	John Dillman	279-1246	274-8691
Vice-president	Rick Severn	344-7269	279-6522
Secretary	Sandi Macdonald	345-5791	
Treasurer	Reggie Buchanan	333-7649	272-0504

NOTE FROM THE EDITOR

SCREE is the monthly publication of the Mountaineering Club of Alaska. I would like to remind you that all items for publication must be submitted at the monthly meeting or mailed to my home at Star Route Box 9204, Eagle River, Alaska 99577. Articles should be received by the 25th of the month for the following month's issue. Your cooperation will be appreciated. Marty Bassett, Editor.

Editor: Marty Bassett
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