



MOUNTAINEERING CLUB OF ALASKA

BOX 2037

ANCHORAGE, ALASKA 99510

October 1984

Volume 27, Issue 10

### OCTOBER MEETING

The meeting will be held Wednesday, October 17th at 7:30 p.m. in the multipurpose room of Central Junior High School, 15th and C Streets, Anchorage, Alaska. During the business meeting election of officers and board members for the next term will be held. After the business meeting the club will hold its annual swap.

### Annual Equipment Swap

Bring that gear you no longer need and go home with some extra cash. Or pick up just the right piece of gear at a bargain price.

### MINUTES FOR SEPTEMBER MCA MEETING

The meeting was held on September 19, 1984 at the Pioneer Schoolhouse. The meeting was called to order at 7:40 p.m. by President Mark Skok. New members and guests were introduced.

Treasurer Bernie Helms reported:

\$ 218.76-	Petty Cash
952.49-	Bank Account
<u>3136.88-</u>	Money Market Rate Plus Account
\$4308.13-	Total

## I. OLD BUSINESS

### A. Ice Climbing School

Classroom session Sept. 27th, 7:30 at Pioneer Schoolhouse. The class is full but there is an alternate sign-up. Persons who do not attend classroom session will be off the list and an alternate will be called.

## II. NEW BUSINESS

### A. Huts.

After a lengthy discussion by members concerning the future of the huts (cost of maintainance and government ownership were main concerns), a motion was made, seconded and passed to "actively resist any action of the government to take over MCA huts".

### B. Equipment

A motion was made, seconded, and passed to spend \$600 on six new ropes, ice axes, and small crampons.

### C. Nominations for 1985

The following people were nominated by the board or members. Elections are held at the October meeting and nominations are still open until then.

President:

Vice President: Dan O'Haire  
Mark Findlay  
Bill Wakeland

Secretary: Nan DeGood

Treasurer: Linda White  
Bernie Helms

Board Members: Don Hansen  
Ron Van Bergeyk  
Mike Miller

### D. Announcements

The Chugach National Forest is looking for volunteers interested in developing a comprehensive land use plan for management of Prince William Sound. Further information can be had from Mark Skok.

The American Alpine Club is having its annual meeting October 6th at the Northern Lights Inn. The meeting begins at 4:00 PM, and at 6:00 a social hour and dinner to be followed by a slide show (7:00 PM). Cost is \$20.00 for the dinner or \$4.00 for the slide show only.

Doug White is looking for volunteers to help fix a cabin used by skiers and hikers on the edge of the Talkeetna Mountains. Call Doug for information at 563-4060 or 783-2640 (H).

Thanks to Barb Byrne for refreshments.

Thanks to Dave Palhke for his slide show on the first winter ascent of Mt. Fairweather.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:25.

Respectfully submitted,  
Eileen Cavanaugh, Secretary

## TRIP REPORTS

### Emerald Lake

The phone rang several times as one by one people cancelled out of the weekend trip. Having just lost my job and feeling sorry for myself, I needed an upper, which backpacking with friends can do for me. An unfamiliar name remained and I debated calling him and cancelling out, since the weather forecast was bum and I had become paranoid about the many fresh bear signs I'd seen in the area two weeks before. Also, I had guests from outside staying with me. I mechanically finished packing while watching the Olympics and then went to bed.

Gloomy skies and attitude awaited my lone charge who did not show at 8AM. As I was about to leave, Dave Judish, from Tennessee, pulled up and said he'd like to go. I was not so eager. We stashed the car in Chugach Foothills and with permit in hand, walked the military road to the trail. Frequent whistle-blowing took place as we worked our way through the brushy, obscure trail, recently reflagged by Pat Murray. A large eagle flew over at tree level. A few minutes later, while David was turned talking to me I saw an eagle launch itself into the air toward us from a head high branch about 40 feet away. Two strokes of his wings and then a glide path right for David's head. He did not see it until a moment after it had missed his head by inches with one wing. I was so startled I could not utter a sound.

Just before reaching the bench a crash in the brush increased our adrenaline flow until we saw a fine bull moose emerge on the hillside. The sun came out as we worked our way to the saddle overlooking Snowhawk Valley. Suddenly David said, "Look at the moose!". There in a low clump of willows 60 yards away was the most magnificent moose I've seen. A huge, 14 points per side, rack adorned his powerful body and it became evident to us that he knew he was king. Since he had no intention of budging and there was nothing but alpine flowers to climb, we carefully worked our way up and around him, but not before spending a half hour feasting our eyes on this prize.

We set up camp and hiked the three miles back to Emerald Lake. It was ice-free this time but its nearby shore was decorated with C-ration cans and other "war time" memorabilia. As shadows filled the valley, we ascended the center ridge and walked back to camp with a view, noting dall sheep scattered about.

Next morning arrived cloudy and foggy. We started for Temptation Peak but realized it was fruitless. A quick pack-up and we headed out, stopping many times for the excellent blueberries abounding on the hillsides. The sharp rap of motorcycles destroyed the serenity as they gouged their way up the hillside. Not 100% successful, but a good trip and a better attitude at its end.

John Nevin

## Arrigetch Peaks

July 12-18

There were two Arrigetch Peaks trips in July. This was the first one, led by Jim Lasche. The second one was a week later and was led by Don Hansen.

The weather was beautiful, not a drop of rain. The route planned was to land and camp at Circle Lake, move up the ridge to get to "4662 Creek" and head down to Takahula Lake.

The brush was so intense that we required ten hours to go the three miles to Arrigetch Creek from Circle Lake. Ugggh! We did find the trail along the creek to the peaks the next day. However, it requires more than a day to move up the trail to get to the peaks. We only gave it a day and decided to run for it. We went along the Alatna River to Takahula Lake, our pick-up point. It was tough going.

Recommendations to anyone planning the trip:

1. Give it at least 10 days
  2. Have the pick-up and drop-off by the plane at Circle Lake
  3. From Circle Lake head straight up the hill.
- You will eventually reach easy walking ground.

We gave our findings of the area to Don Hansen before his group left. Fortunately, my group of three (Mike Lasche, Brent Green, and myself) were ready to forge through rough brush. We still saw plenty of beautiful scenery too.

Jim Lasche

## Typhoon Holly at Pichler's

We were warned, but we went anyway.

The weatherman has said a massive low-pressure system was moving in, and Dave Shelton, sensing rain, sensibly stayed home. Willy Hersman figured his luck might change. I hoped mine would hold. And Stewart Grenier was prepared to take what came.

We three set out from Eklutna Lake Thursday, August 23, to hike up Eklutna Glacier, then over to Whiteout to reconnoitre a summer route to Lake George. If it goes, Willy will do a traverse next year to the 20-mile crossing at the Seward Highway.

Thursday evening, as mare's tails streaked an otherwise blue sky over the "Camp D" campground, I told Willy not to worry about the weather; I'd had exceptional luck throughout the summer. He said his luck had been exceptionally crummy.

His luck held. The wind and rain of Typhoon Holly hit us in the face just as we climbed onto Eklutna Glacier. It was a practical lesson on prime hypothermia conditions. We were soaked and very chilled by the time we reached Pichler's Perch via the snow slope Friday afternoon. Pile, polypropylene, and plenty of chocolate allowed us to make it without mishap. Gore-tex, true to form, didn't keep the rain out.

On Saturday the clouds thickened, the wind shifted, the rain froze and finally snow fell. We shivered and played hearts. Even our pile jackets and pants stayed damp.

Back to the East Fork on Sunday, then Monday, a beautiful brisk day, Willy and I decided to climb Bold Peak. The ridge we chose didn't go, however, and we headed down and out.

Mark Skok

### Crow Creek Pass Trail

September 1-3

After a last minute re-starting of cars at the Eagle River Visitor Center on Friday night, six brave souls were ready to tackle the Crow Creek Pass Trail starting from the Girdwood end.

The beautiful weather and the well maintained and marked trail provided for a leisurely two and a half day trip. A frost earlier in the week had made a field of blueberries just ripe for picking.

This trip was not without its humor and profound conversation. Nan DeGood, Ed Bovy, Pete Mulholland, Doug Dougherty, and Paul Larsen all pitched in their two bits of charm to make a great trip.

Jim Lasche

### Lost Lake

The 1984 hiking schedule ended with a pretty good turnout of people for the sunny Labor Day weekend trip to Lost Lake. Eleven of us packed it in and packed it out for 3 days of R and R and mountain scrambling.

The trail is changing with the times, we noticed. A partially completed bridge exists at the lake outlet; no more fording the stream from now on. North of the bridge are several very obvious yellow posts to route hikers along the ridge crest; these are courtesy of the American Hiking Society. In the past hikers, in somewhat of a confusing pattern, chose the route pretty much as they pleased. Invariably this wasted time getting past those extremely hardy little spruce trees, characteristic of the area.

Barb Byrne, Dietrich Bertschi and I found the register in Vin and Grace's mayo jar still in tact on the summit of Mt. Ascension (5710). If you plan to climb this peak from the lake don't be tempted to go via the false summit just above the lake, like I did a few years ago. That ridge gets real gnarly.

Also on the hike were Rudi Bertschi, Isaac Bertschi, Andrew ?, Gene Klymko, Norma ?, John Nevin, Kris Erickson and Eric Kaehler.

Willy Hersman

#### MCA Members Sparked by Climbs

Virtually everybody in Anchorage noticed the thunder storm that struck Sept. 19, the afternoon of the past meeting.

A number of MCA members, though, came even closer to electrical storms over the Labor Day weekend. Dave Saehli and Gretchen were climbing Peril Peak on Sunday when they were pushed back by hail before reaching the summit. Back on the glacier, Gretchen said she heard bees in her pack. Then Dave's ice axe began buzzing.

Farther to the west, Ron Van Bergyk, Susan Nolban and others were climbing above the Mint when their ice axes began buzzing. They dropped all their metal, descended from the summit and waited out what they figured was the worst of the storm by sitting on rubber pads. Ron shared spare mittens and hat with another climber who was traveling light.

According to an Anchorage meteorologist here is what happened: The afternoon sun heated the south-facing slopes, causing an updraft of warm, moist air. As the air rose, the moisture expanded, cooled, condensed and began to fall. The charged particles of moisture then came close enough to particles in the bottoms of the clouds that had an opposite charge, and discharged.

When the day looks like it's going to be a scorcher, bring plenty of cold weather clothes for waiting out a possible storm. Climb in the morning, before the electricity-generating process develops. Be prepared to retreat quickly when the cumulus clouds build.

Because the build-up tends to occur over south-facing slopes, climb--and be prepared to retreat--down north-facing slopes. Still that plan could be of dubious value because the clouds do move once they have formed.

Mark Skok

## CROW PASS CLIMB

October 20-21

Overnight trip. Hike to the pass, where several possibilities beckon above: Jewel, Summit, and Barnes Mts.; Milk, Raven, and Crow Glaciers....you and the weather decide. If avalanche conditions prevail, we'll go elsewhere. Ice axe, crampons, harness, headlamp, warm clothes and boots, and wind protection. Don't use Anchorage temperatures as a guide.

Meet 7AM. UAA sports complex parking lot. No sign-up sheet, just show up and be a member of the club. For more info call Willy Hersman, 338-5132.

## BASIC MOUNTAINEERING CLASS      NOV. 3 and 4

For folks with little or no winter climbing experience. Sign up at October meeting or contact Tim Neale, 274-4952 or Mark Findlay 337-8666. This will not be an overnight trip. Check out ice axe and crampons from the Club. Bring warm clothes, day pack, water bottle and lunch. Participants also need a harness or swami belt and one or two carabineers. We will meet at UAA parking lot 7:30 AM. Everyone will be contacted if they will please leave a good phone number when they sign up. ☺☺☺

