

MOUNTAINEERING CLUB OF ALASKA

BOX 2037

ANCHORAGE, ALASKA 99510

OCTOBER 1986

Volume 29, Issue 10

### OCTOBER MEETING

The meeting will be held Wednesday, October 15th at 7:30 pm at the Pioneer Schoolhouse, 3rd & Eagle Streets, Anchorage. October is probably the most popular meeting of the year. We will be holding the annual election of officers and afterwards there will be the customary swap-and-shop. So bring in your unwanted boots, tents, climbing gear, skis and so on along with some money and make a deal.

### MINUTES FOR THE SEPTEMBER MEETING

The meeting was held September 17th at the Pioneer Schoolhouse, and called to order by President Mark Findlay at 7:50 pm. The reading of the minutes for August was waived. The club welcomed new members and guests.

### TREASURER'S REPORT

\$ 206.00 - Petty Cash  
132.44 - Bank Account  
4,061.34 - Money Market  
\$4,399.78 - Total MCA Monies

We mail no membership cards unless you include a self-addressed, stamped envelope with your dues...rates and address are on back of Scree. Also...dues are PAYABLE BY DECEMBER 31ST for 1987, if you want to continue getting this newsletter. Dues will be accepted beginning now (October 1, 1986) for 1987. If you are paying your dues for the first time they will count for the rest of 1986 and all of 1987 beginning now (such a deal). Remember you must be a current member of the MCA to vote in October's election. Also you must have a valid card to take part in club activities, borrow club gear, or use the club library.

### I. COMMITTEE REPORTS

- A. Members were reminded of the rules concerning the up coming Ice Climbing Class.

## II. OLD BUSINESS

### A. Peak Registers

The following still need to be taken up: Whiteout, Byron, Goat, Gunsight, Montana, Pinnacle, Tanaina East. Call Willy Hersman if you want to take one up. (338-5132)

### B. Library

Dave Pahlke has agreed to build some needed shelves for the MCA library. A motion was made for the club to spend \$150 to build the shelves; it passed unanimously. Paul Denkwalter has generously let the club use more of the upstairs room for the library, located at AMH on Spenard Rd.

## III. NEW BUSINESS

### A. Elections

Annual elections will be held at the October meeting. The club needs people to run for President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, and two Board positions. Anyone wanting to run for one of these positions contact Mark Findlay (337-8666). Two nominations that were not declined were Michael Rees and Dan O'Haire for Board Members.

### B. Release Form

Julian Mason has reworked a new club release form. They were available for review at the front table, any comments are welcomed.

### C. Stewart Ollanik took time to write a letter to the Chugach National Forest in representation of the MCA, in regards to the Spruce Bark Beetle. This letter is a response to the methods the Forest Service wants to use to get rid of the beetles. Stewart read the letter and there was a motion made that it be sent as representing the club's stand on the issue. The motion passed unanimously.

### D. Kathy King volunteered to keep the club informed on the Kuskokwin Plan.

## IV. ANNOUNCEMENTS

### A. Rick Maron is leading an early ski trip at Crow Pass or Hatcher's Pass on October 4th. If interested, contact him at 338-6969.

### B. The club is looking into sending its avalanche beacons to a company offering to test and repair them. It's possible we may be able to get a bulk rate, and if so, individual beacons may be sent along.

### C. The club is looking into a new outhouse building for the Mint Glacier Hut. Any suggestions contact Willy Hersman or Dave Pahlke.

## V. MAIL

REI, Climbing Mag., Women of the Wilderness, Great Pacific Ironworks, Chugach National Forest (Spruce Bark Beetle!), American Alpine Club, Safe Operations Service (avalanche beacons). For further information on the mail contact Mark Findlay.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 pm.

Thanks to Tom Meacham for his beautiful slides on Mt. Gerdine. The cornice crevasse was fascinating. Looking across the inlet at the mountains will certainly bring back memories of this show.

A special thanks is due to Bernie Helms who has stepped in and substituted as treasurer, secretary, and Scree typist in the past three months. Because of her efforts the club has been able to keep on running smoothly. Thanks Bernie.

Also thanks to Stewart Ollanik for the outstanding job he is doing on keeping the club informed on conservation and other Outdoor Coalition issues. It takes more time than you can imagine to go to all the meetings and keep informed.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Kathy Burke

### ELECTIONS

Nominations for the following offices are still open to any member of the Mountaineering Club at the October election. Board positions are for two years So far, interested people are:

President: no nomination yet

Vice-President: Willy Hersman

Secretary: Marcie Baker

Treasurer: John Baker

Board: Dan O'Haire, Michael Rees, Bill Wakeland (two board positions are open, two will be retained, and the current President will assume the fifth board position)

### MAILING SCREE

For the past three years the mailing of Scree has been done by Jane Stammen and Linda White. The MCA owes them a big thanks for this dedication, but now it's time for someone else to put in some effort. This is a great opportunity to get involved with club activities and takes about 3 hours a month of your time. Please help us by calling Linda White at 274-4989.

### UPCOMING TRIPS

#### Indian Creek Pass

Saturday, October 11

Contact Jim Pommert 344-5656

#### Rainbow Peak

Saturday, October 18

Contact Don Hansen 279-0829

#### Hatcher Pass Area Touring / Telemarking Ski Trip

Sunday, November 2

Some glacier travel may be necessary. Location depends on snow / weather conditions. Contact Rick Maron 338-6969.

## TRIP REPORTS

### Brightout on the Whiteout

This trip did not begin auspiciously. Stormy skies greeted George Ferry and Janet Smalley as they cached their canoe at the end of Eklutna Lake on September 8. Meanwhile five hundred feet below the summit of Jewel Mountain new snow kept me from reaching Summit Mountain to evaluate the Raven Headwall. On the 9th traveling the trail to Crow Pass we were affronted by cold winds that hustled us onto the Raven Glacier where we made slow upward progress in the thick ground fog by compass reckoning. Early evening found us just below the severe-looking headwall; we were uncertain whether we should go on or wait for better days. Janet cast the deciding vote so George kicked us up and over the headwall onto the Eagle Glacier where we found the hut without difficulty.

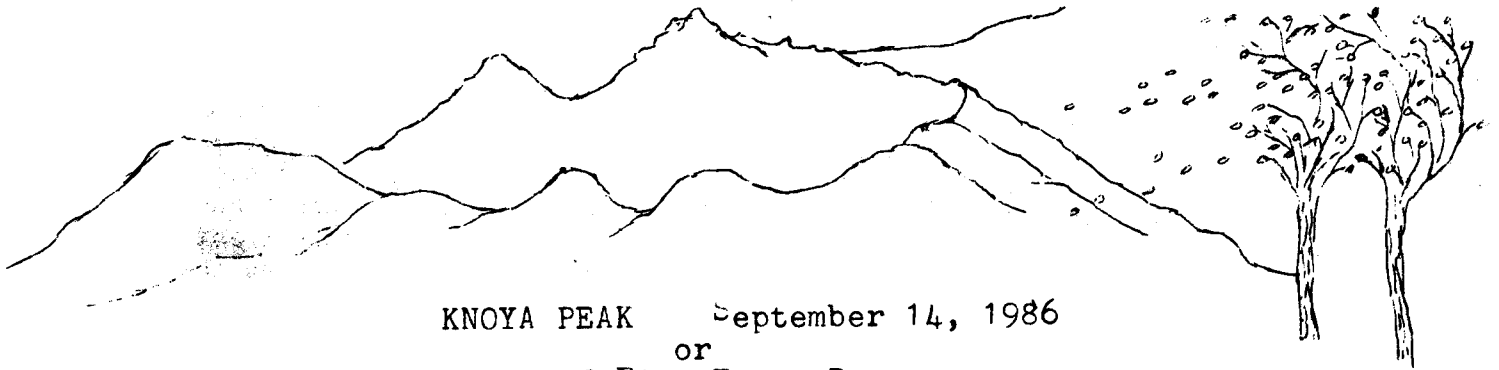
The next day dawned blue and beautiful, and we were awakened to the magnificent panoply of peaks that array the Eagle Hut. We worked our way onto the Whiteout Glacier on crampons, and then put on our skis in the sparse snow above to traverse the yawning blue-black crevasses that seemed to be everywhere. We arrived at the Whiteout Hut early enough for George and I to hike to the top of Hut Peak (6695'). We spent a long time on top picking out our favorite peaks in the Chugach, Kenai, Alaska and Talkeetna Ranges.

On the morning we skied around to the east side of Whiteout Peak (7135') and walked up the last 300' of the NE ridge to enjoy the hot, still sunlight on the summit. Todd Miner's group had taken out the water-soaked register on 7/3. The 1st ascent of Whiteout was on 5/28/67 by Bill Hauser, Kyle Atkins, Gordon Reese, Charles Munns, and Ward Hubert from Centennial Pass (see Scree 9:8:4). George and I then scrambled up the southern slopes of Insignificant (7000') and placed a cairn on the western summit that is clearly higher than the survey-marked 7005' eastern point. The long down hill ski run home was very pleasant.

Blue skies again on 9/12 as we skied over to the East Fork of the Eklutna Glacier. I scrambled up to the top of Anarctic View (5795') enroute. This spectacular view was first climbed and named by the group that climbed Whiteout in 1967. Their original register was intact. Lower down on the glacier near Pichler's Perch we found the going tortuous among the bare crevasses.

Sunshine again on 9/13 - almost too much to bear. It took us a long time to negotiate the bare ice below the Perch, but from there it was easy going down the snout. We hauled out the feather-leaking sleeping bag from the Perch. Below the snout we were unable to cross the stream, so we hiked the east side of the creek to the bridge. Canoeing the lake on the still evening waters was more pleasant than feeding blisters on the road.

Greg Higgins



KNOYA PEAK September 14, 1986  
or  
The Tale of Five Eager Beavers

Remember that incredibly beautiful weekend in mid-September, when the sky was blue and decorated with wisps of white clouds here and there? Well, that Sunday morning five of us met (sort of) to hike up Knoya. Actually four of us met at UAA, and Gene was already up at Prospect Heights getting a head start on the hike. After I explained about a newly-explored trail up from Stuckagain Heights we split into two groups agreeing to head each other off at the pass for lunch. Jim headed in by way of Prospect Heights to "catch up" with Gene, who had already gotten a great view of a lynx under a spruce tree by the trail. Don, Jane and I headed from Stuckagain Heights up over the dome, on a trail that took us by a moose-bone graveyard, under an alder archway and through a yellow-leaved cottonwood forest. No matter where you start from, the hike is all up or down.

We all met and had lunch with views of Wolverine Peak, Campbell Creek Canyon, Redoubt, Anchorage and what we thought was the summit of Knoya. Lunch also proved to be a hiker's fashion show, there were wool pants, breathable rain pants, shorts, Don in his "Sunday School" polyester pants, and Gene in his skirt. Yes, that's right, Gene showed up for lunch with a skirt wrapped around his bottom half (seems his pants got too wet crossing Campbell Creek). Well, you can bet Gene was the "butt" of many jokes the rest of the day!

The mountains were wearing oranges and yellows in celebration of autumn. We saw fuzzy dwarf willows, high bush berries on maroo-leaved plants, magpies, chickadees, a big fuzzy caterpillar and a group of Dall sheep.

Knoya means beaver to the Tanaina, and we all scrambled up the last long ridge to the top of Knoya like a bunch of eager beavers (remember, Jim Pommert led this hike)(because of his outfit, Gene was appointed to bring up the "rear"). We found ourselves criss-crossing the ridgetop looking for the best route up, everybody taking a different route. Little did we know that the peak we saw and thought was the top, wasn't the top. Well, you know how mountains are, just when you think you're at the top, they sneak another false summit up in front of you. Jim said 2:00 would be the turn-around time no matter where we were, and you can believe it, right on time there we were at the summit. (Now how do you suppose he knew we'd be at the summit at 2:00? Must have been that cow prod he used on us!) From the top we got glimpses of future trips.

The trip down was fast, but not so fast that we missed another group of Dall sheep, a soaring hawk, a small fuzzy caterpillar, and some sun-warmed white erratics. It was on the way down that I realized that Don must be part bear - he goes up hill faster than he goes downhill!

The end of the hike left us all with sunny red cheeks (Gene probably ended up with four red cheeks!) and memories of the view from the top. Jane had a small side adventure when she left the group a little early and got confused about where our cars were parked and thought they were stolen. It wasn't until after she caused a little excitement at the Stuckagain Heights restaurant and called the police that someone said this had happened before and suggested she check the turnout a little farther down the road. Well, guess what?

The five eager beavers were Jim Pommert, Gene Klymko, Don Hansen, Jane Stammen, and Kathy Burke.

Kathy Burke

### Suicide Peaks

Ten of us took off Saturday, Sept. 13 for Suicide Peaks. We scrambled up the SW face of the North Peak to arrive at the summit by 10:30. We crossed the saddle and up the South Peak. Traversing the South Peak we headed down the SW ridge. This was an excellent climb with excellent weather and excellent people: Alan Johnson, Charles Lane, Mike Cady, Michael Rees, Marion Doctor, Willy Hersman, Matt Smith, Steve Jones, Russ Fasolino and me.

Mike Miller

### Climbing Info.

Other than Matanuska Peak, the mountains north of Knik River from Palmer to the glacier see very little climbing, primarily due to accessibility. This spring I scouted the area for possible access routes with good results. Two roads and trails make access by 4-wheel drive, ATV, or mountain bike possible.

On September 14 and 15, disguised as a sheep hunter, I drove across Jim Creek and up Knik River to Friday Creek, across Friday Creek and up the creek to the base of the mountains. A well-worn trail, used by ATVs leads up the ridge just north of Friday Creek. Good campsites are possible on the ridge from 2500' to 3800', although no water is available this time of year. I walked the ridge north and climbed Peak 6450, Section 16, T17N, R4E, Anchorage C5. There was no evidence of any previous ascent, so I left a cairn, but had no register.

Other peaks are possible from this access area, too. Access up Friday Creek may be possible, but tough. Another road continues to the Knik Glacier.

Mike Miller

## Crossword Puzzle

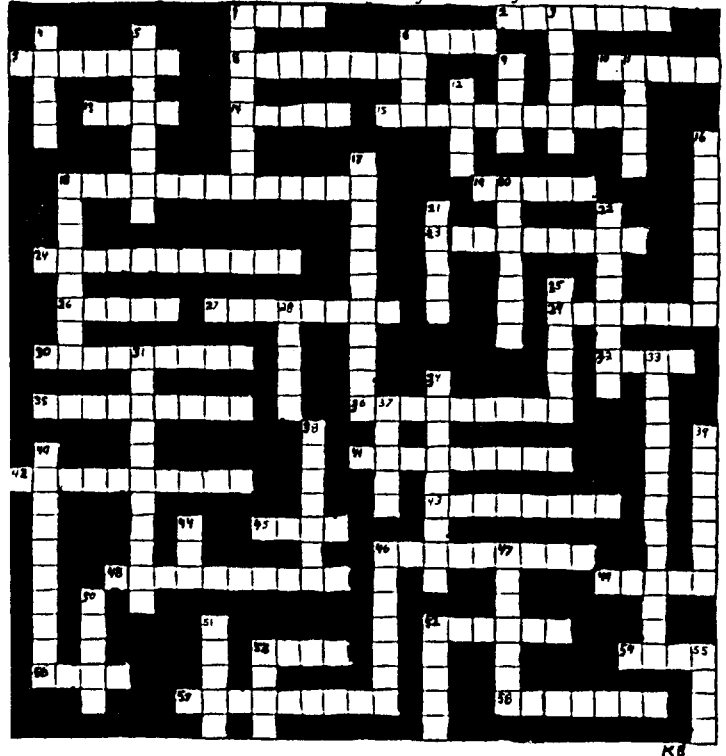
### ACROSS

- 1 Popular ridge hike early in the season
- 2 Beaver fever
- 6 7522' peak, section 33, Anchorage B6
- 7 Extra protection below the knees
- 8 Glacier obstacle
- 10 No sit harness? rig a \_\_\_\_\_
- 13 This 5240' peak points toward Mt. Williwaw
- 14 Don't use this when free climbing
- 15 Lightweight energy, add water (2 words)
- 18 20320'
- 19 Dew \_\_\_\_\_ (Eagle River Trail)
- 23 Oval connection
- 24 Popular fish during ski season
- 26 This peak's name means Beaver
- 27 Take only \_\_\_\_\_, leave only **40 DOWN**
- 29 Don't use this near metal
- 30 Webbed wonders
- 32 Yell this when throwing the coils over a cliff
- 35 Peak flanked by Rusty Pt. and Near Pt.
- 36 White death
- 42 Flying irritation
- 43 Ice river
- 45 Beautiful hike to \_\_\_\_\_ Lake with possible climb of Mt. **41 ACROSS**
- 46 White/yellow skin
- 48 Descending by rope
- 49 Signal to rope partner before climbing "On \_\_\_\_\_"
- 52 Knot used to ascend rope
- 53 "Top" satisfaction
- 54 These have names like Flashlight, Bullfrog, Timberline, etc.
- 56 Farth's winter insulation
- 57 White wildlife (2 words)
- 58 If you were a bird and flew 181 degrees from McHugh Peak, what is the first peak you would land on?

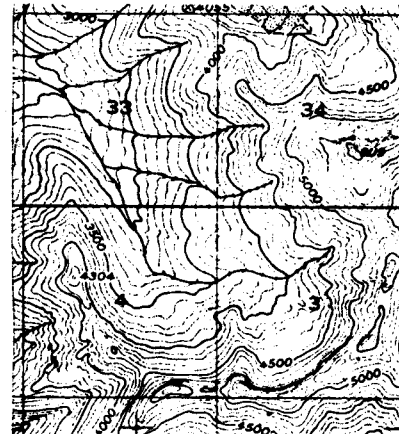
### DOWN

- 1 The home on your back
- 3 Woody scourge of Alaska
- 4 \_\_\_\_\_ Glacier is near the top of Crow Pass
- 5 Walk up the ice like a fly with these
- 6 What you're afraid you'll see, but would be lucky if you did
- 9 Avalanche beacon
- 11 4660' rock between the Ramp and Ptarmigan
- 12 Tiny lake NW of O'Malley Pk.
- 16 River crossing is trickiest part of this hike
- 17 Lost that "core" warmth
- 18 #1 in the hiker's first aid kit
- 20 5100' peak visible from Anchorage
- 21 Great newsletter
- 22 Graceful ski curves
- 25 \_\_\_\_\_ arrest
- 28 \_\_\_\_\_ along Ressurrection Trail
- 31 Nighttime cocoon (2 words)
- 33 A second skin
- 34 Orange/pink mountain magic
- 37 5070' peak SE of Round Top
- 38 Two alpine lakes halfway along \_\_\_\_\_ Pass Trail
- 39 Good system to get friend out of a crevasse
- 44 Confusion of lines to a "lost" mind
- 46 Most climbed mtn. in Alaska
- 47 Should have used your moleskin
- 50 Popular spring climb near Portage
- 51 High point of Canada Mt.
- 52 Four miles in Eagle River \_\_\_\_\_
- 53 Warm when wet
- 54 Small steep-banked mountain lake

courtesy-kathy burke



## Map Trivia



Name the 6119' peak on this part of the Anchorage Quad.  
 Answer for September:  
 Ptarmigan Mt.

It brushes lightly against my bare skin as the dune grass bows.  
Seagulls float in the sky and hang motionless on its edge.  
Sanderlings mimic the waves.  
In the distance, when the wind is right, voices can be heard, playing.  
I come here not to be lonely.  
Mile after mile of sandy beach and waves, crashing, rushing to touch my feet.  
Retreating, to try again in a different way.  
Sometimes my mind is not where I am, and a wave touches me.  
The sand is warm as I hide from the breeze, its warmth is deeper than my skin.  
I like to walk where the waves wash, with no sign of others like me,  
My only companions pelicans, strafing waves.

Rick Ebert

### History Corner

Well, I suppose it's time once again to reprint part of an old article which appeared in the Scree back in 1967. Last year when the club did a trip up Byron Peak some of our members were shocked to find themselves on the edge of a cornice as they dug a hole to place a summit register. The cornice went crashing down to the Skookum Glacier and our folks scrambled immediately for safer ground. I hope the people who were on this April, 1967 trip don't mind a little reminiscing. It was written by William Hauser; the other members of the climb were Bob Spurr, Chuck McLaughlin and Nick Parker.

"...Arriving on the summit we all welcomed the rest and fantastic view with our backs in the wind. The 4500-foot vertical climb was completed at 2:30 p.m. Without warning, a dynamite-like explosion shattered our tranquil perch. The wind, sun, and snow blurred our senses until it was obvious that only two of us remained on the summit and two were being hurled toward the Skookum Glacier which is at the base of Byron's 4000-foot west face. My rope to McLaughlin promised to pull me into the void. I grabbed it with my bare hands and managed to heel into the snow. An ice axe was rope-wrapped four times, jammed into the hard snow, and held with the feet. Here I had 12 inches of rope left and held McLaughlin on belay. Spurr luckily grabbed an ice axe until he skillfully transformed his stance into a sitting hip belay.

Two packs were gone. Two ice axes were gone. Two of our friends were dangling below the cornice overhang. All we could do was hold our friends and hope for the best. This is too much responsibility for any man, and anxiety was overwhelming. An hour and a half passed by. I had 120 feet of rope out. Spurr had 100 feet out. We couldn't communicate because of the wind. All of a sudden we could hear Parker. A surge of hope began to replace our despair. An ice axe popped over the brink; next came Parker. We heard McLaughlin. He had no ice axe and was stopped about six feet from the top. With Parker holding Spurr on belay, Spurr tied a bilgeri loop into the rope, crawled to the edge...and lowered the ice axe. Soon we were all united and somewhat stunned, not able to understand why we were so lucky.

Parker (had) prussiked up 80 feet with two prussiks. He went up ten feet and...retrieved an ice axe which stuck like an arrow into the hard cornice. The rope cut deeply into the overhanging face. Parker jammed the axe under the rope and moved up the prussik knots....Without the ice axe, Parker would have been unable to negotiate the overhang....McLaughlin took some good photos of Parker and the 4000-foot view."

Willy Hersman