



MOUNTAINEERING CLUB OF ALASKA

BOX 102037

ANCHORAGE, ALASKA 99510

OCTOBER 1987

Volume 30, Issue 10

### OCTOBER MEETING

The meeting will be held Wednesday, October 21st at 7:30 pm at the Pioneer Schoolhouse, Third and Eagle Sts., downtown Anchorage. After the annual election of officers we will hold the usual gear swap, so bring in your unwanted boots, tents, skis, climbing hardware, etc., and your checkbook and make a deal.

### MINUTES FOR THE SEPTEMBER MEETING

The meeting was held September 16th at the Pioneer Schoolhouse and called to order by the President at 7:45 pm.

#### I. COMMITTEE REPORTS

##### A. Hiking and Climbing

The ice climbing class on September 26-27th was announced. A mandatory meeting for an equipment check is scheduled for Tuesday the 22nd.

##### B. Parks Advisory

John Baker announced that public comment on the Chugach State Park Master Plan Revision will be taken until September 30th.

#### II. OLD BUSINESS

##### A. Map Order

Rick Maron will be taking orders for maps at the October meeting as well as a week prior and a week after the meeting. Non members are encouraged to participate also. (See article under the ADZE.)

##### B. By Laws

Changes in the by-laws will be dealt with after election of new officers, and a board meeting has been held.

### III. NEW BUSINESS

#### ELECTIONS

Nominations were taken for the following offices:

Board Members (two-year term) - Mike King, Jerry Minick, Don Hansen

Vice President - John Baker

President - Willy Hersman

No nominations were given for Secretary or Treasurer. There will be two Board Member positions open since the terms for Mike Miller, Ron Van Bergeyk and Bill Wakeland expire this year. Nominations are open until the election at the October meeting. MCA is an organization whose survival depends on volunteer effort. There is no better way to get involved in the club than to be one of the officers, and it will not take much of your time. Remember, the club is simply a reflection of its members; if you do nothing then the club does nothing.

### IV. ANNOUNCEMENTS

- A. New members were welcomed to the club.
- B. Mail received by the MCA can be seen at the club library at 2633 Spenard Rd. (AMH)
- C. Mark Findlay announced that this is his last meeting as President. He is leaving on a month-long trip to Nepal and will not be at the October meeting. He thanked all the members of the Board and Executive Committee who served with him, as well as those who helped him out during his two years as President. He felt he received a lot of support and he appreciated it. (Thanks to Mark for all of your time and effort which you have put into the club. We will miss your mug at the front of the meetings! Thanks on behalf of all the club members.)

#### TREASURER'S REPORT

\$ 85.00 - Petty Cash  
521.00 - Checking  
4703.00 - Money Market  
\$5319.00 - Total MCA Monies

Thanks Ray for showing your Mt. St. Elias slides. I am sorry I missed them. John sure did come home with the "Big Mountain" Fever after watching them.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Marcy Baker

## ADZE

### Half-Price Maps

The MCA is coordinating a bulk map order from USGS. By combining all of our map needs into one large order we can receive a 50% discount. This applies to all USGS quadrangles (topo sheets), both in and out of state. The deadline for getting all map orders in will be October 27th. I will be collecting orders at the October club meeting also. By Nov. 10 I expect to have all the in-state maps sorted and ready for pick up. In mid December I expect to have the out-of-state maps ready for pick-up. I'll be bringing all the sorted maps to subsequent club meetings. they will also be available for pick-up as soon as they are delivered from USGS by calling me at home at 349-3064.

On your order be certain to include your full name, phone, scale, and price of each map (at the pre-discount rate). The common "inch to the mile" maps within Alaska (1/63,360) are \$2.50 at full price; the 1/250,000 scale maps within Alaska are \$4.00 at full price. For out-of-state orders, you'll need to use the standard USGS order form for that state. Make all checks payable to the Mountaineering Club of Alaska.

Also, there was a slight error in the Scree last month. Indexes are available for all of the U.S. at the Anchorage offices:

701 C St. Room E-146  
(SE corner Federal Bldg.)

4230 University Dr. (APU)  
271-4159 M-F 8:30-4:30

Rick Maron

### Four Slide Programs for Annual AAC Meeting

Sunday , October 25th

The seventh annual meeting of the American Alpine Club, Alaska Section will be held at the Clarion Hotel, 4800 Spenard Rd., Anchorage. As in the past, the Section meeting will consist of a business meeting, followed by short presentations of climbs done during the past year, a banquet and social hour, and an evening of featured slide shows. The tentative schedule for the day looks like this:

Noon - Registration  
1:00 pm - General Meeting  
(including annual report from Denali National Park)  
2:30 pm - Short slide shows of section members' recent climbs  
4:30-5:30 - Social Hour  
6:00-7:30 - Banquet  
7:30 pm - Programs (not necessarily in this order):  
Ice Climbs of the Chitistone Pass Area (Winter 1986) - Roman Dial  
Seward to Homer Kayak Trip (Summer 1987) - John Bauman

East Ridge Mt. Deborah (May 1983) - Carl Tobin  
Gasherbrum IV, Northwest Riidge (June 1986) - Geoff Radford

Admission: Banquet - \$20.00 (members)  
  \$25.00 (non-members)  
Slide Program Only - \$4.00 (section members free)

This is a good chance for climbers to get to know more about the American Alpine Club and meet many of those who make up the state's climbing community. Applications will be available to those interested in joining and questions about the organization are encouraged. You can make early reservations for the banquet by calling Charlie Sassara 258-2862 (this helps us get an idea of the size of the banquet).

Quote of the Month comes from Outside Magazine (October 87):

"As far as gear goes, you don't need any of that shit. Nobody needs that stuff. If it makes people feel better to have a garage full of the very best gear available, great, I'll sell it to them. We're going to keep making the stuff, make it as good as we can, as functional as we can, but don't have any illusions that it is very necessary. If you want a real adventure, you leave all that at home and encourage the birds to shit on your head. That's when you start having adventure." -- Yvon Chouinard

HIKING AND CLIMBING SCHEDULE

- OCT. 17        INDIAN PASS  
                  12 miles, 2100' elevation gain. Class B. Call for details and  
                  sign -up. Possibly an overnighiter.  
                  Leaders: Marcy and John Baker 274-0105
- 24        TELEMARK SKI TRIP  
                  Early season trip. Crow or Hatcher Pass. Glacier travel  
                  experience may be required depending on the location. Class A  
                  or E.  
                  Leader: Rick Maron 349-3064
- NOV. 7-8        BEGINNING MOUNTAINEERING CLASS  
                  This class will cover the basics of knots, ropes, snow anchors,  
                  ice axe self-arrest, roped glacier travel and crevasse rescue.  
                  Not an overnight trip. Two day trips. Bring ice axe, harness  
                  (or 22' of 1" webbing), chest harness (or 11' of webbing), 2-3  
                  carabiners, helmet, clothes for cold weather, stiff-sole boots,  
                  crampons, lunch. (Helmet, crampons and ice axe can be checked  
                  out free to members at AMH.) Sign-up at the October meeting.  
                  Meet on Saturday at Huffman Carrs parking lot at 8:00 am sharp.  
                  Leaders: Mike Miller 345-5718, Willy Hersman 338-5132

26-29

THANKSGIVING TRIP

Godwin Glacier, near Seward. 4 miles to the glacier; many possibilities for skiing or climbing. Glacier travel required. TECHNICAL. If there is insufficient interest, then we'll go to the Mint Hut (Class B).

Leader: Ron Van Bergeyk 345-1800

TRIP CLASSIFICATIONS

The classifications below do not consider individual trip hazards such as river crossings, scree slopes, snow fields, bears, etc. Trip leaders are required to inform the trip participants of any such hazards either verbally, on the sign-up sheet, or in the trip description. Leader approval is required for all trips.

NON-TECHNICAL: Following are a few standards used to classify non-technical trips. The classification is made in terms of hiking distance and altitude gain. Many trips are not on established trails.

CLASS A: Easy hikes with a maximum distance of 8 miles for day trips or 4 miles per day for overnight trips. Altitude gain up to 1200 feet.

CLASS B: Trips involving a maximum distance of up to 12 miles for a day hike or 6 miles per day for an overnight trip. Altitude gain of 1200 to 2500 feet.

CLASS C: Trips up to 15 miles for a day hike or 8 miles per day for an overnight trip. Altitude gain up to 3500 feet. Scree, steep grass, or other rough terrain problems may be encountered.

CLASS D: Hikes and climbs with an altitude gain of over 3500 feet or a distance of greater than 15 miles for a day hike or greater than 8 miles per day for an overnight trip. Peaks in this classification may require minimal climbing skills.

CLASS E: Hazardous climbing conditions may be encountered. A Basic Mountaineering Course may be required.

TECHNICAL: Technical trips are open to all qualified climbers. However, the registration on any particular trip must be restricted to a safe and manageable number of climbers. Registration is made directly with the leader who determines the qualifications needed for the trip.

TRIP PARTICIPANTS have the obligation to acquaint themselves with the nature of the trip and to verify that it is within their capability and experience. Anyone wishing to participate in any trip above CLASS A must have completed one or more trips of the next lower classification, or the equivalent.

## Mint Hut Rules

Please review the following rules formulated by the Hut Committee for the MCA's hut at the Mint Glacier. Comments from members will be solicited at the October meeting under Old Business. If there is no objection to the rules as stated below at that meeting, then we will post them in the Mint Hut. Enforcement of the rule on food bags will begin February 1988, giving those people three months to deal with their food bags.

This hut, built in September 1971 by the Mountaineering Club of Alaska, is here for your enjoyment. Building and maintenance of club huts is done with club dues, donations, and volunteer time. If you are not a member please join. There are self-addressed envelopes here in the hut, dues are only \$10 per year.

Please adhere to the following rules:

1. This hut is open to the public, however, MCA members have preference if there is a conflict. We ask that notice be given to the MCA if any organized trip is planned to the hut. This is to help other groups in planning.
2. The outhouse is located out the front door and 30 yards to your right, just south of the hut. PLEASE USE IT! In the winter you may have to dig out in front of the door. NO TRASH IN THE OUTHOUSE!
3. Be courteous towards others using the hut at the same time. Be considerate about things like smoking, dogs, dripping clothes, and floor and table space.
4. Try to limit fuel consumption to what you brought and leave behind any extra in the containers near the door.
5. Be careful when using the lanterns and stove, please note the fire extinguisher adjacent to the stairs. Please do not burn holes in the insulation with candles, in fact try not to use candles at all.
6. Use the big pot for melting snow only .
7. Check around for personal items before you leave and do not leave any trash.
8. We do not recommend that you leave any food, but if you do...mark your food bag on the outside with your name and the date you left it. It can be stored for up to three months. Unmarked bags may be removed. Do not leave perishable items or cans that might burst when frozen (such as beer).
9. Sleeping bags and pads should have the owner's name on it, and can be used by anyone in their absence.
10. Clean any dishes used and sweep the floor and fill the lanterns and stove.
11. Hang the shovel on the nail high above the door, below the upper window.
12. Latch both doors as you leave, and check to make sure the outhouse door is also latched.
13. Report any damage to the Hut Chairman or the MCA President.

Mountaineering Club of Alaska  
Box 102037  
Anchorage, Alaska 99510

Trip Hotline: 337-6679

## TRIP REPORTS

### Cairns and Registers

After returning from Denali, I spent some free time placing new registers and inspecting old ones. All too soon the geese turned south - and I joined them - the work still unfinished.

On 6/19 I visited West Tanaina's summit before placing the new ABS register on West Tanaina. The east summit has a good cairn and register placed on the 5000' point closest to Tikishla. This appears the higher when viewed from Temptation. I next traversed the ridge to Temptation to find the cairn and register there in good shape.

Four days later found me on Goat Mountain (this time in clear weather for a brief period). I was unable to find the register that Tim Neale and I placed years ago on point 6400+, so I left the new ABS register on the first 6500' peak which may be called the highest summit of Goat Mountain or the lowest summit of the Raven Peaks as you like. At the point where I left it I found Paul Crews' 1963 register calling it Goat Mt. Traversing to Peak 6380 where I left a film can register, the complexity of the Goat/Raven complex was confirmed. This is not a new discussion. On my way home I revisited Barnes Mt. where the film can register I placed last year was still intact.

On 6/29 Loretta and I replaced the aging pickle jar on Gunsight with a new ABS register. We reconstructed the old survey tripod on the top and brought out the old register slips which have been copied and await replacement.

In late July I visited the Mint Glacier and replaced the register on Montana that I had removed many years ago for copying. The old plastic box I had put there was in great shape so I transposed it to the summit of Spearmint which was sans register.

Willy gave me the logs for Pichler's Perch and Eagle Hut to copy before my departure south. On August 10th I replaced the log at Pichler's. The day before I visited the lovely two-tiered valley between Bellicose and Benign. On Bellicose's North Ridge above 6000' where the steep gendarmes begin, I found a very well built cairn with the shaft of an old wooden ice axe and a piece of an old crampon entombed there. Perhaps these were Hoeman's whom I believe visited this area?

Willy still has registers to replace on Byron, The Pinnacle (Talkeetnas), Whiteout and North Suicide. He also has historical sheets for Wolverine, Gunsight, Matanuska, Williwaw, Ramp, Hidden, Matanuska and Tikishla, and the log for Eagle Hut. I'm sure he would appreciate any assistance. Greg Higgins

## NO CHILLS ON THE CHILKOOT

DAY ONE- Trailhead to Canyon City, 8 miles.

The weather was clear and hot and the woods were muggy and steamy, but at least it wasn't raining. The trail today went rolling through the woods. This must have been a bumper crop year for frogs, because a frog (sometimes five) would jump with every step down the first few miles of trail. Salmon were in the streams and porcupines and tree squirrels in the woods. We shared Canyon City camp with eleven other hikers; Canadians, Australians, Germans and one guided tour. We were the only Americans. The others had spotted Black Bears, somehow we missed them, even though the bears were only a short time in front and behind us. We got a few good glimpses of mountains and hanging glaciers. I couldn't wait to get out of those woods, they smothered me.

DAY TWO- Canyon City to Sheep Camp, 5 miles.

Good grief, it's actually hotter today than yesterday. The ranger informed us it was 95° (85° in the shade). We explored the maize of trails at the Canyon City ruins and saw a Dipper while lunching at Pleasant Camp. The heat sapped my energy and although this was the shortest day mileagewise, this proved to be the hardest for me. We moved at a snails pace. Sheep Camp was a bustling tent city. 13 tents were set up already by the time we arrived. The stream had carved a beautiful gorge between smoothly worn rocks. We missed seeing the bear at the outhouse by only a few minutes. Hanging glaciers framed the sunset alpenglow on the highest peaks.

DAY THREE- Sheep Camp to Happy Camp, 9 miles.

A beautiful sunrise replaced last night's alpenglow. This was the day we would go over the Pass and I felt like I was preparing for an Olympic event as I spent extra care taping my feet and humming the theme to ROCKY. We were on the trail early to make some miles before the sun would be on us. It felt good to get out of the smothering trees and into the alpine tundra - finally I could breathe. There were great views of mountains, glaciers, scree slopes and huge boulders. The trail was rockier but still good, and at last there were wild flowers, Yellow Spotted Saxifrage, Shy Maidens, Fireweed, Heathers, Moss Campion and Luetkea-- all right, this is more like it! It dawns on me that never before have I concentrated so hard on pacing myself-- pacing was the key to a successful trip over the Chilkoot Pass. Every step was deliberate, sometimes moving so slow I felt like a slough. There was a mental stress of not knowing what the Pass would actually be like, would it be too hard for me? Yesterday, several people who had just gone over the pass told us anyone doing this was crazy and it would be the longest day of our lives. Good grief, what had I gotten myself into! We reached the Scales with its tramway ruins, bones and relics. There was enough breeze that the sun didn't feel hot. From the Scales we got our first view of the "Golden Stairs", that last climb to the summit of the Chilkoot Pass, about 1,000 ft. elevation gain in



half a mile. I felt great, my pacing was right on, everything had clicked into place, I had seen the Pass and knew I could do it. Forget these ruins, give me the Pass! I found the main trail up the pass slippery gravel and switched to scrambling over the rocks which proved to be easier. At the top of the Pass we explored the Canoe Cache, it's still a mystery why they were left there we found a pika living up there and saw old pots and pans, shoes, clothes, bones and stove parts. The weather was crystal clear and we could see forever in all directions. The ranger stationed about a mile from the pass into Canada said 30 people had gone over the Pass today. It was a slow hall to Happy Camp, there was a mileage mistake on the map and Happy Camp was actually 5 miles from the pass instead of 3 miles. Along the way we crossed snow slopes and wide shallow streams and a new boulder field left by an avalanche that fell earlier in the summer (the rangers were quite surprised by this avalanche both in its size and in the late time of the year it chose to let loose). The lakes on the Canadian side were that beautiful alpine green and the squirrels had changed from tree squirrels to ground squirrels.

DAY FOUR- Happy Camp to Bare Loon Lake, 9 miles.

This can't be true, another beautiful cloudless day. Today we hike through Ponderosa Pines growing out of a sandy soil. The rangers at Lindeman City greeted hikers with Girl Scout cookies and lemonade and we enjoyed a wonderful museum of photographs (or was it the benches that we sat on while looking at the photographs that we enjoyed?). At Bare Loon Lake some of us decided to stay for the night and hike the 7 miles out to Log Cabin in the morning, others opted to hike on the 3 miles to Bennett and catch a boat out that night. Bare Loon Lake was the most beautiful campsite of all. We set up our tent with a view of the Lake out the front door. The water was warm enough to swim in and loons called to us. There was excitement in the camp this night. People were pleased with their accomplishments over the last few days. There was visiting and food and tale swapping among the same Germans, Australians and Canadians that we had hopped from campsite to campsite with along the trail. We said goodnight silhouetted against an orange sunset. I was awakened at 2:00am by a bright moon casting a streak of moonshine across the Lake- life couldn't get much better.

DAY FIVE- Bare Loon Lake to Log Cabin, 7 miles.

The Log Cabin Cut-off Trail passed small ponds and woodsy campsites. The last miles out on the train tracks went through grasslands and beaver lodges and by small lakes. There was a trail beside the Railroad tracks the whole way and we found piles and piles of spikes and other Railroad track memorabilia and several old abandoned buildings. At the end of the trail we found a big rock which had painted on it with red paint, one word, "JOY".

Kathy Burke

Benevolent Peak, 7126'  
Baleful Cirque

September 5-7

We left Anchorage under partly cloudy skies with a dire weekend forecast predicted. On the way around Eklutna Lake we ran into Ranger Ed who said the marine weather bureau stated that the rain would start at midnight (I think we heard the first drops hit the tent about that time). It took 2 1/2 hrs. to bike to the East Fork, another 45 min. to hike to Bashful Cr. and 30 more to reach Baleful Cr.

We followed a game trail on the north side of B. Creek to the falls, then cut west along a well-flagged and brushed trail that sheep hunters had put in. It was easy to follow, though steep, and put us high on the north bench of the cirque. From there we climbed a scree cone to get above the alders and hike toward the glacier. Darkness hit before we could get as far as we wanted, so in the last minutes of light we threw the tent up on a gravel spit next to the creek. I mean RIGHT next to it...one of the boulders we used was situated halfway down the embankment. Total time for the bushwack was 3 1/2 hrs.

We found a better site the next day. Add an hour to the bushwack and it puts you just past the scree cone below the gully to 7126. A small moraine island with soft tundra would be a great spot for an attack on Baleful. Water from the gully is better than the milky creek water.

Sunday morning we awoke at 5:30 to rain and wind. The cirque ridge was visible at 6000', but everything above was lost in mist. We had come here for Baleful, but John took one look at the weather and rolled over and went back to sleep. I was TICKED, but knew it would be foolish to try to climb in bad weather. At noon we decided to do a recon of the route for our attack on Baleful. We grabbed lunch and gear and set out under smatterings of drizzle and wind gusts.

We made it as far as the long gully north of P 7126 and changed our plans. I'd heard that it was still unclimbed and had actually seen both the summit and the full length of the gully from the top of Benign two weeks before. The gully had snow all the way to the col at 6750' and the summit was a gentle cone just to the south. On the way up the bushwack we saw the south face of the summit. It had snowed a few days earlier and the outline of a large point-release avalanche signaled that the face had already run.

We started up with crampons at 1:30. The snow was hard-packed and easy to climb, but the slope angle was a respectable 50 deg. We had to front point in some spots. The gully was wide and curved just enough to lure us into going further and further to see what was next. Small rocks rolled down occasionally and at one point a couple larger chunks came by bringing a little snow with them. It made me jumpy, but the overall impression was that the gully was stable. About 3/4 of the way up we climbed past the run-out of the avalanche we'd seen on the south face; the col couldn't be seen yet and there was at least 2000 feet of gully below us. The rock on both sides were steep and

rotten, so we were committed to the gully.

Near the col the scree was so rotten it resembled mud and we were able to kick steps into it to the top. From there it was a short hike to the summit. We roped as the wind was gusting strongly. We found no cairn or register, so we left one. The clouds were down to the deck, so there were no visuals, as Jim would say. We did notice that the south approach was incredibly gnarly; the drop-off took my breath away. The deep, narrow cirque between us and the west flank of Baleful showed briefly. The glacier was startlingly blue and we could see the lush green of Hunter Cr. below. Quite a change from the drab gray we'd been climbing in. Point 7050 to the north of the col I think is unclimbed. Very craggy and exposed, it would be a great challenge to a good rock climber.

We downclimbed the whole gully as it was too hard to glissade safely. We got back to the scree cone before blackness and groped our way to the tent in the dark. Typical Cafmeyer climb. The wind that night nearly flattened us. It rained as we woke and didn't stop until we got back to the suburban that evening. Alder branches made good self-belays during the downclimbing of the bushwack.

Karen Cafmeyer (and husband John)

