



MOUNTAINEERING CLUB OF ALASKA

BOX 102037

ANCHORAGE, ALASKA 99510

OCTOBER 1989

Volume 32, Issue 10

### OCTOBER MEETING

The next monthly meeting of the MCA will be held Wednesday, October 18th, 7:30 pm, at the Pioneer School House, 3rd and Eagle Sts., downtown Anchorage. This is the club's annual meeting, with elections and a gear swap. Bring in your climbing, skiing, hiking, camping and any other outdoor gear for sale or swap. It's a good time to pick up something inexpensively or sell an item so you can update your own.

### TRIP REPORTS

#### Katmai Traverse

Don Hansen

Left Anchorage July 22 for King Salmon and air charter to offshore gravel bar on Katmai Bay at low tide; pilot George Tibetta. We spotted about 30 brown bears, including two sows with cubs along the beach. They appeared to be digging clams, as we (Linda White, Pam Bearden, Mike Padden and I) observed through binoculars. The remainder of the group (Bill Wakeland, Pamela Page, Brian Bannan and Fred Kampfer) came on the second flight. As we started across the tidal flats towards the west, we stepped into extensive patches of weathered crude oil, covered with a thin layer of tidal silt, over parts of the bay and delta. Bill also found some quick sand (or mud), that we had to pull him from. After that, we used "walking sticks" to probe as we hiked up the river valley.

The choice was between wading up the river braids or bushwacking through alders and tall grass (six feet high), and we did some of both. One day of bushwacking, about 3-4 miles in, took us only three miles. Back to stream-wading until we crossed Martin Cr., above most of the brush. We continued to travel along the extensive gravel-ash bar on the west side of Katmai River. However, Fred Kampfer experienced another hazard, "sink holes." He fell into one about three feet deep and was fortunately not injured. We walked single-file for a while with brave Bill leading the way. I didn't need a sink hole to badly twist an ankle while hopping over a small stream. At the same time, Brian suffered from grass-pollen allergy.

After crossing Mageik Creek, we set up camp near a cold shower waterfall in the upper part of west Katmai valley, near a ramp leading to Katmai Crater, which we followed the next day. We intended to do a non-glacier route, that ends up on a snow field, which was difficult to distinguish from an adjacent, crevassed glacier. Bill and Linda continued up the glacier to the crater while the rest of us backtracked. The next day we recrossed Mageik and hiked up the lower slopes of Observation Mt. towards Katmai Pass. We camped in a lush, green valley where

Mageik Cr. is above its lower canyon and near the 1953-1968 Trident Volcano lava flow. The flow crowds the left side of Mageik all the way to the pass.

Bill discovered a warm stream (77 degrees F) flowing out of the lava flow near camp and some of us took a bath. The next two days were soaked in, with very high winds, downpours and fog. One tent blew down and another was damaged. On the third day, with fog remaining, we headed for the pass using map and compass and the black lava flow to guide us. While heading down the far side of the pass the sky cleared enough for us to see Falling Mountain and a profile of Mt. Cerebus. However, the fog and wind followed us through the pass, dispersing as it came into the Valley of 10,000 Smokes. We set up camp near Novarupta in a green vegetation draw, which seemed to be out of the wind. In the middle of the night howling winds from every direction blew down another tent, after bending all the poles ninety degrees. Fortunately we had started out with seven tents.

Next day we decided to head for the old geologist shacks on Baked Mt. since three out of seven tents could not withstand the wind. One of the shacks, the leaky one, was not occupied, so five of us spent the next two nights dodging drops coming through the porous roof. Some hiked in sun to Knife Cr. for the afternoon, racing later to the shack to avoid another rainstorm.

The next day we visited Novarupta and climbed up the lava plug and explored and stood over the steam vents near the summit.

The next day we dropped off Baked Mt. and had an easy crossing of the River Lethe at a wide spot (it looks like a lake from the mountain). We hiked all the way to Three Forks and the cabin at the end of the road to Brooks Camp. We managed to dry out some of the gear and hike down to the Three Forks (River Lethe, Windy Creek, Knife Creek) Gorge, before we were picked up the next day by the tour bus (4x4 school bus). We pigged out at Brooks Camp (a buffet supper for \$20) and spent Friday watching/photographing brown bears. Back to Anchorage on Saturday. Eleven days on the traverse, plus exploring the Katmai Crater, Novarupta and two complete down days in the tents. A good trip, but lots of rain.

### Biking Glen Alps to Kincaid

Kathy Burke

Back in June we mounted our trusty two-wheeled steeds and rode off into a day of nine-year-old mentality. During the winter we skied and explored, finally finding the off-road connection between Prospect Heights and the #22 ski loop that runs beside the Hilltop downhill ski area. So, we headed down the powerline for Prospect Heights thoroughly rattling our brains and bottoms, our hands in a death grip on brake levers, yee-haing the whole way. At Prospect we made a short jog over to the gas line and rode till we picked up the #22 ski loop down across the bridge and out Stuckagain Road. Somewhere along the way an assortment of items were shed - longjohns, bike repair kit, nuts and bolts from various parts of bikes, pressures from work.

We crossed Tudor and rode under a powerline over to Northern Lts. where we rode the Chester Cr. bike trail out to West Chester. More things were shed - clothes, sweat, and Sue and Carol due to other commitments (what kind of piddly excuse is the Renaissance Fair?).

After rounding West Chester and pedaling out the Coastal Trail, the heat had set in and the biking seemed to become mechanical, we had been at this long enough and it was time to just get ourselves to Kincaid. The only highlight was the

ware-chested men joggers!

Finally, we pedaled up the hill to Kincaid and stuffed the bikes into the back of the van. A quick look back up to the mountains where this adventure had started and then off to Village Inn, where the whole gang reunited for lunch.

Fun trip, nice break from running around the mountaintops. Riders were Carol Hoblitzel, Jane Stammen, Mary Savage, Jane's daughter Lisa, Sue Axxe and me.

### Denali State Park Traverse

Bill Wakeland

September 1-4

We had planned to leave Anchorage Friday am, but deferred to a request to leave after work, so we were on our way shortly after 6 pm, five of us: Don Hansen, Pam Page, Veronica Allmaras, Jim Scherr and me. We found that four days would have been preferable for the Byers Lake to Little Coal Creek Trail. We were pushed and had little time for fooling around or side trips.

The neat log cabin, built by Dave Johnson and crew, that is the visitor center for Byers Lake, about Mile 148 Parks Hwy, served as our shelter for Friday night, keeping tents dry and saving time. We had ferried 2 cars to Little Coal Cr., about Mile 166 - Pam wanted to hurry home and meet a plane Monday, so we had three cars.

The slog to elevation 2500 on the ridge, from 900 at the lake, was through wet everything (several of us having survived Katmai were used to this) and then a more pleasant trek to USGS 2970 and more rain to our camp overlooking Skinny Lake. Yours truly was wet, tired and cold, and hot drinks and food really hit the spot, after getting wet boots off and into a pile jacket. Although the rain let up for dinner, it started again and rained all night after we were all snug in the sack.

The next day was very wet again, but not from the sky - we had a lot of brush and grass to plow through on a "trail" hard to follow. After picking our way around the north side of the lake and angling steeply down on slab granite, we dove into the well-named Bitch Cr. Valley. At points there was up to foot of water on the trail - but the weather was improving. The valley is about 1700' and again we had to climb to about 2300' for the next campsite. As we broke out of the trees and brush, the clouds finally parted and we had delightful sun, with no wind. Out came the cameras, but we really never quite got to the shorts stage. The mountain (Denali) didn't show until later. We were in a sea of clouds to the east and west. The valley below, Bitch Cr., was now picturesque and not so dismal.

This was a new route to Don and me; we had fumbled around on a completely different route four years ago, never finding any trail at all until we started out of the valley on the south side, heading south. Since then the trail has been marked by cairns above the brush, and better-cut and used below the brush line. Only at the approaches to the tundra line at each trailhead has any shovel work been done, which is just as well.

One of the surprises of this new route was what we called the Bitch Creek Stonehenge. Sort of a valley-of-the-moon, with various granite slabs, a pond and a sheltered campspot, which we had to pass up. Along the tundra route beyond the trail fork to the Chulitna Lodge trailhead we encountered two more hikers, Pauline Dickey and Jean Roche, who were making the shorter loop from Little Coal Creek to

Chulitna Lodge. The going got better and better in the open tundra and we gained more altitude through the ups and downs until we finally reached 10-Mile Lake and a good camp. Great to get wet stuff out drying, including wet tents, and bask in the late sun. It was another hard day, at least for me, trying to keep the others from trampling me! I didn't dare let any of them get in front, or I'd never been able to catch up!

The weather changed, of course, but not before freezing lightly that night. The following day gradually clouded over until it was raining on us again. We only had to climb another 300' and then we dropped pretty steadily all the way to the parking lot at Little Coal Cr. Along the way we passed near the beautiful little lake across which we'd taken pictures of Denail on prior trips, and where we were camped once when we had a hiker lost in the fog, and whistles saved the day.

Well, we all made it okay, Pam took off for Anchorage, and the rest of us pigged out at Wasilla. One of the marvels of the trip was Veronica's 31-pound pack; we kept peeking to see if she hadn't forgotten her food or tent or bag or something. The whole crew was well-equipped and in good shape and a pleasure to be with, even if I did have to practically run to stay in front! Total trip about 28 miles, but it seemed much longer.

### Ice School

W. Hersman

There were 38 names on the list, 37 showed. It rained. We climbed anyway. A few new jokes at the fire on Saturday night. Sunday, more rain. We climbed anyway. Many thanks to Paul for coordinating it again. As for the one person who didn't show...you know who you are, go back out there and face the rain! Get your boots muddy! Go on, it won't hurt you.

### MINUTES OF THE SEPTEMBER MEETING

The September meeting was held on at the Pioneer School House on the 20th. New members and guests were welcomed and the entertainment was a slide show of the expedition which established the 'correct' height of Mt. McKinley by sophisticated, state of the art means. Thanks for the informative show, Ron Cothren!

#### Treasurer's Report:

Petty cash	- \$ 37.10
Checking	- 273.92
Money market	- <u>3781.56</u>
Total	- \$4092.58

#### Committees :

Hiking and Climbing - Neil O'Donnell reminded the membership that this is a volunteer organization and that more people are needed to lead trips. Don Hansen has been the chairperson of this committee for the past year and was thanked for his efforts.

Huts - We have cups and t-shirts for sale to support the hut cause, i.e. to maintain the existing four huts and to build more. Willy Hersman informed us of

■ arproofing done at the Mint Hut, which was ransacked by one of the bruins this year. Seems as soon as you get rid of the destructive porcupines, something bigger shows up to take its place.

Training - Paul Denkwalter, the organizer of the annual Ice Climbing School, gave last chance information on the upcoming school Sep 23/24. Todd Miner reported progress on the development of the climbing wall and that volunteers are needed to help build some of it, the financial end looks good. Another meeting will be at 6pm just before the October MCA meeting at the Pioneer S.H. Please feel free to come.

Old Business :  
none.

New Business :

October elections were discussed and a few nominations were made, some were declined. See the nomination list in this issue, and be ready to fill the gaps. More nominations will be solicited at the October meeting, or you can call anyone on the back of Scree to volunteer yourself anytime.

Announcements :

Todd Miner announced fliers for some UAA classes . Todd announced also a gear swap at the college on Friday, Sep 22, 5pm; a film show to follow it. Alan Julliard announced plans to create a trail along Bird Creek in conjunction with State Parks. The ground work has already been laid and people interested are urged to contact Alan to help. This should be a great place to hike.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Pete Sennhauser

ADZE

Looking for:

Mountaineers interested in trekking in Nepal this Spring or Fall.  
Pamela Page - 696-2000

#### OCTOBER ELECTIONS

We're looking for volunteers for all positions.

President - run meetings, coordinate committees, hold board meetings, represent the club, delegate duties to others

Vice-President - find programs, run meetings in the absence of the Pres.

Secretary - tape minutes, secure a place for meetings

Treasurer - pay the bills, collect dues and waivers, keep a list of members

Board members (2) - vote at board meetings, advise club on policies

Nominations are open until the actual vote on October 18th and so far we only have the following nominations accepted:

President - Neil O'Donnell	Vice Pres - Alan Julliard
Secretary - none	Treasurer - Vicky Jorgensen
Board - none	Board - none

Please contact any officer in the club if you are at all interested, numbers are on the back of Scree .

### Climbing Wall Getting Closer

The much-talked-about artificial climbing wall for Anchorage is slowly getting closer. Alan Julliard and Todd Miner met with Kincaid Park's manager, Jerry Walton in August to discuss using one of the abandoned bunkers there. Jerry was excited about the wall and agreed to recommend the idea to his boss and the Parks and Recreation Board. Todd then met with the Director of Parks and Recreation in September and got his blessing. On September 20th a meeting of the Ad Hoc Anchorage Climbing Wall Committee was held and general ideas for funding and construction were discussed. Finally, on the 28th the issue comes before the Anchorage Parks and Recreation Board.

That's where you come in. We will need all the help we can get to bring the wall to reality. We should hear back from Parks and Rec by mid-October. To get the construction ball rolling we are calling a climbing wall committee meeting for October 18th from 6 to 7:30 pm in the Pioneer Schoolhouse, right before the MCA meeting. At that meeting we would like to lay out a construction schedule and develop design ideas.

Other people and organizations have been extremely supportive. Lynne Salerno's family has reaffirmed their commitment to provide 10,000 towards the wall as a memorial to Lynne's love of climbing and indomitable spirit. We were awarded a \$1,000 grant from the REI 1989 Grants for Climbing Instruction and Paul Denkwalter of AMH was generous enough to match the grant.

Now we just have to put it into gear and act! See you on the 18th. Should you have any questions or comments please give me a call at 786-1468 days or 688-9958 evenings.

Todd Miner  
Anchorage Ad Hoc  
Climbing Wall Committee

### Update on MCAers in Seattle

Doris Curtis just returned from two months exploring West and East Germany. An attempt to climb Mt. Rainier, last May stopped Doris and her climbing group at Camp Muir due to weather. She is busy climbing peaks here and there in Washington every weekend.

Jim Pommert (known to some of you as the 'hiking blurr') is still climbing everything taller than himself and he's still getting people to go with him. There must be an inexhaustible supply of suckers to drag up and down the peaks with him!

Kathy Burke

### Note from the Editor

Another year goes by for the MCA, our 31st. As I look at the trip schedule I see that it is empty, which has only happened two or three times in those 31 years. As I look at the nomination list I see that only three people have volunteered. That is the lowest number I've seen since I've been in the club. You have to remember folks that you get out of life what you put into it, and so it goes for your work, your children, your play. The MCA is a volunteer organization. It may not be what you want it to be, but there's only one way to make it better. You need to get involved, many of you who don't. It will build character, and it doesn't take that much. The club is what the people in it choose it to be. It's up to you.

### Library Donation

Paul Denkewalter of AMH has donated the many books, journals and magazines which were part of his collection at Alaska Mountaineering and Hiking. This is a welcome addition to the library, which is located upstairs at the store. Club members need to check out the selection sometime and do some adventure reading, maybe look at the pictures if you can't read. Check out the store too, it's a little different inside. Many thanks to Paul for the publications and for allowing the club to house it all there.

### History Corner

Willy Hersman

20 Years Ago, this month:

Bill Stivers wrote an article in Scree about his trip to Bold Peak. His description is of climbing out of East Fork Eklutna River where two waterfalls run down to the right of a large gorge. After entering the gorge, Bill deposited his camping gear at about 3000' and continued up the gully. He came to difficulties soon after and had to backtrack to a gully branching east out of the main gorge to get past cliffs. Above the gully he found grassy slopes and easier going along the stream in the gorge.

Eventually reaching the top of the gorge at about 5700', he then began up the SE ridge of Bold on scree. At 7000' he reached the prominent SSW ridge which is about a quarter of a mile from the summit. He wrote of that day, September 5th, "It was then 4:00 pm and I had decided to return to camp at that time. I reached camp at 6:30 pm...At 7:00 am I was on my way, covering the same route as the day before. I reached the ridge and climbed north a short distance to reach the peak at 12:30...two feet of snow on top."

"I believe the climb described was the first ascent to Bold Peak from the (East) Fork of Eklutna River."

It was. The route now bears his name. Stivers' Gully is the most-used route to the top of 7522-foot Bold. And people still go up the wrong gully, because it's not real obvious, but most people do not camp in the gorge. You can do the climb in one day, if you use a bicycle to get around the lake, and now there is such a path worn to the gorge that it is really a trail, as Pete Panarese and I discovered this summer.

**AMERICAN ALPINE CLUB  
ANNUAL MEETING  
&  
PROGRAM**

*What:* Annual Business Meeting  
Social Hour  
Dinner  
Slide Presentations  
including (tentatively)  
**Everest**  
**Dhaulagiri**  
**Greenland**

*When:* Saturday, October 28, 1989  
*Where:* Clarion Hotel, Anchorage, Alaska

*What Time and How Much*

Business Meeting - 2:00 pm - free  
Social Hour - after business  
Dinner - 6:00 pm  
(includes the slide show)  
\$18.00 members  
23.00 non-members  
Slide Presentations  
\$ 5.00 non-members  
free - members

*Who:* Contact Paul Denkwalter  
272-1811