

SCREE

MOUNTAINEERING CLUB OF ALASKA
Box 2037 Anchorage, Alaska

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November meeting: E. Jack Miller, recently on McKinley with Bob Spurr and Barney Seiler and now working toward his masters degree at the University of Alaska, will show slides of his amphibious exploration of Tierra del Fuego during the austral summer of 1965-66. See his article, "Exploring America's Southern Tip" in the 1967 A.A.J. 15:326-333.

New officers: At the October meeting Bob Spurr was elected president, Nick Parker -vp, Karen Courtright - secretary, Tom Meachum - treasurer, and Bill Davis - board member.

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LARK MOUNTAIN 5750. Opposite Moose Pass Village across Trail Lake 9-10 November. Walk or snowshoe in on trail to old mines Saturday afternoon, climb Sunday. See photo and effort to secure name for this peak Anch.Times 23 Oct., p.17. V&G Hoeman, ldrs. 277-7871.

LOST LAKE "31st Hike". 16 and/or 17 November. Excellent 6-mile trail, spectacular views of Mount Ascension and unclimbed Resurrection Peaks. See article p.2-3 this issue of SCREE. Leader: LOTTE KRAMER 272-1401(work), 272-6355(home).

RAGGED TOP MOUNTAIN 5215. Girdwood area mountain whose slightly lower SE summit is more frequently climbed than the true summit which will be our goal on Sunday, 24 November. No successful traverse of the summit ridge is known and this may be possible for part or all of the party, conditions permitting. Ldr. Vin Hoeman 277-7871.

NORTH FACE OF PTARMIGAN 4880, TO HOPE MTN. 4900'. Saturday 7 December. Climb prominent north face on Anchorage skyline. Enjoyable 2000 foot face climb on steep snow with exposure. Approach on skis under full moon from Glen Alps. Leaders: Grace Hoeman(277-7871), Gayle Nienheuser(277-9330), Bob Spurr(272-8330). Conditions permitting.

ACONCAGUA 22,834. In February MCA will sponsor its highest and farthest afield effort so far, the ascent of Earth's second highest continent and highpoint of two hemispheres(Western and Southern). ~~Members~~ have tried Aconcagua before (see SCREE July 1966 and Feb.1968, but only as small unauthorized groups. This time we will seek the sanction and free mules of the Argentine military and be prepared to wait for good weather at Plaza de Mules, 14,500, where there is a shelter cabin. Good weather is the key, then the mountain is a walk-up. Chuck Crenshaw reports that he and Jim Henriot slept a night outside between 21 and 22,000 last February on their successful climb as the tent was full of others. After Aconcagua, some of us may also climb Sajama, 21,424, Bolivia's highpoint, while trapping Phyllotis mice to bring back alive for the Institute of Arctic Biology. Vegetation, and presumably mice occur to over 17,500 in Bolivia. What is required to join in these high climbs? Reasonably good health and conditioning, equipment to be specified, about \$1000 for food and transportation, and the entire month of February. Contact Vin Hoeman (277-7871).

CHIMBORAZO, 20,563. Bill Hauser is considering doing Ecuador's highpoint over Christmas. Anyone interested contact him at Colegio Internacional de Caribobo, Apartado #103, Valencia, Venezuela S.A. * * *

Clarification: The peak described by Charles Kibler in October SCREE p.5 is Rod Wilson's "Koktaya", but it was first climbed by Dave Dahlke and John Dillman in 1961. They called it Mt. Elliott after Robert T. Elliott who had climbed and was killed on McKinley. This is to straighten out the climbing, the naming is yet undecided.

POWERLINE PASS PEAKS. On 2 Sept. G&V Hoeman climbed Peak 5050 NE of Powerline Pass finding recent tracks almost, if not quite, all the way. They built cairn and traversed down NE Rg. to Pt. 4505. D&H Bludworth repeated this climb the 9th and on 16th with Ken Stump traversed Peak 4660 SE of the pass, a more difficult climb.

LOST LAKE TRAIL - KENAI PENINSULA
 taken from USGS Seward A-7 & B-7 quads
 scale 1 inch = 1 mile

climbed peaks

no known ascents

N

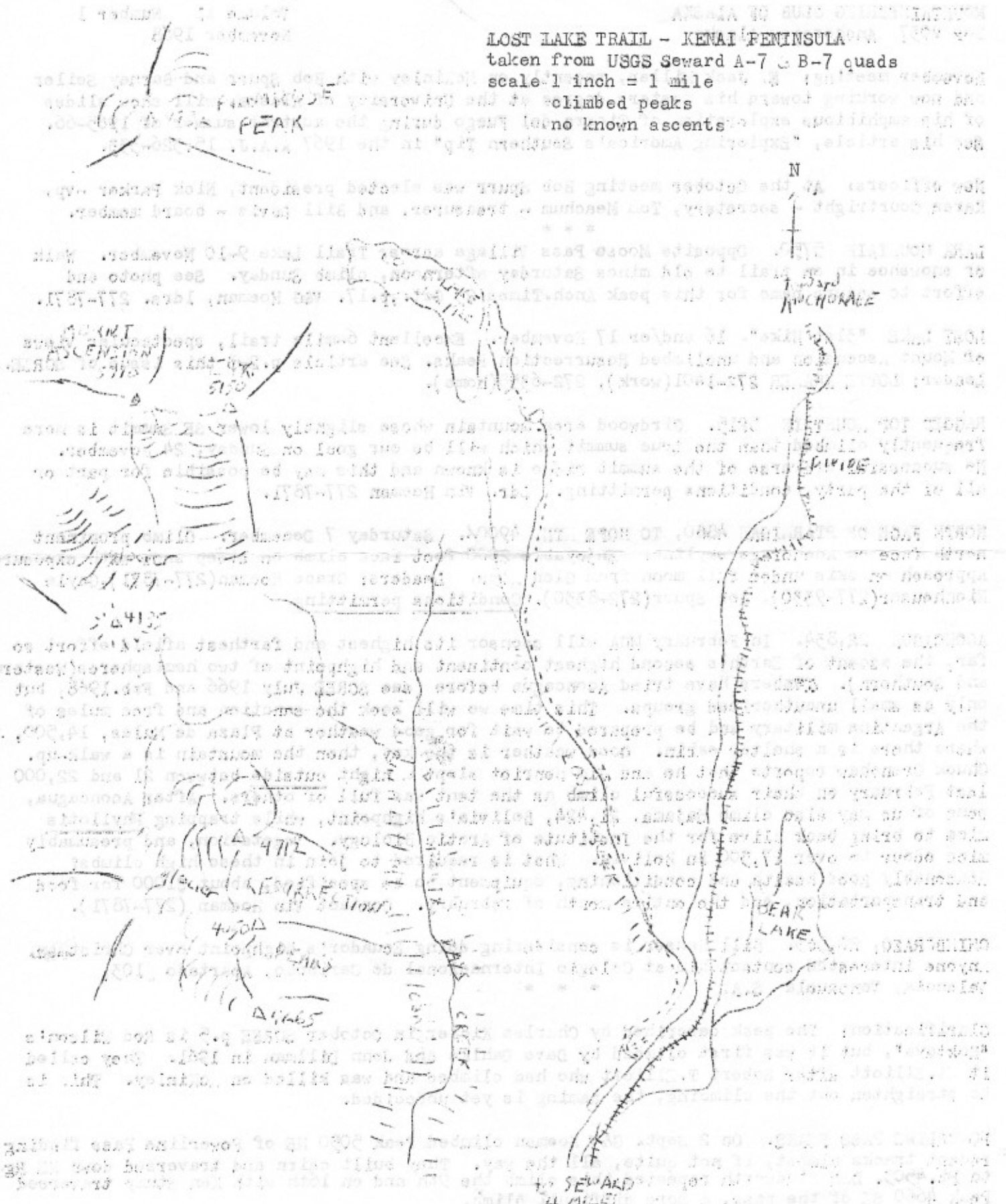
ANCHORAGE

WIRE

BEAR LAKE

CREEK

SEWARD



LOST LAKE AND MOUNT ASCENSION

Vin Hoeman

A fine Chugach National Forest trail that is often overlooked is the one to Lost Lake on the Kenai. Part of the reason for its neglect is the difficulty in finding it. Approaching Seward it is on the right (west) side of the highway at mile 5 from Seward. Immediately before the turnoff a warehouse is visible by the railroad on the left, then a small house opposite which the unmarked dirt road meets the highway and curves slightly left up and around the hill. One can either park just off the highway or 300 yards up the hill at a junction in the forest. The right fork of the junction leads poorly back to the highway, the left is the trail, and, while it can be driven another hundred yards or so, the junction is the last good turnaround.

The trail is graded, bridged, culverted and possesses mileposts for the six miles to Lost Lake. Hikers start less than 100 feet above sea level and gradually climb to 2000 through mossy forest of Sitka Spruce and Western Hemlock, then open wooded ridges amid grassy parks, an area that the Kenai's great icefields have retreated from in very recent geologic time. There are views of the Resurrection Peaks and "Mount Ascension" near at hand across the canyon of "Forty Days Creek" which stream originates between them. Farther away, portions of Resurrection Bay and Harding Icefield can be seen to the south and several of the Kenai's few mountains that exceed 6000 feet across the valley to the east. Salmon-berries are plentiful along the trail from July to September; blueberries even more so, especially in the upper areas, from late July to early October.

Hunters and fishermen often fly from Bear Lake to Lost Lake (there is a charter service), but the alpine area opened up by this trail is large and includes many small lakes seldom visited. The three Resurrection Peaks are probably unclimbed, though their easy western glacier can be reached by a circuitous alpine route leaving the trail near the lake. Pointed Mount Ascension, 5710, is the highest in the whole area between Seward Hwy and Resurrection River. In spite of its impressive appearance, it is a very easy climb by its SE Ridge, but rope should be taken for crossing the glacier to reach this ridge as there are some big crevasses. Grace and I believe ours was the first ascent 6 October 1968, but summer climbers should look carefully for some record besides our own and build a large cairn so that winter climbers can find the register. This trip is one adaptable to good weather at any time of year and suitable for children of moderate experience under adequate supervision.

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KILIAK FIRST ASCENT

7450 15 September

Vin Hoeman

For over two years the mountain up Eagle River we call Kiliak was the last virgin independent (that is, having over 1000 feet of free height) 7000-footer within about 40 miles of Anchorage. Life is short and one must do what one is able, so we determined to try it this year. Dave Johnston, his sister Jill, my wife Grace and I parked near Wolfe Homestead on the 14th of September, missed the trail and bushwhacked up the valley to Dew Mound. From the 1941 U.S. Army brass cap there at elevation 947 we could see Yukla and Kiliak to the east; Eagle, Organ, and Polar Bear to the south. Directly above us the "Kiliak Glacier" valley provided the most direct avenue to our mountain. At first there was some bad alder, but we reached avalanche paths, then open slopes, and finally our valley, thick with blueberries but seemingly no cooking water short of the upper third of the glacier, most of which is rock-covered. Near the last vegetated shelf big enough to pitch our tent on we could hear water under the moraine covering the glacier's edge. After a few minutes of digging Dave could reach it, and we had a fine camp there at 3800 near the scree slopes of 7030-foot Korohusk, a Kiliak satellite.

The Ides dawned fair, but Jill's shots for going to Asia were reacting. She went with us to the head of the glacier at 5000, but thought her balance might be affected and returned to the tent rather than trying the steep rock of the cirque wall. When we'd chopped steps up the steep snow to the rock, we found this to be quite decent for Western Chugach permitting unrope scrambling to the 6450 col between Korohusk and Kiliak. At ten o'clock we started on the last thousand feet of the NNW Ridge of Kiliak. It drops off sharply on either side and the rock is extremely unreliable. We had to rope up and I placed three poor pitons and three runners on

various leads for protection, but more often had to trust the thin but firm covering of snow to provide sufficient friction. We reached the top at 2:25 pm in perfect weather, a sunny 33°F. There was room to sit and go about the usual virgin summit activities of cairn-building and register preparation as well as lunch and admiring and photographing the other nearby giants. We talked ourselves into the mistake of traversing down the easy south side of the mountain rather than rappelling the ridge we'd come up. The descent this way is indeed easy, but, as others have learned before us, Yukla Valley is a terror.

Before it got bad we admired mountain goats, the 3500-foot Face of Yukla, and we climbed a house-sized boulder that sits alone on a flat. Then brush forced us into the creek. Grace and I simply had to be in anchorage Monday morning, but Dave could try to cut across to the Kiliak Valley camp tonight. We split up, but eventually all had to bivouac as cliffs forced Dave down and the brushy bottom was too thick to travel in without any light. Grace and I thought it was light enough to travel again by 3:30 am and cautiously started feeling out moose trails along Eagle River. SLAP! went a beaver's tail on the quiet slough right beside us. Even after the first time it was loud enough to startle us. Rarely we could use sandbars as we found our way around the west side of Dew around and finally hit the good trail described in 30 Hikes. We reached anchorage not long after seven, Dave and Jill packed everything out later in the day. Parties who repeat this climb so late in the year might do well to plan for three days. Another good route on Kiliak would be from the head of Peters Creek (reached via High Valley and Bombardment Pass) taking in the unclimbed 7150 east summit.

MEMBERS ABOARD
 Med Lewis finally left for Japan about 16 Oct. He will study Japanese language and history at Nagoya Gakuin University and climb in the Japanese Alps.
 Dave Johnston jots a literally last-minute postcard from Pokhara, Nepal 15 October as he, his sister Jill, his R.F. friend Sally, and Peace Corpsman George Leonard start in to join Ed Bernbaum and Ed Fetcher in an attempt on Himachali, 6700 m. (22,000 ft) in the Annapurna Himal with the possibility of a second ascent of Ganesh, 7256 m. (about 23,800 ft reached by one Japanese and a sherpa in 1964) afterwards. His closing comment: "Nepalis, but esp. Tibetans are GREAT people."

Chet Mackney has visited India, Turkey, and Russia among other places on his tour, and we hear that he traversed the Matterhorn solo and climbed Monte Rosa, 15,203 m.

HAUSERS MIDZOUT HIGH IN THE ANDES
 Well, Chet Mackney and I headed different ways from Auckland, N.Z. in February. I got hung-up in Suva, Fiji and hated to return to the mainland. I even dismantled my wacky extension planning on nice simple clean "climbs" that all Alaskans dream about. Well, there I was at my mile high (Mt. Tomaniivi, 4341, is Fiji Islands' highpoint -ed.) base camp when I get a call "from the Union Hall" to teach math in Venezuela! Right away I see myself "poised" for the 6000 meter (=19,685 feet, there are 23 peaks over this height in Peru's Cordillera Blanca) peaks of the Cordillera Blanca with John Lambert's 1969 Iowa Mountaineers group. So on goes my wacky extension, and this time I took my Eddie Bauer Everest Parka. These "tropical" mountains may be tropical, but I was cold on Kilimanjaro. Then I restock my anti-bacteria pill kit and my anti-rust kit and fly out to ... saying all the time of course: "I will discover the lost Inca rubies and gold, I will find my fortunes in the jungles of Venezuela, I will challenge the poison arrows of the natives on the Rio Orinoco...."

Three days in Miami waiting for my visa calmed me down about the Orinoco. Now in Valencia we are at 2000' so all year it's 72°-84°. In 30 minutes I'm in the tropics and La Caribe. Man I'm really hablaing hispanol. Quia is real cheap and beer in bars is 30¢ for 1/3 liter. I can get to skiing on Pico Bolivar (16,427 yz-highpoint) on a brand new three-day weekend!! Lots of sweaty climbs out my back door. I have my free apartment with maid at the border of the creaking and croaking and cracking jungle. Una mas cerveza, señor!! Por favor.

PTARMIGAN LAKE TRAIL

26 October

Louise DeVoe

Undaunted by cloudy skies and autumn chill, more than a dozen faithful mountaineers rendezvoused at 7:00 Saturday morning, October 26 in Safeway's parking lot on Gambell before setting off in five cars for Ptarmigan Creek Campground in Chugach National Forest near Kenai Lake. There they rendezvoused for a second time and found that four of the original group were not present, so Leader Dave DeVoe delayed departure in hope they would appear. Then the party set off through the dense forest along the trail to Ptarmigan Lake about $3\frac{1}{2}$ miles away.

The three children of Peter and Hella Vlasveld danced along as excited and pleased as the two dogs, Susie Kramer's "Schnapps" and Louise DeVoe's "Brownie". The well-defined trail was occasionally treacherous with ice, but little five-year-old Lieje Vlasveld had slippery boots and tired about a mile from the campground, so with her mother and elder brother Jarein returned to their car, while Peter and the oldest boy, Simon Paul, a tireless nine-year-old with a pack on his back, continued with the group toward the lake. The trail is up-and-downish through the woods and above the stream, at times so narrow a path on steep ledges hanging over deep pools that this route probably would not be suitable for ski touring---even Lotte Kramer had to agree!

The trail gradually gains altitude and before it ends at Ptarmigan Lake leads through a thick growth of bear grass so tall trespassers' faces and clothing were smacked thoroughly by the dripping blades and clothing was saturated. (This tall reedgrass, *Calamagrostis* sp., rendered the trail practically impassable in midsummer this year, and, for unknown reason, the Forest Service does not seem to be maintaining this trail. It does not end at the lake, but continues less well defined in places along the northern edge to the upper end. Beyond that point it becomes hopelessly lost in a swamp and has probably been so long unmaintained over Snow River Pass that it no longer exists, as seems to be the case with Paradise Valley Trail which it is shown merging into on the Seward B-6 quad - ed.)

It was here Karen Courtright and Ted Bell, with Ted's young black Lab setter, "Spook" were joined by the group, they having come ahead of the rest. Spook and Brownie were congenial, but Schnapps, a male, took offense at the addition of another male dog, and there were several ferocious flare-ups between Schnapps and Spook, but no blood was spilled; Schnapps merely lost face and Spook was "spooked", while Brownie extended her sympathies to both malefactors, going from one to the other, isolated on opposite sides of the campfire around which the hikers steamed as their clothing dried and they consumed sandwiches, fruit, hot tea and candy bars. The lake was placid and almost a summery blue, but the peaks above it were swathed in vapor bearing "100% chance of precipitation".

At last the rousing fire built by Clarck Stockwell and Jim Callahan had to be doused, as the hikers must head for home more than 100 miles away. Reluctant to leave, they dawdled a bit on the way back to the campground. Dave and Carol DeVoe took pictures; Lotte picked more than a quart of highbush cranberries, still clinging crimson to bare branches and bursting with tantalizing bitter-sweet juice; several hikers lingered a few minutes where the trail threads between rocky ledges adorned with moss and hieroglyphic tree roots reminiscent of the witch's wild flight from the dwarfs in Walt Disney's Snow White.

In a few weeks all this will be blanketed with snow for another season of beauty, followed in spring by singing birds, pungent budding willow, and Canadian dogwood carpets carelessly scattered by generous Nature. Even now, late autumn's drabness is proved a myth, for the mosses are brilliant in many hues of green and yellow, and lingering leaves and berries brighten shaded nooks. As mountaineers and many others know, any time is a good time in Alaska's wilderness.

P.S. Tom and Carol Loy were the other missing couple. Their new red VW without snow tires was too swishy on the glare ice,, so they turned back at Summit Lake.

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Editorial Policy:

Editorship of a small 10-year-old monthly mountaineering journal is as exacting a task as one cares to make it and perhaps the beginning is the best place for a new editor to state some goals, dreams, and even a rule or two. MCA has grown over the years, and SCREE has grown too, but we must look for ways to make it even better. It would be nice if names, spelling, and punctuation were always correct, the sheets never smudged, and even if we could print photos, but much more important, I think, is the content of what we write. In order to be respected as a club (for we are judged by our publication), we must take pains to write interestingly and accurately. I will make such small corrections on articles as are apparent to me without rewriting the article because the style and intent of the author must be preserved. If a correction or observation involves some expansion, I will separate it parenthetically from the text. If it seems to be of a serious nature, I will try to contact the author first.

Hopefully, each month someone can write up a trip or an area in a complete manner with explicit directions and map for others to follow. Eventually "the best of SCREE" can be edited into a book. Areas or routes new to SCREE will be given priority. Repetitious visits to areas already chronicled may be asked to abbreviate their reports, but we seek to give some sort of report for all mountain trips by club members. It is hoped that we can get SCREE out about a week before each meeting, thus articles should be to the editor two weeks before meetings. For the next issue we hope to assemble an index to SCREE's first 10 years. VH

MOUNTAINEERING CLUB OF ALASKA
 Box 2037
 ANCHORAGE, ALASKA 99501

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