

SCREE

MOUNTAINEERING CLUB OF ALASKA

BOX 2037

ANCHORAGE, ALASKA 99510

NOVEMBER 1972

VOL. 15, NO. 11

NOVEMBER MEETING.... Thursday, November 16, 1972....8:00 PM....Central Junior High Multipurpose Rm....PROGRAM: Minislide presentation by John Samuelson - subject unknown (may be Mt. Sanford ski trip)....Business Meeting....Refreshments.... Maxislide presentation by Barry Johnson--slides of New Zealand outdoors.

President Tom Meacham reports the following Committees for 1972-73 (and Chairmen):

Program Committee	unfilled
Hikes	Bill Barnes, Sr.
Climbs	unfilled
Schools	Wendell Oderkirk
Conservation	Barb Winkley
55 Hikes Distribution	Wendell Oderkirk & Helen Nienhueser
Huts & Cabins	Randy Renner
Geographic Names	Barry Kircher

NEW OFFICERS ARE: President - Tom Meacham, ESQ. Vice-President - Bill Barnes, Jr.
Treasurer - Gil Todd Secretary - Dona Agosti
Board of Directors: Wendell Oderkirk and Bob Spurr

BOARD MEETING--December 4, 7:30 PM at Dona Agosti's home - 2324 Loussac Drive.

LANDS COMMITTEE REPORT by John Baxandall

"Are you interested in skiing in the Campbell Creek drainage of Chugach State Park? The State Division of Parks needs our support in their efforts to keep the Campbell Creek Drainage closed to snowmobiles this winter. The snowmobiles currently have use of the Eklutna Lake and Bird Creek areas but it appears to be not enough!

"In the Anchorage Motor Musers Club magazine SNOWMOBILING for October 1972, Herb Blake says of the State Division of Parks 'that there is strong personal motivation in the programming of our State lands and that this is morally and legally wrong.' We can cure these ills if we protest LOUD and LONG. If we send wires of complaint to Gov. Egan and Commissioner Herbert of Natural Resources NOW, we will be successful. Look how few fanatics have been able to tie up our pipeline. LET'S BE A LOT OF FANATICS!!! Unless there is some response from skiers in support of the Division of Parks regulations, they may be changed. Please write to: Commissioner Charles Herbert, Department of Natural Resources, Pouch M, Juneau, Alaska 99801 OR Governor William Egan, Pouch A, Juneau, Alaska 99801."

The above appeared in NORDIC SKI CLUB NEWSLETTER, Vol. 7, No. 2, October 28, 1972.

N. O. T. E --The Borough Assembly will have a public hearing on the issue of snow-machines in the Campbell Creek drainage of Chugach State Park this Monday, November 13, at 3500 Tudor Road in the Borough Assembly Room. Be sure to go and testify that you want to ski uninterrupted by snow-machiners.

BITS AND PIECES ON SIXTEEN HIKES - by Dona Agosti

With 55 WAYS TO THE WILDERNESS IN SOUTH CENTRAL ALASKA finally on the bookstands, may I extend congratulations and appreciation to Helen and Nancy for a job well done. Those of us who were on the receiving end of telephone calls from Helen know how persistent she was in assuring a factual presentation. Since we also know that the book was a long time abrewing, I thought Club members might like a few Summer 1972 comments on some of the hikes. I've listed them alphabetically, because some are not in the book. Of course you realize this is the lazy man's way of doing his writeups for SCREE!

Bird Creek and Birdseye Ridge. For restless April hikers, we discovered that the road set aside for snowmachines just beyond Bird Creek makes good walking in late April - it's generally too late for machines and the trail is packed enough for walking. Back on the west side of the creek, for those reaching point 3505 and noting in the register that Vin Hoeman named the ridge Birdseye Ridge, don't be confused. It is one and the same as Hike 26 or Bird Creek Ridge noted in the book.

Chitina (No. 53). Now that the bridge across the Copper River has been completed, there are some great new hiking possibilities along the McCarthy Road. I didn't realize that it was 60 miles to McCarthy and that it is possible to drive for 45 miles before being stopped by washed out bridges. I sincerely hope that the Highway Department will not be hampered in its efforts to build some sort of crossings at these two points because I for one would dearly love to visit McCarthy. Incidentally, we drove to Strelna Lake at Mile 8 in our passenger car, but the road is really designated as a four-wheel drive route. Going in the other direction out of Chitina, the O'Brien Creek campground has been enlarged and it is possible to drive on an improved road to that point now. Concerning the point of impasse three miles from O'Brien Creek, which is mentioned in 55 WAYS, I wonder if it might be possible for some climbing types to leave a rope ladder intact for us less-gifted hikers the next time they scale that rock face. Polly Tony, who lives on O'Brien Road, suggested this idea, because it would open up much more of the old railroad bed for hiking.

Crescent-Carter (No. 9) and vice-versa. The roof is back on the Crescent Lake cabin, which coincides nicely with that lovely picture on page 24 of 55 WAYS. However, if the cabin is reserved, don't let that deter you. There are dozens of lovely campsites at Crescent Lake. Also, the trail is now in excellent condition and a good one for kids. If you're interested, the ice went out the night of June 19 this year. Don't plan to eat fish for supper, because Fish and Game has closed this lake to fishing for some very obvious reasons. One caution if you take the Carter-Crescent trail - the parking lot is difficult to find but drive slowly between Mile 32 and 33 on the Seward Highway and you'll spot it. The trail washed out to some extent this year, but it's easy walking between Carter and Crescent, and there is an ideal campsite on a knoll to the left on "this" side of Crescent Lake.

Flat Top (No. 31). You wouldn't think there would be anything new to report about this hike, but the new ruling about motorized vehicles in the Chugach State Park does change things a bit. Those who drive the Glen Alps route will find that they cannot drive to the powerline parking lot but must stop at the park boundary. I have not verified this with Dr. Helen Bierne, but I understand she will not shoot at MCA-ers who use the "driveway" to her home and park temporarily while they are climbing Flat Top. If you start from the park sign above Kasilof Hills, then add a few more miles of hiking since it is no longer possible to drive the powerline-pipeline road.

Fuller Lakes (No. 6). This trail was a wildflower delight on July 22 and my sons and I spotted 27 sheep on the ridge to the right or southeast of Lower Fuller Lake. It was windy at the Upper Lake and I missed the fork to the west ridge which is mentioned in the book. Others undoubtedly will be more perceptive than I. Incidentally, the entrance to this trail is 2.5 miles west from Sportsman's Lodge on the Sterling Highway.

Grant Lake. This hike on June 24 proved to be more than the simple 2 1/2 mile jaunt shown on the map. It begins just across the railroad trestle at Moose Pass, then swings back along Upper Trail Lake for about a half mile where it turns up and I do mean up, following creek beds and the old mining road in a great state of disrepair. In addition, when you finally reach the mine buildings, you are confronted with private property at the only decent campsite around. Too bad, because the lake is beautiful and the fishing great.

Gull Road (No. 17). This was a fun hike the last two days of school in May. I offered to help a Romig teacher with a mini-course in overnight backpacking for eight students. The trail was surprisingly good and with the exception of one avalanche chute, was free of snow. We camped at "The Rock" and hauled our water from Johnson Creek about a fourth mile back. You might remember this one when you get restless next May.

Hick's Creek. I had missed this trail at Hick's Creek until this fall when I was looking for a new hunting access, and spotted it by flashlight at 9:00 PM one night. Cross Hick's Creek at Mile 96.7, pass the former roadhouse-now-private dwellings on the south side, and about .2 of a mile on your left (or to the north) is a turnoff area. If you look closely, you can see a shale-trail ascend to a corral evidently used by a guide. Beyond the corral are many delightful trails through birch forest. We hiked westward and found ourselves on the high ridge above the Bible Camp. We also tried a few miles to the east, and I wonder if these trails would eventually connect with the Pinochle Creek trail at Mile 99.2 (No. 48 - Hicks Creek-Chitna Pass Trail). This trail might be an alternative to bucking tracked vehicles on the Mile 99 trail. If I had my say-sos, I'd name the trail at 99.2 the Pinochle Creek Trail, and the trail at 97.9 the Hicks Creek Trail. By the way, I suppose most everyone knows about the trail at Mile 104. Here again you need an eagle eye to spot the yellow BLM marker denoting public access. The parking area is on the south side of Glenn Highway and the trail on the left.

Homer Beach Walk (No. 1). Helen cautioned walkers about the tides, and I'd like to add one more note of caution. There is a tendency to walk close to the cliffs because many of the goodies are found there. However, you should have seen me scramble when a portion of one cliff gave way and came tumbling down near me. Hikers might bear in mind that there is a great deal of erosion along the beach areas, and that they should be ever mindful of "falling cliffs." I talked with Dr. Ennoble of Homer and asked if there were any hikes away from the water. He says there are a number of them above and beyond Homer - you note I am hedging because I can't remember if that road is called Diamond Ridge Road; most of East Road is private, so I'd exercise caution in this respect. However, I understand there are seismic trails off that upper ridge road. If anyone knows about them, they owe it to MCA to speak up. We need more than one trail at Homer.

Johnson Pass (No. 13). This one is appropriately numbered. It was my third try for Johnson Lake, once from the Moose Pass end and twice from the Granite Creek end, and let me warn you, hikers, it's a lulu. Even though you will be able to cross Center and Bench Creeks on the new bridges, and sleep in the newly completed

Forest Service cabin at Bench Lake, reaching Bench Lake cabin from the Granite Creek end is still a formidable challenge. Ground Hog creek at approximately the six-mile point on the old trail is fast, but nothing compared to the Bench Creek cable crossing a mile further. Although streams were extremely high this year because of our hot weather and heavy snow melt, this cable crossing is rough anytime and not for the weak of heart. It was a handwalking, clothes soaking, high thrill event this year, and if you want to visit the Bench Lake cabin, I strongly advise the Moose Pass approach. Fred Delaney was still boating as of a month ago (as mentioned in the book) but it will be great when we have the new access at Mile 32.2. Be sure to avoid the red-flagged future trail about five miles from Johnson and follow the bottomland as indicated in the book; this will entail a few stream crossings, but this is much preferable to the bush-wacking necessary to follow the upper trail. Back to the Granite Creek end of this trail, in case you haven't heard, the new trail veers left out of the brand new parking lot. The right hand road will take you to the old trail. There might be a few bear encounters along the new trail. I've seen them on that side of the valley from the old trail and friends encountered a cub several weeks ago. There are several camping spots at the point where the new bridge will cross Bench Creek and before you reach Ground Hog Creek.

Lost Lake (No. 11). was as beautiful as ever on the July 4 weekend, and if you wish to avoid climbing that awful Mt. Marathon trail, this is the answer. There was still some snow beginning at Mile 4.2, but nothing to stop a hiker with proper boots. (We met a few tennis shoe types who were intending to complete the 7 miles.) I have a small suggestion: just after passing the Mile 4 marker on the trail and at the point where the trail leaves the canyon to cross the meadow and enter the forest, there is a knoll somewhat to the southeast. By all means, stop long enough to climb this knoll and indulge in a breathtaking 360-degree view. On a windless day, this would be my campsite selection.

Reed Lakes (no. 44). Whenever I want to impress people, I lead them to Reed Lakes, and they have never failed to appreciate this outdoor cathedral. Here is some new news about the trail. Although the road into Snowbird Mine is still impassable for passenger cars, and sometimes even four-wheel drives, the house at Snowbird has been repaired and a sign on the door invites hikers to use it, but clean it up. I'm ashamed to admit I do not know who is to be thanked for this convenience. In addition, there is now a nice bridge across Glacier Creek. As always, I missed the trail on returning across the giant boulder field, so bear right as you leave the boulders on your return, and you might end up on the trail, not above it as I invariably do.

Seward Highway. About July or August, I began to notice Chugach Park trail signs along the Seward Highway. A check with the Department of Parks revealed the Mr. Johanneson of that office has been busy hiking and marking trails this summer. I investigated two of them. You will find one about 5.6 miles south of McHugh Creek. By walking one mile on this steep trail, you will find several surprise view points. It's great for one of those short Sunday scrambles or if you're a mountain goat, it might be considered an access to Chugach Park.

At Falls Creek or 7.4 miles south of McHugh, you'll find another sign on the south side of the creek. This trail is discernible for about a mile before you take off into the wild, green grass, and I do mean grass. It must have been eight feet tall this summer. Try negotiating that along with deadfall, steep slopes and devil's club. However, I nominate this trail for future Park Department work. It looks intriguing and the map does show a lake up there somewhere. I would be interested to know if anyone has hiked to that lake. By the way, don't be concerned about the cabin building near the entrance on the north side of the creek. That was nipped in the bud by Mr. Johanneson.

Six miles south of the Girdwood turnoff, you will note a blocked-off gravel road leading into a gravel pit and a valley. You can follow Peterson Creek back a few miles by doing a bit of stream crossing and bushwacking, or you can climb a bulldozed road on your left and enjoy some good views of the Arm. This one isn't in the Park, however - the Chugach State Park, that is.

Stetson Creek Trail. Because I got lost and couldn't find the Slaughter Gulch trail out of Cooper Landing, I came back and tried the Stetson Creek trail out of the Cooper Creek Campground. In case you're wondering what's at the end of this trail, I think the answer is more trail. I walked about two or three miles, and found a few viewpoints along the way. There were also signs of the Kenai caribou herd and more signs of bears. If anyone knows where this trail ends, I'm interested.

Williwaw Lakes. Every hiker has his nemesis, and I think Williwaw Lakes is mine. I failed for the third time on this one. I wonder if you can imagine anything more stupid than getting caught in that scrub spruce or hemlock along the east side of South Fork Campbell Creek. I hope my experiences will serve as a warning to other hikers to be sure to cross South Fork at the fourth powerline pole or at the point further up valley opposite the stream descending from the cirque formed by O'Malley, Hidden Peak, The Ramp and The Wedge. It's easy to fall into the trap mentioned if you've gained any altitude and have my kind of memory, because you can't see the trees on the down slope until you're into them. In other words, follow the directions for Hikes 32 or 33, but don't try anything inbetween unless you like timber. Also, be sure to add a few more miles of hiking now that you can't take vehicles into the Park from either the Glen Alps or Kasilof Hills entrances.

The above represents about 115 miles of Alaskan wilderness hiking and wasn't it a great summer for walking? I think I wore my rain poncho only twice. I hope these facts will make your hiking pleasant next summer.

Ray Genet reports: "The following expedition members reached the summit of Mt. McKinley in '72: West Buttress Route - Petrie, Cabane, Habersaat, Blochlinger, Ruprecht, Etter, McMonigle, Cottrell, Gardiner, Genet. Kahiltna-Muldrow Traverse - Harrison, Walker, Kirkpatrick, Stanley, Smith, Sumner, Cartee, Lutz, Heptner, Donner, Wolfe, Hackett, Genet.

If anyone is interested in climbing McKinley in '73 and reaching its 20,320' summit, write GENET EXPEDITIONS, Talkeetna, Alaska 99676."

B I T S § P I E C E S

First of all, a belated but nonetheless heartfelt thank you to Kathy Lautaret for helping get the September issue of SCREE out; she made sure the stencils got to the YMCA to be run off. Right! she made a special trip down there with her car.

Next, Thank You Carol DeVoe--she made a special trip to pick up SCREE at the Y--the Editor's job--but the Editor went out of town in September. Also, a well deserved pat on the back goes to Carol for being an outstanding Mailing Staff Chairman; we appreciated you Carol. Carol is still going to help with the mailing. Kathy Gorham is our new chairman. Quite the gal! She goes right from being secretary to being Mailing Staff Chairman--oops--Chairwoman.

Mountaining Club is now the proud owner of a mimeograph machine which works. Kathy Gorham donated it. Thanks, Kathy! SCREE was run last month using our machine by Ray Causton--Thanks, Ray.

On September 24 Bob Coleman, Frank Farr, Kevin Waring and Bob Spurr made the 2'nd ascent of Mt. Ascension 5710', Kenai Mtns. (Seward B-7, A-7 Quads) approaching west over stream-cuts, alpine parks, and glacier from Lost Lake Trail (ca. Milepost 5.3). The one-day round trip effort covered roughly 17 miles under clear equinox skies (el. gain 5500 ft.) in about 11 1/2 hours including a roped, cramponed traverse of Ascension's crevassed SE glacier. Vin and Grace Hoeman's register jar was found intact with its record of their snowy October '68 first ascent. (RS)

Pat Freeny wrote on September 23, 1972--"Summer has been terrific in Oregon. We have seen Bob and Ann Smith twice. Bob has almost got his office ready. Bullet Barnes was here last weekend. We tried to climb Mt. Jefferson, but were stormed off (sounds like Alaska). However, we have managed to get up Mt. Hood, Mt. St. Helens, Mt. Adams and Mt. Ranier thus far. Nice climbing, but it takes a backseat to Alaska. Best regards, /s/Pat Freeny"

Eberhard's Sport Shop has donated some food to MCA to be placed in our cabins. As you go to the cabins, contact Wendell Oderkirk (HM: 344-8744 or WK: 279-7839) and help carry it in.

Helen Nienhueser, one of the authors of 55 WAYS TO THE WILDERNESS IN SOUTHCENTRAL ALASKA requests that MCA members taking trips in 55 WAYS who find conditions have changed from that stated in the book please let her know. Her address is 2561 Lovejoy Drive, Anchorage, AK 99504. Her Phone: 277-9330.

Treasurer Gil Todd requests everyone join now and avoid the rush! Dues for the January, 1973 through December, 1973 Club year are due now through January.

FOR SALE 600 feet, 3/8" Poly-pro 6 Monofilament Line. This is good line for Fixed rope use. Leo Hannan purchased the line for an expedition last year that did not come off. No part of it has ever been used. It is in brand new condition, just as purchased. The entire 600 ft. is on one spool. He does not have a set price. Anyone desiring to purchase it, make an offer to Leo. PH: 277-4748 Home PH: 277-2404 work His address is 2413 Chilligan Drive, Anchorage, AK 99503.

FOR SALE One pair Galibier Hivernale double boots - Size 9 (will fit size 8 - 8 1/2). One set of liners only. Near new - \$90 boot for \$45. Contact Wendell Oderkirk at 344-8744.

BITS & PIECES (cont.)

Gil Todd, Treasurer, will handle the sale of 55 WAYS TO THE WILDERNESS IN SOUTH-CENTRAL ALASKA through the mail. Cost for members is \$7.50 plus 50¢ postage; cost for non-members is \$7.95 plus 50¢ for postage.

The circulating set of bound copies of SCREE is at Tom Meacham's. Contact Tom to check it out. Marie Lundstrom has the file set of bound copies of SCREE. They may be read at her home but not checked out.

As of November 1, 1972, the Club began charging for use of its equipment; however, those who now have equipment out have a grace period of a month--after December 1st they will be back charged.

JoAnne Merrick reports all Club ropes and helmets have disappeared during the recent schools. What's going on out there? Does the MCA have to start questioning individuals about Club equipment they have used? Let's get it back. (NO)

"John Baxandall, Trails Chairman, reports we now have a Starters Warm-Up Hut at the beginning of our trail at Pt. Woronzoff and that a work party has brushed out and made this an excellent trail for winter." NORDIC SKI CLUB NEWSLETTER, Vol. 7, Number 2, October 28, 1972.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

Pat Freeny	3630 NW 181st Place, Portland, Oregon 97229
Kaarina Abel	87 Slater Drive, Fairbanks, AK 99701
Jerry Ulmer	1445 E. Ft. Lowell, Apt. C, Tucson, Arizona 85719
Scott Ulmer	Box 1420, Anchorage, AK 99501
Reed Ulmer	Rm. 2326, Austin Hall, Univ. of Utah, Salt Lake City, Utah 84112
Charles A. Kibler	4158 Hood Court, Anchorage, AK 99503
Clifford Ells	Box 93, Tok, AK 99780
Joseph T. Ireton	744 Sunset Drive, Anchorage, AK 99501
Barbara Winkley	SRA Box 402-E, Anchorage, AK 99507
Dave Devoe	7600 E. 17th Ave., Anchorage, AK

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

Carol P. Mayne	2914 E. 42nd, #1, Anchorage, AK 99504
Dan Holland	1536 Cordova, Apt. 3, Anchorage, AK 99501
John Michaud	Box 811 Navrefac, Northwest M.O.V. #1, Chesapeake, VA 23322

SCREE is the monthly publication of the Mountaineering Club of Alaska. Please send material for the December issue to Kathy Selken, 2600 W. Northern Lights Blvd. Bldg. 1, Apt. 5, Anc 99503 by Monday, December 4, 1972.

EDITOR.....Kathy Selken
MAILING STAFF....Kathy Gorham
Carol DeVoe
Sharon DeVoe
Doris Curtis
Kathy Stadem

DUES - Send to MCA, Box 2037,
Anchorage, AK 99510

FAMILY \$7.50
SENIOR \$5.00
JUNIOR (under 18) \$2.50
OUT-OF-TOWN. \$2.50
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