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Vol. 6, No. 2

Mountaineering Club of Alaska
Box 2037
Anchorage, Alaska
December, 1967

The next meeting of the Mountaineering Club will be held December 16 in the Willow Park Hall at 8 p.m. This time we will have a symposium on cold weather equipment - pretty appropriate and just in time for Christmas wishes. Director: Sir John Billingham. Anybody wanting to contribute a 'hot' idea, please call him at Gary King's.

THE NOM. COMMITTEE ON GEOGRAPHIC NAMES submits the following names to the U.S. Board on Geo. Names:

In the Chugach, BOLD PEAK for the 7522' mountain at the head of Lake Sklutna that we have known by that name for years. BASHFUL PEAK for the 8,005' one that hides behind it whose first ascent was written up in the 1960 Alpine Journal. BALEFUL PEAK, 7,990', is the imposing unclimbed mountain behind it, completing the group. In the Eklutna Glacier area, MITRE PEAK (5650), unclimbed, and WHITE LICE MTN. (6650', climbed in '61 and '62) lie east of the Glacier in the area of our new club hut, while PERIL PEAK (7,040' unclimbed) bisects the arms of the glacier, and BELLICOSE PEAK (7,640' first climbed this Aug.) rises west of the glacier. Northeast of Eagle River, 6,425' MT. PLEASANT was named by its first ascenders in 1960, while the 7,535' unclimbed highest peak in the drainage has been named MT. YUKLA to perpetuate the old Indian name for Eagle River (according to Hendenhall, 1898). POLAR BEAR PEAK is a local name for the 6,955' unclimbed peak south of Eagle River in the Organ Mtn. Group so-called from the shape of a large snowfield high on its civilization side. WHITEOUT PEAK is an appropriate name for the 7,135 unclimbed peak between the high snowy basin of Eklutna and Eagle glaciers, near which we hope to place another permanent hut in the future. In the Crow Pass area, CROW (5812) and RAVEN (to 6650) PEAKS are at the head of their respective glaciers, as is BIRD PEAK (5505) nearby, while 6685' ROOK MTN. and 5855' CAMPROBBER PEAK were named for other birds of the Crow Family.

A local name for the pass between the heads of the North Fork of Ship Creek and Camp Creek is MORaine PASS. The long unbroken ridge from Bird Creek to Girdwood along Turnagain Arm is PENGUIN RIDGE from Penguin Creek which flows behind it. The notch-topped 4350' mountain west of Indian House is called INDIANHOUSE MTN. FLATTOP MTN. is being submitted for our 3575' Anchorage landmark, WOLVERINE PEAK for the 4455' one north of it, MT. WILLIAMS for the 5445' highest one immediately east of Anchorage (3 soldiers out of a company died near it in 1962 after being caught in a Spring willow). TEMPTATION PEAK for the 5350' mountain that exhibits all the sharp points south of Ship Creek as viewed from Fort Rich., and RENDEZVOUS PEAK for the 4050' hump above the lifts at Arctic Valley Ski Area.

In the Kenai Range, TURNAGAIN PEAK for the 4850' mountain that is the highest one south of and close to Turnagain Arm. BYRON PEAK for the 4750' one at the head of Byron Glacier. EXPLORER GLACIER for the first glacier south of the Portage Road, because Explorer Scouts were trained there, and MIDDLE GLACIER for the one between it and Byron Glacier. KICKSTEP MTN. for the 4600' peak near the head of Tincan Cr. for its shape and after the technique used on its first ascent in 1962. BIG BAD WOLF PEAK for the 6210' mountain south of Ptarmigan Lake for its imposing looks and the proximity of Mother Goose Glacier.

Constructive argument and proposals are most welcome. - Vin Hoeman, Chairman

"Vin will be absolutely crushed" shouted Dave Johnston, as the four of us, Dave, myself, Dave DeVoe and John Bousman, roared through the 7 a.m. darkness toward the start of our two day trip up Eklutna Glacier. In the back of our car was everything a well-equipped winter climbing party should have, including four pairs of snowshoes. Arriving at the Army camp (the washout has been bridged) we looked at the one inch of snow on the ground, felt the weight of our packs, and decided to leave said snowshoes behind.

It took us over an hour to work our way up through the first icefall. Soon after we realized the enormity of our error in leaving webfeet behind. Darkness (4 p.m.) found us wallowing miserably in the middle of the icefall just north of peril peak spur. Cursing the 3' deep snow and the storm now blowing we made camp around five at the 3900' level.

The storm had abated by morning, but so had our hopes of beating the ubiquitous Vin. After a short trip up the right hand fork of the glacier to the 4500' level in bright sunshine we decided to spend an hour or so drinking in the fabulous scenery and then head for home.

Without attempting to make explanations for foolish behaviour I will merely state that darkness found us 1) bone weary from falling into innumerable crevasses, 2) lost, 3) in the middle of the lower icefall, and 4) arguing heatedly about which piece of the steep ice to attack in an attempt to force a way out. With headlamps piercing darkness & blowing snow, we struggled for 4 hours before reaching the SCOUT at 9:30 p.m.

AN ATTEMPT ON PEAK 4419 EAST OF SUNRISE

Nov. 24

by Dave Johnston

It was - 18° F when Gary Hansen, Dave Johnston, Brad Reed, John Samuelson & Hans VanderLaan embarked from Crews' cabin in Girdwood at 0630. In the dark, we drove around Turnagain Arm to park cars 1 mile south of Sunrise where the lineless powerline swath slashes up the mountain to the NE. Following this easy access route, we made good time. Sixmile Creek was well iced over. On the NW ridge crest at about 1000' we left the powerline swath to battle a short stretch of alder, devil's club & spruce to reach an open avalanche gully. By noon several factors ... cold feet and hands, a white-tipped nose, a broken ski binding, the fact that 3 of us had neither snowshoes or skis ... compelled us to turn back. But even if we did fall a wee tad short of our goal, the beautiful winter scenery, fine opportunity to field test our cold weather gear, and the constant nutty spirit maintained by the whole group the whole way made our day well worthwhile.

NOTICE

The December 16th meeting is very important. On the agenda is the incorporation of the Mountaineering Club. Please try to attend.