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MOUNTAINEERING CLUB OF ALASKA

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Vol. 2, No. 11

August 1960

MEETING, TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 6

The Mountaineering Club of Alaska will meet on Tuesday, September 6 at 8 p.m. in the Willow Park Recreation Hall (9th and Fairbanks). The next regular meeting of the MCA will be as usual on a Monday - October 3rd - and this will be the annual meeting. Any revisions to the Constitution of the Club should be submitted in writing 30 days prior to this meeting at which time there will be election of officers.

PROGRAMS FOR COMING MEETINGS by Howard Schuck, Program Chairman

September Meeting: There has now been time for a series of pictures taken by individuals of the Mt. McKinley climbing party to be gathered, edited, and assembled into one orderly presentation. The McKinley party will thus give their presentation of the climb to the MCA on 6 September. Paul Crews will narrate, aided probably by Rod, Helga, Chuck and Andy. This eagerly awaited program should be a most significant one.

OCTOBER Meeting: Part of Company B, 1st Battle Group, U. S. Army Alaska's mission is to determine the feasibility of traveling through, living in and fighting in the high mountain and glacier country. Two of their exploratory expeditions are of particular interest. In September 1959 this group started at Girdwood, traveled by foot across Raven, Eagle and Klutna Glaciers, and came out at Eklutna Lake in 7 days; in March 1960 they took weasels across the ice of Eklutna Lake and up to Eklutna Glacier, then traveled by foot over Klutna and Eagle Glaciers, and came out in Eagle River in 6 days.

The officers of this company have agreed to relate their experiences, and the lessons learned about foot travel over large glacier areas to the Mountaineering Club. This will be the program on October 3rd. The presentation will be augmented with slides and also official films taken on these trips. This should be another interesting and instructive program.

Member Meeting: It is our concept that once or twice a year members should have the chance to present a few slides on some of the "small" trips or climbs that ordinarily would warrant a full evening's program, but which nevertheless are interesting to the participants, and also to some of the other members. The November program will be of this type. It is suggested that those wishing to present slides on any trip or climb held during the past year let Howard Schuck (duty hours telephone 114-SK 32115, after 5 p.m. 114-SK 29448) know. One person can present slides on more than one trip, and so that a goodly number of trips can be covered, let's keep the number of slides down to 20 for any one trip.

CLIMBING SCHEDULE

Labour Day Weekend (Sept. 2, 3, 4, 5, and 6) Mount Spurr.

September 10 & 11 or September 17 & 18: Trails at Kenai. There is the Johnson's Pass Trail at 65 miles drive from Anchorage. There is a Trail to Juneau Lake near Cooper's Landing and beyond the Russian River Trails. Interested persons should contact Norm Pichler (BR 8-7951) or Gwynneth Wilson (BR 4-7833)

September 24: This is a Saturday and Rod Wilson will lead a group up the Mountain behind O'Malley Road.

CLIMBING SCHOOL ON MILK GLACIER, 17 JULY 1960

by Howard Schuck

A mixed group from the Mountaineering Club, Alaska Rescue Group and Metropolitan area New York, reported at about 8 a.m. to Chief Instructor Pichler for the 17 July session of Glacier School. Present were Norm Pichler, Joe Pichler, Johnny Johnston, Irma Duncan, Prescott, Lois Willard, Peg Sundstrom, Christine Reidel, Bob Bailey, Howard Schuck, and Janie Swanson, Ted and Jan Koeberle, Hal Sherman, Jim Messick, 2 others whose names are the writer, and the 4 Metropolitan New Yorkers (Mary, Muriel, Lester and Tim).

Over coffee at Portage Lodge it was decided that the weather was too rainy, windy and dry to go on Byron Glacier, but that the weather just might be better in the Girdwood area. The group drove up the Girdwood road, parked cars above the second bridge, and hiked the trail to the old mine, with Milk Glacier as the new objective. It rained intermittently but never quite long or hard enough to cause the king-sizes expedition (22 people) to retreat.

From the mine the group ascended the gully immediately northeast of the mine, for the purpose of crossing the ridge that separates Girdwood valley from the Milk Glacier at this point, and entering the glacier from its southeast side. Enroute Norm, Joe and Johnny taught procedures for traversing and climbing snow slopes, and the self-arrest with ice axe on one falls on a snow slope. Some of us practiced such falls, and enjoyed the brief slides even more than usual, fortified with the knowledge that we could stop the descent any time.

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Above the snow field we crossed the ridge through a saddle and dropped down onto fog-bound, rain and windswept Milk Glacier, entering it about $\frac{1}{4}$ way up from its base. The entire party proceeded up the glacier as far as was thought to be safe without ropes. Here half-dozen of the party turned back; the rest roped up in 3s and 4s and continued upward, round and over devers; crevasses, and through patches of rough ice to almost the head of the glacier. All were suitably impressed with the depth of the crevasses and the desirability of not falling into them, even while roped up. The novices also were impressed with how all one can travel over glaciers with suitable crampons, and were taught the role of the ice axe and rope on the glacier.

The descent, begun at 3 p.m., was made down the entire length of Milk Glacier to its foot, from there down the right hand side of a canyon parallel to, and to the right of the Milk Creek Canyon. Here we traversed a slope which appeared to some to be rather steep in spots. Everyone eventually made it down, and after a short charge through sodden alders and grass, out to the trail and cars by about 6 p.m.

The intermittent rain had made for a somewhat uncomfortable day; nevertheless it appeared to have been enjoyed by all due to a sense of accomplishment and the lessons learned under the patient instruction. Many of us new to glaciers appreciate very much the extremely large expenditure of time and effort put out by Norm Pichler and his helpers in his training program. They are to be sincerely commended for their unselfish dedication to this job, when they might be doing something much more challenging to themselves, or more interesting to their families.

Among those who most appreciated the session was the group from Metropolitan New York. They felt that this day was a highlight of their vacation in Alaska. To furnish another highlight, Joe Pichler agreed to lead them up some respectable peak the following weekend, and was reportedly planning to treat them beforehand to a dinner of last year's moose, a commodity now fairly scarce in the wilds of Long Island and Jersey. In return, the New York group passed out an invitation to lead any of us on climbs up the Palisades, the Adirondacks, or the concrete cliffs along 42nd Street. A decided lack of enthusiasm for training even one opportunity to climb the Chugaches for such a prospect was noticed, especially among us former New Yorkers.

Arkose Pk

LITTLE MONTANA PEAK (6200') August 13th and 14th by Helga Bading

Often when I looked toward the "Mountain behind Little Su Lodge" I longed to get back to the valley which is one of the prettiest in the Talkeetnas. Farmers have fenced off the valley floor and are herding cattle in there, but to climbers there is no objection. There is also a short road, but I wouldn't recommend it for anything but plain feet.

On a cloudy Saturday afternoon, nine happy climbers ambled up the valley (racing after Burt, that is). But soon our group slipped into two: Six Smart Ones, Gregg Erickson, Burt Puchter, Steve Foss, David Dahlke, Bruce Gessel, John Dillman ... and three Dumb Ones, namely Wayne Rhoades, our guest from Oklahoma, Dr. Jolly West, and little old me.

The Smart Ones crossed the river via bridge and ascended to Lonesome Mine, then cut their way painfully through alderbrush on the river's left side. The Dumb Ones followed easy cow trails up the valley until it became imperative that the river be crossed. We were quite in good shape before entering the water when we emerged, camp for the night appeared advisable.

Rain pounded onto the homemade Logan Tent (pitched unevenly on top of rocks) and accompanied Burt and Gregg to their Wesleyan songs. Drip, drip, drip it went all night, right through the fabric. By 4 a.m. my sleeping bag was soaked clear through and at 5 I decided that no one else should sleep and we better go climbing. The rain had stopped.

After breakfast we parted company with Dr. West. A slip during the river crossing had worsened an old knee injury to such an extent that he had to go back. We others left camp at 6 and soon reached the "cirque" where solid granite rock towered above us. Steve and Wayne broke down and decided to try some good rock climbing, while the rest of us went their way up the west ridge of our mountain, then skirted around to the south and by 1:30 we had gained the peak. No cairn on top. This situation was changed by the building of a large cairn with a coffee can inside, saying "first ascent by MCA". The peak is an estimated 6200 ft. high and the highest one immediately south of Montana Peak (6500'). We enjoyed a beautiful view underneath the high cloud layer toward Montana Peak and its glacier as well as the mountains bordering the Knik.

By descending on the east ridge the traverse of the mountain was completed and before 3 p.m. we were back among high meadows and whistling marmots.

After a hasty brunch-supper we turned our backs toward Montana Peak, which certainly needs to be climbed some day. Back at the cars at 6:30 thus ended another one of those fine days which make living in a city bearable!

BERRY PICKING August 21st by Leona Wilkerson

For an extra bit of fun, those of us who could get out of town Saturday evening spent the night near Palmer at a friend's cabin. Sunday morning bright and early Hazel and the Tuffy Crews and children: David, "Crewser" (Paul, jr.) Peter and Katie drove out to the ... Pambler. A pow-wow was held and the decision was made ... was originally planned. All agreed Willow ... place.