

AUGUST MEETING: Willow Park Recreation Hall, 9th & Fairbanks, 8:00 PM, Monday August 16. Dr M. Millet will present a lecture on glaciology with particular reference to Alaska.

EQUIPMENT: Please return all equipment as soon as it is used to the DeVoe's. If you plan to use it again the next weekend let them know. The equipment must be kept available for everybody wishing to use it.

HOUSEWIVES HIKES: This term designates a situation not sex or job. The hikes will be on weekdays during school hours approximately and are for anyone free at this time who would like to go. They will be geared to the invigorating outdoors but will not aim to be grueling or difficult. The leader reserves geographic choice depending on the day (euphemism for weather) and the group. The first will be on Friday, September 3 from 9:30 AM to 2:30 PM. The meeting place is 1215 - 8th Ave. (west). For further information call 272-6219 - Gwyn Wilson. This will be followed by a second hike on Thursday, September 9 and a third on Tuesday, the 14th. One of the latter two will be for berry picking.

CLIMBING AND HIKING SCHEDULE

AUG 21-22 EKIUTNA CABIN: Hike up the glacier to the cabin. There will be some instructions on Ice and Snow climbing techniques. Everyone going to the cabin must have a good fitting pair of Crampons.

AUG 28 or 29 THIRD MOUNTAIN BEHIND FLATTOP for anyone that is interested.
(Saturday - 11)

FIRST ASCENT OF MT CASE (Elev. 5550± 50') July 17, 1965 By Dave Johnston

(Via the first couloir North of the summit on the West side.) Most of Glacier Bay National Monument's 3600 square miles is a rugged jumble of knifey, Alaska-style mountains. In the 1930's pioneers Washburn, Carpe, Moore and others visited the snowy high points: Mount Fairweather (15,320'), Mount Crillon (12,726'), Mount LaPerouse (10,728'), etc. were climbed, but most of the lower summits were passed by. These lower summits are quite different from the Denali-like snow dome of Fairweather or the corniced snow ridges of Crillon and LaPerouse. Snow and ice, which often provide straightforward routes to lofty summits, have melted back from ridges and faces so snow routes on the lower peaks usually dead-end frustratingly, short of the summit. Thus, very often these lower peaks are technically more difficult than their higher neighbors.

Pete Robinson and I had come here to work as Seasonal Rangers with these lower peaks in mind. We wouldn't have the time or money to try the big ones, but we might get to some nice lower points. Mount Case is one "lower point" we got to.

We leave headquarters at 0200 in a Park Service boat (we're allowed to use NPS boats and gas on our days off!) and thread our way quickly up the Bay among well-scattered ice bergs. Pass John Muir's 1892 cabin and soon, with tides and ice in mind, we're anchoring off Dirt Glacier Outwash in Adams Inlet. By 0420, we're boulder-hopping up the swift glacial stream. Stop briefly to examine some battered tree stumps, remnants of a forest that was once buried by glaciers and is now re-exposed. Then on and up. Morainel scree and talus, snowfields, crampons. A goat trail leads us right below a 300' waterfall. We pause for a moment of silent appreciation. Higher, we stop to drink from an icy streamlet that gushes from a snowfield. A nimble goat trail crew is at work on a ridge across the way. Up onto the hanging glacier and we enter the clouds. Visibility is but 50 yards, but this doesn't matter for we know our route well. Last weekend we'd bivouaced up here in a cornice at 4700'. We'd not made our summit, but we had learned our route!

This week the bergshrund is melted wider. To cross, we do chin-ups on our ice axes while our feet flop fruitlessly below the lip. Above, we kick a jillion steps in the 45 to 50 degree couloir till snow gives way to rotten ice. After a lead, the rotten ice gives way to rotten rock with a pretty little waterfall running over it from snow above. Water dribbles down our sleeves and trickles into our boots. More snow, airy and very rotten and at last, the summit ridge! Ah ha, we're in luck...no bad gendarmes in sight! We balance carefully along the knife edge, even riding parts of it horseback style. A couple of thin, rotten sections, and we're

at the 11,800' summit. It feels mighty good to be here! Build a cairn, place a register, down some pemmican and candy...Pete's nodding back and forth precariously with sleep...We'd better be off...

We slowly descend the same route, and, 16 hours after leaving it, we're back at our boat. She's high and dry on the beach so we pile in and sack out till high tide floats her again.

WRANGELL RANGE FIRST ASCENTS

By Vin Hoeman

For years I have been enticed by three 14,000' points on the map east of Mt. Blackburn. When I ran into Lon Stockard in Seward July 4th and he invited me to join him and two others in attempting the unclimbed East Ridge of Blackburn, I talked them into agreeing to visit these virgin peaks first. We drove to Chitina for a \$7 Cordova Airlines flight to McCarthy and went up to Kennicott, the old copper-mining town at the end of the road. We left this outpost of civilization at noon July 7 to walk up the Kennicott Glacier, the first mountaineers to do so since Lora Keen's first ascent of Blackburn in 1912. With 75 to 80 pound packs a slight misstep can often cause injury. Ray Wagner misstepped on our second day as we entered the first icefall spraining an ankle. We had to leave him with one tent and stove in order to receive our airdrop at 7,500' pm the 11th. Above the icefalls we were able to snowshoe to our drop area, but after getting the drop we had to take supplies back down to Ray at 3,500. He was still unable to join us, but was able to walk out alone and get a job at the copper mine for the rest of the summer. That left Alex Bittenbinder, Don and I to do the climbs. Plagued by bad weather, we finally managed to climb the ridge south of the highest two new peaks which we named the "Atna Peaks" after the old Indian name for the Copper River (the Indians called themselves Ah-tena, meaning Ice People). The first of these, 13,650 on the new map, we traversed on July 16, and the harder 13,860 one we climbed the following day traversing the steep slopes to get to the ridge beyond. On the 18th we climbed the 12,741' peak just before the knife-edge ridge to Blackburn and named it "Rime Peak" after the crystals formed by the constant passage of clouds over this ridge. We knew now that our provisions and time were too short for Blackburn's technical East Ridge, so we dropped down to the head of the Nebesna to skirt back around the northern base of the Atna Peaks and back to our ridge, a hard trip in bad weather. Our last peak we named "Ultima Peak" thinking it the last 14,000' peak in North America, but the new map reduces it to 13,____. The weather remained bad as we walked back out to Kennicott, two of our food caches were buried under new snowfall which also obscured our old trail down to 4000'. On the 25th we arrived back in "good old civilization".

TURNAGAIN PEAK 14,850±50

Aug 2 *Alpenglow*

By Vin Hoeman

On 1 August a hitchhiker and I tried to reach Cooper Mtn. on the Kenai from Cooper Lake and waded streams that got progressively bigger till we came to one we'd have to swim, then we gave up. This conditioned me mentally to use drastic means to reach Turnagain Peak, which has always attracted me as the highest mountain bordering Turnagain Arm and is located nearly across from Girdwood. So early the next morning I swam across Placer Creek with my clothes in a waterproof bag tied to my air mattress, much as I dislike unfrozen water. An unused powerline cut got me above some of the brush, but not nearly all of it. The alpine ridge is a good one leading directly to the summit and I counted 19 mountain goats as I went up it. The earthquake shattered the cairn built by the first ascent party so I built an imposing, if not too substantial, new one that can be seen from Girdwood with binoculars, leaving in it an olive-oil soaked note in a sardine can.

WOLVERINE PEAK

Aug 7, 1955

By Gwyn Wilson

Wolverine Peak (14,450 ft.) is on the skyline just east of Anchorage to the north of O'Malley Peak between the North and South Forks of Campbell Creek. The name was chosen in November of 1962 when tracks were seen in the snow on the ridge. The resident wolverine was actually encountered near the summit earlier this summer by Gary Hansen and companions. The peak name appears on the latest U.S.G.S. map.

We climbed Wolverine Peak on one of the 4 days of summer, Saturday, August 7th. Marge Prescott, Margaret "Woody" Wherrett, Helen Wolfe and I left our vehicles parked on the road to Basher at 7:15 a.m. It was to be exactly 12 hours before we returned.

While Wolverine is a wonderful peak to ascend, its peculiarity lies in the approach and the final plunge out. Like Alice in Wonderland, the hiker is forced to choose

among a maze of moose trails, an occasional bulldozer track and, alas, what appeared to be a resolute Honda, all the while bushwacking vigorously. It is easy on the way up to spot the lower ridge of the mountain and so climb efficiently above the tree line. At this season, we found ourselves shoulder high in grass (and have pictures to prove it too). But it is another thing on the way out since there is no easy landmark to guide by; one either errs by walking too far to the left into the Canyon of the South Fork of Campbell Creek (no place to clamber out of at the end of a long day) or by swinging too far right in an endeavor to avoid this. However, the important thing is that after wearisome time among the willows and devil's club, it is possible to get above or finally out of Wolverine's claws.

Once on the ridge it was a simple matter, on the nice springy blue-berry patches, to traverse the semi-circular ridge, to the right as one faces the peak, gain the small saddle between and climb the long but easy ridge to the top. The day was gorgeous. Not only is the mountain a symmetrical pleasure to the eye but the views from it - over the flats, Anchorage, the Inlet to the Alaska Range not to mention the wilderness beauty of the valley of the North Fork of Campbell Creek and the one which we named Williwaw, after the highest christened peak in the region, which is between the two forks of Campbell Creeks - are tremendous.

We chose to descend by way of the left hand ridge past the wreck of an airplane. It was simple until we reached the "willow line" which apparently reaches up higher by this route than by the one we chose for our ascent.

My companions were marvelous sports. I appreciated this since having surveyed Wolverine with Rod Wilson on one of the other days of Summer (Saturday July 10th) and having gone too far left in the maze, I could appreciate what they were thinking as we tripped and ducked through the underbrush.

If anyone is interested in training for the Mt Marathon race in Seward next summer please contact Kay Genet 272-9537

Art Davidson and Yoshiaki Nakamura have made the second ascent of Bashful (8,005'), highest peak in the western Chugach, by a variation of the original route.

BENIGN PEAK

AUG 5

By Vin Hoeman

A day of beautiful weather came to the western Chugach and Art Davidson and I were there to take advantage of it. We decided that the easy-looking peak just west of the snout of Eklutna Glacier has remained too long unclimbed and as we went up through a bit of not bad brush, over rock cliffs not too rotten and enjoyed beautiful views, we decided "Benign" was the appropriate name for this one. Above the brushline we saw some interesting birds - wheatears, pipits, redpolls, rosy finches, snow buntings, and golden eagles. In the cairn we built on the mossy top we left a salmon-egg jar register. We had reached the summit by rock gullies on the east, but we found an easy scree descent route by a wide SE ravine to the valley between Benign and Bellicose and then walked out the medial moraine of Eklutna Glacier.

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