

Scree

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mountaineering club
of alaska

box 2037
anchorage alaska 99501

happenings on the way

june meeting...Ben Crawford Memorial Park, 3rd and Eagle, Monday, June 10, 8 p.m....Antarctic climber and AMU rock prof Bill Long has slides of Nepal and the Himalayas taken during the 1954 California-Himalayan Expedition to Makalu, 27,990'.

CLIMBING SCHOOL continues. The General Mountaineering & Rock Session have about 30 students of variable age and experience. Instructors are Ray Genet, Frank Nosek, Paul Crews, Rod Wilson, Clarence Serfoss, Bill Babcock. Remaining sessions (depending on when Scree makes it to you): Thursday, June 6 at rocks on Seward Highway--watch for hideous brown VW bus (Ray Genet), overnight climb, June 8-9, Flattop Mt on first hills to east, up ridge to Rabbit Lake and back down valley. Very leisurely trip with plenty of opportunity to practice. Some ice-ax use will be shown. Meet in Safeway lot, 9th and Gambell at 4 p.m. All ages can go. Bring slings and carabiners, which were to have been available at the Wednesday, June 5 session on camping, knots, and ropes at Crawford Memorial Park, 3rd & Eagle.

MT ALPENGLOW, Saturday, June 15..HANS VAN DER LAAN leading... 277-7525 (wk) or 277-4251 (hm). Call to find out about meeting time. This is the high point (4850') across Turnagain Arm at Sunrise near Hope. Long one-day trip. (Called Turnagain Peak in earlier years--across the Arm from Mt Alyeska.)

ANNUAL FLATTOP NO-HOST SLEEP-IN, Saturday, June 22...GARY HANSEN leading, 272-1145. This is the Midsummer's Night celebration. Bring your own contributions of food, wine (or whatever), firewood. Lots of fun for all when a big crowd turns out.

THUNDERBIRD PEAK, Saturday, June 22...VIN HOEMAN leading, 277-7871. The highest peak at the near end of Eklutna Lake. Possibly a first ascent. A fairly good climb but nothing really technical.

CROW'S NEST CLEAN-UP AND FIX-UP, Saturday-Sunday, June 29-30... SHARON CISSNA leading, 277-8832. Try to leave Anchorage on Friday night, June 28, in order to have all day Saturday and most of Sunday for renovation work on the MCA cabin in Crow Pass. Bring the whole family along and really make a fun weekend of it all. Plenty of opportunity to run short side trips all over Crow Pass when the work is mostly done.

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WHITEOUT GLACIER CABIN, Thursday-Sunday, July 4,5,6,7. Construction and cabin-warming over a long, "Glorious Fourth" weekend. High hopes of having all material flown in to the building site by then. May be possible to fly in and hike or ski out again after the cabin is done. If the cabin-building of Pichler's Perch was any example, this should prove to be a really good time for all. Work not too strenuous; trips all around you in the evenings when the work is all under control. Call JOHN WOLFE, 272-7844 (wk) for info.

FIRST...and hopefully ANNUAL MCA WEEK-LONG CAMPOUT. Not yet definitely established, but looks good in the planning stages. Possibly in the Reed Lakes area up behind the Snowbird Mine cabin. Relatively easy access for all the family. Hope to schedule this for sometime in the middle of July for a full week plus weekend at each end. Plenty for everyone: serious climbing, ridges, walks, even swimming? (!) More details later.

MATANUSKA PEAK ANNUAL, Saturday, August 3. Leader, as always, GARY HANSEN, 272-1145. An all-day trip, but it offers no difficulty at all. The summit is 6119'--appears in Thirty Hikes as Mt Vigor (# 20), though Matanuska Peak is now its official name--and always is popular with those who go.

...ADDITIONAL TRIP NOTES...Bill Babcock advises members that he is planning trips every other weekend all summer long. In June, Pioneer Peak and Peril Peak. Over July 4th weekend, Eagle Peak, second ascent. Bill welcomes inquiries from climbers with relatively good background experience.

happenings that were

executive committee is appointing Louise Rydell MCA secretary to fill out Callie Van der Laan's term. Louise is a librarian at the Fort Richardson post library, 862-9188. Her home address is Star Rt A, Box 495-0, Anc 99502, phone 344-1458, for those who need to find her at home.

TANAINA PEAK, 5350', Chugach Range, May 4-5, 1968

Rod Wilson

Tanaina Peak, an Anchorage skyline point in the North Fork of Campbell Creek, was climbed May 5 by Lotte Kramer, Chuck Wettling, non-member Marie Doyle, and Gwyn and Rod Wilson, leader. Don Doyle and Marie's son David Griffin, age 16, were also along but turned back to camp on the second day because David's recently injured knee was swelling.

The route was as described in Scree, October 1966. We started at 1000 ft elevation from the Basher road near Stuckagain Heights and camped high under Near Point. Wind was gusty and spitting snow, but the night was comfortable in our tents.

The next morning it took five hours to go up over Near Point (3050'), down to the left into North Fork, across the creek, up the valley on firm old snow patches, and finally up a long, steep ridge and across high scree slopes to the summit knob. No technical problems were

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(TANAINA PEAK, cont) encountered. Swirling clouds limited views of Koktoya, Williwaw, etc. We were back in camp in three hours for tea and down to the cars two hours later.

The climb could be done in a day--about 12 miles and 4300 ft (net) elevation gained--but is easier and more fun as an overnight trip.

MOOSWA PEAK, 5020'

May 19, 1968

Lotte Kramer

Leader: Ron Linder. Participants: Duane Anderson, Dick Barquist, Jim Bruce, Sharon Cissna and her dogs Rabbit Creek and Molly Moose, Clement and Florence Grenier and son Mark, Paul Hilburn, Lotte Kramer, Louise Rydell, Debbie Smith, Sid Whaley, Jane and Mimi Whitmore, Tom Meacham.

The trip to Mooswa Peak in the Johnson Pass area was most successful, weatherwise and otherwise. It was warm and sunny, very little wind on the ridge, and the scenery was magnificent.

Ron Linder, AMU students Mimi Whitmore and Debbie Smith, Mimi's sister Jane, and I started out Saturday afternoon and camped off the highway, across the beginning of the hike. We scouted the approach to the mountain up Silvertip Creek in the evening and discovered an old mining road which led about 1/2 mile up the left side of the valley to a point where an avalanche had conveniently covered the creek, making it easy to cross over.

Next morning three carloads of hikers joined us, and we all started around 7:30 a.m. After crossing the creek came what Ron called the "highlight" of our trip--it was more of a "lowlight"--about 1/2 mile of bushwhacking through the alders until we reached the snow-covered steep slope which leads up to the easy ridge of Mooswa. Sid Whaley and Tom Meacham were ahead all the way, making tracks, while Ron kept an eye on the girls. The snow was rather mushy, but the ridge was almost snowfree and gentle and covered with warm, springy moss, very inviting for a rest. The final half hour went up a steep snowridge with unstable snow to the summit, which we reached at 12:45 p.m. Sid, Tom, Duane, Louise, Sharon and her two dogs, Jim, Ron and I shared this rather unstable viewpoint..

Only too soon did we descend, but the snow conditions were rapidly deteriorating. There ^{were} no technical difficulties on the climb, only the rotten snow that made people vanish at times up to their armpits, accompanied by laughter of the others and a helping hand. It was a good outing.

...REMINDER...100 Wilderness Routes in Alaska is bubbling away! More help is always welcome in the way of ideas for trips in the Anchorage area or elsewhere to be included, interest in taking black and white photos, and giving written information on trips taken. Call Helen Nienhueser, 277-9330.

Current status of Scree indexing operation--almost finished. Book binder people are needed. Call Helen Nienhueser, 277-9330.

ATTEMPT ON MT KIMBALL

May 20-29

Vin Hoeman

Kimball is a tough nut to crack! One may aim the blow by studying photos and maps, reading of previous attempts, careful selection of team and preparation of food and equipment, and by flying in close in good weather, but there is no guarantee the strike will not slip or the shell prove too hard on a difficult unclimbed mountain.

Mt Kimball, 10,350', is 500 feet higher than any other mountain in the Eastern Alaska Range (east of Richardson Highway), and it is sharp, not being as deeply glacier-buried as the lesser mountains further west that are less shadowed by the St. Elias and Wrangell Ranges from moist coastal winds. It is not known for whom Lt. H. T. Allen named the mountain in 1885, but he named Miles Glacier for his commanding general, Mt. Drum for a fellow officer, "Mt. Tillman" for a West Point professor, Mt. Sanford for a branch of his own family, and Mt. Blackburn for a judge in his home state of Kentucky.

A major attempt to climb Kimball was led by Gene Wescott in June 1959, but was stopped by bad snow conditions and rotten gendarmes on the South Buttress (see AAJ 12:112-113). Another attempt in June 1966 on which Fred Beckey and Art Davidson were participants ran out of time in Chistochina Glacier whiteout.

On 20 May Fred Beckey, Grace and I were flown by Jack Wilson to about 6000' on the Chistochina Glacier after looking unsuccessfully for other suitable landing sites. It was a beautiful day, and we snowshoed to the head of that glacier to set up camp at 7100', then explored over the 7650' pass above to scout "Pitfall Glacier" at the head of the West Fork of Robertson River. Snowfall and whiteout held us in our camp till the 24th, and our bit of color there was sought out by confused migrating birds including blackpoll warbler, northern waterthrush, and a golden-crowned sparrow who exhibited the strange lack of fear of oasis visitors.

Finally we took light loads to 8700' under the North Col of Kimball and dug a snowcave highcamp, but that night came the heaviest snowfall yet, and it lay in deep drifts everywhere the morning of the 25th. Fred was so discouraged he remained in camp, but Grace and I went to the col and reached 9000' on the N. Ridge, but it would be difficult in the best of conditions and suicidal in these. Even the S. Ridge of the North Peak, 9850', on the other side of the col cracked ominously as we started up it, but we wanted to climb something anyway, and this North Peak was desirable as the highest mountain on Mt. Hayes B-2 quad, so Grace and I snowshoed around to the much easier North Ridge of it and managed the climb, though whiteout again enveloped us, and I fell part way into two crevasses. We weren't even sure we'd reached its top till a later clearing revealed our tracks there to binocular inspection.

Snow like this wouldn't consolidate for days, and more kept coming, so on the 26th we packed down to seasonally abandoned Slate Creek Mining Camp, and navigated the remaining 25 miles to the Richardson Highway at Summit Lake by the 29th.

HELP! Scree needs more people...to type, bug people for articles, and run off stencils on the Gestetner machine! Call 277-0846 (Marie). or drop a note to Box 4-964.

SKYLINE PEAK ADVENTURING Days in May

The tension grew, I winced, and a sharp crack pierced the air as the Spanish windlass buckled into several pieces. We returned to digging ourselves out of the primordial ooze, to find the jack fixed in grit. So we dug a small dam behind the VW as the exhaust pipes exhumed burbles of relief.

Then a great steed happened by. His rider hitched the beast to the VW, but to no avail. The rider volunteered his mare next, but she balked and refused to aid us. Finally, a kind lady from a nearby cabin eased us out with her four-wheel-drive vehicle.

From then on our weekend was as the insignia on Dave Johnston's family crest states, "We'll put it to a venture." That evening, after six miles of snow and tundra, we set up base camp at Rabbit Lake, on the brink of a fantastic day.

We rose to watch the sun throw fragments of light on the frozen lake bed. The fearless leader and I attacked Ptarmigan Peak (4630'), then followed a ridge route where we roped up before attaining Suicide II (5065'). On our descent we stopped at Windy Gap to tip a Heineken. The liquid refreshment allowed us to purge the next peak, Suicide I (5005'). Due to a lack of "cram" (food that hobbits carry), we were anxious to reach base camp and so descended the south side of Suicide I. From there we walked the ridge until we found a steep wall to glissade down, yodelling as we went.

Thus on Sunday, May 12, 1968, David P. Johnston and I successfully climbed three peaks, obtained three summit kisses, acquired swollen Mongolian sunburns and fulfilled our motto to "Do Something Great Every Day!"

Karen E. Courtright

McKINLEY NOTES...Bob Spurr was too busy to write about his Mt Sergeant Robinson attempt because he's been getting ready to climb Mt McKinley! Bob is one of six who will be climbing the Great One by a new route, which they call the Traleika Traverse. Organized by Jeff Duenwald, the party also includes Larry Carter, Don N Anderson, Don W Anderson, and Jack Miller. They will start walking in from Wonder Lake June 13 and hopefully come out 55 days later in Talkeetna. The never-before-done route goes up the Traleika Glacier, onto the East Buttress to skirt an icefall, back to the glacier, and other (confusing) moves, but eventually, they will climb both summits and come down the conventional West Buttress route, turning up in Talkeetna some time in August. Not only are they doing all that climbing, but they also will be making a movie, professional-type. (Is Bob going to become a movie hee-ro?)

MT BONA, 16,000+, was bagged successfully by Barney Seiler (leader), Leo Hannan, Peter Vlasveld, Norm Stadem, Mike Hunt, John Ireton, and John Todd May 24-28. More on this venture in next Scree, when Barney or someone gets put together all the whiteout, fly-in, and other data.

After individually free-climbing the regular route, Ned Lewis and Suichi Kimura used direct aid on a new route on the South Face of Little Susitna Tooth (Independence Mine Road) recently.

Jim Lethcoe and Bob Spurr climbed Tikishla May 19, and they want Rod Wilson to know that the register is not on the highest point!

bits and pieces

GARY HANSEN has resumed coordinating ARG activities in Mr. Hoeman's absence.

NEW & NEWLY PAID-UP MEMBERS: James A Johnson, 111 11th Ave (mail: Gen. Del, Anc), 277-1190; Gene Kvalvik, 634 Cordova; Joe Hendricks, 430 7th Ave; Elizabeth Balkus, Box 2022; Richard C Schroepfer, 310 8th Ave; Bond Whitmore family (Mimi, Jane, & Craig), 4914 Roger Road, 344-5589; Ted Schultz family (Joann & Martin), 1049 5th, 344-3831; Eivin Brudie, Star Rt A, Box 641; Richard Allen Strauss, Med. Detach, 64 Field Hosp, Ft Rich; Richard Fields, 64th Field Hospital, Ft Rich; James E Callahan, 8137 E 3rd; Frank E Braman, 738 E. 72nd; Lorraine Charvet, 1529 Juneau; Charles M. Bundesen, 2147 Hillcrest Place; Walter Merz, 111 11th, (mail: Gen Del, Anc), 277-1190.

DAVE JOHNSTON is currently on a job staking mining claims across mountains somewhere near Cathedral Spires--tough life...DON MESSERSCHMIDT is soon heading back to Nepal...CALLIE VAN DER LAAN has gone to McKinley Park for the summer...RON LINDER is off to study at Stanford...MARGE MAAGOE left May 22 for a month in New Hampshire...KAREN COURTRIGHT left June 2 for a summer in the British Isles...CLIFF & LAVON ELLS are moving from Hawaii to the Pacific Northwest, perhaps Pendleton, Oregon...

ADDRESS CHANGES: Hank & Betty Thielsen, 727 N St, Anc Ol, same phone.

Barney Seiler, John Todd, Mike Hunt, Bill Hague, and Mac Myers did a four-day ski traverse of the big glacier system between the Double Muskee in Girdwood and Lake Eklutna. This was in April in winter conditions. Great pictures, says Barney. More in a later Scree.

Bill Hauser is currently staying in Seattle with Charles Crenshaw. He hopes to guide on Mt. Rainier for Lou Whittaker's guide operation this summer. Bill and Eddie Boulton and Crenshaw tried Mt Shasta in March but had too much wind trouble.

The four-day Hobo's Hike was a successful and nearly rainless venture for Bill and Jim Stivers, Mike Hunt, Lotte Kramer, and John Wolfe, plus additions for Grant Lake on Sunday of Ruth Moulton and Nancy Hall and very short term additions on the way back from Grant Lake of Gwyn Wilson, Sid and Jan Whaley, and Gwyn's student guest from Thailand. They came back with suntans.

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THIRD CLASS