



SCREE

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mountaineering club of alaska
box 2037 anchorage alaska 99501

happenings on the way

july meeting...PICNIC at Goose Lake under the Color Dome, 6:30 p.m., Monday July 8. Bring food and maybe some wood for a hot dog fire. Bring kids, guests, strays, grubby clothes, etc....maybe a swimming suit...!

FOURTH OF JULY LONG WEEKEND...July 4-5-6-7. Cabin construction, Whiteout Glacier...maybe! People are flying and planning and hoping to get materials in so this weekend can be utilized, but total plans will not be known by much of anyone until the last minute. Call Frank Nosek 277-4924 days, 272-2966 eves or Hans Van der Laan 277-7525 days, 277-4251 eves to find out what is going on, who is going, what's to be done, and if the cabin will be available for use soon.

Saturday, July 13, BODENBURG BUTTE, #18 in Thirty Hikes...a very easy introductory hike with magnificent views in all directions from this very minor peaklet near Palmer. Leader, MARIE LUNDSTROM 277-0846 eves.

Sunday, July 14, MT. EKLUTNA...with TONY BOCKSTAHLER leading (ph 694-2323). Tony has scouted out a route to the peak from the Thunderbird Falls area and feels that he has a very feasible route involving easy slopes by approaching from this direction. Meet either at 8 a.m. at Alaska Woodcraft, Mile 14, Glenn Highway OR at 8:30 a.m. at the Thunderbird Falls wayside stop at Mile 25.5, Glenn Highway. This is an excellent trip for either beginners or intermediates, mostly an uphill hike rather than a serious climb.

Saturday, July 20, O'MALLEY PEAK (5150')...with JOHN WOLFE leading, phone 272-7844 days, 272-7698 eves. One of the most outstanding peaks on the Anchorage Chugach skyline. Always popular, O'Malley is not really difficult. Calls for a long day, but no real technical stuff.

Sunday, July 21, GLACIER SCHOOL, PART I, BYRON GLACIER, PORTAGE. Leader, RAY GENET, phone 272-2966 eves. This is the first of two sessions. Participants have to go through Part I before they can participate in Part II. Elemental techniques in snow and ice travel, quite necessary for anyone who wants to do any serious mountaineering. A simple peak in summer can become enormously complicated in winter, hence ice and snow experience are essential. Instruction will combine bookwork and field experience. Check with leader about equipment.

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july 1968

Saturday-Sunday, July 27-28, GLACIER SCHOOL PART II, EKLUTNA GLACIER. Leader, RAY GENET, phone 272-2966 eves. This second session will be held on Eklutna Glacier behind Eklutna Lake. A fairly easy jaunt is planned up to the MCA cabin "Pichler's Perch," with probably some instruction on the way in. Most of the schooling will be on the trip back down and out on Sunday. Lots of room and varied conditions for all sorts of miscellaneous ice practice. Bound to be instructive as well as fun for all participating.

Sunday, July 28, UPPER RABBIT CREEK VALLEY...with LOTTE KRAMER leading, phone 272 1401 days, 272-6355 eves. A mixed trip for practically all comers. Opportunities for serious climbing as well as tundra hikes, or merely relaxing beside Rabbit Lake and doing nothing. General plans are for some sort of climb; choice will depend pretty much on who turns up and what the group decides at that point.

Saturday, August 3, MATANUSKA PEAK ANNUAL...leader GARY HANSEN 272-1145. A long day but always popular. Involves no technical ability, but does require a certain amount of stamina and good condition. #20 in Thirty Hikes though shown under an old name. Elevation of the peak is 6119'--a nice one for the intermediate hiker/climber to attain.

Sunday, August 18, PTARMIGAN SKI AREA PEAKS, with TONY BOCKSTAHLER leading (phone 694-2323). Tony's not just sure at this point what this trip will cover, but the possibilities are numerous. See #14 in Thirty Hikes, "Round Top" which describes the area. There's plenty of variety, including tundra for late summer berrypicking for the family while climbing bugs go to the peaks in the locale.

Saturday, August 24, MT ALYESKA, with FRANK NOSEK leading (ph 277-4924 days, 272-2966 eves). Trip #24 in Thirty Hikes describes this one. Not terribly difficult, but varied enough so you can go as far as you comfortably want to. Begins as an uphill hike but has rock with exposure near the top. Check carefully with leader for necessary equipment. An excellent climb with splendid views across the waters of Turnagain Arm and other surrounding peaks in the area.

Saturday-Sunday, August 24-25, PEAKABOO PEAKS, with JOHN WOLFE leading. Phone 272-7844 days, 272-7698 eves. This trip combines an overnight in High Valley (Thirty Hikes #13) with the attainment of an easy 6950' peak. Nothing technical involved and having two days should make it a comfortable and enjoyable trip. Exceptional views all across both Eagle River and Peters Creek watersheds. The true summit of Peakaboo should probably be a second known ascent but not because it's difficult--only that it has always been a bit inaccessible to most hikers and climbers.

Saturday-Sunday-Monday, August 31-Sept 1-2 ????????????? Plans not made yet for a club trip over this Labor Day Weekend. See August Scree.

.....WEEK-LONG CAMPOUT plans have been CANCELLED for the present... maybe after club is bigger, with more family members, says trips boss John Wolfe

NOTICE OF MAJOR EXPEDITION...MCA Climbing Committee has a letter from out-of-state MCA member Jeb Schenck, Route 1, Powell, Ohio 43065 who writes: "I am organizing a climb of Mt Sanford by the South Ridge. Anyone interested must have technical snow and ice experience and rock climbing experience of considerable degree. They must also have their own equipment and funds for bush pilot and food. The climb is scheduled for the summer of 1969. I have been climbing for four years and have technical snow and ice experience plus rock experience. I have climbed in the Wind Rivers, Glacier, Tetons, Banff, Jasper, Mt Rainier, eastern edge of the St Elias, and Colorado Rockies. If anyone is interested, please contact me."

what's been going on

THE GREAT SPLASH

June 15-16, 1968

Sid Whaley

On June 15 & 16 five mountaineers from Anchorage ascended the sides of their canoes and paddled through the Kenai canoe trails. Sid and Jan Whaley, Bruce and Judy Van Deusen, and Mike Aiken fought off low altitude sickness commonly known as "sneezers" with nets, ointments, and curses, while journeying from Paddle Lake to Gene Lake and out the 19 (or was it 91) miles of the Swanson River to the highway. The route is well marked and a nice map is available at the registration box at Paddle Lake.

About 4-5 hours of puddle jumping is needed to make a nice campsite just below the summit of a peak (elevation 214', Vin) on an island on Gene Lake and about 8-9 hours necessary to come out the Swanson River. The latter's current is sufficiently vigorous that with any headwind, we trawled upstream. The area is reserved for moose, who feel this includes the river as well. With our red life jackets we were never mistaken by them for water plants, so escaped harm. The most hostile animal we met, besides the trout Bruce caught, was a trumpeter swan whom we chased down the river. It appears this bird, which showed Detroit styling, was overweight and underpowered, so only after much splashing of its feet and thrashing of its six-foot wings could it get airborne. In contrast the many different ducks resembled Quaker Puffed Wheat in their helicopter ascents. The loons distinguished themselves by lack of flying and by frequent loud calls to their Maker. He must have understood and on the evening of June 14 refilled the Kenai Lake system from the sky. The Whaleys' rainfly for their 4-man Alpsport tent came on June 17, but they and their down bags needed a bath anyhow.

Portages were short, and the 80 lbs of aluminum rode well even on one man. All the party had a good time seeing country previously reserved for float planers...whose ski-doo's were in storage for the summer.

MCA equipment is moving from the John Merrick household to the Dave DeVoe household (phone 333-5492) for the months of July and August.

Scree is published monthly by the Mountaineering Club of Alaska, which is affiliated with the Anchorage Dept of Parks & Recreation. Send Scree material to Box 4-964, Anc 99503 or call Marie Lundstrom, 277-0846.

MAIN CHUGACH FIRST ASCENTS

Vin Hoeman

Mt Marcus Baker, 13,176', the highest mountain in the Chugach Range, was first climbed on June 19, 1938, and it has taken two weeks short of 30 years to find and climb the second highest. Most of this was in the finding, as Mt Witherspoon was still thought to be the next highest in 1955 when the first serious attempt was made on it, although it was known to be 12,021 and exceeded by three nearby mountains by the time it was first climbed in 1957. These Witherspoon parties were led by chemists and physicists who named some of the mountains in the area they were first to explore after great men in their fields, and among these was Mt Willard Gibbs, shown on the modern map as 12,251, while its southern summit, inexplicably unnamed as we studied the map, bears a 12,300-foot contour line, so we thought it the significant summit and called it "Mt Thor," following the theme of Mt Valhalla, after the Norse god of thunder. Such a height seemed to place it inferior only to two peaks of Marcus Baker in the Chugach and made it a very desirable goal.

Dub and Harry Bludworth and I were flown to about 8000' on Yale Glacier by Frank Whaley of Alyeska Air Service June 2. We snowshoed to the broad pass at the head of the Yale that night, and the next day went down to 7600' on the Columbia Glacier and up its "Norse Branch" to make a snowcave highcamp at 10,500'. When a heavy snowfall stopped late the 5th, we went to the Harvard Glacier pass and up the ridge over the shoulder of "Odin's Footstool," 11,626', around the east ridge of Mt Thor to Nelchina Glacier drainage, and up to the col between Thor and Willard Gibbs. Approaching this 12,000-foot col, we could see that Willard Gibbs is actually higher, so we climbed it first in a cold wind strong enough to erase tracks between climbers. The altimeter showed 510' difference between the col and the peak, so Gibbs' elevation is about 12,500'. We reached the top at 7 minutes 'til midnight but did not wait for the new day.

Back at the col we still wanted to do Thor in spite of being chilled to the bone every time we had to switch from snowshoes to crampons. Frequently stopping to face out of the wind momentarily, we reached its top at 1:30 a.m., finding 360' difference between col and summit, which checks with the map. Dub's nose was noted to be white and hard with frostbite. He'd never had this happen before and asked, with considerable consternation, if he'd lose it! Not if we hurried down, we told him, and this we did the long way we'd come, and as we approached our cave, sunlight brightened the northeastern sky briefly before the weather again closed in. We rested that day and the next night moved back to our base camp on the Yale Glacier, partly by compass in whiteout.

On the 7th, we made the first ascent of Black Cliff Mountain, 10,270', by the easy ridge connecting it to Mt Einstein. It snowed every day of the eight we were in the mountains but particularly heavily on June 8, so when Eric Barnes picked us up the next day, he had a hard time taking off, but after we packed several strips with snowshoes, he finally managed to take us to Palmer one at a time from nearly 9000' on the east ridge of Aspero Peak. We touched rock for the first time since we'd left Alyeska airstrip 8 days before.

Midsummer Night Sleep-In on Flattop brought 35 people and two dogs zipping up and down the hill at all hours. Somewhere is a board with names....

PEAK 4448 BETWEEN OLD WOMAN CREEK

& COEUR D'ALENE CREEK NEAR HOPE

or Mt Alpenglowl That Wasn't

June 15

Sharon M Cissna

Those who went were Peter Vlasveld, Lotte Cramer, John Samuelson, Sharon-Cissna with Molly Moose and Rabbit Creek, Tom Meacham, Andy Anderson, Dave Meyers, Jim ___, Steve ___, and another man whose complete name escapes me. Hans Van der Laan led us through more water than we'd seen in a lifetime (even those of us from Seattle!). Our first goal was to make it through the very rainy night of Friday, June 14, in our camp at Six-Mile Creek. Most came through with a feeling of intimacy with the moisture, some even more than that...puddles inside the sleeping bags! Then we went on to our next goal, crossing Six-Mile Creek. I'm sure that had we tried this at the end of the day, our following water experience would have helped us accomplish this; however, since some of us couldn't swim, and the one fold-boat we had was new and barely tried, this goal was aborted with only two very wet (wetter) persons and the loss of some paddles and camera equipment. That put an end to any thoughts of climbing Alpenglowl. Next goal: a one bumpy ride to find a hot cup of coffee at Hope Inn. Aborted again. Inn had burned down the month before...replaced, however, by a trailer with some tables and chairs. There we prepared for goal number four: Peak 4448. The sun suddenly came through, and other than the moisture (sweat) that we produced ourselves, and the occasional crossing (5 or 6 rather wet times) of Coeur d'Alene Creek, we arrived at the top and returned to the bottom delightfully and uneventfully. Then we all went home and had a hot bath.

CROW'S NEXT CLEAN-UP & FIX-UP

June 29-30

Marie Lundstrom

Forty-six people (including two on-the-back infants) and three dogs made the haul to "Crow's Nest" to shape up the cabin June 29-30. Reconstruction Boss Sharon Cissna had numerous hammers and saws going among the many who were available during the work time. Roof fixers John Simonson and Richard Kavalsky hauled up tar paper and re-styled the roof; John Samuelson, John Wolfe, David Meyers, Frank Brayman, Tom Cloonan patched holes in the floor & put tar paper and polyethylene on the walls. Jarein and Simon Vlasveld and the two Brayman children pounded nails earnestly, and Anna Baziak, Sharon Cissna, Elizabeth Brayman, and Marie Lundstrom cleaned, criticized, and applauded.

Carriers of tools and materials, on-lookers, and comers-and-goers of the weekend who advised and pounded occasional nails or carried hold-down rocks included Peter Vlasveld, Logan and Wayne Groomer, the Ivan Brudie family (with five children), Lynn and Marilyn Stone, Virginia Dobbins, John Neill, Sister Carol Neyman O.S.B., Judy Serfoss with very small Ryan and Tama, Hans Metz, Brian and Evelynne Knights, Mike Powers, Kathy Wilson, Jim Betty, Rod and Gwyn Wilson, Ken and Kent Hubbell, Ted Wilson, Gary Hansen, Margaret Van der Pant, and, of course, the Groomers' dog Duke, and Sharon's Black Irish Lab pair, Rabbit Creek and Molly Moose.

Not all the weekend time was spent on cabin work. No sirocco! Not with all that super sun to be enjoyed! Sunburns sprouted, loafers loafed, kids fell in the creek, people played with the dogs, took pictures, hiked, saw goats, slid down steep snowfields, and some even climbed mountains! Hans Metz, Dave Meyers, Rod and Gwyn Wilson, Ken and Kent Hubbell, Ted Wilson, Mike Powers, and Kathy Wilson climbed nearby Cabin

july 1968

(CROW'S NEST, cont.) Peak; John Simonson, Richard Kavalsky, and John Samuelson climbed Summit Peak; and all kinds of people explored Crow Pass, viewed Raven Glacier, and thought longingly of the backpack trip through to Eagle River.

Cabin is in very much better shape, though more tar paper and polyethylene in strategic spots would make it even more storm proof. The stove has been removed entirely to avoid having people use the cabin for firewood. 'Twas a most successful weekend, and though my sunburn still pains, I'd like a whole summer of such weekends!

POSTCARD FROM KAREN COURTRIGHT: "Having time of my life--have hitched almost 1000 miles around Ireland. Weather has been fantastic--a real unusual summer for the Irish. In process of bumming, managed to climb Ireland's high pt (Mt Currantuoihil) from Black Valley hostel. Took the country road 6 miles to high pt of Cumweenduff Glen. From there I swung a sharp right and ascended Curraghmore West, outlier of Caher. From Caher, connecting ridge leads to Carrantuoihil (3414). There I carried the Alaskan flag to the top of the cairn. Plan to try Ben Nevis in Scotland next month. Plan to get to Wales and lake district of England after Scotland via hitching. (Made climb June 16.)" Karen (Sligo, N.Irel)

HISTORICAL NOTE: On Cabin Peak, near Crow's Nest, an old register in a tobacco can says: Jewel Gold Mining Co Claim #7, Smith. (name illegible), August 31, 1919. Noted by Rod Wilson during Crow Pass weekend. This surely must be one of the very earliest climbed and recorded peaks in the area.

 * MCA Superdog Fiolotta "Violets", who most recently claimed the Van *
 * der Laans as her family, died of distemper June 13. *



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THIRD CLASS

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