

# SCREE

NOVEMBER MEETING . . . Ben Crawford Memorial Park, 3rd and Eagle, Monday, November 10,  
at 7:30 PM . . . Note earlier starting time. This is for this meeting only, as there is  
much business to work on. There will be no entertainment per se, because the items to be  
discussed, voted on, and acted upon should be entertainment enough.

Items on the agenda are: Club sponsorship of publications.  
Sponsorship of a winter mountaineering school.  
Club policy in relation to conservation.  
1970 climbing schedule and club sponsorship of expeditions.  
Assignment of committees.

New officers for the coming year were elected at the sparsely attended October  
meeting. The officers elected were:

President	Randy Renner
Vice President	Steve Hackett
Secretary	Margaret Wolfe
Treasurer	Dick Snyder
Director	Frank Nosek

The officers of the club are looking forward to an improved club this year and are  
enlisting your support. The support required at this time is your attendance at the  
November meeting when club policy and direction for the following year will be acted  
upon and voted on

The dues are still due and are becoming more so. If you don't pay up by January,  
your name will be dropped from SCREE's mailing list.

Senior	\$5.00 per year
Junior	\$2.50 per year (under 18)
Family	\$7.40 per year
Out-of-town	\$2.50 per year (outside 50 mile radius of Anchorage)

## CLIMBING AND HIKING SCHEDULE

MATANUSKA GLACIER, Saturday and Sunday, November 8-9, leader is Barry Kirchner. Call  
753-7135 evenings or 753-2117 days between 8:00 am and 4:00 pm.

PTARMIGAN PEAK, Sunday, November 16, in Chugach behind Anchorage. Leader is Dennis  
Fitzgerald, call 272-1204.

PEAK ON KENAI, Friday and Saturday, November 21-22. Leader is Dub Bludworth and he will  
pick a worthwhile peak according to the weather -- sign up at the November meeting as  
Dub lives in Moose Pass -- Randy Renner will coordinate.



PEEKABOO 6950', Saturday and Sunday, November 29-30. Leader will be picked at the Nov. meeting and the possibility of a 4 day climb in this area will be discussed among the interested climbers.

GOAT MOUNTAIN, Saturday and Sunday, December 6-7, in area of Crow pass. Tentative leave plans are for December 6, but all depends on weather in area and snow conditions on peak. Leader will be Steve Hackett. Call 344-6215 evenings and 277-1481 days.

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"TROUBLEMINT" 6850<sup>+</sup> 50'

August 17, 1969

Charles A. McLaughlin

(First Ascent; Anchorage C-6)

A late Saturday afternoon under clearing skies blessed with an optimistic note from the sometimes fickle weatherman saw me head for the Mint Glacier area in the Talkeetnas. A brisk walk of about 5 miles brought me to a relatively smooth and grassy area below the headwall at the origin of the Little Susitna River just in time to gain the warm security of the blue McKinley bag. A spartan breakfast (for me) and an early start of 6:00 am started a most enjoyable day. I found that the grassy ramp up the headwall was easily negotiated to the flat-bottomed glacial sand lake; then I went up along the tip of the small glacier while studying the peak for the most likely route to the summit. The south southeast ridge appeared superficially to be the way but close examination revealed gendarmes requiring rappels or skirting (if possible). I finally decided to commit myself to the southwest face despite the somewhat discouraging darkness of steep walls and sobering lack of a single rock system leading to the summit. Coolness in the morning breeze made climbing quickly imperative and being alone I stuck to class three and four routes until I was forced to push a short lead which would have been better with a little protection. The rock was dry; the lichen brittle and the ground frozen with only small patches of snow, so climbing was excellent. Up and up, I tried to envision difficulties before trying a route, and to check escape routes for the descent until I gained the windy south ridge approximately 500 vertical feet below the summit. It was beautiful: exhilarating in its vastness and humbling in its impersonal formidableness. The early morning sun threw jagged shadows into the valley floor; the clear sky ran to Prince William Sound and almost to Mt. McKinley. From where I stood on that ridge it was obvious that I was going to have to spend some time probing a route up what appeared to be a relatively airy summit block so I didn't linger despite the view. Skirting its base I found a possible short lead on the north northeast corner. Before attempting it, I used some avalanche cord to tie a plastic sack containing a summit register to a rock and then had a quick brunch. A paucity of hand and foot holds forced me to use a sling to sloppily lasso a corner of the summit block (in the wind and with my inexperience in the western tradition of roping this was some feat). I hoisted myself onto the twin bed size summit at 9:45 and swung and scrambled ungracefully off a short 15 minutes later. The route down was essentially the same but I luckily found a way around the pitch which had concerned me on the ascent. I reached by blue bag laying in the red, brown, and green valley floor at about 1:00 pm to take a long afternoon rest before hiking to the reluctant Green Gander waiting with the Holstein cattle. It was so reluctant, in fact, that I had to drag out the tool case and clean out the carburetor before she would carry me home -- not an unusual requirement of the Gander's.

A TRIP TO THE WRANGELL FOOTHILLS, or . . . Tanada won.

Grace Hoeman

August 25-29, 1969

"Vin promised to take me up Tanada Peak and now you must do it," a voice pleaded over the telephone. I tried to brush off Colin Conkle like a troublesome insect, but he insisted and I finally capitulated as Tanada seemed so important to him, reluctantly giving up my own one-man expedition plans for the last week of August. Fate maybe kept me from going on a solo venture and I bent to it, but I made a bargain with Colin: I'd



accompany him up Tanada and he'd provide me with meat for the winter. Soon he and I were studying maps (Nebesna B-5 and B-6), discussing details of transportation, equipment, provisions and route.

With the help of "Caribou Clatter" communication we met near the Conkle homestead "Eagle Trail Ranch" on the Tok cutoff road and I spent the night of August 25 at the homestead. The next morning, with a pleasant sun shining, we drive along Nebesna Road to Johnny Tremko's Air Service, located on Twin Lakes. Johnny flew us in to Sheep Lake that same day with his supercub float plane. We spotted several moose from the air; an easy way to hunt it seems and unfortunately practiced by too many hunters. It was an interesting flight over Tanada Lake and up Goat Creek. Tanada is the Indian word for "wind over the water." It was probably a U.S.G.S. topographers fancy which put the name Tanada on the map to identify the lake (1898 map of the area prepared by Peters) and the same can be said of the mountain (1902 map prepared by Witherspoon). While on our flight in I caught a glimpse of the mountain close by and my heart sank into my boots . . . steep conglomerate rock, interspersed with flaky shale, a quite imposing looking system of tiers though. From our landing spot on the shore of Sheep Lake we proceeded toward the unnamed valley NW of the lake, balancing from hummock to hummock over the wet ground near the lake, wondering what frame of mind induced Henry Allen to call these hummocks "tetes de femmes" in his report on the 1885 Copper River to Yukon River Expedition. Upland plovers protested our walk-in in vain and we camped in the lower valley before darkness fell.

On August 27, again under fair skies, we moved up the valley, burdened with equipment and supplies to last a week, jump-crossing the valley stream innumerable times. A turn to the north opened up grand views of the object of Colin's affection. The name Tanada Peak is attached to the lower 9240' south summit and this seems altogether wrong since the 9358' north peak is not only higher, but far more spectacular. Moreover, because of the 8500' col in between, the South Peak is not an independent mountain. The U.S.G.S. is interested in this and corrections of the map are being considered. Looking over ascent possibilities with my binoculars, I cursed my decision to give up my one-man expedition, still, this was an unusual and raw looking pair of peaks. Numbers of sheep were grazing on the slopes around me as I sat down to wait for Colin, and I only had to count 22 before going off to sleep. We set up our tents on the only flat spot we could find at an altitude of 6500' too low for a high camp, but Colin didn't have an insulating pad and thus couldn't camp on snow. Pipits were there playing and chasing around us and majestic eagles soared where we wanted to go so badly. After tea we reconnoitered into the cirque east of the col and found an ascent in the NE wall of the lower Tanada and proceeded till darkness forced us back. At one point Colin took off his crampons to negotiate almost vertical rock and left them on a terrace between tiers. My comments on this startled him and I don't think he'll ever again leave crampons unattended. All the time there was a swishing of avalanches and the clatter of falling rocks, mainly coming from the sun exposed wall of the higher Tanada.

Next morn we used the staircase of steps made the evening before, the sky above us now slowly drawing a curtain of clouds. We reached the col while considering our position. Although we'd selected the easiest route it was a treacherous one for the time of the year with fresh loose snow; also it was a difficult mountain for 2 people, one of whom never had any formal training in mountaineering. Colin accepted the suggestion that we look at the lower peak and settle for it - after all it was the named one - if a good route would offer itself to the summit. Well, possibilities viewed with or without binoculars looked no better than suicide and we turned to take a final look at the higher Tanada. The surroundings triggered associations with the Eiger and I told Colin the story. Close to the SW ridge of the higher summit, which on the map had looked like a fair climb, I spilled another "oh no" as Colin almost got clobbered by a big rock bouncing down on us. The broiling clouds around Mt. Jarvis made our decision to retreat easy, and we were satisfied with what we accomplished this trip. We broke camp in the afternoon and bouldered down the valley, this time unconcernedly stepping into the roaring brook as wet boots didn't matter now. Johnny came that night as he had promised and as he flew us back to the other world I thought of the lines:



"I love to leave my littleness behind,  
In the low vale where little cares are great,  
And in the mighty map of things to find  
A sober measure of my scanty state,  
Taught by the vastness of God's pictured plan  
In the big world how small a thing is man."

Yes, I took back a lot of meat. The hunting guides saw to that. "We must climb again and you must go caribou hunting with us this winter," Colin shouted as I drove off. I waved my arm in acknowledgement. Maybe we'll be back here, some day, some better time of year, a stronger party . . . .

"BOUNTY" PEAK, 6810'

September 21, 1969  
First Ascent

Ned Lewis and April Allen

At 7:30 am on September 20, Grace Hoeman, John Samuelson, Chuck Pease, Gene Finger, Hans Van Der Laan, April Allen and Ned Lewis started up the left moraine on Eklutna Glacier. We strolled up to the cabin where we stopped at 10:30 for rest and lunch. After a long break, we started off on the glacier under a 6000' ceiling. At 1:00 pm we roped up to work our way through the snow-covered crevasses, then across the upper Eklutna Glacier to its left.

At 2:45, we had a view of the cirque to the "Bounty" Creek side of the peak and decided to approach our climb from the opposite side. Ned, shortly after, fell into a crevasse. Heavy overcast and light, blown snow was being encountered. At 4:30, a view of the east side of the peak was taken from the head of Eklutna Glacier.

Wind, Fatigue and the still distant peak encouraged us to camp at 5:00 pm with snow still falling nicely. After various glops were shared in the 4-man tent, bags were unstuffed early and three retired to the cozy warmth of a 2-man. The long sleep till 7:00 am was taken with mixed feelings. Prior to that time, weather looked ominous and then, suddenly, was fantastic!

A conference was held and we were off at 9:00 am for the peak, in two teams. At 11:00 after running across the Whiteout Glacier and up the lower ridge, Grace, John, Hans, and Ned found themselves looking up from the base of the summit pyramid. With a bit of scrambling and puffing, they were on the summit at 12:05 via the west ridge. An hour was spent building a cairn and lounging in the almost windless sunshine. As time was pressing and the other rope had not yet arrived, they returned to camp to strike and pack tents while the others returned. Hans waited for the other group as he had left his crampons with theirs on the ridge and forgot them.

Rope Two summited at 1:30 and returned to the ridge from the more rapidly descended scree slope on the south, following Grace's and Ned's tracks, (a possibly easier ascent route, conjectured Gene). Both groups left the campsite about 5:30 pm. All had reached the cars by 10:30, long past dark. Those who returned early shared their hot chocolate around and the last of us returned home about 12:30.

BYRON GLACIER CAVES

July 12, July 29, September 7, 1969

Chuck Pease

Being more of a spelunker than a mountaineer I immediately began looking for caves when I arrived in Alaska last March. I still have not located any limestone caves, but there are plenty of glacier ones around.

My first acquaintance with the Byron Caves was on Saturday, July 12th. Dave Albert, April Allen and I found two caves at the toe of the glacier. On the right side of the stream were two entrances that soon joined into one tunnel that was about 600' long and averaged fifteen feet wide and seven feet high. In a couple of places small waterfalls emerged from the ceiling. The floor was glacial moraine. A second cave was located above the left stream and consisted of a single large chamber with a stream. Both up-stream and downstream exploration was stopped by siphons.



On Tuesday, the 29th, April and I returned and discovered enough snow had melted to reveal another huge cave entrance. This was the cave that the right-hand stream exited from. A little boulder hopping and a climb over a ten-foot high snow bank in the cave, since melted, enabled us to penetrate 300' before the river hit our wall. The water easily swept away 75 pound boulders when we attempted to bridge it so we retreated.

On September 7th, we finally were able to continue exploration of the main cave. Entering along the left side this time, we were able to go all the way to the end where the roof met the floor. This passage is approximately 1500' long and averages 25' wide and 9' high. The last 400' is a series of steep cascades and involves numerous stream crossings. A small rock cairn and register were placed in this last level room. Prior to here the stream is too large to successfully cross on boulders. Two and a half hours were spent exploring the cave. It will be interesting to return in a year or two and see how many people, if any, have explored the cave as far as the register.

Glacier caves are not considered a true ice cave and are certainly more dangerous than limestone caves. Ice caves are defined as caves in rock in which ice accumulates either to stay year round or to melt each summer. Glacier caves are subject to continual change both through melting and collapsing action. Ice blocks or flakes weighting hundreds of pounds can and do fall, usually near a cave's entrance. Anyone attempting to explore a glacier cave should be on the lookout for areas that appear ready to collapse.

MT. RAINIER, 14,410'

May 30, 31, 1969

Bill Babcock

With two Yugoslavians from Vancouver, both experienced climbers, and a 19-year-old from Tacoma, I set off from Paradise at 9:00 PM. Walking in the moonlight we reached Camp Muir (10,200') about midnight. After a cup of hot milk we slept until 5:00 AM. The Yugoslavs had climbed Rainier by a more ordinary route the year before and wanted to climb the Gibraltar Route this year. With the Yugoslavs leading we ascended the Beehive on the upper Cowlitz Glacier. Steep glacier climbing brought us to the base of Gibraltar Rock in two hours. A traverse under constantly falling rocks and ice brought us to a steep snow slope leading to the summit of Gibraltar Rock, 12,679'. We then followed a large group of Mazambas to the summit. I felt pretty good so I walked around the crater while the others rested. Sulphur fumes burst forth periodically and formed rather treacherous underfooting as unpredictable crevasses formed because of the heat. Descending the Ingraham Glacier with the Mazambas proved far safer than the Gibraltar Route which surely would be raining rocks and ice due to late afternoon sun on the mountain. Not all of the Mazambas were college kids as at least one member of the party told me he was 59 years old.

THE TWO SUMMITS OF TANAINA PEAK 5350'

Rod Wilson

Chugach, Anchorage A-7 Quadrangle

Charles Kibler points out that the register naming Tanaina Peak was placed (SCREE, September 1966) on the point 5250'  $\pm$  50' (61° 08' 11" N., 149° 32' 52" W., Section 13, T12N, R2W) 0.7 miles west of the actual high point, 5350'  $\pm$  50' (61° 08' 05" N., 149° 31' 35" W., Section 18, T12N, R1W) of the ridge along the north side of Campbell Creek, North Fork.

30 Hikes in Alaska, No. 6 and the Alaska Dictionary of Place Names, 1967, preserved the name but assigned it to the higher point. It was climbed on May 5, 1968, after a return trip to point 5250' (SCREE, June 1968) in order to inspect the ridge extending southeast to "Koktoya," 5150'  $\pm$  50' (SCREE, September 1967, October 1968, December 1968), but its significance was not noted until Kibler, map in hand, reached it from "Blue Lake" on June 28, 1969 (SCREE, August 1969).

Points 5250' and 5350' should be considered west and east summits respectively of Tanaina since the ridge between them falls only to 5000'. Tanaina Peak, West Summit, 5250', will be the goal of most hikers because of its prominence and its visibility from Anchorage.



"PTARMIGAN MOUNTAIN" (Hope 4950' and Ptarmigan 4880')

Rod Wilson

Names and Registers, Chugach, Anchorage A-7 Quadrangle, Section 10, T11N, R2W

The register atop "Hope," 4950' - 50', was removed on July 5, 1969, copied onto a single sheet and replaced with a new notebook in a double container on July 25. "Ptarmigan Mountain," West Summit, is suggested as a better name for this prominent skyline peak, which has also borne the ubiquitous "Suicide" designation in the past. I recall a conversation several years ago with Helga Byhre and others. The name "Hope" was suggested as the facile antithesis of "Suicide" but was rejected as equally poor. We then settled on "Ptarmigan Peaks" for the two high points on the ridge running southeast from Flattop, but the name has persisted only for the east summit, 4880'. The name should be used for both spots as they are only  $\frac{1}{4}$  mile apart and are parts of the same mountain mass. The ridge falls between them to 4400'.

The Alaska Dictionary of Place Names lists 22 Ptarmigan Creeks, two lakes, two gulches, a valley, a drop, an island, a glacier, a rock (promontory), a ridge, a head (2850' near Homer), a peak (2972' near Sitka), and a dome (3267' near Hoonah). Thus there is no "Ptarmigan" mountain of appreciable size. It may be possible to get official acceptance of the name "Ptarmigan Mountain". Application has been made by the Names Committee.

An attempt to climb the mountain by its steep northeast ridge was made in 1961, but did not get far (SCREE, March 1961). The first climb known to me was by Gregg Erickson and John Dillman via the north couloir in June 1962. Their register, if placed, is lost. Others may have climbed the peak before this, probably from the easy Rabbit Creek side or from Campbell Creek up past the pond at 3500' below the northwest face, but the first entry in the register on the west summit is: "Robert O. Bauer (sp?), Joel L. Borland III AMU July 7, 1963." Two weeks later 11 individuals from Anchorage Boy Scout Troop 8 signed an entry, "Sunday July 21." Year was not given. I presume that it was 1968 but learned after replacing the register that it was 1963. By July 5, 1969, 89 had climbed and signed, but only 65 individuals as many have climbed more than once - Bob Spurr four times, all in 1966. Dillman says he has reached top four times too, including the only recorded climb, with Lois Lindemood, of the northeast ridge, August 7, 1968, crossing the east summit first. Winter climb of both tops was made via the north couloir on December 4, 1966, by Grace Jansen (Hoeman), Bobby Hansen, Gayle Nienheuser and Spurr. The north ridge to both summits was done by Harry, Dub, and Linda Bludworth on June 30, 1968. Other approaches have been from Rabbit Creek, Rabbit Lake, Campbell Creek (past the pond at 3500'), "scary west gully," and Flattop.

"Ptarmigan Mountain," East Summit, 4880', has been surmounted 23 times by 20 individuals up to July 25, 1969. First record of ascent was by Mad. Myers and Spurr on July 10, 1966. It has been confused with Point 4630', which is another 0.7 miles southeast along the ridge.

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#### THE IMPORTANCE OF VIN

Vin Hoeman, 1936-1969, was a passionate man. His passion was mountains - any mountain. He loved Lark as much as Logan. Cwms and cols, ridges and summits were his pride and his peace. He was as comfortable in a bivouac as an armchair and far happier in the bivouac.

We are the beneficiaries of his obsession because he shared his experience. Vin talked well, and he wrote clearly, specifically, and voluminously. He brought scholarship and system to the recording of mountaineering history of Alaska. Vin was incredibly accurate and totally honest as to where he and others had gone - or had not gone - in the mountains. He gave imagination, consistency, and persistency to the delineation and naming of geographic features in the State.

Vin knew, loved, and described Alaska as no one quite had. This was the importance of Vin.

Rod Wilson



Steve Hackett would appreciate any information leading to the recovery of some mountain climbing gear that was taken from his blue VW (Colo. liscence) during the weekend of August 23-24. The following items were stolen approximately one mile beyond the Snowbird Mine cabin on the access road from Hatcher Pass, Talkeetna Mountains (Most of the gear was labeled with Steve's name or initials):

1. 17 Aluminum Carabiners (Chouinard, Calif. Bedayan, Blue CMI and Orange REI).
2. 1 Ice Axe "Gerry" Brand with leather cover (38" long, ash shaft)
3. 1 3/8" - (150-165") Plymouth Goldline rope (considerably worn).
4. 1 9mm (150') Dynamic Mammut rope, brand new with woven exterior sheath (blue and red weave), bright violet appearance)
5. 50 Pitons: assorted hardware sizes from rurps to knife-blades to 6" bong-bongs. Brand names: CMI, Longware, Lost Arrow, Bugaboo Leeper, Chouinard - all chrome-moly & cadmium steel. All painted Fire-engine red.
6. Assorted webbing (Nylon 3/4" to 1", tubular and solid), white, O.D. green, blue and orange in color, some cut into slings but most of them in 20 foot lengths.
7. Small Nylon Climbing Pack (Holubar, O.D. green, well worn with white paint spills, leather bottom, noticeable patching all over).
8. Rubberized Rain Coat (Orange, Sears Brand Name Ted Williams)
9. Miscellaneous Technical Climbing Equipment:
  - 2 - Dural Braker Bars
  - 5 Descending Rings
  - 4 Repair Chain Links
  - 20 Climbing nuts with slings, assorted sizes (Colgwyn wedges, hexagons, peck crackers, moac shockstones, polt cable chocks).
10. 10 X 50 Binoculars (Binox-Japanese) with black case, single eye and center focus.
11. 1 Blue Nylon Bag with black straps (12" X 24" X 18").

Steve would appreciate any legitimate information leading to the recovery of any of the above items and also appreciate MCA members keeping their eyes and ears open in regard to these items. Thank you. Phone - Work: 277-1481, Home: 344-6215.

#### BITS AND PIECES

On Sunday, August 24, 1969, Barry Kircher, Randy Renner, Dave Albert, April Allen and Chuck Pease climbed Lynx Peak (6536') in the Talkeetna Mountains. The group left the cabin at 8:00 AM and everyone was back by 5:00 PM. There were a few inches of snow on the higher portion of Lynx.

Gayle and Helen Nienhueser left Anchorage on October 31 for a six-week jaunt to Nepal. They also plan to visit Tokyo, Hong Kong, and Bangkok! (Wow, we're all green with envy!)

Fred Cady's new address is: Steele Laboratory, California Institute of Technology, Pasadena, California 91109.

SCREE is published monthly by the Mountaineering Club of Alaska, which is affiliated with the Anchorage Department of Parks and Recreation. Editor: Liska Snyder. Typist: Marty Corcoran. Staff: Carol Devoe, Joanne Merrick, April Allen, Chuck Pease. Please send material for the December SCREE to Liska Snyder, 2806 Alder Drive, Anchorage, Alaska 99504, by November 21.

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LAST MINUTE BULLETIN!! THE EXECUTIVE BOARD MET MONDAY NIGHT, NOVEMBER 3, AND DECIDED THAT THERE WILL BE SURPRISE ENTERTAINMENT AT THE NOVEMBER MEETING, SO BE SURE TO COME!!

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