

# SCREE

MOUNTAINEERING CLUB OF ALASKA  
P. O. Box 2037, Anchorage, Alaska 99501  
July 1970 - Vol. 13, No. 7

JULY MEETING . . . Monday, July 13 . . . PICNIC AT GOOSE LAKE . . . Supper at 6:00 P.M. Short business meeting at 7:00 P.M. . . . bring your own food, kids, etc. . . . there will be a fire for roasting hot dogs, marshmallows . . . bring your guitars, banjos (If you are a good songleader, please donate your services.), volleyballs, frisbies - and if you are the hardy type . . . bathing suits . . . watermelon will be supplied . . . Come! Come! Come! . . . for a frolicsome evening of fun, songs, games, warmth and laughter.

## CLIMBING AND HIKING SCHEDULE

Enjoy a Midweek Break. Go BOULDERING or CLIMBING along the Seward Highway every Wednesday night. An enthusiastic group of people are meeting at 6:30 P.M. at the NE corner of Sear's parking lot. Bring your cameras and join the fun.

July 11-12 (Saturday and Sunday) HIGHER SPIRE in the Talkeetnas. Drive up to Snowbird Mine cabin Friday evening. Leader: Chuck Pease 752-0209 (Days) or 753-6468 (home).

July 18-19 (Saturday and Sunday) CROW PASS area. Peak climbed will be determined by the ability of the party. Trip rescheduled from June due to bad snow conditions. This is an easily accessible area for families and you can limit it to one day if you wish. Leader: Carol Phillips 272-8385 (home) or 279-6431 (days).

July 25-26 (Saturday and Sunday) LOST LAKE area on the Kenai Peninsula. Rescheduled again due to snow conditions and the lack of an available leader. Six-mile trail with excellent views of Mount Ascension (5810') and Resurrection Peaks. For those wishing to climb, Mount Ascension rises SW of the lake. Also a good hike for families. Leader: Andy Wanner 277-6686 (days).

August 15-16 (Saturday and Sunday) GLACIER SCHOOL.

August 29-30 (Saturday and Sunday) PIONEER PEAK.

If you have a special climb you would like to try or a certain area you wish to visit, contact Chuck Pease at 752-0209 (days) or 753-6468 (nights). People are also needed who are willing to lead club trips.

There is a lot more climbing being done than the above schedule would indicate. Contact individual MCA members for more information on what they are doing. And please, please, no matter what you do, write it up for SCREE!



JUNE MEMBERSHIP MEETING MINUTES

Dick Snyder chaired the June 8 meeting, while our intrepid leader, Randy Renner struggled upward. Good luck, Chief.

There was a brief discussion of the 50 hikes book, with 2 additional examples of the type of publication being planned. Lists of the routes tentatively being considered were made available, and anybody who would like to help checking out directions, take pictures, or accompany hikers, is most welcome.

There was some discussion of the possibility of changing our business year to an October 1 beginning date. This will come up as a formal motion at a later time.

After some trip revisions and general announcements, Nancy Simmerman gave a very interesting program on composition and the technical considerations of taking good pictures. Much appreciated, and thank you Nancy.

A REPORT ON "50 WILDERNESS ROUTES"

50 WILDERNESS ROUTES IN SOUTHCENTRAL ALASKA is proceeding on schedule with the research and photos for about half of the trips completed. The main problem is that most of this half was the easy half; many of the remaining trips are far away or unknowns that may take several tries to check out. For example, Gayle and I spent a futile weekend trying to find a reportedly easy-to-follow trail into Tazlina Lake; if such a trail exists it is certainly not easy to find, so that one must be scratched from the list -- and as far as the book goes, that was an unproductive weekend. So we still need your help!

We need help in two ways: (1) We need people who will research trails for us about which we may have only sketchy or outdated information, and take photos if possible; (2) We need people who will take the information we have collected and check it out -- see if our directions are easy to follow or confusing.

Following is a list of trips on which the basic research still needs to be done: Bald Mountain, Homer area; hike in Soldovia area; Caribou Hills with access from Oil Well Road in Minilchik area; Funny-Moosehorn Trail complex, Kenai Moose Range -- a long trip; Cottonwood Creek across Skilak Lake; Surprise Mountain; Russian River (recent reports say this trail is confusing and needs more detailed directions); Race Point out of Seward; Lost Lake -- need current data -- have directions; Bear Lake near Seward -- is there high country access from here?; Falls Creek nine area; Crescent Lake; Bench Lake -- current data; Palmer Creek -- need exact directions -- have general information and pictures -- good area for families; Portage Pass out of Whittier.

In the Anchorage area we need exact data on Crow Pass to Eagle River; Ship Creek to Indian; McHugh Peak from the Seward Highway; pictures and information on access problems for Rabbit Lake and Flattop; Powerline Pass; The Ramp; Tikishla; Mount Magnificent with particular attention to access permission; Round Top; East Twin Pass; Bold Peak Valley; North Fork of Eklutna Valley from Eklutna Lake; Lazy Mountain and Matanuska Peak -- photos; Reed Lakes -- photos; Little Susitna River Valley

We also have sketchy information on Hicks Creek-Caribou Creek-Squaw Creek-Chickaleon trail complex -- but need detailed data. This area has possibilities for a good extended backpacking trip. In addition, we have information on trails in the Chitna and Valdez areas and in between areas that needs checking out. Call me if you are interested.

We have information completed on the following trips and need people who will tell us how good our directions are: Homer beach walk; Seven Lakes trail; Skilak Lake Lookout Trails, Skilak Lake Trail; Swan Lake, Swanson River Canoe Trails; Kenai River -- Kenai Lake to Kenai; Cooper Lake to Russian River; Resurrection Pass; Lost Lake; Ptarmigan Lake; Bench Lake; Byron Glacier; Mount Alyeska; Winner Creek Trail; Bird Hill or Bird Creek Ridge; Indian Creek Valley to pass; Table Rock from McHugh Campground; McHugh Peak from Stewarts' Homestead; Williaw Lakes; Wolverine Peak; Rendezvous Peak; Thunderbird Falls; Dow Mound; Bodenburt Butte; Reed Lakes; Craigie Creek to pass. If you are interested in going on these trips and are willing to check out our directions call me -- but try to do it before the Friday you leave as in some cases I will have to type up the information! My number is 277-9330. Between July 25 and August 20 call Laska Snyder at



279-2808 for copies of directions. Hopefully we will have some of these trips written up and copies available at the July NEA meeting.

. . . . . Helen Mienhueser . . . . .

The Alaska Rescue Group presents . . .

\* FOOD FOR THOUGHT \*

(i.e. an article to fill space and inspire thought)

CLIMBING - Lionel Terray

In my view mountaineering is an essentially individual experience, and I have always considered absurd the opinion, voiced by some authors, that the forgoing of bonds of friendship is its primary motivation. If this were really so, why would anybody risk his life or exhaust himself on the most fearsome climbs? If friendship really needed any such catalyst the ascent of easy summits would serve as well. True, we encounter, every summer, bands of happy warriors singing, guzzling, and drinking their way up and down the ordinary routes, finding in the fresh air and exercise an incitement to "good fellowship," but this temporary glow is no more real friendship than the same thing generated at a banquet or a party. It may indeed be that these feelings are genuinely the purpose of such outings, but in any case they are only a very minor form of mountaineering.

It is equally true that dangers and labours shared, as in war or on difficult climbs, may link men in a mutual esteem that over the years may deepen into genuine friendship. But friendships born of a particular situation have a way of fading once it is over, effaced by all the petty circumstance of life. Whatever the legends so carefully maintained by some, the mountaineering game is far from a garden of universal fraternity. It is simply that the dangers of the sport, together with the fact that it is carried on in little groups of two or three, create an environment favorable to human warmth, which therefore happens to be commoner, or perhaps I should say less rare, among climbers than among most other communities.

The majority of climbers are complete individualists. Dislikes and rivalries are common among them. And comparatively few go on climbing together year after year. Odder still, it is not unknown for two who positively dislike each other to climb together because the arrangement enables them to do the climbs they want.

Personally I hold friendship one of the most precious things in life, but like everything of real value it is rare. We do not become friends with just anybody simply because we happen to have shared danger or for that matter pleasure with him. It is a powerful emotion, like love, which has to be cultivated; and in the same way it becomes devitalized if given too often or too easy. I have felt a deep and enduring friendship for some of my mountain friends, especially Lachenal, and there is no doubt that climbing is a fine experience when done with such a person, but it would be stupid to pretend that it cannot be done otherwise. If so, it would soon become a rare activity. Anyone who hopes to do a lot of climbing cannot always pick and choose too carefully. It is interesting to reflect that the man who has become the great evangelist of climbing for friendship's sake was at one time in the habit of climbing with the first comer.

I have always refused to go out with people I disliked, but circumstances have often forced me to do so with those who were indifferent to me. Their presence added nothing to my pleasure, and I would have enjoyed myself as much climbing on my own had I been capable of it. But some moral weakness which I have never properly understood has always made me incapable of climbing difficult rock on my own, and even unroped I need the presence of another human being.

. . . . . from CONQUISTADONES OF THE USELESS 1966

GOAT ROCK

May 31, 1970

Larry Swanson

My brother Trent and I left our car on Eklutna Lake Road at 8:30. We went across a field cleared by a homesteader and started up through the woods. After about half a mile my



brother, who had been partying most of Saturday, decides he was too tired to go on and went back to the car to wait. I continued on through the woods and up toward the west ridge of Goat Rock. At the bottom of the west ridge I saw about 20 Dall sheep and went a bit out of my way to photograph them. I then traversed along the side of the ridge until I came to a gully that went up next to the peak. After I climbed up the gully, I went up a bench a couple of hundred feet wide that went across the face. Then I scrambled up to the summit and ate lunch. It had been a beautiful day when I left but it started to cloud up now, so I headed back to the car. I arrived there at 3:00 just as it was starting to sprinkle.

## PIONEER PEAK 6398'

June 6-7, 1970

Larry Swanson

On a beautiful Saturday evening at 8:30 Art Ward and I started up the standard north gully about  $\frac{1}{2}$  mile east of the old Knik River Bridge. When we were climbing up the gully we saw a dead Dall sheep lamb and a bit later we saw a porcupine climbing along the side of the gully. After an hour and a half of climbing we reached the bowl and set up camp. Sunday we got an early 5:00 a.m. start after a quick breakfast. We reached the col in 2 hours and were on the top of the counterpoint at 8:50 a.m. In another 40 minutes we were on the true top looking through the register. After signing the register we went back to the counterpoint to eat lunch. After we ate we started down and had a blast glissading and screaming from the col to our camp! It only took us 12 minutes to come down the same place it had taken us 2 hours to climb!! It was only 12:15 when we reached camp so we took our time packing up our stuff. When we got down to the car it was only 1:40 and it was hard to believe that we had already climbed Pioneer.

## MONTANA PEAK 6900'

JUNE 8, 1970

Norman Allen

On Monday morning, June 8, my Dad drove Art Ward and me from our home in Anchorage to the Susitna Lodge. The weather was socked in and there was a slight drizzle, but we started out with our packs anyway. Just past the bridge that crosses Reed Creek we came to a gate which said "Cattle. Keep Gate Closed." We climbed the gate and started down the cow trail. After rounding a curve in the trail we came face to face with some cows which looked pretty fierce to us. Yelling at these cows did no good; it just made them more curious. Art slowly slipped past them and I followed him closely. When we rounded the ridge of Idaho Peak that had blocked the view up the valley, we were really overwhelmed at the beauty of the valley. We could see all the way up to the headwall of Mint Glacier though the clouds covered most of the peaks in the valley. Continuing on the cow trail to within about  $\frac{1}{2}$  mile of the headwall, we crossed over to the right side of the Little Susitna River, approached, and ascended the first part of the wall on fairly large boulders. An ice gully that led to the left looked like our best bet up the wall so we roped up and Art proceeded to lead up the steep gully. Two-thirds of the way up the gully we crossed over to walk up mossy knolls to the top of the wall. While we climbed the gully it had begun to snow and hail and began to do so more heavily as we approached the end of Mint Glacier. Finally we saw the base of Montana Peak through the clouds. It was getting harder and harder to see anything except white so we stopped and set up our tent with fly. That night it snowed 4-6 inches and there were still whiteout conditions the next morning. Tuesday, June 9 we got out of the tent and built a snowman for something to do. Later we got back in our tent, sang some songs we knew until voices tuckered out, then decided we would eat our glop for the evening meal after we had each recited Robert Service's poem "The Cremation of Sam McGee" 10 times each for memory. Finally we finished, ate our glop, sang some more songs and went to sleep. The conditions hadn't changed by the next morning, but we were expected back at the Lodge by 4:00 p.m. so decided to strike out in the general direction we wanted to go. We came out under the clouds in time to see where to come down the headwall. We hiked on out to Susitna Lodge on time and safely although we had to make a run for it to get away from some overly curious cows. We didn't make the summit of Montana Peak but it was quite an experience to remember.



1 or 2 miles from the hilltop there will be a 10' by 50' trench on the left, turn left after this and go down the small dale until you pick up faint signs of the road again; road will head towards the right skyline of Granite and change into a good moose trail, climb to the east ridge and follow it to an obvious couloir leading to the summit. Large or inexperienced parties should be on guard for much loose and falling rock.

#### MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

Kenneth E. Anderson, D.V.M., 3104 Seward Highway, Anch. 03, 272-5124  
 Tom Bacon, 2600 W. Northern Lights Blvd., #4, Bldg. I, Anch. 03, 272-7380  
 Jim Boski, 7751 Island Dr., Anch. 04, 333-6610  
 Alva Best, Box 1076, Anch. 01, 279-8397  
 John Clare, 0'Halley Road, Star Route A, Box 1730H, Anch. 02, 344-1694  
 Thomas J. Cloonan, 1040 E. 15th, #5, Anch. 01, 272-3246  
 Mr. and Mrs. Dayton O. Curtis, 1829 E. 26th, Anch. 04, 272-9683  
 Richard Granse, 432 7th, Ft. Rich. 05  
 T. Sgt. Kenneth H. Lanson, 5000th Support Squadron, CHL 3, Box 7049, Elmendorf AFB 06  
 Catherine Stocks Kippenhan, 1304 W. 32nd, Anch. 03, 277-3336  
 Dan Kier, 602 W. 42nd, Anch. 03, 272-8837  
 Dave Lappi, 2929 Princeton Way, Anch. 03, 277-4990  
 Pete Martin, 3447 E. 08th, Anch. 03  
 Hans Metz, 3925 Lynn Dr., Anch. 04, 333-6670  
 Wesley Reed, Star Route A, Box 46-C, Anch. 02, 344-2458  
 George M. Rektenwald, Box 4-1330, Anch. 03, 279-3497 (work)  
 John F. Rogers, 7125 Jill Pl., Anch. 02  
 Barney Seiler, 903 W. Northern Lights Blvd., Anch. 03, 277-9018  
 Kurt W. Stedding, Jr., Box 4-121, Anch. 03

#### CHANGES OF ADDRESS

Steven A. Jones, 1510 West 30th Avenue, Anch. 03  
 Jim Kross, Box 986, Chugiak, Ak. 99567

#### BITS AND PIECES

A new Membership List is being planned for the August issue of SCREE. If you have any changes of address or phone number please notify Carol DeVoe, 243 South Park, Anchorage 99504, 333-5492.

FOR SALE: Triple hiking boots, Size 8, cost \$60 new, worn only once and will sell for \$40. Brigitte Ressel, 344-2676 (home), 279-3471 (work).

MCA EQUIPMENT will be stored at Marty Corcoran's in Eagle River until further notice. If you want to borrow equipment you can reach her at 694-2343 Eves or at 277-1561 days.

In May Grace Hoeman, Ned Lewis and Steve Hackett flew in to MOUNT DALL (8756') in the Alaska Range for a first ascent, but bad weather prevented them from making it.

On Saturday, July 4, Marty and Mike Corcoran spent a rainy and windy day hiking up to CROW PASS.

A most hardy hand shake and pat on the back go to our faithful leader, Randy Renner, who reached the summit of MOUNT MCKINLEY on Friday, June 26th about 8:30 p.m.!!!



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, Chuck Pease. Please send material for the August SCREE to Liska Snyder, 2806 Alder Drive, Anchorage, Alaska 99504 by Wednesday, July 29.

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FIRST CLASS