



MOUNTAINEERING CLUB OF ALASKA

BOX 2037

ANCHORAGE, ALASKA 99501

AUGUST 1971

VOL 14, NO. 8

AUGUST MEETING...Thursday August 19...8:00 p.m...Central Jr. High Multipurpose Room...15th and E...use E St. entrance...Program: Surprise! (In other words, not yet finalized by press time.) However, in addition to unknown program, Syd Stibbard of the Alaska Environmental Group will display a map of the Chugach State Park, on which he requests MCA members to show existing trails, needed trails and other information, etc. There will also be a refreshment break.

BOARD MEETING...Thursday September 2...7 p.m...at the DeVoe's...243 South Park.

MCA CALENDAR

August 14 (Sat.) GLACIER SCHOOL CLINIC #3 AT BYRON GLACIER (near Portage Glacier). The last session of the Glacier School will be held here and will be a one-day session for those who attended the one on August 7. Leader: Barry Kircher (333-5871).

August 15-20 (Sun.-Fri.) ARCTIC VALLEY TO CROW PASS TRAVERSE Allow a possible six days for this one and carry a pair of tennis shoes. Leader: Bill Stivers (277-2869).

August 21-22 (Sat.-Sun.) INDEPENDENCE MINE AREA rock climbing, hiking, camping weekend. For those interested in climbing some of the best rock in the area, meet at the Valu-Mart parking lot, 7:45 a.m. Others who are interested in hiking, camping, climbing and exploring on your own, come up any time during the day. Sat. evening we'll try to get together with guitars, etc., so if you have one please bring it along. Maps of the area will be available at the Aug. meeting. No sign-up necessary. If you plan to climb, bring an ice axe, hardhat, swami belt or chest harness. If you have a good Perlon rope, bring it. For those who were in the rock schools, here is a chance to get some climbing experience. Leader: Randy Renner (333-4025 eves.)

August 28-29 (Sat.-Sun.) MATANUSKA GLACIER Requires some glacier experience. No leader has been arranged yet. Call Bill Barnes Jr. (333-4609) for further details.

September 4-6 (Sat.-Mon.) HOPE TO COOPER LANDING - RESURRECTION PASS 34.6 miles. See Hike #27 of "30 Hikes" for details. Easy hiking on a maintained trail. Leader: Bill Barnes Sr. (333-4609).

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URGENT NEED FOR MIMEOGRAPH MACHINE. Does anyone work in a place or know of a place where we could run SCREE off on a Gestetner mimeo machine? It only takes a couple of hours once a month. If you can be of any help, please call Liska Snyder (279-2808).

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MCA ROCK SCHOOLS

May 29-30, June 26-27, 1971

Randy Renner

Short on instructors, long on the walk, and wrong on the weather pretty well sums up the Memorial Day weekend school. Thirty-five students and four instructors made up the group (51 had signed up). It seems as if the majority of the group thought we had to walk too far to get to the camping area at the base of East Twin Peak - well, maybe it was a bit far for the first time out, but it could have been through alders and Devil's Club instead of a nice road.

Camp was set up at noon, instruction began after lunch and an attempt at East Twin Peak was made in the late afternoon; however, blowing snow mixed with rock forced a retreat about 200' short of the top. Forty to fifty m.p.h. winds played "crack the tents" for most of the night, so when morning came, we abandoned the area and the rest of the school sessions for the weekend, too.

The second session on June 26th began at the base of the Little Susitna tooth where a few of the participants put on an exhibition. After the "show" we headed for the Fern Mine area. The day was absolutely beautiful and we had an enjoyable and leisurely session that lasted to late afternoon. Camp was set-up by a little before 6:00 and it was pouring rain by 7:00, so it was again decided to split the area and try again in August to get a climb in. (See MCA Calendar--Aug. 21-22).

Students: If you have any comments or suggestions, write a note to the climbing committee chairman.

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WILLIWAW LAKES

July 24, 1971

Dave DeVoe

"Remember that rainy weekend..." ("Which one?" you ask.) "That Saturday we almost walked to Williwaw Lakes...but the wind...and the rain..." ("Oh, that one.")

For further information, ask one of the following 22 people: Kaarina Abel, Gordon Bloxham, Robert and Ed Coleman, Carol, Dave, Jeanne, or Sharon DeVoe, Louise DeVoe, David Earl, Jean Fikkan, John Hobgood, Mike Howard, Wayne Johnson, Doug Kidwell, Paul Lemp, Larry and Jeff Munson, Brigitte Ressel, Kathy Selken, Fred Tuttle, or Anna Liese Vagner.

They may tell you about how wet Levis can get, or how raindrops carried by a 40-knot wind feel, or that they know what kind of gear they shouldn't have taken, or they may even be ready to lead you to Williwaw Lakes, now that they know the way...well, half way.

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NEW APPROACH TO ROUND TOP

July 10-11, 1971

Ken Merwin

With but a couple of days left for the visit of my sister and her family from Illinois, we wormed out of my 16 year old nephew, Lee Freeman, that he really had his heart set on achieving a mountain summit before returning to the flat land of the Midwest. Eager for any chance to initiate a new mountain tent and other gifts received for Father's Day, I decided that Round Top would offer a handy access, a great view and a challenging-but-not-discouraging-climb for Lee and a good initial trek for our nine-month old husky, Tok.

Because the day was hot (one of the few this summer) we planned a late afternoon start. Leaving the rest of our families camped at Eagle River we headed for the Ptarmigan Ski Area. (Incidentally, 30 Hikes indicates taking a left fork in the road shortly after leaving the Old Glenn. There is no longer any choice since the right fork is closed off.) Arriving at the place where the creek crosses the road by an abandoned bulldozer we found the area posted "No Trespassing". A year earlier this was not the case and access was by the route described in 30 Hikes.

We parked SUPER BUG (our VW bus, that is) just below the creek and were contemplating the change in plans when a jeep rolled up. The driver explained that he had leased the property and was living in the A-frame at the old ski area. Vandals and other inconsiderate

people had made it necessary for him to post the property. I told him we were intent only on climbing Round Top and asked if we could hike on up the road to the normal access. He indicated that he didn't want us to do this lest others be allowed the same privilege and put him back where he started. He had no objection, however, to our crossing the creek to take a route to the left of the hills in front of Round Top.

With this settled, it was 5:30 p.m. when we set out. We found that the best route is to go 145° from the intersection of the road and creek to a lone pine tree, then 95° through alder to clear tundra. We checked this going and coming and found it to be the most open route with less than 50 yards of alder. After breaking onto the open tundra, we traversed left around the first peak cutting to below the lesser peak directly to the north of Round Top. From there it is very easy routing to the small saddle between this peak and Round Top. Return is by the same route.

Tok learned a lot about hiking during the first 45 minutes. He finally found that instead of running ahead 100 yards and racing back, he was distinctly advantaged to run ahead and then lie down to rest until we caught up. As the white husky encountered his first snow patch he nuzzled in it, dug in it, ate it and finally tried to roll in it, whereupon he began to slide. For this he wasn't prepared. We were doubled up with laughter as he skidded downhill with all four legs in "full brake" position. I remember thinking at this point, "I wish I could write this up ala Buddy Jaidinger!" Alas, such talent will have to be left to him!

On Round Top's summit at 10 p.m. we took pictures and Lee proudly put his name on the register with such as Vin and Grace Hoeman, Bob Spurr and others about whom I had told him. I noticed that almost a year to the day earlier (July 14, 1970) I had written in the register that it was spitting snow, was cold and windy. Not so this year. Midnight temperature was 53°. By 7 a.m. it was 56° and when we left our camp at 8:30 it had risen to 62°. (You guessed it--the Father's Day gifts included a new thermometer.)

On the trek the mosquitoes were unbearable and we felt that we were the first feast they had had this summer! Praise be to "Cutters"! A good supper on the top, the view of McKinley at sunset, the lights of the city, visibility that brought all 13 inlet flares into view, root beer cooled in the high mountain snow, the comfort of down bags in a great new tent--all these brought to a close a memorable day for a young prairielander and his still-almost-in-shape uncle.

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BOLD PEAK (7,522')

July 3-5, 1971

Bill Stivers

This is a sequel to Brent Ulmer's interesting account of his Bold Peak climb over the Memorial Day weekend published in the July SCREE.

On Saturday July 3, Terry Small, Bob West, my son Jim and I climbed from the North Fork of Eklutna River up the canyon to establish our camp in the 4,000' upper cirque. We followed the same route as Brent and Jerry. The only snow encountered below the upper cirque was a snow bridge across the creek just above the lower cirque. There was a high cloud cover, and the temperature 60°. The wind was light and intermittent.

Sunday July 4, was warm and clear. There were only occasional light breezes. We traversed snow fields and snow-covered rock, reaching the summit at 1:00 p.m. The register is located in a recess at the top of a large stone a hundred yards or so north of the southern end of the flat summit. I assume that Brent did not proceed far enough north on the summit to locate the register.

Descent to camp was fast. We did sitting glissades down the steeper snow fields. Just before reaching camp we spotted the remains of the moose that Brent had discovered, and also wondered why the animal had wandered into such inhospitable territory. Carnivora had thoroughly stripped the carcass. Only scattered bones and hair remained.

Monday was another beautiful day. We descended the gorge and stopped for lunch on a gravel bar in the North Fork of Eklutna River.

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WEDGE (4660') and RAMP (5240')
Anchorage Quad A-7

July 5, 1971

Patrick Freeny, M.D.

Late in the morning, my dog, Jumar, and I drove up Upper Huffman to Powerline Pass road, following the South Fork of Campbell Creek to its junction with a small tributary coming from Hidden Lake and the cirque formed by the Wedge (4660'), the Ramp (5240'), Hidden Peak (5105') and O'Malley Peak (5150'). Hiking up the tributary into the cirque, we followed the north side of the buttress formed by Peak 4160 and the Wedge around Rocky Lake (all rocks, no water) up to a gentle snowfield to the col between the Ramp and the Wedge (4050'). Seven Dall sheep (5 ewes and 2 lambs) were seen grazing on the east (Ship Creek) side of the Ramp. We ascended the Wedge on a gentle scree slope south to the summit ridge, where Jumar proceeded to capture a ground squirrel. A large cairn with a bamboo pole was found, but no register was located. Jumar led down to the col and northeast to the ridge between the Ramp and Hidden Peak, then up the southwest ridge to the summit of the Ramp (this was a route error: loose scree covered this approach, while the southeast--Ship Creek side--offers an almost continuous ascent on firm tundra with only occasional scree). Due to a sudden thunderstorm, I did not take time to read the rather long conglomerated register in the cairn. We descended the southwest ridge and traversed to a ridge which forms a cul-de-sac containing Hidden Lake (still mostly ice-covered). Following the ridge, we glissaded to the floor of the cirque and walked back to the South Fork. (An interesting extension of this loop would be to ascend the northwest ridge of Peak 4160, at the entrance to the cirque, traverse the entire ridge, crossing Peak 4160, and the Wedge, descend to the col, climb to the Ramp, traverse the ridge to Hidden Peak and/or O'Malley, and then return along the ridge which contains Hidden Lake.)

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SUICIDE PEAKS (5005', 5065')
Anchorage Quad A-7

July 10, 1971

Patrick Freeny, M.D.

Early Saturday morning I met Paul and Marilyn Duncan (both physicians at the ANS Hospital) at their camp on the edge of Rabbit Creek. We hiked up the creek to Rabbit Lake, still greatly covered with ice, and ascended on the south side of the col between the Suicides by following a steep snowfield to the bottom of a large scree-filled couloir running southwest towards the summit of Suicide I (5005'). This couloir runs just behind the prominent notch and gendarme on the north side of Suicide I. Finding the loose scree less than enjoyable, we climbed out of the couloir about 200 feet after leaving the snowfield and enjoyed a nice climb on Chugach portable-handhold rock. Leaving the col, we ascended the broad northeast scree slope to the ridge above Rainbow Creek, following it northwest to the summit. A micro-cairn was found with a good register. We descended to the col by the same route, ate lunch, then ascended Suicide II (5065') along the prominent southwest ridge (a much nicer climb on firm tundra with only occasional scree) to a notch in the long southeast ridge, about 200 feet below the summit. A good climb on reasonable rock led us to the summit. No cairn was found, but Betty Ivanoff and John Samuelson had left their names on July 5, 1971, in a small cellophane sack wedged in a crack on the summit. Looking for a different route for descent, we chose to climb down the northeast ridge to the col (3900'+) just above the northeast end of Rabbit Lake. We set up belays several times for protection. The climb from the col to a steep snow couloir was interesting. A few steps down the steepest part, then a long glissade to the lake terminated the descent. An interesting continuation would have been to cross the col, ascend north to the ridge which runs essentially east from Ptarmigan (4880'), then descend Ptarmigan's southern slope.

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"But if you prefer the flower by the trailside, remember there are no trails except brown bear paths and hundreds of miles of waterways. No trails in the usual sense, but why should there be? There are beaches, moraines, snowfields, forests, coves, inlets. With two legs and a million years of experience behind us, what more is needed? Two legs, and stay clear of the alder."

...David Bohn from Glacier Bay...

A NEW PUBLICATION ABOUT MT. MCKINLEY

A new close-up of Mount McKinley in words and photos is provided in "A Tourist Guide to Mount McKinley" by Bradford Washburn, director of Boston's Museum of Science and foremost authority on the continent's highest mountain.

Published by Alaska Northwest Publishing Company, publishers of ALASKA magazine, the MILEPOST and THE ALASKA JOURNAL, the 80-page book is now available in both soft and hard cover editions. It includes more than 100 black and white and color photos of the great mountain and the animals, birds and flowers of Mount McKinley National Park, the most complete coverage of the famed mountain so far published.

Other features include a Milepost guide which describes major points of interest on the 90 miles of road within the park. A history of man's acquaintance with the mountain described by Washburn as "among the most magnificent mountains on earth" is included as well as a record of the 89 ascents through 1970.

In introducing the new book, Publisher Bob Henning described Washburn as "the ideal man to write this valuable book." A member of the third expedition to reach McKinley's summit in a 1942 climb, Washburn has lived for over 200 days on Mount McKinley and has visited it every month of the year except February.

Copies of "A Tourist Guide to Mount McKinley" can be ordered from Alaska Northwest Publishing Company, Box 4-EEE, Anchorage, Alaska 99509. Prices are \$4.20 for softbound and \$7.75 for hardbound copies.

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WHAT-SCREE-SAID-WAY-BACK-THEN-DEPT.

10 years ago...August 1961

Rod Wilson invited newcomer Bill Davis to join them on an "easy one day hike"...much to Bill's amazement this easy hike to Bold Peak consisted of "4,000 ft. of altitude gain, 14 hours walking, 4 hours driving where no car should ever go, rain, snow, fog, and wind but no summit"!...A group of MCA'ers spent a day examining the old miner's shack at Crow Pass to determine what repairs would be required to make it a habitable MCA shelter.

5 years ago...August 1966

Gayle and Helen Nienhuesser made a first ascent of "Peek-A-Boo" Peak (6950') up the Eagle River Valley...Six kids ages ranging from 4 to 10 accompanied their MCA parents on a $3\frac{1}{2}$ mile overnight to Ptarmigan Lake (mile 24 Seward Highway).

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BITS AND PIECES

Bob Spurr (MCA president 1968-1969) writes from Albuquerque, N. Mex.: "Hello from the southwest. We are down here for the month of July to do some research connected with Geophysical Institute. Fled Albuquerque heat to Sangre de Cristo Mtns. over July 10-11. The whole family packed up to Williams Lake (11,000'), one of those classic western alpine lakes complete with rainbow trout for fishermen types. Also lots of flowers, green grass, and sunshine. Next day Tricia (age 7) followed her dad to the top of Wheeler Peak (13,161'), New Mexico's highest. Hope to be back in Anchorage Sept. 1."

LOST: at the June Rock School. Men's diamond ring, black onyx (oval shape) with two diamonds. Lost in area where we camped. Reward. Randy Renner.

There has been a great demand for MCA equipment this summer. It would be very much appreciated if you return the equipment as soon as you are through using it. Thank you!

Patrick Freeny has a pair of size 10½ Lowa Heibler Siger Triplex high altitude boots with extra pair of liners. For Sale. Call 279-6661 during day or 333-6971 in evenings.

Charles Kibler reports on a trip to Bold Peak:

"The car was parked by Sklutna Lake at the base of a jeep trail, in sec 24. Dan Klinefelter and I then walked 7½ miles to the base of the canyon on the south side of the peak; climbed north, then east up the canyon to the 5600' pass, then up SE face to the peak. Descent was by NE ridge (going around steep spots), a snow bank into NW valley, 2 miles down the valley, and finally down the jeep trail to the car for a 1 day (complete traverse?)."

CLIMB MONT BLANC...(15,771') the highest peak in the Alps! Enjoy 3 weeks of beautiful fall weather. Roy Genet will escort a group of Alaskans who will depart Anchorage for Geneva on October 15, 1971. Included in the low group price is the use of a car. For details call 277-1414.

Carol DeVoe has agreed to fill in as MCA secretary until the October election. Betty Ivanoff will be traveling for the rest of the year.

Many MCA'ers have expressed a need for social get-togethers in addition to the monthly meetings. These could be in any form: supper parties, dances, rap sessions, game nights, fireside gatherings...any more ideas? But more important, we need someone to volunteer to coordinate these activities, set them up, form a committee, etc. If interested in this lucrative and rewarding position, please contact Eivin Brudie.

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SCREE

Monthly publication of the Mountaineering Club of Alaska (affiliated with the Anchorage Department of Parks and Recreation). Please send material for the August SCREE to Liska Snyder, 2806 Alder Dr., Anchorage, Alaska 99504 by Thursday, September 2.

EDITOR.....Liska Snyder

TYPISTS.....Doris Curtis, Kathy Selken

MAILING STAFF...Carol DeVoe, Joanne Merrick,
Betty Newman, Wanda Pease

DUES (Send to MCA, Box 2037, Anchorage 99501)

FAMILY.....\$7.50

SENIOR.....\$5.00

JUNIOR.....\$2.50 (under 18)

OUT-OF-TOWN...\$2.50 (50 miles from Anchorage)

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