



MOUNTAINEERING CLUB OF ALASKA

BOX 2037

ANCHORAGE, ALASKA 99510

JUNE 1972

VOL. 15, NO. 6

JUNE MEETING... Thursday, June 15, 1972... 8:00 PM... Central Junior High Multipurpose Rm... Program: Minislide presentation by Steve Hackett of slides of the local area... Business Meeting... Refreshments... Dick Thompson of the Bureau of Land Management will speak regarding Campbell Airstrip property.

A PARTY!!! A PRE-FLATTOP & OPEN HOUSE PARTY June 23rd Right! Both at the same time!! Randy Renner extends a cordial invitation to you to come to a Pre-Flattop & Open House Party. Where? 1603 W. 33rd Downstairs Come anytime after 8:00 PM on June 23rd for free beer, good hospitality, etc. etc.

HIKING & CLIMBING SCHEDULE

June 17 (Sat.) EAST TWIN PASS & PEAK RESCHEDULED Hikers welcome - can stop at the pass; climbers to the summit via the East Ridge. This peak needs a good cairn and register so be prepared! Depart Valu-mart parking lot at 6:30 AM. LEADER: BOB SPURR, 344-6067 evenings.

June 24 & 25 (Sat. & Sun.) ANNUAL FLATTOP SLEEP-IN Longest weekend of the year. Bring tent, camping gear and lots of fellowship along with a log for the fire. Good chance to catch up on all the latest climbs, equipment, etc. NO LEADER: Go up on your own or with friends sometime Saturday. For directions or any questions you may have call RANDY RENNER 274-1460 even.

June 25 (Sun.) PTARMIGAN LAKE Depart from Ptarmigan Creek campground for Ptarmigan Lake, approximately three miles. Follow good trail through conifer forest, alder and elephant grass. Lunch and fish at the lake opposite the north face of glaciated Andy Simonds Mts. LEADER: EIVIN BRUDIE, 344-2261 evenings.

June 24 - July 3 KENAI WILDERNESS & RESURRECTION TRAIL First of all, SURPRISE MOUNTAIN area June 24 through 27. Begin Resurrection Trail on June 28. On June 28, Caribou Creek Cabin; June 29, East Creek Cabin; June 30, Swan Lake; and July 1, Juneau Lake Cabin. July 2 through 4, Russian Lakes Trail. If you are interested in hiking part or all of the above on the dates indicated, contact Kathy Selken (272-1561, 8:00 AM to 4:00 PM).

July & 2 (Sat & Sun.) LOST LAKE, KENAI PENINSULA Excellent six-mile trail, spectacular views of Mt. Ascension 5810' and unclimbed Resurrection Peaks LEADER: TO BE ANNOUNCED.

July 4 (Tues. Holiday) SHEEP MOUNTAIN, KENAI MOUNTAINS 6250', formerly Wolcot Mountain. Depart from bridge at Snow River inlet to Kenai Lake.

SHEEP MTN. (cont.) Climb initial 4000' over grass, flowers, heather and limited scree to relay station on NW ridge. Hikers can stop here; climbers can continue along ridge to summit. Good views of prominent Seward area peaks. Most accessible of Kenai six-thousand footers. **LEADER: RANDY RENNER, 274-1460** evenings.

July 3 (Sat.) MATANUSKA PEAK ANNUAL 6119' Long climb over shoulder of Lazy Mountain and up ridge to summit--an endurance ascent. Views of northwestern Chugach, Matanuska Valley, Talkeetnas, Knik Glacier, etc. **LEADER: DAVE DEVOE, 333-5492** evenings.

July 15 & 16 (Sat. & Sun) PIONEER PEAK 6398'. DETAILS TO BE ANNOUNCED.

Trips scheduled for July and August will include **LOWER TOWER, MONTANA, LYNX, GRANITE, CROW PASS AND EKLUTNA GLACIER.** Details later.

CONDENSED MINUTES OF MCA MEETING OF MAY 18, 1972

Pat Freeny showed slides of cross-country skiing in the South Fork Eagle River Valley. Minutes of the April meeting in May SCREE were approved. The MCA treasury shows a balance of \$603.78; the Brooks Range Fund \$195.60. Bob Spurr will mail out a list of summer hikes and climbs. Rock School is scheduled for the last three weekends of July. Glacier School will be the last two weekends of August. Helen Nienhueser has received the check print for 55 HIKES. Tom Meacham gave the Conservation Committee report. MCA members worked in Earthquake Park on the Borough Cleanup Day. Nordic Ski Club has invited MCA to participate in building Chester Creek Trail. Contact John Saxenbald for information. Barbara Winkley is working on getting the Old Iditarod Trail recognized as a National Historic Trail. She is organizing a protest hike for that section between Eagle River and Girdwood. June 14th is the hearing on regulations for Chugach Park. People are asked to express their feelings concerning the BLM Plan for the Campbell Airstrip area in letters or on available questionnaires. Grants for the support of the Alaska Center for the Environment have not come through yet. Helen Nienhueser and Sharon Cissna are working on a fund raising program. Make your checks for the Center out to the Alaska Environmental Institute. Pat Freeny is leaving Alaska and Gil Todd will replace him as Treasurer. Marie Lundstrom reported that she has custody of the Hoeman Mountaineering and Outdoors Library for two years while Chuck and Wanda Pease are away from Alaska. The books may be viewed at 1601 F Street. The Annual Flattop Sleep-In will be June 24 and 25th. The July meeting will be the annual picnic at Goose Lake. More people are needed to contribute information about trips to SCREE. Dave Johnston and George Maynard showed slides of their March Ruth Glacier trip.

Respectfully submitted, Joanne Merrick, Acting Sec.

PRESIDENT'S PEN

Those of you who breathlessly await the arrival of SCREE to read this corner will be bitterly disappointed this month. The President's Pen is out of ink. Have fun!

- Wendell Odarkirk -

CONSERVATION COMMENT

This issue of SCREE contains a checklist questionnaire concerning the future use of the Campbell Airstrip property. The BLM (Bureau of Land Management, U. S. Govt.) currently has management responsibility for the area, but the City and the Borough are playing tug-of-war for the future use of the property. Where do recreationists fit--in the Borough's subdivisions and gravel pits or in the City's new airport?

The June MCA Program will feature a presentation of the BLM's hopes for the Campbell property. Their decision is expected by July 1st. These form letters (or longer, individual letters if you have time) can have a timely and effective impact on the BLM decision.-- It is known, for example, that the BLM favors continued recreation and watershed use of the Campbell area, but needs a visible display of public support in order to justify such a decision. So let them know how you feel!

The MCA received a "Certificate of Appreciation" from the Borough and Mr. Asplund himself for its participation in the Borough-wide Cleanup Day. Perhaps Earthquake Park appreciates being relieved of the burden of supporting eight tires, countless broken bottles and McDonald's wrappers and 30 garbage bags full of assorted trash, at least temporarily.

Thanks are due to Barry and Ruth Kircher, Dave DeVoe, Jane Meacham and a new MCA member whose name I have misplaced (I'm sorry!) for participating in this year's project.

- Tom Meacham -

HOEMAN MOUNTAINEERING LIBRARY

The extensive Hoeman collection of Mountaineering books has been temporarily transferred to the home of Marie Lundstrom, 1601 F Street. (Cars must use the alley between E and F Streets.) Anyone wishing to borrow books, please contact Marie at 272-0358. Since many people may not be aware of the contents of the library, SCREE will periodically list some of the books that are available. This month's list is of books on Alaskan mountains.

1. TO THE TOP OF THE CONTINENT by Frederick A. Cook, 1908, 321 pp. 32 illus. Story of Cook's claim (not recognized today as correct) to making the first ascent of Mount McKinley.

2. THE SHAMELESS DIARY OF AN EXPLORER by Robert Dunn, 1907, 297 pp., 11 illus. and 2 foldout maps. Another man's version of the same climb.

3. BRADFORD ON MOUNT FAIRWEATHER by Bradford Washburn, 1930, 127 pp. The first ascent.

4. MT. MCKINLEY, THE PIONEER CLIMBS by Terris Moore, 1967, 202 pp.

5. A LIST OF PUBLICATIONS RELATING TO THE MOUNTAINS OF ALASKA by Francis P. Farquhar and Mildred P. Ashley, 1934, 37 pp. An excellent reference pamphlet.

6. CLIMATE-GLACIER STUDIES IN THE JUNEAU ICE FIELD REGION ALASKA by Melvin G. Marcey, 1964, 128 pp.

7. A HISTORY OF MOUNTAINEERING IN THE ST. ELIAS MOUNTAINS by Walter A. Wood, 1967, 45 pp. Two copies on hand. Still available from the Canadian Alpine Club for \$1.50.

3. KEYSTONE CANYON STATE PARK by Joseph E. Hoffman, Oct, 1970, 90 pp.
9. SKI TOURING IN THE ANCHORAGE AREA by Leo Hannan, Jan., 1970.
10. APPALACHIA: Dec. '36 - First Ascent of Waddington, June '49 - Ascent from Mendenhall Glacier, Dec. '55 - Attempt on Mt. Witherspoon, Dec. '57 - Climbs in the Central Chugach, Jun '61 and Dec '63 - The Wickersham Wall, Jun '64 - Denali and East Buttress, Dec. '64 - 4000 Footers, Jun '68 - South Face of McKinley.
11. Plus over 230 other interesting books!

- Chuck Pease -

ROUNDTOP, VISTA, BLACKTAIL June 4, 1972 Trent Swanson

Scott Mueller and I got off to a late start on our way up Roundtop. At two in the afternoon we started up through sparse brush towards the ridge. Our spirits were partially dampened by clouds but after reaching the first peak, Roundtop 4755', we did a jig down snow drifts on the way to Vista 5070'. Midway down the ridge the gentle slope turned up towards the peak. Near the top we were cutting steps in the hard packed snow with our trusty ice axes. Reaching the top of the rock, we signed in at the register only to turn around and descend in precut, precarious footholds. Once stable ground was underfoot we scrambled across drifts and rocks on our way to Blacktail 4446'. At nine that evening we sat on Blacktail's top and let a satisfying weariness come over us.

Bouncing down the muskeg we descended past the run-down Ptarmigan Ski Resort to the car. The ride down the rocky road was interrupted by a few rays of sun which streamed down far to the north, seeming to set the many small lakes on fire and sending a warmth into our weary but happy spirits.

WEATHER-IN ON WHITEOUT May 21-26, 1972 Bob Spurr ANCHORAGE OUADES B-6, A-6

Members Tom Bowman, Bob Carmichael, Guy Marshall, Sam Means and Jim Moriarty of my AMU mountaineering class made a six-day ski trip with me into Eklutna and Whiteout Glaciers. Overflow ice on the road forced an eight-mile jaunt on foot into the Army Camp. We spent the night of May 22 at Pickler's Perch before moving further up glacier to the Whiteout cabin next morning - just ahead of a new weather front.

Two days of storm squelched all climbing. No Sahara reflector oven for us. With an early start on our last available day, we managed to salvage a pleasant sunrise ascent of Hut Peak via its NNE ridge before skiing, cramponing and trekking the 20 miles out to the car. (Hut Peak 6695', an independent summit only 5/8 of a mile and 700 vertical feet SSW of the Whiteout cabin, is amazingly the highest landmark south of Beelzebub, west of Whiteout, east of Organ and north of Girdwood and beyond.)

For the benefit of horny, weathered-in climbers and also those X-C skiers flying in for luxury summer train-ins, the boys donated THE SENSUOUS COUP to the hut's growing library. Time from the Whiteout cabin to the Army Camp is 4 hours and 40 minutes.

EAST TWIN PEAK 5873'

June 4, 1972

Tom Meacham

On a cloudy Sunday Jan-Eric Neld and I trudged up East Twin's too familiar access trail, both hoping to reach the summit this time after being thwarted on previous winter and summer trips by daylight, injury, snow, rain, fog and most other impediments. Aiming high on the summit ridge from the right-hand approach, we ate an 11:00 AM lunch after reaching the wind tunnel ridge line.

Three rope leads and some short step-kicking in snow patches sans axe or crampons (axe in the car, crampons at home) put us on the summit, still buried in snow. Register inaccessible for another couple of weeks, at least. High overcast, but surrounding peaks and upper Eklutna Valley clearly visible, as we listened to the "music" of the Polar Dragstrip on the Palmer side and a home-steader's chainsaw on the Eklutna side. At least the sounds were distant and often obscured by wind.

We explored the possibility of descending the west ridge to the East-West Twin Pass, but six rope lengths brought us to a gendarme with uncertain prospects so we traversed diagonally across the south "face" of the peak to a central buttress ridge and descended via sheep paths and scree. Some snow patches and water-ice, but no problems. And the 20th June weather held the Chugach crud in place on the face, eliminating rockfall problems which might arise on a warmer day. Not yet summer, but a good climb . . . and Jan-Eric's tales of travel adventures and climbing in the Alps made the blisters seem less annoying.

KNOYA 4500+50

May 8, 1972

Pat Freeny

ANCHORAGE CUAD A-7

Monday morning, May 3, I parked at the entrance to the "Wolverine Road" (see SCREE 13:4, 1970) and skied to the end of the road at the base of Near Point. Only patches of snow remained on Near Point, so I left my skis and climbed to the top, dropped down to the second distinct notch and descended into the valley of the North Fork of Campbell Creek. Crossing a few snow patches, I followed the southwest ridge of Knoya to a high gendarme. The summit was further along the ridge and it was late so I returned to my skis, finding that the previously snow-covered road had been reduced to a quagmire of mud and rocks by the morning sun. I carried my skis part way, forded a small lake (on skis--very cold) and returned home.

Saturday morning, May 13, Dan Chisholm and I returned to the "Wolverine Road" with Jumar and Dan's three Labradors, Bell, Baby and Blue. No skis this time, we walked to the top of Near Point while being amused by the last of the great snowmachiners grinding through the mud in an attempt to drive up to the base of Wolverine. We dropped into the North Fork Valley and climbed up the large gulley which runs southwest from Knoya's summit. The summit was still snow covered, but most of the lower slope was clear. Only a few patches of snow remain in the lower part of the valley, making access to Knoya, Kanchee, Tanaina and Tikishia quite nice. Two Bald Eagles soared above us most of the morning. No other game was seen.

BITS & PIECES

THANK YOU VERY MUCH JOANNE MERRICK! Joanne did a fantastic job as Acting Secretary at last month's meeting. Joanne already has plenty of responsibility in our club--she is in charge of MCA equipment and a member of our mailing staff--and other organizations as well--being Secretary of Alaska Rescue Group for one. Thank you for making time for one more job and the good job.

IT'S A BOY!! Ian Willis is the new son of Ted and Ginny Moore. His birthdate was April 13. Probably a future president of MCA!

IT'S A GIRL!! George and Betty Maynard became the proud parents of a girl, Shanti Maya (Hindu for peace and love) on April 26th. Undoubtedly another conqueror of Mt. McKinley!

Wendell Oderkirk states "While our McKinley team is officially known as 'The Mountaineering Club of Alaska 1972 McKinley Expedition,' I wish to serve notice that our team is not MCA sanctioned or backed. We chose this name because (1) the Park Service wants an expedition name, (2) five of our six members are MCA members, and (3) three of our six members are MCA officers or Committee Chairmen. Therefore, the MCA title seemed quite appropriate to us."

On May 30, 1972, Scott Mueller and Trent Swanson climbed the Ramp 5240'.

Larry Swanson and Marty Corcoran spent April 29 through May 4 hiking up Granite Creek and camping at the lake at 3352' on Anchorage quad D-6. The day before they returned, May 3, Larry made a first recorded ascent of Peak 6436 southwest of the lake.

Another spring climb of South Suicide 5005' was made on May 7 by MCAers Barry Johnson, Fritz and Durhane Rieger with Bob Spurr and his AMU mountaineering class of Tom Bowman, Bob Carmichael, Guy Marshall, Sam Means and Jim Moriarty. The five-mile ski approach and thousand-foot elevation gain up Rabbit Creek Valley took them out of the whiteout and clouds which shrouded Anchorage most of the day. Their route went about halfway up "Hauser's Gully" (N. gully) and exited up the headwall, popping them over the southern end of its catenary cornice.

On Sunday, May 14, Eklutna weather turned back from East Twin seventeen assorted climbers, mostly wet and getting setter, who resolved to return in dryer conditions.

On May 9, the AMU mountaineering class did all of Art Davidson's "First Something" off the Seward Highway. May 16 saw them practicing prussik, pulley, modified pulley and bilgeri crevasse rescue techniques in a very appropriate 30-90 ft. crevasse on the Matanuska Glacier.

Bob Coleman requests that anyone climbing O'Malley place the register in a safe place. On April 30th it was buried in the snow a short distance from the pole. Also, please sign Bob and his brother's names to the register.

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WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

		Home	Work
ARNOLD, Ricky	SRA Box 223 Anc	344-1753	
ASHLEY, Judy	1310 Nelchina Anc	372-7665	
COOK, Walter	General Del., Indian, AK		
COTTS, Warren	SRA Box 223, Anc	344-1753	279-8686
			Ext. 288
DAVIDSON, Sandi	1326 Nichols Ave. Anc		277-5686
ENGSTROM, C. S.	138 W. 12th Ave. Anc	274-4440	272-4441
KRAMER, Sue	Box 79, Star Route A Anc	344-3602	277-7541
LESLEY, Charles	3708 McCall St. Apt. #2		
	Salt Lake City, Utah		
LYPOARD, Bill	1628 Logan St Anc	272-3997	
MELMS, Rich	3964 Reka Dr. #5 Anc	333-2912	
RICH, Jim	7001 Rovenna #1 Anc	344-7720	
ULMER, Reed C.	Box 1420 Anc	344-1260	277-2567

ADDRESS CHANGES

BIERBOWER, Barbara	814 Kinau Apt 207 Honolulu, Hawaii	96814
LEE, Vincent	P. O. Box 1396, Kenai, AK	99611
RENNER, Randy	New HOME PH: 274-1460	
SPURKLAND, Tobben	P. O. Box 1117, Petersburg, AK	99833 --Until Nov.

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

Ten years ago - June, 1962 - Vin Hoeman reported climbing Twin Peaks 5873 and 5401 with John Dillman. A porcupine and mountain sheep were seen. On a climb up Mount Magnificent 4285 by Vin Hoeman he ran into Ed Fisher and Dr. Don Kettlecamp looking for bear. Sheep and goats were visible and a black bear was stalked until the wind changed and "the bear bounced over the ridge with a nosefull of that terrible man-stink." Marguerite St. Palley did a writeup on Parmigan Lake. The trail was scenic. However, the trail was temporarily lost in a clearing. After scouting for 20 minutes a slight path leading in another direction was followed and it led up a steep grassy slope. From the slope the hikers found a very well worn trail which ran along the side of the mountain like a shelf.

Five years ago - June, 1967 - George F. Herben, Jr. wrote an essay entitled, "In Defense of Mountain Climbs." He wrote in reply to the negative comments he had heard on the subject of the McKinley winter ascent. His first observation was that many people who criticize mountaineering are those who know the least about it. Two first ascents were reported. Hans van der Laan, Frank Nosek, Gary Hansen and Bill Long made a first ascent of Mount Gannett 10,000+. A first ascent of Whiteout Peak 7135' was made by Bill Hauser, Kyle Atkins, Gordon Reese, Dr. Charles Munns and Dr. Ward Hubert.