

# SCREE



MOUNTAINEERING CLUB OF ALASKA

BOX 2037

ANCHORAGE, ALASKA 99510

JUNE 1973

VOL. 16, NO. 6

JUNE MEETING...Thursday, June 21, 1973...GOOSE LAKE...6:30 PM...  
BRING YOUR FAMILY, KIDS, FRISBEES, SOME WOOD FOR THE FIRE, YOUR OWN  
FOOD & UTENSILS AND YOUR ENTHUSIASM. DON'T FORGET YOUR FAVORITE INSECT  
REPELLENT. COME HAVE A GOOD TIME!!!

BOARD MEETING...There will not be a Board Meeting in July.

## CLIMBING AND HIKING SCHEDULE

June 23 & 24 - Sat. & Sun.-- ANNUAL FLATTOP SLEEP-IN - LONGEST DAY OF  
THE YEAR PARTY. Bring a log for the fire and a bottle or whatever  
you like. Should be fun for the whole family. Easy two-hour walk  
to the top; may be a little longer if you're carrying a lot of fire-  
wood. Bring a kite to fly if you have one. Contact Tom Meacham for  
information. Home PH: 277-2129.

July 8 - Sunday - ANNUAL MATANUSKA PEAK CLIMB 6119. Climb up over  
Lazy Mountain and then up long ridge to the summit. Excellent views  
of the Matanuska Valley and surrounding area. People not wishing to  
complete the whole climb can wait on Lazy Mt. and enjoy the view from  
there. LEADER to be announced.

SEE PAGE 2 FOR MORE BACKPACKING TRIPS (designed for inexperienced--all  
CONDENSED MINUTES OF GENERAL MCA MEETING HELD ON MAY 17, 1973 welcome)

Pres. Tom Meacham called the meeting to order. Treasurer's re-  
port: Cash on Hand \$65.15, Savings \$159.85 and Checking \$613.10.  
The Schools Committee (Mike Richardson) reported on their progress and  
plans. Doris Curtis has resigned from the Parks & Recreation Council.  
Interested MCA members are asked to apply to fill the vacancy. The  
Council meets at AMU at noon.

Following is a brief resume of the Conservation Committee's pro-  
posed statement to the Land Use Planning Commission as presented by  
Tom Meacham: While the far greater number of witnesses have recom-  
mended multiple use of the land, the committee believes that some of  
the lands should be designated for single use. Generally speaking,  
they believed that the multiple use concept should apply where timber  
or other resources were abundant. They recommend the following for  
consideration as National Park areas: Central Brooks Range, Noatak-  
Kobuk area, Lake Clark-Iliamna additions and a portion of the Wrangell  
Mountains. They recommend for Wildlife Refuges: Yukon Flats, Togiak  
Region of the Alaska Peninsula which is a brown bear habitat. A motion  
was made and seconded that MCA approve the testimony and it was  
unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted, Dona Agosti, Secretary

P R E S I D E N T ' S   P E N

Wendell and Shirley Oderkirk and their two girls are planning to leave the Alaska scene on June 15, trading our magnificent mountains for the flatlands of Cedar Rapids, Iowa. Wendell will be working toward a bachelor's degree in nursing or hospital administration, an area of study which has intrigued him for many years. The Oderkirks have been active MCA members the past few years, with Wendell serving as President in 1971-72, and organizing several of our mountaineering schools. And a large portion of his energy has been spent on expedition mountaineering--Mt. Dall and attempts on Marcus Baker, Foraker and Mt. McKinley.

The Club wishes the Oderkirks the best of luck and success in Iowa, and we look forward to seeing you back in Anchorage in three years! The Oderkirks' address will be: 3601 Lynbrook Drive N.E.  
Cedar Rapids, Iowa 52402

BACKPACKING TRIPS FOR THE INEXPERIENCED

All MCA members with backpacking experience are also welcome on these trips.

June 16-17, Sat. & Sun. - INDIAN PASS TO ARCTIC VALLEY Meet at Gary Kings at 8:30 AM for this 20-mile trip. Bring about \$5 to defray costs on van rental; van will be taken to Indian. Van will be used to solve problem of car being at the start of the hike instead of the end. Charge may be less than \$5--depends on number of people. This is Trip No. 27 in 55 WAYS TO THE WILDERNESS IN SOUTHCENTRAL ALASKA (55 HIKES).

June 23-24, Sat. & Sun. - SUMMIT CREEK AND DEVILS PASS (Part of the Resurrection Trail System) Trip No. 14 in 55 HIKES. Meet at Barneys at 6:30 AM. This trip is 19 1/2 miles.

June 30-July 2, Sat., Sun., & Mon. - CROW PASS TO EAGLE RIVER. Meet at Eberhards at 6:30 AM for this trip. It is Trip No. 25 in 55 HIKES.

For further information and details regarding the above trips, contact Bill Barnes, Sr. at 333-4609. The only cost other than the trip using the van, is MCA membership (See Page 8 for membership costs).

A D D R E S S   C H A N G E S

Wendell Oderkirk & Family    3601 Lynbrook Drive N.E., Cedar Falls,  
Iowa 52402

Joseph T. Ireton            3211 Eureka, Apt. 2, Anchorage, AK 99503

Mailing address of Marie Lundstrom    1601 F St., Anchorage, AK 99501

## BIRD CREEK RIDGE 3505

April 15 1973

Mike Richardson

We started climbing a little after 8:00am. The weather was intermittent with light clouds and light rain coming and going most of the morning. But the sun kept shining up on the ridge all day. This encouraged the two new climbers in the group, my wife, Sally Richardson, and Frankie Garrison. The rest of the members consisted of Michael Heinz, Gerry Kurtz, Sam Pestinger, and myself.

The whole day turned out fantastic. It was the first time I had ever seen five eagles at one time. Three Golden Eagles and two Bald Eagles. I watched in awe as two Golden Eagles locked talons over Turnagain Arm, and fell approximately 500 feet in a dueling spiral before breaking free of each other.

Everyone made it up to 3505' and had a great lunch while basking in the sun. Two last noteworthy items; Frankie Garrison is the only person I have ever seen get the screaming giggles at 3000', a classic case of altitude sickness. Also Sam Pestinger won the annual Bird Creek Ridge Cornice Jumping Contest, with a splendid triple twist cartwheel. Nice going Sam!

## BASHFUL PEAK 8005'

May 27, 1973

Trent Swanson

Mike Richardson, John Pinamont, Larry Swanson, and myself began our ascent from Eklutna Lake road in good spirits and under nearly cloudless skies. In about an hour and a half we rose above the brush onto a glacial moraine where we took a short break to refuel and enjoy the view. We picked a course up a 1500 ft. snow field on the west ridge. Once on the ridge top Mike pooped out and waited awhile before returning to the bottom. Larry, John, and I continued up a near walk-up with few obstacles in our path. By the time we made the peak the weather had worsened until what had been a clear day was a cloudy, windy one. Many glissades on the way down hastened our pace. Once back in the brush we nearly jogged to John's car being interrupted by a moose in our path which John nearly speared with his ice-axe. When we reached the car we found a message in rocks on the hood from Mike-"I went home". We decided after twelve and a half hours that wasn't a bad idea and did the same.

## MT. APPOLO 7950+50 1st ASCENT May 10, 1973

Larry Swanson

When John Pinamont rang my doorbell at 4:00am I could swear I'd just closed my eyes. I'd been up until 2:30 am. that morning getting a few last minute details taken care of. As we drove over to pick up Art Ward the sun began to wake me up and by the time we reached Art's, I was all gung-ho to go after some peaks.

In John's speedy car and on traffic free roads it didn't take long to reach Granite Creek which is right past Sutton. We left our packs under the bridge and drove John's car back to Sutton where we felt it would be safer for the 6 days we planned on being gone. After we had walked a little over a mile back to the bridge and reclaimed our packs and skis we started our long march up the creek.

Our first day's goal was a spot about 10 miles up the creek where a side stream comes out from lake 3352. When we got there it was hailing so we set up camp. After a quick dinner we crashed and slept for about 14 hours. After all that sleep I had my energy back the next day, so we charged up the creek a couple more miles and then were forced to put on our skis. We then skied about 12 or 13 miles up an increasing steeper gradient until we got to our camp site at about 4600'. We had never seen the peak that we planned on climbing before, and when we did finally see it we were not entirely optimistic about our success.

We had picked our peak because it was the highest on the ANCH (D-5) QUAD., and fairly accessible. The next morning on the 12th. we set on up toward the glacier to the west of it. As it had looked on the map, gaining the ridge here was easy. The ridge was fairly long and composed of low 5th class climbing and rock scrambling. It was really an enjoyable climb and when we reached the summit the view was fantastic in all directions. We could see McKinley, Anchorage, Ice Cream Cone, Granite and miles of unnamed, unclimbed peaks. After taking in the view, we reluctantly started down. We had spotted a nice snow gully from the glacier and went over to check it out. It ran from the summit down to the glacier over 1000' below. John and I thought it would be alright, but Art had his reservations so, he unroped to let us check it out. We slid down a ways and then Art started down after us. At the top it was about a 60° slope, and it didn't get any lower than a 45° at the bottom. We made it to the bottom in between 30 and 45 seconds and John and Art said their ears popped on the way down. It sure beat walking down the ridge. Back at camp John suggested the name Mt. Appolo after the Greek God of the sun, since we had been blessed with such sunny weather and Appolo was one of the greater gods. It was only fitting that our peak which reigned above the others in the area should be named after him.

The next day the 13th. we skied up the glacier directly west of us to a 6500' pass and had a super 2000' run back to camp. the rest of the day was spent in shorts lounging around in the sun.

On the 14th. John and Art skied up to a 5300' pass that looked down into Kings River. They then rejoined me for another session of sun bathing. The 15th. we were up at the crack of dawn in order to catch the snow in the lower valley before it turned to slush. Even so the snow was still soft and the creek was running on top of the ice so we found ourselves skiing across it in ankle deep water. The snow had melted an amazing amount in just a few days and we were skiing on about as much snow as rocks. So off came the skis.

Once the skis were off Art set a blistering pace for the road and the next 20 miles seemed to fly by. The only places he stopped were places where our snow bridges were gone and here he let me go first and check out the water level. The creek wandered from one side of the canyon to the other so often that we were wading it about every 5 minutes. It seemed the cold water felt wonderful though with the sun blaring down on us. Finally at about 3pm. the three of us stumbled out onto the highway and collected a lot of weird stares and looks as we made our way back to John's car at Sutton.

## PEEK-A-BOO PEAK 6950+50 - SECOND ASCENT May 8, 1973 Larry Swanson

It was a sunny Tuesday morning when Art Ward and I started up Eagle River Road. About a block before the "End of State Maintenance" sign, we hung a left and started up a steep switchbacking road. My faithful V-Dub quickly gained us almost a thousand feet of easy altitude. From our parking spot, it only took us twenty minutes to get up into High Valley. Even though it's so close to Eagle River Valley, it appeared isolated from the hunter's gun. Ptarmigan fluttered around us, apparently without fear, and there were so many ground squirrels scampering around and popping in and out of their holes that it looked like a prairie dog town. As we walked up the valley further, we spotted a set of bear tracks heading down valley. As we started up the hillside toward the ridge, we saw a couple of bands of dall sheep foraging about for food.

Once on the ridge, we quickly gained the top of Point 6750. Up to this time it had been perfectly sunny, but unfortunately, it began to cloud up a little. By the time we dropped down 600 feet and climbed up to the summit, it was snowing lightly, but it was still warm so we remained in short sleeves. We found Gayle and Helen Nienhueser's record of their first ascent back in July of 1966 still intact.

Our descent was hastened by the fact that we had a couple of cold beers waiting for us at the car. By 4:30 PM we were quenching our thirst and heading home.

## WILLIWAU LAKES

June 2-3, 1973

William Barnes, Sr.

This was a trip for beginners on June 2nd and 3rd and is listed as Trip 33 on page 98 of 55 WAYS TO THE WILDERNESS IN SOUTHCENTRAL ALASKA (55 WAYS).

The party met at Eberhards on Saturday morning at 8:30 AM. We did not get off until 45 minutes later, waiting for one member of the party who did not show up. In the future, we will leave within 15 minutes of the time. We drove up to the parking lot on Upper O'Malley Road and at 10:15 AM we started up the valley and crossed Campbell Creek on a snow bridge.

In the party were Bill Barnes, Sr.; two boys in their early teens, David Trexler and Hal Hunt; and the following girls, Jo Sikorski, Linda Krieg, Kristy Gignalliate, Joyce Wert, Peggy Scholz and Sandy Beneditt. Of this group only David Trexler had done any wilderness camping.

We followed the route described in 55 WAYS going up the fore slope of O'Malley and then across the calciated incline known as "The Glacier". We took plenty of rest stops and kept the party together. It was a cold windy day with intermittent flashes of sun through the clouds and on "The Glacier" we had small snow showers.

Descent was made to the canyon through a rubble-filled gully, which was a mistake. We should have gone down the slope instead. We made camp on a flat place in the valley stopping about 5:00 PM having taken 7 hours to get there. However, we took an hour for lunch. Dinner was cooked and we turned in for a cold windy night with snow.

In the morning we walked up the valley and looked at the shallow lakes in this deserted valley only 12 miles from Anchorage. Rather than climb up, we decided to go down the valley and get to the power line and return to the parking lot. Walking was easy. We saw five dall sheep on the side of Wolverine. By 7:00 PM we were back at the cars.

Altogether we took 12 hours of walking to do this circular trip but good walkers could do it in 9 hours for a day trip.

We introduced six new people to hiking in Alaska.

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

Compiled by Bob Spurr

June, 1968 - Five Years Ago--Rod Wilson reported on an ascent of Tanaina. Lotte Kramer reported on a joint MCA and AMU mountaineering class second ascent of Mooswa led by Ron Linder. Vin Hoeman described an attempt on Mt. Kimball. Barney Seiler's ascent of Mt. Bona was noted.

June, 1963 - Ten Years Ago--Vin Hoeman reported on his April ascent with Dave Johnston and Pete Robinson of Mt. Robson, climbed for the first time under winter conditions. He also described the first ascent of Andy Simonds Mtn. 6210 (Kenai Mtns.) with Dave, Pete and Cliff Ellis and Don Stockard, mostly members of an MCA team led by Scott Hamilton planning to compete in the Seward July 4th Mount Marathon Race. John Bousman described a May ascent of West Twin.

## B I T S   &amp;   P I E C E S

Peak 6250, dubbed "Moonlight" on the register by first ascenders Godfrey, Garland and Sargent (9/11/65), received its second ascent May 22 by Jack Bruckner, Paul Carnicelli, Fred Challoner, Dave Clemmens, Greg Higgins, Jim LaCau, Tom Mullins, Randy Phillips, Dave Stephens and Bob Spurr. The peak, one in the chain opposing Peril, overlooks the west fork of Eklutna Glacier. The route was via its NW glacial ramp and ridge.

APT. FOR RENT JULY 15: Walk to MCA meetings, picnic or ski on Chester Creek Green Belt, next door to Hoeman Mountaineering Library, casual decor, private woodsy yard, pet (or kid) okay if you keep on leash and clean up yard. Could make small deal on rent for some yard work and maintenance. 2 bedrooms, small, oddsize, unfurnished (scrounge stuff available, like bed, chair or two). \$225/month including all utilities. Contact M. Lundstrom, 272-0858, 1601 F Street

At the last MCA meeting Tom Meacham noted that Senator Stevens has introduced a bill to establish a Klondike Gold Rush National Historical Park in Southeastern Alaska and Seattle. The park will be located in two non-contiguous states and possibly Canada. The bill was co-sponsored by Senator Gravel and Senators Jackson and Magnuson of Washington. The park is designed to incorporate the sites which were important in the Klondike Gold Rush of 1898 including the Pioneer Square Historic District in Seattle, a number of Skagway buildings, the Chilkoot and White Pass trails and the remains of the town of Dyea.

WANTED: ALIVE! One individual, male or female, who can dedicate one or two hours of one day each month to the Mountaineering Club of Alaska. We desperately need someone to run SCREE off on a mimeograph machine each month. (Mimeograph machine provided--you keep it in your home if you have room.) On-the-job training provided free! Contact Kathy Causton at 279-0664 Ext. 346 (8:00 AM - 4:30 PM).

"IT'S HOW YOU PLAY THE GAME"

"Arriving from Katmandu to join more than 100 mountaineers celebrating the 20th anniversary of the British conquest of Mount Everest was Sir Edmund Hillary who, with the Sherpa Tenzing Norgay, was the first ever to reach the summit of that great and terrible mountain.

"At Katmandu Sir Edmund had a few words to say about an Italian expedition that just had become the sixth and latest team to make it to the top of Everest. He was not complimentary. The Italian triumph, he said, had been 'a very competent military operation, which had nothing to do with mountaineering.'

"The Italians had used 60 tons of equipment but that was not what irked Hillary most. They had used two helicopters as part of their impedimenta. 'We should not regard this as a mountaineering expedition,' Sir Edmund declared. 'What it is, is taking a group of service people and getting them to work together on a difficult and challenging objective. It's more of a training program.'

"He hoped that in the future Everest 'will be left to mountaineering parties composed of small groups of enthusiastic climbers.'

"The Italian response, from Guido Monzino, Milanese banker and leader of the expedition, was a shrug.

"'You have to face the same difficulties whether you are a civilian or a military person,' he said."

The above is quoted verbatim from SPORTS ILLUSTRATED, p. 18, May 28, 1973 issue.

THERE IS ROOM IN SCREE FOR YOUR RECOUNTING OF YOUR TRIPS, HIKES AND/OR CLIMBS. -editor-