



MOUNTAINEERING CLUB OF ALASKA

BOX 2037

ANCHORAGE, ALASKA 99510

AUGUST 1973

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AUGUST MEETING...Thursday, August 16, 1973...8:00 PM...Central Junior High Multipurpose Room... MAIN PROGRAM will be shown at beginning of meeting, 8:00 SHARP! --Malcolm Moore's pictures of his 1972 ascent of Mt. St. Elias, a spectacular slide show. ...Business meeting...Refreshments...Mini-slide show--Pictures of the MCA Midsummer Flattop Sleep-in and shots of Upper South Fork, Campbell Creek by Tom Meacham.

P R E S I D E N T ' S P E N

My apologies to all MCAers for the multiple confusion which prevented us from holding our July meeting, as scheduled or rescheduled. From now on, the school district will be aware that we need access to Central Junior High every month, even during the summer. And before I make another rash announcement about rescheduling a meeting (if I ever have to), I will make certain that we have officers and programs sufficient to carry on at the alternate location and date. We had neither last month.

The MCA needs volunteers--now more than ever! Kathy Causton desperately needs willing hands to help with the production of SCREE. Without help our publication will not be produced. It is as simple as that. Aren't there some members, regular members, junior members, or new members, who will volunteer to give Kathy some help during the three or four days each month when SCREE must be assembled? Please contact Kathy (279-0664) if you are able to help.

Larry Swanson, Trips Chairman, needs assistance in planning a monthly program of club hikes and climbs. We had hoped to have one or two Club-sponsored trips each month. Larry has some good ideas, but where are the leaders to organize and guide these trips? I realize that many of you are climbing and hiking on your own this summer, but this doesn't help the newcomer to the Club, who doesn't know a soul, and isn't invited on "private" climbs. Club-sponsored trips are his only means to meet MCAers and learn more about our mountains. New members will certainly lose interest in MCA (if they haven't already) unless we revive our monthly trip schedule. Leaders, where are you? Larry's number is 279-3804.

Huts and Cabins Committee also needs a chairman, though it is too late this year to do any major repairs on our cabins. Randy Renner, former chairman, is moving to Singapore! If a volunteer takes this responsibility now, we can plan a major summer assault on our cabin system for next year, with several work parties to bring our unique hut system into good repair. Please contact me if you are interested in assuming this job (277-2129).

-Tom Meacham-

FLATTOP SLEEP-IN

June 23-24, 1973

Dona Agosti

President Tom Meacham blazed the trail, arriving at 5:00 PM and stayed up until 2:00 AM to welcome thirty-eight Flattop one-nighters. Sharon Cissna, with Robin, age 2, "en-banoose" checked in at 1:00 AM and we thought she would win the last arrival honors until Mike Richardson, fresh from a day of mountain climbing, bounced over the horizon at 2:00 AM. Honors for traveling the farthest went to Agnes Ely from Ohio; the shortest distance, the Moores from Glen Alps. Robin Cissna walked away with "the youngest" honors, but no one would admit to being the eldest. Within that span were kids, teenagers, young adults, middle agers, etc.

Tent City grew to thirteen tents. Tom Meacham arranged for several floor shows: the first, an unusual sunset, came on at 11:00 PM. It was immediately followed by an air show. Either the pilot couldn't believe his eyes while flying over Flattop or he really did drop off the mountain. Around-the-fire festivities were suspended for five minutes while we had a small shower which didn't even put out the fire. It was a great night--and morning.

Those attending were Dona Agosti and kids, Tam, Jon, Tim, Tom and Dave; Elaine Allen; Jim Allen; Doug Billman; Sharon and Robin Cissna; Dan Carroll; Ed Coleman; Lisa Dodson; George Edge; Agnes Ely; Mike Frazier; Danny Henke; Diane Henke; Greg and Loretta Huggens; Meg Lamey Janice McCausland; Tom Meacham; The Moores; Randy Renner, Mike Richardson; Bob and Charlotte Sartor; Betty Schneider; Don Scott; Kathy Seitz; John Snyder; Kurt and Carol Stedingh; Holly Swanson; Chris Thompson; and Jay Williams.

--I'm sorry the Flattop writeup is a month late; plumb forgot I had it. Please forgive me, Dona, and MCA members. -editor-

CROW PASS-EAGLE RIVER

BACKPACKING TOUR

June 30-July 2, 1973

Dona Agosti

With about 500 miles of Alaska backpacking under my belt, I rate this tour at the top of the list. It comes complete with challenge, scenery and thrills. Those completing the twenty-five miles under the capable leadership of Bill Barnes, Sr. were Dona Agosti, Tam Agosti, Mary Barbara Evans, Jerry Gottbehuet, Charles Kibler, Gerry Kurtz, Dan and Shawn Oxford and John Watt. Clay Nunnally and Dan and Elaine Holland were forced to return early because of Monday commitments. Charles Kibler and Jerry Gottbehuet chose to raft down Eagle River and we hope to hear about it.

Leaving Anchorage at 7:00 AM Saturday, the group was at Crow Pass Cabin by 10:30. Three feet of snow and a chilling wind sent us forward with haste. Kickstepping or glissading down to Raven Creek, we were at the Raven Canyon Falls by early afternoon. After watching sheep along the way, we made camp several miles up the valley.

Following game trails the next day, we were on the ridge viewing Eagle Lake and Glacier by noon. While lunching on the banks by the river, Jerry and Charles rafted by; we also made "across-river" acquaintance with Gerry Kurtz and John Watt who had camped at Eagle Lake with Jerry and Charles and had been rafted across by same.

The next two hours were the most challenging of the trip because Eagle River was fast and high. Bill Barnes roped up and was belayed across by Mary Evans who performed admirably when Bill was swept off his feet by the current. With Bill on the other side securing the

rope, the remainder of the group gingerly picked its way across, using both rope and staffs. It didn't require much persuasion to get the group to camp several miles downstream.

The last day provided spectacular views of two falls and a glimpse of a coyote, moose and calf, but was the most rigorous because it was necessary to spend more time in the alders than on gravel bars. Game trails were great but they often stopped abruptly. We also had a bit of rockclimbing, log crossing and alder whacking. We "discovered" Dew Mound at least four times and finally rolled into Paradise Haven at 6:00 PM--elated, tired and all still friends.

SOUTH FORK, EAGLE RIVER July 19-22, 1973

Mark Rainery

On the 19th, Friday, John Pinamont, Larry Swanson, Greg and Steve Tandy and myself set out for the Organ Glacier. We made base camp at the 5300-foot level on the glacier.

The next day we arose and went about a mile eastward and then southward, around a ridge, on the glacier. We proceeded up over a bergschrund and then up a 60° snow slope, some scree and some more snow until we reached the east ridge. From there it was an easy 15 minutes of scrambling to the summit. A tuna can was sufficient evidence that Gregg Erickson had reached the summit previously, making this a second ascent.

Sunday we lolled about for a while and then about 1:00 set out for Flute Peak. We started up a 60° snow slope, which turned to a 65° ice slope past the bergschrund. We then ascended the east ridge and part of the east face for another second ascent; this one marked by a cairn.

Monday was spent sleeping and walking out.

WHITTIER-TWENTYMILE RIVER HIKE-RAFT TRIP
Seward D-5, D-6 July 7-8, 1973

Charles A. Kibler

Friday Evening, July 6

Jerry Gottbehuet and I drove to Portage after work in time for the 7:25 PM train to Whittier. We walked a mile further in Whittier, and inflated the raft at the last dock. Under calm, clear weather, we rowed three miles in 2 hr. across Passage Canal to the point at the mouth of Billings Creek, enjoying the scenery along the way; and camped there by 11:00 PM.

Saturday, July 7 --hiked 8 mi. over 2200+'pass to Carmen Lake

We woke early, deflated the raft and hiked north toward the 2200+' pass in Sec 25 just in front of Peak 4094 which we hoped to climb. First mile was through spruce forest, not too easy walking, and strips of forest were layed down by avalanches. We followed the right side of the creek past a falls into the cirque (meadows) to 1100'. The cloud ceiling (Sat. was overcast in Whittier) was 1500', hiding the steepest part of the direct route NW to the pass. However, the steepest part of the gully to the SW was below the clouds, so we gained 1300' in 1/3 mi. SW to where it leveled off, and an easy 1/2 mi north through cloud put us on the pass. Since we couldn't see anything and wind was blowing NW over the pass, we decided not to climb Peak 4094 a mile to the north. So we descended the NW side of the pass down snow fields and finally came out from under the clouds to

discover that the other side was practically clear with sunshine. We ate lunch at 1000' in view of 16 mountain goat. Then we descended to Lowell Glacier and crossed the creek (South Fork Carmen River) on a snowbridge. Lowell Glacier was breathtaking--2000' of steep icefall--nearly all clean blue ice. Ice avalanches are apparently frequent. To the left--the herd of 16 mountain goat. Further left--a smooth cloud swept down over the pass we crossed and abruptly disintegrated--leaving a wind that blew down the valley to Carmen Lake. We could even see Peak 4094.

In clear, windy weather the rest of the hike to Carmen Lake consisted of about 2 mi. meadows, 1 mi. easy spruce forest, 1 mi. alder and 1 mi. gravel bars. There we inflated the raft and let the wind blow us and 8" waves to the other side of the lake, where we camped on the outlet channel. I took a side trip 1 mi. north up an abandoned, brush-lined slough to the lake in front of Twentymile Glacier and looked at the clean-to-dirty iceburgs floating in it.

Sunday, July 8

We floated 12 mi. down Carmen River, Glacier River and Twentymile River to the bridge, which is only 2/3 mile from our car at the train station. Only 145' was lost--mostly in the first 3-4 miles. There were only a few 1'- 1 1/2' rapids below Carmen Lake (gradient of 25'/mi.). We finally saw a moose and calf on Glacier River. There is a cabin at the junction with Twentymile River.

END

P.S. The week before, we made a similar trip on Eagle River after starting out on the scheduled MCA hike that weekend. In case you are interested in it, here is a summary:

Jerry Gottbehuet and I were interested in floating Eagle River, but I only had 2 days--so we took off ahead of the main group and intercepted John Watt and Gerry Kurtz, who had a head start, at Raven Glacier. We arrived at the lake where we camped by 5:00 PM. Jerry and I hiked around the lake to Eagle Glacier and looked at the raging river and the ice caverns from which it issues.

After considerably oversleeping the next day, we inflated the raft and ferried John and Gerry (who rejoined the main group) across the outlet and finally got moving by 11:00 AM. The first mile (gradient 75'/mi.) was rough and soaked us with flying water; and we sped on by the main group--too swift to stop. (We would like copies of the pictures we saw them take.) After four calm miles past snags and an abandoned inflated raft, we flipped around a snag and lost both oars. So we dried out in the sun and walked the last 5 mi.

END

EAST RIDGE OF MT. HAYES May-June, 1973

Larry Small

The summit of Mt. Hayes, 13,832 ft., in the Alaska Range was successfully attained by a group of climbers from Colorado on the third of June. Dakers Gowans, Jim Johnson and Larry Small climbed via the east ridge pioneered by the Brady & Osborne group in 1971. Access to the ridge was made by a snow and scree ramp rising from the west of the Trident Glacier. It led to a distinct peak on the ridge of peaks extending eastward along the north side of the glacier fork.

This peak, dubbed Levi's Bump by a previous group, formed a saddle with the east ridge of Hayes proper. The approach was made on foot

from a crossing of the Delta River near the old Donelly Inn up the McGinnis Creek bed to the foothills along the north side of the east fork of the Trident. A point on the west fork near the mouth of the cirque on the east side of Hayes was reached in five days. Supplies were airdropped at that point by pilot and hunting guide, Lloyd Anderson, of Delta Junction who is highly recommended to others needing similar services.

From there an igloo camp was made near the base of the ramp to Levi's Bump. After sitting out stormy weather for several days in the dripping igloo, they were able to move to a snow cave on the top of the Bump. The move was ill timed, because what started out as a beautiful clear day degenerated to fiercely blowing snow. In an aborted attempt to traverse around the Bump to the saddle, Dakers took a 30-ft. fall on about 45° ice. Then in the scramble to get the cave dug and occupied, some gear was left out untied down. The storm worsened with winds too stiff to even stand up in, keeping them inside the cave for two nights. Sometime during the two days the gear blew over the north edge down into the Hayes Glacier. It included an 11 mm. rope and Larry's crampons, ending the climbing for him. After returning to the air drop camp for another rope and a couple days recuperation, Dakers and Jim regained the Bump snow cave and then crossed over the saddle the next day to dig another one on the ridge itself at about 11,500 ft.

Another storm kept them tied down in it two more nights. From there the summit was reached at 7:00 PM on the 3rd of June and return to camp made in one 15-hour day. At no point could the steep ice walls and seracs along crevasses not be bridged or skirted. After the previous storm it was mostly simultaneous climbing through deep, steep snow--textbook avalanche conditions. The ice on the Bump where Dakers fell was the worse encountered and could have been avoided.

The walk out was uneventful and generally very mellow though ferrying loads was tedious. By the time the Delta River was reached, it was swollen from snow and glacier melt. Crossing it in a dizzyingly swift, waist-deep current through the shallowest of the braided sections turned out to be the most harrowing part of the whole trip. The other side was reached late on June 16, five weeks from the day it was first crossed the other direction, and that night was spent in the infamous Trophy Lodge in Delta Junction.

NOTE: The author neglected to mention that it took the party two days to find a feasible crossing of the Delta River! Quite a climax to a long foot-slogging trip. -Tom Meacham-

FIRST ASCENT OF ANDROMEDA

Bruce Adams

We left Palmer June 30th and headed for the Talkeetna Mountains. We drove out of Palmer on the Glenn Highway. After driving 15 miles, we turned up Jones Road. This is about 2 miles before you cross Granite Creek. We left our car near the end of Jones Road. The party consisted of two climbers--Bruce Adams and Dick Nystrom.

We dropped over the ridge and headed up Granite Creek. The walking on the dry river bed was fairly easy. Two days and one river crossing later, we made camp some ten miles up Granite Creek.

Monday morning, July 3, our pre-arranged airdrop came. Our pilot sailed over and dropped food and gear very close to base camp.

After a day of rest and eating, we headed up to try an unclimbed peak in township 27. The peak was across the river and appeared to

offer good rock climbing to its 6,000-ft. summit.

We spent that night in our hammocks 700 ft. from the summit. The next morning we climbed quickly for 200 feet. We then made two rotten rock pitches to a nice crack. After a difficult 5.8 crack, we were forced to retreat because the rock became so dangerous. Discouraged, we walked back to base camp.

** After a day of bad weather and rest at our base camp, we headed up to our main objective --a peak 1 1/4 miles northwest of Apollo. The peak was not named but was numbered 7547.

We bivouacked at a saddle directly east of Apollo. Care should be taken on the glacier approaching the saddle because we twice stepped in hidden crevasses.

After a cold, sleepless night, we put on frozen boots and worked our way along a rock ridge to a saddle between Apollo and 7547. Once on the saddle, we began to climb 5.5 and 5.6 rock towards the summit. ** After ten hours of careful climbing, we reached our summit at 5:00 PM, July 8.

We took many pictures and left an orange runner tied to a large rock. We slowly began to descend. After several long rappels, we found a snow chute that led to a glacier directly to the west. We then walked the glacier back to the saddle, skirting much of the ridge we had previously climbed. Parties in the future should take this second route to save much time.

After a long day, we walked back to base camp. A day of rest and we began the long walk out.

All parties going into this area should stay on the west side of Granite Creek. The river cannot be crossed until about eight miles up from the Glenn Highway. We later looked back on our climb and named the peak Andromeda.

B I T S & P I E C E S

On July 14, 1973, Larry Tedrick and Tom Meacham made the third recorded ascent of the highest known rubblepile in the western Chugach, Bird Peak 5505'. Previous ascents were by the Hoeman party (1963) and the Swanson party (1969). Quite a rock pile!

On July 28, the 3'd of a four-day excursion into the Spectrum Glacier area of the northwestern Chugach, Bill Barnes, Jack Bruckner, Tom Meacham and Bob Spurr made the first ascent of "Adjutant," Peak 8350'. Details will appear in a future SCREE.

On July 28, 1973, Greg and Loretta Higgins made an unsuccessful attempt on Spearmint Pk. in the Talkeetnas and on July 29, 1973, made a successful first ascent of the highest of the Three Bell Spires (alt. 6693') in the same area. Route was via the southeast gully, then along the ridge.

A party of four California climbers, led by Allan L. Beattie, Jr., attempted the south ridge of Mt. Sanford on July 10-22, 1973. The climbers planned a ground-based assault via the Copper Glacier, the Nabesua Glacier and the Sanford-Wrangell Col. The climb ended "unsuccessfully, but without incident" on July 22. Other members of the party were James Martin, Terrie Narou and Joan Landes.

Doris and Dayton Curtis have a brand new son--Ryan Martin arrived on June 11th. CONGRATULATIONS!!!

SPECIAL TRIP: Did last January's -30° get you down? How about spending this January in Australia? Barb Winkley is arranging a group trip with group rates to Australia for three weeks. Regular round-trip fare is about \$1250 but through the group rate, with a limit of 15 people, you get hotel accommodations, with any of 300 to choose from, and 700 miles free travel--all you pay is gas, with car provided (two to a car) for \$1066. The group will leave Anchorage on December 26th. For further information, contact Barb Winkley--Home PH: 344-0458 or her Work PH: 344-1519.

We have a real buzzsaw in our Club. Her name is Dona Agosti. Right! she's our secretary who takes fantastic minutes of meetings, answers letters asking for climbing information and handles Club correspondence. In addition, get this, she and her family have collated and mailed SCREE for the past 7 months. And last month she updated and corrected the mailing list. The mailing list isn't great fun. Thank you, Dona, for the large amount of excellent work you have done for the Club.

SCREE acquired last month another good helper--her name is Jan Lindeman. She caught on right away to the technique of using the Club's temperamental mimeograph machine. She's a good worker--speedy--and we're glad she's helping us.

FOR SALE: One Turin alcohol stove and fuel - \$3. Contact Mark Rainery at 272-0844.

FOR SALE: Galibier Super RDs, size 10 (run small), almost new - \$50. Contact Bill Barnes, Jr. at 272-2205 or 333-4609.