

SCREE ✓

MOUNTAINEERING CLUB OF ALASKA

BOX 2037

ANCHORAGE, ALASKA 99510

NOVEMBER 1975

VOLUME XVIII, No. 11

NOVEMBER MEETING

Wednesday, November 19, 8 PM, Pioneer Schoolhouse, Third and Eagle, Anchorage, Alaska.
The program will be a slide show on the Gakona Glacier Area presented by Earl Hedman.

BOARD MEETING

Monday, December 1, 8 PM, 4107 North Star Street.

NEW OFFICERS, BOARD MEMBERS, AND COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN

Officers and two board members were elected at the October meeting. The following is a current listing of officers, board members, and committee chairmen.

President: BILL STIVERS
Vice-President: PAUL DENKEWALTER
Treasurer: KIT KENNEY
Secretary: SHAWN OXFORD

Board Members (76-77): JOHN PINAMONT
FRITZ RIEGER
Board Members (75-76): BILL BARNES, SR.
TERRY REESE

Committee Chairmen
Climbing: Vacant
Conservation: BILL QUIRK
Hiking: DONA AGOSTI
Refreshments: JAN LEMKE

Equipment: DAN OXFORD
Geographic Names: ROD WILSON and BOB SPUR
Huts: Vacant

PRESIDENT'S PEN

On behalf of the club, I wish to express thanks to our outgoing President, FRITZ RIEGER, for his very effective administration during the past year. Both FRITZ and DAPHNE gave unstintingly of their services to organize interesting programs and rewarding activities. Your new officers, board and committee members look forward to another very active year, and will endeavor to organize activities which will provide fulfilling experiences for all members.

TOM MEACHAM has resigned as Conservation Chairman. TOM had held this position for a number of years, and had done an outstanding job testifying at hearings and briefing club members on conservation issues. The Club will miss TOM's expertise and dedication in this field.

PAUL DENKEWALTER is in charge of slide shows and/or other feature presentations at the monthly meetings. We have had a series of outstanding slide shows of complex climbing expeditions, and are enthusiastic about more such shows in the future. There is also a need for slide shows of hikes and ski tours in alpine and vegetated environments.

PRESIDENT'S PEN continued.

If you have some interesting slides, or have other ideas about presentations at the monthly meetings, call PAUL (work, 272-1811; home, 327-1969) and set up a schedule.

BIWEEKLY MEETINGS TO SCHEDULE HIKES, SKI TOURS AND CLIMBS. It was decided at the November meeting of the Board to expand the scope of the biweekly climbing meetings to include scheduling of hikes and ski tours. The objective of the meetings is to schedule activities which stimulate the interest of each member, from the novice hiker to the most advanced climber. The less experienced members are particularly urged to attend. The meetings will convene promptly at 8 PM. Scheduling will precede socializing to permit those with limited time to depart early. If possible, come to the meeting with an idea of some interesting activity you would like to be involved in during either one or both of the following two weekends.

We have now located a semi-permanent meeting place--Alaskan Mountaineering and Hiking, 2633 Spenard Road. The meetings will convene on alternate Wednesdays except when the monthly general meeting is scheduled. Bring your own beer or other refreshments to the meeting. Current schedules will be posted at AMH, and members are encouraged to participate in the activities regardless of whether the meeting was attended. Meetings for the next month will be on November 26 and December 10. The following meeting will be January 7, 1976.

Response thus far to the scheduling meetings has been encouraging. An example is the three events which were scheduled for the weekend following the October 22 meeting: a weekend climb on the Canwell Glacier; a climb of the South Suicide Peak on Saturday; and a climb in the Williwaw Lakes area on Sunday and Monday.

CLUB CLIMBING EQUIPMENT. It was decided at the November Board meeting that future Club equipment loans would be limited to ice axes, helmets, and crampons. The members unanimously agreed that loan of climbing ropes was a hazardous practice which should be discontinued. Equipment will not be loaned for other than Club scheduled climbs, and there will be a rigid requirement for return of equipment immediately following the climb. The biweekly Wednesday schedules will be considered Club scheduled climbs. Surplus equipment will be advertised in the December SCREE and will be auctioned off at the December general meeting. Please return all borrowed equipment to Equipment Chairman DAN OXFORD.

WOMEN'S CLIMBING GROUP. Interest has been expressed in organizing a women's climbing group. The concept behind organizing this independent group is that women would develop self-confidence and become more proficient in the absence of overindulgent male assistance. If you are interested, call RONI PERGSTEDT, 344-1726.

WINTER CAMPING COURSE. BILL QUIRK is contacting Nordic Ski Club officials to arrange for MCA members to attend the Nordic's comprehensive course in winter camping. If you are interested, call BILL, 277-0197.

ALASKA CENTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT FUND DRIVE. The Alaska Center for the Environment is presently conducting its annual fund drive. The Center is the most significant local group working to accomplish sound environmental goals. Its programs are compatible with and supplement the conservation interests of the MCA. Members are encouraged to contribute by mailing donations to the Alaska Center for the Environment, 913 West Sixth Avenue, Anchorage, Alaska 99501. Contributions are tax deductible.

MINUTES OF GENERAL MEETING, MOUNTAINEERING CLUB OF ALASKA

Pioneer School House, Third and Eagle, Anchorage, Alaska, October 15, 1975

The meeting was called to order by President FRITZ RIEGER at 8:25 PM. Motion was made and seconded to waive reading of minutes and to approve the minutes as they appeared in the October issue of SCREE.

The Treasurer's report was unavailable, but President RIEGER estimated there to be approximately \$4,000 in savings and checking.

Hiking Chairman DONA AGOSTI reported that there would be a Sunday hike to Birdseye Ridge led by BILL STIVERS and that all new members who had called her during the week should take advantage of the opportunity. She also stated that BILL STIVERS would lead a hike or ski tour to Ship Lake November 1 and 2, with a 7 AM meeting at Fred Meyers (formerly ValuMart).

BRIAN OKONEK stated there would be a climbing meeting at his home, 3003 Kerry Circle, on Wednesday, October 22. The purpose of the weekly meetings is to plan a climb for the following weekend. FRITZ RIEGER stated that the climbers are looking for a public place in which to hold these meetings since it was an imposition to expect to meet at BRIAN's house each week.

Huts Committee Chairman, JOHN PINAMONT, reported on the repair of Whiteout Glacier Cabin. A group flew in with Buddy Woods of Palmer with a load of supplies to repair the cabin. Because of a sudden weather change, the group was forced to remain at the cabin for three days without an adequate food supply. (There was a combined weight loss of 18 pounds.) FRITZ RIEGER praised Buddy Woods, the pilot, for his three extra trips attempting to pick up the party--all without charge. The cabin is reported to be in excellent condition.

FRITZ RIEGER reported for TOM MEACHAM concerning conservation matters. Both testified at the Upper Susitna Dam hearings. After polling the Executive Committee, FRITZ testified against the proposal in the name of the Mountaineering Club. TOM testified on his own behalf, also against the proposal. Alaska Center for the Environment held open house on Wednesday, October 15, and is currently having a fund drive. Motion was made and seconded to donate \$60.00 to the Center.

BRIAN OKONEK reported for Geographic Names Committee that his mother had waged a single-handed campaign the previous week to change the name of Mt. McKinley. This was prompted by reports in the press that the letters to the USGS were running against the proposal. She alone sent 250 letters and BRIAN urged MCA members to use the paper, envelopes and address list available at the meeting to write their letter before leaving the meeting. CHUCK EVANS spoke against the name change because he felt there were so many more important conservation matters to be considered. DORIANE RIEGER agreed that there were other important matters but that the name change should also be considered, and that she did not think legislators would consider it frivolous. FRITZ reminded everyone that MCA had gone on record in favor of the name change.

American Alpine Club asked MCA to contribute \$10.00 to a research fund to test various types of climbing rope. FRITZ RIEGER asked for comments and PAUL DEMERWALTER commented that this type of testing was constantly going on and that he did not think it was necessary for us to contribute. Matter tabled.

President RIEGER called for election of officers, stating that the Executive Board had acted as a Nominating Committee and presented the candidates as they appeared in the October issue of SCREE. However, DAVE HAMLEY asked to withdraw as a candidate for the presidency because of an uncertain winter work schedule. All candidates were

MINUTES continued.

asked to stand and short backgrounds were given. Nominations from the floor were solicited, and there being none, the following officers were elected by unanimous acclamation: BILL STIVERS, President; PAUL DENKEWALTER, Vice President; KIT KENNEY, Treasurer. There being two nominees for the position of Secretary, candidates were asked to leave the room and SHAWN OXFORD was elected by a show of hands.

In addition to the names of BILL QUIRK and FRITZ RIEGER submitted by the Nominating Committee, the names of JOHN PINAMONT and PAUL JANKE were submitted from the floor for the position of two-year Board Member. DURHANE RIEGER was nominated, but respectfully declined. Candidates were asked to leave the room and, in a very close race, the following two-year Board Members were elected by a show of hands: FRITZ RIEGER and JOHN PINAMONT.

After a short recess, DAVE HAWLEY showed his slides of the Denali Traverse this past spring.

Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,
Dona Agosti
Acting Secretary

EAGLE RIVER RIDGE HIKE
Anchorage B-7 Quad
Saturday, August 23, 1975
by Charles A. Kibler

One foggy Saturday I drove up Mile High Subdivision (at mile 3 of Eagle River Road, go straight when the road turns downhill to the right) to pick blueberries, soar in my hangglider, or go climbing--depending on the weather. The fog took care of gliding and since I was still in fog where I was parked at 2000', I hiked up the jeep trail to the 2400' pass 2 miles west of Mt. Magnificent with a blueberry bucket. There I broke through the fog into bright sunshine--so I decided to go climbing. Following the ridge to the east over Mt. Magnificent and on to Peak 5250 in Section 7, I enjoyed spectacular views up Eagle River and the Alaska Range over the sea of fog still covering all low areas and valleys below 2000'. The sun shone hot on the southward facing mountain slopes, melting away that fog--and the resulting hot humid air was rising up the heated slopes to form towering cumulus clouds. Continuing SE up the ridge following goat trails (with fresh goat tracks, but no goats in sight), I climbed over Peak 5450, the highest on the B-7 quad, and dubbed Mt. Significant (it's significantly higher than Mt. Magnificent!), and continued SE down the ridge to an overlook of High Valley. I intended to look for the trail down there and follow it out, but the valley floor was hidden by an isolated layer of fog--so I descended south down the ridge to the series of switchbacks leading to High Valley. The tundra on this ridge changes into trees with no brush.

The reason I wrote this up is that this is an easy hike almost entirely above timberline, no brush, goat trails follow half of the ridge for easy walking, very little rock climbing, and high terrain offering spectacular views in all directions along the entire hike. It is also a Point A to point B traverse with no retracing of steps--each of the nine miles is different, taking eight hours for those in good shape.

MCCARTHY-NIKOLAI RIDGE
August 30 - September 1, 1975
by Dona Agosti

After spending hours trying to get information on the Chitina-McCarthy Road, I finally learned that the Highway Department had closed the two bridges a mile out of McCarthy. Eight members of MCA met at Chitina campground Friday night to give it a try. The members were Betty and Tony Bockstahler, Dona Agosti, John Nevin, Marybeth Farkas, Chuck Kibler, Mike McClelland, and Steve O'Rourke. The first good news was that the road had been straightened to avoid the circuitous route around the campground. The next good news was that it was in considerably improved condition over two or three years ago. There seems to be a reasonably good gravel base, except in certain swamp areas where Alaskan potholes abound. The most exciting part of the trip, of course, is Mile 17, where it is necessary to negotiate a three hundred foot trestle, exactly as wide as a car, and over a "million-foot" gorge. The highway department has put up foot-high guard rails and filled in the cracks between the ties--making it mere child's play say the oldtimers. Me? My heart was still pounding a mile down the road. We parked our cars at the closed bridge five hours later and hiked over it to McCarthy. This was my first trip to this historical mining town, and I thought I had stepped right into the pages of IRON TRAIL by Rex Beach. The lodge is operated by a feisty lady named Miller who takes congressional committees and John Denver all in her stride (That was a sampling of guests for that month.) We negotiated for a van ride as far up the McCarthy Creek Road as possible, which turned out to be two miles. This was a surprise because the road and bridges had been intact up until some wild July rains washed out four of them. We crawled over remnants of two bridges, but were forced to wade McCarthy Creek at the third crossing. It was fast and knee high. Our destination the next day was to have been Nikolai Mine and the ridge, but a downpour and clouds dampened spirits. Back at the lodge, two members took the mine tour (\$10.00 per person), which is the only way to see the extensive Kennicott Mining Company operations, and reported it to be very informative. We camped along McCarthy Road that night, then made tracks for O'Brien Creek Campground in Chitina the next day. From there some of us boarded Mike's four-wheel drive and investigated the Copper River Highway. A washout at Mile 7½ prevents the former 27-mile drive, but it provides most picturesque hiking, especially above the Copper River canyons. It would be intriguing to hike the 125 miles or so to Cordova, but Chuck Kibler tells me that a couple very large streams would prevent this--unless you packed a raft. Ah, well, maybe some day we will be able to drive it. Chuck is gung-ho to try it in a raft--the entire route from Chitina to Cordova, that is. Most of us went home satisfied that we had stepped back into history for a few days.

KOROHUSK (7030')
October 4-5, 1975
by Brian Okonek

Korohusk is the first 7000 footer up the north side of Eagle River. It was first climbed in 1965 by Art Davidson who gave it its name which means "Come In." John Mucha and I climbed it for perhaps a second ascent via the hanging valley to the south of it, the lower part of the glacier (which is skirted), and the south face to the summit. The climbing was easy scrambling and kick stepping. Dave Hawley was also along, but due to a bad cold was unable to make the summit. After a bivi in the moraine at 3700' we explored the head of the cirque and walked out to Paradise Haven in the rain.

GLEN ALPS TO SHIP LAKE

November 1-2, 1975

by Bill Stivers

Bill Lindsey, Mike McCellan, Dave Newcombe, Terry Reese, and Bill Stivers experienced their 1975-1976 introduction to winter camping. The weather was clear, calm, and cold. The route through the pass between the Ramp and the Wedge was not used due to thin ice on South Fork Campbell Creek at the required crossing point. We crossed a mile or so upstream and traversed the pass just south of the lake. The lake was covered with a thick coating of ice, but there was some open water in the stream at the lake outlet. The temperature dropped to four below zero during the night. A brilliant display of northern lights was observed at 3:30 AM. Various patterns were displayed to the north, and an arc of light crossed the sky from north to south.

HITS AND PIECES

By Ned Lewis. August 5, 1975 we climbed the face at the base of the Pinnacle's ridge. Five pitches directly up the white area visible from the three cabins below Webfoot Prospect. August 6, 1975, we climbed the prominent face due west of Lower Reed Lake on the ridge off of Lower Tower. Two routes were put up on right side of face. August 7, 1975, two routes were put on left side of face. Climb directly up to base of slab and follow right around base of slab. Then go immediately up its right side. Five pitches. We were forced to utilize etriers in one spot that could be climbed free if the rock were dry.

FOR SALE

1 Sierra Designs Touring Pack, almost new, \$25; 1 North Face St. Elias Expedition Tent, \$90; 1 MSR Thunderbird Ice Axe, \$10; 1 pair Rummel Double Ski Mountaineering Boots, size 12M, \$20; 1 pair Fisher Europa 210 cross-country skis with Troll three pin bindings, aluminum poles, complete, \$60. Call PAUL CARNICELLI, 279-8788, or contact him at the November meeting. He will bring any unsold items to the meeting.

Boys Hiking Boots: 1 pair Raichle, vibram soles, size 6½M, good condition, can be used on cross-country skis, \$15; 1 pair Raichle, lug soles, about size 7 or 7½, \$10; 1 pair Bambino, lug soles, about size 5, good condition, can be used on cross-country skis, \$10. Contact Gayle or Helen Nienhueser, 277-9330, 2561 Lovejoy in Anchor Park (near intersection of Lake Otis and Northern Lights).

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1976 dues is being accepted now--due by January 1, 1976. Mail your dues to MCA, Box 2037, Anchorage, Alaska 99510, and assure yourself uninterrupted copies of SCREE!!
