

MOUNTAINEERING CLUB OF ALASKA
JUNE 1975

BOX 2037

ANCHORAGE, ALASKA 99510
VOLUME XVIII, No. 6

BOARD MEETING

July 8, 8 PM, 2106 West Northern Lights Special meeting on Huts and Cabins. All interested MCAer's invited!!

SPECIAL COMING ATTRACTIONS!!!

MCA Family Picnic/Barbecue

Time: Wednesday, June 18, 1975, at 6:30 PM

Place: 2106 W. Northern Lights

"Come one, come all."

Keeping with tradition, the MCA June meeting will feature a family picnic/barbecue. Breaking with tradition, the picnic will not be held at mosquito-infested Goose Lake but in the mosquito-infested back yard of club president Fritz Rieger. The picnic is scheduled as a "kegger;" in addition, the club will provide soft drinks and main course for the barbecue. The Riegers will provide homemade ice cream.

Admission--your choice of:

- (1) Side dishes: salad, beans, chips, pie, cake, etc
- (2) Two ears uncooked corn.
- (3) Musical instrument entertainment.
- (4) Cash donation.

Help Wanted: Someone to organize games (pie-eating contest? jumarring race? knot-tying contest?) You don't have to be responsible for the whole thing--maybe organize just one event. It looks as if we already have a "pit boss" but others will be able to help set up, serve, or clean up! To get involved, contact Fritz Rieger at 277-8979.

Be sure to bring something to sit on (blanket, lawn chair). Refer to map on page 2 for directions and suggestions for parking spots.

There will be no business meeting, just lots of food and a good time for all, so be sure to bring the entire family. Hope to see you there! (Note: it is guaranteed not to rain!)

Flattop Sleep-in

Time: June 21-22

Place: Flattop Mountain

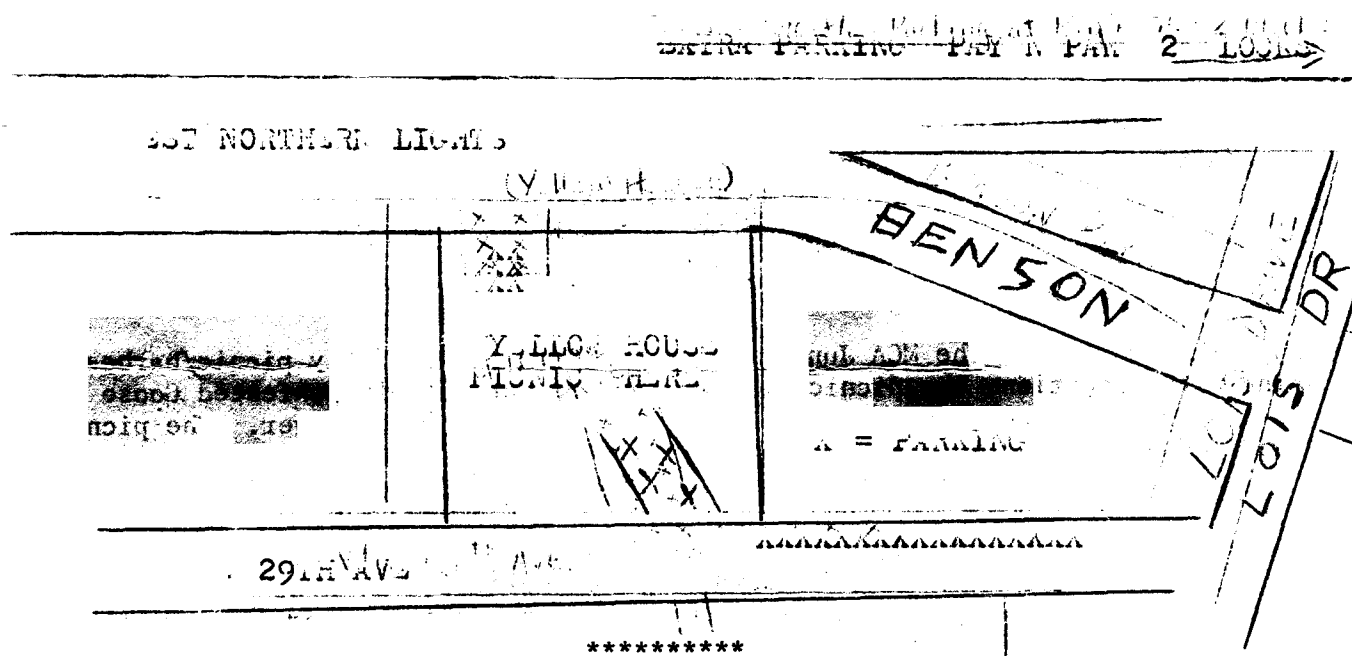
See page 2 for details

FLATTOP SLEEP-IN

This is the traditional camp-out on the longest day of the year atop 3550' Flattop Mountain. "The most popular climb in Alaska." An easy two-hour climb. Bring the entire family; also bring log for the fire plus something to drink (no water on top).

Come up on your own anytime Saturday afternoon. Vice-President Raj Bhargava will also lead a group. Meet at 2 PM Saturday afternoon in Wendler Junior High School Parking lot (corner of Northern Lights and Lake Otis). Contact Raj at 344-4082.

This is one of the highlights of the MCA schedule. Lots of congenial conversation and the latest climbing gossip around the campfire. A great way to get to know your fellow MCAer.

MAP FOR MCA PICNIC

CLIMBING SCHEDULE

NOTE: New telephone number for Climbing Chairman, Ned Lewis, 333-1775. For information about climbs, changes in schedule, meeting times, etc., call Ned or Fritz Rieger, 277-8979.

June 21 BYRON PEAK 4950'

Ned Lewis will lead a second try on this classic ice and snow peak near Portage.

An MCA trip was stopped in March by deep snow and shorter days. Meet at 7 AM at Valu-Mart.

June 28 HIGHER SPIRE* 6135'
LOWER TOWER 6129'

Neighboring peaks on the ridge separating Reed Lakes from Aura Glacier. Route is up Glacier Creek to Prospect Pass. Higher

Spire, the easier climb, will be attempted Saturday and is recommended for climbing school participants. Lower Tower is the classic 4th and 5th class Talkeetna climb and requires experience. NOTE: We will leave Friday evening at 7 PM from Bi-Lo Parking Lot at Boniface and Northern Lights. Come for one day or two. Leader, Ned Lewis.

JUNE 1975

July 4-6 MONTANA PEAK 6950' MINT GLACIER Long hike up the Little Susitna River to the MCA Mint Glacier Cabin. Then an attempt on Montana Peak, one of the prizes of the Talkeetnas. Plenty to climb in the area if Montana is not your style! Backpackers welcome on the strenuous hike to the cabin. Leader, Ned Lewis. Leave Valu-Mart at 7 AM on Friday, July 4.

July 12 BOLD PEAK* 7622' This massive and beautiful mountain dominates Eklutna Lake. Long rock scramble up northeast ridge, the "other side of the mountain" from the Bill Stivers' route. Hikers welcome to the base of the ridge at about 5000'. Leader needed. Leave Valu-Mart at 7 AM.

July 19 PIONEER PEAK* 6398' Everyone has wanted to climb this Matanuska Valley landmark at one time or another. Here's your chance. Leave Valu-Mart at 7 AM. Leader, Ned Lewis.

*Climbing School Experience Climbs

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HIKING AND BACKPACKING SCHEDULE

Hiking Chairperson, Dona Agosti, 279-2901

June 28-29 PETERS CREEK to Hanging Valley. Objective is a pocket of as yet unspoiled wilderness quite close to Anchorage. Dona Agosti is looking for a substitute leader. Call her at 279-2901.

July 4-6 SQUAW CREEK - BELANGER PASS. A 25 mile trip through Caribou country. Hike #49. Leave Valu-Mart at 7 AM, July 4. Leader, Bill Barnes, Sr., 333-9218.

12 MT. VIGOR - MATANUSKA PEAK 6119'. The landmark peak behind the town of Palmer. Up and over Lazy Mountain and the day is just beginning. Nothing technical, but requires good legs and lungs. Bill Stivers will lead this MCA classic. 277-2869. Leave Valu-Mart at 7 AM.

MINUTES OF GENERAL MEETING, MOUNTAINEERING CLUB OF ALASKA, Clark Junior High School, 7:30 PM, May 22, 1975.

The meeting was called to order by President Fritz Rieger. Motion made and seconded to dispense with reading of minutes. (Treasurer's report overlooked, but later determined to be as follows: checking, \$961.62; savings, \$397.32; cash, \$43.74.)

It was noted by the President that the Conservation Committee needs volunteers who will be available for testifying at various hearings of interest to the Club. He noted that there were several calls a week in this respect. It was also noted that the proposal on the Talkeetna Mountains State Park is now in the Senate Resolutions Committee. Since this area is of considerable interest to rock climbers and hikers alike, it was urged that Senators Kay Poland and Joe Orsini be contacted. The latter is against the concept.

New members and guests were welcomed.

Sally Gibert, representing the Alaska Center for the Environment, asked for input on the Talkeetna Mountains Park and also on recreational easements on BLM and D-2 lands.

MINUTES OF GENERAL MEETING continued.

The BLM has asked the Center to coordinate the effort to identify what trails do cross native lands. Sally also is coordinator for the Hike-Out Program which will be held June 15 through July 15 and will pair two adult leaders with approximately ten young people ages 10-13 years. A leaders meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, May 27, at St. Mary's Episcopal Church.

Hiking Chairperson, Dona Agosti, gave hiking details for Tazlina, Bench Lake, Chickaloon and Bold Peak. Forty-eight people have made reservations for Katmai.

Fritz Rieger gave climbing details. Leaders were still needed for the Alaska Range and Fern Mine trips. Steve Holloway reported on the first McKinley summit of the year.

Tom Meacham explained the details of the Brooks Range Trust Library. A number of books have been donated and it is eventually hoped to set up the Library in a National Park facility in the Brooks Range. For now, MCA and the trustees are looking for someone who would be interested in collecting and coordinating a collection of Brooks Range literature.

Mike Richardson reported that the previous evening's climbing school was well done by Barry Kircher and that the next class would meet at the AMU ski tower for rope work.

The Loussac Library director has asked the Mountaineering Club to man a table on June 7 in the City Council Chambers. The volunteer would provide information on Mountaineering activities in Alaska.

John Nicholson presented a very informative and detailed account and slide show of his Mt. Augustine ascent. Steve and Gary Tandy and Larry Tedrick showed their slides of the first winter ascent of Mt. Foraker.

Dona Agosti
Acting Secretary

PRESIDENT'S PEN

It feels great to tell you what a grand success the climbing and backpacking schools have been! The effort put forth by the instructors and particularly the coordinator deserves special recognition. A full report on the school will appear next month. Let's hope that other MCA programs are as successful.

We'll really need a lot of effort to get the huts in shape. We've been thwarted too long by the weather and this will force us to work on an even tighter schedule this summer. About a dozen MCAers got their first look at an MCA cabin and its spectacular setting on Eklutna Glacier on June 7 when the climbing school made a quick trip to practice glacier travel. The settings of the Whiteout and Eagle cabins are even more spectacular!

The huts program will be the subject of the July 8 Board Meeting. All interested MCA members are invited to attend.

Special thanks to Dave Skitt and colleagues for the presentation of the Red Cross 8-hour Multimedia First Aid Course and to Kent Saxton who is currently conducting the 24-hour First Aid Course.

PRESIDENT'S PEN continued.

Finally, a special thanks to Honorary MCAer Terris Moore for his donation of the following books to the MCA-Hoeman Library:

Mt. McKinley - The Iceber Climbs, by Terris Moore
Men Against the Clouds - the Story of the 1932 Minya Konka Expedition
National Geographic, August 1953 - containing the account of the Washburn
McKinley expedition.

CANWELL GLACIER - EASTERN ALASKA RANGE

Since heavy snows and wind had forced the cancellation of the Alaska Alpine Club-sponsored Canwell Glacier Stampede, and since several MCA members were not to visit the Eastern Alaskan Range, the MCA sponsored its own mini-Stampede up the Canwell Glacier during Memorial Day Weekend. Paul Janke, Sue Wrenn, and Fritz and Durhane Rieger arrived at Miller Creek at 1 PM, Saturday and, donning packs, proceeded to ski up the right bank of the now open creek. It was the first time in the area for all four of us and, as we neared the toe of the glacier, we were astounded at the mounds of moraine and lack of snow. We knew we wanted to be on the left side of the glacier, but could see no continuous snow route which would take us in that direction. So, we decided to get on the glacier from where we stood and hoped that we would not have to carry our skis. Several hours and many moraine hills later, we decided to scrap our plan of reaching the cabin that evening and made camp near a small lake. We spent the evening enjoying the beautiful weather, admiring the nearby peaks, and hunting for a route through the moraine.

The next day was spent partly in carrying skis and packs, partly in up-and-down moraine skiing. We finally reached the left side of the glacier. The snow was wet and "punchy" with occasional faint tracks marking the route. We skied back beyond the cabin, about seven miles up glacier, and stopped directly opposite Institute. We spent some time photographing and gazing up the face of this magnificent, tempting peak. Further back we had good views of Icefall Peak and several other peaks--all truly beautiful and quite different from the nearby Chugach Mountains and Talkeetnas.

We enjoyed a glorious ski-out to camp, rewarded with a constant view of the giant peaks in the Mt. Hayes area before us, and, as Durhane found out, even some glide for those light enough to stay on top of the tracked snow.

The third day we skied out quickly, reaching the cars in about two hours. We hadn't gotten in any climbing, but all felt very satisfied with the trip. For those who have never been in the area, it is well worth the long ride to reach.

Durhane Rieger.

THE CARPATHIAN SHOVEL

Dennis Cowles and I decided we would fly into Carpathian Peak and climb it quickly. But so was not the case. From the day we went in, Friday, May 23, until Thursday, May 29, it snowed and blew to the tune of eight feet of snow and we recorded 85 mph winds. We dug a cave on Sunday evening after our Bishop Ultimate tent did some not so ultimate things--it blew down three times. I think we shoveled a ton of snow each. Other than acute boredom, there was no physical or psychological damage sustained.

Ned Lewis

TAZLINA LAKE HIKE
May 24-25, MP 157 Glenn Highway

While the memory of this trip is freshly dripping from my boots and pants, I'll write my report. When the schedule said it was a ski or hike, it meant water ski or hike up your pant legs high. We started the 7 1/2 mile long, 800 foot drop to the Lake at 11:30 AM and quickly hit the first of several swamps along the water-filled trail. The trail was made by a snow track vehicle operated by a Mr. Anderson who lives on the Lake with his wife at the Mendeltna Creek Delta. Not much was noticed of the wooded areas and pretty lakes along the way due to looking for a place to make our next step shallow enough not to fill our boots. For a notorious grizzly country, few tracks were seen, and there were no encounters. We reached the beautiful sandy beach at 4:30 PM and sat around a drift wood fire for many hours. The Lake was still 99 1/2% frozen.

The next day several of us walked along a well-engineered game trail to Anderson's house where a great view of the glacier was seen. The trip back was equally wet and frustrating except for the lunch break when Wes demonstrated a very unusual but most effective method of grayling fishing. Several had fish for lunch. All got back to the cars very wet and tired, but safe and sound.

My appreciation for good spirits and attitudes goes to Dona Agosti, the Robinsons, Wes Howe, Terry Rees, and especially the members of the hiking graduating class, Joe Holasek and Mary Ann Gordon.

I have skied this trail and found it excellent even for the inexperienced, but as a hike it should be scheduled for late summer.

John Nevin

JOHNSON PASS TRAIL
May 31 - June 1

Since the snow was gone up to 2000' in the Anchorage area, J. R. Eker, Ed Berdon, and I were looking forward to an easy 22.8 mile scheduled hike on the Johnson Pass Trail. Snow at sea level up Placer River got us wondering, though; and our second thoughts increased as we drove through the white wintry wilderness of Turnagain Pass. We boldly did it anyway, though.

About a mile of trail before Center Creek is covered by avalanches; and at least one-half mile from there to Bench Creek is still covered with soft melting snow. To avoid the snow covered switchback just past the second Bench Creek Bridge, we climbed along the rim of the gorge and found a waterfall down there that can only be seen from this route. A mile later--half of it slogging through soft deep snow--brought us to the 1400' level and a snow-covered valley ahead. Since the mountainside on the northwest side of the valley was relatively free of snow, we left the trail for that side. Three miles of grass and avalanche deposits (and a view of at least 5 miles of snow-covered trail on the otherside--it will take at least a month to melt) later, we camped on the 90% ice-covered Johnson Lake. Due first to a snow-covered trail, then to laziness to wade Johnson Creek, we cross-countried four more miles through grassy meadows, spruce-hemlock forest, and a few alders to the Johnson Creek crossing. Much of the remaining trail to the highway was slobby mud.

Charles A. Kibler

CORRECTION TO MEMBERSHIP LIST: The following name was inadvertently omitted from the MCA Membership list published in the May 1975 SCREE. Names of new MCA members will be printed in a later SCREE.

LANG, Peter

2117 Bel Air Drive, 99503

272-6279

VOLUME CHANGE: The 1975 issues of SCREE should be Volume XVIII, not XVI as has been previously printed. The error goes back to sometime around the middle of 1974.

BROOKS RANGE

March 30 to April 12, 1974

Five gals and one fellow skied from Wiseman on the south slope of the Brooks Range to Anaktuvuk Pass by the following route: Wiseman to Nolan, over Glacier Pass to Glacier River, down Glacier River, over Jack Delay Pass to the North Fort of the Koyukuk River up this river, through the Gates of the Arctic, up Ernie Creek, over Ernie Pass, to the Anaktuvuk River, down the Anaktuvuk, to Anaktuvuk Pass. Party members were Pat Pyne, Shirley Liss, June Weinstock, Marilyn and Ben West, and me. The other five were from Fairbanks.

This is Robert Marshall country, scenic and perfect for ski touring. Winter visitation is almost nil, insuring plenty of privacy.

Temperature range: -35 degrees at night to about +25 degrees daytime. Snow depth: 2 to 2 1/2 feet. Length: about 130 miles.

See the book, America's Wonderlands by National Geographic for photos of this trip.

BROOKS RANGE

March 30 to April 11, 1975

Last year's trip was such a success that we returned for another ski tour this year. Again I was the only non-Fairbanksan, but this time we had two fellows in the party. Other members were Pat Pyne, Shirley Liss, Marilyn and Ben West, and Phil Smith.

We flew into Walker Lake, climbed over a low pass to the west of Walker Lake, to the Reed River, then up the Reed River to Angiaak Pass, down Tupuk Creek to the Noatak River, up the Noatak to Lucky Ski Creek and Gull Pass. Then we went down Gull Creek, had an air drop at the Alatna River, and skied down the Alatna to Takahula Lake, with a side trip to the Arrigetch Peaks, of course. A storm set in two days before our air pickup. Since we were unprepared for the +38 degrees during the storm, we waited it out, luckily, in the shell of an unfinished cabin. With tarps over the window holes, and a 6-inch deep wood chip floor, it was truly the Alatna Hilton. That unscheduled last week was on half-rations.

Nighttime temperatures ranged from -28 degrees to +38 degrees; daytime +15 degrees to +38 degrees. Snow depth: about 3 feet on the Reed River; 2 feet on the Alatna. We took no tents, just tarps, and dug holes in the snow each night.

Highlights of the trip were the intriguing canyons of Tupuk, Lucky Six, and Gull Creeks, a serenade by a wolf chorus on the Noatak, and, naturally, the Arrigetch Peaks on a cloudless day.

Nancy Simmerman
