



MOUNTAINEERING CLUB OF ALASKA

BOX 2037

ANCHORAGE, ALASKA 99510

OCTOBER 1979

OCTOBER MEETING

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The meeting will be held at 8 p.m. on Wednesday, October 17th, on the top floor of the Pioneer Schoolhouse at 3rd and Eagle, Anchorage, Alaska. A slide show on this summer's backpacking trip to Kodiak Island will be presented by the trip's participants. Remember that further nominations and elections will be held for all Club officers and two board member positions at the October meeting. Please attend and exercise your vote.

#### "TO THANK YOU"

This note is a thank you to all the individuals who have put their time, energy, and talents to assist the Mountaineering Club of Alaska. To avoid forgetting anyone I won't list specific names but many people have assisted in: ski trips, climbing schools, hiking trips, cabin repair, taking care of equipment, environmental issues, questionnaires, patches, giving slide presentations, food preparation, transportation for trips, etc. With more and more individuals willing to be involved, the MCA can be more productive and successful in its' activities. Every member is valuable so please don't be shy about getting involved! I have enjoyed being an officer of the club and appreciate the cooperation that the members have demonstrated. I hope to continue in club activities and look forward to the future. Thank you all very much and keep that adventurous spirit!

Sincerely,

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#### MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER GENERAL MEETING, MOUNTAINEERING CLUB OF ALASKA Wednesday, September 19, 1979, Pioneer Schoolhouse, Anchorage

The meeting was called to order by President LaRue at 8:08 p.m. The Treasurer's report was as follows: Checking account \$1,017.26; Savings account \$414.52, and cash \$30.12 for a total of \$1,461.90. John Dillman reported on the successful Labor Day week-end work party of 15 persons at the MCA Mint Glacier Hut. Among many things accomplished, new siding was put up, the loft area was insulated, two windows were installed, Dave Pahlke made a stowaway table and a door latch, an outhouse was constructed, and a shovel was left in the hut for use there. Next year it is hoped to install an oil stove and fuel. There is a better access trail now in summer and a good ski trail in winter. Tim Neale announced an ice climbing school for beginners to be held in two sessions, a class on Wednesday, September 26th, 7:30 p.m. at Central Junior High School, and a climbing class at the Hatanuska Glacier on the following day, Saturday September 29th. Only MCA members can take the course for which a sign-up sheet was available. President LaRue announced that nominations would be taken for Club officers and two Board members and that further nominations could be made before the annual elections at

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the October General Meeting. The following nominations were made:

President: Tim Neale, Craig Renkert  
Vice-President: Peter Sennhauser, Mike Richardson  
Secretary: Al Robinson  
Treasurer: Marty Bassett  
Board Members: Steve Jones, John Dillman, Dave Pahlke, Steve Wakeland,  
Jane Peria, Jim Eason

A question was raised about choosing a Climbing Chairman. The answer was he/she is appointed by the Board. Since none has been willing to serve, it is questioned whether 3 or 4 could rotate the job. It was suggested that the Board try to schedule at least one climb a month during the summer months. Tim Neale asked about putting up the new summit registers that have been made. It was suggested that a notice be put in SCREE for volunteers to place the registers on designated peaks. After the break for refreshments, Don Anderson gave an excellent show of P.J. Hill's slides (he was unable to be present) of a spring climb of Marcus Baker, the highest peak in the Chugach Range. This was followed by Tom Choat's slides of numerous climbs of smaller but challenging mountains and ridges on and near the Harding Icefield south of Iceworm Peak on the Kenai Peninsula. Meeting was adjourned at 9:40 p.m. E. Allen Robinson

Editor's note: Peter Sennhauser has requested that his name be withdrawn from consideration for the office of vice-president.

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CLIMBS

(Anyone interested in climbs must sign up at club meeting or contact trip leader at least 4 days before the trip is scheduled)

October 20th - West Twin Peak

One day trip. Meet in parking lot of UAA by the Sports Complex at 7 a.m. Equipment: Ice axe, crampons, swami belt, wind gear, cold weather gear and flashlight. Contact Tim Neale 274-4952

October 24 and Weekend Trip Oct 27 & 28th. - Basic Mountaineering Class

A classroom meeting is scheduled for October 24th, 8 p.m. at a location to be announced at the October Club meeting. A two day fieldtrip on October 27 & 28th will be held in the O'Malley area. Equipment required for the trip will be discussed at the classroom meeting on October 24th. Contact Tim Neale (274-4952) for further information.

November 3rd - Goat Mountain (Near Crow Pass)

One day trip. Equipment and meeting place are the same as for the October 20th West Twin Peak trip, EXCEPT that we meet at 6 a.m. If the road to Crow Pass is closed or avalanche conditions make it too dangerous to get into Goat Mountain, another peak in the Girdwood area will be climbed. Contact Tim Neale (274-4952)

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1978 NANDA DEVI EXPEDITION SLIDE SHOW

November 2nd, 8:00 p.m. Michael Clarke from Seattle, leader of the 1978 Expedition to Nanda Devi will visit Anchorage to show his slides. Mike's team put 6 of its members on the summit of this 25,645' Himalayan peak. This was the 6th ascent of the peak. Nanda Devi is the highest peak in the Garhwal Himalaya of Northern India.

ICE CLIMBING CLASS 1979

Those that participated in the ice climbing class at Matanuska Glacier were greeted with beautiful weather. Everyone had an opportunity to climb as much as they wanted. Would like to give special thanks to Terry Becker and Mike Richardson for their instruction during the Wednesday evening portion of the ice climbing school. Participants on the Matanuska Glacier were: Steve Jones, Ken Johnson, Pat Murray, Reggie Buchanan, Bob Freer, John Wahl, Karen Rosene, Mary Bailey, Bob Hume, Meg Leonard, Pat Slater, Rich Severn, Gordon Melms, Diane Olson, Tim Cerney, Bill Salmon, Joan Blades, Shelley Owens, Claudia Slater, and instructors included Sue Havens, Mike Richardson, Dave Pahlke, Tim Neale, Stephan Pauli, Paul Denkwalter, Ernie Borjon.

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TRIP REPORTS

BYERS LAKE TO TROUBLESOME CREEK TRAVERSE - August 25, 26, 1979  
Total Distance: 15 miles      Elevation gain: 2000 feet  
USGS Maps: Talkeetna C-1, Talkeetna Mountains C-6 and D-6

The original plan to traverse from Byers Lake Campground, Mile 147, Parks Highway to the Troublesome Creek Wayside, Mile 137.8, was modified after Hiking Chairman, Dona Agosti, consulted with Denali State Park rangers and we observed a sign declaring the trail to be dangerous due to fish feeding brown bears on Troublesome Creek. Since our planned route followed Troublesome Creek for 7 miles through brush, we invoked Backpacker's Bear Rule No. 1: Avoidance is the better part of valor. Anyway, ten MCA hikers left the Byers Lake Campground at 9:30 a.m. on Saturday. By noon, or thereabouts, depending on individual vigor, the group was at Tarn Point, 2880 feet, the first high point on Curry Ridge when approaching the Parks Highway side. The trail to this point was well marked with tape and cairns. From here on, however, it was map and compass time.

The Curry Ridge system is an excellent area for overnight or longer hikes, offering a variety of terrain and distance to suit just about every taste. The area has numerous small lakes, warm enough for swimming, abundant blueberries and views of Mt. McKinley and most of the adjacent peaks in the Alaska Range.

About half the group stopped shortly beyond Tarn Point to swim, pick berries, and nap, while others continued farther to individual campsites. Two really energetic hikers, John Ramey and Ron Rhodehamel, decided to continue on down the length of Curry Ridge. Sunday morning, after a short hike looking around the area, and more berry picking, the in-and-outers retraced their steps to Byers Lake and a planned dinner stop at Mary Carey's, Mile 134.5. Just as the pie a la mode disappeared, chasing the chiliburgers and beer, Ron and John materialized in the parking lot, having completed 20 cross-country miles of ridge, creek and brush.

MCA participants were: Dona Agosti, Pauline Chase, Jerry Jost, Pierce and Emile McIntosh, John Niven, John Ramey, Ron Rhodehamel, John Strassenburgh and Merilyn Swanson.      Pierce McIntosh

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BOOK REVIEWS

Recent additions to the MCA library include three publications by the Mountaineers-Seattle: Mountain Flowers--text by Harvey Manning and color illustrations by Bob and Ira Spring; 100 Hikes in the Alps--text by Harvey Edwards and illustrations by Ira Spring; and The Last Blue Mountain--Ralph Barker.

Mountain Flowers has an intriguing new format, literally shirt-pocket size. There are color photographs, usually close-ups, for each plant identified, together with scientific names and common names, flowering season, features, habitat, associates, and distribution in Washington state. Harvey Manning's introduction and accompanying brief text are very useful and in his inimitable humorous style he demonstrates his knowledge and love of both mountains and flowers. Many of the plants are familiar to Alaskans; a few, for example, Bear Grass, are either unknown or seldom seen in the state. The book is divided into Flowers of the Forest and Flowers of the Meadow, and further subdivided by color. Although Distribution and Flowering Season are described for Washington state, other details are pertinent for Alaska. Index is by both common and botanical name. The last page includes suggestions on Flower Photography by the Spring brothers. Considering the convenient size, excellent text and color photography, and low price (\$3.95), this would appear most useful for mountain travellers, whether in Washington or Alaska.

Probably many Americans would assume a book titled 100 Hikes in the Alps referred primarily to Switzerland, but this paperback guide goes from the French Pyrenees through Switzerland, Liechtenstein, Germany, Austria, Italy and into Yugoslavia. The American authors and illustrator appear very well qualified--Harvey Edwards has lived for 20 years in Chamonix, in the French Alps, and has written and filmed extensively about mountain areas. Ira Spring has also lived in Chamonix, and with his twin brother is widely known for outdoor and especially mountain photography.

I haven't been lucky enough to get to Switzerland yet, but when I go, this book will be in my pack, and I anticipate wonderful winter days pouring over text and pictures, planning trips. There is a wealth of information about trails, climbing and hiking clubs, huts, other accommodations, equipment, and, praise be---pollution (avoiding it, that is). As well as providing practical details about trails, views, accommodations, and transportation, as a first-rate guide book should, this one can give hours of pleasure to the arm-chair traveller, feeding delightful fantasies! Would you like to read about a Pyrenees Traverse which could take 6-8 weeks, 450 miles one way? Did you know that there are rather newly developed long-distance trails across several of the countries? In the Swiss national parks, the author made close approach to ibex, chamois, and red deer. Illustrations are in black and white, with one for a key point on every hike, and a lovely color bonus in the cover view of the Matterhorn.

This reviewer did not have time before the SCREE deadline to read through The Last Blue Mountain, a re-issue of Ralph Barker's account of the tragic 1957 attempt on Haramosh, in the Karakoram. More later. Liz Robinson