



MOUNTAINEERING CLUB OF ALASKA

BOX 2037

ANCHORAGE, ALASKA 99510

JULY 1979

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JULY MEETING

Julian Mason will present a slide show highlighting many of the easily-accessible and interesting climbs in South Central Alaska. Julian has done an extensive amount of climbing in this area in recent years. The main program will be a surprise as I have received tentative commitments from a couple of people, but due to outdoor activities, it has been impossible to get final commitments. Come to the meeting and be enlightened. The meeting will be Wednesday, July 18th at 8:00 p.m., on the top floor of the Pioneer Schoolhouse at 3rd and Eagle.

MINUTES OF JUNE GENERAL MEETING, MOUNTAINEERING CLUB OF ALASKA Wednesday, June 20, 1979, Pioneer Schoolhouse, Anchorage

The meeting was called to order by President LaRue at 8:06 p.m. The Treasurer reported: Savings account \$471.38; Checking account \$450.39; Cash, \$250.00; undeposited checks \$83.73; TOTAL \$1,255.50. Conservation Committee Chairman Barbara Winkley read a proposed letter to the Director of the Fish & Wildlife Service, Anchorage, encouraging the proposed establishment of refuges in Alaska, noting that hunting is allowed but no mechanized vehicles. A vote was held of MCA members at the meeting and by 21 to 2 it was approved. Board Member, Dave Klinger reported that MCA patches are now due in about two weeks. He will be unable to lead the Emerald Lake hike on June 30-July 1 due to scheduled surgery but Dona Agosti later volunteered. Valerie LaRue announced the Summer Solstice Sleepout on June 23 would feature a kite-flying contest with awards for the most original and for the one staying up the longest. Other hikes announced for the coming month include an easy one over Portage Pass on July 4, Ptarmigan Lake on July 7-8, and King Mountain on July 14-15. Marty Bassett, SCREE Editor, requested any good articles on Alaska be sent to him by the first of the month. A volunteer is needed to help with refreshments. Vice-President Craig Renkert announced the slide show scheduled for the following evening at Wendler Jr. High by Vera Komarkova, one of the two reaching the summit of Annapurna on the American Woman's Expedition in 1978. Board member Tim Neale announced that arrangements are being made to keep the MCA's climbing equipment at the REI store where it may be checked out on presentation of the MCA membership card and identification by showing Alaska driver's license. President LaRue told of her attendance at the ACE brown-bag lunch earlier that day on a discussion about pending land disposals by the State in the northern part of Chugach Park to the Eklutna Village Corporation under terms of ANSCA. It is desirable that all members write to Mayor Sullivan and/or their Assemblyperson to work out an agreement with the State to make no land-disposal decisions concerning State lands for about 18 months so that negotiations can continue with the Eklutnas about trading some of their selected lands. Otherwise, access will be cut off to the Park from Eagle River east to, and including, Eklutna Lake. (continued)

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Dave Klinger presented a mini-slide show on recent hikes to Gull Rock and along Chikaloon Trail plus some of Dick Thaler's slides on Ptarmigan Lake. After a break for refreshments, Tim Neale gave a very interesting series of slides on a trip he and five other fellows made to the Wrangells in April 1979 with many retreats to snow caves because of bad weather. Meeting adjourned at 9:35 p.m. E. Allen Robinson.

PARK ACCESS THREATENED FROM EAGLE RIVER TO EKLUTNA

The elimination of access to Chugach State Park from Eagle River to Eklutna is a distinct possibility in the near future. The importance of this situation makes it imperative that all MCA members make their feelings known to the responsible officials mentioned below. The following article from the June 27, 1979 edition of the Anchorage Daily News summarizes the situation in the northern Chugach.

Keeping the Park Open to the People by Peg Tileston (Alaska Center for the Environment)

At a time when more and more people are using Chugach State Park, northern access may be severely limited, at best, or completely eliminated, at worst. The Eklutna Village Corporation, under the terms of the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act, has selected 60,000 acres of land inside the park boundary. Although this represents only 12 percent of the park's 495,000 acres, the geographical locations of these selections effectively block access to at least another 190,000 acres of parkland. Areas that have been selected include the valleys of Meadow, Little Peters, Peters, Thunderbird, Goat and Hunter Creeks. Also chosen are lands in the valleys of Eagle and Eklutna Rivers and around Eklutna Lake. Since most of the current access to the northern half of the park is through these stream courses, total transferral of these lands into private ownership would unquestionably severely curtail the availability of large portions of the park. The Eklutna Village Corporation has indicated to the Alaska Division of Parks that they would be willing to discuss trading some of their selected lands in the park for other State lands in the Anchorage area. In the normal course of events, the State and the Corporation could proceed to work out an equitable solution. However, because of the action by the legislature this year, all State-held lands within the municipality must be conveyed from the State to Anchorage by July 1, 1979. To date, the Alaska Division of Parks, the Eklutna Village Corporation and the municipality of Anchorage have held several meetings to discuss the situation. All parties realize that they are inexorably tied together by the limited amount of State land within the Anchorage boundaries. With the July 1 deadline looming, what steps might be taken to preserve the opportunity to continue to work toward reaching a solution? Both the State and the municipality could agree, in a memorandum of agreement, to make no land disposal decisions concerning the State lands due for transfer for a given period of time, such as 18 mo. This would preserve negotiating options and hopefully provide time to work out an agreement that would be satisfactory to all parties. What will be lost if no action is taken? It may be impossible to enter the park from the Eagle River-Eklutna side. Eagle River itself may also be inaccessible because the water column could be completely encased in private holdings. Certainly, as subdivisions grow into these valleys, road development may provide park entry. However, it is important to note that a recent platting board decision has allowed the street system in Upper Chugach (formerly Swiss Alps) Subdivision to be designated "private". This would preclude the use of those streets by anyone other than the residents. The northern part of

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the park is heavily used by hikers, berrypickers, and those seeking wildlife. It is an area where dall sheep can be seen quite readily, without a long drive or considerable physical exertion. The city of Eagle River has long wanted the distraction of being the "Gateway to Chugach State Park" and funds have been sought for a visitor center near Eklutna Lake. What is the value of Chugach State Park? Certainly there have been numerous conflicts over use designations, such as snow-machines/skier and hunting/non-hunting area, but few can be found who do not support the desirability of having the park at Anchorage's doorstep. Park visits numbered over 800,000 last year and it is not unreasonable to assume that as gasoline becomes more expensive, more and more Anchorage-ites will look to the park as a recreational haven. If northern approaches are unavailable and prolonged road construction on Seward Highway limits southern access, the hillside area will receive a staggering burden of use. Unfortunately, we are not in a position to choose which is important and which is unimportant. The choice must be between what we want and what we want more. We believe that a viable Chugach State Park with access available from a number of points is of prime importance and worth considerable effort to insure. In order to provide the time necessary to work out a satisfactory land trade, we urge the municipality and the State to enter into an agreement to hold the state lands that will transfer to the municipality in a non-disposal status for 18 months and to work toward an equitable trade with the Eklutna Village Corporation which will assure continued access to Eagle River, Eklutna River, and Eklutna Lake, and the northern part of Chugach State Park. If you wish to make your views known on this issue, call the Mayor and/or your Assemblyperson. If you would like more information, contact Sandy Rabinowitch at Alaska Division of Parks, 274-4676. Time is short and the consequence is tremendous.

Note: In addition to calling the Mayor and Assemblyperson as mentioned above, it would also be helpful to contact Ted Burns, Attorney at Law for the municipality, and Bob Leresche, Commissioner, Department of Natural Resources, Pouch M, Juneau, Alaska 99811.

PROGRAMS

The Club is in need of some suggestions for programs for the rest of the summer and the fall. If you have slides of an outing that you would like to present at a Club meeting, or know of someone who does, please contact Valerie at the next meeting or call Craig Renkert at 277-9783.

LOCATION FOR FUTURE SKI HUTS

MCA is currently soliciting suggestions for possible future ski hut sites. If you have a favorite spot where you wish there was a hut, let us know. Call Dick Thaler at 274-6033 or Tim Neale at 274-4952.

? SHORT ONE STUFF SACK ?

If anyone lost a North Face stuff sack on our recent Flattop outing, it can be reclaimed by calling Bob Hume at 276-5152 (work) or 278-3289 (home).

MCA CLIMBING GEAR

Tim Neale reports that there are still some non-MCA members who are trying to check out MCA climbing gear. This is a privilege available to members only. If members wish to check out gear, call Tim at 274-4952.

HIKING SCHEDULE

July 14-15
Dona Agosti
279-2901

KING MOUNTAIN TRAIL - Although there is a cable crossing of Matanuska River just behind King Mountain Lodge (Mile 76? Glenn Highway), it requires some do-it-yourself pulling and you might end up in the middle of the river with no strength to get yourself back. So we have planned to cross the river upstream in rafts and walk up to the trail near King Mountain. This is hunter's territory, but few hikers have been into this area. Moderately difficult. NOTE: UNLESS WE CAN FIND SOMEONE TO MANEUVER AN AVON RAFT WITH MOTOR ACROSS THE MATANUSKA, WE WILL HAVE TO CANCEL THE TRIP.

July 21-22
Gene Klymko
274-6753(h)

INDIAN VALLEY - Depart Glen Alps, walk up South Fork Valley then to ridge below Ramp overlooking Ship Lake, thence down into Ship Lake and camp via small lake which can be seen near ridge (or near Ship Lake if crowd is tired); exit via Indian Pass and Indian, or if no one wants to leave a car at Indian, back over Powerline Pass and out. Meet at 7:00 a.m. at Fred Meyer Parking Lot.

July 28-
Aug 5
Dick Tero
(Call Dona
Agosti)
(279-2901)

KODIAK ISLAND - The trip begins about 45 miles out of Kodiak at Saltery Cove-Ugak Bay, proceeds westward to Mount Glotto (4405') (the second highest peak on the island), and ends near Middle Bay. We will have several beach parties and end with tour with a viewing of "Cry of the Wild Ram" on August 4. Return to Anchorage Aug. 5th. Wien's charter rate for 10 persons is \$82.06 round trip. We will leave at 9:30 a.m. Saturday morning. This promises to be a fun trip complete with scenery, King Crab, and good theatre.

July 28-29
Leader Needed

REED LAKES - This is a favorite destination in the Talkeetnas where the big kids can climb Lynx Peak and the little kids can play Indian around the huge boulders in this mountain glen overlooking a turquoise lake and beautiful falls. The route is via Snowbird Mine off the Hatcher Pass road. (Trip 44 in The Book)

Aug 4-5

Open to Suggestions

Aug 11-12
Leader Needed

PETERS HILLS (Trip 47 in The Book)

Aug 18-19
Leader Needed

GUNSITE MOUNTAIN, SQUAW CREEK, BELANGER PASS - This trail begins near Gunsite Mountain Lodge about Mile 126 on the Glenn Highway and winds through some great back-country.

Aug 25-26
Dona Agosti
279-2901

TROUBLESOME CREEK - BYERS LAKE - Mile 147 Parks Highway

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Sept 1-2-3
Labor Day
Mal LaRue
77-7074

LOST LAKE - Long-time vacation favorite beginning at Campground near end of Kenai Lake and exiting at Mile 5 near Seward. Valerie will lead a group in a try for Mt. Ascension on Sunday. Others can loaf and pick berries that day.

TRIP REPORTS

Chester Creek Headwaters - Emerald Lake (June 30-July 1)

ICA established several new records on this trip. For one thing, we had three visitors from abroad, two from New Zealand and one from England. Secondly, the visitor from England was a young 74. We accept all challenges. Those participating were: Irene Addis (England), Dona Agosti, Marty Bassett, Cyndi Campbell, Bob Fraer, Sarah Glassar (New Zealand), Sue Heston, Steve Jones, Pierce and Emile McIntosh, Pat Murray, Helen Nienhueser, Brigitta Ressel and her friends Nancy and Debbie Ried (New Zealand). We left from the dead-end at Tikishla Street (ample parking) in Hugach Foothills, then walked via the powerline past the water storage tank and on to the new improved military oil well road; thence across Chester Creek to the trailhead (marked with orange ribbon). We left the military road about a half mile up and followed a game trail now well-ribboned by Dave Klinger. Even so, it is still tricky at spots and a "few" of us deviated. However, the advance group led by Steve Jones, reached the confluence of "Snowhawk Creek" and an unnamed creek while the rear-guard settled for the bench near the confluence of Chester Creek headwaters at about 2100'. The weather and view were super as were the bugs. This is not your everyday jaunt (1800' in 2 miles) so it is not surprising that no one made it to Emerald Lake. We did sight moose and I thought I heard coyotes. The 4-hour trip down on Sunday was without problem. Maybe someday I'll figure out why it is so easy to lose this trail going up and so easy to find it going down. Dona Agosti.

Mount Eklutna (4110') (June 2)

There is a good way up Mt. Eklutna. Drive north on the freeway to Eagle River. Eight miles beyond the bridge over Eagle River, you cross the bridge over Peters Creek. Then 0.4 miles further, turn right off the freeway, across paved Old Glenn Highway, and then right on the gravel road to Peters Creek Chapel. Drive past the Chapel and continue on for 2 1/4 miles, following the main road, to Peters Gate Estates. There are red arrows pointing the way but, since some of the arrows are down, here are more explicit directions. At 0.2 miles (past the Chapel) turn left; at 0.8 miles turn left across the gulley; at 0.9 miles turn right up the hill; at 1.6 miles turn left and then right; go up the hill and hairpins (courage); at 2.3 miles turn right on Malcolm Drive; at 2.5 miles go straight ahead about a mile on the dirt road, cross a small stream ford, past a defunct overturned trailer on the right, and up a hill to a 4-wheel drive trail on the left, marked by two large boulders (the trailhead). Park here. Hike up this trail until it peters out in a half mile or so. Mt. Eklutna is straight ahead. The easiest way to climb it is to head up the gulley to the left toward a prominent saddle. There is a trail heading that way which is helpful, but don't worry if you miss it. As you approach the saddle, traverse up to the right until you reach the ridge and follow the ridge to the summit. Five of us assembled at Peters Creek Chapel at about 8:00 a.m. for this trip - Brigitte Ressel, Dave Klinger, Marty Rourke, Betty and Tony Bockstahler. We parked at the start of the dirt road and Malcolm Drive as the dirt road was closed for road work. We hiked the mile or so to the trailhead. Three of us were on top in about two

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hours from the trailhead. Marty and Betty elected to continue hiking up the Peters Creek Valley Road. We descended by the south ridge and east to the Peters Creek Valley road via another 4-wheel drive trail. This is a very satisfying climb - a good view with no difficult climbing and very little bush-whacking.

Tony Bockstahler

A NOTE FROM THE EDITOR:

SCREE is the Monthly Publication of the Mountaineering Club of Alaska. I would like to remind you that all items for publications must be submitted at the monthly meeting or mailed to my home at S.R. Box 9204 - Eagle River, Alaska 99577 no later than the FIRST OF EACH MONTH to be considered for that month's publication. Your cooperation is appreciated. Marty Bassett, Editor.

DUES: Send to Pierce McIntosh at 4231 Chess Drive, Anchorage, Alaska 99504
Family: \$10.00; Individual \$7.50; Junior & out-of-town (50 miles) \$5.00

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