



MOUNTAINEERING CLUB OF ALASKA

BOX 2037

ANCHORAGE, ALASKA 99510

SEPTEMBER 1979

SEPTEMBER MEETING

Vol 22 #9

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The meeting will be held Wednesday, September 19th at 8 p.m. on the top floor of the Pioneer Schoolhouse, Third and Eagle, Anchorage, Alaska. P.J. Hill will present a slide show on his spring climb of Marcus Baker and other peaks in the Matanuska Glacier area of the Chugach Range.

PLEASE NOTE: At the September meeting, nominations will be held for all club officers for the coming year. Please consider who could most appropriately fill these positions and bring your ideas to the meeting on the 19th.

MINUTES OF AUGUST GENERAL MEETING, MOUNTAINEERING CLUB OF ALASKA
Wednesday, August 15, 1979, Pioneer Schoolhouse, Anchorage

The meeting was called to order by President LaRue at 8:09 p.m. The Treasurer's report was as follows: Checking account \$1,042.71; Undeposited checks \$953.49; for a total of \$1,996.20. Of this total, \$360.00 is the Larry Swanson Memorial Fund and \$844.64 represents unpaid bills. The net checking account is \$791.56; savings account is \$414.52 and cash is \$23.72 for a grand total of \$1,229.80. Hiking Chairman, Dona Agosti reported on recent hikes and those planned for the next few weekends. She reported that Darcy Lockhart, planner on the MatSu Borough staff would like to have comments on recreational use of lands in that large Borough area by September 1. Dona will pass these on to him. A Labor Day weekend trip into the MCA Mint Glacier Hut was announced, to be led by Tim Neale. John Dillman reported on the hut's condition and need for repairs. MCA will contribute \$200.00 to the cost of these repairs. Rich Hall, also a member of Glacier Grotto, cavers, is trying to find caves around Alaska, and trying to go to an area east of McCarthy now or in September. Flying in will cost about \$120.00 per person for drop off and pickup. President LaRue announced an MCA picnic at Eklutna Lake where Knik Canoers are also invited on September 8th. Since it will be a potluck, everyone is invited to bring a main dish or salad. Frisbees, volleyball, and net are wanted. We will eat at 3 p.m. Tim Neale asked for volunteers to work on the MCA Eagle Hut. Materials for the hut repair have been left on the snowfield on the glacier and need to be taken downhill to the hut. The MCA Whiteout Hut was also reported not in good shape after a fly-over two weeks earlier. There was discussion of spending money on MCA huts when they are used only a little by members. It was announced that nominations are scheduled at the September meeting for all four officers of President, Vice-President, Secretary, and Treasurer, as well as two Board Members. Special thanks were expressed for the excellent contributions of time and energy given to the Club by outgoing Board member Dave Klinger who is leaving Alaska this month to retire in Leavenworth, Washington, another good hiking and climbing area on the east edge of the Cascades. The mini-slide show was presented by John Dillman of the MCA Mint Glacier Hut and the surrounding area. The

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(September Minutes Continued)

main slide show was done by Steve Markiewicz about a spring fly-in by a group of male climbers who explored the Ruth Glacier and the Don Sheldon Amphitheater on the south side of the Alaska Range near McKinley, with climbs around that area. The meeting was adjourned at 9:30 p.m. E. Allen Robinson

VIN HOEMAN LIBRARY REPORT

Tom Meacham

It has been quite a while since a report on the status of the MCA library has appeared in Scree. The library has continued to grow through MCA purchases and the generosity of donors, and today is probably the most complete mountaineering collection in the State. In the past year approximately 70 books have been added to the library, and we have obtained printed book pockets and cards to keep better track of the books. They are in the process of being placed in all books in the collection. Memorial Book Plates are also being considered, as an appropriate gesture. The library is located in my home (1410 "H" Street) and is available to all MCA members. We are home most evenings, and welcome browsers! Please call before you come if possible, to make certain we will be at home. (277-2129)

A complete (and lengthy) list of the new acquisitions and their sources follows: (Most of the MCA purchases are used and out-of-print books that I have located on my frequent trips to Washington, D.C.)

Books donated in memory of Don Pahlke, Linda Hesting, and Jeff Moeller

<u>Name</u>	<u>Donor</u>
Annapurna South Face (Bonington)	The Book Cache
55 Ways to the Wilderness (Nienhueser)	"
Hall of the Mountain King (Snyder)	"
Mountain of Storms (Harvard/Thompson)	"
Changabang (Bonington/Haston)	"
Expeditions (Blashford-Snell)	"
Mountain Medicine (Ward)	"
The Mont Blanc Massif (Rebuffat)	"
Cascade Alpine Guide (Beckey)	"
The Vertical World of Yosemite (Rowell)	"
A.B.C.'s of Avalanche Safety (LaChappelle)	K. E. Louk
Icecraft (Kingsley)	"
Military Mountaineering (USArmy)	"
Trips/Trails in Washington State (Sterling)	"
Tourist Guide to Mt. McKinley (Washburn)	"
After Everest (Tenzing)	Sue Wrenn
The New Complete Walker (Fletcher)	Hesting Family
The Climber's Sourcebook (Schneider)	"
Advanced Rockcraft (Robbins)	"
Ropes, Knots & Slings (Wheelock)	"
Alaska's Backtrails (Carter)	"
Bergsteigen (Aleith)	"
Land Beyond the Mountains (Shinkareu)	"
Glacier Bay (Bohn)	"
Tourist Guide to Mt. McKinley (Washburn)	"
Modern Snow & Ice Techniques (March)	"
Field Book of Mountaineering (Lyman)	"
Everest S/W Face (Bonington)	"
Annapurna (Herzog)	"

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(Vin Hoeman Library Report continued)

(books donated in memory of Don Pahlke, Linda Hesting & Jeff Moeller)

Name	Donor
Mountaineering (Blackshaw)	Hesting Family
Basic Rockcraft (Robbins)	"
International Mountain Rescue Handbook (MacInnes)	"
Map & Compass (Kjellstrom)	"
Exploring Mt. McKinley Park (Montague)	"
Glacier Ice (LaChapelle)	Tom Meacham
Master of Rock (Ament)	Greg & Loretta Higgins
Coming Into the Country (McPhee)	"
Annapurna (Herzog)	"
The Face of North America (Farb)	"
Romance of the National Parks (James)	"
Sourdough Sky (Mills/Phillips)	"
Arctic Bush Mission (Chambers)	"

VinHoeman Library Purchases:

Climbing in North America (Jones)
 On Mountains (Jerome)
 Mont Blanc & the Seven Valleys (Frison-Roche)
 Hall of the Mountain King (paperback) (Snyder)
 Mountaineer's Handbook (The Mountaineers 1948)
 Mountains in the Desert (Carl/Petit 1954)
 Red Peak (Slessor 1954)
 Seven Years in Tibet (Harrer 1954)
 Beginner's Guide to Mountain Climbing (Smith)
 The Call of the Mountains (Wyatt 1953)
 Kingdom of Adventure: Everest (Ulmann)
 The Crossing of Antarctica (Fuchs/Hillary)
 Mawson's Will (Bickel)
 Men, Myths and Mountains (Clark)
 Pacific Coast Trail (Sutton)
 Mountaineering in the Sierra Nevada (King)
 Mountains in Colour (Smyth)
 The Mountains of America (Russell)
 First Over Everest (Fellowes)
 A Yak for Christmas (Louise Hillary)
 High Time (Louise Hillary)
 National Geographic 1935 (Mt. Crillon-Washburn)
 National Geographic 1930 (Minya Konka)
 National Geographic 1938 (Alaska-Washburn)
 National Geographic 1936 (Yukon-Washburn)
 National Geographic 1931 (Minya Konka)
 National Geographic 1943 (Minya Konka)
 National Geographic 1954 (Everest-Hunt)

Complementary Review Copies from Publishers:

Bouldering & Outcrop Climbing (Lyman)
 55 Ways to the Wilderness (Nienhueser) (2 ed)
 Gervasutti's Climbs (Mountaineers)
 Rock Climbing (Livesey)
 Northwest Trees (Arno)
 K-2, The Savage Mountain (Houston/Bates)
 Mountains of the World (Bueler)

"THANKS"

On August 21st Lowell Thomas Jr. donated his time and airplane to fly Gunnar Nasland and his brother and a friend onto the Eagle Glacier. Gunnar was able to move the roofing materials and pain off the glacier and into the Eagle Hut. We would like to thank Lowell, Gunnar and crew for their time and effort.

CAVING ANYONE??

I am still looking for some adventurous people to joint in a caving/hiking expedition in the Wrangells. Caving experience not necessary; climbing experience appreciated but not necessary. There will be two groups; one September 17-23 and one September 23-29. Call Rich Hall for information as soon as possible, Home 333-2090; Work 265-3365.

BEGINNING ICE CLIMBING

Anyone interested in taking a beginning ice climbing class should be sure to attend the September MCA meeting. Exact times and location of the ice climbing class will be discussed at that time.

TRIP REPORTSPeters Hills (August 11 and 12, 1979)(Trip #47 in "55 Ways"

Only six hikers turned out, three of which, myself, Steve Wakeland and Marcia Mueller, went up Friday afternoon to attend a MatSu Borough Planning Commission hearing at Trapper Creek school that night. The hearing concerned the Tokosha Citizens' Council proposed Borough ordinance for a four-township size roadless area. That area is bisected by the State's proposed Route B to provide access to the Tokositna Visitor's Center - the proposed complex to include "world class" skiing and Mt. McKinley viewing. The location of that center happens to be North Point, the object of our M.C.A. hike. It was an interesting meeting, attended by several M.C.A. members including Gayle and Helen Nienhueser, who also have property in the proposed roadless area north of Peters Creek road. At about 10 a.m. on Saturday we three were joined at Cache Creek Restaurant by Meg Leonard, Barbara Hamilton, and Craig Renkert. We had two four-wheel drive vehicles for the sometimes formidable road. However, we could have made it with a Winnebago, although after 8 miles the road narrowed to one lane and had some areas that could be slick in wetter weather or get soft and high-center some cars. It is 19 miles to a lodge at Peter's Creek, about 11 more to what is left of Petersville and one more to the trailhead. I had been warned this is bear country and that a previous M.C.A. group had some trouble thanks to a dog, so I requested no dogs - which cost us two additional hikers. Perhaps we should discuss this dog policy at a meeting sometime. Last minute equipment checks revealed that we had four tents and one stove; about par for the course! After leaving the ATV trail a little short of the brush line, we ambled along picking our route and numerous blueberries, gradually gaining altitude. The terrain is tundra, a number of small lakes and a series of benches and slopes - all deceptive because it takes twice as long to make a mile as it appears it should from the map. Weather was so-so with drizzle periods and some tantalizing peaks under the clouds at the Tokositna Glacier, the Big Su Valley to the southeast and at the spires of the Alaska Range beyond the Dutch Hills. (cont'd)

(Peters Hills Trip - Continued)

Some 5 miles in, 3 airline miles, we camped at one of several small lakes and a long pleasant evening of conversation followed. We marvelled at how foul the weather was all around us but how pleasant where we were. We also marvelled how Barbara pioneered a new route straight up a mountainside, that Steve primed Craig's stove with wine and how Craig could put away a four-man Mexican dinner and have the temerity to then share his tent. Weather looked better the next morning, but the blue patches all disappeared about the time we arrived at North Point, two more airline miles away and two more benches away - in fact the fog socked in tight and we soon departed, after noting former M.C.A. trips in the log. Craig left the top an hour or so after we had been there and claims he saw the Tokosha Mountains and Ruth Glacier. The trek back was noteworthy for the clearing weather, warm sun, and some good views of Denali and more berry picking while we dawdled along and took pictures. At last count, Meg had 29 shots of Denali. We saw a number of willow ptarmigan and fat parka squirrels, an eagle and little else, until the end of the return trip when Steve and Marcia encountered a black bear and a fox but we never did see griz sign except a big pile of blueberry dumplings in the road on the way in. Good trip and good company. Bill Wakeland

KODIAK ISLAND TRIP (July 28 to August 5)

Everyone had to get up early Saturday, July 28th to catch the 7:10 a.m. Wien flight to Kodiak, but it was certainly worth the effort for in store was an unforgettable trip of dramatic scenery, sunny days, fresh seafood, alpine pools, tantalizing berries, historical drama and excellent companionship. Those who gathered sleepily at the airport for the early flight included Dona Agosti, Jon Agosti, David Agosti, Mike Anderson, Marty Bassett, Susan Clift, Gene Klymbo, Eric Lohman, John Nevin, George and Dagmar Pollack, and Marion Talbot. After a smooth flight we were met in Kodiak by brilliant sunshine and our leader Dick Tero, the local priest. Dick proclaimed, with a twinkle in his eye, that this was typical Kodiak weather. We didn't believe a word he said from then on. After visiting points of interest in town, we were almost ready to drive to our campsite on the beach at Middle Bay. But first, Father Tero had a few collections to make from his parishioners. It appeared as though the church must be in dire straits as he approached the parishioner's residence with a forty-gallon garbage can. However, this was to be the night of the great King Crab feast, and Dick was not after money but that famous Kodiak delicacy. The response was overwhelming. Then later that night while enjoying our food for the gods around the bubbling pot, we congratulated Dona on her foresight in failing to warn Dick that there would not be 25 backpackers. Stuffed with crab we set off on foot Sunday morning along the road which parallels the American River. It was a "typical" hot sunny Kodiak day. The heat became so intense that Dona, a dedicated backpacker, decided to hitch a ride with a local fisherman. She arrived at our lunch site amid considerable comfort and clicking camera. We set up a camp along the creek about seven miles from the start of the American River Road, (section 9 on the USGS map). After dinner fisherman began driving past our camp back to town after a day of salmon fishing in Saltery Cove. George Pollack became curious and asked how the fishing had been. The question was mistaken for a request for fish which was promptly agreed to. George was soon serving Dona fresh broiled salmon in her tent. Room service at the Hilton was never this good. (but the tips were definitely better) David Agosti, who tried his luck with another passing fisherman must have looked pitifully hungry for he managed to get two fresh salmon for the next morning's breakfast. Monday's goal was to get up to the high country above the trees and brush. After surveying the area, Dick decided that the best route would be to go up a steep 1500 ft. ridge directly across the road from our campsite. After slipping for the 17th time on

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(Kodiak Trip - continued)

the steep, rain-slick slope, it was pure delight to reach out and grab a handful of bright red salmon berries. Delicious! With a bit of assistance from the younger members of the group, everyone managed to make it to the top. Camp was set up near a small pond at about the 2,000 ft. level overlooking Saltery Cove. (upper part of section 8 on the map)

Tuesday's start was at a leisurely 11 o'clock since Dick wanted to determine how the weather would develop. As usual we were blessed with sunshine. St. Ignatius Loyola had answered Dick's prayers. Today's hiking was through alpine tundra country with spectacular views of deep gorges, secluded bays and rocky peaks. Wildflowers were all around. Many varieties we had never seen before in our travels through Alaska. At our lunch stop Gene Klymbo discovered a private shower just downstream from a huge snowbank. He emerged mightily refreshed but for some reason there were no followers. That night we camped on a plateau overlooking an impressive gorge which led toward Saltery Cove (section 30 on the map)

John Nevin must have wondered if he was still dreaming when he looked out of his tent Wednesday morning and saw a small deer standing just a few yards from the campsite. Of course John hadn't overindulged the previous night for Kodiak does indeed have a resident deer population. Wednesday was a day for exploration and relaxation. Most people made the two hour hike to Center Mountain and enjoyed the magnificent view from the summit. From there Jon and David Agosti helped Dick Tero scout the next day's route while others explored and returned to camp.

Thursday morning the sun was still shining brightly as we broke camp and headed toward Salonie Creek. The creek was cold but not difficult to cross at the confluence of the two main streams just above the waterfall. As we proceeded up the side of the ridge separating the Salonie Creek and Russian River valleys, the terrain got steeper and the views more breathtaking. Small islands were clearly visible in Kodiak's bays and beyond. Hiking up the ridge we were delighted to come upon a stream with two secluded bathing pools complete with showers and terraced area above for tent sites (below peak 2032 in Section 17) Dona had her tent set up in about 2 minutes and sat down to welcome happy hour a bit early. It didn't take much coaxing to get us to join her. With the afternoon sun bathing the island, the pools proved to be quite popular; however, the water temperature reminded us that the tropics were still 4,000 miles away. George and Dagmar and Jon and David Agosti decided to leave early Friday morning so they could get in some salmon fishing that afternoon at the mouth of the Russian River. The rest of us relaxed around camp, enjoying the sun and the pools until almost midday. In the meantime, John Nevin, who had camped further down the ridge, began to wonder why we were so late. He climbed up to get a view of our campsite, then he heard a strange breathing noise and turned around. A few yards away, peering from behind a rock was "a big brown face". Apparently the bear was more frightened than John since it scampered away and was not seen again. Finally on our way we decided to stop for lunch at a shallow lake which had an unbelievably sandy bottom, no rocks at all! No one could resist going in, and this time the water was really warm. The day had gotten so hot that we were actually seeking shade along the ridge. To avoid more peaks that loomed ahead, we decided to descend from the ridge into the Russian River valley. (Later we discovered that the ridge should be followed to the very end). This proved to be a very strenuous route with lots of bushwacking. There were, however, luscious salmon berries along the way which made our situation a bit less disagreeable. Thoroughly exhausted, we finally approached the mouth of the Russian River after almost 11 hours of difficult hiking since our lunch stop. That night it was a tired and hungry group of hikers which stumbled out of the darkness to be welcomed by a blazing campfire and some familiar faces. The early risers who had reached the mouth of the river at about midday by staying on the ridge, had

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almost given up hope that we would make it out that night. The fishing had been successful and George had hitchhiked into town for groceries so that there was plenty to eat for everyone. (The scrambled eggs tasted as good as any I had ever eaten!)

Saturday morning after driving back into town, we managed to keep Dick Tero's showers going for quite a while as we tried to scrape off a week's accumulation of grime. Successfully cleaned up, we enjoyed a dinner of baked salmon and almost all the French bread and butter we could eat, before dashing off to the historical drama "The Cry of the Wild Ram". Monashka Bay provided a spectacular setting for the play which is performed in an open air amphitheater by Kodiak residents. This production brings to life the history of Russian Alaska and was certainly a highlight of our trip. Apparently St. Ignatius knew our trip was over for a steady rain fell as we drove to the airport Sunday morning. Between the warm sunny days, gorgeous scenery, and excellent companionship, it was a trip that won't be forgotten! We're already looking forward to next year!

Marty Bassett

P.S. Special thanks to Dick Tero, whose assistance and hospitality made the trip so enjoyable.