

SCREE

189

MOUNTAINEERING CLUB OF ALASKA

BOX 2037

ANCHORAGE, ALASKA 99510

May 1981 Volume 24, Issue 5

MAY MEETING

The meeting will be held Wednesday May 20th at 8 PM in the top floor of the Pioneer Schoolhouse, third and Eagle, Anchorage, Ak. After the business meeting Rick Derrick will present a slide show of his climb of El Capitan's Salathe Wall in Yosemite National Park.

MCA Spring Picnic

Come celebrate the beginning of the summer season with us at Eklutna Lake on Saturday May 30. The club will provide hamburgers, hotdogs, soft drinks, paper plates and utensils. Also we hope to have live musical entertainment. (appropriate suggestions would be appreciated). So bring you favorite dish and a load of firewood and come join the celebration! 9 AM is the starting time for those wishing to hike to the Twin Peaks area (see hiking schedule inside this issue), and the picnic starts at 4:30 PM. See you there!

April Minutes

The meeting was called to order at 8:03 PM by President John Lohff. The reading of the minutes of the March meeting was waived due to their having been published in the SCREE. There were no minutes of an executive meeting as one had not been held.

Treasurer's report: Disbursement 175.60 for ice axes to AMH. Kemper Fund: we deposited \$500. Balance 3267.15. Bank Balance was 406.19. Petty cash 129.30.

There were no special committee reports. Standing committee report; Ice axes were delivered and will be taken to AMH. They need engraving and a member volunteered the use of an engraving tool.

Hiking Committee: Dona Agosti outlined her trip up Goat Trail July 25 to August 2, 1981, in the Wrangell Mts. Cost of the trip including gas and air fare should be \$125-150, fly in from Gulkana to Castle mountain, Granite Creek, or a glacier. Rating of this trip is :arduous::they would like a maximum of ten to fifteen people. Interested parties should contact Dona at 248-0089.

LaVonia James gave her report of the summer hiking schedule so far. Upcoming are: May 3rd Sunday, Lazy Mountain, day hike contact Tony Bachstalter 694-2323 or LaVonia 345-2323.

May 9th Saturday Bird Ridge, Meet at ACC Parking Lot near the Sports Center at 9 AM to depart on each of these trips

May 1981

Old Business

The compass reading course held by Tim Neale had a good turnout of approximately 12 people. The club wishes to thank Tim for his efforts.

Helicopter skiing upper Ship Creek was denied.

New Business

A letter from the Mt. Club of Scotland was received requesting we take a position on a land use issue in Scotland. It was decided no to officially respond to the letter. Peter Sennhauser showed an interest in a personal response.

Al Robinson brought forward a mention of the Rail Belt/alternative power study. The Board will discuss this issue at its executive meeting.

Also mentioned was the issue of the Coastal Scenic Resources Access Plan. Brought forth by member Mike Frank was the pertinent issue of coastal trails in the Anchorage Bowl.

A motion was made, seconded and passed that the club support an immediate appropriation of 10 million from the Ak State Legislature to be used to build the proposed coastal trails outlined in the Municipality of Anchorage's Summary Report Coastal Scenic Resources and Public Access Plan in fiscal year 1981. The Board agreed to draft a letter to the Legislature and assembly declaring the Club's position of support.

Program: An extraordinary sight and sound presentation of the climb taken by Jim Eason, Tim Neale and others into the Mt. St. Elias region topped off the evening. Super photography, humor and camaraderie combined with a well timed musical background made it by far one of the most enjoyable programs we have had in a long time. Special thanks to the participants of the climb and those who provided the pictures and music for sharing their experience with us.

Meeting was adjourned at 10 PM.

Madeline Jones

SUMMER HIKING SCHEDULE

On any club sponsored trip the leader shall have the authority to examine the outfit (gear, clothing) of any one participating and to reject those whom the leader considers to be inadequately equipped. The leader shall also have the authority to determine whether the degree of difficulty is appropriate for the age and level of experience of the individual depending upon the hike or climb. People intending to bring animals on a trip are required to consult with the trip leader in advance of the trip.

We have compiled a list of very basic things that need to be carried on every hike in Alaska.

Food
Warm clothing, parka or heavy sweater
wool hat
extra socks
appropriate footwear
water bottle
gloves

• May 1981

May 16 Johnson Trail, between Rainbow Valley and McHugh Creek. Good family trip, elevation gain 500-1000'. Approximately 4 miles. Meet ACC Sports Complex Parking lot 9:30 AM. Leader Ester George 337-7948.

Rainbow Peak, the folks doing this hike follow same general instructions for above hike and will take off from Johnson trail to climb this 3000' peak. 4-5 miles round trip. Leader Gene Klynks 349-4258.

Self-Arrest Class, on Ptarmigan Peak. Meet at Fred Meyer Parking lot 7 AM. This is class instruction in the use of an ice axe for stopping a fall on a steep slope. Leader Dave Pahlke 344-2964.

May 23-25 Memorial Day Weekend

Chickaloon-Nelchina Knik Trail, Begins at mile 89 on Glen Highway, then ascends to a scenic ridge and moves East to Boulder Creek. There is an ideal campsite at Simpsons Cabin 8-10 miles in. On the middle day folks can do their own thing hiking around the area. The trip out on the third day is a very scenic up and down trail. Approximately 10-12 miles. About 1000' elevation gain. Meet 7 AM at ACC Sports Complex Parking lot. Leader John Nevin 349-1707

23 Prospect Ht. to Near Pt., approx. 8 miles round trip. 2000' elevation gain. Meet at Uaa Sports complex 9 AM. Leader Joyce Johnson 272-1137.

May 30 MCA Picnic, at Eklutna. Those wishing to climb one of the Twin Peaks can meet at the Eklutna Parking lot at 9 AM. Elevation gain up to 4150'. Round trip 7-8 hours.

June 6-7 The Wedge or the Ramp, overnight or day hike. A delightful, fairly easy walk to a pass between Sheep Creek and Campbell Creek where camp will be set up. Round trip about 7 miles, elevation gain 1500'. Then you have your choice or the Ramp at 5,240' or the Wedge at 4660'. Campsite at 3500'. There is a creek to cross, bring tennis shoes. Leader Reggie Buchanan 333-7649.

June 13-14

Gull Rock, easy family hike, overnight, about 9 miles round trip, elevation gain 620'. The trail begins near Hope in the Porcupine campground. A delightful walk along the south west side of Turnagain Arm with a gentle gradient. Leader Reggie Buchanan 333-7649.

June 20-21

Annual Flat Top Sleepout Leader Jim Eason

June 27-28

Cross Pass to Paradise Haven (Eagle River)
Leader Ron Rhodehamel 333-5159.

June 27 or 28

Eagle Lake, Symphony Lake

May 1981

July 4 holiday

Lost Lake, Leader Marty Bassett 694-3917.

July

11-18 40 mile canoe trip, Leader Marty Bassett

July

11,12 Reed Lakes overnight

July 12

Dew Mount, Eagle River, family hike
Leader Rick Severn.

July

18019 Resurrection trail, Cooper landing in to Romig Cabin, 20 miles round trip.

Leader Lavonia James 345-5152.

July 25-

Aug. 2 Wrangells, Castle Mt. to Chitistone Falls to Glacier Creek
leader Dona Agosti 248-0089.

Aug. 1,2

Peters Creek Valley, climbing and hiking
Leader Greg Higgins.

Aug. 8,9

Crescent Lake trail overnight

Aug.

15,16 Peters Hills

Aug.

22-23. Rendezvous Peak, Day hike. Leader Al Robinson

Willwaw Lakes-Blue Lake-Prospect Ht. overnight

Aug.

29-30 Powerline Pass to Indian. Leader Lavonia James 345-5152.

Sept.

5-7 Crow Pass to Camp Creek out Bird Creek for very experienced backpackers, 3½ days. Leader Bill Barnes

Sept

12-13 Skilak Lake to Cottonwood Creek, Leader Dona Agosti

Wrangell Backpacking trip plans

Our big MCA trip this year will be over the Chitistone Pass- Boat Trail in the Wrangell St. Elias National Park, July 24 (evening) through Aug. 2. The Goat Trail is one of the truly historic trails in the Wrangells. It was used throughout history by natives, prospectors and hunters and received heavy use in the late 1800's and early 1900's as a way over the mountains to the gold fields in the White River Valley. (See Alaska Geographic Vol. 8 No. 1 1981) The trail runs from Glacier Creek to a landing strip on Skolai Creek. (McCarthy B-4,C-4). It is a true wilderness trail for experienced hikers. Access is via Cessna 206 both in and out. Air charter

May 1981

4

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May 1981,

6

and report on Mt. Marathon Proper, 4603'.

I had hoped to climb this handsome peak last Winter, but gainful employment decreases free time. By the time this trip could be completed, Spring had already crept upon us.

Dan Cain and I set out in early morning light on April 5th to hike over the old avalanche tails beneath the Northeast Ridge of Marathon. As expected, the crux of the climb was surpassing the 1st 500 feet of the ridge. Two long high angle rock leads separated by a steep snow pitch took us to the "walk up" part of the ridge at noon.

The Chugach crud was at its best held together by ice and snow, but psychologically demending. "Do you really want to make that move?" or "That piton is about as secure as Mt. St. Helens." Dan did an admirable job using rocks and ingenuity to retrieve all but one of our pitons since we forgot to bring a second hammer.

Cramponing to the summit after leaving the rock took about 2½ hours. Enroute we rappeled of a 30 foot snow crusted gendarme, and tip-toed across a 30 foot knife edged snow ridge. The summit view of the Harding Icefield was surrealistic in the afternoon light under clear skies.

Convinced of the snowpacks security from our observations coming up, we exited via a steep chute due east of the summit into the Race point bowl, and hiked back around to our cached snowshes. The hike out was pleasant in the afterglow of a satisfying climb.

Thank you, enjoy your summer.

Bartlett High School mobile Production teams have been collating the SCREE since Dec. They will be out of school during the summer and the Mountaineering Club would like to especially thank each of them for getting the job done.

Thank you Wayne Armour, Jeff Debbs, Chris Davis, Yvette Johnson Rits Morrison, Vernon Bacon, Andrea Bauer, Mark Smith, Beverly Mounts, Gail Lewis, Sophie Weedman, Penny King, Mary Lou Corven, Sheri Davis, Trina Durr, and Tom Koop. And to their teachers, Gary Donnelly, Sherry Milton, and Beth Walker, thanks also. You have all helped us alot, have a wonderful summer.

As we have done in the past, the SCREE will be collated during the summer by volunteers. If you have a couple of hours to donate to the club one evening a month during June, July, and August, please give be a call at 277-1176.

Pauline Chase

History Corner

The Spring of 59 saw the beginning of Club plans to construct mountaineering huts that could be used for climbing or skiing bases. The first site mentined in the SCREE was above the Portage Glacier. This site was initially endorsed enthusiastically as "a magnificent location to build MCA's first alpine hut."

The first "survey group" consisting of Johnny Johnston, Jon Gaskin, Joe Hill, and Duane Luedtke explored the area on July 8th. Passage around the lake on the Byron Glacier side turned out to be no easy matter, and they felt that extensive dynamiting would be needed to make an acceptable hiking trail. Anyone who has "hiked"

in this area can readily understand their dismay.

This project then fell into a Limbo-state. Over the next five years attempts were made to patch up old huts at Crow Pass and Snowbird Mine for Club use. At last over Labor Day weekend in 1964 the first structure built from scratch was erected overlooking the spectacular ice fields at the fork of the Eklutna Glacier. Joe Pichler led the work force that included Gregg Erickson, Dave DeVoe, Jim Fraser, Ron Linder, Dale Nienhueser, Dave Meyers, Shiro Nishimae, and Helga Bading.

A popular Club "event" over the next several months was to hike (climb) into the cabin to add rocks to the massive heaps along side the cabin to hopefully keep it from blowing away in the fierce Chugach winds. The cabin was easily named for on November 8, just 2 months after its completion, Joe passed away. Now the hut is officially named Pichler's Perch.

Greg Higgins

Equipment for sale:

Galivier Double Boots, excellent condition:

Size 44½ (approximately size 10) \$200 or trade?

Call Jim Eason at 337-3515 (home)