



MOUNTAINEERING CLUB OF ALASKA

BOX 2037

ANCHORAGE, ALASKA 99510

JULY 1982

Volume 25, Issue #7

JULY MEETING

The meeting will be held Wednesday, July 21st, at 8:00 p.m. in the basement of the Pioneer Schoolhouse, Third & Eagle, Anchorage, Alaska. After the business meeting, Lance Leslie from Talkeetna will show slides of his 1981 traverse of Mount Huntington. The three man party used dog sleds from the highway to the Ruth Glacier, then skied to the base of Huntington. They ascended the French Ridge and descended the east ridge. This climb was recently published in CLIMBING magazine. This should be one of the year's outstanding slide shows, so don't miss it!

Minutes from GENERAL MEETING MCA-JUNE 1982

The June meeting of MCA was held on June 16th at the Pioneer School house, top floor, at 3rd and Eagle, Anchorage, Alaska. The meeting was called to order at 8:05 by John Dillman, Pres. The reading of the May minutes was waived. The Treasurer, Reggie Buchanan reported:

\$	71.32	Petty cash
	737.32	Bank Account
	3,707.50	Money Market Fund
	<u>\$4,516.14</u>	Total

New members introduced were: Tom Sheridan, Peter Murphy, John Morris, Sally Maupin, Gail & Mike Sage-Jones, Mike Miller, George Lawrence, David Sage, Joy Hornberger and Merrilee Engelke.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Chugach State Park Trails Assoc: Tim Neale 274-4952
On July 17th & 18th, the Bold Peak trail will be brushed and cleared. Those interested should bring bow saws or hatchet. Meet at UAA Sports Areana parking lot at 7:30a.m.

Library: Pete Sennhauser 345-5577
The assemble and put-in-order get together of the library will be scheduled on a mutually agreeable evening within two weeks. Those interested should please contact Pete.

Hiking: Dona Agosti 248-0089
The annual Flat Top Sleepout scheduled for June 12th will be lead by Pres. John Dillman. No fire permitted, so no logs necessary. John will be climbing Ptarmigan ice gully so bring crampons, ice axe and meet at 6:00a.m. at Glen Alps if you are interested.

June 26th is Byron Peak glacier tour. Bring crampons, ice ace, harness, lunch, gaiters & sun tan lotion. Contact John Dillman at 279-1246.

July 17th, O'Malley-Ramp-Wedge is scheduled with leader Don Hansen (248-1339)

Program: Rich Severn 344-7269

If you are interested in showing your slides at a MCA meeting please contact Rick.

BUSINESS:

SCREE needs volunteers for assembling and mailing. Please contact Pauline Dickey. Tentative dates are July 13th and August 10th.

Registers for some of the nearby mountain peaks are still available for transport to their mountain tops. These are currently in Tim Neale's care. (274-4952)

NEW BUSINESS: ~~none~~

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

New Rules for Equipment Loan-

Because certain members abuse the privilege of borrowing equipment by keeping gear out extended periods of time or in one case by "losing" gear and paying for it with a rubber check. It is necessary to institute the following rules:

1. Equipment will be loaned only to card carrying members. Card must be left as deposit.
2. Equipment is to be taken out thursday or friday and returned monday. (Other arrangements can be made by prior request.) Borrowing members are responsible for return.
3. Club trips will have a preference.
4. Violations will be treated in the following way:
After two latenesses or one lateness extending more than 2 weeks, the member will lose all borrowing privileges.

THANK YOU to Martha Severn for the delicious cookies enjoyed at meeting tonight.

A beginning mountaineering class (not club sponsored) is scheduled for July 8th. For details contact AK Mountaineering & Hiking (AMH) on Spenard Rd.

The July, August, September and October MCA meetings will be held DOWNSTAIRS at the Pioneer School house.

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MCA equipment available at AMH for use by members of the club has been experiencing late return on due date and in some cases no return. Due to these types of abuse, the rules governing equipment usage will be strictly enforced.

The slide show was provided by Reggie Buchanan & Rick Severn with scenes from various MCA activities.

The meeting adjourned at 8:48p.m..

Respectfully submitted,

Sandi Macdonald, Secretary

HIKING SCHEDULE JULY-SEPTEMBER

JULY

Sat/Sun
17-18

Carter Lake to Crescent Lake Trail. The trail to Carter Lake leaves the Seward Highway at mile 33.1 and it's an easy climb of about two miles to the lake. This is a good stopping point for families with small children. Others can continue on to Crescent Lake and down to Crescent Creek Campground, a distance of about 18 miles. There is much brush and little trail on the steep slopes around Crescent Lake, so only experienced hikers should try it. Meet at UAA Sports Center Parking Lot at 7:30a.m. Call Dona Agosti for details. (248-0089)

Sat 24th
thru
Sun Aug 1

Lake Clark National Park and Preserve. (Now Full

Sat/Sun
31-Aug 1

Reed Lakes (Hatcher Pass area).
Reed Lakes is located in the Talkeetna Mountains and few have been disappointed with this neat camping site above a turquoise mountain lake. Roads to Snow Bird Mine have been improved recently, but four wheel drive is still necessary. Meet at UAA Sports Center parking lot. Call Pat Klouda (243-3216) for details.

AUGUST

Sat/Sun
7-8

Peters Hills. The view of Denali from a high point on this hike is breathtaking. However, the Petersville Road from Parks Highway has deteriorated in recent years and usually requires four wheel drive. The trailhead is about

31 miles in. (See #47 in 55 Ways to the Wilderness). There are excellent camp sites near water and the hike is easy enough for kids. Leader: Harmut Pluntke (279-9252).

Sat/Sun
14-15

Jim Creek Trail to Friday Creek. This trail starts at Mile 40.6 Old Glenn Highway and goes nine miles up Knik River to Friday Creek. If Friday Creek can be crossed, we will continue as far as possible towards Knik Glacier; if not, there are good campsites near Friday Creek, and side trips can be made up the creek to above timberline. Consult with leader for departure place and time. Leader Bill Wakeland (279-2270).

Sat/Sun
21-22

Bird Pass. Leave Seward Highway near Bird House and drive back as far as road will allow. Cross Bird Creek, then follow old horse trail to Pass. Good view and camping in pass. Return same route. Consult with leader for departure time and place. Leader: Bill Stivers (277-2869).

Sat/Sun
28-29

Lost Lake. This beautiful alpine lake may be reached via a trail from Mile 5 of the Seward Highway on the Kenai Peninsula or from ~~Primrose Campground near Mile 17.1.~~ It can also be a hike from one point, exiting at the other. Should be lots of berries at this time of year. Consult with leader for departure time and place. Leader: John Nevin (276-6665).

SEPTEMBER

Sat/Sun/Mon
4-5-6

Labor Day Weekend. Wolverine Canyon and Wolverine Lake Horse Trail. Leave Old Glenn Highway at Mile 45.9 and follow Clark-Wolverine Road to trailhead. This is strenuous but beautiful country. Consult with leader for departure time and place. Leader: Bill Wakeland (279-2270).

CLIMBING SCHEDULE

Fri/Tues
Aug 6-10

Eklutna-Girdwood Traverse. A system of 4 glaciers in Chugach State Park; the Eklutna Whiteout, Eagle and Raven connect nicely for about 45 miles. The trip begins at Eklutna Lake, hike around the lake in typical August sunshine, camp south of the lake and spend the next four days on ice. There are several nice climbs possible along the route (weather permitting) as well as three MCA huts. Skis or snowshoes, ice axe, crampons, ropes, all the usual glacier travel gear. Exit via Crow Pass, parking lot at

the trailhead. Leave UAA Sports Center parking lot at noon on Friday. Leader: Willy Hersman (278-9829). Some glacier experience necessary. Bad weather could extend trip, so extra fuel and food is a good idea.

TRIP REPORTS

Chickaloon, Knik, Nelchina Trail

After several years of telling myself the trail needed some clearing and brushing out, Jerry Jost and I went in two weeks early with chain saw, bow saw, etc. and did about five miles at the lower end. I continued some clearing this weekend also but it needs some more.

With the weather smiling on us again, twenty two met at the trail head where we saw a carry-all looking a lot like Ron Rhodehamels. He and his family--Marilyn, Howard and Logan plus friends Steve Robinson and Leslie Tombs had a fire going when we got to Boulder Flats in the late afternoon. On the way in several moose and calves, and dall sheep were seen plus some huge bear tracks. Brent West, Bill Wakeland and Marty Bassett helped in leading while I swept the trail most of the time.

The middle day found people sleeping in, scrambling up nearby Anthracite Ridge, river hiking, scaring off a black bear stalking some moose calves, etc. Ron had his usual gourmet meal of steaks and all the trimmings.

The last day dawned cloudless but with lots of ice in the water bottles. The trip out was beautiful as always and every one made it in great shape. With a recipe of encouragement, threats, rest stops and promises, even 5 year old Logan walked the whole way. Another one who had his act together and did a commendable job was 13 year old Brian Williams. Others making the trip enjoyable were The Cadieux Family, Karen Forsyth, Joan Travostino, Marie Sansome, Brenda Davis, Sue Clift, Jay & Diane Winkler, Barbara Adams, Lorraine Basner, Marilyn Kamm, Mark Kamm, Lillian Coniglio, and Koola.

The unopposed beaver continue to make the Corps of Engineers look sick in several areas along the trail. A little more work at Saw Mill Creek and a major rerouting will have to be done.

John Nevin

Byron Glacier/Byron Peak

What was originally intended to be a Byron Glacier exercise turned out to be a pleasant Byron Peak climb. Normally it seems that anytime you set foot on Byron Glacier the skies cloud up; rain or snow follows very quickly accompanied by high winds. Saturday was the exception. The weather continued to get better during the day until it was clear and sunny.

The large turn out of twelve folks followed the lead of John Dillman up the Northeast snow/rock route to the summit. Descent route followed more traditional Northwest ridge to the saddle then back to Byron Glacier.

On our way up we detected movement on the rocks of the Northwest ridge. When we arrived on the summit we were greeted by the movement on the ridge in the form of a Peter Sennhauser. Peter did a direct ascent to the ridge via a rock outcropping.

Somebody forgot to bring the new register but that turned out to be o.k. because the summit was a large cornice snow cap and no rock visible to place the register.

The following people were on the climb: Rudi Bertschi, Peter Krin, Hal Christensen, John Dillman, David Hennings, Jeff Heustis, Dan Kennedy, Tim Neale, Charlie Noyes, Ralph Plemmons, Jeff Rubin and Tom Williams.

Tim Neale

Note: Eleven members who signed up did not show. Please let the trip leader know if you can not make it.

Ptarmigan-Flat Top Traverse (or Hope I'm not Late for the Party)

The narrow runnel angled sharply upward just as the fog descended around me. Soon I would have to climb out of this canal and traverse several hundred feet through 1-2 feet of wet heavy snow to reach the wider North Coulior of Ptarmigan Peak. For now, front pointing on thin ice was a enjoyable alternative. If you climb snow gullies around the Chugach in early summer you eventually get used to dodging rocks. These, however, caught me off guard and I barely had time to try to plot their course before jumping out of their path. Now, the long traverse seemed the best alternative.

Several summy hours earlier I had been drinking the last thermos cup of Kenyan in the Glen Alps Parking facility-idlying away almost an hour waiting for an unknown number of MCA'ers I expected to join me in this traverse. The brilliant sun and clear early morning skies resulted in an eventual attitude adjustment as I hiked alone eastward along the powerline to the base of the North Coulior.

With a full overnight pack, the traverse and remaining route to the ridge between the East and West peaks was anything but pleasant in the often waist deep snow. At one point I left my pack, broke a trail and then retrieved the pack.

Reading the historic notes in the register always brings back memories of the time Greg Erickson and I made the first (recorded) ascent of this route, 21 years ago. I don't recall the snow conditions, but I hope they were better.

After downclimbing through more rotten snow, I felt justified to spend an hour perched on a dry rock above the tarn in the low saddle on the west side of Ptarmigan. Bill Britt and friend came by on their way up the route I had just descended.

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The traverse back the Flat Top was alternating deep snow and wet rock and with the heavy pack and near zero visibility felt never ending. My enthusiasm for the project was at a low point when I broke out of the clouds and there in the distance was Flat Top with several brightly-colored tents indicating early arrivals for the Annual Summer Solstice Sleepout. Looked like I might even be early.

John R. Dillman

MCA Summer Solstice-1982

The fire ring of years gone by was replaced by a ring of stones surrounding each of the 17 tents that at one time or another were to be found at this years club observation of the summer solstice on June 19th. Groups of hearty souls could be founded in clusters around the newly arrived, lending advise and aid, hands as often in pockets as out (to keep them warm no doubt).

The weather was a typical sample of Alaska above treeline. Sunshine greeted the early arrivals and tricked later less hearty souls into deciding to go after all. These late afternoon arrivals were greeted by wind and rain.

Most participants turned in at a record early hour to get out the raising winds only to be serenaded for the rest of the night by the sounds of snapping rain flies. Early raisers were greeted by a view of new snow on the surrounding elevations and a flurry of snow flakes in camp.

Some Notable Moments:

Pat (the Sherpa) Murry and wife Anita ever concious of basic creature comfort needs greeted late afternoon arrivals from their lawn chairs and tortured any who would listen with their dinner menu; Fillet Mignon, sauted mushrooms, baked potatoes and fresh veggies ala Peak 1.

One tried and true club member arrived with a new tent (never out of the stuff sack) and much fun was had by all, assembling it in the 20-40 mile per hour gusts (who has the directions?).

And lastly, a distressingly large number of potential hypothermia victims arrived in denim jeans and cotton shirts with no change of warmer, dryer clothing, no or inadequate shelter, no wind/rain gear and no means to make water out of snow. Many of the above showed at least some sense and skittled back down the mountain side.

All in all, the 1982 observance was a unique and memorable experience for most of the participants and a strong reminder too why I do this only every couple of years.

Rick Severn

Flattop Mountain Climb, a Solstice Sequel

On the evening of June 22, 1982, Ronald Rhodehamel was married to Marilyn Rhodehamel (their second) on top of Flattop Mountain, in breezes in excess of 50 miles per hour. The ceremony was conducted by Steve

Robinson (his first). Ron and Marilyn's five children were in attendance, as well as two joggers and one German shepherd. Marilyn wore a two-piece Gortex rain suit by Recreational Equipment Incorporated, and Damart gloves. Ron wore a clean shirt, Patagonia jacket, and his favorite non-matching hat. After Steve was finished, a beverage service was provided by Mr. Y. Jack. Refreshments were served, consisting of a sack of gorp. Since there was no further business to conduct on top of Flattop Mountain that day, we headed back down toward the bright lights of the City of Anchorage.

Ron Rhodehamel

BOOK REVIEW

GORP, GLOP & STEW: Favorite Foods from 165 Outdoor Experts. Yvonne Prater and Ruth Dyar Mendenhall. 224 pages, 5½ x 8½; cartoons, paperbound. The Mountaineers, 715 Pike Street, Seattle, WA 98101. \$6.95

After sitting down to organize my thoughts about this book, which contains many contributions from old friends as well as from world-famous climbing veterans, I decided that I could not improve on the paragraphs on the back cover:

"Ever wonder what British mountaineer Chris Bonington eats while he's conquering yet another Himalayan peak? Or what climber-photographer Galen Rowell packs for chow to chew on while hanging on a rock face in Yosemite? Or how outdoor veteran Pete Schoening gets by without cooking at all? Is "Papaya-Licorice Gorp" really edible? What intriguing history lies behind "Strike-Again Mung"? And just what is the "real" Logan Bread, anyhow? The answers and hundreds more fascinating food facts are revealed in this unique cookbook.

Over 165 well-known outdoor folk from several continents share their favorite recipes and relate memorable cooking and eating experiences, from trips that include desert sieges, watery voyages and peak experiences all over the world. Their recipes (all tested--with the possible exception of 'Mouse Soup') include homemade backpack foods, camp-cooked meals, wild food feasting, and better food with less work. Valuable tips for outdoor eating abound, and the haps and mishaps they've connected with food give lively insight into the contributors.

This is a cookbook, with complete, accurate recipes. It's also a delightfully presented book about the cooks!"

To this I can only add that the authors are themselves experts, that lots of the not-world-famous contributors are highly experienced mountain travellers, that the cartoon illustrations are choice humor. Highly recommended to Alaskans!

Liz Robinson