



MOUNTAINEERING CLUB OF ALASKA

BOX 2037

ANCHORAGE, ALASKA 99510

July 1984

Volume 27, Issue 7

### JULY MEETING

The meeting will be held Wednesday, July 15th at 7:30 p.m. on the top floor of the Pioneer Schoolhouse, 3rd and Eagle Streets, Anchorage, Alaska. After the business meeting a slide show will be presented, the details of which were unavailable at press time.

### MINUTES FOR MCA JUNE MEETING

The meeting was held on June 20, 1984 at the Pioneer Schoolhouse. The meeting was called to order at 7:42 p.m. by Vice-president Tim Neale. Minutes of the May 1984 meeting approved as published in SCREE. New members and guests were introduced and welcomed.

Treasurer Bernie Helms reported:

\$ 248.56-	Petty Cash
362.06-	Bank Account
3745.23-	Money Market Rate Plus Account
25.00-	Undeposited Checks
\$4380.85-	Total

#### I. COMMITTEE REPORTS

##### A. Library:

MCA members are encouraged to return any borrowed publications, books, magazines, or maps to AMH. Members are invited to browse in the library which is located upstairs in AMH, but materials cannot be checked out until the cataloging is completed.

##### C. Trails: Tim Neale 274-4952

No trail clearing trips are scheduled at this time. Members who know of trails in need of clearing should contact Tim.

D. SCREE

Members who are interested in writing articles should contact Marty Bassett, Editor. A future issue of SCREE with pictures of club outings was discussed.

E. Equipment

The MCA maintains a stock of equipment at AMH for use by its members. Members are reminded that no long term borrowing is allowed and persons with equipment checked out are requested to return it A.S.A.P.

## II. OLD BUSINESS

- A. July, August and September MCA meetings will be held at Pioneer School House.

## III. NEW BUSINESS

- A. Annual Picnic: Volunteers are needed; contact Eileen Cavanaugh or Bernie Helms if you are interested in organizing and planning.
- B. Tim Gilis reported on a Hope to Homer Race on August 18 to 25. There is a \$100. entry fee and a \$1,000. prize. The course is anywhere BUT the Seward or Sterling highways. For more information contact:
- Kevin Delany  
10218 Jamestone Drive, Unit D  
Anchorage, AK 99507
- C. Girdwood to Eagle River Race July 21: Participants must attend a meeting on July 20. For more information contact Tim Neale.
- D. Thanks Graham McDonald and Tim Neale for their slide presentations. The meeting was adjourned at 8:10 pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Eileen Cavanaugh, Secretary

## Summer Hiking Schedule

Note: We are trying more frequent trips with fewer hikers including more Sunday and one day trips and would appreciate your comments and ideas. Some of the leaders may change as they have not all been contacted and some trips may be changed for snow, weather or other problems. Please stay in touch with trip leader and inform him (her) or the hiking chairman if your plans change. Hiking chairman is John Nevin, 276-6665. Other hiking committee members are Doug Gerke 248-6855, Don Hansen 279-0829, Bill Wakeland 563-6246 and Marty Bassett 694-3917. Check sign-up sheet for place and time of departure.

July 14-15

### GLEN ALPS TO INDIAN

via Ship Lake; 16 miles; 1300' elevation gain; no trail part way; optional climb of the Ramp, without pack of course (3000' gain)

Leader: Bill Wakeland 563-6246

July 21-22

### RUSSIAN LAKE TO COOPER LAKE

Leader: Jim Pommert 562-0145

July 28-29

### REED LAKES

Leader: Joy Hornberger 688-3835

July 28-

### JOHN RIVER

August 4

This is a combination backpacking/river float trip along the John River in Gates of the Arctic National Park. We will fly from Bettles to Amiloyak Lake, and hike to the confluence of the Hunt Fork and the John River. At Hunt Fork Lake a charter flight will bring boats and additional gear for the rest of the trip. The remaining 100 miles to Bettles covers a particularly scenic area of the Brooks Range and should present numerous opportunities for day hikes. Everyone should have a collapsible kayak, or similar boat, and some paddling skills. Round trip transportation from Fairbanks will be about \$300 per person.

Equipment check: July 18 at Dona Agosti's house, 7:00 p.m.

Leader: Marty Bassett 694-3917

August 4-5

### EMERALD LAKE

Leader: John Nevin 276-6665

- August 11-12    LOST LAKE  
Leader: Jim Pommert 562-0145
- August 18-19    WILLOWAW LAKES  
from Glen Alps  
Leader: Bill Barnes 338-1588
- August 25-26    Open
- September 1-3    LOST LAKE  
Leader: Willy Hersman 338-5132
- September 1-3    CROW PASS - EAGLE RIVER  
via Raven Creek  
Leader: still needed

Day hike leaders needed for July and August. See or call John Nevin 276-6665. .



THOUGHT I'D JUST DROP YOU A LINE...

## GENERAL RULES FOR MCA SANCTIONED HIKES

(April 1983 Scree, amended)

1. Proper equipment is required as follows:

<u>Day Hikes</u>	<u>Additional for Overnight or Special Situations</u>
Compass & whistle	
Raingear that works	Down or synthetic equivalent
Warm clothing (not cotton)	sleeping bag
Hiking boots	Tent (or prearranged sharing)
Sunscreen & dark glasses	Sleeping pad
Mosquito dope	Stove (if need to cook or melt
Water	snow)-fires usually prohibited
Energy food	Adequate food for extra day
Fire starter	Dry clothes, socks, headgear, gloves
First aid kit with moleskin	Stream crossing footwear
Pocket knife	Climbing or winter gear if specified by leader

2. No dogs are permitted on MCA hikes (among the reasons are bear problems).
3. The leader's suggestions are to be followed. Do not go off alone, return or rush ahead without his (her) permission, and don't ford a stream before the leader assesses the situation. Remember, this is a club hike and the leader must know where all hikers are.
4. All hikes commence at UAA Sports Complex, the west entrance, unless otherwise instructed, at a time determined by the leader.
5. You must be signed up on a trip roster (club meetings) or through contact with the leader to accompany a club sanctioned hike--or take your chances on being asked not to go.
6. When carpools are arranged, please plan to pay the driver your share without his (her) asking you. Generally, \$5 for shorter trips, \$10 to \$20 for longer ones.
7. If at the last minute you find you can't go, please let the leader know both for transportation planning and so someone else can go. If you are a leader, help find a replacement.
8. Total number of hikers on club sanctioned hikes:  
Minimum: 4 (for safety reasons)  
Maximum: leader option, depends upon the trail and  
campsite conditions, but generally limited to 12 in  
trail-less areas or State and National Parks (for  
environmental reasons and maintain a wilderness experience)
9. Firearms are not encouraged, and please let the leader know if you want to carry one--it will be leader's option.

Formulated March, 1984 by Hiking Committee: Wakeland, Nevin, Hansen, Gerke, and Bassett. Approved by Board.

## CHICKALOON, KNIK, NELCHINA TRAIL

May 26-28

Perhaps the ominous weather forecast did it, but after previous years of large groups, only eight people went this year. What a delightful group, though, and we hiked together the entire trip - a first for me!

Car shuffling done, we headed up the recently used vehicle trail amidst a great increase in trash along the way. Dall sheep were seen on Anthracite Ridge and a lot of beaver work has taken place, resulting in two practically denuded birch tree hills and a of couple new ponds. Camp was set up and dinner enjoyed. A short tour of the area revealed the old cache had collapsed, and the collapsed cabin had been rebuilt and outfitted. About a dozen moose legs were found scattered around the cabin. During the tour a Wyatt Earp type rode up to the cabin complete with cowboy outfit, artillery and pack horse, claiming he just came in to spend the weekend.

Late the next morning everyone took off for mild adventure, six climbing up Anthracite Ridge to watch sheep and the view, while Steve Schroeder and I headed for the bench overlooking Rush Lake. After talking and watching a moose, Steve found two moss-filled, La-Z-Boy depressions in the ground into which we settled to get out of the wind and bask in the sun. Both holes quickly became a snoring success. The other group had come upon three guys who were supposedly mining but were at that time after a grizzly that had torn up their camp. The day finished with the usual campfire and story-telling.

Under cloudless skies the 20 F temps had frozen all our water, but in spite of this, everyone was ready about 8 a.m. to pull out except the leader, who was drying the frost off his tent. The warm and beautiful trip out was enjoyed by all. Some areas very badly need trail-clearing and the huge beaver pond problem still exists near the end of the trail. A quick dash up the steep hill and across the Johnson homestead ended an enjoyable trip.

I did notice the food situation seems to be changing. Marty Bassett and Penn Rossback cooked up great oriental type meals from "real" food. Gerry and Garrett Clough used lots of "real" food also. Garrett seemed to be munching on something at all times. Karen and Gerry Forsyth also concocted "real" food dishes which they secretly devoured in their tent. Even I took steak, onions, carrots and muffins. Think I'll do it again sometime!

John Nevin

## WILLOWAW LAKES

June 16-17

A call from Mark Skok just as I sat down to call him. "I'm moving to Juneau this weekend and can't lead the Castle Mountain trip. Will you lead it?" Darn! I wanted to go - to get out of town and to maintain my sanity. But I knew nothing about the trip and was told I probably couldn't find the trail head. "I'll cancel it." "No", I said. "I'll do something." I contacted the few names on the list and suggested Willowaw Lakes. None had been there and all wanted to go.

Saturday morning -- RAIN! Forecast gloomy. Mood not good. The wettest trip I ever took was this same one several years ago. I'll phone everyone and call it off. But I don't have all the phone numbers. Jim Lasche met me at my house and we drove to Prospect Heights. Nobody will show up and I'll go home. One car in the parking lot with packs out in the rain. Uh, oh! Looks serious. Loran and Carol Pahlke were eager to go. Then up pulls Jane Stammen and Pauline Dickey. It was definitely GO! Actually, it was the best for me as I really needed to get out. Jane and Pauline only wanted to day hike so we stashed my car at Prospect Heights and drove to Glen Alps.

The trail was really wet and bogs were really boggy. A large group was practicing ice ax arrests on the steep trail to the bench leading to O'Malley Peak. We slogged back to the lakes on the low Middle Fork trail with intermittent light rain. But spirits were good, especially after talking with a porcupine who got off the trail at our approach. After picking our way across the swollen Middle Fork and arriving at the first lake, I noticed a large group descending the scree slope. Oh boy! And good tenting real estate is not plentiful at the far lake. I covered the last mile or so in record time, but looking back I could not find my group - even with binoculars. My favorite spot was covered with snow so I selected a nearby site and set up, my tent. The large group arrived (from ACC to climb Mt. Willowaw), looked disgruntled, and set up tents at the other end. But I still couldn't find my group until I saw Jane and Pauline headed back a long way off. I returned to the campsite to eat lunch, chastising myself for blasting off, but then saw the remaining members of my party at my tent. Tents up, the rain quit and we did a day hike. A good dinner, Reader's Digest, and early to bed.

Up early, broken clouds, some sun. Over the pass, past the still frozen lakes, across some snow fields and into the North Fork. Beautiful country! Past blue lake and dive-bombing sea gulls we went enjoying the sheep, flowers and fellowship. The grind over Near point (the leader almost went past it), the fantastic view and down the trail back to the parking lot. A good trip!

We are surely blessed having this beautiful trip available just minutes away from Anchorage. It becomes even better when nice people are along to enjoy it with.

John Nevin

## FLATTOP SUMMER SOLSTICE

June 23-24

Approximately twenty-two MCA members and guests celebrated the summer solstice and kept an old MCA tradition alive on Flattop.

The arrivals on top were greeted with Flattop's traditional welcome (WIND, RAIN, and CHILLY WEATHER). The group was determined as ever to make the event a festive occasion, and good food as well as ample liquid refreshment and a fire maintained high spirits. Maui expatriate Pat Murray set the tone by sitting in a lawn chair (with table attached) and reading a book while dressed in pile and rain gear throughout the evening.

John Nevin ignored strange looks and whispered comments about his sanity from various hikers and brought up the fire pit (one-half of a 55 gallon drum). John also carried it down. Several members wandered up with day packs throughout the night for a place around the fire and some good company. A special thanks to John Nevin who secured the fire permit and hauled the pit up and down the hill.

Reg Buchanan

## SOLITUDE ON DENALI'S SOUTH BUTTRESS

Mountain: Denali (20,320')  
Route: South Buttress  
Number in Party: 4  
Number to the Summit: 4  
Total climbing days: 22  
Number of days to the summit: 19  
Days lost due to bad weather: 2

Hey Alaskan climbers, are the crowds of the West Buttress keeping you from scaling the highest peak in our backyard? The South Buttress of Denali can



provide you with a true Alaskan experience.

On May 17, 1984 four experienced mountaineers reached the summit of Denali via the South Buttress. Terry Kennedy, Tom Cladouhas and Ed Sondano of Montana and Dan Kennedy of Anchorage put together an incredible 19 day ascent of the continent's highest mountain.

After establishing Camp I on April 29th, three miles up the Kahiltna Highway from Base Camp (7,300 foot level of the Southeast fork of the Kahlitna Glacier), the four did not have contact with any other climbers until summit day. Following a seven day grunt up the East Fork of the Kahliltna Glacier in mildly stormy conditions, camp was established at the base of the Japanese Ramp at the 12,400 foot level. The Ramp appeared to be the most dangerous part of the climb. For the next 72 hours the "death zone" provided breathtaking experiences such as crashing seracs, concealed gaping crevasses and prime slab avalanche conditions. High on the Ramp, at 15,000 feet, the winds had the party pinned for an extra day of elbow rubbing.

On May 11th Camp VII at the 15,500 foot South Col was occupied. The most enjoyable mountaineering occurred above the South Col. Comfortable fifth class ice and rock pitches provided some of the greatest rewards for choosing the South Buttress.

Camp VIII, at 17,000, feet was nailed after climbing an extended 40-45 degree ice and snow slope which led through a band of solid granite rock. The final high camp (Camp IX) was placed at 17,900 below the most technical pitches of the climb.

Summit day led off with one lead protected by a long blade and one inch angle. The two pins were the group's only protection other than numerous boot-ax belays during the climb. Two tools were required for the ice pitches encountered through Camp VIII. Strong northern winds and steep angles, in addition to the elevation, made summit day the most noticeable wall. However, there is satisfaction when one realizes the benefit of three hour weight training sessions. The extra training made the struggle over Carter's Horn to the summit more palatable.

The descent took the same course which was charted by the ascent. A handful of Czechs and a group of three Americans who had been disappointed on the Cassin Ridge were greeted at 10,700 feet. The advantage of pushing skis to Camp IV allowed the team to ski out and, thus, fly out the very next day.

For further information on this route, feel free to contact Dan Kennedy (272-1349), 2101 W. 29th, #17, Anchorage, AK 99503