



MOUNTAINEERING CLUB OF ALASKA

BOX 2037

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MARCH MEETING

The meeting will be held Wednesday, March 20th at 7:30 p.m. in the Pioneer Schoolhouse, 3rd and Eagle St., Anchorage, Alaska. After the business meeting, Bill Wakeland will present a slide show on the recent John River and Curry Ridge trips.

Minutes for the February meeting were not available at press time.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Someone is needed to bring refreshments to the meetings. All costs are reimbursed, of course. Contact Doug Van Etten (phone on back page).

Steve Spaulding is looking for experienced climbers for an expedition in the Revelation Mountains this May. Steve is planning to attempt Hesperus, The Golgatha, The Apocalypse, as well as a few others. For information call him at 688-9641 or Dave McGowan at 243-4066.

TRIP REPORTS

Arrigetch Peaks
July 28 - August 4, 1984

Dedicated to Dona Agosti who made all preparations for the trip and was with us in our thoughts even though she was not able to be with us. Also Don Hansen who led our group and took care of us in style.

Saturday, July 28: We flew to Fairbanks, Bettles, and then Circle Lake which could be Candy Cane Lake now as it is no longer a circle.

The men of our group who had come in on the first plane had the camp sites chosen and tents were up. From our bumpy semi-flat spots we had a good view of the Circle Lake area. It was a nice spot with pretty mountains. The view impressed us as we had not expected such a lovely area.

A large female moose came to have dinner in the lake. She stood munching on the lake bottom until a few too eager people scared her away.

Sunday, July 29: Rain all night, but by morning only clouds remained to tell the tale of the wet affair.

A bear came to visit Joe during the night, but forgot to say hello. He did remember to have a little snack though. Since Joe was too tired to prepare one of his freeze-dried treats for him, the bear decided to take everything and decide later what he wanted to eat.

Mary Jo got to show off her new tooth and claw marks in her pack. Some of her food was stolen. Was it the same bear or just a ferocious squirrel?

We began our climb up through trees and brush. This continued almost all day with stops to see three moose and one dispersed for our rest stop. It attempted to take our eyes from the great view we enjoyed, but only served to make the view better.

Mid-afternoon was with us before we were able to clear the brush we had fought all day. Another moose was spotted.

Excitement struck as we rounded a corner to see the rugged Arrigetch Peaks with a grizzly bear serving as tour-guide of the area. The bear was a friendly sort who came close to welcome us to his valley. He must have thought us rude and unfriendly when all we did was shout and shoot flares at him. But keeping his friendly attitude he strolled on ahead showing us where the choice blueberries were to be found.

By now we were in search of a camp area, but water was scarce. We had found no water since leaving the Circle Lake area. It was 6:00 or so before we chose our campsites beside a small, talkative, and bubbly stream.

Monday, July 30: Although we had talked of sleeping late, we were up enjoying the sun by 7:00. A large bull moose came for breakfast, but when he saw that we had already eaten he headed on up the stream valley.

Our plans for the day were simple -- look for a nice campsite with a view, water, and no wind. The day was short, but the brush we fought to clear yesterday was back to attack us again today. We fought our way up and down stream valleys, through alder and brush.

After crossing a third stream with some of the clearest most beautiful water bubbling around giant white rocks and boulders, we looked for campsites. We found scattered locations among trees and brush. The view was good, although better of the Circle Lake valley than the Arrigetch Peaks that we had come to see.

Rain, wind, and low clouds set the scene for the afternoon. Linda braved the weather to head up the barren rocky ridge behind the tents. She reported strong winds and mountains that hid beneath powdery blankets of white clouds.

Tuesday, July 31: The unfavorable weather stayed with us all night.

Arrigetch Creek foamed and roared as its overflowing waters crashed down the valley.

The sun teased us as it played peak-a-boo among the rain-drenched clouds. Sections of blue sky would appear to give us hope, but not relief from the continuous rain. A rainbow arched over the gentle green mountains across the valley. It seemed to always be around.

Noon brought shouts of joy as the blue spots in the sky widened and the sunstreamed down on the tents. A fifteen minute signal was given to ready the day packs. We'll hike up the ridge behind the tents.

A short way up the grassy tundra Bob declared a large rock the men's room, but he soon found he was sharing the space with a grizzly. "There's a bear over there!" A few yards away a nice dark grizzly, unconcerned with our presence, munched on blueberries. Our group was scattered on the ridge with some people above.

Now, with ten people on one side, two and the other, and the bear in between we began the game of getting around the bear in order to help Linda and Sandra up the ridge.

We worked our way down and again came very close to him. He showed no sign of recognizing our presence as he munched on his blueberries. Then he stood on his hind legs to sniff us and again continued to eat. The blueberries were too sweet and good for him to be bothered by a mere dozen people shouting their lungs out.

After reaching Linda and Sandra, we headed up another ridge away from the juicy blueberry patch.

As clouds moved around splitting rain here and there, we worked our way up the ridge. The peaks of the Arrigetch tried to hide among the clouds, but we saw them nonetheless.

The summit we reached was a false one which led to another, and so on until we climbed almost to the sheer walls of the Arrigetch themselves. New peaks stood out that were breathtaking to see. Some were pointed and seemingly bent over. We found a tall one that must be the Melting Tower with its vertical sides flowing to the valley below. The peaks here are so tall, bold, and impressive, they look unreal.

We descended and remained together as we entered the bear's domain again. Camp was found intact even though Gunter said he saw my yellow North Face tent spread all over the area.

Wednesday, August 1: Sandra was the eager one today. She was up enjoying the sun at 6:15 wishing the others would shed their downy cocoons and commence with the day hike.

We planned to follow Arrigetch Creek up the valley to its headwaters and to the bottom of the tall spires. High clouds had formed before we began our trek down and through the brush towards Arrigetch Creek. There we found a nice trail, not a highway, but better than the average game trail. We made good time and found ourselves at the fork of the two streams just two hours later. Here we had a good view of the two valleys and the tall spires. We chose to stay on our side of the stream and work our way up the left valley toward some lofty spires and up giant boulders which covered the stream itself.

We began our trek back to camp looking back now and then at the valley we

came to enjoy for a day. A slight mist was in the air when we left the trail and headed up the brushy climb to camp.

Only minutes after entering our welcome tents the mist changed to hard rain with strong winds. We were glad to be back in time to avoid the bad weather and very grateful to have had good weather all day for our hike.

Thursday, August 2: Today was the day that we were to begin our trip back to Circle Lake. The sun shown on our tents as fog covered the valley below. High clouds appeared before we left and stayed with us for the day.

We headed down the brushy slope to the trail we had followed yesterday. The question we asked ourselves was, did the good trail continue in the other direction and back to Circle Lake? We felt relief when a fine trail led us through the brush-covered slopes toward our goal.

The trail stayed just above the creek giving us good views of the peaks. There were a few stream crossings, but there were always large rocks for jumping.

We did not know what we might find for a campsite. We thought we might end up with a tussock for a pillow and another to curl around. "Have you hugged a tussock today?"

What we found for our camp was an unexpected pleasure. There was room for our seven tents on a small high place that overlooked the Arrigetch Peaks in one direction and Circle Lake valley in the other as Arrigetch Creek tumbled below.

Don hiked to the next knoll to discover an even better view with room for twenty tents. But we stayed in our economy-class quarters for the night.

Friday, August 3: Sandra's alertness warned us of a professional black bear thief in our camp at 3:30 am. There were shouts and clanging pots, but the bear showed no interest in leaving. He strolled around the packs looking for something good to eat. Then Tim gave Bob one of his aerial signal flares. Of course Bob had never used one. Chris, in the next tent, shouted, "No Dad, no!", as he saw the flare aimed in his direction. Bob pulled on the dangling chain attached to the flare as he still wondered how it all worked. The flare headed right for the back wall of Chris' tent where it began a small fire as it filled his tent with smoke.

In the meantime, Chris heard people outside the tents yelling that the bear was just outside his front door. Trapped, Chris knelt in the center of his tent with the fire on one side and the bear on the other and smoke all around. The bear ran off at the sound of the flare. But then he circled around to try again. This time Tim was ready with a flare that went over the bear. The bear ran down the hill and returned again. This time I shot a flare just over his head. He took off down the hill. He was seen on the first-class hill shortly after and then we did not see him again. Guards were posted for the remainder of the rainy, buggy night.

We left our campsite early in a drizzle, hoping to reach Circle Lake. We did not know what kind of brush we might need to go through.

The trail began as yesterday's had ended, but before long we found ourselves searching the brush for any sign of a trail. Each trail found fizzled out quickly. We were left fighting tussocks and brush.

We arrived at Circle Lake in early afternoon drying tents, clothes, and

sleeping bags as a moose fed across the lake.

Since we were now wary of bears, the packs were put in one pile and covered with pots and pans. Guard duty was assigned to keep bear watch for the night. The guards were armed with whistle, flare, tear gas, and a heavy walking stick. But no bear came that night.

Saturday, August 4: An enormous bull moose stood in Circle Lake munching on the tender lake bottom. He stood very quietly as a lady moose approached. He looked at her. She looked at him. Were they making a date? September perhaps?

The plane arrived on schedule as the two moose slipped through the tall grasses by the lake. We soon found ourselves looking down on a land that had been our home for a week. The mountains were sharp and rugged -- then stretched out to smooth rounded ones.

Bettles was welcomed for its real food, running water, and bathrooms that did not resemble a green bush. Then to Fairbanks where people were everywhere. They worked and lived without fear of bears stealing their food; they did not worry about finding good water or what the little black things were floating in it. They did not depend on one small campstove or a piece of fabric for a home. They did not worry about food running out, freezing in the night, or getting wet in the next rainshower. They had everything, and yet for some strange reason we were the ones who felt we had everything. We felt peace. We felt the sadness of leaving. Life just seemed to be out there -- not in the concrete walls we build.

And yes, we do have next year's trip all planned.

Our hikers were: Don Hansen, leader; Sue Rostin, assistant leader; Guenter Rostin, Pam Bearden, Chris Cadieux, Mary Jo Cadieux, Bob Cadieux, Tim Dugan, Joe Dugan, Linda White, Sandra Cosentino, and Karen Forsyth.

Karen Forsyth

SPRING AND SUMMER HIKING AND CLIMBING SCHEDULE

March 21-25 MT. SILVERTIP

Leave Anchorage late Thursday and drive to Castner Creek, north of Paxson. Ski into the Castner Glacier and camp near the peak. We might stay at the Thayer Hut. Climb Silvertip (9420). Long, strenuous day. There is one storm day thrown in, which may be used for skiing, climbing, or simply return to town early. Before signing up you must have glacier travel experience, and basic skills in winter camping. For the climb you must have practiced ice axe arrest in a basic mountaineering class.

This is an excellent glacier ski trip into the Alaska Range even if you elect not to do the climb.

Contact leader for gear needed and details. Sign up sheet at next meeting.

Leader: Willy Hersman 338-5132

April 13 TELEMARK TRIP

Meet 11 a.m. in the Glen Alps parking lot. All levels of skiing experience welcome. Bring your skins and sharpen your edges!

Leaders: Dan O'Haire 248-3634 and Trisha Herminghaus

13 BIRD RIDGE

4-5 miles; 2900' elevation gain; strenuous. Meet 8 a.m. UAA parking lot.

Leader: Don Hansen 279-0829

14 JOHNSON TRAIL

Length to be determined by trail conditions and party members. Easy. Call leader. Meet 8 a.m. UAA parking lot.

Leader: Bill Wakeland 563-6246

20 PENGUIN PEAK

4300' elevation gain; ice axe needed; crampons suggested; strenuous. Meet 7 a.m. UAA parking lot.

Leader: Jim Pommert 344-5656 work: 563-3585

21 NEAR POINT

Easy. Leader needed.

27 LAZY MOUNTAIN

4 miles; 2900' elevation gain; near Palmer, nice views, may be windy; moderate.

Leader: John Lohff 337-2291

- 28 BYRON PEAK
4500' elevation gain; sit harness, ice axe, crampons, glacier gear required. Long and strenuous day. Meet 6:30 a.m. UAA parking lot.
Leader: Paul Denkewalter 248-1457 work: 272-1811
- 4 O'MALLEY PEAK
Ice axe required. Crampons suggested. Meet 8 a.m. UAA parking lot.
Leader: Don Hansen 279-0829
- 5 RENDEZVOUS PEAK
Leader: Pat Thompson 344-1167
- 4-5 GULL ROCK
Leader: Reggie Buchanan 333-7649
- 11 RAINBOW MOUNTAIN
Leader: Gene Klymko 346-2953
- 12 JOHNSON TRAIL
Leader: Nan De Good 337-4875
- 18 Trail Clearing
Leader Needed.
- 19 WINNER CREEK
Leader needed.
- 25 DEW MOUND
Leader needed.
- 26 SHEEP VALLEY
Leader: Bill Wakeland 563-6246
- 1 LAZY MOUNTAIN
Leader: Esther George 337-7948
- 2 WOLVERINE MOUNTAIN
Leader: Jane Stammen 563-7703

- 8 GULL ROCK
Leader: Pat Klouda 243-3216
- 9 PTARMIGAN PEAK
Leader needed.
- 15 TWIN PEAKS TRAIL
Leader: Eileen Cavanaugh 337-1394
- 15-16 DEVIL'S PASS TRAIL
Leader: Jim Pommert 344-5656 work: 563-3585
- 22-23 FLATTOP SLEEPOUT
Leader: Mark Findlay 337-8666
- 29 RABBIT LAKE
Leader needed.
- 30 ROUNDTOP
Leader needed.
- 29-30 SOUTH FORK EAGLE RIVER TO SYMPHONY LAKE
Leader: Marty Bassett 694-3917
- July 4-7 COOPER LAKE TO LOST LAKE
Leader: Jim Pommert 344-5656 work: 563-3585
- 4-7 CROW PASS TO ARCTIC VALLEY
Leader: Bill Stivers 562-4885
- 13 WILLIWAW LAKE
Leader needed.
- 14 EAST TWIN PEAK
Leader: Pat Thompson 344-1167
- 13-14 RESURRECTION RIVER TRAIL
Leader: Bill Wakeland 563-6246

19-20 CROW PASS
 Leader: Jim Pommert 344-5656 work: 563-3583

27 JUNEAU FALLS
 Leader needed.

27-28 BENCH LAKE - JOHNSON LAKE TRAIL
 Leader: John Lohff 337-2291

----- HARDING ICEFIELD TRAVERSE
 5-day trip. Exact date to be set later.
 Leader: Willy Hersman 338-5132

August 3 SLAUGHTER GULCH TRAIL
 Leader needed.

3-4 REED LAKES
 Leader: Nan De Good 337-4875

10 CRESCENT LAKE
 Leader: Don Hansen 279-0829

11 GLEN ALPS TO INDIAN
 Leader needed.

10-11 CURRY RIDGE
 Leader needed.

17 COLORADO CREEK
 Leader needed.

17-18 PETERS HILLS
 Leader: Harmut Pluntke 279-9252

24 WOLVERINE CANYON
 Palmer area. Leader needed.

24-25 PETERS CREEK VALLEY
 Leader needed.

31-2 LOST LAKE
Climb Mt. Ascension too.
Leader: Willy Hersman 338-5132

Sept. 7 FULLER LAKE
Leader needed.

8 SUICIDE PEAKS
Leader needed.

14 THE WEDGE
Leader needed.

15 ESKA CREEK TRAIL
Leader needed.

21 INDIAN CREEK PASS
Leader needed.

28- 29 ICE CLIMBING CLASS
Leader: the venerable Terry Becker.

The hiking committee is seeking suggestions and leaders for week-long, weekend, and day trips. Contact: Jim Pommert 344-5656 work: 563-3583; Jane Stammen 563-7703; or Linda White 274-4989.



FIRST AID COURSE

The Alaska Wilderness Guides Association is sponsoring a series of three backcountry emergency medical seminars at Providence Hospital, March 15-16. Featured speaker will be Dr. Fred Darvill. Dr. Darvill is on the faculty of the University of Washington Medical School and is author of the book Mountaineering Medicine, published by Wilderness Press. He authored two chapters in Medicine for Mountaineering, published by the Seattle Mountaineers.

A basic backcountry first aid seminar dealing with the diagnosis and treatment of common illness and injuries likely to occur in the wilderness will be presented on Mar. 15, from 7-10 p.m. The seminar is geared toward people who have not had a recent first aid course and could find themselves faced with a medical problem 24 hours or more from professional help. Cost is \$10. Reservations are not necessary.

A 6-hour advanced backcountry medical workshop will be presented by Dr. Darvill on March 16, from 1-4 and 6-9 p.m. This course is designed for individuals who have completed advanced first aid, ETT or EMT courses. The advanced seminar will include simulated wilderness scenarios and cover treatment for trauma, cold, and high altitude problems. Cost is \$60 and enrollment is limited to 45.

A brunch will be held Saturday the 16th from 9-11 a.m., for medical professionals. Dr. Darvill will discuss management of wilderness emergencies and exchange thoughts on high altitude medical problems. Cost is \$20, including the meal.

Since information about this seminar was rather late in coming to our attention (hopefully the SCREE got out in time; if not, we are sorry), it is suggested that if you are interested in attending one of the courses please contact the Alaska Wilderness Guides Association, 276-6636. There may still be room.

Enrollment is limited. Preference is given to Guides Association members and members of the Alaska Mountain Rescue Group (co-sponsors of the seminars).

Doug Van Etten