



MOUNTAINEERING CLUB OF ALASKA

BOX 2037

ANCHORAGE, ALASKA 99510

September 85

Volume 28, Issue 09

### SEPTEMBER MEETING

The meeting will be held Wednesday, September 18th at 7:30 p.m. in the Pioneer Schoolhouse, 3rd and Eagle St., Anchorage, Alaska.

### MINUTES FOR THE JULY MEETING

The meeting was held July 17, 1985 and called to order by Vice-President Mark Findlay at 7:40 p.m. The minutes for May and June were approved and new members were introduced.

### TREASURER'S REPORT

\$ 551.71 - Petty Cash  
1,768.04 - Money Market Rate Plus Acc.  
822.78 - Bank Account  
\$3,142.53 - Total MCA Monies

### I. Old Business

- A. MCA Picnic will be held August 17th, Saturday, at Eklutna Lake, Campground A. If directions are needed, please contact someone on the back of Scree . The club will provide hot dogs, hamburgers, condiments and soda, but would like the members to bring other items to help round out the menu. The cooking will start between 1:00 and 1:30 p.m. In addition, there will be volleyball.
- B. A rock climbing class will be held July 25th for the classroom session and July 28th at Boy Scout Rock. Classroom session will discuss equipment and knots, and must be attended by students in the class.

- C. Eagle Hut on the Eagle Glacier is in need of repairs. Tim Neale and Willy Hersman have volunteered their services to go up and do the necessary work. The cost of the supplies and transportation were estimated to be \$600. They will return on foot. A motion was made and passed to appropriate \$600 for the repairs to be made on the hut. If weather permits, they will leave around July 25th for 3 or 4 days.
- D. Hiking Committee reported a busy schedule. Sign up at the meetings so leaders can estimate the number of hikers interested or contact the leaders directly.
- E. Library Committee wants to remind you of our lending library located at AMH. Have your membership card with you.

## II. New Business

- A. Tim Neale reported that a study is being done on the impact of present use of Denali National Park. It has been noticed that with the increase of traffic on the road to Wonder Lake there has been a corresponding decrease of animal sightings. Therefore, a proposal has been made by the N.P.S. to halt 17% of the traffic in that area and open access to the south side of the park. They propose the building of huts in the Ruth Amphitheatre, and the use of concessions in the Ruth Glacier and construction of a new airstrip in neighboring Denali State Park for these concessionaires. N.P.S. claims that there would be no impact on climbers since all climbing is done at the Kahiltna Glacier! If you would like to make your feelings known on this proposal, it is recommended that you contact the Alaska Center for the Environment.

## III. Announcements

Terry Becker reminded the club that the ice climbing school will be the last weekend in September as usual. There will be room for 40 members so sign up early. The sign-up sheet will be available at the August and September meetings. Terry can be contacted at AMH.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:00.

Respectfully submitted,  
Nan DeGood, Sec.

The minutes for August were not available at press time, but should appear in the next issue.

## Recent Announcements

An Emergency Trauma Training Course (ETT) is soon to be offered through the MCA. This course covers not only the basics of first aid but will deal with High Altitude, Hypothermia, Cold Water Injury, Cold Weather Injury and Long-Term Patient Care (in case of storms, etc.). It is specifically tailored to backcountry users. The course will be taught by Dave Decker, a paramedic with the Anchorage Fire Department, a long-time member of the Arctic Valley Ski Patrol and an avid backcountry traveler and kayaker. There will be 60 hours of instruction, after which, you will be certified ETT.

Course Begins: October 1st  
Classes: 4-hour sessions on Tuesdays and Thursdays (6-10pm or 7-11pm)  
and 3 Saturday sessions  
Size Limit: first 25 people  
Cost: approx. \$120  
Sign Up: September general meeting

For more information call Doug Van Etten at 243-1550.

ACC's Mountaineering Program will be building an artificial indoor climbing wall this fall. Anyone with an interest or knowledge of such walls is urged to contact Todd Miner at 786-1638. When completed the facility will be open to ACC students and the general public paying the PE facility use-fee.

On ACC's last Eklutna Traverse we spent a few days climbing in the upper Eagle Glacier area. On P 6540 (Sec 18) we found an old glass jar summit register with a dissolved note. Anyone who left it? Since the jar leaked we brought it down to the Eagle Hut. We also climbed P 6600 (Sec 32) and P 6636 (Sec 9) and finding no cairns or registers are curious if anyone knows about climbs on those fun and nearby peaks.

Todd Miner

The MCA Elections for officers will be held at the October 16th general meeting. Duties for officers are as follows. If you are interested in a position, please contact a member of the board, or make it known at the September meeting. If you would like to nominate someone for an office you will have a chance at the September meeting or just prior to the election in October.

### President

- a) To preside at all regular and executive meetings.
- b) To coordinate the efforts of the officers and committees.

This page was miss-

## TRIP REPORTS

### O'Malley Peak

May 4, 1985

Saturday May 4th was a partly cloudy day of intermittent periods of sun, shade, and wind. The latter two elements we were thankful for. After leaving the Powerline Pass Trail to cross the South Fork of Campbell Cr. we ran into soft, deep snow that couldn't support most of us for more than a second or two; breaking through to our thighs at least. The snow was firm when we reached the pass below Little O'Malley. On crossing the valley to the base of the mountain (locally called the football field) Linda White spotted two coyotes crossing ahead of us. We watched them until they dropped down the other side of the valley into the Williwaw Lakes area.

We climbed up the long wide gulley on the west side of O'Malley, with good kick-stepping. However, there was less snow in the gulley than I've experienced in previous years. We reached the summit in 4 hours from Glen Alps, which was not bad considering all the uphill post-holing we had to do.

I appreciated the enjoyable company of Jim Pommert, Linda White, Jane Stammen, Jim Hill and Forest Balwin.

Don Hansen

### Crow Pass

After a wild start (will the real leader please stand up!) it was good to feel the Crow Pass Trail beneath our feet. We took the lower trail in, passing through kaleidoscope mountainsides of wildflowers - columbine, moss campion, wild geranium, forget-me-nots, starflowers, and Indian paintbrush to name a few.

The peaks played hide and seek in the low clouds. We enjoyed the Girdwood mine ruins, and the remains of the crew's quarters (mentioned in 55 ways) must have been the one boxed-bedspring we saw. We hiked on looking a bit like wet rats due to the drizzle from the clouds we were now hiking closer to. After a couple of stream and small snowfield crossings we rounded the ridge and were surprised to see the cabin so soon.

A view of Crystal Lake was hidden from the cabin by a huge snow drift, but we did get a quick glimpse of the surrounding peaks and Crow Glacier before the clouds came back down again. We swapped trail tales, stuffed our faces with cheesecake (hikers don't live by freeze-dried alone!) and turned in by 12:00.

The next day we met several people who had hiked in early to cheer on the Crow Pass runners. We hiked the mile to the end of the pass and got a great view of Raven Glacier with its blue ice and crevasses and the valley down to

Eagle River. We then hiked up and over a ridge, through clouds and drizzle and finally sliding down a chute of scree at the back of the cabin.

We took the higher trail back down, passing huge slopes covered with Alaska moss heather that were dotted white with the small, bell-shaped heath flowers and their musty-sweet smell was everywhere. The only wildlife seen were Arctic ground squirrels, but we did hear marmots whistling in the pass. Betsy Gerace, Francis Inoue and I had a great time.

Kathy Burke

### Summer Ramblings

On June 26th I hiked up the southernmost glacier facing Seward of Mt. Alice (5265), and from here gained the summit over the south ridge on some of the most atrocious rock I have ever seen. I exited via the Godwin Glacier to 4th of July Creek to complete the traverse. Sewardites remember Mt. Alice as the place where Dennis Hitt died in the 1960's - a story I finally got to hear first hand this summer from Dave Johnston who was on that trip.

On July 12 Jim Sprott and I attempted Mt. Bellicose (7640) via a direct line on the SW ridge. Snowfall, a north wind and dwindling resolve turned us around at about 7000 feet. We rappelled into the southern gullies to avoid retracing the steep ridge. This summit was first attained 8/20/63 by way of the south ridge and face by John and Bill Bousman (see Scree 5:12:3). We recorded the fourth ascent of Moonlight Mountain (6250) on 7/13. The tracks to the summit made by Todd Miner's group earlier in the month were still visible.

On 7/14 Jim and I scrambled to the top of Pellet Peak (5665). The only names in the register were Dave DeVoe and Steve Herrero from their first ascent of 1965, but review of the notes at Pichler's Perch reveals that this peak was probably also climbed by Jim Slayer, Larry Hartig, and Jim Sweithelm in Aug 76. The peak was named for a snowy owl pellet that was found on the top (see Scree 7:11:2).

Tom Choate and I had a very pleasant trip to the top of Mt. Significant (5450) on July 16th. This summit was named by Vin Hoeman. He gave it this lofty title because it is the highest summit in the Anchorage B-7 quad. Its first recorded ascent was 7/65 by Gayle and Helen Nienhueser and Jim Kroh. The second ascent was by Kyle Atkins, Harry Bludworth and Jerry Buckley on 3/17/67. Vin and Grace Hoeman recorded the third ascent on 4/14/67. No records of the previous parties were found on the top by Tom and I.

A high point of my Summer was the Harding Icefield traverse with the MCA group in late July. On good weather days the icefield a spectacular playground. Two minor highpoints were climbed. On 7/20 I hiked to Point 5358 (Kenai A-1 quad). On 7/24 Greg Griffin, Mark DeVore and I ascended Peak 5007 (Seward A-8 quad) above the Lowell Glacier. Cairn and register were placed here. Old club members will remember the first icefield crossing in April, 68. Vin Hoeman, Bill Babcock, Dave Johnston and Yule Kilcher walked onto the icefield from Homer via the Chernof Glacier. They were met by Eric Barnes, Dave Spencer, Grace

Hoeman and Helmut Tschaeffert who flew in to meet them. Enroute the first ascent of Mt. Truuli (an old Indian name for the Kenai Range) and the Node Nunatak (5912) were recorded. Mt. Truuli is the highest point on the Kenai at 6617 (see Scree 10:7:2).

Greg Higgins

#### MCA Annual Picnic

August 17

The Eklutna Lake Campgrounds have been radically altered, with the area that has been the picnic site for the last several years being allowed to grow over. The new picnic area, with a large pavillion and picnic tables, was dedicated by Governor Bill Sheffield and Mayor Tony Knowles that same day.

This year's picnic had it's debut of barecued chicken, barbecued on a standing grill, which was "inhaled" by the 17 people that attended. (In other words, there is no chicken left for the vultures attending the Ice Climbing School. There are however, some hot dogs and hamburgers.) Several games of volleyball were played after everyone had eaten, but this year the games had a different flare with the "bullet ball", the "missle ball", and the "bomb". Competition was indeed uncompromising. And of course, there was the old reliable excuse of "the sun was in my eyes", to account for the wild hit that sent the ball flying down the hill toward the lake.

All in all, a very nice day.

Many thanks to Barb Byrne and Mark Findlay for helping out.

Bernie Helms

## HIKING AND CLIMBING SCHEDULE

- Sept. 7     FULLER LAKE  
Leader needed.
- 8     SUICIDE PEAKS  
Contact leader for meeting time, etc.  
Leader: Mike Miller 345-5718.
- 14     THE WEDGE  
11 miles; 2500' gain; moderate. 55 ways #32. Meet UAA at 8 a.m.  
Leader: Bernie Helms
- 21     INDIAN CREEK PASS  
12 miles; 2100' gain; moderate. Probable side trip to lakes  
above pass. 55 ways #27. Meet 8 a.m. UAA parking lot.  
Leader: Jim Pommert w:563-3583 h:344-5656
- 28- 29     ICE CLIMBING CLASS  
Leader: the venerable Terry Becker. See announcement to follow.
- Oct. 5-6     SWAN LAKE  
28 miles; 1500' elev gain; moderate. In by Devil's Creek trail,  
out by Resurrection Pass at Cooper's Landing. Overnight in Swan  
Lake cabin. 55 ways #14. Meet 7 a.m. UAA parking lot.  
Leader: Jim Pommert 563-3585 344-5656.

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, or Kathy Burke 346-2841.

### TECHNICAL ICE SCHOOL

Place: Matanuska Glacier  
Date: September 28, 29  
Fees: \$5.00 class, \$7.50 access to glacier  
Classroom Session: September 25 at 8 p.m. at the Pioneer Schoolhouse (first floor). This class is MANDATORY! If you cannot attend please do not sign up.  
Class Limit: 40 students - members only

This school will present the techniques necessary to become at least a competent second on steep ice, such as waterfalls and gullies. We will not be teaching any glacier travel techniques.

PRE-REGISTRATION WILL BE REQUIRED. Sign-ups were at the August meeting for



present members and will be at the September meeting for present and new members. We will not be signing up students (or new members) at the classroom session. All students should be members by the September club meeting. Remember, last chance to sign up is the September club meeting. (First come, first served at the classroom session if more than 40 sign up.)

This annual extravaganza will begin Wednesday September 25th, with an indoor session. This class will include lectures, equipment displays, and a short slide program. Students are required to bring their boots, crampons and ice axes for inspection. Rental equipment will be handed out. (Please try to borrow equipment as the club has limited supplies.) Groups will be assigned. Fees will be collected. ALL STUDENTS MUST ATTEND.

The outdoor session will begin at 10 a.m. on Saturday, September 28th, at Matanuska Glacier at the parking lot closest to the glacier. Plan on leaving Anchorage no later than 6:30 a.m. or go up Friday night. This is an overnight car camping trip, so weight won't be a problem (on your back anyway). Bring tent and stoves, or charcoal or logs, lawn chairs, etc. Don't forget beer, wine, and good food. The lodge will be open for those who don't want to cook out.

Prior experience would be helpful but is not absolutely necessary. It is suggested that those of you who are not in good climbing shape do some pre-class conditioning (upper body strength should be emphasized). Another hint - get a hammer and some 16 penny nails and drive the nails into 2x4s or other scrap lumber.

Remember, this class is not for glacier walking, and as per club policy, please leave your dogs at home.

If anyone has any questions please call me at AMH, 272-1811, but not between September 10-19 since I will be gone.

Terry Becker

#### ICE CLIMBING CLASS EQUIPMENT LIST

(Everyone must have all equipment.)

Ice axe - 70cm or shorter, curved pick with a web sling

Crampons - 12 points, hinged or rigid

Helmet

Harness - 1 or 2 piece or 22 feet of webbing

Locking carabiner

Rigid sole mountain boots - no hunting boots or wafflestompers

Ice hammer - optional, get one if you can

Day pack - for all this junk

Lunch - for two days, a thermos is nice

Wind parka and pants - Goretex or other semi-waterproofs

Wool or pile pants - no jeans or cotton pants

Wool or pile jacket - or polarguard type

Wool or pile hat

Wool or pile gloves and mitts - bring extras, it's wet out there

Overmitts - water repellent

Gaiters

Sunglasses, glacier cream, bandana, visor hat, camera, guitar, violin, sax, trumpet, drums, walkmann, etc.

Camping gear for overnight

