



MOUNTAINEERING CLUB OF ALASKA

BOX 102037

ANCHORAGE, ALASKA 99510

JUNE 1988

Volume 31, Issue 06

JUNE MEETING

The meeting will be held Wednesday, June 15th, 7:30 pm, at the Pioneer Schoolhouse, top floor, 3rd and Eagle Sts., downtown Anchorage. After the business meeting, there will be a slide show. No details at press time.

MINUTES OF THE MAY MEETING

The meeting, which was held at the Pioneer Schoolhouse, this time on the 18th of May, and called to order by Priscilla Lukens, sitting in for the President, who was goofing off on a climbing trip. New members and guests were welcomed. The reading of the April minutes was waived.

I. COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. Hiking and Climbing

1. Kathy announced a trip to Williwaw Lakes and one to Pichler's Perch. Sign up sheets for the Harding Icefield trip were available, for which Dan O'Haire gave more details on cost.
2. Don Hansen reminded us that there are still some openings for his Lake Clark trip, July 2-10.
3. Marty Bassett encouraged folks to participate on a hike to Chickaloon - Boulder Creeks for Memorial Day, a great area for exploring and day hikes.
4. The traditional summer solstice sleep out is scheduled for June 18-19.

B. Huts

Gerry Minick informed us that the Pichler Perch project is finally getting under way, in cooperation with State Parks.

II. OLD BUSINESS None.

III. NEW BUSINESS

A refreshment volunteer was searched for as well as a picnic organizer for our annual event in August.

IV. TREASURER'S REPORT

Petty Cash	-	69.78
Checking	-	673.68
Money Market	-	4027.84
Total Monies	-	\$4771.30

V. ANNOUNCEMENTS

A. Lost Lake

Ed Bovey had maps for sale and announced a trip to Lost Lake for the following weekend. He also mentioned the problem concerning access on the southern end to this trail.

The business meeting thus came to an end, followed by an outstanding slide presentation, courtesy of Bill Wakeland, about a bicycle trip into Denali Park and about a kayak trip in the Tikchik Lake area. Thanks Bill!

Respectfully Submitted,
Pete Sennhauser

NEW MEMBERS: Barry Bruninga, Debbie Nelson, Mark Fouts, Doug Vandergraft, Bert Mottingly, Michael Sebulsky, Mindy Baum, Colleen Cashman, Michael Fenster, Jo Ann Neumaier, Kary Ericksen, Carol Ann Hablitzell and Marilee Clark.

Thanks to Alan Julliard for volunteering to take over as Librarian for the club.

NOTICE

As of May 10th Chugach National Forest has designated the Primrose Trail as the official public access to the Lost Lake area because of failure to obtain a right-of-way for the Lost Lake Trailhead and first 2/3-mile of trail.

"We have removed the Forest Service signs and improvements from the Lost Lake Trailhead at mile 5," says Seward District Ranger Duane Harp. "This is private land."

Harp says people desiring to use the former Lost Lake Trailhead and first section of the trail must obtain permission from the landowner, Harbor View Partnership, c/o Alaskan Real Estate, Inc., 1343 G St., Suite #1, Anchorage 99501, TEL: 274-2634.

Primrose Campground is located 1.3 miles off the Seward Hwy at mile 17.2.

TRIP REPORTS

Awesome!!!

April 5-8

Karl Swanson

Awesome...unclimbed? A wild, impressive-looking peak that can be seen from the highway, with an equally impressive name...unclimbed. We heard this rumor from several sources...was it true? Should we go out on a rumor to risk life and limb for our own tiny bit of glory, that in all actuality may be bogus? But on the other hand is there a better excuse to go out? I guess not.

I cruised Talkeetna to find someone to go climb Awesome and got Brian and Sue McCullough to go with me. Originally a Yosemite climber, Brian had his first taste of Chugach rock when we climbed Mt. Sgt. Robinson this January. He was a bit apprehensive at first, but the rumor got the best of him and we were off.

We left the car near the Cascade Hwy Maintenance Station and headed off towards Monument Cr. at 3 pm, a perfectly acceptable alpine start in Talkeetna. On our way down to the Mat. River Brian broke one of his Ramer bindings. Fortunately he has a degree in jury-rigging from years of sawing lumber away from spare parts stores and we were soon on our way again. Closer to the river we took off our skis and threw them down the hill and the cut bank as we slipped and slid down to the Mat. On our arrival at the mouth of Monument Cr. we found snowmachine tracks headed up in front of us. Was our rumored F.A. stolen from us? As it turned out it wasn't, as the tracks turned around a couple hundred yards up the creek. The creek proved to be pretty tough going and after about a mile we headed up the bank to our left, camping in the forest that night.

On our way up the valley we crossed two small side ravines but otherwise avoided any other nasty bushwacking due to the deep, hard snow. Things went quickly until we got to the toe of the glacier where there is a hill of about 1500 vertical feet. It was steep and hard, so we took off our skis and walked up it and onto the glacier where we set up the tent and rested up for our climb the next day.

The next morning we put on our skis and headed to the far end of the glacier where Brian Okonek told us we could probably find an easy snow couloir. The snow couloirs wound around between ridges and rock towers and we couldn't see any that went directly to the top, so we started up a likely-looking couloir on lightly wind-packed snow. The couloir ended up high on the mountain on an airy ridge which dropped off steeply on all four sides. We then rappelled off the gendarme into a neighboring gully, and from there we traversed into still another gully. At the top of this third gully we scrambled over some steep, loose rock onto the small summit snowcap.

There was a storm threatening from the south, so after only a short while and a few photos we headed down the gully that we had finished the ascent on. The gully went pretty much straight down and had steep, vertical walls on both sides that obscured it from view from the bottom. At the bottom there was a rock tower in the middle that we imagined would dramatically split the avalanches when the couloir ran. On going around the tower we were faced with a small cliff which we jumped over into the soft snow below. From there we glissaded down the avalanche cone to where we could walk over to our skis. Sue, who had not done the ascent with us, was surprised to see us back at the tent so early, as the whole climb didn't take us much over four hours. The next day we had an enjoyable ski down to the Mat. River and then a grunt across the river and back to the car.

The Headlines Read: Four Members of the MCA Rescued From the Old Johnson Trail
or

Oh No, Not Another One of Those Kinda Hikes

Kathy Burke

...any similarity of names or events in this article are strictly coincidental, because all the others said they would kill me if I wrote up this hike...

In the first place it's downright embarrassing for seasoned hikers to admit to being on the Old Johnson Trail. I mean, between the four of us we had the experience of Tikishla Peak, O'Malley Peak, Chilkoot Trail, 23-mile day hikes, 18-mile bike trips on the railroad tracks; but it was just one of those days when

we all had about two hours in the morning and we were itchy to get out of town. We had read a recent newspaper article about the Old Johnson Trail from Rainbow to Windy, and none of us had been on that section. So we headed out, 3 miles, 200' elevation gain, we'll be at the car at the other end within the hour.

The trail was good and we were just cruising along and blabbing, enjoying the view and wildflowers. After about two miles the trail just petered out into a marsh of about five muddy streamlets. No big deal, pick one muddy streamlet and find the trail on the other side. Ha, ha, the next time we saw the real trail was an hour later, after we'd grabbed 5000 devil's clubs and wild rose bushes, after Mary had crashed through and uprooted trees, after we almost lost Linda in the muddy muck of a stream, after Doris put her pants back on (all the stickers, don't-cha-know), after I had wrecked my ankle that I had been nursing back to health for three weeks.

We came upon a deep gully and after hearing Mary swear the trail was much higher, we promptly headed downhill following rabbit trails through more briar patches - we knew they were briar patches because rabbits were the only thing that could make it through those bushes. Well, like I said, we finally came upon the real trail and finished our Sunday stroll out to the car.

The worst of it was that this was the second time that day that Linda and I had gotten lost. The first time was on a 6:00 am bird field trip when we had our noses in the air after a varied thrush and not on where we were walking. Well what do you expect at 6:00 am!

We later learned the secret to the trail from two guys who made the exact same mistake. There's a fork in the trail about 1/4 mile from the Rainbow parking lot, take the right fork. Oh, well so much for true confessions. It seems every summer I have one strange goofy hike (Did I say just one). Maybe I've gotten my one weird hike for this summer out of the way. Someday I'll go back and check out the right trail. No, I think I'll stick to O'Malley and 23-mile day hikes, Old Johnson Trail is just too hard for me.

HIKING AND CLIMBING SCHEDULE

- | | | |
|------|-------|--|
| June | 11 | <u>WILLIWAU LAKES LOOP HIKE</u>
Start at Prospect Heights. Approximately 17 miles. Class C.
Leader: Alan Shayer 277-9085 |
| | 18-19 | <u>FLATTOP SLEEPOUT</u>
Traditional. No leader. |
| | 21 | <u>BIRD VALLEY</u>
Mountain biking.
Leader: Rick Maron 349-3064 |
| June | 25 | <u>BLACKTAIL AND ROUNDTOP</u>
Leader: Kathy Burke 346-2841 |

- July 2-10 LAKE CLARK
 Turquoise Lake to Telaquane Lake. Backpacking and day hikes.
 Minimum 5, maximum 15 people. Approximate cost \$250-\$300 each.
 \$50 deposit one month prior to trip. Class C.
 Leader: Don Hansen 279-0829h, 261-4565w
- 9 Open Weekend...check hotline 337-6679.
- 16 PENGUIN RIDGE TRAVERSE
 Bird to Girdwood via Penguin Peak. 9 1/2 miles, elev. gain 6500'.
 Class C. Bushwack at the beginning, no trails.
 Leader: Rick Maron 349-3064
- 17 HIDDEN PEAK-RAMP-WEDGE
 10 miles, 3000' elev. gain. Class C.
 Leader: Don Hansen 279-0829
- 23-30 5th ANNUAL HARDING ICEFIELD TRAVERSE
 Crampon up the Tustamena Glacier, ski across the icefield, descend
 next to the Exit Glacier. Five travel days, two weather days.
 Skis only, no snowshoes. Crevasse rescue practice will be held
 beforehand (required). Split cost of boat ride (usually \$30 or less).
 Leader: Dan O'Haire 349-3599
- 23-Aug 6 ARRIGETCH PEAKS HIKE
 Minimum 6, maximum 12 people. Approximate cost \$400-\$600 each.
 \$50 deposit one month prior to trip. Class D.
 Leader: Don Hansen 279-0829h, 261-4565w

The Hiking and Climbing Committee is always looking for leaders. If you have an idea for a trip, whether for an afternoon or for several weeks, give Kathy Burke a call at 346-2841. Ideas need not be limited to the so-called open weekend dates, anytime is fine. H and C Committee: K. Burke, Chairperson, B. Wakeland, D. Hansen, M. Bassett, W. Hersman.

