

MOUNTAINEERING CLUB OF ALASKA

BOX 102037

ANCHORAGE, ALASKA 99510

JUNE 1992

Volume 35, Issue 06

JUNE MEETING

June 17 7:30 pm Wednesday, Pioneer Schoolhouse, 3rd and Eagle Sts.,  
downtown Anchorage, Alaska.

Slide Show Todd Miner will present a show of Mt. Foraker and an ascent of  
the Sultana Ridge.

HIKING AND CLIMBING SCHEDULE

- June 14 EKLUTNA LAKE  
Mountain bike trip around the lake. Class A.  
Leader: Don Hansen 243-7184
- 20 EAGLE LAKE  
11 miles r.t. Elev. gain 750'. Good trail. Class B.  
Leader: Marty Bassett 694-3917 h, 276-1317 ext 210 w
- 20-21 FLATTOP SOLSTICE  
Traditional overnight on the summit. Class C.  
Leader: President O'Haire 561-1141
- 27 CROW PASS - EAGLE RIVER  
Second annual 27-mile hike. One-day hike on good trail,  
approximately 11 hours. Class D.  
Leader: Allan Shayer 338-0341
- 27-28 WILLIWAW LAKES  
Easy beginner's overnight trip on good trail. 12 miles  
round trip. Class B.  
Leader: Eric Teela 349-4292
- July 3-7 HUT CONSTRUCTION ON MATANUSKA GLACIER  
One day to hike in, one day to hike out, three days for  
construction. Tools will be needed. Call leaders. Class:  
GLACIER TRAVEL. Crampons, ice axe, etc. No skis (no snow).  
Leaders: Willy Hersman 338-5132, call after June 27
- 3-12 WOOD RIVER FLOAT TRIP  
Bill's excellent adventure in Wood-Tikchik State Park. Fly  
to Dillingham, charter to the park. Call for details.  
Leader: Bill Wakeland 563-6246

- July 7-12 SCANDINAVIAN PEAKS  
Continuation of July 3-7 trip, after hut construction. Club hut built in 1990 will serve as base for climbs. Class: FIFTH CLASS for the climbs, GLACIER TRAVEL for approach. Members may elect to fly in to the hut, approximate cost \$100. It takes two days to walk out.  
Leader: Tom Choate 333-5309
- 11 SOUTH SUICIDE  
From Falls Creek Trail. Use summer gear list as a guide. Class D. Elev. gain 5000 feet.  
Leader: Don Hansen 243-7184
- 11 or 12 MYSTERY MOUNTAIN  
Only if July 7-12 trip does not go.  
Leader: Tom Choate 333-5309
- 11-25 PORCUPINE RIVER  
Charter plane from Fairbanks to Old Crow, Y.T. 300-mile descent of the river to Fort Yukon. Moderate pace, from 10 to 14 days. Participants may permanently break from the group and proceed on their own. Cost of the charter estimated to be \$350.00 per person. The flight from Fort Yukon to Fairbanks is around \$100.00. Collapsible boats must be used. (Editor's note: the trip dates have been changed since this trip was announced earlier, in case you didn't notice.)  
Leader: Marty Bassett 694-3917
- BASIC SKILLS PRACTICE  
Time and place to be announced. Crevasse rescue and other topics will be covered.  
Leaders: Dan O'Haire 561-1141 Paul Berryhill 248-6271
- 18-25 HARDING ICEFIELD TRAVERSE  
Tustamena Glacier to Exit Glacier. Glacier travel skills required. Get equipment list from leader. Class: GLACIER TRAVEL.  
Leader: Dan O'Haire 561-1141
- ? SHIP LAKE or REED LAKES  
Eric Teela
- 24-26 SNOWHAWK HUTS.  
Trail maintenance, woodcutting. Class A.  
Leader: Joe Kurtak 345-5512
- 25-26 ROGAINE MOUNTAIN ORIENTEERING  
A rough outdoor group activity involving navigation. Twenty-four-hour mountain land navigation race in Denali National Park. POC: Bryan Carey 349-7149. The Orienteering Club of Alaska is the primary sponsor.  
Leader: Chris Tomsen 428-2250

- July 25-Aug 8      BROOKS RANGE  
Two-week backpacking trip. Optional nontechnical climbs.  
Upper Alatna River area. Class C. Strenuous packing with  
easy rock scrambling day-trips.  
Leader: Don Hansen 243-7184
- August              BLACKTAIL-ROUND TOP  
Class C.  
Leader: Scott Bailey
- 15-16              MINT HUT  
Nine-mile hike to the club's hut and then do rock climbs and  
walk-up climbs. Class: FIFTH CLASS or Class E.  
Leader: Tom Choate 333-5309
- ?                    BLACKTAIL-ROUND TOP-VISTA  
Elevation gain 4000', 10 miles r.t. Class C.  
Leader: Tom Brigham 276-4405

#### Summer Gear

Raingear that works	Moleskin/Spenco 2nd skin
Windgear	Ace bandage
Wool or fleece pants	Surgical tape
Shorts	Aspirin
Light polypro or wool longjohns	Gauze
Wool shirt	Anti-bacterial ointment
Jacket	4" x 4" pads, band-aids
Baseball cap	Wire
Gloves	Vice grips or pliers
Extra socks	Utility cord
Wool or pile hat	Sewing kit
Hiking boots	Tent (or prearranged sharing)
Stream-crossing footwear	Sleeping pad
Sunscreen	Sleeping bag
Mosquito repellent	Backpack cover
Whistle	Cook pot
Large plastic bag	Stove (fires not allowed)
Lighter, matches	Fuel bottle
Map, compass	Walking stick or ice axe
Aerosol bear repellent (if desired)	Water bottles (not canteens)
FOOD	

#### Additional for Glaciers

Ice axe	Mittens
Gaitors	Crampons
Climbing boots	Seat Harness
Slings, carabiners	Ice screw(s)
Rappel device	Pulleys
Belay device	Prussiks/ascenders
Rope	Picket (?)
Wands	Skis or snowshoes (?)
Shovel (?)	Glacier glasses/cream

## TRIP REPORTS

Miscellaneous Note on Paria Canyon

Bill Wakeland

The Paria Canyon trip was not cancelled, as reported in Scree, but was successful, including several miles up the Buckskin, where it was so dark at noon in one spot that a flashgun was needed for a photo. A ranger told me the last party through the Buckskin had used wet suits! But the abnormal rain had let up and we had great weather, with temperatures in the ninetys.

There were not other MCA members along, so no trip report, but I have current data and lots of slides, if anyone is interested in this spectacular trip - especially Maxine Stoddard and Dave Pahlke, who inspired my trip.

The trip that was cancelled, was the much longer one in the west end of the Grand Canyon, and that one is tentatively re-scheduled for April 1993, with several MCA members already on the list. Bill Wakeland 563-6246.

Gull Rock

Don Hansen

Nine folks , Michael Mastrino, Pam Irizarry, Donald Gardner, Lisa Newins, Jackie Warren, Bernice Hagino, Suzanne Nash, Susan Beers and Don Hansen, enjoyed a very pleasant hike along Turnagain Arm on the trail to Gull Rock. The trail was just a little muddy in a few spots and had hard patches of snow in a few open areas where snow slides had occurred during the past winter. We did not see any beluga whales in the inlet but had great views across the arm to McHugh, Rainbow and other peaks on the other side.

O'Malley Peak

Don Hansen

On a nearly clear Saturday morning the three of us: Jonathan Rose, Joe Kurtak and Don Hansen left Glen Alps to climb O'Malley Peak. We crossed the south fork of Campbell Cr. and headed up the Little O'Malley notch on very firm hard snow. The sun was shining and Joe was hoping the snow would soften a bit for telemarking on the way down since he carried his skis to the base of the mountain.

After crossing the "football field" to the base of the mountain on approaching the bottom of the middle snow gully that we planned to ascend, we heard an animal howl from up on the ridge and saw a coyote near the top of the notch to the right of the gully. The coyote proceeded to the ridgeline and was silhouetted on the ridge with wisps of blowing snow from the then strong wind. The animal disappeared over the other side before we could get a good look through binoculars. As we climbed up the gully we ran into soft in contrast to the hard snow found on the sun-exposed O'Malley notch. Some of the wind gusts up the gully were very strong as they tried to knock us off our feet and snow blasted us near the top of the gully.

The snow was again hard on the southern backside of the ridge. Our stay on the summit was short as weather and increasing winds threatened from the east. On our way back down the ridge we spotted Peter Sennhauser telemarking on a lower slope on the south side of O'Malley. We were snow-blasted again as we descended the upper part of the gully but the wind subsided about halfway down. Upon reaching Little O'Malley notch on the way back we ran into Dan O'Haire and other mountaineers practicing crevasse rescue and self arrest techniques at the notch. By then the weather was sunny again and the snow had softened, with some "postholing" required before and after crossing Campbell Creek. We made it to the summit in about 3.5 hours or about 5 hours for the whole trip.

### Down Under on Top

Chris Tomsen

On May 24th, eleven of thirteen Australian Special Air Service Regiment soldiers summited on McKinley. After digging in and holding out through some of the worst weather in recent years, while seven others died (now eleven), the mostly novice climbers ascended from the 17,200-foot camp in "bloody windy and cold" weather to plant the SAS dagger and colors on top. Peter (Wally) Hooper was the lead climber; he prepared the lads by teaching self arrest and pulley recoveries in dry dirt gullies in Australia. Having patrolled in 100-degree weather for five weeks prior to arrival (ever carry twenty liters of water and ammo, and...?) they were healthy.

Glenn (Dick) Tracy was typical; he had never seen snow! Mick Aiton (fingers), the team medic, taught them frostbite prevention; he was the only one to get "bit" (taking a dump at 19,000 he removed his mittens and now has large frostbitten blisters on three fingers). Richard Campbell, the team commander, noted their success "a bit of luck;" I observed it was organization, teamwork, and cooperation.

Observations from the mountain and Alaska included, "bloody cold" "no beer" "Koreans hanging around above 14,000" "not enough birds." The first day off McKinley, having descended from 17,000 the day prior, they went to the Fairview Bar and replenished fluids until 5:00 am, just to keep up their reputations, I suspect.

As their liaison officer, I was proud to have assisted their training adventure. They reminded me it is he "who dares, wins." (PS. they left 12 sleds and forty pounds of dry food for the MCA.

### MINUTES OF THE MAY MEETING

Dan O'Haire called the meeting to order and introduced new members.

#### TREASURER'S REPORT:

Money Market	-	\$4236.27
Checking Acct	-	958.23
Petty Cash	-	52.10
Total		<u>\$5246.60</u>

## COMMITTEE REPORTS

## Hiking and Climbing.

Don Hansen reviewed the extensive upcoming trip schedule with details of each. Dan noted a potential need for a guard watch of the vehicles on the Flattop sleepout on the solstice. The Harding trip will be the 8th Annual Icefield Crossing!

Dave Pahlke asked if anyone would be interested in a mountain bike trip in July, possibly Johnson Pass or Resurrection Pass.

Chris Tomsen and Joe Kurtak noted that the 25th of July looked to be the weekend for working on the Snowhawk trail and huts.

## Huts.

Dan reported that a permit application was sent to the state for the Bochstahler Hut.

## Parks Advisory.

Willy Hersman gave members a reminder that they are not allowed to cross the Miller property enroute to Rabbit Lake. Chugach State Parks will be working on an alternate route this summer. (See map this issue.)

## Conservation.

Chris Tomsen noted the need for a representative who could stay abreast of local issues, especially those which affect our mountain environments. This committee needs reactivation; vote on a representative is anticipated at the June meeting.

## Training.

Contact Paul Berryhill for upcoming activities.

## Honorary Membership.

The committee solicited for a new member to replace Pete Sennhauser. Duties are light.

## Scree.

Paul Berryhill noted the need for more mailing assistance volunteers, he provided a sign-up sheet.

## OLD BUSINESS

Books. Joe Kurtak compiled a list of needed and recommended book purchases for the Vin Hoeman Library. His recommendation to purchase the books was voted on and passed. They are:

Mt. McKinley: Conquest of Denali  
 Organization of an Alaskan Expedition  
 Antarctica, Both Heaven and Hell  
 High Alaska  
 Mountain of My Fear  
 Biography of Belmore Browne  
 Mountaineering, Freedom of the Hills (latest version)  
 American Alpine Journal (80,83)

## NEW BUSINESS

Trailhead vandalism. Dan has revised his proposal and passed out copies of it. Richard and Smith recommended hiring a security guard for the parking lot during our Solstice Sleepout. Dan recommended the use of "theft prevention powder," a purple dye which stains sticky fingers reaching into purses, bags, etc. left in cars. It can be purchased at Great Guns.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

Karen Cafmeyer announced a packed summer of Alaska Wilderness Study training and outdoor classes; go to Building K. Soon!

Chris Tomsen offered to take the names of those having mailing problems with their Screens and help resolve address problems.

Dave Pahlke showed an outstanding "True Alaskans" climb of Mt. Fairweather (15300') and its first winter ascent in 1984. They did indeed experience fair weather.

Respectfully Submitted,

Chris Tomsen

## Climbing Notes

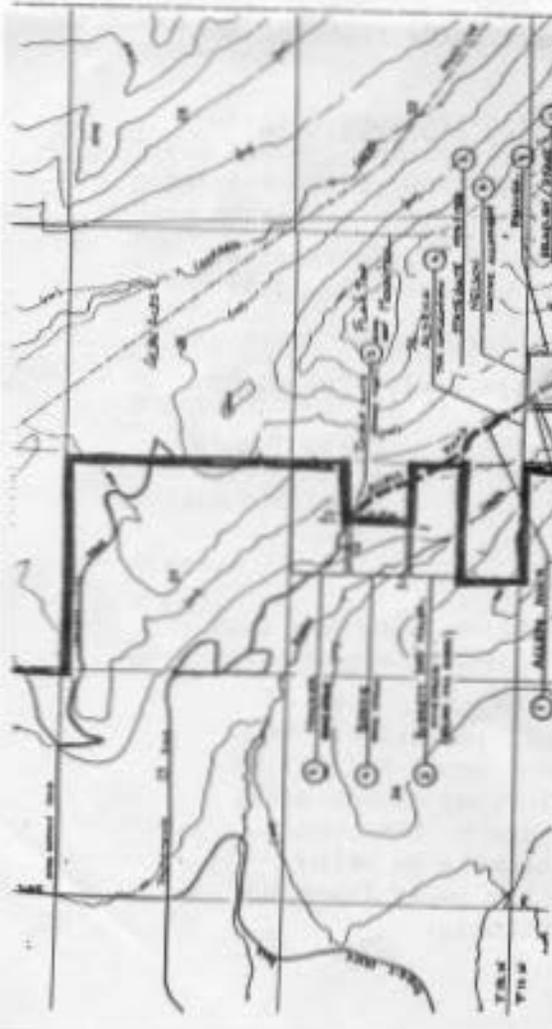
Peak 6750, which is located off the West Fork Eklutna Glacier, west of Beelzebub Peak, was climbed on May 24th by Phil Fortner and Jim Sayler. This first ascent comes after several previous attempts in recent years had failed due to weather. The successful route began from the glacier, up a moderately steep gully to the ridge east of the peak and along the ridge to the summit. Some belayed climbing was necessary with typical Chugach anchors as belay points. The east summit is reported to be highest, where the party found no evidence of previous visits, and enjoyed a calm stay in sunshine.

# ILLUSTRATIVE MAP OF RABBIT CREEK VALLEY

STATE OF MICHIGAN - SAN-80-1017 CIVIL

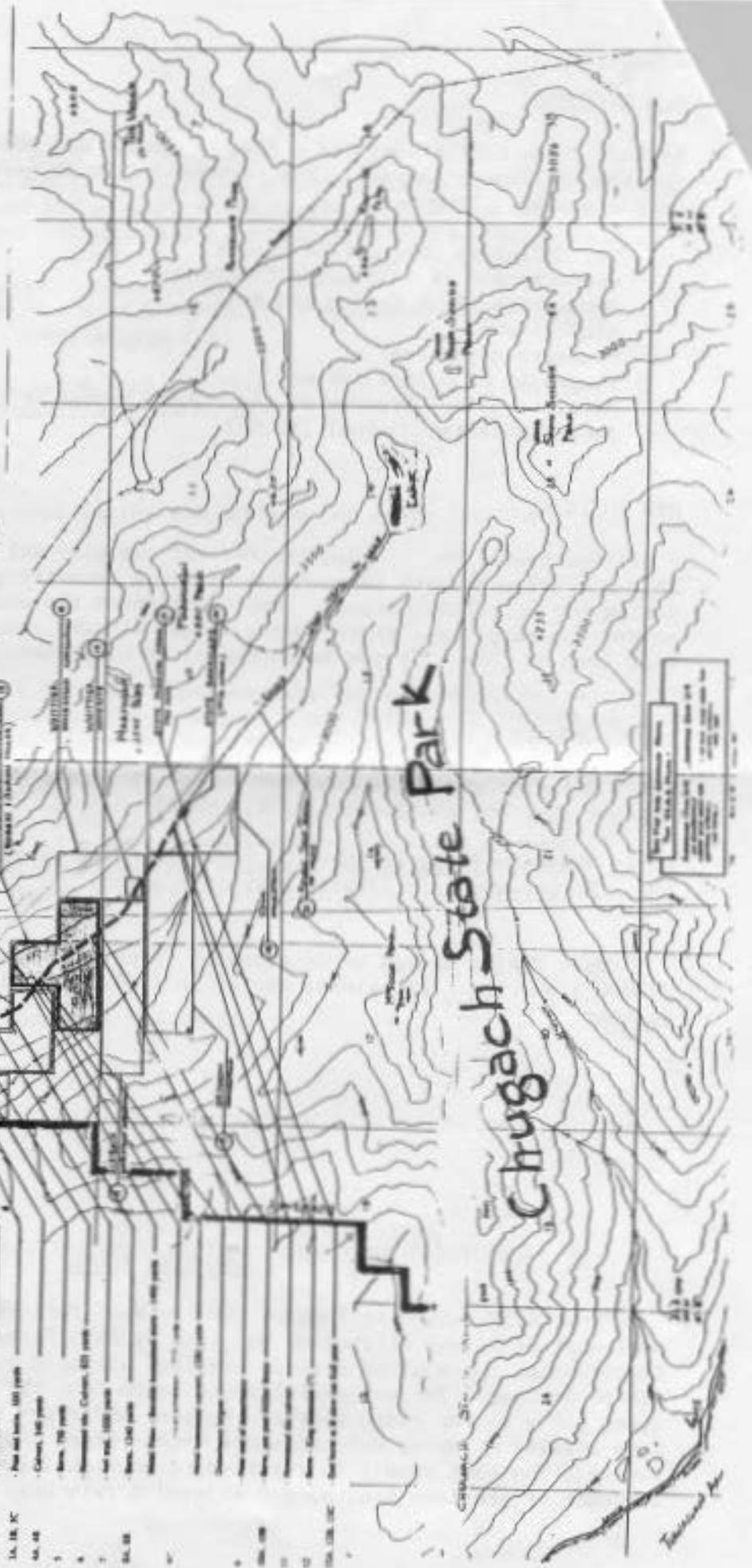


1/4 MILE



- 1A, 1B - Stone culvert and gate
- 2A, 2B - Gate 5 yards
- 3A, 1B, 3C - Post and beam 100 yards
- 4A, 4B - Culvert 100 yards
- 5 - Stone 70 yards
- 6 - Stone and brick 600 yards
- 7 - Post and beam 100 yards
- 8A, 8B - Stone 100 yards
- 9 - Stone 100 yards
- 10 - Stone 100 yards
- 11 - Stone 100 yards
- 12 - Stone 100 yards
- 13A, 13B, 13C - Stone 100 yards

Chugach State Park



1/4 MILE

1/4 MILE