



OCTOBER 1995

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Box 102037, Anchorage, Alaska 99510

Volume 38 Issue 10

ANNUAL MEETING

Wednesday

October 18th, 7:30P.M.

Pioneer Schoolhouse, 3rd & Eagle Streets
Downtown Anchorage

Elections

Slide Show: Jim Sayler will present a view of
local *Chugach* peaks.

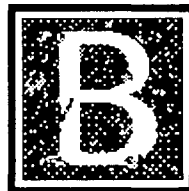
ACTIVITY SCHEDULE

Oct 31- Nov 4 Outdoor Leadership Workshop
Classroom Tuesday and Thursday.
Outing on Saturday.
Contact: James Larabee 522-3854

TRIP REPORTS

Mt. Soggy (7190)

by Dave Hart



leep... Beep... Beep... Beep...

It's still summer, it's pitch dark outside, and my alarm clock is going off at 3:00 AM. What in the world is going on? Oh, that's right.

I'm supposed to meet Niles, Jacques and Kjell at Twin Falls, nine miles up the Eagle River valley trail by 6:30

this morning for a climb of Mt. Soggy. At least I had the good sense to pack my gear the night before. After downing a cup of coffee, I was headed north out of town.

I've probably seen more bears on the Eagle River trail than anywhere else in the Chugach Mountains. Here I was hiking alone at 4:00 AM in the dark with my imagination running wild. Fortunately, the only creatures sharing the trail with me that early morning were a few moose.

Niles, Jacques and Kjell hiked in the night before and camped out, and were half way through breakfast when I arrived about 6:20 AM. Half an hour later we bid farewell to the Eagle River trail at the prominent pond (elevation 800 feet) five minutes west of Twin Falls. An old hunters' trail does a pretty good job of minimizing what would otherwise be a nasty bushwhack up towards Mounts Yukla and Soggy. Having been on this faint trail last summer while climbing Mount Yukla certainly helped our route finding.

A couple hours later we were strolling up a beautiful high valley (3,500 feet) trying to memorize the location of the prime blueberry patches for our descent. After a seemingly endless summer of clouds, this crystal clear morning was a rare treat.

We wandered up to the base of the pocket glacier (4700 feet) before changing from our running shoes to plastic boots. It would have been nice to do the entire climb in comfy running shoes, but the 20-25° bare glacier ice did require crampons. When we reached the snow covered upper glacier we roped up to safeguard us from unseen crevasses.

A final scree slope above the glacier gave us access to the saddle (6,200 feet) between Mounts Yukla and Soggy. It was noon, and we could almost see the top of our day's objective about 1 ½ miles distant. Scrambling along the ridge was not overly difficult, although the typically loose Chugach rock made us take our time through a few sections. The final half mile of the summit ridge, although easy, appeared to be partially glaciated so we roped up one last time. By 2:00 PM we were on the summit, enjoying the views. Marcus Baker and Mount Spurr were on opposite horizons, with the Chugach State Park falling away from us on all sides. I'm always amazed at what my backyard holds when I do trips like this.

The weather was deteriorating, and by the time we left the summit 30 minutes later, we were in and out of the quickly building clouds. Our descent was uneventful and included a couple of blueberry

munching rest stops before we began picking our way down the faint trail through the final 2,000 feet of brush.

Unfortunately, it began raining about this time. The combination of brush and rain has an uncanny knack of soaking hikers to the bone much more than the rain alone would have. With the main Eagle River trail only 100 feet below us, our spirits were lifting; at least the walking would be easier, if not drier.

It was about this time I felt that all too familiar prick of a wasp stinging my leg. I glanced down, only to confirm that I had indeed just woken a cluster of once napping wasps, who were none too happy to meet my acquaintance. What happened next seems comical in retrospect. I started wildly thrashing through the brush trying to escape, but not before receiving another sting on my neck. My hand went up to swat the bugger, but unfortunately, my ice axe was still attached to my wrist. It followed my hand... and hit me smack in the chin. Just as I was regaining my senses and getting ready to warn the others, I heard Kjell charging down behind me. He, too, wandered into the enraged swarm and didn't escape until receiving eight burning stings. Fortunately, Jacques and Niles managed to avoid this booby trap.

We returned to their previous night's camp site about 7:00 PM. By 7:20, we were headed down the trail enduring the most torrential rain I've seen in quite a while.

With only a mile left, Jacques and I heard a rustling in the woods, just off the trail. I positioned myself to get a better view, expecting to see one last moose wishing us a good night. I was surprised to see a black bear, pointy ears and all, staring right back at me. After being on the trail for over 17 hours, I was certainly in no mood to confront Yogi, so we just kept on hiking and reached the trailhead 15 minutes later.

Looking back up the valley, we were rewarded with a rainbow stretching across the valley we had just hiked through a few short hours ago - a pleasant ending to a fine day.



ADZE

For Sale

-30 deg synthetic sleeping bag -

'Slumberjack' \$150.

New large, lightweight rain coat -

'Helly Hansen' \$25.

522-6354

Wanted

Roommate. Call Wayne, 522-6354

Thanks

Special thanks to Doug Huvar, for taking time off work to help get some necessary repairs done at the Mint Hut. Doug and I spent October 6-8th in nice weather conditions putting in doors, windows, and patching old wounds left by local wildlife and general neglect. His help was invaluable.

Willy Hersman

AUGUST MEETING

Mike Miller called the meeting to order at 7:40 p.m. and had new members introduce themselves.

TREASURY REPORT.

Mike Miller gave the treasurer's report as follows:

Total in treasury: \$7818.11

COMMITTEE REPORTS.

Training

The annual MCA Ice Climbing class will be held the weekend of September 30 - October 1, 1995. There will be a mandatory meeting on Wednesday, September 27, 1995. The class will be organized and led by Nick Parker. You must sign up to attend. For more information contact Nick

at Alaska Mountaineering and Hiking.

Huts

Mike Miller announced that the new hut for the Moose Creek drainage will be transported to the helicopter loading site on August 24, 1995. The hut will be flown into the new site on Saturday, August 26, 1995. Transportation will be by ERA aviation. All members are encouraged to attend. Please bring hammers, gloves, screwdrivers and a small rachet with 1/4 " socket if you have one. If you have any questions, please contact Mike.

OLD BUSINESS

None.

NEW BUSINESS

Bill Wakeland asked the group to approve the purchase of an Emergency Locator Transmitter (ELT). This is a continuing matter from the July meeting. Bill said that he had spoken with Nick Parker at AMH and they would be will to store the ELT at the cache and look after it. The unit will transmit for 48 hours once it is activated. Without transmission, the battery will last for six years. The unit is waterproof, weighs 9.9 ounces and costs \$279.00. The unit is available from Eagle Enterprises, Inc. Bill made a motion for the club to approve the purchase. The matter was discussed. Bill ammended his motion to incluide the provisions that the purchase would be subject to funds being available and that rules for the units checkout and use would be developed by the board and hiking and climbing committee. The club voted to approve the motion.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

None.

J.J. Brooks provided an excellent show on big wall climbing including Yosemite, the Tusk and climbs in the Alaska range. Thanks, J.J.

Respectfully submitted,

Mark Flanum