



JUNE 1995

A Publication of the Mountaineering Club of Alaska, Inc.

Volume 38 Issue 06

Box 102037, Anchorage, Alaska 99510

## JUNE MEETING

Wednesday

June 21st, 7:30

Pioneer Schoolhouse, 3rd & Eagle Streets  
Downtown Anchorage

*Slide Show:* Local climbing hard man, *Charlie Sassara*  
will show slides of technical local climbs.  
Be there!

## HIKING AND CLIMBING SCHEDULE

- Jun 17-18 Flattop Sleepout  
Watch the days start to get shorter from this vantage point. Annual event. Class C. No leader.
- 24-25 Koktoya and Tanaina  
Western Chugach. Class C.  
Leader: Dennis Morford 522-1179
- Jun 25-Jul 1 Sargeant Icefield  
Kenai Mountains. Charter boat Seward to Day Harbor. Access via Ellsworth Glacier. Establish base camp on icefield for exploring. Those interested should be prepared for possible rain, fog, snow, or high wind. Each person responsible for his own food (12 days worth). Dress

warmly and be prepared to treat blisters. Do not bring cotton or down clothing or sleeping bags. Skis will be used for travel. Class: Glacier Travel.  
Leader: Dan O'Haire  
Local contact: Tom Grenier 345-1084

- Jul 8 Goat Mt.  
Western Chugach. Class D. Need ice axe, crampons.  
Leader: James Larabee 522-3854

- 9 Rock Climbing Class  
One day class. Need helmet, harness or 30 feet one-inch webbing, locking carabiner. Rock shoes are helpful, but not mandatory. Helmets and ropes are available through the club. Instruction

Going on a MCA Trip? **BRING YOUR CARD!**

Your MCA card shows you signed the waiver. If you can't find it, or don't have one, remove the back page of Scree and fill out the waiver for the trip leader. Thanks

will be done using top-rope.  
Leader: Paul Berryhill 248-6271

- 15 Matanuska Peak  
Chugach. Class D. 6000 foot elevation gain. Much of the route is on the Matanuska Peak Trail (not over Lazy Mountain). Long day.  
Leader: Diane Sallee 746-5286

- 22 Denali State Park Anniversary  
Byers Lake Campground, Mile 147 Parks Hwy. 10:00 A.M. Byers Lake loop 5-mile hike. Class A. 12:00 picnic and live music. 1:00 P.M. rededication ceremony. A 3-day hike of Kseugi Ridge, is possible, if people are interested.  
Contact: Mat-Su Parks Office, 745-3975 or Diane Sallee 746-5286



### TRIP REPORTS

#### Grand Canyon '95

Bill Wakeland



our new experiences highlighted our backpack trip this spring, all of them "uplifting." The first involved a serious injury and an uplift by a rescue helicopter. The other three included "catered" meals, visiting an Anasazi cliff dwelling and viewing a nude lady sunbather - miles from anywhere!

As usual, we seven Alaskan MCAers met at the Phoenix airport April 13 - where I had driven my Subaru from Portland, and rented a van. Next morning we had a great breakfast in Prescott at the home of MCAer Sid Moglewer and his wife Edna, and then proceeded directly to the Mather Campground at Grand Canyon Village, where our ninth MCAer, Tisha Roripaugh, from California, joined us. Since we were all old-timers at this (Margie Schaefer was new to our group, but had hiked here before) we didn't mess around doing tourist stuff, but took off with heavy packs next morning, after spotting cars at both trailheads. Fortunately, our route was such that our permit had not been canceled - heavy rains had washed out trails and a vital waterline in what is

called the "corridor" and all permits there had been canceled.

Our route was down the Grandview Trail to Horseshoe Mesa, thence down a rough little trail laced with "ball bearing" gravel to Cottonwood Canyon for our first night. It was early in the descent on this trail that Don Hansen went down - hard. His knee was distorted - the knee-cap out of place. We knew his hike was over. But actually we were lucky! Only a hundred or two yards back on the mesa was "stone hut," a roofless relic from the mining days, known by everyone, and near cleared, flat areas for a helicopter landing. And a guy named Chip Smith appeared on the trail heading for the rim - he was a cross-country runner! He took our message to the nearest phone. And Linda White, bless her heart, volunteered to stay with Don, and then be with him on the rim to assist any way she could and see that he and his gear got taken care of. She would rejoin us at a campground near Phantom Ranch four days later - the corridor was to be open by then, and we had to use it to cross a foot bridge to get to the north side of the canyon to reach our objective.

The rest of us went on down into Cottonwood and made camp, hoping to hear a chopper before dark. The weather was marginal - we'd had snow, rain and wind off and on. But before dark the chopper came and went. We hoped that Linda could go on it, too, but found out later she had to hike up to the rim with her full pack the next morning. Don was given emergency treatment and a brace and got a flight to Phoenix next day, and then to Anchorage, all before Linda caught up with him!

Linda planned on a good time doing day hikes until she re-joined us, but the weather was so lousy she even had to chip ice off the windshield and wade through new snow!

Of course it was nice and balmy down along the Tonto Trail - so balmy it froze the first night and rained off and on for a week. So much for my advice that you don't need a tent. Remembering last year's experience, all had tents except Fred and me!

The next three days we proceeded down river on the Tonto Trail, one of the more seldom used stretches, getting "broke in" for the bulk of the hike on the north side of the canyon to Clear Creek. It turned out to be a grind to make it to the campground near Phantom Ranch by the day on our permit - our feet were sore! A kindly ranger let us stay an extra day - and most of us were glad to get another dinner at the ranch - some even had breakfast there! And the girls managed to get showers.



From there we were camping "at large," but made it all the way to Clear Creek by about 4:00 P.M., some nine miles, this being the sixth day of at least some rain. But the flowers and scenery (through breaks in the fog) were great. We stayed four nights at Clear Creek, where there was lots of good water, taking several day hikes. But we never got down to the Colorado River, even though Fred had carried a big chunk of rope for that purpose - it was a long route, much of it in the creek. Several of us did get up Clear Creek to Cheyava Falls, the highest waterfall in the canyon. And the next day some of us found an Anasazi ruin from a description in an old guide book. Oh yes, we dined on trout from the Colorado River. Sid had finished there while we were camped on Bright Angel Creek, and then sort of bootlegged them into a freezer at Phantom Lodge. We carried them to Clear Creek, where Bob and Mary Jo Cadieux cleaned and cooked them for us.

After a couple of days of good weather it was time to head back - our last "at large" camp was in the shadow of Zoroaster Temple, to allow us to go down into the corridor and up the Bright Angel Trail on the south side to Indian Gardens camp and then climb to the rim on a short hike the next day.

It was at the Zoroaster camp that the nymph appeared - was there a connection in Greek mythology? We were about 1500 feet vertical and over two miles from Phantom Lodge and camp. And here was this babe stretched out on a rock, stark naked. She hadn't heard us because she had ear phones on! We marveled over the view for some time - taking turns with the binoculars.

Bright Angel Trail is the most popular of all the trails from the south rim to the river - many of the hikers don't even get to the river, but turn around at Indian Gardens camp. We managed to tolerate the crowds, knowing they were the price you pay for "conveniences," good trails, water from a faucet, meals at a lodge, etc. We also know the remote parts of the canyon, and thank goodness they are still remote!

We climbed the remaining 4.5 miles and 2500 feet from Indian Gardens to the rim early the next morning - Tisha in 2.5 hours and Fred close behind. Needless to say, the rest of us took longer - but Bob had the best story. Seems a guy and his son day-hiking down the trail passed Bob, heading up, and Bob overheard the son ask his dad, "Did you see the load that old fart is carrying?" With that, Bob joined Sid and me in the old farts club.

After brunch at Bright Angel Lodge, Tisha and Sid left for Prescott and California - the rest of us drove to Flagstaff for our annual ritual - clean up, throw away some clothing and boots, then pig out at Granny's Closet.

Don Hansen was soon back at work in Anchorage, but is scheduled for surgery and a long period of no hiking. We all thought of him often and missed him. Linda did rejoin us and got to enjoy our stretch of good weather - up to 85 degrees. In fact, the last two nights all of us slept under the stars sans tents.

Again, my heartfelt thanks to a wonderful crew of hikers - more and more I realize the best of times of these trips are the people I am with, even more than the scenery.



## Membership Directory

The following people have sent in information for the directory so far. This is the last call for members who wish to be placed on the directory. Please fill out the information on the form on the following page, and mail it to the club address or bring it to the June meeting. We'll be sending out the directory thereafter.

Aarsund	Stanley	Sasek	Sheila
Bradford	John	Scherr	James
Brunnar	Shannon	Schoolcraft	Ken
Choudhury	Raj	Sims	Scott
De Jarlais	William	Stanton	Linda
Encelewski	Gregory	Tavarez	Amable
Flanum	Mark	Todd	Wayne
Fouts	Mark & Melisa	Weiner	Art
Hamilton	Thomas	Wilson	Stephen & Sarah
Iloff Jr.	Charles	Zartman	Emmy
Johnson	Eric	Babb	Joel
Langdon	Mel	Church	Tom
Letourneau	Dale	Hartman	Kurt
Lund	Janet	Icardi	Pat
Metzler	Curvin	Kirk	Pam
Miraglia	Mark	Lopocardo	Jennifer
Perrine	Ross	O'Haire	Dan
Robinson	E. Allen	Sands	Jeff
Romberg	Wendy & Bill	Sheppard	Thomas
Rundquist	Larry	Wilson	Rod & Gynn
Rush	Semeta	Miller/Moore	Mike & Julia

### Membership Directory Information

THIS IS NOT A MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION. The directory will aid members who are looking for outdoor partners to find others with similar interests. If you wish to participate, fill out the following form. Include an address to receive the directory; those who do not participate will not receive a directory.

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Interests:

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Backpacking               | <input type="checkbox"/> Mountain Biking        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Rock Climbing             | <input type="checkbox"/> Mid-week Evening Trips |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Ice Climbing              | <input type="checkbox"/> Climbing Wall          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Expedition Mountaineering | <input type="checkbox"/> Local Weekend Climbing |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Day Hikes                 | <input type="checkbox"/> Skiing                 |

\_\_\_\_\_

### Activities Questionnaire

The club would like to offer more activities year-round. This partly depends on willing volunteers to lead, and partly on knowing where members' interests lie. Please take a minute to fill out the following questionnaire and bring it to a regular meeting or mail it.

From the following list choose five or less activities you would participate in as a club-sponsored event and prioritize them in order of preference (5 being highest).

- |                            |                         |
|----------------------------|-------------------------|
| Weekend Backpacking Trips  | Winter Camping Trips    |
| Day Hikes                  | Cross-country Ski Trips |
| Mid-week Hikes             | Mid-week Skiing         |
| Extended Backpacking Trips | Ski Mountaineering      |
| Alpine Climbing (local)    | Glacier Traverses       |
| Expedition Mountaineering  | Trips to the Huts       |
| Out of State Trips         | International Trips     |
| Physical Training Programs | Snowshoeing             |
| Ocean Kayaking             | Nature Trips            |
| Trail Clearing             | None                    |

5. \_\_\_\_\_

4. \_\_\_\_\_

3. \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

1. \_\_\_\_\_

## APRIL MEETING

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

### TREASURY REPORT.

Ron Rickman gave a report as follows:

Money Market:	\$7639.28
Checking Acct.	\$2953.93
Petty Cash	<u>\$56.00</u>
Total:	\$10,649.21

### COMMITTEE REPORTS.

#### *Training*

Mike Miller recapped the Glacier travel and crevasse rescue training which was held the weekend on April 8, 1995 at the Matanuska Glacier. There were 5 instructors and 18 students. It was very successful and Mike would like to see it repeated in future years.

James Larabee announced that already this year the Training Committee has provided training on Glacier Travel, Use of the Ice Axe, Avalanche Awareness and Leadership. Still coming up this year is training on stream crossing, map & compass, rock climbing, first aid and possibly a course on camp cooking.

#### *Hiking and Climbing*

Don Hansen announced that there are three trips coming up. Get the Scree for details and contact the trip leaders.

Tom Grenier announced that he and Dan O'Haire will be leading a trip across the Sargent Icefield from June 25 to July 1, 1995. They will try to be back in Seward for the Fourth of July celebration. Contact Tom for more information.

Jonathan Rose announced that the Bird Creek trip has been postponed one week to May 20-21, 1995.

Don Hansen announced that he is canceling the Rainbow Peak trip due to injury.

#### *Equipment*

Mike Miller announced there is an equipment cache at Alaska Mountaineering and Hiking (AMH). Equipment is available free of charge but it must be checked out. You will need to present your MCA membership card. The equipment cache is for short duration only and not intended

to permanently fill your equipment needs (Don't check out the equipment for the entire winter).

#### *Parks Advisory*

Larry Bryson announced that he will be leading a volunteer trail cleaning project. There will be no power tools allowed. If you are interested sign up on the sign up sheet at the next general membership meeting or contact Larry at 243-5932.

Scott Bailey announced that we are still waiting for a trail plan for the Eagle River area.

Mike Miller announced that this year is the 25th anniversary of Chugach State Park and MCA will be leading the traditional summer solstice sleepout on Flattop as a celebration of the 25th anniversary. The sleepout is scheduled for June 17 1995.

Ken Zafren announced that Hilltop is still planning on expanding its area. The current plan will cut 2/3 of the Spencer loop. He encouraged MCA members to get involved in this issue.

### OLD BUSINESS

Mike Miller presented Dave Hart with a pair of neoprene overboots in appreciation of his service as 1994 president.

### NEW BUSINESS

Mike Miller announced plans for construction of two new huts. Construction to be planned for the third weekend in May. The huts will be pre-fabbed in Wasilla, and dismantled for helicopter transport to the sites. The sites are in the Moose Creek drainage and in the head waters of the Kashwitna drainage. Spenard Builder's Supply has given us an estimate of ~2800.00 per hut. We are still in need of materials for the huts. Currently, MCA maintains the Mint Hut and the Bomber Hut.

Scott Bailey commented on the possible mining activity which might be taking place on the Wishbone Hill area near the proposed Moose Creek hut site.

There was a general discussion of the costs of each hut and the possibility of getting donations for the huts.

Mike Miller called for a vote on the construction of the two huts. Ken Zafren moved to amend the proposition to include the provision that if the hut committee has extra funds or materials, they may proceed with the construction of the second hut without a re-vote. A discussion followed and Ken Zafren withdrew his motion.

It was approved that the board could spend funds on an



outhouse at the Mint Hut and the construction of one hut for the Moose Creek drainage, not to exceed \$6500.00. If materials and or donations are obtained sufficient to build a second hut, the committee can proceed. This proposition was approved without opposition

Mike Miller announced that Dave Logan has resigned from the MCA board. Wayne Todd was appointed and has accepted the vacant board position.

Mike Miller announced that Mark Findlay will not be able to continue printing the Scree for the MCA. April is the last month.

Jonathan Rose announced that we need a volunteer to manage the mailing of the Scree.

#### ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mike Miller read the announcements from the Chugach National Forest newsletter, including proposal to have a giant gozilla on Columbia Glacier.

Todd Miner announced that American Alpine Club plans to take legal action against the National Park service regarding the Mount McKinley climber's fee. Please talk to Todd at UAA - Alaska Wilderness Studies if you are interested in supporting this effort.

Wendy Sanem announced the Great Harvest Bread Company is starting a program called "Bread in High Places." If you bring in a black and white photograph of loaf of Great Harvest Bread or any Great Harvest paraphernalia on top of a peak, Great Harvest will give you a free loaf of bread.

A gear swap was conducted during the break.

Wendy Sanem did a wonderful slide presentation on Ptarmigan Peak. Thanks, Wendy!

Respectfully submitted,  
Mark Flanum

#### MAY MEETING

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

#### TREASURY REPORT

Mark Flanum gave the treasurer's report as follows:

Money Market:	\$5655.61
Checking Acct.	2484.21
Petty Cash	<u>46.00</u>
Total:	\$8185.82

#### COMMITTEE REPORTS

##### *Training*

James Larabee announced upcoming training sessions will include map & compass, rock climbing and first aid.

##### *Hiking and Climbing*

Jonathan Rose talked about leading Bird Peak. Steve Gruhn will be leading a trip up Indianhouse Mountain. Willy Hersman talked about a trail clearing trip up the Gold Mint trail. Mike Miller announced the Summer Solstice Sleepout is scheduled for June 17, 1995. Join him on the top of Flattop to celebrate the longest day of the year.

##### *Parks Advisory*

Scott Bailey announced there is a need to remove some old abandoned automobiles from one of the entrances to Chugach State Park near Eagle River. Scott also announced he has copies of the new plan for trails in the Anchorage and Eagle River areas for the next twenty years. Call Scott for more information.

Willy Hersman announced there is a goat hunt planned for the East Fork of the Eklutna drainage. This decision by the Game Board is contrary to the recommendation of the Parks Advisory Board.

##### *Hut Committee*

Mike Miller announced prefabrication of the hut for the Moose Creek drainage will occur the weekend of May 20-21, 1995 at the home of Max Franklin in Wasilla. Plan to attend and bring any tools you have.

Dave Palhke asked people to bring power cords, hammers, gloves and a table saw, if someone has one. He also announced the club still needs sliding windows, cabinets, a Coleman stove and lantern, some lawn chairs, stainless steel pots & pans and paint for the hut.

#### OLD BUSINESS

Sheila Sasek will be the new mailing coordinator for the SCREE. She replaces Jonathan Rose who is commended for his excellent service to the club in this capacity.



**British Petroleum** is printing the Scree for the club for free. A big thank you to BP for this great service.

#### NEW BUSINESS

**Mike Miller** announced there will be a board meeting held on June 1, 1995, at 6:30 p.m. at his house.

#### ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Charlie Sassara** announced he, Peter Hackett, J.J. Brooks and Bruce Adams are opening a new rock gym in mid-June. The gym was designed by a professional rock gym designer from Colorado and utilizes a new type of texture. The gym will have a 30 foot ceiling with approximately 5000 feet of climbing surface. It is located at 4040 Fairbanks Street just off International Airport Road. He invited all of the MCA members to "come out and play."

**Scott Bailey** announced there is a new guide book to the top 10 mountains of the Wrangells. The book is available at the USGS office for \$12.00.

**Mark Flanum** announced there are bound copies of old issues of Scree are available at the MCA upstairs at Alaska Mountaineering and Hiking. The recent bound issues also contain an index to articles on various Alaska peaks and is a good resource when looking for more information on a specific Alaska mountain.

**Mark Fouts** provided an excellent slide show on climbs around the South Fork of the Eagle River valley. Thanks, Mark!

Respectfully submitted,

Mark Flanum

**ADZE**



#### Attention Ice Climbers

Snowmachine and trailer for sale.  
1987 Ski Doo, long track. Great  
for approaches. \$1800 (nego-  
tiable). Dave 333-3107.