



AUGUST MEETING

Wednesday

August 18, 7:30 pm

Pioneer Schoolhouse, 3rd & Eagle Streets
Downtown Anchorage

Slide Show: ~~TBA~~.

THAT VERZONE WILL SHOW SLIDES OF HIS
ADVENTURES FROM AROUND THE WORLD.

HIKING AND CLIMBING SCHEDULE

Aug 20-22 Lost Lake and Mount Ascension
Kenai Mountains. Leave Anchorage after work on
Friday. Eight mile backpack up to beautiful Lost
Lake in the Kenai mountains at the foot of Mt
Ascension. Saturday, those who would like can
make the easy climb of the glacier to the summit.
Required equipment: backpack and a smile; if you
climb the peak, bring a harness, crampons, and ice
ax. And bring a camera! Class B to the lake.
Class D to the peak.
Leaders: Matt Nedom 278-3648
Tom Choate 333-5309

TRAINING SCHEDULE

Oct. 2-3

~~Sep 25-26~~

Ice Climbing School

Matanuska Glacier. Annual ice climbing school.

Details next Scree.

Coordinator: Nick Parker 272-1811 (AMH)

Beelzebub and Peril: Rain and Shine

by Kneeland Taylor



The first rain shower started soon after Richard Baranow, Jim Sprott, Niles Woods and I left the Eagle River Visitor Center. We were headed for Beelzebub (7280) and Peril Peak (7040) but we were not taking the standard route around Eklutna Lake and up the Eklutna Glacier. Instead, we were headed up the Eagle River valley toward Twin Falls and an overgrown game trail that provides a way up through the alders out of the valley. This game trail is the standard approach to Yukla (7535) and Soggy (7190).

We broke out of the brush and into a bowl on the south side of Yukla at about 7:00 p.m. at roughly 3400 feet. Although the rain had been only intermittent throughout the day, and although we all wore fancy fabrics like Core-Tex, we were thoroughly soaked because of the wet vegetation. We decided to stop for the night and then the rain really started pouring. Fortunately, we had not sacrificed good tents for lighter packs, and thus were able to get out of the rain. We cooked in our vestibules and soon were asleep.

It cleared up later that night, but the drizzle started up again the next morning just as we left camp. We hiked in the rain up to the unnamed pass (5150) which leads to Blue Eye Lake. Blue Eye Lake (4209) is an azure lake high in the Thunder Gorge drainage. The rain stopped when we reached the lake, and we began drying out. From Blue Eye Lake, we headed northeast, climbing up toward Inferno Pass (5450) and the top of the West Fork of the Eklutna Glacier. The sun poked through the clouds from time to time, illuminating the colors of the lake, grasses, rock, and flowers. Clouds still obscured the peaks directly above us, Soggy and Beelzebub (6650), adding to our enjoyment of the break in the weather by giving perspective to the mountains.

Inferno Pass is an easy one, and we strolled to the top. From the top we could see broad splotches of sun across the West Fork of the Eklutna Glacier below us. We roped up to protect against crevasse falls, and then traversed down and across the glacier to the foot of the South Ridge of Peril Peak. There are a few "islands" of gravel and scree in the glacier

near the South Ridge, and this is where we put in our camp. Niles and I cleared some of the bigger rocks from a gravelly spot on one of the scree islands, while Richard and Jim pitched their tent directly on the glacier. By now, the sky was almost completely clear, and we cooked and ate on an "island," sitting in the sun, feeling warm and dry, and taking in the scenery. We would be at this campsite for three nights. Incidentally, there were no bugs.

The next morning we left camp for Beelzebub just as the drizzle started up again. Soon the fog rolled in. The "standard" and easiest route up Beelzebub is the north ridge, but this it has a reputation of being difficult compared to other Chugach climbs. I would have turned back given the drizzle, fog, and reputation, but Richard wouldn't think of it.

We followed Richard up a scree slope to a col on the north ridge. The climbing was easy for a short way above the col, but above that it gets very difficult. One pitch is so bad that I would not have tried it even on a hot, sunny, summer afternoon. It is very steep, there is lots of exposure, and there is nothing to climb on except nubbins. But Richard moved through this section as if he were ascending Flattop, and then fixed a line for the rest of us. We followed him up, feeling safe. At one point I couldn't even find a handhold, and so I just pulled myself up on the fixed line. Not exactly a purist's climbing technique, but what the heck.

Beelzebub was first climbed in 1965 by Davidson, Judd, Meyers and Parker, and the original register is still there. We did not look at the old register, however, because we feared the wind-driven rain would blur the ink and pencil handwriting. There is also a second newer register on the summit, and we signed that one. The summit was completely enveloped by fog, and we could see nothing beyond about 100 feet. We departed quickly and had an uneventful return to our camp.

By now we had all stopped caring much about the rain. We were warm and had made our primary objective. Jim and Richard were so unconcerned that after we reached camp they sat outside eating and talking for hours, in the drizzle. Although I stayed in my tent, all my clothing was wet. But I didn't mind. I was warm and content.

At 9:00 a.m. the next day it was still drizzling, so we went back to sleep. By noon, the drizzle had thinned to a fine mist, and by 1:00 p.m. the mist had stopped. Although the sun never actually came out, its heat could be felt through the high thin clouds.

We made our "alpine" start for the summit of Peril at 2:45 p.m. There is "C" shaped gully that leads from the glacier to the South Ridge of Peril Peak. It tops out at a point just above a feature known as the "Flat Iron." The gully is relatively easy, and we got up it quickly.

I have been told that some people climb the South Ridge unroped, but not me. At more than one point the ridge is so narrow that I found myself straddling it, with my right foot appearing to hang directly over the main fork of the Eklutna glacier (about two thousand feet below). It was not quite so bad on the other side where our tents were pitched far below, but they looked mighty small. At one point Niles knocked off a large rock, and as it fell it accelerated rapidly making loud explosive noises. It never stopped. I took no comfort in the thought that I am lighter than a rock; gravity accelerates lighter objects as quickly as heavier objects.

Because I was nervous, we roped up for a couple of pitches. After a while the ridge widens, and from there we free-climbed to the summit. Although we had a few moments of drizzle on the summit, we had great views under a high overcast sky. The drizzle stopped after a few minutes, and it was dry enough for us to read the register. Incidentally, two other parties have climbed both Beelzebub and Peril this summer (Tom Choate and Bethan Gilmartin in June and ~~Mike~~ ^{Wayne} Todd and Kathy Still in July). Three parties in one year is a record, I believe.

The next day we left our camp below the South Ridge. We took an interesting route back to the Eagle River Visitors Center. First, we headed northwest across the West Fork and up the small, unnamed tributary glacier of the West Fork, lying between Sunlight Peak (6390) and Moonlight Peak (6250). From near the head of this tributary glacier, we went north over an unnamed pass to another small, unnamed tributary glacier of the West Fork, this one lying between Moonlight and Bellicose Peak (7640). From this second tributary glacier we climbed west over a slot pass to the Raisin glacier at the head of the South Fork of Peters Creek. This slot pass is steep and difficult, but you can get over the ridge here with a pack.

Although we had started the day in a light drizzle, the sun had come out by time we reached the Raisin glacier. There is a small lake not shown on the topo map at the foot of the Raisin glacier at about 4400 feet elevation, and I took a quick swim in it. One side of the lake is an ice wall, which occasionally calves into the lake: there are icebergs. I did not swim for more than a few seconds.

After my swim, we descended down to the South Fork of Peters Creek at the 2600-foot level, where we picked up a sheep trail, which climbs up toward Bombardment Pass and Ram Valley. That evening we put our camp at one of my favorite places in the Chugach: it is near the small, unnamed lake (3600) at the bottom of Bombardment Pass (5050). We did not camp at the small lake, but nearby, at the point where Bombardment pass ends as a hanging valley above Peters Creek. This campsite is wonderful because there are awesome views of Rumble Peak (7530), Peters Creek, and Bellicose from this spot, as well as an excellent spring, flat and soft tent sites, and usually enough breeze to keep the bugs down. We thoroughly enjoyed our evening here, sitting up late, gossiping, and eating up the plentiful remains of our food.

But the good weather was not to last, for later that night we were awakened by thunder, which was followed by the familiar pitter patter of rain on our tents. We got up early the next morning and started off in the rain, hiking up a fabulous sheep trail that stays high on the west side of the valley leading up to Bombardment Pass. After climbing up several hundred feet in elevation, the rain turned to snow. It snowed hard and in about a half-hour a half-inch of snow had accumulated. But then the snow suddenly stopped, the sun came out, and it was warm.

This convergence of snow and summer made for one of my prettiest times in the mountains, ever. The thin layer of snow only lightly covered the green grass, and so the snow seemed to be tinted green. Little flowers, yellow, purple, blue, and pink pushed through the snow. As rocks and patches of moss were uncovered by the quickly melting snow, they sparkled in the sun. Behind and above us, the summits of Rumble and Bellicose were still covered by gray forbidding clouds, while below, Peters Creek was dark green. Ahead, and close-by, was the nearly vertical North Face of Korohusk (7030), white with snow, looking like winter.

I was reluctant to cross over the top of Bombardment Pass and leave the fantastic scene behind, but we did not linger long. It is a long way from Bombardment Pass down to the Eagle River Visitors Center and it was windy at the very top of the pass.

We spent the rest of the day leisurely wandering down Ram Valley. Late in the afternoon, one more rainstorm hit us. This one was a downpour, but short and quickly followed by the sun. This last rainstorm was no problem: by now we had come to like the rain.

Give Us Your Best Shot

For the Mountaineering Club of Alaska's 2000 Photo Calendar

We're looking for every MCA member's favorite photos for the **Y2Cal**. Packed with information on local peaks, club events, and the very best of **your** photos, the 2000 MCA Calendar will help you start out the next millennium in style!

So be sure to grab your camera as you head for the hills, because it's time for our **Photo Contest**.

Photo Contest Rules:

- ♦ Any current (1999) club member is eligible to enter.
- ♦ Photos should be hiking- or climbing-related.
- ♦ A club member may enter **one photo in each of the four categories**:

<p>Hiking ~ on-the-trail, off-the-trail, ridge-running, stream-crossing, bushwhacking, or scree-scrambling travel Climbing ~ your wildest action or most aesthetic scene while climbing on rock, ice, snow, or glacier People ~ your half-crazed, half-dazed, or half-amazed friends — go ahead and <i>shoot</i> your fellow club members! Scenery ~ your best photo of a choice campsite, stunning sunrise or sunset, or majestic mountain scene</p>

- ♦ You may submit any size print (5x7 recommended, no larger than 8x10), but it must be received by the August meeting. Either drop it off at a meeting or mail it to: MCA / PO Box 102037 / Anchorage AK 99510-2037
- ♦ All entries remain the property of the photographer; MCA is authorized to publish the photo for use in the calendar only. After judging, you may pick up your photo entries at any meeting.
- ♦ Attach a note card to the back with the following information:

<p>Your name, address, and telephone Category and title of the photograph Any interesting details about the photo that might be published in the calendar (was it a club trip, local area, club member, when and where was it taken, etc.)</p>
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- ♦ Be prepared to provide a paragraph or two describing the photo if your picture is selected to appear in the calendar.

Judging Procedure:

- ♦ Photographers' names will be kept confidential throughout the judging process, we will cover up the information on the back and issue each photo a sticker with a judging number, the category, and the title that you provide.
- ♦ If necessary, the Club Officers and Directors will narrow down the entries to the top 10-15 photos in each category. This will only be done if necessary to make the final judging process possible within the September meeting time constraints. Our criteria will be a combination of photo quality, content, scenery, composition, humor, unique situations or events, adventure, being in the right place at the right time, and being just plain 'fun to look at' (not necessarily in that order).
- ♦ Final judging will take place during the September meeting. All members in attendance will be issued a ballot to select their top three choices from each category, plus one "Bonus" selection. Results will be announced in the October Scree. Winning photos will be published in the calendar, along with as many other entries as we can fit in.

Prizes:

The top photo from each main category will win its owner a **gift certificate from AMH** and a **free calendar**. The second- and third-place photos in each category will win **camping or climbing gear** and other prizes, to be presented at the October meeting.

Reserve Your Calendar and Save \$\$:

The calendars will be available at the November meeting for \$18 each. A Discount Price of \$16 each is available for members who enter a photo in the contest and pre-pay by the October meeting. Please include \$2 extra if you want your calendar mailed.

RELEASE OF LIABILITY — READ CAREFULLY

I, _____ (print name), am aware that mountaineering sports (including hiking; backpacking; rock, snow, and ice climbing; mountaineering; skiing; and ski mountaineering) are hazardous activities. I wish to participate and/or receive instruction in these activities with the Mountaineering Club of Alaska, Inc. ("MCA") I recognize that these activities involve numerous risks, which include, by way of example and not limitation, falling while hiking, climbing, skiing or crossing rivers or glaciers; being struck by falling rock, ice or snow; avalanches; lightning; fire; hypothermia; frostbite; defective or malfunctioning equipment; and attack by insects or animals. I further recognize that the remoteness of the activities may preclude prompt medical care. I further recognize that risk of injury or death may be caused or enhanced by mistakes or negligence on the part of either my fellow participants or MCA officers, directors, guides, instructors, or trip leaders. I nevertheless agree to accept any and all risks of injury, death, or property damage that may occur in connection with any MCA activity, including use of MCA furnished equipment and use of MCA backcountry huts.

(initial that you have read this paragraph)

GIVING UP MY LEGAL RIGHTS

By signing this Agreement, I agree to give up for myself and for my heirs all legal rights I may have against the MCA or my fellow participants in MCA activities. I give up these legal rights regardless of whether the injury, death, or property damage results from mistakes or negligence on the part of either my fellow participants or the MCA. (As used in this agreement, MCA means the Mountaineering Club of Alaska, Inc., and all of its officers, directors, guides, instructors and trip leaders.) I understand this agreement shall remain in effect until such time as I provide signed written notice of its revocation to the MCA.

(initial that you have read this paragraph)

MY PROMISE NOT TO SUE

I agree that I will not sue, or otherwise make any claim against, the MCA or my fellow participants in MCA activities for injury, death, or property damage which occurs in the course of my participation or instruction in mountaineering sports.

_____ (initial that you have read this paragraph)

MY RELEASE OF LIABILITY

I also agree to release and discharge the MCA and my fellow participants in MCA activities from all actions, claims, or demands, both for myself and for my heirs, dependents, and/or personal representative, for injury, death, or property damage occurring in the course of my participation or instruction in mountaineering sports.

(initial that you have read this paragraph)

MY PROMISE TO INDEMNIFY

I agree to pay all expenses, including attorney's fees and court costs, that the MCA may incur as a consequence of any legal action arising out of injury, death, or property damage suffered by me, or suffered by someone else as a result of my conduct.

(initial that you have read this paragraph)

MY CONSENT TO MEDICAL TREATMENT

I consent to any hospital care or medical or surgical diagnosis or treatment which may be necessary as a result of my participation in activities with the MCA. I also understand and agree that I am solely responsible for all applicable charges for such medical treatment, including evacuation and/or rescue cost.

(initial that you have read this paragraph)

I HAVE CAREFULLY READ THIS AGREEMENT AND FULLY UNDERSTAND ITS CONTENTS. I AM AWARE THAT THIS IS A BINDING, LEGAL AGREEMENT BETWEEN ME AND THE MCA AND I SIGN IT OF MY OWN FREE WILL.

Dated: _____ Signature: _____

Signature of Parent or Guardian (if under 19): _____

Officers

President	Richard Baranow	694-1500
Vice-President	Tom Choate	333-5309
Secretary	Cory Hinds	277-2412
Treasurer	Kirk Towner	344-5424

Board

Matt Nedom	278-3648
Dawn Groth	338-0554
Kathy Zukor	344-6121
Nick Parker	248-7993
Mark Miraglia	338-0705

Annual membership dues: Single \$10.00 Family \$15.00 (one *Scree* per family)

Dues can be paid at any meeting or mailed to the treasurer at the MCA address below. If you want a membership card, please fill out the club application found on the previous page and mail it with a self-addressed, stamped envelope. If you fail to receive the newsletter, or have questions about your membership, contact the club treasurer.

SCREE is a monthly publication of the Mountaineering Club of Alaska. Articles and notes submitted for publication and other communication related to the newsletter should be mailed to Box 102037, Anchorage, Ak 99510. Articles should be received by the 25th of the month for the following month's issue. Computer diskettes are accepted, or e-mail to mca@alaska.net.

Paid ads may be submitted to the attention of the Vice-President at the club address and should be "camera ready" and pre-paid. Your cooperation will be appreciated...
Willy Hersman, Editor, 265-6405

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