

SCREE

MOUNTAINEERING CLUB OF ALASKA BOX 2037 ANCHORAGE, ALASKA 99510

Mountaineering Club of Alaska Box 2037 Anchorage, Alaska 99510
July 1980 Volume 23 Issue 7
July Meeting

The meeting will be held Wednesday, July 16th at 8:00 pm on the top floor of the Pioneer Schoolhouse, third and Eagle, Anchorage, Alaska. After the business meeting Greg Higgins will present a min. slide show on Alaskan flowers. Tim Neale will have a short show on climbing in the St. Elias Range Yukon Territories, Canada.

MINUTES OF JUNE GENERAL MEETING

The meeting was called to order at 8:07 pm by President Ti Neale. Minutes of the May meeting were read by the Secretary and approved. Paula Quering gave the Treasurer's report as follows: Checking account \$340; Cash \$58; Money market fund \$1,997; total \$2395.

Committee Reports:

Equipment: Shoes kept at Alaska Mountaineering and Hiking (AMH) are for Club climbs only. Crampons also kept there should be inspected carefully before leaving to assure adequate fit and straps.

Programs: John Lohff was thanked for his help as Acting President during the past month. A new slide screen has been purchased. Two possible movies are being considered for the July program.

Library: Because Tom Meacham is moving away from the in-town area soon, a new home will have to be found for the MCA Library. A safe location in someone else's basement (not a garage) which is reasonably accessible would be preferred, and volunteers were requested to phone Tim Neale or any other Board member. Because part of the library consists of Vin Hoemen's notes and references on loan to MCA, a safe location must be found.

Scree: Pauline Chase had a lot of good help the past month in getting out the SCREE, but volunteers are still needed. Call her at 277-1176. The Career School, which helped for a while in assembling the bulletin, is not in session during the summer.

Hiking and Climbing: Tim Neale has obtained a permit for the Summer Solstice Flattop Overnight on June 21-22. Anyone coming should bring a log for the evening campfire and also a kite (waterproof) if desired for a contest. Verbal reports were received on two previous hikes, and further details on upcoming hikes in June and the first half of July were given. These were announced in the June SCREE. If other trips are desired, volunteers were requested to be leaders. Rich Hall (phone 333-2090) announced he will be going to the White Mountain area near Fairbanks July 20-26 looking for caves. A hike schedule in August and September will be arranged by Lavonia James (phone 349-4748.)

Old Business: One letter was received from a member of the State Legislature in reply to MCA's request to repair the Eklutna Lake road.

New Business: A letter was received from the Anchorage Municipality concerning a meeting to consider its Wetlands Study.

After the intermission, Al Robinson showed a few slides of Mt. St. Helens taken from 1941 to 1957, some from nearby mountains and others during a climb of the mountain.

Chad Price gave a slide show with high quality photos of nine mountaineering trips in Wales, Scotland, the Lakes District of England and Switzerland, this last featuring climbs of the Monch and the Jungfrau and excellent views of the Eiger. The business meeting adjourned at 8:41 pm and the general meeting at 9:40 pm.

Al Robinson, Secretary

TRIP REPORTS

Gull Rock May 17-18

The first rainy weekend of the season; that about sums up the May 17-18 Gull Rocks overnight. An afternoon of partly sunny on Saturday snow at Turnagain Pass, and sleet on the hike out added variation to the otherwise continuous rain which the winds kept moving horizontally. "And a good time was had by all." If you've ever camped at Gull Rock you'll recall the vegetation windbreak which acts like a giant wedge forcing the wind to blow over your heads thereby providing excellent shelter from the nasties as long as you stay in camp.

Saturday afternoon four of us headed west along the coast looking for seacaves which are formed by the waves eroding softer veins in the rock along the high tide line. They are common on Turnagain Arm, Kachemak Bay, Resurrection Bay and many other places where rock cliffs are met by tidal waters. We found about twenty caves including two fifty footers and a seventy foot long tunnel.

It was fun looking for them and climbing on the rocks but the real excitement came on the way back to camp. We had left camp while the tide was going out but by the time we got two miles down the coast to Gull Rock the tide was well on its way up again, cutting off any chance of using our shoreline route for returning. We had known this would happen but we also knew the Gull Rocks trail passed near the beach at that point. What we didn't know was that at two miles past Gull Rock the trail was only a memory or a figment of a cartographer's imagination. Even when we found ancient orange flags marking the trail (which we couldn't find at all for the first quarter mile) we spent our time pushing aside bushes and devil's club to make our way through. In other words, the trail needs a bit of maintenance. But we arrived back in camp only five hours after we had left for a nice hike down the beach.

Rich Hall

Crow Pass to Eagle River June 7 & 8

A group of 9 met at 7:00 AM on Saturday morning. They were John Strassenberg, Oscar Peichert, Greg Higgins, Bill Salmon, Mike Ellis, John Nevin, Kathy Leary, Howard Rhodhamel and Ron Rhodhamel. Our vehicles were approaching the trail-head when John decided to try to fly his truck over a giant bog extending across the Crow Pass Road. We watched the truck slowly sink into the muck and pondered over our next move. Two hours and one wrecker later, at 11:00 AM we abandoned the vehicle and started walking, which added two miles to the usual hiking distance. From that point on everything got better, which fortunately saved the trip leader from a possible mutiny. The trail was covered with several feet of hard packed snow which caused some damp feet but made for easy walking. A definite sighting of a wolverine above the old mine was rare for this area, according to the park ranger we met later on down the trail. There was at least 8 feet of snow at the Crow Pass Cabin. After 3 hours of climbing Crow Pass, as promised it was all down hill from there. We made excellent progress descending Raven Creek Valley walking back down into summer and a good campsite near the Eagle River crossing point. This camp was reached before 8:00 PM. The river was about knee deep, wide, slow and very cold, but not particularly hard to cross. The river was crossed about 10:30 AM Sunday, and after the drying and warming of feet we started down Eagle River Valley. A great profusion of wildflowers lined the trail, in my opinion making the trip quite worthwhile. A group of Girl Scouts was camped near Icicle Creek, and were rerouting lower portions of the trail near the river which were under water during last summer's high water. We talked to the Chugach State Park Ranger in charge, walked through the burn area, and continued down the long but good trail to Paradise (Paradise Haven Lodge, that is) where a car was waiting at 8:00 PM to take us back to Anchorage. All weekend the weather was excellent enough for all rain gear to stay in the packs where it belongs. Highlights of this trip are the wildflowers and excellent views of Raven and Eagle Glaciers. Everyone had a good time, I think. At least I haven't heard any complaints yet. Here are some other general comments: 1) Other possible campsites are Crow Pass (fantastic view if weather is good) and on the last ridge between Raven Creek and Eagle River (no water here so carry water last mile or two from further up Raven Creek). 2) Don't go any earlier than this date (June 7) due to deep snow conditions on the road and trail. 3) Paradise Haven Lodge has been taken over by the State Park and is temporarily closed. 4) The car shuttle is a son-of-a-gun. 5) The walking distance is between 20 and 25 miles over narrow but good trail and this is a possible weekend trip.

Mt. Marathon, Seward, Alaska July 4

At least five members of the MCA participated in this year's Mt. Marathon race in Seward, Alaska. The five include Janet Smalley, Tor Neachan, Ron Rhodhamel, Peter Sennhauser and Tim Neale. According to people that have run the race the last few years, there was more than the normal amount of snow on the track down the mountain. The route up is a rocky ridge that is free of snow.

Most participants opted for the sitting glissade to maintain some control, and most will probably remember the race for a few days every time they sit down.

Barb Adams was on top of the mountain taking pictures of everyone smiling as they crested the top of the hill, rounded the flag and headed back down.

The following is a schedule of activities for MCA members.

Rock Climbing Class

Classroom meeting July 17th 8-9 PM top floor, Pioneer School House, third and Eagle. Rock Climbing session will be held Saturday July 19. This is a basic class for those that have had no rock climbing experience. Anyone interested in taking the class may sign up at the July 16 meeting or contact Tim Neale, 274-4952. Anyone interested in teaching, please call Tim. We need more instructors.

Basic Mountaineering Class - O'Malley Peak

Aug 2 and 3 Classroom meeting July 31, 8-9 PM top floor, Pioneer school house, third and Eagle. Basic mountaineering class. Sign up at July 16 meeting or contact Tim Neale 274-4952. This class is designed for people with minimal experience in camping and climbing. Camping equipment necessary for this trip will be discussed at the July 31 meeting.

TRIP SCHEDULE

July 20 Rendezvous Peak. This is an easy day hike in the Arctic Valley area which provides an excellent view of the surrounding Chugach mountains and beyond. Call Al Robinson at 279-8873.

July 20-26 Hike the White Mountain trail twenty miles from the Elliott Highway to Beaver Creek, day hikes in the White Mountains, and return. There should be lots of places for climbing if you want. I'll be looking for caves in the 3000+ foot thick limestone. I have reserved the BLM cabin on Beaver Creek although its condition is questionable. Call Rich Hall at 333-2090.

July 26-27 O'Malley Camping and Climbing. A fun weekend of hiking and climbing or just relaxing in the beautiful Chugach Mountains. Call Gene Klynko at 274-6753.

August 2 Overnight and climb of O'Malley Peak.

August 9 Mt. Eklutna hike. This hike is located behind Thunderbird Falls area. We will take the Glenn Hwy. to Peters Creek turn off and about 5 miles up Peters Creek Rd. the hike begins. Hike begins at about 1000 ft. elevation and climbs to 4,110 ft of Mt. Eklutna. There is a beautiful view and it is about a 4-5 mile round trip. Meet at the Sports Complex at 8:30 AM. Leader Tony Bockstohler, 694-2323.

August 16 Powerline Pass to Indian. The hike begins at Glen Alps, goes down onto the powerline road and up over powerline pass. Elevation climb of approximately 1000 ft. The hike continues down and old path into Indian, a distance of about 12 miles. We will need to put pick up cars at the Boor tide. Meet at Carrs parking lot on Diamond at 8:30 am. Layonia James 349-4748.

August 23 Club Picnic

August 30 Labor Day. Lost Lake hike Marty Bassett 694-3917

Flat top sleep in

Despite the cool temperatures (37) and steady winds, the annual Flattop sleep-in was well attended by over 70 inveterate mountain-ers and several assorted dogs. Most of the evening's activity centered around the fire which was well fueled by the logs carried up by those present. In attendance were: Tim Neale, Brigitte Ressee, Pete Sennhauser, Mary Jo and Bob and Chris and Jacque Cadieux, Ron Plugum, Tim & Joe Dugan, Doug Billman, Tim Kinghorn, Bill Wakeland, Ann Rappoport, Libby Halpin, J. Fritz, Dave Pahlke, Gary Halsey, Meg Leonard, Nancy Harrison, Laura Bunnell, Jack Dubban, Debbie Ries, Frank Vintellic, Cathy Leary, Tammy Richards, Bridget Gallinger, Lynne Davidson, Ron and Mike Rhodehamel, Kathy Roys, Jim Logg, John Wahl, Greg Higgins, Pat Murray, Reg Buchanan, Emily & Jon Thomas, Mike Richardson, Bill Brickley, Karn Braun, Lavonia James, Carole LaCau, John Lohff, Kimo Clayton, Don Smulick, Rufus Lee, J Kevin Spink, Ron Ilinitch, Colleen Vouak, Bill Mace, Sule Douglas, Dee Stackhouse, Eileen Fuches, Janet Knudsen, Andy Butcher, Nancy Blunck, Ted Laska, Chriss Green Elliot and Lori Braaten, Brent and Carol Norquist, Eric Burgess, Jim Doyle, Rick and Eileen Levinson, Fritz Iverson, Charles Ray, Diana Kent, Nan DeGood, and Kevin Walker.

Trip Reports

Mt. Williwaw 5445'

Greg Higgins

Tim Neale, Pat Murray, and I left Glenn Alps on Jun 28 in rain and fog to hike up past the "Glacier" pass on our way to Campbell's Middle Fork. We set up camp in the huge bowl south of the peak, and set off for the top via the huge southern snow chute reaching the top at 7:15 pm. The old register was missing and only Rod Wilson's sardine can placed last year with their report was found. If anyone knows of this register, please call me.

It rained most of the night and our retracing the next morning was mostly in shrouds of fog. We had the unusual distinction of being some of the only people to have trouble finding Campbell's S Fork in the fog below Deep Lake.

Goat Mtn and Raven Pks

Greg Higgins

Tim Neale, Pat Slater, and I bushwacked up Goat's SW ridge in the rain on July 6 hoping for better weather above. Pat called a halt just past Pt 5500 on the ridge while Tim and I went on to Goat's W Summit at 6450'/-' at 1pm. We found a 1959 register placed by Hans Metz incorrectly calling this Summit Mtn which we copied and removed for preservation. We then continued along the N Ridge to the next two points over 6500' which are the S and Micole summits of the Raven Complex. We repaired the cairns on these points and left our names at the northernmost in a plastic bag.

Since the weather never improved our hike out through the steep brush-covered hills above Crow Crk was rather unpleasant. We took turns slipping and falling with Pat coming out the worst with several nasty scrapes.

After reviewing the old Screens, I found that we are not the only ones to be confused as to the naming of these peaks. What we finally concluded is that Pk 6380' and 6450'/-' comprise the E and W Summits of Goat Mtn respectively.

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Pk 6650=-' and the two 6500' points to its south are then N Raven, Middle Raven, and S Raven respectively. The southernmost 6500' pt is included in the Goat Mtn complex by some, but I find it easier to place it with the Raven Group. Any suggestions of information that would be appreciated.

Bits and Pieces

I visited Tikishla on Jun 13 to find the old register missing and the present one consisting of only an open ended can. Anyone going this way can call me for a new container and writing material.

Greg Higgins.

Rick O'Kelly and I made a weather aborted attempt on Mt. Rumble on July 2 and 3. We managed to scramble up Pk 5320' south of Peek a boo on the Eagle River/Peters Crk ridge on our way out.

Grg Higgins.

For Sale:

Alpine Designs (Alp Sport) Tent
Classic A-Frame tent with rainfly, snow flaps, tunnel door, cook hole, additional vestibule (never used), plus owner-added modifications for windy weather (center fiberglass wands, ridge pole, extra guylines-- all shock-corded.)
Color: Blue with orange fly. \$100.00 Tom Meacham (277-2129)

Register Recovery and Preserval Project

Several years ago the Club began a project of recovering original registers from local peaks to preserve them and replace them with copies. This project was left to be necessary since a number of important registers were found either missing or destroyed. Since then however, the effort eventually fizzled out.

Having just returned to Alaska, I am in the process of reviving this project. There are a number of details that need clarification. The first is: What constitutes a point worth registering? One certainly can't put a sign in sheet on every lump and bump on the way up O'Malley, but neither could we apply criteria so rigid that only Williwaw of the front range 5,000 footers would qualify for a register. A middle course of action seems appropriate, and I would welcome suggestions and input.

2nd: What registers should be brought down? The primary reason for recovering them is historical and hence it doesn't make much sense to bring out records that only date from 1979 or 80. To clarify this area historic sheets sealed in plastic with information on names, early ascents, etc. are being prepared for local peaks. These will be left permanently on the summits with a duplicate maintained in the Library. Along with them a writing tablet will be placed that can be changed as needed.

3rd: When should a register be brought down? When the historic sheets are in place, there will be no problems with this question, but in the meantime the following guideline applies: If the peak has had uncopied original material, this should be brought down. Upon removing a register all the material should be brought down, but the container should be left on the top with writing material and a note explaining when, where, and why the material was removed. If possible, a handwritten copy of all the data taken from the

mountain should be reproduced while on the top and left.

I have a number of registers that are ready for placement by anyone going to these peaks. as follows: Bold, Byron, East Twin, Gunsight, Indianhouse, Kanchee, O'Malley, Pioneer, Ptarmigan, Roundtop, South Suicide, and Wedge. The following will be ready shortly: Black Tail Rocks, W Goat, Himicide, Knoya, Magnificent, Montana, Poweline, and Vista. If there are any questions or suggestions contact me, Greg Higgins. (278-1384)