



MOUNTAINEERING CLUB OF ALASKA

BOX 102037

ANCHORAGE, ALASKA 99510

JULY 1988

JULY MEETING

Volume 31, Issue 07

The July meeting will be held Wednesday, July 20, 7:30 pm, at the Pioneer School House, top floor, 3rd and Eagle street, downtown Anchorage. After the business meeting, Dave Staehli will present a slide show on mountaineering in New Zealand including trips on Mt. Cook and the Copeland Trail.

MINUTES OF THE JUNE MEETING

The meeting, which was held at the Pioneer Schoolhouse on June 15, 1988 by Vice President John Baker, sitting in for Willy Hersman, who was absent, this time due to work. Meeting called to order at 7:47 pm.

New members were welcomed, introducing themselves were: Mary Duvalle, Sylvia Orr and Rosemary Palmer.

I. COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. Hiking and Climbing

1. The annual picnc will require a permit from the Municipality.
2. A trip to be led by Neil O'Donnell will take folks from Snow Bird to the Mint Glacier Hut via the Bomber Glacier, finishing the loop back at the starting place. A great trip, to be held August 13-14.
3. Other trips were announced as well...Blacktail/Roundtop hike, a rock climbing event on Independence Day weekend near Hatcher Pass (not for beginners, this is a rare opportunity to become acquainted with one of the few good areas for technical climbing and to meet some of those elusive local climbers.
4. The Harding Icefield Traverse, with Dan O'Haire is coming up. Dan is also looking for candidates to explore the Sargeant Icefield.
5. Don Hansen has space available on his trips to Lake Clark and Arrigetch Peaks. Sign up sheets for these and other trips were at hand.

B. Huts

Gerry Minick had a pleasant announcement about work on Pichler's Perch. British volunteers from the Raleigh Project are here and have worked on the hut last week. Dick Griffith went up with them and word had it that they will continue the traverse and possibly work on other projects, like outhouses for all the huts, as well as a foot bridge across Eagle River near the glacier. Bravo!!

II. OLD BUSINESS

John reminded us that the club is still curious about possible new huts and their location. Let us know of your suggestions.

III. NEW BUSINESS

- A. Marlina Mooring volunteered to be the new refreshment person for the monthly meetings.
- B. Mark Findlay talked about the Hatcher Pass Management Unit, which is looking for people to participate in giving input on the plans for the new ski area. Contact Todd Miner at ACC.
- C. State Parks
 - 1. Wants to fix up the former homestead at Symphony Lake and needs volunteers. Contact Todd Miner at ACC.
 - 2. Is reconsidering their policy on the number of soldiers which would be allowed to do maneuvers on Eklutna Glacier. This is a real can of worms, involving helicopter use (currently banned), waste, etc. If you feel strongly about this issue contact your legislator or Gov. Cowper.
- D. The Polish High Mountain Club is asking once again for an invitation to climb in Alaska. Apparently they have more money this time.
- E. Penny Miners from the USFS called to gain information from forest users. She would like input from club members, call her at 271-2521.
- F. The National Park Service is redefining some boundaries on Preserves and Parks (Gates of the Arctic, Wrangell/St. Elias, Lake Clark). Some could increase in size, some could shrink. If you're interested in that issue, Ken Zafren can be contacted for details, and the phone number for public comment is 257-2654 (deadline July 18).

TREASURER'S REPORT

Petty Cash	-	75.00
Checking	-	708.18
Money Market	-	4044.68
Total Monies	-	\$4827.86

V. ANNOUNCEMENTS

- A. Club members leaving
 - 1. Doris Curtis and Rik Derrick are both leaving town, but not together, it's just a coincidence. Doris is moving to the Seattle area, remember that when you need a place to stay down there. You might want to call her and wish her well, although by the time you receive this issue it may be too late.
 - 2. Rik is moving to Juneau to manage "Foggy Mountain Climbing Store", that name will give one an idea about the weather down there. One hears that every so many months it's supposed to stop raining and the sun can make the place really attractive.
To both Doris and Rik "bon voyage"!
 - 3. Mike Rees told us that Jim Pommert has adjusted well to the Pacific Northwest, climbing another peak every weekend.

The slide show was courtesy of Mark Sickles on an ascent of Mt. Waddington, an historic peak in British Columbia's Coast Range. Thanks Mark!

Respectfully Submitted,
Pete Sennhauser

ADZE

Job Opening

Executive Director -- Alaska Center for the Environment

Starting Date: September 15, 1988

Salary: \$19,000 - \$23,000 DOE

Application deadline: August 15, 1988; submit resume and letter of interest

The Executive Director is responsible for administration of the Center including issues planning, fund development, staff supervision, financial record-keeping and other day-to-day operations. Work also includes environmental advocacy and public education. Contact A.C.E. at 700 H St. #4, Anchorage, AK 99501 or 274-3621.

NEW MEMBERS: James Lasche, Stanley Jacobs, Micki McNaughton, Dr. Rosemary Palmer, Lisa Fotherby, Claudette Hixon, Cliff Gill.

TRIP REPORTS

Triangle Peak (5455)

Willy Hersman

Memorial Day weekend began with very nice sunshine and it was Jim Sayler's choice to go up to the South Fork of Eagle River which sounded good to the rest of us (Karen and John Cafmeyer, Larry Hartig and Frank Jenkins and me) so we followed. I was somewhat anxious to rectify an earlier failure to make it up Cantata if possible, but the area has several nice climbs for this time of year if you are careful about getting off the snow early enough. We camped Friday night, May 27th, at the far end of Eagle Lake while it proceeded to rain.

The next day didn't clear up until late in the morning so we needed a half-day, avalanche-safe climb. I had noticed several times the 5455-foot peak west of Calliope and learned two years ago that the locals call it Triangle Peak (another symphonic instrument). Not difficult, but a nice vantage point anyway, so we walked over there and up the easy NE slopes to the top. A cairn was no surprise to find and we placed a register in it. I have no information on the first ascent.

On the 29th Jim stayed behind as the rest of us arose early and hiked up-valley to Eagle Peak (6955). We cramponed our way up the South Gully, which was deeply furrowed by afternoon avalanches. The view down to the Eagle River Visitor's Center from the summit was excellent as was the view along the 3-mile knife ridge leading south to Flute Peak (6610). The South Gully is a good route during the summer, being mostly a scree ascent.

On the way to Eagle I noticed a possible route on Cantata Peak (6410) via North Face gullies and on Monday Karen, Frank and I decided to check it out. It turned out to be steeper than expected, but at least we finally got some use of the darn pickets we had been hauling around. The route consisted of two separate gullies which connected behind a small buttress. We were able to go directly to the summit on snow, thus avoiding some of the worst rock the Chugach has to offer, which is on the more-used SE ridge. Nothing exists in Scree about this route and we didn't dig out the register for fear of waiting too long to descend.



Corrine Labrune practicing at
Smith Rocks before the
competition at Snowbird, Utah
(Davis)

Climbing Among the Stars:
An Alaskan Visit to Smith Rocks

- Steve Davis

I was traveling to Seattle for business and my plan was to attach a long weekend to the trip and do some climbing. Four days before departure I learned that Mt. Rainier's Willis Wall was out of condition and the weather prospects were not good for any alpine route. Calling my friend Mick Holt, he suggested a visit to eastern Oregon and Smith Rocks State Park for some rock climbing. Having never visited the area before, and having seen pictures of Alan Watts and Todd Skinner climbing Smith routes in the pages of climbing magazines, it was an easy choice. Little did I know what I would find there.

Smith Rocks is located in eastern Oregon outside Redmond, an easy five-hour drive from Seattle. This part of the state is semi-desert with warm temperatures and dry rock, a pleasant change from the Chugach. Mick and I arrived about noon on Friday, June 3rd, and began immediately to explore the area and do a few routes. Mick began by promising me a tour of the classics; some of which I would leave for future trips. Our first climb was a single pitch of 5.7 called Old Testament, located on Christian Brothers Wall. The rock is welded tuff, similar to sandstone in texture. There are usually nubbins and cracks for holds, some so small that they require friction technique. We then climbed Dancer, a 5.8 bolt-protected face climb.

Almost every route is protected by bolts. In fact, routes not obvious to the untrained eye are dotted with series of bolts which identify the lines of ascent. It is clear that most Smith Rock routes have been constructed using European rock-climbing methods. Here a climber sees a potential route and then rappels the route, placing fixed protection (bolts, wired nuts, etc.), and brushing off holds. Eventually the route is groomed and ready to climb. The climber then starts up carrying only carabiners and as he passes the pro he clips in the rope. Often the route is so difficult that the climber becomes tired and he must rest or "hangdog" on the rope. He eventually works the moves with his goal being to climb the route

in one continuous push without falling or hangdogging. This is what Europeans call a "redpoint" ascent and credit is then given for the route.

With this method, it's no wonder that rock climbing specialists are pushing the standards. East coast climber Scott Franklin climbed the world's first 5.14c named Scarface, located at Smith. There are numerous difficult routes ranging from 5.10 to 5.14a, fortunately for me there are also many routes in the "mere mortal" range of 5.6 to 5.10. All in all this is a fine area for visiting Alaskan rock climbers wishing to hone their skills.

On Saturday, Mick took me to the Red Wall where we quickly climbed Moscow, 5.6 and Peking, 5.8. Hiking around behind Picnic Lunch Wall, we came to the 400' spire known as Monkey Face. When looking closely I could see the chalked holds of the East Face of Monkey Face, Watt's classic 5.13c/d. This route, like most of the "really desperates" is overhung and requires incredible finger strength and endurance. We walked around the cliffs, to a cliff known as the Fourth Horseman. Mick then showed me how to stem past overhangs as we climbed Pack Animal (5.8), a beautiful 300' route up a dihedral. Stemming is important here, as the difficult climbs provide only small holds which must be smeared. I found that was one aspect of my technique that was a little rusty. Mick climbed Moonshine, a 5.9 dihedral which required more limber legs than I had.

Our final day was spent on Morning Glory Wall where we began climbing Zebra, 5.9. The route begins by passing through a vertical cliff covered with large potholes. As you climbed you could hear the pigeons nesting in the holes. On several occasions I made the newcomer's error of mistaking guano for chalked holds, which made the rest of the route a little slippery to say the least!

During our visit we happened to stumble on some of the world's best technical rock stars as they trained for a climbing competition at Snowbird, Utah. I ran into Ran Kauk and Kent Benesch as well as several Germans, all of which were climbing routes of 5.13 with apparent ease. Most impressive were the performance of the French climbers Jean-Baptiste Tribout and Corrine LaBrune, who both flashed 5.11's before working on JB's latest project, a new 5.14c. It wasn't difficult to get humbled by these exploits, but at the same time I found myself inspired by these climbers who were friendly and a pleasure to be around.


As Mick and I were walking back to the parking lot, I reflected on what I had seen and I felt very satisfied with my first visit to the area. Smith Rocks has a lot to offer the visiting climber at all grades of difficulty. With even a short visit to the park, the Alaskan rock climber can get psyched for rock routes at home. The far off yell of JB signaling his new redpoint was a clear invitation for a return trip.

Geographic Names

Recently approved by the Board and of interest to us:

Tanaina Glacier : Lake Clark National Park, runs 17 miles through the Neocola Mountains from Lake Clark Pass (Kenai D-8) north (to about Section 21 on the Tyonek A-8 sheet), where it tops out at 6750'.

HIKING AND CLIMBING SCHEDULE

- July 2-10 LAKE CLARK
Turquoise Lake to Telaquane Lake. Backpacking and day hikes.
Minimum 5, maximum 15 people. Approximate cost \$250-\$300 each.
\$50 deposit one month prior to trip. Class C.
Leader: Don Hansen 279-0829h, 261-4565w
- 13 EVENING MT. BIKE TRIP
Glen Alps to Stuckagain Hts via Prospect Hts., Service ski trails
and Campbell Airstrip trails.
Leader: Kathy Burke 346-2841
- 16 PENGUIN RIDGE TRAVERSE
Bird to Girdwood via Penguin Peak. 9 1/2 miles, elev. gain 6500'.
Class C. Bushwack at the beginning, no trails.
Leader: Rick Maron 349-3064
- 17 HIDDEN PEAK-RAMP-WEDGE
10 miles, 3000' elev. gain. Class C.
Leader: Don Hansen 279-0829
- 23 O'MALLEY PEAK
5 miles, 3000' elevation gain. Easy Class C.
Leader: Priscilla Lukens 248-9557
- 23-30 5th ANNUAL HARDING ICEFIELD TRAVERSE
Crampon up the Tustamena Glacier, ski across the icefield, descend
next to the Exit Glacier. Five travel days, two weather days.
 Skis only, no snowshoes. Crevasse rescue practice will be held
beforehand (required). Split cost of boat ride (usually \$30 or less).
Leader: Dan O'Haire 349-3599
- 26 PEAK 3255 - EVENING TRIP
Located 5 miles SE of Girdwood. Bushwacking on lower mountain.
Leader: Rick Maron 349-3064
- 23-Aug 6 ARRIGETCH PEAKS HIKE
Minimum 6, maximum 12 people. Approximate cost \$400-\$600 each.
\$50 deposit one month prior to trip. Class D.
Leader: Don Hansen 279-0829h, 261-4565w
- August 9 EVENING BIKE/HIKE POWERLINE PASS
Leader: Kathy Burke 46-2841
- 13-14 REED LAKES - MINT GLACIER TRAVERSE
Backpack to Reed Lakes, then over Bomber Glacier (resting place of
B29 bomber which can be explored), then over Penny Royal Glacier
to Mint Hut (overnight here). Hike out to Hatcher Pass Road.
8 miles, 3200' gain first day and 9 miles second day. Need a
harness for brief glacier crossing (inform leader if you need one).
Leader: Neil O'Donnell 276-1700w 274-5069h
- 26-28 MT. SOGGY
7190' peak behind Mt. Yukla. Meet 6pm Friday, camp along Eagle
River. 6400' elev. gain from the river - strenuous.
Class E/TECHNICAL. Limit 6 climbers.
Leader: Willy Hersman 276-0925

The Hiking and Climbing Committee is always looking for leaders. If you have an idea for a trip, whether for an afternoon or for several weeks, give Kathy Burke a call at 346-2841. Ideas need not be limited to the so-called open weekend dates, anytime is fine. H and C Committee: K. Burke, Chairperson, B. Wakeland, D. Hansen, M. Bassett, W. Hersman.

TRIP CLASSIFICATIONS

The classifications below do not consider individual trip hazards such as river crossings, scree slopes, snow fields, bears, etc. Trip leaders are required to inform the trip participants of any such hazards either verbally, on the sign-up sheet, or in the trip description. Leader approval is required for all trips.

NON-TECHNICAL: Following are a few standards used to classify non-technical trips. The classification is made in terms of hiking distance and altitude gain. Many trips are not on established trails.

CLASS A: Easy hikes with a maximum distance of 8 miles for day trips or 4 miles per day for overnight trips. Altitude gain up to 1200 feet.

CLASS B: Trips involving a maximum distance of up to 12 miles for a day hike or 6 miles per day for an overnight trip. Altitude gain of 1200 to 2500 feet.

CLASS C: Trips up to 15 miles for a day hike or 8 miles per day for an overnight trip. Altitude gain up to 3500 feet. Scree, steep grass, or other rough terrain problems may be encountered.

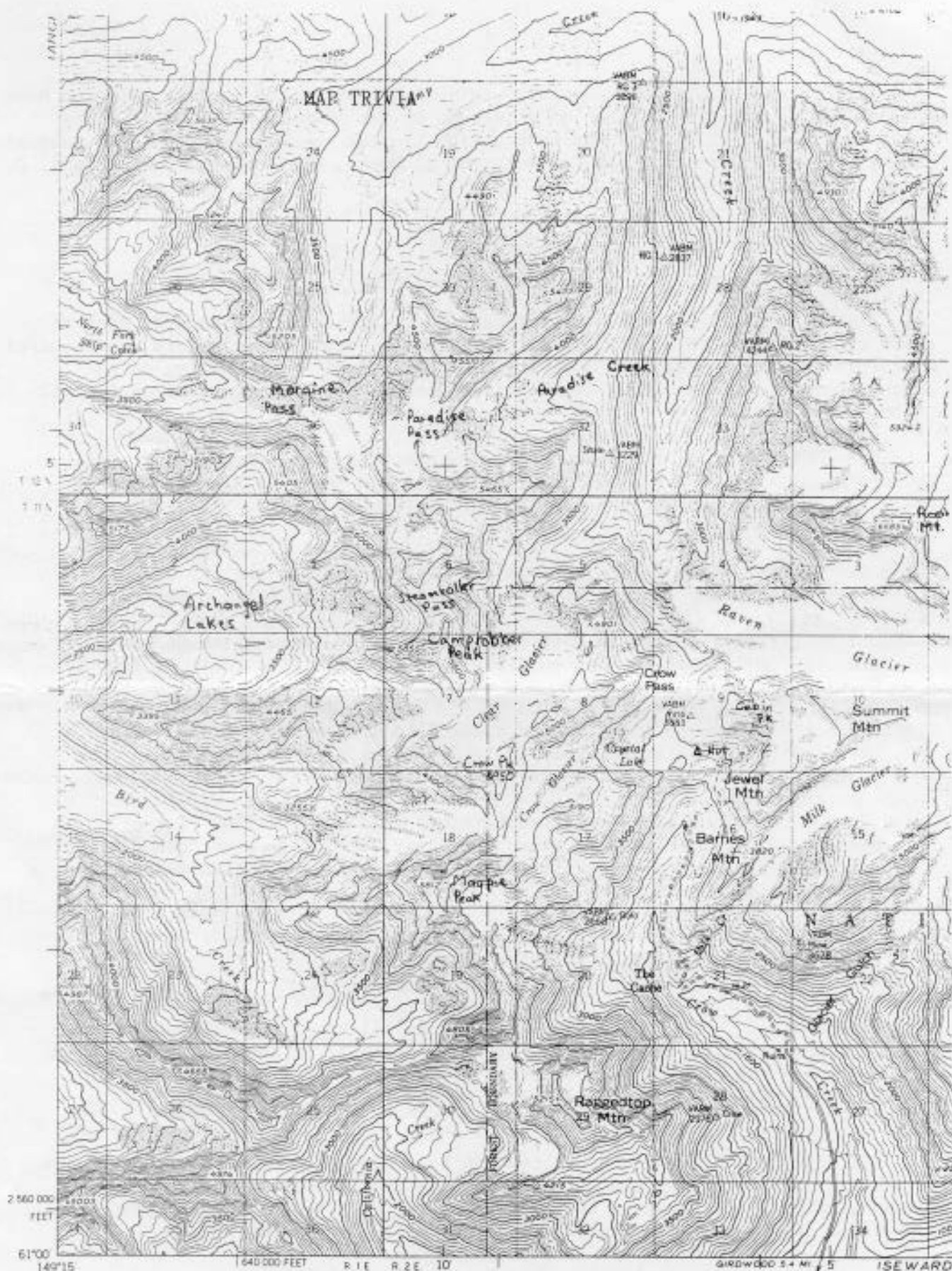
CLASS D: Hikes and climbs with an altitude gain of over 3500 feet or a distance of greater than 15 miles for a day hike or greater than 8 miles per day for an overnight trip. Peaks in this classification may require minimal climbing skills.

CLASS E: Hazardous climbing conditions may be encountered. A Basic Mountaineering Course may be required.

TECHNICAL: Technical trips are open to all qualified climbers. However, the registration on any particular trip must be restricted to a safe and manageable number of climbers. Registration is made directly with the leader who determines the qualifications needed for the trip.

TRIP PARTICIPANTS have the obligation to acquaint themselves with the nature of the trip and to verify that it is within their capability and experience. Anyone wishing to participate in any trip above CLASS A must have completed one or more trips of the next lower classification, or the equivalent.

Approved by MCA Board, March 1987



Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey
Control by USGS, NOS/NOAA, and USCE

July 88

Topography by photogrammetric methods from aerial photographs
taken 1957, field annotated 1950. Map not field checked

Projection and 1000-meter grid ticks shown in blue:

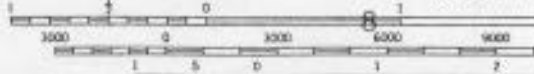
Universal Transverse Mercator, zone 6

10,000-foot grid ticks based on Alaska coordinate

system, zone 4. 1927 North American Datum

To place on the predicted North American Datum 1983 move

the meridian lines 69 meters north and 112 meters east



SCALE 1:63,000

CONTOUR INTERVAL
NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC