



Chicago Mountaineering Club

The next CMC General Meeting will not be until Monday, September 11th, at 8:00 PM at the Goose Island Brewery, 1800 N Clybourn Ave., Chicago IL (312) 915-0071. Have a great summer.

CMC board meeting minutes are available to members on the club website. Everyone is encouraged to stay informed and get involved. If you do not know how to log in, please contact the webmaster at cmcwebmaster@cmcwebsite.org.

CMCers on Denali

Denali needs no introduction. It is a peak of 20,320 ft in the Alaska Range in central Alaska and its summit marks the highest point in the North American continent. Denali's massive size and beauty, extreme weather, and exalted location make it a primary objective for mountain climbers from all over the world.

The summit of Mt. McKinley, as it was known then, was not reached until 1913. It took nearly twenty years for a second ascent in 1932, and the fourth party did not reach the summit until 1947. Barbara and Bradford Washburn were among the members of this party. The West Buttress route was pioneered by Bradford Washburn four years later in 1951, and it was sixteen years later when the first CMCers reached the summit.

In 1967, Olle Swartling and Bill Coates were among a small cadre of climbers recruited for the Minnesota Mount McKinley Expedition to climb the West Buttress route. These were still early days for climbing in the Alaska Range. The food for the expedition was supplied free of charge by NASA to test and report on for the Apollo space program. Legendary Don Sheldon was their bush pilot for the flight in. The group arrived on the Kahiltna Glacier at 7400 ft on May 22nd, and what followed was the now normal routine of ferrying loads up the Glacier then onto the route, gradually gaining elevation while dealing with daytime temperatures varying between "very cold to unbearably hot" and regular white-out blizzards. The



Climber at 17,500+ ft on Denali's West Ridge. Photo by Olle Swartling, 1967.

more things change the more they stay the same – one of Olle's trip notes from '67, "Everyone getting upset and arguing about what to do." After several weeks acclimating to the elevation, the group made it to Denali Pass at 18,200 ft on June 6th and dug in for the night after being literally blown off their feet by high winds. Two days later Olle's group of three climbers made the summit under questionable weather conditions and were soon caught in a storm. With heavy blowing snow on the descent, they decided to dig a small snow cave to escape the weather at around 19,500 ft. Apparently it is not so fun digging a snow cave with ice axes in sub zero temps and a blizzard high on Denali's flanks. (Remember: It does not have to be fun to be "fun".) By 1am they were back on their way, and Olle casually mentions the several 'small' crevasses he fell in on the way down. Bill's party of two reached the summit the following day, June 9th, and the stage was set. Two CMC climbers made it to the top of North America. They were

officially in the 46th and 47th parties to reach the summit.



On the approach. O. Swartling photo. 1967.

Flying off the glacier and back to Talkeetna, leaving the austere snowy beauty of the Alaska Range, Olle's closing remarks in his 1967 trip report were:

"As we left the big ones behind and flew over the foothills, I shouted to Bill "Look the hills are green". I could not believe how much I had missed, and how much this simple sight of green hills and green trees did mean to me.... Spring had arrived while we had spent the last 20 days in winter. The air smelled of spring, the willow buds were bursting, and the birds were singing"

Eleven years later, in 1978, Jack Gorby was the next CMCer to reach the summit of Denali. Jack climbed the West Rib with a strong party just nineteen years after the first ascent of that route. (Tony Peters, a former CMCer, was also a member of the team.) He was the first and only current CMCer to climb Denali via a route other than the West Buttress. And as if once was not enough, Jack returned for a second ascent of the mountain via the West Buttress in 1984 guiding for the Colorado Mountain School. Then again for a major adventure (with former CMCers Tony Peeters, Rich Ranney, and John Harkness) the following summer in 1985 with a traverse of the entire mountain ascending the Muldrow Glacier route and descending the West Butt. For an amusing and detailed account of this expedition, see the 1990 Chicago Mountaineer, 50th Anniversary Year edition.

Too late for details, but I just heard of another CMC attempt on Denali that did not summit. Stephanie Hoffman, Fran Zonay, Jim Severance, and Jim Pearre

made a winter attempt in April 1991. They got to around 9,500 ft but after getting slammed with a storm from April 19th to the 24th and extreme cold, they bailed. The same team minus Steph again tried in 1992 and made it to 17,000 before being stormed off. That same storm claimed ten lives of others on Denali that season.

There have been a few other CMCers who've climbed Denali. Among current members that I could identify are:

- Chris Young, in 1997.
- Mike Wilson, several attempts. Summit t.b.d.
- James Pasterczyk – persistence pays off. Jim reached the summit in 2003 after attempts in '96, '97, and '99.
- Phil Patz, in 2005.
- Roger Truesdale, in 2005.
- Who's next? (George N.?)



At 17,200, looking at Mt. Hunter. O. Swartling photo. 1967.

The East Ridge of Grand Teton

Jack Fralick, in excerpts from his CMC address during the Golden Jubilee Dinner in 1990:

"Some climbs ... are too hard, while some are too easy and others are just right. High on the list of perfect climbs was the East Ridge of the Grand Teton. This magnificent route has everything – chimneys, walls, smooth slabs, huge towers, steep snow, and seeming bottomless couloirs looking down to Teepe Glacier on one side and the Teton Glacier on the other. This (we climbed) in 1940, before the practice of rappelling directly onto the Upper Saddle had been instituted. After a month in the mountains, we were in such great shape that we climbed down the Owen Route un-roped and passed the Crawl on the outside, using its famous ledge only for handholds – this after a long ascent of

over ten hours. How fitting it was that this was such a memorable day for Bill and Harold Plumley and Paul Petzoldt and me, because it turned out to be the last climb the four of us ever made together."

Have you climbed the East Ridge of the Grand Teton? I sure want to. Please let me know and I'll publish it this fall with more on CMC activity in the Tetons. Hopefully with some new 2006 ascents....

Old Timers / New Climbers Outing

We're going to have a special event this year at the Old Timers Outing. Charlie Pierce will be hosting a short mountain skills section for those interested. This will be a great chance to learn key mountain skills with limited gear. Learn how to rappel and belay without a device or harness, how to tie in directly to the rope, etc. You never know when you might need to put these skills to use, so this will be especially valuable for everyone who spends time in the mountains. Please see the January 2006 newsletter for additional details. We had initially planned to offer this in May, but it seemed to fit in well with the Old Timers weekend. Tip: If you plan to try the dulfersitz, bring sturdy long shorts or pants and a sturdy shirt with a collar. Charlie, ever the gentleman, once de-panted himself to lend them to a young grandmother in his party so that she could do a body rappel without ruining her new nylon slacks.

We also have two members celebrating their 50th Anniversaries this year. Stan Logan joined the club in 1956. He moved with his family to New Mexico in 1959 but has kept the CMC candle burning all these years by keeping up his membership. Stan still hikes and skis regularly. He can't make the Old Timers outing but he sent in these memories:

"Our family moved back to Chicago in 1955, and the following weekend, after tracking down Lothar Kolbig, we were at our first CMC outing at Devil's Lake. I joined the CMC the next year and was a regular at Devil's Lake, the Palisades, Starved Rock, and the 1956 Lake O'Hara western outing in the Canadian Rockies. We moved to New Mexico in 1959 and managed to get to the CMC outing in No-Name-Basin in the Colorado Needles that summer. In those days, camping at Devil's Lake was at the State Park campground. We would pitch our tent for the four of us on a Friday evening and during the night a flock of tents would grow up like mushrooms, and Rod Harris and the rest of the Sullivan, IL gang would arrive in the big black old hearse they used as a motor home. After packing out of Lake O'Hara, Marge, I and our 7 year old son Dave, camped up the road for the weekend along with Joe and Edith Stettner and Paul and Anne Stettner. We went up Athabaska Glacier, but with the Stettners far ahead in the faster and further party. The story afterwards was that Paul dropped his big 16 mm Bolex movie camera deep into a crevasse. He went on belay, descended, and hanging head down managed to retrieve his camera."

Also, Bill Wedgeworth celebrates his 50th Anniversary. We hope to see Bill at the outing this summer and maybe hear some of his memories in a newsletter this fall.

Once again the CMC will provide the main course of hamburgers, brats, and hotdogs – same as last year. Please bring a dish to pass if you remember. Those big cookies last year were a moist treat the following day for breakfast after sitting out all night and marinating in the morning dew. I think Rod Harris had four of 'em.

Due to the funds needed for the new outhouses, a small (\$5?) donation is requested to offset the cost. This will be a good weekend to officially present the fancy new outhouses to the Club members. Keep your fingers crossed on that....

Notices

So what is everyone climbing this summer? Please send me (Rob) an email or corner me at one of the outings and let me know what you are up to this summer. I'll report back this fall on all the goings on. Of recent note: Roger Wiegand, of Roger's Roof fame, stopped in the campground last weekend for a visit and impromptu party. Roger started climbing at the Lake when he was ten years old in 1952 and has never lost his love of climbing, passing it on to his children. His daughter will be married this summer on the summit of Longs Peak after climbing the Diamond earlier in the day with her fiancé. Nice to meet you Roger, and thanks for the drinks. Roger brought beer, wine, and a champagne toast for all of those lucky enough to be in campground that day. Come back and see us again some time.

Membership Cards:

Membership cards are enclosed with this newsletter. We also handed many out at the Annual Dinner, the last General Meeting, and the DL outing in May. If you receive the newsletter by email, or have not received your membership card yet, please contact the Membership Chair Mike Burian.

Product Recalls:

Pawel Szymanski sent in some important information on climbing product recalls. A good resource for this is the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission website at www.cpsc.gov. From that site, click on product recalls. Then click to find by Product Type. In the drop down box 'Climbing Equipment' is one of the options you can find on. Currently there are recalls for several climbing products. Among those that I know some of you own are for several batches of Wild Country Helium Carabiners. Please check the website to see if your equipment falls in the recalled group.

From:
Chicago Mountaineering Club
c/o Robert White
1845 N. Orleans, Apt. 2R
Chicago, IL 60614

TO:

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

FIRST CLASS MAIL

NEWSLETTER: Please submit your comments, announcements, outings or personal climbing reports, items of interest, ephemera, or questions to the Editor: Robert White at 1845 N. Orleans Street, Apt. 2R, Chicago, IL 60614 or e-mail: cmcsecretary@cmcwebsite.org. Also, please contact me if your newsletter was damaged in the mail and you would like a fresh copy sent.

2006 Summer Schedule

June 3rd-4th: Lamb Roast Outing
On June 3rd, please join a lovely little lamb for its very short appearance at the Devil's Lake Campground. Our friend can be spotted roasting over a bed of coals during the afternoon. It should be ready for us around 4:30 or 5pm, so if you won't be climbing, please be at the campground with a side dish and beverage of choice by late afternoon. This outing is open to CMC members and invited guests.

June 24-5 CMC Open Outing
Open to all, nonmembers are welcome. Come out and enjoy the last outing before our summer break.

August 12-3 Old Timers / New Climbers Outing
Outing open to all. More information inside this newsletter.

Please contact Jamie Norris for additional details.

The call of the mountains is enthralling and unchanging. Fortunate, indeed, is the individual who heeds it and associates themselves with kindred souls for that purpose, for in doing so they will achieve richer experiences and more enduring friendships than those to be found along more ordinary paths of life.
-Jack Fralick

2006 Board Members

Directors:

Pieter Fockens, Chris Young, Ron Rolnicki
cmcdirectors@cmcwebsite.org
President: Matt Mead
cmcpresident@cmcwebsite.org
Vice President: Mike Burian
cmcvicepres@cmcwebsite.org
Secretary: Robert White
cmcsecretary@cmcwebsite.org
Treasurer: Steve Broadie
cmctreasurer@cmcwebsite.org
Sergeant-At-Arms: Jim Considine
cmcsergeant@cmcwebsite.org
Outings Chair: Jamie Norris
cmcoutings@cmcwebsite.org
Expedition Chair: Dave Kenealy
cmcexpedition@cmcwebsite.org
Program Chair: Donna Martino
cmcprograms@cmcwebsite.org
Publications Chair: David Harrison
cmcpublications@cmcwebsite.org
Safety Chair: Jack Fletcher
cmcsafety@cmcwebsite.org
Grounds Chair: Bill Dietrich
cmcgrounds@cmcwebsite.org
Conservation Chair: Donna Martino
cmconconservation@cmcwebsite.org