



MAY 1994

A Publication of the Mountaineering Club of Alaska, Inc.

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Box 102037, Anchorage, Alaska 99510

## MAY MEETING

Wednesday

May 18, 7:30

Pioneer Schoolhouse, 3rd & Eagle Streets  
Downtown Anchorage

**Slide Show:** Slides of the *Cassin Ridge* on Denali  
will be shown by Harry Hunt.

## HIKING AND CLIMBING SCHEDULE

### May 14-15 East Fork Trail

Trail maintenance. Mountain bike past Eklutna Lake to trailhead. Bring over night gear; the majority of work is too far in for a day-hike. Meet at Eklutna Lake parking lot 9:30 Saturday. Bring brush saws and loppers, if you have them.  
Leader: Willy Hersman 373-4734

### 14-15 Bird Peak

Western Chugach. Class C. Ice axe and self-arrest ability needed. Contact leader.  
Leader: James Larabee 345-5406

### 21 Blacktail and Roundtop

Western Chugach, Eagle River area. Conditioning hike. Class C. See 55 Ways trip 39.  
Leader: Scott Bailey 696-7250

### 27-30 Clearwater Mts.

We will depart Anchorage Friday evening. These mountains are located on the north side of the Denali Highway and are an area that the club has not visited in recent years. We will backpack in a couple of miles to a lake and climb Peak 6215 and possibly an adjacent peak, both in the southwest corner of the mountains. Class C. See leader about gear.  
Leader: Dave Logan 276-2666

### June 11-12 Wiliwaw Lakes and Peak

Western Chugach. Hike to lakes on Saturday, climb on Sunday. Need ice axe and self-arrest ability. Class C. See 55 Ways trip 33.  
Leader: Dennis Morford 522-1179



- June 18-19 Flute Glacier  
Near South Fork of Eagle River. Class  
Glacier Travel. Need ice axe, harness,  
crampons. Contact leader for details.  
Leader: Dave Logan 276-2666
- 18-19 Flattop  
Traditional solstice sleepout. Class C.  
No leader needed. See 55 Ways trip 31.
- 26 Peak 5450  
Western Chugach, Eklutna Lake. Non-  
technical climb. Class D. Elevation gain  
of 4500 feet.  
Leader: Mindy Baum 338-6396
- July 2-4 Kesugi Ridge  
Denali State Park. Great views of Denali  
on this beautiful alpine ridge. Class B.  
Leader: Bill Wakeland 563-6246
- 9-24 Vampire Peaks, N.W.T., Canada  
This is a return to the area visited last  
year. Varies from easy walking to  
technical, both rock and ice. We will  
have 2 or 3 camps from which we will  
climb nearby peaks. \$500 flight to the  
peaks. Class: Glacier Travel.  
Leader: Dave Logan 276-2666
- 16 South Suicide Peak  
Western Chugach. From Falls Creek  
trail. Hikers to Falls Lake only are  
welcome. Class D.  
Leader: Don Hansen 243-7184 h  
271-6656 w
- July 23- Arrigetch Peaks, Gates of the Arctic  
N.P.  
Aug. 8 Backpacking trip to this scenic granite  
mountain area with lots of day hikes and  
optional easy climbs. Transportation costs  
are \$600 from Anchorage, but you can  
save \$200 by driving to Fairbanks. Fly  
commercial to Bettles, then charter to  
Circle Lake. Bears may be common.  
Class C.  
Leader: Don Hansen 243-7184 h  
271-6656 w

## MINUTES

### APRIL MEETING

April 20th 1994. **Jonathan Rose** called the  
meeting to order and had new members introduce them-  
selves.

#### TREASURER'S REPORT.

Money Market	4480.43
Checking	4434.53
Petty Cash	50.00
Total	8964.96

#### COMMITTEE REPORTS.

##### Huts.

Chr. **Maxine Franklin** thanked the Alaskan Air National  
Guard's 210th Rescue Squadron for its recent contribution  
to the club by donating their services and time to air-drop  
supplies into the Mint Hut and also checking on the condi-  
tion of the Bomber Hut. It is requested that all members  
contact Maxine after a visit to a hut to report on its condi-  
tion.

#### OLD BUSINESS.

None.

#### NEW BUSINESS.

The MCA received a grant award from B.P. Exploration of  
\$750.00 for hut projects. This award was solicited by **Mike  
Miller**, and it has been requested that the club follow up  
with photos and report of the project.

A motion was made and seconded to buy two new snow-  
shoes to add to the club's gear. Motion passed.

#### ANNOUNCEMENTS.

**Jenine Amon** announced the Women's Group West  
Buttress Climb, which is seeking donations on behalf of  
breast cancer research. The group is also seeking more  
participants and an attorney (to set up a non-profit status).

**Willy Hersman** announced that orders for freeze dry items  
have not arrived, and that the trip to East Fork Eklutna  
would have to be postponed due to snow.

**Jonathan Rose** announced a March for Parks hike to take  
place from Potter's Section House to McHugh Creek.

There was also an announcement for climbing partners from someone in California, name and address were available at the meeting.

No refreshments were available again, due to no volunteers.

Thanks to Robert Teissler for his slide show of the Pamirs.

Respectfully Submitted,

Roy Smith

## BOARD MEETING

April 8, 1994. Jonathan Rose's home. Those in attendance:

Dave Hart, Jonathan Rose, Roy Smith, Chris Ernst, Dave Pahlke, Mike Miller.

### Topics:

#### *Programs.*

- Gear swap and slide show was briefly announced by Jonathan.
- Thank you letters to be sent out by the Secretary to all those who graciously volunteered their time at the March meeting.
- The board is hoping to get Dolly Lefever to do a slide show of her recent climbs.

#### *Gear.*

- The following will be sold off:

pickets	\$5.00
snow fluke	2.00
webbing	0.10/ft
seat harness	10.00
tool holster	5.00
rock hammer	10.00
small shovels	10.00
CB radios	5.00

Sold:  
t-chock to Roy Smith  
perlon, D-carabiner to Dave Hart

- Money obtained from sales will be used to purchase more gear.
- A motion passed to propose buying more snowshoes at the next general meeting. One pair is borrowed every weekend.
- More inventory is needed, but the following has been determined:
  - 4 old frequency beacons - still trying to determine what to do with them. The old North American frequency is not yet obsolete, so the club should probably keep them a while.
  - Old climbing ropes, mostly donated by Mountain Trip, are in good enough shape to be used for club classes as 'top ropes' only.
  - One rock hammer is still good enough to be checked out.
  - A 2-gallon aluminum pot - tossed out; the lid was stuck on the bottom and it had a hole.

#### *BP Grant.*

- The club recently was awarded a grant of \$750.00, donated by B.P. Exploration to be used for club hut projects.

#### *Huts.*

- Contact the Hut Committee to seek donations from various businesses.
- Rosie's Roost needs roof repairs. The committee needs to look into it.

Respectfully Submitted,

Roy Smith



## U.S.G.S. Alert

The USGS 7.5-minute topographic map series will be the official replacement to the current 15-minute series. The 1:24,000 scale has been completed for all States except (you guessed it) Alaska. Alaska is covered by the 1:63,360 scale. Elsewhere, the 15-minute series has been officially abandoned and will no longer be for sale.



## EDITORIAL

### More Letters on Peak Fees



I'm tossing in my two cents worth, regarding recent articles being published, concerning the National Park Service's proposals to charge climbing fees to climb Mt. McKinley and Mt. Foraker. I understand that it is quite an expenditure to contract out, and have on hand a high-altitude helicopter to rescue those climbers who get into trouble, and suddenly are in need of an airlift. But some questions do come to mind.

Imagine for a moment that the public could vote on this issue; what would transpire? I think I know what some of us within the climbing community would do if we had that kind of say. More likely, we would (vote to) do away with that expensive high altitude helicopter that sits up there in Talkeetna, at a jillion bucks an hour, on call 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, during the peak climbing season, every year.

Restore things back to the way it used to be when climbers took care of their own by volunteering their time and effort to rescue a fellow climber. Then, beyond that, if the victim survived, bill that individual for damages. Also, if the rescue situation got too serious, call upon support from the Air National Guard, who's already more than rigged for high altitude rescues, as well as already on call 24 hours a day, and at no extra cost to the taxpayer.

Then, let's say folks from Europe and Asia arrive too ill-prepared to climb? We just simply tell them it would be in their best interest to go home. If they insist, well, as harsh as this may sound, warn them: if they get in trouble, they're on their own. Sorry!

Basically, if you aren't prepared to climb it, DONT. No mountain, anywhere, no matter what the cost, is worth risking life and limb. It gives (mountaineering) a bad reputation.

Get out of the rescue business, N.P.S.! Educating is more your line of work; we look to you when it comes to that. I applaud your going to South Korea, and doing just that. It's more cost effective.

- Roy Smith

## MCA Trip Classifications

The classifications below do not take into account 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 participation on 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 trip 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 a 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.

**GLACIER TRAVEL:** Trips requiring roped travel over glaciers. Knowledge of crevasse rescue, and ice axe and crampon skills are required. Basic understanding of ice and snow anchors is also required.

**FIFTH CLASS:** Trips which involve fifth class climbing. A Basic Mountaineering course or equivalent is required. Knowledge of belay and rappel techniques and placing anchors is required. Climbing difficulty varies widely with each 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

## General Rules for MCA Sanctioned Trips

1. Proper equipment is listed at the end of the rules.
2. No dogs. (Among the reasons are bear problems.)
3. The leader's suggestions are to be followed. Do not go off alone, return or rush ahead without his (her) permission, and don't ford a stream before the leader assesses the situation. Remember, this is a club trip and the leader must know where all participants are. Anyone separating from the group without the leader's approval is no longer considered a participant in the MCA Sanctioned trip.
4. Trip participants who, in the leader's opinion, put themselves or other members of the group in danger by disregarding the leader's suggestions, shall be subject to sanction by the club. Sanctions may include, but are not limited to, reprimand at general meeting, exclusion from future trips, termination of annual membership or lifetime exclusion from the club.
5. You must sign up on a trip roster (club meetings) or contact the leader, and you must have signed the club waiver to be on a club trip.
6. When carpools are arranged, please plan to pay the driver your share without his (her) asking you. Generally \$5 - short trips, \$10 or more for longer.
7. If you find you cannot participate after signing up on the roster, please let the leader know, both for transportation and gear-planning and so someone else can go. If you are the leader, help find a replacement.
8. Total number of people on club trips:  
Minimum: 4 (for safety reasons)  
Maximum: Leader option, depends upon the trail and campsite conditions, but generally limited to 12 in trailless areas or State and National Parks
9. Firearms are not encouraged, and please let the leader know if you want to carry one - it will be leader's option. Aerosol bear repellent is preferred.

Approved by MCA Board November 1993

## Leader Qualifications

1. Must be a member of the MCA.
2. Must have approval of the Hiking and Climbing Committee (A simple majority.)
3. Must have participated in trips of the same or higher classification than the one being led, showing competence in the opinion of the leaders of those trips; or equivalent experience acceptable to the Hiking and Climbing Committee.

Approved by MCA Board, March 1987

## Leader Guidelines

1. Follow the general rules for MCA Sanctioned Trips.
2. Must have a sign-up sheet with all participants' names on it and turn it in to the Hiking and Climbing Committee at the end of the trip.
3. Select a meeting time and place disclosed only to those persons on the sign-up sheet, unless call-ins are acceptable to the leader.
4. Must verify that each participant has signed a valid waiver and that it is on file.
5. Can require special equipment and refuse participation to any person that is ill-equipped (including clothing).
6. Has the authority to split the group (fast and slow), but must select a co-leader to help.
7. Must report any injuries to the MCA President.
8. Must report any personnel problems to the Hiking and Climbing Committee.

Approved by the MCA Board, March 1987

## Equipment

### Summer

### Additional for Glaciers

Raingear that works	Ace bandage	Ice axe
Windgear	Surgical tape	Gaitors
Wool or fleece pants	Aspirin	Climbing boots
Shorts	Gauze	Slings, carabiners
Light polypro	Anti-bacterial ointment	Rappel device
Wool shirt	4" x 4" pads, band-aids	Belay device
Jacket	Wire	Rope
Baseball cap	Vice grips or pliers	Wands
Gloves	Utility cord	Shovel (?)
Extra socks	Sewing kit	Mittens
Wool or pile hat	Tent	Crampons
Hiking boots	Sleeping pad	Seat Harness
Stream-crossing footwear	Sleeping bag	Ice screw(s)
Sunscreen	Backpack cover	Pulleys
Mosquito repellent	Cook pot	Prussiks/ascenders
Whistle	Stove (fires not allowed)	Picket (?)
Large plastic bag	Fuel bottle	Skis or snowshoes (?)
Lighter, matches	Walking stick or ice axe	Glacier glasses/cream
Map, compass	Water bottles (not canteens)	
Aerosol bear repellent (if desired)	FOOD	
Moleskin/Spenco 2nd skin		

