



### ANNUAL MEETING

Wednesday

October 21, 7:30 pm

Pioneer Schoolhouse, 3rd & Eagle Streets  
Downtown Anchorage

Elections: President, V. President, Secretary, Treasurer  
and two Board positions.

Presentation: *Jim Saylor* will share his many ascents  
in the local Chugach Mountains.

### TRAINING SCHEDULE

#### Nov 21, 26-29 Basic Mountaineering Skills

Nov 21, Sat., 9 A.M. Location: Kaladi Bros.  
(6921 Brayton Dr.) Organizational  
Meeting - mandatory.

Nov 26-27, Thur. & Fri. 9 A.M.- 4 P.M. Location:  
To be determined. To cover:

- Ropes / Knots
- Anchors / Protection
- Belay / Repel
- Gear / Clothing
- Planning / Logistics / Weather
- Route Selection / Hazards
- Map / Compass / GPS
- Practice Self-Arrest

Required Equipment: ice axe & helmet

Nov 28-29, Sat. & Sun. (overnighter) Location:  
Local mountains. To cover:

- Winter Camping
- Climb Peak (MCA Class C/D)

Required Equipment: ice axe & helmet

Instructor: Gary Runa 275-3613 msg.

### TRIP REPORTS

#### Backpacking in Anaktuvuk Pass

by Linda Jagger



On Thursday July 30, we flew from Anchorage to Fairbanks, met our friend Dave from S. Carolina and flew onto Anaktuvuk Pass, a village of 270 people. Our pilot was kind enough to fly below the clouds. The immensity of the land overwhelmed us. I could see and feel the "last frontier." There is nothing but meandering rivers, green hillsides and gray, jagged mountains. We got off the plane and started walking east, to the Anaktuvuk River. We felt we could look north and seemingly see forever, to the Bering Sea and the North Pole. The weather was picture perfect; 70 degrees and sunny, no humidity. It was so refreshing. Such a relief from Florida's heat and humidity, where we presently live. We were there for 5 days of backpacking to explore the land. We were following an Argo (a 6-8 wheeled all terrain vehicle) trail. We had

planned to hike out the valley 20 miles to climb Fan Mountain, 7000 feet, the highest peak in the area. However, after our first day of covering only 5 miles we realized it was not likely we would get there. It suddenly did not matter. We were so taken by our surroundings a specific mountain summit no longer seemed important. We crossed the river end of our first day, luckily it was only knee deep. We picked out a bluff and set camp for the night.

Day 2 we continued on the Argo trail along the river, hiking about 8 miles. Each bend in the river brought new vistas. The valley must have been 5 miles wide. All we could see was green valleys and striated shades of gray, jagged mountains. When we were tired we just picked out a little bluff and set up camp that we stayed at for 2 nights. Day 3 we did a day hike, continued up river another 5 miles, saw some glaciers in the distance, climbed a small peak to 3800 feet. The views were awesome, we looked down on a Dahl sheep gracefully running across the jagged rock. We longed to climb higher but we had been out all day, it was time to return to camp. The other days it was cloudy and drizzly, but it did not stop us from hiking. Day 4 we had to head back, hiked about 8 miles and crossed the river again. Day 5 brought us back to the village after only a couple of hours of hiking where we awaited our plane back to civilization.

I've never hiked somewhere where I had no particular destination. We are avid hikers in the lower 48, having climbed and hiked over 40 14000-foot mountains in Colorado, and hundreds of miles of trail and mountain peaks in New England, the west and southeast. This is our second visit to Alaska, our first 11 years ago. Before arriving in Anaktuvuk we spent a week hiking around Anchorage & the Kenai Peninsula. Anaktuvuk Pass is a place like no other, it is a place we would encourage everyone to experience. We'll be back, before another 11 years pass.

## Trails of Fairbanks Area

by Linda Jagger



On Monday Aug 3, we returned to Fairbanks after spending 5 days backpacking in Anaktuvuk Pass. We had 4 days in the area. I really wanted to backpack the Pinnell Mt. Trail, a 27-mile trail, located off the Steese Hwy, NE of Fairbanks. It is all above tree line, you end up about 30 miles down the road from where you started. But the weather did not cooperate, it was

a steady drizzle, more so than up north. Tom "ha it" with backpacking for his pack did not fit him well. The high point on the trail was 4500 feet, the clouds were down to about 3000 feet or less. So we opted to hike the first 5 miles to Table Mt. (4470) and turn back because of the steady rain and poor visibility. It would be a grand backpack in clear, dry weather when visibility is good; it reminded me of trails in New Hampshire and the alpine vegetation there.

Wednesday, August 6, we hiked the Granite Tors counterclockwise, opposite of what the park literature suggests. The trail head is located at mile 39.5 on the Chena Hot Springs Rd. It is a 16-mile hike with a 2500-foot elevation gain. We hiked the west trail first to go up the steepest part and down the more gradual East trail. The tors are isolated pinacles of granite, some 200 feet high, popping out of the tundra. It is a Mecca for rock climbers. Signs were everywhere warning hikers that bear had been spotted by Lizard's Eye, the high point on the trail. In fact bear had attacked a campsite; we found sleeping bags on the ground and socks by an open fire pit. It looked like these people were not taking proper bear precautions of cooking away from their camp, etc. However, we never saw the bear. There were awesome views, these tors popping up on the ridge in various shapes and sizes. The trail was excellently maintained, there were boardwalks over the boggy areas, and mile posts along the way. There's even a shelter one could spend the night at, 6 1/2 miles up the east trail.

Thursday, August 7, we attempted to hike to Chena Dome on the Chena Dome Trail. Again the trail was immaculately maintained, with boardwalks over the muskeg and mile markers posted. Again it was rainy. This is a 30 mile loop trail, our hope was to hike 10 miles into Chena Dome and return. We hiked 3 miles up to tree line; above tree line the clouds rolled in and we could barely see the next cairn. We continued another 2 miles to the top of the ridge at 3700 feet where the trail levels out for the next 5 miles before reaching the summit. Visibility was so poor that we decided we'd turn back. Instead we went and did the Angel Rocks Trail, another beautiful trail to more "tor" like rocks. We did a total of 13 miles that day.

Hiking in the Fairbanks area is very different than the Anchorage area. The trails are not quite as steep and you get to the alpine terrain quicker. We would encourage everyone to visit this majestic area, hopefully you can find a time of better weather. All in all we spent 15 days in your majestic state and hiked 125 miles. We met some wonderful club members who carry the true mountaineering spirit; Bruce Kittredge, Tom Choate and Wendy Sanem.



We'd love to hear of others experiences in these area. You may contact us at 229 Westridge Dr., Tallahassee, Fl. 32304. If any of you ever have cause to come to the Tallahassee Fl area we'd love to meet you. We'll gladly show you the Florida Trail.

### Hunter Creek Glacier Climbs

by Steve Gruhn



Obtaining legal access has long hindered climbers in the Hunter Creek drainage south of the Knik River. Our party of three was no exception. Despite numerous unreturned telephone calls to one of the landowners, a mid-week visit to one of the local businesses, careful planning, and an attempt at an early start, Tom Choate, Bruce Kittredge, and I encountered difficulty in obtaining permission to cross approximately ¼ mile of private land south of Knik River Road to start our 9-day trip on May 23. There was even conflicting land ownership information. Don't plan to access this area without further research (ask us). Upon hearing reports of vehicles having been vandalized at the school bus turnaround near the Knik River Road bridge across Hunter Creek, Tom and Bruce obtained permission from one landowner to park a vehicle on private property for the duration of our trip. We obtained permission from another landowner to cross private property to access the state lands to the south, but had to guess at the property boundaries during our hike. The delays meant a 2:30 P.M. start.

The trail up the east side of Hunter Creek is quite muddy and, at times, difficult to follow. Numerous side trails weave in and out. Thick alders surround the mud, decreasing the opportunity for avoiding the slope. By 8:30 P.M. we had finally reached a place to camp north of where the trail crosses the East Fork of Hunter Creek at about 1200 feet. We were grateful to set down our heavy packs.

After a late start the following day, we crossed the East Fork just above our campsite and proceeded to climb the ridge to the south. We had to switch from boots to snowshoes at about 1800 feet. We continued south on the ridge until we had reached Point 5050 (T15N, R4E, Sec. 30). Finding no evidence of a previous ascent, Tom built a cairn and left a register naming this feature Key Point, in reference to The Gatekeeper (elev. 5705, T15N, R4E, Sec. 28) about 1½ miles southeast. Key Point does not meet the criteria of a true peak (minimum 500 foot rise from a saddle connecting to a higher point), but is the highest point within a 1-mile radius (higher than 5005 to the south).

We backtracked a couple hundred yards and glissaded down a snowy slope to the east. We then snowshoed up the northwest ridge of The Gatekeeper for what we believe to be the third ascent. We descended the north ridge of The Gatekeeper in a twilight glissade down soft, wet snow almost to the East Fork. Thoroughly soaked, we marched back to camp, arriving after 1 a.m.

Naturally, we again got a late start. After breaking camp we crossed the East Fork and headed upstream on the gravel bar. In mid-afternoon, we witnessed an avalanche release from the northeast-facing slope ahead of us. The slide went clear to the tundra, at least 8 feet below the snow surface, and extended across the East Fork. We decided to cross the East Fork on the avalanche debris, but by the time we arrived, the stream had churned through the remaining snow bridges, so a little jumping was required.

We continued up a steep slope of mixed alder, devil's club, and smooth bedrock, and then along the edge of the gently sloping upper valley, following the lateral moraine on the east side of the Hunter Creek Glacier. We finally trudged to an avalanche-protected campsite at about 3700 feet, north of the confluence with the glacier draining west from between Mountaineer's Peak (elev. 7265, T14N, R4E, Sec. 1) and Devil's Club Peak (elev. 7240, T15N, R4E, Sec. 36).

The next afternoon we got a late start again and set out following fresh wolverine tracks up the east side of the glacier for Mount Palmer (elev. 6940). Despite the heavy snowpack, it was evident that the glacier had lost a substantial amount of ice from the area south of Mount Palmer, compared to what is indicated on the Anchorage (B-5) quadrangle. We left the glacier at about 5800 feet and Tom kicked steps up the steep slope to the ridge. We descended down the east side of the ridge, up a small glacial valley, and onto a corkscrew ridge to the summit. Beautiful rime and cauliflower snow covered the rocks, and the view to the east was spectacular. We found no cairn, but believe ours was the fifth ascent of Mount Palmer. We followed our footprints for the descent, once again arriving in camp after midnight.

The next day it drizzled and the wind howled, so we spent the day eating, shoveling, building snow walls, and listening to Radio New Zealand, courtesy of Tom's tiny radio.

Thursday we left camp at a decent hour and headed up the glacier west of Mountaineer's Peak (which Tom dubbed the Mountaineer's Spur Glacier). Each yearly deposit of snow was visible in the layered

formations of the seracs. We counted over 30 years of accumulation visible. We took off our snowshoes at about 6500 feet and climbed the ridge to the east, attaining the ridge at about 6800 feet. An easy walk to the north led us to the summit for what we believe is the fifth ascent of Mountaineer's Peak. Here Tom and I spent over 3 hours excavating snow on two summits (the north one is higher) in search of a cairn. Bruce evidently had enough snow shoveling on our weather day and wisely decided not to join the futile search for the summit register. We followed our tracks for the descent.

That evening Tom scouted out a possible future MCA hut site and located a nice spot on a protected moraine. The land is owned by the Bureau of Land Management, but has been in the process of conveyance to Cook Inlet Region, Inc., for over 20 years.

The next morning we left camp at a reasonable hour and headed around the corner to the east. Bruce and Tom kicked steps up a snowy couloir to the northeast, topping out on the ridge at about 5900 feet. Here Tom and I introduced Bruce to Chugach crud. For his first time dealing with exposed and rotten rock, Bruce did quite well, despite some apprehension on his part. We followed the narrow ridge east to the summit of Devil's Club Peak for what we believe to be the fourth ascent. Rather than following an old descent route marked by rappel slings, we made what we believe to be the first traverse of the ridge north to Big Timber Peak (elev. 6745+, T15N, R4E, Sec. 26). There was one point on the descent that required careful attention, but after a half hour of exploring alternate routes, Tom led us over a cornice and around the cliff. Although we did not find a cairn on any of the rocky summits (the highest is north and west of Point 6745), we believe ours to be the second ascent of Big Timber Peak. We descended the rocky west ridge until we reached a scree gully at about 5500 feet, where we slid down to the base and dropped to the glacial moraine around midnight for the final trudge up glacier to camp.

The winds howled again the next day; rain pelted our precious snow walls. We spent the day building snow walls and lazing around. All told, at this campsite we had added 14 feet of snow to the walls, but the continuous wind, warm temperatures, and rain erased our work. The next morning the walls were nonexistent and what had been an excavation for our tent was now raised more than a foot above the surrounding snow.

Sunday we broke camp and headed down glacier, crossing to the west side of the valley just below the terminus of the glacier. We descended the alder

patches above the gravel bar with minimal difficulty and hiked down the gravel flats, eyeing the changes spring had brought to the area in the past week. The trees were beginning to bud, snow bridges had vanished, and the East Fork was quite a bit higher than when we came in the previous weekend.

We followed the muddy trail out, carefully avoiding the free-range cattle that had moved into the area near Knik River Road. Bruce drove us to Eagle River where we savored pizza and memories of our climbs.

### ADZE

#### For Sale

- Patagonia Gridman 1-Piece
  - Goretex Suit - Large. Never used - still in original wrapping. \$350 (\$725 new)
  - Feathered Friends Rock & Ice Down/Gtx Parka. Warmest expedition parka on the planet. 1 expedition. \$350 (\$650 new)
  - North Face Westwind 2-Person Expedition Tent. Bombproof Tent. 5 years old, only 3 expeditions. \$225 (\$375 new)
  - Beal 300' x 9 mil climbing rope. Never used - still in original wrapping. \$150 (\$250 new)
  - Beal 50m x 10.5m climbing rope. Never used - still in original wrapping. \$60 (\$100+ new)
  - Koflach Valluga Randonnee Ski Boots - Size 10.5. 10 years old, but functional. \$40
  - Ramer Adjustable Ski Poles. \$40 (\$80 new)
  - Titanium Ice Screws. Never used - still in original wrapping. \$8 each
- Call Dave, 338-0554

#### Climbing Articles

The current volume of Alaska Geographic is called "Climbing Alaska." Several copies will be available for sale at the October meeting (21.95 ea.). MCA club members are featured in it.



**Era Aviation, Inc.  
1998 Contest Winners**

photo-contest-1998  
Prepared: 9/18/98

#	Winner	CATEGORY	TITLE	NAME	HIKING	CLIMBING	PEOPLE	SCENERY	PERCENT
120	1st	Hiking	Eye of the Glacier	Wayne Todd	98	-	-	-	32%
122	2nd	Hiking	Descending the Trident Volcano	James Larabee	49	-	-	-	16%
125	3rd	Hiking	Talkeetna Mountain Hitchhiker	Kirk Towner	48	-	-	-	16%
124	Honorable Mention	Hiking	Summit Caldera of Mt. Katmai	Dan O'Haire	36	-	-	-	12%
123	Honorable Mention	Hiking	Mt. Hunter's West Ridge	David Hart	30	-	-	-	10%
119		Hiking	Autumn Trails	Curvin Metzler	16	-	-	-	5%
117		Hiking	Sure Beats Alaska in April	Bill Wakeland	11	-	-	-	4%
121		Hiking	The Crossing	Steven Frisch	11	-	-	-	4%
118		Hiking	Canyon Monument	Don Hansen	10	-	-	-	3%
210	1st	Climbing	Ascent to Pichler's	Wayne Todd	-	86	-	-	28%
214	2nd	Climbing	Summit Day, Mt. Logan	David Hart	-	64	-	-	21%
211	3rd	Climbing	Ice World	Steven Frisch	-	36	-	-	12%
215	Honorable Mention	Climbing	Have You Hugged a Rock Today?	Kirk Towner	-	35	-	-	11%
213	Honorable Mention	Climbing	Mt. Logan, East Ridge	Kurt Bauer	-	35	-	-	11%
212		Climbing	Rhapsody in Blue	James Larabee	-	21	-	-	7%
208		Climbing	Descending Carpathian	Jonathan Rose	-	17	-	-	6%
209		Climbing	Ruth Glacier, Sheldon Amphitheater	Ned Friedman	-	11	-	-	4%
314	1st	People	The Last Crevasse	Willy Hersman	-	-	64	-	21%
319	2nd	People	Paul & David on the East Ridge of Mt. Logan	Kurt Bauer	-	-	40	-	13%
320	3rd	People	Bob Hempstead on Mt. Logan	David Hart	-	-	39	-	13%
312	Honorable Mention	People	Relaxing on the Trail	Don Hansen	-	-	37	-	12%
317	Honorable Mention	People	Cooling Off	Steven Frisch	-	-	22	-	7%
321		People	Dave Lacey on Mt. Natazhut	Harry Hunt	-	-	20	-	6%
318		People	Man of Steele: Mt. Steele Expedition Leader, Willy Hersman	James Larabee	-	-	17	-	6%
322		People	Dried Fruit, Anyone?	Anonymous	-	-	15	-	5%
311		People	Look What I Found!	Bill Wakeland	-	-	12	-	4%
323		People	Bill and His Waterfall	Kirk Towner	-	-	12	-	4%
324		People	Summit Dancing	Bill Romberg	-	-	12	-	4%
316		People	Hiking Up Chitna Pass	Curvin Metzler	-	-	8	-	3%
315		People	People Gear	Kathy Zukor	-	-	7	-	2%
313		People	Art & Steve Departing the Scandinavian Hut	Ned Friedman	-	-	4	-	1%
412	1st	Scenery	Greens of Summer	James Larabee	-	-	-	69	22%
414	2nd	Scenery	High Camp on St. Elias	David Hart	-	-	-	58	19%
413	3rd	Scenery	McArthur Peak from Mt. Logan	Kurt Bauer	-	-	-	42	14%
408	Honorable Mention	Scenery	Light at the End of the Tunnel	Curvin Metzler	-	-	-	34	11%
410	Honorable Mention	Scenery	Perching at Pichler's	Wayne Todd	-	-	-	32	10%
404		Scenery	Shelter from the Storms	Bill Wakeland	-	-	-	17	6%
409		Scenery	Explorer Peak	Kathy Still	-	-	-	17	6%
411		Scenery	Water, Grass, Mountains, Sky	Steven Frisch	-	-	-	12	4%
405		Scenery	Black-Nose Mountain and Surprise Lake	Don Hansen	-	-	-	8	3%
406		Scenery	Sunrise on the Ruth Glacier	Ned Friedman	-	-	-	8	3%
415		Scenery	Wrangell High Camp View	Kirk Towner	-	-	-	8	3%
407		Scenery	Bird Ridge	Kathy Zukor	-	-	-	4	1%
TOTAL POINTS VOTED					309	305	309	309	

## MINUTES

### AUGUST MEETING

Meeting was called to order at 7:30 by President Mark Miraglia. After introduction of new members, and international guest, Andre Reider from the Swiss Alpine Club, the hiking and climbing schedule was outlined. Please see *Scree*.

#### COMMITTEE REPORTS

##### *Huts*

It was reported that the Bomber Hut is intact. An outhouse for it is ready to be flown in whenever the 210<sup>th</sup> has time. There was extensive discussion of the disposal of waste at all huts.

##### *Geographic Names*

**Tom Choate** wants to know who named Mt. Robinson.

##### *Parks Advisory*

An appeal is pending in Washington in protest of the ban of fixed anchors in wilderness areas. If you contend that the Forest Supervisor's decision should be overturned, please contact **Mark Miraglia**.

#### OLD BUSINESS

None.

#### NEW BUSINESS

None.

#### ANNOUNCEMENTS

There will be a **boulder competition** Friday the 28<sup>th</sup> at the Alaska Rock Gym.

**Jim Wickwire** will do a book signing at Barnes and Nobles on the 18<sup>th</sup> of September.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Helga Bashor

### SEPTEMBER MEETING

After introduction of 12 guests, Kirk Towner gave the Treasurer's report. See Kirk for a detailed account.

#### COMMITTEE REPORTS

##### *Huts*

Chairperson, **Mark Miraglia**, reported a flare-up of the Mint Hut stove on September 6. Repairs were made but the stove takes a few minutes to shut off. New parts will be ordered. The hut also needs a new fire extinguisher. The Bomber Hut outhouse needs a toilet seat, and we are still waiting for the 210<sup>th</sup> to fly in a new outhouse. An Eklutna Lake project is in the works for a public-use cabin to be located after the last bridge.

##### *Training*

**Gary Runa** outlined his schedule for Thanksgiving training. This will be published in *Scree*. There will be a mandatory meeting at 7:00 PM, Thursday, September 24<sup>th</sup> for the Ice Climbing Class.

##### *Parks Advisory*

**Scott Bailey** reported that DOT and Public Facilities is calling for project nominations for the 2000-2002 Statewide Transportation Improvement Plan (STIP). STIP is the spending plan for federally funded improvements to roads, ferries, transits, trails, sidewalks and waysides. If you have a project in mind, contact Scott for info at 696-7250.

The ban on fixed anchors is now only in effect in the Sawtooths and is a test case. A FFAC group (formal federal advisory committee) is being put together which will probably contain reps from climbing and environmental groups, to work with the Forest Service and a mediator to study the issue.

#### OLD BUSINESS

None.

#### NEW BUSINESS

None.

#### ANNOUNCEMENTS

None.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Helga Bashor



## ***Officers***

President	Mark Miraglia	338-0705
Vice President	Richard Baranow	694-1500
Secretary	Helga Bashor	783-2247
Treasurer	Kirk Towner	344-5424

## ***Board***

Brend Bryan	248-9173
Tom Choate	333-5309
Matt Nedom	278-3648
Dawn Groth	338-0554
Dara Lively	345-9294

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 sign the club waiver found on the reverse side of this 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](mailto: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

MAILING: richard baranow  
HIKING & CLIMBING CHAIR: wendy sanem, 694-0825  
Web Page: <http://www.alaska.net/~mca>



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