



DECEMBER 1999 *A Publication of the Mountaineering Club of Alaska* **Volume 42 Issue 12**
Box 102037, Anchorage, Alaska 99510

DECEMBER MEETING

Wednesday

December 15, 7:30 pm

**Pioneer Schoolhouse, 3rd & Eagle Streets
Downtown Anchorage**

Dinner Potluck: The club provides turkey, stuffing, drinks. You bring the following items (enough for about 6-8 people). Last name starts with:

A-D Salads, fruits

E-I Relish plates, bread, chips

J-N Desserts

O-Z Casseroles, veggie plates

**Slide Show: Your chance to show what you did this year.
Bring 10-15 slides and some humor to share.**

HIKING AND CLIMBING SCHEDULE

Feb 18-21 Resurrection Pass Ski Trip
4 days, 3 nights. 38 miles total. Maximum group size: 8 persons. We will be staying in cabins each night. Required equipment: backcountry skis with climbing skins, avalanche beacon, avalanche probe, snow shovel. Participants must have experience skiing backcountry trails with a full pack. Participants will share cost of cabin reservations: \$15-20 per person for trip.
Leader: Tom McDermott 694-3216.

TRAINING SCHEDULE

Jan 20, 27, 29-30 Winter Camping Class
Limited to 20 students members only. Locations of classroom and field locations to be announced at the next meeting. Thursday, Jan. 20, a 2-hour classroom session on essential winter camping gear and techniques, including clothing systems, food, cooking, and shelters. Thursday, Jan 27, a required gear shakedown where participants bring in their gear to be checked prior to the weekend field trip. Saturday/Sunday, Jan 29-30, an overnight camping trip to a local area where participants will receive hands-on instruction in setting up camp, cooking safely in cold weather, and other aspects of cold weather camping and survival.
Leaders: Brian Palmatier and Tom McDermott
694-3216

Winter 2000 Avalanche Hazard Recognition and Victim Search

More details will be available at the December general meeting.

Winter 2000 Mountain Safety Training

1. Avalanche Preparedness
Terrain evaluation, route selection, snow stability, weather, rescue procedures, beacon, searches, probe lines, first aid. 1 day outdoors
2. Winter Camping / Survival
Clothing, gear, food, minimum impact camping, shelters, map/compass/GPS, orienteering, communications, wilderness travel. 2-3 days outdoors (overnight)
3. Mountain Travel Skills
Ropes, knots, gear, belay, rappel, anchors/pro, self-arrest, route selection, roped climbing techniques, expedition planning. 2-3 days outdoors
4. Glacier Travel / Crevasse Rescue
Glaciology, glacier gear, route selection, roped travel, ascending, rescue procedures, mechanical advantage. 2-3 days outdoors
5. Mountain Rescue
Site/victim evaluation, first aid, raising/lowering systems, evacuation. 1 day outdoors

Leave message with course interests and your schedule preferences and/or conflicts.
Coordinator: Gary Runa 275-3613

Eklutna Cabin

Construction of the Eklutna Cabin will continue through the winter as grant money becomes available. This Chugach State Park public use cabin will not be open to the public until it is completed. The completion date is expected to be some time next summer. Anyone interested in assisting in the construction, or if you have questions concerning the cabin, contact Mark Miraglia, 338-0705.



RR Permits - Candyland

With the ice forming up along the Seward highway, remember to acquire your personal climbing permit from the Alaska Railroad if you plan to climb at the Candyland area. This is not an option. To climb there requires a permit for each climber. Let's keep this area open and safe for all by following the protocol set forth by the railroad. Contact ARR representative Nacole Merrell at 265-2670 with queries. Gaining the permit requires you to visit their offices and signing a release.



Avalanche Gear Purchase

MCA is organizing a bulk purchase of avalanche rescue beacons, probes, and snow shovels through Alaska Mountaineering and Hiking. Current club members will be able to buy these items at a discounted price. Persons interested in participating in this bulk purchase should contact Richard Baranow at AMH Mon-Wed (272-1811) or leave a brief message at 694-1500 with the number of each item you wish to purchase. The more people that participate, the better the discount we can obtain.



MINUTES

NOVEMBER MEETING

The meeting was called to order at about 7:40 PM. There were a total of approximately 100 people in attendance. Approximately 15 new members or visitors introduced themselves.

TREASURER

Total Revenue (YTD)	\$12,430.00
Total Expenses (YTD)	7,000.00



COMMITTEE REPORTS

Hiking and Climbing

There was 1 new trip announcement. A signup sheet was posted.

Huts

Chairperson **Mark Miraglia** reported no new reports on maintenance needed on huts. Anyone visiting huts please give Mark a report. Eklutna Cabin: this new 2000 S.F. cabin is joint venture between AAC, MCA, and Chugach St. Park. The directors are in the process of applying for another grant to finish construction. The cabin is still under construction and planned to be open next summer. At present, the cabin should be considered emergency shelter only.

Training

Chairperson **Steve Parry** presented a course list and solicited instructors. First aid/CPR to be offered also. Round of applause for Gary Runa who will be offering a slew of training for free. Avalanche: Canadian level 1 instruction to be available to MCA for \$175.00. Signup sheets posted.

Parks Advisory

Chairperson **Scott Bailey** announced that comments on USFS policy of no fixed anchors in wilderness areas are due by 29 Nov.

OLD BUSINESS

None.

NEW BUSINESS

None.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Christmas party at **December meeting**. See Scree for what food to bring. Also, bring 10 of your best slides from 1999 trips.

Calendars will be ready at the December meeting.

AMRG raffle.

Dried food orders – last night.

Candyland climbing permit – club members were reminded that a free access permit is required for ice climbing on ARRC property at Candyland. Stop by the ARRC headquarters at Ship Creek to pick up a permit. Note that one of the pullouts off the highway will be plowed for parking – please use it.

If you have any **equipment missing** from the rescue at the Matanuska Ice Climbing School, see Richard.

Email from Dave Hart – summit on **Baruntse!**

APU trial survey – members encouraged to attend.

Rod Wilson, Paul Crews and Lowell Thomas, Jr. presented a wonderful show on the Tordrillo Mountains. Their new book was also sold at discount to the membership.

Respectfully submitted,
Cory Hinds

BOARD MEETINGS

(Barnes & Noble)

11/16/99

The following members attended the meeting: Richard Baranow, Mark Miraglia, Willy Hersman, Patty McPherson, Wendy Sanem, Bill Romberg and Cory Hinds. The following was discussed:

Tax-exempt, non-profit status

Maintaining tax-exempt, non-profit status helps MCA limit liability. Willy will dig up info on liability.

MCA Traverse Huts and CSP

Draft policy on huts along Eklutna Traverse. As written, there is a potential problem with commercial guiding. Issues are party size, commercial guiding, and advertising. Mark gathered up edits and comments to get to Neil O'Donnell for review, then re-approve by board. After that, Mark will draft a letter that MCA will give to Al Meiners to pass on to any commercial guide operations.

Update on Commercial Use of MCA Huts

Proposed draft MCA policy on Commercial Use of Huts – tabled until we figure out details on item 2.

Avalanche training

Sean Dewalt, instructor. Announce at 11/17 meeting; solicit responses for various dates with alternate list. Request written qualifications and waiver.

Training

Gary Runa proposed starting some training with a minor cost to offset expenses. Board agreed that if Gary carries liability insurance, MCA will sanction his trips. If not, we will announce them, but cannot sanction them. [Gary was later contacted and decided to drop the fee rather than hassle with liability insurance.]

Training committee update: two categories of courses to be



offered: "MCA basic skills" and "Advanced training". Decision made to have trainees pay for "facility" costs. MCA will pay for incidentals like photocopying (and equipment).

Meeting length

Willy presents two Emails requesting that the length of the business meeting be cut down. Board agrees and makes a plan to speed things up.

Scree

Willy to experiment putting the Scree on the Web. Would be downloadable with password. Password to be tied to membership. Could do address change online. This would be an option to the standard mailed hardcopy Scree. Timing of submissions to Scree: 19 days before next meeting. [5 people voted yes]
Willy will remind people how to submit articles.

Update Eklutna Cabin Project

The hut is still under construction, and is not yet open to the public. However, the doors are not locked. It should be considered emergency shelter only.

Peak registers

Have historian take care of maintaining registers. (Ed. Note: *who* might that be?)

Respectfully Submitted,
Cory Hinds

11/22/99

The following members attended the meeting: Richard Baranow, Dolly Lefever, Patty McPherson, Tom Choate, Kirk Towner, Matt Nedom, Bill Romberg and Cory Hinds. Sean Dewalt was also present to discuss avalanche training. The following was discussed:

Budget

A preliminary working budget for 2000 was put together. This will be posted in the December Scree and voted in January.

H & C committee

Matt Nedom was selected as hiking chair; Paul Templeton was selected as climbing chair. Several trips were proposed and put together. Matt was given several member names to contact to solicit trips. An action item for the board is help the hiking and climbing committee establish criteria for trip leaders.

Dues

Discussion of raising dues in 2000 was mentioned. No concrete action on this.

Avalanche training

Sean Dewalt announced that the avalanche training will be at the Hatcher Pass Lodge and will cost \$175. Avalanche equipment rental will also be available for \$25/person/weekend. Possible beacon deal through AMH – Richard to coordinate. Board voted unanimously to accept Sean's course as appropriate leader training. Bill will get a packet of info to Willy for the December Scree.

T-shirts

Discussion of a 2000 t-shirt. Several options. Kirk will take the lead on this.

Hut maintenance

Pichler's floor in 2000 summer, possible waste management solution for Eklutna Traverse huts.

Appreciation awards

Plan for rewarding trip leaders: four (4) \$30 awards to be offered twice/year.

Next board meeting is 14 December.

Respectfully Submitted,
Cory Hinds

ADZE

For Sale

Apocalypse snowboard, Green Monkey model, K2 baseless bindings, 142 cm, like new, used 1 season. \$250 or trade for ice climbing equipment.
Brain 348-6194

Needed

AMRG needs an old Hoover or similar carpet vacuum cleaner for their cache.
Mark 338-0705

For Sale

Koflach Viva-soft Vario climbing boots, size 12, gray & green, like new, includes a pair of "Wild Things" gaiters, \$100
K2 Terraframe backpack, large size, spruce green, never used, \$275 value \$175 (Firm)
Soft top for Jeep Wrangler, fits from 88" - 96" black denim finish, \$150
Kevin 694-3977



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 or stream-crossing 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 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, February 1995

General Rules for MCA Sanctioned Trips

1. Proper equipment is on the reverse side of this list.
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 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, February 1995

Equipment

Summer

Raingear that works
Windgear
Wool or fleece pants
Shorts
Light longjohns
Wool shirt
Jacket
Baseball cap
Gloves
Extra socks
Wool or pile hat
Hiking boots
Stream-crossing footwear
Sunscreen
Mosquito repellent
Whistle
Large plastic bag
Lighter, matches
Map, compass
Aerosol bear repellent
Moleskin/Spenco 2nd skin

Ace bandage
Surgical tape
Aspirin
Gauze
Anti-bacterial ointment
4" x 4" pads, band-aids
Wire
Vice grips or pliers
Utility cord
Sewing kit
Tent
Sleeping pad
Sleeping bag
Backpack cover
Cook pot
Stove (fires not allowed)
Fuel bottle
Walking stick or ice axe
Water bottles (not canteens)
FOOD

Additional for Glaciers

Ice axe
Gaitors
Climbing boots
Slings, carabiners
Rappel device
Belay device
Rope
Wands
Mittens
Crampons
Seat Harness
Ice screw(s)
Pulleys
Prussiks/ascenders
Glacier glasses/cream
If snow on glacier:
Picket
Skis or snowshoes

Winter

Windgear
Wool/fleece pants
Wool/fleece shirt
Longjohns
Down jacket
Wool/fleece hat
Face mask
Mittens
Double boots
Avalanche beacon
Shovel
Lighter
Headlamp

First aid kit
Repair kit
Tent (or snow shelters)
Sleeping bag
Sleeping pad
Large cook pot
Stove
Windscreen for stove
Fuel bottle
Thermos
Gaitors
Thermometer
Skis or snowshoes

Approved by MCA Board, February 1995

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.
4. Leaders on trips which may involve any avalanche-prone terrain must have passed formal avalanche training approved by the Hiking and Climbing Committee.
5. Leaders on trips which involve any hazardous stream crossings must have either formal training in safe stream crossing methods or have extensive experience crossing streams.

Leader Guidelines

1. Must follow the general rules for MCA Sanctioned Trips.
2. Must have a sign-up sheet with all participants' names on it.
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 MCA Board, February 1995



Mountaineering Club of Alaska, Inc.

Membership Application

The Mountaineering Club of Alaska (MCA) was formed in 1958 to promote the enjoyment of hiking and climbing in Alaska and the exploration of its mountains. We welcome anyone who wishes to become a member.

Participate and Learn The MCA conducts scheduled hikes and climbs led by experienced club members, technical mountaineering and climbing courses, and other instruction throughout the year. The club maintains eight mountain huts in the nearby Chugach and Talkeetna Mountains. The MCA/Vin Hoeman Library, located upstairs in Alaska Mountaineering and Hiking on Spenard Road, contains hundreds of books, periodicals, bound volumes of Scree, and a 'peak file' with information on local climbs. The club also loans climbing gear to members, including ice axes, helmets, crampons, snowshoes and avalanche beacons.

Stay Informed The MCA publishes a monthly newsletter, Scree, and sends it to all members. The Scree contains the minutes of general meetings, announcements of upcoming events, the trip schedule and trip reports written by club members. A monthly meeting and presentation is held on the third Wednesday of each month at 7:30 P.M. in the basement of the Pioneer Schoolhouse (corner of 3rd and Eagle Streets, downtown Anchorage). Special events or changes to the meeting will be noted in *Scree*.

- **Complete both parts of this form** if you intend to participate in club-sponsored trips, or visit an MCA hut.
- Please make checks payable to Mountaineering Club of Alaska.
- Dues are \$10.00 for an individual or \$15.00 for a family (one Scree per family).
- Membership is for one calendar year, through the 31st of December. Memberships paid after October 1st are good through the following year.
- If applying by mail, please include a self-addressed envelope for your membership card which is required to participate on club trips and training. Or you may pick it up at any monthly meeting.

Our address is: MCA
Box 102037
Anchorage, Ak 99510

NEW	<input type="checkbox"/>	DATE	
RENEWAL	<input type="checkbox"/>	NAME	
INDIVIDUAL(\$10)	<input type="checkbox"/>	FAMILY	
FAMILY(\$15)	<input type="checkbox"/>	MEMBERS	
MAILING ADDRESS FOR SCREE			
STREET or PO BOX			
CITY/STATE/ZIP			
TELEPHONE			
Join a committee?	<input type="checkbox"/>	Hiking & Climbing, Parks, Equipment, Training, Library, Other	
Lead a trip?	<input type="checkbox"/>	Location: _____ Date _____	
COMMENTS _____			

Paid: ☐ \$10 ☐ \$15 on Date: ____/____/____
☐ Cash or Check Number: _____

Membership Card Issued for Year: _____. ☐
Address added to Mailing List ☐

RELEASE OF LIABILITY — READ CAREFULLY

I, _____ (print name), am aware that mountaineering sports (including hiking; backpacking; rock, snow, and ice climbing; mountaineering; skiing; and ski mountaineering) are hazardous activities. I wish to participate and/or receive instruction in these activities with the Mountaineering Club of Alaska, Inc. ("MCA") I recognize that these activities involve numerous risks, which include, by way of example and not limitation, falling while hiking, climbing, skiing or crossing rivers or glaciers; being struck by falling rock, ice or snow; avalanches; lightning; fire; hypothermia; frostbite; defective or malfunctioning equipment; and attack by insects or animals. I further recognize that the remoteness of the activities may preclude prompt medical care. I further recognize that risk of injury or death may be caused or enhanced by mistakes or negligence on the part of either my fellow participants or MCA officers, directors, guides, instructors, or trip leaders. I nevertheless agree to accept any and all risks of injury, death, or property damage that may occur in connection with any MCA activity, including use of MCA furnished equipment and use of MCA backcountry huts.

_____ (initial that you have read this paragraph)

GIVING UP MY LEGAL RIGHTS

By signing this Agreement, I agree to give up for myself and for my heirs all legal rights I may have against the MCA or my fellow participants in MCA activities. **I give up these legal rights regardless of whether the injury, death, or property damage results from mistakes or negligence on the part of either my fellow participants or the MCA.** (As used in this agreement, MCA means the Mountaineering Club of Alaska, Inc., and all of its officers, directors, guides, instructors and trip leaders.) I understand this agreement shall remain in effect until such time as I provide signed written notice of its revocation to the MCA.

_____ (initial that you have read this paragraph)

MY PROMISE NOT TO SUE

I agree that I will not sue, or otherwise make any claim against, the MCA or my fellow participants in MCA activities for injury, death, or property damage which occurs in the course of my participation or instruction in mountaineering sports.

_____ (initial that you have read this paragraph)

MY RELEASE OF LIABILITY

I also agree to release and discharge the MCA and my fellow participants in MCA activities from all actions, claims, or demands, both for myself and for my heirs, dependents, and/or personal representative, for injury, death, or property damage occurring in the course of my participation or instruction in mountaineering sports.

_____ (initial that you have read this paragraph)

MY PROMISE TO INDEMNIFY

I agree to pay all expenses, including attorney's fees and court costs, that the MCA may incur as a consequence of any legal action arising out of injury, death, or property damage suffered by me, or suffered by someone else as a result of my conduct.

_____ (initial that you have read this paragraph)

MY CONSENT TO MEDICAL TREATMENT

I consent to any hospital care or medical or surgical diagnosis or treatment which may be necessary as a result of my participation in activities with the MCA. I also understand and agree that I am solely responsible for all applicable charges for such medical treatment, including evacuation and/or rescue cost.

_____ (initial that you have read this paragraph)

I HAVE CAREFULLY READ THIS AGREEMENT AND FULLY UNDERSTAND ITS CONTENTS. I AM AWARE THAT THIS IS A BINDING, LEGAL AGREEMENT BETWEEN ME AND THE MCA AND I SIGN IT OF MY OWN FREE WILL.

Dated: _____ Signature: _____

Signature of Parent or Guardian (if under 19): _____

Mountaineering Club of Alaska

Officers

President Richard Baranow 694-1500
Vice-President Tom Choate 333-5309
Secretary Cory Hinds 277-2412
Treasurer Patty McPherson 563-4806

Board

Kirk Towner 344-5424
Shawn O'Donnell 333-9176
Dolly Lefever 243-7027
Wendy Sanem 694-0825
Bill Romberg 677-3993

Annual 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 fill out the club application found on the previous 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. The post office does not forward the newsletter.

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 my address: 1106 W. 54th Ave., Anchorage, AK 99518, or e-mailed to mca@alaska.net. Articles should be received by January 5 to be included in the January, 2000 issue.

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, 269-8828.

MAILING: richard baranow
HIKING and CLIMBING CHAIR: matt nedom, 278-3648
Web Page: <http://www.alaska.net/~mca>
Hot Line: 566-4MCA



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