



OCTOBER 2000

*A Publication of the Mountaineering Club of Alaska*

Volume 43 Issue 10

Box 102037, Anchorage, Alaska 99510

### ANNUAL MEETING

Wednesday

October 18, 7:30 pm

Pioneer Schoolhouse, 3rd & Eagle Streets

Downtown Anchorage

**Program: Traverse of the Brooks Range**  
with a Pack Raft, by Thor Tingy

**Plus: Election of Officers and Board**

### HIKING AND CLIMBING SCHEDULE

#### Oct 21 Blueberry Hill

Western Chugach. Explore the edge of the Twenty-mile drainage from sea level while taking in spectacular vistas of Turnagain Arm and the surrounding Chugach and Kenai mountains. Participants will meet at Carrs Huffman to carpool. Riders are expected to chip in for gas. Class D. Call trip leaders for details. Limited to 12 participants.

Leaders: Cory and Elena Hinds 248-6606

#### Oct 21-22 Nantina Point

Western Chugach. Accompany us on this rare gem of a climb in the Eagle River valley up the formidable SW face of Nantina Point, 6850 (False Kiliak). We will hike into the valley via the Old Iditarod Trail to mile 5 behind the Eagle River Nature Center, ascend the SW face and drop down the S face into the Icicle drainage to spend the evening. The following morning we will descend out of this drainage and then hike back. Light

weight alpine ascent with minimal bivy gear required. Participants must be in great physical condition and proficient in exposed alpine climbing/scrambling. Sign up in rope teams of two. Elevation gain 6200, distance 16 miles (8 miles \ Day One; 8 miles Day Two). Class E/Fifth Class. Limited to 6 participants. Call leader for details. Leader: Richard Baranow 694-1500

### TRAINING SCHEDULE

#### Oct 18 Leader Orientation Course

6:30 PM, Pioneer Schoolhouse. Intended for all MCA trip leaders, but particularly for club members who are interested in becoming trip leaders. MCA bylaws and policies regarding minimum qualifications for trip leaders and procedures for leading club-sanctioned trips will be covered, as well as tips and suggestions for leading safe and fun club outings. Training courses and trip leader packets will be distributed. This is the last one offered this year.

Contact: Bill Romberg 677-3993

## TRIP REPORTS

### Kenai Mountain Ridge Fest Moose Pass to Silvertip Creek

by Tim Kelley



If you like getting out of the valley floor and scrambling long mountain ridge routes, then the mountains of the northern Kenai Peninsula offer some excellent choices. The ridges that run north - south on either side of the Resurrection

Trail fit this bill. Further east, on the opposite side of the Seward Highway, another more rugged ridge route runs along the west side of the Johnson Trail. I figured that this 25 +/- mile ridge trek would be a challenging way to visit the peaks that lay between Moose Pass and Silvertip Creek. Selling this route idea to my inveterate mountain foray partners, Bill Spencer and Wiley Bland, was easy sell. And a trip was born.

We waited until late June to do this trip. This time of the year seems to work well for south to north Kenai ridge traveling. The south facing ridges are beginning to open up and expose rocks. The remaining south-facing snow is getting its summer-snow hardness. North slopes are still locked in winter but are usually set up for fast glissading or plunge-step descents.

We left one car at Silvertip Creek and then drove to the Trail Lake trailhead of the Johnson Trail. While driving through the Kenai Mountains we scanned the high ridges that we'd be traversing. We had the same thought that we usually do this time of year: "Damn! There sure is a lot of snow up there!"

Sun and a light breeze saw us off from the trailhead. We almost immediately left the Johnson Trail and began bushwhacking upward. For the next 2000 feet we traveled the typical South Central Alaskan sub-alpine smorgasbord of alders, dead spruce, devils clubs and cliff bands. During this section Bill mentioned that he'd never again gripe about Alaskan bushwhacking after climbing in Hawaii this spring. He says he's glad that in Alaska you don't get entangled in vines and have to crawl like a frog over giant ferns.

A long snow gully took us to the 4400-foot ridgeline near the Moose benchmark. The day was mostly clear, but there was no hiding from the winds. We would end up coping with gusts to 40 mph for most of the trip. Looking north to the summit of Caboose Peak we were impressed by the size of the billowing cornices on the leeward side of the ridge. Realizing that it would be easy to take an air walk in this neighborhood, we kept to the exposed rock of the ridgeline on our way up this snow covered 4950-foot peak. Not much time was spent at the summit due to the strong, chilling wind. We didn't find a cairn on the summit so we quickly made one and began our descent north and on to Tender Mountain. On the descent we had a minor wakeup call when I set loose a small snow slough avalanche.

The long gradual ridge up Tender went easily. On top of this 4760-foot peak we found a cairn. From here we descended north towards the cirque depression at the base of the next peak. A 1000-foot climb took us up the south ridge of this prominent 5010-foot peak. On the summit we found a cairn and a register left in 1969 by Dub and Harry Bludworth. The note in the register said:

5010 The Caboos (sic)  
July 27, 1969  
Came over from Tender  
Going to El Tercero 5400  
Dub and Harry Bludworth

This register note shed some confusion on mountain names in this area. Steve Gruhn researched the Vin Hoeman MCA library and found a map and Greg Higgin's peak index with references to these railroad theme mountains. From south to north the peaks were referenced as Caboose Peak (4950), Tender Mountain (4760) and Locomotive Mountain (5450 - the "5400" peak referenced in the Bludworth note). The fact that Harry and Bud had the name Caboos (sic) in the register on this unnamed peak seems odd. A caboose is not thought of between the tender car and the locomotive. Maybe Harry and Bud will read this trip report and shed some light on this find. Maybe the map and index in the MCA library is wrong? Maybe the register entry was mistaken?

From the top of Peak 5010 we staggered into the wind and found another cairn on the true 5050 summit of this peak. 'El Tercero' is Spanish for 'the third'. So Locomotive Mountain must



have been the third peak of the Bludworth's trip. We too set off to Locomotive Mountain, a mile snow slog to the north. As we expected an old cairn was found on top of this peak. In the col to the north of this peak we found another cairn. Strangely this cairn had rocks piled on disintegrating corduroy and denim clothing. Looks like someone a few decades ago was having their problems in this neighborhood!

From the col we climbed north to a 5250-foot peak. This peak's abrupt north face drops down to Stormy Creek. Turning east, straight into the wind, we worked the narrow ridge to the 4950-foot peak 2 miles distant. No cairns were found on either of these last two peaks. We headed east for a bit from the summit and then dropped into the cirque that lead to the 3649-foot lake. Here we scouted out a wind protected bivy site on the ridge to the west of the lake.

As Wiley and I were rolling out our bivy sacks on the tundra in the lee of a rock outcrop we noticed that Bill was outclassing us on this trip. Bill had brought a bivy tent, or as he says: "a pocket hotel." I propped my jacket up on ski poles to keep the light rain off my face as the surly sky pouted. While munching an old dry bagel I was envious of Bill as I listened to him call room service from his comfortable five star abode.

The weather the next day was more of the same: high overcast and windy with sprinkles. We slung on our packs and coaxed stiff legs to start the scramble to the 4850-foot peak to the northeast of the lake (Section 9). Slow going up rotten rock got us to the summit and a view of what was to come. The trick ahead was getting into the next drainage to the north. To avoid the sheer north faces of this ridge we dropped east to the 4000-foot level of the ridge, into the cirque and then climbed steep snow to the 4080-foot col. Here we lucked out. A rock ramp near the col led to a steep couloir that offered a descent route. As we concentrated on climbing safely into and down the snow chute, we didn't notice what was above us. When we realized that a Winnebago size cornice was drooping from the ridge directly above us our pace quickened.

From the Timberline-Groundhog Creek divide we hiked up another 4850-foot peak to the west. We left a cairn on this peak as well as the previous one. From the summit we worked the ridge north toward the 4451-foot peak on the west side of the Lynx Creek drainage. But eventu-

ally the ridge turned to a knife-edge with sketchy cornices mushrooming off the west side. We decided to retreat.

When we got back to the head of Lynx Creek we found a steep gully that dropped into the upper cirque of the valley. Bill must have been influenced by spirits of the old-time miners that used to work Lynx Creek. He showed us the miner's method of testing a slope for avalanche hazards. Before entering the gully you first trundle several 2 to 3 hundred pound boulders down it to see if anything lets loose. Having tested the chute we jumped in and began plunge-step running and glissading down. Bill again channeled a spiritual connection to the valley's former residents. By jumping on and riding a large flat rock that was sliding down the gully he demonstrated how the old-time miners, and Tanaina Indians, used to snowboard.

By working snowfields, avalanche chutes and hemlock stands we made it to the end of the Lynx Creek mining road. Here we found an old metal covered cabin that was mighty rank inside. A logbook had record of bear hunters being there a couple of years before. Due to the river crossings necessary to get to this location, I don't imagine much traffic to this area is seen. The mining road made easy going to Bench Creek.

The map shows the mining road making one crossing over Center Creek. But since the map was made either the trail, the river courses or both have moved. Now there are three major swift water crossings. As Bill's legs are longer than Wiley's or mine, we let him test the water depth ahead of us. When we'd see Bill get to his chest and start swimming, we'd know that it was best to keep heading upstream in search of a shallower route. Once across Bench and Center Creeks we worked our way through the woods to Granite Creek for the last two stream crossings.

Feeling guilty about letting Bill test the previous fords I decided to lead across Granite Creek. 15 feet from the opposite bank everything was fine, only thigh deep. One more step and the bottom disappeared. Instantly I was swimming, grabbing onto willows and trying to get out of the sub 40-degree current. Looking back I could see Wiley and Bill heading upstream. Veto on Tim's route!

Splashing out of the last crossing into the Granite Creek campground we then hiked out to



the Seward Highway. While hiking the new bike trail towards our vehicle at Silvertip Creek a rush of humanity roared by on the highway. Contemplating life, between slapping mosquitoes and feeling how trashed my feet were, I realized that in some ways not much has changed in the northern Kenai Mountains since the gold rush days. Since the first trails were built most people were focused on getting through this area as fast as they could. Their destinations were somewhere else. 99.9 percent of the travelers had no reason or desire to leave the trail then, or the road today, and explore the high regions of this area. This mindset leaves the small remainder of Kenai Mountain visitors with a rugged, private and unique group of Alaskan peaks to explore. After 2 great days of hiking and climbing in these mountains, I was glad to be one of this minority.

Peaks crossed on this traverse (all peaks on Seward C-7 quad):

Caboose Peak (4950) T5N, R1W, S10  
Tender Mountain (4760) T5N, R1W, S2  
Unnamed (5050) T6N, R1W, S36  
Locomotive Mountain (5450) T6N, R1W, S25  
Unnamed (5250) T6N, R1E, S19  
Unnamed (4950) T6N, R1E, S20  
Unnamed (4850) T6N, R1E, S9  
Unnamed (4850) T6N, R1E, S5

## Truuli Peak

by Wayne Todd



In glass calm water on a sunny Friday afternoon, August 11<sup>th</sup>, my brother ferried Kathy Still and myself across Tustumena Lake to Clear Creek. On Gary's boat we hauled a canoe, which was to be our return transportation. The short paddle to shore and up clear creek in the canoe seemed tropical with the Goldeneyes, numerous bright red spawning salmon and abundance of insects and vegetation.

After stashing the canoe and a bucket of staples we headed upstream with 5-day packs in the search of a supposed trail. We found a flagged trail for a short while but lost it and ended up ascending on the left side of the creek. The bushwhacking that ensued was primarily through Rusty Menziesia, which whilst not as stout as alders tends to be more vine like which culmi-

nates in the foot entwining and downing of a hiker. Consequently, 6 hours and 1½ miles later we were camped by a small lake, mentally and physically drained.

On the way in we encountered a very large black bear, which was dispersed by some prolific yelling and branch throwing. While making dinner that night we observed a cow moose watching us from a ridge above camp. The moose seemed perplexed that we were camped by its lake and remained there for some hours.

The next day dawned beautiful and we decided to push on toward Truuli Peak, other options were discussed. We humped our packs over Tustumena Peak leaving brush line behind. By now we had expansive views of Tustumena Glacier and Lake, and the myriad of peaks rising from the Harding Ice field. We camped just below Tustumena peak having traveled 3 miles in 3 ½ hours with a 3000-foot gain. From our tent site a curious yearling caribou visited us numerous times and eventually showed up with a cow caribou.

We were up before 7 the next morning under clear blue skies, as we knew we'd have a long day consisting of 17 miles, almost 7000 feet of gain and unknown terrain. We hiked over Peak 4450 and then dropped to a saddle below the start of the ridge to Truuli. On the ascent of this moderately steep section we saw a mountain goat and a herd of about 30 caribou. Topping out on this section opened up views of Truuli, Chernoff and Tustumena Glaciers and many peaks surrounding the glaciers. The ridgeline looked excellent for traveling from here although we had many more miles to travel with a number of ups and downs plus a questionable section. We noticed a weather front moving in from the NW (directly behind us) about this time. We were traveling much faster than previous days as we now had daypacks and the ridge was great hiking. From one rise we saw a caribou and calf, kicking up snow as they ran.

Some while later we encountered the unknown section which first involved scrambling on crappy and loose rock over exposed slopes on the right. Then it entailed scrambling on crappy rock with exposure to the left, rope work upwards and then completed with a traverse to the left. This section was similar to the normal route on Beelzebub peak, except longer and slightly harder.



As we approached Truuli Peak, the weather moved in from behind and down from above. About ½ hour from the summit we encountered high winds. We made the flattish summit a quarter past four just as visibility dropped to 40 yards and rain joined the wind. We found a fairly calm and reasonably pleasant spot on the NE side of the summit for a deserved break. We built a cairn, left a register and headed back at a quarter to five knowing it was going to be a long night, questioning our decision to continue knowing the weather was going bad, and wondering about the technical section which now had wet rock. Even on the more level slopes the rocks were now slick from the rain.

The distance back to the crux spot seemed to have doubled in the foul weather and poor visibility. It was 8ish by the time we made it there and, as we were wet, became cold whenever stopped. Because the crappy rock with exposure was now wet and slick we decided not to try and reverse our ascent route. We had scoped out a few alternatives on the way in as we thought the visibility might be reduced on the exodus. We at first dropped a short distance down the N ridge, tried to cut across and then up through the bad section but this seemed more dangerous than our earlier route so we retreated back to the ridge.

We then decided to drop a good distance down the N ridge, access and cross a glacier and then re-ascent our exit ridge, bypassing the exposed section. Visibility was still poor, but we remembered it looked do-able at the right spot earlier in the day. After continually peering into the mist and clouds only to find steep cliffs, we came upon a reasonable section to descend. I commented, "It sure would be nice to see," and by the time we had roped-up the clouds abated enough so we could see the entire glacier revealing the bergschrund and open crevasses. We hurriedly negotiated the obstacles, crossed the small glacier and returned to the rock and clouds on the other side. We traversed right then ascended a gully hoping not to get cliffed out. Our gully went well and before 10:00 P.M. we found ourselves back on the ridge heading NW.

We were gaining confidence in our follow-the-ridge route, especially after passing a rock cross which we recognized. However, thoughts of a cold dark night loomed in our thoughts. While descending a steeper ridge, I did another compass bearing and realized we were off course. We regained the ridge crest and began descending vaguely familiar-looking 40-degree slopes, boot-

glissading much of it. We thirstily drank water from streams below the snowfield under dusky light.

We re-arranged clothing at the bottom of this section, now about 11:00 P.M., relieved that even if benighted we didn't have any more exposure to deal with. The clouds then suddenly dispersed and we could now see the slope that we'd just descended. With hope that we might yet make the tent we headed with determination around 4450 as stars began to appear. Despite the minimal light we knew the direction to go as we were camped just below Tustumena Peak and we could see its backlit outline. We did stumble occasionally on a tussock or rock. The few snow slopes made for good travel as they had more consistent footing and offered improved visibility. We passed by the lakes, began the gradual ascent back to the pass thinking 'we're gonna make it,' despite the dark, when suddenly we were backlit as if by a floodlight. We turned cautiously to see the full moon just rising over the ridge we recently descended, so bright it cast shadows of our bodies on the ground.

We continued on, now able to see fairly well and enjoying the beautiful night from our numbed minds and bodies. The tent sure hadn't seemed that far up the pass though. A shooting star streaked seemingly just beyond the pass. There was the tent, a quarter to one, we had made it!

We slept in the next morning needing the rest and anticipating the brush journey out. We headed out before noon traveling N to avoid some of the perpendicular ridges. The traveling was excellent in the alpine, even with full packs, and the views supreme. Just after startling a small herd of caribou at close range we found one of those magical places consisting of a cornucopia of purple (dwarf fireweed), yellow and blue flowers with a clear stream with pools and lush green moss nearby all under the warm sun. Descending from here saw a wolf heading upland and we encountered our first brush.

From a high vantage point we spied a brush-free looking ridge about a mile distant running parallel to our initial ascent ridge. We so wanted to avoid our brush ascent that we blindly didn't see what lay between the ridge and ourselves. To brief the next 3 hours, we did a hell-of-a-lot of bush whacking involving ascending and descending steep sub ridges all to avoid some bushwhacking. The map does not accurately



portray what's out there for elevation gain and loss. We somewhat played connect-the-dots of lakes on this part.

Our 'golden ridge' route was nice for a ½ mile or so but then we were plunged back into brush equal to and many times much worse than our ascent route. About 6:00 P.M. I made a cell phone call to Gary to find out if he could pick us up in his boat (technology can be good). He said yes but it would be at least 8:00 P.M., which would be great as we'd be at least over that long bushwhacking. The lake looked calm and the skies looked clear at this time. We resumed our whacking with new fervor as we now thought we'd have a boat ride out.

One of my favorite ensuing whacking sections was in devil's club over my head, with the ground collapsing under my feet causing falls onto years of dead devil's club and undergrowth with nothing to grab but devil's club. Even defoliating the devil's club with a stick led to thorns in the legs, head, butt and hands. I've since removed about 30 thorns from my right hand. Or there was the section where...

A devil's club section growing below downed timber, a flat field of tall grass, a stand of trees, is that the sound of water lapping on a shore? Yes, finally the beautiful lake at a quarter to 8. A short hike to Clear Creek and we were at the canoe and our stache, mmmm-freshwater and chocolate pudding, two actually. And we were soon to be rescued, although that storm cloud off to the W didn't look good.

8:30, 9:00, 9:30, no boat, winds were suddenly strong off lake, the storm clouds were moving in and Tustumena Lake was looking a little rough. We resigned ourselves to being there a few days so we pulled the canoe onshore, tied it off, found a tent site and began clearing it when Kathy exclaimed "a boat!" Sure as heck, there he was.

We hurriedly refloated the canoe, stored gear and reviewed our procedure for approaching the anchored boat in the waves. After a brief grounding on the creek outlet, we stroked hard into the waves and toward the boat. Gary tied off the canoe and unloaded our gear. We boarded and then loaded the canoe on top of the boat. Gary's wife Sue, and their daughter Rachel, had come along to assist and Sue was quite seasick.

We headed NW across the lake into increasingly turbulent waters. Gary tried full throttle through the swells but the bow slamming into each new wake was too much so he throttled down. The lake became more tumultuous with 6-foot swells coming from the N and short choppy waves with crests close together coming from variable directions. Water sprayed into the back of the boat and poured through the cabin windows. The boat plowed on and we either sat down or held onto firm objects with both hands. A ghostly full moon, partly obscured by clouds, had risen shortly after we headed across the lake.

After an hour and a half of this we tucked in behind Caribou Island to sneak through a channel there to lessen our travel distance and reduce our exposure to the rough water. This channel is dry in the spring and really meant for passage of smaller boats. When the depth finder showed two feet we stopped, raised the engine and tried paddling but even here it was too windy. Gary even tried hopping overboard to pull the boat but that was also unsuccessful. He resumed engine power and managed to make it through without hitting bottom. We reentered the rough water on Tustumena Lake. I held a spotlight over the top of the boat to assist in locating the channel to Upper Kaslof River and the boat landing. The blackness of shoreline was getting closer. Our captain was right on and even in darkness we could discern the river outlet.

Minutes later we were zipping down river on calmer waters and then pulling up to the boat launch, now well after midnight. It was so windy even there, inland and surrounded by tall trees that holding the bowline was difficult. But we were now safe and so concluded another adventure and learning experience in the wilds of Alaska.

(Many thanks to Gary, Sue and Rachel and others).



### Candyland

There are no new changes from last winter season regarding the ice climbing permits for Candyland. Permits can be obtained at the ARRC Headquarters, 327 West Ship Creek Ave, 3rd floor, reception desk for the Real Estate Dept., during the regular business hours 8AM - 5PM. For more info call 265-2670.



## MINUTES

### SEPTEMBER MEETING

The meeting was held downstairs at the Pioneer School House. There were a total of approximately 100 people in attendance. A total of 13 new members or visitors introduced themselves.

#### TREASURER

Treasurer **Patty** provided a brief update on the budget: revenues \$9,244, expenditures \$12,542, and approximately \$9,400 in reserves. Purchases this year have included T-shirts, ropes, and helmets.

#### COMMITTEE REPORTS

##### *Hiking and Climbing*

Upcoming trips are posted in the *Scree* and on the web page. Several new trips were announced and signup sheets were provided.

##### *Huts*

Bomber Hut: **Mark Miraglia** has wing nuts for the bear protection on the window, and a door stop to seal the door. Please contact Mark and carry this stuff in if you head to this hut.

Eklutna Hut: The Chugach State Park advisory board will hold a meeting at the hut. It has been decided that the hut will not be open to the public this winter. The plan is for the hut to be open in March.

People heading in to any club huts are encouraged to check the web page for list of any supplies that need to be brought in.

##### *Geographic Names*

Chairman **Tom Choate** encouraged members to check out the new Chugach State Park map and get him any corrections.

##### *Training*

Chairman **Steve Parry** announced that the club will offer a Basic Mountaineering School. Instructors are needed to teach coursework and/or logistics planning.

##### *Parks Advisory*

Chairman **Scott Bailey** had the following announcements: The Chugach State Park management plan is currently under review; check the web site. The Glacier Ranger District is considering heli-skiing. Getting close on decision on wilderness anchors.

##### *Trail Maintenance Committee*

This ad-hoc committee is newly formed. **Cory Hinds** announced that the club will be submitting an application for grant money to maintain the upper portion of the Gold Mint trail. Members who use the trail were encouraged to sign a letter in support of the planned maintenance to document community support. Members were also encouraged to sign up to help with the maintenance.

#### OLD BUSINESS

**T-Shirts** for sale: \$10, \$15, and \$20 models.

Photos for club **photo contest**: get to Kirk via P.O. box by end of month.

#### NEW BUSINESS

Next month's meeting will be **elections**; nominations for officers/board positions are encouraged.

**Ice Climbing Class** – mandatory meeting Wed. September 27<sup>th</sup>. Line up rental gear now.

#### ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Jack Tackle** slide show Thursday September 28<sup>th</sup> at APU.

Technical **boots** for demo at Ice Climbing Class.

**Calgary Mountaineering Club** – hosts needed for February ice climbing in Valdez.

Hard-back books **for sale**.

Gear **for sale**.

**AAC** meeting Oct 19, at 7:00 P.M. at the Alaska Rock Gym

Chris Riggio presented an entertaining and inspiring slideshow of hiking the Pacific Crest Trail.

Respectfully submitted,  
Cory Hinds



## ADZE



### *Swap Site*

There is a new (free) gear swap web page in Anchorage at:

<http://www.akoutdoorgear.com/AKoutdoorGear/index.asp>

It's a nice simple site and a place to find reach a wider audience and other types of outdoor gear.

### *Wanted*

Used Plastic Koflach boots, Arctic Expe (pref) or Degree. One or two pairs, size 8.5 and 9. Also wanted, flexible crampon in good condition. Thanx.

Travis, 346-2466

### *For Sale*

Koflach Arctic Expe Mountaineering Boots. Excellent condition, size US 6. \$175.00.

Merry, 260-1966 or  
[Ratsmotel@Hotmail.com](mailto:Ratsmotel@Hotmail.com)

## BOARD MEETINGS

(Barnes & Noble)

September 19

The following members attended the meeting: Richard Baranow, Patty McPherson, Tom Choate, Kirk Towner, Bill Romberg, Dolly Lefever, Cory Hinds, and Mark Miraglia. The following was discussed:

### *Ice Climbing Class*

The board reviewed handouts with instructor and participant rules. The mandatory check-in meeting was planned. New ropes and helmets are on the way. Announcements for the general meeting were prepared.

### *Trails*

Cory and Tom are working on the State of Alaska, Recreational Trails Grant for brushing, erosion control, and construction of boardwalks for the upper Gold Mint Trail.

### *Elections*

Nominations for officers and board members are encouraged.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Cory Hinds

## MCA Web Page Tips

### Change of Address

The MCA web page is located at <http://mcak.org>. All MCA members are entered in the club database in order to generate mailing labels. You do not need to be a member to access the site, but you do need to be a current or past member to change your Scree address. Last time I covered how to download Screens. To change your address:

1. Click on the Scree icon, or the link to 'Change of Address.'
2. Find and click the New Address icon.
3. Enter your name as it normally appears on your Scree label, and your password, then click 'GetChange of Address Form.'
4. First and Last Name are shown, but cannot be changed. To change them, you will need to contact the Treasurer.
5. Required items are in bold.
6. You may also permit your address/phone information to be shareable with other members (The MCA Roster). Just toggle your preference.
7. Click submit.

More on the MCA Roster next time....

Good luck.

[webmaster@mcak.org](mailto:webmaster@mcak.org)

## WEB CHAT



[denverpost.com](http://denverpost.com):

Sept. 16, 2000 - Shattering an increasingly assaulted record, a self-described bum on Thursday night descended from the summit of Longs Peak to claim the speed title for climbing all of the state's 14,000-foot peaks.

Ted E. Keizer, 29, scaled 55 peaks in 10 days, 20 hours and 26 minutes, besting by nearly two full days a self-reported record set by Ricky Denesik earlier this summer. He joins elite endurance athlete Danelle Ballengee of Dillon, who earlier in the summer set the women's record of 14 days, 14 hours and 49 minutes.

The "Fourteener Record" first was established when Cleve McCarthy climbed the then-recognized 52 14,000-foot peaks in 52 days. Over the years, the fourteener list has been expanded to 55 peaks - the new ones were previously considered subsidiary points.

Keizer spent four years planning the assault and the last two scouting the routes - about 200 total ascents.



## 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: MCA Board, February 15, 2000

## 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 trip leader can require special equipment and refuse participation to any person that is ill-prepared (e.g. inappropriate clothing/gear).
4. 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.
5. The trip leader has the authority to split the group (fast and slow), dependent upon current conditions. However, he/she must appoint a qualified co-leader to lead the second group using the guidelines specified in the current Trip Leader Responsibilities.
6. 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.
7. 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.
8. 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.
9. 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 trail-less areas or State/National Parks
10. 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: MCA Board, February 15, 2000

## Equipment

### Summer

Rain gear that works	Mosquito repellent
Wind gear	Whistle
Wool or fleece pants	Large plastic bag
Shorts	Lighter, matches
Light long johns	Map, compass
Wool shirt	Aerosol bear repellent (if desired)
Jacket	Moleskin/Spenco 2nd skin
Baseball cap	Ace bandage
Gloves	Surgical tape
Extra socks	Aspirin
Wool or pile hat	Gauze
Hiking boots	Anti-bacterial ointment
Stream-crossing footwear	4" x 4" pads, Band-Aids
Sunscreen	Wire



Vice grips or pliers	If snow on glacier:
Utility cord	Picket
Sewing kit	Skis or snowshoes
Tent	
Sleeping pad and bag	<u>Winter</u>
Backpack cover	Wind gear
Cook pot	Wool/fleece pants, shift
Stove (fires not allowed)	Long johns
Fuel bottle	Down jacket
Walking stick or ice axe	Wool/fleece hat
Water bottles (not canteens)	Face mask
FOOD	Mittens
	Double boots
<u>Additional for Glaciers</u>	Avalanche beacon
Ice axe	Shovel
Gaitors	Lighter
Climbing boots	Headlamp
Slings, carabiners	First aid kit
Rappel device	Repair kit
Rope	Tent (or snow shelters)
Wands	Sleeping bag and pad
Mittens	Large cook pot
Crampons	Stove
Seat Harness	Windscreen for stove
Ice screw(s)	Fuel bottle
Pulleys	Thermos
Prussiks/ascenders	Gaitors
Glacier glasses/cream	Skis or snowshoes

### 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, at a minimum, be currently certified in Standard First Aid and Adult CPR/Basic Life Support (BLS).
4. Must attend an MCA Trip Leader Orientation course once every five years.
5. 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.
6. Leaders on trips of Class E or higher must have served as a co-leader with an approved MCA trip leader on at least one trip of the same classification or higher, or have equivalent experience acceptable to the Hiking and Climbing Committee. Persons with technical climbing experience wishing to waive this requirement must provide a letter to the Hiking and Climbing Committee outlining their climbing/guiding experience, training, and at least one personal reference.
7. Leaders on trips that may involve any avalanche-prone terrain must have completed formal training in avalanche hazard recognition and victim search as approved by the Hiking and Climbing Committee.
8. Leaders on trips that involve any hazardous stream crossings must have either formal training in safe stream crossing methods or have extensive experience crossing streams.

### Trip Leader Responsibilities

1. The leader must get approval of the proposed trip from the H&C Committee prior to advertising the trip.
2. Per MCA by-laws, club trips must be advertised in a club publication. In other words, the MCA membership must be informed of the trip. The H&C committee must approve the club trip about 35 days before the trip so that the H&C chair can forward the approved trip list to the editor of the Scree.
3. Important: If a H&CC approved trip cannot be planned a month in advance, the organizer may announce the trip as a personal trip at the next club meeting when the MCA president asks for announcements. Anyone may advertise a personal trip at the general membership meeting, which is an important service the club offers to all members - to help bring hikers and climbers together. The value of a club sanctioned trip is it offers the membership a trip leader that has been approved by the H&CC as a qualified leader.
4. The leader is responsible for providing and maintaining the trip sign-up sheets at monthly meetings. Coordinate with the H&CC Chair if unable to make the monthly meeting prior to the trip.
5. The leader should describe their proposed trip at club meetings.
6. The leader should contact members that have signed up for the trip to discuss the details of the trip, including proposed route, required gear, hazards, and meeting arrangements.
7. The leader must leave a trip roster containing a brief description of the proposed route and the names and telephone numbers of participants with a responsible person that will be able to contact a H&C Committee member (names and telephone numbers are on the sign-up sheet) in case of an emergency or delayed return.
8. The leader should brief trip members on the general rules for MCA sanctioned trips using the Trip Leader Checklist. If members already know each other and have been on previous trips, not much may need to be said. If new members are on the trip, use the checklist.
9. For safety and liability reasons, the leader must follow the general rules for MCA sanctioned trips as published in the MCA policies.
10. After the trip, the leader is encouraged to provide a trip report (over the phone or in writing) to the H&CC. This is just "how did the trip go" and who participated. It also serves as a means to let the H&C Committee know the trip members returned safely.

Other documents trip leaders should consult:

1. MCA Club Sanctioned Trips policy, sections on: trip classifications, general rules, leader qualifications, and recommended gear).
2. Trip Leader Checklist

Approved: MCA Board, February 15, 2000



# 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; failure of a belay, being struck by climbing equipment or 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 and my fellow participants in MCA activities (except to the extent that insurance coverage for any claim is provided by an automobile insurance policy or related excess insurance policy). **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 or my fellow participants in MCA activities may incur as a consequence of any legal action arising out of injury, death, or property damage suffered by me.

\_\_\_\_\_ (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 CONTENT. I AM AWARE THAT THIS IS A BINDING, LEGAL AGREEMENT BETWEEN ME AND THE MCA. 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	694-6867
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 [willy@mcak.org](mailto:willy@mcak.org). Articles should be received by October 27th to be included in the November 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, 561-7900.

MAILING: richard baranow, bill romberg  
HIKING/CLIMBING CHAIRS: matt nedom, 278-3648, paul templeton, 688-2551  
Web Page: <http://www.mcak.org> (go here to change your address)  
Hot Line: 566-4MCA (kristen schultz, 694-5788 to make updates)



Scree printed by BP Exploration

Mountaineering Club of Alaska  
Box 102037  
Anchorage, Alaska 99510

BULK RATE  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
PERMIT NO. 127  
ANCHORAGE, AK.