



NOVEMBER 2000 *A Publication of the Mountaineering Club of Alaska* Volume 43 Issue 11
Box 102037, Anchorage, Alaska 99510

NOVEMBER MEETING

Wednesday

November 15, 7:30 pm

Pioneer Schoolhouse, 3rd & Eagle Streets
Downtown Anchorage

Program: **Island Peak**, in the Everest region, will be
the subject of a slide presentation by Steve Parry.

HIKING AND CLIMBING SCHEDULE

Dec 3 Rendezvous Peak

Class A. Western Chugach. A leisurely snow shoe trip up the Rendezvous Pass from the Alpenglow ski area parking lot and on to the summit of Rendezvous peak. Conditions permitting we will explore along the ridge line to the south overlooking the Ship Creek valley and return via Ship Creek valley. Snowshoes and winter hiking gear required. Calltrip leader for details.
Leader: Ted Angstadt 333-3896

Dec 9-10 McKinley Pinnacles Ski Trip

Class B. Overnight ski trip to McKinley Pinnacles off Parks Hwy. Leave early Sat, climb/ski 4+ miles to lake (2000+ ft elevation gain), camp below Pinnacles, ski out on Sunday. Winter camping experience required. Must bring backcountry skis/skins, avalanche beacon & probe, snow shovel, headlamp, and sufficient gear to spend the night in sub-zero temps.
Leader: Bill Romberg 677-3993

Dec 16 Flattop Sleepout

Class C. Annual Solstice sleepout. Overnight gig. Bring winter overnight gear (shelter, shovel, avalanche beacon, headlamp, ice axe, etc.) Be prepared for snowy, gusty weather. No leader. Contact Bill Romberg 677-3993 for more info.

Jan 14-15 Lower Russian Lake Barber Cabin

Class A. We will cross-country ski to the Barber cabin and spend Sunday night at the cabin returning on Monday, Martin Luther King day. Participants will share the cabin rental and riders are expected to chip in for gas. Limited to 6 participants.
Leader: Ted Angstadt 333-3896

TRIP REPORTS

More Kenai Mountain Trips

by Tim Kelley



n July 2nd I set out to climb the two peaks on the west side of Lynx Creek that we had intended to visit, but did not climb in our ridge traverse the previous week. I parked at the Seward Highway pull-off where the Silvertip Creek mining road

starts. Climbing up to snow line was fairly easy through mature hemlock stands. Above tree line I followed the ridge to the east of Silvertip Creek, which tops out at the 4650 peak at the end of the valley (Seward C-7, T7N, R1E, S19). I then continued on to the slightly lower summit to the southwest and began working the ridge towards the 4451 peak a mile away. As with the week before, a knife-edge ridge and fragile cornices signaled that I'd better put my tail between my legs and head back. I found no cairns on either summits, and built cairns on both. This peak is an easy ascent, so it most likely had been visited by hunters before.

During our late June ridge traverse we often had views of a prominent and rugged peak to the east of us and to the southwest of Johnson Lake. This peak has the Marla benchmark on its summit. Steve Gruhn's MCA library research discovered that this peak had been given a name: Bystander Peak (Seward C-7, T6N, R1E, S29). On July 15th I set out from the north trailhead of the Johnson Trail to climb this peak. While mountain biking the trail I was able to pull off a good over-the-bars crash. I hit hard and ended up with a bloody nose and for some reason a bad sore throat. The sore throat lasted for over a week. Strange!

Eleven miles in I ditched my bike ½ mile past the end of Johnson Lake. The climb started with an immediate bushwhack through riparian willow thickets, across beaver dams and a ford of Johnson Creek. Upon breaking out of the willows and gaining open forest I stumbled on a small, old log cabin. A logbook inside indicated that it had been used the previous winter. As I was leaving the cabin I jumped when I realized I was just about to step in a wolf-sized leg hold trap. Further inspection revealed that the trap was sprung. But it got my attention anyway.

From the cabin I bushwhacked to a snow bridge over the creek in Section 21 at the 2000-foot level. From here I began the scramble up the north ridge. I choose the north ridge after viewing it in June during our traverse. The ridge is long, narrow and snow laden off the west side. A little above the 4000-foot level I entered the clouds and rain. I hurried the pace so I might get off the mountain before the weather got any worse. From the map one would assume that the Marla benchmark is on the highest point of this peak. But that's not the case. The benchmark is 100 yards south of the summit. It was set at a point that could be seen by surveyors from many points in the valley. There was not cairn on the true summit, which was 30 or 40 feet higher, so I left one there.

I descended the east side of the peak by zigzagging through cliff bands. Eventually I got to slopes of 6-foot high grass, crossed the creek and ran the trail back to my bike. The bike ride out was in the rain. But the Johnson Trail is some fun, semi-challenging mountain biking so it was an enjoyable way to end a 9 ½ hour peak bagging trip.

I ditched my bike in the same location on August 5th and headed east. After bushwhacking to tundra line I climbed up a 4050-foot peak to the southeast (Seward C-6, T6N, R1E, S27). On top I found remnants of an old, possibly turn of the century, cairn. The lichen growth on the cairn rocks indicated that it was much older than the cairn on Bystander Peak. The size of the cairn rocks also indicated that some tough miners probably built the cairn.

Looking at the map I figured I could work the ridge east to the next true peak, the 5450 footer in Section 30 (Seward C-6, T6N, R2E, S30). This was not the case. I ended up spending an extra couple of unplanned hours gully groping on the south flanks of this ridge. Eventually I made it to the snowfields at the 4500-foot level of this peak and kick stepped to the top. I made an attempt at the 5350 peak to the north, but decided it was too precarious to try alone. I exited the valley by running down the snowfields on the south side of the glacier that fills the top park of the valley. A long bushwhack then got me back to the trail and my bike.

The Johnson Trail this time of year can be a cow's parsnip jungle. It sure was bad on this trip. As I'm very allergic to this plant I usually cover up completely or wash myself off after



going through this nasty weed. On this trip I was completely covered except my hands. Washing them off back at the trailhead definitely wasn't effective. Two days later I had single blisters that were ¼ inch high covering the entire backsides of my hands from knuckles to sleeve line. When the blisters subsided I ended up losing three layers of skin. And for the next two weeks did my hands itch like hell or what. Beware of "the plant that burns!"

Also – don't believe that tale that you only can get reactions from cow's parsnip when it's sunny. I know for a fact that this is NOT true. You definitely CAN get rashes from this plant when it's cloudy. When you mountain bike through cow's parsnip the impact of the handlebars, your hands or your limbs is enough to break open the plant and spread the sap. If the sap gets on your skin and you are allergic to it ... then prepare for 10 days to two weeks of misery and suffering.

Learnard Glacier Peaks

by Tim Kelley



All Alaska mountain climbs are memorable and time well spent. Of course this statement is "preaching to the choir" for the readership of Scree. But some climbs end up being more memorable than others. Some

become our favorites. For me, the most memorable climbs usually involve incredibly good weather and a route that challenges you but gives just enough so that you can make the summit and back. This trip report is about a recent climb that will become one of those "more memorable" climbs for me

On August 9th Bill Spencer and I began our climb at the Whittier tank farm. We climbed the Learnard Glacier heading for an unnamed peak at the upper reaches of the glacier. You can see the summit of this 4550-foot glaciated mountain, which is north of Maynard Mountain, from either end of the Bear Valley to Whittier Tunnel. Bill had flown over the peak the day before on his way back from his cabin in Prince William Sound. He estimated that we had a 50-50 chance of making it. The logical route to try would be the west ridge near where the west edge of a glacier that is

hanging off the peak ends above a bergshroud. Not long after we started we roped up to get through the icefall area of the Learnard Glacier. More time than we planned on, over one and ½ hours, was needed to negotiate our way through this ice and rotten snow bridge maze. Once past this area we picked up the pace to try and make up lost time.

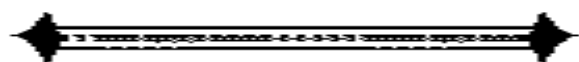
As we traveled up the glacier we eyed our route. From some angles it looked doable. From other angles we had our doubts. The only way to tell was to keep climbing until we got to the crux section. When we got to the bergshroud we realized that we had luck going for us. Serac and cornice fall had left a bridge across the 'shroud that put us right on a small buttress of rock that lead to the edge of the hanging glacier. I lead the rock pitch to a slot between the glacier and the ridge cliffs and belayed Bill up. Bill then took the lead and climbed out of the slot onto the crest of the hanging glacier and took us onto the ridge just below the summit. A short un-roped scramble up the sun drenched summit block and we were sitting on top.

What a day! No clouds over Prince William Sound. The air was so dry and clear that when you looked up there was this deep stratospheric blue that you normally would see at high altitudes such as on Mt. McKinley. Views in all directions could not be described adequately in words. We picked out many of the peaks in this area that we had climbed in the past. And scoped out peaks that we had future plans for. We found no sign of a previous ascent so we left a cairn and register.

Mid-afternoon warmth made conditions ripe for snow balling up on your crampons. This made it tricky down-climbing the summit glacier to the rock pitch. We rapped the rock pitch and scrambled across the snow blocks that plugged the bergshroud. At this point we had about 5 hours until the last tunnel opening, so we decided to head back across the Learnard Glacier and climb the 4660-foot peak to the east. After two hours of fast paced glacier travel and steep scrambling up the snow and loose rock of the south ridge we summited this peak. On top we found a cairn left by unknown previous climbers. We took in the views now painted with the warmth of the low evening light and began the long descent back to the tank farms. We made the last tunnel opening after 11 hours of Chugach climbing at its best.



No reference of names for these peaks was found in Scree or in talking to local veteran peak baggers. As each of these peaks is the high point of a drainage with named glaciers, it seems that logical names for them would be: Learnard Peak (4550) [D-5, T9N, R4E, S34] and Lowell Peak (4660) [D-5, T8N, R4E, S2].



ADZE

For Sale

Koflach Arctic Expe Mountaineering Boots. Excellent condition, size US 6. \$175.00.
Merry, 260-1966 or
Ratsmotel@Hotmail.com

Partners Wanted

Laid-back, culturally literate geezer (49) aiming to climb some Alaska mountains (including Marcus Baker next Spring) in search of companionable partners. I smoke, drink and hold unpopular (for Alaska, anyway) political opinions.
Bil Padgett, 258-1620 or
bilsupad@gci.net



Wanted

An MCA club member willing to produce the SCREE mailing labels. Requires about 2 hours of work per month. Must have a computer with a reliable internet connection, Microsoft Word and Excel, as well as access to a quality printer. Familiarity with mail merge and macros in Excel a plus. Must be able to deliver printed labels to AMH by the first day of each month. Instructions will be provided.
Bill Romberg, 677-3993 or
wromberg@gci.net

Looking For

House-sitting position sought; may include care of pets. References available.
Josh Sonkiss 561-7900.

The Leader's Corner

First Aid/CPR

The Board is arranging a standard First Aid/CPR certification course for current and potential MCA leaders who need to obtain current certifications. The intent is to provide leaders with an opportunity to obtain these Certifications at a discounted rate. The details are still being worked out and should be available by the November meeting.

Trip Leader Database

The Hiking and Climbing Committee is currently updating the MCA Trip Leader Database. If you

have led trips for MCA or are interested in leading trips contact Matt Nedom (278-3648) to provide him with your First Aid/CPR certification information and trip types you are interested in leading. If you want to lead a trip, contact Matt Nedom or Richard Baranow (694-1500).

WEB CHAT



zulusports.com:

A retired British mountaineer has presented a London museum with the five fingers and 10 toes he lost to frostbite while climbing Mount Everest. Major Michael "Bronco" Lane, 55, who was part of the second British team to scale the mountain, presented his surprising donation to staff at the National Army Museum in London, a museum spokesman said on Monday. The museum said it had approached him seeking items to commemorate his climb in 1976.

"I thought I would give them something really good, like my fingers and toes," said Lane, who was in the army for 31 years and now lives in Hereford, in the west of England. "I don't think it was quite what they were expecting," he told The Times newspaper. "But I haven't got any use for them any more and I thought it would be nice to see them exhibited."

Lane and a partner in the expedition lost all their toes when they encountered sub-zero temperatures close to the peak. After his fingers and toes were amputated they were preserved in formaldehyde for medical research. "They were dead and absolutely no use to me. Actually, I was pretty glad to see the back of them," said Lane.

rec.climbing:

Man with No Hands Fails to Climb Mount Everest

A South Korean climber with no hands has failed in his bid to climb the world's highest mountain, Mount Everest, Nepal's Tourism Ministry said on Tuesday. Kim Hong-Bin, whose frostbitten hands had to be amputated after he climbed Alaska's Mount McKinley in 1991, managed to reach about 24,600 feet up the slopes of the 29,035-foot mountain. An official at the South Korean embassy said the 35-year-old climber had to give up because his strength gave out.





Alaska Mountaineering and Hiking has expanded the MCA member gear discount program. Each month AMH will publish a list of items that will be included in the program on the back page of Scree. MCA members who are registered on the master list are eligible to 10% off of the retail price of the following merchandise for the month of November.

	<u>Retail</u>	<u>MCA</u>
Marmot Alpinist Lightweight Gore-Tex XCR Jacket	\$385	\$359
Marmot Alpinist Climbing Gore-Tex XCR Jacket	\$415	\$389
Marmot Alpinist 3-Layer Gore-Tex Bibs	\$345	\$325
Marmot Alpinist Tech Polartech 200 Sweater	\$149.50	\$134.50
Marmot Palisade Windstopper Fleece Jacket	\$199.50	\$185
Patagonia Stretch Triolet H2No Jacket	\$345	\$319
Patagonia Ether Gore-Tex XCR Jacket	\$375	\$349
Patagonia Ice-Nine Gore-Tex XCR Jacket	\$418	\$389
Patagonia Ice-Nine Gore-Tex XCR Bibs	\$363	\$340
Patagonia Regulator R2 Pullover	\$ 99.50	\$ 92.50
The North Face Darkstar Polarguard -40 Sleeping Bag	\$275	\$249.50

Richard Baranow is giving a series of slide shows upstairs at AMH this winter. The next one is on December 6th at 7:30 p.m. and will showcase various routes found on Yukla and Kiliak Peaks. These slide shows are a great opportunity for folks to get together and meet others who are interested in climbing in the Western Chugach.

#	NAME	CATEGORY	TITLE	Hiking	Climbing	People	Scenery	Bonus	TOTAL	Percent
111	Kirk Towner	Hiking	Rocky Ridge Ramble	84	-	-	-	1	85	26%
109	Ed Westergaard	Hiking	Passing Moments	69	-	-	-	-	69	21%
105	Kathi Strawn	Hiking	Hiking to the Hut	46	-	-	-	2	48	14%
107	Tom Meacham	Hiking	Arrigetch Peaks Overlook	35	-	-	-	-	35	11%
112	Tom Choate	Hiking	Sunrise Pinnacles	33	-	-	-	1	34	10%
104	Curvin Metzler	Hiking	Goat on Trail	14	-	-	-	-	14	4%
106	M. Hayes-Siegrist	Hiking	Spring Walk Above Eagle River	12	-	-	-	2	14	4%
108	Brian Loshbough	Hiking	Now We Gotta Hoof It!	11	-	-	-	-	11	3%
101	Don Hansen	Hiking	July Snow in the Pass	9	-	-	-	-	9	3%
102	Shawn Lyons	Hiking	The Neverending Trail	6	-	-	-	-	6	2%
110	Lelinda Bourgeois	Hiking	The Power and Determination of a Woman	5	-	-	-	-	5	2%
103	Josh Sonkiss	Hiking	Cookies 'n' Cream	3	-	-	-	-	3	1%
208	Travis Strawn	Climbing	Stepping Past Washburn's Thumb	-	70	-	-	3	73	21%
204	Tom Meacham	Climbing	Ridge Spire on Nagishlamina	-	65	-	-	1	66	20%
207	Bryan Carey	Climbing	Sitting Out the Storm	-	53	-	-	2	55	16%
210	Tom Choate	Climbing	Fly on the Wall	-	52	-	-	-	52	16%
209	Kirk Towner	Climbing	Scouting a Route Through the Icefall	-	47	-	-	2	49	14%
202	Curvin Metzler	Climbing	Room With a View	-	23	-	-	1	24	7%
205	Andre Kaeppele	Climbing	Shrouded Summit	-	12	-	-	-	12	4%
206	Brian Loshbough	Climbing	Skinnin' Up the Glacier is Killin' Me!	-	3	-	-	2	5	1%
201	Shawn Lyons	Climbing	Coming Down Out of the Storm	-	2	-	-	-	2	1%
203	David Hoffman	Climbing	Mountain House on the Ruth Glacier	-	1	-	-	-	1	0%
308	Bill Romberg	People	Souvenir Smiles	-	-	59	-	-	59	18%
303	Curvin Metzler	People	On Top of the Chitistones	-	-	57	-	-	57	18%
305	Tom Meacham	People	Summer Solstice on Flattop	-	-	55	-	-	55	17%
310	Kirk Towner	People	Climbers at the MCA Ice School	-	-	46	-	-	46	14%
304	Kathi Strawn	People	Victory Pose	-	-	38	-	-	38	12%
302	Shawn Lyons	People	Looking Down Into Autumn	-	-	24	-	1	25	7%
309	Bjorn Olson	People	Ice Recon at the Jacuzzi	-	-	19	-	-	19	6%
301	Don Hansen	People	Enjoying a Few Rays	-	-	13	-	-	13	4%
307	Brian Loshbough	People	Indomitable	-	-	10	-	-	10	3%
415	Tim Thomas	Scenery	Camp Below Mt. Wood	-	-	-	76	2	78	23%
412	Ron Ramsey	Scenery	Bomber Hut View	-	-	-	54	4	58	16%
414	Kirk Towner	Scenery	Tordrillo Mountain View	-	-	-	48	1	49	14%
401	Don Hansen	Scenery	Morning Reflections	-	-	-	30	1	31	9%
405	Colby Strawn	Scenery	Breaking Through the Soup on Pioneer Peak	-	-	-	28	1	29	8%
413	Bryan Carey	Scenery	Mint Hut View	-	-	-	24	3	27	7%
404	Curvin Metzler	Scenery	Chitistone Falls	-	-	-	19	-	19	6%
416	Tom Choate	Scenery	Spring Reflections	-	-	-	10	1	11	3%
406	Kathi Strawn	Scenery	Bugaboo Glacier Icefall	-	-	-	9	1	10	3%
411	Dano Michaud	Scenery	Spirits Rising	-	-	-	8	1	9	2%
408	Andre Kaeppele	Scenery	Frosty Frontier	-	-	-	7	-	7	2%
403	Josh Sonkiss	Scenery	October Dawn in Powerline Pass	-	-	-	6	1	7	2%
410	Bill Romberg	Scenery	Monarch of the Lake	-	-	-	5	-	5	2%
402	Shawn Lyons	Scenery	Climax Colors	-	-	-	4	-	4	1%
409	Brian Loshbough	Scenery	Leaving Hut Peak	-	-	-	4	-	4	1%
407	Tom Meacham	Scenery	Arrigetch Peaks	-	-	-	-	-	-	0%
TOTAL POINTS VOTED				327	328	321	332	34	1,342	100%

Results from the photo contest voted 10/18/2000. 57 votes counted.

OPINION



All's Not Quiet on the Last Frontier

by Cliff Eames
Alaska Quiet Rights Coalition

It's the stillness that fills me with peace.

~Robert Service~

The Last Frontier conjures up images of quiet and solitude, but as we all know, it can be awfully noisy up here; motorized toys are at least as popular in Alaska as they are anywhere else. You can help Robert Service rest easy in his grave by sending a brief letter to the Chugach National Forest asking them to restore natural quiet and the opportunity to enjoy natural sounds to the Forest.

At 5.6 million acres, the Chugach is the nation's second largest national forest, and it's unbelievably rich in wildlife, wilderness, and spectacular scenery. While the Chugach does a good job of managing ATV's, it says it has no jurisdiction over jet skis; heli-skiing is increasing dramatically and summer helicopter flightseeing and landings could skyrocket at any time (as they have, for example, on the Tongass National Forest in Juneau); and only about 1/10 of 1% of the forest is presently closed to snowmachining.

Additionally, the Forest Service's interpretation of the Alaska Lands Act (ANILCA) opens lands managed as Wilderness to recreational snowmachining, motorboating, and airplane landings (currently there is no designated Wilderness on the Chugach, but there is a Wilderness Study Area (WSA) and the Draft Plan recommends Wilderness; these two categories are managed as Wilderness until Congress acts). Does it really make sense to have tamer, noisier Wilderness in Alaska than in the rest of the country—where these motorized uses are not allowed? Isn't Alaska supposed to be WILD?

Things could change, however. The Chugach is revising its management plan and accepting comments on the Draft Plan until December 14. There's good news—and the Forest Service deserves considerable credit: natural quiet is explicitly recognized in the plan as a resource that deserves protection; an innovative prescription, Developed Recreation/Reduced Noise, has been crafted and applied to both campgrounds and cross country ski terrain near the road; summer ATV's will still be limited to designated locations only and, it appears, relatively few locations; and significant additional quiet winter recreation opportunities have been provided (including adopting a creative "odd year snowmachining, even year no snowmachining" recommendation for the Twentymile River valley).

But there's still LOTS to be done, and your letters could make the difference. PLEASE WRITE. We rarely have the opportunity to have such a big impact on the management of millions of acres of such valuable public land. (This mailing includes a postcard, but letters are much more effective; please write a letter yourself and give the postcard to a friend who might not otherwise comment.)

Here are some things you could say:

- **RESTORE** natural quiet and the opportunity to enjoy natural sounds throughout the Forest. We used to take natural quiet for granted, but it's disappearing fast.
- You **SUPPORT** and **APPRECIATE** many of the existing provisions in the Draft Plan that would help restore natural quiet, and that would make recreational management of the Forest fairer and more balanced.
- **PROHIBIT** motorized recreation in the WSA and recommended Wilderness. Provide at least as much protection from motorized recreational activities in Alaska Wilderness as in the lower 48.
- You **SUPPORT** the new quiet winter recreation opportunities in the Draft Plan, like the Twentymile, Seattle Creek, and others (your explicit support is critical).
- **CLOSE** to snowmachines, by timeshare or land allocation (in **ADDITION** to closures in the Draft Plan): Johnson Pass Trail (north end) (a popular area easily accessible to Anchorage); Lost Lake (one of the most spectacular areas on the Kenai, but proposed for closure only after March 31; adopt a more balanced timeshare, like the one on the Resurrection Pass Trail, where the season is split evenly); Snow River (South Fork) (one of the most desirable areas for Seward residents); slope behind Summit Lake Lodge (popular with locals); Fresno Ridge; Carter/Crescent Lakes; Russian River Trail (the Service is specifically seeking comments on the last three); Jack Bay; Sawmill Bay; and Marshall Pass (these three would provide opportunities for Valdez residents).
- **BAN** jet skis and airboats. These craft are exceptionally noisy (jet skis are also uncommonly irritating because of the variability of the noise); for most purposes, other motorized (or non-motorized) watercraft can be used instead; the ability to use these craft in shallow water can be especially harmful to fish and wildlife; and jet skis pollute excessively.
- **LIMIT** ATV use to a few designated roads or trails (the Chugach is presently doing a better job on this than almost any other national forest). Summer ATV's, in addition to being noisy, can destroy soils, vegetation, and scenic landscapes.
- **PROHIBIT** or greatly reduce commercial helicopter landings to protect residents, other forest users, wildlife, and the opportunity for future Wilderness designations. Helicopter noise is especially annoying to most people; landings already occur on state lands, which can provide an **alternative** location where appropriate; a relatively **small** number of people can **afford** the flights, but they can **adversely** affect **large** numbers of Alaskans and visitors as well as wildlife; and the dramatic, poorly managed **growth** of their use both in Alaska and Outside should be a sufficient **warning** that we need to control them NOW.
- **DESIGNATE** more Reduced Noise campgrounds (suggest specific ones for designation).

Your letters should be sent **by December 14** to: Chugach National Forest Plan Revision, U.S. Forest Service, 3301 C St., #300, Anchorage, AK 99503; or r10_chugach_revision@fs.fed.us.

For more information call Cliff Eames at 274-3647.



BOARD MEETINGS

(Barnes & Noble)

October 17

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

Ice Climbing Class

Only good reports, no accidents, good instructor/student ratio. Next year – include syllabus.

Elections

One 2-yr term, and another 2-yr term if Bill is elected president.

Huts

The Alaska Mountain Guide Assn (AMGA) has been using MCA huts for training purposes. Mark Miraglia drafted a letter to AMGA requesting that they schedule use with the MCA, and have all users financially support hut maintenance by paying MCA membership dues. The board approved this letter with several minor changes.

Liability

Bill Romberg attended the Risk Management Conference hosted by UAA. Bill attended a session dealing with release of liability and recommended several changes to the MCA release of liability. Bill will draft a letter of recommendation and forward to club legal council Neil O'Donnell for review. The goal is to have the revisions in place by January '01.

UAA Conference

Per request, Bill Romberg will draft a letter to UAA supporting the Risk Management Conference hosted at UAA. The letter will specifically support the decision to review and discuss the Ptarmigan Peak accident at the conference.

Trip Leaders

The board re-opened discussion on training requirements for trip leaders. A motion was passed that the MCA will coordinate the first aid course and bring a vote to the membership for partial subsidy of the fee. The subsidy will apply only for past leaders, and leader who commit to lead future trips for the club.

Respectfully Submitted,
Cory Hinds

MINUTES

OCTOBER MEETING

There were 104 people in attendance. A total of 15 new members or visitors introduced themselves.

TREASURER

Patty provided a brief update on the budget: revenues \$12,244, expenditures \$12,602, and approximately \$12,342 in reserves. Purchases this year included T-shirts, ropes, and helmets.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Hiking and Climbing

Upcoming trips are posted in the Scree and on the web page. Trip reports were given, new trips were announced.

Geographic Names

Tom Choate encouraged members to check out the new Chugach State Park map and get him any corrections. Also, anyone who dislikes the proposed name change from Mt. Logan to Mt. Trudeau, see Tom to register a complaint.

Parks Advisory

Scott Bailey announced that the revised Chugach National Forest management plan is under review; check the web site.

NEW BUSINESS

Elections

President:	Bill Romberg
Vice Pres:	Tom Choate
Secretary:	Jamey Mack
Treasurer:	Patty McPherson
Board:	John Hess, Tom McDermott

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- ◆ Nordic **Ski Patrol** is looking for volunteers.
- ◆ The club purchased two copies of the book **Self Rescue**.
- ◆ Bill Romberg is looking for the missing **1955 AAJ**.
- ◆ **Green Party** fund-raiser announced.
- ◆ John Hess was thanked for leading **Tuesday night hikes**.
- ◆ Trish Meissner volunteered to help with **refreshments**.
- ◆ Mountaineering books on **sale at the next meeting**.
- ◆ There will be a meeting of the **American Alpine Club** 10/19 at 7pm at the Alaska Rock Gym.

Thor Tingy presented an excellent slideshow of his fast and light traverse of the Brooks Range using a pack raft.

Respectfully submitted,
Cory Hinds



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



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	Bill Romberg	677-3993
Vice-President	Tom Choate	333-5309
Secretary	Jayne Mack	258-7571
Treasurer	Patty McPherson	563-4806

Board

Wendy Sanem	694-6867
Dolly Lefever	243-7027
John Hess	348-7363
Tom McDermott	277-0774
Richard Baranow	694-1500

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. Articles should be received by December 1st to be included in the December 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, richard baranow, 694-1500

HUTS: mark miraglia, 338-0705

On Line: www.mcak.org (go here to change your address)

Hot Line: 566-4MCA (kristen schultz, 694-5788 for updates)



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