



**DECEMBER 2000**    *A Publication of the Mountaineering Club of Alaska*    **Volume 43 Issue 12**  
**Box 102037, Anchorage, Alaska 99510**

### **DECEMBER MEETING**

**Wednesday**

**December 20, 7:30 pm**

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

**Pot Luck: The club will provide turkey, beverages,  
stuffing & bread. Please add to the table as per  
your last name (enough for 6 people or so):**

**A-C Vegetables (hot dish)**

**D-H Pasta, rice, potatoes**

**I-M Salads, fruits**

**N-R Appetizers, condiments**

**S-Z Desserts**

**Slides: Traditionally we show slides from the general  
membership. Bring 10-15 slides of a trip you  
did this past year.**

### **HIKING AND CLIMBING SCHEDULE**

#### **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. 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

#### **Jan 27 The Wedge**

Class B. Western Chugach. Join the Prez on a 1-  
day ski climb. Ski from Glen Alps parking lot to  
summit. Approx. 9 miles round trip + 2400 ft.  
elevation gain. May also attempt The Ramp,  
depending on conditions and time. Must be in  
good physical condition and able to ski moderate  
slopes. Required gear: backcountry skis/skins,  
avalanche beacon and probe, snow shovel,  
headlamp, ice axe, and sufficient warm clothing.  
Limited to 6 participants.  
Leader: Bill Romberg 677-3993.

## TRAINING SCHEDULE

### Jan 4, 6-7 Winter Camping Techniques Class

Ever wanted to extend your backpacking or climbing season into the winter, but found your tent was too cold or susceptible to high winds. Come on out and discover just how cozy a snow shelter can be. We will also cover the necessary equipment, clothing, and safety considerations for enjoyable winter camping. This class will consist of a two-hour indoor session on a weeknight and a fun weekend learning to build various styles of snow shelters, capped off by spending the night in your snow shelter. The weekend will be at Hatcher Pass, where we will be a short, easy, flat snowshoe/ski/posthole from your cars, allowing maximum time for constructing your winter haven. An indoor session will be held the evening of Jan 4th. Instructor: Brian Schmidt 243-9778

### Jan 24, 31, Feb 3 Avalanche Course

Come and learn about the number one hazard of winter outdoor recreation in the mountains. Course will cover snow structure, types of avalanches, avalanche hazard evaluation including terrain factors, snow stability, weather and you just for starters. An indoor avalanche beacon class and practice will be held followed by a full day outdoor session for practical experience in snow stability evaluation, route finding, hazard recognition, and victim search techniques. Location TBA. Instructor: Steve Parry 248-8710

## TRIP REPORTS

### Grant Lake Peaks

by Tim Kelley



In the map Grant Lake looked interesting. A large "L"-shaped lake, it protrudes into the Kenai Mountains starting a few miles off the Seward Highway near Moose Pass. Viewing the lake during a trip to the Crown Point area peaks confirmed the lake's uniqueness. It was time to make a visit. Of course the best way to visit the lake would be to include some peak bagging into the trip.

On August 28, 1999 I set off from the town of Moose Pass on my first trip to Grant Lake.

The peaks I wanted to visit were at the far, east end of the lake so I'd need a watercraft. As the trail I was taking was only 3 miles to the lake I chose to drag along my plastic river-touring kayak. A pack raft would have been lighter and easier to transport. But it would also be a pain in the wet ass to paddle 5 miles of flat water in it.

I have a system for dragging a kayak that works pretty well. I wear a padded ski-joring belt backwards, with the hook behind me. A ski-joring line, with a bungee-cord insert, is then clipped to the bow loop and the ring dropped into the belt hook. Once hooked in, you take off running down the trail and the kayak skitters along behind you. Of course you start noticing the drag of the kayak when the grade increases. This was the case with the 600-foot climb getting over the ridge to the lake.

The kayak also makes known its presence on the downhills. On steep downhills it takes no effort at all to pull the kayak. Instead the effort is put into sprinting downhill on unfamiliar trails trying to keep from getting run over by the boat. This can be quite exciting, as it was on the 600-foot descent to the northwest corner of Grant Lake.

The kayak-dragging escapade all seemed worth it when I began paddling. It was a pleasure to be in a real boat plying this sun-splashed mountain lake that I had never been to. I worked my way along the north shore until I beached my craft at the east end of the lake.

The peaks that I wanted to check out were north of my location. In Scree there is mention of Lark Mountain, a peak further to the east that was first climbed in 1969 by Harry Bludworth and party. But there was no mention in Scree of the three peaks to the east of Lark: Peak 5833 and Peak 5883 (both in: Seward B-6, R1E, T5N, S25) and Peak 5890 (Seward C-6, R2E, T5N, S19). These peaks surround a glacier in a drainage that empties north into Trail Creek. This cluster of peaks is prominently guarded from Lark Mountain, by the rugged, gendarmed ridge on the west side of Peak 5833. There is close to a mile of vertical from the lake to the summits of these peaks.

From the lake I bushwhacked up for 1000 feet and then entered a prominent gully. I scrambled the streambed and falls of this gully for a while and then exited to the west and paralleled the gully to the tundra-line. From there

it was a long easy scramble on snow and loose rock to the top of Peak 5883. It was about 6:00 PM when I reached the top and I decided to head back down. I built a cairn, did some scouting of routes to the other peaks and got back to my boat by sundown. I paddled in the dark to the island where the lake turns south and camped for the night.

When I got back to town I developed pictures from the trip and began lobbying Bill Spencer with the pictures of the other two peaks that I had not climbed. I told him that he needed to go back with me and chase after these other two summits. Needless to say, it was a pretty easy sell to get Bill interesting in climbing in some new country.

On August 26, 2000, 2 days less than an exact a year from my first trip, Bill and I set off to the Grant Lake peaks. This time we cheated. Bill was trying to get more flying time in, so we set off in clear cool weather from Hood Lake in his Super Cub on floats. Before landing we did a fly by of the peaks. It quickly registered that the peak I thought would be the hardest, Peak 5833, would be relatively easy. And the peak I thought would be easiest, Peak 5890, had one rotten, hairy ridge section waiting for us.

After checking out the peaks it was time to land. Being at 6000 feet and the lake at 700 feet this meant spiraling downward, around and around and around, until finally touching down on the lake. We tied up the aircraft and began climbing at 10 AM, retracing my route up the mountainside to the north. Instead of going straight up to Peak 5833 we worked gullies and ridges to the west and made the col to the east of Peak 5833. From here we scrambled the ridge to the summit of Peak 5833. We found no sign of previous ascents and left a cairn.

The weather was clear and sunny, but the forecast was for rain in the afternoon. We could see high cirrus clouds approaching from the southwest. We knew that bad weather was on its way but hoped it would take its time getting to us. The 5000-foot climb had been a tough grunt and we had gone through a lot of water. To travel the ridge over Peak 5883 to Peak 5890 and then backtrack and drop to the lake would be a tough go if we didn't find water. When we got back to the col we lucked out. In a cleft in the ridge we found a melt-water puddle next to a snow chute. With rocks we bashed a hole through an inch and a half of ice and filled our

water bottles and bellies. Now we had the hydration to make the other peaks without running dry.

Working the snow and rock of the ridge up to Peak 5883 we found my cairn from the previous year. Apparently an eagle or some other large bird had been impressed or offended by the cairn. Large amounts of white bird graffiti now adorned the rock pile.

From the summit we followed the ridgeline east and north towards Peak 5890. When we got near the peak we got a closer look at the crux ridge section that we had seen from the plane. Looking at the worst section Bill made the comment: "When you were a kid, did you ever play the game Booby Trap?" This was an appropriate analogy for the climbing we were about to do.

Soon we were groping up the worst of it, a section that was close to vertical of crumbly loose blocks. No sense in roping up, nothing solid to anchor to and the movement of the rope would break loose plenty of rocks. In this situation it seems to help to make very fluid moves and pretend that you don't weigh anything!

Once past the crux spot we scrambled the rest of the ridge to the summit. Probably because we were fatigued, we looked at the west summit and wondered if it was higher (it definitely looked lower from the other peaks). We worked the ridge to the west summit and using a water bottle level confirmed that it was indeed lower by 30 to 50 feet. Back at the true summit we built a cairn and enjoyed the views of seemingly endless waves of mountains in most all directions.

The storm front that the weather service was predicting seemed to be approaching in the distant southwest. So we figured we'd better hustle back to the plane. After gingerly down-climbing the crumbling ridge, we pushed hard to get back to the plane. About 2000 feet above the lake we took one last berry-gorging break. From our spot we could see the plane. And the black bear feeding in the bushes a hundred yards away from it. We arrived at the plane at 8:00 PM after ten hours of hard paced peak bagging.

Rainsqualls chased us as we flew back to town. By the time I had driven back to my home, high winds and driving rain were hammering south Anchorage. It felt good to have snuck in one last late summer climb before this storm moved in.



In the uncommon Alaskan mountain bird theme of Lark Mountain, we refer to these three Grant Lake Peaks as Merlin Mountain (5833), Shrike Mountain (5883) and Harrier Mountain (5890).

## **Bashful Peak**

by Steve Gruhn



I had planned to leave for Bashful Peak early on Friday morning, July 30, 1999, with Bob Packard, a man from Flagstaff, Arizona. However, a crisis developed at work that required that I work on my vacation day until 4 p.m.

Some vacation.

Bob and I drove to Eklutna Lake and began our hike on the Eklutna Lakeside Trail since neither of us had bicycles. We hiked another to the bridge over the East Fork of the Eklutna River. The East Fork Trail (our route) led up to the left, but we opted to cross the river and camp at a secluded spot on the left (room for one tent, elevation 1100 feet). There are trees to hang food bags.

The next morning dawned early (don't they all?) and drizzly. I had a bout with some form of intestinal disorder while Bob ate breakfast. What a way to start a climb. I managed to finally shovel some oatmeal down my throat and we left camp. We left our tent up, but took our food with us.

At about 7:30 I led us back across the bridge and headed southeast up the muddy East Fork Trail. We waded across Stivers' Gully (unmarked) and continued on. Bob had sought me out because I had been up the East Fork Trail and up Stivers' Gully before. I promptly eliminated any confidence he had in me when I missed our turn off the trail. I errantly led us another mile and a half up the East Fork to Tulchina Falls. Only then did I realize my error. Sheepishly, I backtracked to a point where we could access Stivers' Gully. Bob was very gracious about my mistake, but must have been wondering what he had gotten himself into.

We headed east toward Stivers' Gully, fighting alder, aspen, and tall grass. Eventually, we made our way into the boulder field below Stivers' Gully. This is about the last good place to

find water. We stayed on the right side (facing uphill) of the gully until it narrowed. Then we left the gully and began climbing up the cliff bands that protected the upper slopes. By now we were out of the trees and grass, only fighting alder. We zigzagged our way up the slope, eventually angling to the right after climbing up steep slopes I didn't want to come back down. After swimming through one last patch of alders, we broke out into tall grass and gentle slopes. Here we headed south to a viewpoint of a terminal glacial moraine. We crossed the moraine and headed up a prominent gully to the northeast, traversing to our right as the slope steepened. We topped out on the ridge, marked it with a rock wrapped in surveyors tape, and hiked up the ridge to the east. The climbing consisted of scrambling over rotten rock. We went slowly, picking our way over the Chugach Crud.

At about 7400 feet we came to a steep slope with a narrow (but not narrow enough to help) gully heading up. This must be the infamous Chickenshit Gully! Bob looked at it immediately and said that he couldn't climb it. I looked at it for two or three minutes, plotting a possible route. Finally, I told Bob that I thought I could make it up. I had a half-pitch of 7-mil rope with me that I could use to help Bob. While communicating with Willy Hersman and Tim Kelley before the trip, I had been told that there was an old piton (from the first ascent party in 1959) on the right side of the gully about half way up and a prominent horn at the top of the gully to aid in placement of protection. I never found the piton. The gully consists of steep (70 degrees), smooth bedrock covered with a layer of loose ball-bearing gravel. All angles of the rock sloped downward. I headed up, planning on using the piton to help Bob come up behind me. We ascended one-at-a-time, but were in voice contact for much of the climb. I eventually topped out (no speed records were broken) about 330 feet above the base of the gully and tied a piece of webbing around the prominent horn at the top of the gully, clipped a carabiner into the webbing, and tied the rope to the carabiner. Bob came up after me, but didn't really use the rope that much. It didn't extend down to the hardest part of the pitch.

From the top of Chickenshit Gully, it was a relatively easy climb to the summit block. Just before the summit block, an ice patch (elevation 7900 feet) required me to change from running shoes to boots and crampons. Bob, who had worn boots the entire trip, went on ahead after fixing his crampons. After I got my boots on and



crampons adjusted, I looked up. Bob was already headed down. It was about 10:30 at night and we needed to rush, so I hurried to the summit (elevation 8005 feet), signed into the register, and headed down. The previous entry before Bob's was of a family that included an 8-year old girl. Boy, she must have been some climber (or else have had help in hauling herself up the gully).

I left the summit and moved down the ridge to below the ice patch. Bob had already changed out of his crampons and was heading down the ridge. I hurriedly removed mine and raced to catch up to him. I didn't want to head down Chickenshit Gully in the dark. I caught up to him shortly before the top of the gully. The sun had set, a 20-mile-per-hour wind had come up from the north, and he was getting chilled. It was 12:30 in the morning and twilight was going away fast. Bob looked to me to make a decision.

I figured there was less risk from the cold than from a fall, so I chose not to descend the gully in the dark. I found us some shelter to the left (facing downhill) of the gully behind some rocks. I loaned mittens, a headband, and other clothes to Bob. We hurriedly got ready to spend the night, trying to trap as much heat as possible in our clothes. Bob and I put on every stitch of clothing we had and rested on our packs to keep the rocks from sucking the heat out of our bodies. It didn't work. I generally climb with more clothes than I expect to use. This night we used everything: hat, balaclava, facemask, headband, gloves, mittens, jackets, wind pants, turtlenecks, extra long underwear, etc.). It was not enough. We sat down and huddled together, trying to conserve heat. It didn't work. I don't recall sleeping, but I dozed off for about a half hour according to Bob. Bob was snoring away for a while, too, but he wasn't very rested either.

At about 5 a.m. Bob urged me to get up. My joints had stiffened and my fingers were nearly useless. I jogged in place a bit to warm up and clenched and unclenched my fists to limber my fingers. Bob asked me to use the rope for the descent. I set up the sling anchor around the horn that I had used before. Bob climbed down first, wrapping the rope around one hand as he went. Once he got to the bottom, I picked up the rope and sling and put them in the pack while he waited at the bottom for me. I went considerably slower than he did, but I eventually made it to the base of the gully.

We continued down the ridge to the point

where we had come up. I was thankful that I had placed the surveyors tape on a rock at that point, because, from above, it was easy to mistake which gully we had come up. There were three or four times Bob and I had disagreements about which way to go. Our fatigue was really catching up with us and my track record the previous day did not give Bob a lot of confidence in my route selection, but he did follow my lead, nonetheless. We eventually got to the prominent gully and headed down and to the right to the glacial moraine, about 2300 feet below. Once on the moraine, we crossed, it and descended into the maze of alder and cliff bands. We became separated from sight, but were in and out of voice contact. Bob was ahead of me, and I tried to follow the trail of broken alder branches, but they kept leading off cliffs. Eventually I got to the top of a cliff that it looked like I could descend. Bob was down below and waiting for me. I noticed he had taken his pack off. He must have been waiting a while. He showed me the route down the cliff. Once down, He turned to leave and I asked him about his pack. He told me that he had taken it off, set it down on the top of one of the cliff bands, let go, and promptly watched it roll over the cliff and bounce of the ledge below him. He had an ice axe, crampons, camera, clothes, and other gear in the black Jansport daypack. I tried to pick out a probable fall line and searched for the pack. We spent quite a while searching, but could not find it.

Giving up, we headed down Stivers' Gully and to the East Fork Trail. Again we got separated bashing through the alder. I waited on the trail after calling out for him. He eventually came up behind me and we walked back to our campsite. I walked faster, so I waited for him at the bridge over the East Fork. When he caught up to me he told me he had seen a black bear cross the path between us a few moments before. It was now about 4:30 in the afternoon.

In camp, I collapsed on my sleeping bag and rested. After an hour or so, Bob convinced me that we needed to get going if we were to make it out tonight. We packed up and began our long slog down the trail.

Bob, twice my age, was traveling slowly down the trail. I worried about whether we would make it to the truck that night. We joked about hitchhiking a ride with a four-wheeler, but none were around when we were on the new road (the old road is closed to motorized vehicles). Finally, just after Yuditna Creek (three miles and about an



hour and a half from the trailhead at our pace) I heard some four-wheelers coming our way. I asked Bob whether he wanted to flag them down. I could tell it was a very tough decision for him. Bob asked the lead driver of the two machines for a ride. The drivers of the two machines each had a passenger. After some consideration, they made room for Bob and his pack. I put my pack on Bob's and asked told him that I would jog out to the trailhead and meet him there in a half hour. The four-wheeler drivers offered to make room for my pack and me on the other machine. They drove us to the trailhead in 15 minutes. It was a very gracious end to our hike.

## **Grant Lake/Ptarmigan Lake Trip**

Tom Choate



I was shouting my head off at the wiggling alders a hundred feet away across a cliffy ravine. I could hear an occasional voice, but no one appeared on the obvious ledge above the brush. A strong wind was blowing down the Ptarmigan Valley, carrying my voice away. Two of us had followed a goat trail up a steep section, an almost-cliff that didn't seem safe enough to bring the whole group up. I had told the rest, with Scott as deputy leader, to hunt further up-valley for an easier route through/around the 200 foot steep section that prevented us from reaching the pleasant tundra ledges above, and reasonable routes to the summit ridge.

We were making an attempt to climb the peak on the north side of Ptarmigan Lake, after a hike in the night before. I had made 3 trips to the area to find a way to the preferred destination, Grant Lake, that wouldn't involve hassles with private landowners and the Alaska Railroad. I was stunned to learn that the miners above Grant Lake could keep us off "their" 4-wheeler trail, even though it was in National Forest. I never did understand how that could be legal, but realized that I couldn't risk a club trip on that route.

The two forest service trails just down valley leading into Falls Cr. and Ptarmigan Valley were obvious alternatives. I had walked the trails, but never attempted any adjacent peaks, so with my original co-leader, Matt piloting, we took a

\$150 aerial recce just before the trip date. From the air, no alternative route to Grant Lake was seen, and a lot of snow still lay on part of the Falls Cr. trail, so we concentrated on Ptarmigan Lake and its northside peak.

It had looked like we could just keep traversing right to get around the cliff band, but on the ground, several goat trails kept leading us to steeper places than were comfortable. After waiting 40 minutes, it was obvious the main party had gone farther around, and it was easier for us to go up than down. Scrambling up a few ledges, we were soon able to traverse right and up to the edge of the tundra area. I was about to stop and enjoy the many flowers when I was surprised to see somebody climbing rapidly a few hundred yards above us, and then I saw another person, no more than a colorful spot moving higher up.

I was sure they were part of my party, so I hurried up, climbing at maximum rate, until I caught up with Ray when he took a break. He pointed out Jennifer, still moving ahead in the rocky section almost to the ridgetop. More rapid scrambling and I caught her just having turned back in the cold wind near a Mountain Goat. We watched the nanny and her kid, reluctant to leave, even though we were probably the first climbers they ever saw. I dressed J. in my spare clothes and we went through the last scrambles to the great views on the ridge. Soon we were on the summit, where there was no sign of previous people, making a small cairn and register. It was too cold to wait for the others, so back down we went, hopping rocks, sliding scree and trampling tundra, until finally we found Ray's flagging marking the descent through the brush. A bit of yeodeling through the cliffs brought responses from way down by the lake, so we knew most people were already down. Soon we found Jen's pack and wound our way down through the remaining ledges, brush, and gullies to the lake ourselves.

I couldn't find the others, so we zoomed the around the shore trail to camp, and they came in shortly afterward. It seems they didn't like the routes found by Ray and Jennifer, and after Charlu and Pam found a good route farther up valley, by the time they got back with the news, Scott decided it was too late and began the retreat. Thus only 4 of us enjoyed the fine tundra, goats and views up high, but an adventure was had by all, and it was a lovely lake and valley!



## Letters to the Editor



### Correction to AAJ 2000

I would like to make a correction to Volume 41, Number 74 of the American Alpine Journal, which has reported incorrectly that my May 1999 solo climb up the north face of Amulet Peak was a first ascent. Although it has seen few attempts in recent years, there are several accounts of earlier ascents of Amulet's north couloir which date back to the 1970s. The route is neither remote nor technically difficult, and it represents such an obvious objective that there can be little doubt that the stories of previous ascents are true. It was never my intention to claim the first ascent of this elegant line; in fact, it was the legend of an early solo ascent that inspired me to climb the route when I first heard the story some years ago.

Josh Sonkiss

## The Leader's Corner

### Venue Guide

Through a close working relationship between the MCA and UAA AOEE (formerly AWS) Risk Management Advisory Committee, we have been able to obtain a copy of their Venue Guide for the Mountaineering Courses. This guide will be a handy resource for trip leaders as it contains detailed information on mountains in the Chugach, Talkeetna and Kenai ranges. Information includes route descriptions; access, parking and driving time; recommended seasons; travel time, mileage and elevation gain; objective hazards; camp locations; weather/terrain considerations; emergency/evacuation data and maps. The Hiking/Climbing Committee Chairperson will keep this guide.

### Eklutna Cabin Update

Mark Miraglia

With all the new MCA members I think a brief history is in order. The idea for this project began in spring 1998. It was conceived as a joint project with Chugach State Park and the MCA to construct a large, well-built and aesthetically pleasing cabin near the end of the Eklutna Lake road. The intent was for the MCA and other

groups, mostly the Anchorage Snowmobile Club and Alaska Mountain Huts Association, to provide volunteer labor while CSP would provide some materials, equipment, labor and a location site. Funding would be provided by grant money. Upon completion of the cabin, operation and maintenance will become CSP responsibilities. This cabin, known as the Serenity Falls cabin, is a public use cabin and will be available through the state reservation system initially.

This cabin will provide shelter to climbers, skiers, ski-jorers, bicyclists, four-wheelers and snow machiners serving also as an addition to the Eklutna Traverse. It will be a truly multi-use cabin.

Completion is near. Some interior/exterior finish work and landscaping is all that remains. The cabin should be open to the public for the upcoming summer season.

This cabin is not open to the public while under construction. It can provide emergency shelter. For more information contact Mark Miraglia @ 338-0705 or [mark\\_miraglia@hotmail.com](mailto:mark_miraglia@hotmail.com)

#### For Sale

Diamir/Fritschi Titanal II AT  
Bindings size medium (boot 39-45)  
with ski brakes for >70mm ski  
waist. Brand New, never mounted  
\$225.00

Mark Miraglia 338-0705 home,  
244-0682 cell or  
[mark\\_miraglia@hotmail.com](mailto:mark_miraglia@hotmail.com)

#### ADZE

#### Found

A pair of pile pants that I borrowed  
from one of the instructors. I have  
forgotten who it was. I would like to  
return it to you.  
Matt Nedom, 278-3648

#### For Sale

A brand new never used Marmot  
CWM -40 dryloft bag that I bought  
for trip last spring and did not go.  
I'd like to sell it.

Jay





## WEB CHAT

independent.co.uk:

A British mountain climber has been barred until 2002 from entering Nepal after he was accused of attacking a fellow expedition member. Henry Todd was accused of lashing out at a US journalist, after he discovered the latter was sending unfavourable dispatches back from his expedition. Finn Jones insisted on being airlifted from the Everest base camp at 18,000 feet after the alleged attack, claiming he was too terrified to continue. Todd had been leading the team up the South West Ridge for Himalayan Guides last spring when he was said to have chased Mr. Jones through the camp and shaken him violently. Jones was forced to charter a \$3,400 helicopter to fly to Kathmandu.

## MINUTES

### NOVEMBER MEETING

There were 60 people in attendance. A total of 5 new members or visitors introduced themselves.

#### TREASURER

**Patty** provided a brief update on the budget: revenues \$12,844, expenditures \$12,740, and approximately \$12,800. 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. Several trip reports were given, and several new trips were announced. **Cory Hinds** and another member of the club met the Hatcher Pass district ranger for some trail work on the Gold Mint Trail. Unfortunately, the pass had just received 1 to 2 feet of new snow, making it hard to do much. The group ended up cleaning about a mile of the trail, starting at mile 2 of the trail.

##### *Geographic Names*

**Tom Choate** encouraged members to check out the new Imus Chugach State Park map and contact him with any corrections.

##### *Training*

**Steve Parry** announced a Knots Class for November 30th at 7:30pm. The class will be held at 5011 Spenard Rd. Suite

105, the corner of International Airport Rd. and Spenard Rd.

##### *Huts*

A few huts on the Eklutna traverse need repairs, there are broken windows and some more outhouse work to be done. **Mark** asked that anyone going into the huts take measurements of the windows, if they could and report those back to him.

##### *Equipment*

**Richard Baranow** announced that the club has EPIRB's for use, along with walkie-talkies and avalanche beacons. The walkie-talkies are for MCA sanctioned trips where beacons are for personal use. All avalanche beacons require a deposit of \$250. All of these are available at AMH, just give Richard a head's up.

##### *Parks Advisory*

**Scott Bailey** announced that BLM had secured a new 20-yr. lease to the Campbell Tract, making the area off-limits to development by the municipality. Also, Scott announced that members wishing to comment on the current Chugach National Forest draft Public Use Management Plan should contact the Forest Service soon. The USFS website has all the details.

#### OLD BUSINESS

**Kirk Towner** reminded members that the **photo contest** winners were announced in the October Scree. All photo contest entrants can purchase a calendar for \$16. All other members can get them for \$18. Calendars will be available at the December meeting.

**Dolly LeFever** asked members that might know of a good source of **synthetic t-shirts** to let her know. The club is looking to purchase more synthetic tees although, **Dolly** does have some women's styles that are available.

#### NEW BUSINESS

A motion was made and seconded to end the **MCA hotline**. Members voted on the motion and the final count was that the majority of members agreed to cancel the hotline.

It was announced that the board has decided that all members of each family **must sign the release** of liability, including members that might not participate in club outings.

The **proposed budget** will be discussed at the next board meeting, 12/13 at Barnes & Noble at 7:30 pm, all members are welcome.

#### ANNOUNCEMENTS

There is a **slide show** at the Alaska Rock Gym on 11/18 at



7pm by Jeff Apple Benowitz, a Fairbanks climber.

Richard Baranow will be putting on a winter **slide show series at Alaska Mountaineering & Hiking**. The next show will be featuring Mt. Kiliak and Mt. Yukla, the show will be 12/6 at 7pm. Other shows will be as follows: Jan. 3 Mt. Beelzebub and Peril Peak and Feb. 7 Bashful Peak and Baleful Peak. All shows are free to the public.

There will be a **Benefit Gear Sale at the Alaska Rock Gym** on 12/10 between 9am and 2pm. All gear needs to be dropped off at Alaska Mountaineering and Hiking or arrange for a pick-up by calling Marcy Baker at 272-1811. All proceeds will go to Sharon Mesley, an AMH employee who broke both of her ankles in a hiking accident in Hatcher's Pass, Sharon doesn't have any insurance and the proceeds will go towards her medical bills.

**Alaska Mountain Safety Center** has put out their **new schedule**. You can find them at the local gear shops around town.

**Bad climbing anchors** have been found at Portage, in the Middle Glacier area and Enchanted Valley area. The anchors have all failed when tested, many of the anchors were made of red webbing. Remember to check all climbing anchors.

Steve Parry presented a very interesting slideshow of him and his wife's trekking trip through Nepal.

Respectfully submitted,  
Jayme Mack

## MCA Web Page Tips

### Adze Page

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 member to enter ads. Last time I covered how to download Screens. To put an ad on-line:

1. Click on the Adze icon.
2. At the bottom of the page, click on the Upload icon.
3. Enter your name as it normally appears on your Scree label, and your password, then click 'Fetch Adze.'
4. This brings up the entry form for adding, editing and deleting ads.
5. Choose a title, enter the text you want for the ad, and a contact line, then click submit.
6. You can enter up to 1000 characters. In addition, you can enter html code (if you know what it is) and it will be used. You can also include a picture.
7. If you want to have the same ad in Scree, be sure to click the toggle for it.
8. To cancel an ad, run through the same steps above, and then click the toggle to cancel and submit.

Ads are kept for 40 days, limit 10 per member.

Good luck.

webmaster@mcak.org





**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 December.**

	<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 6<sup>th</sup> 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.**

## 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 only, 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 all risks of injury, death, or property damage that may occur in connection with any MCA activity, including use of MCA furnished equipment and 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 policies). **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. Any lawsuit relating to MCA activities or this release shall only be filed in the Superior Court for the State of Alaska, Third Judicial District., Anchorage, Alaska. The provisions of this release are severable and if any part of this release is found unenforceable, the remaining provisions shall remain in full force and effect.

\_\_\_\_\_ (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.**

Dated: \_\_\_\_\_ Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of Parent or Guardian (if under 19): \_\_\_\_\_

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PLEASE

# 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 waiver 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 December 29th to be included in the January 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](http://www.mcak.org) (go here to change your address)



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