



FEBRUARY 2000

A Publication of the Mountaineering Club of Alaska

Volume 43 Issue 02

Box 102037, Anchorage, Alaska 99510

FEBRUARY MEETING

Wednesday

February 16, 7:30 pm

Pioneer Schoolhouse, 3rd & Eagle Streets

Downtown Anchorage

Program: Elena Hinds will show slides of
The Caucasus and mountains farther east.

March preview:
Walks/climbs in the Talkeetna and Kenai Mts.

HIKING AND CLIMBING SCHEDULE

Feb 5 Williwaw Lakes Ski Trip

Eleven mile round-trip day ski to Williwaw Lakes, frozen this time of year, for lunch and a good time skiing. Hopefully we'll again have snow by then!

Leaders: Laila Eklund 338-5337 and Matt Needom 278-3648

12 (or 13) Notch Mountain

Western Chugach. Class C. Ski (or snowshoe, depending on conditions) along a Cat track above Winner Creek, Girdwood. Bring a shovel and beacon along with your lunch. Contact trip leader for details.

Leader: Tom Choate 333-5309

18-21 Resurrection Pass Ski Trip

Class C. 4 days, 3 nights. 38 miles total. Maxi

mum group size: 8 persons. We will be staying in cabins each night. Required equipment: backcountry skis with climbing skins, avalanche beacon avalanche probe, snow shovel. Participants must have experience skiing backcountry trails with a full pack. Participants will share cost of cabin reservations: \$15-20 per person for trip. Leader: Tom McDermott 694-3216.

19-20 Hurdy Gurdy Ice Climbing

Class Technical: Fifth Class. For experienced climbers, not an instructional trip.

Leader: Richard Baranow 694-1500

Mar 11 Reed Valley Ski Trip

Class B. Ski a couple of hours up the gentle Reed Lakes Trail to the lower Snowbird cabin. Again, bring a lunch.

Leader: Laila Eklund 338-5337

Mar 16-19 Mt. Silvertip
Delta Mountains (Alaska Range). Elevation 9450.
Class Technical: Glacier Travel. Five-hour drive.
Ski in from the highway. Crevasse rescue knowl-
edge and avalanche training required. See leaders
for gear list.
Leaders: Richard Baranow 694-1500, Brian
Carey 349-7149

Apr 22-May 7 Arizona-Utah
One week in Grand Canyon, one week in Grand
Gulch backpack. Trip is full now, but if you could
go on short notice, let me know.
Leader: Bill Wakeland 563-6246

TRAINING SCHEDULE

Jan 23 Avalanche Preparedness
Kaladi Bros., 6921 Brayton.
Instructor: Gary Runa 275-3613

29-30 Avalanche Preparedness
Field exercises at Hatcher Pass. Terrain evaluation,
route selection, snow stability, weather, rescue
procedures, beacon, searches, probe lines, first aid.
Instructor: Gary Runa 275-3613

Feb 20 Basic Mountaineering Skills
Kaladi Bros., 6921 Brayton, 11:00 AM - 3:00 PM.
Ropes, knots, gear, belay, rappel, anchors/pro, self-
arrest, route selection, roped climbing techniques,
expedition planning.
Instructor: Gary Runa 275-3613

24 Knots for Mountaineering
Pioneer Schoolhouse 7:00-9:00 PM. Primary knots
and their uses for beginners or those looking to
learn knew knots/refresh skills. Practice ropes will
be available.
Instructors: Bill Romberg 677-3993, Kirk Towner

26-27 Basic Mountaineering Skills
Field exercises at Seward Highway locations.
Instructor: Gary Runa 275-3613

Mar 2 Mountaineering Equipment
Pioneer Schoolhouse 7:00-9:00 PM. For persons
with little or no climbing experience, interested in
learning about basic mountaineering equipment
used for snow climbing.
Instructor: Steve Parry 248-8710

4 Snow Climbing
Self-arrest techniques/practice, moving on snow,
snow anchors, reading terrain/route finding, etc.
Participants will need to bring climbing helmet, ice

axe (not an ice tool!), boots with compatible
crampons (strap-on or step-in), and harness. Ice
axes and crampons are available from MCA with
club card at AMH. Boots, helmets, and crampons
can be rented from AMH. Limited 12 unless more
instructors.

Instructor: Steve Parry 248-8710

11-12 Snow Shelter Construction
Igloos, caves, Logan trenches, quinces. Students
should bring backcountry snow shovels, snow saws
(if available), winter camping gear (including bivi
sack), skis and poles (they are used in shelters,
too). No tents, stay in the shelters we make.
Location depends on conditions. Limit 8, unless
more instructors.
Instructor: Willy Hersman 561-7900

15 MCA Trip Leader Orientation
Pioneer Schoolhouse 6:30 PM, just prior to general
meeting. Intended for all MCA trip leaders but
particularly for club members who are interested in
becoming trip leaders for MCA. MCA bylaws and
policies regarding minimum qualifications for trip
leaders and procedures for leading club sanctioned
trips will be covered, as well as tips and sugges-
tions for leading safe and fun club outings.
Training courses and trip leader packets will be
distributed
Contact: Bill Romberg 677-3993

19 Glacier Travel / Crevasse Rescue
Kaladi Bros., 6921 Brayton, 10:00 AM - 2:00 PM.
Glaciology, glacier gear, route selection, roped
travel, ascending, rescue procedures, mechanical
advantage.
Instructor: Gary Runa 275-3613

26 Glacier Travel / Crevasse Rescue
Field exercises at Hilltop ski area.
Instructor: Gary Runa 275-3613

26 Mountain Rescue
Site/victim evaluation, first aid, raising/lowering
systems, evacuation. Hilltop ski area.
Instructor: Gary Runa 275-3613

21-23 Glacier Travel / Crevasse Rescue
Field exercises at Matanuska Glacier.
Instructor: Gary Runa 275-3613

May Mountain Safety Training Outing
One week in either Little Switzerland or
Mt. Blackburn. For those participating in Gary's
training classes.
Instructor: Gary Runa 275-3613



TRIP REPORTS

Mount Isto and Spectre Peak, Brooks Range

by Tom Choate



For years Mt. Isto was considered the highest peak in the Brooks Range, until more recent maps adjusted the elevation downward some 60 feet, making Mt. Michelson higher (which may also need elevation adjustment). So, when my last High Adventure course was cancelled, I made a call to Don Hansen to see if the Jago River trip was full (see October Scree). He had also had last minute changes and 2 more could go, so, finding Pam Bell also ready to explore this valley and peaks, we signed up. After all, I had been trying to make a trip to the highest Brooks for 7 years!

A primary logistical problem is that these peaks are glaciated. The first ascent of Isto was on July 19, 1958, by Austin Post, Charlie Keeler, and Bob Mason from a geology camp on the McCall Glacier. They described "several concealed crevasses" and avalanches of snow and loose rock. Thus we had to carry ice axes, crampons, rope, harness, anchors, etc. in addition to the 2 weeks backpack gear the other participants carried. We had been given the impression that between walking days, there would be four camps of 2 days that would allow for exploring, climbing, fishing, etc. Unfortunately this plan turned out to be quite flexible, and the weather doubtful at least in the beginning, so Pam and I had a hard time keeping up, let alone climb.

From the first camp opposite the airstrip, the whole group made their only "climb" together, up to the only lake in the area at 4800 via steep ridges and difficult talus. Above the lake lay some 1500 feet of talus, less than 3-5 inches of recent snow, which led to the ridge of an interesting peak, but no one wanted to accompany me onward. I was already a quarter mile ahead, so I circled the lake and climbed to 5300 before shortcutting through boulder fields to our ascent route, eventually catching the group. The second exploration from this camp was also a bit disappointing: we walked over 6 miles downstream without seeing any sign of fish, nor sheep, cari-

bou, etc. on the hills (but the flowers were nice).

Struggling with packs weighing close to half our weight heading upstream the next day was not a highlight, especially when walking on spongy tundra with lots of mosquitoes. Floods may have destroyed the fishing, but they left plenty of good gravel bars, so in general the hiking in the Jago was reasonable to good. A rainstorm destroyed most planned activities at the next camp except book reading, and then we moved another 5-6 miles up-valley. This grunt was improved by the patience of the lighter-loaded longer-legged guys who waited for us at rest-stops, and the discovery of a group of muskoxen whose almost black, shaggy coats seemed to drag the ground as they stampeded to higher ground.

This camp was planned to be base camp where Pam and I could make an attempt on Isto. Up at 6, I discovered that Pam was not ready to climb, and that the others had changed their minds and were going to move another 3 hours up-valley. This was my only chance to attempt the 8600-foot peak on the E. Ridge of Isto, and Isto itself, for which all the planning and load carrying had been made. Thankfully, Don agreed that I could resign from the official trip and catch up that night or the next day. Clouds were blowing up-valley from the coast as I hurried up the ridge at a rate of 1500 ft/hr, less burdened without the rope, anchors, etc. A beautiful tundra basin with blooming bistorts, spring beauties, and monkshood gave way to small ridges covered in mountain avens and small cliffs, where I was investigated by a noisy merlin. Then I came to a lookout point where we had seen the herd of 9 muskoxen, so I took time to search for quiviut but only found tracks and piles of poop.

Above this the ridge turns to talus blocks, so I followed a sheep trail, heading around the basin that seemed to bypass the first (easternmost) point on the ridge. Half an hour later I lost the animal route and scrambled the sometimes loose rocks to the ridgetop. Here I found that a breeze from the south kept the clouds from the coast in a blanket level with and north of the crest. Climbing the first of numerous pinnacles along the top, I discovered my shadow on the cloudbank below, outlined in rainbow colors, a halo around my head. Since I'm no saint, I realized that I was seeing the famous "Spectre of the Brocken." Four more times I saw this beautiful apparition at high points along the way between 7500 and 8500. There was a little steep rock (some rotten, some



hard and pleasant climbing) and then I was on the summit, looking around for cairns amongst the rock and skiff of snow. Finding no human sign, I left a register suggesting the name, Spectre Peak.

It was only 1:30 and Isto looked close and clear of cloud. A wide, flat cornice to the north looked like better walking than the talus and pinnacle route I had just followed, and escape routes were visible to the south, so I got on the snow and moved rapidly for nearly a half mile until I hit more pinnacles. I kept finding ways over or around them, but it was slow going. Nearing the notch, I could see a complex route winding up the steep buttress to the main N-S summit ridge.

Should I go down to the small glacier in the valley or continue? It wasn't quite 4 PM. and less than a thousand feet left of Isto: how could I resist a look? Two steep gendarmes were passed on the left, scrambling on the hard quartzite intrusions. Then a steep ramp after an exposed ledge on the right led to snow where calf-deep steps felt safe, and soon ledges led to the left at a reasonable angle. By 5:15 I was kicking steps beneath the long summit cornice, looking for a safe way onto the glaciated top. Finally the rock edge I was following began going down, so I built a small cairn on the highest rock, and began burrowing through the overhang to the top. No wonder the height is in doubt: There was some 40 feet of snow and ice above the rock, and perhaps much more 50 years ago. The view west to Michaelson was shadowy with cloud and late sun, but it was exhilarating to see endless peaks marching into the sunset.

By 6:30 I had returned to my traverse tracks and made much greater speed descending the pre-made pigeonholes with good axe plants. Down below, the fog had rolled up-valley almost to the little glacier. Just as I reached the rock climbing section of the buttress, I could see that a gully below penetrated the cliffs and apparently reached the glacier. It would be a long climb up if I was wrong, but would be a great timesaver if it went through. Indeed, except for loose rock and snow and an 8-foot leap, it was a good descent, and at last I was taking long slides across the flat, bare ice, the few crevasses obvious. The fog soon enveloped me as I slid down moraines, and I had to guess which way to go. Fortunately, waterways led to streams, and they in turn led to the tundra ledges in the main stream valley. Now this was good walking and except for the late hour, a good place to stop and admire the flowers and cascades. There wasn't enough visibility to see a

bear before it was too late, however, so I moved fast for an hour, eyes straining, until I could see under the cloud to the Jago valley. Here the canyon was narrow and steep, with bouldery places to cross the now flooding stream. The rapids were 3 ft. deeper than in the morning and I couldn't find a safe place to ford, so I took a foolish gamble and tried to jump 5 ft. between boulders. The landing rock was slippery, and I fell crosswise on the boulder, unable to grab my ice axe as it disappeared in the torrent. Half an hour of searching and groping in the freezing whitewater produced nothing, so I marched on down the tundra, chastened and well past the euphoria of a long, double summit day.

By the time I had cooked and eaten dinner it was 10:45 PM, so I made my bed under the mosquito net and caught up to the group the next day just after lunch. I was surprised to find them camped a couple miles closer to the valley fork than planned, and they said they had changed their minds about base camping up the west branch. Instead they would return to the fork in the morning cold, cross, and camp a night at the bottom of the east branch. Pam was pissed, since she had missed the previous climb and now there would be no west branch climb. I went exploring for 2 hours upstream and picked a good base camp for a future west-branch climbing trip.

Both forks were crossed early the next morning (icy and knee deep), and camp set up at the first suitable site. After breakfast 4 of us hiked up the valley under spectacular cliffs, following threads of tundra. A lone Dall sheep was discovered on a high ledge, and glaciated peaks peeped out at every entering stream valley. There was a great view and a suitable future base camp visible from the tundra ridge where the valley forks and here we turned back.

Packs were getting somewhat lighter as we headed downstream the next day, with 3 days left in the trip, and we again got a good view of the muskoxen, and saw our first other humans across the river. Since the rest had again changed their minds about a base camp, Pam and I went ahead to the airstrip so we would have a chance to make a last climb. We picked the 5700-foot peak NE of us and by 10 AM we were climbing through the highest tundra, admiring the views and gorging on early blueberries. On the top we were joined by a lone photographer who had camped nearby, and together reached the western highpoint for lunch and a view straight down 2 thousand feet to the river where 3 boats were braving the rapids



(the only other party we saw). Another hour of traversing talus brought us to the top of the peak, which by water leveling was the same height as the next summit to the NE. No cairn here either, so we left a note with a name suggestion "Mottled Mountain" for its appearance. Occasional good patches of scree and reasonable gully walking brought us down to the lush tundra, and then to camp. Here we had a last-night reunion with the others and some long-squirreled-away beers!

S. Souvenir Peak

by Bill Romberg



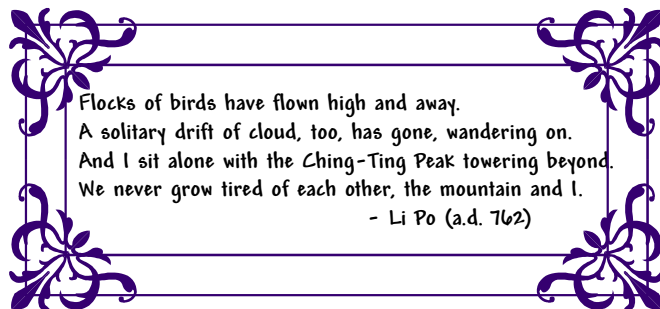
Members Tom Choate, Kirk Towner and I completed a successful ascent of South Souvenir Peak over the Thanksgiving holiday. On Friday, we headed up the Little Susitna drainage, dropped a camp on

the flats below Lone Tree Gulch, and then spent a few hours breaking a trail up the south fork of the gulch before stashing a rope, crampons and other climbing gear near a large boulder. A relatively shallow snow pack combined with the previous week's scouring winds allowed us to take a more direct route back to camp via the gulch itself. Later in winter this would be deadly avalanche terrain, but under the shallow snow conditions we were able to traverse the slopes on the north side of the creek relatively easily and arrived back at camp around 5:30 PM. The next morning, we retraced our tracks to the previous days' high point arriving around 12 noon. Following a quick snack, we continued up the drainage on skis choosing a relatively safe, curving route to the northwest that brought us to the broad plateau west of Arkose Peak. The snow at the higher elevations was considerably deeper and alternated from rock-hard sastrugi to unconsolidated powder depending up the orientation of the slope we were climbing. However, the snowpack was generally very stable.

Around 3:30 PM, we cached our skis below the wind-scoured south ridge and continued up on foot basking in the orange glow of a late-afternoon winter sun. The temperature hovered around 60 but a complete lack of wind made for purely enjoyable climbing. We took a short break on a knoll just south and approximately 500 feet below the pyramidal summit of S. Souvenir Peak to take in the fantastic views of the eastern

Chugach and the Talkeetna Mountains on a perfect bluebird winter afternoon. After donning crampons and helmets, we traversed to the base of the summit pyramid and slowly made our way to the top arriving just as the sun began setting over Cook Inlet. Squeezing onto the small summit, the three of us took turns trying to capture the moment on film as the sun turned various shades of orange and then to a deep red before dipping below the horizon. We all agreed that it had been a perfect day of climbing and certainly one of the most memorable summit moments we had experienced. After entering a note in the summit register and a quick survey to ascertain which of the two Souvenir Peaks was higher using a "water-bottle" level, we started our descent in the early twilight. Our only regret was not having enough daylight to attempt the north peak that seemed so close.

The descent to camp in the twilight was uneventful but relatively painstaking as the snow conditions that had allowed easy climbing made for extremely difficult skiing. On the upper part of our descent, we left our skins on to keep our speed down, but ultimately ended up walking (i.e. post-holing) down much of the route above the boulder where we had cached gear since Tom's skins were no longer staying attached. Once we reached the lower-angled slopes in the valley, Kirk and I strapped on our skis while Tom kept walking in his bunny boots (since he was able to stay on top of our packed trail). Around 9 PM, four hours after leaving the summit, we made it back to our camp more than ready for dinner and drinks. Many a round of hot chocolate laced with butter-nips was shared as we toasted a fantastic day of climbing and made plans to return for a shot at North Souvenir Peak.



Web Chat



rec.climbing:

Question

What's the best option for staking your tent down in the snow. I'm concerned about winds and such when we're not actually inside the thing. Thanks.

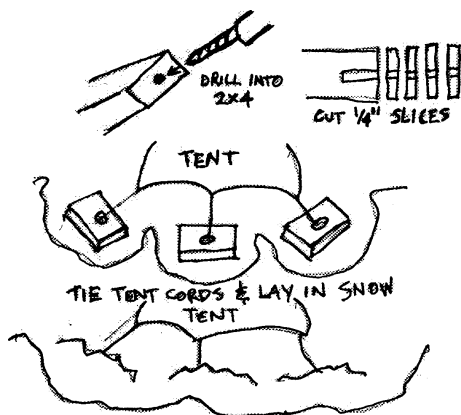
Answer (from Yoyodog):

One useful thing to do is to take an old 2X4, drill a 1/8" hole down the center of its end and saw 1/4 "cheese" slices off the 2X4.

You end up with lightweight, economical stays that can be easily packed.

To use them, you tie down your tent with light cord passed through the holes and you lay the "cheese" slices perpendicular to the cord in the snow. If the snow pack freezes solid on you, you cut the cord and leave the wood stay in the snow. Since it is made of natural material, it is environmentally sound.

And trust me, they really hold solidly.



rec.climbing:

The Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service has recently closed the Mt. Crookneck section of the Glasshouse Mountains National Park. They are enforcing this with \$180 on the spot fines and a maximum fine of \$6000. The closure is not due to climbers environmental impact, or destruction of an Aboriginal site, it has been closed "in the interests of public safety" (i.e.: We are afraid you'll sue us if you fall off/rock falls on your head).

This is strongly opposed by climbers, walkers and parts of the general public.

<http://www.tweak.webcentral.com.au/uqrc/crookneck>

BOARD MEETING

(Barnes & Noble)

01/11/00

Present were Richard Baranow, Mark Miraglia, Dolly Lefever, Bill Romberg, Kirk Towner, Brian Palmetier, Shawn O'Donnell, Elena Hinds (for Cory Hinds). Matt Nedom stopped by briefly. The following was discussed:

Equipment

Todd Steele sent a note to board on equipment upgrades; the club has purchased crampons and ice axes; if AMH agrees, MCA will build a **rack to keep the gear** somewhat organized.

Heated discussion erupted around keeping the **avalanche beacons** at AMH: check out/check in procedures, liability issues, accepting checks as deposits, who is going to assure that they are operational, etc. Club doesn't want to put this responsibility on AMH. Club's beacon policy might have to be modified and a beacon person might be needed. Current status (where Richard keeps the beacons at home and upon request brings them to AMH) is a temporary solution.

Scree

The amount of Screes printed is reaching a critical number - about **1000 were printed in January**. May stop sending to people if they don't renew their membership or change address for more than one year. Scree will be soon available on the Web, which should help.

Avalanche training

Mark Miraglia has contacted Reed Bahsen to teach an avalanche course for the club. The course will include classroom and field sessions. Reed originally agreed to teach the field session on February 26-28, but recently advised Mark that the course dates **need to be rescheduled**.

Candyland

Mark's comments about the Candyland ice climbing area - DOT promised to **plow the south parking lot** to help climbers to avoid illegal parking practices.

The next board meeting is scheduled for **February 15th**. An agenda will be distributed to board members prior to the meeting.

Respectfully Submitted,
Elena 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 by MCA Board, February 1995

General Rules for MCA Sanctioned Trips

1. Proper equipment is on the reverse side of this list.
2. No dogs. (Among the reasons are bear problems.)
3. The leader's suggestions are to be followed. Do not go off alone, return or rush ahead without his (her) permission, and don't ford a stream before the leader assesses the situation. Remember, this is a club trip and the leader must know where all participants are. Anyone separating from the group without the leader's approval is no longer considered a participant the MCA Sanctioned trip.
4. Trip participants who, in the leader's opinion, put themselves or other members of the group in danger by disregarding the leader's suggestions, shall be subject to sanction by the club. Sanctions may include, but are not limited to, reprimand at general meeting, exclusion from future trips, termination of annual membership or lifetime exclusion from the club.
5. You must sign up on a trip roster (club meetings) or contact the leader, and you must have signed the club waiver to be on a club trip.
6. When carpools are arranged, please plan to pay the driver your share without his (her) asking you. Generally \$5 - short trips, \$10 or more for longer.
7. If you find you cannot participate after signing up on the roster, please let the leader know, both for transportation and gear-planning and so someone else can go. If you are the leader, help find a replacement.
8. Total number of people on club trips:
Minimum: 4 (for safety reasons)
Maximum: Leader option, depends upon the trail and campsite conditions, but generally limited to 12 in trailless areas or State and National Parks
9. Firearms are not encouraged, and please let the leader know if you want to carry one - it will be leader's option. Aerosol bear repellent is preferred.

Approved by MCA Board, February 1995

Equipment

Summer

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

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

Additional for Glaciers

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

Winter

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

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

Approved by MCA Board, February 1995

Leader Qualifications

1. Must be a member of the MCA.
2. Must have approval of the Hiking and Climbing Committee (A simple majority.)
3. Must have participated in trips of the same or higher classification than the one being led, showing competence in the opinion of the leaders of those trips; or equivalent experience acceptable to the Hiking and Climbing Committee.
4. Leaders on trips which may involve any avalanche-prone terrain must have passed formal avalanche training approved by the Hiking and Climbing Committee.
5. Leaders on trips which involve any hazardous stream crossings must have either formal training in safe stream crossing methods or have extensive experience crossing streams.

Leader Guidelines

1. Must follow the general rules for MCA Sanctioned Trips.
2. Must have a sign-up sheet with all participants' names on it.
3. Select a meeting time and place disclosed only to those persons on the sign-up sheet, unless call-ins are acceptable to the leader.
4. Must verify that each participant has signed a valid waiver and that it is on file.
5. Can require special equipment and refuse participation to any person that is ill-equipped (including clothing).
6. Has the authority to split the group (fast and slow), but must select a co-leader to help.
7. Must report any injuries to the MCA President.
8. Must report any personnel problems to the Hiking and Climbing Committee.

Approved by MCA Board, February 1995



Mountaineering Club of Alaska, Inc.

Membership Application

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

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

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

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

Our address is: MCA
Box 102037
Anchorage, Ak 99510

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

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

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

RELEASE OF LIABILITY — READ CAREFULLY

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

_____ (initial that you have read this paragraph)

GIVING UP MY LEGAL RIGHTS

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

_____ (initial that you have read this paragraph)

MY PROMISE NOT TO SUE

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

_____ (initial that you have read this paragraph)

MY RELEASE OF LIABILITY

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

_____ (initial that you have read this paragraph)

MY PROMISE TO INDEMNIFY

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

_____ (initial that you have read this paragraph)

MY CONSENT TO MEDICAL TREATMENT

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

_____ (initial that you have read this paragraph)

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

Dated: _____ Signature: _____

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

MINUTES



JANUARY MEETING

The meeting was held downstairs at the Pioneer Schoolhouse. There were a total of approximately 105 people in attendance, 47 standing! Approximately 11 new members or visitors introduced themselves.

TREASURER

Treasurer **Patty McPherson** provided a brief recap of the proposed 2000 budget, then the membership voted in favor to approve the budget.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Hiking and Climbing

Upcoming trips are posted in the Scree and on the club voicemail (566-4MCA). Seven new trips were announced and signup sheets were provided. The Hiking and Climbing Committee has selected a short list of classic trips to offer this year. Established leaders are encouraged to contact the Hiking & Climbing Chair people Matt Needom and Paul Templeton if they are interested in leading a trip. Co-chair **Matt Needom** was thanked on the fine job of arranging trips.

Huts

Chairman **Mark Miraglia** announced that we applied for a grant from DNR but we were turned down despite being ranked #1! The lack of award is being appealed. Information about the huts is available on the Web and at AMH. Dave Staeheli provided brochures on his Snowbird Hut (\$5/night fee) [Secretary note: this hut provides perfect access to fantastic skiing and rock climbing in the Snowbird Glacier Area].

Equipment

Chairperson **Todd Steele** recently submitted a proposal to purchase new gear for the club at significant discount. Reminder to return gear on time.

Parks Advisory

Chairperson **Scott Bailey** announced that the comment period for "traditional" uses in Denali Park has been extended 2 weeks.

Training

Chairperson **Steve Parry** solicited response for people interested in leader training (15-20 people showed interest). Response was also solicited for skills training and for

people who can teach skills training. **Gary Runa** is offering a suite of courses starting soon. Tom McDermott and Brian Palmatier are offering a course in winter camping. This class is now full, but people can sign up as alternate in case someone else drops out. Avalanche training was scheduled for 2/26-27. Recent information is that Reed Bahnsen will not be able to teach the class on these dates, and will re-schedule soon. AMH has a package deal for beacons, shovels, and probes. So does Anchorage Yahama. Check avalanche.com for recent equipment reviews. Signup sheets were posted.

OLD BUSINESS

Calendars are in (\$18 each or \$20 with a patch).

Reminder to check the Club **Voicemail** for the latest on upcoming trips. Great job Kristen!

NEW BUSINESS

There was some discussion about changing **the meeting place**. The Pioneer Schoolhouse room was filled past capacity again.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

AMH calendars –free.

Watch your cars at Park trailheads; more reports of **broken windows**.

Curvin Metzler showed a great set of slides on hiking and caving in the Wrangell Mountains.

Respectfully submitted,
Cory Hinds

Mountaineering Club of Alaska

Officers

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

Board

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

Annual membership dues: Single \$10.00 Family \$15.00 (one *Scree* per family)

Dues can be paid at any meeting or mailed to the treasurer at the MCA address below. If you want a membership card, please fill out the club application found on the previous page and mail it with a self-addressed, stamped envelope. If you fail to receive the newsletter, or have questions about your membership, contact the club treasurer. The post office does not forward the newsletter.

SCREE is a monthly publication of the Mountaineering Club of Alaska. Articles and notes submitted for publication and other communication related to the newsletter should be mailed to my address: 1106 W. 54th Ave., Anchorage, AK 99518, or e-mailed to mcak@gci.net. Articles should be received by February 25 to be included in the March issue.

Paid ads may be submitted to the attention of the Vice-President at the club address and should be "camera ready" and pre-paid. Your cooperation will be appreciated...
Willy Hersman, Editor, 269-8828.

MAILING: richard baranow

HIKING/CLIMBING CHAIRS: matt needom, 278-3648, paul templeton

Web Page: <http://www.alaska.net/~mca>

Hot Line: 566-4MCA



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Mountaineering Club of Alaska
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