

JANUARY 2001

A Publication of the Mountaineering Club of Alaska

Volume 44 Issue 01

Box 102037, Anchorage, Alaska 99510

JANUARY MEETING

Wednesday

January 17, 7:30 pm

Pioneer Schoolhouse, 3rd & Eagle Streets

Downtown Anchorage

**Program: Dave Staeheli will start off the millenium
with Mt. Everest..**

HIKING AND CLIMBING SCHEDULE

Jan 14-15 Lower Russian Lake Barber Cabin
Class A. We will cross-country ski to the Barber cabin and spend Sunday night at the cabin return ing 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

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.

Jan 28 Matanuska Peak

Class D. Chugach Mts. Need ice axe, crampons and skis with skins. Our plan is to leave early in the am and do the headlamp portion on the front end rather on the way out.

Leaders: John Hess 348-7363 h, 762-1778 w, Tom McDermott

TRAINING SCHEDULE

Jan 16, 20-21 Snow Climbing Techniques

Ever wanted to know what to do with an Ice axe or crampons? How about how to climb steep snow safely? If so, or if you would just like to practice, come join us. This is the latest offering in our ongoing training curriculum. If you get them all we give you a gold star, (you'll also be ready to be a leader). We will cover the basics of ice axe arrest, crampon use, roped travel, snow anchors, team arrest and snow climbing. If you don't know your knots yet, not to worry, an evening class will be held before the weekend field session. Location TBA.

Instructor: Steve Parry 248-8710

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

Jan - Apr Basic Mountaineering

Accident Prevention and Emergency Response safety, first aid, leadership & mountain rescue. Outdoor Fundamentals – clothing & equipment, minimum impact, camping & food, navigation, avalanche awareness & wilderness travel. Climbing Fundamentals – ropes, knots, belay, rappel, anchors/pro, route selection, self-arrest, glacier travel & crevasse rescue. Schedule – (To Be Arranged) will require 4 or 5 weeknights (class) and 4 weekends (over night training outings) . Orientation / Coordination – Jan 18, 7-9 pm @ Kaladi Bros., 6921 Brayton. Discuss schedule, prerequisites, expectations, group dynamics & requirements for participation. Facilitator: Gary Runa 275-3613 msg.

The Leader's Corner

List of CPR First Aid Trainers

All these providers offer courses too numerous to list. Give them a call!

1. American Red Cross (277-1538). Offers from basic CPR to a BLS, and First Aid, \$47.00, \$31.00 for renewal. Once per quarter offers a nine hour Remote Alaskan First Aid Course, concentrating on wilderness emergencies for \$55.00 (depends on demand).
2. Aurora North Emergency Services Academy (264-2090) BLS/CPR \$45.00, Basic First Aid \$30.00 and CPR for \$25.00.
3. Respond Systems (344-0302) Adult CPR/First Aid \$50.00.
4. Safety Training in the Northland (333-2666)
5. Emergency Medical Training (346-2088)

ADZE



Lost
Lost a pair of Julbo glacier glasses. Silver frames, blue perscription lenses, original case with heavy rubberband holding it shut. Lost on the trail to or around Crow creek pass cabin.
Wes 349-6914

MCA Listserv, egroups.com

The club has started a listserv for current MCA members. A listserv is an e-mail service that allows large numbers of individuals to communicate with each other by sending only one e-mail to a central e-mail server which is then redistributed to all persons who join the list. This listserv was set up as a communication service for members. Use the listserv to advertise trips, gear for sale, provide members with information on current ice/snow conditions, request partners for trips, etc. The Board and Committees will also use the list to send out announcements of upcoming events and activities. Only current MCA members can subscribe and receive messages. Participation is voluntary. To join the MCA listserv, send a blank message to:

MCAK-subscribe@egroups.com (nothing in the subject line, nothing in the body of the message)

If you are a current member, the list moderator will add you to the list. Once added, you will be sent further instructions on rules, how to send messages to the MCA group, ways to change your preferences for receiving MCA messages, and how to unsubscribe. If you are interested in knowing more about the MCA listserv, go to the following URL: <http://www.egroups.com/group/MCAK>



Mountaineering Club of Alaska
Proposed 2001 Budget

	Proposed 2000 to for 2001 12/26/2000	Actual 1999	Actual 1998	Actual 1997	Jan 96 - Dec 96	Nov 94 Oct 95
REVENUE						
Membership Dues <i>received during calendar year</i>	5,500	5,858.00	6,311.00	4,151.00	4,422.00	2,116.00 3,620.00
Training <i>ice climbing, crevasse rescue, other</i>	3,000	1,815.00	3,630.00	2,995.00	2,175.00	1,870.00 1,822.88
Other: <i>interest, MCA product sales, advertising</i>	-	-	-	-	-	- 267.00
Photo Calendar	1,500	848.00	1,166.00	1,342.00	1,824.00	- -
MCA Products: T-Shirts, Patches, Etc.	1,000	1,229.50	301.00	495.00	-	- -
Interest on Accounts	300	328.70	321.23	434.82	153.33	- -
Grant - REI/AAC Road Sign Project	-	-	2,300.00	-	-	- -
Bulk Purchase - AMH Avalanche Gear	-	4,108.00	-	-	-	- -
Bulk Purchase - Chugach State Park Maps	-	299.00	-	-	-	- -
Bulk Purchase - Alaskana Book Sales	-	470.00	-	-	-	- -
Bulk Purchase - Mountain House	-	-	-	-	2,380.94	- -
TOTAL REVENUE	11,300	14,945.20	14,029.23	9,417.82	10,955.27	3,986.00 5,709.88
EXPENSE						
Training <i>campsite and access fees, instructors</i>	3,000	1,985.00	2,100.00	1,524.38	1,347.50	1,095.00 1,967.50
Scree <i>postage, mailing, printing (currently free)</i>	1,750	1,725.10	1,210.92	1,358.90	1,043.80	697.56 1,281.40
General Meeting <i>rent, refreshments, entertainment</i>	1,500	885.73	1,023.14	732.29	891.41	799.79 703.59
Administrative <i>supplies, forms, fees, rewards, phone</i>	1,400	1,013.12	826.51	678.96	568.50	675.70 362.40
Hut s <i>materials, supplies, hut equipment, lease s*</i>	2,600	393.95	1,136.04	290.85	1,313.95	- 5,350.86
Club Equipment <i>climbing equipment, misc. equipment</i>	500	1,648.07	269.98	682.89	-	484.99 312.98
Library <i>new books, periodicals, Scree binding</i>	250	209.84	263.42	180.24	204.44	208.00 287.73
Other: <i>miscellaneous expenses</i>	-	-	-	-	-	- -
Photo Calendar	1,500	1,175.54	1,803.75	1,227.15	2,912.08	- -
Donation - Memorial for Pia	-	-	-	-	500.00	- -
Grant - REI/AAC Road Sign Project	-	-	872.24	-	-	- -
Bulk Purchase - AMH Avalanche Gear	-	4,418.00	-	-	-	- -
Bulk Purchase - Chugach State Park Maps	-	173.50	-	-	-	- -
Bulk Purchase - Alaskana Book Sales	-	400.00	-	-	-	- -
Bulk Purchase - Mountain House	-	-	-	-	2,380.34	- -
TOTAL EXPENSE	13,000	16,090.65	9,506.00	7,360.04	11,162.02	3,961.04 10,266.46
DUE TO (FROM) RESERVE	(1,700)	(1,145.45)	4,523.23	2,057.78	(206.75)	24.96 (4,556.58)

This budget proposal was developed by the MCA Board on December 12, 2000.

This proposal will be published at the December meeting for comments from the membership.

The final budget proposal will be published in the January Scree for voting by the members at the General Meeting on January 17, 2001.

REV	Dues	No change to membership rate (\$10 individual, \$15 family)
	Training	Revenue will be from the September Ice Climbing School & expanded training programs
	Calendar	No significant changes to the calendar revenue
	T-Shirts, Patches	Continued sales of T-Shirts & Patches. Possible MCA Sticker.
	Interest	We generally receive more in interest than we spend in bank fees
EXP	Training	Ice School & expanded training program, club will pay for photocopies & misc. supplies
	Scree	No significant change to postage expenses
	General Meeting	Additional funds for possibly finding a larger meeting place
	Administration	Additional funds for more member rewards
	Hut Maintenance	Continuation of last year's unspent budget for repair of existing huts
	Club Equipment	No major purchases planned, replace worn out gear
	Library	No significant changes to the library expenses
	Calendar	No significant changes to the calendar expenses
	T-Shirts, Patches	Second run of T-Shirt. Possible MCA Sticker
NET		We expect to draw down the reserves during 2001 rather than raise dues at this time

CASH BALANCE - All Accounts	
Beginning Balance - January 1, 2000	12,699.72
Increase (decrease) during 2000	(1,145.45)
Current Balance for 2001	11,554.27
Checking - Northrim Bank	4,396.56
Money Market - Northrim Bank	6,107.71
18-month CD - in trust for hut lease	1,000.00
Petty Cash	50.00
TOTAL ALL ACCOUNTS -12/26/2000	11,554.27
Ending Balance - December 31, 2000	Not Finished



TRIP REPORTS

Penguin Peak Mystery

by Tim Kelley



his is an interesting tale that occurred in May, 1993. I had meant to write it up in Scree, but ended up procrastinating for 7 1/2 years. Anyway, here it is ...

On May 23rd, 1993 I figured my dogs could use some mountain exercise so I decided to take them up Penguin Peak. From the Bird Creek park access I went up the west avalanche gully and then took the gully that leads in from the left above tree-line to the summit ridge. The pups and I cruised to the top and then began the descent.

For some variation I decided to take the ridge that leads down to the microwave towers. As we were reaching the end of the rocky part of this ridge, about a quarter mile from the towers, Fraetre, my big male Malamute, noticed something flapping in the wind in the rocks ahead of us.

We headed over to check it out. I was quite surprised to see what Fraetre had found. It was a large pile of rolled up sheets. And much of the sheets were soaked in blood.

My first thought was that these were sheets used by someone poaching sheep. Maybe they had used some old sheets to lay on the ground as they butchered the animal. But there were sure a lot of sheets. And there was no sign of sheep hide or hair.

I took an ice axe and pushed back a fold of the sheets. Much to my surprise I found a purplish colored woman's blouse. "Whoa!", I thought, "this doesn't look good!". I put some rocks on the sheets so that they wouldn't blow away, and headed down. As I was running with my dogs down the snowfields thoughts of possible crime scenarios raced through my head.

When I got back to town I gave the State Troopers a call. I started the conversation with "This may sound kind of strange, but here's what I found ...". The trooper seemed appreciative of the call, but said that the State Police helicopter was out in Bethel and they might not get there for

a while. His "between the lines" response basically said thanks for calling, but we probably won't check into this. I figured I had done my good citizen duty.

A couple of days later I got a roll of film developed. On it were pictures of the bloody sheets with the microwave towers in the background. I had the pictures with me as I was driving back into Anchorage after a run on the Old Johnson Trail. Next to the Potter Marsh firing range was parked a State Trooper doing some radar enforcement of the speed limit.

I pulled in behind the trooper. I could see that he wasn't too happy about being interrupted from his picture-taking task. I told him the story anyway and asked him to give the pictures to the trooper I had previously talked to.

The next day I got a call from the trooper I had originally talked to. He said that after he got the pictures they took the State Police helicopter up to the site, picked up the sheets and brought them back to the crime lab. They did an analysis of the red stains on the sheets and determined that the substance was not blood. They then unfolded the sheets, arranged them and realized that they had on their hands a homemade sign with red letters that painted the message: "MARRY ME?" Apparently someone had made this sign and laid it out on the ridge. Possibly soon after, this someone and his or her love interest flew by this location and Penguin Peak proposed. Later a hiker probably found the sheets and rolled them up.

I sure felt embarrassed after the trooper told me this. I told him that I guess that I won't be giving up my day job to be a crime detective anytime soon. He laughed and told me that I did the right thing by reporting this.

So, the mystery of Penguin Peak was solved. Or was it? There still was no explanation for why the woman's shirt was rolled up in the sheets. Hmmm ... the mystery lives on. (Unless someone reading this can fill in the missing blanks).



A Short Climb in May

by Steve Gruhn



n Sunday, May 28, 2000, I figured I had been sitting around too much so I thought I'd kick off the summer rambling season. My wife, Jennifer, and I drove up Hiland Road to the trailhead for the South Fork of Eagle River.

Here we met three other people (Denny and Lisa Wells and Mary Rock) for a nice easy starter hike for the season. We followed the trail under sunny skies until the grade started to become level. At that point we continued up the slope toward a prominent pass between the South Fork of Eagle River and Ship Creek drainages. Denny and I left the gals, crossing an avalanche chute and working our way to the summit of the peak to our left (Anchorage A-7 NW, T13N, R1W, S16). This peak is shown as Peak 3965 on the older maps, but is shown as Peak 1213 on the metric maps and Peak 3980 on the new Chugach State Park map prepared by Imus Geographics. We walked the spur to the west of the summit so that Denny could get a nice picture, finding a survey marker along the way. Done with Denny's photography, I glissaded back to the gals while Denny retraced our steps. It was a nice, easy 2-hour outing to get a little taste of summer in the Chugach Mountains.

Bee's Heaven Peak

Steve Gruhn



cott Bailey and I had planned a climb in the upper Peters Creek drainage for several months. But now that the designated time had finally arrived, I found myself down with a cold. The weather cooperated, but the appointed start time on Thurs-

day, June 29th came and went. I slept in the next morning, trying to get rid of the bug, finally leaving the house around 11 a.m on June 30, 2000. I picked up Scott at his house in Eagle River and together we drove to his friend's house on the southeast side of Falling Water Creek up Prudhoe Bay Road. Scott had obtained permission to park a vehicle at his friend's place for a few days. By the time we got going from the truck, it was after 1 p.m. Because we were geared up to spend five days, we moved slowly up Ram Valley to Bombardment Pass. Before reaching the gla-

cier, I noticed what appeared to be the remnants of an airdrop of supplies. As I went to investigate, I stumbled on a shed moose antler, which I promptly hid for salvage on the return trip.

After many rest stops we followed the trough between the glacier and slope of Pleasant Mountain to the north and east. At first the snow was quite consolidated and made for quick travel. However, as we rounded the bend in the glacier, we found ourselves sinking into the snow more frequently. We crossed a set of brown bear tracks coming from the pass, but they looked to be more than a day old. And the bear had experienced the joys of glissading down the slope, then wallowing in the snow, too. Scott and I looked for a way to get up to the pass. It looked like we'd be forced to head up steep, unconsolidated snow. I poked around a bit and found a place that didn't have a cornice hanging over it and that seemed like we could make it up. I went up first while Scott waited down below. I put my foot into an unseen deep hole in the snow, which sent my heart a-pounding. I didn't know if it was a bergschrund or an air pocket in the lee of the ridge, and I wasn't about to hang around and find out. I swam up the remaining snow to the ridge and hollered to Scott to watch out for the hole as he came up.

Once at the pass, we headed down toward a lake above Peters Creek. Scott was quite exhausted and everything was still quite snowy, so we found a level spot to camp on snow near the snout of the glacier and several hundred feet above the lake. Scott found a relatively level rock that had melted out and designated that our cooking area. We ate and went to sleep, dreaming of mountains.

We got a leisurely start the next morning (July 1st) setting off toward the lake below. Scott had carried a collapsible 2-gallon jug that I filled with water from a stream a couple hundred yards from our camp. I stashed the water there so that it would have a chance to warm in the sun during the day. We walked down the slope and around the northwest side of the partially thawed lake, descending to the braided waters of Peters Creek with minimal alder bashing. We made our way downstream to a prominent bluff on the left side (facing downstream) of Peters Creek. Here we waded across Peters Creek. Since I had gaiters and boots, I managed to stay dry. Scott, as with all stream crossings, exchanged his boots for stream-crossing shoes. A little alder and willow bashing on the other side led me to a rock pile.



Here I waited for Scott, watching pikas. When Scott arrived, he had lunch.

After lunch, we continued down the valley, following, then losing, then discovering a small trail on the right side of the flood plain until we came to the valley of the stream draining from the Wall Street Glacier. Periodically, large avalanches came down the northwestern slopes of Mount Rumble, but we were safely out of their paths. Scott and I headed up the valley toward the glacier, looking for a place to cross the raging stream, now swollen in the heat of the day with glacial melt. Scott found spots that I refused to cross and I found spots Scott didn't want to go across. Finally, we agreed on a crossing point in Section 28 just below a moraine.

We crossed the stream and I still had dry feet, an unusual feat for me. We headed up the ridge, gaining 1,900 feet of elevation.

Once on the ridge, we followed the ridgeline to the east until gendarmes caused us to find a route south of the ridge crest. Here intermittent sheep trails led us to another subsidiary ridge. Scott and I grabbed a bite to eat. The route up the subsidiary ridge was in the fog, with only occasional glimpses of the landforms above. Scott said he didn't want to continue, so we split up.

He headed back for the stream crossing while I left my pack and moved up through 300 feet of gendarmes. Once back on the ridge proper, the traveling was quite fast on large scree and I made the top of Bee's Heaven Peak (6385), signed into the register below such names as Tom Choate, Wendy Sanem, Bruce Kittredge, and Tim Kelley. I figure the name came from Tom, Wendy, or some other punster as a reference to nearby Benign Peak (B-7, B-9, get it? Groan. Better quit B-4 you stop reading. More groans).

I hurried back down to where I had left my pack, following my ascent route. Rather than retracing my steps from the pack, I cut down below the ridge to make time so Scott wouldn't have to wait too long for me. As I was descending the slope, I kept hearing Scott's whistle. I thought he was trying to tell me where he was because the sun had gone behind the mountains and it was getting quite dusky. After crossing the stream below the moraine (I finally got my feet wet), I met up with Scott. He informed me that he had been blowing the whistle to scare off a sow brown bear and two cubs that had been in my

path in the twilight. Thank you, Scott.

We hurried back to Peters Creek, again alternating between traveling on the small game trail and whacking willows. We crossed in the same place as before, but we were traveling much slower heading upstream. Traveling upstream in the dark we kept making noise to shoo away any hungry bruins. Eventually, we made our way to the base of the slope below the lake. The 1,200-foot climb up the slope to the lake was not the best way to finish the trip. Nor was the 600-foot climb from the lake to the water jug. From the water jug to the camp seemed like the longest 200 yards. I collapsed at the tent at 4:45 a.m. Scott showed up 15 minutes later and we hurriedly ate breakfast and hit the sack.

Later that morning (July 2nd) we awoke to find that we were socked in with fog. We couldn't see our cooking area 30 yards away. "Weather day," I declared. Scott put up no argument.

The next day, July 3rd, the weather hadn't changed, so we gave it until 10 a.m., and then packed up to leave. I packed up and waited for Scott. By noon, he got sick of me waiting impatiently and sent me up toward Bombardment Pass. I got to the point where he would go out of view and waited for him to finish packing and meet me. Once he arrived, we headed up to the pass, traveling on moraine much of the time.

At the pass we noticed a man and a dog had visited since we were last there. We found a gentler way down the pass to the south of where we had come up a few days earlier. As I sat at the pass, I hungrily eyed Cumulus Mountain. A snow slope led up the southeast ridge and it looked ever-so inviting.

We followed the steps of the man and the dog on our descent from the pass and down the trough. Once down the valley, I couldn't find the airdrop debris that marked the moose antler. I thought the other man had taken it. But, I found the antler with little effort. We found the remains of the airdrop at the end of the moraine. We hiked up the slope from there to the ridge overlooking the Eagle River. We stayed on the ridge crest to avoid private property. Once on Scott's friend's property, we headed down to an old road behind his house.

I was a little ahead of Scott at this point when I rounded a corner and heard a large animal in the brush 10 feet or so on the left in front of



me. It made a noise that was somewhere between a bark and a growl. I made a noise that was somewhere between a yell and the sound a blabbering idiot makes. Knowing that Scott was slower than I, I hollered for him to get down with me pronto. He called back wanting to know why. This guy is no dummy. Unfortunately, I was. As I backedpedaled, I yelled that there was a bear right in front of me and that he should come down to me now. Little wonder, but Scott didn't see the need for him to visit with the bear. Once I had backed up far enough to meet him strolling down the road, Scott took out his bear spray and whistle. We walked the last 250 yards to the truck with the bear spray at the ready and with me tweeting on the whistle.

Now, that was an exciting way to end a hike in the mountains.

BOARD MEETING

The following members attended the December 12th board meeting at Barnes and Noble: Bill Romberg, Jayme Mack, Tom Choate, Kirk Towner, Patty McPherson, John Hess, Steve Parry, Dolly Lefever, Richard Baranow and Tom McDermott.

Orientation and Budget

Officers were each given a new and revised handbook on operations for officers. The board discussed the focus of the club and its members, many officers agreed that the focus should return to member services but should also emphasize maintenance of the huts and training opportunities for members. The board listened to budget proposals by the different MCA committees and their chairs. Members then started to allocate funds in each of the areas of the budget. You will find a proposal of the budget for the year 2001 in the Scree.

Next General Meeting

Board members assigned tasks for the Christmas Potluck Dinner, Tom McDermott and Jayme Mack were assigned turkey and beverage duty, Kathy Still supplied all sorts of cookware, plates and utensils and Bill Romberg cooked all the turkeys. Wendy Sanem will bring the bread and butter.

Huts

The Board reviewed correspondence from the AMGA (American Mountain Guides Association) regarding misuse of the huts during the 2000 season. The board was pleased to hear that the AMGA would like all of their participants to become members of the club and that they will make a donation of \$100 to the club. The board accepted this offer.

Trip Leaders

Mark Maraglia was able to get a copy of UAA's AOEE venue guide. The guide will be available to all MCA trip leaders. The Hiking and Climbing Committee will retain the guide.

Training

Tom McDermott spoke with Matt Nedom in reference to First-Aid training; he was able to get some contacts and will further investigate potential options for MCA Trip Leaders. He will report on this at the next Board meeting.

The board reviewed Steve Parry's syllabus for the Level 1 Avalanche course being offered to members and majority approved it.

Sean DeWalt with Snow Dynamics proposed Level 1 Avalanche courses to the MCA membership for \$150 for all current members. He normally charges \$ 175. His schedule is somewhat delayed because of the lack of snow pack but he will keep in touch with the board.

Trail Maintenance

Tom Choate and Cory Hinds have been working on the Gold Mint Trail Maintenance project. They think that one more work session in the early spring will bring the trail back to normal.

Scree

Simon Harrison wrote the board a note proposing that the club solicit members to receive their Screes electronically instead of a paper copy. The board agrees, with membership increasing printing is becoming more and more of a task. The board will make an announcement at the December meeting, and maybe see a show of hands that might be interested.

Listserv

The board also proposed that a Listserv be developed for the club to develop better communication between members. A sign-up sheet will be provided at the December general meeting.

Future Board Meetings

Starting in January of 2001 the board will meet the Tuesday, one week prior to the general meeting, at Alaska Mountaineering and Hiking, upstairs at 7:30 PM. All members are invited.

Respectfully Submitted,
Jayme Mack



MINUTES

DECEMBER MEETING

There were 60 people in attendance and tons of good food. A total of 6 new members or visitors introduced themselves.

TREASURER

Kirk Towner filled in for Patty McPherson and explained the proposed budget for the year 2001.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Hiking and Climbing

Bill Romberg reported on the McKinley Pinnacles ski trip and the Flattop sleep out, both trips were great, although the winds scared a few members away. Upcoming trips are posted in the Scree and on the web page. New trips were also announced. The climbing committee is also looking for more members to lead trips, please contact Richard Baranow if interested.

Geographic Names

Tom Choate made note that there is a proposal out there to rename a peak in the Thoroughfare Pass Area. The proposed name is "Benson." If anyone is interested in this proposal please contact Tom directly.

Training

Steve Parry announced to new classes going on for the winter. He, Tom Choate and Brain Schmidt will be offering Avalanche courses and Winter Camping Courses.

Huts

Mark Miraglia reported that the window in the Box Den is broken and needs repairs. He would like for someone to go in and take measurements of the window, for repairs. He also needs someone going in to Rosie's Roost to take a sample of the corrugated roofing so that he can find a match. The Mint Hut also needs repairs the lower hinge on the outhouse door is broken. Mark is trying to establish a database of measurements and information for the huts so any information you can provide him would be helpful.

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

Bill Romberg is still looking for someone to take over the **Scree labels**; the person must be computer literate and have some extra time. Please contact Bill Romberg for further interest.

The University of Alaska AOEE program has given the club a copy of their own **venue guide** for MCA trip leaders to use. AOEE just asks that leaders to take pictures of routes, water sources and tent sites.

The **trail maintenance** was able to go back up into the Gold Mint trail and do some more clearing; they were able to clear about a mile and a half of trail just near the Lonesome Mine corner. The crew needs more help and expects the next clearing party to be in late winter.

NEW BUSINESS

The proposed **2001 Budget** was discussed and expenditures and revenues were explained. The proposed budget is attached in this Scree and members will make the final vote on it at the general meeting in January.

The 2001 MCA **Calendars** are available. The regular price for all members is \$18. For members that entered pictures into the competition can get them for \$16. The club only has 100 copies in print and some are being sold at Alaska Mountaineering and Hiking.

Calendar **awards** were given out to the winners. There were gift certificates from AMH, and all sorts of good do-dads from AMH.

Past president Richard Baranow was recognized for all his work and enthusiasm for the last two years for the club. He was awarded a gift certificate to Alaska Mountaineering and Hiking.

A **listserv** has been established for all members that are interested. A sign-up sheet was available at the meeting. If you are interested in signing-up please contact Bill Romberg.

It has been proposed that the Scree be delivered electronically to those that chose to do so; right now there are only 60 members with e-mail addresses in the database. The

board's goal by the end of the year is to have over half the membership receiving the **Scree electronically**. There will also be a new box to check on the MCA application on which you can check your preference, paper or electronic.

The MCA **web page** has tons of information and services for members including bulletin boards; the Scree is also posted regularly on the web and actually gets there faster than the paper copies that are mailed out.

Just a reminder that the deadline for **AAJ** articles for significant trips and club activities is coming soon, please have all submissions to Bill Romberg by January 1st.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Gear was for sale and some of the proceeds of those sales went to the **Nick Coltman Fund**. Nick Coltman was injured in an early season avalanche on Flattop.

Richard Baranow's Winter **Slide Show** Series continues, featuring Mt. Beelzebub and Peril Peak on Tuesday, January 9th at 7:30 PM upstairs at Alaska Mountaineering and Hiking. All shows are free to the public.

Sean DeWalt with Snow Dynamics will be offering MCA members a Level 1 **avalanche course** for a discounted rate. Prices will be announced later.

Member Chris Raabe is **looking for partners** for Denali and a ski expedition of Mt. Sanford.

A few members presented some awesome slides of trips that they have done throughout the year.

Respectfully submitted,
Jayme Mack



WEB CHAT

everyweek.com:

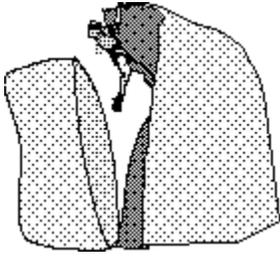
The BLM last week published a final rule that recognizes rock climbing as a legitimate use of BLM-managed wilderness areas. The rule applies to 5.5 million acres of wilderness areas in the continental United States.

The final rule appears to be a victory of sorts for climbers, who have been denied access to their favorite crags and cliffs in the past due to conflicts with wildlife, native American rights, or lack of public easements across private property.

Under the rule, rock climbers do not need a permit to climb. Climbers may not, however, use power drills to install permanent fixed anchors. The final rule does not address the issue of installing new, permanent fixed anchors for rock climbing in BLM wilderness areas. The BLM has decided to "reserve" for the future any regulatory action on the installation of such anchors.

Steve Hawley





Climbing Notes

On April 23, Paul Claus flew Paul Barry, Jeannie Wall, Dick Dorworth and Dave Hart to 9400 feet at the base of the Washburn/Bates route on the south side of the Lucania/Steele massif. We would follow our predecessors' route up both these peaks, more than half a century after their ascent. We double-carried to our camps at 10400 feet at the base of the route, 12300 feet halfway up the Alaska Grade 2 spur, and 14100 feet on the plateau between Steele (16664) and Lucania (17147). From there, we summited Steele from its gentle west slopes on April 29 despite -20F ambient temperatures and windy conditions. We then moved our camp two miles west across the plateau, to beneath the north side of Lucania's east peak. The entire north side of Lucania's upper mountain is prone to either slab or serac avalanches. On May 3, stable snow conditions allowed us to choose a relatively safe route straight up the north facing headwall, gaining the summit ridge at a point between the east and central peak. This massive 35-40 degree 2500-foot slope would be treacherous under wind loading. Once on the summit ridge, we opted to traverse west across the north side of the central peak, avoiding unnecessary elevation gain of climbing this sub-peak. This traverse provided exciting and exposed 50-degree slopes for a few pitches. Upon reaching Lucania's summit we spent almost an hour reveling in the view south towards Mt. Logan, Mt. St. Elias and beyond. We returned to camp after 10 hours. The next day, we descended all the way to base camp in a localized storm and flew home the following day.

On May 18, Tim Thomas and Dave Hart were flown to 10200 feet on the upper Anderson Glacier by Paul Claus. From this large basin located immediately northwest of Mt. Wood (15885), Mt. Macaulay (15387) and Mt. Slaggard, we skied to our high camp at 13300 feet routing ourselves via the pass between Mt. Strickland and Mt. Wood. Two days later, we climbed the southern slopes to the west ridge of Mt. Wood (Alaska Grade 2), summitting in beautiful yet breezy weather. After a one-day storm, we attempted the northwest ridge of Mt. Macaulay, but turned back after triggering a small avalanche. The next day, we opted for Macaulay's safer wind scoured northeast ridge and reached the top amidst clouds. Two days later, we were back home in Anchorage.



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.

Approved: MCA Board, February 15, 2000

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

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 & 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 8 mountain huts in the nearby Chugach and Talkeetna mountains. The MCA / Vin Hoeman Library, located upstairs in Alaska Mountaineering & Hiking on Spenard Road, contains hundreds of books, numerous periodicals, bound volumes of the *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 the previous meeting, announcements of upcoming events, the hiking and climbing trip schedule, and trip reports written by club members. A monthly meeting and slide show is held on the third Wednesday of each month at 7:30pm in the basement of the Pioneer Schoolhouse (corner of 3rd & Eagle Streets, downtown Anchorage). Special events or changes to the meeting will be noted in the *SCREE*. Be sure to visit our website at: www.mcak.org

.. **Complete both sides of this form.** To participate in club-sponsored trips, every member must read and complete the Release of Liability Agreement on the back of this application.
.. Please make checks payable to **Mountaineering Club of Alaska, Inc.**
.. Dues are \$10 for an individual or \$15 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 stamped, self-addressed envelope for your membership card. Otherwise, you may pick it up at the next monthly meeting.

Our address is:
MCA
PO Box 102037
Anchorage AK 99510-2037

NEW
RENEWAL

DATE
NAME

INDIVIDUAL (\$10)
FAMILY (\$15)

FAMILY MEMBERS

ELECTRONIC
PAPER

How do you want your **SCREE** delivered? (check one or both)
Fastest! Direct to your email address specified below
Postal Service – please include \$5 extra if outside US

STREET or PO BOX
CITY / STATE / ZIP
TELEPHONE
E-MAIL ADDRESS

COMMENTS

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): _____

Mountaineering Club of Alaska

Officers

President Bill Romberg 677-3993
Vice-President Tom Choate 333-5309
Secretary Jayme 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 Articles should be received by February 2nd to be included in the February 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

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



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