



MARCH 2001

A Publication of the Mountaineering Club of Alaska

Volume 44 Issue 03

Box 102037, Anchorage, Alaska 99510

MARCH MEETING

Wednesday

March 21, 7:30 pm

Pioneer Schoolhouse, 3rd & Eagle Streets
Downtown Anchorage

Program: Dan Hourihan of Alaska State Parks will
present a slide show on Wood-Tikehik State Park.

HIKING AND CLIMBING SCHEDULE

Mar 16-20 Resurrection Pass Ski Tour

Class D. We will stay in Forest Service cabins, and spend five days (four nights) on the trail, with a day layover at Devil's Pass for telemark/randonnee skiing. Plan to divide costs for the cabins plus other incidentals. Required equipment: backcountry skis with climbing skins; avalanche beacon, probe, and shovel; clothing, food, and equipment for five days. Participants should have intermediate level skiing ability, and be able to ski with a full pack. To sign up please call.

Leader: Tom McDermott 263-7258 w, 277-0774 h,
or tmcdermott@bhb.com

The following are a series of mid-week, after-work trips being led by Steve Gruhn. These are going to be relatively fast-paced, ranging from Class A to Class D. The destinations are tentative, dependent on weather, traffic, snow conditions, etc. Reaching the destinations with the daylight available in the spring will not be possible if there are stragglers in the group, so please make sure you are up to the task before showing up. Steve would like to gather the e-mail addresses of interested parties. The day before each excursion, he will confirm the destination and time

and get a head count. Maximum of 12 people (including leader) on each trip. Dogs will not be allowed.

Steve's e-mail is scg@hartcrowser.com.

Mar 22 Turnagain Arm Trail

Thursday. Potter to McHugh. Class A. 6:00 PM.

27 Bird Ridge Point

Tuesday. Class C. 5:30 PM.

29 Falls Creek Ridge

Thursday. Class D. 5:30 PM.

Apr 3 McHugh Creek/Rabbit Lake Trail

Tuesday. Class C. 5:30 PM.

5 Rainbow Peak

Thursday. Class C. 6:00 PM.

10 Bear Point

Tuesday. Class B. 5:30 PM.

12 Penguin Creek

Thursday. Class A. 5:30 PM.

17 Winner Creek Gorge

Tuesday. Class A. 5:30 PM.

Apr 28-May 13 Escalante River area of South Utah.

Class B. Two, 5-6 day backpack trips with a pit stop between. Some water, brush, rocks, and sun. We'll meet at Las Vegas airport. Deposit required.

Leaders: Bill Wakeland & Don Hansen 696-6247.

TRAINING SCHEDULE

Mar 20(22) 24-25 Telemark Skiing Course

Want to feel the thrill of doing a great free heel turn in fresh powder, or do you just want to learn how to get back down the hill with your telemark skis? If you do, come join our telemark skiing class. We will cover beginner to advanced intermediate and if you're better than that, how about helping teach? We will spend an evening talking about equipment and then a day at a ski area covering the basics. The second day we'll take you out to experience the thrill of backcountry skiing. You'll need Telemark Ski's, Boots and Poles. If you don't have them call AMH or some other shop for rentals at least a week in advance. A pair of climbing skins will also be useful but not absolutely necessary. Location TBA. Instructor: Steve Parry 248-8710

Apr 19 21-22 Glacier Travel Course

Planning that big climb? Or do you just want cross a glacier to get from here to there? Come learn the rudiments of how to safely get across. We will cover glacier travel techniques and the basics of how to avoid trouble, (you'll still need an experienced leader though). We'll also teach you what to do if the worst happens. Roped glacier travel, anchors, hauling systems, and of course crevice rescue techniques. We will have an indoor course and then a full weekend outdoors. You will need to know how to use an Ice axe, crampons, (the club has some) and a climbing harness will be useful. Location TBA.

Instructor: Steve Parry 248-8710

Mar - Apr Glacier Travel & Crevasse Rescue

Glaciology, gear, route selection, roped travel, ascending, hauling systems, rescue techniques. Orientation / Coordination – Feb 20, 6 -7 pm at Kaladi Bros. 6921 Brayton. Will require 3 week nights (lecture), 1 weekend outdoor ascending practice & 3 day weekend (Easter) Apr 13 -15 at Matanuska Glacier.

Facilitator: Gary Runa 275-3613 msg.

TRIP REPORTS

6 Huts on the Eklutna Traverse

by Stu Grenier

Last April Brent Hughes, Norm Knowles and I hit six huts in one week on the traverse. In case you don't know the traverse goes from Eklutna Lake to Girdwood. It seems that in March and April lots of people start talking about doing it so this is probably a suitable time to publish an account.

The six huts that we hit were the new Eklutna Hut (the park service calls it the Serenity Falls Public Use Cabin), Pitchler's Perch, Hans' Hut on the Whiteout Glacier, Rosie's Roost on the Eagle Glacier, The Nordic Ski Camp on the Eagle (it is actually a two story house), and the State Parks cabin at Crow Pass.

We left the Eklutna Lake trailhead about 9AM on a clear April 16th. It was early in the morning with no new snow so the surface of the lake was hard and fast. With 50-pound packs and one sled we crossed the lake in just over three hours. The deep tracks on the lake told of skiers who experienced much warmer temperatures and therefore slower skiing.

After we pulled into the new Eklutna Hut, stoked the stove up, kicked back and took in the awesome view, there came a knock at the door. It was from the team that had left the deep tracks on the lake the day before. They had gone up the East Fork of the Eklutna River and camped and now were heading to Pitchler's Perch like us.

The next morning the six of us left for the Eklutna Glacier. Their younger, lighter packed, and faster team took a route up the left side of the glacier in a pronounced gully. This route worked but prevented them from getting their skis on earlier and was subject to avalanche. We tracked them about 100 yards and then crossed to the center of the glacier where we could change our crampons for skis and stop sweating avalanches.

Farther up the glacier we hit their tracks again and followed them to Pitchler's Perch where they had been watching us for hours as we slowly worked our way up the glacier. Spirits were high that night as it became clear that we had stumbled upon a high pressure system and that



these young guys were going to set a trail all the way to Girdwood for us.

The next morning we started our slog for the horizon and Whiteout Pass under a crystal clear sky. Soon the young team zoomed past us as they set their sights on Rosie's Roost on the Eagle Glacier. We were heading for Hans' Hut on the Whiteout. By 3:00 o'clock they were slipping over Whiteout Pass, just tiny dots on a sea of white. It was sad to see them go but the trail that they broke was a God sent. As the day heated up the sled proved to be a mistake. A complete snowplow, it sucked the energy out of anyone who pulled it. Laying on our packs looking straight up into the bluest sky imaginable, flocks of geese heading north in long V formations, honked thousands of feet over our heads.

We got to Hans' Hut a fairly tired lot. I was especially glad to have reached it since 15 years earlier we had skipped it. The rays of the setting sun, a bottle of whisky left by a kind soul, and a very comfortable hut made for complete satisfaction. The next morning we woke to clouds and snow but plenty of visibility to make Rosie's Roost. Being fairly tired we got a late start and barely got to Rosie's Roost before night fall and dark clouds. By now the other team's tracks were gone. In the hut we found a stack of sleds that had been left by others. We gladly left ours, too.

The morning of day five was clear and calm so Norm and I, with light packs, left Brent to enjoy Rosie's as we skied on up to the Nordic Ski Camp on the top of the Eagle Glacier. We were very happy to find a door unlocked but greatly disappointed to find that it only opened in, the entire inside entryway was so full of snow we couldn't open the door any more than an inch. We went under the building to find that unscrupulous people before us had cut holes in the floor to get in. Not wanting to vandalize the place we left the plywood patches in place and just napped in the sun. There were a couple of Sea Land cargo containers that were open but one smelled of gasoline and the other was full of trash. The view from the place made up for its sorry state and the ski back down to Rosie's proved to be the best skiing of the trip, even though the rope did cause at least one good wipeout.

For day six we planned to get up really early so we could get down the Raven Headwall before the sun made it avalanche-prone. I had the uncanny experience of being woken up from a deep sleep by what was a very clear knocking on

the front door at the exact time we wanted to get up. I got up and went downstairs and opened the door expecting to see someone. There was just a ptarmigan on a rock some 30 feet away. I told the others about my experience and asked if they had heard it too. They said they had not. I wrote it off as an odd experience and if nothing else a good omen. I guess you are never alone in the mountains.

The trip up to the col above the Raven Glacier is subject to avalanches on a bad day, but we were fortunate and got to the col just as the sun started to shine on the face below. I was belayed down so I could jump up and down and see if I could get it to slide. A pit and a shear test looked good so we just went straight down without a hint of the bergschrund that is open later in the year. It was a nice ski down to Crow Pass and felt great not to be roped up anymore.

Our last night was spent at the Crow Pass cabin. Though another team had stayed there a week before we still had to dig it out. Only the top two feet of the roof were visible. We once again timed our decent to hit the avalanche areas in the very early morning to avoid soft slopes. The snow and ice was so hard we wore crampons. Deep in the valley by the creek we found avalanches had taken out the tracks of the team in front of us. We all knew someone had died there a few Aprils ago. Following the creek out we found a dead sheep or goat in avalanche debris. Other animals had been eating it.

As we all skied to where the road was maintained I felt sad that the trip was coming to an end. The weeklong adrenalin rush with its divine views was now over and the only thing I could think of was "I can't wait to do it again."

ADZE

Looking for Partners

Looking to get a team together for a mid to late April Eklutna Traverse.
Stu 337-5127



For Sale

Dana Designs Terraplane, XL, Green, Almost mint, \$300. Dana Designs TerraFrame, L, Green, Never used, \$250.
Kevin 694-3977 or
ksiegrist@alaska.com



MARCH MCA discount

gear

	retail	MCA member
ARC'TERYX		
gamma fleece.....	\$165.....	\$99
MARMOT		
down sweater.....	\$149.....	\$99
patagonia		
m's & w's stretch triolet jkt..	\$345....	\$255
direct-x jacket.....	\$355....	\$260
ether jacket.....	\$345....	\$225

plus...

women's arcteryx theta jacket...\$320...marmot alpinist jacket \$275...marmot climbing jacket \$295...patagonia ice nine jacket \$299...marmot alpinist-tech sweater...\$99...marmot crestone jacket...\$160...women's marmot climbing jacket...\$325...trial runners and light-weight boots from salomon, lowa and garmont....30-50%.

And as always ten-percent off of climbing hardware and mountain boots.

available at:



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): _____

Officers **Mountaineering Club of Alaska** *Board*

President Bill Romberg 677-3993
Vice-President Tom Choate 333-5309
Secretary Jayme Mack 258-7571
Treasurer Patty McPherson 336-2225

Kirk Towner 344-5424
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 March 30th to be included in the April 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.

Missing your MCA membership card? If so, stop by one of our monthly meetings to pick it up or send us a self-addressed stamped envelope and we'll mail it to you.

MAILING: richard baranow, bill romberg, jayme mack

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)

MAILING LIST SERVICE: mcak@yahoogroups.com



Scree printed by BP Exploration

Mountaineering Club of Alaska
Box 102037
Anchorage, Alaska 99510

PRSTRT STD
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
ANCHORAGE, AK.
PERMIT NO. 127