



SEPTEMBER 2001 *A Publication of the Mountaineering Club of Alaska*

Volume 44 Issue 09

Box 102037, Anchorage, Alaska 99510

SEPTEMBER MEETING

Wednesday

September 19, 7:30 pm

Pioneer Schoolhouse, 3rd & Eagle Streets

Downtown Anchorage

Gear Swap: Bring in your unwanted hiking, skiing and climbing gear and sell or trade it for something more useful.

Slides: Nothing planned this month, so bring in 10-15 slides of your favorite summer trip for anyone interested in staying after the swap to enjoy.

HIKING AND CLIMBING SCHEDULE

Sep 15 Ship Creek Trail Clearing

Head down to the bottom of Ship Creek from Arctic Vally and start clearing the trail to Indian so we can have a better ski this winter. Wear rubber boots and leather gloves. The State Parks may supply the tools. Leashed dogs and kids welcomed. Leader: Stuart Grenier 337-5127

Aug & Sep Gold Mint Trail Work

Ranger Murphy has organized a trail crew to improve the trail and is looking for volunteers from MCA to provide labor. The crew will be clearing brush, building boardwalks, etc., working most weekends throughout August and September. Contact: Cory Hinds 248-6606

TECHNICAL ICE CLIMBING CLASS

place: Matanuska Glacier
 date: September 29-30
 fee: \$35.00 covers access to glacier, camping and club equipment replacement
 meeting: Wednesday, September 26, Pioneer Schoolhouse 7:00 P.M (Instructors at 6:15). This meeting is mandatory, so plan to attend.

The ice climbing class is for all levels of experience from beginner to leader. We will present the techniques necessary to become at least a competent second on steep ice. We will not emphasize glacier travel techniques.

PRE-REGISTRATION WILL BE REQUIRED.

Sign-ups are at the regular September club meeting - **for MCA members only**. Potential instructors should call Steve Parry, 248-8710 or Bill Romberg, 677-3993. Participation will be limited by how many instructors there are.

MCA membership applications are available on-line at <http://www.mcak.org/MCAMembers.htm>

An equipment check will be done at the organization meeting on the 26th. Students are required to bring their boots and crampons for inspection. Club equipment will be handed out. (The club has limited supplies of crampons, ice axes and helmets.) **Fees will be collected.** Questions will be answered. **ALL STUDENTS MUST ATTEND.** AMH, on Spenard Rd., also rents boots, crampons and ice tools for people signed up for the class. Some equipment is sometimes available from instructors, but you should not count on it. Club crampons are not designed for serious ice climbing; you should consider other options. For this class all attendees must have helmet, crampons, climbing harness, ice axe, two locking carabiners, and climbing boots.

The school begins at 9:00 A.M. on Saturday, September 29th, at the Matanuska Glacier parking lot closest to the glacier. Plan on leaving Anchorage no later than 6:30 A.M. or go up on Friday night, this year's camping spot has been changed to the airstrip. Signs will be posted. Please leave your dogs, cats, horses, llamas and other four-legged things at home. Under-age drinking will not be tolerated. In fact, all minors should be accompanied by a guardian who will be responsible for them.

Course Goals

- Learn a useful and safe technique for climbing ice in the alpine and waterfall environment.
- Learn to use modern tools in order to insure maximum safety and speed.
- Learn and practice all of the basic state of the art rope management techniques, with emphasis on skills most useful for winter and ice climbing.
- Belaying the leader through mechanical devices and non-assisted or traditional technique.
- Building safe anchor systems, regardless of terrain or conditions.
- Route-finding to rapidly and safely achieve the goal without having unnecessary objective hazards.
- Achieve a climbing and fitness level to assure basic competency in alpine winter climbing.

Equipment for Ice and Winter Alpine Climbing

Technical gear

Ice axe - your basic tool. Most useful in 55 cm to 60 cm range as the primary tool. Modern ice tools have curved or re-curved picks with serrated teeth for maximum holding power in most ice conditions. Taller climbers or those who primarily are snow-climbers will prefer a 70 cm axe. The second tool will be in 45 cm to 55 cm range, specialized for

steep water ice climbing. A great variety is available, so try to use as many styles as possible to find the tool that best suits your style.

Crampons - rigid 12-point are the best choice for ice climbing. The new one-buckle system is *far* superior to the neoprene straps. Footfangs are an obvious choice also.

Helmet - a must for the beginning to experienced ice climber, ice hurts

Boots - double plastic or leather. Plastic boots are the warmest and as stiff as the best leather without breaking down. Alveolite foam inner boots are the best liner yet made, in terms of warmth vs. weight.

- Neoprene socks or booties which are loose fitting are also helpful.
- Neoprene or cloth/insulated overboots are necessary for altitude and all but spring conditions in Alaska. A margin of warmth must be maintained for safety.

Harness - must be adjustable with wide leg loops, that will open up to put on over all your various clothing systems. Most modern styles have this capacity.

Ice Screws/Spectres - you should employ a variety of types and lengths to accommodate varying ice conditions. Pound-in and screw-in types should be carried on the rack.

Carabiners - you must have two large locking types and several regular carabiners. As you increase your proficiency and the difficulty of the routes you lead, you will require increasing amounts of hardware to protect your leads.

Slings - you will need to carry several lengths, plus you should have a quick-draw for each ice screw on the rack. You will also need several two-meter length slings of 6mm to 8mm perlon for prussik slings and other specialized uses for which tubular webbing is not suitable.

Special mechanical devices - jumars, figure-8 and other gizmos will be used and discussed to establish their relevance.

Clothing Systems for the Winter Alpine Environment

The clothing system should layer well and be adaptable to a variety of uses and temperatures. Strive to use the minimum amount necessary to reduce both weight and bulk. The use of pile and Gore-Tex should yield a warm and light suit. An expedition parka and/or suit would be the final layer.

Socks - light wool or poly liner, heavy wool or pile outer. Or a neoprene sock, especially built for climbing. Capilene, wool or blends all are used.



Legs - poly or capilene long johns in various thicknesses. Salopettes or pile bibs. Mountain pants or a mountain suit. Bibs - or a one-piece suit are the best choice because they eliminate the waist hassle.

Torso - bib pile or insulated suits are the best choice. Poly or capilene t-neck tops. Pile or wool sweater. Down vest. Mountain anorak or parka.

Hats and Mitts - must be warm and windproof. A balaclava or facemask should be carried. Mitts also need waterproof shells.

Gaitors

Everything in the clothing system should have long zips or full side zips, so they can be easily removed or put on.

TRIP REPORTS

Day Fluting

by Wayne L. Todd



In June 29, 2001, Kathy Still, Steve Wilson, Doug Zellmer and I headed in under mostly cloudy skies to try Flute Peak. We made good time to the lakes and due to the high water level went south around Eagle Lake. Farther up valley, we ascended left around the beautiful and thundering waterfalls. We were now in new territory for Steve and Doug.

Kathy led up the Flute Glacier, her steps sinking only six inches, an advantage of the cloudy skies and cooler temperatures. Doug led up to the pass north of Allegro (5860). I diverted slightly to investigate a bright orange object that I'd seen four weeks previous. It was a NOAA weather instrument. I hauled it to the pass planning to retrieve it on the exodus. We scrambled down a gully onto the Organ Glacier, managing to not knock boulders on one another. We roped up there, as the Organ isn't as innocuous as the Flute.

At the base of Flute Peak we discussed routes and a majority vote led to a snow route running south that led to the summit ridge. From below we could see an open crevasse which looked crossable on the right side. That went fine but once across the first one a bergschrund running right to left revealed itself. We were able to sneak between the two and bypass this to the

left, placing a few pickets in this section. After a brief bit of 45 degree snow climbing we topped out on the ridge.

The cloud ceiling had been lowering since we hit the Organ Glacier. As we approached the summit block it began raining slightly. We decided a rope was in order for half a pitch on the wet rock. I led up the route and soon thereafter we were all on top.

We could just make out Eagle and Ewe Peak from the summit. We found a cairn but no register so we left one. When Steve tossed the rope down for the rappel it made a pop sound, which was odd, and he commented as such. Doug heard a sizzling from his helmet and had a 'spider web' sensation on his face. I heard a sizzling sound and then realized it was my raincoat.

St. Elmo's Fire! We all suddenly became enlightened. I raised my bare hand to feel the hair rise from electricity. We were wearing helmets but now noticed eyebrows were tingling. The summit no longer seemed to be the 'happening place'. We all crouched at the rap station wanting to be next. By virtue of my sizzling raincoat I avoided the last position. All made it down safely.

From the summit we had viewed a snow slope which looked to be continuous running down the west side to the Flute Glacier. We thought this route would save time, distance, and elevation gain, although it meant leaving the NOAA box. We progressed well down the mushy 45-degree snow slope until 100 yards from the glacier where we encountered the dreaded unfilled bergschrund. I was lowered over the gap first and once on the safe side proclaimed, "it's not bad, we could just jump across (wink, wink, wink)." Even with a top rope I couldn't manage to climb the overhang back to the upper side. Steve devised a huge bollard, which was used to safely lower everyone down...don't figure.

Once on the flats of glacier and beyond we made excellent time with the 'open barn door' principle and arrived back at the trailhead just under 18 hours from whence we left. A classic climb was had with friends, adventure and great scenery.



Canning-Arctic National Wildlife Refuge

by Don Hansen



he six of us: Burt, and Wendy Beardsley, Jim Scherr, Jean Kizer, Sam Pepper, and I met at Wright Air Saturday morning July 29th for the commercial flight to Arctic Village where we would pick up our air

charter with Yukon Air. The charter flight was only about 30 minutes (50 Miles) to the Marsh Fork of the Canning River. The six of us arrived in two loads in a Cessna 185 by flying up Spring Creek and through Carter Pass. The Marsh Fork upper airstrip is on a tundra bench on the east side of the river with great views of the mountains on all sides at its confluence with the creek coming out of Carter Pass.

We spent our 1st day at the airstrip sorting food and fuel to be left at the airstrip for the 2nd week of backing. We also went for a hike down river to an ice flow for pictures and hiked up a flattop ridge for great views up and down the river. We spotted a large porcupine that we hoped didn't get into our food while on the hike. Upon returning to camp at the strip we found that one of Jim's food bags had been "varmintized" by a ground squirrel that liked his homemade oatmeal recipe over other foods in the bag. Food that we planned to leave at the strip we placed in "bear proof" containers.

The following morning after low clouds dissipated we crossed the Marsh fork very easily with some of us getting across the stream braids without getting our feet wet. We headed up through a pass that leads to Porcupine Lake. We camped about half way to the lake on a tundra bench overlooking the drainage that leads to the lake. The going was pretty good except for a tussock meadow that seemed endless. The next morning we decided to take a "shortcut" over a pass that we thought would take a few miles off the route, but it ended up being up and down with several tussock meadows.

We located a tundra bench between the east shore of the lake and a good stream with fresh water for a camp. The next morning we started hiking up 5000+ Annette Mountain overlooking the lake. The moderate to steep tundra-covered ridge on the right side of the mountain lead us to the summit ridge. From there

we traversed a steep scree slope to another steep tundra/scree slope and then the summit. On approaching the summit a startled caribou fled in terror, as surprised to see us as we were to see it. After summit pictures taken by all six of us "shutter bugs" we head east along the ridge about a mile and descended steeply to the valley. Someone in the group noticed a sow grizzly bear and two cubs ascending the slope we had just come down. They had seen us and ran up the slope much faster than we had descended.

That evening it snowed. I thought oh no another two days of snow and winds like last year's trip in the Gates of the Arctic. The next morning we had 3 to 4 inches of snow in camp but a clearing sky. All the surrounding mountains had a blanket of snow that turned the environment into a winter wonderland. All cameras were actively recording this beautiful site. We went for a hike up a ridge north of the lake. As we walked along the shore of Porcupine Lake we saw a perfect reflection of Mount Annette mirrored on the surface of the lake. Camera shutters were getting hot. We proceeded up the ridge for even more spectacular views, a perfect day of sun, warmth, and a little breeze to keep the bugs down.

The next morning we broke camp and headed back to the Marsh Fork via the drainage rather than take the "shortcut." It turned out to be easier and shorter. Rainy weather all the next day helped us declare a "weather day" rather than break camp in the rain. And the following day we headed back through the pass, across the river and back to the airstrip to resupply for the second week. Smoke from fires in the interior swept up the Marsh Fork valley and the following morning cloaked the mountains in haze. We traversed 3 or 4 ice floes that nearly covered the drainage. It made going good but care was needed to avoid breaking through overhanging water channels. We traveled about 5 miles to camp on a tundra bench overlooking Crater Pass Creek.

The next day five of us hiked up Crater Pass Creek to the lake and pass while Jim went fishing. We climbed up a tundra slope avoiding a steep gorge below the lake. Wearing my bright yellow poly short made me a photo subject and everyone kept asking me to look this way and that. I felt like a "celebrity." We reached the lake and spent an hour until rain threatened. It was a quick descent back to camp before the showers started. Jim caught one small arctic char that he released.

The following morning we saw 11 sheep coming from a mountain valley across the drainage where we planned to explore. We followed a sheep trail up a steep tundra/scree slope to a saddle and traversed an exposed slope to a flattened ridge and hiked up to the summit (5701), the highest point we reached on the trip. There was a great view up the east fork and up Crater Creek and we could see Cater Lake and Pass.

The next day we headed back to the airstrip. Most of the ice floes had melted away except one that we had to cross carefully in the rain with slick footing especially crossing the blue ice. We were back at the airstrip early in the afternoon on Friday. That gave us time to get things organized and get cleaned up before our Sunday pick-up. There were five sheep hunters at the strip, so we made camp a little further. On Saturday Burt, Wendy, and Jean went for a hike up a narrow valley behind camp to a ridge overlooking to the east. Sam and I got cleaned up so we wouldn't get kicked off the flight to Anchorage and Jim went fishing. Late Sunday morning Yukon Air brought us back to Arctic Village for our flight on Wright Air back to Fairbanks.

It was a very enjoyable laid back trip with five enjoyable people who were pretty evenly matched in interests and abilities. Thank you Sam, Burt, Wendy, Jean, and Jim.

Magic Beans

by Tim Kelley



ackpot! What a find we had just made! Looking into the makeshift hunter's shelter I was amazed at the array of exotic delectables on the weathered 2 X 4 shelf. Why there were cans of hominy. And red kidney beans. Safeway-Select brand no less! And to wash this down, there was a half full jar of Pepto Bismol. Mmmm, mmmm! The climb was officially on hold. It was time to chow down!

Wiley Bland and I had just run in on the trail from the Crown Point area south of Moose Pass to the Falls Creek Mine. I had never been in this drainage of the Kenai Mountains before. So I figured that was a good enough reason to target this area for some peak bagging.

The first 7 miles into the valley went quickly. A good trail to the mine followed by light brush, streambeds and tundra allowed us to run most of the way in. We left our running shoes on a prominent outcrop at the base of the north-west ridge of The Unicorn. From here we rambled to the end of the valley, climbed a snowfield to the pass and summited the 5250-foot peak (Seward B-6, T4N, R2E, S29) to the north of the pass. There was no cairn on top, but this was a walk-up peak - so hunters before had likely climbed it. Looking down into the northwest cirque of this peak you could see ice and crevasses of a small glacier that was not indicated on the map.

Heading north on the ridge for a mile we then turned west, crossed another small glacier and ascended the southern ridge of the 5850-foot peak (Seward B-6, T4N, R1E, S24) that dominates the north ridge of the Falls Creek drainage. On top we found no cairn, so we left one. While on top we used a compass inclinometer to gauge our height relative to another 5800+-foot point on this mountain to the west. It seemed like we were slightly higher, but the western summit was close to us in height. We had come here to climb, so that was all the reason we needed to scramble the mile long ridge leading west to this rocky point.

On top of the western summit we found a recent cairn and register. On October 10th the year before Wayne Todd and crew had made this summit. The note mentioned that they wanted to get out of the valley before darkness so they did not attempt the eastern summit.

The register bottle itself made a poignant statement to me. It was a "Move Free - Joint Care Formula" (glucosamine) bottle. It seems that the core local peak baggers just keep at it and keep getting older. I have yet to run into an avid young peak bagger. It seems like scrambling up obscure Alaskan peaks just doesn't have much appeal to younger generations.

From the summit we glissaded almost 2500 feet back to the valley floor, and our running shoes. After snacking and stuffing our climbing boots in our packs we began the run back to the Seward Highway. The running pace back was quick as we were still enjoying the energy and power benefits that only the magical combination of Safeway hominy and kidney beans can provide.



Correction

The four climbing Byron (reported last month) were Matt Nedom, Alan Miller, Corby Hawkins, and Charlie Sink (not Sassara).

BOARD MEETING

July

The following members attended the July 11th Board Meeting at Alaska Mountaineering and Hiking: Dolly LeFever, Tom Choate, Bill Romberg, Kirk Towner, Richard Baranow and Jayme Mack.

Huts Association

The Alaska Mountain Huts Association completed their investigative hike of the Mint Valley and possible passes to access the proposed hut in that area. The group reported that Lonetree pass is the only feasible route to access the proposed hut.

Awards

The board also continued discussion on a possible nominee list for the proposed Award Committee. Discussions will resume again at the next board meeting and finalized.

Picnic

Board members divided up assignments for the summer picnic preparations.

Biannual Report

The board recognized that the non-profit biannual report is available and will look at it during the August board meeting.

Recreation Rendezvous

The Alaska Recreation Rendezvous will be in Anchorage during September and the board discussed sending an interested representative of the club.

Misc

The board received a Risk Management Survey from an outside party in the lower 48, questions asked did not correspond to MCA so the board decided to not reply.

August

The following members attended the board meeting upstairs at AMH: John McDermott, Steve Parry, Mark Miraglia, Kirk Towner, Bill Romberg, Cory Hinds and Jayme Mack.

Demo Gear at Ice Climbing Festival

Graham Frontella and Shawn O'Fallon announced that Alaska Mountaineering & Hiking will be providing demo gear for all members at the annual Ice Climbing Festival. Gear from LaSportiva, Black Diamond, Tecnica, and Koflach will be available. They will also be having an ice climbing season kick-off bbq at AMH on Thursday, September 27th at 7PM. All members are invited.

Human Waste Disposal System

Huts committee chairperson, Mark Miraglia, proposed to the board a possible human waste disposal system that might be of interest to the club, for use on the Eklutna Hut system. The proposed system is a product of American Innotek, Inc. who is the maker of the Brief Relief line of field lavatory products, specifically the Restop 2 Solid Waste Bag. The Restop 2 uses a patented "bag within a bag" design to safely contain and neutralize human waste. The system consists of a commode bucket, foam toilet seat and two different bag systems. The bags have polymers and deodorizers, when liquid waste enters the bag, the powder neutralizes and solidifies the liquid into a gel for disposal with conventional trash.

Mark estimated the total cost of the project including flights (to pick-up containers) and equipment (storage containers, buckets and bags) to be \$1200 per year, roughly **\$440 per hut**. Mark and the board discussed possible financial avenues to cover costs, some included, state grants, the Trails & Recreation grant and Phillips Alaska grants. Discussions will continue at the next board meeting.

Parks Advisory Committee

Cory Hinds has accepted the position of committee chairperson and will take over for Scott Bailey in October. Cory will represent the club at the Recreation Rendezvous Conference in September.

MCA Ice Climbing School

The board discussed logistics and operations of the annual ice climbing school. Bill Romberg and Steve Parry will be coordinating the event. The annual Ice Climbing School will be September 29th & 30th and the cost is \$35. The board agreed to provide new runners for each group, which leaders will be able to take home. Jayme Mack and Richard Baranow will be cutting and purchasing the new webbing while Tom McDermott will help with the equipment check and gear distribution.

Respectfully Submitted,
Jayme Mack



MINUTES

AUGUST MEETING

Forty five members were in attendance and six new members introduced themselves.

TREASURER

Total revenue: \$4895
Total expenses: \$3512
Total in all accounts: \$13,000

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Hiking and Climbing

Matt Nedom announced that he had a mistake on the trip report of the Byron Glacier trip that he led, Charlie Sassara did not climb Byron Glacier with Matt's group, Charlie Sync did. All trips currently being offered by the club are published in the Scree. Stu Grenier is leading a few trips that were not announced in the Scree, on Aug. 23rd or 24th-Sept. 1st Prince William Sound Paddle Climb of Mt. Curtis and on Sept. 15th or 16th a Trail Clearing Party at Ship Creek trail.

Training

Steve Parry announced the annual MCA Ice Climbing Festival dates, Sept. 29th & 30th with the **mandatory meeting being held the Wednesday before, Sept. 26th** at the Pioneer School House. The cost will be \$35 and you must be a current member of the club. If you want to participate you must attend the mandatory meeting. Anyone interested in instructing please call Steve Parry or Bill Romberg.

Equipment

The club is still looking for a new chairperson, please contact Bill Romberg if you are interested. The chairperson is responsible for checking equipment returns, reorganizing storage of club gear, maintaining and retiring gear and reporting progress to the club.

Parks Advisory

Thank you **Scott Bailey** for all your hard work he class eight years. Cory Hinds will be taking over the chair in October. Scott did mention that he hadn't heard anything on the Chugach Backcountry Management plan lately, and thinks it might be delayed with the change in presidential administration.

OLD BUSINESS

Nominations are currently being accepted for the Presidential Award and Vin Hoeman Awards. All nominations must

be received by the October meeting.

The club is currently looking for **Ice Climbing School** leaders, please contact Steve Parry or Bill Romberg. Sign-ups will be available at the September 19th General Meeting. All interested parties must attend the September 26th Mandatory Meeting to participate in the festival. AMH will be providing gear demos for festival participants, for more information call 272-1811.

The club is asking all current members to submit entries for the **MCA 2002 calendar**. All entries must be submitted by the September 19th general meeting. Judging will be held at the October 17th general meeting. Categories include: hiking, climbing, scenery and people. All entries must be in a 4x6 print format. Any Questions call Kirk Towner.

T-shirts, calendars and patches are for sale. Contact Dolly Le Fever or Patty McPherson.

NEW BUSINESS

None.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Welcome home to Paul Berry and Dave Hart! Both successfully summited **Broad Peak** (8000+meters) in the Himalayas in late July.

Ian Sharrock gave an awesome slide show of his experiences in the outdoors over the last ten years.

Respectfully submitted,
Jayme Mack

ADZE



Slide Show

David Hart, Paul Barry and Dahr Jamail recently returned from Broad Peak (26,400'). Please join David as he presents slides from their expedition to this Himalayan peak at AMH, 2633 Spenard Road, Thursday, September 20, 7:00 PM. Donations will be accepted for the American Alpine Club's work with the Denali Backcountry Management Plan. Dave 227-9584.

2002 Photo Calendar

We're looking for *every* MCA member's favorite hiking and climbing photos for the **2002 MCA Calendar**. Packed with information on local peaks, club events, and the very best of *your* photos, the 2002 MCA Calendar will be better than ever!

So be sure to grab your camera as you head for the hills, because it's time for our **Photo Contest**.

Photo Contest Rules:

- Any current (2001) club member is eligible to enter.
- Photos should be hiking- or climbing-related.
- A club member may enter **one photo in each of the four categories:**

Hiking ~ on-the-trail, off-the-trail, ridge-running, stream-crossing, bushwhacking, or scree-scrambling travel
Climbing ~ your wildest action or most aesthetic scene while climbing on rock, ice, snow, or glacier
People ~ your half-crazed, half-dazed, or half-amazed friends, go ahead and shoot your fellow club members!
Scenery ~ your best photo of a choice campsite, stunning sunrise or sunset, or majestic mountain scene

- You may submit any size print (5x7 or 8x10 recommended), but **it must be received by the September meeting**. Either drop it off at a meeting or mail it to: MCA Photo Contest / PO Box 102037 / Anchorage AK 99510-2037
- All entries remain the property of the photographer; MCA is authorized to publish the photo for use in the calendar only.
After judging, you may pick up your photo entries at any meeting.
- Attach a note card to the back with the following information:

Your name, address, and telephone

Category and title of the photograph

Any interesting details about the photo that might be published in the calendar

(was it a club trip, local area, club members, when and where was it taken, etc.)

- Be prepared to provide a paragraph or two describing the photo if your picture is selected to appear in the calendar.

Judging Procedure:

- Photographers' names will be kept confidential throughout the judging process, we will cover up the information on the back and issue each photo a sticker with a judging number, the category, and the title that you provide.
- If necessary, the Club Officers and Directors will narrow down the entries to the top 10-15 photos in each category. This will only be done if necessary to make the final judging process possible within the general meeting time constraints. Our criteria will be a combination of photo quality, content, scenery, composition, humor, unique situations or events, adventure, being in the right place at the right time, and being just plain 'fun to look at' (not necessarily in that order).
- Final judging will take place during the October meeting.** All members in attendance will be issued a ballot to select their top three choices from each category, plus one "Bonus" selection. Results will be announced in the November Scree. Winning photos will be published in the calendar, along with as many other entries as we can fit in.

Prizes:

The top photo from each main category will win its owner a **gift certificate from AMH** and a **free calendar**. The second- and third-place photos in each category will win **camping or climbing gear** and other prizes, to be presented at the November meeting.

Purchasing A Calendar:

The calendars will be available at the November or December meeting for \$18 each. A Discount Price of \$16 each is available for members who enter a photo in the contest. Please include \$2 extra if you want your calendar mailed.



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: **PO Box 102037; Anchorage AK 99510-2037 www.mcak.org**

NEW <input type="checkbox"/>	DATE <input style="width: 100%;" type="text"/>
RENEWAL <input type="checkbox"/>	NAME <input style="width: 100%;" type="text"/>
INDIVIDUAL (\$10) <input type="checkbox"/>	FAMILY <input style="width: 100%;" type="text"/>
FAMILY (\$15) <input type="checkbox"/>	MEMBERS <input style="width: 100%;" type="text"/>
How do you want your SCREE delivered? (check one or both)	
ELECTRONIC <input type="checkbox"/>	Fastest! Direct to your email address specified below
PAPER <input type="checkbox"/>	Postal Service – please include \$5 extra if outside US
STREET or PO BOX	<input style="width: 100%;" type="text"/>
CITY / STATE / ZIP	<input style="width: 100%;" type="text"/>
TELEPHONE	<input style="width: 100%;" type="text"/>
E-MAIL ADDRESS	<input style="width: 100%;" type="text"/>
COMMENTS	<input style="width: 100%;" type="text"/>

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

Membership Card Issued for Year:____ ☐
Address Added to Mailing List ☐

RELEASE OF LIABILITY—READ CAREFULLY

I, _____ (print name), am aware that mountaineering sports (including hiking; backpacking; rock, snow, and ice climbing; mountaineering; skiing; and ski mountaineering) are hazardous activities. I wish to participate and/or receive instruction in these activities with the Mountaineering Club of Alaska, Inc. ("MCA") I recognize that these activities involve numerous risks, which include, by way of example only, falling while hiking, climbing, skiing or crossing rivers or glaciers; failure of a belay; being struck by climbing equipment or falling rock, ice or snow; avalanches; lightning; fire; hypothermia; frostbite; defective or malfunctioning equipment; and attack by insects or animals. I further recognize that the remoteness of the activities may preclude prompt medical care. I further recognize that risk of injury or death may be caused or enhanced by mistakes or negligence on the part of either my fellow participants or MCA officers, directors, guides, instructors, or trip leaders. I nevertheless agree to accept all risks of injury, death, or property damage that may occur in connection with any MCA activity, including use of MCA furnished equipment and MCA backcountry huts.

_____ (initial that you have read this paragraph)

GIVING UP MY LEGAL RIGHTS

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

_____ (initial that you have read this paragraph)

MY PROMISE NOT TO SUE

I agree that I will not sue, or otherwise make any claim against, the MCA or my fellow participants in MCA activities for injury, death, or property damage which occurs in the course of my participation or instruction in mountaineering sports. Any lawsuit relating to MCA activities or this release shall only be filed in the Superior Court for the State of Alaska, Third Judicial District., Anchorage, Alaska. The provisions of this release are severable and if any part of this release is found unenforceable, the remaining provisions shall remain in full force and effect.

_____ (initial that you have read this paragraph)

MY RELEASE OF LIABILITY

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

_____ (initial that you have read this paragraph)

MY PROMISE TO INDEMNIFY

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

_____ (initial that you have read this paragraph)

MY CONSENT TO MEDICAL TREATMENT

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

_____ (initial that you have read this paragraph)

I HAVE CAREFULLY READ THIS AGREEMENT AND FULLY UNDERSTAND ITS CONTENT. I AM AWARE THAT THIS IS A BINDING, LEGAL AGREEMENT BETWEEN ME AND THE MCA.

Dated: _____ Signature: _____

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

ICE CLIMBING NOTICE:

AMH will provide demo ice gear for MCA members to try during the Technical Ice Climbing Class. The following is a list of manufacturers and gear that will be on hand:

BOOTS

LaSportiva- Trango Extreme, Lhotse

Koflach- Arctis Expe, Degre

Tecnica- Altitude Plus

ICE TOOLS

Black Diamond Equipment- Shrike, Rage, Cobra

DMM- Terminator, Fly

Grivel- Machine, Top Machine, Rambo

CRAMPONS

Black Diamond Equipment- Bionic, Sabertooth

Grivel- Rambo, Rambo-Comp

There will be a **SEASON OPENER BARBEQUE** at **AMH** on Thursday, September 27 at 7pm. The Boot Department will be open to custom-fit demo boots, adjust crampons, and sign up for demo gear. The BARBEQUE is free and everyone is welcome.



Call 272-1811 for more information.

Mountaineering Club of Alaska

Officers

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

Board

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 a club waiver 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 September 28th to be included in the October 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.

E-MAILING: [willy_hersman](mailto:willy_hersman@mcak.org)

HIKING/CLIMBING CHAIRS: [matt_nedom](mailto:matt_nedom@mcak.org), 278-3648, [richard_baranow](mailto:richard_baranow@mcak.org), 694-1500

HUTS: [mark_miraglia](mailto:mark_miraglia@mcak.org), 338-0705

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

MAILING LIST SERVICE: mcak@yahoo.com

Mountaineering Club of Alaska

Box 102037

Anchorage, Alaska 99510