



**JANUARY 2002**

*A Publication of the Mountaineering Club of Alaska*

**Volume 45 Issue 01**

**Box 102037, Anchorage, Alaska 99510**

### **JANUARY MEETING**

**Wednesday**

**January 16, 7:30 pm**

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

**Downtown Anchorage**

**Program: Ralph Tingey will present : "Five Decades of Climbing"**

### **HIKING AND CLIMBING SCHEDULE**

#### **Jan 19 Williwaw Lakes**

Day ski to Williwaw Lakes via Glen Alps. Invigorating ski through beautiful country. Class B. 10miles RT.

Leader: Matt Nedom 278-3648

#### **Jan 26 Teleski at Hatcher Pass**

We'll look for some good slopes to drop into and then re-enact every turn at the lodge over hot and cold refreshments. Your choice of ski gear, beacon, probe, shovel and avalanche knowledge a must. Poor conditions will alter to XC ski tour. Class C - any number of people - co-leaders may be needed.

Leader: John Hess 348-7363

#### **Jan 28 Moon Ski**

If it is clear the full moon can light our way on a local back country ski. 7:00 P.M.

Leader: Stuart Grenier 337-5127

#### **Feb 2 Eklutna Lake**

To the new hut day ski. A very flat 25 mile xc ski tour. Hopefully we can ski across the lake and

down the road to the new hut and back. It is a nice six or seven hour tour if conditions are right.

Skijourers welcomed.

Leader: Stuart Grenier 337-5127

#### **Feb 23 Ship Creek**

Ski tour and trail clearing day ski. Lets set a third of the Arctic to Indian trail and do a bit of clearing. Start from Arctic Valley Rd. Drop 1300 ft into the valley and go up as far as we can and then come back. Skijourers welcomed. Skins recommended.

Leader: Stuart Grenier 337-5127

#### **Feb 27 Moon Ski**

If it is clear. 7:00 P.M.

Leader: Stuart Grenier 337-5127

#### **Mar 2 Indian to Arctic**

A marathon length traverse over Indian Creek Pass, unmaintained trails and possible open water crossings. Experienced strong skiers with avalanche gear, neoprene socks, skins and a good head lamp.

Leader: Stuart Grenier 337-5127

## TRAINING SCHEDULE

### Jan 22 Outdoor Clothing and Equipment Lecture

Are you new to Alaska or just new to the outdoors? Ever wondered how anyone can survive outside in our cold Alaskan winters. How do you keep from freezing your feet, hands etc... off? What kinds of foods can you eat that will help you keep warm? And what kind of gear do you need to survive in below zero temperatures? If you've ever wondered how people survive on overnight winter outings and even enjoy it, this is the class for you! Most of these things are a closely guarded secret, but if you come to this class we'll let you in on it. Location TBA.

Leader: Steve Parry 248-8710

### Feb 7, 9-10 Beginning Ice Climbing

Have you ever seen those crazy people on the Seward highway climbing waterfalls? And if you have did you ever have the urge to try it? Well, this is the class for you. This is for people who have little or no experience climbing Ice. You should know your climbing knots and will need the following equipment: Helmet, Harness, Crampons, Two locking carabineers, Ice climbing boots, Goggles, a belay device and lots of warm, waterproof clothing. You are encouraged to bring Ice tools (if you have them), four regular oval carabineers and an eight-foot section of one inch tubular webbing. Location TBA.

Leader: Steve Parry 248-8710

## TRIP REPORTS

### Williwaw Lakes

by Amy Murphy



In December 9, 2001, Matt Nedom, Robert Humphries and I met at the Glen Alps parking lot to ski to Williwaw Lakes. The temperature was in the teens and felt quite balmy after a couple of weeks of weather

with sub-zero temperatures. As we headed out, we got to enjoy watching the colors change on the nearby peaks and slopes as the sun rose. The first part of the trail was pretty well packed, which made for easy ski conditions. After about a mile and a half, we decided to head uphill, breaking trail through ever-changing snow conditions. In places the snow was hard-packed and crusty,

sometimes it was loose snow, and of course you never knew if you were going to sink in the snow or stay on top. The conditions were difficult to wax for, but we used purple wax and were able to get uphill fairly easily.

We made our way up the slope, skirting trees, bushes and rocks. The snow cover wasn't very deep, and the higher we got, more of the snow cover was blown off, exposing berry bushes and rocks. After we got to the top of a ridge, we dropped down the slope, closer to the valley floor, and continued to ski up towards the lakes. We found a nice snow bank to use to somewhat block the wind and snow, and we stopped for lunch about one kilometer from the frozen lakes. By now the snow was coming down harder and the wind picked up a little bit, but the visibility was still pretty decent.

After eating lunch and enjoying the peaceful solitude of the scenic valley, we decided to head back to the parking lot. We found a trail that was somewhat packed, and we followed that down the valley. The trail we followed wove through trees, bushes and gullies, and the trip back was fairly fast and quite interesting! As we made our way back down the valley, the weather changed. By time we got to the fork in the trail that leads to either the Prospect Heights or Glen Alps parking lots, the sun was out and shining beautifully. As it was close to 3:00 and the sun set around 4:30, the sunlight was somewhat diffused, almost backlighting some of the neighboring peaks. We made our way back to the parking lot, stopping to joke with a park ranger who was out on the trail, looking out over the valley. After being informed that we were glad we hadn't brought the Christmas tree we had just cut down back to the parking lot with us, he good-naturedly told us that he was glad we didn't have a tree or he could have impounded our skis, vehicles, clothing, etc. Boy I would have hated to lose my backcountry skis!

This was one of those days when you're glad to be alive and glad to live in a state as beautiful as Alaska with almost unlimited opportunities for exploring the mountains. This is a fairly easy trip (especially if you stay on the packed trails and don't go bushwhacking), and the lakes are easily accessible from either the Glen Alps or Prospect Heights parking lots. As this trip was so enjoyable and suitable for a variety of skill levels, Matt and I are going to lead another trip to Williwaw Lakes in January.



## Indian to Arctic Valley Ski Tour 2001

by Stuart Grenier



Indian to Arctic or Arctic to Indian is one of those trips that has been around forever. It is clearly marked on a map from 1910 and as the name suggest was used by the D'niana. When I was a little kid I can remember people talking about it and

always knew that I too would one day have to do it. Unfortunately for us today, much of the trail is overgrown with willows and the creek often doesn't freeze up so well.

A cursory look at the last forty plus years of the Scree reveals the prominence this ski traverse has had in MCA history. Here are some dated quotes and past experiences MCAers have left in the Scree that I found interesting.

Mar 1976 "This annual MCA ski tour." -Bill Stivers.

April 1992 "If this isn't, it should be an annual club trip." - Joel Babb.

Feb 1960 "After being detained by the Army for three hours and inadvertently drinking tea made from a dirty sock. This one day overdue trip leader had this to say. 'Would we do it again? You bet! Just as soon as the blisters on my heels go away.' " -Jackie Cote.

Feb 1962 "One MCA snowshoer was medevaced out with sprained knee by a USAF helicopter." - Tony Bockstahler.

Dec. 1989 "Some of us have renamed the gully 'death valley,' and I will deny any rumors that I hit a new level of totally exhausted-grouchy-pissed-offedness and threatened to hang myself by my skins rather than continue on." - Kathy Burke

Last year I intended to do the trip before the club trip to check ice bridges and set trail. Luckily on March 2 the Coast Guard branch of the MCA wanted to go too, so Lieutenant Joe Higgins, Senior Petty Officer Steve Murphy and I went from Indian to Arctic in 12 hours. Neither Steve nor Joe had completed the traverse before. We hit Indian Creek Pass in perfect weather with zero wind. We broke trail to the Ship Creek Roadhouse ruins. I made a mistake not dropping soon enough just before the roadhouse. We had to descend through thick spruce on a steep slope.

The creek was wide open below where the north and south forks meet. Not wanting to make the same mistake I made two years ago on this traverse I stayed on the Temptation Peak side of the creek until we had passed the steep alder covered hill on the other side. If you cross the creek too early you will run into this problem. It will force you back on your tracks and across the creek a second time. We had open water and wanted to keep the crossing to a minimum of one. After coming to a place where the river cut into the side of the bank creating an eroding scree slope Steve set a nice trail above it which really paid off nicely where we dropped to a brush free swamp. This swamp lead to a lightly forested area that went along the creek. After we were sure we passed the steep alder impasse we started looking for a snow bridge. Right where we needed one we found one. It was the first bridge we had seen and perfect. We would not need our neoprene socks.

After crossing the creek we slipped over a beaver dam and headed into the worst part of the traverse. The river was wide open so we did not have the option of skiing along it, which can make things a lot easier as long as you don't break through the ice which has occurred on at least two previous MCA trips. The summer trail is so badly overgrown and under so much snow that you usually ski right over it without even noticing. At one time someone had put up steel reflective markers but these have largely become overgrown. You occasionally can spot one but they have become meaningless because there are bushes and tree limbs under them.

Having no other option we snaked our way down river to find the path of least resistance. After walls of willow and alder and frozen swamps we slowly worked our way down stream. After a couple hours we hit the trail the club had set a few weeks earlier. This was a relief but we still had to punch our way through this overgrown section of the trail, which at least was now visible. (The club has since cleared this section.)

When we reached the bottom of the last uphill to the road the trail had been cleared. After putting on our skins Steve began to set a very fast pace but Joe and I were content with a leisurely pace. Steve's demonstration of superior physical conditioning turned out to be bad judgment. He had overlooked the fact that the keys to the truck were in Joe's pocket. Joe and I found him fumbling with a stove on the open tailgate in a very cold wind, in sweat-drenched clothes, with a stove that wouldn't light.

Two days later on March 4th five people met at 5 am for the trip. Four were Arctic to Indian veterans: Kneely Taylor with four crossings, Donna Klecka with two, Matt Nedom with one, I had three, and Simon Harrison, new to Alaska. Three of us were using E99 waxables with backcountry bindings. The combination does well on the traverse.

The trail was icy and dark with very little snow. In places we carried our skis by headlamp. After a while we were able to get our skis and skins on and skin up to the top of the pass. Just as we got to the top of the pass and got our skins off the wind started to gust strongly. From there to nearly the roadhouse the tracks we set two days before were gone. Lucky the wind was at our backs and we were making good time.

The trip was going really well especially when Matt pulled out his homemade cookies and Donna her red wine. If you were one of the last people in the group there was pretty good glide to be had.

As we entered the willow thickets after the beaver dams around mile 18 folks looked tired. We followed the tracks we set two days earlier as they snaked around looking for a path that was not to be found. (This area still needs to be cleared.) Once again it was a relief when we hit the trail the club set two weeks earlier.

It was an hour or more after sunset before the last straggler reached the Nike Site turnoff. The bright star on the mountain below the Nike Site gave the area a surreal ambiance. Like a moth and a front porch light, I found myself fixating on the star. With the night sounds of the forest and the distant murmur of skiers behind and in front of me, I was truly happy. Simon and Matt waited patiently in the car for the rest of us. 13 hours, the slowest time I've ever had for this traverse but also the most enjoyable. Kneely said it all when he said it was his best traverse to date. A very big thanks to Matt and Simon's wife Lesley for taking care of the driving.

On both of these trips we had decided to end the traverse at the Nike Site turnoff. This requires climbing an extra half-mile. It is a safe bet because in early March it usually is too dark to ski the Five Mile Trail to the bottom of the mountain. When I soloed this trip two years ago I skied the Five Mile Trail in the orange glow of a setting sun but I had started an hour earlier from Indian. The Five Mile Trail adds three miles on the

traverse. When I did it in icy conditions my legs were screaming. When you add up all the snaking around you have due to the lack of a clear trail the whole traverse approaches 28 miles.

Which is the best way to do the traverse, Arctic to Indian or Indian to Arctic? I've done it both ways and think that Indian to Arctic is best, especially if you include the Five Mile Trail down past the biathlon training area to the bottom of Arctic Valley Rd. where the sledgers congregate. If you go from Arctic to Indian you have to ski up hill for most of the traverse. It requires a very good kicker and that reduces glide. Also the downhill sections are so steep going to Indian that they often are not enjoyable and rather dangerous if you do them in the dark like you often have to. Indian Creek Pass and the areas on both sides of it are subject to avalanche. It is a good idea to get it over with before the heat of the afternoon. If the pass area is unsafe it is a long way back to Arctic.

When coming from Indian and you get to the top of the pass you know it is time to take your skins off for next 13 miles. When you reach the hill below Arctic Valley Road you just put your skins on and head up. You are unlikely to get injured skinning up a hill. Also you have some cell phone service from the bottom of Ship Creek and the Five Mile Trail. Indian Creek Pass and most of Indian valley seems to have no cell service. The Five Mile Trail is a lot better than descending from Indian Creek Pass. It will be even a better ski when the Army allows it to be cleared. Currently you still need Army permission to enter the area.

Since we are on the subject of this area, one of the old biathletes who trained in this area in the 1950s with the Army says that there used to be a trail that went from the biathlon training area to the trail up from the valley bottom that didn't gain elevation. This old goat of a skier claims that if this trail could be reopened it would cut a big part of the hill going back up to the Arctic Valley Road out of the traverse. It would also make a nice higher altitude circular ski trail that would be really nice to have in low snow winters when the ski areas in Anchorage are short of snow.

All things considered the Arctic to Indian Trail is the premiere one day back country ski traverse in the Chugach Mountains, if not all of South Central Alaska.





## ADZE

### Wanted

Womens' mountaineering boots, such as Koflach, size 6-1/2 (small ones!) Robin 269-8606, robin\_carlson@dnr.state.ak.us

## History Corner

Willy Hersman

The January meeting will be the last MCA meeting to be held at the Pioneer Schoolhouse. Some people won't see the significance of that, but in fact the club has been meeting there for over 30 of the last 33 years. Most of us never even look at the Scree to see where the meeting will be, it has been such a constant for all this time. Sometimes the building and the MCA are hard to separate in my mind. The club first met at 3<sup>rd</sup> and Eagle, when it was the Ben Crawford Memorial Park Hall, that was in November, 1967, and the MCA was only 10 years old. Before that meetings were at the Willow Park Community Center, 9<sup>th</sup> and Fairbanks. During those early years, members liked to meet outdoors more, sometimes at climbing areas along the Seward Highway.

Between January, 1970 and November, 1973 meetings were held at Central Junior High, then back to 3<sup>rd</sup> and Eagle, and the schoolhouse. Sometime around 1995 the club decided it had outgrown the upstairs area, and moved downstairs for meetings. This helped with refreshments and facilitated slide shows because the shades could be closed in summer. I missed the old wood floors upstairs. Now we have outgrown that area too. We actually outgrew it over four years ago when the membership grew consistently past 400, but it has been hard to leave the old schoolhouse. More and more people now stand in the back, where for years standing in the back had sort of a snob appeal for the riffraff climbers in the club, now it's just lack of room. Traditions die hard.

It will be hard at first to feel at home elsewhere. The schoolhouse brings back many memories whenever I step inside, sometimes recalling a vision of a old friend, now dead, who I saw for the last time at a meeting. It's where many a lifelong friendship began. And that is the essence of this club, meeting people.

## Letters to the Editor



### Further afield on the Tower Mystery

David Hamre  
Chugach Powder Guides

An article by Tim Kelley in the October issue of *Scree* came to my attention recently. While I can't really elucidate the tower mystery further, I can speak to the issue of the Girdwood heli-skiing operation clean up, which received a pretty good whack in the butt from Tim.

First off, Chugach Powder Guides uses visibility stakes at its commonly used landing sites in order to make landings safe in flat light. This is the equivalent of a mountaineer using protection while climbing i.e., it is a necessary component of the activity in order to provide a reasonable safety margin. Going without the stakes would be akin to a continuous diet of climbing fifth class terrain unroped. You might get away with it for awhile, but the odds are it will catch up with you. It's just basic risk management. At the end of each operational season, efforts are made to collect all the stakes. Inevitably there are stakes that disappear in heavy snow, are blown over by winds, etc, and that become the one and only bit of "refuse," cited by Tim in his article, that CPG leaves behind. This summer we spent about \$5000 in helicopter time to go back to all the landing sites and pick up the lost stakes. We will continue to do this periodically in the future as well.

Some in the climbing community would decry the use and loss of these stakes, and yet forget that they used the Mint Glacier Hut last year for a climbing trip. They would call the stakes a blight and ignore the intrusion of a permanent hut sponsored by the club on an otherwise pristine location. Others would decry the use of helicopters in the winter to ferry skiers, but ignore their own use of ski planes to access Denali and other Alaska backcountry for climbing in the summer. It's good to be careful about splitting hairs, lest you split your own.

Now, about that tower. If Tim wants to volunteer his time and get a few folks together for next summer, CPG will sponsor the helicopter time and provide a couple people, and maybe together we can go out and clean up Maynard Mountain and not have to rely on some ubiquitous "them" to get the job done. Call me if you want to follow through on this at 223-9590.



## MINUTES

### NOVEMBER MEETING

Sixty-four members attended the November Meeting while nine new people introduced themselves.

#### TREASURER

The total revenue is \$9,781.52, the total expenses are \$6,409.31 and the total balance in all accounts is \$14,968.47.

#### COMMITTEE REPORTS

##### *Hiking and Climbing*

**Matt Nedom** and **Richard Baranow** announced some new trips for the month of December. A few of the trips include O'Malley, the Flattop Solistice Campout, McHugh Peak, trail clearing at Ship Creek, a ski trip into Williawaw and more skiing in Hatcher's Pass. **Tom McDermott** also announced that the weekend of Dec. 28th - 29th he has reserved the Serenity Falls Hut for anyone interested in skiing in and celebrating the New Year, contact Tom for more info. Most trips are posted in the front of the *Scree* and on the MCA web page. If you have any trips you want to lead or have questions about contact Richard Baranow at 694-1500 or Matt Nedom for further information.

##### *Training*

**Steve Parry** asked any members interested in helping teach or assist with any training classes to contact him. He also needs any interested members that might be able to help with basic committee duties, such as setting up class places and times and making phone calls to potential instructors, to give him a call. Steve hopes to offer a variety of classes including but not limited to: avalanche awareness, winter camping, mountaineering and glacier travel and crevasse rescue. The knots class and basic mountaineering classes are already underway. Check the *Scree* for postings on upcoming classes.

##### *Huts*

**Mark Miraglia** asked members going in to the MCA Huts to let him know if there are any maintenance problems. He is also asking any members that might be going into the Scandinavia Hut, to check the level of the outhouse, in the spring Mark will be putting in the new human waste disposal system.

##### *Parks Advisory*

**Cory Hinds** announced that the public comment period for the Airport Expansion plan (the original plan included developing a portion of Kincaid Park) is open until the end of December. Last month Cory mentioned the potential

development of a statewide trail organization. The organization has formed and is called the Alaska Trails Section, it's purpose is to recognize, finance and promote trail systems statewide.

##### *Equipment*

**Carl Battreal** is in the process of cleaning up the library and purchasing materials to build the new rope storage system. He is also planning on taking inventory of all the club gear.

##### *Library*

Elena Hinds is planning on using the rest of the library budget to purchase some new books. Elena is looking for any suggestions, please contact her if you have any.

#### OLD BUSINESS

The club is still looking for a **new meeting place**. Tom McDermott is still in the process of researching potential sights. Keep your eyes and ears open. Any announcements on the new location will be on the MCA web site, listserv or in the *Scree*.

The board has decided to revive **trip reports** but will limit reports to two minutes.

#### NEW BUSINESS

A few ice axes, boots, a sleeping bag and a few helmets were **auctioned** off to members, with the money going to the Equipment budget. Thanks for all the bids.

The **calendar** is being printed and will be available for sale at the December meeting.

The board is still looking for someone to take over the sale of club **t-shirts**. The volunteer must be able to bring the shirts to the general meetings and keep track of the inventory. Please contact Bill Romberg if you are interested.

The membership decided against selling the **mailing addresses** and list of members to the American Alpine Club for promotion and advertisement of the AAC.

Vern Tejas presented a wonderful and intriguing slide show on his Solo Ascent of Denali in the Winter of 1998.

Respectfully submitted,  
Jayme Mack



## In Memorium

Dr. Ted Shohl

I am enclosing the obituary of Dr. Ted Shohl, a former MCA member, who died last November 1<sup>st</sup>. His death ended a very active life, a part of which for a number of years was spent in MCA activities.

I recently read in the vol. 44-issue 05 of *Scree* that J.W. Snedgen had suffered a serious knee injury while climbing Roost Peak. He had been caught in an avalanche with fellow climbers Kari Hendrichs and his brother Greg. His partners were able to transport him to the MCA hut "Rosie's Roost" and he was subsequently airlifted to Anchorage.

A little history should be related at this point. Ted was a member of a party making the traverse from Lake Eklutna to Girdwood (sometime in the 60's) when the only huts in the traverse were "Pichler's Perch" and "Hans'Hut." We all commented on the necessity of a third hut in the traverse.

A few years later Ted's wife Rosalie passed away and Ted made an anonymous grant to MCA of several thousand dollars in Rosalie's memory (I alone knew who made it) for a third hut to be erected on upper Eagle Glacier, which was accomplished. Only I knew all the facts and was successful in having the new hut named "Rosie's Roost."

I have given a lot of thought before making this revelation, and feel that Ted, after his very active life, should at least get posthumous credit for the erection of "Rosie's Roost." I'm sure JW Snedgen would be interested in this. Perhaps the club could install a suitable plaque at the hut commemorating it to Dr. Ted Shohl.

Paul Crews, Sr.  
First MCA President

## Generating Peak Lists

by Steve Gruhn

It is wintertime in Alaska and time for poring over maps and planning next summer's excursions. While doing this I make lists of peaks that I would like to climb.

Peak lists have been around for a long time; most mountaineers have them. Of course, there are the famed seven summits, the highest points on each continent. Colorado mountaineers have their well-known list of 54 peaks over 14000 feet. In New York there are the 46 Adirondack peaks over 4000 feet. The east coast has its list of peaks over 6000 feet. There is also a list of the 100 highest peaks in the northeastern United States. Even in Anchorage the 21 peaks over 7000 feet in the Western Chugach Mountains have been listed. The purpose of these lists, of course, is to identify peaks worth climbing. Each of these lists is based solely on the elevation of the summit and the geographical boundary of the peaks on the list (Colorado, Adirondack Mountains, United States east of the Mississippi River, the Western Chugach, etc.). The one common denominator with most peak lists is that one first must determine what is a peak and what is not. Usually an arbitrary cutoff is deemed necessary to separate a peak from a bump on a ridge. The criterion most commonly used is the elevation of the summit minus the elevation of the lowest saddle connecting the peak to a higher peak. In New England a 200-foot rise above the saddle is required for a peak to be listed. In Colorado it is a 300-foot rise; in Alaska it is a 500-foot rise above the saddle.

The problem with lists generated in this manner is that they frequently include peaks that are barely over the arbitrary cutoff established to determine a true peak. Two peaks on the Western Chugach list (Benevolent Peak and Icicle Peak) don't even make the arbitrary cutoff. Others just barely make the arbitrary cutoff. Korohusk Peak has only a 580-foot rise above the saddle connecting it to Mount West Kiliak; East Kiliak Peak has only a 600-foot rise above the saddle connecting it to West Kiliak. I have always had an interest in worthy peaks that barely miss the arbitrary cutoff. Organ Mountain (el. 6980), for example, just misses the cutoff for the 21 7000-foot peaks in the Western Chugach, but I surmise that it is a more interesting peak than Benevolent Peak. So, the mathematician in me set out to create an objective list of interesting peaks.

One alternative to lists based solely on summit elevations and arbitrary cutoffs is a list based on the prominence (P.) of the peak above the sur-



rounding terrain. To determine the prominence of a peak, the elevation of the highest saddle connecting that peak to a higher peak is subtracted from the summit elevation of the first peak. Essentially, this is the net vertical distance one would have to climb uphill while traversing the ridge from the higher peak to the lower peak. Let's use, as an example, The Ramp (elevation 5240 feet), Mount Williwaw (elevation 5445 feet), and The Wedge (elevation 4660 feet). The elevation of Ship Lake Pass is 4050 [ $\pm$  50] feet; the elevation of the saddle between Mount Williwaw and The Ramp is 4450 [ $\pm$  50] feet. The prominence of The Wedge, then, is 4660 feet – 4050 feet = 610 feet. The prominence of The Ramp is 5240 feet – 4450 feet = 790 feet. The prominence of Mount Williwaw can be determined in a similar manner: 5445 feet – 2150 feet (elevation of Bird Creek Pass, the lowest saddle between Mount Williwaw and Grey Jay Peak [the next peak higher than Mount Williwaw]) = 3295 feet.

The list of the 21 most prominent peaks in the Western Chugach Mountains is quite a bit different than the list of the 21 highest peaks in the same area. The two lists of 21 peaks are presented below for comparison. For the purposes of these lists, the Western Chugach Mountains are those mountains bounded by a line drawn from the Knik River to the Lake Fork of the Knik River to Upper Lake George to the Lake George Glacier to Bagg Pass to the West Fork of the Twentymile River to Turnagain Arm to Knik Arm. There is disagreement in the

### 21 HIGHEST PEAKS

1. Bashful Peak (el. 8005)
2. Baleful Peak (el. 7990/P. 1340)
3. Bellicose Peak (el. 7640)
4. Hunter's Peak (el. 7549)
5. Mount Yukla (el. 7535)
6. Mount Rumble (el. 7530)
7. Bold Peak (el. 7522)
8. Troublesome Peak (el. 7465/P. 1115)
9. Mount West Kiliak (el. 7450/P. 1200)
10. Mount Beelzebub (el. 7280)
11. Mountaineer's Peak (el. 7265/P. 1315)
12. Devil's Club Peak (el. 7240/P. 690)
13. Benign Peak (el. 7235)
14. Mount Soggy (el. 7190/P. 940)
15. East Kiliak Peak (el. 7150  $\pm$  50/P. 600)
16. Whiteout Peak (el. 7135)
17. Benevolent Peak (el. 7126/P. 376)
18. Icicle Peak (el. 7050  $\pm$  50/P. 400)
19. Peril Peak (el. 7040/P. 1090)
20. Korohusk Peak (el. 7030/P. 580)
21. Insignificant Peak (el. 7005/P. 855)

mountaineering community over whether the peaks east of the West Fork of the Twentymile River should be included in the Western Chugach Mountains. However, for this prominence exercise, the above definition works best.

The list on the right includes 25 peaks because current survey data makes it impossible to determine the exact prominence with certainty (most of the saddle elevations are not designated on the maps); the midpoints of the contour intervals were used in determining the undesignated summit and saddle elevations. Therefore, I have included all 25 peaks that *might possibly* be in the list of the 21 most prominent in the Western Chugach.

Nine peaks appear on both lists. However, the list on the right includes three worthy peaks (Organ, Peeking, and Eagle) that barely missed the cut for the list on the left. All the peaks listed on the right are interesting and worthy objectives that rise significantly above the surrounding terrain in all four directions; the same cannot be said of the list of the 21 7000-foot peaks in the Western Chugach.

### 21 MOST PROMINENT PEAKS

1. Bashful Peak (P. 5275)
2. Organ Mountain (el. 6980/P. 3430)
3. Mount Williwaw (el. 5445/P. 3295)
4. Highbush Peak (el. 4669/P. 2733)
5. The higher of: Bird's Eye Peak (el. 4970) or The Wing (el. 4950  $\pm$  50) (P. 2620)
6. Bellicose Peak (P. 2490)
7. Mount Rumble (P. 2480)
8. Hunter's Peak (P. 2099)
9. Crow Peak (el. 5953/P. 2003)
10. Mount Yukla (P. 1985)
11. Mount Beelzebub (P. 1930)
12. Whiteout Peak (P. 1885)
13. Peeking Mountain (el. 6925/P. 1875)
14. Bold Peak (P. 1872)
15. Pioneer Peak (el. 6398/P. 1848)
16. The higher of: The Mitre (el. 6650  $\pm$  50) or White Lice Mountain (el. 6650) (P. 1800)
17. Benign Peak (P. 1785)
18. Bird Peak (el. 5505/P. 1755)
19. Eagle Peak (el. 6909/P. 1602)
20. Whitecrown (el. 6390/P. 1540)
21. Significant Mountain (el. 5456/P. 1537)
22. Thunder Bird Peak (el. 6575/P. 1525)
23. North Suicide Peak (el. 5065/P. 1515)





# 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 <b>SCREE</b> 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): \_\_\_\_\_

## NOTICE

### The Mountaineering Club of Alaska is Moving its Meetings!

After 33 years of meetings at the Pioneer Schoolhouse at the corner of 3<sup>rd</sup> and Eagle St, the MCA is moving to a new location because the 'ol Schoolhouse just isn't big enough to accommodate the growing number of club members who attend the monthly meetings. So... Starting in February, 2002 MCA will begin holding its monthly meetings at:

**FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH LOCATED  
ON THE CORNER OF 9<sup>TH</sup> AND G Street.**

This is behind the Phillips building and across the street from Skinny Raven (as well as the park strip).

There is plenty of room in the Church meeting hall and lots of free parking in the church lot on the north side of the building. You can also park on the street. The entrance to the meeting room is from the parking lot area in the center of the building. Meeting will continue to start at 7:30 p.m. Signs will be posted at the Pioneer Schoolhouse for next few months directing those who didn't get the message to our new location. Although it's hard to leave familiar surroundings, the new facility will soon become home. A kitchen is available, so refreshments will be available and the potlucks will go on.

A small celebration will occur during the January meeting—our last at the Pioneer Schoolhouse, so mark your calendars and plan to attend. I'm sure it will be standing room only.....until February that is.

# Mountaineering Club of Alaska

## *Officers*

<b>President</b>	<b>Bill Romberg</b>	<b>677-3993</b>
<b>Vice-President</b>	<b>Tom McDermott</b>	<b>277-0774</b>
<b>Secretary</b>	<b>Jayne Mack</b>	<b>258-7571</b>
<b>Treasurer</b>	<b>Steve Gruhn</b>	<b>344-1219</b>

## *Board*

<b>John Hess</b>	<b>348-7363</b>
<b>Karen Herzenberg</b>	<b>223-0351</b>
<b>Dave Hart</b>	<b>227-9584</b>
<b>Stuart Grenier</b>	<b>337-5127</b>
<b>Richard Baranow</b>	<b>694-1500</b>

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](mailto:willy@mcak.org) Articles should be received by February 1st 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.

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](http://www.mcak.org) (go here to change your address)

MAILING LIST SERVICE: [mcak@yahoo.com](mailto:mcak@yahoo.com)