

# Moun<sup>tain</sup>aineering Club of Alaska

A monthly members-only publication

## SSCRINE

October 2002 • • • • • Volume 45 Issue 10

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 102037  
Anchorage, Alaska 99510

On the web: <http://www.mcak.org>

List Serv: <http://groups.yahoo.com/groups/MCAK>

Another happy ice-climber at the MCA annual ice-climbing clinic held at the Matanuska Glacier



Images of the clinic can be viewed at  
[www.photoalaska.biz/mcafun/matrice](http://www.photoalaska.biz/mcafun/matrice)

### MCA ICE CLIMBING CLINIC 2002

The 2002 MCA Ice Climbing Festival took place on Sept 28-29 and was another huge success. Approximately 135 MCA members escaped the rainy weather in Anchorage and the Valley to spend 2 full days banging the rust off their tools and sharpening skills for the upcoming ice climbing season. The sun was out for most of both days and the temps were fairly mild for the 2-day event. A few scrapes and bruises were incurred, but no major injuries thanks to a solid group of instructors. Two dog bites were sustained (from the same dog) which requires me to emphasize that **DOGS ARE NOT ALLOWED ON MCA EVENTS** (see the festival rules). MCA want to thank Glacier Park for allowing us to host this event and AMH for bringing demo gear to the party. Also a hearty thanks to Nick Parker and the PJ's for providing emergency medical and evacuation assistance again this year. Get out there and climb!! - **Bill Romberg**



### October Meeting

Wednesday, October 16th, 7:30 pm

First United Methodist Church

9th & G Streets

Next to the Phillips Building

(you may use marked parking after hours...)

Downtown Anchorage

*Jayme Mack*

presents

*The tenacious, titillating traverse of the  
Talkeetna Mountains*



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There were ZERO trips submitted to the Scree for the month of October. Despite announcements at the General Membership meetings, postings on the MCAK ListServ, discussions with Matt Nedom - Trips Coordinator, maybe the protocol is not clear. The Scree Editor and the MCA webmaster are two separate entities managed by two club volunteers. From the Scree Editor's standpoint, it requires approximately 4-8 hours monthly to do the lay-up for the Scree. You may not realize the importance or reasoning why trips and trip reports are required to be submitted via the web-link provided. If you want anything published in the Scree, then submit your want ads, your trips, your trip reports to the Scree Editor. If you want something on the website, contact the Webmaster [mcak@gci.net](mailto:mcak@gci.net).

### Trip and Trip Report Submissions:

Please submit your trips via the web:

<http://photoalaska.biz/scree>

A copy of your submission will be forwarded to Matt Nedom; Trips Coordinator. If he has any questions about your Club sponsored trip he will contact you. If the trip meets the Club's criteria, it will automatically be published in the forthcoming Scree and then to the MCA website.

Trip reports may be submitted via email in Word or text formats. *Please limit your trip reports to 1500 words or less and please spell check your document prior to submission.*



Robert Baker SCREE EDITOR  
1830 E. Parks Hwy. #600

### Book Review By Robert Baker

Title: Tom Crean –  
Unsung Hero of the Scott  
and Shackleton Antarctic Expeditions



Publisher: The Mountaineers Books  
[www.mountaineersbooks.org](http://www.mountaineersbooks.org)

In the world of Antarctic explorations, most mountaineer's can appreciate the spirit and hardships encountered and reported by Scott & Shackleton and the victory of Roald Amundsen capturing the title of being the first exploration party to reach the South Pole. I was not aware of a critically underexposed expedition member and key contributor in all the first Antarctic explorations-This was Tom Crean. This book details Tom's humble beginnings as a budding survivor of the days with extreme poverty that Ireland suffered in the late 1800's.

As the reader dives into the lore of how Antarctic exploration was conceptualized in the early days of our Modern World, journalist/biographer Michael Smith frames the happenstance of how an Irish farm boy challenged all peer logic, joined the British Navy and began his adventuresome labyrinth of different jobs always ending him up with right people at the right time at the right location. The reader quickly deduces that Tom Crean is exactly the type of guy you would want on any mountaineering expedition. Quick humor, hard-working, team player but leader. A man's man to be sure. Remember that bivy that you thought was going to ruin your life?

"...Crean volunteered to continue the last thirty-five miles on foot alone to base camp to raise a rescue party. Crean had no tent or sleeping bag, his pants were torn and his only provisions were two sticks of chocolate and three state biscuits. He had to jump from ice floe to ice floe surrounded by killer whales (whales know to deliberately tip floes in search of an easy meal). Eighteen hours later he stumbled into base camp, delirious, only minutes ahead of a blinding blizzard..."

The importance of this book is the Tom Crean in an unknown name in any normal household despite his critical support and participation in all the early South Pole explorations. This book is enjoyable, awe-inspiring, and a supplemental history lesson to anyone interested in expeditionary experiences. See you at the South Pole Inn in Ireland!

Five out of Five Thumbs Up!



## Trip Reports

The Mitre By: Ross Noffsinger

July 30 and 31, 2002

Richard Baranow, Sam Pepper, Jayme Mack and I left the Eklutna Lake Trailhead at 9am under a crystal clear blue sky, and proceeded to bike around the lake to the Serenity Falls hut. Our intent was to climb the Mitre, the spectacular 6,600 foot (plus) peak that splits the east and west forks of the Eklutna River. Since Jamie had other obligations, she was along only for the bike ride and short hike to the glacier. She then planned to return that afternoon.

Our proposed route of ascent was the west ridge first climbed by Vin Hoeman and Bill Hauser in 1966. Due to the exposed nature of the route, our equipment included two 45 meter ropes; a full rack of cams and 10 slings. Since Sam and I had limited experience on ice, we also brought 3 ice screws to protect any exposed sections on the glacier.

We had two full days to complete the climb and an exceptional weather forecast. Consequently there was no sense of urgency, and we could travel at a relaxed pace. If time permitted, we would even traverse the summit ridge to the False Mitre.

Nine miles into the bike ride my rear tire began rubbing against the frame. An inspection revealed that the 13 year old tire was bulging out along the side-wall.

We continued on and reached the hut by noon. Since my tire was deteriorating fast, the ride out would be questionable.

The hut was empty so we locked our bikes to a column on the back porch, and proceeded to hike up a faint trail along the east side of the river. The trail is overgrown and difficult to follow. However, Richard had been up this route many times, and even though we lost the trail several times, he was able to get us back on track.

It was obvious that the trail would be difficult to find and follow on the return trip. Since Jamie would be hiking out alone, it was decided that she would be best off following the main trail on the other side of the river. Once we reached a suitable crossing area, Richard helped her cross the swift, frigid glacial stream. We waved goodbye and proceeded up the gorge to the glacier.

Getting on the toe of the glacier is not difficult but it is somewhat steep and exposed. Consequently, we protected it with ice screws. We proceeded up the glacier to the cirque between the Mitre and Ovis Peak, where we gingerly worked our way off the glacier through a mixture of crevasses, moraine, snow and ice.

We climbed up into the cirque along the waterfall on climber's right. This steep approach through dirt and loose rock can be avoided by following the glacier further south to the cirque between Ovis and Pichler's Perch. From here you can side-hill up along the west flank of Ovis to the cirque south of the Mitre.

Once in the cirque, we set up camp at roughly 3,800 feet and enjoyed a gorgeous evening filled with views of Benign, Bellicose, Moonlight, Sunlight and Peril Peaks, all rising dramatically from the glacier.

By 7:30am the following morning we were ascending a grassy ramp toward the west ridge of the Mitre. At roughly 4,800 feet the route becomes a steep, exposed scramble with short sections of rock climbing. Although the climbing is not difficult, the consequences of a mishap are conclusive. Therefore, we chose to

take our time and protect all exposed sections with cams and slings. We protected the majority of the final 1,800 feet of climbing.

It should be noted that this mountain can (and has) been climbed with no protection. However, some sections require relying on a single hold to make a move. If that hold fails, you may tumble several hundred (or thousand) feet down the jagged mountain. The quality of the rock on the west ridge is pretty good (by Chugach standards). We had only one hold pull out. Luckily Richard caught himself thus avoiding a significant "lead climber" fall.

We reached the summit at 3:00pm. The central location of this peak amongst some of the most precipitous peaks in the park provides a world class setting. The cold ruggedness of the towering peaks and immense glaciers combined with the warmth of the lush green, low valleys and blue/green lake makes for a spectacular panorama. Sam stated that this peak provided the best views he had seen anywhere. It would be hard to argue with that. The unclimbed east face of the Mitre drops off 5,000 feet into the lush green East Fork valley, while the west side drops off nearly 4,000 feet to the glacier. The north face drops off 5,400 feet to the West Fork Valley.

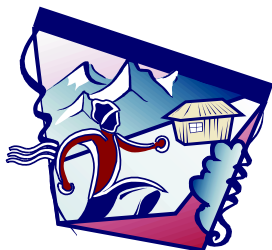
The register appeared to be the original one left by Vin Hoeman and Bill Hauser from the first ascent in 1966. It consisted of a glass jar with entries on small pieces of note paper. There were only 10 entries from the period of 1966 to 2001. According to Vin's log, it had taken only 3 hours for he and Bill to climb from Pichler's Perch to the summit via the west ridge route. They were obviously very strong and accomplished climbers, and did not protect the route. Names of other prolific Chugach peak baggers included Jim Saylor, Willy Hersman, Greg Higgins, Wendy Sanem, Chris Brown (twice), Sam Griffith and others. Of the 10 previous entries, two were Richard's.

After spending over an hour on the summit, we reluctantly began our descent. Since time was becoming a factor, we chose to descend the south face. It is slightly less steep and does not require as much (time consuming) protection. Plus it is more interesting to descend a different route than the one climbed.

The top few hundred feet consisted of easy scree glissading. The scree quickly thinned out to loose ball bearings on steep rock slabs. Working what appeared to be the easiest gully, we quickly hit an impasse and traversed east over to an adjacent gully. This gully did not look much better so we tied both ropes together and did a rather airy 150 foot rappel to easier ground. We continued down climbing until we hit another cliff band where we traversed west and hooked up with some goat trails. We worked the goat trails down through a very exposed traverse that lead to the steep snow and scree slopes located at the head of the cirque above our camp. We were home free. The descent to camp took only 3 hours.

We packed up camp and descended along the west flank of Ovis to the glacier, thus avoiding the steep, crumbly section next to the water falls. We walked off the glacier at 11pm and continued down the gorge in the faltering light.

As it grew increasingly dark, Richard began expressing reluctance at using the faint trail on the east side of the river to reach the hut. The trail was difficult to follow in the daylight. We lost it several times on the way in. He wanted to cross the river where he and Jamie had crossed the day before and use the main trail on the west side to get back to the hut. Both Sam and I expressed our reluctance at crossing the swift moving, frigid river. I stated I would rather bushwhack in the dark through grizzly country than cross the river. I knew the river was flowing high and fast from all of the recent, exceptionally hot weather. But deep down I also knew Richard was right. So at midnight we locked arms and stepped into the icy flow. The strong current threw us around like rag dolls. However, everyone was able to maintain balance, and we crossed without incident. On the other side, we each took a minute to let the searing pain abate, then wrung-out our socks and continued down the trail arriving at the hut just after 1am.

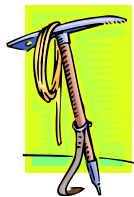


At this point we had been traveling over rugged terrain for nearly 18 hours and we had had our fill. Because I was already several hours overdue, I knew my wife would be worried sick. Waiting until morning to bike the remaining 12 miles would only exacerbate the problem. I knew that riding the trail in the dark was doable because Richard and I had done it last September. The only incident occurred when a bear (concealed by darkness and standing near the trail) bawled at me as I rode by. The event, which occurred near the Bold Ridge Trailhead, provided a much needed adrenaline boost. Given our state of fatigue and the darkness, we decided to rest a few hours and ride out in the morning.

Come morning, we learned that our bikes had been vandalized by a porcupine. It had chewed up my seat and Sam's handlebar grips. A quick duct tape patch job fixed the problem. Richard discovered that his rear tire was nearly flat. He was able to ride the bike; however he had to stand on the pedals and lean forward the entire trip out. My rear tire continued to get worse but stayed inflated allowing me to bike all the way to the parking lot. We arrived back at the vehicle at 8:50am.

Since we were 12 hours late, Richard and Sam immediately drove to the pay phone to notify family members that we were ok. I stayed behind with the gear. It turned out that my boss had reported us missing to the troopers. He had become concerned when my wife called to let him know that I had not returned and thus would not be at work. Richard immediately called the troopers to call off the search and rescue. He caught them before they mobilized. The troopers said that we had not been gone long enough to send out a helicopter, but since the chopper had already been mobilized to search for missing hikers in the Eagle River area, they planned on searching for us anyway. Next time I will do a better job of coordinating return and rescue times.

Overall the climb up the west ridge of the Mitre was a blast. The exposure and views were exhilarating, while the footing and holds were relatively solid. I can see why Richard has climbed this route 3 times. Although the south face is slightly easier to descend, I would not recommend it (over the west ridge) as an ascent route. The quality of the rock is not as good, and it has considerably more scree. The south face does however present some interesting route finding possibilities. For the truly bold climber, the 5,000 foot east face is still looking for a first ascent. But beware of rock fall. Every time I have ventured into the area I have witnessed rock thundering down this massive wall. Regardless of the route chosen, the Mitre is a challenging and worthy climb.



## ADZE

(VISIT [WWW.MCAK.ORG](http://WWW.MCAK.ORG) FOR THE MOST CURRENT LISTINGS)

### For Sale

La Sportiva Karakoram SIZE 10 1/2 these boots were bought due to a sickness I have for spontaneous purchases. They are a great boot but my feet are very narrow and this pair just doesn't work for me. I used them a few times and I took great care of them. I used Nixwax and Boot care on them. \$125.00 Dano 694-3724

### For Sale

Trax Backcountry boots. NNN 3-pin; brand new, never used. Size 11 \$100. Scott 250-1905

### For Sale

SNOWSHOES: Tubbs Peak 25" (120-200 lbs.) Used only once, \$130. Susanne, 336-3031

### Wanted

Kodak 140 slide trays

### For Sale

Atomic Tour Carv 170cm skis, new in sleeve, \$160  
ClimbHigh Goretex bivy bag, used once, \$120  
Wayne @522-6354hm or 563-3989wk

### SlideShow

Richard Baranow and Jayme Mack will be giving a slideshow at the Eagle River Nature Center on October 26th at 2 PM highlighting their recent climbing and hiking adventures in the Chugach and Talkeetna Mountains. Following the show there will be a BBQ and bonfire at their home. Bring a dish/snack to share - BYOB. RSVP @ 694-1500.

## CHUGACH STATE PARK CONDUCTS ACCESS ANALYSIS

Alaska State Parks is conducting an analysis of public access issues and opportunities for Chugach State Park. This analysis will focus on key areas of Chugach State Park that are experiencing increased use and potential loss of future access opportunities as the population of Anchorage continues to grow in areas closer to the park. The public is invited to provide information and comments on access needs and opportunities.

Public comments are welcome via mail, fax, e-mail, or in person. Maps showing greater detail are available for viewing at the Potter Section House beginning Tuesday September 17, 2002 between the hours of 2:00 P.M. and 4:00 P.M., Tuesday through Thursday. In addition, comments may be sent to: Chugach Park Access Project

Alaska Department of Natural Resources  
550 W. 7th Ave., Suite 1400 Anchorage, AK 99501  
Or via FAX: 907-269-8918

Public comments and information are important as we work to ensure that future generations of Alaskans can enjoy reasonable, convenient, legal access to Chugach State Park. **Comments must be received by 5:00 P.M., October 18, 2002** and will be considered as part of this analysis. The "Chugach State Park Access Analysis and Recommendations" is anticipated to be released in early November.





## Climbing Notes

The trail from the new Serenity Falls Hut up the West Fork of Eklutna River has been recently cleared and brushed all the way from the hut, up the east side of the river to beyond the vegetation line. This 1+ mile trail had not been maintained for years and has been increasingly difficult to follow as of late, making some folks opt for the more technically difficult trail up the west side of the river to reach the glacier. This recent trail work makes for a much quicker and more pleasant access up to the glacier from the Serenity Falls Hut.



### 2003 Meekins Expedition Grant Program Mountaineering Club of Alaska

The Meekins Expedition Grant Program was created in 2002 by a donation from Mike Meekins to assist a young Alaskan climber finance an Alaskan mountaineering expedition in 2003. The Mountaineering Club of Alaska (MCA) will administer the selection and award of this grant.

The merit-based 2003 Meekins Expedition Grant will award \$200 on February 1, 2003 to a young Alaskan mountaineer who best meets the selection criteria listed below. Applicants must be 2002 and 2003 MCA members and must not yet be 26 years old by the award date to qualify.

#### Selection Criteria:

- The Meekins Expedition Grant will be awarded to a member of a small, low-impact team attempting a unique mountaineering objective within Alaska.
- Expeditions should undertake a unique challenge—either a first ascent, significant repeat, or a first alpine-style ascent.
- Project originality, route aesthetics and overall vision are more important than sheer difficulty of the project.
- Special consideration will be given to a climber whose plans best exemplify “fast, light and clean” and those leaving no trace of their passage.

- Applicants must not yet be 26 years old by the award date of February 1, 2003 to qualify.
- Recipient must agree to provide a written report for the MCA monthly newsletter, Scree within 3 months of returning from the expedition. The recipient may also be requested to provide a slide show at a monthly MCA meeting within the following 12 months.
- The Meekins Expedition Grant is not the appropriate venue for projects involving competition, fund-raising or media-sponsored events.

#### Application Procedure:

Applicants meeting the above Selection Criteria are encouraged to apply. Application is free-form; the most complete and comprehensive application will be given priority consideration. Maps, photos and any other relevant information may also be included with your application.

Please include the following information:

- Complete biographical information, including a copy of an identification verifying your eligible age.
- Project you intent to request funding for.
- Complete mountaineering resume.
- Contact information for two Alaskan mountaineers willing to verify information provided to us.
- Most importantly, an essay on why you should be chosen to receive the 2003 Meekins Expedition Grant.

#### About Mike Meekins:

Mike Meekins operates a flight service out of both Palmer and his homestead at mile 95 of the Glenn Highway by Matanuska Glacier. He is best-known among the MCA community for flying members into the MCA Scandanavian Glacier Hut and surrounding area on the Matanuska Glacier since its construction in 1990.



# MCA Board and Officer Elections 2002/2003

The October general meeting is MCA's "Annual Meeting" where elections of MCA Officers and Board Members occur. This year, two Board member terms are expiring and the President and Treasurer have elected to step down from Office. Nominations and elections for all offices and expired Board seats will be taken at the October meeting, so please plan to attend, particularly if you are interesting in running for office. Below is a list of current officers and Board members. NOTE: NO ONE HAS CURRENTLY EXPRESSED INTEREST IN RUNNING FOR PRESIDENT OF MCA (although several have been asked). Please consider running for office. The only way MCA continues to function is through the volunteer time of members.

## Board Seats:

Karen Herzenberg -- 1 yr term expire  
\*Interested in running again  
John Hess -- 2 y term expires  
\*Interested in running again  
Sean Bolender -- interim 1 yr term expires  
\*Interested in running again  
Dave Hart -- expires '03  
Stu Grenier -- expires '03

## Officers:

President	Bill Romberg *will be stepping down
Vice President	Tom McDermott *Interested in running again
Secretary	Jayne Mack *Interested in running again
Treasurer	Steve Gruhn *will be stepping down

Board Member --2 yr term

## Photo Calendar Voting

The October meeting will also encourage all members present to vote for their fav backcountry images supplied by other members for the 2003 Calendar!

## August 2002 Board Meeting Minutes

The following members attended the June Board meeting at Bill Romberg's house: Stu Grenier, Bill Romberg, Steve Gruhn, Karen Herzenberg, Jayme Mack.

## OLD BUSINESS

### *SCREE Advertising*

The Board approved an updated SCREE advertising policy at the request of the SCREE editor. Specific advertising rates were removed from the policy and shall be set by the editor per Board approval.

### *Commercial Use of Huts*

The Board revised the club's policy concerning commercial (guided) use of the MCA huts. The new policy clarifies that commercial use of the Bomber, Mint, Dnigi, and Scandinavian Huts is prohibited per our lease agreement with the State of Alaska. MCA members who find guides/guided parties using these MCA huts should report this to the Hut Committee Chair or the Board. New signs and a copy of the DNR letter clarifying the use policy have been posted at all of the MCA huts. The Eklutna Traverse huts are within Chugach State Park (CSP) and commercial use is allowed by permit as outlined in a policy recently finalized by MCA and CSP (see below).

### *Eklutna Traverse Huts Policy*

MCA representatives met with Chugach State Park superintendent Al Meiners in early August to finalize a policy that outlines how the Eklutna Traverse Huts will be managed. The new policy notes that the MCA huts were constructed prior to the establishment of Chugach State Park, but that MCA has no legal property right to the structures (i.e. no lease). The policy establishes that the club huts are public use structures and that commercial parties cannot exclude other parties from using the huts (i.e., there is no "exclusive use". The policy recognizes MCA's interest in continued maintenance of the huts and allows for aircraft use by permit to support periodic maintenance of the structures.



### *Meekins Scholarship Fund*

The Board unanimously approved the establishment of the Meekins Scholarship Fund, a \$200 grant award for younger climbers that can be used to support. The fund was established following a \$125 donation to the club by air taxi operator Mike Meekins who wanted to see the club establish a small grant to support young climbers. Board members agreed to increase the award to \$200 using donations from club members. The award will be given in February 2003 and requires recipient to commit to giving an MCA slide show and a trip report to the SCREE.

### *Hoeman Award*

The Board approved the Awards Committee's proposed "criteria matrix" for selection of Hoeman Award recipients and authorized the committee to initiate the design and purchase of the permanent award plaque as well as the smaller individual plaque to be given to recipients of the award. One time cost for the award plaque and design—approx. \$400.

### *New Membership Application*

The Board approved the Treasurer's proposal to allow club members to pay for more than one annual membership at a time. Starting with 2003, club members will be allowed to pay for two years at a time. Steve Gruhn will edit the MCA application accordingly. The new membership application will also reflect the club's decision to require a \$10 annual subscription fee for members who choose to receive a paper copy of the monthly newsletter. If a member signs up for two years, two years' subscription fee will be charged as well (if a paper copy is desired).

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### *Ice Climbing Festival*

Bill reported that Steve Parry is handling arrangements for the ice climbing festival and that a good slate of instructors has been developed. The PJs will be on hand again this

year to provide rescue/medical support in the event of an emergency. The instructor meeting will be Sept 18<sup>th</sup> prior to the general meeting and the mandatory meeting on Sept 25.

### *Photo Calendar Contest*

Suzanne Foley will be taking over the Photo Calendar Contest and calendar production for the 2003 issue. Photo submission will be due by Sept 30<sup>th</sup>. As for 2002, the goal will be to sell calendar at a price that covers just the cost of production.

### *Snowbird Hut*

The Board discussed a proposal by Cory Hinds to have the MCA consider purchasing the Snowbird Hut in the Talkeetna Mountains NE of Independence Mine. The Board outlined a number of questions that needed answering in order to make an informed decision, including purchase price, a facility/grounds inspection, and membership approval were some of the pieces of information identified by the Board. At this time, the Board requested that Mark Miraglia (Huts Chair) inquire with DNR about the possibility of obtaining a \$50 non-profit lease for this hut (if the club decided to pursue purchase).

The next Board Meeting will be Wednesday, Sept 11th at 7 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Bill Romberg

#### ***Visions***

*Who dares go where God  
has only been before? The  
Mountaineer who seeks to find  
another open door.*

*Who goes beyond the boundaries that  
earth protects with fury? The  
Mountaineer whose passion is  
for vision, not for glory.*

***Jeri Fisher, 10/97***



## CLIMB FOR AMERICA'S CHILDREN GEAR SALE

"A Climb for America's Children", organized locally by George Lamereaux, focuses to promote awareness and raise funding to help locate missing children. In June of 2002, local club member Richard Baranow participated in a trip up Denali's West Buttress Route to help raise funds for this national program. Five climbers throughout the United States participated along with three guides from Mountain Trip. "A Climb for America's Children" summited Denali on June 27th.

This national program continues to raise funds and is offering the following equipment for sale at a significantly reduced price. ALL proceeds from the equipment sale will go to the national program, "A Child is Missing". The following list includes equipment that was donated to the climb. Some of the gear has been used. All prices are firm. All equipment for sale will be available at the October MCA General Meeting. Checks (make out to "A Child is Missing") or cash will be accepted, no credit cards.

For more information contact Richard Baranow at: 694-1500.

<b>Equipment</b>	<b>Qty.</b>	<b>Retail\$</b>	<b>Sale Price\$</b>
<b><u>BOOTS:</u></b>			
Koflach Arctis Expe Plastic Boots	1 x 8EU	\$355	\$177.50
	1 x 8.5EU	\$355	\$177.50
	2 x 10EU	\$355	\$177.50
<b><u>BACKPACKS:</u></b>			
Dana Designs Astralplane	1 x Medium	\$469	\$234.50
	1 x Large	\$469	\$234.50
North Face Duffle Bag	3 x Large	\$135	\$67.50
<b><u>SLEEPING BAG:</u></b>			
North Face Inferno Endurance	1 x Long	\$699	\$349.50
<b><u>CLOTHING/GLOVES:</u></b>			
North Face Baltoro Parka	2 x Medium	\$535	\$267.50
	1 x Large	\$535	\$267.50
North Face Denali Wind Stopper Pants	2 x Medium	\$195	\$97.50
	1 x Large	\$195	\$97.50
North Face Denali Jacket	1 x Large	\$165	\$82.50
North Face Kichatna Jacket	1 x Medium	\$440	\$220
	1 x Large	\$440	\$220
North Face Kichatna Pants	1 x Medium	\$310	\$155
	1 x Large	\$310	\$155
North Face Wind Stopper Vest	1 x Medium	\$125	\$62.50
	1 x Large	\$125	\$62.50
North Face Wind Stopper Grip Gloves	1 x Large	\$46	\$23
North Face Pro Ice Gloves	1 x Medium	\$150	\$75
	1 x Large	\$150	\$75
North Face Pro Ice Mittens	1x Medium	\$120	\$60
	1 x Large	\$120	\$60
Atlas Sun Hat	5	\$25	\$12.50
<b><u>HARDWEAR:</u></b>			
Black Diamond Lite Ice Axe	1 x 75 cm	\$79	\$39.50
Climb High Glacier Leash	2	\$9	\$4.50
SOS F1-ND Avalanche Transceiver	3	\$299.99	\$150
Atlas Summit Snowshoes	3	\$279	\$139.50
Leki Super Makalu Trekking Poles	1	\$129.95	\$64.75
Black Diamond Alpine Bod Harness	1 x Medium	\$39.95	\$20
Petzl Ascension Right Hand Ascender	1	\$42	\$21
Julbo Atlas Glacier Glasses	1	\$99	\$49.50
REI Oilcamp Stainless Vacuum 1L Thermos	2	\$34.75	\$18





## **Policy: Club Sanctioned Trips**

**Approved: MCA Board, February 1995; Amended Feb 15, 2000, Feb 13, 2001; published periodically**

### **MCA Trip Classifications**

The classifications below do not take into account individual trip hazards such as river crossings, SCREE slopes, snow fields, bears, etc. Trip leaders are required to inform the trip participants of any such hazards either verbally, on the sign-up sheet, or in the trip description. Leader approval is required for participation on all trips.

**NON-TECHNICAL:** Following are a few standards used to classify non-technical trips. The classification is made in terms of hiking distance and altitude gain. Many trips are not on established trails.

**CLASS A:** Easy hikes with a maximum distance of 8 miles for day trips or 4 miles per day for overnight trips. Altitude gain up to 1200 feet.

**CLASS B:** Trips involving a maximum distance of up to 12 miles for a day trip or 6 miles per day for an overnight trip. Altitude gain of 1200 to 2500 feet.

**CLASS C:** Trips up to 15 miles for a day hike or 8 miles per day for an overnight trip. Altitude gain up to 3500 feet. SCREE, steep grass or other rough terrain problems may be encountered.

**CLASS D:** Hikes and climbs with an altitude gain of over 3500 feet or a distance of greater than 15 miles for a day-hike or greater than 8 miles a day for an overnight trip. Peaks in this classification may require minimal climbing skills.

**CLASS E:** Hazardous climbing conditions or stream-crossing conditions may be encountered. A basic mountaineering course may be required.

**TECHNICAL:** Technical trips are open to all qualified climbers. However, the registration on any particular trip must be restricted to a safe and manageable number of climbers. Registration is made directly with the leader, who determines the qualifications needed for the trip.

**GLACIER TRAVEL:** Trips requiring roped travel over glaciers. Knowledge of crevasse rescue, and ice axe and crampon skills are required. Basic understanding of ice and snow anchors also required.

**FIFTH CLASS:** Trips which involve fifth class climbing. A Basic Mountaineering course or equivalent is required. Knowledge of belay and rappel techniques and placing anchors is required. Climbing difficulty varies widely with each trip.

**TRIP PARTICIPANTS** have the obligation to acquaint themselves with the nature of the trip and to verify that it is within their capability and experience. Anyone wishing to participate in any trip above CLASS A must have completed one or more trips of the next lower classification, or the equivalent.

# 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 all who wish to become members.

**Participate and Learn:** The MCA conducts scheduled hikes and climbs led by experienced club members, technical mountaineering and climbing courses, and other instruction throughout the year. The club maintains eight mountain huts in the nearby Chugach and Talkeetna mountains. The MCA's Vin Hoeman Library, located upstairs in Alaska Mountaineering & Hiking at 2633 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 announcements of upcoming events, the hiking and climbing trip schedule, and trip reports written by club members. A monthly meeting and slide show are held on the third Wednesday of each month at 7:30 p.m. at the First United Methodist Church at 725 West Ninth Avenue (corner of Ninth & G 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](http://www.mcak.org)

- ? **Complete both sides of this form. Write neatly!** 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.**
- ? Annual dues are \$10 for an individual or \$15 for a family (includes electronic **SCREE** subscription – either **delivered** to your e-mail address or **downloaded** from the MCA webpage).
- ? Mailed **SCREE** subscriptions are \$10 per year and are non-refundable (one **SCREE** per family).
- ? Annual membership is for one calendar year, through the 31st of December.
- ? Two-year, non-refundable, memberships are available for double the annual dues.
- ? Memberships paid after October 1st are good through December 31 of the following year.
- ? If applying by mail, please include a self-addressed, **stamped** envelope for your membership card. Otherwise, you may pick it up at the next monthly meeting.
- Our address is: **P.O. Box 102037, Anchorage, Alaska 99510-2037** [www.mcak.org](http://www.mcak.org)

NEW	<input type="checkbox"/>	DATE	<input type="text"/>
RENEWAL	<input type="checkbox"/>	NAME	<input type="text"/>
INDIVIDUAL (\$10)	<input type="checkbox"/>	FAMILY MEMBERS	<input type="text"/>
FAMILY (\$15)	<input type="checkbox"/>		
2-YR MEMBERSHIP	<input type="checkbox"/>		

**Note that two-year membership dues are double the annual dues and subscription fee.**

How do you want your **SCREE** delivered? (check one or both)

ELECTRONIC (Free) ☐ E-mail attachment or notify when available for downloading (circle one).

PAPER (\$10/yr.) ☐ Postal Service – please include \$15/year if outside the U.S.

STREET or P.O. BOX

CITY / STATE / ZIP

TELEPHONE

E-MAIL ADDRESS

I am interested in joining a committee (Circle which ones: Programs, Hiking & Climbing, Huts, Geographic Names, Parks Advisory, Equipment, Honorary, Membership, Training, or ad hoc committees). \_\_\_\_\_ I am interested in leading a trip. \_\_\_\_

Do not write below this line:

Pd: ☐\$10 ☐\$15 ☐\$20 ☐\$30 ☐\$10 for paper **SCREE** ☐\$20 for 2 years of paper **SCREE** Membership Card Issued for Yr: \_\_\_\_\_  
on Date: \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_ ☐ Cash or Check Number: \_\_\_\_\_ 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): \_\_\_\_\_

# 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>694-5788</b>
<b>Secretary</b>	<b>Jayne Mack</b>	<b>694-1500</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>Sean Bolender</b>	<b>274-4457</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. Trips should be submitted via <http://photoalaska.biz/scree>. Articles and notes submitted for publication and other communication related to the newsletter should be mailed to my address: 1830 E. Parks Hwy. #600, Wasilla, AK 99654, or e-mailed to [scree@photoalaska.biz](mailto:scree@photoalaska.biz). Articles should be received by November 3rd to be included in the November issue. Sorry, no exceptions.

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... Robert Baker, Editor, 357-2946.

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 LIST/DATABASE ENTRY: Don Smith

HIKING/CLIMBING CHAIR: Matt Nedom, 278-3648

HUTS: Mark Miraglia, 338-0705

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

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