



Mountaineering Club of Alaska

A Monthly Members-Only Publication

SCREE

May 2002 Volume 45 Issue 05

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

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

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

May Meeting

Wednesday, May 15th, 7:30 pm

First United Methodist Church

9th & G Streets

Next to the Phillips Building (you may use marked parking after hours...)

Downtown Anchorage

Program: Bob Jacobs, owner of St. Elias Alpine guides, will be doing a slideshow titled "Chance Favors a Prepared Mind" highlighting lessons learned from a lifetime of climbing and wandering.

HIKING AND CLIMBING SCHEDULE

May 6 Peak 4009

Monday 5:30 p.m. Class C.
Northeast of Mount Eklutna
Leader: Steve Gruhn
344-1219 h, 276-7475 w
e-mail: scg@hartcrowser.com

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Falls Creek Ridge
Monday 5:30 p.m.
Class D
Leader: Steve Gruhn
344-1219 h, 276-7475 w
e-mail: scg@hartcrowser.com

18 Blueberry Hill (4531)

Saturday Departure time TBA
Class D
Leader: Steve Gruhn
344-1219 h, 276-7475 w
e-mail: scg@hartcrowser.com



May 23 thru June 1

Prince William Sound
Paddle/Climbing Trip
Class D
Leader: Stuart Grenier
337-5127
e-mail: oinkmenow@hotmail.com

July 20 thru August 3rd

ANWR Lake Peters and Mt. Chamberlin
Fully Booked but standby list available. Leader: Don Hansen
243-7184



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MCA Trip Classifications

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

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

CLASS A: Easy hikes with a maximum distance of 8 miles for day trips or 4 miles per day for overnight trips.

Altitude gain up to 1200 feet.

CLASS B: Trips involving a maximum distance of up to 12 miles for a day trip or 6 miles per day for an overnight trip.

Altitude gain of 1200 to 2500 feet.

CLASS C: Trips up to 15 miles for a day hike or 8 miles per day for an overnight trip.

Altitude gain up to 3500 feet. Scree, steep grass or other rough terrain problems may be encountered.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Approved: MCA Board, February 15, 2000

For Sale

Koflach Arctis plastic soubel boots, size 12, \$100. Hanging tent for two, custom design, \$250.

Andy 835-4200 or fax 835-4799

Partners Wanted

River rafting. We looking for people interested in rafting the Firth River, a ten day trip beginning 23 June. The Firth is a Class IV, wild river. We will be flown to the put in site in northeastern Alaska, raft into the Yukon Territory, Canada, then fly out.

Matt 278.3648

Info Needed

I May of 2002 I will be going into the Sheldon Amphitheater below Denali. I'm looking for information and route descriptions for climbs in the area. One of the members of our team is new to climbing, so I'm also looking for info on "easy," beginner routes. Bill wkelly@jjkeller.com

National Orienteering Day

May 4, noon to 4:00 p.m. Fun and introduction to orienteering. Door prizes, snacks, games for kids, and family activities. Campbell Creek Science Center, Abbott Loop Road. \$4 for non-members of Orienteering Club. Dan Ellsworth, 333-5429

Beginner Orienteering Class

May 14th 7:00 p.m. Map reading and basic orienteering skills. Please pre-register by calling REI. \$1 to cover map costs. Dan Ellsworth, 333-5429

Beginner/Intermediate Orienteering

May 15th, 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. APU Moseley Sports Center. Lots of help available for beginners. Put to use what you learned the previous evening. \$4 for non-members of the Orienteering Club.

Eric and Jill Follett, 346-2294



Yep, isn't it scary? These

were all the trips submitted... **HELP ME!!**

Are you leading trips? Then, please let me know the scoop!! You can submit them via email, form-mail from a web page, or snail mail: C/O

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Smiles on A1

(Elevation 4950 + 50; Sec. 32, T11N, R3E, S.M.;
Western Chugach Mountains)

by Steve Gruhn



Saturday, March 30, 2002, dawned crystal clear; it was going to be one of those memorable days for climbing. I met John Evenson, Steve Butkus, and Tom Choate at the Alyeska Prince Hotel in Girdwood at 7:30 a.m. for the scheduled MCA trip up A1. After loading gear in our packs we were hiking on the trail shortly before 8:00.

We followed the Sno-Cat route from near the parking area. The wide, hard-packed trail meandered through beautiful country, crossing Winner Creek and ascending nearly to the summit of Sunny-side (Point 3156, Sec. 1, T10N, R2E, S.M.).

On top of Sunny-side at 10:30 a.m., we stopped for a bite to eat, to put on skis and snowshoes, and to photograph the nearby mountains on this cloudless day. The winds were calm and the temperature was in the 20s. This day had all the makings of something truly memorable.

As we skied and snowshoed up the ridge to the northeast, we crossed fox and wolverine tracks, but no other humans had been this way since the last snowfall the previous Monday. The ridge was pretty gentle in most places and we were on the summit of A1 for handshakes and photographs by 2:30 p.m. A few heliskier tracks dove off the ridge to the south of the summit toward the unnamed glacier to the southwest. This peak had been named by the heliskiers; they evidently knew of the quality skiing opportunities.

It was difficult for John and Steve B. to contain their smiles as they salivated over the descent possibilities. John had brought a Split Decision snowboard so that he could ski up and snowboard down; Steve B. was interested in telemarking down. Tom was kicking himself for

bringing snowshoes instead of skis.

After spending a half hour admiring the views, Tom retraced our steps down the ridge. John and Steve B., one at a time, carved turns from the summit ridge down to the glacier below. I sat on top and whooped and hollered for them, then began descending the ridge to catch up with Tom once John and Steve had stopped and were beginning the climb back up to the ridge.

Tom and I were quite surprised as we came across a solo skier heading up the ridge we were descending. John and Steve B. caught up to us just as we returned to the summit of Sunny-side. The only injuries they had were those smiles plastered permanently on their faces. On top we stopped again for a short break while John and Steve B. contemplated their descent down the bowl to the south and west. A Sno-Cat was operating on the opposite ridge, to the west of Notch Mountain, but there was still plenty of untracked powder.

Tom and I hiked down the Sno-Cat trail, meeting John and Steve B. at the base of the slopes where they had been waiting about 10 or 15 minutes. Those smiles were still plastered on their faces. John snowboarded and Steve B. skied out to the Winner Creek Sno-Cat bridge and waited about 10 minutes for Tom and me to hike down. After we caught up to John and Steve B. at the creek, they took off for the fast ski back to the parking lot. I caught up with another solo hiker and we traveled together for the short hike back to the parking area, arriving shortly before 6 p.m. John and Steve B. had waited for Tom and me. Those smiles were still plastered on their faces.

We loitered in the parking area, not wanting such a wonderful trip to end, but as the sun set, we crawled into our vehicles for the drive home.

The last I saw of John and Steve B., their grins were etched ear to ear.



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Mountaineering Club of Alaska

Officers

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

Board

John Hess	348-7363
Karen Herzenberg	223-0351
Dave Hart	227-9584
Stuart Grenier	337-5127
Sean Bolender	274-4457

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: 1830 E. Parks Hwy. #600, Wasilla, AK 99654, or e-mailed to scree@photoalaska.biz Articles should be received by May 25th to be included in the June 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 (go here to change your address)

MAILING LIST SERVICE: mcak@yahoogroups.com