



MAY 2003 A Publication of the Mountaineering Club of Alaska Vol **46 Issue 05**

Box 102037, Anchorage, Alaska 99510

MAY MEETING

Wednesday

May 21, 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: TBA (mcak.org for latest news)

HIKING AND CLIMBING SCHEDULE

May 17 - 21 [Rumble Peak Ramble](#)

Spend a weekend traversing a little known corner of the Eagle River and Eklutna valleys. This is a big trip. Backcountry savvy and some glacier travel skills needed. See [Scree](#) for details.

June 05 [COOK INLET PADDLE/CLIMB - MT. REDOUBT](#)

Kayak from Anchorage and explore Cook Inlet by kayak and climb Mt. Redoubt. Must have expert paddling ability. Also required are previous glacier travel and avalanche training. This trip is very challenging. This trip may be more than a month. If you are interested call Stu Grenier at 337-5127.

June 14 [DAY HIKE - RAM VALLEY](#)

Come explore the hidden Ram Valley back in Eagle River. It's going to be a full day of hiking in a beautiful valley with views of Eagle River and Knik Arm. Just over 3,500' of elevation gain and about 6 miles roundtrip. We will try and hike back to Bombardment Pass. Bring food, water, sturdy boots and some rain gear just in case. If you are interested

call Jayme Mack @ 694-1500 after June 3rd. Limited to 6 unless I get a co-leader.

June 20 - 22 [RESURRECTION PASS TRAIL - 3 DAY BACK PACK](#)

A three day backpack on the Resurrection Trail from Hope to Copper's Landing, roughly 38 miles. The trail is well marked ; moderate hiking effort We will be camping. This is beautiful country and bears are defiantly a hazard. Leave Friday, return Sunday. There will be a pre-trip meeting the week before hand. Can take 12 if I have a co-leader. Please call Jayme Mack @ 694-1500 after June 2nd

June 27 - 29 [Summer Solstice Annual Backpack](#)

This year continues the Crescent Lake Triolgy. This year is the 3rd annual camp, climb, fish, and maybe a first ascent!?!? Hike in Friday 27 June +/- 7pm* f from Carter Lake trailhead, camp on CrescentLake, and climb the highest peak. Then before returning Sunday we will check out a new(?) peak. *come in Saturday or even do a day trip Saturday or Sunday. Leaders: Tom Choate and Matt Nedom.

HIKING AND CLIMBING SCHEDULE

June 28 Pepper-Salt-Yudikench Peak Traverse

Spend a long day traversing a beautiful ridgeline in Eklutna Valley overlooking Eklutna Lake. This is a long hard day with lots of up and down. Contact Hans Neidig if interested or sign-up at the meeting.

TRIP REPORTS

Gannett

by Wayne Todd

The headlamp beam finds yet another un-crossable ice chasm blocking our progress. "Don't remember any near this size when we crossed this glacier in the daylight!" we all agree. Kathy leads with the headlamp, then her son Az, and then me, as we slowly zigzag our way up and across the glacier. Occasionally we stop and discuss our progress and direction. We negotiate our way around many crevasses before we sight land.

We began our summit day from Titcomb Lakes at 8 o'clock that morning, thinking that would allow ample time to summit Gannett and return well before dark. Progress was quick up Titcomb valley in the brisk morning air. Even off-trail, at an elevation of 11,000 feet, walking was easy over bare granite or shin-high alpine.

We slowed while ascending the steep slope of loose rocks and scree to Bonney Pass. There we further realized why this is the 'Wind River Range' (WRR) and coupled with the snow, it seemed rather wintry. We had our first look at Gannett Peak from there, a snow and glacier strewn rock massif, still two glaciers away. We crossed the benign-looking (in daylight anyway) Dinwoody glacier after descending from the pass. With a safe route obvious in the daylight, and the ample footing provided by the pitted fall glacier ice, we didn't rope-up. The still-present wind kept us from just lazing and lapping up the view; glacier surrounded by sharp spires and gendarmes on this glorious blue-sky

day.

Just before exiting the glacier, we cross below 'twelve training climbers' ...a NOLS class perhaps. We speed on up the lower flanks of the south-east ridge until it necks to a gendarme. I venture out onto the Gooseneck glacier searching for route options slightly ahead of the others, knowing that having the route decided will simplify our climb. The 'standard route' usually leads up a snow slope to the left of the steep south-east face, but this late in the year, the route is broken ice over steep rock. The only plausible route I see is a 50' ice climb above a bergschrund. It is agreed so I cautiously span the shrund and lead up the ice with one axe, one light weight axe, and flexible boots and crampons. Fortunately we all have one screw for crevasse rescue that I gladly place here. Once above this section, the second climber ascends quickly on belay. Getting the third person up requires an hour though, from difficulty of lowering ice axes to them, to rope issues and due to hesitation.

Happily reunited back on the ridge above the gendarme, we hasten along noting that the day has progressed rapidly. The views open up to many steep granite peaks, pocket glaciers, and slender valley lakes that the WRR is so renowned.

We summit just before sunset from the walkable south ridge that has sheer faces to the left and steep faces to the right. The unhindered views of peaks, glaciers, lakes, and our route bathed in evening light is gorgeous but worrisome as we didn't plan for night travel and only Az has a headlamp. We have been nine hours getting here. After a quick look-see all around, snacks and photos, and signing in the large metal milk container, we scamper down the ridge, with most of our route already cast in shadow. After efficient rappels, we scurry further down the ridge wanting to find our glacier crossing spot in the quickly waning light.

By the time we crampon-up, it is DARK (unless you count starlight). A major blessing is that despite the cold of



the night, it is calm and the weather is excellent. The stars are of no use for navigation, but they do supply solice that night.

The first half of the glacier crossing is smooth, and somewhat familiar, so we make good time. Then we make a slight route adjustment and suddenly the glacier has transformed into the 'gauntlet'. Two hours after zigzagging around seemingly endless gaping crevasses, we make it to terra firma once again below Bonney pass.

Fatigued mentally from the glacier crossing, and physically from the arduous day, we decide to wait until light to continue. After only half an hour though everyone is cold. While unscrewing the headlamp for adjustment, it gets dropped in pieces between boulders. Darkness and cold! Using the auto-focus on my camera which supplies brief bursts of light, we manage to find the pieces in the snow. We have light again.

We ascend to the definitive landmark of Bonney Pass, thinking the worst travel is behind us. However, the 2,500' steep descent over loose rocks and scree in the dark cause many slips, trips and falls, far exceeding the frustration of the glacier crossing. The bouncing and now intermittent light from the headlamp is not much use. The slope never seems to end, and I mutter as such, but once it finally levels, we can relax for the home stretch. Amazingly no one is injured. Early-on in the descent we could see lights bobbing forward from the lake. 'Rescuers', Kathy and I thought in our mottled minds.

We drink gratefully and contentedly from a stream and then plod on. Halfway to the lakes we encounter the headlamp wearers, climbers getting a 3AM start. HmMMM, how had we not known about such an early start time?

As we lumber along upper Titcomb lake, the moon crests the west ridge in the still night, glowing our route and casting long shadows from the scattered boulders across the flat rock and ground.

Wearily, we make camp at 5AM, 21 hours after starting, a new record for all of us.

{<We didn't notice the quiet skies the next day, nor on our exodus day until we made the parking lot and learned of the World Trade Center tragedy of the previous day>}

Eklutna Traverse

by Stu Grenier

Seven of us, Tom Dolan, Eryn Boone, Chism Henery, John Beebee, Adrian Beebee, Eric Teela and myself completed the traverse from Eklutna to Girdwood by way of the Raven Cole and Crow Pass. We skid across Eklutna lake and then walked to the Serenity Falls Hut. We had our gear motored in by the local kids who live at the trailhead. . This was a good thing because the lake ice was pretty thin at the far end of the lake.

Day two we made it to Pitchler's after exploring a few new routes through the usual cravasse fields. We used crampons much farther up than usual due to the low snow winter we had this year.

The next morning at Pitchlers we spent about five hours fixing the roof and Eric built a new bench. After the hut repairs were completed Tom Dolan led a team up towards the ridge above Pitclers but truned around due to a warm snow pack.

After a second night at Pitchlers we had a very comfortable crossing to Hans'. It was overcast so the sun didn't bake us and we had a breeze to keep us cool. The snow was right for the crossing.

At White out pass we met a team going the other way with Nancy Pfifer on it. They told us about the gas situation at the other huts.

Our second day at Hans' was spent fixing the roof in an on and off whiteout. It took about four hours. Tom Dolan climbed Hut Peak between whiteouts. Also at Hans' I noticed an Alaska USA check nailed to the ceiling. It was from a guy named Fred and was for 1,000,000 dollars. It was made out to the MCA. We were elated. I still have the check and will give it to the treasurer next time I see him.

The route from Hans' to Rosie's is the most dangerous for crevasse falls judging form the log books. John agreed to lead a new route for us down skier's left to avoid crevasses. Last year we saw tracks that took this route and they didn't seem to have a problem. The new route was not very good probably because we didn't get high enough on the face to escape the crevasses. John soon found himself up to his waist in a crevasse and took about five minutes to get himself out. Within ten minutes of that crevasse he hit the mother of all crevasses and dropped 20 ft in while taking out



about 8 ft of cornice on either side. It took about an hour and a half to get John out. Digging out the cornice so he could prusiks out was the problem. We had to send a foot loop down and use half a belgerie. After he got out it took another 30 minutes to get his pack, which was tied to the rope.

After two crevasse falls in a row I said to everyone that we need two people to lead or I think we should turn around and head back to Eklutna. After seeing what happened to John you could see why folks were in the mood to follow and not lead. Tom Dolan volunteered and then he recruited me as the second leader. We continued on.

Moving farther up on to the face to escape crevasses we moved down the glacier. The snow seemed very stable this year. We finally decided to drop down to the glacier and regroup at the conspicuous rock pile that marks the start of the moraine. At this point it was clear that Chism was having binding problems. His leather boots seemed to be too soft for his Silverretta bindings. We managed to get cell phone service to let folks know we would be late. This, and a lack of skiing ability, slowed our progress to a crawl. It was 11 at night when we reached the bottom to the steep part. There was a near full moon and a comfortable wind blowing from the west. The stars were out. In one of the most beautiful moon light skis of the year we crossed the Eagle Glacier and climbed up to Rosie's. We arrived after midnight in good spirits. Adrian even wrote a poem that is in the log book at Rosie's.

The next day was too windy and a whiteout so we just hung out. We did manage to measure the boards that the rocks are on that hold the hut in place. 3 boards on the Eagle glacier side need to be replaced. We also discovered that Rosie's is the only hut with a barrel still outside the door. We left notes in all the huts that you are to carry your own human waste bags out. We recommend that people take two trash compactor bags for this. We also found that some waste bags were faulty so use with extreme caution. We took care of other people's bags.

After two nights at Rosie's we went over Raven Pass and out Crow Pass. As we were going down the Raven Col we finally heard the geese. This was my fourth April Eklutna Traverse in a row and I always look forward to hearing and seeing the geese return.

Next year we hope to do the Milk Glacier route.

ADZE

In Search Of...

Hi everybody, I have a unique opportunity to get out in the Mountains from May 22 to May 30 since my wife & son will be visiting her folks in Minnesota. I'd like to join a trip that's looking for a good pack mule so any leads anyone could pass my way would be greatly appreciated. I'd also be interested in spending several days in either the East Fork Eklutna or Upper Eagle River drainage, climbing some of the larger peaks (glacier travel is an option). If you would, or know someone who would, like to join me don't hesitate to email or give me a shout at the numbers below.

Thanks,
Courtney Jines

265-6077 work
346-2773 home
351-8308 mobile

Letter from the Editor

Greetings!

For those of you unknown to me, my name is Amsl Apflauer, you new Scree Editor. Just wanted to say hello to everyone, and hope this newsletter doesn't arrive too late to be useful to you this month. I will strive to have it out by the first week of the month in future editions.

I invite you to take a moment to write up trip reports of your adventures, and submit them for publication in the Scree. I will do my best to include submissions in a timely fashion. In the near future I would also like to have photos and slides submitted. More on that as I get the details worked out. Trip reports, proposed MCA trips, and other Scree related items can be e-mailed directly to tomtdamsel@alaska.net for fastest delivery.

Until later,

-Amsl



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

- **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**

NEW
RENEWAL

☐
☐

DATE
NAME

INDIVIDUAL (\$10)
FAMILY (\$15)
2-YR MEMBERSHIP

☐
☐
☐

FAMILY
MEMBERS

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)
PAPER (\$10/yr.)

☐
☐

E-mail attachment or notify when available for downloading (circle one).
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 and not limitation, 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 any and all risks of injury, death, or property damage that may occur in connection with any MCA activity, including use of MCA furnished equipment and use of 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 or my fellow participants in MCA activities. **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 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 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 CONTENTS. 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

President	Jayme Mack	694-1500
Vice-President	Karen Herzenberg	223-0351
Secretary	Sean Bolender	274-4457
Treasurer	Tom McDermott	

Board

Stuart Grenier	337-5127
Dave Hart	227-9584
Richard Baranow	694-1500
Matt Nedom	278-3648
Bill Romberg	677-3993

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 Scree Editor Box 102037 Anchorage, AK 99510, or e-mailed to mtndamsel@alaska.net. Articles should be received by June 6th 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... Amsl Apflauer, Editor.

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, richard baranow, 694-1500

HUTS: mark miraglia, 338-0705

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

MAILING LIST SERVICE: mcak@yahoogroups.com