

Box 102037, Anchorage, Alaska 99510

### **JUNE MEETING**

Wednesday June 16, 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.

### HIKING AND CLIMBING SCHEDULE

### June 19 Williwaw Traverse

Class D. Glen Alps to Indian with a trip to Mt. Williwaw's 5445-foot summit. This is a 12-hour, 14mile trip. Bring an ice axe. Leader: Stu Grenier 337-5127

### July 01 - 05 Han's Hut

A Fix-it trip. Class Technical - Glacier Travel. Leader: Stuart Grenier 337-5127

### 13 - 15 Mt Yukla

A beautiful peak with a reasonable back door, and the highest peak in the Eagle River drainage. Come climb with us to celebrate the 40th anniversary of the first ascent. Bring: helmet, crampons, ice axe, avalanche gear, glacier travel skills, and maybe snowshoes too. Class E. Leader: Stu Grenier 337-5127

### 18 Penguin Creek

5 miles R.T. Possible climb of Penguin, Class D. Leader: Steve Gruhn 344-1219

### TRIP REPORTS

### Annual Eklutna Ski Traverse

by Stu Grenier



his year we left April 13 with eight people. They were Leslie Robbins. Lee Whitten. Alex Alonso, Bud Chard, John McCormick, Charles Sink, Tom Dolan, and myself. We completed the traverse in six days

with no complete crevasse falls. Our last day did have some avalanche action.

Getting out from Rosie's Roost to the Crow Creek Road proved to be the crux of the trip. We left the hut at 6 am and got on the West Fork Glacier. There was eight inches of fresh snow, gusting winds, on and off whiteouts, and it was snowing heavily. That little voice inside of my head kept asking if this is what I should be doing. It was looking like a textbook case from a levelone avalanche class. The slopes at that elevation

were loaded and ready to go so I lead the team into crevasse fields rather than deal with avalanche. It worked and we got to the top of Raven Col.

From the top of the coll could see the Raven Glacier. There were no tracks solassumed the headwall was free of climbers. I knew in order to get down I would have to trigger the face. It had not slid yet.

Tom Dolan gave me a belay and I went over the lip with full pack and skis. I had an axe in one hand and a ski pole in the other. As it got steeper I began to push a mound of snow with my skis. I would plant the shaft of my axe and push down until my arm was extended below the axe. The first couple of tries, it wouldn't go. Then, one more push and the mound below my skis disappeared with a hiss. I counted one thousand one, one thousand two, and one thousand... whack! A good-sized avalanche appeared at he bottom of the headwall. It was a rush. I was really getting off on it, but now I had a problem getting back up to my axe. With my hand in the sling gripping the axe, I couldn't get an edge in to push myself back up to the axe. The running surface for the avalanche was too smooth and hard for my skis. It was also way too steep. With no other choice I reached down and released my upper binding. The ski dropped to hang on a safety strap. I then kicked a step in and then released the other ski. I now kicked steps up to the axe where I put my skis on again and then moved over to trigger another avalanche. This one was much smaller than the first. Now that the headwall had been made safe for humanity I kicked steps down a rope length. Then I radioed to the others that they didn't need crampons and to send the rest of my rope team down. When my team cleared the face the other two teams came down one at a time. The last team reported that the face had already started to reload.

Just because you clear the headwall doesn't mean you are out of the woods. Getting down from Crow Pass can be more dangerous than the headwall because you don't have the opportunity to trigger the shoots from the top. We found the Crow Pass Cabin with the door open and full of snow. We belayed across the obvious shoots and made it to the rusted out machinery. From there we tried to ski but found the trail had cliffed-out due to the deep snow pack. We tried the creek for a while but it was open. We ended up on the trail again and Tom lost an edge and slid 30 feet down a gully. He was unhurt. It was good that we

were doing this stretch at 10 pm when the snow pack had firmed up. It is hard to believe after coming all the way from Eklutna that under some conditions the most deadly part of the trip is the last two miles before the trailhead.

With the avalanche work and belaying it took us 21 hours from when we got up at Rosie's until we reached where the road was maintained. A big thanks to Eryn and Chism for picking us up. Also thank you Eryn for typing up the Hans' Hut Log, and thank you Leslie for carrying it in.

### **March Tuesday Ski Outings**

by Stu Grenier



ea, there is no question about it. With the exception of avalanche, the easiest time of year to access the backcountry is early spring by ski. Slip sliding away. No heat, no bugs, no mud, no river crossings, and no bears.

The Gorge 3/9

We accessed the Knik River from the end of Knik River Road. It appears to be private property but is not posted. It is used as a trap shooting range so exercise caution.

Skiing down to the river wasn't too bad. We used small natural clearings until we hit a small frozen pond and then worked our way up river through alders and cottonwoods. From the time we first got out of the truck we knew this was going to be a tough day. You could hear the wind roaring like a freight train. As we got closer to where the alders gave way to the open gravel the sound grew even louder. We tried to stay in the trees as much as possible but at times we were exposed to the full force of the wind, which was coming off the glacier. You could see snow flowing like a river in the wind just a few inches off the ground.

As we progressed up river the unique rock faces of this area brought back long berried memories. In high school I enjoyed this area, but had not returned since. After about 4 miles we were forced out onto the riverbed and into the wind. Out here there was only blowing snow over ice as smooth as glass with gravel bars every now and then. It was something to watch the snow move like a great snake over the ice. After skiing over

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the frozen river we made for a wooded island to get out of the wind. Tom Dolan switched form ski to snow shoe with ice teeth. He left John McCormick and I, who had to make do with ski and skins. We eventually met up at a structure made of tarps and 2x4s located on the south side of the river just past the wooded island. From there we pushed on for two more miles and then threw in the towel when the wind picked up. We were about ¾ of the way to the Gorge.

Going back was tough. The wind kept blowing us into sand bars. Now sand was also blowing and it got into your mouth. We could not hear so I kept an eye on people and sometimes saw John on the ground. Skis and skins offered little control under these conditions but walking was out of the question. I was glad there was no open water to get blown into.

There are people who have skid to Lake George and back in a day when conditions are right. But the Knik River is like Turnagain Arm. It is a wind tunnel. You need to time it after a good snow and before it gets windy. Also the river needs to be frozen.

If you want to see what the gorge looks like go into Stewarts Photo on 4<sup>th</sup> Ave. There are some great pictures on the wall.

### Eklutna Lake Ski 3/16

Conditions were good this year. We skid across the lake and hit Eklutna Alex's cabin, The Serenity Falls Hut, and just missed meeting the mountain sage Nick Parker and wife at the Yuditna Hut. Rascal gave Chism Henry, Erin Boone, and the team from the Gorge trip ski-joring lessons.

### The Wedge Ski Traverse 3/23

Seven of us got together for what may turn out to be the best ski of the year. With blue skies and almost no wind John Beebee and wife Karen, Alex Alanso, Lee Whitten, and the team from the Gorge trip went from Glen Alps to Indian by way of Ship Lake Pass and Indian Creek Pass. Tom climbed the Ramp and most of the rest of us the Wedge. Snow conditions were very good for this eighthour trip. A thick unbreakable crust with two inches on top made for some good turns for those of us who went heavy with rondonee and tele. You may want to reconsider if the area is open to snow machines. The trip ended at the Brown Bear Saloon in Indian with the age-old MCA tradition of buying for the leader.

# Exploring the Falling Water Country (Western Chugach Mountains)

by Steve Gruhn

March 29, 2003, dawned warm and dry. "A nice day to explore the mountains of the Falling Water Creek drainage," I thought. My plan was to hike to the top of Peak 5320 (el. 5320, Sec. 23, T14N, R1E, S.M.) between Peters Creek and Falling Water Creek. The peak lies on a ridge connecting Peeking Mountain (el. 6925, Sec. 25, T14N, R1E, S.M.) and Significant Mountain (el. 5456, Sec. 20, T14N, R1E, S.M.).

I had arranged to meet Paul Davis and his girlfriend, Emily Kirschner, at the Eagle River Nature Center early that morning. After meeting them, we drove back to the intersection of Eagle River Road and Prudhoe Bay Road where I parked my truck. Emily gave us a ride up the hill to the end of the road on Dolores Street where two dogs rushed out from one of the nearby homes to greet us. After dropping us off, Emily drove home.

Paul and I hiked quickly up the trail past the old dilapidated trapper's cabin with dogs in tow. We split up going through the soft snow above the cabin and one of the dogs wandered home. I opted for the small ridge to the east of the cabin and Paul continued up the gully to the west of the ridge. With the wet snow, neither route choice was great. Soon, however, we were at the base of a steep snow-free slope below the west ridge of Point 4613.

We left our snowshoes here and hiked quickly to the top of the ridge crest, only to find that we had ascended it too far to the west – we now had to descend to the saddle between Significant Mountain and Peak 5320. But, it was a quick and fun descent, fallowing the fresh tracks of a band of Dall sheep and watching the remaining dog frolic in the snow.

At the saddle, we found an area of shallow snow and we began our uneventful hike to the summit of Peak 5320. On top we savored views of the Peters Creek drainage and even hiked down the northeast side a couple hundred feet. The weather continued to hold and we snapped photographs of each other and our newfound four-legged companion.

But the shadows grew longer and we knew that we had some miles ahead of us, so we returned to the summit, left a cairn, and glissaded

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down to the saddle. Watching the dog glissade was a hoot. He splayed out his rear legs to spread his weight over the snow and paddled his front legs with great gusto. Paul and I would stop to watch and the dog would paddle past us. Then we would zip by him in our glissades and the dog would try all the harder to catch up with us.

Soon, we were postholing southeast to the saddle. It was only a short distance, but the postholing was time consuming. The dog followed my tracks, lunging from hole to hole. At the saddle, we climbed down the south gully one-at-atime. Finding ourselves postholing back to our snowshoes, we spent quite a bit of time admiring the views of Peeking Mountain and South Raina Peak (el. 6798, Sec. 36, T14N, R1E, S.M.) to the east. Finally making it back to our stashed gear, we snowshoed out to the road uneventfully. The dog returned home and we trudged down the streets to my waiting truck, with tired legs, memories of the mountains dancing in our thoughts, and satisfaction in our hearts.

With Peak 5320 under my belt, I had visited the summits of all the peaks in the Falling Water Creek drainage and I was pleased to have come to know that country so well. True peaks in the Falling Water Creek drainage include Peak 5320, Peeking Mountain, South Raina Peak, Pleasant Mountain (el. 6463 ± 37, Sec. 6, T13N, R2E, S.M.), Korohusk Peak (el. 7030, Sec. 7, T13N, R2E, S.M.), and Cumulus Mountain (el. 5815, Sec. 12, T13N, R1E, S.M.). North Raina Peak (el. 6795, Sec. 36, T14N, R1E, S.M.) and Ferine Mountain (el. 5690, Sec. 11, T13N, R1E, S.M.) are also in the Falling Water Creek drainage, but are not true peaks. All are interesting day hikes.

## ADZE

For Sale Sportiva Karakoram boots size 43 1/2. Good condition, new soles, \$100 Mark Miraglia, 244-0682 Letters to the Editor

### May Issue

You did not miss the May issue. In case you wondered, there wasn't one. The reason is still unclear. The last, and only, time that a month of Scree was missed was 43 years ago, 1961. But hey, it's a volunteer effort, so it's bound to happen a few times a century. I put out all I could gather, which is probably not the usual amount for a June issue, on the suggestion from several members that something be done.

If you have stuff for the newsletter, best to send it to the president until this is all cleared up. Until then, you can expect a bumpy sort of Scree schedule. Sorry. If it meant I would not die, I would go back to being editor-for-life, but it doesn't work that way, I'm afraid.

Willy Hersman



#### Approved: MCA Board, February 15, 2000

### **MCATrip 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 <u>qualified</u> 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.

### General Rules for MCA Sanctioned Trips

- 1. Proper equipment is on the reverse side of this list.
- 2. No dogs. (Among the reasons are bear problems.)
- The trip leader can require special equipment and refuse participation to any person that is ill-prepared (e.g. inappropriate clothing/gear).
- 4. The leader's suggestions are to be followed. Do not go off alone, return or rush ahead without his (her) permission, and don't ford a stream before the leader assesses the situation. Remember, this is a club trip and the leader must know where all participants are. Anyone separating from the group without the leader's approval is no longer considered a participant the MCA Sanctioned trip.
- The trip leader has the authority to split the group (fast and slow), dependent upon current conditions. However, he/she must appoint a qualified co-leader to lead the second group using the guidelines specified in the current Trip Leader Responsibilities.
- 6. Trip participants who, in the leader's opinion, put themselves or other members of the group in danger by disregarding the leader's suggestions, shall be subject to sanction by the club. Sanctions may include, but are not limited to, reprimand at general meeting, exclusion from future trips, termination of annual membership, or lifetime exclusion from the club.
- You must sign up on a trip roster (club meetings) or contact the leader, and you must have signed the club waiver to be on a club trip.
- If you find you cannot participate after signing up on the roster, please let the leader know, both for transportation and gear-planning and so someone else can go. If you are the leader, help find a replacement.
- 9. Total number of people on club trips:

Minimum: 4 (for safety reasons)

Maximum: Leader option, depends upon the trail and campsite conditions, but generally limited to 12 in trail-less areas or State/National Parks

Firearms are not encouraged, and please let the leader know if you
want to carry one - it will be leader's option. Aerosol bear repellent is
preferred.

Approved: MCA Board, February 15, 2000

### **Equipment**

Summer

Rain gear that works

Mosquito repellent

Wind gear Whistle
Wool or fleece pants Large plastic bag
Shorts Lighter, matches

Light long johns Map, compass

Wool shirt Aerosol bear repellent (if desired)

Jacket Moleskin/Spenco 2nd skin

Baseball cap Ace bandage
Gloves Surgical tape
Extra socks Aspirin
Wool or pile hat Gauze

Hiking boots Anti-bacterial ointment
Stream-crossing footwear 4" x 4" pads, Band-Aids

Sunscreen Wire (continued)



Utility cord Picket

Sewing kit Skis or snowshoes

Tent

Sleeping pad and bag <u>Winter</u>
Backpack cover Wind gear

Cook pot Wool/fleece pants, shift

Stove (fires not allowed)

Fuel bottle

Walking stick or ice axe

Water bottles (not canteens)

FOOD

Long johns

Down jacket

Wool/fleece hat

Face mask

Mittens

Double boots

Additional for Glaciers Avalanche beacon

Ice axeShovelGaitorsLighterClimbing bootsHeadlampSlings, carabinersFirst aid kitRappel deviceRepair kit

Rope Tent (or snow shelters)
Wands Sleeping bag and pad
Mittens Large cook pot

Crampons Stove

Seat Harness Windscreen for stove

 Ice screw(s)
 Fuel bottle

 Pulleys
 Thermos

 Prussiks/ascenders
 Gaitors

Glacier glasses/cream Skis or snowshoes

### **Leader Qualifications**

- 1. Must be a member of the MCA.
- Must have approval of the Hiking and Climbing Committee (A simple majority.)
- Must, have received certification in Standard First Aid or a more advanced medical certification (e.g.WFR, EMT) within the last 10 years or have an accompanying co-leader that meets this requirement.
- Must attend an MCA Trip Leader Orientation course once every five years.
- Must have participated in trips of the same or higher classification than the one being led, showing competence in the opinion of the leaders of those trips; or equivalent experience acceptable to the Hiking and Climbing Committee.
- 6. Leaders on trips of Class E or higher must have served as a coleader with an approved MCA trip leader on at least one trip of the same classification or higher, or have equivalent experience acceptable to the Hiking and Climbing Committee. Persons with technical climbing experience wishing to waive this requirement must provide a letter to the Hiking and Climbing Committee outlining their climbing/guiding experience, training, and at least one personal reference.
- Leaders on trips that may involve any avalanche-prone terrain must have completed formal training in avalanche hazard recognition and victim search as approved by the Hiking and Climbing Committee.
- Leaders on trips that involve any hazardous stream crossings must have either formal training in safe stream crossing methods or have extensive experience crossing streams.

### **Trip Leader Responsibilities**

- The leader must get approval of the proposed trip from the H&C Committee prior to advertising the trip.
- Per MCA by-laws, club trips must be advertised in a club publication.
  In other words, the MCA membership must be informed of the trip. The
  H&C committee must approve the club trip about 35 days before the
  trip so that the H&C chair can forward the approved trip list to the
  editor of the Scree.
- 3. Important: If a H&CC approved trip cannot be planned a month in advance, the organizer may announce the trip as a personal trip at the next club meeting when the MCA president asks for announcements. Anyone may advertise a personal trip at the general membership meeting, which is an important service the club offers to all members to help bring hikers and climbers together. The value of a club sanctioned trip is it offers the membership a trip leader that has been approved by the H&CC as a qualified leader.
- The leader is responsible for providing and maintaining the trip sign-up sheets at monthly meetings. Coordinate with the H&CC Chair if unable to make the monthly meeting prior to the trip.
- 5. The leader should describe their proposed trip at club meetings.
- The leader should contact members that have signed up for the trip to discuss the details of the trip, including proposed route, required gear, hazards, and meeting arrangements.
- 7. The leader must leave a trip roster containing a brief description of the proposed route and the names and telephone numbers of participants with a responsible person that will be able to contact a H&C Committee member (names and telephone numbers are on the sign-up sheet) in case of an emergency or delayed return.
- The leader should brief trip members on the general rules for MCA sanctioned trips using the Trip Leader Checklist. If members already know each other and have been on previous trips, not much may need to be said. If new members are on the trip, use the checklist.
- For safety and liability reasons, the leader must follow the general rules for MCA sanctioned trips as published in the MCA policies.
- 10. After the trip, the leader is encouraged to provide a trip report (over the phone or in writing) to the H&CC This is just "how did the trip go" and who participated. It also serves as a means to let the H&C Committee know the trip members returned safety.

Other documents trip leaders should consult:

- MCA Club Sanctioned Trips policy, sections on: trip classifications, general rules, leader qualifications, and recommended gear).
- 2. Trip Leader Checklist

Approved: MCA Board, February 15, 2000

### RELEASE OF LIABILITY—READ CAREFULLY

receive instruction in these active numerous risks, which include, he a belay; being struck by climbin or malfunctioning equipment; an prompt medical care. I further part of either my fellow particip	(print name), am aware that mountaineering sports (including hiking; backpacking; nountaineering; skiing; and ski mountaineering) are hazardous activities. I wish to participate and/or rities with the Mountaineering Club of Alaska, Inc. ("MCA") I recognize that these activities involve by way of example only, falling while hiking, climbing, skiing or crossing rivers or glaciers; failure of g equipment or falling rock, ice or snow; avalanches; lightning; fire; hypothermia; frostbite; defective and attack by insects or animals. I further recognize that the remoteness of the activities may preclude recognize that risk of injury or death may be caused or enhanced by mistakes or negligence on the lants or MCA officers, directors, guides, instructors, or trip leaders. I nevertheless agree to accept all rity damage that may occur in connection with any MCA activity, including use of MCA furnished ry huts.
(initi	al that you have read this paragraph)
participants in MCA activities of policy or related excess insurar damage results from mistake agreement, MCA means the M	GIVING UP MY LEGAL RIGHTS  ree to give up for myself and for my heirs all legal rights I may have against the MCA and my fellow (except to the extent that insurance coverage for any claim is provided by an automobile insurance accepolicies). I give up these legal rights regardless of whether the injury, death, or property so or negligence on the part of either my fellow participants or the MCA. (As used in this dountaineering Club of Alaska, Inc., and all of its officers, directors, guides, instructors and trip tement shall remain in effect until such time as I provide signed written notice of its revocation to the
(initi	al that you have read this paragraph)
death, or property damage whi relating to MCA activities or the	MY PROMISE NOT TO SUE therwise make any claim against, the MCA or my fellow participants in MCA activities for injury, ch occurs in the course of my participation or instruction in mountaineering sports. Any lawsuit is release shall only be filed in the Superior Court for the State of Alaska, Third Judical District., sions of this release are severable and if any part of this release is found unenforcible, the remaining price and effect.
(init	al that you have read this paragraph)
both for myself and for my heir	MY RELEASE OF LIABILITY harge the MCA and my fellow participants in MCA activities from all actions, claims, or demands, rs, dependents, and/or personal representative, for injury, death, or property damage occurring in the struction in mountaineering sports.
(initi	al that you have read this paragraph)
	MY PROMISE TO INDEMNIFY  uding attorney's fees and court costs, that the MCA or my fellow participants in MCA activities may gal action arising out of injury, death, or property damage suffered by me.
(initi	al that you have read this paragraph)
	MY CONSENT TO MEDICAL TREATMENT  medical or surgical diagnosis or treatment which may be necessary as a result of my participation in so understand and agree that I am solely responsible for all applicable charges for such medical and/or rescue cost.
(initi	al that you have read this paragraph)
	O THIS AGREEMENT AND FULLY UNDERSTAND ITS CONTENT. I AM AWARE THAT L AGREEMENT BETWEEN ME AND THE MCA.
Dated:	
Signature of Parent or	Guardian (if under 19):

### Mountaineering Club of Alaska

Officers Board

President	Jayme Mack	694-1500	Randy Howell	346-4608
Vice-President	Carl Battreall	258-0075	Sean Bolender	333-0213
Secretary	Dave Hart Steve Gruhn	274-4457 344-1219	Hans Neidig	357-2026
Treasurer			Matt Nedom	278-3648
			Richard Baranow	694-1500

### Annual membership dues: Single \$10.00 Family \$15.00 (one Scree per family)

Dues can be paid at any meeting or mailed to the treasurer at the MCA address below. If you want a membership card, please fill out a club waiver and mail it with a self-addressed, stamped envelope. If you fail to receive the newsletter, or have questions about your membership, contact the club treasurer. The post office does <u>not</u> 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 jaymack@alaska.net. Articles should be received by July 2nd to be included in the July 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... Willy Hersman, Temp. 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:** hans neidig, 357-2026

WEB: www.mcak.org (go here to change your address)
MAILING LIST SERVICE: mcak@yahoogroups.com