



October 2005

A Publication of the Mountaineering Club of Alaska  
Box 102037, Anchorage, Alaska 99510

Volume 48 Issue 10

**Monthly Meeting**  
**Wednesday, October 19th @ 7:30 PM**

**First United Methodist Church**  
**9th & G Streets**  
**Downtown Anchorage**  
Next to the Phillips Building (you may use reserved parking after hours)

**Program: Mark Fouts on a traverse of the**  
**Matanuska and Marcus Baker Glaciers**  
*plus*  
**Annual elections for Club Officers and Board Members**

**'All goals apart from the means are illusions' – Bruce Lee**

### **In This Issue**

**Rosie's Roost Maintenance Trip**

**Snowbird to D'nigi**

**Couples Trip, Snowhawk Valley**

**Phytophotodermatitis**

**Ortovox recall**

### **Hiking and Climbing Schedule**

Saturday October 01

This is an all-day, 11-mile, Class C hike to Vista Peak near Black Tail Rocks in the

Eagle River area. If trip participants feel like it, we can also hike to the summit of Black Tail Rocks and/or Roundtop Peaks. Bring food, water, smiles and appropriate gear for whatever weather conditions are in existence. ALL MCA members are welcome if they are physically able to do the hike. Contact trip leader for details:  
Amy Murphy @ 338-3979 or e-mail: hayduchesslives@yahoo.com

Saturday Oct. 15

Matanuska Peak A long 5000 foot day on a classic looking peak. Winter gear and ice axe. Class C. Contact Stu Grenier [oinkmenow@hotmail.com](mailto:oinkmenow@hotmail.com) or 337-5127

### **Training**

Coming soon

The winter Mountaineering series.... Stay tuned for details

## Trip Reports

### Rosie's Roost Maintenance Trip August 11-15, 2005

By Greg Bragiel



Team members: Greg Bragiel, Allison Sayer, John Recktenwald, Carlene Vantol, Martin Ksok, Ray Nabinger

The MCA maintenance crew did a full day training on Saturday, July 30<sup>th</sup> in preparation for our trip. We did not have an opportunity to stash the maintenance supplies on the glacier that day, as planned, which worked out to our benefit. A BIG Thank You!! goes out to The Army National Guard and Dano Michaud for ferrying all the supplies to Rosie's for us the week before the trip. Also, a BIG Thank You!! to my friend Dr Greg Grubba for taking me on a fly over of the route a few days before the trip.



Under blue skies, warm temperatures and wet foliage the crew left the Glacier Gulch trailhead at 9:40 AM August 11<sup>th</sup>, passed through alder, devils club and cow parsnip as we hiked up the trail to Goat Ridge. The group left Goat Ridge proper at the saddle, approximately 4500' elevation, traversed approximately 1 mile east across the south facing slope toward the Chief Glacier and up the prominent gully onto the Eagle Glacier. This entry point onto the Eagle is much simpler and has less elevation gain than the traditional Goat Ridge route and enters the glacier about 1 mile west of the

Nordic center. It is used by the UAA Nordic ski team in the summer. We filled our water bottles, snacked, roped up and headed for Rosie's. The team had minimal crevasse problems and only one member put a leg through a hole. The fern line was at about 4200' elevation. The group arrived at Rosie's around 10:30 PM and was quite tired. Shrimp Creole was cooked courtesy of Carlene.

We slept in until 8 AM Friday morning and spent the day preparing and then painting the outside of the hut a bright, beautiful red. The windows and baton strips also received a coat of silver. Most of us began noticing some blistering on our legs at which time we realized that we had been Cow Parsnipped. Ray prepared a wonderful chicken burrito dinner for us. Temperatures were in the 70's most of the day with plenty of sunshine and blue skies.

Saturday dawned very warm, sunny and clear again. We emerged from the hut clad only in t-shirts and shorts to marvel at the beauty of the area. The day was spent cleaning and painting the first floor of the hut. Two gallons of white paint did not go as far as I expected so we were only able to coat the walls and ceiling once. Carlene spent the day out of the sun, bathing her legs which had become blistered and quite uncomfortable. The group discussed the options on getting her out and it became apparent that she would not be able to 'go' in the morning. Carlene was not able to wear boots and could barely walk around camp. We decided that it would be best that she not leave camp and Allison was appointed to nurse Carlene until we could have them flown out. Our group dinner was an oriental noodle/chicken meal courtesy of Deb Luper that had been dropped by air on my flyover. The liquid in the packages had burst on landing so Allison elected to use her imagination with the hut food reserves to supplement it.

Ray, John, Martin and I left Rosie's Sunday morning at 8:30 AM under continued beautiful skies, heading south on the Eagle. Upon exiting the glacier I made a call to the State Troopers to initiate the rescue. Later, I was

informed by Matt Whittigan (C.S.P. ranger) that they would only 'GO' if it was a life/death situation. Otherwise the charges would be in the range of \$2000-3000. I elected to call Alpine Air to pick up Carlene and Allison. After the cloud cover began to break up we saw the red helicopter heading to the Eagle Glacier. (likely to drop off snowmachiners) and later observed the same helicopter traveling down valley with Carlene and Allison aboard as we labored downhill. Once in Girdwood we chased the girls from spot to spot only to find that they had already departed for Anchorage and the hospital. So, the boys had dinner at Chair 5 Restaurant, courtesy of John.

Carlene and Allison showed up at my home later that evening to pick up a vehicle and talk about her cow parsnip wounds. Carlene appeared to be tolerating the severe blistering and looked like a mummy from the thighs down.



The Hut looks beautiful outside and is MUCH brighter inside. I have contacted Steve Parry to propose another trip to finish painting the inside. I expect it to take at least six more gallons of white to finish beautifying Rosie's.

Many, Many Thanks to the maintenance crew for volunteering their time to do this project!

See Carlene's report on Phytophotodermatitis.

I had an opportunity to visit with the Glacier City Snow machine concessionaire at their Tourist Trap shop on August 6th. The entire operation APPEARS to be well organized and controlled. Although we did not actually see anyone snow machining on the glacier we observed that the route they use is a well marked trail. It meanders in and out of the valleys and up and down the glacier. It is one track wide and flagged. The participants appear to follow the leader single file. The organizer was very friendly and concerned about our group having a positive experience. He told me that "we would shut down if we saw you passing" When the proposal to have snow machining was initially discussed at the MCA meeting I think that many of us envisioned a scenario similar to that at Hatcher's pass where everyone is racing around helter skelter and the noise and smoke are nearly intolerable. The Glacier City production appears to be very different.

## **Snowbird to D'nigi** **By Annette Iverson**

**T**om Dolan, Ron Gehres and I traversed from the Snowbird to D'nigi Hut this past summer to scout it out for a future ski trip and to enjoy the beautiful summer scenery. We were out 6 days staying at four different huts. We could have added on the Lane Hut but the route between that and the Snowbird was not something we had decided we wanted to ski.

It was a late August Thursday when we started out for the Snowbird Glacier and Hut. All the way to Snowbird Pass there is a trail though it's tricky to follow the cairns. Using the quad map Anchorage D-6 is the best way to keep yourself on track. Upon reaching the pass and glacier in the pouring rain we looked for good ski runs for next time. One formidable moulin lies about halfway down the glacier (skier's right of center.) Hug the moraine on the right to avoid



it. The hut itself is a little “pod” and was a warm shelter on a rainy day. There are even Frankenstein toys inside.

For our route between the Snowbird and Bomber Hut (built the same summer as the Scandinavian Peaks hut in 1990) we went down the moraine to a small lake below it and continued until we reached the valley in which the Bomber Hut sits. Staying high and to the right to avoid the tall brush we found an intermittent footpath (more consistent further up valley.) It seems possible to just ski down glacier to get to the next valley during winter. At the Bomber Hut we met up with three others (one person we knew) and had a rousing game of Rummy that night.

#### Mint Hut



The next day the route to the Mint Hut (built 1971 and complete with climbing holds inside) via Backdoor Gap was pretty short. Crossing the Penny Royal Glacier up to the gap was crevasse free. The only crevasses visible were climbers' high right. Coming down Backdoor Gap to the Mint Hut is a long rock talus slope offering superb views!

At the Mint we met “das Hutte Meister” of the Snowbird Hut and then ended up spending an extra night due to an 18 hour straight downpour. I cleaned the hut from top to bottom so as not to go stir crazy. After the rain stopped we found beautiful places to hike around. We scouted out the winter route coming in from the Gold Mint trail and later, on the lower west side

of the Mint Glacier, we came across a cavernous tunnel with water running into it. We traipsed in a ways and saw rocks trapped in the ice. That was neat! Beautiful weather prevailed the next day and so we left really early for the D'nigi Hut to beat any possible foul weather

#### Ice cave



To get to Grizzly Pass and the D'nigi Hut (built in 1995) there is a foot path through the tundra and rocks leading up to the Mint Glacier. After all that rain and because of the early morning cool temperatures we decided to put on crampons and reached new snow on the Glacier shortly. There was a good dusting at around 5500'. Going up the part of the glacier leading to Grizzly Pass we walked straight up the left side and noticed just one crevasse near the top (left of climbers' center.) The view over Moose Creek valley was completely different from the valley we had come from. We plunged down the snow of the benign glacier on the other side and traversed south through spectacular pond laced benches. We recommend dropping down to the Moose Creek Valley floor across from the creek that leads up to the D'nigi Hut. The hut is located at about 4150' in square 32 of Anchorage D-6 Quad. Ford the knee deep (for us) Moose Creek just before that outlet and follow the left side of the creek to the hut. The rain started again that evening and did not break until we had almost finished the trip.

Our chosen route out was the little traveled Moose Creek drainage. It seems from the hut log that everyone else takes the Eska Creek route (except for snow machiners in winter.) We left extra early since we did not know what to expect and made our first crossing in the same place as the day before, barefoot. We had read to look for a horse trail but what we found was really more like a moose trail. Much of the time we felt it with our feet instead of seeing it with our eyes because of the willows and grasses. We learned quickly to go back and find the trail if we lost it. Bush wacking was way more time consuming. Huge, deep and unavoidable mud holes sucked us in from time to time too. Near Iron Creek (eight miles down from our first crossing) the trail ran into Moose Creek (near GPS utm coordinates 0394000 and 6850000.) When we looked across (after several passes) we saw silver crossing poles left by hunters. We locked arms and with much adrenaline, a foot stuck under a rock and a rock nearly too large to span we crossed the waist high creek with Tom breaking the current. As we had read, there was a hunters' camp just on the other side. We followed the muddy trail leading up the knoll then southeast until it became a four wheel track. This lead us to a horse riding business where we followed the road/driveway out and across a bridge over Moose Creek back to Buffalo Mine Road. We had expected to have to cross the creek again but after seeing the speed and width of it were glad we didn't have to. Upon arriving at the car we quickly changed into dry clothes and declared it a successful trip!

## **COUPLES TRIP & BARBEQUE**

### **AUGUST 19-21, 2005**

**By Greg Bragiel**



rip Participants: Greg/Mary Beth Bragiel, Allison Sayer/August Planning, John Recktenwald/Marcy Custer, Martin Ksok/Kate Yanik, Tom/Charlu Choate, Jennifer Du Ford, Nick Goein.

Many thanks go to a friend of mine, Ron Moen for reserving the Upper Snowhawk Cabin and to Nick Goein for assuming the reservation and accompanying the group.



After multiple days of rain prior to this trip the sun appeared in the afternoon on Friday, August 19. So group, "... you know that I would not schedule a trip when the weather is not optimal..." Seven of us departed trailhead at 6:15 PM, hiked up through wet, sloppy, slippery trail conditions. Took a rest break at the ruins of the Lower Snowhawk Cabin and continued up under the same sloppy conditions. Allison and Gus met up with us as we cleared treeline. With one mile to go I attempted to hurry the group along as the sun had set. We arrived at the cabin about 10:30 PM and everyone agreed that it was a long day to work and then backpack here 6 miles. We gathered in the cabin to prepare a meal and everyone was in their tent by 12:50 PM.

The group slept in until about 8:30 AM Saturday, spent the morning leisurely preparing breakfast, talking and watching the clouds drift by the peaks. A few participants elected to hang near the cabin and berry pick rather than climb. The rest of us departed the cabin at 11:30 AM heading for Temptation Peak, summited and watched the clouds come and go with intermittent views of Ship Creek and the surrounding peaks. A few raindrops fell as we lunched and hydrated on top. Everyone started down by 3:00 PM, stopped by the tarn,



took photos and remarked at the amazing 3 dimensional reflection in the water of the slope beyond. As we descended, the sky sprinkled on us sporadically and everyone enjoyed picking blueberries. Upon returning to the cabin, we discovered that four additional people had hiked in that morning, one returned home and the other three had pushed on to Temptation Pk.



We spent the evening in the hut talking, laughing, and snacking, lit the barbeque at 7PM and shared grilled reindeer sausage, steak, hamburgers, chicken, vegetables and salmon. Everyone thoroughly enjoyed the camaraderie and Tom Choate's one liners with the possible exception of Charlu. Everyone retired to their tents that evening singing "...I'm Camping, I'm Camping!!, I'm Camping!!!" (Ask us what this means). That evening a strong storm blew in bringing high winds and significant rainfall.

Things began to clear Sunday morning and we left the cabin under mostly blue skies. A few showers later fell as we neared the trailhead.

Right now, my streak of 'Only excellent weather' outings is in question.

## News and things

### Phytophotodermatitis

By Carlene Van Tol

Phyto (plant) + photo (light) + dermatitis (inflammation of the skin). In the last couple of weeks since our trip in to paint at Rosie's Roost, I have been gaining knowledge and first-hand experience of this medical term. It refers to a blistering of the skin, a chemical type burn, that happens when exposed to certain plant oils and sunlight. Some folks are more sensitive than others. I read about a case where lime juice had dried on a leg and then the patient remained in the sun. The accompanying picture was as impressive as my own blisters. My personal experience is from exposure to "that plant with the white flowers" (called cow parsnip by most though I have read that Giant Hogweed is probably the correct name) and sun. Symptoms can take 48-72 hours to manifest. Scars can remain for months. Even after healing, the affected areas can be photosensitive for years to follow, so be careful and use sunscreen! Treatment is pretty much symptomatic, so prevention is the key here. Follow the points below and enjoy the great outdoors!

- ? To lessen exposure, wear long pants, long sleeves, and light gloves, however, plant juice can be absorbed by material so beware.
- ? If contact is made, wash areas as soon as possible with soap and water. If no soap is available, do your best with just water. (Baby wipes fit nicely into a pocket.)
- ? Use sunscreen and/or keep skin covered for 48 hours after exposure to prevent the dermatitis reaction caused by ultraviolet rays.
- ? Whacking the plants causes the toxic juice to scatter on you, in addition to opening up the plant and exposing it to others who may walk into it. Try to brush

through the plants, leaving them intact, or step on the offending branches.

If you are interested in reading/seeing more on the subject, check out the following web sites. Lots of info out there; these are just a few I found interesting.

[http://www.nwplants.com/information/white flo  
wers/white\\_comparison.html](http://www.nwplants.com/information/white_flo wers/white_comparison.html)

[http://www.nursing-  
standard.co.uk/archives/en\\_pdfs/envol11-  
03/env11n3p1823.pdf](http://www.nursing-<br/>standard.co.uk/archives/en_pdfs/envol11-<br/>03/env11n3p1823.pdf)

[http://www.michigan.gov/documents/MDA\\_Hog  
weed\\_Brochure\\_2\\_115074\\_7.pdf](http://www.michigan.gov/documents/MDA_Hog<br/>weed_Brochure_2_115074_7.pdf)

## Ortovox recall

Ortovox USA offers this Preventative Recall on a voluntary basis. It should be noted that, out of 100,000 units sold worldwide, there have been only three reports of transceiver failure. There have been no reported injuries in the field.

MODELS M1 and M2 All Years

Please contact Ortovox at the number below to obtain a new, specially marked, replacement battery door for the M1 or M2. For detailed information on the voluntary recall and general information on the battery problems in avalanche transceivers, see: [www.ortovox.com](http://www.ortovox.com). 1-888-215-3131

Ortovox USA, 455 Irish Hill Road, Hopkinton, NH 03229

## Letters to the Editor

### Official New Geographic Name

Periodically the U.S. Geological Survey makes proposed geographic names official. Tom Choate recently wrote a letter commenting on the USGS approval of the name Mount Jimmy Doolittle for a 7538-foot peak about 33 miles north-northeast of Cordova. During the same December 14, 2004, meeting the USGS voted

to approve of the name Wardies Peak for a 2867-foot peak about 1/2 mile northeast of Upper Bonnie Lake in the Matanuska-Susitna Borough in honor of Wardie W. King (1914 - 1995), a former Chief of Safety for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Alaska District, and a former long-time resident of a cabin located near the summit. Wardies Peak does not meet the criteria for a true peak, but, nevertheless, has now been bestowed with an official name.

Other proposed names for peaks have been recently rejected by the USGS, including Amadeo Peak, Galicia Peak, Mount Nikpaqtuaq, and Saint Lawrence Pyramid (all in Wrangell-Saint Elias National Park and Preserve).

The full texts of the geographic names decisions are available at:

<http://geonames.usgs.gov/bgn.html>.

Steven C. Gruhn, P.E.

## MCA Board Meeting Minutes September 14, 2005 7:00 p.m.,

This month the board held their meeting at the Snow Goose Restaurant in Anchorage.

Topics discussed included:

- ? Planning of the annual ice climbing festival. Jayme will check into getting a banner to help identify the location for participants.
- ? We need to finish painting the interior at Rosie's Roost. Greg Braigel was granted \$200 of club money towards costs for the trip, providing he gets the waste barrel hauled out, emptied, and returned to the hut.
- ? The layout of membership forms was discussed along with ideas for possible changes. We need each member of a family to sign the liability waiver, and

need to make that clear for family memberships.

- ? Records committee has been put on hold at this time due to possible conflict with club bylaws (and redundancy of records held by committee chairs).
- ? October membership meeting is annual election of club officers and board members; possible nominees were discussed.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

## **MCA Membership Meeting September 21, 2005 7:30 p.m.**

Sign-up sheets for the ice festival were being filled out by those wishing to attend, new members were signing up; our meeting started a bit late.

Welcome, by club president, Steve Parry.

New member introductions made.

### Committee reports

Hiking and Climbing -- See the front sheet of Scree for upcoming trips. Sign-up sheets for upcoming trips at front of room; sign up during intermission.

Training – Carl will be limiting this winter's "mountain school" to 20 students. This year's topics include winter clothing/nutrition, avalanche awareness and rescue, winter camping, knots, snow/glacier travel, and crevasse rescue. The course runs five weeks and cost is \$75 this year. This includes a textbook, use of club equipment, rental for classroom, and incidentals. Instructors are not paid for their time. We need volunteers! Carl needs 3 senior instructors, and the more assistants the better. If you have ever taken these classes, this is your time to give back to the club; please talk to Carl about helping out!

Andi announced a wilderness first aid course coming up this winter, tentatively scheduled for 2/18-19. It is a 20-hour course that provides a 3-year certification. No prerequisites necessary, no CPR. Cost will be \$140. Look in next month's scree for details.

Calendar – Eric is in his busy season but this should be out in October, hopefully.

### Treasurer's report

5639.07 in money market, \$14,932.08 in checking, \$1000 CD in North Rim bank, \$50 petty cash. Steve Gruhn will cover as treasurer until the election in October.

### New Business

Sign up tonight for the ice festival, as those who register tonight get preference over those who wait until Thursday to sign up. There is a mandatory meeting to attend Thursday, 9/22. Cost is \$45 this year. Thursday's meeting is mandatory as that is when we get liability forms signed, do gear checks, and hand out student info packets. **BRING YOUR CLIMBING BOOTS AND CRAMPONS!**

Next month is the annual meeting with election of officers and board members. Have you given back to your club yet? Consider filling one of the vacancies on the board or serving as an officer for the upcoming term! Show up and vote!

### Announcements

The 8<sup>th</sup> World Wilderness Congress will be held in Anchorage 9/30 through 10/06. This is a gathering of 1100 delegates from 55 countries and will include free events for the public, including the WILD Expo exhibition, an environmental film festival, and photography shows. Carl has a list of shows and more info.

The Knik River watershed group is circulating a petition regarding the management plan in the Jim Creek and Knik River areas. It is available to read and sign during the break.



AMH will have deals on rentals for this weekend's ice climbing festival, but gear is going fast. Reserve rentals soon and/or come in and buy your own gear!

Slide show presentation

Clint Helander, on climbs in the Cascades, the Chugach, and the Olympic Mtns.

## **Adze**

Looking For

Think of the places you can CLIMB with a PRIVATE PILOT CERTIFICATE. I am teaching a Private Pilot Ground School this fall Starting in Mid October or November. This will give you the required knowledge to pass the FAA written exam AND prep you for the oral exam. Please call me if you are interested. Min age 16.

Kristen 360-7975

## 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 nontechnical 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

## General Rules for MCA Sanctioned Trips

1. Proper equipment is available from the trip leader.
2. No dogs. (Among the reasons are bear problems.)
3. 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.
5. 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.
7. 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.
8. 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
10. 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

## **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: \_\_\_\_\_



# Mountaineering Club of Alaska

President	Steve Parry	248-8710	Board member	Eric Teela	240-9693
Vice-President	Steve Gruhn	344-1219	Board member	Annette Iverson	222-0581
Secretary	Carlene Van Tol	748-5270	Board member	Sean Bolender	333-0213
Treasurer	Joe Kluberton	301-4039	Board member	Randy Howell	346-4608
			Board member	Jayne Mack	245-3251

Annual membership dues: Single \$15, Family \$20 (one Scree to a 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 will not forward the newsletter.

The '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 emailed to [Scree@yahoogroups.com](mailto:Scree@yahoogroups.com) or submitted on the web at [www.mcak.org](http://www.mcak.org) or mailed to Scree Editor Box 102037 Anchorage Alaska 99510. Articles should be received by October 19th (the club meeting) to be in the November Issue.

Paid Ads may be submitted to the attention of the Vice-President at the club address and should be 'camera ready' and pre-paid.

Missing your MCA membership card? Stop by our monthly meeting to pick it up or send a self-addressed stamped envelope and we'll mail it to you.

Mailing list/database entry: Greg Bragiel - 569-3008  
Hiking Committee: Matt Nedom - 278-3648, Carlene Van Tol – 748-5270  
Climbing Committee: Richard Baranow - 694-1500, Randy Howell – 346-4608  
Huts: Hans Neidig 355-3244  
Calendar: Stuart Grenier 337-5127  
Scree Editor: John Recktenwald 770-1636  
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