



June 2005

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

Volume 48 Issue 6

**Monthly Meeting**  
**June 15 @ 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: Bjarne Holm will show slides of his trips in the eastern Alaska Range.**

## Hiking and Climbing Schedule

June 13, Monday 5:30 p.m.

West Ptarmigan Peak (4911) Class C, 3,000 feet of elevation gain, 6 miles round trip. Contact leader at least 24 hours before trip. Leader: Steve Gruhn:  
[steven.gruhn@hartcrowser.com](mailto:steven.gruhn@hartcrowser.com), 868-9118 (w), 344-1219 (h)

June 18, Saturday

Blueberry Hill (4531) Class D 4,500 feet of elevation gain and 6 miles round trip. Come find out why this was the last peak along both the Seward Highway and Turnagain Arm to be climbed. Contact leader at least 24 hours in advance of trip. Leader: Steve Gruhn  
[Steven.Gruhn@hartcrowser.com](mailto:Steven.Gruhn@hartcrowser.com) 344-1219 (h) 868-9118 (w)

June 20, Monday 5:30 p.m.

Rainbow Peak (3543) Class C 3,500 feet of elevation gain and 4 miles round trip. Contact leader at least 24 hours in advance of trip. Leader: Steve Gruhn  
[Steven.Gruhn@hartcrowser.com](mailto:Steven.Gruhn@hartcrowser.com) 344-1219 (h) 868-9118 (w)

June 24 - 26 Summer Solstice B

Tom's annual solstice trip this year begins Friday evening, 7pm. Hike from the Summit Creek trailhead to Summit Creek Pass. Three miles to camp, 1500ft elevation gain. Climb peaks 4990 and 4982 on Saturday and Sunday. Flowers too! Leader: Tom Choate 333.5309

July 6, Tuesday 6 p.m.

Crow Pass Class B 1,800 feet of elevation gain and 8 miles round trip. Contact leader at least 24 hours in advance of trip. Leader: Steve Gruhn  
[Steven.Gruhn@hartcrowser.com](mailto:Steven.Gruhn@hartcrowser.com) 344-1219 (h) 868-9118 (w)

July 11, 5:30 p.m. Monday

Penguin Peak (4334) Class D 4,100 feet of elevation gain and 4 miles round trip. Contact leader at least 24 hours in advance of trip. Leader: Steve Gruhn  
[Steven.Gruhn@hartcrowser.com](mailto:Steven.Gruhn@hartcrowser.com) 344-1219 (h) 868-9118 (w)

July 16 - 30

Gates of the Arctic National Park. Maybe the most beautiful place in Alaska. Class C. Steep and rocky terrain. \$200 air charter deposit due by June 1st. Party is limited to six. Leader: Don Hansen 243.7184, or [donjoehansen@msn.com](mailto:donjoehansen@msn.com)

August 11 - 15

Hut Maintenance trip to Rosie's and Hans' huts Class: D, Glacier Travel Elevation Gain: 6000+ Distance: 30 miles round trip. This trip is geared for those members that have recently completed the MCA glacier travel classes and want more glacier experience. We will be painting the huts. Leader: Greg Bragiel 569-3008

August 19 - 21

First Annual Couples Trip, Climb and Barbecue Class: B (to Upper Snowhawk Hut) D (to Temptation Peak) Elevation Gain: 2100 to Upper Snowhawk, 5000 to Temptation Peak. Distance: 12 miles round trip Upper Snowhawk, 16 miles round trip to Temptation Peak. This trip is for COUPLES ONLY. We will camp near the Upper Snowhawk Hut. For anyone wanting to climb, there is good access to Temptation Peak from the hut. Bring your grille, burgers, hot dogs and ribs to share with participants. Leader: Greg Bragiel 569-3008

## In This Issue

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**Mount Susitna Paddle Climb**

**Mexican Volcanoes**

**A Summer In The Chugach Front Range**

## Trip Reports

### Prince William Sound and Mt Curtis By Jenny Magee



On May 5th, five of us left Whittier bound for Decision Point; Sean and Kristen Bolender, John McCormick, Sam Pepper, and myself. It was raining lightly and the seas were quiet.

The next morning, Kristen left us since she had to go back to work, and the four of us continued on our merry way paddling to Hobo Bay. The skies began to clear and the next four days were postcard-perfect. That evening we were treated to the sound of whales in the distance blowing and spouting.



Jenny Magee photo

On our third day we paddled up into the Harriman Fjord and were in awe of its beauty and all of the glaciers, mountains and wildlife. We also looked forward to climbing Mt Curtis (4052') as the weather was supposed to hold for a few days. We camped on a beach that Sam aptly dubbed "Chiropractic Beach" since we had to haul the boats (two singles and one double) and gear a LONG way up!

Day four began with a paddling tour to Surprise Cove, whose glacier was calving frequently. We then paddled back to the base of Mt. Curtis and yet another "Chiropractic Beach", where old ruins could be found in the woods.

We began climbing the next morning around 10am. When we reached snowline at 1000' we donned our snowshoes since the snow was soft and it was posthole-city. We discovered a bear den near treeline at around 1200' with tracks showing recent activity. There was an impressive cornice on the ridgeline at the 2000-2500' elevation, so we made sure to stay well away from it. Once we were higher, we found the ridgeline was snow-free on the east-facing side, so we took off our snowshoes and walked on tundra. When we were about 1200' from the summit, we left our snowshoes and carried light packs. Once we got up higher, we were postholing again, but kept forging forward knowing we were in store for a spectacular view. We arrived at the summit at 4:45pm and signed the summit register left by Stu Grenier, Tom Choate and Tom Miller in 2001. We had 360-degree views of the entire area including the College Fjord and its glaciers, Harriman Fjord and all of its glaciers, the entire Port Wells area and Ester Island. On the way down, fresh bear tracks crossed our trail, but we never did see it.

The weather forecast was calling for a storm moving in within the next couple of days, so we decided to put in a couple long days to get some big crossings out of the way before it set in. We paddled around 20 miles going through Ester Passage to East Flank Island. There was a lovely spot called "Waterfall Cove" about halfway through the passage that we would have stayed at if the incoming weather and our time-frame had allowed. We stopped along the way for a lunch and water-filtering break since there would be no water on the small island.

The next morning some clouds began to appear. By that evening, it was evident the system was encroaching upon us. We paddled about 15 miles to a small protected beach that we named "Driftwood Cove" on Culross Island due to the amazing amount of trees (up to 3' in diameter) and driftwood that had been brought up by higher tides (17' +) and storms; you would not be able to utilize it in higher tides. We had a 13' tide that night. It began raining off

and on, and the winds picked up, forming whitecaps.

Mt Curtis



Jenny Magee photo

By morning it was raining steadily and quite windy, but by the time slack tide came, the winds let up a bit, so we paddled on to Decision Cove for another rainy evening. The next morning (day 9) we loaded up the boats one final time and made our way back to Whittier in the rain, all of us looking forward to a halibut sandwich. It was a fantastic trip, so of course we were already talking about the next paddle/climb adventure!

## **Mount Susitna Paddle Climb Aug. 2000, By Stu Grenier**

**I**n Shem Pete's Alaska, a book about the territory of the Upper Cook Inlet Dena'ina, we can learn about Dghelishla or "Little Mountain" and how they related to what they consider a sacred mountain. Also known as Mt. Susitna or Sleeping Lady, it is the most conspicuous Mountain that can be seen from Anchorage. At 4400ft its presence dominates the western skyline. As inaccessible as conspicuous this mountain was a "must do". It was one of the first mountains that I could name and after learning the "Legend of Sleeping Lady" (a story which is non-native in origin) in the Anchorage School system, I somewhere along the line made a promise to myself that I would have to

someday head over there and climb it. After getting a sea kayak that someday became August 7, 2000.

The Susitna River, which means sand river in Dena'ina, is the logical choice to approach this mountain by kayak. Just let the current take you down from the Parks Highway and in a day you are down stream from Susitna Station and in position to make camp for the slog over to Alexander Creek and Mt. Susitna. It only takes about an hour to make Alexander Creek from the Big Su by crossing some thick forest and some muskeg. In summer a bug headnet and leather gloves are a must.

Using the Big Lake and Pt. Mackenzie 3<sup>rd</sup> Ed. map by Todd Communications I set my sights on a trail that was marked on the map starting between Pierce and Granite Creek just above the sharp bend in Alexander Creek that the locals call Horseshoe Bend. I used a pack raft to float to this location but when I got there, there was no trail to be found. I stashed my raft and headed up through the usual alders and devil's club. I soon came out on a four wheeler trail and went climbers left. After a few forks I passed some well tended uninhabited cabins and then came to a group of cabins with some mean dogs. Finally someone came and called the dogs off and then I waited for Leonard Johnson to come talk to me. We looked at the maps and he told me that he had climbed the mountain twice. He told me the trail on my map had not been there for ten years. The new trail starts down stream from Horseshoe Bend. He mentioned a game trail by Granite Creek and another trail that was miles away and farther than I wanted to go. I thanked him and then went on my way. Continuing on the four wheeler trail I met some more cabins with mean dogs and noticed that the trail seemed to be going around the mountain rather than up it. Tired of dealing with dogs and people who were not accustomed to strangers I decided I would take my chances in the alders and try my luck finding the Granite Creek game trail.

Dropping down to Granite Creek from the four wheeler trail on the ridge I found the water of Granite Creek very good to drink and decided to follow the creek up. After a quarter mile of bush whacking the creek took a hard left and started right up the mountain. On the climber's right there was a game trail. I followed the trail for a while and made camp where I could listen to the creek and get cell service to Anchorage.

The next morning I started early and tried to hold the game trail. It soon petered out and I spent a good deal of time looking for it by traversing the slope. I gave up on it and just continued the climb up keeping track of where the creek was for when I needed water. There was some grass at first but soon the alders formed a solid wall. I spent most of the day squeezing through them. In the afternoon I stopped and slept in the shade where I had water while I waited for the heat of the day to pass. Around 5pm I started again and made it above alder line. By 8 pm I was on the summit.

The view from the summit was impressive though hazy. I could see the Big Su stretching for miles to Cook Inlet and to the north. The Tordrillos and the Central Alaska Ranges were hazed out. The Talkeetna and Chugach Ranges were visible. Anchorage only a white line below the Chugach. A cool breeze limited my summit stay as my legs began to tighten up. I checked out the repeater station on the way down to find it had a generator running and smelled of exhaust. For shelter it was unusable.

It seemed very odd to look at Anchorage and the Chugach from this side of the Inlet. I made camp just above bush line where I watched a black sow and two cubs on a slope about a quarter mile way. As it grew dark a few stars, the lights of Anchorage and the Valley, and eventually the aurora all came out. Spending time on a mountain that I had looked at and thought about for so many years under these conditions was a pleasure. It is not difficult to see why the Dena'ina considered it a sacred mountain. If you go there you may know what I

mean. In truth this trip was more of a pilgrimage than anything else.

The next morning I descended a different route in hopes of discovering a trail or at least an easier way down. It was not to be. I found expanses of devil's club that were four feet high and in solid blocks hundreds of yards long and wide. I made it back to the four wheeler trail rather zonked. I knew I wanted to climb the mountain again someday but never again by that route. Though I was impressed by an area that had so little sign of human activity - not one saw cut, clipped alder bush, or beer can.

On my way out the dogs got on to me again and this time I was invited in for a cup of coffee at Leonard's place. We talked about the mountain and trails. I told him what I had found and his wife told me that they could see the New Years Eve fireworks in Anchorage from the cabins. Drenched in sweaty stinking clothing and with a 44 strapped to my chest, I was grateful that they received me.

After savoring the bitter black coffee, they gave me a tour of their compound and then Leonard gave me a ride to the Alexander on his four wheeler. From there we used his skiff to pick up my raft and take me to where I put in on the Alexander with my pack raft. From there I filled my water bottles and returned to base camp on the Big Su. That night I enjoyed red wine and the radio for a very relaxing evening under the tarp and bug net.

The next morning the bugs were as thick as could be as I broke camp and headed for the mouth of the Big Su. It was a relief to get out on the river away from the swarms of mosquitoes. I passed under the power lines and soon started having problems with sandbars. Finally I pulled out at a spot on the east shore where there was a fish drying rack and four tall poles and a platform. I could see houses to the east at what on the map is called Maggot Point. I figured I was on Delta Island but the maps don't seem to be very accurate in this area. I watched the tide come in and out



for one cycle and then headed for Anchorage the next morning with perfect weather.

The mouth of the Big Su has a bad reputation from numerous small boaters. Kayak guide John Crator asked around before he paddled out of this area and found that there were people around who swore they would never return due to sand, mud, large waves and extreme tides. The marine charts have double warnings for this area. When Crator first exited here he hit eight-foot standing waves rushing to the bottom of Cook Inlet. He described it as a very scary place. My luck was better. I did hit many sandbars and found myself bogged down for about an hour before the tide came in and lifted me up so I could start for Anchorage. Being stuck in that area it is easy to see why the Dena'ina named the place the Sand River. I think quick sand river might be even more fitting. I carried small snowshoes to help move in the mud but that Susitna sand was impossible. I made a point to keep the kayak under me at all times no matter what.

The important thing is to be sure that you get out of the mouth with enough incoming time to make Anchorage or at least Fire Island. One kayaker friend of mine hit the tide wrong and ended up paddling for 13 hours. Others have ended up staying at duck shacks near the Little Su. Learning from these mistakes I made sure to time it right. With luck I did it right and made it to Pt. Woronzof just as the tide changed. Turning the kayak around I looked back across the inlet to see Mt. Susitna. I felt satisfied that I had at last met the mountain that I had so long seen.

*Next month: Stu's paddle climb II of Mt Susitna where Stu and Sarah Quimby test the theory that a porcupine can't do a one arm pullup.*

## **Mexican Volcanoes: La Malinche, Iztaccihuatl, Pico de Orizaba**

### **By John Recktenwald**



We arrived in Mexico city on March 6, 2004, picked up a van, piled in and headed toward the string of

Volcanoes running east from Mexico City. This was a club trip and our Team consisted of Steve and Nancy Parry, Ray Nabinger, Travis Ross, Jim Szender and myself. Steve and Nancy had summited Popocatepetl, Iztaccihuatl and Pico de Orizaba 10 years before. This time we were headed for La Malinche, Iztaccihuatl and Pico de Orizaba. Popocatepetl is 'closed' due to eruptions in the 1990s and current mild activity,

We arrived around 10PM at the Malinche National Park (10,000 ft) where La Malinche (14,400 ft) is located. We would have tented but a nifty room was available in a nice bungalow, so for 10 or 12 dollars each we had a 'base camp' with a kitchen and shower. The approach to LaMalinche consisted of going to the patio at the restaurant and having a great breakfast in a pleasant atmosphere, shouldering our packs and heading out around 11. Oh boy, not a trace of alder, devils club or cow parsnip. This was boutique mountaineering so far, not bad. The hike to the top is through an open forest and then an area of dry washes and finally to a pleasant ridge and a rocky summit with the unmistakable remains of a large caldera. We Alaskans were properly equipped for an epic of course but the route is notable for the number of grandmas and children in sneakers and running suits all the way to the summit. Sort of like Flattop on a sunny weekend. It just happens to be at 14,000 ft. After a pleasant dinner at the restaurant we spent a second night at 'base camp' and headed for Iztaccihuatl. The climb took 8 hours including an hour looking for Jim.

We drove from la Malinche to Iztaccihuatl taking the most confusing route possible. You are supposed to get a climbing permit in the city of Amecameca on the square on the way to Izta-Popo national park. We did not do this and they seemed briefly perturbed at a roadblock into the mountains but they let us through eventually. We proceeded to Iztaccihuatl and stayed at approximately 13,000 feet where the folks at the visitor center set us up in a refugio used by climbers and workers at a microwave tower. Like most

construction in Mexico it is cinder blocks and concrete; a good thing as I created some excitement when I tried to burn it down with one of the gas stoves. This was a higher stay than planned. The altitude caused various levels of discomfort with all of the team members and our 4AM start did not come off. The early morning views of the other volcanoes in the distance was incredible. In the afternoon 4 of us went for a hike up to a hut at 15,000 ft. After La Malinche, the complete lack of other climbers on this mountain was odd. This is the only peak of the trip that involved any routefinding, which is really more an issue of picking the right trail, at least up to 15,000 feet. The summit is at 17,126 We considered trying the summit the next day but decided that Orizaba was the main objective and left after spending a second night at 13,000 feet.

We traveled to the town of Tlachichuca (8,530 ft) and spent the night at Hotel de Gerar. This is a cute town with no services. This hotel and at least one other cater to climbers. Ours had a shuttle service in a Jeep Wagoneer to the Piedra Grande Refugio on Pico de Orizaba at 13,943 ft. The Refugio is open on a first come basis but we chose to stay in tents. There were some Mexican climbers and a Guided group from Ranier Mountaineering waiting to go up. A couple from Canada were overdue but came down a day or so later after an unplanned bivy. They had come down the wrong way, which I understood was not uncommon. (for climbers, not Canadians). There were also a couple of skiers there from California who had carried some heavy AT and Telemark gear to the summit and then carried it back down. They were a few months late. That evening we took a hike up to scout out the route toward the Glaciar de Jamapa which we would be doing in the dark in the morning. Routefinding consists of standing at the hut, looking at the mountain and saying 'I'm going up there'.

Pico de Orizaba (Tip of Orizaba) was previously known as Citlatepetl ('hill of the stars') from the eruptions at night. The original name was Poyautécatl (He who lives between the clouds and the mist). This last name

becomes clear in the afternoon as you see the mountain rising out of the blanket of mists of the lowlands and the clouds starting to roll in on the summit above.

#### Jamapa Glacier, Pico de Orizaba



Jim Szender photo

I would recommend an earlier start than our 5 AM start if you want to be sure of avoiding the afternoon clouds. The climb up to the Glacier is similar to Chugach boulder hopping and scrambling. There was one part requiring some front pointing with crampons on ice but it was short and we avoided it on the way down. We carried a couple of ropes and harnesses but left them at the base of the glacier. The rough surface of the glacier guarantees you will not fall far (or climb very fast). There were 'crevases', but never more than a few inches wide. This is a very old, tired and retreating glacier. You might want a rope earlier in the season. Our moderately paced climb with breaks took 12 hours. This climb took me from a breath every 2 steps or so to a carefully measured 2 breaths for each step and a breath for each axe placement near the summit. The summit was sweet. The descent on the crumbly cut up surface of the Glacier was worse than the ascent. We spent a second night at 13,943 and got the shuttle back to Tlachichuca late the next day. We were glad we didn't need the alternate summit day in the schedule as the mountain was socked in the day we left.

We took our alternate summit day and hung out in Tlachichuca for the Sunday street market and then visited the Temples of the Sun and Moon north of Mexico City. This was great fun and a good way to end the trip.

Preparation for this trip is not involved. The climbs are basically day hikes at altitude. Inconspicuous and inexpensive duffel bags to store gear at the Refugios and for travel are a good idea. Take an expendable tent. An inexpensive synthetic sleeping bag rated to 15 or 20F is adequate for early March. Travis got one for \$35 and donated it to a local church when we left. The majority of our good equipment was always secure or with us. We didn't have any trouble with thieves but you can. In reality it's probably safer than a Chugach state park parking lot.

The posse at the Temple of the Sun



Steve Parry photo

This makes a great club trip and it's well worth a week. Pico de Orizaba is the third highest peak in North America and one of the seven volcanic summits. It is suitable for novice and intermediate climbers who want a sample of high altitude climbing. In the good conditions we enjoyed, the dangers are not high but the large number of crosses and memorials on Iztaccihuatl and Orizaba gets your attention. There are a number of people in the club who have been to the Mexican Volcanoes and helped with the planning. Thanks to you all. R J Secors book on the Mexican Volcanoes is a

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decent climbing guide. We went the first week of March and this worked well for us. Orizaba can get crowded at times but we encountered only a few climbers. A variety of people including school children came up to base camp for day trips. The major injury of the trip was when Ray hit his head on the wall mount TV at the first 'base camp' and the most stressful part of the trip was the driving in Mexico City and Puebla.

## **FINALLY, A Summer In The Chugach Front Range**

### **By Joe Stock**



For two years stateside friends would point, and ask about the hills above Anchorage. I'd smile and shrug with ignorance, knowing that a stash of peaks waited only minutes away. Three months of brilliant sunshine finally let me pillage my hoard.

Early summer endorphins drove my legs deep into the snow on Wolverine's summit drift. I should've walked down to Near Point but I couldn't stop running, and my thighs hurt for a week.

Lethargical sloughs followed Cathy through the rock confines of the Williwaw gully, smoothing her deep tracks and leaving me to cut my own signature.

Cathy and I kissed on top of O'Malley. I wish I could kiss her on every summit.

A week later Vicodin didn't help Cathy's stitch-covered knee, yet I left her immobile at home and ran from the Dome to Knoya to Kanchee, ignoring my watch and hating my greed.

Giggling like sorority girls, Gabe and I meandered over thawing tundra for 15 hours, linking up ski descents of the north faces of Ptarmigan, Wedge, Ramp and East Tanaina.

My Atomics milked the remaining snow venturi from the wind-ripped summit of Avalanche, 2,500 feet down to Ship Lake.

I watched five fuzzy ptarmigan chicks disappear under mom between the Ramp and Hidden.

Is Homicide always sunny, and easy, and before the State Fair?

Doris and I found freedom on Blueberry Hill.

Through kosher franks and beer, Luke told me the ultimate mountain run starts on South Suicide. By North Suicide, shoes are filled with sweat and my objective looks like it is in two face-to-face mirrors. I sprinted across exposed sheep trails to Hope and Ptarmigan in a cairn-toppling fury. Heavy lead filled my Vasques as I struggled to tag Flaketop's greywacke apogee, but vibrant rays highlighted me on Peak 4 and 3 and my feet became light again. By Flattop I was grinning stupidly from eight peaks in six hours.

Chris showed me marathon pace on Rainbow.

Hyperactivity bugs still squiggled in my legs after three hours of running on McHugh. Eight months without climbing have done odd things to my fitness.

I ticked off False and Little O'Malley just because they're named.

Mouthfuls of acidic green bile begged me to turn around, but I continued running back to Elliot and bathed in lactic acid for five days.

There used to be a cairn on Rusty.

Indianhouse had me shaking like a dog passing peach pits.

Sharp autumn light saturated the crunchy red and yellow tundra, giving novelty to Ship Creek Hill, Temptation, and Koktoya.

On Tikishla and West Tanaina the wind howled, it was raining, and I was post-holing without motivation, but I ticked them off and I could stop obsessing.

My backyard hoard of dreams are now memories but I'm still smiling. Another stash of dreams awaits only one range back, and another one after that.

## **MCA Board Meeting Minutes May 11, 2005 7:00 p.m., Harry's**

At 6:30 the board met with Elena Hinds to get a first hand look at the club's library, located upstairs in AMH. We need to get a ladder to access the top shelves, and also could use some more shelving, though getting rid of some of the magazines would clear up some space. After assessing the library situation, we moved over to Harry's for the regular board meeting.

Eric, Jayme, and Sean were absent.

Items discussed included:

- ✍ Getting park reservations for the club picnic in July.
- ✍ Better advertising of the awards available through the club (Meekins Grant).
- ✍ Records keeping of membership (liability releases, qualified leaders, 1<sup>st</sup> aid...)
- ✍ Library organization (coordinate getting volunteers together).
- ✍ Check into finding a place to house the Vin Hoeman collection.

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



## **MCA Membership Meeting May 18, 2005**

7:40 –Welcome by president Steve Parry

New folks introductions.

### **Treasurer's report**

\$12,904.99 in checking, \$6616.90 in savings, and \$1000 CD. We've spent \$250 on land lease(s), \$125 EPIRB battery, \$20 copies.

### **Committee reports**

Hiking and Climbing (sign-up sheets up front; see club web site, details in Scree)

5/21 – Blueberry Hill (D), Steve Gruhn

5/23 – Knoya Peak (D), Steve Gruhn

6/13 – Ptarmigan Peak (D) Steve Gruhn

6/18-6/19 – President's summer solstice sleepover on Flat Top, Steve Parry

6/24-6/26 – Annual summer solstice trip with Tom Choate (backpack in for the weekend or hike in for a day. Camping, hiking, peak bagging, first ascents!)

7/16-7/30 –Gates of the Arctic Nat'l Park backpack, Don Hansen (trip full)

8/20-8/21 – Tentative weekend for couples, upper Snowhawk hut, Greg Braigel.

### **Huts**

- Hans reports the committee met to discuss site selection for a new hut. Starting with a list of 22 sites, these will be scored with criteria and cut down to 5-10 sites which will be explored this summer. After addressing access issues, water availability, type of climbing in the area, selections will be narrowed down further. Remember, the best way to see a new hut built is to help the huts committee!

- Pichler's has extra fuel so please distribute to Hans' hut and Rosie's hut, if you are going in. Also, when at huts, use the fuel there, then replace what you used so fuel gets cycled through and doesn't get too old.

- Also remember to please pack out human waste when traveling the Eklutna traverse. If you cannot pack out, then use the waste bags

and put in the blue barrels, do NOT throw off into a crevasse for future pollution!

Parks Advisory -- Mt. Baldy access could still be an issue as a landowner has threatened to put up concrete blocks. Stay tuned for updates.

Training -- There is no training on the calendar at this time.

Awards – We currently have 2 nominees for the President's award (Steve picks that one). Today is the deadline for Vin Hoeman nominees. Are you 25 or under? Read up on the Meekins Expedition Grant. Click "awards" on MCA home page.

Library – The board has visited the library and will be bringing old magazines (Climbing, Rock & Ice, others) to distribute among members in June. The club will purchase a ladder to help access top shelves. Raymond O'Neill has volunteered to help Elena Hinds get things back in order. Once the books are organized, we can use the club library at AMH. Thanks to Elena and Raymond!

Calendar – Tonight we vote on calendar pictures. Winners have a week to get their picture medium (negative, digital, slide) to Stu. 1000 calendars will get made with offset press, making a calendar of higher quality than in the past. That sounds like a lot, but remember how quickly we sold out last year? We hope to start selling in June. You may want to start looking at your Christmas list early!

### **Old Business**

- Scree submissions due to our Scree editor, John Recktenwald, at monthly meeting, for next issue! (tonight's submissions appear in June Scree).

- We are still coordinating the records for the records committee volunteers. Thanks in advance for helping out your club!

### **New Business**

Tonight we cast our votes for our favorite calendar pictures. This is going to be a difficult

task, as each year we are seeing more incredible shots.

### **General Announcements**

Sam Pepper has 1/2 gallon of white gas, in case you need some. Sean Bolander has a crash pad and some La Sportiva climbing boots for sale. See at the break.

### **Slide show presentation**

Gates of the Arctic National Park by Don Hansen. See where you could be backpacking this July. (The group is limited to 6 and 9 have signed up, however, some may drop out after June 1, the deadline for forking out the airfare, etc. See Don if you want to be put on the waiting list.)

Once again, Margie has provided us with some awesome snacks. Leave a donation, munch, vote, visit, and enjoy the show!

Submitted by: Carlene Van Tol, Club Secretary

## **Adze**

SATELLITE PHONE FOR RENT Iridium 9505 handheld sat phone \$75 / 10 days or \$100 / 2 weeks Icom VHF Aviation handheld radio and Icom CB handheld radios also available. Dave Hart 868-2673 (h) 223-1113 (c) [hartd@unocal.com](mailto:hartd@unocal.com)

Anyone available for fun in the sun afternoon hikes, say 3 PM or thereabouts?

Annette Iverson 727-2645 or [iversonannette@yahoo.com](mailto:iversonannette@yahoo.com)

Seeking partner(s) for some type of backcountry trip July 23-31. I'm from Olympia WA, in AK for the summer, and my partner for that week just backed out. Was planning a trip in Lake Clark N.P, still be my preference, but without a partner I can't be too picky. I'm 47, excellent shape, experienced in overland travel & navigation, used to bushwacking & rough terrain. Glacier travel ok, but not technical. Have own transportation.

Eric Temple, 360-357-9365

Looking for partners interested in splitting costs to climb Gannett Peak, Wyoming. Also looking for partners interested in splitting costs to visit the highest points of Illinois, Iowa, Michigan, Minnesota, and Wisconsin. No dates yet scheduled, but the Illinois highpoint is only open the first weekend of June, July, August, and September.

[steven.gruhn@hartcrowser.com](mailto:steven.gruhn@hartcrowser.com), 868-9118 (w), 344-1219 (h)

## 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

# 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	694-1500

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 MCAK.org or mailed to Scree Editor Box 102037 Anchorage Alaska 99510. Articles should be received by June 15 (the club meeting) to be in the July 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  
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  
Web: MCAK.org (change your address here)  
Mailing list service: MCAK@yahoogroups.com

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