



# the SCREE

## Mountaineering Club of Alaska

February 2006  
Volume 49 Number 2

Partying with Plutons  
Lost Lake & Mt Ascension  
Solstice Flattop Tradition  
New Year's Eve at Rabbit Lake

Monthly Meeting  
Wednesday, February 15th @ 7:30 PM  
Program: Jay Rowe with climbs on the  
Teeth of the Ruth Gorge

Today is your day!  
Your Mountain is waiting.  
So... get on your way  
--Doctor Seuss



# The Mountaineering Club of Alaska

*"To maintain, promote and perpetuate the association of persons who are interested in promoting, sponsoring, improving, stimulating and contributing to the exercise of skill and safety in the Art and Science of Mountaineering"*

Join us for our club meetings the 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of the month at the First United Methodist Church, 9<sup>th</sup> and G Streets next to the Philips Building (you may use marked parking after hours)

Contact information is provided on the back page or visit us on the web at [www.mcak.org](http://www.mcak.org)

**Cover photo:** Randy Howell topping out on Mt Ascension. Photo by Greg Bragiel, See 'Lost Lake and Mt Ascension' in this issue.

**Article Submission:** Articles and photos are best submitted on the web at MCAK.org. In line with reader feedback we will seldom be running articles over 1,000 words (there are none this month). More pictures, less words. To get on the cover a photo should convey the feeling of mountaineering and show human endeavor.

**Editors Corner:** The feedback on the new look of the Scree has been positive so far. There was a comment that it took longer to print now. We will see if that becomes a problem. The download should not take longer. The Scree with the current photo usage in Word 2003 is much smaller than it was in the old format. For the techies info I'm using Microsoft Digital Image Suite 2006 to fine tune the balance between image size and resolution.

John

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## Hiking and Climbing Schedule

January 29, End-of-Month Traverse

Portage Pass, Class A. 8 miles R.T. Elevation gain 600'. Skis with skins desirable. Expect wind in the pass, could be quite cold. Hop over to Whittier, have a drink, go back the same way.

Leader: Willy Hersman, [mcak@gci.net](mailto:mcak@gci.net)

February 2, Stuckagain Heights trailhead

Meet at 5:30 p.m. at the "official" Stuckagain Heights trailhead, located on the south side of the road about one mile past the S. Bivouac trailhead and almost right under the power lines that cross Campbell Airstrip Road. We will hike through the woods in the Wolverine Bowl area and head up towards Near Point. Class B. Trip leader: Amy Murphy, 338-3979 or e-mail: [hayduchesslives@yahoo.com](mailto:hayduchesslives@yahoo.com).

February 4, The Wedge/Ship Creek Pass

Depending on snow conditions, this will be either a Class B or Class C snowshoe trip up Hidden Lake Valley to the pass overlooking Ship Creek Valley. If conditions

look really safe, we will ascend the Wedge. Bring snowshoes, crampons, ice axe, food, water and appropriate clothing for the weather conditions. Trip leader: Amy Murphy, 338-3979 or e-mail: [hayduchesslives@yahoo.com](mailto:hayduchesslives@yahoo.com).

February 9, Partway up Wolverine

Meet at the Prospect Heights trailhead at 5:45 to hike up to either the big rock in the meadow or up to the big cairn on the ridgeline that leads to Wolverine Peak. Class B. Trip leader: Amy Murphy, 338-3979 or e-mail: [hayduchesslives@yahoo.com](mailto:hayduchesslives@yahoo.com).

February 11 – 12, Indian to Arctic reconnaissance

Overnight trip Class D Elevation gain 1800' + Distance 21 miles Contact Greg Bragiel @ 569-3008

February 11 – 12, King Mountain

Class "D" climb, first you have to hike across the frozen Mat River, then climb King Mountain. Gear needed: AV gear, ice axe,

crampons, snowshoes, and winter gear. There is some exposure near the summit but basically a ridge climb. Leader Stu Grenier oinkmenow@hotmail.com 337-5127.

#### February 16, Rabbit Lake/Flaketop Peak

Depending on snow conditions, we will hike back towards Rabbit Lake (Class B) or climb up to Flaketop Peak (Class C). Meet at Carrs Huffman promptly at 5:30 p.m. to carpool, or meet up at the Upper DeArmoun (Rabbit Lake/Canyon Road) trailhead at 6:05. Trip leader: Amy Murphy, 338-3979 or e-mail: [hayduchesslives@yahoo.com](mailto:hayduchesslives@yahoo.com)

#### February 18 – 19, Indian to Arctic traverse

Overnight trip. Info is same as reconnaissance above

#### February 18, Long Lake Snowshoe

This is a Class B snowshoe trip up the N. Fork of the Campbell Creek drainage, hopefully making it all or most of the way back to Long Lake. Trip leader: Amy Murphy, 338-3979 or e-mail: [hayduchesslives@yahoo.com](mailto:hayduchesslives@yahoo.com)

#### February 23, 5:45 p.m. South Bivouac Trailhead

Meet at 5:30 at the South Bivouac Trailhead on Campbell Airstrip Road. We will hike part way up the Powerline and Gas Trails and turn around and come back down. Class B. Trip leader: Amy Murphy, 338-3979 or e-mail: [hayduchesslives@yahoo.com](mailto:hayduchesslives@yahoo.com)

#### February 25, End-of-Month Traverse:

Glen Alps to Campbell Airstrip, Class B. 10 miles. No elevation gain, all down. Skis only. Requires spotting vehicles, which must

be capable of getting to Glen Alps. Leader: Willy Hersman, [mcak@gci.net](mailto:mcak@gci.net)

#### February 26, Indian to Arctic Day Ski.

Get a very early start and ski the 23 plus miles over the famous trail. Skis and touring skis. Stu Grenier 337-5127 or [oinkmewnow@hotmail.com](mailto:oinkmewnow@hotmail.com)

#### April 01 – 02, Eklutna Traverse training weekend

A preparation and familiarity session for Eklutna Traverse participants.

#### April 09 – 15, Eklutna Traverse

Glacier Travel. Elevation gain: 6000'+ Distance is 30+ miles Contact: Greg Bragiel 569-3008

## Training

#### March 4 – 5, Wilderness First Aid

Two days with Deb Ajango, 9am to 6pm each day. National Wilderness First Aid certification provided upon successful completion of the course. E-mail Andi to get a registration form. ([enviroknow@acsalaska.net](mailto:enviroknow@acsalaska.net))

## Calendar

Please bring your best horizontal Alaskan Mountain Culture Shots to the February General Meeting for the 2007 calendar. 8x10 or 8x12 would be best but we will accept anything. If you cannot make the February 15 meeting get it to Stu at the latest by March 14.

[oinkmenow@hotmail.com](mailto:oinkmenow@hotmail.com) or 337-5127.

## Slide Show at the February Meeting

Jay Rowe will show slides of climbs in the Ruth Gorge: Ham and Eggs on Mooses Tooth, White Russian on Bear Tooth, North Ridge from Root Canal on Wisdom Tooth and the West Pillar of the Eye Tooth





# Partying with Plutons

## by Tim Kelly



Pluton, It's a cool sounding word. In the geological world a pluton is an intrusion of molten rock into softer rock. When the rock around a pluton weathers away, or is ground away by glaciers, the pluton becomes exposed. And then these naked plutons can make for some very cool rock scrambling.

The Nellie Juan Pluton south of Whittier is arguably the best known pluton in Prince William Sound. The big faces of these granite intrusions that can be seen from Port Nellie Juan and Derickson and Deep Water Bay are quite impressive. Lesser know is the Cedar Bay Pluton - 55 miles by boat to the east of Whittier. While hiking with my wife Tammy on Schoppe Peak in 2004, the rugged heights of the Cedar Bay Pluton ridges to the east caught my eye. A foray to this area of the Sound was quickly put on my "list".

On Friday evening, July 8<sup>th</sup>, last summer I hooked up with cross country ski racer friends Cory Smith and Scott McArt and we headed off to Wells Bay.

We boated past Cedar Bay and anchored in The Keyhole, a submerged granite cirque, for the night.

### **The Berg, she must be skied!!**



**Cory Smith photo**

In the morning we moved up to the head of Wells Bay, tossed out an anchor jumped into our kayaks and headed to shore. We paddled through clear



waters teaming with salmon on the spawn. Thousands of fish were jumping, splashing and rocketing through the swaying forests of eel grass below our tiny boats.

Leaving from shoreline, we had good success linking together open sections during our bushwhack to tundra-line. Soon we were in the maritime alpine zone, the Sound's amazing gift to those that are willing to brush-beat to get there. Heather, snow and rock brought us to the top of Peak 2790 (Anchorage A-1, T11N, R12E, Sec 28). From this summit we could see our planned routes for the day. To the south a 3101 foot peak we refer to as Cedar Pluton (Seward D-1, T11N, R12E, Sec 33) was the key destination. And to the north we wanted to try and bag a 3340' peak, which we call Juniper Pluton (Anchorage A-1, T11N, R12E, Sec 22). We could see that this route, basically a big "T", was playing out to be a long and ambitious trek, on a sunny and hot day.

We cruised southeast on the ridgeline at a fast clip, running whenever we could. Soon we approached a distinctive knob that had looked from a distance like a mini-volcano sticking out of the ridgeline. A mini-pluton maybe? Anyway – if it looks cool, you gotta climb it! So we scrambled up this rocky knob that is marked "2644" on the topo map.

From the top of the mini-pluton we eyed a route up the 3101' peak to the south. Snowfields could take us to the top of the northwest ridgeline. But from a distance it was hard to tell if the ridgeline was technical or not. One way to find out, so we took off running snowfields towards the summit.

On the main snowfield leading up to the ridge we met a lone goat who offered to kick steps for us. That was nice of him. We followed his tracks to the ridgeline. Then we noticed him below the cornices of the summit doing some high exposure dancing. "Hmmm ... he opted not to follow the ridge - that's not a good sign" I said to myself.

Well, come to find out the goat was just showing off to us. There was much exposure off both sides of the ridge leading to the summit. But the ridge was wide enough for easy passage, as long as you paid attention. Apparently others had found this ridge

passable too. We found a cairn on top and one on the northwest ridge a hundred yards below the summit. The lower cairn probably meant a group was here early one year and the summit was covered with snow, so the cairn was made where rocks were showing.

After we worked our way back down the summit ridge to the top of the snowfields we had come up, we turned around and noticed the goat lying on a cornice near the summit. He was watching us with intense curiosity. Not many humans ply the heights in this area, so we could have been the only people this guy had seen in his life. We waved goodbye to our hoofed buddy, eyed our next peak bagging target 5 miles to the north and took off running back down the snowfields.

Back near the summit of Peak 2790 Scott opted to stay put while Cory and I went on to the 3340'

### **All ridge warts must be climbed**



**Photo by Tim Kelly**

summit to the north. Descending to the north we crossed some fresh bear tracks from a blackie that seemed to be heading up to visit Scott! Pushing a fast pace under intense afternoon sun we worked the ridge to this 3 humped peak. We scrambled to the top of the eastern most highpoint, took in the view and snapped some pictures. We found no cairn so we built a small one and then began the run back to rendezvous with Scott.

Descending back to the boat we seemed to take a few “shortcuts” that resulted in a number of brushy down-climbs that we missed on the way up. Back on the shore of Wells Bay we were happy to look out and see the boat was still where we had anchored it. After paddling out to our ship we took a post peak-bagging dive in the Sound and headed back to Whittier – sunburned, dehydrated and tired yet satisfied after a great day of “partying with plutons”.

**Cedar Pluton Summit Ridge  
to Wells Bay**  
photo by Tim Kelly



## **Lost Lake and Mt Ascension By Greg Bragiel**

Trip Members: Randy & Kathy Howell, Maria Kartsounes, John Recktenwald, Marcy Custer, Greg & Mary Beth Bragiel.

**Randy and Kathy Howell**  
Photo by Greg Bragiel

Our second annual Lost Lake hike began at the Primrose Trailhead (not so early) on the morning of August 27<sup>th</sup>. The girls were excited with the prospects of VAST amounts of berry pickin’ again

this year and had at least 50 containers between the four of them. The boys were less excited about the pickin’ and had their sights on Mt. Ascension 5710’ instead. John was quoted by Marcy as saying “...he would rather go through another eye surgery than pick berries...” Randy brought along his rifle with hopes of “...moose in the freezer”. The group spent the day lazily making their way up the trail to Lost Lake while the girls stopped periodically to pick high bush blueberries. It was another beautiful day with sunshine, warm temperatures and blue skies. The guys made numerous stops to allow the girls to catch up and enjoyed basking in the sun. Camp was set up near the bridge at the south side of the lake. Randy was particularly proud of his new, lightweight tent (with a floor). However there were gripes from other campers that were rather dismayed at having to camp in shelters sans floors. Life is so unfair sometimes!! Everyone enjoyed dinner and was heard singing “...I’m camping, I’m camping...” just before going to sleep.

Sunday morning dawned cool and cloudy but not enough to discourage any pickin’ or climbing. After a quick breakfast the guys took off for Mt. Ascension while the girls hung around camp to pick the area clean of every berry. Randy, John and I made our way southwest from the lake, stashed unneeded equipment at a cairn and approached the peak from the glacier along its south side. We summited at about 11:30 am into the clouds with limited visibility of the surrounding peaks. After



contacting the girls on the radio we encouraged them to work their way down the Lost Lake trail and pick to their hearts content with hopes of meeting up with them in Seward for dinner. We snacked a bit and worked our way down, picked up our cached gear and back to the trail. A beautiful brown bear with three cubs crossed ahead of us and scrambled up the hill and were out of sight in a few minutes. With big game hunting in mind we elected to descend the less traveled winter trail, stopped to check out the Clemens cabin and continued down the trail seeing no more than a squirrel or two and a black bear along the way. Upon arriving at the vehicle the girls had left us a note that they had plenty of berries, were done picking and had headed to Seward for dinner. We didn't catch up

with them but still enjoyed our halibut dinner in town.

The girls collectively picked a total of 36 pounds of blueberries this trip and the current report from the local ranger is that the bears in the area have been spotted looking thinner than usual. Marcy has said she "...needs to work on her picking technique..." since her share of the berries was less than equitable.

There have been lots and lots of jams and jellies put up from these 36 pounds of blueberries and talk about '...just wait until next year...'

Join us!!



## **Solstice Flattop Tradition**

### **By Jim Szender**

Taking advantage of an unexpected early release at work, I had hoped to get home, pack, and make it up to the summit of Flattop before it got dark. Unfortunately, I decided to avoid the last minute rush and make just one stop on the way home to pick up the last of my Christmas gifts at REI. Big mistake; It took me over an hour to get out of there, and I didn't reach the Glen Alps parking lot until after 3:30. It was cloudy, but not particularly cold or windy, so undaunted, I shouldered my pack and headed up the hill. An hour or so later, dark found me struggling up the last couple of hundred feet to the top through deep, drifted snow, having neglected to put on crampons in the sheltered saddle below.

After a short, but tiring pattern of step up one foot, slide back ten inches, step up one foot, etc., I finally made it to the top, and was greeted by 30-40 MPH winds, blowing snow, and no one else in sight. I dug out a tent site in the nearest sheltered spot, set up my tent

in the lee of the windbreak, and anchored it to large rocks buried in the snow. By the time the tent was up and secure, no one else had yet arrived, and I was becoming hypothermic, so I decided to put up the vestibule later and dove into the tent to eat and thaw out.

About 8:00, after eating, I went back out into the worsening storm to install the vestibule and look for other survivors. After the vestibule was set up and tied down, I went over to look down the ridge, and saw two headlights about 300 or 400 feet below me on the summit ridge. Unable to communicate over the wind, I returned to the tent to wait for their arrival. Who ever it was must have turned back, as they never arrived, and about 10:00 I finally gave up and went to bed.

### **Solstice Flattoppers**



**Photo by Jim Szender**

About an hour later, I awoke to someone yelling outside my tent, asking if everyone was all right. Figuring from the sound of the wind that it wasn't me who would be needing help, I got up and went out to find Kent Muehling and Mike Childers digging their tent into the only other sheltered spot on the summit, in winds that were at least 10 MPH stronger than they were when I set up. Communication, much

less conversation, was about impossible, so we all quickly said our greetings and goodnights and just went to bed.

The next morning dawned quiet and calm, and after a quick nibble, the three of us took a few pictures, broke camp, and adjourned to the parking lot

through about a foot of new snow for some fresh brewed coffee and snacks before departing for our respective Christmas eve activities, having once more upheld the honor and traditions of the club through another windy Winter Solstice on the summit of Flattop.



## **New Year's Eve at Rabbit Lake**

### **by Amy Murphy**

MCA member Katie Hahn returned to Anchorage on Christmas day and decided to spend four days winter camping at Rabbit Lake over New Year's weekend. She thought spending the night out in the Chugach Mountains would be an exciting way to herald the New Year! Katie planned to park her car at delightful Deb Luper's house and hike to the trailhead from there on Friday, December 30. I had that day off and always enjoy spending time in the mountains so I offered to give Katie a ride to the trailhead and snowshoe in to the lake with her and carry any extra gear she might have. As Neil Murphy was in training for a grueling, high-altitude, Colorado backcountry ski trip, I invited him to come along with us. He also offered to help carry in some extra gear in his backpack, which was mighty generous!

Since I didn't have any plans for New Year's Eve, I originally thought I would snowshoe back in to Rabbit Lake on Saturday afternoon, spend a few hours with Katie to help her celebrate, and hike back out later that evening. However, the more I thought about it, the more I agreed with Katie's thinking about how exciting it would be to herald the beginning of a new year out at Rabbit Lake. As I don't have any winter camping gear, I borrowed a sleeping bag and four-season tent from a friend so I could enjoy my first winter camping experience!

Katie, Neil and I snow shoed back to Rabbit Lake on Friday, reveling in fairly warm temperatures and good snow conditions. As is typical, the winds picked up when we got close to the lake, which made picking a good campsite fairly critical. Neil and Katie set up the tent and we all worked on building a snow wall until Neil and I had to head back to the trailhead. By the time we left the winds were blowing quite strongly, but luckily they provided a nice tailwind for our return trip!

Meanwhile Katie set about improving the snow wall and staking down the tent really well.

I snow shoed back in to Rabbit Lake Saturday afternoon, fighting really strong head winds almost the whole way. I arrived around 3:00 p.m. and Katie was surprised to see me. Since the winds were blowing so strong, she thought I would delay coming back there until the next day. But I grew up in windy Wyoming and there was no way I was going to let a little wind stop me! After I arrived, Katie and I found a little shelter from the worst of the wind gusts behind some big rocks and started a New Year's Eve celebratory campfire with some fire logs I had brought in.

### **Nothing like a roaring fire ...**



**Photo by Tim Newson**



While we were trying to coax more flames from our little fake campfire, Tim Newson wandered up from the McHugh Creek valley trail on a day hike. He was very surprised to find two women, "calling it home," up in the inclement weather conditions. We exchanged New Year greetings and he took some photos before heading back down.

After eating dinner and enjoying the peace and quiet, the stunning scenery, the emerging stars and the campfire for a few hours, we curled up in our warm and cozy sleeping bags, glad to find respite from the wind. We chatted and laughed until 8:00 p.m. our time and then said a New Year's toast to mark midnight back east. We used our headlamps to provide our own snazzy lightshow within the confines of the tent! We toasted a couple of different time zones before falling asleep.



## Board Meeting Minutes

### BOARD MEETING

Wednesday, January 11, 2006

6:00 pm at The Snow Goose

**PRESENT:** Steve Gruhn, Sean Bolender, Randy Howell, Debbie Arens, Josh Arens, Gary Green, Hans Nedig, Cory Hinds, Steve Parry, Eric Teela, Annette Iverson, SaraEllen Hutchison

**OLD BUSINESS:** Last board meeting, we continued discussion of hut maintenance and acquisition, Eklutna access, officer and director handbooks and directories, the library, printing of the Scree, and other matters of ongoing concern.

**MCA DIRECTORIES AND OFFICER/DIRECTOR HANDBOOKS** were updated and returned to officers and directors. There are still a few people without handbooks and/or updated pages. Please notify SaraEllen Hutchison, MCA Secretary, if you do not have a handbook or updates yet. Updates to the Directory will be made periodically and emailed to the board and committee chairs. Updates to the Officer History, budget, and other pages for the handbooks will be available as completed and as board members find or otherwise acquire handbooks. If you are a committee chair, board member, or other person acting in any official capacity for the club, and any of your contact information changes, please email SaraEllen with your updates. This also applies to things like the equipment list and member list description—if you

The next morning Katie and I broke camp, loaded up our gear and headed back towards the trailhead, taking much delight in the light, powdery snowflakes swirling down. Katie wanted to spend at least one more night out in the mountains so I showed her a great snow shelter Neil and I discovered on our way out, near the base of Flaketop. Katie set up camp there and I continued back down to my car, running into several other MCA members hiking in to see us.

Spending the night out in the Chugach Mountains, the incredible backyard playground we are blessed with, truly was an exciting and invigorating way to bring in the New Year!

see anything in your handbook that is no longer accurate, please inform SaraEllen.

**MCA BYLAWS FOR NOTICE OF SANCTIONED CLUB TRIPS:** Any official, club-sanctioned trip must be properly noticed so that club members know about it in time to join in on the fun. A trip must be announced at the general meeting or published in the Scree. Any trip which is published on the website must also be announced at the meeting or in the Scree. The Yahoo listserv remains an unmoderated forum for members to communicate unofficially, and cannot be the sole place to announce an official club trip.

**HUT ACQUISITION AND MAINTENANCE:** The board continued its ongoing discussion of options for acquiring additional huts, and assorted issues with maintenance of existing and potential club huts. We hope to have proposals for the club to vote on at the next general meeting.

**THE SCREE:** The board is considering the feasibility of increasing the quality of the printed Scree—with better paper, and a limited distribution of color copies.

**TRIP LEADER AND SCREE WRITER RECOGNITION:** The board approved awarding a \$50 gift certificate to one randomly drawn trip leader and one randomly drawn Scree author at the January general meeting. The board actively encourages people who are interested in becoming trip leaders or writing articles for the Scree to volunteer their time. Likewise, if you are a member

with an idea for a trip but do not have the experience to be a trip leader, throw your idea out there and perhaps someone will step forward to lead that trip. We would like to see more trips offered.

**AWARDS COMMITTEE:** The board discussed nominees and criteria for the Hoeman's, President's, and Meekins awards. Tom Choate and Greg Higgins have both been nominated for the Hoeman's award.

**T-SHIRTS:** Amy Murphy is organizing the polypropylene t-shirt with MCA logo effort and shirts should soon be available for members to purchase. There should be more information at the February general meeting, and we will start taking orders at the January general meeting.

**LIBRARY:** MCA Vice President Sean Bolender spent some time reorganizing the library and talking to Paul at AMH regarding the location of an additional bookshelf for the MCA library collection. The board is researching the cost of an additional bookshelf and the logistics of installing it upstairs at AMH. When it comes time to fully organize the library, we will need volunteers. If you are interested in volunteering on this project please contact Sean.

**EKLUTNA ICE CLIMBING PERMITS:** Discussion of the Eklutna ice climbing permit issue was lively. What we know at this point is that the permits are free, are good for one year, and require that one who wishes to acquire a permit and climb have health insurance.

#### CONCERNS ABOUT GENERAL MEETINGS:

- ? Alcohol is prohibited at First Methodist Church. Potlucks and meetings are to be alcohol-free so long as they are held at this location.
- ? At the January meeting, we are going to try using the room divider to allow the post-meeting socializing/trip coordinating and the post-meeting slideshow presentation to coexist without interrupting each other.

**NEW BUSINESS:** The board would like to see more planned trips, more trip leaders, and more participation. The board would like the Hiking and Climbing committee to generate a "where do you want to go" list to brainstorm trip ideas from the general membership. If there is a trip you would like to go on, please suggest it to the Hiking and Climbing committee.

**NEXT BOARD MEETING:** 6:00pm at the Snow Goose unless noticed otherwise.

## General membership Meeting Minutes

### GENERAL MEETING

Wednesday, January 18, 2006

7:30PM AT FIRST METHODIST CHURCH

**CALL TO ORDER:** At 7:30pm, President Steve Gruhn opened the meeting and welcomed visitors and new members, who gave brief introductions.

**TREASURER'S REPORT:** Debbie Arens, Treasurer, would like those people who are due to renew their memberships to do so in a timely manner.

**HUTS:** Hans Neidig was not present, so Steve Gruhn gave the Huts report. If anyone is planning on going to a hut, please call Hans before going, at 907-355-3244. Hans would like to you to take in membership applications to the huts, and come back with a report of your experience.

### PARKS ADVISORY:

- ? Eric Teela reported that the Girdwood Trails Plan is due for review and the planning commission is requesting for the review process to begin.
- ? Scott Bailey gave a report on the Denali Backcountry Plan. The state DNR may have crews do trail work all over the state, which would take resources away from our area. The MCA is on the record in support of trail improvements locally.
- ? Carl Battreall reported that there is proposed legislation affecting the Knik Watershed. This area has been heavily vandalized and is drawing the attention of local environmental groups. If anyone has had a negative experience, please contact your legislators.
- ? Cory Hinds reported that the DOT wants north access to Denali Park and is researching the cost and logistics of the project. Three possible routes are under consideration.

### TRAINING REPORT:

- ? The Glacier Mountaineering Course is now closed to enrollment, but for those who are signed up, it begins Thursday, January 19 with a lecture on winter clothing and nutrition. It should be a great class this year.



- ? Wilderness First Aid Training is March 4 & 5. A registration form will be emailed to those who are interested. Contact Andi Andrashko or check out the MCA website for more information.
- ? Jayme Dixon, chair of the Ice Climbing Festival Committee, reported that she is getting price quotes for an "MCA Ice Festival" banner and soliciting names for people who would like to help generate the curriculum. Jayme wants input from members and experienced climbers and will soon solicit volunteers.

#### AWARDS COMMITTEE REPORT:

- ? Steve Gruhn reminded the members that MCA has awards. The Hoeman's award is for someone who has done a lot to promote climbing and hiking in Alaska. The President's award is for service to the MCA. The Meekin's grant, the only one you can nominate yourself for, is to provide some funds for an MCA member and climber, age 25 or younger, to reach his or her goals. The club is actively seeking nominations for all these awards.
- ? SaraEllen Hutchison drew names out of a hat to award a \$50 gift certificate to a trip leader and to a Scree article writer from the past year. Winners were Stu Grenier for the Chisik Mountain article in the August Scree, and Greg Bragiel for the Mint Hut Thanksgiving trip. The next drawing will be in July.
- ? John Recktenwald reported that Scree submissions should be kept short, because some people don't read the long articles. "Unless you are Ernest Hemingway," he said.

CALENDAR: Stu Grenier reported that the 2007 calendar will be horizontal. He will collect photos at the February meeting and the club will vote on them at the March general meeting. We hope to get the 2007 calendar available for sale by June, for the tourist market. If you are still looking for a 2006 calendar, there are a few left for sale at the Alaska Rock Gym and at AMH.

EKLUTNA ICE CLIMBING PERMITS ISSUE: Steve Gruhn reported that after several MCA attorney members researched the issue, it was determined that climbers are subject to the native corporation rules. The permit is free and lasts one year, but you must have medical insurance.

ALCOHOL IS PROHIBITED AT MEETINGS: Please do not bring alcohol to club potlucks and meetings; it is not allowed at First Methodist Church.

#### ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- ? Amy Murphy reported that T-shirts are for sale, and we hope to have a sample for you to see at the next meeting.
- ? Patches are also for sale at \$5 each.
- ? Please donate to the refreshments fund.
- ? Please be quiet at the slide show—if you want to socialize after the business portion of the meeting, please do so on the other side of the room divider.
- ? Dean Carman reported that he has several pairs of used mountaineering and alpine touring boots for sale.
- ? An anonymous gear donor put some things out on a table for everyone to choose from. Thank you!
- ? Stu Grenier reported that the listserv is a great place to hear about spontaneous and unofficial trips, and announced that ice skating would take place on Westchester lagoon after the slide show.

SLIDE SHOW: Paul Hanis presented "Traveling Fast and Light while Traversing the Wrangell Mountains."

### Adze

#### For Sale

Gregory Whitney pack with combination top/front-loading design features twin side-access and a separate sleeping bag compartment with detachable divider. The twin "barn door" side pockets allow sideways access with interior mesh stretch pockets and zippered mesh dividers. There are two zippered front pockets and side mesh pocket and canted side water bottle pocket for easier reach. The top lid pocket converts to a waist pack and features a sleeve underneath designed to carry a hydration bladder and has a mesh-lined back panel. Also includes dual ice axe/tool loops, daisy chain and lash tabs for strapping on extra gear, a V-pull side compression straps and sleeping pad straps. It is a Large: 6,000 cubic inches / 98 liters and weighs 8lbs. 0 oz./3.62kg. \$100.00

Dano 224-5575 or [dano99577@yahoo.com](mailto:dano99577@yahoo.com)

March – Hawaii

Hiking in Hawaii. Get in on the ground floor of planning some March hiking in Hawaii, dates, trails etc. If your interested send an email and join the planning party.

Email: Jennifer Duford [dufordak@gci.net](mailto:dufordak@gci.net)

# Mountaineering Club of Alaska

President Steve Gruhn 344-1219  
Vice-President Sean Bolender 333-0213  
Secretary SaraEllen Hutchison 269-6300  
Treasurer Debbie Arens 563-1960

Board member Eric Teela 240-9693  
Board member Annette Iverson 222-0581  
Board member Randy Howell 346-4608  
Board member Rebecca Bissette 375-0959  
Board member Steve Parry 248-8710

Annual membership dues: Single \$15, Family \$20

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 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 February 15th (the club meeting) to be in the March 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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Mailing list service: [MCAK@yahoogroups.com](mailto:MCAK@yahoogroups.com)

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