

# the SCREE

## Mountaineering Club of Alaska

January 2007

Volume 50 Number 1

**An open window to the Tebenkof  
Roadside Detraction  
More on Maynard & Begich  
Knik and Hale-Bopp  
Mountaineering classes start in January**

**'The violets in the mountains  
have broken the rocks'  
Tennessee Williams**

**Monthly Meeting:  
Wednesday, January 17th @ 7:30 PM  
Program: Sepp Weber will show a movie  
from his 1962 ski ascent of Denali.**

# 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:** OK, it is not very seasonal, but I have wanted to use this for a while. Greg Braigel shot this coming down from Temptation Peak on the club 'couples weekend' in 2005. If you have some high resolution photos sitting around, send them along for possible use in the Scree.

**Article Submission:** Articles and photos are best submitted on the web at MCAK.org. You can also attach a word processing document to an email. Due to formatting problems please do not submit material in the body of an email. We prefer articles that are under 1,000 words. To get on the cover a photo should convey the feeling of mountaineering and show human endeavor.

## Contents

**Hiking and Climbing Schedule**

**Mountaineering Training**

**An open window to the Tebenkof**

**Roadside Detraction**

**Portaging with Ghosts**

**More on Maynard & Begich**

**Knik and Hale-Bopp**

**Club meeting minutes**

## Hiking and Climbing Schedule

January 3 Full Moon Hike, Harp Mountain  
Class C, Harp Mountain is at the end of Hiland Road. Crampons, Ice Axe, maybe snowshoes. Contact Amy Murphy: 338-3979, 248-2067 or [hayduchesslives@yahoo.com](mailto:hayduchesslives@yahoo.com)

January 6 & 7 Overnight Eagle River Valley  
Class A, skis or snowshoes, 8 or 9 miles roundtrip. Camp by the river under a nearly full moon. Somewhat informal, Come and leave when you can.  
Contact Amy Murphy: 338-3979, 248-2067 or [hayduchesslives@yahoo.com](mailto:hayduchesslives@yahoo.com)

January 13<sup>th</sup> & 14<sup>th</sup> Ice Climbing in Echo Bend  
Class D+. 8 miles R.T. We will leave Saturday morning and drop our overnight gear off at the Yurt. Then continue on to the ice climbs and climb the rest of the day. Returning to the Yurt to stay the night and finish climbing on Sunday. Contact Sean Bolender, [seanbolender@gmail.com](mailto:seanbolender@gmail.com)

January 20<sup>th</sup> & 21<sup>st</sup> Long Lake Ski Loop  
Class C. This trip starts and ends at the Prospect Heights Trail head. An overnight

trip with good cross country skiing. Approximately 15 miles round trip This is a great anchorage classic. Contact Sean Bolender, [seanbolender@gmail.com](mailto:seanbolender@gmail.com)

January 27 - 28, Powder hut  
Class C, elevation gain 2,100 feet, 12+ miles. Contact: Greg Bragiel, 569-3008

February 16 – 18, Women's Ice Climbing Retreat, Women Only Event!! Come explore the ice at Echo Bend while climbing with other women. All abilities welcome. Will spend the evenings around the wood stove in the Rapids Camp Yurt swapping stories, and hike to the climbs. Some camping available. Limited to 6 students. Contact Jayme Dixon, [jaymelmack@hotmail.com](mailto:jaymelmack@hotmail.com), or Carlene Van Tol, [cvantol\\_1@hotmail.com](mailto:cvantol_1@hotmail.com)

February 18<sup>th</sup> & 19<sup>th</sup> Hatchers Pass Ski Trip  
Class C. This is a Sunday and Monday trip over President's Day. We are planning on traveling up to the A-Frame lodge and possibly renting cabins or sleeping in tents. On Sunday, an ascent of Microdot Peak will

make for a great destination. Contact Sean Bolender with any questions, [seanbolender@gmail.com](mailto:seanbolender@gmail.com)

February 24 & 25 Indian to Arctic  
Class D, elevation gain 1,800 ft, 21 miles.  
Leader: Greg Bragiell, Contact at 569-3008

February 25<sup>th</sup> O' Malley Peak  
Class C. This trip will ascend one of Anchorage's Front Range peaks with rewarding views. This is an MCA must. Contact Sean Bolender, [seanbolender@gmail.com](mailto:seanbolender@gmail.com)

March 1 – 5 Resurrection Trail  
Class D, elevation gain 3,100 feet.  
Contact: Greg Bragiell 569-3008

March 11<sup>th</sup> . South Suicide Peak  
Class C. This Peak lies in the southern part on the Anchorage Front Range. We will travel to the Falls Creek trail head and ascend this peak in one day. Contact Sean Bolender, [seanbolender@gmail.com](mailto:seanbolender@gmail.com)

March 25<sup>th</sup> Tikishla Peak  
Class C. Yet another of Anchorage's classic mountain climbs. This will be a one day ascent of Tikishla. Contact Sean Bolender, [seanbolender@gmail.com](mailto:seanbolender@gmail.com)

March 25 – 31 Bomber Traverse  
Glacier travel, Elevation gain 6,100 feet  
Contact: Greg Bragiell, 569-3008

April 14 & 15 Eklutna Traverse training weekend  
Contact: Greg Bragiell 569-3008

April 21<sup>st</sup> & 22<sup>nd</sup>. Lane Hut Ski trip & peaks  
Class C. This will be a Saturday and Sunday overnight trip to the Lane Hut and Lane glacier. An ascent of the surrounding peaks above the Lane glacier is planned for Sunday. Contact Sean Bolender, [seanbolender@gmail.com](mailto:seanbolender@gmail.com)

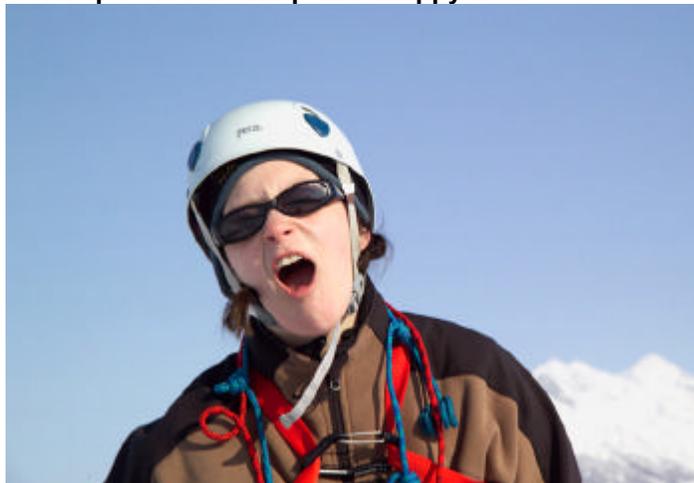
April 29 – May 5 Eklutna Traverse  
Glacier Travel, elevation gain 6,000, 30+ miles.  
Contact: Greg Bragiell 569-3008

## Miscellany

### Mountaineering Training Series

Your ice axe is your friend. Knots, navigation, avalanches, snow camping/caving, snow travel, cramponing, glacier travel, crevasse rescue and more, The best deal and the most fun in town; Classes run January 25<sup>th</sup> to March 4<sup>th</sup>, some nights, most weekends. Sign up at the January meeting.

Get help from our sharp and snappy crew



'I couldn't spell mounteneer, now I is one'

### Lowell Thomas Jr

January 9, Former Lt. Governor Lowell Thomas Jr. will share his experiences as a bush pilot in Denali National Park Alaska at the National Park Discovery Series to be held at REI at 7 pm. Free. For more information, contact 277-6722 or by email at [jmillen@npca.org](mailto:jmillen@npca.org).

### Palmer folks might be interested

The VALLEY MOUNTAIN BIKERS & HIKERS website: [www.vmbah.org](http://www.vmbah.org)

### Calendars

The MCA 07 calendars can be bought at AMH, Girdwood Ski and Cyclery, and the Alaska Rock Gym. We will have some for sale at the January MCA Meeting. Please get your horizontal shots ready for the next calendar competition, probably at the March MCA Meeting.

# An Open Window to the Tebenkof

by Tim Kelley



**Cory Smith on 2950 with Tebenkof Glacier behind, photos by Tim Kelley**

You would think that rounding up folks who have jobs for a mid-week peak-scrambling trip would be difficult. But after the rainy and cloudy summer of 2006, many of us were itchy to skip out of town as soon as a sunny day came along. The forecast said that a 24-hour sunny window was on its way Wednesday, September 13<sup>th</sup>. So without hesitation, Cory Smith, Rob Whitney and I hurried down to Whittier to get out into Prince William Sound to enjoy this rare weather treat.

By mid-morning, we intentionally grounded our boat on the beach that forms the north shore of the Tebenkof Glacier valley. Old timers had told me a story of folks anchoring in this spot and having their boat blown away by valley winds. Not wanting this embarrassment on my resume, I timed the tides so the boat would be high and dry for most of the time we would be hiking. A boat cannot be blown off anchor if it is not in the water!

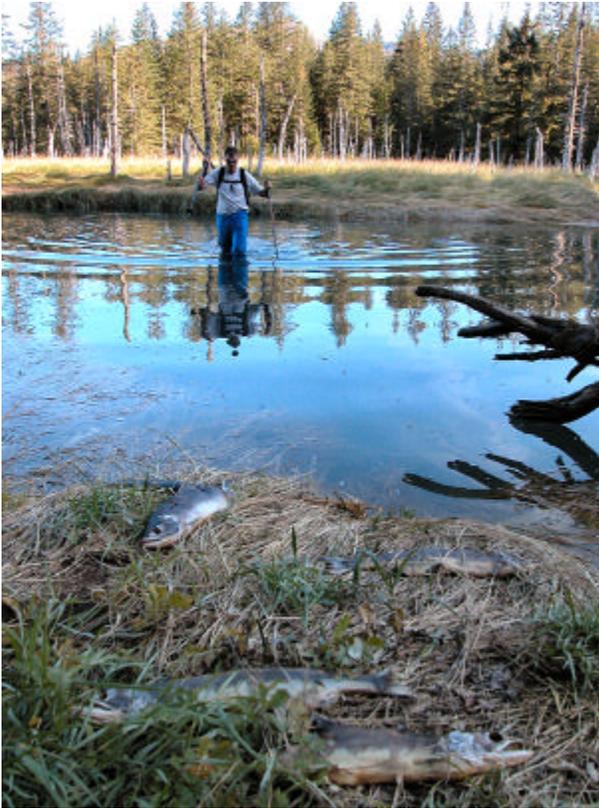
The plan was to hike to the Tebenkof Glacier and then hit a couple of peaks on the ridge to the west

that forms the east side of Blackstone Bay. Crossing the tidal flats, we hiked past many spawned-out pink salmon, or humpies. Soon we saw a black “humpie-eater”. We yelled at this bear,



**Rob Whitney clearing the valley**

and he or she was hesitant to run off. Finally, the bear snatched up its salmon and loped away with a jaw-full of flapping fish.



Rob Whitney headed for the 'Humpie Restaurant'

I had never seen the mouth of the Tebenkof Valley from the air. Nor did I look at the valley's image using Google Earth. But I figured it would be a sparsely vegetated glacial outwash plain, like the Knik River drainage. Wrong! The first half-mile or so was fun going on a beautiful moss carpet through open forest. The fun soon gave way to thick alder and riparian willow bashing.

When we thought we were about halfway up the valley, we climbed up some cliffs on the base of the ridge to view the route ahead. There was nothing ahead but thick green alder salad, basically all the

way to the glacier. If we were going to climb anything this day, we would have to get up off the valley floor as soon as possible. So a mile or so from the glacier, we scrambled west up some low class 5 rock and then up steep, boggy slime to the 1000 foot level.

Soon after we hit brush-line Rob scored his first-ever radiosonde find. The going got good on the ridge and we split up, with Cory and I pushing ahead, and Rob choosing to enjoy the day at a less brutal pace. Cory and I scrambled up and then over the several nearly-the-same elevation outcrops on Peak 2650 (S 11). We did not find a cairn here, and left one on the westernmost point, which had a spectacular view of Blackstone Bay. Actually, the views from this ridge were spectacular no matter which way you turned!

Soon we took off towards Peak 2950 (S 14) to the south. The climb to the summit was on an easily scrambled ridge with great views of the Tebenkof Glacier sprawling out below us. On top we looked back to see Rob on the summit of 2650. We did not find a cairn on this peak either, so we left a small one and headed back. We caught up to Rob at brush-line, where we all retraced our route back to the valley floor.

Coming out of the valley we tried a different route – a traverse to and then along the glacial river that the Tebenkof Glacier feeds. This might have been a better route, but there was still a lot of willow wrestling. Back at the beach, we found the boat still there, gently tugging on the anchor in placid waters. We rafted back out to the mother ship and took a break before heading back to Whittier. The next day Prince William Sound was back to the norm of the summer of 2006. Our good weather window had slammed shut and the Sound was once again shrouded in rain clouds.



## Roadside Detraction by Wayne L. Todd

Only twenty feet up I quickly remember why I am a grade III climber; 'damn this is steep', my calves are already hurting and 'falling would be unpleasant.'

A woman is talking to my belayer, something about "making us her school project." I hear numerous

questions presumably for Carrie [I learn later they were directed at me. Did this student really think she could conduct an interview while I am hanging on near vertical ice?]. 'Can Carrie really focus on belaying while being questioned?'

'Geez.' A glance around reveals other spectator vehicles. At least leading has the advantage of moving above and away from the speeding, noisy multi-ton projectiles.

I continue up and the next thing that interrupts my vertically focused world is a State of Alaska truck with plow clearing the edge of the road. Way on the edge. 'Is the driver trying to clear my belayer?' My concentration intensifies further. Continuing on, placing more screws than my norm. Another close pass of the plow truck, 'what the...?'

Now my arms are joining my calves in complaining. The ice is sticky, but in some places it has melted out underneath after half a week of above-freezing temperatures. I have to reset a couple screws that hit big air after an inch or two of ice.

Oddly, the sun is shining here as water cascades down my legs on this windy and mostly cloudy day. Occasional pepperings of ice fall naturally from above on this ice-eroding day.

Now I hear snippets from an angry man below; "clear ice from the road", "call the state troopers", "shut down this climb." 'Christ, am I going to have to down climb this or sacrifice a screw?' A glance below reveals the parked State plow truck.

I holler down, "What's up?" Carrie hollers back "nothing, its fine, keep climbing." "HmMMMMM."

I continue up and after eternally long minutes, purple webbing comes into view from a fixed anchor above. 'I just might make it.'

I relax half a sphincter notch as the ice benches below the anchor. The sun is still shining, I am now somewhat blocked from view below and the rappel anchor is right there. A deep exhalation. 'Why is there a V-thread on the ice pillar below the anchor?'

Approaching the ice immediately below the anchor, I see the ice is not only melting down and away from the anchor but also melting away from the rock. After setting 'one last screw', I attempt to top out on the ice pillar to reach the sacred anchor. Fearing the table size pillar may break off from pick strikes, causing extensive destruction below (and some above), I first try ice hooking and then dry tooling to gain the anchor. No go for me. I briefly consider placing a V-thread in the melting ice but instead latch onto the idea of reaching the trees above.

Moving up and right on ice, I now have considerable rope drag with my out-of-fall-line placed screw. The rope gets even tighter. 'Am I out of rope?'

Someone observing from a van below yells to Carrie "he's headed for the trees" [thank you whomever]. The rope slackens.

The ice ends on serious scrambling-plus terrain. With crampons on and ice tools, I resort to dry tooling again (so much for the Quarks not being used in rock). Even with dry tooling, the picking is slim; down sloping ledges, mud/gravel over hard rock, the usual ultra crappy rock...

A basketball size protrusion breaks loose when I barely weight it with a tool. I grasp it with tooled hands before it accelerates and wedge it in. This is not working.

Deciding on the V-thread plan, I slowly begin down climbing to fatter ice. A rock impacts my helmet, bounces once on the ice and as it launches outward I half scream "ROCK!" [I learn later that it impacted in the middle of the highway].

With a stinging and bloody tongue, I continue down climbing. At least the V-thread goes well, intersection on my first try. The knot tying is slow and cumbersome with wet gloves and fogging glasses. I hesitantly remove my non-descript hood revealing the red James Brown "Owwww, I don't feel so good" helmet. The glasses clear.

Completing the double fishermen with a gloveless hand, I shock test the anchor. O.K. Still rather unnerved and not truly trusting the melting ice; after setting up ropes, belay device, and safety kleimheist for rappel, and harnessing and securing tools, I load test it again.

Gingerly, I begin the rappel, gently tightening the kleimheist at each screw and quick draw, and then carefully rappel to the next one. Once on the steep and in view from the base of the climb, Carrie yells, "what are you doing?"

At my last screw, I finally begin to relax. On flat ground, I brief her of events. Clearing rock and ice from the highway, I vow not to climb here again.

Another team is climbing thirty feet to the left.



# Portaging with Ghosts

## More on Maynard & Begich, by Tim Kelley



Changes in Portage Glacier over time are clear in this 100-year comparison from Begich Peak.

In a recent Scree, there was an article about climbing Maynard Mountain and Begich Peak. So, I figured I would add some historically related information about these peaks that I found this summer.

First, this summer I found that there are old wires, laid on the ground, that go all the way over Maynard Mountain. You can see them in the late summer on the southern flanks of Maynard. I checked with Chugach National Forest archaeologist Heather Hall and she was not aware of these wires, but said they were likely telegraph lines from the early 1900's. There is record of USGS surveyors once having a camp in Portage



Old Telegraph wires on Maynard Mountain

Valley with telegraph lines. As I noticed two distinct wire routes on the mountain, I would also suggest the possibility that one of them was related to WWII era communications, possibly in connection with the construction of the railroad tunnels.

Maynard Mountain is not climbed very often these days. It is interesting to think that 100 years ago folks were schlepping spools with miles of telegraph wire 3000 feet up this peak.

In regards to Begich Peak – a couple of years ago Bill Spencer dug up an old picture of Portage Lake from around 1910. The source of this picture is unknown to us at present, but likely it is a USGS surveyor's picture. I decided to try to do a recreation of this old picture, to show the change in glaciation on Portage Lake. It took a while to find the location where this photo was taken but poking around in the hills led me to an old surveying triangulation station at about 2780' up Begich Peak near the 'Roost' benchmark.

When comparing these pictures, remember that in the old photograph the ice is hundreds of feet thick and fills the valley more than the lake does today. Though I got close, I did not nail the exact spot that this photo was taken. So, if someone wants to chase the exact location the ghost photographer grabbed this shot ... this opportunity still remains for you.

A couple of side notes: A few years ago, I was kayaking back across Portage Lake after climbing Bard Peak and I heard a woman on the loudspeaker of the USS Ptarmigan. She was saying: "See that person kayaking? That's how Native people traveled this lake hundreds of years ago." Well, whoever that tour guide was - she might want to look at this old picture. You only have to go back 100 years and there was basically no lake here.

The second note is – while driving down to climb Begich I ran into Mel Straugh in Girdwood. There was an ironic connection here as Mel is the first guy

I know to have done the Begich to Boggs peak bagging traverse, by himself, back in the 80's. I also remember Mel doing the Hope to Extra Point and back route, again – in a day and by himself, back then. Mel has been a hard-hitting local peak bagger for decades but you will not find his name very often in Scree. Climbing archivists of the MCA would serve the accuracy of local climbing history well if they sat down with Mel, and a map, and asked him where he has rambled in the past 25 years. He would probably be agreeable to this, as besides being a peak-bagging monster, he is a friendly and cool guy that loves talking mountains.



## Knik and Hale-Bopp, Western Chugach

by Steve Gruhn

On July 28, 2006, Tom Choate and I drove on Knik River Road to the school bus turnaround just east of the bridge over Hunter Creek. We hiked a maze of marshy trails on the south side of the road and east of Hunter Creek (ask either of us for specific details). Our objectives for this trip were Knik Mountain (elevation 4930 feet, Sec. 9, T15N, R4E, S.M.) and Hale-Bopp Peak (Sec. 15, T15N, R4E, S.M.)

Eventually we headed up a trail that seemed to head south of our objectives. At an elevation of about 1200 feet, Tom and I gave up on the trail and bushwhacked to the east. For much of the bushwhack we were able to link up meadows of tall grass between the stands of alder and other shrubs. As with all bushwhacks, the meadows came to a close and we were left with only alders (and devil's club) in our path. The brush was not as bad as I had remembered it (see October 1998 Scree) and we soon broke out above it and crested the ridge a couple hundred feet above the brush at an elevation of about 2700 feet.

After resting a bit, we continued on and were a bit surprised to find four-wheeler tracks running the length of the ridge to the southeast. We followed these tracks to about 3200 feet, but they gradually petered out. The route up the ridge to the southeast was straightforward and the great views kept smiles on our faces. Tom, a retired biology professor, was enthralled with all of the flowers and he wrote down the name of each kind he saw. This kept the pace

slow and prevented us from taking our focus of the beauty around us. The day was sunny and we were in no hurry.

Eventually, though, we separated and I continued on to the summit of Knik Mountain where I lay down and napped while waiting for Tom. Tom and I (and Bruce Kittredge) first learned of the name Knik Mountain in May 1998 after inquiring about routes up Hunter Creek from a Knik River local. The first record of an ascent of Knik Mountain that I have been able to find was by Jeff Jablonski and Martin Martinez in (I think) March 1997. They had nicknamed it The Asteroid, but I will refer to the peak by the name that the Knik River locals use.

After an hour or so, I heard the rockfall that signaled Tom's impending arrival and we chatted atop the summit while he made a register to leave in the cairn. Soon we continued on easy sheep trails southeastward to the saddle between Knik Mountain and Hale-Bopp Peak. The route was very easy, but after ascending Point 5205, I found it would have been easier to avoid walking across unbalanced and shifting boulders by traversing to the north. As I headed up the scree slopes of the west flank of Hale-Bopp Peak I could see a large number of sheep (ewes and lambs) north of Big Timber Peak. That was the only wildlife we were to see on the entire trip. Once on the summit, I admired the views to the east and snapped a few photographs. The big peaks of the Knik Glacier area were out in full view. The Hunter Creek

Glacier has now receded so much that The Gatekeeper is no longer in its drainage basin; the terminus of the glacier is now at an elevation of about 3200 feet, not the 2150 feet shown on the USGS map.

The USGS map indicates the summit of Hale-Bopp Peak is between 5800 feet and 5900 feet, but on the summit I could see that I was below East Twin Peak (elevation 5873 feet) to the east. Thus, the summit elevation is between 5800 and 5873 feet. I split the difference and call it 5837 feet. When Tom arrived, he proceeded to make another register and we built a cairn to house it. Jeff Jablonski and Martin Martinez are the first people I know of to have climbed Hale-Bopp Peak (on the same climb as Knik Mountain in March 1997, I think). During their ascent, they had great views of the comet Hale-Bopp and, therefore, named the peak accordingly.

Tom and I were out of water by now, so shortly after he joined me on the summit he ventured to the north to find a hidden snow patch with a little trickle of water. I descended the scree slopes back to the saddle (this time traversing north around Point 5205). The sun was beginning to set, so we hurried up the southeast ridge of Knik Mountain and signed in again on the register that Tom had left.

We quickly descended to an elevation of about 3500 feet where we had seen some level tundra on our ascent. This was to be home for the night. We

pulled out our Therm-a-Rests and bivy sacks and crawled in. It was tough to go to sleep because the night air was clear and I was enjoying my surroundings too much. On our May 1998 trip to the area, Tom and I had heard the sounds of the Hunter Creek Bluegrass Festival as we descended the north ridge of The Gatekeeper, which lay to our south across Hunter Creek. We both recalled the neat experience of our twilight glissade set to music. It was with those memories, and the resulting broad smile on my face, that I drifted off to sleep.

The sound of drizzle on my bivy sack broke my blissful slumber. Like the clear blue skies, the broad smile on my face had vanished. Tom and I got up a little before 5:00 and were moving shortly thereafter. We had some granola bars for breakfast and then we opted to follow the four-wheeler trail back toward Knik River Road. Well, we followed it until we came to a chain across the trail at an elevation of about 800 feet. From there we proceeded south and east into the maze of four-wheeler trails that eventually spit us out at 8:00 on Knik River Road only a couple hundred yards east of Tom's car. We were both thankful that all of the windows were still intact.

The trip ended with the obligatory breakfast pig-out at McDonald's in Eagle River and, as we mulled over our trip in the dry warmth of the restaurant, the broad smile began to reappear on my face. It had been a stellar trip.



## Member Meeting Minutes November 15

- I. Call to Order, 7:32 pm.
- II. New Members: We welcome ten new members/visitors tonight.
- III. Treasurer's Report:
 

2006 Beg. Balance		\$25,629.24
YTD Revenue	\$ 9,747.00	
YTD Expenses	\$12,474.84	
2006 YTD Cash Acct. Balance		\$22,901.40
(Includes CD, Money Market, checking, petty cash)		
TOTAL ALL ACCOUNTS		\$23,122.87
- IV. Committee Reports:
  - A. Equipment and Training, Steve Parry and Jayme Dixon.

- 1. At break tonight there will be a short Trip Leader Training in the back corner, required to lead MCA trips.
- 2. Alaska Avalanche School is offering two free 8-hr avalanche courses. Nov. 25<sup>th</sup> in Eagle River, Dec. 2<sup>nd</sup> in Anchorage. Call 345-0878 and leave a message regarding which class you'd like to sign up for or visit [www.alaskaavalanche.com](http://www.alaskaavalanche.com).
- 3. A new ice climbing class series is available, open to 8 students (depending on instructor availability) and all ability levels. The dates are Nov. 30<sup>th</sup>, a classroom session, and three field trips: Dec. 3<sup>rd</sup>, 21<sup>st</sup>, and 23<sup>rd</sup>. Andy has a required gear list and students must be able to attend all dates.
- 4. Andy also needs instructors to help teach this course—please help!
- 5. There is a sign up sheet for those who would like to help instruct any aspect of outdoor/climbing technique for the MCA.

6. The 2007 Mountaineering School sign up will take place at the December 20<sup>th</sup> General Membership Meeting—must be present to sign up! See the website for more details.

B. Hiking and Climbing, Jayme Dixon. Lots of trips—see the website and the Scree for complete descriptions and details.

- ? Nov. 18<sup>th</sup>—Dome Hike
- ? Nov. 19<sup>th</sup>—Turnagain Arm Hike
- ? Nov. 23-26—Bomber Traverse, trip is currently full
- ? Nov. 24-26—Lane Hut ski trip
- ? Dec. 2<sup>nd</sup>—Wolverine Full Moon Hike
- ? Dec. 16<sup>th</sup>—End of the Month Traverse: Middle Fork Canyon Creek
- ? Dec. 16<sup>th</sup>—Williwaw Lakes Holiday Tree Decorating trip

For our numerous 2007 trips, see the Scree and website.

C. Parks Advisory. At a meeting with the Eagle River Community Council we were told that we have the parking lot at Mt. Baldy, but are still working on obtaining the right of way to cross private land.

D. Calendar, Stu Grenier. Calendars are here and on sale for \$10 each. We've already sold about 1/3 so get yours quick! Also on sale are long-sleeve poly pro t-shirts for \$28 each.

E. Huts, Greg Bragiel.

1. All four of our 10-year hut leases have just been renewed.
2. The MCA is considering acquiring the maintenance and responsibility for the Powder House Hut. We have just received the structural Engineer's report on the hut's condition. If you want to contribute to the discussion, come to the Dec. Board meeting.
3. Greg is working on some R&D for hut crapper systems, specifically, some sort of composting toilet system. Greg would love input and advice from anyone with experience or ideas on how to deal with our poop.
4. Aug. 4<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> Greg will be working on hut maintenance and needs assistance. There will be some painting, also installing escape hatches in the lofts and hopefully a prototype composting toilet.

V. Announcements:

- ? The Board approved a preliminary 2007 budget, which will be posted in the Dec. Scree and voted on at the General Meeting Dec. 20<sup>th</sup>.
- ? Submissions of articles to the The Scree are due each month on the day of the general meeting.
- ? Sarah Ellen Hutchison is selling a pair of women's randonee boots, size 6 1/2-7, and a pair of liners.
- ? There is a cabin for rent out by the Eagle River Nature Center...
- ? Steve Gruhn recognized Richard Baranow for having climbed all the major peaks in the Chugach range.
- ? Stu Grenier will be working on several trail clearing projects, see the Scree, the website or contact Stu to help out.
- ? All those wishing to go on the Eklutna Traverse in April with Greg Bragiel should plan on doing at least one of his trips before then, as well as the training trips and meetings.

? Bridget Paule is looking to buy a pair of randonee boots, women's 9 1/2-10.

VI. Presentation: Steve Parry, on the Basic Mountaineering and Ice Climbing Courses.

Submitted 11/16/06

Bridget Paule

## Board Meeting Minutes December 5

I. Call to Order 6:20 pm

II. Attendance:  
Bridget Paule, Sec.  
Travis Taylor, Treas.  
Sarah Ellen Hutchison, Board  
Annette Iverson, VP  
Sean Bolender, Pres.  
Randy Howell, Board  
Don Hansen, Board  
Willie Hersman

III. Old Business:

Holiday potluck—For food we estimate two 20-lb turkeys, 2 medium hams and a roast. The President, Secretary and Treasurer will do food shopping after this meeting. Please arrive at 6:30 to begin setup for the meeting.

Upcoming slide presentations—For the December Meeting, members are invited to bring 10-15 slides/digital photos to share. Annette Iverson has lined up Seth Webber for the January meeting to do a presentation on his 1962 film on the first ski ascent of Denali. Other ideas include Lee Whitten, Lisa Furber, Dave Hart and a fellow from Anchorage who was mentioned in the Alaska Magazine for his climbs in the Aleutians.

Winter trip schedule—The following trips are proposed for the dates identified at the previous board meeting. All trips are weather/condition dependent and need leaders—please contact the Board if you can lead one of these trips:

- Jan. 13-14, Echo Bend ice climb
- Jan. 20-21, Williwaw-Long Lake ski traverse
- Feb. 18-19, Hatcher's Pass overnight and peak ski/climb
- Feb. 25, O'Malley peak climb
- Mar. 11, South Suicide, w/possible overnight on the 10<sup>th</sup>
- Mar. 25, Tikishla peak climb
- Apr. 1, April Fools Class C Mystery Trip!
- Apr. 21-22, Lane Hut ski plus a nearby peak climb

Powder House Hut—Sean Bolender reports that we will not be acquiring this hut. The Heritage Land Bank is looking for an insured entity to assume liability, which we cannot do. Also, Alyeska Resort is considering an extension into the area where the hut is situated. If this goes forward, the hut will be removed regardless of who is responsible for its upkeep. Willie Hersman comments that the club should be cautious of proposals to take responsibility for huts and cabins built on public land.

Officer Handbooks—Julie Perilla still has the handbooks but will turn them over to Bridget Paule by the Dec. 20<sup>th</sup> meeting.

Paypal Account—Willie needs to work with Travis and Sean to coordinate deposits from the Paypal bank account to the main MCA account.

IV. New Business:

Bylaws changes—Willie Hersman reminds the board that we need to update the bylaws to reflect our current dues of \$15, and that we need to submit all changes to him to amend online. Also, he would like to see a new change to the bylaws: The membership of new members who join after September 1<sup>st</sup> (currently it is October 1<sup>st</sup>) would extend through December of the following year. This change would allow all the new participants at the Ice Festival to remain members without having to renew their membership three months after they first join. In order to change the bylaws, a proposal must be presented to the general membership one month before it is voted on. With the support of the board, Willie will propose this change at an upcoming meeting.

Basic Mountaineering Course—Sign up for the class, with payment, will begin at the Dec. 20<sup>th</sup> meeting. A second sign up will be available at the Jan. meeting. Steve Parry and Travis will run a sign-up and membership table. Please contact Steve to help with the course. He especially needs instructors for the avalanche portion of the class.

Nonprofit status—Steve Parry renewed our nonprofit status during his term and informed Sean that it needs to be done every three years. This may be an online process. Sean and Travis will check with Steve, look through our records and confirm our 501 (c) 3 status.

V. Announcements:

\*Annette has the State Parks 10-year strategic plan, which she'll hand off to Cory.

\*The next board meeting will be held Wed., Jan. 12<sup>th</sup>. Don Hansen will have a report on what awards we offer, who has received them, how to nominate people and other information. We will also discuss the Past President's gift and begin working on hut issues.

VI. Adjourn 7:55 pm

Submitted 12/21 Bridget Paule, Secretary

**Membership Meeting Minutes  
December 20**

I. Call to order, 7:40 pm

II. New Members: Welcome Santa Claus and a New Englander (but not a new member)

III. Treasurer's Report: Please renew your membership for 2007 tonight or online via our new Paypal account.

2006 Beg. Balance	\$25,629.24
YTD Revenue	\$10,032.00
YTD Expenses	\$14,974.19
Cash Acct. Balance	\$20,687.05
'06 Increase (decrs.)	(\$4,942.19)
Total all accounts	\$20,927.02

IV. Committee Reports:

Training Comm., Steve Parry. Sign up tonight for the beginning mountaineering class that begins Jan 25<sup>th</sup> and

runs five weeks. Registration is \$75, you must be a member, and if you missed tonight, there is another chance at the January general meeting.

Hiking & Climbing, Carlene Vantol. For a complete trip list, please visit the MCA website and sign up on the list serve. Highlighted upcoming trips: this Friday, the annual President's Flattop sleepout will happen. Meet at the Flattop parking lot at 7:00 pm with all necessary snow travel and camping equipment. This Saturday there will be an easy 4 ½ mile ski trip starting at the North Bivouac trail head at 10:30 a.m. January 3<sup>rd</sup>, Amy will lead a trip up Harp Mountain. Jan 13-14, Sean will be leading an overnight ice climbing trip to Echo Bend with the possibility of renting the yurt or cabin. A January Long Lake ski trip has been proposed, but we still need a leader. Please step up if you would like to lead any of the upcoming trips!

Calendars, Stu Grenier. We have about 70-80 calendars remaining, and should be out of the red. They will be available tonight at the meeting and Stu will drop off a stack at AMH. Shirts are still available and selling steadily, \$28 each. Contact Stu for more information on MCA products.

Huts, Greg Bragiell. We desperately need someone to take an interim pooper system up to the Mint Hut. If you're going that way soon, please contact Greg. Steve Gruhn identified a potential funding source to help install a new prototype outhouse system at the Mint. Greg, Sean and Bridget are currently working on that grant proposal.

V. Budget: The Board-approved 2007 budget has been posted for a month and passed tonight by a majority vote of members present.

VI. Announcements: Stu has several great non-MCA trips in the works such as a trip up the Knik River gorge and Mt. Susitna by ski. Sign up on the MCA list serve to receive notice of these trips and others.

VII. Presentation: Holiday potluck dinner and various members' slides from trips around the world.

Submitted 12/21, Bridget Paule, Secretary

**Adze**

Looking For  
Randonee boots, women's size 9.5-10  
Bridget, 230-9903, silene.aulis@gmail.com

For Sale  
Koflach Degre' \$150 Size 10.5 Used a total of 30 miles, in perfect shape. Originally \$260, selling locally for \$200.  
Shelley, 349-4869

Stu trip 1  
January 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup>, Stu Grenier and Greg Bragiell are looking for volunteers for an overnight Ship Creek cleanup trip.  
Call Stu 337-5127

Stu trip 2  
Looking for folks to ski to Mt Susitna and Lake George and travel in the area.  
Call Stu 337-5127

# Mountaineering Club of Alaska

President	Sean Bolender	333-0213	Board member	Steve Gruhn	344-1219
Vice-President	Annette Iverson	222-0581	Board member	Don Hansen	243-7184
Secretary	Bridget Paule	337-8163	Board member	Randy Howell	346-4608
Treasurer	Travis Taylor	382-4823	Board member	Andy Rembert	688-3230
			Board member	Sara Ellen Hutchison	382-7097

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 January 17th to be in the February 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: Yukiko Hayano and Randy Plant 243-1438  
Hiking and Climbing Committee: Randy Howell – 346-4608, Jayme Dixon – 382-0212  
Huts: Greg Bragiel - 569-3008  
Calendar: Stuart Grenier 337-5127  
Scree Editor: John Recktenwald 346-2589  
Web: [www.mcak.org](http://www.mcak.org) (change your address here)  
Mailing list service: [MCAK@yahoo.com](mailto:MCAK@yahoo.com)

Mountaineering Club of Alaska  
Box 102037  
Anchorage AK 99510