

A high-angle photograph of a snow-covered mountain peak. In the foreground, a climber wearing a red jacket and yellow pants is seen from behind, climbing a steep, icy slope. A rope is visible extending from the climber. The background shows a vast, snow-covered mountain range under a clear sky.

# the SCREE

## Mountaineering Club of Alaska

January 2008  
Volume 51 Number 1

Something hidden – Go and find it!  
Go and look behind the Ranges.  
Something lost behind the Ranges,  
Lost and waiting for you. Go!  
Rudyard Kipling

**Blackburn Journal  
Indian Creek Pass and Beyond  
Big Lake Ice Skating  
Mount Barrille POM**

**Monthly Meeting  
Wed, January 16 @ 7:30  
Program: Blaine Smith will  
build on the basics of  
avalanche awareness**

# 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:** Recon day, Billy Finley on Mt Blackburn. This issue begins a 5 part series from

Wayne Todd's journal of an ascent of Mt Blackburn in 2005.

**Article Submission:** Articles and photos are best submitted on the web at [MCAK.org](http://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

### Blackburn Journal

### Indian Creek Pass and Beyond

### Big Lake Ice Skating

### Mt Barrille – Peak of the Month

## Hiking and Climbing Schedule

January 12-13, Grant Lake ski touring  
Class B, elevation gain 400'+, distance 6+ miles.  
Sign up at the December 19 MCA meeting

January 12, Ski up Bird Creek  
Class B, 10-12 miles, 1,000' elevation gain,  
Leader Tom Dolan, [paradox@acsalaska.net](mailto:paradox@acsalaska.net) 223-1308

January 19-20, Powder time  
Let's find some of that January powder that everyone talks about. Maybe Girdwood's Winner creek or Hatcher Pass. Randonee or Tele gear, avalanche gear (and know how to use it). A limited number of beginners will be allowed to join the crew.  
Contact: [seanbolender@yahoo.com](mailto:seanbolender@yahoo.com)

January 26, Ski to Long Lake  
Class C, 18 miles, 1500' elevation gain.  
Prospect Heights to Prospect Heights, backcountry skis and skins. Leader Tom Dolan, [paradox@acsalaska.net](mailto:paradox@acsalaska.net) 223-1308

February 23-29, Resurrection Pass ski touring  
Class C, Tele in American, Alfonsa and Abernathy drainages. Elevation gain 2000'+, distance 36 miles+ Enter and exit from Hope. Sign up at the January 16 MCA meeting.

March 1, Indian to Arctic / Arctic to Indian day ski  
20 mile traverse, A classic backcountry ski in the Chugach State Park. Ability and endurance are a must, conditions may be tough. Touring gear

with metal edges, avy and survival gear and a good attitude are required. Plan to stage cars at both ends for carpooling. Weather dependant. Stu Grenier, [oinkmenow@hotmail.com](mailto:oinkmenow@hotmail.com)

March 7-9 Bird to Arctic ski traverse  
Class D, elevation gain 2300'+, distance 26+ miles Sign up at the February 20 MCA meeting.

March 8-12, Scandinavian Peaks climbing/skiing  
Fly in with Mike Meekin's flying service to the MCA hut off of the Matanuska Glacier. The area is mountainous with numerous glaciers. The trip will oriented around ski descents of the surrounding peaks. Glacier travel and avalanche gear required. There will be a selection process based on experience. \$100 deposit required to secure your place. Leader: Sean Bolender [seanbolender@yahoo.com](mailto:seanbolender@yahoo.com)

March 24-30, Bomber Traverse  
Lane, snowbird, Bomber, Mint Huts. Class Glacier, elevation gain 6,100'+. 23+ miles. Sign up at the February 20 MCA meeting.

April 5-6, Eklutna Traverse training weekend  
MANDATORY training weekend for Eklutna traverse participants.

April 27-May 4, Eklutna Traverse  
Pichler's, Hans' and Rosie's huts, Class Glacier, Elevation gain 6000'+, distance 30+ miles. Sign up at March 19 MCA meeting.



# **MCA Basic Mountaineering School 2008**

**January 31 to March 2**

Want to learn how to survive and thrive outside in Alaska's winter? How about climb a mountain or cross a glacier? If you do, get ready because it's time for MCA's Basic Mountaineering school again. We will teach you all the above and a lot more January 31 through March 2<sup>nd</sup>. Evening classes will be held every Thursday and some Tuesdays. Make sure to reserve your weekends for fun in the outdoors sessions.

Sign up will be held at the November, December and January MCA general meetings. A small fee of \$80 (that's not a misprint) is charged to students to help pay for classroom space and equipment replacement (ropes, etc). Instructors get in free so volunteer if you qualify and can help.

The course will include the following classes each being taught as an evening classroom session followed by a one or two day weekend field trip.

The course consists of the following classes:

Knots, equipment, clothing and nutrition

Navigation, winter camping and snow shelters

Avalanche

Snow climbing (self arrest, anchors, roped travel, crampons) with a separate field trip climb

Glacier travel and Crevasse rescue

## **MCA Winter Ice climbing school**

**January 5 to February 3**

Want to improve your ice climbing knowledge, technique and rope management? Come join us for this multi session class. Some climbing experience required. Cost is \$40, limited to 12 students. Attendance at session 1 or 2 is required.

Session 1, January 5<sup>th</sup> at 5:30

Session 2, January 6<sup>th</sup> at 4:30

Session 3, January 13<sup>th</sup>, day trip

Session 4, January 20<sup>th</sup>, day trip

Session 5, February 2-3, overnight trip

Contact Andy Rembert: [andyrembet@yahoo.com](mailto:andyrembet@yahoo.com) or Jayme Dixon: [jaymelmack@yahoo.com](mailto:jaymelmack@yahoo.com)

## **Thank you to**

**MCA member Tom McDermott in Iraq**

(In the middle, peeking), you can reach him at:

[thomas.mcdermott@gcemnf-wiraq.usmc.mil](mailto:thomas.mcdermott@gcemnf-wiraq.usmc.mil)



# Blackburn Journal

by Wayne Todd



Carrie Wang  
at Camp 1

*Editor's note: This is the first of a series of five articles that constitute a journal kept by Wayne Todd of an ascent of Mt Blackburn by Billy Finley, Ben May, Carrie Wang and Wayne Todd from May 5<sup>th</sup>, 2005 through May 18<sup>th</sup> 2005. The series is a direct transcription from the journal and no editing or corrections have been made to the original.*

5/05/05 Left Anchorage about 3 w/Carrie in my very loaded Ranger. Retrieved a parka for Paul C from Stan O.

Drive was shorter & faster than I remembered to Chitina (250 miles & 4 ½ hrs, even @ 65-70 mph). Weather went from fair in Anchorage to excellent in Glenn to windy in Chitina.

Driving to Glenn we had sunlit views of Sanford, Drum & Wrangell & a wee bit of Blackburn. On the long drive we saw a moose, swans, ground sq & many ducks.

After accessing the Ultima Thule cabin @ the airstrip, we drove through Chitina, a little cleaner w/a bit more new construction from 2 years ago. The river delta was quite dusty from the wind.

Ben & Billy arrived about 10:30 P.

5/06/05 Up 8ish. A Woodsen arrived mid morning. He'll work for Paul C all summer. He said Paul was having engine issues w/his 185 and was running a little late.

We all dressed for the mountain & flight but as morning drifted to afternoon w/warming temps we gradually de-clothed.

Paul arrived about 2P w/a motorcycle & 4 wheeler on board. After unloading that & loading our stuff we were soon airborne for our 25? minute flight.

2 passes & then he landed @ the 9,500' level, I was concerned he'd drop us at 7,500'. Paul flew around while Woodsen videoed from the ground, then retrieved him & then we were 4 on the NW ridge in very warm & calm weather. Moved 50 yards to establish our camp. We spent the afternoon & evening digging our compound for the hex nest, 2 large tents & a latrine. Deja-vous but feeling much more mentally succinct this time around.

Less snow is on the ridge from 2 years previous which will mean probable ice work.



Paul Claus messing around

5/07/05 21.20 baro @ 7:30 A. 21.10 @ 9:15P

Lazy, sunny & hot day. Heard song birds in the morning (snow bunting?).

Melted snow in a black trash sack (produced about a gallon). Reviewed GPS, checked Sat phone-no messages.

Early afternoon we went for a ~500' vertical stroll up the NW ridge. I led & found a good size crevasse



w/my lead snow shoe. Splendid views of Wrangell, Jarvis, myriads of other more rocky peaks & the lowlands.

We've decided to try a route up the middle of the NW face. More direct, moderate serac fall danger and avoids blue ice of NW ridge. Witnessed a modest serac fall w/slight powder blast just L (cw) of our intended route.



Ben & Billy seem to be getting along splendidly. Good food partners too as they both eat tons relative to Carrie & I.

Once again, viewing the ground from my 1999 trip in here.

Slept slightly cool last night in my 5° bag w/poly liner, 2 pads, Go-Lite hat, silk shirt & syn boxer shorts. Will utilize the down coat tonight.

Had an evening breeze of 5-10mph from the East starting about 7P.

5/08/05 Slept quite well (warm) w/the down coat on top & hot H<sub>2</sub>O bottle. 9:45-2:15 up, 4:15- ~7 down.

Up 7 in preparation for our haul up the NW face & true NW ridge. (true N ridge) Had a weather message from Cory.

Headed out @ 9:45A dressed lightly on snowshoes w/Billy leading. Sink about a foot when leading. We altered leads amongst the guys and I was able to lead most of the interesting and fun slopes. Route heads up a snow slope surrounded by seracs. Had to clothes up @ the start of the vert as most of the ascent we were shaded. Perhaps wore snowshoes too high (1/2). I came across a large crevasse blocking our route but bypassed over it on large fresh serac debris.

While all stopped closely, we felt the ice rumble below us (almost interrupted my peeing). I believe it was a large serac fall below us on the face.

The upper route steepened & hardened so I placed a few pickets & ? screw, Ben & Billy added as they came up. Just above where we topped out on the ridge ~11,100', found a good mostly-filled crevasse where we dropped our loads & plan to camp.

High views of Wrangell, Sanford & Jarvis. I like the looks of the route above 11K' if the weather holds but if it doesn't our face descent will be scary.

Descended cautiously w/numerous pickets in the baking afternoon sun. Great photo ops. Ben cleaned

the route. Fun route in good weather w/axe, whippet & crampons. Scenic evening but see a cloud bank to the north & CRB forecast for Wednesday (11<sup>th</sup>) is rain.



**Climbing to camp 1**

5/09/05 Baro @ 21.05 @ 6:45A. Another blue bird day. Cory scored & sent us another weather forecast, not as bad as initial forecast. We'll owe him beer.

So we packed up (Carrie & I took down the Trango) & I removed the pole on the Hex Nest & mostly covered it w/snow-will see if that's a mistake) and were out of basecamp w/bloated packs @ 11:15A. Will be interesting descending w/everything in one haul. Camp is comfortably warm by 8A. I saw the snow bunting.

With our fresh solid tracks from yesterday we made good time, mostly w/Ben up front, to our previous day snowshoe cache - today's don crampon level.

We really slowed down after that & I didn't make base camp 1 until 3:30. Luckily it was a warm, calm day w/lifetime views.

After breaking & probing, the guys dug out a deep (on the incline side anyway) tent site & then set-up tents. Carrie cranked out hot water. Our tents are less than a foot apart so all conversations & other noises are communal.

In addition to the north evening-storm clouds that we've had previous there have been sporadic brief lenticulars & evening cloud build-up to the west.

We have sun much later here @ basecamp1 ~11,100'. Phenom views, can see plume on top of Wrangell & Nabesna glacier & other glacier & ice & rock & dirt & seracs & sky &

We have cell coverage even here. Billy called his Mom & Yvonne.

Everyone seems to have acclimated fairly well though a few folks fast heavy breathing at times is a concern.

One lighter better pad may be a way to reduce bulk on these type climbs.

*(Continued next month, Ed)*



# Indian Creek Pass and Beyond

by Ron Ramsey

On July 31, 2007, Amy Murphy and I started hiking from Indian Pass trailhead for a seven-day backpack trip. I had talked Amy into trying a rather dubious hiking route. The route would take us up Indian Pass trail about five miles, there we leave the trail and head off-trail across an unnamed pass, well sort of unnamed, I call it Short Cut pass. Short Cut will deposit us one valley east of Indian Valley. Then we'll scramble up a rock rib to the ridgeline that connects The Beak and The Wing, drop into the next valley and hike to a pass that crosses into the North Fork of Ship Creek. From there we hike to Moraine Pass and cross over into Camp Creek, which we would bushwhack down and connect up with the Eagle River trail system.

We left the trailhead in partly cloudy weather at a leisurely 10:30 a.m. We hiked through high, but mercifully, dry vegetation as the sun shown down on us through a window of clouds that appeared to be positioned utterly right down the middle of Indian valley. We reached our turn off point, and then headed up through tall grasses that nearly hid Amy from view. This grassy section went quickly and we were soon above it and on alpine terrain. The unhindered alpine hiking alongside a small melodic stream is always such a welcome change from the often wet, high vegetation of the Indian Pass trail. This little valley, cosseted on the north by Bidarka Peak and the Bird Ridge Overlook on the south, led us unerring to Short cut.

Reaching the 3200-foot pass we stopped to soak in the view of the valley below us. Our intended route down and then across the valley was clear but the route up what I like to call Wolverine Rib (due to a pair of fortuitous meetings) was still cloaked with clouds. So, I suggested that perhaps we should hike down to the lake below the pass, set up camp and relax for the night instead of continuing on up and over Wolverine Rib to the next valley over. This suggestion met with no divergence by Amy so we headed down to the lake. We soon found one of the limited dry and rockless tent spots I've been able to find on this valley's floor and erected our portable home.

After setting up our home and cooking up some hot water for dinner I decided to convey some of my accumulated insights about the valley we were camped in. I began with the numerous wildlife sightings I had

made and ended with the fact that in the multiple trips I had made into this valley I had yet to see another hiker here. Of course just then I glanced up at the pass and watched as a lone hiker descended from the pass towards us.

Within minutes the hiker approached us and inquired about any knowledge me might have about the bear that he had just observed jumping into the lake we were camped near. I raised my head from the salami, cheese and onion bagel sandwich I was tearing apart with joyful glee and said, "I'm sorry, did you say bear?" Looking around for a toothbrush and washcloth I listened as he relayed how he had watched a bear jump into the lake and swim around whilst he descended from the pass. We chatted for a short time then our acquaintance hiked off down valley with his .44-caliber handgun in search of a less suspenseful campsite. An eternity and many hand washings later our swimming bear finally swam into sight at the lake's edge. I had never realized previously how absolutely beautiful beavers are!

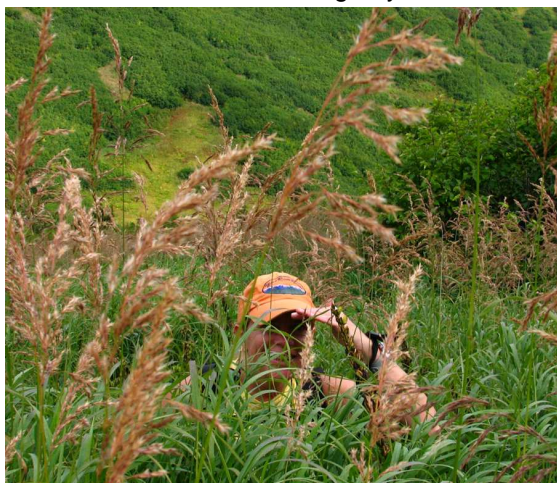


View from 'Short Cut Pass'

The next morning we were up at the crack of noon and hiking towards Wolverine Rib. This rib starts at a small tarn about a mile and a half down valley on a bench about 400 feet above the valley floor. It climbs about 900 feet to the ridge that connects The Beak and The Wing and I have to say, seems less intimidating when one is not burdened with a full backpack and eight days of food. Looking up from our resting spot at the base of the rib I was soon relaying my new appreciation for its



steepness and craggy appearance to Amy. Who was appreciative when I mentioned that perhaps we should rethink our initial route plans. After a discussion on climbing up the rib above us we decided that since we had plenty of time and food that perhaps we should do some day hikes and amass more information about the terrain around us before making any final decisions.



**Amy in high grass**

The next morning we woke to Clouds again but they seemed to be benign for the most part. After a relaxed breakfast of biscuits and gravy we headed off north to the next valley to check another possible route over into Ship Valley. This short valley funneled us up to a steep-faced wall that blocked our forward passage. We found a less intimidating route up a gully to our left to the ridgeline north of our intended route. The ridgeline had a well-defined sheep trail that followed the ridge west towards Shaman Dome then exited the ridge and side-hilled across the Dome's east flank. After observing our possible options, we voted to follow the sheep trail to a visible scree field and descend into the valley below. From there we hoped to climb to another visible pass at the back of that valley. The excellent sheep trail and scree deposited us in the valley below in short order. From there we hiked up to two tarns below the pass, and then scrambled along a boulder field to the pass itself. This pass, which I now like to call Gail's Pass, (after a friend who's earthly hiking has ended) finally gave us the view we were after. The North Fork of Ship Creek was now visible at the end of a short valley bisected by a sheep trail leading down from the pass. We took our lunch break here and discussed going down the valley ahead. In the end we decided we did not want to be scrambling at night through unfamiliar country, so we elected to go back by way of the valley behind us. We arrived back at camp stained blue from all the blueberries we had eaten on our return hike.

That night we had our first real rain and morning arrived under cloudy skies. Feeling lazy and content we decided to take a leisure day. After lunch our leisure was wearing thin so we decided to follow the west ridge of The Beak up towards the summit and see if it was a viable route. It turned out to be a route that is physically possible, but

due to some exposed scrambling up the last segments, not by me.

The fifth day we decided to try a different route up Wolverine Rib. This one was up a grass slope behind camp instead of the rocky spine of the rib. It turned out to be the better route for those electing to carry backpacking equipment up. The ridge led off north to The Wing or south to The Beak. I could now see the pass I had hoped to use to access the North Fork and it looked promising. Nonetheless we decided to follow the ridgeline south to The Beak instead of dropping down to the valley below to check out the pass. We followed the ridge south towards The Beak. However, just forty or so feet from the visible summit the ridge started offering more excitement than I cared to savor. We grabbed a bite of lunch then headed back down.

It had begun to mist rain on us earlier and now it seemed to be building. We had checked out a scree slope on our way up and decided to use it to exit the ridge. We were able to descend about 1000 feet in a very short time. This was good since it was beginning to hail on us as we reached the bottom. I hopped under a rock overhang like the snake that I am. While Amy, more of a deer, decided to lope off through the boulders and rain to the waiting tent.



**'Wolverine Rib' camp**

The sixth day was looking a little iffy weather-wise, well actually, it was raining on our side of the valley and snowing on the other side, so iffy might be understating a tad. Anyway, we decided to substitute a hot pizza encounter for cold rain and snow.

We exited our little valley by way of its mouth; traversed a low shoulder into Indian Valley and linked up with the Indian Creek Pass Trail. The high, wet weeds were less than wonderful during our descent from the pass, but after seeing hunters burdened under their loads struggling up the trail, I felt blessed. We reached the highway around 5 p.m. and were soon zooming towards Anchorage with two kayakers who had stopped to pick us up in spite of our seasoned appearance. We sat quietly and discussed our return excursion next year.

*(Also see the cover photo from December, Ed)*

# Big Lake Ice Skating

by Kneely Taylor



The Anchorage Daily News on Saturday, December 1 had a picture of an ice skater with the caption saying something like "Danger...Thin Ice... Don't go." With this encouraging thought in mind Willy Hersman, Neil O'Donnell, SaraEllen Hutchison, Tamara Aderneuer, and I headed out to skate Big Lake. We parked right next to the boarded-up "Big Lake Lodge." and walked to the lake shore. No one was on the lake, and there were no

tracks or signs that any one had been on the ice. Some kids who had been playing on shore came up and asked "Do you think you can walk on it?" I dug a hole with my ice axe. At four inches, I stopped. No water. We stepped out on the ice. No cracking: no wet feet. "Sure kids. It's safe.

It was perfect ice skating. Black ice. Fast, good edging, no dirt, no frost. You could see an occasional fish, and the weeds and grass that grow underwater. Some sunken litter, too.

About a half mile up the lake, I dug another hole with my ice axe, a deep hole. This time there was water. But there was at least four inches of ice. We went on, hearts beating at an elevated rate. Each hoping the other would go first. I suggested the females, being lighter, should be the leaders. They declined. Neil pointed out that he had the rescue rope and that he should go last for that reason. Willy pointed out that he would prefer to be on vertical ice, and hung back. I made the mistake of bragging that I was a good swimmer. We went on, ice axes in hand for any sudden need to "ice climb."

Tamara is an exchange student from Germany, and Neil worried about how he would explain it if she was dunked in ice water. Neil wanted to hug the shore, and so we went in and out of every bay and cove, a long way around Big Lake if you do it that way.

After an hour we arrived at the beach at the State park campsite, where the local ranger walked out and told us

he had been getting calls asking about ice thickness. We explained how we had been digging holes, and where we'd been. "But you know," he said, "the north end of the lake freezes later than the south end." We had started at the south end, and were headed north. In another half hour we were at the dividing line between north and south. The north end had frozen later, and there was a clear dividing area where the waves of the unfrozen water had smashed into the ice edge of the frozen south. The north end was frozen now, but it was so black and clear it looked like it was about an inch thick. I crawled over the rough area that had marked the dividing area, digging test holes with my ice axe as I went. Finally I summoned courage and strode out onto the new ice. No splash. I went back and got the others.





We continued north close to the shore. When I stopped, I could hear the skates of the others pinging on the ice. It sounded and looked very thin. Corner vision made me think I was surrounded by water. It was smooth, black, and transparent. Willy pointed out that after more than two hours he still hadn't relaxed. Me, too. But it was gorgeous, and exciting. I didn't dig any holes with my ice axe since I was worried about what I'd find. But after about half an hour, we saw in the distance an ATV cross the lake. Vehicle and rider must have weighed 600 pounds. He had big tires, which spread his load, but we all relaxed. After this we all really got into the skating. Skated right down the middle of the lake. Miles and miles without a single skate mark. Houses line the shore of Big Lake, but we were as remote as if on a mountain top. We had the whole lake to ourselves.

Near the end of the day, but when we were still on the thin north end, a man ran down to shore and started yelling. I skated over to see what was up. He was convinced we were crazy fools, and very sure that our lives depended on whether he could convince me to tell the others to get off the ice. "We've been out here for three hours, and haven't gone through yet," I said. "But the lake froze only three days ago," he hollered. I skated on and caught the others. We cruised on, feeling conditions were perfect.

Finally back at the south end where we had earlier thought it was thin, but no worries now. Heck, we had spent a couple of hours on ice thinner than this. We finished where we started, having circumnavigated the

lake, not a single wet foot amongst the five of us. Two of the kids we had seen at the beginning of the day were still where we had left them. But now they had skates on and were skating. Their feet weren't wet either.

**She walks on water**



## Peak of the Month: Mount Barrille

by Steve Gruhn

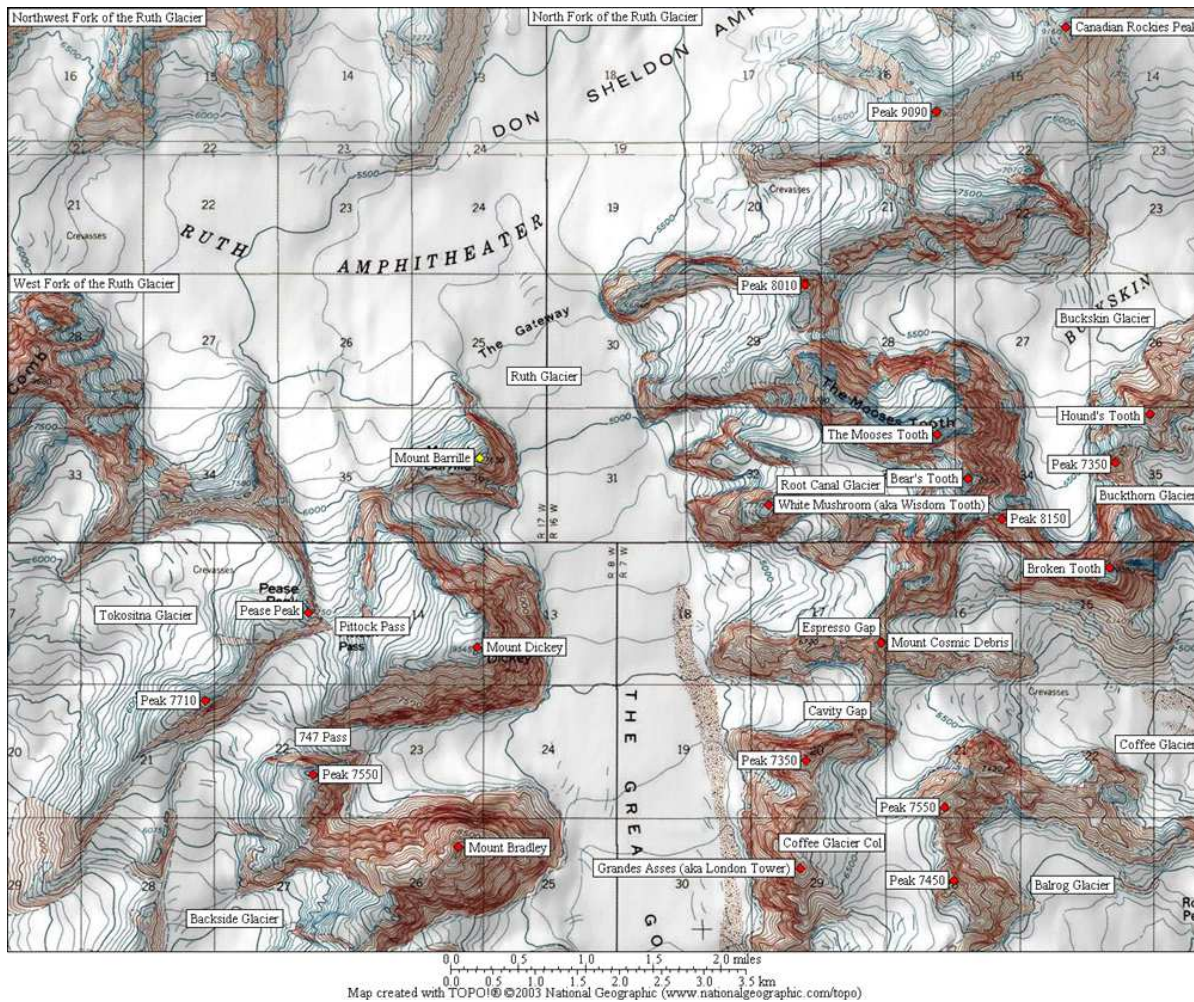
Mountain Range: Alaska Range; Pittock Peaks  
Borough: Matanuska-Susitna Borough  
Drainage: Ruth Glacier  
Latitude/Longitude: 62° 58' 0" North, 150° 43' 16" West  
Elevation: 7650 feet  
Prominence: 1300 feet from Mount Dickey (9545)  
Adjacent Peak: Mount Dickey  
Distinctness: 1300 feet from Mount Dickey  
USGS Map: Talkeetna (D-2)  
First Recorded Ascent: 1957 by Fred Beckey, John Rupley, Herb Staley, and others  
Access Point: About 6550 feet on the West Fork of the Ruth Glacier

Mount Barrille was named in 1906 by Dr. Frederick A. Cook for Edward N. Barrill, Cook's partner on his now-infamous attempt to be the first to climb Mount McKinley. Cook erroneously added the "e" to Barrill's last name in his 1908 book, To the Top of the Continent.

There is some confusion as to the first recorded ascent of Mount Barrille. Renowned mountaineer Bradford Washburn wrote an article in the 1956 *American Alpine Journal* that attributed the first ascent of Mount Barrille to an expedition of Mazama members on July 13, 1910. However, the account of the Mazamas expedition on page 21 of the 1945 *Mazamas Annual* reprint of the October 1910 *Pacific Monthly* article implied that the Mazamas' advance party of Claude E. Rusk and Joseph L. Ridley had not reached the summit of Mount Barrille, but instead, on July 13, 1910, had climbed "the most northerly point of rock," an outcropping at an elevation of about 5950 feet, to take some photographs in the clear morning air. An August 14, 1910, *Oregonian* article said the party called this rocky outcrop "Point Piper" in honor of Edgar B. Piper, the managing editor of the *Oregonian*.

Reported two years after Washburn's article was published, the 1957 ascent by Beckey, Rupley, Staley, et al., was identified as the second ascent of Mount Barrille. Reaching the summit of Mount Barrille was a

consolation prize after unsuccessful attempts on Mount Huntington and The Mooses Tooth. The 1957 ascent of Mount Barrille is mentioned on page 92 of the 1958 AAJ



## Parting Shot



Bored? Looking for something to do on snow?  
Markus Stoeckl sets the stock bike speed record of 130.7 mph in Chile.



## 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	Sean Bolender	830-5102
Vice-President	Annette Iverson	222-0581
Secretary	Bridget Paule	230-9903
Treasurer	Travis Taylor	382-4823

Board member	Don Hansen	243-7184
Board member	Andy Rembert	688-3230
Board member	Jayne Dixon	382-0212
Board member	Steve Parry	248-8710
Board member	Tom Devine	529-0618

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, notes and letters submitted for publication in the newsletter should be submitted on the web at [www.mcak.org](http://www.mcak.org) or e-mailed to the Scree Editor. Articles should be received by the monthly club meeting (third Wednesday of the month) to be in the next month's Scree.

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@yahoogroups.com](mailto:MCAK@yahoogroups.com)

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