

the **SCREE**

Mountaineering Club of Alaska

August 2009

Volume 52 Number 8



Rules are ways of thinking, not ways to avoid thinking.

~ Anonymous

Monthly Meeting

Wed, August 19 @ 6:30 PM

**Program: Tom Choate with slides from
Volcan Osorno, Chile, and
Cerro Aconcagua, Argentina**

Paddle-Climb 2050

Mint Hut

Scandinavian Hut

POM, Paradise Peak

2009 Ice Climbing Festival

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 third Wednesday of the month. The July meeting is the annual picnic, which will be held at the Bayshore Clubhouse. See below for details.

Contact information is provided on the back page or visit us on the web at www.mcak.org.

Cover Photo: The Annual MCA Ice Climbing Festival takes place the first weekend in October this year. This photo from a previous year's festival was taken by Jayme Dixon.

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

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Hiking and Climbing Schedule

This is odd, no club trips or hikes for two months. We need some volunteers to plan some trips. Talk to a board member if you are not sure how to volunteer.

2009 Ice Climbing Festival

Check out the dates, fees and requirements for the MCA Ice Climbing Festival in this issue. This is the biggest event of the year for the Mountaineering Club.

Editor's Corner

Thanks to Steve Gruhn. For some time now, he has been reviewing *the Scree* for spelling and grammar after I put it together. He is far better at it than I am; I miss a lot. (His mother was a school teacher. Wait; come to think of it, my mother was a school teacher, too. It didn't rub off, though.) His knowledge of the Alaska landscape is truly amazing, so he catches a lot of things in that area, also. *Thanks, Steve.*

And, thanks to Greg Bragiel, the current hutmeister. He does a fantastic job; check out his latest projects on the Mint and Scandinavian Huts in this issue.

The Scree has been in current format for three and a half years. Maybe it needs to evolve a bit. Over the next six months we may be making some changes. I am playing around with some ideas, but if you have some ideas you think would be interesting, let me know. johnrecktenwald@gmail.com

Paddle-Climb Point 2050

by Stu Grenier



A paddle-climb from back in May 2004 never made it into print. John Maltas, Sean Bolander, Johnathan Galbreath (a guy we picked up at an MCA meeting), and I, taking advantage of the sea kayaks to carry a couple of weeks of gear without busting our knees, found ourselves in Picturesque Bay near the south end of Culross Passage in Prince William Sound. Point 2050, being slightly more prominent than its neighbors in the area, caught our eye with its fairly gentle southeast ridge. On a perfect-weather day Sean, Johnathan, and I used snowshoes to get up on to the ridge. John decided to sit this one out with a blister from a previous adventure.



Stu, Johnathan, John, and Sean

There was one area before we got to the ridge proper that was fairly steep with the usual post holing with snowshoes. A few ice axe shaft plants, avalanche gear and a good spread between climbers, we took advantage of tree cover to make getting on the ridge as safe as possible. Once on the ridge it was a nice straight snow and moss covered ridge hike to Point 2050. With views of the backside of the Chugach Mountains and Port Wells, and the spectacular view of Culross Passage, made this an excellent summit. I got a nice shot of Sean on the summit overlooking Culross Passage. There was a lot of snow so no register was left or even searched for. It is probable that people

staying at the public use cabin (PUC) found there way to the top of what was for us an enjoyable day climb. At a loss as to what name to give to this peak, I submit the name *Whim* because that is what we climbed it on and it is short so as not to clutter up a map.



Sean on Point 2050

As we came down, the softer snow of the late afternoon made for some big collapsing holes with the snowshoes even on our accent trail. Johnathan, with a history of knee problems, tweaked something after finding the bottom of one of these holes and was finished climbing for the rest of the trip. Though only 2050 feet, as we pulled into camp, this one felt like a little more than just another small peak climbed from sea level.

The remainder of this trip was spent exploring Kings Bay and other interesting spots in Port Nellie Juan. Sean and I did manage to attempt another ridge leading up to Point 1692 between Blue Fiord and McClure Bay. We ran into some large erratic cornices that seemed more like massive 18-foot-high rolling waves that were running in more than one direction. Not being able to see over them we climbed over one and lost interest in continuing. Someday in late summer I would like to go back to see if these unusual cornices were really cornices or were due to the shape of the ridge itself.

Prince William Sound has a lot of these not-so-

conspicuous unnamed little peaks like Point 2050 that are just asking to be climbed or generally explored. Going on a paddle-climb with kayaks has proven to be an excellent way for folks with enough time to access these peaks without compromising the trip by having to spend more negative time near a motor. For folks like myself who have a history of knee surgery the kayak can be the key to still allowing the expedition experience without the heavy pack. I've been in the darkest of snow

caves for days in a mountain storm and I have huddled under a tarp at sea level during a good blow. Both are memorable experiences, but the one at sea level was not quite as extreme. The comparison of being in kayaks or on a rope team also leads me to conclude the kayaks offer a little less regimentation. Considering where we live, it is fun to have an appetite for both in season.



MCA Mint Hut Maintenance Report, July 2009

By Greg Bragiel



All photos by Greg Bragiel

Eagle Scout candidate, Eli Morris, headed up this project as a combined effort of the Boy Scouts of America and the MCA. Stan Olsen was the designer and project engineer. Larry Olsen was lead carpenter. My interest in this project was the result of observations over multiple visits. The nearly 40-year-old roof was in poor shape with multiple leaks and broken supports. Stan and I spent considerable time evaluating and planning the roof project. I estimate 30 man hours were spent on planning.

Building materials were ordered and delivered to Pollux Aviation by Spenard Builders Supply. During the week of July 5th Pollux placed three loads of materials and tools at the Mint Hut. Our pilot, Chuck, transported 10 of us with gear, food and additional supplies to the Hut the morning of July 16th in four loads. MCA members included Stan Olsen, Larry Oliver, Aimee Haugsvan, and me. BSA scouts included Eli Morris, Zack Cherry, Kade Bruggeman, Paul Cheney, and Chad Cheney. The BSA leader was Andy Morris. The first group in started the

roof demolition immediately. With the cloud cover threatening the pilot had to drop the last two loads of crew about ½ mile below the hut. By the time I arrived the entire old roof was gone. Everyone was busy clearing debris and readying for the renovation. Under threatening skies the new roof materials were cut and began to go up. The skies opened up, rain began and everyone scrambled to protect the open building.

The large tarp we thought we had ordered was not to be found. It was a good thing we had plastic sheeting to cover the structure. The hut got somewhat wet, but was not damaged. Work continued under the rain until about 5 p.m. Everyone agreed they were done for the day and hoped for better conditions in the morning. Stan Olsen was particularly perseverant in preparing the roof rafters under difficult conditions. The total man hours worked on this day was 80.



Friday morning was quite foggy, but it was not raining. Larry Oliver had slept upstairs in the hut commented on the hard rain and noise overnight. There were sprinkles

during the day, but no hard rain. Conditions improved as the day progressed. The scouts hiked down to the junction of the summer and winter trailhead to mark it for their scoutmaster. Eli sustained a serious laceration to his lower leg while hiking off trail. Aimee and Andy patched him up back at the hut. MCA member Mike Childers and BSA scoutmaster Brian Cherry hiked in and started in on the work immediately. The renovation took shape and it became apparent that the new construction would be VERY strong and durable for MANY years. Work continued throughout the day and ended about 9 p.m. The scouts and scouters were instrumental in assisting with all tasks and provided great meals for us. The total man hours worked on this day was 156.



Saturday morning was mostly cloudy; however, it looked to be a fine day for construction. The new roof was now partly covered with metal and everyone continued to work hard to complete the project. Larry Oliver was EXTREMELY detailed in the finishing of the metal work and achieved a beautiful result. Mike Childers was VERY helpful in assisting Larry with the placement and securing of the roof while on belay. Stan Olsen worked inside this day to finish off the ply sheeting on the inside of the upper floor. He worked under some difficult, cramped and noisy conditions and achieved a BEAUTIFUL result with the help of Aimee Haugsven. Aimee also spent considerable time cleaning, arranging and detailing the kitchen area. I busied myself assisting where needed, did a repair where porcupines had chewed through the siding on the west side of the building, and dismantled the old toilet. The scouts and scout leaders continued to help endlessly and managed to get quite a lot of red paint on themselves. Everyone sat outside in the evening and watched as I placed the fiberglass wand back on the peak of the hut. The pressure was on to hammer straight and true. Stan Olsen had some comments about what happens when you are hammering and bend a nail. The scouts finished the last bit of painting about 9:30 p.m., Larry affixed the reflectors onto the front and back of the hut, and all construction was finished about 10:30 p.m. I retired about 11:30 after completing the last building material clean up. The total man hours worked this day was 182.



Sunday was our planned departure day. After breakfast I telephoned our pilot and scheduled a materials pick up for 12:30. Stan left for home early in the morning. Everyone else took a hike to the Mint Glacier. At the toe of the glacier we found a major collapse of the ice cave that had been published in the 2008 and 2009 MCA calendar. The exposed ice looked clean and not melted much. We speculated on the relation of recent tremors and earthquakes as a cause. As we returned the sound of a helicopter called our attention. Chuck arrived an hour ahead of schedule in a bright red R44. We hurried downhill. A load of tools was first to fly out along with Brian Cherry. Brian rushed home to get his trailer to meet the helo and have Chuck drop the sling load on it. The rest of us watched as the R44 Raven attempted to lift the load of metal. Chuck gave it a go, but could not lift it. Aimee and Mike returned from their hike to Grizzly Pass shortly before the group started hiking out at 2:10 p.m. We arrived at the Gold Mint Trailhead at 4:10 p.m. The total man hours worked this day was 44.



A few items that I suggest getting to the Mint Hut in the near future: tape measure, spray foam, silicone sealer (4), pliers, crescent wrench, roller brushes.

Everyone on this project worked long hours and VERY hard. I am extremely pleased and proud of their efforts and the results.

The entire Mint Hut project gave me a very sincere appreciation for all the time and effort that our MCA predecessors have spent constructing the eight huts.

Mission Accomplished at the Scandinavian Hut!!

by Greg Bragiel



Photo by greg Bragiel

Matt of Meekin's Air Service deposited Mary Beth and me at the Scandinavian Hut landing strip by 5 p.m. on July 10th. I was able to fly over Bocks' Den en route and observed much trash lying outside and the door fully open. Mike informed me he could land there; however, it would have to be an a.m. landing since this is a one-way strip and wind sensitive.

Contrary to what Mike Meekin was told, the materials that were dropped off on the Scandinavian Glacier remained. So our first job was to retrieve everything. The site was approximately one mile from the hut and it took two round trips by both of us to get most of the supplies to the hut. The glass panel did not survive the two months on the ice so I broke it into small pieces and threw it under a large rock. The stove that was at the hut was no longer functional. It was removed when we left. The new stove is working great.

On Saturday we busied ourselves from 10 a.m. to 11 p.m. doing all sorts of work: Mary Beth painted most of the exterior wood red and did a general clean up of the

place. I busied myself making a window/bear guard for the back window. This took considerable time since this panel and the one for the outhouse that I had previously cut and painted were subsequently cut in half (presumably by Meekin to fit it in the plane). Nevertheless, I placed a very functional guard and then a door on the outhouse. Thereafter Mary Beth finished painting the doors and the outhouse. The recently made sign was screwed onto the front door and the place looks really nice now!!

Sunday morning we finished organizing the place, put most gear up into the loft, cleaned the first floor, and then painted the floor.

A few tasks were not finished due to the significant time used retrieving gear and patching the panels. We were not able to either place weather stripping on the door or add the plexiglass to cooking area window.

Further evaluations of needs are as follows: metal shears, pliers, long-handled Phillips #2 screwdriver, files, small nails, roller-brush refills, 2-inch hex-head screws, paint brushes, and a lock set for the entry door. Additionally, the 1x4 strips that were used to put the wood panels together should have screws placed instead of the nails that were used. The 5-gallon bucket of blue oil stain had a hole near the bottom and was leaking. I placed it in the outhouse along with a gallon bucket of tan latex paint. Both should be removed.

The 30-gallon human waste barrel was down at the landing strip. Matt informed me that it had been laying in the gully near the moraine for a long time and the NOLS group retrieved it on Friday and placed it at the landing strip. I checked it out and found that they had filled it with food and left it there. The group of 15 had tent camped at the hut on Friday, went up the Scandinavian Glacier on Saturday and returned on Sunday. They stopped to chat on the way down, collected the food from the strip and headed up toward Turtle Flats. The barrel is at the strip. Mike Meekin will retrieve it on a backhaul.



Peak of the Month: Paradise Peak

by Steve Gruhn

Mountain Range: Kenai Mountains
Borough: Kenai Peninsula Borough
Drainage: Hearth Glacier
Latitude/Longitude: 60° 16' 3" North, 149° 11' 37" West
Elevation: 6029 feet
Prominence: 1079 feet from Hearth Mountain (6182)

Adjacent Peak: Peak 5840 in the Fireside Glacier and Hearth Glacier drainages
Distinctness: 779 feet from Peak 5840
USGS Map: Seward (B-6)
First Recorded Ascent: June 29, 1969, by Harry Bludworth, Winford (Dub) Bludworth, Fred Cady, Grace

Hoeman, Dick Holdaway, Dave Johnston, and Hans Van der Laan
Route of First Recorded Ascent: West ridge
Access Point: Mile 13.5 of the Seward Highway

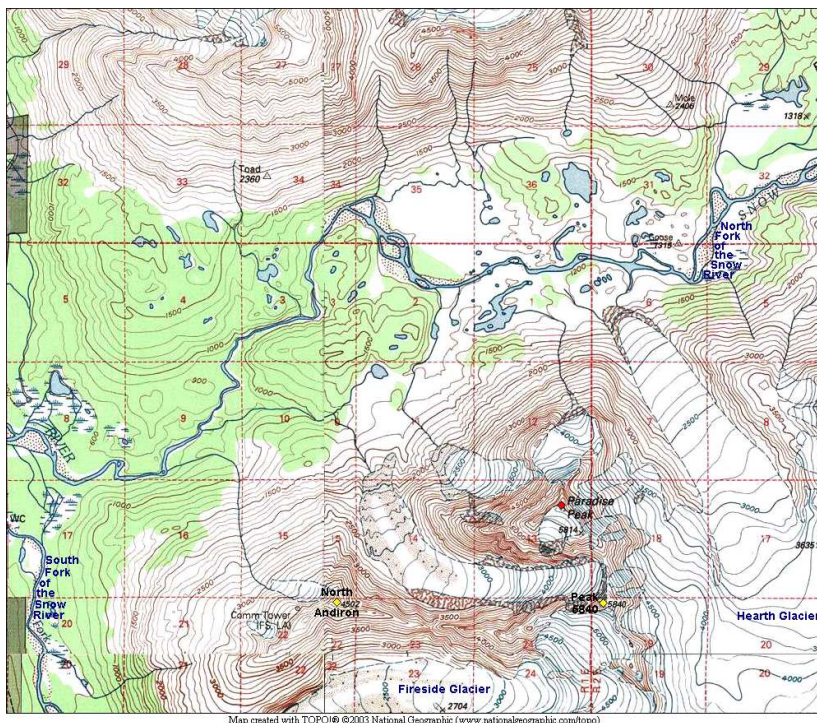
Paradise Peak was named for the nearby Paradise Valley, which is visible to the northeast from the summit. Pictures, however, would make it seem that the valley, although picturesque, could have been named after the gorgeous peak.

Viewed from the Seward Highway, Paradise Peak was one of Vin Hoeman's favorite peaks. He included Edward Cooper's photograph of the as-yet-unclimbed peak in an article he prepared for the 1969 *American Alpine Journal*, which was published after his death. Armed with this photograph, Grace Hoeman and six friends decided to attempt to reach the summit of one of Vin's favorite unclimbed peaks two months to the day after his death on Dhaulagiri in Nepal on April 29, 1969.

The first ascent party left their cars at Mile 13.5 of the Seward Highway and crossed the knee-deep South Fork of the Snow River and traveled east to follow the North Fork of the Snow River upstream. They crossed sloughs and streams on fallen cottonwood trees and made their way up the valley until the narrowing canyon walls caused them to select an alternate route through the spruce forest. Eventually, though, the spruce ended and 400 feet of climbing through the alders and devil's club began. Emerging from the alders at an elevation of 1400 feet, they hiked up a streambed for 300 feet to the toe of an unnamed glacier that flows westward from south of the peak. Once on the glacier, they hiked up 500 feet, traversing to the east, and established camp at an elevation of about 2350 feet. The hike in had taken seven hours. Grace Hoeman continued upward for another 1000 feet before bivouacking for the night.

Rising early the next morning, the party began trudging up the heather slopes of the west ridge. The exposed ridge caused them to detour to the north on a 2-foot wide ledge. The rotten rock posed some rockfall concerns, but Grace Hoeman led the party by kicking steps up 35-degree snow slopes that alternated with rubble to an elevation of 5600 feet. Belaying a 10-foot deep notch at about 5700 feet, the party was able to access a glacier south of the summit. This glacier brought them to within 50 feet of the summit. A large crevasse on the glacier and a north-facing cornice kept their attention for the last few feet to the top. Their ascent from camp had taken 6 hours and 20 minutes.

Their descent to camp followed their line of ascent to an elevation of about 3900 feet where they plunge-stepped and skated down a 1400-foot snow-filled couloir. Departing from camp, though, the party split. Three members followed their walk-in route. The other four



crossed the glacier and hiked up a couple hundred feet to a beautiful shelf that contours around the north side of North Andiron (4502). From high on the shelf they were able to pick a decent route to avoid the alders. They then found an old corduroy road through the hemlocks that sped their travel. Their return to the cars from camp had taken five and a half hours.

Subsequent parties have avoided the alder by heading straight up the ridge after crossing the South Fork of the Snow River.

Dave Johnston's trip report appeared on page 1 of the October 1969 *Scree*. Grace Hoeman's account appeared on page 113 of the 1970 *AAJ*. Greg Higgins' account of his July 1987 ascent (with Willy Hersman and Mike Miller) of the north ridge appeared on page 5 of the August 1987 *Scree*. In his article starting on page 6 of the May 2005 *Scree*, Harold Faust reported that his GPS receiver indicated an elevation of 6029 feet when George Peck and he reached the summit in April 2005.

Photos here:

http://www.alaskamountainforum.com/wiki/index.php?title=Paradise_Peak
<http://www.my-photo-blog.com/paradise-peak>
<https://www.alaskastock.com/resultsframe.asp?inline=1&image=400KP%20CY0001N001>
<https://www.alaskastock.com/resultsframe.asp?inline=1&image=400KP%20CY0001N001>
<http://www.peakware.com/peaks.html?pk=2973>
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http://www.milebymile.com/main/United_States/Alaska/photo_6783.html
http://richreidphotography.com/gallery2/main.php?g2_itemId=3694
<http://www.flickr.com/photos/dcs1/3179341202/>
<http://kenyondurr.com/outwardbound/alaska2007.aspx?day=9>

Online Registration

Starts Aug. 1st.

Late Registration

Sept. 23rd

Mail-in Registration

Available until

Sept. 30th

\$55

Teaching others to climb!

Ice Climbing Festival 2009

Mountaineering Club of Alaska

Do you want to learn how to climb ice? Or just hone the techniques you already know? Come join the Mountaineering Club of Alaska and its volunteer instructors for a two-day instructional ice climbing weekend on the Matanuska Glacier. After climbing all day on the glacier, camp out in an established campground and socialize with other climbers around the bonfire at night.

Each day you will head out onto the ice in a group of 6 students and 2 instructors. Instructors will teach you skills such as: knots, belaying, equipment, climbing communication, foot placement, tool placement, movement skills, anchors and rope management techniques.

MANDATORY PARTICIPANT MEETING

Wednesday, Sept. 23rd
at 7pm

First United Methodist
Church

(the corner of 9th and
"G" Street, downtown)

MCA Ice Climbing Festival

830 Briny Circle
Anchorage, Alaska 99515

Phone: 907-382-0212
Website: www.mcak.org
E-mail:
mca_icefest@yahoo.com

MCA Ice Festival Registration and Questionnaire

Directions: Please answer all applicable questions and submit with money to the Ice Festival Coordinator. Mailing information is on page 2.

1. Have you attended a previous MCA Ice Climbing Festival?

Yes No

If so, what experience level? (please circle one)

Novice Beginner Advanced Beginner Intermediate Advanced

2. Do you have previous experience with: (*circle all that apply*)

- a. Walking in crampons
- b. Belaying/belay commands
- c. Ice climbing (*if you circle this option please answer Questions 2a & 2b*)
- d. Rock climbing

2a. If you have ice climbing experience, how many times have you been?

- a. 1-3 times
- b. 4-6 times
- c. 7-9 times
- d. 10 or more times

2b. If you have ice climbing experience, do you have experience leading? Please explain (i.e., climb names, ratings, and dates).

3. Please list one goal that you have for this weekend?

4. Special Requests:

Instructors: _____

Want to be paired with friends: _____

Contact Information:

Name:_____

Home Phone:_____

Cell Phone:_____

Email:_____

Emergency Contact:

Name:_____

Phone:_____

Relationship:_____

PLEASE SUBMIT REGISTRATION AND MONIES TO:

****MCA Membership is required to participate. Must be postmarked by 9/22.***

(Please include a check or money order for \$50, all monies should be payable to MCA)

MCA ICE FEST COORDINATOR

830 BRINY CIRCLE

ANCHORAGE, ALASKA 99515

MEDICAL FORM (rev. Jan. 2009)
(Please print. This form will be kept confidential)

Outing: ____MCA Ice Climbing Festival____ **Today's Date:** _____

Name: _____

Address: _____ **Phone:** _____

Email: _____

Emergency Contact

Name: _____ **Relationship:** _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ **Cell/Pager:** _____ **Email:** _____

Doctor's Name: _____

Clinic Name & Address: _____

Phone: _____ **Fax:** _____ **Email:** _____

Medical Insurance

Name: _____ **Group/Policy#:** _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ **Fax:** _____

The following information is necessary before participation in this MCA outing. It is essential to have this information in case of illness or accident.

1. Do you have any medical problems, issues or limitations? No ____Yes ____

If yes, please explain:

2. Has a medical professional seen you for a medical condition in the past 12 months?

No _____ Yes ____ List reason.

3. List your current prescriptions, natural, and over the counter medication-(aspirin, etc.) that you are now taking: (drug name, dosage, and frequency).

4. Have you taken any medication in the past six months that is not listed in Part 3.

No _____ Yes ____ Please list.

5. Allergies to food, medications, or the environment? No ____ Yes ____ Please list.

6. Current immunizations? No ____ Yes ____ Please list with date:

The MCA Ice Fest coordinator will keep a copy of this during the festival in case it is needed.

Signed: _____ **Date:** _____

Mountaineering Club of Alaska

President	Wayne Todd	522-6354
Vice-President	Ross Noffsinger	336-2233
Secretary	Annei Goldsmith	301-7055
Treasurer	Travis Taylor	382-4823

Board member	Jayne Dixon	382-0212
Board member	Sean Bolender	830-5102
Board member	Mark Kimerer	360-5935
Board member	Tim Harper	240-1506
Board member	Richard Baranow	694-1500

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 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 in electronic format 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: Jayme Dixon - 382-0212, Richard Baranow - 694-1500
Huts: Greg Bragiel - 569-3008
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