

# the SCREE

## Mountaineering Club of Alaska

January 2010

Volume 53 Number 1



We are what we repeatedly do.  
Excellence, then, is not an act but a habit.  
~ Aristotle

Smoke, Alders, and Granite  
Mount Chamberlin Ski Descent  
Peak Bagging in the Saint Elias Mountains  
Indecision Ice Climb  
POM, Schwanda Peak  
2010 Proposed Budget

Monthly Meeting

Wed. January 20 @ 6:30 PM

Program: Joe Stock and Matt Hage will present climbing and skiing  
Mount Chamberlin, the highest peak in the Brooks Range.

**NEW LOCATION BP ENERGY CENTER. MAP IN THIS ISSUE.**

# The Mountaineering Club of Alaska

[www.mcak.org](http://www.mcak.org)

*"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 BP Energy Center, 900 E. Benson Blvd., Anchorage, AK

[www.akpeac.org/conference/BPEC\\_map\\_06-04-03.pdf](http://www.akpeac.org/conference/BPEC_map_06-04-03.pdf)

**Cover Photo:** Marcin Ksok and Brian Fredricks on Maiden's Nipple, Photo by Kelsey Gray

**Article Submission:** Text/video/photography submissions for the Scree can be sent as attachments to [mcascree@gmail.com](mailto:mcascree@gmail.com). Do not submit material in the body of the email. We prefer articles that are under 1,000 words. If you have a blog or website, send us the link. You can also submit an article on the web at MCAK.org. Cover photo selection is based on portraits of human endeavor in the outdoors.

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#### POM, Schwanda Peak – bonus - interactive photo and information on spherical panorama photography.

#### Adze

#### Map of BP Energy Center – New MCA Meeting Place

#### 2010 Proposed Budget

#### Board Meeting Minutes

## Editor's Corner – The New Scree

Happy New Year. The last format of the Scree was introduced in January 2006; time for a change. If you are reading this with Adobe Reader on a monitor and you haven't already done this, go up top, click on *View* and then click on *Full Screen*. Now you can page forward with the *Page Down* key, the *Enter* key or a right click of the mouse. Page back with the *Page Up* key, *Shift* and *Enter* keys at the same time or a left click on the mouse. Use the *Esc* key to exit.

The use of the paper documents is declining and a horizontal format is better suited to the Monitors most of us use. It is time for a change to a format more friendly for non-paper readers who can also make use of some of the interactive features available on-line like these:

Link easily to more information: video, photos and text. Links are identified by blue text. In this issue there are links in the articles on Mount Chamberlin, the Arrigetch Peaks and the Peak of the Month. Just click on the link. For example here is more information on the packraft thigh straps mentioned in the November presentation: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UfgV1LUI-Pw>. Over time some non MCA links may not be maintained by the originators. It is the intention to maintain links to MCA controlled source material.

Listen to the Scree. On the Adobe toolbar, click on *View*, scroll to *Read out loud*, click on one of the options and you can listen to the Scree.

For *most* email addresses in the Scree click on the address and it will start your default emailer. Have some more ideas? [johnrecktenwald@gmail.com](mailto:johnrecktenwald@gmail.com)

John

## Hiking and Climbing Schedule

Jan 29 - 31 SKI TOUR - Resurrection Trail to Cooper Lake  
Distance-20+ miles Class- D Hazards- Must be able to ski while carrying your gear. (some narrow trails with dangerous drop offs) Sign up at the January MCA meeting.

Feb 19 - 28 SKI TOUR - Resurrection Trail Ski Tour  
Resurrection Trail- Seward to Hope. Distance- 80+ miles Class- D Elevation Gain- A lot of up and down. Hazards- Avalanche,

weather conditions. Must be able to ski while carrying your gear. (some narrow trails with dangerous drop offs) Cabin fees to be shared among participants. Sign-up available at the January or February meetings.

Feb 27 Indian to Arctic or Arctic to Indian

Do the old switcheroo with the cars so everybody can drive straight home. Often a good intro to this trail for competent back country nordic skiers. We will reschedule if conditions are less than average.

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

March 21 - 28 SKI MOUNTAINEERING - Bomber Traverse Plus  
Ski Tour/Mountaineering- Archangel Valley to Moose Creek Valley Via Bomber traverse. Distance- 30+ miles Class- Glacier Elevation Gain- ~7000' Hazards- Crevasses, Avalanche, Rockfall. Sign up at January or February MCA meeting.

April 24 - May 02 MOUNTAINEERING - Scandinavian Peaks  
Scandinavian Peaks Class- Glacier and Some 4th or 5th class. Elevation Gain- Plenty Hazards- Crevasses, Avalanche, Rockfall, Weather. Air transport fees apply. Sign-up at March



## Smoke, Alders and Granite – Arrigetch Peaks

by Marcin Ksok



Rob Litsenberger on Shot Tower

“How are you doing up there?” “I am about to F&\*@& Sh## myself,” was Brian’s response on the aid pitch he pulled off on the headwall of Shot Tower. Enough said.

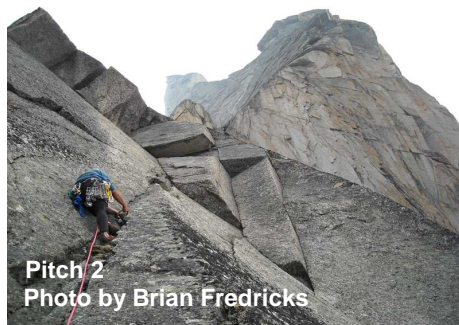
“Which way would you go into the Aiyagomahala Creek?” we asked the park ranger at the Coldfoot Visitor Center. “Officially I cannot recommend the best route in order to preserve the fragile ecosystem, but if I was to go in there on a personal hike I would start at the mouth and travel up the drainage.” Well, at least that was settled.

The next day, the 2<sup>nd</sup> of August, we watched the pilot take off from the gravel bar on the Alatna River, a silty river of greenish tint and muddy shores. We cached some emergency food in a bear resistant container, food we would devour on our return, and started for the southern Arrigetch valley trying to outrun the incoming rain clouds.

The Arrigetch Peaks, an almost mystical place, far beyond the Arctic Circle, they jolt the

imagination of any climber. Imposing granite walls and ridges, rising from the northern tundra, captured our imaginations long before we stepped on their lichen-covered slabs and flakes. I cannot remember when the idea came to my head, but I do remember mentioning it to Rob Litsenberger over a beer some two years prior. On The Mooses Tooth Brian Fredricks, Adrian Bender, and I spoke of the area with quite an enthusiasm; unfortunately Adrian did not get to come along, but Brian played an essential role on the trip by getting us to the top of Shot Tower. We lacked a fourth; Kelsey Grey came to the rescue after a post on [alaskamountainforum.com](http://alaskamountainforum.com), the only team member with aid climbing experience.

Heading out we knew of the atrocious trek to get into the Arrigetch. Only 12 miles or so, we hoped for a one-day approach, but all who knew firmly said, "It is two days, period." After bushwhacking, creek crossing, and boulder hopping uphill with 70- to 80-pound packs, we realized that the approach really is two days. Eight hours after starting out, we pitched tents in the rain below the pass leading to Arrigetch Creek. After dinner I could not help my curiosity and bushwhacked some more in search of the hot springs indicated on a map. I found the hot puddle ½ mile west of camp and dipped my feet in it.



Pitch 2  
Photo by Brian Fredricks

Day Two started out miserably, but we fought our way through wet alders and crossed the

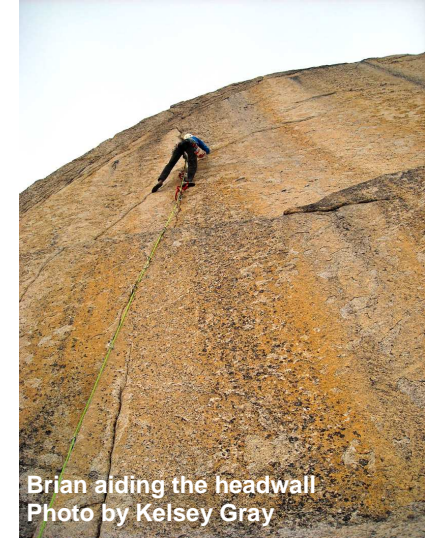
creek for easier ground, which we reached after covering 1 mile in three hours. Once in the higher valley, the going improved, vegetation receded, and the creek shores became sandy. In five hours we had a tent site picked out on a small, flat knoll.



Kelsey and Rob on Pitch 11  
Photo by Brian Fredricks

At 6 a.m. Brian and I were heading out an hour after Rob and Kelsey to avoid bottlenecking on the route. By 7:45 we were below the west ridge of Shot Tower and Team 1 was on the first pitch. I started out with a large dose of apprehension - the first alpine rock trip for me, especially in such a remote place, on such a big, steep piece of granite. All worries dissipated in the smoke-filled air; the rock was solid, aside from belay stations, one of them being a couch-sized stone lying freely on a slab. Well, it held others; what were the chances of it sliding now? The climbing was very aesthetic; I followed cracks and flakes in the perfectly grippy rock, slowly gaining altitude and exposure. Brian took over on the fifth pitch, which increased in steepness and difficulty; at a full rope length it proved that we would not be linking pitches. After a few perfect pitches, we ended up at the mushroom,

fixed a rope on the traverse for the return trip, and continued on for more amazing cracks and corners before reaching the headwall.



Brian aiding the headwall  
Photo by Kelsey Gray

Below the headwall was a 4-foot-wide, 10-foot-deep gash splitting the formation. It made for a comfortable rest spot. One could relax, doze off, and possibly spend a few weeks, provisions allowing. Funny that it was right below the most difficult part of the climb, the aid headwall, so Rob and I comfortably watched the struggles of Kelsey and Brian - the aid team as they inched their way up the 60-foot section. It was comical to think about the stipulations of the planning phase when Rob and I were talking about the headwall, before we found ourselves right below it, being blocked from the summit. Back then we would say, "It was aided in the '70s we can probably free it. If not, we can use our daisy chains or something. We will figure it out; can't be that hard." Fools we were, nothing more. Now sitting in the moat, listening to the pitons being pounded into the crack, cams being torn out from the shallow crease, we knew that without those two this would have been our summit. Heroically Brian, on his first try at aiding topped the headwall and fixed ropes, which Rob

and I ascended, a wonderful feeling 1,600 feet off the deck.

A year ago I would never have dreamed of reaching the top. Of course, I thought about it, but did not believe in the realization of that dream. And yet, we stood on top of the most beautiful hunk of granite I can think of. Now all we had to do was get back down. We rappelled, cleaned downclimbing, using loose chockstones for anchors, and almost did not realize when it got dark and then got light again. We were tired, very tired. Some were out of water; others did not even take a sip. Headlamps on, headlamps off. Rappel, rappel, rappel for eight hours, snagged ropes in between at least twice. Ran out of anchor cord, all 20 meters; dozed off belaying Brian on a downclimb traverse. After 19.5 hours we were back at the base of the ridge, beat, but ecstatic. The morning welcomed us with more smoke from interior fires and snow and boulder fields separating us from camp.

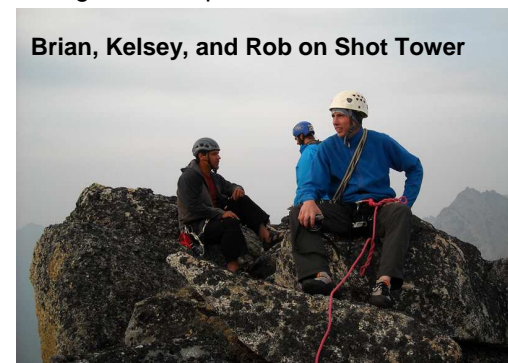
After reaching the creek I dozed off again on a flat rock, waiting for others who would hike down the boulder field, then fall over and disappear for

a minute before getting back up and continuing down the slope. On arrival, Rob asked me for the water filter, yet I still can't believe that I thought it too difficult to take off my pack to dig it out. The guy was so thirsty all day, but the feeling of guilt did not settle in until we reached the camp, where I felt horribly and pumped some water for both of us, trying to fruitlessly redeem myself. I still feel bad.

We slept most of the day. After breakfast and dinner and lots of other meals eaten all at once, a strange feeling crept in, the feeling of a surreal experience that I now hardly remembered, especially the descent. I realized that I did not recollect a whole lot about the climb, like it happened in my sleep. Did my exhausted brain fail to register any clear memories? Others shared my thoughts – an unbelievable feeling – was it worth the trouble? I remembered being very happy throughout the route, intimately connected with my surroundings and partners who shared my thoughts and experiences. It is that yearning for the close connection which is driving me toward other future climbs. We were there – same goal, same purpose, same passion, a special feeling, slightly addictive.

Shot Tower was the key climb; we did explore the area some more, put up a new route on a feature we called Maiden's Nipple, attempted The Pyramid, deterred by a glacier, found an old cache with four nylon ropes, hobnail boots, cans, etc., all torn up by a bear. The smoke did clear on the 9<sup>th</sup> after strong rain, exposing the true beauty of this place, which so far had been hidden behind a haze. It was very beautiful there. On the 10<sup>th</sup>, cold northern air came in and dropped the temperatures below freezing at night. The return trek, although for some on empty stomachs, was a lot less painful. In a day we arrived at the Alatna River, crossing swamps and numerous creeks.

Another strange feeling set in. It was now over. Throwing rocks into an empty bear barrel, I realized that our lives were made up of short moments, the rest was filler, but the filler was very important. The moments made for memories; the filler provided the mood and feeling. Throwing rocks at a can had its pleasures; sitting late into the night by a campfire on the shores of the Alatna River, deep in the Brooks Range, with three wood-carving, silt-drinking, Arrigetch-climbing mates made for an unforgettable experience.



For a detailed report and more photos, visit Kelsey's story at:

[http://www.supertopo.com/Trip-Report/10479/Arrigetch\\_Peaks\\_Brooks\\_Range\\_Alaska](http://www.supertopo.com/Trip-Report/10479/Arrigetch_Peaks_Brooks_Range_Alaska)

# Mount Chamberlin—Skiing from the Highest Summit in the Alaskan Arctic

by Joe Stock



Wayne's photo showed a cruel crevasse. In thick fog, Wayne's rope team skirted sagging edges toward the summit. This photo confirmed what I thought—the Brooks Range has the worst snow in North America. In winter, minus-fifty-degree temperatures change the measly arctic snowpack into knee-deep depth hoar. In spring, it becomes knee-deep isothermal slop. These conditions have kept most rational skiers away, leaving a void in the annals of Brooks Range ski descents.

The Brooks Range stretches 550 miles across northern Alaska, from the Chukchi Sea to the Canadian border. Within the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, near the range's east end, lies the range's highest peak—Mount Chamberlin. At 9,020 feet, Chamberlin is currently accepted as the highest mountain in the Arctic outside of Greenland. Great excuse for a ski trip.

*Note:* After the trip I received a comment on the blog of the American Alpine Club ([www.inclined.americanalpineclub.org](http://www.inclined.americanalpineclub.org)) from Jon Jackson saying, "I am an Alaska Native and I did this climb and ski in 1987." If anyone knows Jon, tell him I'd like to hear about his trip.

I knew only an Alaskan would be game for a trip with guaranteed bad snow, mosquitoes, bears, and almost no route information. The résumé of Anchorage resident and photographer Matt Hage boasts a healthy list of whacked Alaskan trips—and he had guns. We'd never been on a big trip together and we'd never been in the Brooks Range.

In early June, Wrights Air Service landed us on a gravel bar along the Hulahula River, named by whalers nostalgic for Hawaii in the nineteenth century. This would be our base camp for the next 12 days. Not too far away, in 2005, the Hulahula became national news when a rogue grizzly bear

ate two kayakers. To avoid becoming bear fodder, Matt and I brought pepper spray, bear-proof food canisters, a battery-powered electric fence, a 12 gauge shotgun and a .44 handgun. I'd never shot a gun. I hoped Matt had good aim at charging bears or that I could run faster than Matt.

When the bushplane's drone became a distant buzz, we cracked a round of Modelos and examined our situation. We were 7,500 feet below the summit of Chamberlin, 13 miles from its base and on the opposite side the mountain from where we planned to be because of flooded landing strips. We also saw no snow.



For two days Matt and I lugged our ski gear in crushing packs up Katak Creek. Three times we saw grizzlies running from us across the tundra and we began to feel okay about leaving the

guns at base camp. Under blue skies, we established high camp at 5,000 feet in the green tundra below the summit pyramid of Mount Chamberlin. Then the fog rolled in.

Next morning, crouching in our micro tent, we nibbled at our meager supplies as a thick mixture of snow and rain saturated the tent. I fumed with annoying repetition, “Maybe we should go for it. Maybe we’ll climb above it.” But fog and rain mean a negative budget to a photographer. If Matt knew me better, he would have told me to “calm-the-fuck-down,” like friends on previous expeditions have done a thousand times before. Matt just looked at me wide-eyed and smiled nervously. When the bad weather won, we descended to the Hulahula base camp for more armaments and returned the next day to watch the clouds and the barometer.



The fog cracked on the seventh morning. I bolted from the tent like an unleashed sled dog and headed toward the east ridge. When I realized Matt was far behind, I paced in circles and studied the map until he caught up. Where our 1958 map showed glacier, we skinned up a moraine-filled basin through broken clouds and emerged on the boulder-covered east ridge at 7,000 feet.



We scrambled through the snow-coated boulders, kicked steps up a 45-degree snow face, and reached the summit ridge above the Chamberlin Glacier. The recent storm had created thin bridges over the crevasses—a dangerous situation for climbing and skiing. When my foot punched through the roof of a crevasse into a cavern of glittering crystals, we tied ourselves together 30 feet apart with a 5-millimeter Dyneema rope and continued kicking steps up the twisting snow arête to the summit of the Brooks Range.

Standing on the summit of one of the most remote high points in North America probably should've brewed more sentiment, but all peaks in Alaska are remote. We saw mountains in all directions, a blanket of fog covering the Arctic coastal plain to the north, and no sign of humans. What I did feel was the crushing weight of eight months of planning and uncertainty begin to lift. Matt, who had been more optimistic about the outcome of this trip than I, saw my mood improve and we laughed together.



We clicked into our skis—me on alpine touring, Matt on telemark—relieved to have them off our backs—and made unroped, controlled turns on the 40-degree snow-coated glacier ice crest of the Chamberlin Glacier. The other side of the crest was a corniced wall dropping near vertical to a distant valley. The snow was fun and easy, despite the light being flat enough to give a cat vertigo. Past the last crevasse, we opened our turns up, carving fast sweepers on hero corn. A thousand feet above camp, the snow deteriorated into the Brooks Range's notorious isothermal slop and we sank thigh-deep midway through each turn. Eventually we gave up, shouldered our skis, and stumbled down loose moraine to camp.

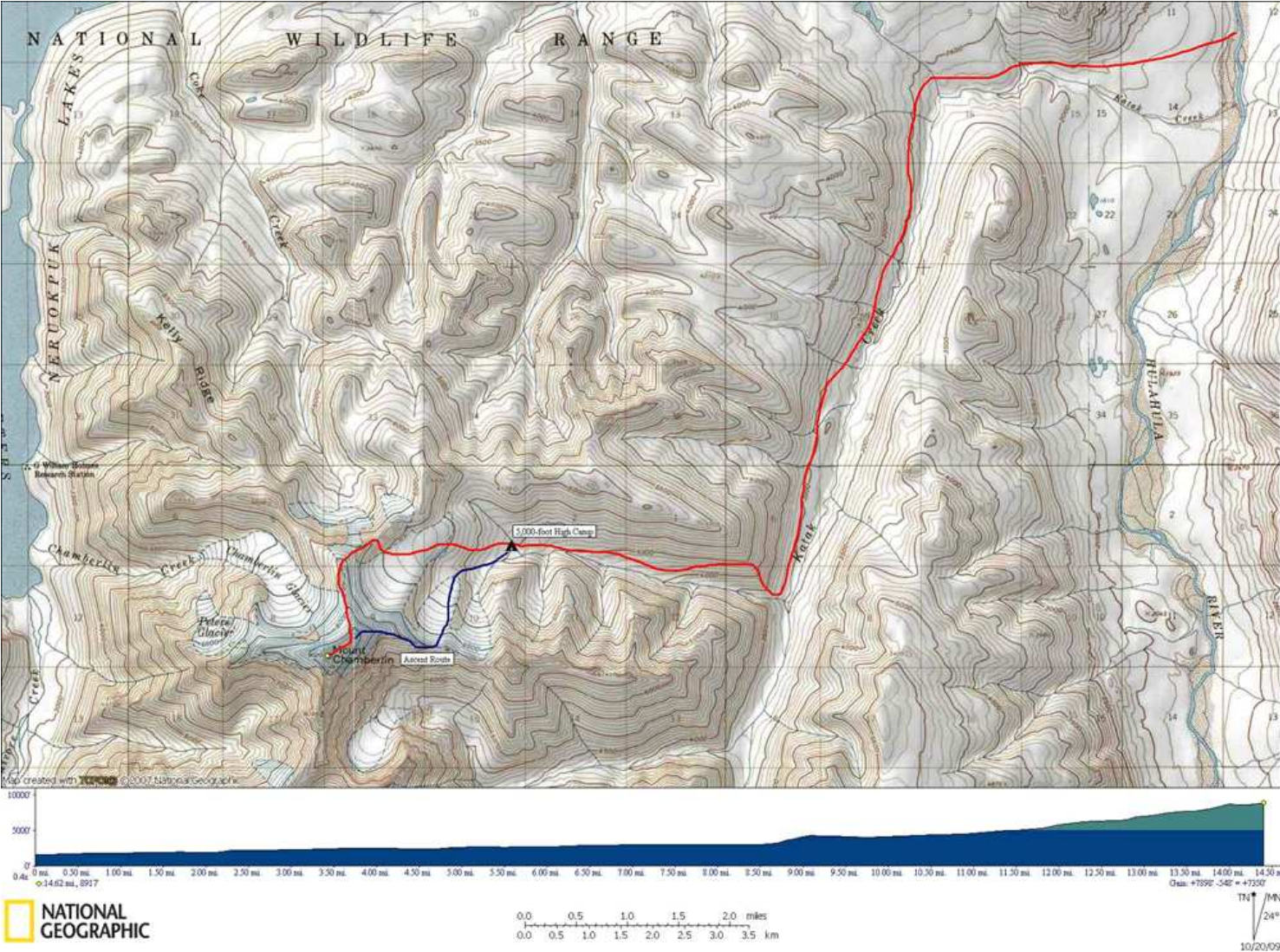
For three more days, Matt and I camped at 5,000 feet, venturing into the midnight sun to make corn runs at 7,000 feet before the daily build-up of clouds. On our second-to-last day before our scheduled pickup, we packed up camp and trudged the 13 miles back out to the Hulahula landing strip to wait for Wrights Air Service.



If you ran the calculations, you'd find skiing Mount Chamberlin contrived—we carried our skis and boots more than we wore them. But the question is: would we have gone to Chamberlin without skis? If we'd summited Chamberlin without them, surely we'd have raved, "WHY didn't we bring our skis?!" We did bring skis, though, and they were so worth it. Skiing gave us a reason for a crazy, irrational adventure, and those summit turns were world class.

See more photos at Joe's website  
[www.stockalpine.com](http://www.stockalpine.com).

**Special thanks** to the Hans Saari Memorial Fund and Osprey for making this trip possible.

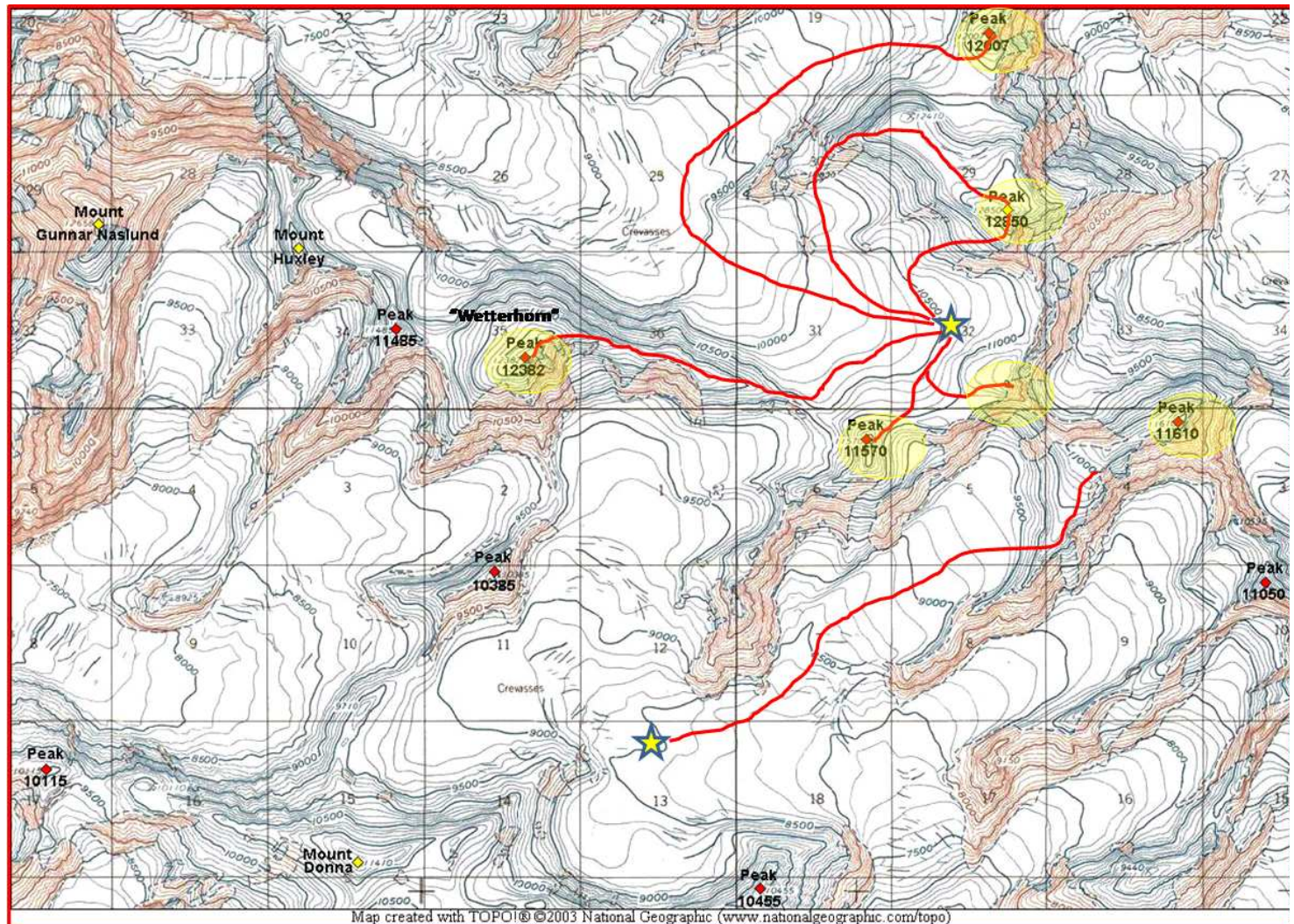


# Peak Bagging in the Saint Elias Mountains (P12850, P12382, P12007, P11570, Point 11500, P11610)

by David Hart

Mountaineering in the St. Elias Mountains typically elicits thoughts of big peaks, big packs, and bad weather. That is certainly the case for many of the better-known peaks I have visited in the range. However, this spring I had the good fortune of spending two weeks day-tripping a half-dozen 11,000 to 12,000-foot peaks from a 10,500-foot base camp at the head of the eastern branch of the Barnard Glacier, 5 miles south of Mount Bear (14,831').

Paul Claus and Charlie Sassara attempted P12850 in spring 1994, stopping just short of the summit. Claus returned later that summer for the first ascent (Claus solo; see page 2 of the Mountaineering Club of Alaska's April 1995 Scree newsletter with P12850 incorrectly referenced as its sub-peak P12410). The next summer Ruedi Homberger and Carlos Buhler made the second ascent of P12850 en route to a ski traverse of Mt. Bear. Paul Claus, Ruedi Homberger, Christine Kopp, Peter Stadler, and Stefan Wyss returned to the area in 1996 making the first ascent of P12382 (calling it Wetterhorn; see page 185 of the 1997 AAJ). No additional ascents have since been recorded in the area. After reading Charlie's description as "one of the great training areas in the region with excellent skiing, ice climbing and alpine climbing," it's been on my wish list for over 10 years.



On May 3, 2009 Brad Gessner, Hans Neidig, Stuart Parks, Wayne Todd, Jeannie Wall, Carrie Wang and I flew from the Ultima Thule Lodge with pilot Paul Claus to our base camp three

miles from the Canadian border. Over the next seven days, our group would summit five peaks: P12382 via east ridge (2<sup>nd</sup> ascent [entire party], new route, AK grade 2);

Point 11500 (entire party) and P11570 (1<sup>st</sup> ascent [Hart and Wall], 2<sup>nd</sup> ascent [Gessner, Parks, Todd, and Wang], 3<sup>rd</sup> ascent [Neidig, Wang], AK grade 1); P12850 via southwest ramp (3<sup>rd</sup> ascent [Gessner, Neidig, Parks, Todd, and Wang] and 4<sup>th</sup> ascent [Hart, Neidig, and Wall], new route, AK grade 1); P12007 via southwest slopes (1<sup>st</sup> ascent entire party, AK grade 2); and P12850 traverse via west ridge over Point 12410 (5<sup>th</sup> ascent [Hart and Wall], new route, 13 pitches, 50-degree snow/ice).

Our group of seven was broken into three rope teams: Jeannie, Hans and I; Wayne and Carrie; and Brad and Stu. This allowed us to operate as a large group some days, and as individual teams on other days. We had social climbing and camping at its best, with 4 sleeping tents and a common megamid dining tent.

After spending the first few hours of May 3 setting

up our base camp, Jeannie and I skinned up towards P11570. A small crevasse turned us back a few hundred feet from the summit. We reveled in the hero powder as we linked turns back to camp.

May 4 found our entire group anxious to poke our heads up the most striking route in the area, the unclimbed east ridge of P12382 (Wetterhorn). A couple of us were still feeling the effects of the altitude so we didn't leave camp until 11am, planning to set a trail part way to the summit before returning to camp. We should have known better. The weather was pleasant, snow conditions favorable, and the route fun so



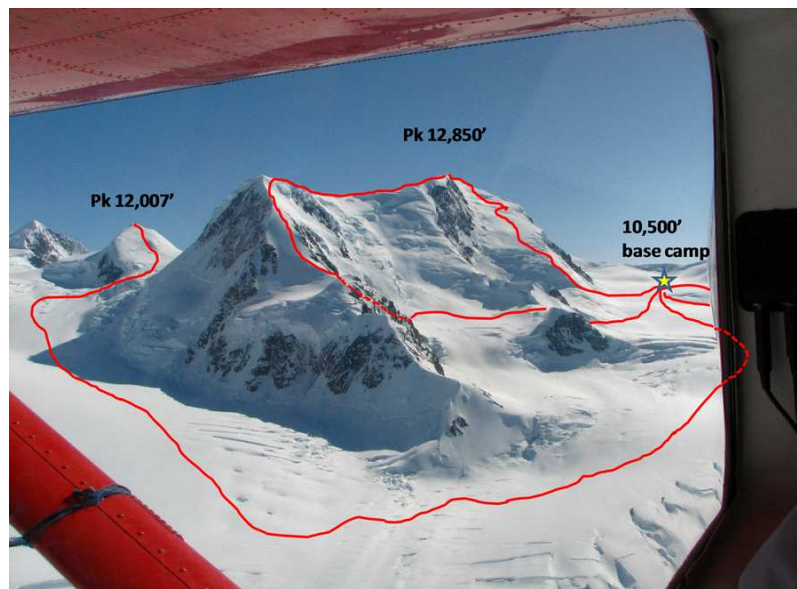
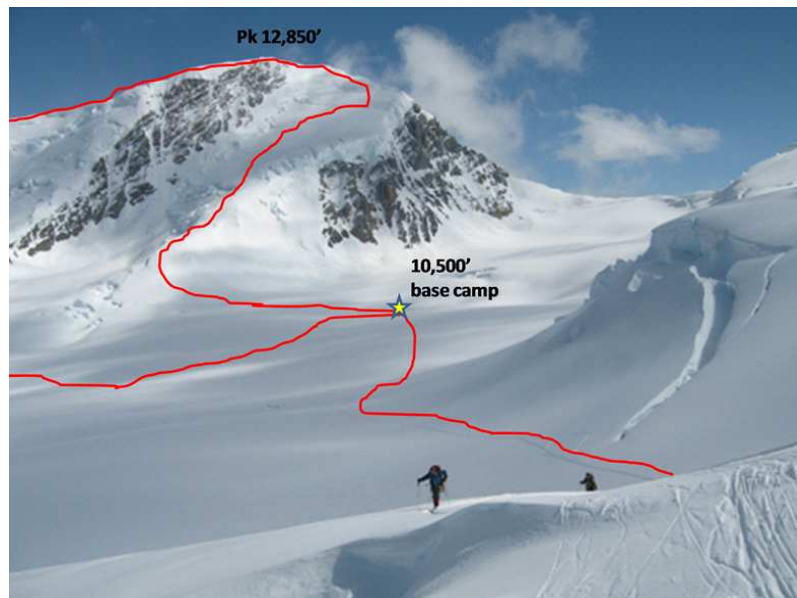
we saw no reason to turn back. We alternated leads with occasional running picket belays and before we knew it, we were on top in a localized white-out at 6pm. Three hours later we were back in camp after a nice 10-hour day making the second ascent of the Wetterhorn by a new route up the beautiful east ridge. Only then did Brad admit to not bringing any food since we told him it was only a few hour hike, not an all day summit bid.

May 5 warranted an easier day. At 11am Jeannie and I skinned back up to P11570 as the rest of the crew hung out in camp. We brought

proper ice gear to bypass the crevasse that previously turned us back. By 1:30pm we had completed the anticlimactic first ascent in building clouds just as the rest of the gang was leaving camp. We met the others on our descent, and all decided to ski up the nearby Point 11500. Snow squalls commenced and within 30 minutes it was GPS navigation to the summit in 30-yard visibility. We were back in camp by 5pm enjoying grilled pesto and cheese quesadillas.

May 6 found us ready for another big day. The highest peak circling our basin was P12850, climbed twice previously from the north. The southwest ramp looked straightforward, aside from some massive crevasses splitting the upper face. Our entire group headed up at a leisurely 11am start time. Wayne and Carrie had the forethought to wear their snowshoes while the rest of us wallowed behind. By 2:30pm we were at the largest crevasse at 12,000' in deteriorating weather. Jeannie, Hans and I turned back due to

limited visibility, while Wayne, Carrie, Brad and Stu carried on. They reached the summit in whiteout conditions, and arrived back in camp by 5:30pm, 90 minutes after us.



May 7 found Jeannie, Hans and I anxious to follow the tracks up P12850 at 9:30am, while the others elected for a more leisurely day up P11570. By this time we had tracks all over the basin, simply pick a trail and start skiing. Hans and I were on snow shoes while Jeannie skied to the 12,000' crevasse. By 1pm we were on the summit enjoying nice views of the area, though clouds were quickly building. By the time Jeannie strapped on her skis 30 minutes later, it was pea soup as she descended into the mist. Hans and I arrived back at camp at 3pm, almost an hour after Jeannie.

By May 8 we had climbed the 4 peaks easily accessible from camp. The only other day trip option was the unclimbed P12007. Access was by skiing a couple miles down glacier to 9,300-feet then wrapping around the west and north of P12850. Our only glimpse of P12007 had been on the flight in, so we were a bit unsure of the route hazards. After the 6" of overnight snow and 3-feet since our arrival, we knew we were in for some trail-breaking work. We left camp at 11am under glorious sun. By 2pm it was boiling hot and the melting snow was clomping on our ski skins terribly. We stopped to apply skin wax, which helped immensely. By 3pm we were working our way into the icefall with waning visibility, typically unadvisable. We swapped leads a couple times due to the mental fatigue necessary to choose the correct route through the crevasses in the fog. Eventually we reached the 11,500' saddle between P12007 and P12850 as the snow intensified. After discussing

which route to take, Wayne, Carrie, Brad and Stu headed up the direct southwest face in improving visibility. We watched them encounter blue ice and start front-pointing and placing ice screws. Thinking it simpler and faster, the three of us opted to try the right hand skyline which appeared more gradual and snowy. That was indeed the case; however, spooky avalanche conditions turned us back after 30 minutes. By this time, the bottleneck had cleared as the others were on the summit so we followed their route through a couple pitches of 50-degree ice. We re-joined a couple hundred feet below the summit, then again at our skis. Amazingly, the clouds dissipated, the snow quit, and it was a pleasant summit. The ski back through the ice fall and glacier below was heavenly through fresh powder. Our entire team was linking S-turns for a good 1,500-feet of descent. The last couple miles back up glacier to our base camp was a slog through increasing clouds and snow. We were all happy to dive into our tents at 9pm after another 10-hour day.

May 9 was another light day. Jeannie and I still wanted to try the unclimbed and interesting looking west ridge of P12850 in our remaining two days. We headed out at noon to break a trail to the base of the ridge and part way up. We made it to 11,000' to the start of the technical climbing in 4 hours round trip. The weather finally seemed to stabilize and sun continued all afternoon. A good omen for the next day's planned traverse over P12850, descending the southwest ramp. Brad, Stu and Wayne skied to the overlook between P11570 and P11500 while Hans and Carrie climbed P11570. All in all a great day in a beautiful spot.

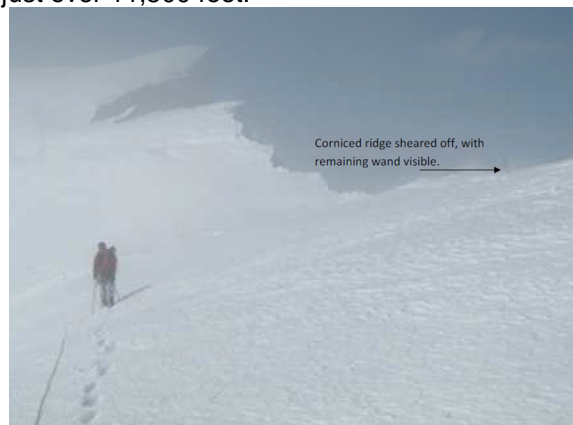
May 10 found Jeannie and I out of camp at 9am. We carried snow shoes along with technical gear, since we had no idea what the icy ridge or 1-mile plateau had in store for us. We reached our high point from the day before by 11am.



13 pitches of 50 degree snow and ice later, we topped out on the plateau below false summit P12410. We swapped ice tools for ski poles and continued across the plateau, P12850 visible one mile to the south. Occasional snow drifts made for deep post-holing, but we never donned our snow shoes. By 3pm we were on the summit. Our previous tracks were gone due to the two feet of snow since our last visit 3 days earlier. Clouds were building so we spent only a couple minutes on top. As we headed down our original route, something didn't quite look right. We had left wands along the summit ridge to mark the route, but none were visible. The terrain also looked a bit steeper and more exposed. Then it hit me, the corniced ridge we had ascended had sheared off for 200 linear feet, leaving a serrated and exposed drop to the valley below.

Once we gathered our bearings, we front pointed as far from the remaining edge as possible before regaining the broad slopes further down. From here, we wallowed through the 2 feet of fresh powder, linking wands and GPS waypoints back to camp. This traverse was one of the highlights of the trip, with some very enjoyable climbing. We also reinforced our respect for cornices, especially in marginal weather. Hans and Carrie relaxed in camp while Brad, Stu and Wayne spent part of the day exploring the south ridge of

P12850. They managed a few pitches up the mixed rock and ice terrain before turning back at just over 11,500 feet.

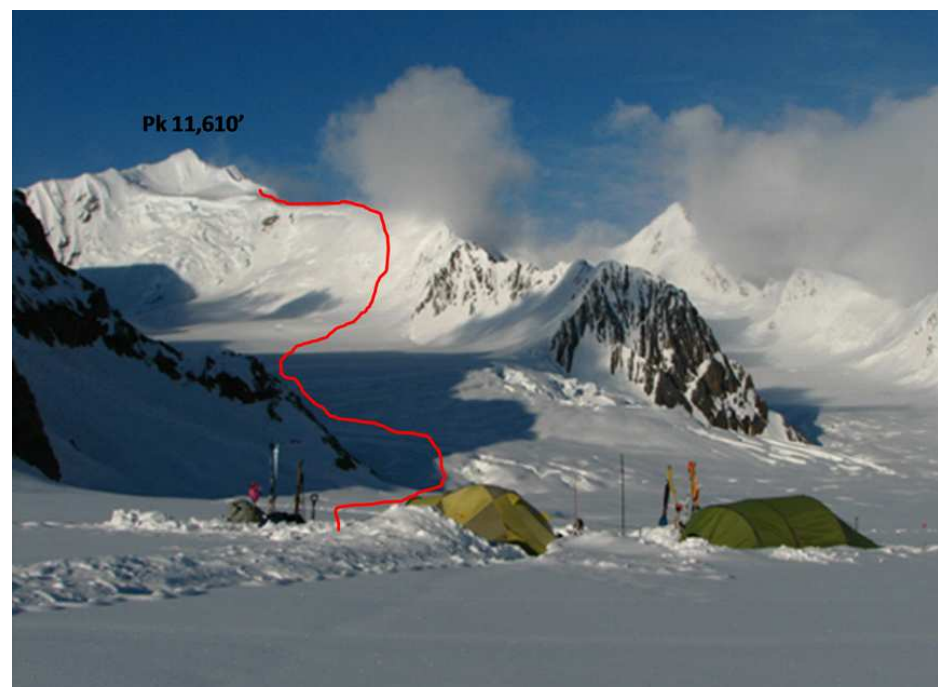


Our last evening in camp was spent reminiscing over the last week's adventures, knowing Paul Claus would return for us in the morning. Brad, Stu and Hans had to get back to work, but the remaining four of us opted to fly back in for five more days after a weather day at the Lodge. Some of the closer options were still socked in so we opted to return to an area near where we had just been.

On the afternoon of May 12, 2009 Jeannie, Wayne, Carrie, and I flew to a new base camp 3 miles south at 8,500 feet on the upper Tittmann Glacier, a spot Paul Claus had never previously landed. After setting up camp, we skied 3 miles east towards P11610, setting tracks for a planned ascent the next day. This was perhaps the nicest evening of the trip with wonderful sun and alpenglow. Our spirits were

high with good weather forecasted for the next five days.

Unfortunately May 13 brought clouds and snow. We left camp in whiteout conditions at 10am, navigating by wands and GPS to our previous evening's high point. From there we headed up as best we could, reaching the long southwest ridge summit plateau at 11,000-feet. Unfortunately, the weather was not cooperating. We sat for an hour hanging out hoping the clouds would break, but to no avail. We down-climbed back to our skis and headed back to camp by early afternoon. The next three days continued snowing, until the afternoon of the 16<sup>th</sup> when sun returned. Unfortunately, our pickup day was the following morning, effectively cancelling any opportunities for climbing on this second trip. Several more unclimbed peaks in this area beckon for a return, including the challenging P11610 and P11050, the striking P10455, and the walkup P10385.



# Peak of the Month: Schwanda Peak

by Steve Gruhn

Mountain Range: Brooks Range; Romanzof Mountains  
Borough: North Slope Borough  
Drainages: Hubley Glacier and Schwanda Glacier  
Latitude/Longitude: 69° 16' 40" North, 143° 45' 29" West  
Elevation: 8575 feet

Prominence: 525 feet from Contact Peak (8680)

Adjacent Peaks: Contact Peak and Mount Hubley (8915)

Distinctness: 525 feet from Contact Peak

USGS Map: Demarcation Point (B-5)

First Recorded Ascent: August 14, 1977, by Vess Irvine, Ken

Jonaitis, Rick Mohun, and William Rodamor

Route of First Recorded Ascent: West ridge

Access Point: Lower Jago River

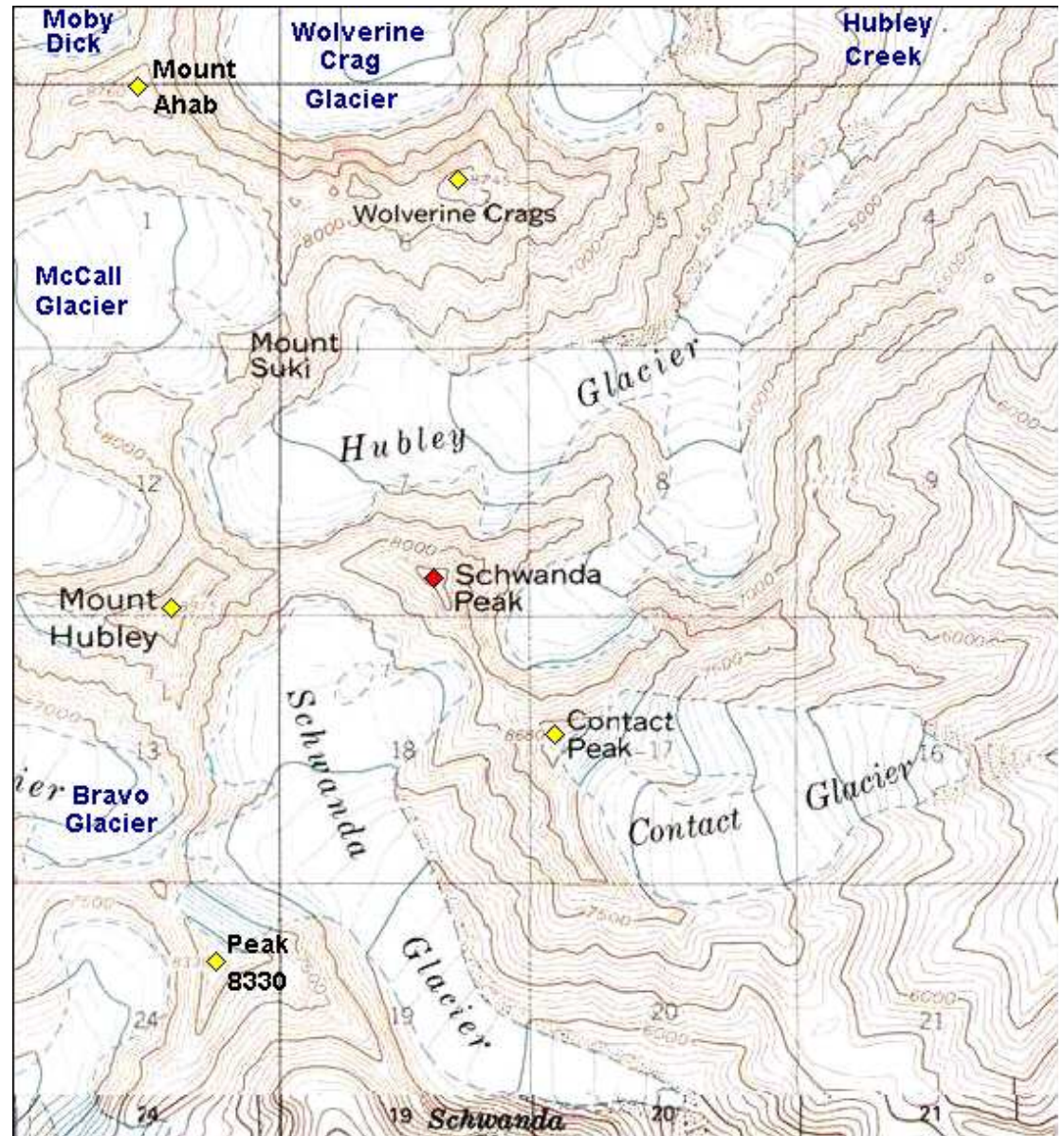
Schwanda Peak was named after the Schwanda Glacier, which had been named in 1957 by personnel participating in the International Geophysical Year glaciological work in the Romanzof Mountains. Although the personnel were based near the nearby McCall Glacier, Schwanda Peak wasn't climbed until 20 years later.

Although the USGS map doesn't specify Schwanda Peak's summit elevation, Robert W. Mason, in an article entitled "The McCall Glacier Project and Its Logistics" that appeared in the 1959 issue of *Arctic*, specified its summit elevation as 8575 feet.

In August 1977 Rodamor led his partners up the Jago River and over a 7250-foot pass to the Hulahula River. In a 17-hour day on August 14, the party hiked up Hubley Creek to the Hubley Glacier, ascended the northern fork of the glacier, and climbed 800 feet of firm, 45-degree snow to the 7850-foot col between Mount Hubley and Schwanda Peak. They then climbed the loose talus of the west ridge to Schwanda Peak's summit.

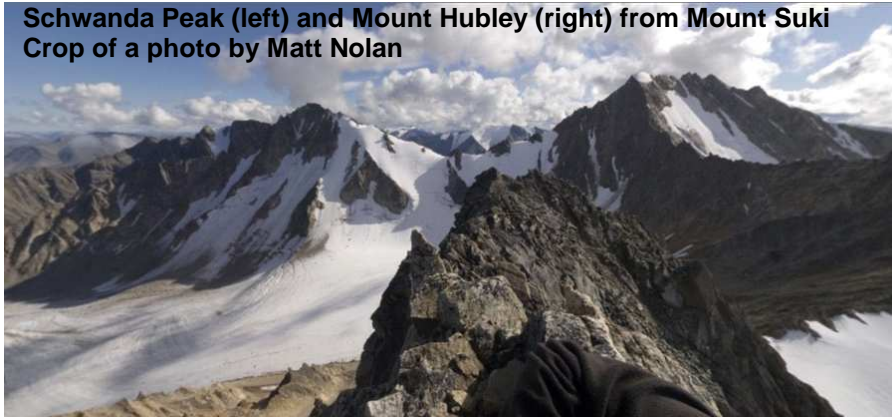
Ten days later, Irvine and Rodamor climbed Tupik, a 7955-foot peak about 12 miles south of Schwanda Peak near the headwaters of the Jago River. The entire party then ascended the 7250-foot pass approximately 4 miles northwest of Tupik and descended to the Hulahula River.

Rodamor's account of the trip appeared on page 515 of the 1978 *American Alpine Journal*.



Map created with TOPO!® ©2003 National Geographic ([www.nationalgeographic.com/topo](http://www.nationalgeographic.com/topo))

Schwanda Peak (left) and Mount Hubley (right) from Mount Suki  
Crop of a photo by Matt Nolan



## Spherical Panoramic Photography

The photo of Schwanda Peak on the left is cropped from an interactive spherical panoramic photograph by Dr. Matt Nolan (University of Alaska Fairbanks.) Access it with the link at the end of this article. Left click to pause rotation. Move your cursor off the picture to stop it. Use your cursor and left click to move the picture right, left, up and down.

More information and examples of spherical panoramas and gigapixel panoramas are at this link:

[http://www.uaf.edu/water/faculty/nolan/drmatt\\_photography.htm](http://www.uaf.edu/water/faculty/nolan/drmatt_photography.htm)

[http://www.uaf.edu/water/faculty/nolan/personal/McCall\\_Aug07/pano\\_070809\\_1556.swf](http://www.uaf.edu/water/faculty/nolan/personal/McCall_Aug07/pano_070809_1556.swf)



## Indecision is NOT in. Or is it? Can't decide

By Dave Lynch

Tony Lutes, Craig Hastings, Dave Lynch – 12/06/09

Tony drives a tool in and a slow growing crack splits out and across the ice in a horizontal line. Craig feels a little rumble pass 20 feet down the pillar, continue under his belay station and disappear further on down the hill. “Ah, guys, I don’t know about this...” Tony is almost topped out on this vertical section, which sounded pretty hollow the whole climb up. Open water runs freely about 15 feet to his right and disappears below the ice that Craig stands on. I’m watching from the sidelines sitting on a little snow ledge I had stamped out earlier. “Yeah, hey, if you don’t feel right about that, come on down and let’s move over to the left a little,” I yell up to Tony.

We had skied in from the old railroad station earlier that morning. We started before dawn and enjoyed our first phenomenal light show of the

day as the sun came up spreading pink, red, and orange light across the sky. After a long ski across a lot of ice and an occasional patch of snow we pull up to “Indecision” and “Fate is a Hunter” to find two waterfalls with a little ice hanging around water pouring into the open water of the pond below. We lose our skis and consider heading back out, driving over to “Five Fingers” and climbing there. Further up we see some pretty good looking pillars of ice. I strip down to change shirts and cool off for a couple minutes while Tony and Craig check out a snow slope which might get us up above this lower section that we obviously won’t be climbing.



Sunrise on the ski in, Photo by Tony Lutes



**Craig Hastings, Photo by Dave Lynch**

After downing some water and a turkey wrap I head over to the right of the waterfalls to see where Tony and Craig had disappeared. I spot them about 75 feet up a gully and head on up. We continue up, scrambling through thick alders trying to avoid the devil's club sticking out everywhere. Finally after some considerable scrambling, post-holing through snow, snagging packs and, banging helmets on branches we clear the alders and find some climbable ice. Or so it appeared.

We drop our large packs and pull out smaller summit packs. Pull on the harness, put the crampons on, rack the gear, grab some slings and we're ready to climb. Tony heads up, the BIG crack and a couple minutes later Tony is back down to the belay station. We all move over to the left side away from the running water. We pick out a line which appears a little less hollow. Tony could use a rest so Craig puts me on belay and I head up. Feels pretty good. A low-angle slab, then about 20 feet of steep ice, then a lower-angle slab again leads to another steep section. I have to shovel snow with the adze on the lower angles to get through to some good ice to stick. The final steep section of ice tops out and turns into a snow climb and I claw my way up and over and tie off on some alders and put Craig

on belay; he trails a rope and climbs up, Tony follows. We solo up an easy snow chute to the next steep ice section.

**Craig on Lead, Photo by Tony Lutes**



Craig leads it. Tony has him on belay. I'm hanging out on another snow shelf. We bullshit for awhile, enjoy the view. We're up about 500 feet now and we watch a single-engine plane fly by below us out in Portage Valley. The sun starts to slip lower on the horizon. Craig yells, "OFF!" then he has Tony "ON BELAY!" Tony climbs, trails a rope for me. Tony yells, "OFF!" then I'm "ON BELAY!" I was wondering what took Craig so long on this pitch until I get up to the holey section. Big holes in the ice everywhere, Water rushing down below. Sometimes you can see the rock below the water; sometimes not. A steep section with a sliver of ice on the left looks like the only route up. I head up, hooking the holes, trying to swing delicately. I join the two up at the belay station and congratulate Craig on a nice lead.

Tony racks up for his lead. He heads up and sets up another belay on a nice ledge near another large open section of pouring water. Craig and I follow. We're up about 700 feet, maybe 50 feet from the top, but the sun has slipped behind the

mountains and we decide to call it. We take a short break, drink some water, break out the headlamps, snap some pictures of another amazing light display as the sun goes down, and set up our rappel.

I am first on rappel and I head down. There's always a moment on a climb when everything else in life fades to nothing and I'm one hundred percent in the moment and just loving what I'm doing and where I am. That moment came at the second rap station. We're all three clipped in to the anchor. We stand on a ledge just big enough for the three of us. Ice curtain to our left, rock roof above, rock wall to our right, the sound of water rushing down below the ice,

We all turn off our headlamps and the black of night wraps around us. Stars decorate the black sky. It's indescribable; all problems, worries, animosities, hopes, and dreams fade away – none of it is important up here, 500 feet above flat ground and our skis.



**Rappel Station 2, Photo by Tony Lutes**

## Adze

For Sale

Salomon Super Mountain Expert Boot, Size US 11, EU 45. Too small for me. 1 season of use, great condition. Paid ~\$300 at AMH, a couple years ago; make me an offer. "Salomon boots -- the classic mountaineering companion. Thanks to their crampon compatibility, full foot wrapping rand and high tech climbing chassis. 200g Thinsulate(R) insulation designed for high activity levels traps warm air. Heavy-duty lugged Contagrip(TM) outsole packs some serious bite for rugged peaks. Gusseted tongue Suede and synthetic uppers Height: 6, Weight: 4 lb. 6 oz. pr."

David.hart@pxd.com - 244-1722

## Board Meeting Minutes, November 4, 2009

**Note:** Tasks to be completed in ***bold italics***.

*Board and Executive Committee members present:* Wayne Todd, Ross Noffsinger, Tim Silvers, Travis Taylor, Brian Aho, Mark Smith, Mark Kimerer, Tony Lutes and Greg Bragiel.

*Others present:* Mary-Beth Bragiel and Steve Gruhn

(1) New board members, committee members, and other club positions: Wayne Todd (President, re-elected), Ross Noffsinger (Vice-President, re-elected), Tim Silvers (Treasurer), Brian Aho (Secretary), Tony Lutes (Director, Librarian), Travis Taylor (Director), Dave Lynch (Refreshments), Carlene Van Tol (email list service moderator)

(2) PR material: New MCA brochure and business cards are available for distribution. Wayne and Ross are working on a new website under the guidance of Billy Finley. ***Need to supply information for history section, determine which content is accessible to members/non-members.***

(3) Membership dues: no increase without detailed budget report and support of general membership through process that makes necessity for increase transparent. Annual dues remain at \$15 per person / \$25 per family.

(4) Scree: printed versions are expensive (currently \$18 p.a. for printing and mailing) and we are losing money. ***Review list of subscribers and determine how many people still receive hardcopy and who will accept digital***

***version. Review list of honorary recipients*** (distribution at no cost to subscriber, i.e. AMH, REI, UAA, honorary members), ***cancel subscriptions where appropriate***. Possibly increase cost for hardcopies in the future.

(5) Hatcher Pass Management Plan and Chugach State Park Trails: public comment period closed, awaiting results. ***Looking for additional help to support Cory Hinds*** (Parks Advisory Representative) with writing documents, ***ask at next general membership meeting***.

(6) MCA Library: currently hosted at home of Tony Lutes. Tony reports recent discussion with Max Gruner (Alaska Trails, [www.alaska-trails.org/about\\_us/directors.htm](http://www.alaska-trails.org/about_us/directors.htm)) and the possibility of establishing the new library there (for office location and hours see website). ***Tony will explore this further***. Other option is potentially at Alaska Backpackers Inn ([www.alaskabackpackers.com](http://www.alaskabackpackers.com)) but location at AK Trails may be preferable.

(7) Requirements and incentives for MCA Trip Leaders: Based on the declining number of official MCA trips in 2009, the board discussed possible causes and various incentives to make becoming a trip leader more attractive. Propositions made: Partial reimbursement for Wilderness First Aid (50%) and Level 1 Avalanche (33%) training after a certain number of trips (two?) have been lead. Ideas for rewards: special MCA shirt that cannot be purchased; point system for leading trips was dismissed. Also need to establish Trip Leadership Training program, clearly communicate minimum requirements for future trip leaders to general membership and reflect changes in our policy for MCA sanctioned trips. ***Tim, Ross, Tony will lead work on this. Hiking and Climbing Committee (Jayme Dixon) will need additional volunteer.***

(8) Liability insurance for MCA Board of Directors and Officers: Jayme Dixon is pursuing (also possibly in conjunction with event insurance and trip leader and training instructor insurance).

(9) Bock's Den hut (Matanuska Glacier): decommissioned and completely disassembled by Greg Bragiel and team. ***Remove from hut list on website.***

(10) Hut log database: archived hut logs currently at Wayne's residence, ***Tony*** has last log from Bock's Den and ***will inventory logs***. Possibly make logs available on website.

(11) MCA directory: ***Brian Aho to provide*** MCA Board of Directors and John Recktenwald (Scree Editor) with ***updated email and phone directory***.

(12) MCA Equipment: housed at Troy Rhodes / ServiceMaster shop. Some equipment still in Steve Parry's possession. We need current inventory of

equipment and establish rope log, **Travis Taylor and Mark Kimerer will work on this. Wayne will contact Steve Parry.**

(13) Christmas Party: MCA will provide pizza (Moose's Tooth, **Ross Noffsinger will coordinate this**) and members are encouraged to bring side dishes / desserts.

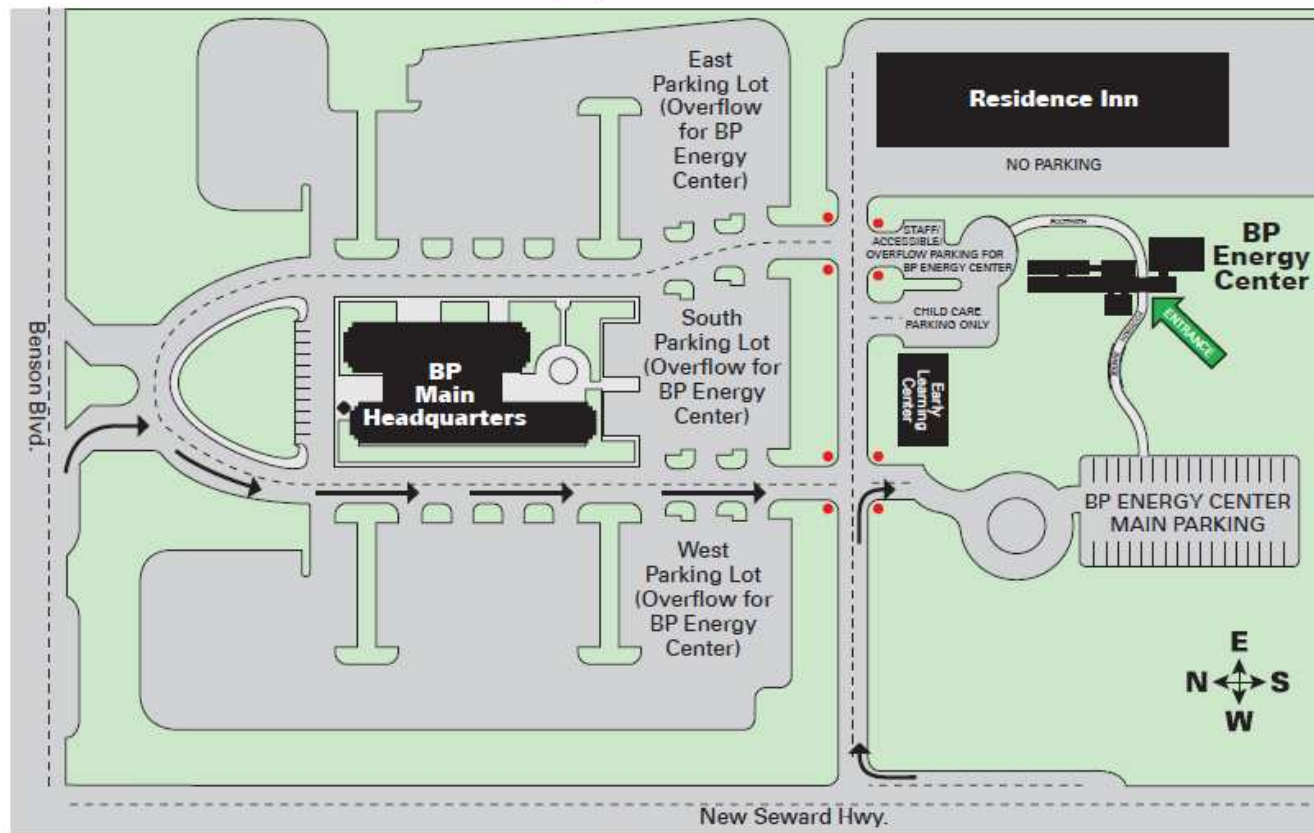
(14) Budget review: **Travis to email budget to Board of Directors** prior to next board meeting.

(15) Miscellaneous: Wayne is traveling December 3rd - 22nd and won't be able to attend meetings or the Christmas Party. Thereafter, Wayne will provide a copy of the agenda to the board prior to each meeting.

**Next board meeting: Wednesday, November 18, 2009 @ 17:30**  
Brian Aho, Secretary

## Map to BP Energy Center

900 E. Benson Blvd., Anchorage, AK  
(907) 743-4270



Directions: If northbound on New Seward Hwy., turn right into BP's southwest entrance. Turn right at the first stop sign into the BP Energy Center parking lot. Follow footpath through woods to building entrance.

If eastbound on Benson Blvd., turn right into BP's main entrance. Turn right and follow access road to 4-way stop. Continue through intersection into the BP Energy Center parking lot.

# Mountaineering Club of Alaska

## 2010 PROPOSED BUDGET

\*Final 12/31/09

		Proposed for 2010	Change 10 vs 09	Approved for 2009	Current for 2009*
<b>REVENUE</b>					
Membership Dues	<i>received during calendar year</i>	\$7,000.00	3%	\$6,800.00	\$8,315.00
Scree subscriptions		\$200.00	-33%	\$300.00	\$160.00
Training	<i>BMS, ice climbing, rock climbing, other</i>	\$5,800.00	-11%	\$6,500.00	\$7,950.00
Photo Calendar		\$3,000.00	0%	\$3,000.00	\$1,395.00
MCA Products: T-Shirts, Patches, Etc.		\$0.00	-100%	\$500.00	\$690.00
Donations		\$0.00	0%	\$0.00	\$95.00
Other--Interest on Accounts		\$200.00	0%	\$200.00	\$215.86
Other		\$0.00	0%	\$0.00	\$0.00
<b>TOTAL REVENUE</b>		<b>\$16,200.00</b>		<b>\$17,300.00</b>	<b>\$18,820.86</b>
<b>EXPENSE</b>					
Training	<i>campsite, access fees, instructors, trip leaders</i>	\$5,300.00	10%	\$4,800.00	\$3,218.78
Scree	<i>postage, mailing, printing</i>	\$2,300.00	0%	\$2,300.00	\$1,999.29
General Meeting	<i>rent, refreshments, entertainment</i>	\$2,200.00	10%	\$2,000.00	\$1,978.10
Administrative	<i>supplies, forms, PO box, bank fees, phone, web site</i>	\$1,000.00	100%	\$500.00	\$613.34
Hut Construction & Maint.	<i>materials, supplies, hut equipment, lease fees</i>	\$2,500.00	-50%	\$5,000.00	\$9,963.71
Insurance		\$3,000.00	NEW	\$0.00	\$0.00
Club Equipment	<i>climbing gear, misc equipment</i>	\$500.00	-29%	\$700.00	\$498.70
Library	<i>new books, periodicals, Scree binding</i>	\$100.00	-80%	\$500.00	\$0.00
Other:	<i>miscellaneous expenses</i>	\$0.00	0%	\$0.00	\$0.00
Photo Calendar		\$2,600.00	0%	\$2,600.00	\$2,190.00
MCA Products: T-Shirts, Patches, Etc.		\$0.00	0%	\$0.00	\$0.00
Other - Awards		\$800.00	167%	\$300.00	\$270.60
<b>TOTAL EXPENSE</b>		<b>\$20,300.00</b>		<b>\$18,700.00</b>	<b>\$20,732.52</b>
<b>DUE TO (FROM) RESERVE (To Balance)</b>		<b>(4,100.00)</b>		<b>(1,400.00)</b>	<b>(1,911.66)</b>

### CASH BALANCE - All Accounts

Beginning Balance - January 1, 2009	\$22,279.79
Increase (decrease) during 2009	(\$1,911.66)
<b>Current Balance for 2009</b>	<b>\$20,368.13</b>
Checking - Credit Union 1	\$2,389.79
Money Mkt and CDs - Credit Union 1 (.75 - 1.89%)	\$14,765.90
Savings - Credit Union 1 (.7%)	\$2,021.59
18-month CD - in trust for hut lease - Northrim Bank (1.25%)	\$1,140.85
Petty Cash	\$50.00
Ending Balance - December 31, 2009	\$20,368.13

The 2009-2010 MCA Board reviewed budgets from 2005-2009 and the following projections of revenue and expenses were unanimously approved to present to the membership. Please review as we will vote on the proposed budget at the January 20, 2010 General Membership Meeting.

## 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  
Box 102037  
Anchorage AK 99510**

## **Mountaineering Club of Alaska**

President	Wayne Todd	522-6354	Board member	Jayne Dixon	382-0212
Vice-President	Ross Noffsinger	336-2233	Board member	Mark Kimerer	360-5935
Secretary	Brian Aho	223-4758	Board member	Travis Taylor	382-4823
Treasurer	Tim Silvers	250-3374	Board member	Mark Smith	868-3155
			Board member	Tony Lutes	242-3559

**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 e-mailed to the Scree Editor or submitted on the web at [www.mcak.org](http://www.mcak.org) Articles can be submitted anytime.**

**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 one 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  
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)**