

the SCREE

Mountaineering Club of Alaska

November 2011

Volume 54 Number 11



Monthly Meeting:

Wednesday, November 16 at 6:30 p.m.

Program: The Emmons-Winthrop Route on Mount Rainier by Tim Silvers.

Contents:

A Non-Traditional Route up Gunsight Mountain

Climbing up to Greet Winter

Savoring Autumn before the Whiteness Comes

Lion Head – The Little Hike with the Big View

Peak of the Month – Sodden Peak

“Autumn is a second spring where every leaf is a flower.”

--Albert Camus



The Mountaineering Club of Alaska

www.mtnclubak.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 third Wednesday of the month at the BP Energy Center, 900 East Benson Boulevard, Anchorage, Alaska
www.akpeac.org/conference/BPEC_map_06-04-03.pdf

Cover Photo: Brent Voorhees ascending Point 5281 north of Hunter Creek Pass. Photo by Frank Baker.

Contents

A Non-Traditional Route up Gunsight Mountain

Climbing up to Greet Winter

Savoring Autumn before the Whiteness Comes

Lion Head – The Little Hike with the Big View

Peak of the Month – Sodden Peak

Article Submission:

Text and photography submissions for the *Scree* can be sent as attachments to mcascree@gmail.com. Articles should be submitted by the 16th of the month to appear in the December *Scree*. Do not submit material in the body of the email. We prefer articles that are under 1,000 words. If you have a blog, website, video or photo links, send us the link. Cover photo selections are based on portraits of human endeavor in the outdoors.

On-line? – click me



For best viewing of the *Scree* on a monitor using Adobe Reader, click on 'View' and 'Full Screen'

Hiking and Climbing Schedule

Saturday, November 12, 2011, Eklutna Glacier Eklutna Fat Bike and Early Ice Reconnaissance

This is a day trip to Eklutna Glacier for ice climbing. We are going in and back in one long day. This is classified as a technical-ice-and-mixed-climbing trip. You need to be proficient at belaying, basic anchors, and rappelling. Talk to the trip leader if you have any questions. Getting in and out in a single day is pretty strenuous, so you need to be physically fit. Plan: Meet at Eklutna Lake Trailhead, bike to end of the road (snow bike required), hike up into the canyon, climb a few pitches of ice, then back out, with a stop at the Serenity Falls Cabin for snacks. Required gear: snow bike, ice-climbing gear, helmet, and personal gear. Call Cory Hinds at 248-6606 to sign up/coordinate.

November 19, 2011, Peters Creek Trail Hike or Ski trip. Hopefully there will be enough snow to go skiing. If not, we'll hike out Peters Creek Trail, about 10 miles round trip. Bring appropriate gear for the weather. Contact trip leader Amy Murphy, 338-3979 or e-mail: hayduchesslives@yahoo.com to sign up.

December 23, 2011: Annual MCA Winter Solstice Flattop Sleepout. This unofficial, leaderless trip is a club tradition.

Trip-Leader Training

November 9 at 5:30 p.m.

Kaladi Brothers Coffee House, 621 West 6th Avenue, Anchorage.

Thinking about being a trip leader for the MCA? Are you already a trip leader, but feel like you need a refresher? Come hear what it is all about. It should take less than an hour and a half. If you would like to do this, but the time is inconvenient, please let Vicky Lytle know and we will try to schedule another time. Sign up at the Meetup website, or contact Vicky at victoria.lytle@gmail.com.

MCA "Base Camp" Monthly Meeting

If you haven't been to an MCA Base Camp meeting, then you are missing out on a fun social time and gear forum. It's a relaxed atmosphere where members can mix, share skills and get to know each other better. Plan to show up to chat and generally hang out with mountaineering on your mind. Feel free to bring ropes, skis, backpacks, boots, or other gear to show others or ask questions to learn how to use your gear to make your time in the mountains more enjoyable. The remaining Base Camp meetings this year are tentatively scheduled for November 8 and November 29 and are usually held from 6 to 9 p.m. in the upstairs rooms of the BP Energy Center. You don't need to RSVP to attend. Just show up and have fun. Check the MCA Events Calendar <http://www.mtnclubak.org/index.cfm/What-We-Do/Events-Calendar> every few weeks for the latest schedule on training, trips and other MCA events.



On the western spur looking northeast across Gunsight Mountain. Photo by Brent Voorhees.

A Non-Traditional Route up Gunsight Mountain

by Brent Voorhees

"Look, the clouds are building on Gunsight," I pointed out to Frank as we worked our way up the rocky ridgeline. "I was afraid that would happen. Looks like we should have waited to try this when there was a high-pressure system," Frank responded. Just moments before, the notch of Gunsight Mountain had been clearly visible to the east across the rugged upper reaches of the Glacial Fan Creek drainage.

It was the morning of September 9, 2011, and Frank Baker and I had left the Glenn Highway where it crosses Glacial Fan Creek about one mile east of Sheep Mountain Lodge to climb Gunsight Mountain from a western approach. We hiked about one-half mile up the boulder-strewn bed of Glacial Fan Creek before turning west to ascend the western ridge of the Glacial Fan Creek drainage, with Gunsight Mountain high to our northeast. A golden eagle soared overhead, and Dall sheep soon came into view.

The route, a non-technical one that Frank found a few years ago, circumnavigates the Glacial Fan Creek drainage to reach Gunsight Mountain from the west, unlike the traditional and more direct route up the relatively gentle slope on the east side of the mountain.

As we watched Gunsight become engulfed in clouds, Frank pointed out that the upper ridgeline of our route would be confusing if it was covered with clouds, and we could easily get "cliffed" out. Soon after the clouds had appeared, however, they seemed to begin to dissipate, and within minutes, across the rugged upper Glacial Fan Creek drainage the notch of Gunsight came back into view. "We lucked out again!" I said, as we had had similar experiences while climbing Hurdygurdy Mountain and East Twin Peak earlier in this summer.

After another hour of climbing, we gained the northern ridge of the Glacial Fan Creek drainage, and below us to the north was the enormous expanse of the Caribou Creek drainage and Syncline Mountain. Looking northeast along the ridge and our planned route to Gunsight Mountain, now one mile away, we could see rock pillars, hoodoos, and scree slopes in various shades of gray, yellow, and rust-red of the Talkeetna Formation. Gunsight and Sheep Mountains are composed of the Talkeetna Formation, a Mesozoic volcanic island arc deposit that accreted onto Alaska via northward migration of the Peninsular Terrane. The volcanics were later faulted, hydrothermally altered, uplifted, and partially eroded by water and ice to form Gunsight and Sheep Mountains as they are today.



On the west ridge looking east across the rugged upper Glacial Fan Creek drainage toward Gunsight Mountain. Photo by Brent Voorhees.

As the skies continued to clear around us, we worked our way northeastward, and with a final traverse to the east followed by a scramble up a scree slope, we reached the notch of Gunsight. To the east stretched an expanse of elongated lakes and gentle topography, with the base of the Wrangell Mountains just visible below distant clouds. "Check out the shadow of the gun sight below us, Frank; now that's pretty cool!" Below us on the eastern slope of Gunsight, the late afternoon sun at our backs was casting a shadow of the ridgeline, with the notch of Gunsight clearly seen.

After enjoying a brief stay in the gunsight, we headed for the summit of Gunsight Mountain, about 400 feet above us and out of sight, but less than ¼ mile to the southwest. A short, but rocky, trail led us up from the notch, and soon, with the sun in our eyes we were at a survey benchmark on the summit at 6,441 feet elevation and with incredible views all around us.

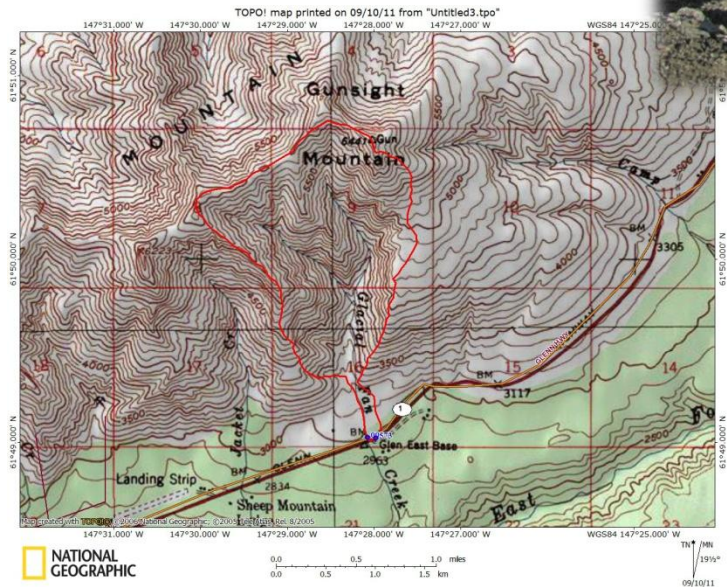
After a long break on top to enjoy the views, sunshine, and a late lunch, we started down the southern flank of Gunsight toward the Glenn Highway. The rocky upper portions of the mountain gave way to gentle slopes covered with grass and lichen and a small band of Dall sheep before the rough trail took us steeply down to the highway and our car.



**Brent Voorhees en route to the Gunsight Mountain summit from the sight.
Photo by Frank Baker.**



**View northeast from the Gunsight Mountain notch, with the shadow of the notch below.
Photo by Brent Voorhees.**



Topo map of the route.



**3D Google image with track of route
(courtesy of Brent Voorhees).**



Overlooking Eklutna Valley.

Climbing up to Greet Winter

by Frank Baker

At the 3,000-foot elevation, the rusty brown tundra was covered with patches of new snow, and as we climbed higher, it coated the entire slope to a depth of about 14 inches—deeper in some spots where it was wind-drifted.

Glancing back toward Eklutna Lake, blue-green and shimmering in the early morning sunlight, it was still autumn. Bordering the lake and reaching partway up the flanks of the mountains were the golden leaves of September. But above us toward 4,850-foot Hunter Creek Pass on the northeastern side of Bold Peak, winter had arrived.

Thin clouds swirled around the precipitous pass, cloaking and uncloaking the summit of Bold Peak, which cast a deep shadow across the valley below. By late morning the sun finally peeked over Bold's eastern ridge and stayed just above it all the way to the mountain's 7,522-foot summit, hovering over it like a Christmas tree star.

An early start: Brent Voorhees and I had left the Eklutna Lake parking lot on our bicycles at 8 a.m. Less than an hour later, we stashed the bikes at Mile 5 on the Eklutna Lakeside Trail, at the beginning of the Bold Valley Trail. A thick bank of clouds hung over Hunter Creek Pass.

"It'll probably lift before we get there," Brent said confidently.

"Hope so," I said. "I'd hate to climb all that way and not be able to see anything."

Breaking out of the trees and brush and onto the tundra of Bold Valley, we were delighted to learn that the blueberry bushes were not blighted by the moth infestation that affected the Eagle River area. The berries were profuse and a great delicacy as we hiked through the valley.

Brent is a geologist, and it's always fun to learn about an area as he describes some of its history. Bold Valley is a "hanging valley." Formed by the last glaciation some 8,000 to 10,000 years ago, hanging valleys are common throughout Southcentral Alaska. South Fork, for example, is a hanging valley. One of the side valleys of South Fork is another hanging valley that actually bears that name.

At the back end of the Bold Valley near the base of Bold Peak are moraines, rock glaciers, ice lenses and other prominent features associated with the glacier's advance and retreat, which in geologic time, was quite rapid.

The climb from 4,000 feet to Point 5281 north of Hunter Creek Pass was a long, sidehill slog. Postholing through snow going uphill is never any fun, so we traded positions breaking trail. There wasn't enough snow accumulation to present any avalanche danger as we finally reached the top about 1:30 p.m.

Wispy clouds swept in and out, unveiling different views to the south and east as we found a place out of the wind to have lunch. Two moose browsed on willows far below in the West Fork of Hunter Creek, and on the opposite side of that valley a black bear leisurely wandered uphill, obviously feeding on berries.



Descent from Point 5281 north of Hunter Creek Pass.



Eklutna Lake in the autumn.

Many people say summer is too short, or that winter comes too soon. But for those who enjoy getting out into Alaska's vast backcountry, seasons seem to have a way of blurring and overlapping. In a log book at the Lane Hut northeast of Hatcher Pass, for example, there is an entry by an adventurer who, gaining access to the glacier year-round, claims to have skied every month of the year – for several years in succession!

Warmed by the sun—now arcing higher above Bold Peak and moving to the west—we sat contentedly at the top for about an hour, taking in the view of Bashful Peak to the south; neighboring Boisterous Peak, the West Fork of Hunter Creek, the Hunter Creek Glacier, Knik Arm and far to the east, Mount Marcus Baker, the Chugach's giant.

We had hiked from autumn up to greet winter, and for a short duration, felt its icy breath. "We're only visitors," I thought to myself. "We will return tonight to our warm homes, but the land's denizens – its

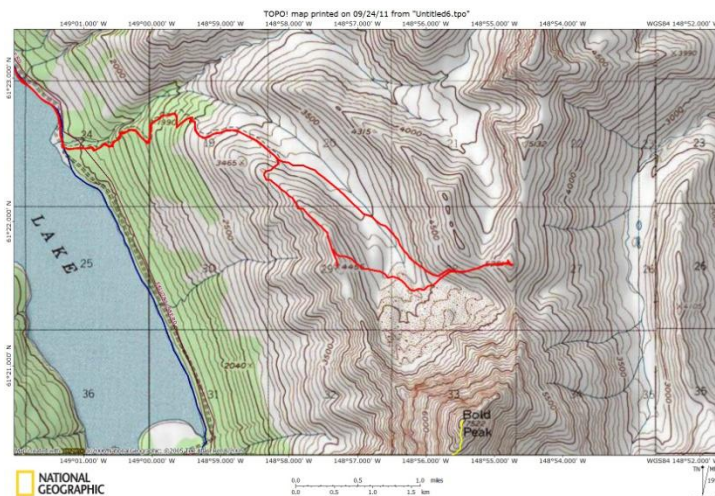
bears, moose, sheep, coyotes, wolves – are going about the important task of preparing for winter."

Seeking other horizons: Instead of returning along the same trail back down Bold Valley, we crossed over to the west and ascended the ridge that overlooks Eklutna Valley. This opened up new views to the south and west, including of the Eklutna Glacier.

Brent hiked about one-fourth mile farther out on the ridge, almost to the northwest face of Bold Peak. I watched him with binoculars as I finished off the last of my lunch. It was difficult to leave this idyllic spot, but we didn't want to bike out in the dark, so about 5:30 p.m. we finally headed back down the ridge, reaching our bikes about 7 p.m.

It was one of those precious autumn outings – a day in the year that you can count on one or two hands. It reminded us once again how lucky we are to live in such a beautiful place.

Topo map of the route.



Frank Baker at the toe of the Eklutna Glacier.

Savoring Autumn before the Whiteness Comes

by Frank Baker

The air was crisp and cold as I biked along the Eklutna Lakeside Trail, savoring the very last moments of autumn. The sun was already shining on Bold Peak and the other big mountains to the south, and I knew that as I drew closer to those mountains and into the Eklutna canyon, I would be in shadow for most of the day.

Pedaling along at about 10 miles per hour, the wind chill felt like 0 degrees. But I'd prepared with an extra layer, top and bottom, as well as some heavy wool gloves and wool hat. It was autumn, but I'd dressed for winter.



Eklutna Lake and Bold Peak.

The trail was snow-free, but frozen hard. Water puddles were covered with a thin layer of ice that I steered around.

It was October 12, and my goal was to bike to the Serenity Falls Hut at about Mile 12, stash my bike and then hike another two miles up to the toe of the Eklutna Glacier. Total distance one-way: about 14 miles.

Most of the trees along the lake had dropped their leaves, now standing like thin skeletons against the stark blue sky. Fluttering around on the trail and nearby bushes were the ubiquitous, moth invaders. When I stopped to pump a little more air into my tires, one of them landed on my arm. I quickly swept it off and muttered something unrepeatable in a family newsletter. I've always tried to understand how every creature has a purpose in a given ecosystem. I can't figure out a reason for these moths, however, except to eat everything in sight.

I spooked a couple of spruce grouse along the way and after nearly two hours, arrived at the

Serenity Falls Public-Use Cabin, now unoccupied, where I stashed my bicycle. After a quick log entry, cup of coffee from my thermos, and a couple of cookies, I headed out for the glacier. I quickly lost the trail, but was relieved to find it again for the last half of the journey.

Going back in time: If you've been to the Exit Glacier near Seward, you probably noticed the signs marking the positions of the glacier in different years in time. In the Eklutna canyon there are no such markers, but as you progress closer and closer to the glacier face you see evidence of what it left in its swift, mile-long retreat over the past century. Near the Serenity Falls Hut there are trees and bushes, but as you move up-canyon there are only bushes. Soon you enter a land of smooth, polished rocks, small plants, and moss. And after that, near the glacier's toe, it is just rock and ice.

Only a few hundred yards from the big gravel flat that lies in front of the glacier, tucked between glacier-smoothed boulders, was a one-foot-high spruce tree. It appeared quite healthy. "Way to go!" I said out loud. "You'll make it."

With canyon walls rising thousands of feet above me, I didn't expect any sunlight. But to my surprise, the sun was traversing a narrow gap in the mountains above the glacier. It looked like I'd have about 30 minutes of direct sunlight, so I plopped down in front of a rock, dragged out my lunch and thermos, and enjoyed the temporary warmth. There was no wind and it was unearthly quiet. Far away and high in the cliffs, I spotted a couple of goats.

I quickly realized that as the sun began dipping below the mountain, there might be

a chance for a sunburst-type photo. I quickly readied my camera and soon began snapping away, knowing the opportunity would last only seconds. Without the sun, the temperature immediately dropped about 10 degrees. I took a few more photos and packed up for the long trip home.

For the return trip I had two backup plans if I ran out of daylight: my headlight, and the full moon. As it turned out, I needed neither, arriving at the parking lot by 6 p.m., with daylight to spare.

Like I do every year, I stretch autumn out as long as I can. I like greeting new seasons, but I always have a hard time letting go of the old.

On the bike ride back along the lake I spotted a few trees that still held some of their yellowed leaves. "Hangers on," I thought. "Just like me."



The setting sun highlights The Mitre.



Frank Baker with the Matanuska Glacier to the south.

Lion Head – The Little Hike with the Big View

By Frank E. Baker

“Let’s play hide and seek,” chimed my nine-year-old daughter Emily, as we rested atop Lion Head, a 3,185-foot promontory about 100 miles northeast of Anchorage that overlooks the sprawling Matanuska Glacier.

With sheer cliffs on three sides, one of them dropping about 800 feet to the churning Matanuska River, I was not about to let her leave my sight.

“I’m sorry, ‘Em,’ but you’ve got to stay right here with me. Have some cookies.”

That was 15 years ago, and since then I’ve made several trips up this unique piece of rock in the Talkeetna Mountains. I’ve even camped

up there. During the Pleistocene glacial period some 10,000 years ago when the Matanuska glacier was part of a larger glacier that filled the entire valley all the way to Anchorage, this feature might have jutted up above that ocean of ice and been called a “nunatak.”

Lion Head is located on AT&T property at Mile 108 of the Glenn Highway, just before the big downhill turn west of Caribou Creek. A sharp right-hand turn takes you down a small road to a gate, where there is a small parking area. AT&T permission, required before entering the property, can be obtained by calling a number that’s on a sign. Cell phone coverage is excellent in the area (It’s a communications site!) and AT&T always answers the telephone because it’s an operations number. You provide your name, how long you plan to be on the property, and then you call them back before leaving the property. Do not try to enter any of the buildings at the site.

Finding the trail: The route is intuitive – it goes up the only gradual slope on Lion Head. Follow the road past the gate about 1/10th of a mile and when the road splits, go to the right.

At the point you’ll be walking directly toward Lion Head. A small rock cairn marks the beginning of the trail where it enters the trees. The trail soon becomes steep in places, but there are plenty of bushes and handholds as you wind your way up in a general easterly direction to access the ridge. The trail is a little harder to stay on when snow is on the ground, but once you attain the ridge, you gradually turn north on the final push toward the top. The distance is about 1-1/2 miles and the elevation gain is only about 1,200 feet. It takes a little over an hour to reach the top.

Pete Panarese, retired from Alaska State Parks, and I climbed up to Lion Head October 20 under sunny skies and a light wind. There was about ½-inch of snow on the ground which made the trail a little slippery, especially on the descent. It was Pete’s first trip up there and he was amazed by the view – looking about 20 miles up the Matanuska Glacier you feel like you’re approaching it in an airplane. A couple of big golden eagles flew by as we enjoyed our lunch behind a large rock – out of the wind, but in the warmth of the waning October sun.

Built in 1990, the Scandinavian Peaks Hut is currently the only MCA hut along the Matanuska Glacier. (Bock’s Den was burned down two years ago). Looking due east from the top of Lion Head, the hut would be on the left side of the glacier -- about 14 miles away.

If you want to take a rest from an epic expedition and share a great hike with the family, Lion Head is a great destination – spring, summer, and fall. I’ve never tried it in winter, but it’s probably doable with snowshoes. But once on top, I’d strongly advise against letting kids play hide ‘n’ seek.



Lion Head is the black peak in the foreground.



The northwest aspect of Soddan Peak, as seen from The Citadel.

Peak of the Month: Soddan Peak

By Steve Gruhn

Mountain Range: Brooks Range; Endicott

Mountains; Arrigetch Peaks

Borough: Unorganized Borough

Drainage: SADMKK

Latitude/Longitude: 67° 23' 1" North, 153° 59' 53" West

Elevation: 6069±33 feet

Prominence: 719 feet from Shot Tower (6096)

Adjacent Peaks: Shot Tower and Peak 5682 in the SADMKK drainage

Distinctness: 719 feet from Shot Tower

USGS Map: Survey Pass (B-2)

First Recorded Ascent: mid-August 1976 by Carl Lehner

Route of First Recorded Ascent: South-southwest face

Access Point: Unnamed lake west of the Alatna River north of its confluence with Aiyagomahala Creek

In July 1964, starting from a camp on the north side of Aiyagomahala Creek, a party consisting of Brownell and Jeanne Bergen, A.H. ("Buck") and Louise Cass, Charles Loucks, Michael and Sally Westmacott, and Robley Williams, Jr., attempted to climb a peak south of the creek. They turned back due to drenching rain and rockfall. Their second attempt met the same fate. As a result of their unsuccessful attempts, Mike and Sally Westmacott named the peak Soddan Peak as homage to the conditions they encountered.

From July 30 to August 7, 1976, Dona Agosti led a MCA hike to the Arrigetch Peaks. During this hike, the party named the creek south of Soddan Peak SADMKK after the last names of the participants – Marilyn Swanson, Dona Agosti, Bev Dodge, Mike McClelland, Pat Kampfner, and Rosemary Kobus. Lacking any other name for the creek, I've used their name to identify the drainage.

In late July 1976 brothers Carl, Michael, and Peter Lehner were flown from Bettles in a single-engine floatplane to an unnamed lake west of the Alatna River north of its confluence with Aiyagomahala Creek. From that lake they hiked up Aiyagomahala Creek for two days to the 1964 party's campsite north of the creek and between East Maiden Peak (6320) and Shot Tower. The Lehnners spent the next month climbing in the Arrigetch Peaks, making ascents of The Citadel (6353), The Pyramid (6318), East Maiden Peak, and West Maiden Peak (6350). Carl and Michael Lehner attempted the north ridge of Soddan Peak, but aborted the attempt after 16 pitches of predominantly 5.5 to 5.7 climbing, with an A2 move thrown in, when they reached a 10-foot-wide wall that would have required 5.8 to 5.10 climbing on giant, loose flakes. After that

aborted attempt Carl Lehner made a solo reconnaissance trip from Aiyagomahala Creek, over the col between Arthur Emmons Peak (6556) and Shot Tower, and to the SADMKK drainage southwest of Soddan Peak. From there he made a long, airy third-class scramble south of Shot Tower and up the south-southwest face of Soddan Peak to the summit for the peak's first ascent. Carl Lehner described most of the climbing as pleasant and not stressful, but the very summit was somewhat steep and exposed. To descend from the exposed summit, he rappelled from a sling.

Because their access lake was too small for a fully-loaded take-off, they hiked to Takahula Lake for their return flight to Bettles in late August.

Because the Lehnners didn't like the name Soddan Peak for such a nice peak, they applied the name Moria to the peak. From the north the mountain reminded the Lehnners of what they thought the mountain guarding the Mines of Moria in J.R.R. Tolkien's The Lord of the Rings should look like. However, because the name Soddan Peak was the earliest



Northwest aspect of Soddan Peak, as viewed from The Maidens.



Northwest aspect of Sodden Peak.

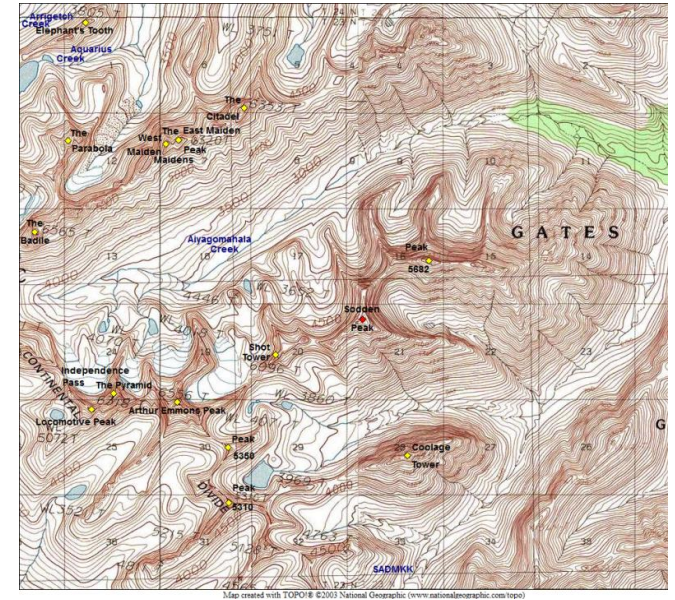
published name for the mountain, I have opted to retain that name for this article. Both names for the peak are unofficial.

I am unaware of any subsequent climbs to the summit of Sodden Peak. Yoav Altman's and Ilona Barash's June 2005 attempt from the north-northeast side of the peak did not reach the summit and, despite their route being termed the "Thunder Ridge" of Moria, was more properly an attempt on the northwest ridge of Peak 5682 northeast of Sodden Peak.

The information for this article came from Jeanne Bergen's article entitled "The Granite Towers of the Arrigetch, Brooks Range" on pages 315 through 319 of the 1965 *American Alpine Journal*, David Roberts' article entitled "August in the Arrigetch" and accompanying map on pages 68 through 74 of the 1970 *American Alpine Journal*, Dona Agosti's trip report entitled "MCA Brooks Range Hike" on pages 4 through 8 of the September 1976 *Scree*, Peter Lehner's report entitled "First Ascents in the Arrigetch" on pages 165 and 166 of the 1977 *American Alpine Journal*, Peter

Lehner's article entitled "Scenes from an Alaskan Summer" on pages 73 through 82 of the 1979 *Harvard Mountaineering*, Nancy Pfeiffer's and Jim Lawler's October 6, 2003, report for the National Park Service entitled "History and Route Descriptions of Rock Climbs in the Arrigetch Peaks, Gates of the Arctic National Park and Preserve, Alaska," Yoav Altman's report entitled "Moria, Thunder Ridge; other ascents" on pages 172 and 173 of the 2006 *American Alpine Journal*, and from my personal correspondence with Carl Lehner.

Lehner stated that his route was somewhat to the south and east of the route depicted on page 51 of Pfeiffer's and Lawler's report.



Left: Sodden Peak as seen from the west-southwest. The true summit is the pointed spire to the right of center. Photos courtesy of Carl Lehner.

Breathe *Easy* Breakfast


AMERICAN LUNG ASSOCIATION
IN ALASKA

November 30, 2011
 Anchorage Hilton, Chart Room
 730am-900am

www.BreatheEasyBreakfast.com

For more information contact Nellie Schroder at 644.6411 or nschroder@aklung.org



Join the American Lung Association in Alaska in welcoming **Stacy Allison**, the first American woman to summit Mt. Everest, to Alaska.

Stacy will thrill and inspire you with her stories and photos of what it is like to breathe at the top of the world!

\$25 per seat
\$400 per table
 space is limited to reserve your seat today.

MCA General Meeting Minutes September 21, 2011

Committee Reports:

Treasurer's report – Revenues and expenses are close to budget except that we have spent close to the maximum we had budgeted for hut maintenance and some more work is still recommended. See below for more on this topic.

Peak Registers – If you climb a nearby peak, check with Ben Radakovich as to whether a new register is needed.

Equipment – Jayme Mack will be doing a re-inventory of the gear and update of the gear log next week.

Library - Moved to a storage unit, awaiting a possible permanent location

Huts - Greg Bragiel special presentation just before the break

Parks Advisory -- Cory Hinds at CSP Draft Mgmt plan meeting preparing comments

Calendar - Submit pictures (vertical orientation) to Stu Grenier or bring them to the October meeting.

Training - Ice Fest is Sept 28, Sept 30-Oct 2. There will be a Rock Climbing Bolting clinic with Kelsey Gray Monday 9/26

Hiking and Climbing -- Vicky Lytle announced upcoming trips, check the Scree.

Announcements:

- Elections at October meeting – Nominations were made at this meeting, but further nominations can be made up until the actual election next meeting.
- The nominations were:
President: Tim Silvers
Vice-President: Jayme Mack, Galen Flint
Secretary: Mark Smith
Treasurer: Randy Plant
Directors: Greg Encelewski, Brian Aho, Galen Flint
- Jim Sellers described an organization of mountaineering clubs in the lower 48 that offers shared benefits among their members. He will investigate further on whether MCA members would benefit from joining this organization.
- An MCA Volunteer shirt was awarded to Amy Murphy (not present) for her volunteer work on the Scree.
- Nellie Schroder from the Anchorage affiliate of the American Lung Association announced some upcoming events: A stair climb competition at the Hilton Hotel and a talk on November 30th by Stacy Allison at Hilton, the first American woman to summit Everest.

- Greg Bragiel announced that he was requesting volunteers to help with a Boy Scouts winter camping skills workshop on Nov 19.
- Greg also gave an extensive presentation on maintenance work that has been done on the MCA huts. He stated that work still needed to be done this year, and the membership voted to add an additional \$1500 the 2011 budget for hut maintenance.
- Slide show presentation on photographs of Chugach State Park by Carl Battreal

---Randy Plant, Treasurer

MCA General Meeting Minutes October 19, 2011

Huts - We're looking for "Hut Meisters and Hut Mistresses." If there is a hut you use a lot please consider volunteering to organize care and maintenance of that hut. Contact Greg Bragiel at huts@mtclubak.org.

Parks Advisory - Chugach State Park Draft Management Plan comments due by 10/31. MCA will submit comments on the fixed anchor ban and wording on Eklutna Traverse huts, and post the comments on the MCA website, and listserve.

Hiking and Climbing - Trip leader training November 9th. Consider posting an unofficial trip on the Alaska Mountaineers Meetup Group site.

Calendar - Members voted during the break for their favorite photos for the 2012 calendar. **We need someone to do the graphic layout of the calendar.** Please contact Stu Grenier at mcacalendar@mtclubak.org if you can help.

Awards - Greg Bragiel was awarded a gift certificate for going above and beyond cleaning the human waste barrels from Eklutna Traverse huts. Amy Murphy was awarded a volunteer shirt for the many hours she puts into the layout of the Scree.

MCA Base Camp on 11/8 will likely have "gear repair" as a general topic of discussion.

Annual Club Elections for Officers and Directors

There was a close race for Vice President and three open Director positions. Candidates each gave a short speech about what they had accomplished or would like to do for the club if elected.

Officer Nominations: President - Tim Silvers, Vice President - Jayme Mack and Galen Flint, Secretary - Mark Smith, Treasurer - Randy Plant
Director Nominations - Andy Mamrol, Greg Encelewski, John Recktenwald, and Brian Aho.

Officers and Directors after elections:

President: Tim Silvers

Vice President: Galen Flint

Secretary: Mark Smith

Treasurer: Randy Plant

Board Member (term expires in 2012): Vicky Lytle

Board Member (term expires in 2012): Jim Sellers

Board Member (term expires in 2013): Greg Encelewski

Board Member (term expires in 2013): John Recktenwald

Board Member (term expires in 2012, in lieu of the Past President's seat): Brian Aho

Presentation: Charlie Sink gave an excellent presentation on his climbing in the Chugach Mountains this past summer.

--Tim Silvers, MCA President

Peak Register Committee Announcements

Dano Michaud is currently in the process of gathering information on summit logs for the Kenai Peninsula, with the intent of replacing old canisters with new ones and archiving old registers with the MCA. Dano has asked that anybody who has ever been on a climb on the Kenai Peninsula and remembers seeing or signing a summit register, contact him by phone at (907) 362-6623. He can also be reached by e-mail at dano9577@yahoo.com.

Progress has been made at replacing registers on Chugach State Park Peaks. Thanks to Dan Hirschberg, John Recktenwald, and Tami Radakovich for volunteering to place materials on summits in the past few months. If you are planning on climbing any of the peaks that are still in need of registers, contact Ben Radakovich at (208) 816-1789 or send an e-mail to peakregisters@mtclubak.org. The MCA can provide you with a register to place on the summit. Below is an updated list of peaks that currently could use registers.

Mount Eklutna
Vista Peak
Flaketop Peak
Penguin Peak

Mile High Peak
Hurdygurdy Mountain
Indianhouse Mountain
Cumulus Mountain

Mountaineering Club of Alaska

President	Tim Silvers	250-3374	Board member	Greg Encelewski	360-0274
Vice-President	Galen Flint	650-207-0810	Board member	Brian Aho	223-4758
Secretary	Mark Smith	868-3155	Board member	Vicky Lytle	351-8246
Treasurer	Randy Plant	243-1438	Board member	John Recktenwald	346-2589
			Board member	Jim Sellers	360-2560

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

Dues can be paid at any meeting or mailed to the Treasurer at the MCA address at right. 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 Membership Committee at membership@mtnclubak.org.

The 'Scree' is a monthly publication of the Mountaineering Club of Alaska. Articles, notes and letters submitted for publication in the newsletter should be emailed to MCAScree@gmail.com. Articles should be submitted by the 16th of the month to appear in the December 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. Ads can be emailed to vicepresident@mtnclubak.org.

Missing your MCA membership card? Stop by the 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: Vicky Lytle - hcc@mtnclubak.org

Huts: Greg Bragiel - 569-3008

Calendar: Stuart Grenier - 337-5127

Scree Editor: MCAScree@gmail.com Steve Gruhn (344-1219) assisted by Amy Murphy (338-3979)

Web: www.mtnclubak.org (change your address here)

Mailing list service: MCAK@yahoogroups.com

Mountaineering Club of Alaska
Box 243561
Anchorage, AK 99524-3561