

the SCREE

Mountaineering Club of Alaska

May 2011

Volume 54 Number 5



“May your trails be crooked, winding, lonesome, dangerous, leading to the most amazing view. May your mountains rise into and above the clouds.”

---Edward Abbey

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Monthly Meeting:

Wednesday, May 18 at 6:30 p.m.

Program: To be announced.

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: Galen Flint topping out on Cashman Pass. Photo by Wayne Todd.

Article Submission:

Text and photography submissions for the *Scree* can be sent as attachments to mcascree@gmail.com. Articles should be submitted by the 25th of the month to appear in the following month's *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.

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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

For the following after-work hikes, contact Steve Gruhn at sgruhn@clarus-ak.com or 344-1219 at least 24 hours before the trip.

May 2, 5:30 p.m. - Falls Creek

May 7 - Bidarka Peak (3835)

May 9, 5:30 p.m. - Flaketop Peak (4510)

May 16, 6 p.m. – Mount Baldy (3281)

May 23, 5:30 p.m. – Rainbow Peak (3543)

June 24 - 26 Kenai Peninsula - peaks less traveled

SAVE THE DATE - exact details to be decided later. This will be the traditional solstice weekend trip to the Kenai Peninsula. Destination undecided, but we usually hike in two hours Friday to a basecamp. Climbing Saturday and Sunday on less-traveled walk-up peaks. Option to do one-night or even day trips with the group. Exact valley will depend on depth of snowpack, and determined about May meeting time. Leader: Tom Choate, mtngoatc@gmail.com

July 9 Mystery Mountain

Tom Choate will resurrect his 1990s tradition of 'Mystery Mountain.' He will lead a trip to a peak within 75 miles of town that no one can tell him about (no name?). Details to come! Tom Choate, mtngoatc@gmail.com

Late July or early August – Gates of the Arctic. Two week backpacking trip in Gates of the Arctic National Park. Class B/C trip, \$200 air charter deposit per person due by May 1st. Party is limited to five or six. Drop off and pick up at Chimney Lake and return to Bettles. The plan is to backpack from Chimney Lake, cross the Clear River, go through Holmes Pass, and possibly hike Fork of the Koyukuk River. Visit the Gates of the Arctic (peak formation) along the Koyukuk. Pick up food cache at Bombardment Creek airstrip along the North Fork of the Koyukuk River (USGS maps Wiseman D-2, D-1). Backpack loop back to the Clear River and Chimney Lake. Information on specific dates and costs will follow. Leader: Don Hansen 243-7184, e-mail donjoehansen@msn.com.

Rock Climbing Training

Rock climbing training should start in May or June. We are hoping to put together a Hatcher Pass weekend training in early June as well as some beginner and advanced clinics. Check the MCA Events Calendar at <http://www.mtnclubak.org/index.cfm/What-We-Do/Events-Calendar> every few weeks for the latest schedule and how to sign up.

If you want to help instruct, or if you would like to be notified when rock training is scheduled, please email Tim Silvers at President@mtnclubak.org.

Survey of Members

By Victoria Lytle and the MCA Officers and Board

In February, the MCA board conducted a survey of the members. We wanted to see what we could do to help the membership and to encourage people to become active in the club. We asked two open-ended questions and 57 people responded. Responses were anonymous, but people could include their names if they wished. Most of the comments were positive.

The first question was: "Why do you belong to the Mountaineering Club of Alaska?" By far, the most common reason people belong to the MCA is to meet people (56%). Other responses in order of popularity were: to use the huts (30%), to go on club trips (30%), to access the Scree (19%), to gain information about climbing (18%), and to receive training

(including the Basic Mountaineering School and the Icefest; 16%). These add up to more than 100% because many people mentioned more than one of these.

The second question, "Do you have any suggestions to improve the Mountaineering Club of Alaska?," provided a wide range of useful suggestions. It is difficult to put these into specific categories, but some general themes were:

More or different types of trips (both beginner and more advanced trips were mentioned);

More or different training (intermediate and advanced training were mentioned);

Less boring business meetings;

Online blogs/discussions/trip reports/photographs/searchable peak index;

Huts – maintenance/additional huts; and

Getting other 'demographics' involved – kids, military, and tourists.

To address some of these suggestions, the business part of the monthly meeting has been streamlined. We are trying to keep the business part of the meeting to 30 minutes, and allow about 30 minutes before the speaker for members to socialize and chat. A series of evening 'skills workshops' has also been initiated. Each of these has a focus (e.g., rope-handling skills, first aid kit), but they are intended to be informal gatherings to meet and learn from people with similar interests.

We are also encouraging trip leaders to schedule trips where people can meet others of similar abilities; several evening hikes have

been added to the calendar. Volunteers are needed to help with some of the other ideas. Depending on your skill level and availability, you can help organize trips, help with training, participate in committees, or participate in scheduled activities. If you are not sure how to do this or have a specific idea you would like to initiate, please talk to an officer or board member and we will see how we can help.

Although most of the comments were positive, a few people did mention that the club seemed 'cliquish.' We are hoping that the increased time for social interaction (both at the monthly meeting and at the informal skills workshops) and more shorter and informal trips will help remedy this concern.

Remember, there are several places to look for club activities. The primary one is the club website at: <http://www.mtnclubak.org/>. Opportunities to get involved are also announced at the monthly meetings and posted in the Scree. Informal and last-minute activities are posted at <http://www.meetup.com/TheAlaskaMountaineer/s/> and there is a Facebook page (search for Mountaineering club of Alaska).

You can also join the Yahoo Group by sending a blank email, with the first and last names of the member in the subject line, to: MCAK-subscribe@yahoogroups.com. The Yahoo Group is useful to ask other members questions, share information, and receive emails when people are organizing activities.



Galen, Carrie, Wayne, and Cima, still happy on the snowmachine trail. Matt Green photo.

Chugach Traverse Eureka to Valdez

Lessons Learned, Relearned, and Punctuated

Text and photos by Wayne L. Todd, except as noted.

April 8-15, 2011

Day 1

We park one mile beyond the Eureka Roadhouse with promising trails heading south. Roadhouse employees suggest trails starting by the powerlines about a mile before the Roadhouse, but we stick with our spot.

Six of us, all with sleds, ski away from the pullout on snowmachine trails. The day is brilliant, spirits are high and, of course, these trails will lead to the river. A couple hours later we are backtracking on the trails as they are all

looping back due to a ravine between us and the river. After exhausting all the trails and deciding not to return to the cars and starting elsewhere, we decide to break trail.

Our miles per hour instantly changes to hours per mile as we sink two feet in the faceted snow – even with backcountry skis. Downed trees and occasional brush add to the work and slow pace. We drop into the ravine with additional sled and gear fandangling and continue south. In some areas, the faceted snow is topped with a melt freeze crust that won't hold our weight, but makes it difficult to get skis back on the surface. Most of the trailbreaking is done sledless with someone in the back pulling two sleds. The second person in line, still with a sled, works as hard as the leader. One sled in the group is much wider than the rest and is a beast to pull even at the tail end.

Eight hours later we camp, still in the black spruce forest. Though exhausted from our efforts, we are only four direct miles from the cars.

- Start on a trail that you know leads to the river and have current beta on snow conditions. (Communication with snowmachiners, flyover, etc.) Mile 126.5 is probably the best bet for a trailhead.
- Insist all sleds are identical.

Day 2

The trail breaking continues under stellar skies, but a snowmachine trail is encountered within two hours. This trail converges with a major snowmachine corridor that leads to the Nelchina Glacier. The distance to the glacier decreases very slowly despite our steady pace. We actually establish our second camp on the glacier, a milestone, and 18 miles from the cars. Making our own trail again we now sink only half a foot deep.

Surrounded by Chugach peaks, the views are stunning in all directions. Had we continued the two-foot deep trailbreaking all this day, the trip would have been aborted.

A monopole sled system is problematic to its puller. This is later remedied by eliminating the pole. Half the group is on waxless (fish-scale) skis. The other half require skins on the nearly flat terrain, which is much more work.

- Be familiar with your equipment.
- Consider using waxless skis or kicker skins. The group had a pair of half width skins and a pair of foot-long skins, both worked very well.

Day 3

We continue up the Nelchina Glacier under majestic skies, making reasonable progress for average human-powered travel. In the afternoon we divert to investigate a trail-like line on the glacier. We encounter the returning riders a couple hours later. We know one of them and have a nice chat. He informs us the forecast is still quite good and that there is six feet plus of powder south of Science Pass.



Descending Audubon Pass to the Tazlina Glacier. The four skyline peaks are, from left, Mount Cashman, Island Peak, Mount Shouplina, and Diplodocus.



Cima and Galen navigate around a glacial pool.

Though great snow news for heli-skiers, this is not good news for us. Audubon Pass will now be our route.

Blisters are becoming problematic for some. A collapsible pee bottle is not fully opened when used which leads to urine in clothing and sleeping bag. High-tech inflatable pads, due to inflating by breath, start having internal ice buildup.

- Use boots that are comfortable and broken in. If boots are uncomfortable in town for just a few miles, they will be a big problem for 80 miles. Really tight ski boots are not ideal.
- Ensure bottle is inflated or use a rigid pee bottle. Rinsing the clothing in pot of warm

water cleans that well enough. The sleeping bag can only be dried in the field.

- Skip the high-tech pads or inflate with a pump? or deflate while they are still warm.

Day 4

The sunscreen, lip balm, and various sun hats are worn again today. At a juncture of possible routes, impatience and enthusiasm lead part of the group up the wrong route.

We cross over Brontosaurus Pass, another milestone. Our route and even more stunning peaks, beckon us on. Soft snow depth increases as we descend, causing effortful trail breaking again. Those with better floatation fare better. An older, fuzzy rope with 100 feet deployed offers significant rope drag and pulling resistance.

- Be sure of route before proceeding.
- Have adequate-size skis for body weight and sled pulling.
- Use a newer, smooth rope. Lessen the length to partners to 50 feet. (You're dragging this rope for 60 miles.)

Day 5

We cross the very broad Tazlina Glacier, most of it by GPS, map, and compass due to low clouds.

The lead person has no reference with white on white, which can cause vertigo and agitation. A member who pulled the beast collapses after making camp. Due to initial symptoms, level 1 (of 5) distress is sent on the SPOT.

We thought pushing this button once would send one message, which was prearranged to mean a minor problem with the potential for the group to be overdue. The in town contact instead receives the "Help" email every five minutes and arranges for a flyover. The treated

member is assessed to be severely dehydrated and electrolyte depleted. After member's recovery, the OK is sent on the SPOT.

- Change leaders more frequently in such conditions.
- Be aware of one's own limitations and take necessary steps for adequate fluids.
- Be aware of teammates' conditions.
- Be familiar with equipment. Consider a satellite phone or a newer SPOT system, which allows outgoing text messaging.

Day 6

It's snowing in the morning as we break camp. Are we really going to wear hard shells today? No! By the time we head out, it's sunny again. We take the north route, which goes just west of Mount Cashman. A good portion of the day is spent getting everyone and all the gear up Cashman Pass. We limit two people at a time



Icefall beyond camp on the Valdez Glacier. Matt Green photo.

on the 40+-degree slope. We are not turning around now, as it's downhill to Valdez on the Valdez Glacier.

Occasional serac fall and avalanches add to the mountain splendor at our next camp. One of the tents does not have a vestibule so an extended vestibule tent was used. This is only large enough for four members of the group. This leads to a potential 'us and them' situation and bad group dynamics. The vestibule-less tent also is a single wall, which is causing significant moisture issues. This is occurring in ideal weather.

- Have a group cook tent that is large enough for all.
- All tents should have vestibules. Double wall tents are preferable over single wall.

Day 7

The day starts warm and sunny (of course) as we route find and break trail down the Valdez Glacier. At the first crevasse field we learn to go skier's left (unless a bad ass, in which case you can go hard right) and at the next field to go skier's right. With some wind, a sun dog, and high clouds, we think our phenomenal weather stint might be ending.

Most of our group has Dynafit bindings, which are probably the binding of choice (light, practical and fairly reliable). However, they do ice up at the heel cup (leading to unwanted forward lean and occasional heel lock) and at the toe piece, which can cause difficulty in getting your boot out of the binding.

At the tail end of the second field, the snow is finally firm enough to hold our weight, so we actually ski at speed. One team passes another yelling, "race ya." Moments later the trailing roped skier's tips dive. In quick succession: he is driven head first into the snow (compounded by a big pack), the lead



Tim and Matt exiting the third crevasse field.

'racer' is literally yanked airborne backward, driving the second's head farther under the snow, and the second's sled then rams him from behind completing the human snow stake. After confirming he has an airway and no one is hurt, we (those that were not in the fall) laugh until crying. If only a helmet-cam was on.

At this camp above the third field numerous ice climbs are visible.

Day 8

The standard blue-sky day presents itself again, which we selfishly have come to expect. Still not sure of the correct route through this field some members go mid-left which ends in a beautiful yet impractical extended crevasse field. Exploring on foot further confirms this. A team tries far left and makes a route through the gentler glacier edge crevasses (FRS radio contact is useful).

This section is particularly scenic with much blue ice, snow-filled ski pipes, a nearby frozen lake with ice towers and blue pools, and surrounding steep rock and snow-covered peaks. A ski pole basket is lost in a small crevasse, but remedied by a spare basket. Returning to the glacier center we have an easy route down to the glacier flats and across the lake (despite warnings not to use the lake). While hanging out at the trailhead, we are entertained by large, wet avalanches cascading down through brush, goats on the nearby hillside, and a lake coyote.

The hospitality of Valdez then comes into play when all of our pre-arranged rides fall through. David and Cindy pick us up at Valdez Lake (cell phones work there). While shopping for

clothes at a grocery store that evening, Leslie overhears our plight. She contacts Tina of The Second Hand Store who opens her store so we can buy shoes and non-smelly clothes. Cindy drives some of us all the way to Eureka to get our car the next day.

Thank you, Valdez!

I am thankful and grateful to the homogenous, strong, and persistent crew on this adventure. I acknowledge the powerhouse, the trailbreakers, the seconders (being second on

two-person rope teams while pulling your own sled is an unrelenting task), and the sufferers who continued on with little complaint. This report does not list the hundreds of actions and items that we did properly, which led to a very successful trip.

We are Galen Flint, Matt Green, Tim Griffin, Cima Pillsbury, Wayne Todd, and Carrie Wang.

Do not underestimate the work and hence the food and fuel required for this trip. Go with a good forecast and plan on weather days. We encountered night temperatures from 30 to 0 degrees Fahrenheit, plus wind chill. Necessary equipment: shovels with extendable long handles, reliable stoves, tents with vestibules, appropriate bags and pads (the backup foam pad is always useful), matching sleds, appropriate-size skis, skins that stick well, booties, glacier-travel regalia, repair kit, GPS with integrated map with waypoints and maps (with waypoints) and compass. We used our avalanche gear only at Cashman Pass, but we did not climb or ski any peaks (there are many that beckon along the way).



Wayne, Matt, Galen, Tim, Cima and Carrie.
We made it!



Looking east to Prince William Sound.

Carpathian Stampede

By Wayne L. Todd

March 12-13, 2011

We wusn't the first and we wusn't the last to ride east up Carpathian Peak in the Great Weather Window of 2011.

I've been hankering to head up Carpathian for many a year, so Tim Griffin, Carrie Wang, and I form a posse with Billy Finley and Yvonne Lamoureux. We hitch up our AT ponies and saddle bags and saunter across Portage Lake.

Just beyond the Portage Glacier, we haw into the sun. Billy F the Kid's reports are right on, we have tracks to follow up the surprisingly gentle incline and mostly unbroken terrain.

One steeper section with gosh darn a lot of them crevasses slows us a bit before our one

night homestead at 3,000 feet. We de-pony for that spot. Some folks have shoes for their ponies, which sure helps on some of them hard and slicker 'n snot places. It is a purdy night, but I sure could do with some bacon and beans as it is downright cold.

We harness our ponies in the morning again heading into the sun (as Alaskan cowboys do) until the ridge at 4,000 feet. Dang, if we don't have to walk from there, but the views became more and more swell.

We ground pound just east of the northeast spur of the East Ridge until crossing over to the north side of the East Ridge at 4,600 feet (whew, harder to say than to do). The route is easier than expected and even easier than the view from below. It makes me want to spit my tobacco. A few pickets are placed for the last pitch, but some would be comfortable climbing it bareback.



Ascending the east ridge, Prince William Sound in background.

After getting everyone corralled on top, we have to work to keep our jaws from gaping with the view from Skookum Valley to the waters of Prince William Sound. What's up with this prince stuff in the U.S., anyway?

We sashay back to our slender ponies, remove their hobbles and then have a wild ride on sastrugi back to camp. After a fast camp breakdown, we gallop farther down the glacier. Being lassoed to another rider isn't always a hootin', hollerin' good time, so after the steep section the ropes are coiled so we can trot at our own pace. The former hog rider does quite well on the ponies.

The sun has set as we de-harness on Portage Lake. A

barn-sized piece of glacier breaks off nearby, seconds later followed by another piece. "Yee haw," until we see the under ice wave quickly rippling our way. A few scramble for shore and a few stay on the ice to ride that bucking surface.

Walking our ponies across the lake we notice numerous additional cracks.



We hear from telegrams that a few have ridden the north and east faces, wow-wee. Sounds like most are doing the one-day Pony Express. And there was even a wagon train the following weekend.

Top of Carpathian Peak, note previous tracks.



Marcin Ksok on the summit of Pleasant Mountain.

Ram Valley Rambles

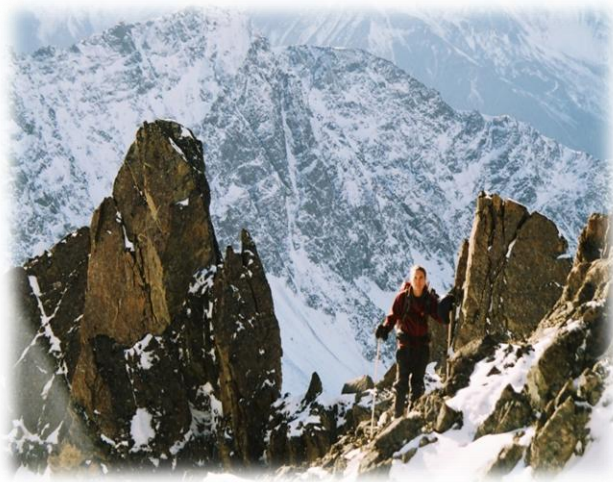
By Marcin Ksok

After the not-so-great summer of 2010, came a wonderful fall. The rains stopped. Temperatures became cool and refreshing, dropping below freezing at night and firming up the ground for great hiking. I took advantage of favorable conditions and made few escapades into the nearby and easily accessible Ram Valley.

Cumulus Mountain

On the first outing Lawrence Armendarez joined me for a hike up the aptly named Dragon Tail Ridge and a summit of Cumulus Mountain. We headed up there completely green, unaware of the proper access point to the valley, but armed with rumors of angry landowners, locked gates, and private roads. After asking some locals and driving around for a while, we ran into one of the homeowners involved in the access issues.

He politely gave us a lift through his property and up the private road, putting us right at the trailhead to Ram Valley. Following an excellent trail, we made quick progress and shortly started to gain the Dragon Tail Ridge.



Above the gully on Pleasant Mountain.

Sun was our only companion while we hiked and scrambled up the ridge. I reached the false summit and proceeded onward toward the high point proper, which was still at least 30 minutes away. At this time Lawrence was a little way behind. As I was taking a nap on the summit proper the cell phone rang and with some

encouragement I convinced my partner to proceed to the top.

After being rejoined and celebrating the wonderful day, we retraced our steps back to the parking lot. Along the way I ran into a local hiker who directed me to the proper trailhead at the end of Mariah Drive, saving the guesswork for future outings.

Raina Peak

I spent another day in Ram Valley. This time weather was not so perfect. The first fall snowstorm prematurely ended my attempt on Pleasant Mountain and drove me back down to the parking lot.

Thankfully the fall was to continue; snow quickly melted, and the following weekend I was making my way up the scree fields of Raina Peak. I followed the valley floor until reaching the gentle southeastern slopes of the peak and made my way up to its summit. At that moment I considered going up Peeking Mountain, but for some reason turned back down. I just did not have the drive and thought of these outings as more of wanderings than peak-bagging trips.

I returned the next day to retrace my steps, skirt Raina to the east, and gain the ridge between false Raina Peak and Peeking. The ridge led me to the summit and was quite delightful. With some snow on the top it provided great views and exposure.

Pleasant Mountain

For the last trip up the valley I was joined by Greg Encelewski with sights set on Pleasant Mountain. I was heading again for the great gully splitting the south face, but Greg pointed out a nice-looking buttress on the southwestern side, which we were now approaching. A change of plans and we were kicking steps up the slope, which brought us into a tight gully and we exited by a narrow slit between two rock outcroppings.

We made our way east and looked down the initially planned route, turned north, and topped out on a steep ridge running between at least three summits. Researching the peak in advance I came to understand that the westernmost summit might, maybe, probably, be the highest.

Our progress was momentarily blocked by steep rock walls; therefore, we retraced our steps, gained the western ridge of the whole jumble called Pleasant Mountain and proceeded to the "summit" over easier ground. After performing the water-bottle test we put our doubts to rest and called all summit piles to be close enough in elevation not to care. Yet again another great day in Ram Valley.

The proper access point recommended to me by the locals is reached by turning left on Prudhoe Bay Road, turning left on Delores Drive, turning right on Mariah Drive, and following it to the end. Right before a private drive at the end of the road, there is a small parking lot and a trail heading uphill through tall grass. The dirt road intersected by a gate is supposedly private and not to be used.

The trail follows a powerline heading uphill and reaches a dirt road. Turning right and following the road for a few hundred meters brings one to a small trail on the left, right by a sign facing the opposite direction. That is the Ram Valley Trail.



Greg Encelewski on the summit of Pleasant Mountain.

Peak of the Month: Amherst Peak

By Steve Gruhn

Mountain Range: Coast Mountains; Taku Range
Borough: City and Borough of Juneau
Drainages: Northwest Branch of the Norris Glacier and Southwest Branch of the Taku Glacier
Latitude/Longitude: 58° 30' 4" North, 134° 22' 33" West
Elevation: 5479 feet
Prominence: 529 feet from Peak 5970 in the Southwest Branch of the Taku Glacier and Mendenhall Glacier drainages
Adjacent Peaks: Peak 5970 and Peak 4550 southwest of Echo Pass
Distinctness: 529 feet from Peak 5970
USGS Map: Juneau (C-2)
First Recorded Ascent: 1951 by Charles Roland "Buck" Wilson

Amherst Peak's location in the Juneau Icefield led scientists and surveyors working with the Juneau Icefield Research Program (JIRP) to use it as a reference point. Since 1946 the JIRP has conducted glaciological, geological, biological, and climatological studies on the Juneau Icefield.

In 1951, while the JIRP was still in its infancy, 22-year-old Buck Wilson worked with the JIRP to survey the glaciers in the Juneau Icefield and, in the process, made the first recorded ascents of several peaks, including Amherst Peak. Buck's other first recorded ascents on the Juneau Icefield that year included Taku C (5030), Princess Peak (6585), Westward Ho (5399), and Norris Mountain (4125).

In addition to those first recorded ascents, that summer Buck also climbed Taku A (4850), Mount Unity (5150), Mount Moore (7410), Cairn Peak (4537), Olds Mountain (4472), Vantage Peak (5585), and Mount Ogilvie (7780) on the Juneau Icefield.

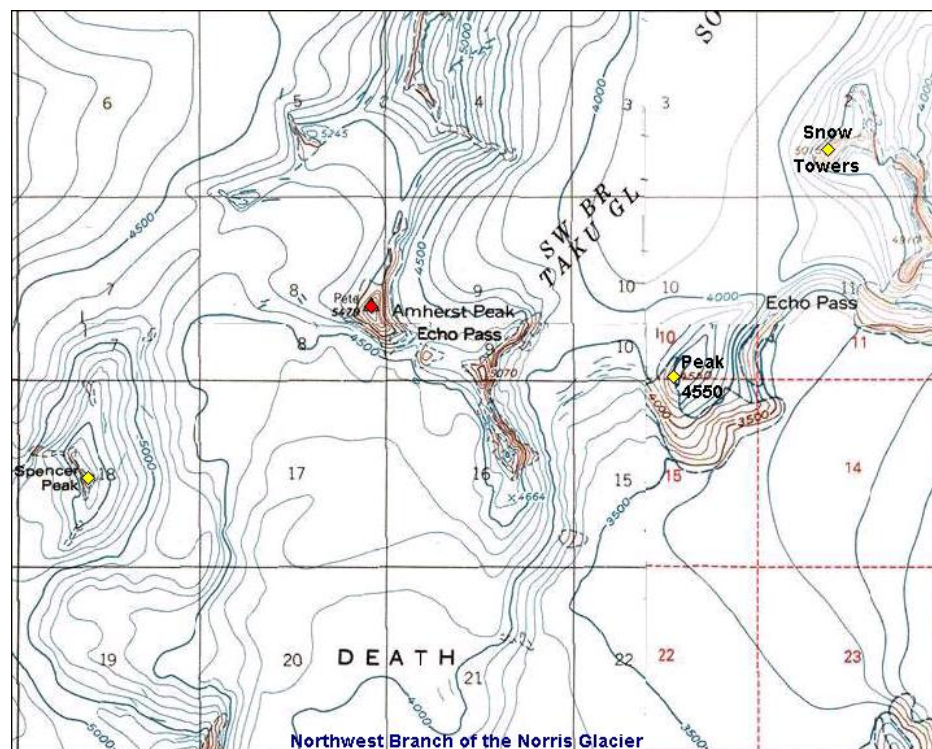
The next year while conducting botanical studies for the JIRP, George William Argus, Jr., also reached the summit of Amherst Peak.

Buck went on to work at the Geophysical Institute at the University of Alaska Fairbanks. In 1952 he became a founding member and the first secretary-treasurer of the Alaska Alpine Club. Buck went on to make the first

recorded ascents of many Alaskan peaks in the Alaska Range, Chugach Mountains, and Coast Mountains and to become a fixture in Alaskan mountaineering history, but it all started that summer of 1951 on the Juneau Icefield.

The name Amherst Peak was first published in 1960 by the USGS, which described it as a local name.

The information for this article came from my correspondence with Buck Wilson and from Vin Hoeman's records in the Grace and John Vincent Hoeman Collection, which is housed with the Archives and Special Collections in the Consortium Library on the University of Alaska Anchorage campus.



MCA Board Meeting Minutes

April 13, 2011

Board Members Present: Tim Silvers, Randy Plant, Vicky Lytle, John Recktenwald, Jim Sellers

1. Jim to gather more information about potential benefits sharing arrangements with several large clubs in the US.
2. Jim and Randy will meet with insurance broker to ask questions and learn more about insurance options, then report back to the board.
3. Advertising - MCA brochures at AMH, ARG and REI. Tim to work on new MCA business card, which will also contain links for the MCA Facebook and Alaska Mountaineers Meetup Group.
4. John put forth a motion to print up to \$200 of MCA logo stickers for resale. Motion passed unanimously.
5. Discussed that MCA can accept donations earmarked for specific expense categories (huts, for example) subject to board approval of the requested use of the donation.
6. MCA library - Jim should know by the end of May if there is potential space for the library in his new office building.
7. Rock climbing training. Should start in May or June. We'll try to do the training earlier in the season this year. Watch MCA Events Calendar and Scree for details.
8. Motion passed unanimously to allow links on the MCA homepage to businesses that offer MCA member benefits. Jim to

draft a "website commercial use" policy for board review.

9. Discussed commercial use of MCA huts. While not allowed in the Talkeetna huts, commercial use of MCA huts is allowed on the Eklutna Traverse huts per Chugach State Park rules. MCA policies contain more details on the commercial use of MCA huts.

Next board meeting: Wednesday, June 8
(location TBA)
Tim Silvers, MCA President

New Monthly MCA Meeting!

A couple of months ago Dean Carman started a new event for the MCA. This meeting is a chance for members to get together and talk about climbing trips, skills they want to learn and a chance for people to mix and get to know each other better. After the meeting we usually go to the Moose's Tooth for some beers and pizza. The May meeting will be Tuesday, the 31st, of May in the upstairs rooms of the BP Energy Center from 6 to 9 p.m. With luck, this will become a permanent monthly event.

If you have any particular climbing or mountaineering interest that you want to address, please come and ask questions. 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. If you want to learn about some particular piece of technical gear, let Dean know ahead of time and he will arrange to bring it. His email is dreamer_skier@yahoo.com. There should be plenty of skilled people around that can help

you find your mountaineering answers. You don't need to RSVP to attend. Just show up and have fun. We hope to see you there!

Be sure to check the MCA Events Calendar at <http://www.mtnclubak.org/index.cfm/What-We-Do/Events-Calendar> every few weeks for updates on future dates for this and other MCA events.

ADZE

Boots:

Dynafit TLT4 AT boots (2 ½ lbs each) 26 (~7 ½) \$300
Dynafit TLT5 AT boots 27 (~9) \$500
Karhu Convert 3 pin 8 ½ \$20
La Sportiva Mid height leather, stiff sole. 8 \$30
Asolo Expedition double plastic 8 ½ \$40

Madshus Suprasonic 185 skate skis (new) \$100
Fritschi Diamir Titanal 3 AT bindings w/brakes \$220
Feathered Friends -40F sleeping bag \$350
North Face rectangular synthetic bag \$30
Kelty White Cloud spectra/Kevlar pack medium \$230

Terraplane X womens pack \$100
Mountain Hardware Glisse Ski/Snowboard pack \$40
DriClima Marmot KidsXL new \$20
MSR XGK stove \$40
Bibler Hanging Pot set new \$20
MSR axe old orange \$15
Camp Lowe aluminum axe \$20
Mid step crampons \$10

Call Wayne Todd at 522-6354

Mountaineering Club of Alaska

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|----------------|-------------|----------|--------------|------------------|----------|
| President | Tim Silvers | 250-3374 | Board member | Wayne Todd | 522-6354 |
| Vice-President | Jayne Mack | 382-0212 | Board member | Mark Smith | 868-3155 |
| Secretary | Brian Aho | 223-4758 | 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@mtclubak.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 e-mailed to MCAScree@gmail.com. Articles should be submitted by the 25th of the month to appear in the following month's Scree.

Paid ads may be submitted to the attention of the Vice-President at the club address and should be in electronic format and pre-paid.

Missing your MCA membership card? Stop by 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@mtclubak.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.mtclubak.org (change your address here)

Mailing list service: MCAK@yahoogroups.com

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