

the SCREE

Mountaineering Club of Alaska

June 2011

Volume 54 Number 6



"Adopt the pace of nature: her secret is patience."

---Ralph Waldo Emerson

Contents:

Peak of the Month - Peak 5381

Esther Island Paddle Climb - Peak 2057

MB5 (Mount Marcus Baker)

Monthly Meeting:

Wednesday, June 15, 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: Sasha Zlatkovski paddling with the Chugach Mountains in the background. Photo by Stu Grenier.

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

June 10-12 Kenai Peninsula - peaks less traveled

Meet at Carrs Huffman Friday, June 10, at 5:40 p.m. or leave earlier (two spaces available) with Tom to secure a camp at Tenderfoot Creek (Summit Lake). Call 333-5309. Alternative meeting 7:50 a.m. Saturday, same place (must be on the road by 8). Friday plan is to take a nature walk and have a campfire. There is a Forest Service fee for camping. Saturday plan is to leave Tenderfoot Creek at 9:30 a.m. up ridge to the east, hopefully reaching Peak 5050. Sunday plan is to cross the highway and go up the ridge to the west, hopefully reaching Peak 4750. One day or two days camp (if there is space!), day trips – all will work. Ski poles, ice axe, possibly crampons will be useful on snow higher up. There is a glissade gully. Leader: Tom Choate, mtngoatc@gmail.com, 333-5309.

Saturday, June 18

Four Mile Creek circumnavigation

16 miles, 6,700 feet of elevation gain, including ascents of Mount Eklutna, Peak 4009, and Peak 5505.

Contact Steve Gruhn at SCGruhn@gmail.com or 344-1219 at least 24 hours before the trip.

Monday, June 20, 6 p.m.

Peak 3980 in the Ship Creek and South Fork of the Eagle River drainages 2.5 miles, 2,800 feet of elevation gain.

Contact Steve Gruhn at SCGruhn@gmail.com or 344-1219 at least 24 hours before the trip.

July 23 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

Tim Silvers will demonstrate some useful rock-climbing skills at the MCA Base Camp meetings in the upstairs rooms at the BP Energy Center between 6 and 9 pm on June 28, July 28, and August 30. Some skills covered will include knots, setting up fast and bombproof top-rope anchors, safely removing top anchors and lowering off a sport route, the safest way to rappel, other anchor systems, and much more. If you would like to brush up on some rock-climbing skills, bring your harness, some slings or cord, carabiners, and a belay device. You don't need to RSVP to attend; just show up and have fun.

We are working on putting together two days of Hatcher Pass rock-climbing training tentatively the weekend of July 16-17. If you are interested in signing up for this, please email Tim Silvers at President@mtclubak.org. Check the MCA Events Calendar <http://www.mtnclubak.org/index.cfm/What-We-Do/Events-Calendar> every few weeks for the latest schedule on rock-climbing training and other MCA events.

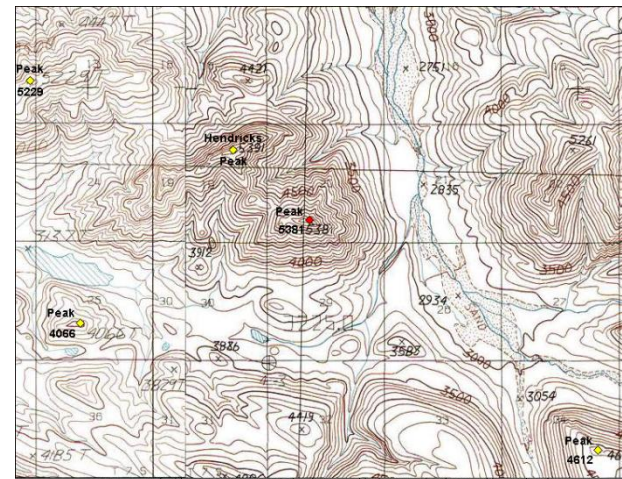
New Monthly MCA Meeting!

A few 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. 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.

New Member Discount at AppOutdoors.Com

The benefits of MCA membership keep getting better!!! The MCA just got a 15 percent, members-only discount from Appalachian Outdoors for purchase of gear or clothing at AppOutdoors.com. The discount code to enter at checkout on AppOutdoors.com is LBClub15. Once entered all prices on the site should be displayed at the discounted level. If you have any problems using the discount, please contact Anne Davies or Jess Spate at media@appoutdoors.com and they'll get it fixed.



Peak of the Month: Peak 5381

By Steve Gruhn

Mountain Range: Brooks Range; Philip Smith Mountains

Borough: North Slope Borough

Drainage: Canning River

Latitude/Longitude: 68° 49' 2" North, 145° 45' 28" West

Elevation: 5381 feet

Prominence: 631 feet from Hendricks Peak (5391)

Adjacent Peaks: Hendricks Peak and Peak 6518 in the Marsh Fork of the Canning River drainage

Distinctness: 631 feet from Hendricks Peak

USGS Map: Arctic (D-3)

First Recorded Ascent: August 14, 1978, by Omar Hansen

Route of First Recorded Ascent: From Hendricks Peak via the northwest spur

Access Point: Presumably an unnamed lake 2 miles west of the peak

On August 14, 1978, Omar Hansen climbed Point 5350 a mile northeast of the unnamed lake 2 miles west of Peak 5381. Hansen continued on to summit Peak 5391, turned southeast, descended to a saddle, and ascended Peak 5381. In his report on page 176 of the 1979 *American Alpine Journal*, Hansen noted that there were no geographic names within 16 miles of the area. Because of this lack of geographic names in the area and because his ascents appeared to be firsts, he proposed the name Hendricks Peak for Peak 5391 to honor Alaska master guide Joe Hendricks, who had guided in the area for many years.



Sunset reflection.

Esther Island Paddle Climb - Peak 2057

By Stu Grenier

Our team had planned to go back out to Chenega in 2010 in Prince William Sound in late May to early June on the state ferry, but I was a little peeved when they wanted to charge the same amount for the double kayak as a car, due to its length. We talked about it and decided rather than get ripped off, we should do a less-expensive route by just paddling out of Whittier and saving the team hundreds of dollars. The team seemed to be happy with this cheaper option. The team included Alexander (Sasha) Zlatkovski, John McCormick, and me. Sasha, newer to sea kayaking but very experienced, is at that fanatical stage where paddling is all he wants to do, so adventures inland and up were to be John's and my department.

After an interesting and picturesque adventure up a rarely traveled valley that will be a subject of a separate Scree account, John and I picked one of the high points on the west side of Esther Island. As the three of us paddled across Port Wells in a perfect calm, John and I in the double noticed an isolated cloud dumping rain in an otherwise sunny sky. As we watched, it appeared the rain never made it to the ground.

I commented that there was a word for rain that falls but evaporates before it reaches the ground. John responded with the name for it – virga. The virga was right over the higher and northern summit of a chain of summits ranging in elevation between 1350 and 2057 feet on the west side of Esther Island. From a distance the four hills looked like a family or some other related group. We toyed with climbing and naming the higher hill Mount Virga (2057 feet) if it did not already have a name.

The west side of Esther Island – and maybe Esther Island in general – is subject to intense commercial gillnetting when there is an opener. When we first arrived there were a few boats, but then the next morning the number had quadrupled and the quiet area had become something akin to an industrial zone with boat engines and mechanical winches echoing off the hills. Unsure how long this would continue, we eventually moved up College Fiord, where there were no commercial fishing boats. But before we headed north, John and I managed to summit Peak 2057 while Sasha did a solo circumnavigation of Esther Island.

One of the nice advantages to doing paddle climbs is you can often do a fairly good reconnaissance of a peak by paddling around it if it is located on a peninsula or an island. John and I did just that spending half a day paddling along the coast south of Granite Bay and in Granite Bay taking turns scoping out the mountain with binoculars. As we scoped the Port Wells side, there were a series of overhanging cornices and heavily loaded snow slopes.

I was convinced there must be a better way, and as we pulled into the southern arm of Granite Bay there it was as plain as day. Take the saddle to the northeast of Mount Virga with the little lake at about the 480-foot level and then hold Mount Virga's northeast ridge to the summit. It looked like we would have to go through a maze of rock outcroppings on the lower ridge with some limited exposure to snow loaded avalancheable slopes, but after that it would be a stroll up to the summit barring post-holing issues or bad weather.



John McCormick working his way through the rock outcroppings on the ridge.

The next morning John and I departed from the back of the southern arm of Granite Bay without our snowshoes. We did take our ice axes. We moved up through the seemingly magical maritime rainforest staying between two sizable loud creeks. After about 45 minutes we broke into a beautiful open area with snow fields and ponds and rounded rock outcroppings sticking up through the snow. We took turns breaking trail and John had the lead in one of the unlucky sections dropping through over his waist.

It seemed the snow was so soft even snowshoes, which we left at camp, would have been of limited value.

After weaving a path through the ponds and snow fields and across the creek on climber's left we made it to the steep, partially forested slope leading to the saddle. Here we ran into one of the least enjoyable challenges in these parts, large boulders covered in wet slushy snow. John and I both have compromised knees, so the experience of falling through soft snow bridges between these large-car-sized boulders became an experience worthy of the foulest language. We never knew how deep we would go or what we would land on or in.

The stress of the route split the team. We kept voice contact and could have tracked each other if someone disappeared, so it was a calculated risk that probably wasn't the best choice. I went climber's left for a stand of trees and John went climber's right. The trees worked for me

and we shouted and hooted ourselves back together when we reached the saddle.

Working up the ridge, we had to deal with a series of rounded rock outcroppings that prevented us from holding the ridge and that had little snow fields between them that a few times forced us out onto something approaching the north-facing, snow-loaded slope. Planting the ice axe shafts deep in the snow took some sweat out of it as we dealt with the few exposed steep areas one at a time, so as not to take any rides down together.

After we got around the smooth rock outcroppings, we had a pleasant ridge walk, mostly in firm snow, to the summit with views to the southeast of Knight, Perry, and Culross Islands, and Esther Lake. To the west were Port Wells and the Chugach Mountains. John worked his way up ahead, as my belly and me brought up the rear – a position I have become accustomed to in recent years.

On the summit we snapped a few shots and stashed a register in a rock ledge about 40 feet southeast of the summit. No question about it, the climb and summit had all the qualities of the certain kind of perfection we always find ourselves reaching for in this life – a good friend, great ocean mountain air, and views of known meaningful places that we may not ever get to again and certainly not under these conditions.



Stu with Esther Lake below.

The wind cooled us down with a slight hint of rain. Throughout our time going up the ridge, it was clear John was not too excited about our ascent route for a return. He suggested the north ridge to get down, but I was not in the mood for trading our known tracks for an unknown route. I dumped my rucksack on the lower ridge on the way up partially to lighten my load, but also to demonstrate my commitment to the known route.

Unfortunately I couldn't do that with my belly, which is another story. John has been around a while so I felt comfortable with whatever decision he made, but I was taking the known route. I left him on the summit as I headed down our tracks. After about 15 minutes, I was relieved to see John do the same. I kind of envied him being up there on the summit by himself. I guess we will always wonder what we would have found on the north ridge, but I knew what was on our ascent route. I have been stung too many times. The unknown is a frightful place.

We managed to skip the big boulder field on the descent by staying in the trees to skier's right of our tracks. We paddled back to camp to find Sasha waiting with a fire going. We shared our stories from our adventures as the sun set behind the Chugach.

After we got back in town, I shared our story with Steve Gruhn, who is always curious about what folks have summited. He pointed out that Jim and Nancy Lethcoe mentioned climbing a peak in this area in their [Cruising Guide to Prince William Sound](#). In the 1989 edition they mentioned going to the peak that overlooks Esther Passage from the same saddle we took to the summit of Peak 2057 – a climb I hope to do someday. I found no mention of them doing Peak 2057, which overlooks Port Wells. I suspect though that the more adventurous folks at the fish hatchery in Lake Bay have already summited everything on the island and probably given names to everything, but may have never submitted them.

I'm always looking for some experienced easy-going paddle climbers, this same loose-knit team hopes to depart for some high adventure in the sound, or maybe just lying around on the beach. Let me know at oinkmenow@hotmail.com.



Esther Rock is the speck in the middle of the picture. Port Wells is below.



Left to right: Stu Grenier and John McCormick on the summit.



Marcin Ksok on the summit of Mount Marcus Baker.

MB5 (Mount Marcus Baker)

By Marcin Ksok

As the days grow longer and the sun's rays become stronger, those who enjoy the outdoors start to stir and become restless. By the beginning of March, ideas take shape and plans for the spring climbing season come together. Although the winter still has a strong hold, I begin thinking of the long and warm days of April, May, and June. March 2011 started out especially sunny and clear and I began to scratch an old itch.

Realizing the difficulty in putting a team together at such a short notice and for a destination with such a bad reputation, I did not knock on many doors. Instead, Greg Encelewski and I threw some gear together, and after waiting a few days for winds to die down, were approaching the top of the Radcliffe Glacier. Dave Glenn of Grasshopper Aviation set down his Maule on a short stretch of semi-soft snow surrounded by windblown concrete. The resulting damage was a broken rear ski-retaining bolt.

Traveling on the super solid surface was fast and we quickly reached the site of our camp at 8,400 feet. Our path crossed an unnerving amount of icefall debris, up to car-sized blocks that protruded through the snow. At least we knew that the snow bridges over the enormous crevasses were strong enough to hold more than just our weight. The sun made for pleasant temperatures, but we knew that it was only temporary; it was early March after all. As soon as the bright disc dipped behind the ridgeline, the temperature plummeted and we were inside the sleeping bags. Not carrying a thermometer, we did not know the actual temperature, but the next morning our summit push was delayed because of difficulties in lighting the stove. Not that the pump or the gadget itself malfunctioned, the white gas would not light, after multiple tries I resorted to warming up the fuel bottle under my jacket – a first for me. It was cold.

Slightly delayed, but not deterred, we proceeded up the middle of the glacier, maneuvering around a few holes and trending left until we reached the glacier's northwestern flank. We were far enough to be away from the holes, yet not too close to the ridge and the prevalent icefall debris. After passing Point 12207 we turned north and started gaining elevation, at the saddle between Mount Marcus Baker and Point 12207, the wind picked up, the terrain got steeper, and we ditched the skis. The best part of the climb was ahead of us, the western face of the peak itself.

The surface was mostly hard snow with patches of blue ice. The angle increased as we progressed, yet never was overly steep. As we neared the end of the headwall, I placed a few ice screws in case the snow was poorly adhered and could slide,



Greg Encelewski at high camp with Mount Marcus Baker in the background.



Approaching the saddle, Point 12207 on the horizon. (Photo by Greg Encelewski.)

which proved not to be an issue. After topping out on the northwest ridge, a short stroll brought us to the summit. By now I was fairly worn out, I knew that would happen because I was lacking energy all day and was slower than usual. I blamed it on the altitude to make myself feel better.

An incredible view for hundreds of miles rewarded us, with not a cloud in the sky and a complete lack of wind. It was also 5 o'clock and we both knew that it was too late. The descent of the headwall brought on a dilemma and we chose to down climb to save time. The angle was moderate and the surface excellent. With an ice axe in one hand and an alpine tool in another, we carefully reached the base. It took longer than anticipated but it was around 700 vertical feet after all. We raced the shadows descending back to the lower glacier and toward camp. The crevasses still lay in our way. The only safe way was to follow our faint ski trail, which I lost and carefully regained knowing that it was our only path to the tent.

The crevasses would be too difficult to navigate by headlamp and would necessitate a cold bivy. Luckily I stuck to the trail, following nothing more than holes left by our ski poles in the frozen snow, we reached home. It was a tossup between either crawling into the sleeping bag or making dinner. *"If the stove starts at first try, then we eat."* It fired up. Also a first for us – eating dinner in mittens.

We vowed not to get out of the tent until the sun hit it and so it was. After breakfast a fast ski downhill brought us to the landing site, but it was not the end of the journey. At the pilot's request we went over the pass to the Knik Glacier in search of a longer runway and better snow. It was not to be, though, strong winds in Wasilla prevented takeoff. Clouds started to roll in from Prince William Sound as bedtime approached. Not again! The mountain would not let us go. Throughout

the night the winds picked up and the temperature increased by 20 degrees. I was anticipating another campout on the Knik and secured all equipment, especially shovels, in the doorway and went back to bed. To our great surprise the winds died by the morning and the clouds retreated. *"The mountain gods are just messing with us."*

Dave landed early in the morning and had us off the glacier in no time – quite a blessing in these parts, a perfect trip. We were fortunate to climb the highest peak in this stormy range in less than four days. I think we finally earned it.

That was the climb, but many ask why I would go back to the same mountain so many times. This was the fifth, after all, of which I organized three. Aren't there other peaks? What is the obsession with this one? Well, there is more to it than just the summit. Although the top is always the focus of the expedition, there is a greater picture.

Every trip up there provided an enormous reward. It was my first "big" mountain in Alaska, a lot taller than Denali in retrospect. It was where I acquired and learned my mountaineering skills and knowledge, where I watched mentors like Richard Baranow and Randy Howell, where I realized what it means to organize and lead a climb, deal with crevasses, avalanches, and injuries.

It is where I made friendships and met climbing partners, dug snow caves, and fixed an airplane. Mount Marcus Baker is not just a summit to me; I studied its aspects, routes, and historical ascents. It is where I ground my teeth. In the end it was a classroom, a mountain environment; it contributed to who I am today. It is a great teacher that, after I climbed all over its flanks, finally decided that it was time and in the end provided Greg and me with a perfect graduation climb.



Greg Encelewski on the summit of Mount Marcus Baker.

MCA General Meeting Minutes

April 20, 2011

1. Huts Committee Report (Aho): Please let us know about anything that needs to be repaired. Human waste status report requested for Eklutna Traverse Huts. Need help to check Mint Hut toilet (fill level)
2. Library (Silvers): Getting close to having new permanent location.
3. Hiking and Climbing Committee: Several upcoming small mid-week trips. Contact Steve Gruhn to sign up or see Don Hansen for Gates of the Arctic National Park trip in July, e-mail donjoehansen@msn.com.
4. Peak Registers: Need new committee chair.
5. Awards: Need another committee volunteer.
6. Slide Show Presentation by Artur Testov and Christine Feret: Winter on Denali.

Next general meeting: Wednesday, May 18th (6:30 PM).

---Brian Aho, Secretary

MCA General Meeting Minutes

May 18, 2011

1. Huts Committee Report: See www.mtnclubak.org/index.cfm/Huts/ for a current list of hut needs. Please let us know about anything else that needs to be repaired or replaced.
2. Library: work still in progress.
3. Training: Crevasse Rescue training at Matanuska Glacier went well, Rock climbing clinic coming up in mid-July.
4. MCA Basecamp: Monthly social meetup @ BP Energy Center. This month (05/31/2011): Basic rock climbing skills (knots, anchors, rappelling) so bring your harness, some slings or cord, biners and belay device.
5. Hiking and Climbing Committee: Steve Gruhn (sgruhn@clarus-ak.com) is offering Monday evening hikes and other trips. Don Hansen (donjoehansen@msn.com) is planning a backpacking trip to the Gates of the Arctic National Park end of July / early August. Dates are flexible but trip may be canceled if too little interest.

6. Peak Registers: *New committee chair: Ben Radakovich.*
7. Parks Advisory: The Dept. of Natural Resources has released the Draft Chugach State Park Management Plan for public review and comment. Public hearings are next month. The Deadline for comments is September 9th, 2011. More information @ <http://dnr.alaska.gov/parks/units/chugach/planning.htm>.
8. Awards: Gift certificate for Wayne Todd, former MCA president.
9. Slide Show Presentation by Keith Sanfacon: Lessons learned while skiing from Valdez to Cordova.

Next board meeting: TBA.

Next general meeting: Wednesday, June 15th (6:30 PM).

---Brian Aho, secretary.

Hut Needs and Notes

If you are headed to one of the huts, please consult the notes below to see what needs to be carried to the huts or fixed. If you can help out, contact Greg Bragiel at huts@mtnclubak.org.

- Pichler's Perch: Lantern globe needs to be carried to the hut.
- Hans' Hut: Gate latch and stove mantles need to be carried to the hut, gate latch needs repair.
- Mint Hut: Greg has a (stove) generator and toilet hardware that needs to get to the Mint Hut. If anyone is heading that way before July 9, he would appreciate getting this done.
- Rosie's Roost: Lantern mantles need to be carried to the hut.
- Scandinavian Peaks Hut: The next group going there should take a wood plane with them. The upstairs window needs planing to shut smoothly.

SIGN AND INITIAL THIS RELEASE OF LIABILITY— READ IT CAREFULLY

I _____ (print name) am aware that mountaineering and wilderness activities (including hiking; backpacking; rock, snow, and ice climbing; mountaineering; skiing; ski mountaineering; rafting and packrafting, kayaking, and use of remote backcountry huts) are hazardous activities. I wish to participate and/or receive instruction in these activities with the Mountaineering Club of Alaska, Inc. (“MCA”). I recognize these activities involve numerous risks, which include, by way of example only, falling while hiking, climbing, skiing or crossing rivers or glaciers; falling into a crevasse or over a cliff; drowning; failure of a belay; being struck by climbing equipment or falling rock, ice or snow; avalanches; lightning; fire; hypothermia; frostbite; defective or malfunctioning equipment; and attack by insects or animals. I further recognize that the remoteness of the activities may preclude prompt medical care or rescue. I also recognize that risk of **injury or death** may be caused or enhanced by **mistakes, negligence or reckless conduct** on the part of either my fellow participants; MCA officers, directors, instructors, or trip leaders; and the State of Alaska and its employees regarding MCA backcountry huts. I nevertheless agree to accept all risks of **injury, death, or property damage** that may occur in connection with any MCA activity, including use of MCA furnished equipment and MCA backcountry huts. (**As used in this agreement, MCA includes its officers, directors, instructors and trip leaders.**)

_____ (initial that you have read this paragraph)

GIVING UP MY LEGAL RIGHTS I agree to give up for myself and for my heirs all legal rights I may have against the MCA; my fellow participants in MCA activities (except to the extent that insurance coverage is provided by automobile insurance policies) and the State of Alaska and its employees regarding MCA backcountry huts. **I give up these legal rights regardless of whether the injury, death, or property damage results from mistakes, negligence or reckless conduct of others.** I understand this agreement shall remain in effect until I provide a signed, dated, written notice of its revocation to the MCA.

_____ (initial that you have read this paragraph)

MY PROMISE NOT TO SUE I will not sue or otherwise make a claim against the MCA; my fellow participants in MCA activities (except as noted above for automobile accidents); and the State of Alaska and its employees regarding use of MCA backcountry huts, for **injury, death, or property damage** which occurs in the course of my participation or instruction in mountaineering and wilderness activities. Any lawsuit relating to MCA activities or this release shall only be filed in Anchorage, Alaska. The provisions of this release are severable and if any part is found unenforceable, the remaining provisions shall remain in effect.

_____ (initial that you have read this paragraph)

MY RELEASE OF LIABILITY I agree to release and discharge the MCA; my fellow participants in MCA activities; and the State of Alaska and its employees regarding use of MCA backcountry huts, from all actions, claims, or demands, both for myself and for my heirs, dependents, and/or personal representative, for **injury, death, or property damage** occurring in the course of my participation or instruction in mountaineering and wilderness activities.

_____ (initial that you have read this paragraph)

MY PROMISE TO INDEMNIFY I will pay all expenses, including attorney fees and court costs, that the MCA; my fellow participants in MCA activities; and the State of Alaska and its employees may incur as a consequence of any legal action arising out of **injury, death, or property damage** suffered by me in connection with any MCA activity or the use of any MCA backcountry hut.

_____ (initial that you have read this paragraph)

MY CONSENT TO MEDICAL TREATMENT I consent to any hospital or medical care that may be necessary as a result of my participation in MCA activities. I understand and agree that I am solely responsible for all charges for such medical treatment, including evacuation and/or rescue costs.

_____ (initial that you have read this paragraph)

I HAVE CAREFULLY READ THIS AGREEMENT, UNDERSTAND ITS CONTENT, AND RECOGNIZE IT IS A BINDING LEGAL AGREEMENT

Dated: _____ Signature: _____

Signature of Parent or Guardian (if under 18): _____

Revised 2/19/09

General Rules for Participation on MCA Sanctioned Trips

1. Participants shall familiarize themselves with the *physical demands*, *anticipated terrain* and *potential hazards* associated with the proposed trip. Examples include, but are not limited to:

Physical Demands: Estimated elevation gain, distance and duration.

Anticipated Terrain: Trail hiking; bushwhacking; off-trail hiking on tundra, snow, ice, scree, talus or boulders; exposed hiking on steep slopes covered with snow, ice, slick vegetation, scree, talus or boulders; scrambling on loose rock; exposed scrambling on loose rock; technical snow, ice, rock and/or mixed climbing; stream crossing; glacier travel on snow, ice and/or scree.

Potential Hazards: Avalanche; falling while skiing, hiking or climbing; falling into a crevasse; being struck by falling rock, snow or ice; attack by a bear, moose or insects (bees, wasps, mosquitoes, biting flies, etc); lightning; fire; carbon monoxide poisoning; suffocation; frostbite; hypothermia; drowning from falling through snow, crossing a stream, packrafting or kayaking; injury from use/ misuse of equipment. Note that it is impossible to predict all potential hazards that may be encountered while participating on MCA sanctioned trips.

2. Participants may be required to demonstrate the skills and experience necessary to participate on any given trip.

3. Participants shall sign-up on the club sanctioned trip sign-up sheet.

4. Participants shall read, initial and sign the Release of Liability Agreement prior to departing on the trip.

5. The trip leader may refuse participation to any member for any reason. If someone feels that they have been discriminated against or treated unfairly, they may present their case to the Hiking and Climbing Committee and/or the Executive Committee.

6. Proper clothing and equipment is required to participate on club sanctioned trips. The trip leader can require special equipment and refuse participation to any person that is ill-prepared (e.g. inappropriate clothing, footwear or gear). See recommended equipment list at the end of this policy.

7. Participants shall follow the leader's instructions. Participants shall not go off alone, return or rush ahead without permission from the leader. Participants shall not 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 intentionally separating from the group without the leader's approval shall no longer be considered a participant on the club sanctioned trip.

8. The trip leader has the authority to split the group (fast and slow), dependent upon current conditions and experience level of the participants. The leader must appoint a qualified co-leader to lead the second group using the guidelines specified under Trip Leader Responsibilities.

9. Glacier Travel: For trips requiring roped travel over glaciers, knowledge of crevasse rescue, and ice axe and crampon skills are required. A basic understanding of ice and snow anchors is also required.

10. Participants who in the leader's opinion, put themselves or other members of the group in danger, shall be subject to sanction by the club. Sanctions may include, but are not limited to, reprimand at the general meeting, exclusion from future trips, termination of annual membership, or lifetime exclusion from the club. The Executive Committee, and only the Executive Committee, shall have the authority to issue sanctions.

11. Number of people on club trips:

Minimum: For safety reasons, three people minimum. Trips undertaken with fewer than the minimum required participants shall not be considered club sanctioned trips.

Maximum: Registration on any particular trip must be restricted to a safe and manageable number of members. The Leader and/or Hiking and Climbing Committee shall determine the maximum number of participants. In trail-less areas or State and National Parks the maximum number depends upon the trail and campsite conditions, but will generally be limited to 12 people.

12. In general dogs are not allowed. Among the reasons are bear problems. Well behaved, bear savvy dogs may be approved at the discretion of the trip leader and all trip participants. Approval must be unanimous and must occur prior to meeting for the trip.

13. Firearms are not allowed on club sanctioned trips, unless approved by the trip leader and all participants. Approval must be unanimous. Aerosol bear repellent is preferred in lieu of firearms.

14. If you find you cannot participate after signing up on the roster, please let the leader know as soon as possible, for transportation and gear-planning and so someone else can go. If you are the leader, help find a replacement.

Revised 6/18/10

Mountaineering Club of Alaska

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. Ads can be e-mailed to vicepresident@mtclubak.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@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)

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