

the SCREE

Mountaineering Club of Alaska

May 2014

Volume 57 Number 5



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Monthly meeting: 6:30 p.m., Tuesday, May 20

Program: Ross Noffsinger will share a video of the Hans' Hut renovation.

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

-Edward Abbey

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 meeting at 6:30 p.m. on May 20 at the BP Energy Center, 1014 Energy Court, Anchorage, Alaska.

<http://www.alaskageology.org/graphics/meetingmap.gif>

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Cover Photo

Matt Hickey (left) and Billy Finley ski to camp below Redoubt Volcano. 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 24th of each month to appear in the next issue of the *Scree*. Do not submit material in the body of the email. Do not submit photos embedded in the text file. Send the photo files separately. 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. Please submit at least one vertically oriented photo for consideration for the cover. Please submit captions with photos.

Monthly Meeting: Tuesday, May 20, at 6:30 p.m.

Program: Ross Noffsinger will share a video of Hans' Hut renovation. Hans' Hut is located at 6,000 feet on the Whiteout Glacier. The hut, which was constructed in 1968 by the MCA, was in dire need of protection from its harsh environment. The video includes footage of the helicopter sling loads, demolition, construction, a hike up Hut Peak, and footage of the surrounding glaciers and peaks.

Geographic Names: At its April 10 meetings, the U.S. Board on Geographic Names voted not to approve the proposed name of Mount Petersen for a 4698-foot peak in the Lake Grosvenor drainage of Katmai National Park and Preserve.

Nuggets in the Scree

- ⇒ Wayne Todd wrote to say that Carrie Wang and he climbed Peak 4360 north of Bagg Pass, Whitecrown (6390), Hover Peak (4955), and Peak 4578 near the East Fork of the Twentymile River and the West Fork of the Twentymile River. We look forward to reading a full report in an upcoming issue of the *Scree*.
- ⇒ Alpinist.com reported that Lise Billon, Pedro Angel Galan Diaz, Jeremy Stagnetto, and Jerome Sullivan made the first recorded ascent of Pyramid Peak (8572) in the Revelation Mountains. The four French climbers ascended the west face of the peak from the Revelation Glacier. For more information, go to www.alpinist.com/doc/web14s/newswire-revelations-pyramid-iliad-odyssey.
- ⇒ For information about a plan to maintain access to Mount Baldy, visit <http://www.alaskastar.com/Plan-afoot-to-save-popular-hiking-area-from-development/>.

Hiking and Climbing Schedule

- ⇒ **July 5-13 Summer Mountaineering Instructional Trip.** Glacier Travel, Technical. Lots of elevation gain and loss. About 31 miles distance. Trip leaders: Greg Bragiel and Tom Choate. Learn the basics of mountaineering, including: food preparation, navigation, route finding, snow travel, knots, ice climbing, glacier travel, crevasse rescue, bouldering, rock climbing, leadership, and much more. Participants will share expenses. \$50 deposit required to sign up. Sign up at the May MCA meeting.

Online? Click me!



Check the Meetup site and Facebook for last minute trips and activities. Or, schedule one that you want to organize.

Hayes Range Consolation Prize

By Chad Diesinger with Jason Stuckey



Panorama of Chad Diesinger on the summit of Peak 9400 looking southwest. Photo by Jason Stuckey.

In March of 2013, two friends (Jason Stuckey and Andy DuComb) and I skied into the Hayes Range via McGinnis Creek. Our objective was climbing the northeast ridge of McGinnis Peak (11,400 feet). For Jason and me, this would be our third attempt. The first trip, in April of 2011, was a test of endurance ... waiting out weather that went from heavy snow to high winds and clouds for several days, then finally deciding to bail, packed up, and starting to ski out. After we skied a mile down the glacier, the skies cleared and the sun shone bright causing us to make a U-turn and head back up and camp at the icefall below the east face, which we would have to navigate through to access the northeast ridge. The wind, clouds, and snow returned and after two more days in a cramped, wet EV3 we retreated to the Richardson Highway. Our second attempt in 2012 was aimed at the southwest ridge of McGinnis. After the two-day, 16-mile approach and a previous day's climb of Panorama Peak off the Parks Highway utilizing a new boot set up, my feet were in rough shape. We made it to the top of the "snow cone" (9,000+ feet) at the start of the ridge. This gave us a close-up look at the difficulties we had ahead of us. The constraints of the limited amount of time we had to try and complete the climb, which would entail a traverse of the mountain from south to north, and the condition of my feet, led to the decision to bow out. We were able to down-climb into the cirque below the east face, referred to as the "valley of death" by Fairbanks climber Jeff Benowitz, who provided much helpful beta from his collection of McGinnis experiences. We gained valuable experience by having to negotiate the icefall that guarded the entrance to this cirque, which is also the approach to the northeast ridge.

Jason, Andy, and I spent a day and half getting to the base of the icefall below the east face. We picked our way through the maze of rock-strewn, zigzagging ice folds and cracks covered by fragile snow bridges. Once we made it to easier snow-covered glacier, we packed the crampons and donned the skis we were carrying. A couple miles of skiing and one crevasse fall led us to the base of the slopes that sweep up to the col on the northeast ridge where we planned to dig a snow cave. Climbing the 2,000-foot snow slopes

was straightforward, navigating a bergschrund and narrow couloir to the col, which is the start of the northeast ridge route, Benowitz variation (first/earlier northeast ridge climbers accessed the ridge farther out). We made a poor decision and dug our snow cave on the south (windward) side of the ridge. Unfortunately, we only realized this after several hours engaged in digging with only enough space for two to show for our efforts. Several additional hours were spent on the laborious task of chipping and scraping away snicy chunks until we finally had a cave big enough to accommodate the three of us. After settling in, brewing up and eating, it was near midnight. We were all feeling a bit worn-out the following morning as we packed and got geared up to start the "real" climbing. A few blocks of simul-climbing got us up through a mixed section and onto a lower-angle section of ridge that provided a clear view of the steep, knife-edge climbing that would await us if we continued upward. Andy expressed his lack of enthusiasm for continuing based on his current physical condition. Our quick analysis of the situation was simple; we had a long way to go on very technical ground that would be challenging going up, but even more serious descending in a much more depleted state than any of us were in now. We all agreed on the course of action, descend. We down-climbed to the cave and enjoyed a restful afternoon of eating, drinking and napping. The following day we descended to our skis, then made good time down the valley, back to and through the icefall and the welcome site of our tent on the McGinnis Glacier.

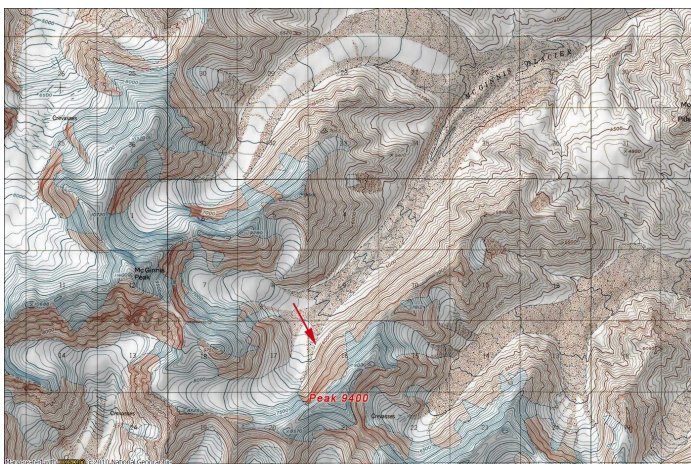
During our descent Jason was eyeing a line on the northwest face of Peak 9400, on the south side of the McGinnis Glacier, that we had spotted during our first trip into this area. It was a couloir that was narrow at the bottom and widened as it rose up to where it opened onto a smooth snow face and looked like a perfect line to the summit. We discussed it and quickly decided to give it a try the next day if our stellar weather held. Andy opted for a day of recuperating in the tent.

Jason and I started at 9 a.m. and found a fairly direct route across the McGinnis Glacier to the base of the debris cone at the bottom of



Northwest face of Peak 9400 with start of route marked with red arrow. Photo by Jason Stuckey.

the couloir. The snow was a bit deep in the narrow portion of the couloir, but the conditions improved the higher we climbed. The snow was about 45 degrees in the gully and steepened to 60 degrees on the face. We simul-soloed to the base of the face where we roped up, thinking we might need to place a few pickets. The snow was perfect and allowed for very secure climbing, so we placed no gear at all. After about three hours of climbing, we popped onto the ridge just a short distance from the summit. A cold wind from the north had started about halfway up, chilling the posterior and hands to an uncomfortable level. We were anticipating just tagging the summit and heading down, but the sun on the south-facing slope on top was warm and we were sheltered from the wind. This allowed us to comfortably linger while we ate, drank, and soaked in the view, which was phenomenal. We put away the rope and took about an hour and a half to down-climb back to our skis. We shared our stories with Andy, who only got to see us on the route for a bit before a hazy veil of clouds over the glacier obscured his view. We skied out to the highway the following day and drove back to Fairbanks.



Topographic map showing start of route and Peak 9400.

This is a very direct route to the summit, but the approach is substantially longer than the typical one used to access this peak's "trade route," which is up the north ridge, accessed from the glacier up Pillsbury Creek on the east side of Peak 9400. Climbers generally park somewhere off the west side of the Richardson Highway north of the Army training center near Gunnysack Creek. The start of the route on the northwest face described here was accessed from the McGinnis Glacier on the north side of Peak 9400. The two best options for getting onto the glacier are by McGinnis Creek or climbing up and over a pleasant pass at the start of the glacier up Pillsbury Creek.

From Jeff Benowitz

Peak 9400 has been climbed by the north ridge, east face, south ridge, and more recently the northwest face; with little bother to formally document these ascents. When the first ascent was accomplished is likely not known by even the first ascensionists themselves. With the exception of the surprising long south ridge, speckled with double cornices and gendarmes, the peak offers fun, low-stress three-day road-to-road climbing trips. The south ridge was climbed by Jim Bouchard and another guy, who dropped his sleeping bag off the ridge, leading to some colder than normal bivies.

The peak has been used as both a physical training ground (the two-day trip is still elusive, but the lure of sleep is strong), and an inefficient way to get views of the east face of McGinnis Peak, and is highly recommended for those wanting to venture into the Hayes Range, without stepping into the dragon's lair.

Some random notes:

In the 1980s Dan McCoy had a total loss of all things personal during a cabin fire in Fairbanks. The only thing salvable from the ashes was his trusty pair of crampons. After adding new straps he and a few other locals headed up the east ridge of Peak 9400. Everything was moving along quite splendidly until they reached the rumble tower that in some years is passed on snow and in others by an easy mix of ice, rock, and scree. At this minor obstacle, forward progress came to an abrupt stop. Dan could not make any vertical advancement. After a fair deal of rope pulling and physical exertions, Dan made it to the ridge crest where his partners waited. Looking down at where they had just come from, chewing on their geological pace, the long way ahead with many false summits, one of Dan's partners deduced what the issue was. During the fire Dan's chrome-moly steel crampons were annealed – the frozen scree had flattened Dan's front points.

One sub-arctic Sephardic has climbed the peak once a decade for the last approximately 30 years. He has climbed it by bivying high on the peak, lower on the peak, and low down on the approach glacier. Each ascent took pretty much the exact amount of time.

On the approach you will cross the Hines Creek Fault system, which is both seismically active today and responsible for the appealing high topography upvalley. The main fault strand crosses Pillsbury Creek right where the Peak 9400 glacier ends and makes for a nice pass over to McGinnis Creek. With this all in mind, if you feel the ground shaking, run.

Taking a “Hawaiian Punch” on Wolverine Peak

By Joe Chmielowski

Winds about 10 to 30 miles per hour out of the southeast dashed across the slopes and slammed into us as we made our way along the gradual ridge toward the summit of 4,491-foot Wolverine Peak in the Chugach Mountains, east of Anchorage. Undeterred, we pressed on, ducking about 15 feet below the ridge on the north-west side to avoid the brunt of the gusts.

On Friday, January 24th, I met Todd Kelsey at his house and the thermometer read 48 degrees Fahrenheit. This was Week #2 of the epic Hawaiian Punch “Chinook” that we had been experiencing and we were at a loss as to what to do. Apparently, some folks were paddling Sixmile Creek on the Kenai Peninsula while others were kite surfing in Turnagain Arm. No one was skiing in the backcountry due to avalanche danger and few were really thinking about hiking – except us. So, Todd called his friend Dave Bigelow from Eagle River and we were soon at the Prospect Heights Trailhead at 10:45 a.m.

The parking lot was an ice-skating rink with standing water, so we had to shuffle and slide over to the actual trail. Once on it, the footing was good and sure beat Week #1 of the chinook when the trail was awful. We had hiked Near Point on January 18th and the snow was soft with the warm temperatures. At that time, we didn’t fully post-hole, but instead it felt like my joints were made of rusty metal with articulated gears inside

them. It is hard to describe, but as my heel hit the soft snow, it would sink in 3 inches. Then my mid-foot would settle and sink in 1 to 2 more inches with a crunch. Finally, when I pushed off my toes, it would shift and sink again with yet another crunch. Every step was completely different and it was impossible to get

into a rhythm. On that day heading to Near Point, Todd and I were sweating by the time we made it to the cut-off marker about one hour in. Luckily for us, after two weeks of consistently warm weather, the trail was fully consolidated and our approach to Wolverine was uneventful with good footing.

The toughest part of the climb was dealing with the perfectly smooth ice once we got above the timberline. However, we came prepared for this based on our Near Point hike the previous week and we were both armed with Kahtoola micro-spikes. If you haven’t used these yet, let me tell you why they are so great. I have been out

hiking this whole winter two times per week from October through Febru-

ary and the rain, ice, and chinooks have made conditions tough. Without some sort of traction device, the trails and rocks were too slippery and dangerous. So, I have been wearing full crampons. However, on mixed conditions and rocks, the long crampon spikes are awkward and have the potential to twist an ankle (think about fist-sized cobbles covered with a veneer of thin ice).



Dave Bigelow (left) and Joe Chmielowski (right) with dog Ella in front on the summit of Wolverine Peak. Photo by Todd Kelsey.

So the solution is the micro-spike, which allows a person to walk on ice (up and down slopes), but also walk on dirt, rocks, and scree (the awkward footing). If you don't have a pair, go get them.

We summited at 2 p.m. and the view was beautiful. It was sunny, 26 degrees Fahrenheit, with a strong, but manageable, wind. We could easily see Anchorage and the Tordrillo Mountains

ventful, but we did make two interesting observations. First, there were white fuzzy pussy willows popping out on some of the trees. Second, we noticed a large circular area about 6 feet in diameter that had been freshly excavated. This area was not disturbed on our hike up the mountain and after careful inspection we determined that a bear was awake and looking for food. We continued on our way more alert and were back to the ice-skating rink (parking lot) by 4:30.



View the summit of Wolverine Peak. Note the paucity of snow in late January. Photo by Todd Kelsey.

across the inlet as well as Denali. Across the valley on Tikishla Peak, we noticed that most of the mountain was brown with no snow at all; however, in a couloir there was an avalanche about one or two days old. It caught my attention because I thought these were fairly stable before the big two-week chinook hit.

We had a quick snack on top and headed down, hoping for some glissading in a snow-filled gully. We were disappointed, however, because the windswept snow was coated with ice and would be too dangerous for a controlled descent. So, we plodded back down to the trail and into the timberline. The descent was une-

All in all, it was a great hike, but felt more like April with the warm temperatures and sun. I felt refreshed the whole rest of the weekend and couldn't figure out why until I realized – that was the first time we had seen the sun in Anchorage in about three weeks. January is usually cold, really cold, but also sunny and cheerful. The persistent gray clouds and warm weather had been weighing down my emotions more than I realized. But on Friday, "June-uary" 24th, our winter ascent of Wolverine gave me a mental boost and a brief glimpse of the impending spring.

Redoubtful: 68 hours

April 8-11, 2014

Text and photos by Wayne L. Todd



Matt Hickey and Billy Finley skin southward.

After a look-see flight around Redoubt Volcano at 6,000 feet, we decide on the north side (as the route looks continuous and the word is that it's the standard route). We're landed after 6 p.m. by the experienced Doug Brewer of Alaska West Air. With a steady breeze, the 700-foot level of the Drift River seems quite wintery. The lofting white crater plume and full view of Redoubt, backdropped by blue sky, are striking.

After a quick mile cache and camp locate, we're set up for the evening, two red Hilleberg tents and a week's cache. Near morning, cackling ptarmigan are heard nearby amassing for an assault, but they abruptly fly off.

Alpenglow on Redoubt segues to direct light as we skin south on noisy snice (the sled behind me especially noisy). Soon Billy Finley and Matt Hickey, and Carrie Wang and I rope up for glacier travel. The north side presents a near-continuous view, allowing much time for route analysis (perhaps too much). We steadily ascend following Matt's trail through deepening snow as the spindrifting broken-up north face of the mountain grows larger. We don't cross paths with the wind until a plateau at 5,000 feet as we're campsite searching. After some discussion, a "non-wind-affected" location is found. Tent-site digging is warm, except for the spindrifting gusts. We're shadowed early by the now-looming Redoubt Volcano. A Costco chocolate muffin and difficult-to-light-in-the-breeze candles serve as a day-early birthday cake for Billy. A yellow plane circles camp. We guess as to whom and why (revealed the next day; it's Doug in his Bush Hawk).

The wind abates in the night and the battened-down tents are unzipped. I'm content with the use of a pee bottle.

Deep dawn colors and early morning light make a pre-6-a.m. wake-up time more tolerable. On route after 8 a.m., gold-colored light from Cook Inlet reflects from behind us. Convo-

luted terrain soon has us ditching skis for crampons. Passing by a deep-blue ice boulder and a volcanic boulder predicts the beauty, and in hindsight, the difficulty, of this route. Towering and leaning seracs to the sides are also telling. After a short, steep wallowing-relenting-to-snice pitch, I top out on a very gentle snow slope that plinks of "skis (?)"

Thunderous noise jolts us from our focused ascent. Two fighter jets pass between us and the summit. This is repeated moments later.

Carrie soon takes the lead in ankle-to-knee-deep breakable-only-when-you-think-the-crust-will-hold-your-weight snow. Groves of seracs stand to the south. The modest-angle terrain still invites a not-too-difficult summit bid.

Debate from below about whether to go left or right at the first hanging seracs concludes to a push to try left. Matt checks, surmising "not this way" and then, trying right, gets severely blocked by a large, sustained crevasse. I try farther right on the fin and, though blocked by a "discontinuation," spy a possible lower-access fin (via serac debris). Though much of the multi-story hanging serac face above us has already released, the blue, non-snow-covered bergs from softball to vehicle size all about pulse of "not a place to be loitering."

A half-vehicle-sized blue boulder plugs the crevasse gap. Just as I'm thinking, "are we needing to boulder around this to get across?," a foot-plus-wide snow ledge attachment presents itself. A picket on the near side makes sense, a step on the ledge, "holy shxx, it must be 200 feet down." Step to the far side, another picket. We cautiously hurry left out of the boulder zone and make sure everyone exits safely.

Carrie goes far left up a hardened snow trough from a large serac boulder slide (we leave one serac fallout zone, but enter

another). Another break ensues, but progress seems reasonable.

Another odd startling noise reveals two military helicopters heading north from around Redoubt.

Matt leads out on mild ice to avoid post-holing and an unknown crevasse. Raised ski tracks lead to the conclusion that someone, indeed, has skinned up here sometime in the last month (?). And “we must be on a route.” Following the ski track left concludes at a five-foot-wide hole with ski tracks on the other side. I test upward. Numerous near-vertical sections create doubt and rethinking. Pulling up at one section to peer over reveals more crevasse crap route. The afternoon is quickly wearing on. Carrie and I nudge on below a barn-high, overhanging, striated ice section with the communication of “one more up and right before calling it” (aborting).



Billy Finley, Carrie Wang, and Matt Hickey (left to right) setting up V threads.

A now-not-so-startling high-pitched whir reveals a Coast Guard helicopter flying overhead. This is a popular place for government aircraft.

The angle lessens to the right and up, and as I ascend and begin to see the upper slopes, “yes, this might be the tie-in slope,” but topping out, no, it’s another fin with a 30-foot gap and 100-foot drop extending far to the right and left. It’s 4 p.m., 8,500 feet and I realize our ascent, and probable summit bid, is done. The route above this doesn’t even look simple. We gain sight and sound between parties again, so begin descending (which starts with down-climbing below the barn block, that had now emanated a couple unnerving cracks). We’re in shade for the duration of the day.

Billy leads down, starting a trough of our ascent route. The now-known risky sections don’t seem as dangerous as we rou-

tine our way. At the top of the initial steep section, Billy sets up a double-V-thread rappel. At skis, three of us have difficulty removing our crampons as the straps have frozen.

After the short ski to camp, the stoves are fired up for food and drink, just over 12 hours after leaving. A satellite phone call and InReach text ask for a tomorrow-afternoon pick-up (confirmed in the morning). Our weather window is closing and members of the party have time constraints.

Another glorious morning greets us as we break camp and head down. The roped skiing, especially with sled, goes as well as possible. Little convincing is needed down lower for un-roped skiing and then, yahoo, everyone has many nice turns on the north-facing slopes. Alas, even lower we enter breakable crust and I manage one good crash with sled.



Matt Hickey and Billy Finley skin southward.

After a good break at the cache, visited by butterflies and magpies, we relocate to the pick-up spot and place bets on retrieval time. Doug touches down shortly after 2 p.m. and we’re airborne soon thereafter.

In hindsight, I believe we possibly chose the wrong route and probably were too late in the year and chose the wrong year due to low snow.

MCA Basic Mountaineering School Snow Travel 2014

Text and photos by Wayne L. Todd

The Mountaineering Club of Alaska's 2014 snow-travel class was a sporting success with a small group. Zac Davies and I stepped up for instructing during one of the numerous 'spring' weather anomalies. Due to lack of snow, we used a farther and busier location rather than our standard spot.

During these two full sunny days, we covered knots (how to and why); snow travel using boots, crampons, and axes; snow anchors, forces, and integration methods; belay types and methods; and self-arrest. Avalanche awareness was only touched upon as that needs a class itself. After review on day two, we conducted a roped climb and descent up the ridge toward Flattop Mountain. I was surprised we did not need to aid any passersby with all the slipping, sliding, clamoring, and scrambling we witnessed on the hard-packed snow by ill-equipped individuals.

Students learned a great deal and now have the solid basics to continue learning and hopefully enjoying mountain travel.

Students: Jonathan Rupp, Katie Elliott, Keith Stinebaugh, Luke Cronick, and January Scott.

March 1 and 2, 2014



Above: Katie Elliott, Keith Stinebaugh, and Luke Cronick making a deadman anchor.



Left: Hiking to the training spot.

Peak of the Month: Kavachurak Peak

By Steve Gruhn

Mountain Range: Brooks Range; Schwatka Mountains

Borough: Northwest Arctic Borough

Drainages: Kavachurak Creek and Tunukuchiak Creek

Latitude/Longitude: 67° 42' 40" North, 156° 38' 39" West

Elevation: 6247 feet

Prominence: 3794 feet from either Peak 6250 in the Komakak Creek and Igning River drainages or Shulakpachak Peak (6516)

Adjacent Peaks: Peak 5679 in the Kavachurak Creek and Tunukuchiak Creek drainages, Peak 4668 in the Kavachurak Creek drainage, and Peak 3688 in the Kavachurak Creek and Tunukuchiak Creek drainages

Distinctness: 1371 feet from Peak 5679

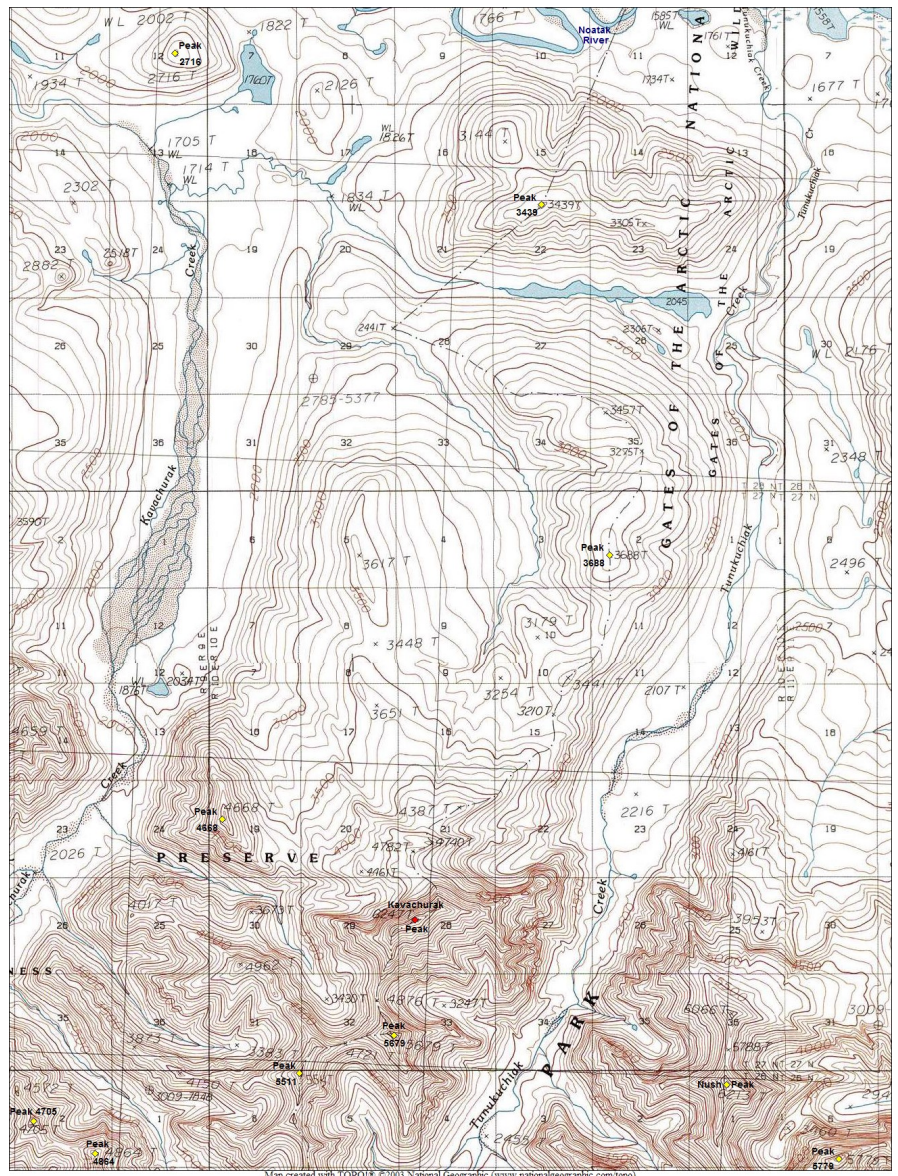
USGS Map: Ambler River (C-2)

First Recorded Ascent: This peak might be unclimbed.

On the shared boundary with Gates of the Arctic National Park, Kavachurak Peak is the highest point in the Noatak National Preserve. By my count it is also the 17th-most prominent peak in the Brooks Range and the third-most prominent peak in the Schwatka Mountains. There is no higher peak in the Brooks Range west of Kavachurak Peak and no higher peak within 17 miles in any direction.

Kavachurak reportedly means “red hill” in Inupiaq, according to Donald J. Orth’s [Dictionary of Alaska Place Names](#). The name of the peak was given on bivouac.com (<http://bivouac.com/MtnPg.asp?MtnId=26030>) and is derived from the north-flowing Kavachurak Creek to the west of the peak.

I don’t know of any ascents of Kavachurak Peak; yours could be the first.



Notes from May 2014, Membership Meeting

(Submitted by Carlene Van Tol)

At 6:30 p.m. it was announced that the club Secretary, Matt Hickey, was called into service and that he was very apologetic about not being able to give his presentation on "Mountaineering and the Military." The group was addressed by Vice President Carlene Van Tol, due to President Greg Encelewski's absence (other board members present were Josh Clark and Elizabeth Bennett).

It seems the theme for the night was access issues. Cory Hinds started a discussion on future access issues with the impending sale of the Wallace Homestead on Skyline Drive (there are links to the story on the MCA Facebook page and on page 2 of this issue of the *Scree*). Ralph Baldwin discussed the access issues in Hatcher Pass, where snowmachines continue to use illegal areas; members were told to download the incident report form available on the club website as incidents need to be documented to show what is happening. Volunteers have been trying to reach out to the snow-machine clubs and educate users about legal boundaries as well as safety issues with nonmotorized users.

Originally the evening was going to be geared toward socializing, trip ideas, and soliciting future presentation ideas from members; however, Huts Committee Chair Greg Bragiel came prepared to discuss the status of the club-maintained huts after the intermission.

Potential new club members and visitors introduced themselves and a 15-minute intermission was had. During the intermission, Greg Bragiel spent time with members signed up for his summer mountaineering instruction from July 5 to 13.

After the intermission, Greg Bragiel gave an enlightening presentation about the state of the huts, assisted by Brad Nelson, who recently completed the Bomber Traverse with Greg. Greg said that the huts are falling into disrepair and "I can't do it myself." Brad had some great ideas for new signage and getting more people involved. Many members chimed in with ideas for outreach and education of the public, both motorized users as well as nonmotorized. It was a good night, getting group discussion on an important issue. Brad was invited to present at the MCA Board meeting on April 28. Unfortunately, time slipped by and Carlene was reminding members we had to vacate before 9 p.m.

The meeting was informally adjourned at 8:50.

Mountaineering Club of Alaska

President	Greg Encelewski	360-0274	Board member (term expires in 2014)	Andy Mamrol	717-6893
Vice-President	Carlene Van Tol	748-5270	Board member (term expires in 2014)	Elizabeth Bennett	830-9656
Secretary	Matt Hickey	651-270-4492	Board member (term expires in 2015)	Rachad Rayess	617-309-6566
Treasurer	Stacy Pritts	538-7546	Board member (term expires in 2015)	Joshua Clark	887-1888
Past President	Jayne Mack	382-0212			

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

Dues can be paid at any meeting or mailed to the Treasurer at the MCA address below. If you want a membership card, please fill out a club waiver and mail it with a self-addressed, stamped envelope. If you fail to receive the newsletter or have questions about your membership, contact the Club 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 emailed to MCAScree@gmail.com. Articles should be submitted by the 24th of the month to appear in the next month's *Scree*.

Paid ads may be submitted to the attention of the Vice-President at the club address and should be in electronic format and pre-paid. Ads can be emailed 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: Stacy Pritts - membership@mtclubak.org

Hiking and Climbing Committee: Vicky Lytle - hcc@mtclubak.org

Huts: Greg Bragiel - 569-3008 or huts@mtclubak.org

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