

the SCREE

Mountaineering Club of Alaska

November 2015

Volume 58 Number 11



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Alpine Climbing in the Kichatna Mountains

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Peak of the Month: PiNarut

Monthly meeting: 6:30 p.m., Tuesday, November 17th.

Program: Carl Oswald will give a presentation on his climbs in the Matanuska Valley and surrounding areas.

A river cuts through rock, not because of its power, but because of its persistence.

- Jim Watkins



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 Tuesday, November 17, BP Energy Center, 1014 Energy Court, Anchorage, Alaska.

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

For the MCA Membership Application and Liability Waiver, visit

<http://www.mtnclubak.org/index.cfm?fuseaction=members.form>.

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Cover Photo

Frank E. Baker at the summit of 4787-foot Roundtop.

Photo by Jeff Worrell

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, November 17, at 6:30 p.m. Monthly meeting: Carl Oswald will give a presentation on his climbs in the Matanuska Valley and surrounding areas.

Hiking and Climbing Schedule:

December 5-6, 2015: Ship Creek trail maintenance. The MCA maintains the five miles from the Arctic Valley Trailhead to the beaver pond. Bring older clothes, loppers, saw, etc. for trail work and overnight gear. Non-technical. Trip leaders: Greg Bragiel and Stu Grenier. Sign up at the November 17 MCA meeting.

December 19: Flattop Mountain Sleepout. No leader.

February 20-28, 2016: Seward to Hope backcountry ski tour (90 miles). Sign up at the November 17, 2015, MCA meeting. Trip leader Greg Bragiel.

April 3-10, 2016: Eklutna Traverse ski mountaineering (31 miles) Glacier Travel OR Bomber Traverse five huts ski tour/glacier travel (35 miles). We will go wherever the snow is. Trip leader Greg Bragiel. Participants must attend trip training March 26-27, 2016.

Nuggets in the Scree:

MCA Library:

Did you know the MCA library has a new bookshelf? It's at REI, at 1200 West Northern Lights Boulevard in Anchorage, and is waiting to be filled with books. Please join us on Monday, November 2, at REI to sort, catalog, and shelve the rest of our book collection. We will meet in the back room in REI (by the restrooms). Contact the MCA volunteer librarian Charlotte Foley at 603-493-7146 or library@mtnclubak.org with any questions or comments.

Online? Click me!



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

Announcements:

The MCA Calendar Committee expects to have the 2016 MCA calendars for sale at the November MCA meeting. The price is expected to be the same as last year at \$13. If you would like more than one calendar, email the chair at stugrenier@gmail.com and let him know how many you want and he will make sure to have them for you. This will help decide how many to print. Soon after the November meeting, they will be for sale at Alaska Mountaineering & Hiking and the Alaska Rock Gym. We will also have some at the December MCA meeting. Thank you, Nora Gecan, Eric Teela, and Steve Gruhn, for making sure this project continues and all the folks that brought all the great photos to the October MCA meeting.

- Stuart Grenier



Fun Trivia by Dawn Talbott:

Answers on page 23.

- Which was the first 8000-meter Nepal peak to be climbed?
A. Mount Everest B. Lhotse C. Dhaulagiri D. Annapurna
- What does the term ATC, naming a common belay device, stand for?
A. Air Traffic Controller B. Auto-lock Through Center C. Air Technical Controller D. Authorized Traffic Control
- Who was the first person to climb all 14 8000-meter peaks in 1986?
A. Chris Bonnington B. Jerzy Kukuczka C. Reinhold Messner D. Pierre Beghin
- Who was the first American to climb all 14 8000-meter peaks, and became the 12th person ever to achieve this feat when he climbed Annapurna in May 2005?
A. Steve House B. Ivan Vallejo C. Erhard Loretan D. Ed Viesturs
- What is the northernmost peak in the Chugach Mountains that is at least 10,000 feet high?
A. Peak 11608 B. Awesome Peak C. Bellister Peak D. Blank Peak E. Peak C-6
F. Peak C-11 G. Finland Peak H. Henson Peak I. Icing Peak J. Lapland Peak
K. Mount Miller L. Mount Sanford M. Mount Sergeant Robinson N. Sovereign Mountain
O. Mount Sulzer P. Sweden Peak Q. Tanada Peak R. Torksey Peak S. Ulu Point
T. Whitey U. Wolverine Peak

Alpine Climbing in the Kichatna Mountains

Text by Tim Blakemore



Twid Turner looking behind the Cessna to North Triple Peak.

Photo by Tim Blakemore

Alaska is a land of superlatives. It's big, wild, and hairy (and, as the joke goes, that's just the girls in Talkeetna). I'd heard so much about it that I knew sooner or later I'd end up there. And I did. And I came away again with a great new route.

Twid Turner and I had climbed together before in Senja, Norway, (climbing a great new thin ice and mixed route on Grytetippen at about M7 – "Pass the Dutchie") and we had hatched a loose plan to climb something in the Kichatna Mountains (sometimes called the Cathedral Spires). Twid has an almost endless enthusiasm coupled with an encyclopedic knowledge of new route potential in different parts of the world that is so helpful when applying for expedition grants. We were lucky on this trip receiving help from the Mount Everest foundation, the British Mountaineering Council, and the Alpine Club.

In May this year we flew in on the Condor flight from Munich and immediately went shopping (!) in Anchorage. This done we then caught our arranged transfer to Talkeetna where we dosed in the infamous climbers' hut provided by Talkeetna Air Taxi. The next morning (Alaska is really quick) we met Paul



Twid Turner starting up the ice smears on "No Country for Old Men" on North Triple Peak.

Photo by Tim Blakemore

Roderick who was enthused by our “little” expedition and told us it was to be “just like the good old days.” We shoved all our kit into a little single-engine Cessna and set forth. The flight was a vomit-inducing, bumpy affair and at one point my foot hit the roof as we crested cols before violently circling in an ever descending spiral toward the Tatina Glacier. As we neared the wind did die and soon enough we were throwing kit out and soaking up the atmosphere of that wild place. Of course, what we should have done was test my satellite phone, but that’ll come later.

The Kichatnas are a bit like Chamonix in that they are granite, glaciated, and steep. Traditionally most routes have climbed the big faces (sometimes in a big-wall style) and we had come with a couple of alpine-type objectives in mind (Twid is an accomplished big-wall climber whilst I prefer icy alpinism). The first day or two we spent battening down the hatches, scoping the immediate area with binoculars and going for a recce to Monolith Pass (where one of our objectives lay). Taking skis was a great decision and it made getting around so much easier (and fun). Once at the col we dropped down onto the Monolith Glacier and discovered that our prime objective simply hadn’t formed this year. I had mixed emotions as it looked hard, but had seen what I thought were two really excellent (though shorter) lines on North Triple Peak. According to the guide only the northwest



*Tim Blakemore following one of the earlier technical pitches on “No Country for Old Men” on North Triple Peak.
Photo by Twid Turner*

We had decided that the route should go without a bivouac, so went pretty light (single push) and set off up the northwest



*Twid Turner (left) and Tim Blakemore pleased, but only halfway there.
Photo by Tim Blakemore.*

couloir in that vicinity had been climbed, so we reset our objective to that peak.

Wanting to do a route and actually getting up out of bed each day are two very different things and experience had taught us both that going off too early can affect a trip badly. The wind just wouldn’t settle and a few days were also dumping snow. Days settled in to the first week and we were eating like champions, but hadn’t really got any nearer to getting out of the tent. Finally we got a break and ferried a load of kit up to the col again and skied back to the tent to await the next break. Again the weather was awful and it looked like it might be an expensive camping trip, but finally it dawned fine so we quickly set to and skinned up to the col and dug all the kit out.

This proved to be technically straightforward, but annoyingly insecure and slow, meaning we pitched it (six pitches). I could imagine this section being soloed in the future or at least simul-climbed quickly. Soon we crossed over onto the true right-hand bank and set up a belay under the weeping ice smears cascading from above. This was to be our route, and we had seen that much of it seemed “there,” though there were a few ominous steep blank bits and it became vague underneath the summit.

Twid set off up into the maelstrom

on what seemed to be pretty good, though thin here and there, ice and the couloir proper. These first pitches were around AI (Alpine Ice) 4+/5 and were fun, technical without being too desperate. We approached the crux, though, and could see it was going to be a bit trickier, an overlap barely iced with a vertical section leading to it. I led this and the first vertical section was classic 5+ (90 degrees, but good ice and protection). It led up to the overlap where I encountered rotten ice and I spent an age trying to fiddle protection in.

Eventually I did find a small area of ice that would take a screw and I breathed deeply, gave Twid a shout of “watch me” and pulled through and upward to finish some 70 meters after setting out (Twid came with me at some point), a solid AI6 pitch and what was to be the crux.

After that it went in a bit of a blur, but we climbed pitch after pitch of good ice in a great atmosphere (all the belays being good, which helps the head a bit also). We did lose a lot of time in the upper third of the route as I climbed into a cul-de-sac, but finally we found a way through (the route generally follows a strong, gully-like line all the way to the summit) to the finishing couloirs.

The temptation to finish at the end of the rock (a pitch from the top) was strong, particularly as the cornices resembled grotesque meringues and had the consistency of sugar. I had spotted a vertical (or horizontal?) crevasse and squirmed up into it and sort of “back and footed” to the top, where I tunneled through, only to find a larger, and even more difficult, cornice blocking the way. Eventually I found a “merely vertical” section where, with a bit of heavy breathing and levitation, I found myself on top with no more up. My first Alaskan summit, by a new route.

A buried axe and a body belay had Twid up and after a quick check to make sure we definitely were on top, he set about making a bollard for our descent. I got the satellite phone out

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*Twid Turner in the easy Northwest Couloir during the descent.
Photo by Tim Blakemore*

(which had failed to work at these latitudes in steep valleys) and at around midnight local time got a call out to Tamsin Gay, screaming into the wind that we needed to get picked up and could she relay the message to Talkeetna?

All that was left was the familiar routine of abseils, threads, and checking anchors. I can’t remember exactly the timings of the descent, but we were probably quite tired by the time we reached the col again. Certainly our racks were lighter. I do remember skiing back to our “base camp,” loaded with all our kit, happy but

weary.

“No Country for Old Men” ED AI6, 17 pitches rimaye to summit (800 meters approximately)

North Triple Peak, Kichatna Mountains. May 19th, 2015



Tim Blakemore (left) down and happy to be picked up! We’d spent the day before “making” a runway.

Photo by Tim Blakemore

Benign and Bellicose Peaks

Text by Hollis French



Hollis French standing on Bellicose Peak's summit: Perfect summer day on top of Bellicose. This is why we climb!

Photo by Aaron Gallagher

There's something delicious about trips that start on a Monday. The freedom of the week stretches out in front of you, in sharp contrast to the rest of the world. This one started Monday, June 29th, at the Eklutna Lake Trailhead. Aaron Gallagher and I pedaled off that afternoon with five days of food, hoping to climb Benign and Bellicose Peaks.

We stashed the bikes at the Serenity Falls Hut. We took the trail that leaves from the hut and goes up the east side of the West Fork of the Eklutna River. The trail is easy to follow. Before long we were at the terminus of the glacier. We kept on up the east side until we came to an easy access point. I can't offer any beta on the west side trail, except to say that it didn't look very good, and access on the east side was straightforward. The way the glacier is galloping backward, though, any beta for this aspect of the Eklutna Glacier is probably only good for a year or so.

We were headed for the Flatiron approach to Benign and Bellicose. We walked up and across about a mile of glacier before exiting on the west side. I don't know where the Flatiron gets its name – but it's basically a flat-topped bench that has to be climbed, crossed, and then descended. From the bench top we were unsure of which descent chute to take and wound up

traversing left and up 200 feet to gain an easy exit gully. The next day we would see that we should have taken the right-hand chute, which we would climb a few days later when we left the valley.

We camped in a fine meadow at about 3700 feet.

Tuesday the weather cooperated and we climbed Benign Peak via the standard gully. The gully is ... a gully. Lots of loose rock. Stick to the sides, or to the snow patches and just keep plugging. Once you run out of gully and you're at a saddle, just turn right and you're there in a few minutes. Benign is 7235 feet.

It felt like we were off to a good start.

The next two days the weather was a bit unsettled, but we used the time to scout the route to Bellicose.

From Dave Hart's excellent write-up of his ascent of Bellicose [*Ed. note: See the July 1999 Scree*], we knew we were looking for a rappel station that would let us drop down onto the west face of the mountain.

We went to the Benign/Bellicose col, and then kept wandering up and to the left, toward Bellicose, looking for a rappel station. We found it at about 5900 feet. Two pitons and a nut, with sun-

weakened slings. We replaced the slings with new ones and then rapped down onto Bellicose's crumbling west face. The weather was not so good, so we decided to come back the next day.

The next day the weather was even worse, but we decided to keep scouting. We made the second trip to the rap station and dropped in to the other side. The fog was thick. We slowly traversed left toward The Shroud, the pocket glacier that offers access to the upper slopes of Bellicose. After an hour, we'd gone only a few hundred steps, across soft snow slopes and some rocky intervals. We decided to eat lunch. After another hour we still could not see anything, so we turned back. Aaron led the 5.3 pitch up to the rap station.

Friday morning the weather was perfect. It was the kind of day you dream about all winter.

Third trip up to the rap station. Rapped again onto the slopes of Bellicose.

The steps we'd put in came in handy as yesterday's sloppy snow was now firm in the morning's coolness. And when we came to the end of our steps, there was the bottom of The Shroud, just ahead. Up we went.

The route went essentially up and slightly left. We crossed two bergschrunds without too much difficulty. We then gained the ridge and followed it to the right, toward the summit. When we got to the rocky part, we again took Dave Hart's advice and "ponied up" by climbing it head on, as opposed to trying to traverse around the rocks. It's about two pitches. We thought this stretch should be named "Pony Rocks." A few snowy steps and there we were, on top of Bellicose, 7640 feet in elevation. The views were well worth the climb.

We were back in camp by 9 p.m., making it an 11-hour day.

Saturday, the Fourth of July, Aaron had the stove going at 4 a.m. and we were gone at 5 to make good on the promise we'd made our families to be out by Saturday at noon. Aaron made it on time, and I was a few minutes behind. Great trip!



*Aaron Gallagher on The Shroud. The summit of Bellicose Peak is visible on the right.
Photo by Hollis French*



*Aaron Gallagher high in the Benign gully, looking back toward the Eklutna Glacier.
Behind Aaron the Flatiron is visible.
Photo by Hollis French*



*Classic Chugach
alpine meadow.
Photo by
Hollis French*

Extended Autumn: Big or Little Trips, Getting out is the Important Thing

Text by Frank E. Baker



Frank E. Baker takes a break on 4787-foot Roundtop.

Photo by Jeff Worrell

With this extended autumn I've been getting out quite a lot in the Chugach Mountains near Eagle River and Peters Creek. I tell people that I use these smaller (4,000- to 5,000-foot) peaks as training for bigger and better things. But as the years have advanced the "bigger and better" things have diminished appreciably – at least compared to the exploits of younger MCA members who traverse jagged ridges in the Talkeetna Mountains, ascend the steep pitches of the Chugach such as Mount Yukla and Bashful Peak, challenge the precipitous inclines of the Kenai Mountains, or scale the larger massifs in the Alaska Range all the way up to Denali.

But my friends and I get out frequently on shorter trips that we've come to recognize as "spirit regenerators." These trips usually range from 5 to 12 hours, and the only way to make them true "conditioning" exercises would be to do them faster or add weight to our packs, which we're generally loathe to do. We like taking our time.

Some sunshine was forecast for this past October 15, but instead, the Eagle River area was immersed in a dense fog layer that rose up to about 1000 feet. A quick remedy, I concluded, was to jump in the car and head up to the Mile High Trail. The

drive alone took me above the thick clouds that hung over the entire Eagle River Valley.

With high clouds above it was a gray, monochromatic day, but it was still uplifting to ascend above the gloom and take in the views of the mountains on each side of the valley – all the way back beyond the Eagle River Nature Center. Climbing the last few hundred feet to the ridge, I came upon some vestigial blueberries. They were soft and hard to pick, but tart and delicious. In no time at all my hands were purple.

It was about 3 p.m. and the warmest part of the day – maybe about 40 to 45 degrees Fahrenheit – and no wind. A bright spot in the clouds was the sun trying to poke through.

Looking due north across Meadow Creek Valley with binoculars, I spotted a lone climber atop one of the Blacktail Ptarmigan Rocks peaks. At that distance it was hard to tell, but it almost looked as if he or she were standing there looking back at me.

I slowly proceeded east along the ridge, stopping frequently to glass Meadow Creek Valley and the mountain slopes, now rusty-brown. I haven't seen much wildlife in this area over the past year, but in earlier times, I've spotted black and grizzly bears,

moose, Dall sheep, hawks, eagles, ptarmigan, ravens, and even a wolverine.

Sitting on the tundra having a late lunch at one of the ridge's high points, it occurred to me that getting above the fog means more than hiking to a high point. Figuratively, we're continually enveloped in a fog of misinformation and politically-motivated half truths – particularly in this political season leading up to the 2016 presidential election. Sorting and sifting through barrages of information and navigating through this "fog" of media banter is a challenging task for anyone.

I suppose we all possess individual "fogs" and have our own way of seeking a clearer view. For me, a tried and tested way of lifting the spirits and refreshing the mind is to physically hike uphill. That alpine perspective can sometimes affect other perspectives – the ones that truly matter in everyday life.

On October 18, a partly sunny day with the temperature peaking at about 40 degrees, a friend and I scrambled up Roundtop via the six-mile-long gradual Ptarmigan Creek Trail that begins in Peters Creek. Even above 3000 feet the snow was only a few inches deep and traction was good. But during the warmest part of the day the snow was sometimes balling up on our Kahtoola spikes – which can become a hassle. From the 4787-foot summit we could look southeast across the ridge leading to Vista Peak, where just over a year ago MCA member Joe Chmielowski was charged by a grizzly bear and two cubs (See the January 2015 *Scree*).

Earlier, on an October 6 hike to the ridge on the west side of South Fork (Eagle River) Valley, I was buzzed by a golden eagle. I



Eagle River Valley looking south toward the Eagle River Nature Center.

Photo by Frank E. Baker

he was just curious about me – which seems to be a universal trait among all creatures. Anyone who has spent any time in the mountains has been buzzed by ravens and other birds, which most of the time is pure curiosity.

Before descending to the South Fork Trail I came across three



West Ridge of South Fork Valley, near Eagle River.

Photo by Frank E. Baker

skiers who were about to test the new and quite thin layer of snow. "Dodge the rocks," I admonished. "We have our old rock skis," they replied, laughing, before heading down into the bowl behind the ridge.

Making the time: With friends and sometimes solo, these frequent trips are essential in keeping the mind and body alert and healthy. I'm retired now, but during my nearly

40-year career, I met many people who talked about venturing into the outdoors – but often couldn't because of "work demands." They basically "lived to work," rather than "worked to live," to coin the phrase. I don't advocate sacrificing one's job or career for the outdoors – which I know can happen to some people fully immersed in climbing. But I think a person can find time for both, even if some of the outings aren't "epic."

Looking around at this fabulous place where we live, one can almost hear the mountains and backcountry saying: "Get out here!"

MCA member Frank E. Baker is a lifelong Alaska resident and freelance writer who lives in Eagle River.



Looking southeast toward Vista Peak.

Photo by Frank E. Baker



Denali from Roundtop

Photo by Frank E. Baker

Eiger "Odyssee" and "La Paciencia"

Text by Roger Schäli

Photos by Frank Kretschmann



The North Face of the Eiger. The yellow line (second from right) denotes the route of "Odyssee." The blue line (starting at lower left) denotes the route of the "Harlin Direttissima." The gray line (third from right) denotes the route of the "Direttissima dei Giapponesi." The red line (right) denotes the route of the "Ghilini-Piola Direttissima." The green line (starting at lower right and finishing at upper left) denotes the "Heckmair Route."

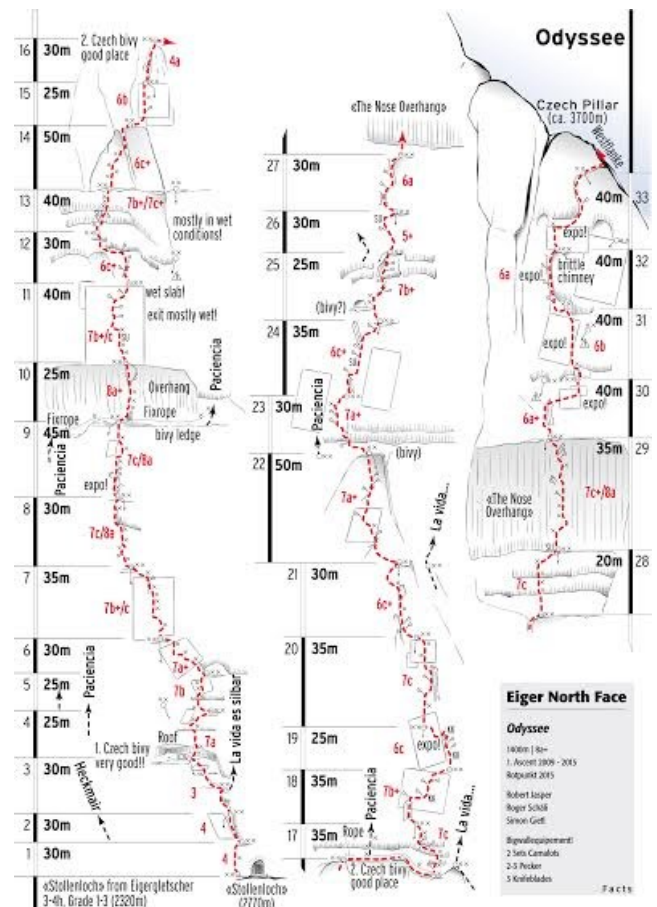
Simon Gietl and I are chillin' in my base camp at the foot of the Eiger. Tomorrow is the big day. Our spirits are high and we hope to complete our own creation on Eiger, which has already become a mission.

However, my dream to climb a new route through the steepest part of the North Face of the Eiger began in 2002. I joined Steph Siegrist in his new project "La Vida es Silbar" a few times to free the route. From the first moment on in this small world on the Eiger, the central part of the wall fascinated me the most. While I was working on a free ascent of the "Japanese Direttissima" in 2003 with Simon Anthamatten, I witnessed how Steph Siegrist and Ueli Steck bolted my dream line with a crying and a smiling eye. They named it "Paciencia."

Simon and I missed one pitch at the end of the season to establish a first free ascent of the "Japanese Direttissima." It was a 7b pitch in the top part of the route. We didn't want to risk pulling the rope down one more time due to too heavy rockfall.

How Time Flies

Since the summer of 2004, Robert Jasper and I fought another five seasons for the first free ascent of the "Japanese



Direttissima.” I felt that Robert and I were the perfect team for a free Eiger ascent. We trust each other blindly and Robert has, in addition to being a great free climber, a lot of experience in hard mixed routes like the ones you often find on Eiger. With our passion to free old, great Eiger routes, we were also able to free the “Harlin Direttissima” with the Heckmair exit, and in 2013 we freed the “Ghilini - Piola Direttissima!”

It was time to bring back my attention to creating my own route through the Eiger North Face. Robert and I had tried to climb in the protected “Rote Fluh” again and again from 2009 on whenever it wasn’t possible to climb in the “Harlin Route” or the “Ghilini-Piola Route”. We made it all the way over the North Face, or rather the second Czech bivy. We were confident that we would be able to complete our route the next season.

But Things Develop in Different Ways than Expected

2014 was supposed to be our big Eiger summer. I knew from the free ascent that it would be difficult for me to climb all the extremely steep and bouldery cruxes. But I was incredibly motivated to show my best climbing performance ever. So I spent most of the following winter climbing and training in Catalonia, Spain. I was able to climb my first 8c thanks to the training input from Dicki Korb and his effective exercises that are also described in the book [Gimme Kraft!](#) What exactly led to my new best form is written in the stars. Still, I believe it’s a complex puzzle made up of many parts. New feedback, great vibes with awesome people, motivation, believing in oneself, and maybe most important of all: fun und serenity!

What ever it was: I was in top form. I was able to boost my self-confidence with the free ascent of the route “Golden Gate” in Yosemite Valley as well as with the team ascent of the route “Fly” with Alex Megos, Davis Hefti, Frank Kretschmann, and me that same spring. “Fly” is located in the Lauterbrunnen Valley in Switzerland and consists of 21 pitches graded up to 8c. It was, however, up to Alex Megos to free the first three pitches of the route, which were also the hardest. I could also repeat the route “Hotel Supramonte” in Sardinia, Italy, where I just missed one pitch to redpoint the entire climb with Alexandra Taistra.

The Eiger Could Bring it on; I was as Ready as Ever!

If only my health and maybe, as luck would have it, the bad weather had played along in the summer of 2014. I just climbed too much, too hard, and too unbalanced before the summer. I didn’t get enough rest, had no balance in my training, and stretching was a foreign thing. My arms were ready, my head was set. But the muscle in my ass didn’t just hurt a bit any more; it was so bad I couldn’t sleep without painkillers any more.

It started in the portaledge in Yosemite. It got so bad on “Fly” that I couldn’t place my feet precisely on high footholds anymore. I was able to climb as hard as never before in Sardinia with pain meds, but I couldn’t sleep or climb without them anymore! On the last day of our “Hotel Supramonte” time, I called my friend and doctor, Urs Hefti, from the Swiss Sport Clinic and told Urs that I wouldn’t be needing any physical therapy at our next appointment, but rather an MRI!

I fought my new malady all summer. I had a herniated disk left in L4 and L5. I tried everything. I went from pillar to post, from a countless number of physical therapists and sports clinics from Switzerland to Spain all the way to Poland. I contacted and met countless other top climbers that had the same or similar problems.

The weather report from Eiger was always in the nape of my neck, as well as the constant hope of finishing our route that year. I was able to climb halfway all summer, but I was always in great pain. In the end, and finally, summer ended. I was able to, and had to, let go.

I found myself back to my old performance during the fall and winter with lots of patience; discipline; and the right mix of exercises, climbing, stretching, and manual therapy from physical therapists. In April 2015 I was able to climb like before on Kalymnos. I was able to score a spectacular first ascent with Mich Kemeter and Jürgen Rheinmüller we named “Alpinstil.”

Somewhere along the way it seemed to run smoothly again. I couldn’t wait to live out my regained health and performance. I took advantage of this momentum and climbed the amazing line on the northwest pillar of Devils Paw’s North Tower in British Columbia with Simon Gietl, the route “Freerider” on El Capitan in a day (unfortunately, not all pitches free) and our new line “Chappie” on La Esfinge in Peru.

The highlight of the season was still to come, though. To finish our line “Odyssee” through the North Face of the Eiger with Robert Jasper. I flew into Zurich from Peru, Lima to be exact. The weather had been great on Eiger since June, so I had no time to rest. I climbed the first five pitches on the North Face redpoint with Robert the next day. Uff, welcome back to Eiger! After a short, only physical, rest day spent at the Outdoor Trade Show in Friedrichshafen, Germany, we continued on the Eiger. It took us three whole days to exchange all the old, torn-up, fixed ropes up to the first bivy and to bring up material, food, and a water bucket to collect water. Wow, we almost spent a whole week on the Eiger and hadn’t even climbed one route in the “Tschechenpfeiler,” which was to become the path of our new route. Logistically, time seemed to be running

through our fingers. How could we complete our “Odyssee” in three weeks and redpoint all the pitches? I was supposed to travel to Alaska in August with Simon Gietl again!

What Had to Happen Happened

We were short on lots of money for our Alaska project, so we had no choice but to postpone it until next year. Hmm, so it’s not just me who has time for the “Odyssee.” My “little brother,” or rather “little stinker” after spending enough days in a bivy or tent, is also “unemployed!” The poor guy would surely get bored. And he’d probably have a stupid idea, like climb the Zinnen north face or something if bad came to worst.

A call was all it took to convince Simon to join us on Eiger. Robert was excited about our team after our first collective pitch, too. The Dream Team was complete! We started with the first pitch of the “Tschechenpfeiler” with new energy. Robert and I split the first pitch in a brotherly manner. It’s the 17th pitch and Robert laid down quite a spectacular fall over the roof’s edge when he attempted the redpoint. The sheathing of the rope was totally shot. Brrr, that was really scary! Robert sent the pitch after a long break with two single ropes instead of just one. It made the attempt a little less nerve-wracking for me, too.

Simon let his motivation and his skills run free in his first pitch in a first ascent. That means he couldn’t help but yell: “Tie Judas into the material rope!” when he reached the belay after 35 meters in tough terrain. Our drill was called Judas from then on. I was able to free the pitch following the lead. And I was really glad that Simon had to lead the pitch and climb the dynamic move high above the bolt. We agreed that each had

to face his own music, meaning that whoever bolted the pitch had to lead it! The days and the pitches came and went. Until the weather turned bad on the Eiger and we had to retreat.

Simon took advantage of the time and made the seven-hour drive home to see his recently born child.

The weather had us climbing again at the end of the week with lots of motivation in the North Face. Robert and I redpointed all of the remaining pitches on the face, though I had to fight with incredibly wet rock in the last pitch over the final roof of the face (Pitch 13, 7c). I was lucky I was able to redpoint that one. I almost fell out several times and was only able to catch myself with lots of luck and fighting spirit!

The day after, photographer Franky Kretschmann was on his way in the crux of the parallel

route “Paciencia” with Sasha du Giulian. When the four of us all met on the small ledge, Franky took a few pictures of us! All that I was missing was to redpoint Pitch 10 of the 16 in the North Face. The pitch turned out to be an extremely difficult boulder with a morpho move at the end. And of course it was

the steepest pitch from the ledge in the heart of the North Face. Robert had already redpointed the pitch. So I made my move. The first sequence went really well; the pressure was on. Franky suddenly realized that, if he hurried up Jumarring up his fixed rope, he could get some live shots of a spectacular free ascent of the crux pitch. It was like in a dream. I put up one hell of a fight and clipped the chains on my last breath! I was able to give myself the best present on this 8th of August! It took 17 attempts until I was able to redpoint the pitch. I can’t remember having to climb such a single hard move with so



Roger Schäli climbing the 8a+ crux pitch of “Odyssee” on the North Face of the Eiger



Robert Japser ascends Pitch 8 in the “Rote Fluh” on “Odyssee” on the North Face of the Eiger.

much air between myself and the last bolt in any large or small wall before. This was the hardest pitch in our route "Odyssee" for sure. To me it's an 8a+.

Simon was back again, too, after a rest day and the weather got more stable. We continued our work on the endless seeming "Tschechenpfeiler." We made it to Pitch 24 with Simon. Then the weather turned bad and Simon went home to his family again. Robert and I used the next window of good weather and added three new pitches. We decided on the further path of the route when I set the last belay on that day. Our route had to run through the biggest and obviously grey, very overhanging streak of water. This is where the neighboring routes "Paciencia" and "La Vida es Silbar" arch to the left and right and follow far less steep terrain.

Robert took on the first steep overhang. Three hours and a few falls later, he was able to reach a small ledge. It was already dark. Robert and I rappelled as we hoped to complete our "Odyssee" the next time we Jumarred up the fixed ropes as the Dream Team.

Two days later all three of us were hanging in our uncomfortable, super-exposed hanging belay. This was going to be the last really hard pitch of "Odyssee." I had to be the first one to go. I was totally motivated to climb into the unknown with pumped arms, to clip with stressed, pumping breath. I was ready to fall and give it my all. My fight with the steep, grey streak of water took four hours. Wow, I finally made it to the belay. I was totally wiped out. No, I was more than just wiped. My batteries were completely empty. But the great feeling was simply beyond words.

Simon took over the lead. He was full of energy and totally in his element in the sketchy terrain graded 'round about 7 with his hooks and

without Judas, of course. We stood on top of the "Tschechenpfeiler" in the last rays of daylight. Yes, we did it!

Unfortunately, our fatigue, the oncoming night, and the strenuous rappelling kept our party mood in check. We didn't break out in a euphoric happy dance.

The next morning we woke up pretty beat on the wet and still dripping, uncomfortable Czech bivvy. We still hadn't finished our project. There were seven demanding and hard pitches left. We focused on the last and probably hardest pitch on the "Tschechenpfeiler": the grey, steep water streak. So we were back hanging in the same uncomfortable belay as the previous day again. Each one of us gave it a try. When I tried out the route, I immediately noticed the pitch

was hard. And on my second go, I realized I was still pretty beat up from the day before. I felt each muscle in my body and

couldn't build up any body tension. It looked a bit better when Simon and Robert tried the pitch. But still, not one of us was able to score a redpoint on that day. And it was evening again!

We had to Jumar 800 meters back up there again when we were rested. Luckily, we were able to free four pitches on the third day. We left and were already happy that we could score a first ascent of our route "Odyssee." Because sometimes I believe that, especially when the wall is long and tough, alpine and exposed, the redpoint is often overrated! And to me a repeat of a great alpine route or a first ascent will always have a greater meaning than rappelling back down after the first third of the line because a pitch was wet, making a redpoint of the entire route impossible.

During our third, rested Dream Team go at the top of the "Tschechenpfeiler," we were able to send all remaining routes redpoint. Simon scored the last hard pitch. All remaining pitches were a little easier



Simon Gietl ascending Pitch 22 of "Odyssee" on the North Face of the Eiger, 7a+.



Robert Jasper leads up "Tschechenpfeiler" on "Odyssee" as Simon Gietl and Roger Schöli follow.

concerning the grade. But we had to give each one our full effort. I climbed the last remaining pitch. 6c clean and exposed, with night falling, in typical Eiger fog with numb fingers and feet. Eiger live!

Wow, That was It!

It took endlessly long and it often seemed impossible! After we were able to concentrate on “Odyssee” one hundred percent, we were able to put the single pieces of the puzzle together and finally the moment came: Yes, we did it!

To me, “Odyssee” was obviously a personal milestone. I was able to give my best with my two friends, Robert and Simon. And I am proud of the signature “Odyssee” carries. The route mainly consisted of good quality rock and it’s great fun to climb. Hard, athletic moves took their turns with tricky footwork, old-school climbing at its best. And to top it all off, protection was an ideal mix of clean, trad, bolts, and hooks, in my opinion. We really only used bolts where we had no other possibilities. We bolted according to my ethics of “smart bolt,” which means: “Place as few bolts as possible in the right places. The smart bolt should give access to compact and good climbing, as well as provide safety.”

“Paciencia”

After I was able to first ascend “Odyssee” and repeat “La Vida es Silbar” in 2003, I was missing “Paciencia” to complete my “Tschechenpfeiler” trilogy. And as luck would have it, I met my crazy friend Mich Kemeter the same day we cleaned the route from all fixed ropes in my base camp in Grindelwald. The weather was reported to be good the next few days. “Mich, what are you up to the next days? Wanna climb ‘Paciencia’?”

“Sure, I’m with you!” Uff, wow, okay, let’s try!

With only one rest day after completing our “Odyssee,” I was back on Eiger with Mich.

First Day

The first four pitches were still wet. Then came the first pitch on the North Face. There the difficulties varied between 7b+ and 7c+. Mich onsighted them all! “Wow, then it can’t be that hard,” I thought. “Uff, with that kind of attitude, I’ll never reach the chains!” I had to pay attention to a thousand tiny details. Whenever I didn’t place my foot on one of the tiny, almost-invisible footholds, I just couldn’t reach the next hold. I gave up after two tries. “Let’s see what else the day has in store. This beginning is just great,” was what I was thinking and I already had a cut in my index finger.

To my surprise the next pitch fell straightaway. We reached the small ledge in the middle of the face. Mich began the 8a, which

was supposed to be the crux pitch. I thought I had no chance with my fatigue and the bad start of the climb. So, I was quite relaxed when I began the pitch, no expectations. Mich had marked all important holds. And, boom! I was resting, already three quarters of the way up the pitch! The first two crux moves lay behind me. I realized I could flash the pitch! I continued climbing in relatively easy cruiser terrain. It felt great. BOOM! I was flying through the air! Pretty far! What had happened? One of the best and visibly marked crimps just broke, completely unexpected! I scored the 8a route second go and Mich redpointed it after his third try.

Second Day

After a comfortable night in our Czech bivy, we began climbing fairly late. I needed two tries again to free the pitch I wasn’t able to climb the day before. Four pitches later, at the belay of the 8a pitch, we had to give everything and pull out pretty much every trick to even get up the 7a+ pitch and redpoint it in the end. A lot later, and much more tired than expected, we reached the Czech bivy in the last light of the day. After a short break we climbed the first two pitches above our bivy. Uff, the first 7c+ pitch had a crazy boulder move for the alpine surroundings. A super-small crimp right and then we had to put full pressure on a left heel hook. Then we had to jump up to a big hold. The second pitch was only a 7b+. But to me it felt harder than the supposed crux pitch of the face. That evening, even with our headlamps, we couldn’t redpoint any pitch.

Third Day

I proposed to Mich that we leave the first pitches for later and check out the rest of the route to the summit. And that’s what we did. Mich onsighted the third pitch as his warm up. A 7b! I wanted to free it, but had to repeat the pitch. And off we went, nine challenging pitches to the summit. We were able to climb the remaining pitches free with some luck at our first go. The last three 6b pitches were on the northeast side and the snow that had fallen a few days earlier had already turned into solid ice. So, we had some nice alpine-style climbing for our grande finale! I felt like in the final pitches of the “Japanese Direttissima.” We weren’t expecting this. No special treatment for us.

So nothing became of our hope that the top pitches in the lower grades would be easier to climb. To me personally the numbers say nothing about the success in reaching the chains.

I was standing at the summit for the second time in two weeks. Again, the joy contained itself! But this time I knew the abseil route. But I was just too tired to let any real feelings of joy overcome myself. And I still had three pitches I needed to free.

So, we stopped the rappel three pitches above our bivy and I redpointed the 7b pitch in the last rays of sunlight. Mich then spent some time bouldering the first move of the first 7c+ pitch right above our bivy.

Fourth Day

It was almost a little miracle that I woke up before noon on our fourth climbing day. But everything just hurt! After the last remaining bag of cappuccino, I taped the hole in my finger. Mich redpointed the 7c+ with his fourth go. I repeated it and was able to climb it with some luck, too. Next up was the hardest 7b+ I had ever climbed in my whole life! Mich was just super strong and he climbed the pitch on his second go. Awesome job! I made it to the chains on my third try, which was almost a miracle. Because after my first try I failed miserably on my second! My hope, strength and skin were in their final stages. But Mich pushed me to a third try. It was one of my best fights. Thanks, Mich!

For dessert I had to climb the 7c+ from our bivy. Mich already scored the free ascent of "Paciencia." And of course, I wanted it, too. The chance to be up there again and have everything just fall into place and be so close to a free ascent would probably never be given again. The pressure and stress was almost unbearable. There was no giving up. I had to go through with it. Just give it a try! I began the first two moves on wet rock and was able to dry my hands on the cloth of my pants right before the bouldery move at the bolt. My arms were beginning to burn. My head and my body felt empty and my hopes of sticking the move were almost zero.

"Okay, Roger, let's go!" I sorted my fingers on the right, small hold; placed the left heel hook; brought up all the tension I had left in my body; and made the move to the far hold with a primal scream. It was like in a movie and in slow motion. I saw myself climb from above and I was so surprised to find the hold in my hands!

Uff, and now? Take a deep breath and just bring it home. The next 25 meters of diagonal, a little exposed, traverse climbing was some of the best in my climbing life. When I reached the belay, I still couldn't realize that I had just climbed "Paciencia" free!

Mich quickly followed my lead and didn't even have time to clip his self-belay! Bam! Both his ropes were untied from the small, exposed ledge and, bam! He was on his way down with his belay device. Yes, we both wanted down. It was time to leave the wall. We were beginning to feel too comfortable up here. Free, bold, and safe. We didn't care about the height and being exposed – a sign that we needed a change.

An hour later we already reached the Czech bivy. We packed everything fast because the last train from Stollenloch would leave in 10 minutes. I said to Mich: "Let me go first, I'm faster. I can reach the train and stop it on time," with a huge haulbag on my shoulders. It was the last rappel 30 meters above our goal, the Stollenloch. I clipped the belay and off I went.

Uff, what was that? I'd been up and down there a hundred times this season, my eyes on the rope. But that time I just rappelled down in a hurry, with the heavy haulbag and routine from before without checking the rope for signs of damage from rockfall. The part of the rope that just ran through my belay must have been almost split in two by a rock the past four days! With big eyes I moved off the rope that I was just hanging on and tied a big, new knot over the damaged part. In the end we both reached the Stollenloch on time and took the last train down to the valley.

We headed straight to the well-deserved whirlpool at Hotel Aspen. In the pool we didn't feel heroic joy, just a deep thankfulness that we reached the valley safe and sound with a big bag full of unforgettable memories. And although much was all about the redpoint, which in my opinion has way too much meaning on such routes, I learned that we should give our best when it's possible, but that we should be extremely careful when things got hectic or stressful. Because then the risk for stupid slips was highest. And we all don't just want to be, or become, good alpinists, we also want to become old alpinists one day!

And PS: "The Eiger doesn't care!"

And PPS: Thanks, Mich. And always stay wicked.



Left to right, Simon Gietl, Roger Schöli, and Robert Jasper after completing their route "Odyssee" (8a+, 1,400 meters) on the Eiger's North Face on August 11, 2015.

Crossing Rivers and Streams in the North Country

Text by Greg Bragiel

This article is presented in memory of Edward Earl who drowned while attempting to cross the Jago River in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge on the North Slope of the Brooks Range on June 19, 2015. Use this information to prevent you and your companions from facing a similar tragedy. Get trained. Don't be a victim!

Alaska water is cold. Some streams are barely above freezing temperatures. Many are glacier fed. Heavy rain can quickly raise river water levels. Our backcountry presents tremendous rewards and sometimes big challenges, especially when crossing streams. Here are some considerations when faced with a water crossing.

Must I cross? Must I cross here? Is there another way to get to the other side (i.e. bridge, boat, helicopter, cable car, log across)?

Is there a better, safer, more practical place to cross upstream or downstream? A view from a high vantage can give you information not available from river level. Extra hiking is worth avoiding a hazardous crossing and the potential consequences of a dangerous swim (i.e. logjam, waterfall, hydraulic, sweepers, strainers, rocks, injury, and hypothermia). Consider taking and using a personal flotation device (PFD) and a throw rope. Pay attention to rising water levels, increases in coloration from runoff, the sound of rolling stones in the river bed, trees and debris being swept along. Crossing while water levels are at flood stage is too risky; don't do it. The river bed may have changed based on prior information or since your last crossing, so evaluate carefully.

If I must cross ... what is the stream depth? Will I become buoyant? What are the consequences of a swim in this location? Look for places that are braided, wider, and shallower. Is there a place where I can stand on rocks, islands, or gravel bars? Ripples in the stream may indicate shallower areas as opposed to narrow, deep, fast water. Consider and plan what you will do if you end up swimming.

Plan the crossing using available bridges, cables, or recognized fords. Consider the time of day and timing your crossing. If there is a glacier upstream, it may be better to cross early in the morning when water levels are lower. You may need to



Greg Bragiel takes a selfie.

calculate the speed of flow and when the flow would peak at the crossing location (i.e. if crossing 20 miles downstream from a glacier and the average water speed is 6 miles per hour, then the water takes three to four hours to reach your location). Peak flow would be a few hours after the warmest part of the day.

Clothing, footwear, gear – If you have river shoes, this is the time to change. Some individuals wear their hiking boots and walk them dry. Consider wearing only the shells of plastic boots. Wiggy's waders are worth the 12 ounces of weight if you are facing multiple crossings or winter stream crossings. Cold feet in the winter are not happy feet! Be sure the footwear will not come off and do not cross with bare feet. Change or remove non-essential clothing. If you have a dry suit, this is the time to wear it. Fishing waders? Beware that a slip could fill the waders with water and weigh you down! Arrange gear inside your pack to minimize getting gear wet in the event of a swim. Place gear inside some type of water-resistant or waterproof container (i.e. trash-compactor bag or dry bag). Unbuckle pack waist belt. It will be much easier to separate yourself from the pack and keep the pack from becoming an anchor. Unless you have advanced training NEVER clip or tie into a rope or fixed line. If you slip, you will likely become an anchor. If you are separated from your pack, what emergency gear will you have?

Many of you know that I ALWAYS carry emergency items separate from my backpack when in the backcountry (i.e. lighter, metal match, small folding knife, pinch light, and whistle). If left without your pack, will you be able to start a fire, build a shelter, and signal for help? Plan your moves before getting into the water. The upstream portions of gravel bars and



John Brueck is pictured crossing the Resurrection River during the MCA's Seward to Cooper Landing to Hope Ski Tour, February 23 to March 3, 2013

sandbars are more solid than the downstream areas. Plan what you will do if you swim.

Solo crossing techniques – Cross facing upstream. Use a long, stout stick or ski pole to lean forward against the current. Move slowly. Feel the stream bottom with your feet. Take small steps. Don't look at the moving water surface – it could make you dizzy. To help your balance, look at a rock or anything that is not moving. Lessen the effect of the current by crossing diagonally with a downstream trajectory.

Multiple people crossing techniques – Decide if everyone is able to cross the stream safely. Have a team discussion prior to crossing. Decide who will do what in the event of an emergency. Emphasize ditching the pack if it is dragging you down. You will

likely be able to retrieve it somewhere downstream. Team members can support each other and become backup in the event of a missed step or slip. Three methods to consider: 1) Form a line parallel to the current with strongest person upstream. Hold and support the person in front of you. 2) In a line perpendicular to the current. Support each other with arms locked. 3) Form a circle or tripod for the crossing (most stable method). Support each other with hands extended to grasp the PFD or pack strap of the person to the left and right. Rotate and spin during the crossing to relieve the upstream person. If you have many team members and are crossing in groups plan on staging spotters downstream and be ready to assist as each group makes its way across. Do you remember the saying "reach, throw, row, go" from your lifeguard training? Don't become a second victim.

Mishaps – If you end up swimming, try to avoid the initial reaction of panic and inhaling water when surprised by the cold temperature. You may need to lose your pack to save your life and get to shore. Float face up with feet pointed downstream. Use your hands and feet to propel yourself toward shore at a 45-degree angle to the current. If there is extreme danger imminent, swim with your strongest stroke to move away from danger. Minimize the possibility of foot entrapment ... do not stand up until your butt touches bottom. Check on your companions. **DO NOT PANIC!** Be prepared to help others and render first aid. Get moving and warm up OR stop, put on warm clothing, get a hot drink, consider setting up camp early.

Know your stuff! Educate yourself and practice on smaller streams before attempting a challenging crossing. Always file a trip plan with a responsible adult. When faced with a crossing ... Stop, Think, and Plan the safest crossing within reason. Use good judgment. Do not cross while impaired. Do not be in a hurry. Be patient. Plan for emergencies. If it looks too dangerous, wait, turn around, or change the crossing location or trip itinerary. Return home and try the trip again, another day.

Additional training can be obtained from: The Mountaineering Club of Alaska, The Rescue Company, National Outdoor Leadership School, Rescue 3 International.

Peak of the Month: PiNarut

Text by Steve Gruhn

Mountain Range: Kigluaik Mountains

Borough: Unorganized Borough

Drainages: Cobblestone River and Sinuk River

Latitude/Longitude: 64 54' 41" North, 165 34' 19" West

Elevation: 3367 feet

Prominence: 2192 feet from Peak 3725 in the Fall Creek and Pond Creek drainages

Adjacent Peaks: Peak 3160 in the Cobblestone River and Sinuk River drainages and Peak 3320 in the Cobblestone River and Glacial Lake drainages

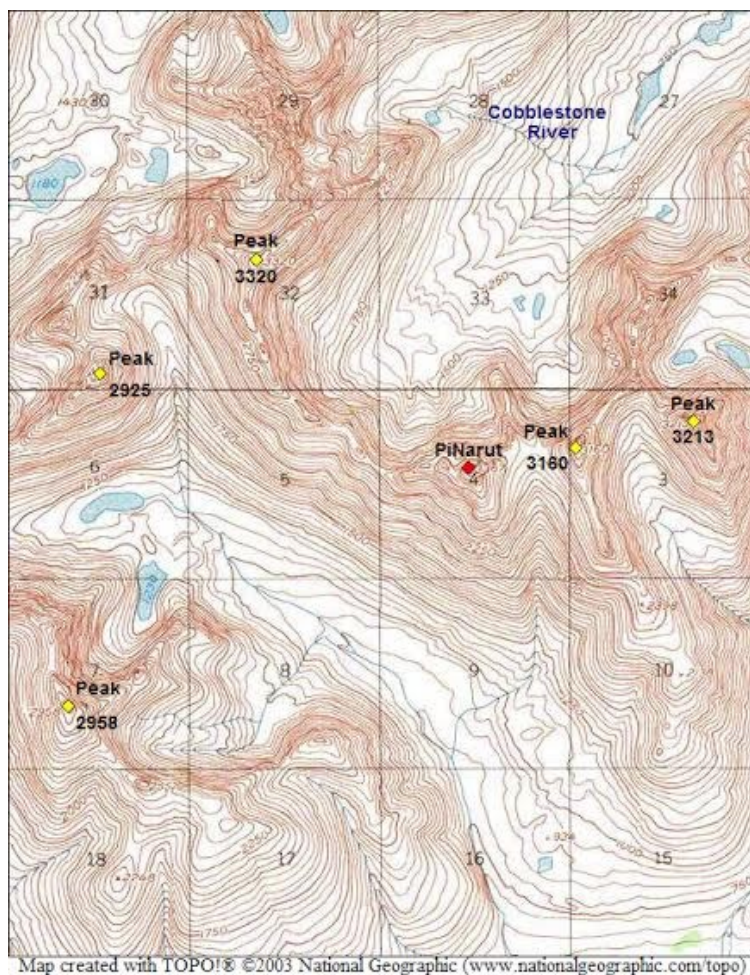
Distinctness: 692 feet from Peak 3160

USGS Map: Nome (D-2)

First Recorded Ascent: 1949 by a U.S. Army Map Service party

Route of First Recorded Ascent: South ridge

Access Point: 2675-Foot saddle northeast of PiNarut and west of Peak 3160



PiNarut is a sharp, pointed, prominent peak with sheer walls on the north, east, and west sides with the sides fanning out to the south, giving it the appearance of a pyramid when viewed from the south. It is reported to be composed of metamorphic granitic gneiss.

In 1949 a U.S. Army Map Service party flew in a helicopter to the 2675-foot saddle between PiNarut and Peak 3160. From that saddle, the party traversed to the south ridge of PiNarut, which they followed to the summit. The entire ascent from the saddle took 50 minutes. In bedrock near the summit, the party placed a U.S. Army Corps of Engineers survey station mark stamped Sinuk 1949 AMS. The survey station mark was placed eight feet north of and four feet lower than a small ledge. Sheer drops were reported 10 feet north, 5 feet west, and 6 feet east of the survey station mark.

In March 2004 Ian McRae ascended the south ridge of PiNarut. He had called it Three Gables due to the three prominent spires of bedrock jutting skyward. He asked his Inupiat friends of an Inupiaq word for three gables. They came up with PiNarut (pronounced *ping-a-root*), which means “three things that stick out.” The capital N denotes an n with a tail, which is an Inupiaq consonant that combines the sounds of an n and a g. McRae now uses the name PiNarut for the peak.

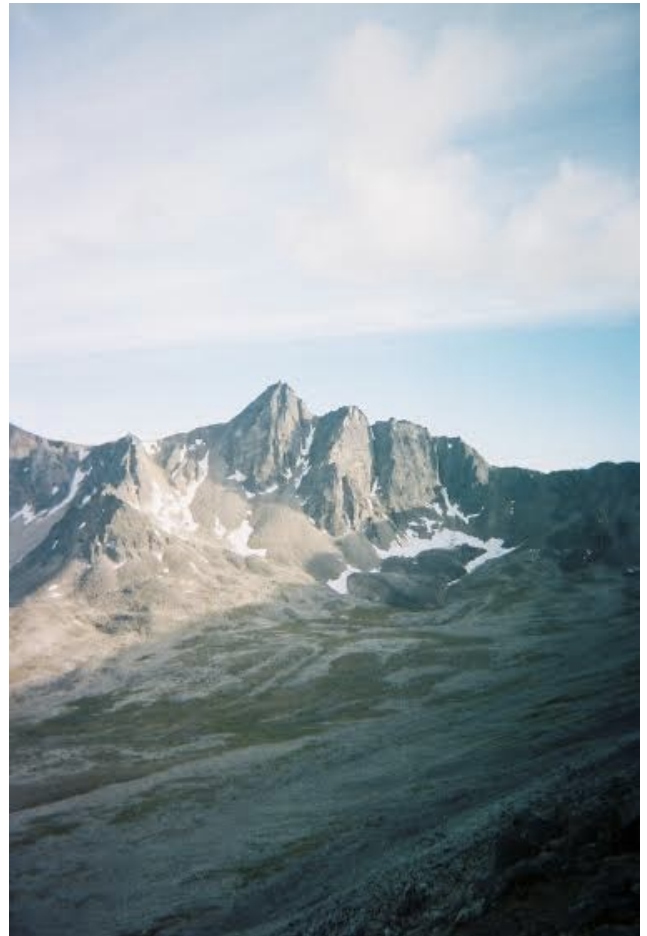
In the spring of 2012, McRae and Tyler Rhodes skied the tight couloirs of the southwest aspect of the “second gable,” the 3125-foot point on the west ridge of PiNarut.

Jeff Amato reportedly climbed “all the peaks west of [Mount] Osborn,” which would include PiNarut, but that report might be a bit of a generalization.

The information for this column came from my correspondence with McRae, from his blog (<http://kigsblog-allapa.blogspot.com/2014/09/peak-3250-saguiq-west-ridge-attempt.html>), and from National Geodetic Survey records obtained from geocaching.com (<http://www.geocaching.com/mark/details.aspx?PID=UW3846>).



*PiNarut and the Kigluaik Mountains from the Nome-Teller Road.
Photo by Ian McRae*



*PiNarut from the Cobblestone River.
Photo by Ian McRae*



*PiNarut from the north.
Photo by Ian McRae*



*Images from Ian McRae's and Tyler Rhodes' ski descent of the "Second Gable" on PiNarut.
Photos by Tyler Rhodes*



MCA Board Meeting Minutes – Monday, October 5, 2015

Attendees: Max Neale, Aaron Gallagher, Cory Hinds, Carlene Van Tol, Greg Encelewski

1. **Elections** at October 20 general meeting
2. **VP-Upcoming programs (Galen Flint)**
 - a. October: Aaron Thrasher – Mint Traverse and West Ridge of Mount Yukla
 - b. November: Carl Oswald – Chugach ice
3. **Treasurer's report (Aaron)**
 - a. Year-to-date, we're \$3,000 in the black.
 - b. Next Board meeting will focus on budget.
4. **Secretary's report (Max)**
 - a. Max is coordinating two metal signs to acknowledge Pichler's Perch material donors.
5. **Huts (Cory)**
 - a. No recent activity..
6. **Training (Jayme Mack)**
 - a. Ice Fest – big success, no injuries, lots of fun!
 - b. Update on Winter Basic Mountaineering School. Plan to line up a selection of courses with combination of volunteer and paid instruction.
7. **Hiking and Climbing (Cory)**
 - a. Need a volunteer on the Board to help find a replacement for the Hiking and Climbing Committee Chair; Vicky Lytle is stepping down.
8. **Mentoring (Rachad Rayess)**
 - a. We need more mentors! We will announce this at next general meeting.
9. **Library (Cory)**
 - a. Nothing new to report.
10. **Equipment (Josh Clark)**
 - a. Nothing new to report.
11. **Parks Advisory (Cory)**
 - a. Chugach State Park Management Plan: Upcoming meeting with CSP Superintendent to discuss fixed anchors.
 - b. Hatcher Pass Mountain Huts Group: Meeting with director of CSP for introduction and to ask for help regarding explosion of motorized transport around MCA hut areas.
12. **New Business**
 - a. Elections in October.
13. **Next general meeting:**
October 20th at 6:30 p.m. at the BP Energy Center
13. **Next Board meeting:**
November 16th at 6:00 p.m. at the REI classroom
13. **Adjournment**

1. Which was the first 8000-meter peak to be climbed? **D. Annapurna**

Annapurna (8091 meters) was first climbed on June 3, 1950, by a French team nearly three years before the summit of Mount Everest was reached. Shishapangma (8027 meters) was the last of the 14 8000-meter peaks climbed. Its first ascent was in May 1964 by a Chinese team.

2. What does the term ATC, naming a common belay device, stand for? **A. Air Traffic Controller**

ATC is also a plate-style device with a loop connecting it to one's belay carabiner.

3. Who was the first person to climb all 14 8000-meter peaks in 1986? **C. Reinhold Messner**

He also achieved this feat without bottled oxygen. In fact, before his ascent of Mount Everest in 1978, it was considered impossible by most mountaineers to climb so high (equal to the cruising altitude of a jumbo jet) without the aid of supplementary oxygen. Messner and his partner Peter Habaler proved them wrong and made climbing history.

4. Who was the first American to climb all 14 8000-meter peaks, and became the 12th person ever to achieve this feat when he climbed Annapurna in May 2005? **D. Ed Viesturs**

Ed Viesturs climbed all 14 highest peaks without the use of bottled oxygen, making him only the fifth person to do so.

5. What is the northernmost peak in the Chugach Mountains that is at least 10,000 feet high? **M. Mount Sergeant Robinson**



Chugach State Park Map

<http://dnr.alaska.gov/parks/units/chugach/chugachstateparkmap.pdf>

Mountaineering Club of Alaska

| | | |
|----------------|-----------------|--------------|
| President | Cory Hinds | 229-6809 |
| Vice-President | Galen Flint | 650-207-0810 |
| Secretary | Max Neale | 207-712-1355 |
| Treasurer | Aaron Gallagher | 250-9555 |

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| Board member (term expires in 2017) | Nathan Hebda | 310-3255 |
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| Board member (term expires in 2016) | Jennifer DuFord | 227-6995 |

Annual membership dues: Single \$20, Family \$25

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@mtnclubak.org.

The Scree is a monthly publication of the Mountaineering Club of Alaska. Articles, notes, and letters submitted for publication in the newsletter should be emailed to MCAScree@gmail.com. Articles should be submitted by the 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@mtnclubak.org.

Missing your MCA membership card? Stop by the monthly meeting to pick one up or send a self-addressed, stamped envelope and we'll mail it to you.

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

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

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Find MCAK listserv at <https://groups.yahoo.com/neo/groups/MCAK/info>.

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