

# the SCREE

Mountaineering Club  
of Alaska

November 2016

Volume 59 Number 11



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Monthly meeting: Tuesday, November 15, at 6:30 p.m.  
Carl Tobin will present "My Three Deborahs."

Dave Johnston will be honored with the Hoeman Award  
at the November MCA meeting.

*"As we express our gratitude, we must never  
forget that the highest appreciation is not to  
utter words, but to live by them."*

- John Fitzgerald Kennedy

# The Mountaineering Club of Alaska

[www.mtnclubak.org](http://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, October 18, 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

Ben Still working up the Billings Glacier. Point 3930 on the west side of the Billings Glacier is in the background.  
Photo by Lee Helzer

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**Article Submission:** Text and photography submissions for *the Scree* can be sent as attachments to [mcascree@gmail.com](mailto: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.

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**Monthly Meeting: Tuesday, November 15, at 6:30 p.m.** Carl Tobin will present "My Three Deborahs" for the November meeting's slideshow.

## Hiking and Climbing Schedule

**December 17-18:** Ship Creek Trail maintenance. Arctic Valley area. Hike in ~10 miles doing trail clearing, Camp overnight, hike out. Non-technical. Trip leader: Greg Bragiell. Sign up at the November MCA meeting.

**December 23:** Flattop Mountain sleepout. No leader.

**February 18-25, 2017:** Hope to Seward backcountry ski touring. ~ 80 miles. Trip leader: Greg Bragiell. Informational meeting, sign up at November – January MCA meetings.

**April 1-9, 2017:** Bomber traverse backcountry ski touring, glacier travel. ~35 miles. Visit the Snowbird, Bomber, Mint, and Dnigi Huts. Trip leader: Greg Bragiell. Informational meeting, sign up at the November – February MCA meetings.

**June 23-July 1, 2017:** MCA Summer Mountaineering Instructional Trip. This is a vigorous hiking, climbing, and glacier-travel traverse through the Talkeetna Mountains, the Bomber Traverse, wherein the group stays at various locations that lend to the specific instructions. Basic mountaineering skills, snow travel, ice axe/tool use, ice climbing, glacier travel, navigation, route finding, rappelling, rock climbing, fun, exploration, leadership skills, and confidence building. Glacier travel. ~30 miles. Informational meeting, sign up at the December-March MCA meetings.

## Choate's Chuckle

- Tom Choate

Which type of climber makes the most mistakes?

Answer: Ice climbers often screw up.

## Hoeman Award:

Dave Johnston will be honored with the Hoeman Award at the November 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.**



*Photo by: Willy Hersman*

Lowell Thomas, Jr., an Honorary Lifetime Member of the MCA, passed away in Anchorage on October 1, 2016. His long life was filled with extraordinary adventures and accomplishments. He was born in London, England, where his father, world-renowned war correspondent Lowell Thomas, was embarking his career, first in World War I and most notably in World War II. Lowell Jr. grew up in New York state and graduated from Dartmouth College. In World War II he was a fighter-pilot flight instructor in the Army Air Corps, and flying came to play a central role in the rest of his life.

Lowell made his first trip to Alaska in 1940, when as a teenager he was part of the team led by Brad Washburn that made the first ascent of Mount Bertha (10204) in the Fairweather Range. Lowell and his father traveled and filmed in pre-communist Tibet in 1949, and were perhaps the last westerners to meet the teen-aged Dalai Lama before the Chinese invasion and the religious leader's exile in India. In 1954 and 1955, Lowell and his wife Tay flew their Cessna 180 around the world, from France to Morocco, across Africa, and into the Middle East and Afghanistan, where a visit by private single-engined aircraft was nearly unheard of. In 1958, Lowell and his family flew their 180 from the East Coast up to Alaska, and they decided to make Anchorage their home.

Lowell was elected to the Alaska State Senate in 1966, and it was in this role that he performed the outstanding service for which the MCA awarded his Honorary Lifetime Membership. Lowell was the Alaska Senate's prime sponsor and advocate in passing the bill that created Chugach State Park in 1970. He and his counterpart in the Alaska State House of Representatives, Dr. Helen Beirne, were recognized by the MCA for this farsighted, landmark legislation that has preserved Anchorage's spectacular, 495,000-acre "back yard" for present and future generations of Alaskans and visitors.

Lowell was elected as Alaska's Lieutenant Governor in 1974, serving with Governor Jay Hammond -- perhaps the only time in U.S. history that bush pilots occupied the top two offices in any state. After leaving politics, Lowell in 1979 began his career as a mountain and glacier pilot. He obtained a commercial license and purchased Talkeetna Air Taxi in 1981, and began flying climbers in and out of the Alaska Range in his trusty, ski-equipped Helio Courier, the ideal climber's aircraft. Lowell earned his reputation as the consummate Alaska climbing-support pilot -- very highly skilled, cool and professional, cautious and bold at the same time, and having a consummate knowledge of Alaska's mountain weather and terrain. In Lowell's flying career he made a total of seven forced landings, but he never once even scratched his aircraft.

Lowell used his ski plane to fly supplies into the Chugach for the construction and maintenance of the MCA's huts in the late 1960s, and he was instrumental in the refurbishment of the U.S. Biathlon Team's Nordic Training Center on the Eagle Glacier above Girdwood, contributing flying time and funds in his quiet, nearly anonymous way.

Lowell was also a winter mountaineer, particularly in the Tordrillo Mountains across Cook Inlet from Anchorage. In addition to flying numerous climbing parties into this seldom-visited area, he made two first ascents: Mount Gerdine (11258) in 1963; and Mount Torbert (11413) in 1964. If the long-term weather forecast looked favorable, he would tie his Helio Courier down at the landing area and join in the climb -- always with an eye peeled for any change in the weather. If that happened, he would plan to make a rapid ski descent down-glacier, and take off before the weather closed in.

Lowell contributed to [Tordrillo: Pioneer Climbs and Flights in the Tordrillo Mountains of Alaska, 1957-1997](#), written by his long-time climbing friends and fellow MCA members Rodman Wilson and Paul Crews, Sr. When Lowell finally sold Talkeetna Air Taxi in 1994 and retired from commercial mountain flying, he was 70 years old, but he continued to fly, with less stress and for his own enjoyment, until age 86. In 2012, he donated his beloved Helio Courier to the Alaska Aviation Museum, where many museum visitors are now able to say, "I flew into Denali's Kahiltna base camp (or the Ruth Gorge, or the Tordrillos) with Lowell Thomas, Jr., in that plane."

Certainly, Lowell Thomas, Jr., led a life well-lived, both long and adventurous.

Tom Meacham

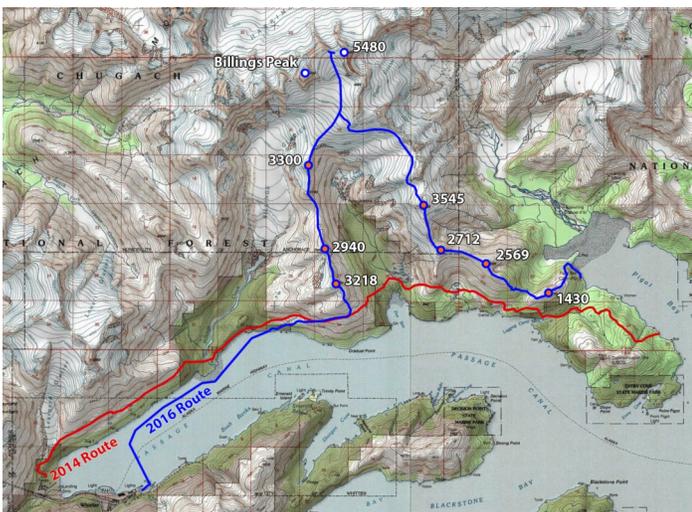
# Traversing into Pigot Bay

Text by Lee Helzer



*Ben Still on the Billings Glacier with the ridge that Lee Helzer and he traversed in the background on the left.*

*Photo by Lee Helzer*



Each Memorial Day weekend a crew of us tends to wind up in Pigot Bay, a medium-sized bay around 15 miles northeast of Whittier. It is a spectacular bay with multiple beaches, a decent anchorage, and even a U.S. Forest Service A-frame cabin nicely nestled amongst giant hemlocks. Most of the vagrants catch a boat ride out, while a few kayak, but I wanted to get there by foot and try to bag some peaks along the way.

On a previous Memorial Day weekend trip (red line), I started out on foot from just past the Whittier Airport and roughly followed the north shore of Passage Canal past Billings Creek, Poe Bay, and accessed Pigot Bay through the low pass at the head of Logging Camp Bay. It was a wicked 24-mile bushwhack, but touched on a valley I knew I would have to revisit.

For 2016, Ben Still and I devised a route (blue line) that would avoid much of the heinous bushwhacking by taking a wishbone-  
Scree—November 2016

shaped route along the ridge to the east of Billings Creek toward Billings Peak (5990) up the Billings Glacier and return to the Pigot Bay Cabin via the ridge to the northeast of Poe Bay. Our goal was to hit as many points of interest as possible along the way and make it to Pigot Bay before our comrades drank all the beer.

Our route would start with a five-mile water crossing of Passage Canal to a beach to the east of the cabin near Billings Creek, but west of a small creek. We tried all the good options to procure water passage, but ultimately were forced to drag out my old flat-back canoe to make the crossing. A friend was kind enough to loan us his 5-horsepower kicker, and with a little rigging of driftwood, we were motoring on our way by 6:30 a.m. We were fortunate for blue skies and calm seas. The crossing took around 45 minutes and went mostly smoothly, with only a little passing boat wake breaching the bow. That being said, I would not recommend this approach. The canoe felt as if it could capsize at any moment and all but the smallest waves would fill the boat and test our cold-water survival skills.

*Captain Lee Helzer canoeing the team across Passage Canal.*

*Photo by Ben Still*





*Ben Still happy to be done with the bushwhacking above brushline at around 1100 feet. Whittier is in the background. Photo by Lee Helzer*



*Descending Point 3545 toward Pigot Bay. Phot by Lee Helzer*

At the beach we stashed the canoe, life jackets, and dry suits well above the high-tide mark and thieving eyes and began bushwhacking. Travel through the forest was brushy, but reasonable, thanks to an abundance of small meadows and game trails. After around 30 minutes we were above timberline and the travel was easy alpine slopes to the summit of the peak labeled on the USGS Seward (D-5) topographic map as 3224 feet and on the USGS Seward D-5 SE topographic map as 981 meters (3218 feet).

Ben and I reached the top of Peak 3218 in roughly 3.5 hours after leaving Whittier and were treated to spectacular views of Prince William Sound. [Ed. note: In his field notes from a 1948 survey of the Prince William Sound coastline for the U.S. Coast and Geodetic Survey, Henry Arnold Karo referenced Peak 3218 as Peak 62.] We planned to cruise the ridge north, ultimately toward Passage Peak, but the ridge turned out to be a bit more precarious and slower going than either of us had planned. Working down the north side of Peak 3218 just after the summit turned out to be the crux of the trip requiring the descent of a short, but steep, 65-degree, 50-foot snow-and-rock slope. The scenic ridge led us to the points of interests of Point 2940 and Point 3300 before gently depositing us on the Billings Glacier.

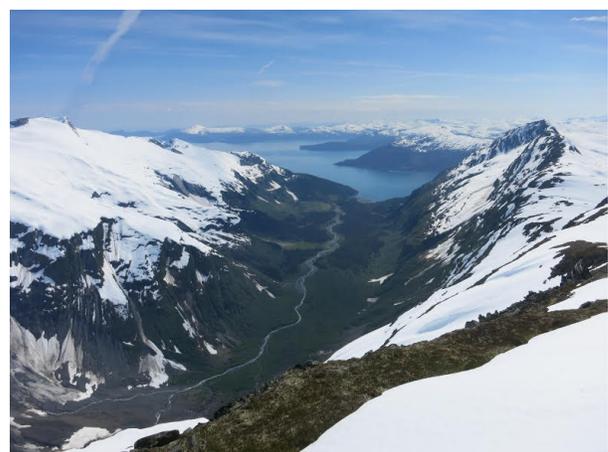
We roped up, but there were no visible crevasses all the way up to the head of the glacier. Our good weather was also our curse. The sun baked the slopes of our primary objective, Billings Peak causing frequent shedding. We determined Billings was too risky. We turned to take a look at Peak 5480, but some interesting seracs combined with the baked slopes that hadn't yet shed yielded the same conclusion. On the way down the glacier, we surmised a two-day trip the same time of year with

an early start on solid snow would offer the best bid at the summit.

At an elevation between 4000 and 3500 feet, we broke east and contoured around to Point 3545, passing a few crevasses and recent avalanches along the way. After 3545 we headed to Point 2712 and over to Point 2569. The descent toward Peak 1430 required a bit of route finding to avoid cliffs, but Ben recalled the path from a previous boat outing. Ben and I confirmed the summit of 1430 after our bitter cold ascent in April 2016. See the June 2016 Scree for Ben's trip report. The sun was starting to sink low on the horizon and the thoughts of an ice-cold beer and a campfire hurried us along. As we worked down, I pulled up my GPS tracks from the April trip and we were easily guided through the thick, dark forest back to the cabin. We reached the beach after a little over 18 hours and around 24 miles.



*Descending the east arm of the Billings Glacier. The Tebenkof Glacier is in the background. Phot by Lee Helzer*



*The head of Poe Bay Valley with Peak 3218 at the far right of the photo. Photo by Lee Helzer*

# Hale-Bop Peak

Text by Felix Ossig-Bonanno

Edited by Jennifer DuFord



*Sunset along Turnagain Arm.  
Photo by Felix Ossig-Bonanno*

When Jennifer DuFord posted an exploration trip on the Anchorage Adventurers Meetup group, it was a no-brainer: exploration equals fun.

We met at Carrs Huffman to carpool and after some quick introductions we were on our way south to the Kenai Peninsula. With the onset of winter, the peaks along Turnagain Arm were again sprinkled with a layering of snow. It was cold, but the rising sun revealed clear skies that promised a gorgeous bluebird day.

There were a number of lakes along the roadside, and the number of swans swimming in them was surprising. In one I counted 36, one less than I had counted the day before on the drive to Crescent Lake.

Soon we were all gathered at the parking lot at Lower Summit Lake. We numbered 15, and with the brisk air we were all keen to get walking. As we crossed the bridge I stopped to admire the reflections in the lake and then hurried to catch up with the end of the line disappearing into the trees.



*Amazing reflections on Lower Summit Lake.*

*Photo by Felix Ossig-Bonanno*

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We were quickly bushwhacking, but it wasn't bad at all, with only a couple of spots being a little annoying. People splintered into groups of varying sizes. I ended up walking with Kneely Taylor, who provided good company and had many years of hiking experience in Alaska. We dropped down into the creek between the two ridges (Raven Ridge and Butch Ridge) that were our options of reaching our target peak, Hale-Bop Peak (4970). We stopped to inspect what looked like an abandoned gold mine. Lots of equipment was left sprawled all over the place and it looked like there was no intention for the miners to return. The creek was partly frozen and the banks provided good walking, so we ascended whilst admiring the small ice stalactites and other formations in the waterway.

A small gully on the left looked clear of vegetation, so we started up. Halfway up we spied a number of other sub-groups, some trying to reach the ridge we were aiming for (Raven Ridge) whilst others were heading up the ridge on the other side (Butch Ridge). We soon reached the top where we had a rest and met up with some others. The views were pretty spectacular, and now that we had gained the ridge the going would be easier.

*Felix Ossig-Bonanno  
enjoying the amazing  
weather and  
accompanying  
views!*

*Photo by Kneely  
Taylor*





*Kneely Taylor, happily walking along the alpine tundra.  
Photo by Felix Ossig-Bonanno*

trail, and moved more slowly, testing my footing carefully before moving on. If I had crampons or micro-spikes I think I would have put them on.



*Snow on Hale-Bop Peak.  
Photo by Felix Ossig-Bonanno*



*Kneely Taylor silhouetted against the sun at a high point on the ridge.  
Photo by Felix Ossig-Bonanno*



*Patti Phillips just below the summit.  
Photo by Felix Ossig-Bonanno.*

As we continued up the ridge, we came across this interesting feature where there were two parallel ridges with a slump in the middle. I wondered how it formed. The bedding seemed mostly vertical so maybe part of the ridge sunk ... but that didn't seem to fit properly ... nevertheless it was an interesting feature.



*Patti Phillips closer to the summit.  
Photo by Felix Ossig-Bonanno*



*Cathy Barth and Kneely Taylor on the other parallel ridge.  
Photo by Felix Ossig-Bonanno*

As we gained altitude we began walking on sporadic snow; as I looked up I began to worry it would stop me from gaining the top. I caught up with Patti for the climb up the last steep section. We followed the steps Jennifer had kicked in breaking

Soon we were at the top! It was amazing how quickly we had got there – the good company I guess! The views were fantastic! One could see the water in Turnagain Arm, some inviting peaks to the northeast that were silently calling to me; one could even see a small section of Upper Trail Lake. Following the ridge along for a short way, confirmed that we were on the highest point, and as others joined us, we sat down for some lunch.



*(From left) Felix Ossig-Bonanno, Patti Phillips, and Doug Stephens on the summit of Hale-Bop Peak.  
Photo by Jennifer DuFord*



*View from the top.  
Photo by Felix Ossig-Bonanno*



*Felix Ossig-Bonanno admiring the view to the southeast from the summit area.  
Photo by Steve Gruhn*

Instead of retracing our steps, the consensus was to descend via Butch Ridge. I had seen people from our group on it, so knew that most of it was okay and the top section to the peak, safer than the way we had ascended. Down we went, enjoying the views we hadn't seen as much of on the way up.

We came across footprints from the other half of the group, and continuing down paused to watch a couple of bald eagles soaring effortlessly below us. A flock of ptarmigan also swept past us a couple of times, almost like a flurry of snow.

Some butt-sliding down the heather and we were soon under the hemlock, where we located a small camp. I carried out a bit of rubbish and a hatchet that had been left behind.

Against all odds, we came across the other half of the group (except for a couple who had turned around earlier in the day), and reunited, continued down the gentler slopes to the cars.

What a fantastic day! Thanks to everyone who came along (Jennifer DuFord - Organizer, Cathy Barth, Craig Fitzgerald, Jeff Flory, Steve Gehring, Steve Gruhn, Doug Helvy, Donna Klecka, Maureen Peterson, Patti Phillips, Janetta Norvel Smith, Doug Stephens, Kneely Taylor, and Larry Wassell)!



*Descending Butch Ridge proved easier than the way we had ascended.  
Photo by Felix Ossig-Bonanno*



*Cathy Barth descending the last of the snow.  
Photo by Felix Ossig-Bonanno*



*Clockwise from top left: Felix Ossig-Bonanno, Cathy Barth, Jennifer DuFord, Kneely Taylor, Steve Gruhn, Patti Phillips, and Doug Stephens on the summit of Hale-Bop Peak.  
Photo by Patti Phillips*



*New snow in early October creeps down the Avalanche Mountain toward Ship Lake.  
Photo by Frank E. Baker*



*Viewing east from the Hope Point Trail in late September.  
Photo by Frank E. Baker*

# First Ascent of Point 7700

Text by Max Neale



The recently-uncovered truth about crossing a freezing cold glacial river is: it's best done with your pants off.

We can learn a lot from highly experienced Alaska mountaineers, and I'm confident this is the single most important tip for better technique in the mountains. So pay attention.

A well-executed pants-off crossing requires:

1. Confidence. Trust yourself and your ability to successfully make the crossing without pants. If you fall and bumper-butt downstream, it will be terrible, but try not to think about it.
2. Speed. Like in the alpine, the faster the better. Remove your pants as quickly as possible. Similarly, upon reaching the opposite bank put your pants on as quickly as possible.
3. Composure. If, and more likely when, the frigid water splashes your genitalia, breathe deeply, observe the sensations, but do not show any outward sign of discomfort. For example, don't yell, "OH, ICE BALLS, THAT'S COLD!"

After Ice Fest on the Matanuska Glacier, Cory Hinds and I set aside two days for ascending a peak to the east. He chose an objective and sent me a topo the week before. As we left his truck, I asked him if anyone had been to the top before. He said, "Nope. Steve Gruhn didn't think so." (Steve is Alaska's mountain trivia master. Don't bother with Google; he has memorized everything there, too.)

When we reached the river a few hundred yards below the toe of the glacier, Cory told me he was taking his pants off. I had never taken my pants off for a river crossing before, but I fol-

lowed Cory's leadership and chose to do the same.

While I fumbled with my shoelaces, Cory already had his pants off and began trudging across. Whether the just-turned-to-liquid-water propelled him like a jet boat or he was simply skilled at placing his feet in the crevices between boulders he couldn't see, he arrived at the other side in notable time. Though he soaked his boxers, never did I see him grimace and shout, "OH, ICE BALLS, THAT'S COLD!"



*Max Neale during his first pants-off river crossing just below the Matanuska Glacier.  
Photo by Cory Hinds*

Our bodies warmed walking over some hills, across a beaver pond, and up the valley. Unfortunately, Glacier Creek pinched off the gravel bar and forced us to either enter thick brush or cross the frigid water. Cory muttered something about how the river had changed – he didn't remember needing to cross again

– as he whipped off his shoes and pants, and crossed with his boxers strapped to his pack.

Like when staring up at the intimidating crux pitch on a long, committing route, I passed the sharp end to Cory and chose to keep my pants on.

Again and again, five more times, he stripped off his socks and shoes, slid off his pants, refastened his socks and shoes, and crossed with confidence and composure. Meanwhile, I ambled across the frigid waters, stood still for a minute to drain my shoes, and BOOM he was marching onward beside me! These transitions were so fast I wondered – and still wonder, but haven't mustered the courage – better to just let him read this here – if he once had a career as a pants-off artist.

Almost as surprising as Cory's antics was the presence of gigantic tire tracks that meandered up the valley. I studied their width (at least two feet), the distance between them (far more than any vehicle I've ridden in), the tread pattern (no doubt industrial), and the remarkable turning radius. The turning radius baffled me most. How could something so huge turn so tightly and also ford the river every 500 feet? And did the operator (s) have their pants on?

We spent a comfortable night in a tent at 2000 feet elevation and departed around 7:00 a.m. the next morning. Soon, we stumbled upon the mysterious vehicle, of which type I hadn't seen since my youth exploring Maine's North Woods. A skidder. Though designed for pulling trees off steep hillsides, this skidder appeared to be *here* for carrying moose out of the valley. Would they put the beast in a bag and hoist it or would they clamp onto it with the massive "grapple?"



*Cory Hinds and the mysterious tire tracks.*

*Photo by Max Neale*



*This is what a skidder looks like.*

The actual hiking of Point 7700 was straightforward and, I imagine, about as pleasant as it gets for a first ascent in 2016. Enjoying views from both sides, we followed a ridge into the snow, post-holing more than expected, and stopping to eat snacks and to chat. Our paces slowed considerably around 7000 feet, when we felt the altitude. Then we were at the summit. Via a snowy gully and beautiful side-hilling to the north, we were back in camp around 7:00 p.m.

Mountains usually get better – bigger, taller, steeper, more covered in snow and ice – closer to the center of a range. In addition to the opportunity to practice pants-off glacial river crossings, the lovely part about Point 7700 was that it provided stunning, big mountain views while only nine miles from the road as the crow flies, and the hike was entirely non-technical. Why on earth didn't anyone go up this before?



*View from the summit of Point 7700.*

*Photo by Max Neale*



*View of Thunder Bird Peak from the Thunder Bird Creek drainage.  
Photo by Frank Baker*



*Morning clouds form around Mount Yukla (7535) in the Eagle River Valley. Photo was taken October 5, 2016, from the west ridge above South Fork Valley, Eagle River.  
Photo by Frank E. Baker*

# Peak of the Month: Peak 2904

Text by Steve Gruhn

**Mountain Range:** Saint Elias Mountains;  
Fairweather Range

**Borough:** City and Borough of Yakutat

**Drainage:** Gulf of Alaska

**Latitude/Longitude:** 58° 58' 49" North, 137°  
58' 20" West

**Elevation:** 2904 feet

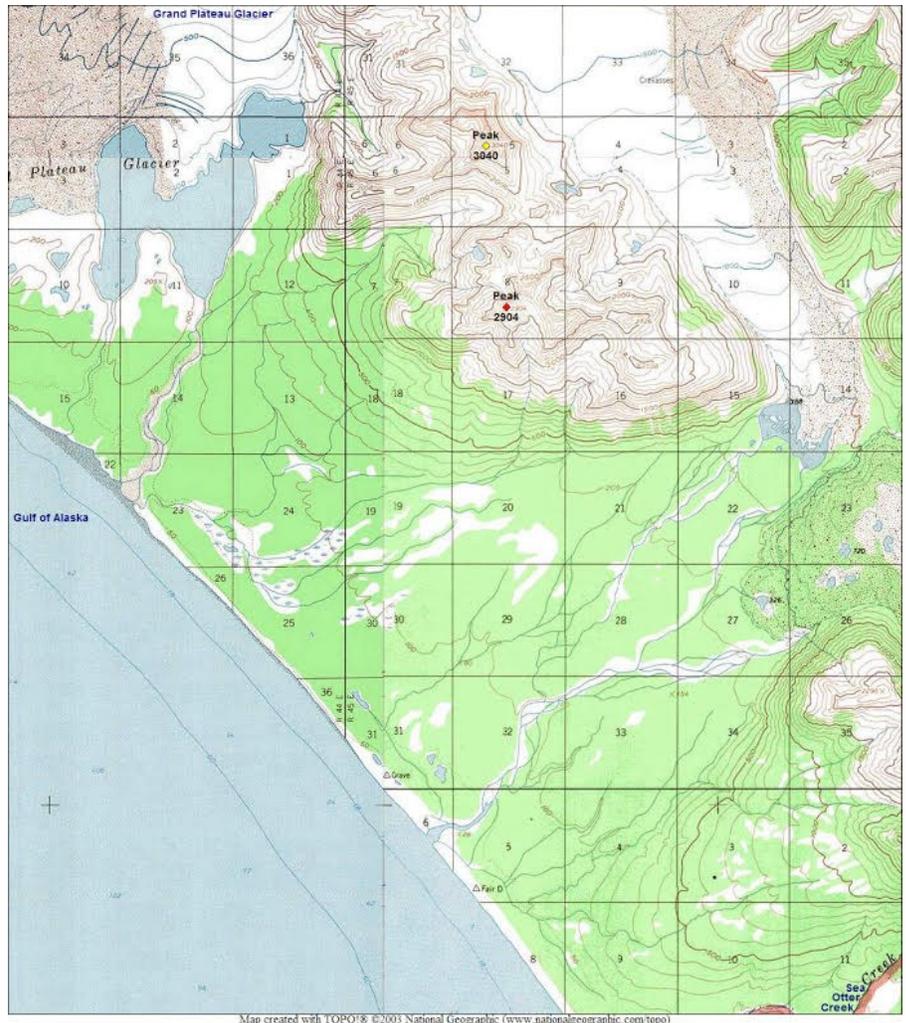
**Prominence:** 954 feet from Peak 3040 in the  
Gulf of Alaska drainage

**Adjacent Peak:** Peak 3040

**Distinctness:** 954 feet from Peak 3040

**USGS Map:** Mount Fairweather (D-6)

**First Recorded Ascent:** 1961 by a USGS party



Peak 2904 is the second highest of a small group of black, tundra-covered peaks that comprise an isolated, conspicuous, and dominant topographic feature that is surrounded on three sides by the ice and moraine of the Grand Plateau Glacier and its distributary, and on the fourth side by the Gulf of Alaska.

In 1940 the U.S. Coast and Geodetic Survey used Peak 2904 for hydrographic control during a survey of Alaska's coastline from Dixon Entrance to Cape Saint Elias and designated the triangulation station at the conspicuous summit as "Newt." In 1961 a U.S. Geological Survey party visited Peak 2904 and imbedded a standard aluminum survey disk firmly in the top of a half-inch-diameter steel pipe, which was solidly set at the

highest point of the peak. The tablet was stamped "Newt ET 1961" and extended 0.2 foot above the ground surface.

I don't know of a second ascent of Peak 2904.

The information for this article came from USGS and USCGS field notes available at <https://www.geocaching.com/mark/details.aspx?PID=UV2354> and <https://www.geocaching.com/mark/details.aspx?PID=UV2353>.

## October 18, 2016

### MCA General Meeting Minutes

This was a special meeting where we elected new Board members and voted on the photo calendar.

1. Lifetime Honorary Membership Awards. Descriptions of each of these fine gentlemen will be published in *the Scree*.

- a. Dave Staeheli
- b. David Roberts
- c. Greg Bragiel
- d. Don Hansen
- e. Neil O'Donnell

2. Elections

- a. New President: Charlie Sink
- b. Vice President: Katie Strong
- c. Secretary: Max Neale
- d. Treasurer: Brian Miller
- e. Directors: Ralph Baldwin and Jennifer DuFord

3. Photo Calendar

- a. Stunning images. Make sure you get a calendar!

4. Presentation by John Giraldo

- a. He shared wonderful stories of his progression as an alpinist, starting as a teenager growing up in Kenny Lake to big, new routes in the Alaska Range.

## Honorary Lifetime Memberships

At the October 18 general membership meeting of the MCA, the club honored five people with honorary lifetime memberships. The honored individuals and brief resumes for each are listed below.

### Neil O'Donnell

- Performed pro-bono legal services for the MCA;
- Served as MCA President in 1989-1990 and served on the Board of Directors for two years (1988-1989 and 1990-1991);
- Led 23 trips for the MCA; and
- Authored 10 articles for *the Scree*.

### Dave Staeheli

- Helped – and continues to help – site, design, construct, and maintain the MCA's huts;
- Led snow-climbing instruction course;
- Made the first solo winter ascent of the West Rib of Denali in the Alaska Range and the first ascent of Mount Gunnar Naslund in the Saint Elias Mountains; and
- Worked as a respected professional mountain guide in the Alaska Range and Wrangell Mountains for decades.

### Greg Bragiel

- Served as Huts Committee Chairman for the past 10 years (and continues his role in that position);
- Spearheaded efforts to mitigate human waste issues at the MCA's huts (a crappy job if ever there were one);
- Led 51 trips for the MCA;
- Led dozens of training courses for the MCA and other organizations;
- Taught students at the MCA's Ice Fest for many years; and
- Authored 18 trip reports for *the Scree*.

### David Roberts

- Spent 13 seasons in Alaska, making pioneering ascents of the Wickersham Wall on the North Peak of Denali, the West Rib of Mount Huntington, and the Southeast Face of Mount Dickey;

- Made the first ascents of 16 peaks – the South Peak of Hess Mountain in the Hayes Range (1964); Avalanche Peak and Vertex Peak in the Kichatna Mountains (1966); The Cherub, Hydra Peak, Mount Patmos, and Sentry Peak in the Revelation Mountains (1967); Mount Igikpak, Bread Loaf Peak, Sikspak Peak, and Spalook Peak in the Schwatka Mountains (1968); Caliban Peak and Elephant's Tooth in the Arrigetch Peaks (1969); Oyukak Mountain in the Schwatka Mountains (1970); and The Badile and Shot Tower in the Arrigetch Peaks (1971);
- Authored classic mountaineering books about mountaineering in Alaska – Deborah: A Wilderness Narrative, The Mountain of My Fear, Moments of Doubt and Other Mountaineering Writings of David Roberts, Escape Routes: Further Adventure Writings of David Roberts, Great Exploration Hoaxes, Escape from Lucania: An Epic Story of Survival, Mount McKinley: The Conquest of Denali, On the Ridge between Life and Death: A Climbing Life Reexamined, The Last of His Kind: The Life and Adventures of Bradford Washburn, America's Boldest Mountaineer; and
- *National Geographic Adventure* called him "the dean of American climbing literature."

### Don Hansen

- Led 62 trips for the MCA;
- Served on the Board of Directors for six years (1987-1989, 1991-1993, and 2007-2009);
- Authored 25 trip reports for *the Scree*; and
- Made the first ascents of five peaks in the Neacola, Romanzof, and Philip Smith Mountains.

## Mountaineering Club of Alaska

President	Charlie Sink	258-8770	Board member (term expires in 2017)	Stephen Austria	402-540-7037
Vice-President	Katie Strong	441-0434	Board member (term expires in 2017)	Nathan Hebda	310-3255
Secretary	Max Neale	207-712-1355	Board member (term expires in 2018)	Ralph Baldwin	232-0897
Treasurer	Brian Miller	517-402-8299	Board member (term expires in 2018)	Jennifer DuFord	227-6995
Past President	Cory Hinds	229-6809			

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@mtclubak.org](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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: Brian Miller - [membership@mtclubak.org](mailto:membership@mtclubak.org)

Hiking and Climbing Committee: Ed Smith - 854-5702 or [hcc@mtclubak.org](mailto:hcc@mtclubak.org)

Huts: Greg Bragiel - 569-3008 or [huts@mtclubak.org](mailto:huts@mtclubak.org)

Calendar: Stuart Grenier - 337-5127 or [stugrenier@gmail.com](mailto:stugrenier@gmail.com)

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

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