

# the SCREE

## Mountaineering Club of Alaska

*"There are things known and there are things unknown, and in between are the doors of perception."*

- Aldous Huxley

March 2016

Volume 59 Number 3



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**Monthly meeting: 6:30 p.m., Tuesday, March 15. Start planning your spring and summer trips and come learn about the MCA huts and the American Alpine Club's Snowbird Hut! A short presentation will be given about all eight huts and how they can be linked together.**



# 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, March 15, 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

Tamara Perreault on the final push to the summit of  
Vermont Dome.

Photo by Danny Walden

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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, March 15, at 6:30 p.m.** Start planning your spring and summer trips and come learn about the MCA huts and the American Alpine Club's Snowbird Hut! A short presentation will be given about all eight huts and how they can be linked together.

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## Hiking and Climbing Schedule

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

**June 11:** Pioneer to Eklutna Traverse. This traverse takes advantage of trails to access great ridgeline hiking and scrambling with zero bushwhacking. It's approximately 20 miles with 12,000 feet of elevation gain. Participants should be fit and prepared for a full day in the mountains. We shouldn't need any technical climbing gear, but everyone should have plenty of water - up on the ridge there won't be opportunities for re-supply - and lots of snacks. Participants should also prepare for a wide variety of weather, as temperatures on the ridgeline can vary dramatically from the valley floor. Trip leader is Katie Strong ([kgstrong@gmail.com](mailto:kgstrong@gmail.com)).

**June 18:** Flattop Mountain sleepout. No leader.

Online? Click me!



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

## ***Sheldon Mountain House Discount***

The Sheldon Mountain House is excited to broaden its rental season to begin mid-February of each year. As the days get longer and the temperatures warm, this time of the year brings some of the clearest and most inspiring days and nights in and around the amphitheater. However, this period is also the tail end of extreme winter conditions.

For this reason the first 30 days of the pre-season are only available to people with extensive knowledge and experience in glacier travel and crevasse rescue, or with a guide. To further ensure a pleasant experience, Sheldon Mountain House has located a cache of wood at the Mountain House for use if the party is weathered in beyond their anticipated stay. There is also a satellite phone for use to communicate with the transportation provider, K2 Aviation. Sheldon Mountain House conducted substantial renovations over the past year. The Mountain House is cozy, but sleeps four comfortably on cushioned benches, and there is ample room for an additional two people on the floor. Several larger groups also have tented, or constructed snow caves nearby on the nunatak. More information and significant detail can be found at [SheldonMountainHouse.com](http://SheldonMountainHouse.com), as well as in the Briefing Guide.

As a member of the Mountaineering Club of Alaska, you are offered an opportunity to experience the grandeur of the Sheldon Mountain House and its setting before regular bookings at a discounted price February 15th through March 11th. The discounted price offered is \$75 per person, per night, but with a three person minimum. The normal price works out to roughly >\$100 per person per night, depending upon the number of people who stay.

Should you be weathered out, your reservation will be refunded, another benefit of this pre-season offer. The three person minimum is to encourage group enjoyment as well as safety. K2 Aviation is Sheldon Mountain House's transportation partner. K2 Aviation normally charges \$565 per person round trip, but for larger groups Sheldon Mountain House may be able to arrange a discount.

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## ***Trivia***

## **Seven Summits Quiz**

By Dawn Talbott

Answers on page 11

1. Mount Everest is perhaps the most famous of the Seven Summits, and was first climbed by Edmund Hillary and Tenzing Norgay in 1953. Since then, many others have climbed the mountain, some with tragic circumstances. What is the title of the book about one of the deadliest days on Mount Everest?
  - A. Death on the Mountain
  - B. On the Verge
  - C. Into Thin Air
  - D. Mount Everest: Detailing a Disaster
2. Mount Kilimanjaro, the highest point in Africa, is not a technical climb and requires no special training to ascend it. What is special about this mountain?
  - A. It is partially underwater
  - B. It is the world's highest freestanding mountain
  - C. It is technically in three different countries
  - D. It can be climbed by most hikers in an afternoon
3. In Alaska the highest point is Denali, which is the name given to the mountain by the local people. What does Denali mean?
  - A. The Mountain God
  - B. The High One
  - C. The One Who Watches Over Earth
  - D. Unknown - the language has been lost
4. In 1966, the last of the Seven Summits to be reached was climbed. Which mountain was this?
  - A. Vinson Massif
  - B. K2
  - C. Annapurna
  - D. Mount McKinley



## Pakushin Volcano

Text by Erin McKittrick, Photos by Hig Higman



*The volcnaoes of Umnak Island protruding from the Bering Sea.*



*We arrived at the edge of the crater of Pakushin Volcano just as the sun set, and fog clouds surrounded us.*

It was September 12. Day 41 of an Aleutian Islands expedition that had crept beyond the meager span of an Aleutian Islands summer. I clutched my mug, knees drawn up next to the fire, and realized those instant packets of Starbucks coffee weren't the most precious thing in the world anymore. Calm weather was more precious. Sun, if we could get it, was like gold.

The kids were peaceful lumps, one pink, one green, burrowed into their sleeping bags only a little bit cock-eyed from where we'd left them. I rustled them out in the direction of their oatmeal.

"Today's the day we get to climb Pakushin!"

We were already on Makushin Volcano, though it was hard to tell. Makushin's rounded bulge accounts for a quarter of Unalaska Island's 1,000 square miles. Fingers of lava gripped the sea, and then rose slowly, miles of ribs and gullies climbing to where a soggy gray hat of clouds cut off the last few thousand feet of the 5905-foot peak.

My team was desperate to climb a mountain. And as my team



*In the fog, exploring the crater of Pakushin Volcano.*



*The crater of this small volcano hasn't seen an eruption in a long time, but little grows in the cold mists.*

consisted of one six-year-old, one four-year-old, my husband Hig Higman, and me, it would have to be a small one. We chose Pakushin Volcano, a miniature volcano with a miniature cratered top – a 3486-foot wart on the cheek of the larger mountain.

The sea cliff at the mountain's foot was spotted with two dozen eagles, wings beating heavy as they jockeyed for the best grassy crevices.

"My legs are getting really tired!" It was only minutes later, just a few tens of feet above sea level when the four-year-old cried, flopping down in the middle of the narrow path we'd stomped for her, in lush Aleutian grass that reached well above her head. I was about ready to cry too, imagining 33 more incarnations of this first hundred feet. But the beginning is always the hardest.

Berry patch followed berry patch and soon the kids hardly noticed we were climbing. Soon we could see everything. The route we'd followed for more than a month stretched out behind us in faded blue layers. A spine of



mountains running down Unalaska Island. Ship Rock standing in the shimmering Bering Sea. The volcanoes of Umnak Island.

It was nearly 8 p.m., and we were a thousand feet short, but the kids were unanimous. They would stop at nothing less than the top.

We shared a Twix bar. I clasped my daughter's hand. We climbed, over scattered volcanic boulders and the gullies of mud and sand between them, circling our way to the crater rim. The boulders turned to gray blobs. The sand was a dim haze. Eventually they were just ragged outlines in the beam of the headlamp. My husband and I set up the tent in those beams, while the kids ran yelling around the sandy crater floor.

"I still have lots of energy!"

"I can see in the dark!"

All I could see was a pattern of brilliant lines from the reflective strips on their rain gear. They buzzed around us like a glowing pair of alien ships.

We never did see the top of Pakushin. Morning struggled against the thick clouds that settled on our crater overnight. The gray was plastered on so thickly that the bottoms of the rocks were rubbed out. Jagged boulders seemed to float in the sky, their edges dissolving into the clouds just a dozen yards from where we stood. They could be the spines of a dragon, or the mountains of a miniature world. They could be the broken remains of a castle crushed by trolls or a hiding place for small and secret creatures. A whiff of sulfur rose from somewhere unseen. The wind swirled up cold and damp. This would be our only mountain.

We descended through the clouds, and finished our long walk to Dutch Harbor.



*High on Pakushin Volcano Katmai McKittrick, Erin McKittrick, and Lituya Higman (left to right) walk down a carpet of moss where flowing water kept the ashy soil moist.*



*We camped high on Pakushin Volcano, and awoke to dense clouds.*



*The kids insisted we find the peak of the mountain despite thick fog.*

# A Crumbly Conquest

Text and photos by Sam Zmolek

Crumbly Mountain was a moniker given to Peak 2711 after the three of us finally attained the summit on the 12th of September, 2015. It stands as the highest peak for a few miles in either direction, in the middle of a long alpine ridge that traverses Unalaska Island between Captains Bay and Portage Bay. While I climbed that mountain with Cory Lescher and John Ryan that day, the seeds of the expedition were sown earlier in the year when I first approached the peak on June 6th.

At that point in the early summer, there was still a lot of snow in the alpine expanses when I made an overnight foray to explore the remote area. I headed out from the end of the road in Captains Bay, and walked up the long Shaishnikof River drainage, bushwhacking most of the way. After cresting the hills above the south bank, where the river flows through an inaccessible canyon, I made my way down to the river and waded across about two miles up the valley, just upstream of the only major fork in the river where a sizeable creek joins the river from the northwest.

The upper reaches of the valley were gorgeous, a lush grassland interspersed with willows that became an easier bushwhack compared to the coastal areas, though there were still bands of thicker brush that needed to be avoided whenever possible. After crossing the Shaishnikof River, I headed west on a line to reach the base of a ridge on the south side of the creek. The ridge was a straightforward, steep, but safe, climb on fully vegetated slopes. At the top was a knoll just above 1300 feet in elevation. From there I continued west about a half mile or so, descending onto a broad saddle around 1100 feet high, surrounded by some little ponds with an incredible panorama of mountains on all sides.

I couldn't resist stopping to set up camp here, especially knowing that the higher ground ahead of me was likely snowbound, and I only had an ultra-light bivy tent that would be make life miserable in the snow. After lightening the load, and enjoying a snack, I assessed my options and decided to continue as far as I could that evening, knowing the next day was supposed to be somewhat miserable with rain.

I continued west along the ridge, up along a small waterfall onto a broad plateau that had clearly been scraped by ice sheets not very long ago, with large parallel drainages gouged into the



*Cory Lescher (left) and John Ryan (right) scrambling on top of Crumbly Mountain.*

flat surface laid down by previous volcanic eruptions and lava flows. It was truly a glacial wonderland, still dominated by snow and ice in spots. While frolicking around on the plateau, I spotted an impressive triangular crag to the southwest, and immediately felt compelled to do whatever I could to climb it, even as I continued my meandering explorations of the vertical drops to the south and east plunging steeply into the icy depths of Shaishnikof Lake 1500 feet below.

Soon I cut westward to traverse a smaller 2400-foot sub-peak while attaining the very spine of the ridge. I stopped in the cloudy chill air to gather myself for the climb to the summit, while enjoying views of Makushin Bay and the Shaler Mountains beyond. The final push to the summit was a little steep, but the snow seemed solid enough on the north aspect that I was climbing. After dodging a couple narrow cliff bands, I was soon on the very spine of the mountain, a very dramatic ridge that continued ascending



*Shaishnikof Ridge*



gradually for a few hundred yards while the drop-offs only became scarier as I worked closer to the top. I was probably within 20 vertical feet or so of the true summit when I became completely unnerved with the narrow ridge and spring snow. In scouting the summit from a distance earlier in the day, I had noticed where a slab of spring snow had recently broke free from the spine, and tumbled off a cliff below. It was very late in the day, the snow underfoot was wet and saturated, and it was impossible to be sure where the solid ground was. The exposure on both sides looked to be quite lethal if a quick arrest failed, so it was unlike other knife ridges I had done out here in snow where you could pick one side to err on for safety's sake if there was a fall. I stayed put for a few minutes, reasoning in my head between what was rational fear, and what was just me being hungry, tired, and uncomfortable with the exposure. In the end, I just couldn't justify going forward, and I turned around with the final summit in sight.

As a consolation, I strolled up the 2400-foot sub-peak and enjoyed the view before heading back to camp, arriving at my tent at midnight. I awoke the next morning and hiked out in the rain, dreaming about my next foray into this remote area when the snow was gone.

As summer came, I thought a lot about a return trip to that area. Several times, I considered going back, but there was a long spell in August where every time I was thinking about it, the weather brought low clouds from the southwest that engulfed all the high ground on that whole side of the island, making the prospect of an expedition into that great unknown to be a gamble at best. Finally, in September, with the adventurous company of John and Cory, I decided that it was time to give it a shot.

We gathered September 12th, getting out as early as we could that day. It was a

straightforward walk in good weather on the approach. We knew there was a chance for rain later in the day, so we went out prepared for the worst and hoping for the best. After retracing my previous route for the most part, and exploring more incredible glacial features on the plateau, including what

felt like a perfectly paved flat, sloped basketball court, we found ourselves on the summit ridge as a rainstorm began in earnest.

There was no snow left anywhere along the route, so it was a revealing experience seeing where the solid ground was on the spine. There were a couple four-foot steps along the spine with a little exposure that had been buried under the snow when I was last on the mountain.

The climb was definitely less stressful on solid ground, even with the steps, though the rock was quite loose and chossy in spots. In fact, much of the summit was soft scree that was especially crumbly even compared to the normal poor rock found on Unalaska Island. As we reached the very top and explored a little beyond, the clouds opened up into a downpour, and we turned and left.

We made it back to the car after a few hours of alternating intense downpours and breaks of milder rain before it finally stopped. We all had fun descending the wet terrain, and each took spills on our backsides or worse along the way. I seem to recall ending up plowing face first into a blueberry bush on the descent, while Cory was busy stuffing himself with berries from the same bush. I'll never forget that look of shock on his face when he looked up with a mouthful of blueberries as I was coming in hot and almost took him out. We were wet and cold at the end, but certainly not miserable, as it had been a very worthwhile expedition into the wild.



*Cory Lescher (left) and John Ryan ascend Crumbly Mountain.*



*Cory Lescher (top) and John Ryan explore on Crumbly Mountain.*



## Vermont Dome: Small Peak with a Big View

Text by Tamara Perreault, Photos by Danny Walden



*Tamara Perreault with Vermont Dome in the background.*

"Hey, bear! Are you out there? I bet you have fuzzy hair!" I sing loudly as we bushwhack our way along a dense riverbank. Over the past three days of our backpacking trip, I've exhausted my repertoire of songs and have resorted to making up my own lyrics with crazy tunes, much to the annoyance of my boyfriend/hiking partner Danny Walden. But, we saw fresh grizzly tracks in the wet sand of the river this morning and I'd rather not surprise one of them. My awful singing continues.

We're on the edge of Gates of the Arctic National Park, but it feels like the middle of nowhere. Never have I experienced such wild and untamed wilderness. For the past three days we haven't seen a single person or walked a single trail; it's been challenging and amazing. But things are about to get even better: before heading back to "civilization," also known as the truck-stop town of Coldfoot, population 15, we are going to climb a small peak marked on our map as Vermont Dome.

Later in the day, the narrow river valley we thought might be easy to follow has proven to be a battle against fallen trees. We decide to leave it behind, struggling our way up the steep embankment and finding ourselves on a ridgeline with much less

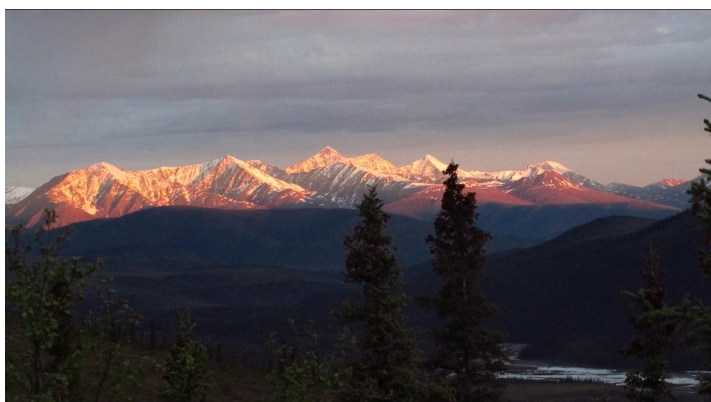
brush and better visibility. We see the dome in the distance, but there are some ups and downs before we get there. Under the warm summer sun I'm sweating profusely in my rain gear, but it's necessary to keep it on for the mosquitoes. They're swarming around me in clouds and will bite through anything except Gore-Tex. I can't complain though; this is one of the few months that this region has warm weather and it's great that we can be here to take advantage.



*Grizzly tracks in the sand necessitated lots of singing!*

As always, the top is farther away than it looks. Progress is slow because we're tired from constant bushwhacking and route finding, but a bit of determination and perseverance goes a long way. The ridge-line turns steep and we veer off to head toward the saddle. Self-made switchbacks finally take me up to the top and I'm quickly overwhelmed by beauty of the view.

Glittering braided rivers wind through the sweeping valleys and send tendrils up into distant snowy crowns. A silent wind blows the clouds into a floating dance. Slowly, as we watch, golden rays of a never-ending sunset-sunrise stretch their way into the symphony of the landscape. There's nothing more to do than enjoy the peace of Alaskan summer paradise.



*A Brooks Range panorama on a clear June midnight.*

### Why Vermont Dome?

This is an excellent hike because of its accessibility, great views of the Brooks Range, and relative ease.

### When to go:

We hiked in June and the climb was nontechnical. July and August would be good months as well before snow hits in the fall.

### Difficulty:

No mountaineering experience is necessary to summit in the summer, but previous backpacking experience and route-finding skills with map and compass are a must. The peak by itself is not a long hike and may be possible as a day trip from Coldfoot or the Dalton Highway.



*Tamara Perreault taking in the views along the Glacier River, just west of Vermont Dome.*

### Getting there:

We hiked from the west, from the Glacier River up Washington Creek and then the ridgeline south of the creek. We descended via Acme Creek and then followed the Nolan Road to Wiseman. Easiest access would be from the town of Wiseman (13 miles north of Coldfoot), from where one can continue up the Nolan Road to Acme Creek or Nolan Creek and follow either of them. The creeks are brushy, but not impassable. Once on the ridge

there is much less brush, and some game trails make the going easier. On a clear day, the way to the summit from the ridgeline is obvious.

### Water:

Water from the many streams around Vermont Dome is drinkable with treatment, but once on the ridge there is no water to the summit. Be aware not to drink downstream of mines.

### Supplies:

Coldfoot has a post office and restaurant, but no shop, and Wiseman's facilities include only a small shop or two with some snacks and canned items. Thus the nearest large grocery stores are in Fairbanks, 265 miles to the south. As we were bicycling from Deadhorse, we mailed packages of food to ourselves at Coldfoot.

### Maps:

USGS topo maps are available at the Coldfoot Interagency Visitor's Center and available for free download at [www.usgs.gov](http://www.usgs.gov) or with a mapping app such as Gaia GPS. Vermont Dome is in the south of USGS map Wiseman (C-1).

### Red tape:

There are no fees or required permits. Hikers can complete an optional permit at the Visitor's Center in Coldfoot, and it's recommended that you inform a family member or friend of your trip plans. Also be aware and respectful of private property surrounding the Nolan Road.

### Preparation:

Gates of the Arctic is a remote wilderness and help is not close by. Go prepared with proper gear, including mosquito protection and a bear canister for food storage. Learn about the area before you go, use your brain, leave no trace, and hike smart.

### Other resources:

Heidi Schoppenhorst is a park ranger who lives in the town of Wiseman. She and the other rangers at the Coldfoot Interagency Visitor's Center were an incredible resource for us when we were planning this trip.

For our full story please check out [bikesandbackpacks.blogspot.com](http://bikesandbackpacks.blogspot.com).

*Tamara Perreault. Finally on top of the world!*





## “Ski Tracks”

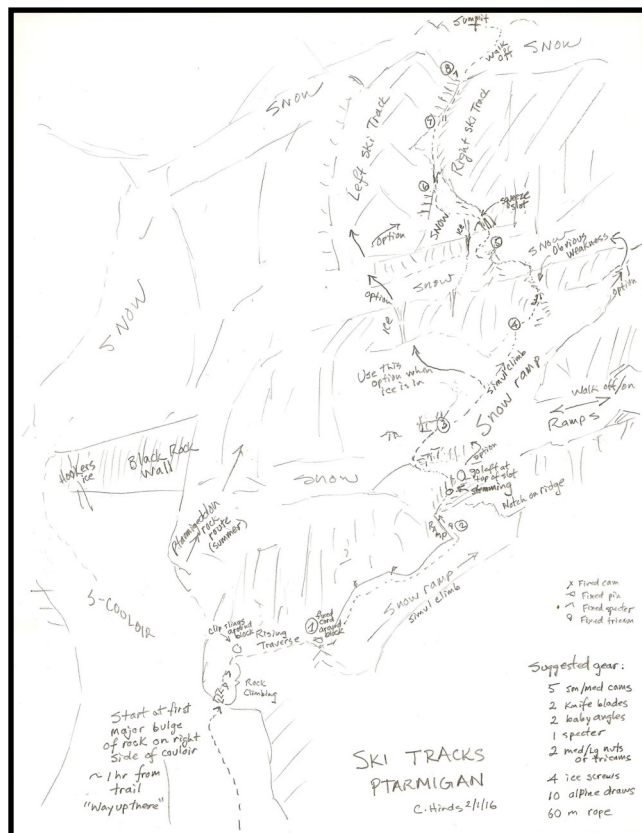
Text by Cory Hinds

Max Neale (MCA Secretary) and Cory Hinds (MCA President) had a fine day on January 31 with a climb of the “Ski Tracks” route on Ptarmigan Peak. This is a popular alpine route, about eight pitches in length, starting from the north couloir. The weather was perfect, except for a good bit of spindrift at the top. Views were spectacular. Included are some photos, a route topo, and a pitch-by-pitch route description.

**Pitch 1:** Start at the first major bulge of rock on the right side of the north couloir, at the base of an obvious weakness in the mountain trending up to the right, approximately 500 feet from the bottom of the couloir and about a one-hour hike from the Powerline Trail. Kick steps up a short slot, clipping a fixed pin on the right when it steepens. Climb through and around blocks and steps with good jugs and frozen turf, passing a fixed spectre on the right (crux #1). Continue straight up to a set of slings around a block. Clip the slings with some long runners and traverse right another 30 meters or so to another block with slings on the shoulder (low angle, but run-out).

**Pitch 2:** Ascend the easy snow ramp, placing protection in the rock wall on the left. Stop at a left-trending ramp before reaching the ridge crest, and before reaching a rock wall with black streaks. We found a fixed tricam at the anchor, a few steps up the ramp. Recommend simul-climbing the ramp to the anchor.

**Pitch 3:** Climb the left-trending ramp and turn the corner to the right up into a chimney. Stem past a chock stone; then stem up and exit left (crux #2) at the top of the chimney. Traverse left 10 meters or so after exiting the chimney, and up around a



broad ridge to a snow field. Climb the snow field to a short face where you will find a fixed anchor.

**Pitch 4:** Walk right up a snow ramp into a major amphitheater with a steep rock wall at the back. There are various options here. Go left to the ice if the ice is in good shape. If it looks too thin (which it often is), descend back to the center of the amphitheater and kick steps up the snow ramp on the right side of the amphitheater and set a belay left of an obvious weakness in the rock wall.

**Pitch 5:** Climb through the weakness, finding good rock protection and exciting moves with good footsteps and some frozen turf (crux #3). At the top of the short wall (40 meters or so), move left and up across a snow ramp to the first possible belay anchor in the rock wall above.

**Pitch 6:** Move left and around a short corner. If the ice to the left is good, climb the steep step. If it is rotten, climb the lower-angle rock and turf to the right of the ice, up through an awkward squeeze slot. Then ascend left across some lower-angle ice and up into the right “Ski Track” gully. Belay at a crack at the top end of the first rock wall on the left side of the gully.

**Pitch 7:** Climb straight up, over a short steep ice step and



Cory Hinds on the right "Ski Track."  
Photo by Max Neale





*Wayne Todd approaching the top of Pitch 8 in 2014.  
Photo by Cory Hinds*



*Max Neale approaching the top of Pitch 3.  
Photo by Cory Hinds*

through a lower angled snow field. Belay at base of next steep pitch.

Pitch 8: Climb up the steepening couloir, typically filled with ice. This is moderate ice climbing, maybe grade 3+ or 4-. Near the top of the couloir, the route steepens and the ice sometimes thins (crux #4). If the ice is too thin, look for options of rock protection in the left wall. In low-ice years (like January 2016), this can make things very exciting, with a long run-out. Top out

around a final small boulder and look for a fixed spectre in the next crack on the left. Your partner can walk up onto safe ground and belay you up.

Walk to the right, up an obvious ramp, and top out on the ridge then turn left and walk to the summit. Enjoy the view, then hike off the back side, down through Ptarmigan Pass, and back down to the Powerline Trail.

## **Answers to Seven Summits Quiz**

By Dawn Talbott

1. Mount Everest is perhaps the most famous of the Seven Summits, and was first climbed by Edmund Hillary and Tenzing Norgay in 1953. Since then, many others have climbed the mountain, some with tragic circumstances. What is the title of the book about one of the deadliest days on Mount Everest?

**C. *Into Thin Air*** by John Krakauer is a true story about a deadly day in 1996 when eight climbers were killed while climbing Mount Everest. Krakauer is a climber and journalist and was documenting an Everest expedition when an influx of people, many inexperienced, combined with a rogue storm and various other factors to unfortunately lead to many deaths and injuries. The book was a bestseller in 1997.

2. Mount Kilimanjaro, the highest point in Africa, is not a technical climb and requires no special training to ascend it. What is special about this mountain?

**B. *It is the world's highest freestanding mountain.*** Mount Kilimanjaro in Tanzania is the world's highest freestanding mountain at 19,341 feet above sea level. There are seven main routes to the top, with varying difficulty levels, and it takes most climbers six or seven days to summit and return.

3. In Alaska the highest point is Denali, which is the name given to the mountain by the local people. What does Denali mean?

**B. *"The High One"*** in the language of the Athabaskan people who originally lived near its base. When Alaska was part of Russia, the mountain's name was Bolshaya Gora, which is the Russian translation of big mountain. In 1896 William Dickey, a prospector, renamed the mountain for a presidential candidate, William McKinley. Today, the official name of the mountain has been renamed to Denali by Secretary of the Interior Sally Jewell.

4. In 1966, the last of the Seven Summits to be reached was climbed. Which mountain was this?

**A. *Vinson Massif*** was first identified in 1958 and was first climbed in 1966 by a combined team from the American Alpine Club and the National Science Foundation. In 2001, a team climbed the east side of the mountain for the first time, and John Krakauer, author of *Into Thin Air* was amongst its members.

## Our Connection with Nature is Universal

Text and photo by Frank E. Baker



*A universal bond: At the molecular level we are closely related to our nearest star, the Sun.*

*Tincan Creek, Kenai Mountains*

It doesn't matter who we are or where we live, we are drawn to nature because we are nature at the molecular level, or as the late astronomer Carl Sagan opined: "our bodies are composed of the same elements in stars ... we are essentially star stuff."

I don't distinguish between children playing in the snow, mountain climbers, hunters, photographers, gardeners, zookeepers, astronauts, farmers, snowmachiners, dog mushers, miners, deep-sea divers, teachers, or theoretical physicists seeking the subatomic Holy Grail. All of us in every walk of life, young and old, are in a continuous quest to discover who we are. We seek a connection with nature that seems to be "out there," but also dwells deep within us.

Most of us have heard or read about the question posed to British mountaineer George Mallory before he attempted Mount Everest in 1924 and disappeared along with his climbing partner, Andrew Irvine, "Why do you climb mountains?" Mallory responded curtly: "Because it's there." Perhaps a better response would have been: "Because we're here."

Mallory's body was found below Everest's northeast ridge in 1999 by a climbing team led by famed alpinist Conrad Anker. Like others who have perished on the mountain's unforgiving slopes, Mallory was perhaps trying to merge the deeper part of his "nature" with the larger nature of our external world.

Although most of us don't engage in anything as difficult as climbing 29,000 feet above sea level, probing the ocean's depths or smashing atoms in the CERN Large Hadron Collider in Switzerland, we're all on the same journey: to learn who we are and unite ourselves with nature, our primordial parent that came long before our biological or adoptive parents.

There are obvious reasons we venture outdoors. They can be as simple as physical exercise, taking in the beautiful scenery and fresh air, observing and photographing wildlife, fishing and hunting, reaching an objective such as mountain's summit or a hidden valley, or enjoying camaraderie with friends.

But there are the deeper reasons. We seek peace and serenity, a respite from the hectic and often burdensome world. I think we sometimes want to immerse ourselves in an alternate reality and suspend ourselves there. Silence has a special way of speaking to us, or to paraphrase naturalist Henry David Thoreau: "allow us to hear the beat of our internal drummer."

Alaska mountaineers have told me that the intense concentration required for technical climbing puts them in the moment – that all other thoughts drift away and they become one with the mountain. They say those are the "moments" they ardently seek.

People have asked me about what I'm looking for on my many

outdoor trips. My reply these days is: “I’m continuously finding it.”

I can best explain that response by recalling a trip I made many years ago near Eklutna Lake – easy to remember because it was the day after September 11, 2001, when our world changed. It was a brilliant, bluebird day. I remember feeling guilty after the horrible tragedy that had befallen America the day before. How could I be out on a mountain ridge enjoying a beautiful day with friends immediately after such a terrible disaster? In fact, I think I remember saying to them: “It shouldn’t be so beautiful today.”

Sitting on alpine tundra moss in the warm September sun, I remember thinking that the world had definitely changed. But this mountainside remained the same. It was as if this place was outside of time, sacrosanct, inviolate from man’s destructive hand.

That is the feeling I get when I venture outdoors, and the farther into the backcountry I wander, the stronger the feeling. It is a perception of pure, absolute truth. People continuously change the civilized world, but these places in nature remain

the same and true unto themselves.

Some people who live in large cities do not consciously experience their bond with nature. They never see the stars. They do not experience the intoxicating fragrance of mountain wildflowers.

But I maintain the inclination to reach out to nature resides within all of us, and that finding that connection is essential to our physical, mental and spiritual well being. In a broader and ultimately more important sense, it might be crucial to our future on this planet. We are stewards of our environment and we can’t do that job if we don’t maintain a close relationship with it.

Since I was a child in Seward looking in awe at the Kenai Mountains, I’ve felt the pull. I think we all do, consciously or unconsciously. Perhaps in some mysterious way, in the invisible grip of gravity, we have an inherent need to align our atoms with the stars.

*MCA member Frank E. Baker is a freelance writer who lives in Eagle River.*



*Ptarmigan fluffed out to preserve warmth on a ridge above the South Fork of the Eagle River.*

*Photo by Frank Baker*



# Exploring the Matanuska Glacier's Moraines Points to Need for Equipment Upgrades

Text and photos by Frank E. Baker



*Looking north to Lion Head from the Matanuska Glacier's moraines.*

I stood on the edge of the Matanuska River for a long time, deciding whether to cross. It was March 9, 2014, and the weather had been relatively cold during recent weeks, with very little snow. I could see the remnants of snowmachine tracks on the frozen river, so I decided to go.

Much of the river's surface was smooth ice from overflow, but everything seemed solid as I carefully made my way across. Over spots with glare ice it was difficult controlling my skis. I couldn't imagine a worse fate than breaking through on a swiftly running river and being trapped beneath a solid ceiling of ice. I shudder whenever I hear about this happening to people in bush Alaska.

I had started in the morning from the bridge at Caribou Creek at Mile 107 of the Glenn Highway, a launch point for ice climbers who head north, or upstream. My goal was to follow Caribou Creek downstream to the South Fork of the Matanuska River, cross it, and head for the moraines of the Matanuska Glacier, about a four-mile ski from the highway.

I resisted the temptation to follow a small road that is access for a few residents who have homes in the area, so I skied directly down Caribou Creek. It was about 10 degrees Fahrenheit, and an occasional gust of wind chilled things down. But the sun was getting high and it seemed to be producing some warmth.

After crossing the Matanuska River, I circuited around Lion Head, one of the area's most prominent features and a hiking destination previously mentioned in this space. I followed a small frozen stream that flowed from the glacier and after a

couple of miles I approached the moraines on the glacier's northeastern side.



*The South Fork of the Matanuska River, looking downstream.*

Along the way I spotted a moose in the distance and wolf tracks weaved on and off my route. Nearing the glacier, I spooked out a few ptarmigan.

**Fun and disappointment:** The moraines are large gravel mounds left behind by the receding glacier, and I wanted to get up on them to take in the sweeping view of the glacier as it winds its way deep into the Chugach Mountains.

I quickly realized that I needed to remove my skis and hike in my ski boots. These were my "BK" days, which are "Before Kahtoolas." The micro-spikes would have really been handy as I clamored up the steep, unstable gravel slopes that were cov-

ered by a thin layer of snow and sometimes ice.

“Ski boots,” I scolded myself, “are not the correct equipment for this endeavor.” But an inherent stubbornness sometimes takes control over common sense. I kept hiking.

In nearly an hour, I worked my way over to one of the higher mounds and was immediately disappointed: I was not high enough nor far enough out to take in the glacier’s sprawling mass of ice. All I could see were more moraines and a hint of the mountains to the south. On the other hand, as I remembered from experience, the view from the top of 3,185-foot Lion Head, directly behind me (north) would have been 10 times more spectacular.

Yet, it was great to be standing in a new area that I had always wondered about. With more time and appropriate footgear, I could have safely ventured farther over the moraines until I reached the glacier ice. But having not been trained on glacier travel, I wouldn’t have gone farther. When it pertains to glaciers, getting to “the edge” has always been enough for me.

With a bit of post-holing in deeper snow at the base of the moraines, I was back on my skis returning the way I came. My toes were a bit cold, but since then I’ve equipped myself with some ski boot “covers” that really help keep the feet toasty warm.

My ski boots are large enough to accommodate two layers of socks, and with the overboot covers, I’m good in subzero temperatures.

In about 2-1/2 hours I was back at the car and with an eight-mile round trip, felt like I’d had a pretty good workout. And most important, I had made a safe crossing of the South Fork of the Matanuska River – something that had worried me for quite some time.

I think about a return visit someday, and since I have reached my “AK” (“After Kahtoola”) days, I would be much better prepared.



*Circling Lion Head after crossing the South Fork of the Matanuska River.*



*Approach to the Matanuska Glacier on a small frozen stream.*



*Approaching the Matanuska Glacier’s moraines from the northeast side.*

*Looking south across the Matanuska Glacier’s moraines.*





## Skiing Options on the Canwell Glacier

Text by Timm Nawrocki



*Jeff Nawrocki overlooking a north branch of the Canwell Glacier.*

*Photo by Timm Nawrocki*

Alaska: the land of changing plans. My brother, Jeff, flew up to Alaska for eight days of skiing in mid-February. We planned to have Alpine Air in Girdwood drop us off on the Sparrow Glacier. Poor weather on our scheduled flight day and the following day prevented that: visibility was simply too low over the mountains north of town. Instead, we opted to drive up the Richardson Highway for a multi-day trip up the Canwell Glacier. A forecast of clear skies and temperatures ranging from 20 to 0 degrees Fahrenheit encouraged us.

It took us an evening and a day to get to a base camp location 11 miles (straight-line distance) from the road. Our promised

clear skies didn't materialize immediately, though. A thick cloud layer hung over the glacier and surrounding mountain slopes. By noon on our first ski day, the clouds started to lift and we began skinning up. A 5-foot-deep snow pit revealed two weak layers buried 18 inches and farther. Snow conditions were extremely variable. Some aspects were so wind-scoured that rock and ice were exposed. Wind slabs had formed on other aspects, and we triggered some large shooting cracks that forced us to change course. However, sheltered south and west faces were mostly unaffected by wind. Because of the variability in the snow pack and the weak layers we had found, we decided not to push our limits with any steep skiing on this trip.



*Jeff Nawrocki at our base camp between Cony Mountain and Snow White.*

*Photo by Timm Nawrocki*



*Jeff Nawrocki skiing down our first south face.*

*Photo by Timm Nawrocki.*



*Timm Nawrocki channeling the inner French trapper on the ridge with Cony Mountain and Minya Peak in the background.*

*Photo by Jeff Nawrocki*

The next day started out with a thick layer of clouds low on the glacier, but we could tell by the amount of light shining through that farther up the mountains was clear. We skipped breakfast and immediately began skinning up. After climbing about 1,000 vertical feet, we popped above the clouds into blazing sunlight. We continued to ascend on an east buttress paralleling one of the north branches of the Canwell Glacier.

When we reached the top, all the clouds below had cleared from the valley. We explored the ridge for about half an hour, getting views of the surrounding peaks. Then we noticed clouds rolling quickly back up the valley. We threw on our skis and started down a beautiful south face composed of a series of rollovers with fun snow and numerous safe over-watch positions. The last third of our descent cut back into mist so dense that we could hardly maintain sight of each other. The clouds stuck around the rest of the day, so we practiced setting up Z-pulleys alone. We intended to rope up the next day and ski the glacier branch that we had observed earlier.

The next morning, however, was bitterly cold with an intense wind pouring down the glacier. I woke up once my hot water bottles cooled off and spent the rest of the night shivering inside two sleeping bags, a 50°F summer bag stuffed inside a -15°F winter bag. For me at least, there's a definite temperature below which it's not fun to ski anymore. I knew we had easily hit that temperature, so we decided that we should head for warmer climates. I don't know how cold it actually was on the glacier, but my fingers became numb after a matter of seconds out of the glove and it took five miles of hauling gear with all my layers on before I could feel my feet.

For skiers looking to get away from the crowds and willing to commit to a multi-day trip, the Canwell Glacier is a great option. Access is from a large pullout at the point where Miller

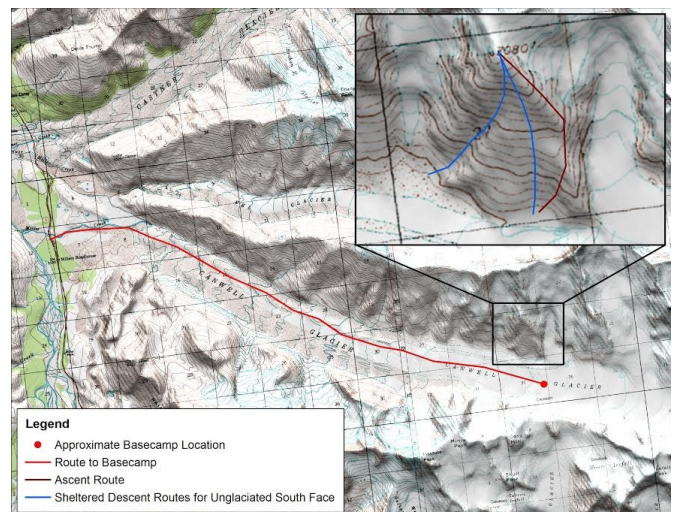
Creek crosses under the Richardson Highway. Setting base camp at least 11 miles (straight-line distance) from the parking area gives the best access to good skiing. It is possible to ski south faces prior to the 11-mile point but the terrain is less interesting and options less varied. Roping up is not necessary prior to the 11-mile point, based on seeing the glacier in summer. Follow Miller Creek up the toe of the glacier and then travel up the southern lateral moraine, which eventually turns into the medial moraine. Continue up the center of the glacier once the medial moraine ends. Past 12 miles (straight-line distance) roping up is likely a good idea.

Glacier travel equipment will open up many ski options, but it is possible to get great skiing without bringing rope, harness, and gear. South faces receive sunlight from peak to base in February, possibly in January as well, for a short part of the day. A wide variety of terrain exists to accommodate many snowpack conditions. Even after high wind, sheltered faces remained safe with fun snow. The north faces are abruptly steep and probably retain powder late into spring. North faces are less varied in terrain but, given stable snow and comfort skiing down glaciated terrain unroped, could provide some fun spring steep.



*Jeff Nawrocki, good snow, and sun on a south face above the Canwell Glacier.*

*Photo by Timm Nawrocki*





## Valdez Ice Festival

A lot of our members attended the Valdez Ice Festival over President's Day weekend. You were able to participate in some clinics that taught from beginners (Instructor: Kirsten Kremer) to advanced. A photography clinic, which was instructed by world-renowned Ace Kvale, was also available. Some participants even enjoyed other winter sports like skiing in Thompson Pass and snowmachining. It was a great weekend! To see the pictures visit Alaska Photography's Facebook album: <https://www.facebook.com/media/set/?set=a.441849366023800.1073741830.163268287215244&type=3> and the Valdez Ice Climbing Festival Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/valdezicefest/>.



*Bridal Veil Falls*



*"Keystone Greensteps"*



*Spaghetti Feed Bonfire*

*Photos by Dawn Talbott*



# Peak of the Month: Peak 11610

Text by Steve Gruhn

**Mountain Range:** Saint Elias Mountains

**Borough:** Unorganized Borough

**Drainage:** Tittmann Glacier

**Latitude/Longitude:** 61° 12' 33" North, 141° 6' 26" West

**Elevation:** 11610 feet

**Prominence:** 760 feet from Peak S-31 (12850)

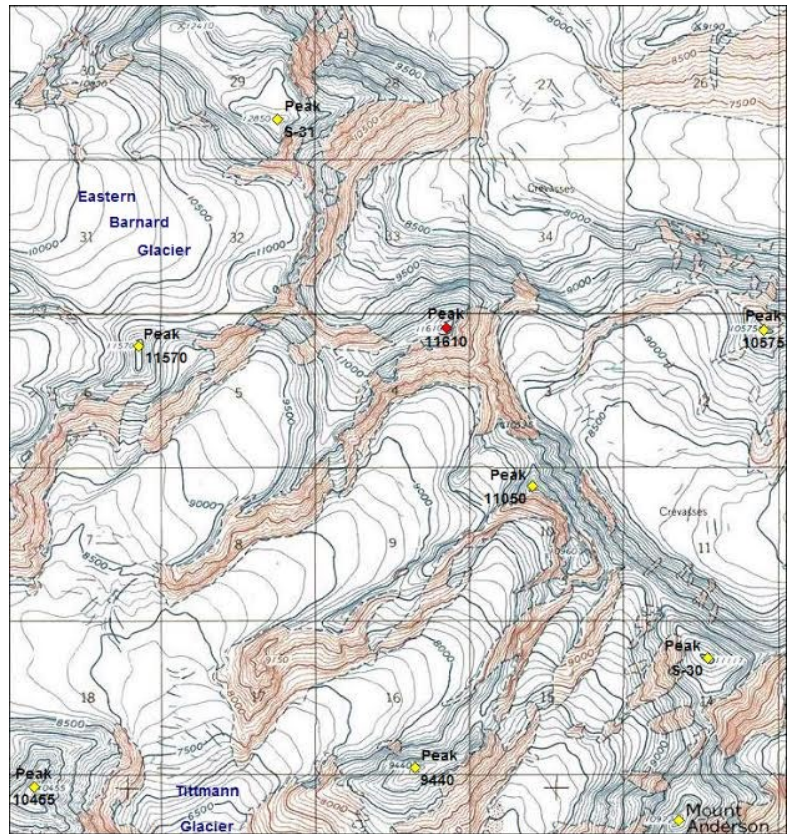
**Adjacent Peaks:** Peak S-31, Peak 11050 in the Tittmann Glacier drainage, and Peak 10575 in the Anderson Glacier drainage

**Distinctness:** 760 feet from Peak S-31

**USGS Map:** McCarthy (A-1)

**First Recorded Ascent:** This peak might be unclimbed.

**Access Point:** 8500-Foot level of the upper Tittmann Glacier



Map created with TOPO!® ©2003 National Geographic (www.nationalgeographic.com/topo)

By my count, Peak 11610 is tied for the 122nd highest peak in Alaska. It might also be unclimbed, tied for the 13th highest unclimbed peak in the state and the eighth highest unclimbed peak in Southcentral Alaska.

On May 12, 2009, Paul Claus flew Dave Hart, Wayne Todd, Jeannie Wall, and Carrie Wang in a de Havilland otter from Ultima Thule Lodge on the north bank of the Chitina River to the 8500-foot level of the upper Tittmann Glacier. That evening they skied three miles eastward to set a track for the planned ascent of Peak 11610 the following day. The next day the left camp in a whiteout and reached the 11000-foot level of the long southwest ridge of Peak 11610. There they waited in vain for a break in the weather. They eventually returned to their skis and retraced their track to their base camp. It snowed the next three days, preventing them from making a second attempt at the summit. Paul flew them to Chitina on May 17.

As far as I know, Peak 11610 has not yet seen a second attempt and the mountain remains unclimbed.

The information for this column came from Dave's article titled "Peak Bagging in the Saint Elias Mountains (P12850, P12382, P12007, P11570, Point 11500, P11610)," which appeared in the

January 2010 *Scree*; from Dave's trip report titled "Eastern Barnard and upper Tittmann Glacier, climbs and exploration," which appeared on pages 129 and 130 of the 2010 *American Alpine Journal*; and from my correspondence with Dave and Wayne.



Southwest aspect of Peak 11610.

Photo by Wayne Todd





*Southwest aspect of Peak 11610 (left) from the upper Tittmann Glacier. The route attempted followed the right skyline ridge. Un-attempted Peak 11050 is at right.*

*Photo by Wayne Todd*



*Dave Hart, Carrie Wang, and Jeannie Wall (left to right) admire the southwestern aspect of Peak 11610.*

*Photo by Wayne Todd*

## Photo from the Field



*Approach to the Flute Glacier with 6909-foot Eagle Peak sunlit in January midday sun. The most common route is a long gully on the mountain's south side near the toe of the Flute Glacier.*

*Photo by Frank Baker*

## MCA Board Meeting Minutes - February 8, 2016

Attendees: Ed Smith, Max Neale, Carlene Van Tol, Stephen Austria, Aaron Gallagher

1. VP-Upcoming programs (Galen Flint)
2. Secretary's Report (Max)
  - a. We need to find a better meeting time. Mondays and Tuesday are hard for Ed. Max will send a doodle to schedule.
3. Treasurer's report (Aaron)
  - a. Year to date:
  - b. Revenue: \$4,213.38 (From dues and photo calendar)
  - c. Expense: \$805.22 (P.O. Box payment, Meetup subscription, *Scree*)
  - d. Net: + \$3,408.16
4. Huts (Cory Hinds)
  - a. Cory is making headway on the Dnigi Hut relocation.
5. Training (Jayme Mack)
  - a. Glacier-Travel and Crevasse rescue class with Brian Aho: February 20 class is full with 16 students and has a large waitlist.
  - b. We need another glacier-travel course as soon as possible!
  - c. Snow-climbing trip with Dave Staeheli is full and has a waitlist.
  - d. General theme: we need more training.
6. Mentoring (Rachad Rayess)
  - a. We need more mentors.
7. Library (Max)
  - a. The library is online! Check it out!
8. Trips (Ed)
  - a. Ed led a trip-leader training in January in Eagle River. Need to schedule a trip leader training in Anchorage.
  - b. Need to review and possibly update the bylaws; Ed will come to next Board meeting with suggested changes.
  - c. Need an updated list of trip leaders.
  - d. Ed will come to next Board meeting with an outline of the trip leader training so he can make a video for trip leaders to watch, thereby saving time with future in-person trip-leader trainings. Of course, we'll have some mechanism to verify that people have watched the video and are prepared.
  - e. Need to follow up with Board members on their progress asking people to lead trips.
9. Equipment (Josh Clark)
  - a. We're guessing: nothing new to report.
10. Trips
  - a. Greg Bragiel has two spots open on a Hope-to-Seward trip, April 3 through 10.
  - b. Serenity Falls Hut is open for all MCA members February 26 and 27. Just show up and claim a bunk.
  - c. June 11, Pioneer Ridge to Eklutna Lake with Katie Strong, 12,000 feet of elevation gain over 20 miles.
11. Training
  - a. The glacier-travel and snow-climbing classes are full. Send a note to [training@mtclubak.org](mailto:training@mtclubak.org) and we'll schedule more.
12. Huts
  - a. Cory Hinds submitted the lease application for the new Dnigi Hut "relocation." Construction will begin in April or May in Anchorage and we'll fly in the pieces and complete the installation in June.
  - b. We decided that we will not replace old stoves in huts; bring your own stove.
13. Geographic Names
  - a. There are several proposals to rename Wild and Scenic Rivers to Alaska Native names, and there will be lots of similar (change from existing to Alaska Native) proposals in the Tongass National Forest. Contact Steve Gruhn for more information.
14. Mentoring
  - a. Contact Rachad Rayess ([training@mtclubak.org](mailto:training@mtclubak.org)) if you're interested in learning or teaching!
15. Announcements
  - a. Tim Silvers, past President and current webmaster of the MCA, had a baby! Congratulations, Tim!
  - b. Steve Gruhn shared wonderful stories about MCA member Vin Hoeman and his remarkable climbing and MCA-related accomplishments in the 1960s.



## Vin Hoeman History Moment

By Steve Gruhn

Last fall Max Neale created a survey for MCA members. Among the findings of that survey was that a majority of the respondents had been members for four years or less. But one shouldn't wait to have a longer tenure with the club before being active. One example of a member who was quite active and accomplished a tremendous amount during a short period of time was Vin Hoeman. J. Vin Hoeman was born in September 1936 and joined the MCA in 1962 at the age of 25. He was elected the club's Secretary for the 1963-1964 term and he chaired the Geographic Names Committee. In 1966 he became the first person to be credited with standing atop the highest point in each of the 50 states. He climbed on five continents. During the seven years before his death at age 32 in April 1969, Hoeman had a significant impact on mountaineering in Alaska. He wrote 59 trip reports for the Scree and made the first recorded ascents of 45 peaks throughout Alaska – from the Brooks Range to the Saint Elias Mountains. Hoeman was never one to keep his own unfinished projects secret. Rather, he always sought to help others make first ascents of their own. At the time of his death on Dhaulagiri, Hoeman was in the middle of writing a guidebook to the mountains of Alaska and the Yukon. Due to his service to the MCA and because he accomplished much during his short time in the MCA, he is still well remembered more than 47 years after his death. The MCA's Vin Hoeman Library (now housed at REI) was named in his honor and the MCA's



*Vin Hoeman (left) and Grace Hoeman on the summit of Mount Kiliak after making the first ascent in 1968.*

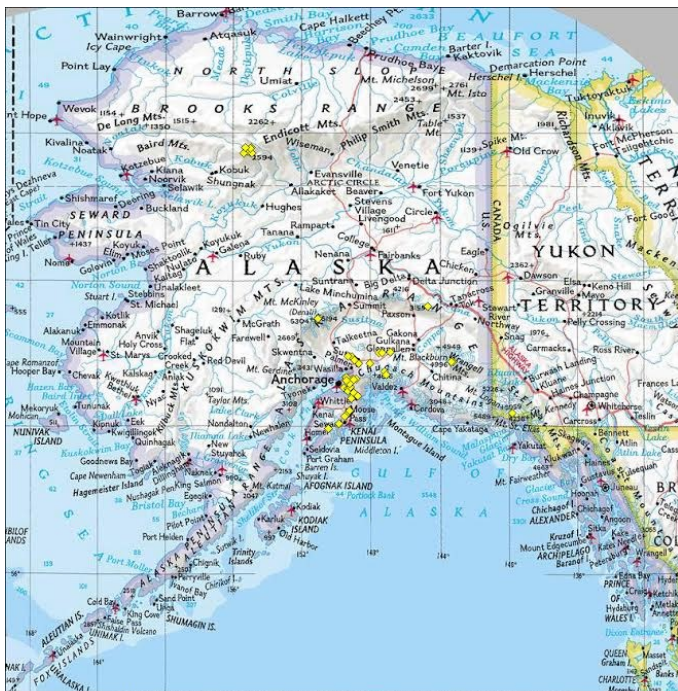
*Photo by Dave Johnston*

most prestigious award was named the Hoeman Award to commemorate both Vin and his wife Grace.

So, if you're new to the MCA or a young mountaineer, don't sit back and wait to become more seasoned; become active and make your own mountaineering accomplishments.

*Adapted from the History Moment presented at the February MCA meeting.*

### Vin Hoeman's First Recorded Ascents in Alaska



Tincan Peak (4450) – Kenai Mountains – March 3, 1962

Kickstep Mountain (4660) – Kenai Mountains – March 4, 1962

Mount Magnificent (4272) – Western Chugach Mountains – May 20, 1962

North Suicide Peak (5065) – Western Chugach Mountains – May 30, 1962

Sheep Mountain (6306) – Kenai Mountains – July 22, 1962

Granite Peak (6729) – Talkeetna Mountains – August 19, 1962

Andy Simons Mountain (6407) – Kenai Mountains – May 18, 1963

Bird Peak (5505) – Western Chugach Mountains – June 9, 1963

Middle Peak of Mount Hunter (13470) – Alaska Range – July 30, 1963

Mount Stevens (13966) – Alaska Range – July 30, 1963

Montana Peak (6950) – Talkeetna Mountains – September 21, 1963

Atna Peaks (13860) – Wrangell Mountains – July 17, 1965  
 Parka Peak (13280) – Wrangell Mountains – July 21, 1965  
 Benign Peak (7235) – Western Chugach Mountains – August 5, 1965  
 Baleful Peak (7990) – Western Chugach Mountains – August 8, 1965  
 Adelle Point (3825) – Western Chugach Mountains – July 13, 1966  
 Mount Rumble (7530) – Western Chugach Mountains – July 23, 1966  
 The Mitre (6651) – Western Chugach Mountains – August 27, 1966  
 Camp Robber Peak (5855) – Western Chugach Mountains – September 4, 1966  
 Polar Bear Peak (6614) – Western Chugach Mountains – September 5, 1966  
 Pinnacle Mountain (4541) – Chugach Mountains – February 12, 1967  
 Good Neighbor Peak (15979) – Saint Elias Mountains – June 25, 1967  
 Salix Peak (6057) – Talkeetna Mountains – October 1, 1967  
 Eska Mountain (5680) – Talkeetna Mountains – March 3, 1968  
 Amulet Peak (8290) – Chugach Mountains – March 10, 1968  
 Blueberry Hill (4531) – Western Chugach Mountains – March 16, 1968  
 Truuli Peak (6612) – Kenai Mountains – April 20, 1968  
 Node Nunatak (5912) – Kenai Mountains – April 24, 1968  
 North Peak of Mount Kimball (9850) – Alaska Range – May 25, 1968  
 Mount Thor (12521) – Chugach Mountains – June 5, 1968  
 Blackcliff Mountain (10270) – Chugach Mountains – June 7, 1968  
 Slide Mountain (4015) – Talkeetna Mountains – July 6, 1968  
 The Unicorn (5250) – Kenai Mountains – August 4, 1968  
 Talus Mountain (6429) – Brooks Range – August 14, 1968  
 Sikspak Peak (7646) – Brooks Range – August 15, 1968  
 Mount Chitlok (6333) – Brooks Range – August 19, 1968  
 Overlook Peak (5970) – Brooks Range – August 21, 1968  
 Mount Papiok (6530) – Brooks Range – August 21, 1968  
 Leucosticte Peak (6074) – Brooks Range – August 25, 1968  
 Mount Kiliak (7450) – Western Chugach Mountains – September 15, 1968  
 Mount Ascension (5710) – Kenai Mountains – October 6, 1968

Harp Mountain (5001) – Western Chugach Mountains – November 16, 1968

Maynard Mountain (4140) – Chugach Mountains – December 8, 1968

Table Mountain (4350) – Talkeetna Mountains – March 2, 1969

Horn Mountain (6418) – Talkeetna Mountains – March 23, 1969



*From left: Dave Spencer, Vin Hoeman, Grace Hoeman, Bill Babcock, Yule Kilcher, and Helmut Tschaffert in a Seward beauty salon after making the first ascents of Truuli Peak and Node Nunatak and crossing the Harding Icefield in 1968.*

*Photo courtesy of Dano Michaud*



*Vin Hoeman on the Yale Glacier in 1968.*

*Photo by Dub Bludworth*



*Vin Hoeman (left) and Grace Hoeman making the first ascent of Truuli Peak in 1968.*

*Photo by Dave Spencer*



## 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

Board member (term expires in 2016)	Jamye Mack	382-0212
Board member (term expires in 2016)	Carlene Van Tol	748-5270
Board member (term expires in 2017)	Nathan Hebda	310-3255
Board member (term expires in 2017)	Stephen Austria	402-540-7037
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](mailto: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](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@mtnclubak.org](mailto: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.

Mailing list/database entry: Aaron Gallagher - [membership@mtnclubak.org](mailto:membership@mtnclubak.org)

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

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