

**"May your day be touched by a bit
of Irish luck, brightened by a song in
your heart, and warmed by the
smiles of the people you love."
- Irish Blessing**

the **SCREE**

Mountaineering Club of Alaska

March 2019

Volume 62

Number 3



Contents

Fireweed Mountain

Mount Swineford

Peak 2687, Coast Mountains

Mount Dimond

Antarctic View Peak

Ptarmigan Peak

Shaman Dome

Fang Mountain

Jewel Mountain

Peak of the Month: Peak 3225, Swatka Mountains

**MARCH MEETING: Wednesday, March 6, at 6:30 p.m.
at the BP Energy Center at 1014 Energy Court in
Anchorage.**

**Sam Galoob and Jessie Haffener will present Rapids
and Rappin', a presentation on trips in slot canyon
country in Utah.**

The Mountaineering Club of Alaska

www.mtnclubak.org

"To maintain, promote, and perpetuate the association of persons who are interested in promoting, sponsoring, improving, stimulating, and contributing to the exercise of skill and safety in the Art and Science of Mountaineering."

This issue brought to you by: Editor—Steve Gruhn assisted by Dawn Munroe

Cover Photo

Ben Still (left) and Mike Miller climbing up the final snow toward the summit of Mount Swineford.

Photo by Dylan Miller

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The MCA recognizes these members for their efforts maintaining the Arctic to Indian Trail December 22 and 23, 2018:

Shaun Sexton, Edmund Eilbacher, Stu Grenier, and Marcin Ksok.

Your hard work on the corridor from the Arctic Valley trailhead to the beaver pond is appreciated.

Greg Bragiel - trip leader

Edmund Eilbacher (left) and Shaun Sexton. Photo by Greg Bragiel



Article Submission: Text and photography submissions for *the Scree* can be sent as attachments to mcascree@gmail.com. Articles should be submitted by the 11th 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. Send high-resolution file photos separately, including captions for each photo. 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 don't forget to submit photo captions.

Contents

Fireweed Mountain (6956 feet) Traverse, Wrangell Mountains ...	4
Mount Swineford (6841 feet), Coast Mountains	6
Peak 2687, Coast Mountains.....	8
Mount Dimond (7202 feet), Chugach Mountains	9
Antarctic View Peak (5795 feet), Western Chugach Mountains ...	10
Ptarmigan Peak (4950 ± 50 feet) Traverse, Front Range-----	12

Hiking and Climbing Schedule

February 22 - March 2: Winter Mountaineering Instructional Trip. Introductory course involving leadership, menu planning, trip planning, navigation, stream crossing, leave no trace, knots/rope/cord types, snow travel/anchors, running belay, rope handling, communication, terminology, staying warm, nutrition/hydration, glacier travel, belaying, avalanche recognition/rescue, route finding, crevasse rescue, snow shelters, gear essentials, wilderness medicine, and unexpected camping trip. Trip Leader: Greg Bragiel, contact huts@mtnclubak.org.

March 8-10: Ship Lake Pass Winter Camping Trip. Hike Glen Alps to Ship Lake Pass and play for a day or camp! Learn winter camping skills, ski easy terrain and explore the area. Contact Gerrit Verbeek at vicepresident@mtnclubak.org.

March 31 - April 6: Eklutna Traverse. Type: Glacier travel. Trip Leader: Greg Bragiel, huts@mtnclubak.org. Sign up at the March 6 MCA Meeting.

For the MCA Membership Application and Liability Waiver, visit <http://www.mtnclubak.org/index.cfm?useaction=members.form>.

Hut Closure

The Mint Hut will be closed for member training February 22 to March 2, 2019. If you are traveling in that area, bring a tent and plan to camp outside. Greg Bragiel - Lead Instructor

Looking for a great way to spend the summer all over the state of Alaska, build remote wilderness experience, and grow as an outdoor professional? Apply today! Alaska Aline Adventures are finalizing its team! <https://www.alaskaalpineadventures.com/employment>

Shaman Dome (4010 feet), Western Chugach Mountains	14
Fang Mountain (6736 feet) Attempt, Alaska Range	15
Jewel Mountain (4850 feet), Western Chugach Mountains.....	17
Peak of the Month: Peak 3225, Schwatka Mountains.....	19
December Board Meeting Minutes	20
January Board Meeting Minutes	21
February Membership Meeting Minutes	23

Online? Click me!



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



*Eklutna Lake.
Photo by Frank Baker.*



*The Mitre (6651 feet) in the Western Chugach Mountains, from Eklutna Lake (February 7, 2019).
Photo by Frank Baker*

Fireweed Mountain (6956 feet) Traverse, Wrangell Mountains

Text by Sarah Ebright



Sarah Ebright following the ridge on the broad and "leisurely" portion of the traverse.

Photo by Cody Simmons

After a carefully coordinated day off from both of our summer guiding schedules, my adventure partner Cody Simmons and I (both guides at Saint Elias Alpine Guides) attempted a traverse of Fireweed Mountain on June 28, 2017. Overlooking McCarthy, Kennecott, and the Root Glacier, Fireweed Mountain is a 6956-foot peak with an impressive five-plus-mile-long ridgeline to the true summit. Armed with daypacks and packrafts, our goal was to traverse the snaking ridge to the summit, drop down to the Lakina River, and then packraft out to the McCarthy Road. We had hoped to complete the route in one long day, but little did we know what Fireweed Mountain had in store for us on the crumbly ridge.

Leaving at 4:30 a.m., we biked across the Kennicott River, stashed our bikes along the road and then headed out a trail that followed the western edge of the Kennicott Glacier. Once the trail petered out, we followed moose trails through the willows and bushwhacked several sections to gain the tundra. Finally gaining the ridge, we had a blast quickly covering the broad and "leisurely" terrain. However, it rapidly deteriorated to a thin, chossy, and exposed ridgeline – slowing us down and leading to frequent side-hilling.

Once we got into the meat of the ridge, there was no water available, and we had to conserve our bottles the best we could. Like many ridgelines in the Wrangell Mountains, the rock

was crumbly, sharp, and continually filling our shoes, forcing us to stop and empty them frequently. That problem was alleviated later in the trip, however, when the sharp rocks ripped enough holes in our trail runners that the rocks would naturally sift out.

We traversed over the 6350-foot East Peak of Fireweed Mountain and as we approached the Central Peak of Fireweed Mountain at 6660 feet, we ducked down off the ridge and bypassed it to the south to avoid the exposure at the top (had we needed it, there appeared to be a good bail-out route back to the McCarthy Ridge going southward down the first ridge east of the Central Peak). After looping around the Central Peak and making our way back up to the ridge in time to climb Peak 6112, the travel slightly improved and the true summit was finally within sight. With sore ankles and trashed shoes, we were able to push on to the summit (6956 feet), reaching it at 7 p.m., 14.5 hours into our day. We were thoroughly whooped,

*Sarah Ebright
side-hilling
around the
Central Peak of
Fireweed Mountain.*

*Photo by
Cody Simmons*



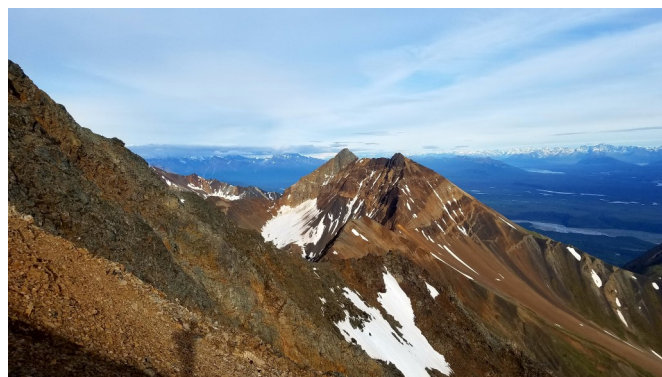
but had only covered 14 miles since McCarthy (8 of those miles were above brush line on the Fireweed shoulder and ridge). Fortunately, there was cell phone coverage at the summit, and we were able to call back to home base and request a second day off since we would not be making it back to McCarthy anytime soon.

From the summit, we decided to drop off the ridgeline to the nearest flat ground with a water source to rehydrate, refill, and rest. We dropped off the south side of the ridgeline at the head of the Fall Creek drainage, working our way down a gully of loose scree and cow parsnip. At 10 p.m., we found a patch of flat ground near a creek, 1.5 miles and 3,000 feet below the summit. We wrapped up in our personal flotation devices and packrafts and prematurely enjoyed our “victory beers,” which Cody had secretly carried the entire way.

Waking up shivering at 3 a.m., I roused Cody (who was fast asleep all night), and we decided to start moving again. We continued along on moose trails (highways may be a more appropriate term), working our way down to Fall Creek and on toward the Lakina River. To avoid bushwhacking, we walked down the Fall Creek creekbed, which helped us make surprisingly good time. From where we rolled up in our packrafts and bivied, it was only about four miles to reach the Lakina River. At the river we shared our last Snickers bar, inflated our boats, and began to paddle the Class II rapids down to the McCarthy Road. Expecting lots of strainers, we were pleasantly surprised to only portage two, but did navigate a tight new jungle channel the river had formed in the trees that would have afforded no eddies or exit opportunities had it been blocked by a strainer.

After eight miles of paddling, we reached the McCarthy Road around 11 a.m., where we were met by a group of our company interns, who had driven a vehicle out to the bridge and camped out the previous night, making a mini-vacation out of waiting for our arrival.

All in all, we covered about 27.5 miles on bike, foot, and packraft, and the whole route took about 30 hours (including the catnap). On the trip, we overestimated our speed of travel and underestimated the condition of the ridgeline, but, on the positive side, we gained firsthand knowledge of the (limited) insulating capabilities of our packrafts. And, finally, as our new guides arrive in McCarthy and boast that they’re going to summit Fireweed on their next day off, all we can do is smile, knowing that A) they’re not even looking at the true summit, and B) they better have brought extra pairs of shoes ...



Looking east on the south side of the ridge with the Kennicott River in the distance.

Photo by Cody Simmons



Sarah Ebright following the Fall Creek creekbed down toward the Lakina River.

Photo by Cody Simmons

Right: Cody Simmons relaxing and enjoying a beer at the bivy location.

Photo by Sarah Ebright

Below: Inflated packrafts on the bank of the Lakina River.

Photo by Cody Simmons

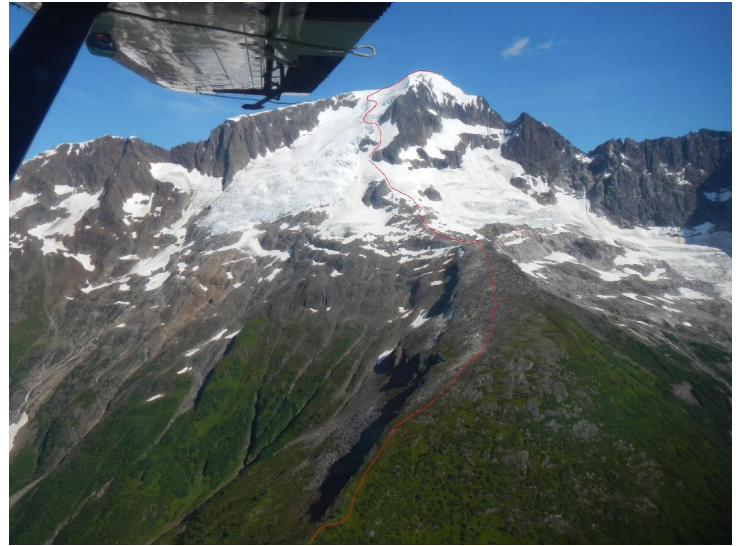


Mount Swineford (6841 feet), Coast Mountains

Text by Ben Still



Makaila Olson, Ben Still, and Mike Miller approaching camp with Mount Swineford behind.
Photo by Dylan Miller



Mount Swineford showing ascent route.
Photo by Dylan Miller

On the afternoon of July 20th, 2018, Dylan Miller, Mike Miller, Makaila Olson, and I crowded into a Ward Air Beaver floatplane and took off into sunny skies from the Juneau Airport. Our destination was the northern Swineford Lake, which sat at 1000 feet elevation directly below the massive Mount Swineford at 6841 feet. That prominent peak could be seen from many of the local Juneau peaks 30 miles to the east as a beautiful rock-and-snow pyramid that prominently rose above the surrounding peaks. The northeast side of the peak had a large, heavily-crevassed glacier, which dropped down from nearly the summit to 4000 feet. We hoped some key snow bridges would still be intact as satellite imagery from late season showed that route would be a dead end. The half-hour flight was beautiful with stunning views of many of the local mountains and a very smooth landing on the lake. A half hour of gear organizing, caching gear and food in our bear canisters, and we were off into the thick brush.

A quarter mile of thick alders led us to the creek coming from the upper glacier, which had some nice gravel bars alongside it and looked like a good open gully to hike up next to the stream. Once the lower-angle terrain ended, the creek headed into a slot canyon, which we started up, but quickly realized we needed to retreat and turn into the brush. We climbed up through a thick mess of alders, devil's club, and salmonberry bushes all tangled together. I led the way, stumbling my way ahead, looking for slight weaknesses through the deep vegetation and

steep terrain, but finding little. We passed over a small cliff band, pulling ourselves up with alder and mountain hemlock branches. Finally, at 2800 feet the brush gave way to beautiful alpine heather slopes with amazing view of Mount Swineford above. We continued to 3700 feet, admiring the views, and camped for the night.

At 5:30 a.m., alarms went off and we all began the morning rituals. After a couple minutes of foggy thoughts and wanting to go back to sleep, I got excited for the day's prospects! Coffee and donuts for myself. We left camp by 6:30 a.m. and started hiking up the mountain. Heather gave way to bedrock and scree and finally snow. We put our crampons on and roped up there. A significant wall of seracs impeded our progress to access the main northwest glacier directly, so we continued up steep snow to the south for an additional 1000 feet, placing snow pickets for protection and sneaking above the icefall onto lower-angle glacier slopes. We weaved around large crevasses, finding snow bridges in good condition. The views across the Taku River to the Juneau Icefield were amazing with Devils Paw and the surrounding peaks rising sharply into the sky. We navigated around a large bergschrund at the base of a snow head-wall leading up to the upper north ridge. The north ridge was a fin of snow, which we gently climbed up, kicking steps toward the summit. We were all getting excited and could not believe the amazing views. Sharp peaks rose in all directions. The ridge began to level off, but the snow fin steepened on both sides.

Makaila was in the lead and placed some snow pickets along that final exposed ridge line. The last 50 feet were a few easy Class 3 rock moves and we were all on the summit of Mount Swineford.

We took an hour lunch break on the summit, taking in the views and identifying many of the peaks surrounding us. A sea of mountains in all directions. We basked in the sun for just a little longer and then began the descent back to camp. We easily retraced our steps down the glacier and down the rock band to our lovely camp. We arrived around 4 p.m., plenty of time to hike down, but we elected to lounge in the sun for the afternoon, enjoying the alpine views. Our plane was not scheduled to pick us up until the next afternoon at 5 p.m. Another night in paradise. We all headed to bed early.

We were up early the next morning and slowly packed up our camp. We hefted our heavy packs onto our backs and began the descent down to the thick brush. Going down was much easier and took half the time. We crashed through the thicket, taking a slightly different line down and arrived at the lake by 10:30 a.m. The day was hot and sunny, so we all took a jump into the ice-cold lake to cool off and cleaned off all the debris from the 'shwhack. A couple of inReach messages later, and the pilot was set to arrive at noon. A curious black bear paid us a visit while we were waiting. The bear was not easily scared off, but eventually ran into the thicket, not to be seen again. Our plane landed on the lake and we were off, back to Juneau. Another amazing trip in the southeast Alaska rainforest.



*Dylan Miller and Ben Still enjoying a water refill after an intense bushwhacking down the mountain.
Photo by Makaila Olson*



*Makaila Olson on the summit ridge.
Photo by Dylan Miller*



*Mike Miller (left) and Ben Still starting the descent.
Photo by Dylan Miller*

Peak 2687, Boulder Creek Watershed, Juneau, Coast Mountains

Text by Carl Reese; photos by Ben Still

In retrospect sometimes an ascent is a philosophical journey in addition to an actual journey. That's the case with Peak 2687 for me. A year later I am reminded of what John F. Kennedy said when asked why he wanted the United States to send a mission to the moon. *"But why, some say, the moon? Why choose this as our goal? And they may well ask, why climb the highest mountain?"* And I'm reminded of George Mallory's reply to a query about why he wanted to climb Mount Everest. *"Because it's there."* Peak 2687 was, and is, there; and everybody, including me, was ignoring it. Somebody had to climb it and somebody had to write about climbing it. It's there. It was a lot easier to access than the moon.

I had injured my shoulder in January 2018 and it healed some, but by March it was unfortunately clear that I needed shoulder surgery if I ever wanted to climb rocks again. I couldn't raise my left arm above my head at all and it wasn't healing, so I scheduled surgery for May. I was going stir crazy and the fact the Peak 2687 didn't require extensive use of my arms seemed just the ticket to allay the depressing thought that I would spend at least some of the summer in a recliner popping painkillers.

Ben Still, Burton Vanderbilt, and I walked up Peak 2687 in snowshoes. The peak would have been fun to ski had there been better snow. Some slopes were maybe 35 degrees, others less. People rarely go up Peak 2687. I would guess that every few years a hunter tracks game up there. The peak is up Boulder Creek and above Yankee Basin. Years ago the whole of Yankee Basin was crawling with gold miners and there's a ghost town in the basin hiding under the alders and devil's club. We didn't see much of that. The summit view was great and we were up and back in six or seven hours. We started at 8 a.m. and hiked up the mostly abandoned trail toward Yankee Basin. East of the summit we headed uphill through old-growth spruce. We reached the summit about noon. The summit was broad and sparsely forested, making views spectacular.

What I found noteworthy was Ben's approach and why were climbing Peak 2687 in the first place. Ben wants to climb as many peaks in the Juneau area with greater than 500 feet of prominence, regardless of difficulty. There are many with 500 feet in Juneau. Part of his rationale is the goal takes him to places few people think to go. Part of the rationale is that the peaks are "there." Ben seems to love all mountains great and small. So do I.

As an Alaskan climber I have stood on summits and looked across a sea of peaks and often thought about my next project. Like most climbers, I focus on the spiky ones with bragging rights. Indeed, I got a good view of Mustang Peak from the summit of Peak 2687. It will be a challenge next summer for me when and if I get there. That said, if I get an invite to climb a mountain that lacks swagger, I am not going to stay home.

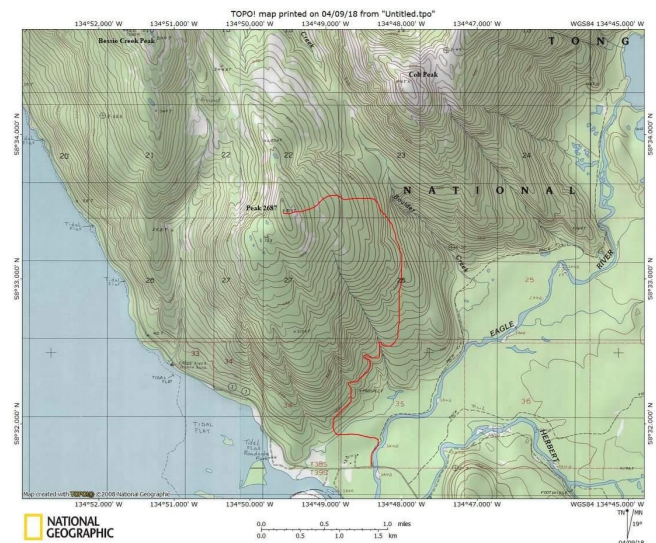
Peak 2687 was worth climbing, if not for the fact that every time I drive by I will see it with eyes that know just how nice the view is from the top.



Burton Vanderbilt (left) and Carl Reese in a meadow, nearing the top of Peak 2687.



Summit view looking west.



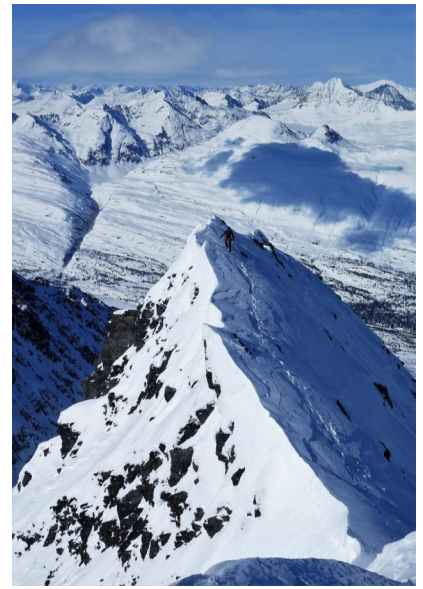
Route map

Mount Dimond (7202 feet), Chugach Mountains

Text and photos by Taylor Brown



Northwest ridge of Mount Dimond.



Right: Tim Stephens on the summit ridge.

Left: Jason Stuckey (top) and Chad Diesinger climbing typical terrain encountered along the ridge.

On March 31, 2018, Tim Stephens of Chickaloon and I climbed the complete northwest ridge of Mount Dimond¹ (7202 feet) at M4 with 3,900 feet of climbing over the course of the 1.8-mile-long ridge traverse over multiple large gendarmes. We stood on the summit with the only sound being our own stoke and the blowing wind, which is not typical because it was supposed to be right in the middle of the heli-ski season at Thompson Pass. Two weeks prior sustained 80- to 90-mile-per-hour winds strafed across the eastern Chugach, leaving hardpack snow, hence the lack of mechanized noise, and left optimal alpine climbing conditions.

I had previously made a strong attempt on the ridge with local Fairbanks climbers Jason Stuckey and Chad Diesinger the previous week. On both trips we used a snowmachine to shuttle us up on an established snowcat road that had been used for skiing clients when there was actually powder to be had.

The climbing along the ridge was mostly 4th- and 5th-class snow and mixed climbing with the occasional cornice to navigate. We only roped up for three pitches on the main gendarme that involved enjoyable climbing with good protection at a moderate grade of M3 to M4 and two rappels off the back side. Besides rappelling off the main gendarme, we also had to do a few other rappels along the ridge.

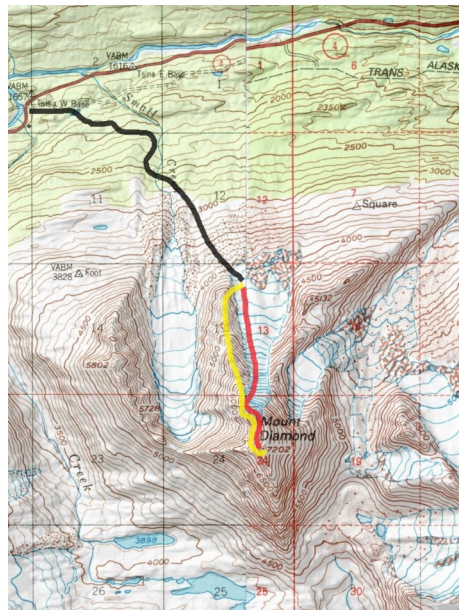
We spent a brief moment on the summit enjoying the immense views of the Chugach Mountains, Wrangell Mountains, and the Saint Elias Mountains before descending down the north face. The descent was straightforward

down-climbing of 45- to 50-degree snow with a bergschrund at the bottom, which we carefully crossed with a rope. We stayed roped up as we weaved through a short maze of crevasses until we arrived back at the snowmachine by the toe of the glacier.

That was an amazing route on one of the largest alpine features in the area that deserved to be a classic test-piece alpine route for the Thompson Pass and Valdez area. With the frequency of the big winter wind events that we get here in Valdez, this route comes into shape often with firm snow for travel. Tim and I had a very fast time of five hours from where the snowmachine was parked to the summit and that was mostly due to having the rappels and the majority of the boot-pack in place from the prior week's attempt on the route. The route itself was not that committing, considering we could down-climb one of the dozen or so couloirs off either side of

the ridge and if we could see ski tracks in the couloir, chances were it didn't have a cliff in it. We believe that ours was the first ascent of the complete northwest ridge with the only known history of the main gendarme being climbed some years ago by Paul Turecki.

¹According to the USGS Names and Places, Mount Dimond was originally named after Anthony Dimond, Valdez Mayor and Alaska territorial senator from 1920 to 1932 and Alaska's delegate to the U.S. House of Representatives from 1933 to 1945, although some versions of the USGS topographic maps have the peak mislabeled as *Mount Diamond*.



Peak 121

Antarctic View Peak (5795 feet), Western Chugach Mountains

Text by Ross Noffsinger



Charlie Sink on the summit of Antarctic View Peak.

Photo by Ross Noffsinger

An exceptional stretch of high pressure in September 2018 provided Charlie Sink and me a memorable week in the mountains. Our primary objective (aside from just being in the mountains) was to tick peaks off Charlie's list. I had a secondary goal of reaching the summit of Antarctic View Peak, a peak splitting the Whiteout and Eklutna Glaciers. Because the old U.S. Geological Survey topographic map indicated less than 500 feet of prominence, that peak was not considered a true summit and hence was not included on the Chugach State Park list of 120 peaks. The 2014 CSP National Geographic Map, which is based on more recent mapping data, showed a more-accurate representation of the glaciers. The National Geographic map indicated that Antarctic View had roughly 670 feet of prominence. The contour lines also displayed the moat on the northeast side of the mountain, which was not shown on the old USGS maps.

While returning to Pichler's Perch from Hans' Hut, Charlie and I climbed the southwest ridge of Antarctic View from Whiteout Pass. Thinking we would just scramble the ridge, we left crampons, rope, etc. at the pass, eliminating the possibility of traversing onto the glacial face. The obvious step in the ridge turned out to be more steep and rotten than expected, forcing a sporty, exposed traverse through the cliff around the south side, following a

"sheep route." We reached the summit in 45 minutes. My altimeter indicated 600 feet of elevation gain from the pass, which aligned with the map.

Given its location, Antarctic View offered tremendous views in all directions. We hung out in the warm sun for over an hour before descending. We opted for a lower traverse through the cliff, which was just as exposed and delicate as the upper traverse. If one were climbing this peak in March or April or May, I think it would be a straightforward snow climb up either the west or northwest face; however, know there are crevasses.

Trip summary and notes of interest:

Day 1: Biked to Serenity Falls Hut and hiked to Pichler's Perch carrying glacier gear and food for seven days. Getting onto the glacier was straightforward hiking on moderately sloped ice. The ice near the toe, however, appeared to be getting steeper as the glacier receded.

Day 2: Climbed the west ridge of The Mitre, a big, wonderful Class 4 route (or 5 if your partner gets impatient with the route-finding).

Day 3: Hiked to Hans' Hut. Although we did encounter snow

on the upper East Branch of the Eklutna Glacier, ice was exposed all the way to Whiteout Pass. That night we experienced intense northern lights.

Day 4: Climbed Insignificant and Whiteout Peaks with more northern lights that night.

Day 5: Climbed Antarctic View while hiking back to Pichler's Perch. The glacial ice was so dirty we did not wear crampons from Whiteout Pass to Pichler's Perch. Crevasses existed just about everywhere on the upper Eklutna and Whiteout Glaciers, which I didn't expect, given the low slope angle of the ice. Due to crevasses, we did not traverse around Antarctic View to measure the elevation on the northeast side. That would probably be no big deal earlier in the season when the cracks would be well covered.

Day 6: Climbed Ovis Peak. The final few hundred feet was a wonderful Class 3 scramble some 5,000 feet above the East Fork of the Eklutna River. That late in the season, expect to traverse ice crossing the glacier between Ovis and White Lice Mountain (i.e. don't leave your crampons at the hut).

Day 7: Hiked and biked back to Eklutna Trailhead. A tremendous amount of glacial recession had occurred at both the toe of the Eklutna and below Pichler's Perch since I last visited in August 2016 when JT Lindholm and I climbed White Lice and Ovis. Also, a section of the steep snow slope below Pichler's was melted-out, making for sketchy scrambling on rock with crampons while carrying a heavy pack. Access to Pichler's will likely become more difficult as we continue to warm; however, eventually it could also get easier. Stay tuned.

So I am lobbying to have Antarctic View included on the list of CSP true summits. As noted, we did not measure the vertical relief on the northeast side of the mountain, but per the latest mapping, this peak is likely a true summit. We leave it for another party to make the confirmation.

Counting Antarctic View obviously impacts the peak count for the Western Chugach Mountains, of which I'm not sure the number. First, the number depends on where one defines the eastern boundary. Second, one must review the updated maps for potentially missed peaks. For instance there appears to be a 2330-foot peak near the toe of the Sparrow and Finch Glaciers that previously was not included, but due to glacial recession now appears to have sufficient prominence to warrant inclusion, and there could be others.



Antarctic View Peak from Whiteout Pass. One can see the obvious rock step. Photo by Charlie Sink



*Traversing around the step.
Photo by Charlie Sink*



*Approaching the rotten rock step.
Photo by Charlie Sink*

P1-P5+ (Flattop Mountain to Ptarmigan Peak [4950 ± 50 feet]) Traverse, Front Range

Text and photos by Wayne Todd

August 25



Mike Miller and Tucker above Rabbit Lake with North Suicide Peak and South Suicide Peak behind.

After years of hard-core climbing, Mike Miller has discovered the amazing playground in his backyard, particularly in the form of ridge traverses. We hook up for a P1-P5-plus ridge route, along with his mountain-savvy best friend, Tucker.

Ascending the mighty Flattop Mountain on lesser-traveled trails, we see few other hikers (but plenty of litter in the north gully). At the P1/P2 (Flattop Mountain – Peak Two) saddle, I have unpleasant recollections.

Good ridge trails lead to P4 (Flaketop Peak) and then it's a "scree-for-all"* (*and talus, which is not as fun) down to the P4/P5 saddle (Ptarmigan Pass). In the pass we find an unopened water bottle, so we consume the water, because we can. This is almost expected now as we discovered an old, unopened beer beyond The Wedge on another traverse a year prior. We also drank that. We make our way up P5 (Ptarmigan Peak) following snippets of trail.

This ridge traverse could also be known as the remembrance or plaque trail for deceased mountaineers, as we find numerous

along the way: Geoff Radford and Bruce Hickok, Radford again on Ptarmigan ...

This is one of the few decent weather days in the "mist" of the bad-weather climate. "During the day, along the way, not planning to stay" ... we occasionally see or hear folks traveling on the major valley-bottom trails.

The ridge beyond Ptarmigan is new terrain for me. Consisting of large blocks and gendarmes, one can make the route fairly easy or difficult, depending upon desire or whim. With the rock dry and of slightly better quality than standard Chugach crap, the scrambling is fun. Approaching each mini-bump, I wonder if the ridge route will still go. It does.

The blocks transition to easy ridge hiking before we top out above Powerline Pass. Dropping another scree/talus line to Powerline Pass, Mike and I fantasize about a helicopter dropping bikes for us at Powerline. Shortly thereafter we actually see a helo, but surprisingly it doesn't deposit bikes. At the pass, numerous bikers are milling about, either turning back or con-

tinuing on. "Borrowing" of these bikes is also lightly contemplated.

We have a good walk back to Glen Alps, encountering Dwight I. and Greg E., on bikes, just before the parking lot. We also have sprinkles a minute before the cars. Perfect.

If I were to do this again, I'd bike on the Powerline Trail to just before Ptarmigan, climb Ptarmigan and the trailing ridge, and perhaps drop down one of the two gullies that offer safe access back to the upper lakes. Or, bike up the Rabbit Lake Trail from Upper Canyon Road (it's legal now) to the pass before Ptarmigan (pronounced *peter meegin* :)), hike up Ptarmigan and beyond until northeast of Rabbit Lake (Complication Gap), and descend to the lake and bicycle, or for a more serious outing, continue up North Suicide Peak or Homicide Peak before descending.



Mike Miller and Tucker on the P1-P5 ridge. McHugh Peak and its northwest ridge are in the background.

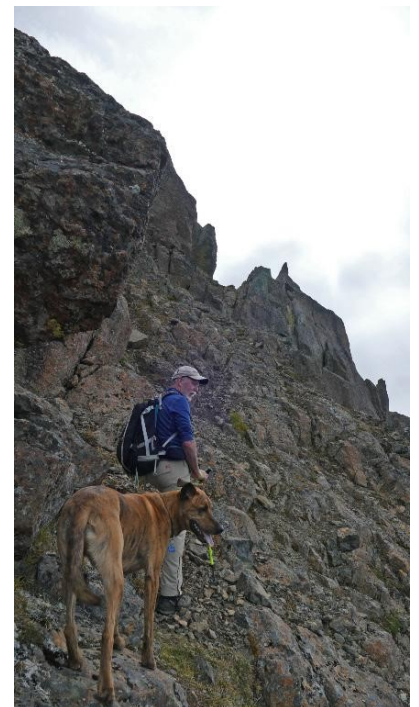
Mike Miller and Tucker looking toward Avalanche Mountain, Powerline Pass, and Homicide Peak.



Mike Miller on the ridge with the Suicide Peaks and Rabbit Lake as the backdrop.



Mike Miller traversing the ridge south-east of Ptarmigan Peak.



Mike Miller and Tucker along the ridge.

Shaman Dome (4010 feet), Western Chugach Mountains

Text by Marcin Ksok



Marcin Ksok on the ridgeline with the summit in the background.

Photo by Greg Encelewski



Greg Encelewski on the summit of Shaman Dome.

Photo by Marcin Ksok

Traveling through mountains during shoulder season presents one with a dilemma. Depending on snow level and condition, we have to choose the best means of travel.

Greg Encelewski and I were presented with such a question while attempting Shaman Dome in springtime. Lower elevations were snow free and muddy, but the white stuff was still heavy up higher. The approach was quite long at around eight miles each way; therefore it made up the majority of the ascent. It also covered low elevation for most of the time. It would be nice to have skis once we got to Indian Creek Pass, but did we want to lug them six miles each way? Booting in deep snow was not appealing, either; therefore we resorted to that old, antiquated and looked-down-upon tool known as a snowshoe. Slow, clunky, but light and easy to carry, they proved to be just the ticket. The objective was not a glorious summit. Fairly deep within the park and not particularly tall, it was there and needed to be ascended, all 4010 feet of it.

So we schlepped through the mud and then snow, boots, then clunking snowshoes, clunk, clunk, ever forward. At least the snow was decent and we stayed on top for most of the trudge. A distant day trip by means of slow propulsion. Gloomy, gray skies seemed to hold their moisture for the near future as we rounded Bidarka Peak's north ridge and started up Shaman's southern slopes. We reached a ridge of snow and rock, turned east, and reached a high point. Beyond was another high point, the proper one, farther away than one might read from the

map. Personally, after all this schlepping I was not particularly excited to keep going, but it had to be done. So, we descended and ascended and stood on top.

Beyond, the steeper and more inspiring "bird" peaks beckoned.

Light flurries developed, but stayed at altitude, not bothering us on the return trip. Down on the flats I longed for skis, light cross-country ones, the pleasant, fast contraptions that make snow travel enjoyable and efficient. Once frozen moisture gave way to the unfrozen kind, I changed my mind again. How annoying would it be to deal with skis through the miles of low-hanging brush?

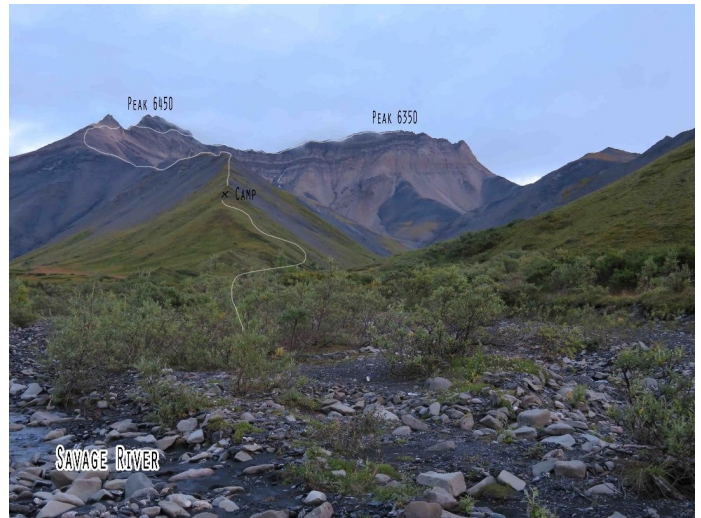
Mountain travel is full of compromises.

Fang Mountain (6736 feet) Attempt, Alaska Range

Text and photos by Grant Miller



Fang Mountain (top left) from Point 6350.



*View from the Savage River
(with annotations showing Grant Miller's route).*

I was working as a shuttle driver in Denali in 2017. I had spied Fang Mountain, with its jagged ridges and spires looming eerily above the other peaks in that area of the Denali Outer Range, early in the season. Then by mid-August, my time was running out. Having bagged several smaller Outer Range peaks, I was antsy to give Fang Mountain a go.

I went to Denali's Backcountry Access Center for beta, but the rangers I spoke with at the time didn't know anything about Fang Mountain, not even a history of how it got its name. Using Gaia GPS in conjunction with a 1:225,000 National Geographic paper map, I planned to follow the Savage River to the foot of the mountain, then tackle the prominent north ridge to the summit. I asked around to see if anybody cared to join me, but as usual, I would be alone for that trip. That was okay, because I liked to go at my own pace.

Starting at the Mountain Vista Parking Lot after work at around 5 p.m., I crossed the Savage River and found the Old Wagon Trail, an unmarked, seldom-used path that followed the western shore of the Savage River for several miles. That was a godsend in an area predominantly without trails. With the occasional faint trickle of water from the Savage River serenading my left ear, my pace quickened to a jog. The trail meandered along wide open tundra through clumps of dwarf birch and shrubby cinquefoil underbrush, and around boggy kettle ponds.

Finally the trail disappeared, so I bushwhacked down and onto the Savage River gravel bar.

Then following the river, a movement to my left caught my eye and I swiveled around to find a bull moose grazing in the distance.

Not long afterward, I found a moose shed upturned on the gravel with fresh grizzly scat beside it. That, along with the fading sunlight, put me on edge. Calling out "ey-oh bear!", I resumed my pace.

I followed the Savage upriver as it curved to the east, and finally left it at its confluence with a tributary flowing from the east. I headed up the steeper tributary drainage, then skirted up the slope to my left.

The sun had fully dipped below the horizon and there was an ominous light being cast on the ridge in front of me. It was 11:00 p.m. This would have to do, I told myself as I swung my pack off my shoulders. I was on Peak 6450's northern terminus, only 3840 feet above sea level. I was 15 miles from the nearest road with nothing but elevation looming before me. It was midnight when I slid into my sleeping bag.

Waking at 5 a.m., I left camp set up and began my ascent up the north ridge of Peak 6450.



Grant Miller's route around Peak 6450.

The Outer Range is composed largely of brittle metamorphic sedi-

ment. This makes for slippery ascents, especially when attempting to ascent steep slopes. For this reason, I aimed to follow ridge lines as much as possible. However, I planned to save time and energy by traversing around other high points along the way to the summit.

Traversing the rocky western slope of Peak 6450, I re-joined the ridge at its saddle with Point 6350 and continued west-southwest up the ridge to Point 6350.

From Point 6350, I turned south and headed down the ridge, losing nearly 500 feet of elevation before beginning the slog up the headwall. From there, Fang Mountain was less than half a mile away and rose eerily out of low-hanging clouds.

At 6200 feet my travel was impeded by a large, chossy gendarme perched on the ridge in front of me. "This is the risk I took," I told myself as I inspected the tower in front of me. In preparation for my trip, I had studied the ragged skyline of Fang Mountain and recognized that likelihood. Had I brought a rope and a belayer, it still would have felt like a suicide mission to try to protect that brittle rock with gear. I reached out and grabbed a fist-sized chunk of rock. The rock broke with no effort. I reached in the hole I had just created and pulled out another loose block about the same size. "How the heck was this mass supporting itself?" I wondered.

Choosing to traverse that section, I descended a nearby chute to the west, intending to cut back south on the nearest ramp I could

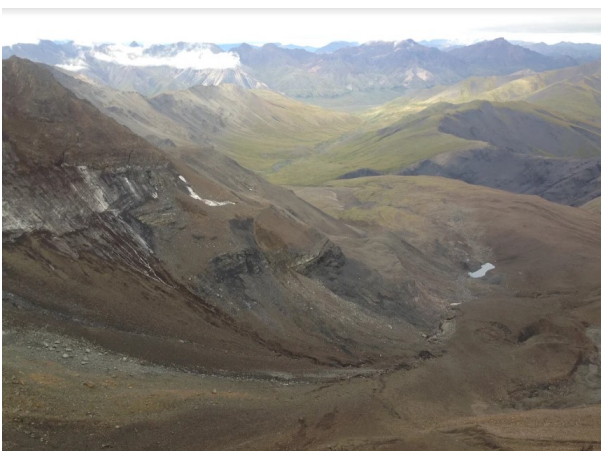
find. Halfway down the chute, I crossed a melting patch of snow. The runoff from the snow had mixed with the crumbled rock fragments beneath my feet and turned it into a muddy slurry. In an instant, I lost my footing and began sliding uncontrollably down the chute toward a cliff that dropped precipitously off the mountain. I frantically clawed and kicked my way to a patch of solid rock just a few feet before reaching the cliff. My heart was pounding as I sat up to catch my breath. Chills running through my veins, I assessed the damage. My right shoulder, which I had dislocated in the past, was not happy. Still sitting, all I could think about were the people I most loved. "What am I doing out here?" I thought.

I gave Fang Mountain one last, long stare, then turned my back and retreated. Retracing my steps, I arrived at my camp, where I collapsed on my sleeping bag – not from exhaustion, but out of gratitude for being alive. I let myself relax for 30 minutes, then packed up and hiked out as the rain started falling – not the usual Alaska drizzle, but a downpour. Wet through to my bones and shivering, I limped out of the tundra and onto the Denali Park Road just in time to catch one of the final busses of the day. I was home at last.

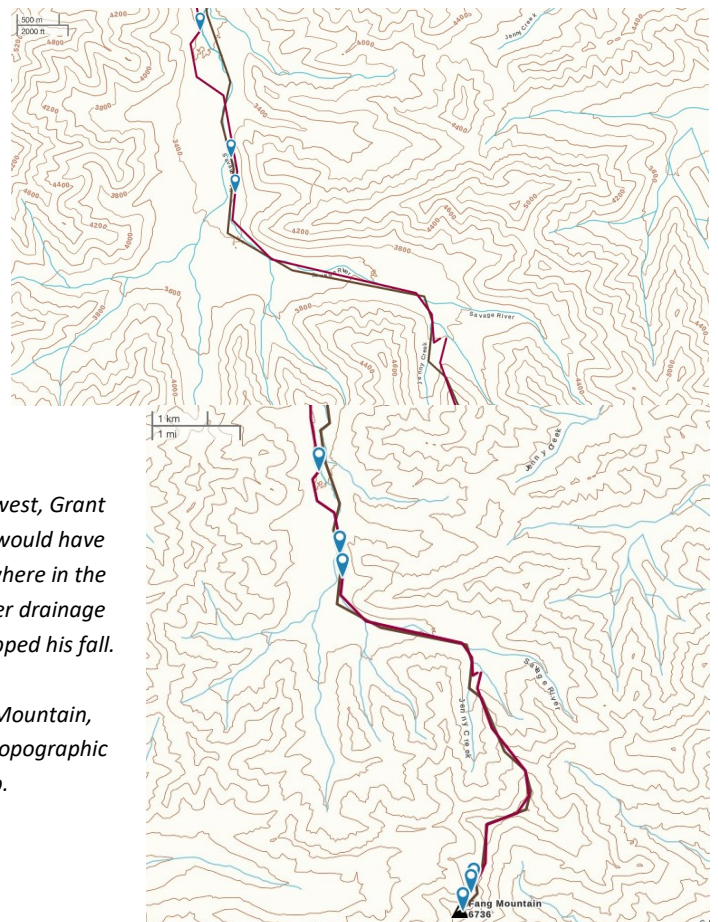
Later, I was informed that there had only ever been three registered ascents of Fang Mountain. Those ascent parties had traveled when snow was plentiful and had linked snow bridges along the ridgeline to reach the summit. [Ed. note: see the December 1974 *Scree* for the account of the first ascent of Fang Mountain.]



Left: Gendarme blocking further ridge travel (with Grant Miller's route shown).



Left: Looking west, Grant Miller's body would have landed somewhere in the Sanctuary River drainage had he not stopped his fall.



Right: Fang Mountain, Savage River topographic map.

A Flawed Jewel (Mountain) (4850 ± 50 feet), Western Chugach Mountains

Text by Wayne Todd

September 23, 2018



View of Rook Mountain, Summit Mountain, and Raven Peak from Jewel Mountain.

Photo by Wayne Todd

What to hike with a good forecast on a late fall day, when most still consider conditions way too early for skiing?

Jewel Mountain.

Located up the Crow Pass Trail, Jewel offers a relatively easy* ½-day outing with potentially great views (no guarantee from that wascally Mother Nature), mining history, and

Tina Boucher is game, so we quickly pass from the late-summer zone to the fall zone on the Crow Pass Trail. The alpine offers slight fall coloration, plus Tina knows all the plants.

I remember summer days of traversing the slopes across the valley with amazing varied flower- and color-studded fields (and forcing a black bear out of the way ...).

Snow dapples the nearby mountains from exactly 4500 feet up. A mild amount of hikers are enjoying the trail.

At the lesser falls (about 3300 feet), well above Crow Creek Cascades, we deviate hard right. A couple lesser human trails fade in and out on this first section. Despite map contour lines indicating otherwise, a direct approach up Jewel would be very sporty. We pass remnants of the Bahrenberg Mine. When encountering such places, I always have good intentions of looking up the history when returning to the digital world, but rarely do.

We take the "standard" rock route, which bisects the two halves of the Jewel Glacier.

Tina, who has skied here early season numerous times, is surprised how little glacier remains. We are both surprised to see a rather large and nasty crevasse, for human entrapment, on the glacier section just below Jewel itself. Not only is it steep above the crevasse, but the crevasse walls are also likely too steep for escape, and it's filled with water (rather similar to a pitfall (pitcher) plant). Mental note to always avoid that little area.

The Jewel Glacier section below Summit Mountain looks benign enough with mostly just small cracks, still exposed with the few inches of fresh snow, and looks quite hikeable. We see and hear two people not far behind us, but shortly after gaining the ridge below Jewel, we hear them only once more, then nothing... (perhaps the crevasse trap, mostly joking, I hope). Just shy of the Jewel crown, we're treated to the Spectre of the Broken, an attempt to lure us onto the steep glacier section.

The views of the close-by larger peaks, slathered with butter, I mean snow, are stunning. This includes Rook Mountain, Raven Peak, and Goat Mountain. The views toward Crystal Lake and hut, surrounded by snow-accented Magpie Peak and Crow Peak, are equally pleasing. We also have near-complete views of the Milk Glacier, which I believe to be a safer route out from the Eklutna Traverse when avalanche danger is a concern in the Crow Creek valley.

This is not a rushed day, so I have ample time to shoot pictures and enjoy the views. After Jewel, we backtrack the ridge toward



Wayne Todd with Raven Peak, Goat Mountain, and the Milk Glacier as the backdrop.

Photo by Tina Boucher

Summit until a short, but vertical, precipice. Gaining the user-friendly Jewel Glacier section would be fairly easy to bypass the precipice, but with the wee bit of fresh snow and being light on mountain gear, neither of us feels pressed to continue onward.

At the mid-section of the ridge, third time now, we spy a single person boot-hiking up the friendly north section of the Jewel Glacier, with skis on pack. This seems desperate, but to each their own. Perhaps they consider hiking up here without skis a travesty.

Soon back on the main trail, we encounter more hikers enjoying the splendid fall day.

*7 miles, 4,000 feet of elevation gain without Summit Mountain.



Wayne Todd with Goat Mountain and the Milk Glacier as the backdrop. Photo by Tina Boucher



*Tina Boucher overlooking the Milk Glacier.
Photo by Wayne Todd*



*Tina Boucher hiking the ridge toward Summit Mountain.
Photo by Wayne Todd*



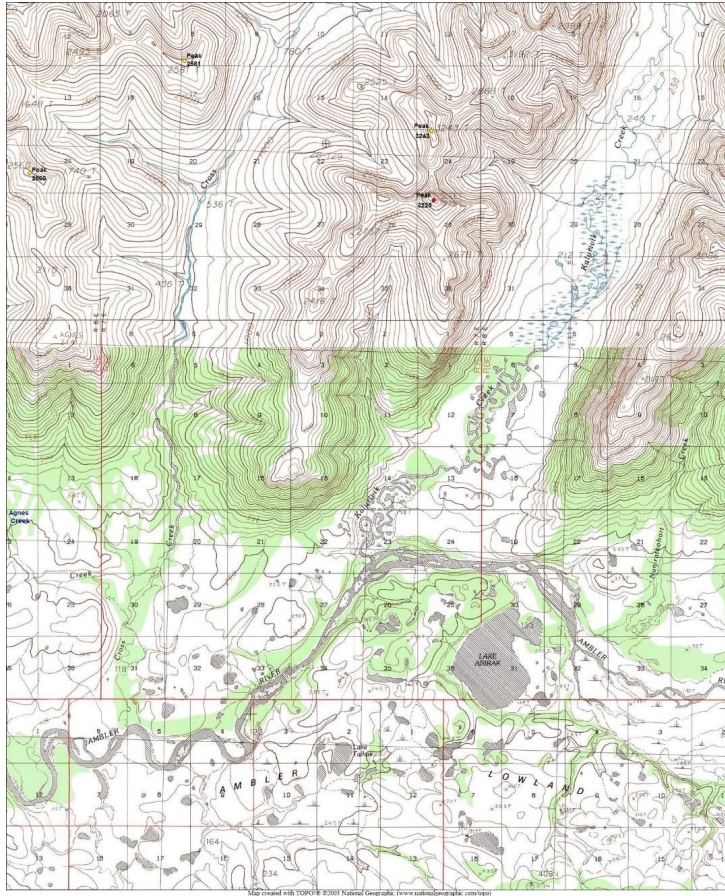
*Tina Boucher on the northeast ridge of Jewel Mountain with (left to right) Summit Mountain, Raven Peak, and Goat Mountain behind.
Photo by Wayne Todd*



*Tina Boucher hiking the ridge toward Summit Mountain with Crystal Lake in the background.
Photo by Wayne Todd*

Peak of the Month: Peak 3225, Schwatka Mountains

Text by Steve Gruhn



Mountain Range: Brooks Range; Schwatka Mountains

Borough: Northwest Arctic Borough

Drainages: Cross Creek and Kalurivik Creek

Latitude/Longitude: 67° 16' 58" North, 157° 13' 42" West

Elevation: 3225 feet

Adjacent Peak: Peak 3243 in the Cross Creek and Kalurivik Creek drainages

Distinctness: 675 feet from Peak 3243

Prominence: 675 feet from Peak 3243

USGS Maps: 1:63,360: Ambler River (B-3), and 1:25,000: Ambler River B-3 SE

First Recorded Ascent: 1955 by a U.S. Army Corps of Engineers party

Route of First Recorded Ascent: West ridge

Access Point: 2750-foot saddle on the west ridge

In 1955 a U.S. Army Corps of Engineers party had been tasked with surveying a portion of the area northeast of Ambler. The team flew in a helicopter from Kobuk to a 2750-foot saddle between Cross Creek and Kalurivik Creek on the north side of the Ambler River. From the saddle, the party made a 20-minute hike to the east and reached the summit of Peak 3225. The party installed a survey monument stamped "SLEET 30TH ENGR. TOPO GP. 1955," which was cemented into a drill hole about eight feet

east and four feet below the summit of the peak.

In 1976 a USGS survey party visited Peak 3225 by landing a helicopter 100 feet west of the summit and walking eastward to the survey monument.

The information for this column came from U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and USGS field notes available at <https://www.geocaching.com/mark/details.aspx?PID=UW4503>.

Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

December 18, 2018

Roll Call

Michael Meyers (President) - Present
Gerrit Verbeek (Vice-President) - Present
Jen Aschoff (Secretary) - Present
Katherine Cooper (Treasurer) - Present
Max Neale (Director) - Absent
Tom Meacham (Director) - Present
Lila Hobbs (Director) - Present
Jonathan Rupp (Director) - Present
Charlie Sink (Past President) - Absent

Scribe: Jen Aschoff

Call to order 6:04 p.m.

Committee Reports

President (Mike Meyers)

- Promotional slideshow is needed as an introduction for public events. Anyone with good photos of huts or MCA events, please send to Mike
- Calendar photo submission is going digital. Winners will present and discuss their photos at the September 4 meeting if they wish.
- MCA Flag – we are buying two club flags with the original MCA logo to display at various events and MCA trips
- Looking into ordering aluminum cups with MCA logo for sale

Vice-President (Gerrit Verbeek)

- Eagle River Alehouse was happy with the holiday party! We're invited back.
- Serenity Falls Hut booking tentatively February 9 and 10, 2019
- Speakers:
 - David Hart - January 2nd
 - Kelsey Gray - February 6th

Secretary (Jen Aschoff)

- BP Energy Center set up through May via Boomerang
- Scribe needed for General Meeting - Gerrit

Treasurer (Katherine Cooper)

- Budget voting is scheduled for January 2, 2019

Training (Gerrit Verbeek)

- 2019 Annual Plan was briefly discussed. Training committee highlighted five main focus areas for future training. These are: glacier travel, ice climbing, skiing, rock climbing, and backpacking.
- Training budget was submitted to the Board for review. Totaling \$2,000 so far.

Strategic Plan Task Force (Max Neale)

- Committee Structure document has been finalized, pending one additional member for the Awards Committee.
- Succession Matrix was produced. The Board recommended that we discuss the details of the plan at the January Board meeting so that the Board would have ample time to review it.

Liability Committee

- MCA Waiver/Hut Liability Waiver was updated by Tom Meacham. The Board requested additional time to review the document and discuss in detail at the January Board meeting or work session. The Board agreed to solicit comments from a few past trip leaders and instructors, and membership. Tom will send this to Steve Gruhn to be published in *the Scree* for membership review.
- Consideration of the proposed Youth Policy for MCA trips and classes.

Parks Advisory (Tom Meacham and Ralph Baldwin)

Nothing to report

Trips (Jen Aschoff)

- Training for trip leaders / Trip tracking.
- Hiking/Climbing: summary of our first meeting and upcoming trips.
- Requested that the Board send suggestions.

Scree (Steve Gruhn and Dawn Munroe)

- 11th of the month to get stuff in.

Huts Committee (Jonathan Rupp, Greg Bragiel, Cory Hinds, Vicky Lytle)

- More room for Mint Hut and toilet issues – Dnigi Hut west wall might need to be rebuilt, but inspection will be needed to determine this. Summer 2019 Dnigi inspection is planned and volunteers are needed to help with the inspection. Inspection will ideally be done by foot and heavy supplies will be delivered by helicopter.

- Website/facebook for huts.
- Maintenance and renovation plans for 2019.

Awards Committee (Tom Meacham, Still need a name, Steve Gruhn)

- Hoeman Award / Honorary member selection / President's Award

Communications Committee (Lila Hobbs)

- Billy Finley kindly offered to help MCA transfer its current website over to WordPress in March.
- Payment system on the website is expensive about \$140 to \$200 per month.
- Lila will request a wish-list from subcommittees and membership.
- Drafting wish-list for website changes and holding website-planning meeting.

Mentorship (Alexandra Janczewska)

- Need mentors and mentees.
- Katherine suggested that there be a policy.

Library (Charlotte Foley)

- Charlotte requested 5 to 10 minutes to do a Library presentation in January.

Unfinished Business

- Matanuska Glacier deal for MCA members.
- Mark Smiley *How to Denali* deal – \$389 for life MCA access. 4.5 hours of video – Follow up with Billy Finley to ask if the video be protected.
- Write description of Training Committee and its processes. What constitutes training? Update the bylaws.

New Business

- Update bylaws.
- Grants and other fund-generating opportunities: potential revenue generators (grants, apparel, events) effect on non-profit status.

Time and Location of next Board Meeting

January 30, 2019, at 6 p.m. on the UAA Campus, ConocoPhillips Integrated Sciences Building, Room 105A (main floor by the coffee stand).

Board of Directors: Meeting Minutes

January 30, 2019, 6 p.m.

Roll Call

Michael Meyers (President) - Present
 Charlie Sink (Past President) - Present
 Gerrit Verbeek (Vice-President) - Present
 Jen Aschoff (Secretary) - Present
 Katherine Delia Cooper (Treasurer) - Present
 Max Neale (Director) - Present
 Tom Meacham (Director) - Absent
 Lila Hobbs (Director) - Present
 Jonathan Rupp (Director) - Present
 Visitor: Steve Gruhn

Scribe: Jen Aschoff

Meeting called to order at 6:04 p.m.

Committee Reports

President (Mike Meyers)

- Flag is here and can be taken out for pictures, etc. in the mountains by any club member; pictures on facebook would be appreciated.

Scree—March 2019

- Created slideshow for MCA member perks, need help looping pictures to make video.
- David Hart – Chugach State Park Advisory Board committee member looking for MCA volunteers to help clear trails. Mike will follow up with formal MCA support.
- Katherine will take over making payments for meetup group (\$90 twice a year).
- Lila will make some minor revisions to webmaster/content with Tim Silvers looking to step down.

Vice-President (Gerrit Verbeek)

- Eagle River Alehouse for 2019 filmfest possibility.
- Speaker: Kelsey Gray - February 6th.
- Serenity Falls ice-climbing trip in February 9 and 10 (needs to go to listserv).
- June/July/August events – meetings will be picnics or hikes are likely options.
- Still looking for a March presenter. Maggie O'Brien looking, not committed yet.

- Film proposal: Jeff Lowe's *Metanoia* – Rare movie, ?never? screened in Alaska. Typically \$2,000; suggest \$1,500 fee? Look into fee for non-profit, also contact Bear Tooth to use as fundraiser.

- Joel Cusick, GIS expert with the National Park Service would like to know if there is any interest in MCA peakbaggers to revisit benchmarks or peaks with current surveying tools.

Expedition/dehydrated meal recipe contest / cookbook?

Secretary (Jen Aschoff)

- Nothing to report.

Treasurer (Katherine D. Cooper)

- Audit finances.
- Non-profit incorporation status, complete Biennial Report every odd year.

Training (Gerrit Verbeek)

- GPS/Navigation training with Joel Cusick (NPS) on Tuesday, January 29 – five attended.
- 53rd Mapping and Surveying conference February 13-15 – options for free attendance
- Crevasse rescue – pursuing Old Knik River truss bridge. Putting together a permit application on Department of Transportation's recommendation. Also contacting Chugach State Park.
- Andrew Holman offered to teach mountain photography (Max will head this up)
- Need volunteers: Smiley video watch parties, snow shelters, PTEX ski repair
- Chris Marrano (Black Diamond) is hosting a crevasse rescue clinic at the BD store in February taught by Joe Stock. He will cross-post it to our page.

Strategic Plan Task Force (Max Neale)

- Committee Structure document has been finalized: Awards Committee: Charlie Sink, Steve Gruhn, Tom Meacham
- The board discussed the option of making all board roles two-year roles, especially officers due to a range of reasons such as steep learning curves and team cohesion.
- A motion was made to present a potential change to the by-laws regarding election to the membership. The motion was approved by seven board members. Proposed change is as follows: *Elect all board members to two-year terms and stagger the terms. All eight elected board members would have two-year terms effective October 2019. The 9th board member is the past president, who is not elected, but has the option to join for one year.*

- A second motion was made to present a potential change to the bylaws regarding election to the membership. The motion was approved by seven board members. Proposed change is as follows: *The second year of the term of all board members is conditional upon Board confirmation. Any vacancies that result from this will be filled by the board.*

- The board discussed a revised membership-fee schedule.

Liability Committee (Tom Meacham)

- Hut liability form was submitted, but not voted on this meeting. We will revisit this issue.

Parks Advisory (Tom Meacham and Ralph Baldwin)

Trips (Jen Aschoff)

- Still looking for training for trip leaders / trip tracking
- Potential trip leaders lack appropriate medical training so we may need training committee to organize Wilderness First Aid/CPR training potentially at a discount.

Scree (Steve Gruhn, Dawn Munroe)

- 11th of the month to get stuff in.

Huts Committee (Jonathan Rupp, Greg Bragiel, Cory Hinds, Vicky Lytle)

- Aim to create a 10-year master plan
- Committee recommended investing budget in Dnigi Hut.
- Options for Dnigi Hut west wall rebuild were discussed. Re-skinning might be required.

Awards Committee (Tom Meacham, Steve Gruhn, Charlie Sink)

- Hoeman Award / Honorary member selection / President's Award

Communications Committee (Lila Hobbs)

- Billy Finley kindly offered to help MCA transfer its current website over to WordPress in March.
- Payment system on the website is expensive about \$140 to \$200 per month.
- Lila will request a wish-list from subcommittees and membership.
- Generating a promotional procedure checklist.
- Drafting wish-list for website change and holding website planning meeting.

Mentorship (Alexandra Janczewska)

- Need mentor and mentees and create a policy

Library (Charlotte Foley)

- Charlotte requested 5 to 10 minutes to do a Library presentation in February.

Unfinished Business

- Matanuska Glacier deal for MCA members.

New Business

- Update bylaws.

Time and Location of next Meeting

February 27, 2019, at 6 p.m. on the UAA Campus, ConocoPhillips Integrated Sciences Building, Room 105A (main floor by the coffee stand).

Membership Meeting Minutes

February 6, 2019

Mike Meyers showed off the new flag, featuring the MCA logo on a white background. If any members would like to take it on adventures, contact Mike. We would love to see the MCA flag in many pictures for years to come.

Roughly six new attendees stood and introduced themselves

The Serenity Falls Ice Climbing weekend (February 8-10) was announced.

A Crevasse Rescue seminar with Joe Stock at the Black Diamond store in Anchorage (February 28) was announced.

An upcoming outdoor photography training with Andrew Holman was announced, date still to be determined.

Steven Claggett asked members to contact him (via Facebook) if interested in attending a screening of the Mark Smiley *How to Denali* videos, tentatively over two potluck dinners on February 20th and 27th at his home. Several sample videos were shown.

Charlotte Foley presented information on the relocated library, which is now at the Hoarding Marmot.

Greg Bragiel led a plea for more trip leaders and questioned why the lack of current volunteers. Answers ranged from liability concerns, meetup/social media siphoning away trip-planning energy and more opportunities to find partners outside of the club. More answers included lawsuits and red-tape tend to discourage volunteers. Some solutions were getting trip leaders required certifications, training, etc. paid for by the club so they can lead. There was also a suggestion to stop leading trips altogether and to start doing just training.

Kelsey Gray gave an excellent and entertaining presentation covering his introduction to climbing, his efforts to create a climbing guidebook for Southcentral Alaska, photography, international trips, and future projects.

Submitted by Gerrit Verbeek

Mountaineering Club of Alaska

President	Mike Meyers	mcmeyers24@msn.com
Vice-President	Gerrit Verbeek	903-512-4286
Secretary	Jen Aschoff	jlaschoff@gmail.com
Treasurer	Katherine Cooper	209-253-8489

Director 1 (term expires in 2019)	Tom Meacham	346-1077
Director 2 (term expires in 2019)	Max Neale	207-712-1355
Director 3 (term expires in 2020)	Jonathan Rupp	202-6484
Director 4 (term expires in 2020)	Lila Hobbs	229-3754
Past President	Charlie Sink	529-7910

Annual membership dues: Single \$20, Family \$30

Dues can be paid at any meeting or mailed to the Treasurer at the MCA address below. If you want a membership card, please fill out a club waiver and mail it with a self-addressed, stamped envelope. If you fail to receive the newsletter or have questions about your membership, contact the Club Membership Committee at membership@mtnclubak.org.

The Scree is a monthly publication of the Mountaineering Club of Alaska. Articles, notes, and letters submitted for publication in the newsletter should be emailed to MCAScree@gmail.com. Articles should be submitted by the 11th of the month to appear in the next month's *Scree*.

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

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

Mailing list/database entry: Katherine Cooper—209-253-8489 or membership@mtnclubak.org

Hiking and Climbing Committee: Mike Meyers—mcmeyers24@msn.com, Jen Aschoff—jlaschoff@gmail.com or hcc@mtnclubak.org

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

Calendar: Stuart Grenier—337-5127 or stugrenier@gmail.com

Librarian: Charlotte Foley—603-493-7146 or library@mtnclubak.org

Scree Editor: MCAScree@gmail.com Steve Gruhn assisted by Dawn Munroe (350-5121) dawn.talbott@yahoo.com

Web: www.mtnclubak.org

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

Mike Miller and Tucker on the Ptarmigan Peak ridge with The Ramp, The Wedge, Avalanche Mountain, and Powerline Pass as the backdrop.

Photo by Wayne Todd

Mountaineering Club of Alaska
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