

the SCREE

Mountaineering Club of Alaska

August 2020

Volume 63, Number 8



**"Don't let the fear of the time it will take to accomplish something stand in the way of your doing it. The time will pass anyway."
– Earl Nightingale**

Contents

Mount Temple (Canadian Rocky Mountains)

Primrose Mountain, Peak 4450, Crucifixion, and Betrayal Peak (Kenai Mountains)

Bellicose Peak

Bird Peak

Peak 4610 (Kenai Mountains)

West Twin Peak

Peaks 4610 and 4620 (Kenai Mountains)

Peak of the Month: Crown Peak

AUGUST MEETING: Canceled

"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—Gerrit Verbeek assisted by Dawn Munroe

Cover Photo

Meg Inokuma on the southwest ridge of Bird Peak.

Photo by Wayne Todd

AUGUST MEETING The August meeting has been canceled due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.

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.

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Mentorship Program

We're back! The MCA Mentorship Program is relaunching. We encourage mentors and mentees to continue to minimize the spread of COVID-19 by acting responsibly and following local, state, and national guidelines. To learn more about the program or to sign up to become a mentor or mentee, please email mentorship@mtnclubak.org.

Calendar Photo Contest

MCA's 2021 Calendar Photo Contest is officially live and accepting entries until July 31st! You can submit up to 4 photos in the contest. The 2021 calendar will be VERTICAL photos only. To participate, you must be a current MCA member. The photo submission links can be accessed via the member login page at www.mtnclubak.org. Once you log in, you will see the links at the very bottom of the page (under the member discount info).

Online voting on the photo entries will occur from August 7th to 14th, also via the member login page at www.mtnclubak.org. Winning photographers will have the opportunity to share about their photo at the October 2020 MCA general meeting.

Trips

August 7: Williwaw Lakes trips (currently on hold)

COVID-19 Announcement

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, all MCA-sponsored trips, training or other activities will require a COVID-19 waiver to be signed by each participant at the beginning of the trip, until further notice. MCA trip leaders and event organizers will have hard copies of the waiver signed by all participants, including the leaders, before the sponsored activity starts. See page 23.

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

Announcements

Hut Needs and Notes

When using backcountry huts, please make sure to secure windows and doors when leaving.

A party stopping by the Bomber Hut while traversing from June 10-12 reported that a previous party had left the door unlatched. Marmots had enjoyed the chance to get in and chew up food and other items. The human party did their best to clean up.

Several weeks later another party also failed to secure the cover for a window. This time a bear climbed in, caused a mess and broke every window. Once again the next visiting party spent their time cleaning up the mess and securing the hut. After hearing about the incident, volunteer Luke Konarzewski hiked in and secured all the broken windows with plywood.

Repairs are being planned to fix the damage caused from both incidents. Several minutes of negligence will cost significant amounts of time and money to fix. Thanks to Cole Talbot,

Forrest Voss, Savannah Lorenz, Luke Konarzewski, and any others involved for doing their part to report the incidents and clean.

The Scandinavian Peaks Hut door was reported open this winter by viewers from a helicopter flying over. No word yet on whether it has been closed or if any damage has come as a result.

The Rosie's Roost Reskin Project was successfully completed.

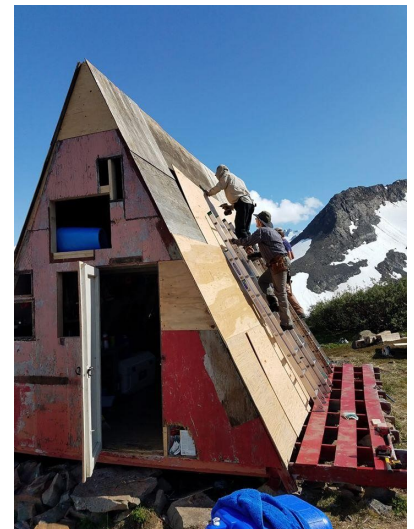
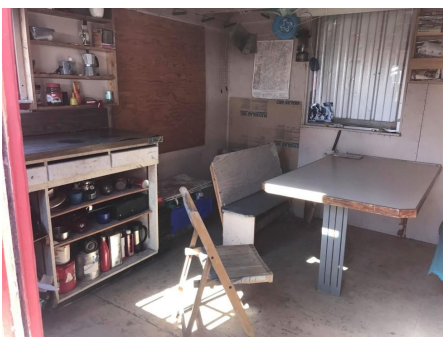
This project replaced the insulation, exterior skin and roofing at the Rosie's Roost Hut on the Eagle Glacier. Thanks to the MCA Huts Committee and all involved in the design and execution, including Alpha Aviation for transporting material to the site. Special thanks to the work crew: Stan Olsen, Ross Noffsinger, Peter Holden, Cory Hinds, Bradley Nelson, and Sally Balchin.



*Rosie's Roost Project
pictures.
Photos by Sally Balchin*



*Bomber Hut
pictures of
damage.
Photos by
Forrest Voss*



New Editor for *the Scree*

The Scree has been the MCA's monthly newsletter for 63 years since October 1958, encompassing 741 monthly issues. During that period there have been only two months without (October 1961 and May 2004) an issue. For the first two issues, it didn't have a name, but the name *Scree* appeared on the December 1958 issue. The "*the*" was added in January 2006.

The newsletter started as a two-page mimeographed newsletter (for some issues it even shrank to a single page) and has since grown to become electronically available to the membership, with photographs and maps, comprising up to two dozen pages, and filled with trip reports covering the broad spectrum of mountaineering from cutting-edge alpinism to routine hikes. None of these changes occurred by chance. Previous Editors, including Johnnie Johnston, Gwynneth Wilson, Helga Bading, Marge Prescott, Helen Wolfe, Marie Lundstrom, Vin Hoeman, Liska Snyder, Kathy Selken Causton, Trent Swanson, Jane Meacham, Daniel Hurd, Letha Huffman, Paul Denkwalter, Donna Agosti, Al Robinson, Ken Blue, Vickie Crawford, Marty Bassett, Willy Hersman, Robert Baker, Amsl Apflauer, John Recktenwald, and Dave Hart have all left their marks on *the Scree*. Some served for a single issue; Willy served for 231 issues. Each Editor served the membership and left an indelible mark on the MCA's history.

As with any volunteer effort, those who serve reap more benefits than those who are served – a fact most easily appreciated by trying one's hand at service. The MCA is an all-volunteer organization and offers many opportunities to serve; for example, the club is currently seeking someone to chair the Hiking and Climbing Committee and trip leaders are always needed (and appreciated). But there are also opportunities to volunteer with hut maintenance, the annual calendar, writing trip reports, training groups, and mentoring individuals. Assistant Editor Dawn Munroe has expressed a desire to have a substitute to perform the layout for those times when she'd like to take a vacation. Step up to the plate and work to improve the MCA.

I'm grateful for the opportunity to have served as Editor of *the Scree* over the past nine years. After 104 issues, though, it is time for me to step down from that role. Gerrit Verbeek has offered to assume the role of Editor. Dawn Munroe will continue as Assistant Editor (this is her 58th issue) and I suspect that readers will see only an increase in quality. In fact, Gerrit has already planned some additions to enhance future issues. But an Editor would have nothing to do if there were no trip reports or other submissions. Please submit reports of your trips for publication in *the Scree*. Ideally, *the Scree* should have something of interest to all members of the MCA – whether it's a local hike in the Front Range or a candidate for the next Piolet d'Or. So submit your trip reports even if you think they aren't newsworthy; Gerrit will appreciate having some material to fill the pages of each issue.

Gerrit has volunteered and I'm certain that both he and the readers will reap the benefits of his service to the MCA. Please be kind to him by providing plenty of trip reports, submitting material in advance of his specified deadlines, including a caption and photographer credit with each submitted photograph, giving him some grace when he does things a bit differently than you might have wanted, and showing your appreciation for his service. And most of all, raise your hand and offer to help out.

Thank you for the opportunity to serve.

— Steve Gruhn.

Big shoes to fill! Steve's a tough act to follow, and fortunately it's not a competition because I'm not sure I could match him in terms of attention to detail and knowledge of Alaskan mountaineering history. Thank you for the baton, Steve; I hope to continue the 62-year-old traditions that have turned *the Scree* into the premier record of mountaineering in southcentral Alaska and to celebrate mountaineering at all levels of expertise. See you all in this and future editions.

— Gerrit Verbeek

Honorary Lifetime Membership

Steve Gruhn

A Note from the Board, and a Few Friends

As Steve Gruhn 'retires' from editing the Scree after 104 issues, the Board of the MCA would like to take the opportunity to thank him for his many decades of service and contributions to the Club. As an editor, Steve has been dedicated, meticulous, even-handed, and has consistently gone above and beyond the effort expected from a volunteer position. In addition to working with others' stories, Steve has submitted over 70 trip reports of his own and has sought out participants on notable ascents and encouraged them to share reports and details which might otherwise never have been published. He combines firsthand knowledge of hundreds of Alaskan peaks with a vast knowledge of Alaskan geography, mountain facts, figures and history, and a large network of contacts, and is duly recognized as a worldwide authority on Alaskan mountaineering. Aside from being the Scree editor, Steve has served as MCA President, Vice President and Treasurer over the years, and has led dozens of trips.

On recommendation of the MCA Honors and Awards Committee, and by action of the MCA Board, the MCA hereby grants Steve Gruhn an Honorary Lifetime Membership in the Club. We are extremely proud to have him as a Club member, and fortunate to be an institution he has chosen to give his free time to. On behalf of past, present, and future club members: thank you, Steve.

-The MCA Board

I've been friends with Steve since I moved to Anchorage in 1990, where we met through common MCA friends. Since then, we've shared many hiking, climbing, orienteering and caribou hunting adventures together. The MCA and the Alaska mountaineering community is fortunate to have had Steve at the helm of *the Scree* for 104 issues. He ushered us into the digital age with high quality and diverse content, along with the ability to include wonderful images.

Steve also acts as the unofficial de facto Alaska mountaineering historian, maintaining a database of every peak in Alaska, and all known early ascents of all Alaska peaks. If there's a question about Alaskan mountaineering history, Steve will know the answer.

Steve has also served as MCA President, Vice President and Treasurer over the years. We are fortunate to have had Steve's dedication and service to the MCA over the last 30 years. There is no better recipient for an honorary lifetime membership than Steve. My hat is off to you, my friend.

- Dave Hart



Photo by Dave Hart

Steve has been a leader and good influence upon the club for decades, [...] a keeper of records who researched peaks and climbs in the tradition of Vin Hoeman, Greg Higgins and Willy Hersman before him.

He kept an amazing list of mountains in his head: 200 mountains around South Central AK being an example. We used to play games on blizzard days in the tent (we had plenty of them on two Denali climbs). If I said 5426' or 1654m, he could say that it was a point (not peak) on the ridge northwest of Eagle Peak that Richard Baranow called Hermann Buhl.

His contributions as leader of the geographic names committee and Scree editor are well known. When we had active hiking and nontechnical climbing activities scheduled, Steve was very active, sometimes to help him research and climb "new" peaks such as 5050 near Summit Lake (where he waited for me!).

We worked together for most of 1999 to put current mountain names on the Imus Geographics map. We also tried to keep consistent with Vin's name themes such as The Beak [near Bird Ridge] or native terms such as Esbay ('Goat') Peak when we did a summit we thought was new. I can't name the total "first" ascents he did, but he was persistent about getting all state high points and Chugach peaks.

In the 1990s I worried about him wearing running gear venturing onto snow and glaciers or if he could hold me if I fell. He got training and gear. By the 2000s he was twice on Denali with me when I stepped into crevasses.

Finally, since I am known to enjoy puns on a regular basis, Steve was able to survive weeks in a tent with me because he was brilliant at puns and sometimes left me trying to keep up!

- Tom Choate

New QR Code

The state of Alaska has more wilderness and mountains than a single human can explore in a lifetime. Some of it is unnamed, some of it has multiple names among different communities such as mountaineers, hunters, and skiers. That's wonderful for a mountaineering club, but a challenge for a mountaineering club newsletter! Here's a strong contender for the single most common question asked by Scree readers over the years:

"That report sounds really cool, but where the heck is it?"

We hear you, and the editors don't always know either! *The Scree* is attempting to add location data to our articles going forward. The criteria for a system are:

- **Durable** – Location data has to come in a form which can be used in fifty or a hundred years. Latitude and longitude are durable. Specific websites are not.
- **Accessible** – A reader should be able to look up a place they read about without installing additional software. Not having to manually type coordinates in is more convenient too.
- **Meaningful** in both digital and printed form.

With that in mind, we propose the following system to allow readers to quickly check out the peak or general location of each article or trip report:

63.069,-151.007 (WGS 84)



- Printed coordinates in a text format which can be copied and pasted.
- A QR code linked to 'geo: [coordinates]' which should bring up in the default mapping program on a reader's smartphone.
- The QR code image is also hyperlinked to the free Caltopo mapping website.

As of 2017 QR code readers are standard on most smartphones, but it's a bit of a gamble on whether they'll be used even ten years from now. If you're reading this in 2052 and have no idea what a QR code is, then our prediction was wrong but at least we tried! Likewise, Caltopo or any other mapping website will almost certainly be out of business a lifetime from now but current convenience is a tradeoff for the lack of durability. Hyperlinks could also be edited in the future, and the hyperlink itself states the coordinates and zoom level.

Aside from those issues, one major problem with this system is that it effectively shows a single location, but is not good for mapping multiple points or routes. It could also be possible to embed simple GPS files such as .kml or .gpx files into the .pdf document. This would allow more complex routes and multiple points to be shown but would require reader to have specific software, authors and editors to spend more preparation time, while increasing filesize and not preserving the information if the document was printed.

Anyway, try it out! Type, scan, click, or copy this data. See what you think. Any other ideas or feedback?

Let us know at MCAScree@gmail.com.

Cody Townsend Teaser

Text and transcription by Gerrit Verbeek



Cody Townsend on his latest project, The Fifty.

On May 31st, 2020, Cody Townsend got on the phone with Gerrit Verbeek to discuss his project: becoming the first person to ski all fifty classic ski lines in 50 Classic Ski Descents of North America (Davenport, Newhard, Burrows, 2010). The catch: Cody plans to ski each mountain with a human-powered ascent, a significant departure after a career in free-skiing with helicopters and chairlifts. This is just a teaser for a full interview transcription coming soon. Currently 27 peaks in, Cody has tackled some lines in the Chugach Mountains, grappled with COVID-19 and a grueling schedule, and has skied hard or backed off as conditions allowed. Follow along with Cody's progress at www.skithefifty.com, or follow his video series at <https://www.youtube.com/user/hucknorris83>.

On the Genesis of the Fifty, and Cody's Movie 'Conquering the Useless' (2015)

"[It was] my first foray into this world and essentially I spent 10 years filming your typical MSP/TGR [Matchstick Productions and Teton Gravity Research] ski movies and I had reached what I thought was kind of my pinnacle in that avenue of sport. I was noticing that I was starting to lose the passion, lose the drive, and was only getting up for some of the most dangerous lines and some of the gnarliest stuff. You know, there's the context of a lot of friends that have died doing this sport, the context of being like 'if you're not super passionate about this you're probably gonna hurt yourself or you're just gonna get slowly worse at it. You're gonna be robotic, you're gonna be mailing it in and getting shots for a ski movie but not enjoying it.'

"I don't want this job as a professional skier to ever burn me out on skiing. I've seen a lot of people that happened to. I want to make sure I'm always doing this for the right reasons, which is because I want to do it. And so that first year I told Matchstick Productions, a longtime film company that I was filming with, that I would stop filming with them. Not for any other reason than I just needed a change. I knew there was something else out there.

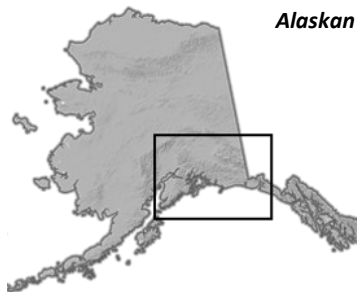
"I was really inspired by my buddy Dave Treadway and this movie he made called 'Let's Go Get Small' where they did this huge 150-mile snowmobile ride in to a remote mountain range and then hiked and climbed all these rad peaks in central B.C. [British Columbia], north of Pemberton by a couple hundred miles. I thought it was so amazing, and thought I wanted to do something like that.

"So I enlisted Dave and Chris Rubens. That was the first time I really climbed anything steep, did exploration, didn't have guides there. That first year in general, 2015, when I made that movie was the first year I went to Svalbard, where I actually met Bjarne [Salen, cinematographer for The Fifty], first time I winter camped, first time I put on crampons, first time I put an ice axe in my hand, all of the above.

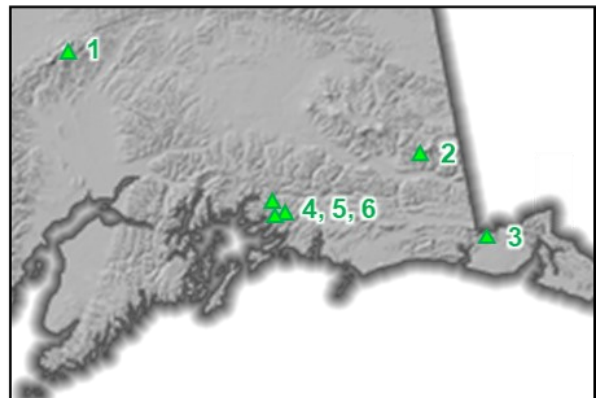
"So 2015 was this real testing to see if this was my future. Testing to see if it was something I liked. And I did like it. It kind of bit me. [The Fifty] came directly out of that project. I want to do more exploratory, and I want to do more human powered."

"My favorite mountains in the world stretch from my home in California, the Sierra [Nevada], all the way up the west coast to Alaska. It's not one continuous mountain range, but it almost kind of is, and if I had to spend the rest of my life skiing nothing else than those mountains I'd be perfectly happy."

Fifty Classic Ski Descents of North America Alaskan Peaks

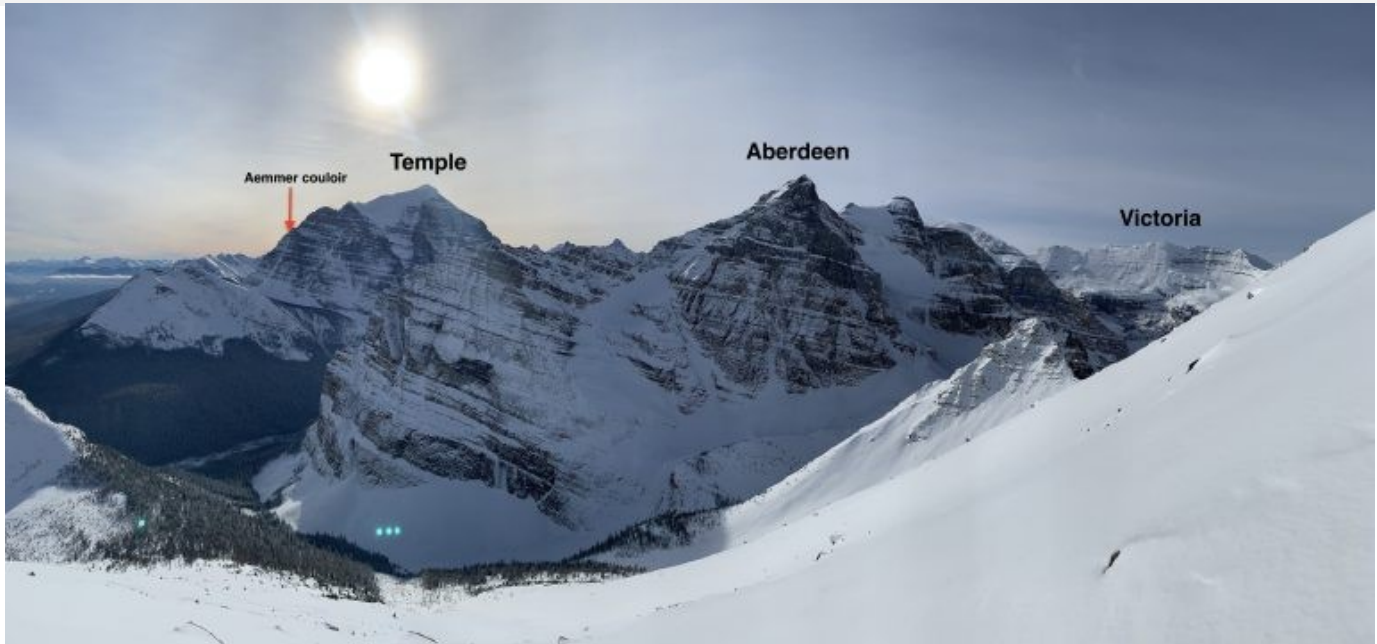


- (1) Denali, Messner Couloir
- (2) University Peak, South Face
- (3) Mount Saint Elias, Mira Face
- (4) Meteorite Mountain, 'The Ramp'
- (5) Pontoon Peak, Southeast Ridge
- (6) The Sphinx, Southeast Ridge



Temple of Randoism: Mount Temple (3540 meters [11614 feet]), Canadian Rocky Mountains

Text and photos by Mat Brunton



View from the top of Fairview Mountain.

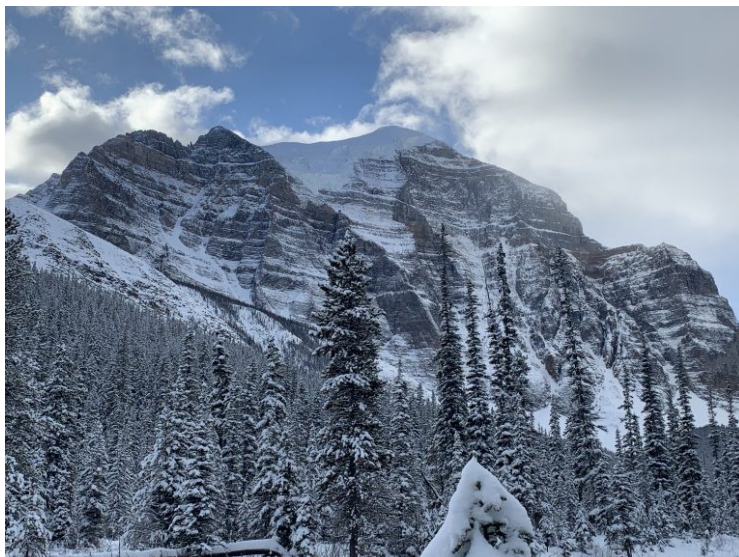
The Temple of Randoism: Daytripping the Aemmer and Cobra Couloirs

During the early part of my three-month road trip to explore the terrain, snowpacks, and avalanche information programs of Canada, Montana, Wyoming, and Utah, I was blessed with the conditions and beta to climb and ski one of the “Fifty Classic Ski Descents of North America” and another adjacent couloir (that’s just as good) as a mid-November daytrip.

On November 12, 2019, I climbed Fairview Mountain above Lake Louise and skied the south face. From the bottom of this descent, I headed up toward the Aberdeen Glacier and turned off to Surprise Pass. Apparently, the Surprise Pass loop circumnavigation of Fairview is a classic Canadian Rockies ski tour. I can’t argue with that. The 700-meter descent to the Plain of the Six Glaciers (which drains into Lake Louise) from the top of the pass was a long run for mid-November, and it was full of the most blower powder I’d ever skied. I then headed up toward Popes Peak for a long run above the teahouse, and

then toured back along the lake to the Lake Louise hotel parking lot.

That gave me a good feel for the snowpack on a variety of aspects, in a few different drainages, and on several aspects. The next day I met up with Canadian Rockies guru and guidebook author Marcus Baranow. With his beta, stable weather, and my assessment of conditions, I went for a tour to check out the Mount Temple area via the Paradise Valley Trail and Lake Annette. I figured I’d have a look at the fabled Aemmer Couloir and, with Marcus’ beta, also check out the less-publicized Cobra Couloir if time allowed.



Mount Temple from the Paradise Valley Trail.

Albeit with a thin approach through the forest and into the alpine, things were lining up: no red flags of instability, encouraging early-season snow-pit test results, and enough coverage with great surface conditions. The nice thing about these two couloirs is that their bases are alpine ice. That means they can be skied with far less snow than a couloir with scree as its base. It also means less faceting, due to a more benign temperature gradient within the early season

snowpack. It seemed the timing was just right. The couloirs had enough snow to be skied, with the finest of über-dry Canadian Rockies powder for surface conditions, but did not yet have enough snow to make for the typically dangerous early-season conditions.

I went up the Aemmer Couloir first. Along the way, I couldn't figure out the sketchiness Marcus had discussed that makes this line so notorious. Something about if you fall or get flushed, you're getting washed over cliffs down to the Temple Lake drainage. It wasn't until I was off the apron, into the couloir, and looking down the line that I realized what he was talking about. Indeed, the fall line spills partially down the apron on skier's left and dangerously down the skier's right over an initial rock band and then over many meters of cliffs to Temple Lake. A fall or flush would be unsurvivable – hence the pucker factor of the classic Aemmer Couloir.

While conditions seemed good, and I made my way up the line now concretely aware of its consequences, I forced myself to stop a hundred or so feet from the top due to the presence of wind slab. This wind slab would slow my progress as it would be punchy and difficult to boot through, was potentially avalanche-prone, and would not ski well. I was satisfied to stop and content with getting to ski 90% of the line in blower November pow. Plus, I'd have even more time to ensure I got to check out the Cobra Couloir that Marcus spoke so highly about.

From the descent of the Aemmer, I wrapped around to the east along the steep base of Mount Temple to the obvious snow-filled, north-facing deep gouge that is the Cobra Couloir. As opposed to the Aemmer, the pucker factor with the Cobra was the apron; it's several hundred feet of big avalanche terrain. Stability assessment was encouraging, so I proceeded up. Reaching the ribbon of snow that snaked up the high rock walls that formed this very aesthetic and deeply walled-in couloir, I was comforted by the snow conditions, given how sheltered the line was from wind-slab development.

I went up, up, and up. The line looked much shorter from the bottom. Like the so-called "Alaska factor" of terrain in the Greatland, the hugeness of Mount Temple made this couloir seem smaller than it really was. After a long descent through perfect snow, I then made the slog back to the Lake Louise parking area. A proper Canadian finish to celebrate the day was in order: poutine and Canadian microbrew!

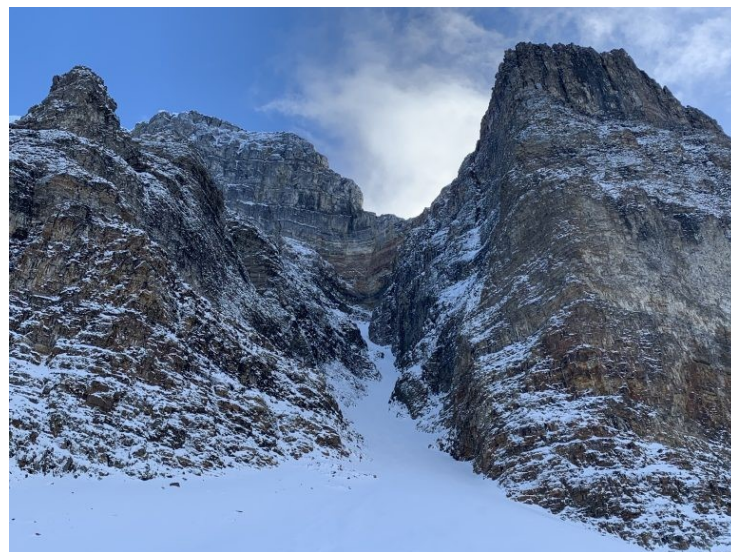


[Ed. note: To view Brunton's video of his Mount Temple trip, visit <https://anchorageavalanchecenter.org/trip-reports/canada/alberta-rockies/aemmer-cobra-couloirs/>.]

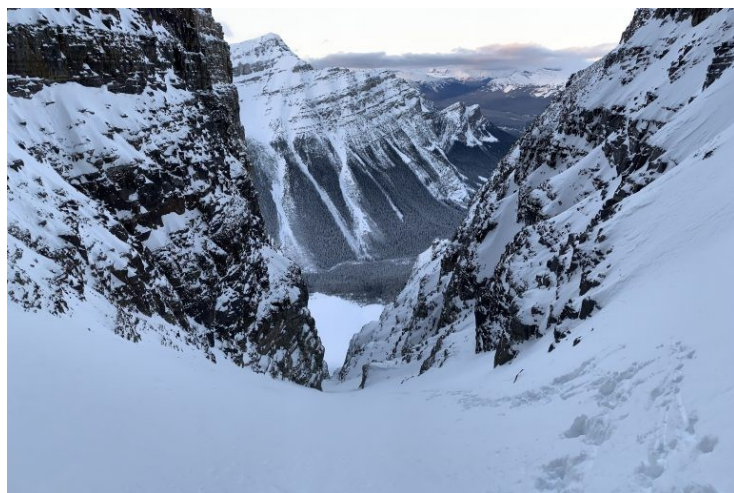
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A friendly Canadian ski tourer descending north from Surprise Pass



Looking up at the Cobra Couloir.



Looking down the Cobra Couloir.

Primrose Mountain (4732 feet), Peak 4450, Crucifixion (5495 feet), and Betrayal Peak (5075 feet), Kenai Mountains

Text by Wayne Todd

With Carrie Wang

Mid-June, 2020, about 29 miles and 11,000 feet of elevation gain



Looking east from Crucifixion. Photo by Wayne Todd

*I've looked at Ascension from both sides now
From up and down and still somehow
It's mountains illusions I recall
I have (mostly) just good memories of all.
[Joni Mitchell, modified].*

What do you get when you decide and pack for a trip the morning of? A quarter to one, afternoon start on the Lost Lake Trail from the Primrose Campground.

This is truly a lovely trail, gradually meandering higher first through tall spruce and then hemlock forests, then thinning out to alpine with views of Mount Ascension (5710 feet) and Primrose Mountain (4732 feet), the latter being our first objective. Just shy of "The Lake," not "The Shire," we bank hard right off the trail. This is fairly obvious as otherwise, you'll have a serious elevation drop into Primrose Creek, and regain, all in serious brush. The creeks in this area tend to create serious gorges. I'm curious if from the pure onslaught of time or due to the geology.

The direct east ridge of Primrose looks rather steep, but after some vacillation we determine it's acceptable for summer 'ascension' (definitely avy terrain for winter). We're both moving sluggishly despite our fairly light three-day packs, perhaps needing a 'reboot.'

At snow level we encounter fresh boot tracks. I note Martin Lake is indeed 'going both ways'*. Later in summer I think it only flows toward Lost Lake. The tracks end halfway up the snow.

Primrose is a double humper. We're headed west anyway so 15 minutes later we're on bump number two. From here we have excellent views of our next day's peak objectives. We'd seen these previously from an ascent with Steve Gruhn of Peak 4613. This route looks much more palatable. Ascension is prevalent to the south. And if we actually look behind us there are stupendous views of the very rugged peaks over yonder east of Seward. I hope to get up Mount Eva sometime, and...

We take advantage of the copious snow for descent. All this snow creates nearly endless water sources. Many craters mark one area. Inspection reveals two-foot-deep ptarmigan pellet holes. This must be quite the popular winter hangout. Lower we balance a tent site with parameters of easy exodus, nearby water, easy access for the



*Mount Ascension from Martin Lake.
Photo by Wayne Todd*

western religious peaks, good evening light, reasonably level and mostly out of the wind as we have a very light (i.e., not very wind-worthy) tent. We settle into a spot at about 2500 feet adjacent to a stream.

Amazingly, in addition to ravishing peak views, with summer dotted blooming flowers, the biting insects

are scarce, and the evening sun rays are pleasant.

We're moving before 8 in the morning, though we did not sleep well (do others not sleep well the first night out in pristine wilderness?). We've seen few ground animals this trip, which is fine as I don't want a bear encounter. Speaking of, I brought an Ursack, but with no place to hang or bury it, it's not useful, at all. We carry all our food on this day, but not the sack.

Backviewing to the base of Peak 4450, a dozen white dots sprinkle a lake which is not on the map. They are makelake swans. A couple hours after camp we're on the numerous summit ridge bumps, trying to orient as to what all we're viewing. The semi-cloudy day is great for temperature moderation, but a squall-looking cloud hangs over Mordor (Mount Ascension to some).

En route for Crucifixion (Peak 5495), but hopefully not a Crucifixion, I easily get distracted by the myriad blooming alpine flowers. A mid-saddle ridge connects these two peaks with only a 1,000-foot drop before the 2,000-foot hike up. Despite the prevalent soft snow we're able to work a mostly snow-free ridgelette. The comfortably steep terrain visibly steepens again where vegetated ground is preferred, secure and dry. This levels to a bench with complementary dead bird (perhaps the Crucifixion theme?), before steepening again to the top.

A couple hours after departing 4450 we're on the semi-snow-covered Crucifixion under bluer skies. Our views are better, from here because higher is always better, right? In addition to the myriad Kenai peaks, we see Lost, Martin, Cooper and Kenai Lakes as well as Resurrection Bay.

After a long summit stay with different ideas of how to proceed, we hike southeast down the ridge looking for an easy snow slide to the south valley. This doesn't present for half a mile and then, whoopee, fast, huge, easy-on-the-knees-and-muscles steps. Now it's really sunny, and hot. Luckily our ascent, first on talus then wet snow, is parallel to

the sun's rays. Carrie makes fine kick steps and I make fine decisions of not asking 'why did you go that way?' This is a two-fer-hours day, jumping ahead a bit, but two hours to first peak, two hours to second peak, two hours to third peak, and two hours back to camp.



*Wayne Todd ascending Primrose Mountain.
Photo by Carrie Wang*

ance to hold the Alaska flag with Alaska Wilderness Studies and MCA patches. He sees his shadow so...

Now we take full advantage of the bounteous snow with more grandiose steps. A slip and I find myself butt glissading, even faster and not as wet as expected. The valley bottom is still solid snow with just small pockets of openings with running water. As we veer around the base of 5495, the terrain just south of the exiting creek looks almost manicured and suited for golfing/croquet/bocce with a serious 'trap' just beyond of serious-looking brush, which leads to Peak 4613.



*Carrie Wang ascending Primrose Mountain.
Photo by Wayne Todd*

On Betrayal Peak (Peak 5075), the background music becomes ominous (not really). These views are even better because of the divergent terrain. We see all the way to the bottom of Resurrection Valley including the river with copious verdant terrain, to Skilak Lake and up to the Harding Icefield, and think we spot McCarty Peak, visited just a month prior, a slightly different view of Ascension and all those rugged coastal peaks. This summit is so nice Gumby (who's making a serious comeback), briefly makes an appear-

The prevalent bird for the trip is willow ptarmigan. We startle dozens or perhaps dozens startle us. I love those little chortling mocking-the-human birds every time I almost yell when they burst from small brush hideouts.

By six we make camp and decide, dang, it's a bit too late to move camp so we spend another night in near ideal wilderness. I even venture on a close-by barefoot macro-photography outing, which includes numerous lupine foreground, Ascension background shots of which there are likely tens of thousands floating

around. Just above the creek to the west, an artfully blended scene of snow strokes dapples the effervescent greenery.

We're up early and the temps seem a bit chillier than previous. Impatience for direct sun waiting makes for tent-fly torture (whipping back and forth to flip off moisture). By 6:30 we're arcing around the corner for Martin Lake. The snow is oddly very hard, unlike previous days. A small pool reveals a skim of ice, Ah ha. If it had been this cold the previous two nights we would have needed our crampons, and axe and Whippet.

I'm intrigued by the dual outflow of Martin Lake so walk the shoreline, and take even more pictures of Ascension. If anyone wants pictures from the north or northwest side, let me know as I have a LOT! There are many great potential camping sites here, but you would not get morning or evening light. Off trail we'd only seen one non-natural item until a red can is spotted. A crushed plastic five-gallon gas can. How does that get left here? Falls off, avalanche? We deem it too large to carry out until I mention a certain Cory Hinds would carry it out, so Carrie straps it on her pack.

The steady headwind keeps any bugs away, and clothes on, but soon we're beyond Lost Lake and intersecting the Lost Lake Trail, easier than expected. We pass only one hiking group, unlike our ingress when we encountered numerous hiking and biking groups. At the Lost Lake Trail intersection we note a fresh cordoned sign of aggressive sow and cubs. From this morning, that is fresh.

We make it out in five hours with our largest sighting being a marmot and next largest, baby squirrels.

*In correspondence with Harold Faust of Seward, he believes Martin Lake only drains to the east, toward Lost Lake. This is based upon observations from around the lake. My views were only from up high and from mid-way down Martin Lake. Someone can check the flow to the east sometime at very high water levels such as during prolonged rains or peak spring snow melt. Numerous creeks feed Martin Creek just west of the lake.



Wayne Todd at Martin Lake
with Mount Ascension's north
side as the backdrop.
Photo by Wayne Todd



Carrie Wang ascending Betrayal Peak.
Photo by Wayne Todd



Wayne Todd on Betrayal Peak holding Alaska flag with Alaska Wilderness Studies and MCA patches with Primrose Mountain and Mount Ascension in the background.
Photo by Carrie Wang



60.259, -149.499

Bellicose Peak (7640 feet), Western Chugach Mountains

Text and photos by Gerrit Verbeek

With Billy Finley and Eric Parsons



Eric Parsons with the summit in sight.

"And they were sore afraid." That phrase has stuck with me far longer than any religious sentiment, mostly popping into my head while committing bodyweight to exposed Chugach holds amid kitty litter choss. Afraid of getting my ass kicked, as King James might have expressed it to those who called him Jim. That fear was looming when Billy Finley and I agreed to go for Bellicose Peak (7640 feet) together on a midweek weather window from July 1st through 3rd.

But when facing trials and tribulations, even a heathen like me can appreciate a parson's company. Eric Parsons, specifically, a man of the 210 Denier Ripstop cloth. This would be his fourth Bellicose trip, and when Billy texted me two days beforehand that Eric was joining it felt like any doubts had vanished and the trip was in the bag already.

Bellicose was first climbed and named by the Bousman brothers, John and Billy, on August 21, 1963. They named following the established 'B' alliteration in the area, picking the name Bellicose "due to its not positively belligerent attitude but its definitely surly and unpleasant disposition" (-John Bousman, *the Scree*, October 1963). Those hardmen summited by climbing the south ridge from the West Branch of the Eklutna Glacier (and then continued a full glacier traverse to Girdwood). Our

plan was to climb to the Bellicose/Benign col via Chockstone Gully near Serenity Falls, descend from the col onto The Shroud (the hanging glacier on the west face of the north ridge), and follow the snow to the summit.

Bellicose remains as surly as ever, but the trek went smoothly. We set out from the Eklutna Lake Trailhead at about 10:30 a.m. and were pitching tents at a beautiful camp on the bench east of the col by late afternoon. We had discussed climbing the south summit of Benign Peak that evening, but decided to keep our powder dry. Instead, Eric blazed up a snow-laden gully to survey a 4400' plateau above our camp (61.258, -148.999) and we spent a leisurely evening discussing gear, books, and trips.

The next morning we were moving at 6:30 a.m. to avoid the heat, but a combination of ample breaks and terrain that demanded attention put us on the summit at 2 p.m. Eric and Billy deserve the most credit for leading the tricky sections - it's easy for me to follow when others are willing to take the sharp end! On the summit Bellicose becomes Bellissimo, with a comfortable, flat peak and astounding views in every direction. We took about 40 minutes to soak in the views, and another 6 hours to soak in the meltwater from the softened snow while descending back to camp. Our party of three had to cross The Shroud's

bergschrund on the way up and the way down, and Eric learned the hard way on the last crossing that the snow bridge was only good for five trips! He got himself out in no time, and we continued the trek. Once down, we opted to stay another night rather than push hard to get out that day. That paid dividends in the form of ice cream for breakfast from Rochelle's Ice Cream Shop on the way out, and allowing us to cross paths with

the next crew headed in (Cody Klingman, Martin Bril and Nate Bannish). Gotta admit, their astonishment and the satisfaction of clinching first tracks made the ice cream that much sweeter! We dropped off Eric at his doorstep ready to attend a friend's wedding just a few hours later, which he found fitting and fun because the friend is a climber, too. Congratulations, Dusty!



Eric Parsons surveying The Shroud.



Eric Parsons and Billy Finley peaked out!



61.241, -149.0341

Birding: Bird Peak (5505 feet), Western Chugach Mountains

Text by Wayne Todd

Tom Choate firmly holds his axe, then seemingly disappears along with James Larabee down the west face off the ridge. It's May of 1994 and just an hour previously I had my first encounter with Mr. Choate. A day previous, I'd joined an MCA trip led by James Larabee for an ascent of Bird Peak. That was also my first meeting of James, but we all three went on many a mountain venture after that day.

Twenty-six years later, Meg Inokuma is psyched to climb Bird Peak and I'm up for a redux, so we bike from the Bird Valley Trailhead, which is the standard for a climb of Bird Peak (not to be confused with Bird Ridge, which is five miles away). The route is easy as you take every major right turn and there's even a good bridge over Penguin Creek.

Despite the forecast, the weather is dismal: gray, misty and the foliage is dripping. If someone had suggested postponing for better weather, I'd have been all in. We stash our bikes earlier than for Nest Peak, but realize we could have biked another mile.

At the all-terrain vehicle cul-de-sac, Meg leads up the foot trail for Nest Peak and is soon quite soaked from the waist down. I'm almost as wet, and this despite both of us verbalizing "we should put rain pants on." After branching off the trail to the right (east) and enjoying a couple full-body alder forest warm-ups, we swap out to rain pants as it's looking like a prolonged wet day. She can already wring water out of her socks, magic.

A few hours later after much traversing, and a wee bit of unnecessary elevation gain, we're approaching the south ridge of Bird Peak and a small blue hole opens above. Clouds still cling to the right side of ridges below Penguin Ridge, rather picturesque. By the time we're brush free on Bird Peak ridge, the weather looks very promising and we swap back to wet pants for air drying. The views open up more and more. HEY, I think, the weather is NOT going to suck today. Penguin Valley looks exceptionally verdant and I



Meg Inokuma on the southwest ridge of Bird Peak.

Photo by Wayne Todd

can't imagine any good travel through it, summer or winter. A gray-crowned rosy finch lands nearby. An eagle soars high above. This is Bird Peak after all.

I remember a really good trail on the east side of the ridge and while there is a decent trail, it's not quite up to my faulty memory's standards. Along the ridge I keep peering off the west side to eighty-degree cliffs and similarly steep gullies. Where did James and Tom go off? Perhaps I'm remembering wrong, quite possible, and they dropped off much lower. We take numerous photos, and snack breaks, very much appreciating this glorious weather, especially after this morning's wet start. After the major ridge bump (4840') and just before the ridge ascends again, AHA! A snow gully leads all the way to the ridge from the valley below. I believe a mystery is solved.

We have fantabulous views all around from the top. The entire Penguin Ridge, lower by a bit, is marked at both ends by the water in Turnagain Arm. Is that really Esbay Peak down there, and Rubbletop Mountain to the



Meg Inokuma ascending the southwest ridge of Bird Peak.

Photo by Wayne Todd

right of that? Numerous curved and circular graveled formations exude from valleys below, created by receding glaciers. The Western Chugach peaks to the northeast play a bit of peek-a-boo. After many pictures, snacks, InReach messages and text messages (really, there's good cell coverage up here?), an hour later we head down, but as it's 4:30 p.m. and it took almost 8 hours to get up, ooohh, could be a midnight exodus.

At the snow gully, I toss a rock and the snow responds appropriately, 6" of wet snow sloughing off. I toss another to confirm. Yes! Meg is game, so we Kahtoola and axe up for a steady plunge-step descent. One corner is rather steep with a rock fall line, which negates glissading. After that, one could, though. At the bottom of the snow field an impressively steep and rugged couloir now looms above, with appropriate rockfall (not a place for camping). Twenty-six-year-old mystery solved (without DNA) and that saved us and will save a lot of time. A couple goats with kids prance around above on non-human-friendly terrain.

A threatening squall leads us out of the valley, but never drips on us. The moraine segues to alpine with many a gorgeous blooming flower. We angle down and right, avoiding all the brush in the last valley west of Bird Peak ridge, and just drop below any encountered brush. We mostly use this method and check our elevation occasionally, but less than four hours after leaving the top (even with more photo breaks) we intersect the Nest Peak trail just above the cul-de-sac. This is a great route and if the snow gully holds could possibly knock a couple hours off the standard ingress time.

Soon we're flying down the trail via les bicyclettes and arrive at the parking lot at exactly 9:00 p.m.

With Meg Inokuma. This was her 60th Chugach State Park peak. She climbed another one the next day. I rested. June 20, 2020. That's a lot of '20s.'

7 1/2 hours in, 4 1/2 out. A fit group following the egress route without photo ops could probably do this in 10 hours. A small plastic figurine on top is in need of a register, and writing utensil.

Meg ran her track through different programs with rather varying results:

			Distance (mi)	Elevation (ft)	moving time	bike dist	dist on foot
Bird	6/20/20	Gaia	13.5	5813	9hr 3min	4.6 mi	8.9 mi
		Garmin BaseCamp	14.3	7136		4.6 mi	9.7 mi
		Google Earth	13.6	6712			
		CalTopo	14.3	6300			



Wayne Todd and Meg Inokuma on Bird Peak.
Photo by Wayne Todd



Wayne Todd on Bird Peak with Alaska flag.
Photo by Meg Inokuma



Wayne Todd on Bird Peak with Penguin Ridge as the backdrop.
Photo by Meg Inokuma



61.002 -149.288

Peak 4610, Kenai Mountains

Text by Dan Glatz

May 9, 2020

60.545, -149.704



When you're a Kasilof resident like Martin Bril is, your weekly routine consists of dangling Kenai Peninsula hiking objectives to all of your partners who live in Anchorage and beyond hoping that one will take the bait and make the drive down. This particular week he suggested the idea of 'shwhacking up to Russian Gap and climbing Peak 4610. Since it was still early season and there was minimal growth, Cody Klingman and I took the bait and made the drive to Cooper Landing.

We parked at the end of Russian Gap Road and began picking our way through pine forests and occasionally following game trails. As we began the ascent up to Russian Gap we were shocked to come across a well-used trail, which delivered us up into the gap with no bushwhacking. From the gap we followed

the ridge north on variable snow until we reached the summit, which offered fine panoramic views from the Devils Pass peaks to Cooper Landing.

To the northwest of the summit, we noticed a bump that appeared to be very close in elevation to our summit. Satisfied with our day, we elected not to continue and made our way down the new trail we had discovered. At one point we encountered a local family who seemed quite surprised to see other people. After all the recent attention that social media has brought to Slaughter Ridge and Cecil Rhode Mountain, it seemed that we had stumbled upon one of their remaining "local secret" trails. For their sake I hope it stays that way.

West Twin Peak (5472 feet), Western Chugach Mountains

Text by Wayne Todd

May 25th, 7 hours, with Carrie Wang and Cory Hinds

61.442, -149.159



In 1995, I first climbed West Twin Peak with Gary Runa*. Back then I carried a large SLR camera but took few pictures, and not very good ones either.

In 2003, I climbed it again with Dave Hart, as a filler peak after a gear snafu. Oddly, I think that was one of the rare times I didn't take a camera. An annoying brief phase of minimalism.

So by 2020 I'm keen to hike it again for some more current views and decent pictures. Cory Hinds and Carrie Wang are onboard, but as the forecast is so bad, we postpone a day for the better prediction. The forecast this morning jumps from a 20% chance of precipitation to 50%, but I dismiss it.

The elevation and miles ease by as we chat with long-term buddy Cory. Before we've even left the main trail it starts to drizzle, surely just a passing squall. The old rain jacket I'd tossed in is wetted out in 10 minutes, so I resort to my waterproof light parka. So comfy and dry but oh so warm for ascending. I've brought my best – biggest, anyway – camera to maximize the photo potential.

Beyond the main trail and East Twin Peak trail, I don't remember either previous route so Cory and Carrie interpret my 'misleadings.' We mostly skirt the brush and small trees, traversing to the base slope of West Twin. At the main gully, we find a

reasonable descent and ascent route.

As we work our way up the southeast ridge, the drizzle segues to snow and the visibility squeezes to an opti'mist'ic 50 yards. The stiff mountaineering boots and Whippets were a good call, but we're hoping to avoid crampons on the already slick, but slight snow-gathering terrain. The upper elevation seems a bit long with the limited views, but soon we're on the top ridge, with more dense clouds. A quick snack and we're off, the scree slope to the east looks inviting, so we make great time descending, though not sure of the exit. With some careful mud-slime descending, we cross the snow-covered creek, up a short mud scree slope (luckily we're sure footed and no one takes an embarrassing mud slide) and we're set for an easy alpine traverse to intersect the East Twin trail. I suspect this is now the standard route for West Twin.

Back on the main trail, we encounter numerous people out for a holiday hike.

The drizzle and snow never stopped, so I took just a few pictures, partly because the views were so limited and partly because I didn't want my camera to get wet. Do I need to do a fourth to get some good pictures?

*Sadly, Gary passed away from cancer in 2016.

Peaks 4610 and 4620, Kenai Mountains

Text by Steve Gruhn; photos by Dave Hart



*Steve Gruhn glissading down ridge toward Russian Gap.
Photo looks to the southeast.*

In 2009 I learned that Harold Faust and Dano Michaud had climbed Peak 4422 from Russian Gap in the Kenai Mountains. I filed that tidbit away in my memory banks for a few years, thinking that at some point I might possibly attempt the summit. Then on October 1, 2017, Charlie Sink, Kathy Still, and I climbed Peak 4422 from the Slaughter Ridge Trail. Looking northeast across Russian Gap from Peak 4422, I saw two higher peaks that instantly intrigued me. I quickly added them to my ever-growing list of peaks I wanted to climb. On June 15, 2019, Renee Ernster, Dave Hart, and I climbed Washington Peak (4810 feet) from the Devils Creek Trail. I looked to the southeast longingly at the two peaks on my to-do list, but time constraints didn't permit an attempt that day.

In mid-May this year Dave Hart and I finally started planning to reach Russian Gap and the two 4600-foot peaks I had seen in 2017. We had heard of Martin Bril's, Dan Glatz', and Cody Klingman's ascent of the peak north of Russian Gap earlier that month. When Dave told Dan of our plans, Dan had suggested that we might have less of a bushwhack if we parked near the intersection of Russian Gap Road and the Sterling Highway instead of starting our hike from the other end of Russian Gap Road.

On the afternoon of May 20, Dave and I drove separately due to the COVID-19 pandemic and parked our vehicles near the intersection of Russian Gap Road and the Sterling Highway. We hiked up a gated logging road that led northward. After about a half hour we had gained perhaps 500 feet and were below Russian Gap. A foot trail led north as the road continued northeast. The foot trail was easy to follow and ended just below 2550-foot Russian Gap. We hiked to the gap and continued northward, ascending to a 4400-foot point where the ridge flattened out. No longer angled to catch the sun's rays, deep isothermal snow greeted us on the ridge crest. We made the slog to the first peak, Dave in front, me wallowing behind.

We descended the west ridge of the peak to a 4100-foot saddle and ascended the southeast face of Peak 4620. Dave's GPS unit indicated that Peak 4620 was higher than the first summit, which we began to call Peak 4610. Concerned about a scheduled road closure due to construction on the Seward Highway that night, we hurried off the summit.

Near the summit of Peak 4610, Dave waited for me to catch up to him. I asked him how he was able to handle the isothermal snow so quickly while I wallowed, sinking up to my crotch. "Levitation," he said simply. The return to the 4400-foot point

took even longer because for about a half mile we were hiking uphill through the isothermal snow. Well, I was hiking; Dave was levitating.

Once atop the 4400-foot point on the ridge overlooking Russian Gap, Dave and I glissaded to try to make up some time. At the gap we beat feet down the trail to the road and returned to the vehicles at about 10:15. We had been gone just under eight hours. It had been great to get out and stretch our legs mid-week during the pandemic.

We tried, but we would not make it home before the 11 p.m. Seward Highway closure.



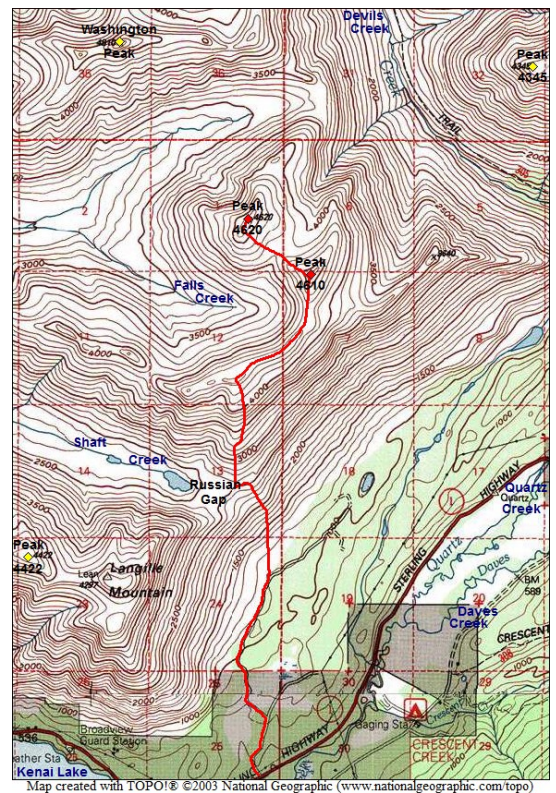
Steve Gruhn on the south ridge of Peak 4610 with parallel glissade tracks at left.



Steve Gruhn glissades down the south ridge of Peak 4610. The 4400-foot point on the ridge is at right.



Steve Gruhn heads toward Russian Gap with Langille Mountain dominating the horizon.



60.551, -149.718

Peak of the Month: Crown Peak, Kenai Mountains

Text by Steve Gruhn

Mountain Range: Kenai Mountains

Borough: Kenai Peninsula Borough

Drainages: Chenega Glacier, Ellsworth Glacier, and Nellie Juan River

Latitude/Longitude: 60° 19' 10" North, 148° 46' 8" West

Elevation: 6050 ± 50 feet

Adjacent Peaks: Peak 5650 in the Nellie Juan River drainage, Peak 5240 in the Nellie Juan River drainage, Peak 5160 in the Chenega Glacier drainage, and Peak 5124 in the Ellsworth Glacier and Nellie Juan River drainages

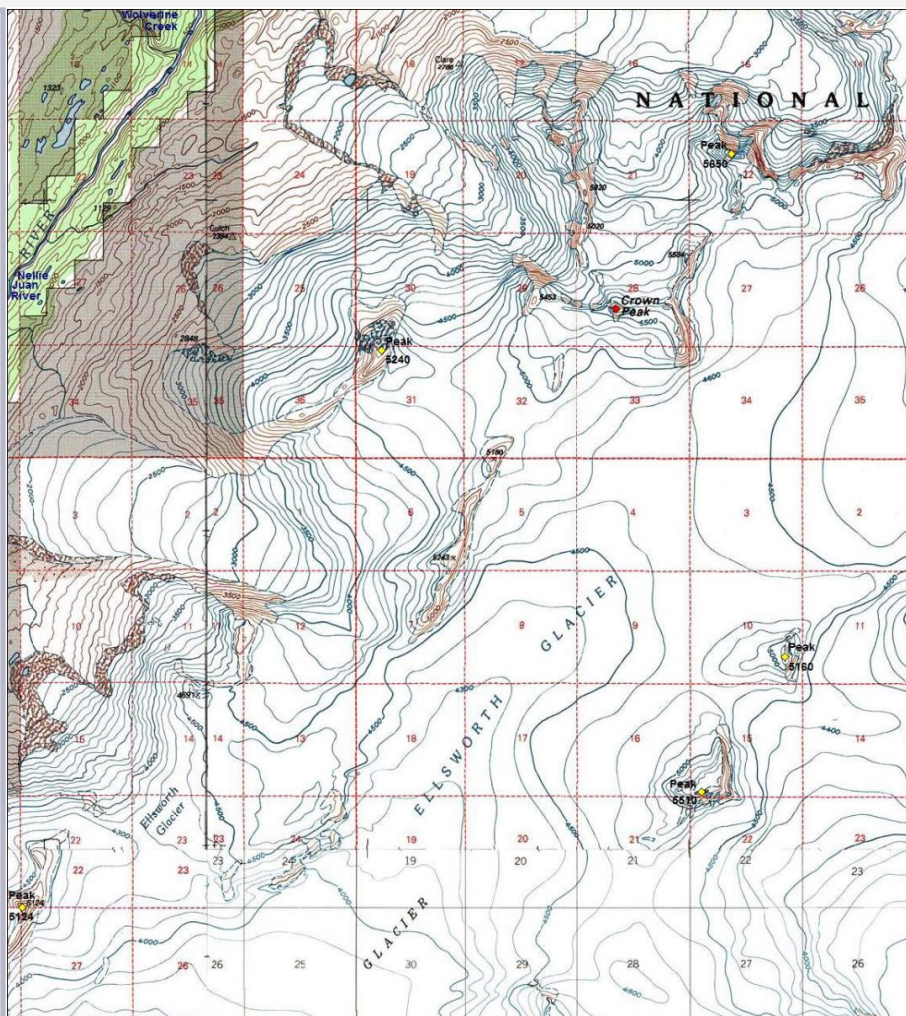
Distinctness: 1100 feet from Peak 5650

Prominence: 1400 feet from either Peak 6024 in the Chenega Glacier and Ellsworth Glacier drainages, Peak 6050 in the Chenega Glacier and Ellsworth Glacier drainages, or Peak 6150 in the Chenega Glacier and Ellsworth Glacier drainages

USGS Maps: 1:63,360: Seward (B-5), 1:25,000: Seward B-5 SW

First Recorded Ascent: Late April 1965 by Jack F. Angel, Gilbert Hansen, Donald G. MacLeod, John Madding, Donald Turcke, and Harry E. "Hans" Wagner

Access Point: Excelsior Glacier



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

With an elevation of over 6000 feet, Crown Peak is, by my calculations, tied for the 27th-highest peak in the Kenai Mountains.

In 1907 a U.S. Coast and Geodetic Survey field party designated the peak as Crown Peak because it was at the crown of the glaciers of the Sargent Icefield. Although Crown Peak is not the highest peak on the Sargent Icefield, it is the highest Sargent Icefield peak visible from the Nellie Juan River, possibly leading to the name designated by the USC&GS party. The name became official when the U.S. Geographic Board approved it on April 3, 1929.

In April and May 1965 a six-man Army Combat Developments Agency expedition from Fort Richardson conducted a south-to-north traverse of the Sargent Icefield with a goal to test mountaineering clothing, equipment, and rations. The team

members included Major Jack Angel, Major Donald G. MacLeod (a Canadian liaison officer), Captain Donald Turcke, Staff Sergeant John Madding, Sergeant Gilbert Hansen, and civilian mountaineering and glacier-travel instructor Hans Wagner. On April 20 the team was flown to the Excelsior Glacier in a Piasecki H-21 helicopter. The team traveled along the western side of the Sargent Icefield to the Falling Glacier, a distance of about 50 miles. En route the team ascended Crown Peak. During their expedition the party encountered a variety of weather conditions, including blizzards, whiteouts, and above-freezing temperatures. One blizzard kept them tent-bound for 45 hours. The team completed the first known traverse of the Sargent Icefield when they were flown from the Falling Glacier on May 1.

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

The information for this column came from the U.S. Geographic

Board's decision card for Crown Peak; from an article titled "Six Army Men Crossing Sergeant Ice Field [sic] Between Seward, Portage on Skis," that appeared on page 8 of the April 24, 1965, *Fairbanks Daily News-Miner*; from an item in the "From Ketchikan to Barrow" column that appeared on page 40 of the September 1965 *Alaska Sportsman*; from J. Vincent Hoeman's article titled "The Kenai Peninsula, Alaska," which appeared on pages 308 through 311 of the 1969 *American Alpine Journal*; and from Hoeman's records archived in the Grace and John Vincent Hoeman papers at the University of Alaska Anchorage/Alaska Pacific University Consortium Library Archives and Special Collections. Celia Rozen, with the Alaska Resources Library & Information Services, assisted in the gathering of historical information.



Jeff Conaway skis from the summit of Peak 5310 above the Chenega Glacier with the northeast aspect of Crown Peak rising on the skyline right of center.

Photo by Chris Flowers



Shad O'Neel in front of the northwest aspect of Crown Peak (at the head of the glacier in the background). O'Neel is carrying a sensing device designed to measure the geochemistry of Wolverine Creek as it emerges from the Wolverine Glacier.

Photo by Joe Yelverton (www.joeyelverton.com)



Louis Sass, Caitlynn Florentine, and Daniel Otto on the Wolverine Glacier with the northwest aspect of Crown Peak in the background at far right.

Photo by Joe Yelverton (www.joeyelverton.com)



Shad O'Neel above the Wolverine Glacier with the northwest aspect of Crown Peak above his head in the distance.

Photo by Joe Yelverton (www.joeyelverton.com)



Joe Yelverton at sunrise in September with Crown Peak to the southeast, rising above the narrow glacier in the center background.

Photo by Joe Yelverton (www.joeyelverton.com)

Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

June 24, 2020, at 6:00-8:00 p.m., conducted online via Zoom

Roll Call

Mike Meyers (President) - Present
Gerrit Verbeek (Vice-President) - Present
Curtis Townsend (Secretary) - Present
Katherine Cooper (Treasurer) - Present
Tom Meacham (Director) - Present
Jonathan Rupp Strong (Director) - Present
Lila Hobbs (Director) - Present
Andy Kubic (Director) - Present
Heather Johnson (Director) - Present
Nathan Pooler (Director) - Present
Visitor: Jayme Mack (discuss Ice Fest this year)

Scribe: Curtis Townsend

Committee Reports

President (Mike Meyers)

- Tent in storage at Andy's house until it is needed.
- Discussed possibility, cost and design requirements of MCA-branded hats and buffs.
- Mike picked up the 8 Hut instructional signs and the laminated Hatcher Pass maps en route to MCA huts.
- Action: Invite Billy Finley and Tim Silvers to a future Board meeting for website discussion.

Secretary (Curtis Townsend)

- BP Energy Center has been reserved through June 2021 for general and board meetings. No general meetings during the summer (June – August).
- Curtis has canceled all meetings at Energy Center until September 2020.

Treasurer (Katherine Cooper)

- REI has received an invoice for calendars.
- Due to lots of help from Brad Nelson and Alpha Aviation it appears we won't have to worry about a budget bump.
- Discussed an MCA Volunteer Thank-You fund.

Liability Committee (Tom Meacham)

- By-Laws discussion.

Awards Committee (Tom Meacham, Charlie Sink, Max Neale)

- Board approved a nomination for an honorary member.

Trips Committee (Needs chair)

- Nathan and Tom created a COVID-19 waiver that gets signed before trips (as well as MCA waiver).
- Summer trips are postponed until further notice pending restrictions being lifted.

Scree—August 2020

- June 19 – Flattop Mountain social: Weather was horrible but Tom Meacham, Bill Barnes, and Matt Nedom were up there.
- July 10 – Rabbit Lake meet-up camping Friday night—canceled due to COVID-19.
- August 7 – Williwaw Lakes meet-up camping Friday night. This is on hold pending COVID-19 restrictions.
- September – MCA Annual Matanuska Glacier Icefest.
- October –
- November –
- December – MCA Annual Christmas Party.

Training Committee

- Recording a trip leader training event to use for future training is in the best interest of the club.

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

- Rosie's Roost re-skin is on schedule for July 4th-12th.
- Hans' Hut and Pichler's Perch have new vents installed.
- New waste barrels dropped off at Hans' and Pichler's, full ones to be removed during Rosie's reskin timeframe.

Mentorship (Lila Hobbs, Katherine Cooper)

- Need someone to take on mentorship coordinator duties (Lila transitions out in September).
- In the process of creating a new Google Form for interested mentors/mentees to fill out to begin the matching process.

Communications Committee (Lila Hobbs)

- Board members' names and terms are up-to-date on the website.
- Been making periodic Huts inventory list updates for Greg.
- Discussed recognizing volunteers in the monthly Scree.

Calendar Committee (Vicky Ho, Lila Hobbs, Heather Johnson, Mike Meyers)

- Committee has formed for this year and discussions have started. Will use Woobox as the platform again.
- We will be accepting submissions July 10th - July 31st. Voting will be August 7-14.
- Aiming to have calendars available by October this year.

Date and Location of next Meeting

- General meetings canceled until September unless we stream the meeting.
- Next Board Meeting on July 29, 2020, from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. via Zoom?

Mountaineering Club of Alaska (MCA) COVID-19 Guidelines and Waiver

These Guidelines and Waiver apply to all

MCA-sponsored trips, events, and other Club activities

1. If I have any symptoms associated with COVID-19 virus including fever, headache, cough, respiratory congestion, body aches and/or chills, I shall not participate in any MCA-sponsored event.
2. If I am cohabitating with any person who has any of the symptoms listed in Paragraph 1 above, or who has been diagnosed with COVID-19, I shall not participate in any MCA-sponsored event.
3. If I have traveled into the State of Alaska from Outside within the 14 days prior to the event, I shall not participate in any MCA-sponsored event.
4. If I have been contacted by a health authority about my recent contact with a person who has subsequently been diagnosed with COVID-19, I shall not participate in any MCA-sponsored event.
5. I acknowledge that social distancing (at least 6 feet between persons) continues to be a best practice; and if social distancing is not possible, I acknowledge that wearing a mask is strongly encouraged.
6. I acknowledge that handwashing or using hand sanitizer is strongly encouraged.
7. As a participant in an MCA-sponsored event, I agree to inform the Board of MCA if I do become sick with any COVID-19 symptom within seven days after participating in the event, so that the other participants can be advised that a fellow participant has become sick, so that they can monitor for symptoms, and can practice recommended social distancing measures.
8. As a participant in an MCA-sponsored event, I agree to consider and evaluate my participation if I regularly are in close contact with, or anticipate coming in close contact with: people at higher than normal risk for severe illness; people 65 years or older; people who live in a long-term care facility; people with underlying medical conditions (particularly if these conditions not well controlled). For reference, see: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/need-extra-precautions/people-at-higher-risk.html>.
9. It is recommended that anyone visiting an MCA hut should first clean and disinfect interior surfaces per CDC guidelines, where practical. For reference, see: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/disinfecting-your-home.html>.

I expressly acknowledge that naturally-occurring disease processes and risks of exposure, including the virus COVID-19, occur in all environments in which MCA-sponsored activities may occur. I acknowledge that although MCA has applied reasonable measures to avoid or minimize contact, exposure, transmittal or contamination by the virus between participants, it is my sole responsibility to safeguard myself and others in this regard. I understand and agree that if I participate in any MCA-sponsored activity, I hereby waive any claim of legal liability by MCA to me, if I contract the COVID-19 virus.

Signature of Member _____ Date _____

Mountaineering Club of Alaska

President Mike Meyers president@mtnclubak.org
Vice-President Gerrit Verbeek 903-513-4286
Secretary Curtis Townsend 355-9820
Treasurer Katherine Cooper 209-253-8489

Director 1 (term expires in 2020) Jonathan Rupp Strong 202-6484
Director 2 (term expires in 2020) Lila Hobbs 229-3754
Director 3 (term expires in 2021) Tom Meacham 346-1077
Director 4 (term expires in 2021) Heather Johnson hjohnson@mdausa.org
Director 5 (term expires in 2021) Andy Kubic andy.kubic@gmail.com
Director 6 (term expires in 2021) Nathan Pooler Nathan.lee.pooler@gmail.com

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. Material 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 — membership@mtnclubak.org

Hiking and Climbing Committee: Vacant—training@mtnclubak.org

Mentorship: Katherine Cooper and Lila Hobbs—mentorship@mtnclubak.org

Huts: Greg Bragiel—350-5146 or huts@mtnclubak.org

Calendar: Vicky Ho—512-470-8640 or hovcky@gmail.com

Librarian: Gwen Higgins—library@mtnclubak.org

Scree Editor: Gerrit Verbeek — MCAScree@gmail.com assisted by Dawn Munroe (350-5121 or dawn.talbott@yahoo.com)

Web: www.mtnclubak.org

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

Emily Baker doing sunrise yoga with the northwest aspect of Crown Peak at far right.

Photo by Joe Yelverton (www.joeyelverton.com)

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