

# the SCREE

## Mountaineering Club of Alaska

March 2022

Volume 65, Number 3



"I see my path, but don't know where it leads. Not knowing where I'm going is what inspires me to travel it"  
— Rosalia De Castro

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### MARCH MEETING

Thursday March 3

at 8:00 p.m., in-person at Bear  
Tooth Theater. Alpinists Ines  
Papert and Luka Lindič are  
joining the MCA for a  
fundraiser.

*"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—Abbey Collins assisted by Dawn Munroe*

## Cover Photo

Don Bickley climbing Peak 5911 out of camp on day two in the Fist Range. Tarn 4105 and our camp are behind him.

Photo by Jeremy Robida

## MARCH MEETING

Thursday March 3, at 8:00 p.m., in-person at Bear Tooth Theater. 1230 W 27th Ave, Anchorage, AK 99503.

Alpinists Ines Papert and Luka Lindič are joining the MCA for a fundraiser. Ines and Luka will present Face to Face, a live slideshow presentation featuring their adaptation to COVID lockdowns by focusing on local mountaineering in Berchtesgaden, Germany, followed by their first post-lockdown trip, which brought them to Alaska for a new line on Mount Huntington in 2021.

Tickets are \$15 and available at

<https://beartooththeatre.filmbot.com/showtimes/face-to-face-a-slide-show-presentation-3-3-22-730-pm/>

## Training

**MCA Spring Ski Tour, March 30- April 6, 2022-** The Bomber Traverse- Must be a competent backcountry traveler, skier or snowshoer, and have 'Avy 1' training. Organizational meeting February 26. To sign up please contact trip leader Greg Bragiel ([unknownhiker@alaska.net](mailto:unknownhiker@alaska.net))

**MCA Summer Mountaineering School, July 15-23, 2022-** The Bomber Traverse- Basic Mountaineering instruction for accomplished backpackers. Hiking, climbing, and glacier travel in the Talkeetna Mountains. Learn: Snow travel, ice tool use, ice climbing, glacier travel, navigation, route finding, rappelling, rock climbing, fun, exploration, leadership skills and confidence building. Organizational meeting March 5. To sign up please contact trip leader Greg Bragiel ([unknownhiker@alaska.net](mailto:unknownhiker@alaska.net))

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

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



## Exploring the Tonsina Controlled Use Area

Text by Jeremy Robida



*Base camp at tarn 4105.*

*Photo by Don Bickley*

I live in Valdez and, no surprise, it's often rainy on the coast. For an escape, I've been doing more and more "upcountry" activities through the years in the Copper River Basin area, including keeping busy in the "Fist Range," otherwise known as the Tonsina Controlled Use Area. Various Fist adventures (and suggested Fist Range and area peak nomenclature), have appeared in past *SCREEs* (May 2021, June 2020, March 2020, and February 2020), and it's probably time to chime in myself.

I first started exploring trails into this area when I moved to Valdez (gulp) almost 14 years ago. There's a variety of ways to get into this block of land, but let's just talk about Mile 62 on the Richardson Highway for today's story. Across from the Ernestine DOT station, there's a parking lot on the east side of the road. There's a sign that says Kimball Pass trail; that's your starting point for two different options that take you into the alpine.

The ATV trail you'll jump on initially borders some private property that's adjacent to the highway, and there's a variety of offshoot trails, but keep on the main trail which will eventually bend to the right/east. At about 3/4 of a mile in, you'll come to a T intersection.

The ATV trail continues left at this T, and takes you to the Little Tonsina River, and after crossing the river, slowly heads uphill and into Kimball Pass. This ATV trail is usually wet and rutty and, because the two-track doesn't go that far anyways, I suggest hiking over motor assist. Also, realize this is an Alaska Department of Fish and Game controlled use area, and there are motor restrictions related to hunting from July 26 through September 30.

The more footpath-looking trail to the right at the T intersection takes you to what the locals call "Candy Stripe." (see March 2020 issue)

Kimball Pass trail is one of the original historic routes out of Valdez. This route/area was also used by Ahtna people and others prior; thank you for the past stewardship. Initially, gold-hungry prospectors attempted to move up the Valdez Glacier, and then down the Klutina Glacier and into the interior, but this route was abandoned in 1899 when a trail was punched through Keystone Canyon. Miners and explorers could then move north without the difficult, scurvy-ridden glacier travel that had been the norm. When the military showed up at the turn of the century, they began more formal improvements to the route, pushing into the frontier towards Eagle and Fort Egbert on the Yukon River. As time unfolded, the path got beaten in. The trail got wide enough for sleds and wagons, and a series of roadhouses appeared along what is, essentially, the present-day Richardson Highway. A telegraph line was laid as well.

**WAMCATS:** The Washington-Alaska Military Cable and Telegraph System.

As you hike up the trail toward Kimball Pass, you'll bump into this 120-year-old telegraph line. A team of 12 began construction on this line in 1900. Author Jack London, then 24 years old, was on the same boat as the military construction crew. They arrived in Valdez on July 4, 1900. London elected to swim to shore from the vessel with the three horses he brought, but got tangled up in a bridle as one of the horses took off sprinting once it reached shore. London was almost dragged through the

tent city Valdez, but the cable laying team freed him. Welcome to Alaska!

Work on WAMCATS and the trail north in general began quickly, and by 1901, there were 37 miles of cable laid along the ever-improving trail/road from Valdez to Eagle. The Kimball Pass section was likely strung in the summer of 1902. The two teams northbound from Valdez and southbound from Eagle met on August 24, 1902, having laid a total of 420 miles of cable. That was then tied to an existing line that ran the length of the Yukon River from far western Alaska to Eagle and then east and into Canada. This system connected the Lower 48 with Alaska and was a huge technological leap for communications.

With forest fires raging around the state in the summer of 2019, I found myself sticking close to Valdez. I discovered the trail into Kimball Pass was in dire disrepair and already functionally gone in places. Since TCUA was one of the few areas not covered in smoke, I decided to commit to a weekend to reopen the trail. Well that one weekend turned into seven. Just me and the STIHL, in quiet meditation, slowly moving forward, trying to briefly push back the wilderness like those before me.

By summer's end, I had completed brushing to where the trail had originally been lost when I hiked this area 14 year ago. It was roughly four miles from the parking lot at an elevation of 2,700 feet, just entering Kimball Pass proper on the eastern side. The trail is not fully brushed across the top of the pass. But it's also not that far if you're into character building opportunities, and want to connect with the Bernard Creek drainage and, eventually, pop out at the Tonsina Lodge like they used to.

When I first arrived in Valdez, these trails were in OK shape. But things disappear quickly, as we all know. My understanding is that many of the trails in this area were maintained by a local who passed away some years back. I didn't know them or any of their stories. I didn't know anything about WAMCATS either, until I literally tripped on it while hiking, which got me curious. This brief history is important to mention as we share places and our relationships with them.

In 2020, I skipped any and all trail work. One of my normal hiking accomplices and friend, Don Bickley, and I made a point to use the freshly groomed trail to access the alpine near the dead end. The push out of the brush wasn't too bad, thanks to some moose that had trampled a route through the thick willows. You'll still definitely want a GPS track to find the trail again though. Once above the tree line there are a lot of options. Our base camp was a large alpine lake at 4,105 feet, with several all-day hikes from there.

As with the rest of the Fist Range, expect a lot of great ridge hiking, blue watery mirrors called tarns, glacier remnants, flowers, marmots, cool rocks, snow patches, scree, orange lichen, silence, and the occasional ponderings of how literal and figurative paths lead you to right here, right now.

There has always been high sheep hunting interest in this area too, but while we found evidence of sheep hunters, there was no evidence of sheep. As I was digging for beta on the TCUA in general, an old timer on a hunting blog described this place as the "unit of broken dreams" saying a lot of effort has gone in, but not many sheep come out. Especially in more recent times. That's what I know about sheep.

Our main goal this trip was to get onto Peak 6260 to the southeast of our camp, and look down the Uranatina River drainage and onto the Copper River. We stopped short though, and never dropped off of the Peak 5911 ridgeline, due to timing and dark clouds rolling in off of the coast. Instead, we investigated an odd, blue speck that we could not identify on the glacier below. As we descended a muddy loose slope, and neared the object, we could make out what appeared to be aircraft wings. Sure enough, near the terminus of a small, dying glacier, was a fairly intact crashed plane; N5429D. Do a quick google search of those tail numbers to learn more about this 2001 crash. Not wanting a difficult climb back out on loose scree, we continued down-glacier and looped back to basecamp another way.

That next day we did a loop to the north above camp, jumping from high point to high point along the ridgeline. This included grabbing the tallest rounded bump, Peak 5644, hoods-up and heads down, moving to stay warm in the light drizzle and wind, as a system began moving in from the coast. We again looped back to camp a slightly different way mainly to duck the weather. The next morning we decided to pack up and leave before the real rain started. Day 1 up to tarn 4105. Day 2 up to the Peak 5911 ridge and loop back to camp via the airplane wreck. Day 3 shorter loop above camp to the north. Day 4 back to the car for cold beer and back home to Valdez. A long weekend for us weekend warriors -- haha!

I spoke with the Glennallen BLM folks and as I was writing this, and was informed that, in addition to the shiny new Kimball Pass sign they placed in the summer of 2021 at the parking lot, they also did some trail work. The Kimball Pass trail was walked by a crew and again polished to the same dead-end point I stopped at. They also tried to improve the river crossing which is normally below the knees and easy enough, but something to plan for. I also couldn't resist continuing my mediation practice and did a quick lap up Candy Stripe trail in early August of 2021 with the STIHL. I'm sure neither of these two options are per-



fect anymore after winter, but that’s your Mile 62 trailhead TCUA update.

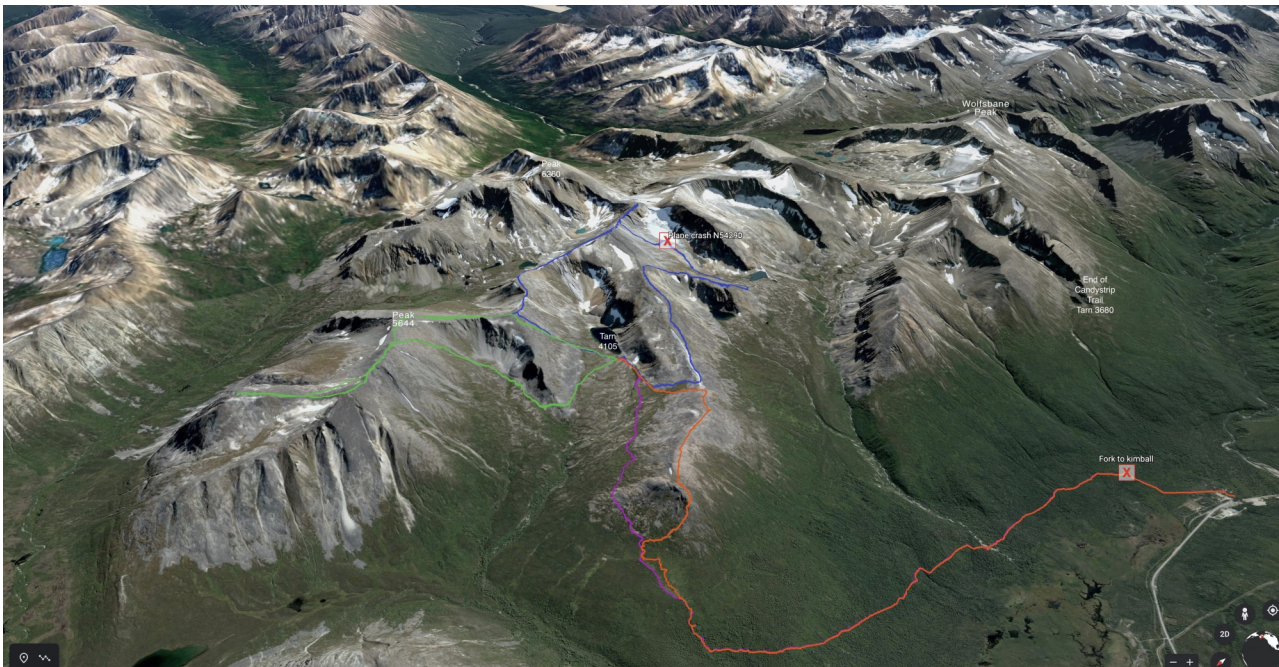
If you're heading that direction, I'd suggest you pull up those tail numbers on Google to learn more about that story, and realize there's a bunch of WAMCATS history online that readily pulls up too. A variety of sources were consulted for this brief history lesson I drug you into, the most useful of which was history captured on a site dedicated to collecting old glass insulators from telegraph and electrical systems, called "Crown Jewels of the Wire" via writeup by Mark J. Surina.



*Don on the Peak 5911 ridgeline. Looking to the north. Peak 5644 and terrain we hiked that following day visible above and to the right of Don.  
Photo by Jeremy Robida*



*Jeremy checking out the wrecked N5429D.  
Photo by Don Bickley*



*Kimball Pass tracks*



## Sourdough with a Side Salad

Text and Photos by Gerrit Verbeek

July 27-29, 2021



*On McCarthy Creek. Scree slope to National Pass, ahoy!*

In late July last year, in sun and warmth which seems unbelievable typing this in February, a camper van drove east to rendezvous with a gravel bike. A week before, Chelsea Grimstad had left Palmer under pedal power to travel up and over Hatcher Pass, up the Parks Highway, over the Denali Highway, and down to end in McCarthy. Now two dogs and one human with less endurance and free time – or at least not the appetite to allocate it that way – took the internal combustion shortcut.

But the last 20 miles of the McCarthy Road bit back, and when the van started rocking just a little more than the potholes would suggest. A quick check confirmed a flat tire. With a sit-com harp strum, I remembered a few days before when I cleaned out my daily driver for a friend to borrow, considered the jack in the trunk, and decided not to bring it along. Twenty minutes of waiting was enough to enlist two kind and patient ladies driving the other way, loan their jack for a bit, and take a crash course in removal of ornamental plastic hubcaps from a 1980s Ford.

But the *Scree* is not about backcountry tire changes, so we can fastforward to the human-powered adventure. With a few days in McCarthy, we decided to travel up the McCarthy Creek Trail and climb a mountain or two along the way before heading back toward Kennecott over what we later learned is called

National Pass (61.488, -142.822). Some friends had spoken highly of Sourdough Peak (61.415, -142.733).

The trail was wonderful in an of itself. Those familiar with Tom Kizzia's Pilgrim's Wilderness would recognize a lot of the descriptions. It ebbed and flowed through overgrown sections, passing abandoned cabins and dump trucks. Thick iron anchors driven into the bedrock marked where bridges had once existed. One of the highlights was a short tunnel driven straight through a bluff at the base of Sourdough Peak. The creek was swift and cold, but fortunately only thigh-deep at the three crossings.

All of the challenges lurked off the trail. We considered two options for climbing Sourdough Peak: either following the first creek up to the ridge, or going a mile further to a massive talus field that the map indicates flows to within a few hundred vertical feet of the creek. But the map was drawn decades ago, and now significant portions of the slope are revegetated. The talus field also seemed to head into steep terrain, so we chose the creek route. The salad route.

We did not emerge from the green sea for about 3500 vertical feet. The way up was an alder swim, followed by bushes, followed by shrubs. Temperatures were reasonably cool in the

morning, but the July sun turned the last portion into a sauna, before we reached the open . We gained a ridge and clambered up jumbled plates of rock. The clouds came in as we moved along, and we gratefully cooled down with some unmelted snowbanks. The 100-foot contour lines on the map concealed an 80-foot tower which we had to backtrack to get around, but the summit itself was straightforward. We found the point at 61.414, -142.733, overlooking a dead glacier to the north, to be the highest point.

The descent dessert was another salad – served warm. Bugs abounded... the rotten little flies that just want to make best friends with your eyelids and nostrils were out in full force, along with mosquitoes at a 3-or-4-per-slap density. We took a beeline straight down, which led us along a steeper creek bed than the way we came up, with more springy deadfall to wrestle with. Wading through the trees required tightrope walking and swinging handholds between trunks, like Tarzan in slow-motion. But the ordeal abruptly came to an end when we popped back out onto the McCarthy Creek Trail, next to cold running water, the sun setting behind Bonanza Ridge, and a breeze cleared away the insect friends. Dinner, a beer, and a flat seat made everything right again.

The path out was magic, too. Instead of backtracking, we continued up McCarthy Creek the next day, following the trail along the old mining road, and aiming for a pass north of Porphyry Mountain which would take us back to the Kennecott side of things. A massive moraine extending all the way down to McCarthy Creek is shown on the map, and was exactly as expected. The Green Butte Mine has a large cliffside building far up some steep bluffs which looks like a challenge to access and a pleasure to explore, but that had to wait for a later trip.

The recommended path down from National Pass to Kennecott is to traverse north towards Bonanza Mine and follow the tourist trail down. We learned that after we stayed on the south side of National Creek, and found a very nice human trail with the one unfortunate and unintended result of dumping us out in the private backyard of a young woman in the process of building her house. We were allowed through with a tight-lipped smile, but would have avoided the intrusion had we known better.

Fat stores were replenished at La Potato, the van tire was patched by placing it in a shack with some cash for Kaleb Rowland from Fireweed Airstrip to handle, and we all lived happily ever after.



*Chelsea Grimstad and Bean post-salad, pre-summit.*



*"Hmm, where'd this cliff come from?" The true summit is behind Point 6201, shown in the background.*



## Peak of the Month: Mount Bendeleben

Text by Steve Gruhn

**Mountain Range:** Bendeleben Mountains

**Borough:** Unorganized Borough

**Drainage:** East Fork of the Libby River

**Latitude/Longitude:** 65° 10' 28" North, 164° 5' 35" West

**Elevation:** 3730 feet

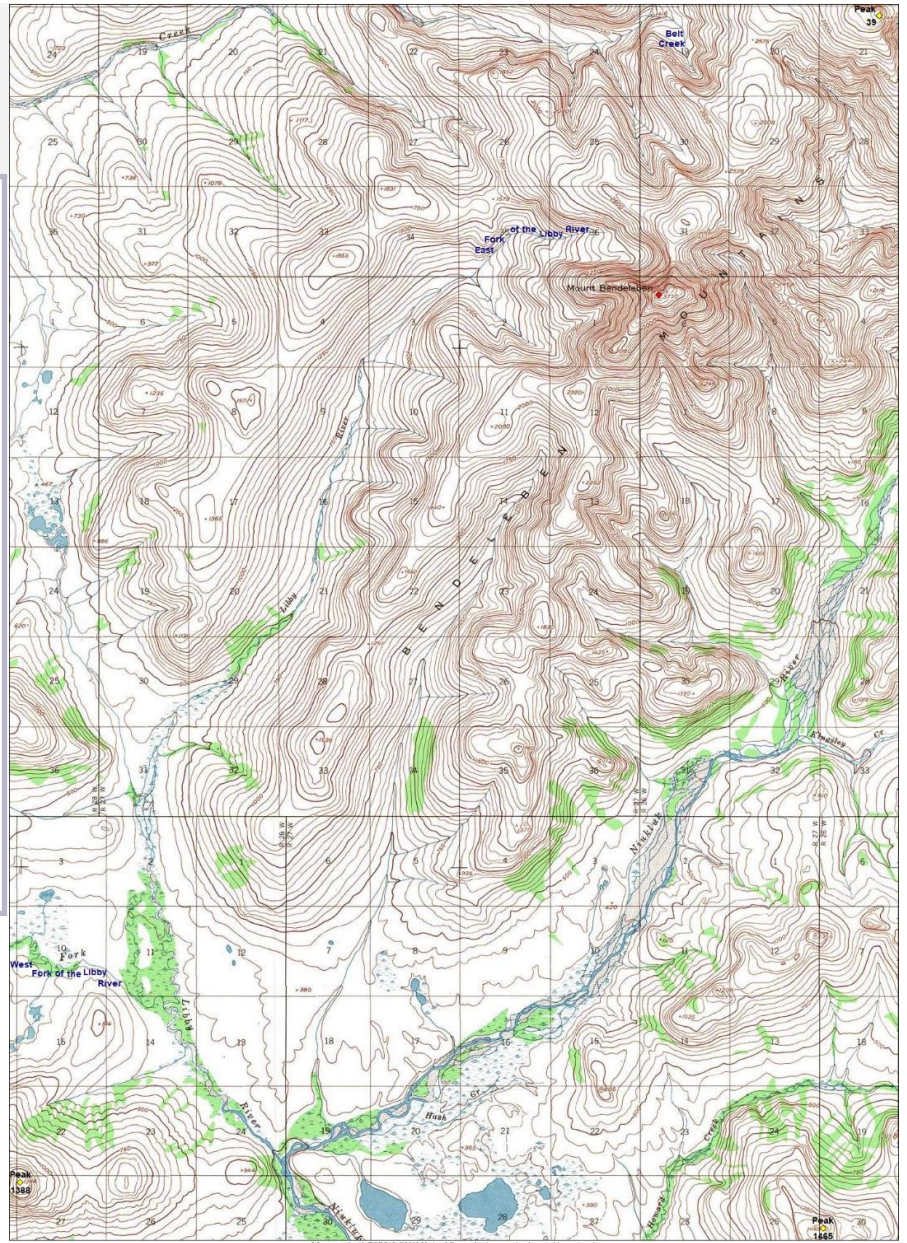
**Adjacent Peaks:** Peak 39 (3469 feet) in the Birch Creek and Niukluk River drainages and Peak 1910 in the Belt Creek, East Fork of the Libby River, and West Fork of the Libby River drainages of the Seward Peninsula Highlands

**Distinctness:** 1202 feet from Peak 39

**Prominence:** 3335 feet from Mount Osborn (4714 feet)

**USGS Maps:** 1:63,360: Bendeleben (A-5), 1:25,000: Bendeleben A-5 NE

**First Recorded Ascent:** 1977 by Steve Fry



In 1864 the Western Union Telegraph Company began an attempt to establish telegraphic communication between North America and Europe by routing a telegraph line from San Francisco, California, to Moscow, Russia, via the Bering Strait. After much preparation four field parties set out from San Francisco in July 1865 – one to New Westminster, British Columbia, another to Fort Saint Michaels (now known as Saint Michael) in Russian America, the third to a location at the mouth of the Anadyr River in Siberia, and the fourth to Petropavlovsk on the Kamchatka Peninsula.

On July 12, 1865, the barque *Golden Gate* departed San Francisco for Fort Saint Michaels. After stopping in Sitka, the ship delivered the members of the Western Union Telegraph Expedition, including William H. Ennis and Ottfried von Bendeleben, to Fort Saint Michaels on September 13. From there, the expedition members moved northeastward to establish winter quarters at Unalakleet.

On April 3, 1866, Ennis led a party of 10 men with sled dog teams from Unalakleet to search for a possible telegraph route to Grantley Harbor. At the mouth of the Inglutalik River, four of

the men headed northeast to explore a possible telegraph route to Nulato. The Ennis party continued northward to Koyuk, where three of the party remained to sound Norton Bay for a possible vessel anchorage. Ennis, von Bendeleben, and V. Hanson (a Russian interpreter) continued to a village at the mouth of the Kwik River, where they hired a local man on April 9 to accompany them along the coast to Golovnin Bay. At the mouth of what is now known as Carson Creek, the four turned west and headed over the Kwiktalik Mountains to Golovnin Bay. After traveling west across Golovnin Bay, they arrived at a village on the Norton Sound coast, where they secured a local guide on April 14. They departed the village and headed north across Golovnin Lagoon, and up a stream now known as the Fish River, to arrive at the mouth of the Niukluk River. The small party headed northwest up the Niukluk River. While panning for gold on a tributary of the Niukluk River, von



Bendeleben found gold. This was one of the earliest discoveries of gold in Alaska (following only an 1848 discovery of placer gold in the Kenai River). As the party continued up the Niukluk River, they noted a large mountain to the north. Ennis named this summit Mount Bendeleben in honor of von Bendeleben. The party crossed into the drainage of the Kuzitrin River and continued to Imuruk Basin and the west end of Grantley Harbor, arriving on April 21. Having found a potential route for the telegraph line to Grantley Harbor, Ennis, von Bendeleben, and Hanson departed Grantley Harbor on April 23 and returned to the mouth of the Kwik River on May 7. At the mouth of the Kwik River, the party had to load their dogs and sled into a skin boat and travel across open water to reach ice suitable for running the dogsled back to Unalakleet.

The barque *Clara Bell* arrived at Fort Saint Michaels on June 27, 1867, with news of the July 28, 1866, successful completion of the trans-Atlantic telegraph cable and the subsequent cancellation of the Western Union Telegraph Expedition. Western Union Telegraph Expedition crews began the long process of gathering men and materials from far-flung locations to return to San Francisco. Ennis and von Bendeleben traveled from Unalakleet to Fort Saint Michaels. They departed Fort Saint Michaels aboard the *Clara Bell* on August 18 for Siberia's Plover Bay. Von Bendeleben and most of the members of the Western Union Telegraph Expedition departed Plover Bay aboard the clipper ship *Nightingale* on September 16 and arrived at San Francisco on October 8, having been away for more than two years. While the telegraph work might have been for naught, the expedition members had mapped a large portion of interior and western Alaska and had brought news of its natural resources.

The name of the Bendeleben Mountains was first reported in 1901 and was derived from the name of its highest summit.

In 1921 Alfred Hulse Brooks reported that the Inupiaq name for Mount Bendeleben was *Ahneyiyuk*, which reportedly meant "looks like a big one."

While searching for potential uranium deposits for a geological exploration company under contract to the U.S. Department of Energy in the late spring and summer of 1977, Steve Fry circumnavigated Mount Bendeleben and then climbed about 1,000 feet to the summit. He was transported to the area via

helicopter from a camp at Pilgrim Springs, about 43 miles north-northeast of Nome.

The USGS's 2017 *Bendeleben A-5 NE, AK*, map indicated that the summit elevation of Mount Bendeleben was between 3680 and 3720 feet. However, for this column I've used the 3730-foot summit elevation reported on the USGS's 1950 *Bendeleben (A-5), Alaska*, map because I've encountered numerous errors with the newer map series.

The information for this column came from an article titled "The Russian Telegraph Expedition," which appeared in the December 1, 1865, *Daily Alta California*; from the "Western Union Telegraph Expedition Reports of William H. Ennis, 1866 and 1867;" from Charles S. Bulkley's 1867 map titled "North Western America from Port Clarence to Mouth of Kvichpak [Yukon] River;" from an article titled "Arrival of the *Nightingale*," which appeared in the October 9, 1867, *Daily Alta California*; from Brooks's, George Burr Richardson's, Arthur James Collier's, and Walter Curran Mendenhall's 1901 "Reconnaissances in the Cape Nome and Norton Bay Regions, Alaska, in 1901;" from Collier's, Frank Lee Hess's, Philip Sidney Smith's, and Brooks's 1908 "The Gold Placers of Parts of Seward Peninsula, Alaska" (USGS Bulletin 328); from Smith's and Henry Miner Eakin's 1911 "A Geologic Reconnaissance in Southeastern Seward Peninsula and the Norton Bay-Nulato Region, Alaska" (USGS Bulletin 449); from Clarence L. Andrews's article titled "The U.S. – Siberian Telegraph," which appeared in the September 1945 *Alaska Life*; from Donald J. Orth's 1967 Dictionary of Alaska Place Names (USGS Professional Paper 567); from Albert Herbert Koschmann's and Max H. Bergendahl's 1968 "Principal Gold-Producing Districts of the United States" (USGS Professional Paper 610); from Phillip H. Ault's article titled "The (almost) Russian-American Telegraph," which appeared in the June 1975 *American Heritage*; from G. Frank Williss's 1986 "Historic Resource Study, Bering Land Bridge National Preserve;" from my October, 13, 2010, correspondence with the late Steve Fry; from John B. Branson's 2012 The Life and Times of John W. Clark of Nushagak, Alaska, 1846-1896; and from Alexey Postnikov's and Marvin Falk's 2015 "Exploring and Mapping Alaska: The Russian America Era, 1741-1867."

## Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

January 26, 2022, at 7:00-8:00 p.m., at Kava's Pancake House, Anchorage, and via Zoom

### Roll Call

Gerrit Verbeek (President) - Present  
Nathan Pooler (Vice-President) - Present  
Curtis Townsend (Secretary) - Present  
Katherine Cooper (Treasurer) - Present  
Luke Konarzewski (Director) - Absent  
Brendan Lee (Director) - Present  
Josh Pickle (Director) - Absent  
Heather Johnson (Director) - Present  
Andy Kubic (Director) - Present  
Peter Taylor (Director) - Present  
Mike Meyers (Past President) - Absent

**Scribe:** Curtis Townsend

### Action Items

- Heather Johnson + Nathan Pooler to organize an outdoor April General Meeting, possibly at Arctic Valley.
- Gerrit Verbeek to ask Luke Konarzewski about time available
- Gerrit Verbeek to ask Bear Tooth about streaming options
- Gerrit Verbeek to work with Tim Silvers to create a general [board@mtclubak.org](mailto:board@mtclubak.org) email address instead of posting personal emails for the Directors in the Scree
- *Ongoing:* Mike Meyers + Gerrit and Brendan to present mug and Honorary Lifetime Member certificate to Steve Gruhn. **Update 2/24 – Will try to arrange this at the April General Meeting.**
- *Ongoing:* Anyone - please contact Gerrit if you are interested in leading trips/trainings this winter

### Board Votes/Decisions

- Agreed to treat the March 3rd fundraiser with Ines Papert and Luka Lindič as the general meeting.

### Board Discussion

- **In-Person Meetings:** Many members strongly prefer in-person opportunities to meet. Options include Anchorage School District auditoriums, Pioneer Schoolhouse in downtown Anchorage, and UAA. The Board will prioritize an in-person meeting in April.
- **Calendar:** Heather reports 190 calendars sold. The Board plans to print 200 calendars next year.
- **Handover:** Board agrees better handover is needed for Paypal account, positional emails, digital files, etc.

### Time and location of next meeting

- General Meeting February 2, 2022 (Cory and Peter Hinds - Chamonix)
- Next Board Meeting on February 23, 2022 via Zoom





*The Mitre, 6,651 feet, in Chugach Mountains.  
Photo by Frank E. Baker on March 1, 2022.*



*Bee's Heaven Peak, 6,385 feet, in Chugach Mountains.  
Photo by Frank E. Baker from south end of Eklutna Lake, March 1, 2002.*



## Mountaineering Club of Alaska

President	Gerrit Verbeek	<a href="mailto:president@mtnclubak.org">president@mtnclubak.org</a>	Director 1 (term expires in 2022)	Luke Konarzewski	<a href="mailto:lukekonarzewski96@gmail.com">lukekonarzewski96@gmail.com</a>
Vice-President	Nathan Pooler	<a href="mailto:vicepresident@mtnclubak.org">vicepresident@mtnclubak.org</a>	Director 2 (term expires in 2022)	Brendan Lee	<a href="mailto:brendanlee718@yahoo.com">brendanlee718@yahoo.com</a>
Secretary	Curtis Townsend	<a href="mailto:secretary@mtnclubak.org">secretary@mtnclubak.org</a>	Director 3 (term expires in 2022)	Josh Pickle	<a href="mailto:joshuampickle@gmail.com">joshuampickle@gmail.com</a>
Treasurer	Katherine Cooper	<a href="mailto:treasurer@mtnclubak.org">treasurer@mtnclubak.org</a>	Director 4 (term expires in 2023)	Heather Johnson	<a href="mailto:hjohnson2211@gmail.com">hjohnson2211@gmail.com</a>
			Director 5 (term expires in 2023)	Andy Kubic	<a href="mailto:andy.kubic@gmail.com">andy.kubic@gmail.com</a>
			Director 6 (term expires in 2023)	Peter Taylor	<a href="mailto:peter@petertaylor.co.nz">peter@petertaylor.co.nz</a>

Annual membership dues: Basic ("Dirtbag") \$20, Single \$30, Family \$40

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

*The Scree* is a monthly publication of the Mountaineering Club of Alaska. Articles, notes, and letters submitted for publication in the newsletter should be emailed to [MCAScree@gmail.com](mailto:MCAScree@gmail.com). 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](mailto:vicepresident@mtnclubak.org).

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

Mailing list/database entry: Katherine Cooper — 209-253-8489 — [membership@mtnclubak.org](mailto:membership@mtnclubak.org)

Hiking and Climbing Committee: Vacant — [training@mtnclubak.org](mailto:training@mtnclubak.org)

Mentorship: Katherine Cooper and Lila Hobbs — [mentorship@mtnclubak.org](mailto:mentorship@mtnclubak.org)

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Calendar: Lexi Trainer

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*Don Bickley crossing the Little Tonsina River.  
Photo by Jeremy Robida*

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