



APRIL 2002

*A Publication of the Mountaineering Club of Alaska*

Volume 45 Issue 04

Box 102037, Anchorage, Alaska 99510

#### APRIL MEETING

Wednesday

April 17, 7:30 pm

First United Methodist Church

9th & G Streets

next to the Phillips Building

Downtown Anchorage

Program: TBA

#### HIKING AND CLIMBING SCHEDULE

##### Apr 20 Dome to Knoya

Hike as high up the trail as we can safely go;  
approx. 9 miles RT. Class B.

Leader: Matt Nedom 278-3648

##### 27 Indianhouse Mt.

Class D. All day.

Leader: Steve Gruhn 344-1219, 276-7475 w

##### Jul 20 - Aug 3 ANWR Lake Peters and Mt. Chamberlin

Class B. Explore the Lake Peters and Lake Schrader Area with possible hike up Mount Chamberlin. Alternate route if we can't land near the two lakes. Experienced in backpacking for extend periods (at least a week) required. Party limited to 6 people. Backpacking gear needed and trekking poles or ski poles handy hike up the mountain.

Leader: Don Hansen 243-7184 e-mail  
[donjoehansen@msn.com](mailto:donjoehansen@msn.com)

The following trips are a series of mid-week, after-work trips. These are going to be relatively fast-paced trips ranging from Class A to Class D. The destinations are tentative, dependent on weather, traffic, snow conditions, etc. Reaching the destinations with the daylight available in the spring will not be possible if anyone shows up late, so please be on time. Steve would like to gather the e-mail addresses of interested parties. The day before each excursion, he will confirm the destination and time and get a head count. Maximum of 12 people (including leader) on each trip. Dogs will not be allowed.

Leader: Steve Gruhn 344-1219 h, 276-7475 w e-mail:

[scg@hartcrowser.com](mailto:scg@hartcrowser.com)

##### Apr 8 Rainbow Peak

Monday, 5:30 PM. Class C.

##### 9 Four Mile Cr.

Tuesday, 5:30 PM. Class A

##### 16 Bear Pt.

Tuesday, 5:30 PM. Class B.

Apr 18 Peak 2831

West of Mile High Saddle, Thursday, 6:00 p.m.,  
Class B

22 Mount Eklutna

Monday 5:30 p.m. Class C

24 Table Rock from McHugh

Wednesday, 5:30 PM. Creek Class B

29 Table Rock from Potter

Class B Monday, 5:30 p.m.

May 6 Peak 4009

Monday 5:30 p.m. Class C. Northeast of Mount  
Eklutna

13 Falls Creek Ridge

Class D Monday 5:30 p.m.

### TRAINING SCHEDULE

Apr 25-27 Glacier Travel and Crevasse Rescue

Planning that big trip up the mountain or just want to learn how to cross a glacier? Well, here is your chance! We will learn the rudiments of safe glacier travel (roped), how to stop a fall and how to rescue your fallen comrade. Be prepared for two enjoyable days on the glacier, practicing what you learn. Who knows when you might need to get yourself out of a 100' deep crevasse with a full pack and loaded sled?

Instructor: Steve Parry 248-8710

### TRIP REPORTS

#### South Suicide Peak to Rainbow Peak Traverse

by Dave Hart



unday, March 16, 2002 saw Anchorage's largest 24-hour snowfall in history. Officially, twenty-six inches covered our fair city, though less hit the Chugach Range to the east. Still, a scouting hike three days later for my planned MCA ascent of Cumulus Peak

the following weekend found unconsolidated waist-deep snow on the final 2,000 feet of the summit ridge. We would have to defer Cumulus

for a later MCA trip and find another peak closer to Turnagain Arm, which was essentially missed by the storm. Our choice became a traverse between South Suicide Peak and Rainbow Peak.

One week later on Sunday, March 23, 2002 eight MCA members met at the Potter Section House at 7:00 a.m. We were: Bryan Carey, Tom Choate, Steve Gruhn, Karen Herzenberg, Carol Jewell, Joe Pulver, Laron Thomas and myself. We left the Falls Creek Trailhead at 7:45 a.m. carrying snowshoes on our backpacks. A trail was already set up to tree-line, above which hard-packed snow allowed us to keep our snowshoes on our packs all day. Several sheep followed our progress from the high ridges, and wolverine tracks dotted the snow pack throughout the valley.

By 12:30 p.m. all eight of us were on top of South Suicide Peak, taking in the view from Denali and Foraker to Spurr to Redoubt and Iliamna to Carpathian and finally Marcus Baker. We enjoyed a full 360-degree panorama as far as we could see. Carol and Bryan headed down from South Suicide, leaving the six of us at 1 p.m. to continue on towards Rainbow Peak, about 3 miles away.

The ridge was new terrain for most of us, with only Steve and Tom having been on portions of this ridge before. We followed sheep trails most of the way, occasionally traversing below some rocky gendarmes on the south side. Sunshine was abundant as was the wind, though Laron managed to hike for a surprising part of the day in his t-shirt, while Steve wore his winter shell. Four hours later we topped out on Rainbow Peak. It was 5 p.m. and we were all a bit tired after the 6,800 feet of climbing that Joe's watch had measured.

#### A Paddle Climb to Mt. Curtis Again

by Stuart Grenier



fter coming so close to summiting Mt. Curtis in May of 2000 I had to give it another try with the kayaks. Using the photos Tom Miller and I took of our trip (see Scree 09/2000) I got five people to sign on to a ten

day trip from Whittier by sea kayak to Barry Arm and Mt. Curtis 4052 ft. The boats were on the

cars and everything was ready to go but I was coughing my head off. The morning of our planned departure I came down with the flu. One day became four days and the trip dissolved. When I was well enough to go only Sean Bolander and Paul Koleman were still up for it. We decided to bag the climb part of the trip and just go for a paddle. It was four days of May in Prince William Sound, two clear and two wet. We made it as far as Bettles Bay and spent most of the time fishing. Mt. Curtis peaked through the clouds and an orca and some sea lions showed up. It was a good trip but I still needed to climb that peak.

The ball got rolling again when Tom Miller suggested we give it a try in August. Tom Choate got wind of it so the two Toms and I paddled out of Whittier on August 23, with ten days of food and climbing gear. On our second day we stopped on a beach near Pigot Point. After we split up to explore the area I heard Choate calling me over to some alder bushes where he had found a baby Porcupine. The porky was about half again as big as a soccer ball and Choate was taking an interest in it. He was getting very close to it with his hands and so I suggested he leave it alone. When I determined he was playing with fire I decided I couldn't watch anymore and started to walk away when I heard him shout. I turned around to see Choate holding his hand with seven quills sticking out of it. It was at this time that Dr. Choate showed us how to remove quills. You first cut the ends off to break the suction and then pull them out one at a time. It didn't seem to hurt him at all.

About ten minutes later I was sitting at the boats watching waves when to my surprise Choate came walking up to me with the porky hanging like a teddy bear from his hand. He explained that the porkies are not strong enough to do a one-arm pull up so this is how you carry them. Miller and I took a lot of pictures. Choate also showed us how to pick them up. His method is to take two short sticks and to get the porky to twirl around. Then he gets a stick under the prickly beast and flips it like a pancake. At this time a quick hand can grab its arm and pick it up. The porky didn't seem to mind it and when he let her go she seemed fine.

After battling what Miller called beaucoup white caps and a stiff northerly in our faces we camped near Pirate Cove. We awoke to find calm water and clear skies. We used this weather to reach Barry Arm and the base of Mt. Curtis. The feeling of paddling to a mountain you intend to

climb is one of the best. When you combine the force that a mountain can exert on a person to climb it with the ever changing nature of the sea, you are likely to experience a resounding epiphany. The way the paddle slices into the sea, the sleekness of the kayak, the sunlight on the water, the angle of the summit slowly rising above your head, few things in life are as clear and divine as this. We used the same camp we had used 16 months earlier. And as we left camp the next morning the weather started to go just as bad as our last attempt.

Fortunately this time we were not dealing with a massive white cornice covered ridge in May but a green and gray ridge of August. The blowing rain and clouds could not totally blind us. Miller and I were all grins when we passed where we turned around the year before. Choate lead the way across a couple of hundred yards of snow on the south face when the ridge turned into a knife edge and then we were on the summit ridge which proved to be an easy scramble. The summit had a nice pointy rock on it that we buttressed with other rocks to make a cairn. We snapped a few pictures but the many glaciers of Harriman Fiord were clouded out. We left a register.

On the way down Miller saw something white. Could it have been the elusive polar bear of Prince William Sound that a tourist had photographed in Barry Arm? The picture appeared in both the Daily News and Alaska Mag.

It got away before we could get a good look at it but just the thought a near sighting of the Prince William Sound Polar Bear, known to some as Moby Claw was most intriguing. After one very wet summit it was clear that this group was not going to attempt another summit without reasonable weather. Of the nine days we were out we had only three half days without rain. Things got wet and stayed wet. Other than the near polar bear sighting and the summit, there were three events that I'll always remember from this trip. One was when a five-foot wave broke on the beam of the double when Choate was at the rudder.

Choate's paddle moved in a blur as he tried to keep from capsizing. It was something to see. The other two events were two animal sightings. Miller and I pulled the double right up behind a black bear as it was strolling down the beach. He would stop and turn to look at us but we would freeze. After staring at us for a few

## American Alpine Club

Founded in 1902, The American Alpine to promoting climbing knowledge, serving the American climbing community.

As climbing access becomes increasingly climbers' interests through its work with The AAC promotes the development of fair, which rely on education and minimal 6300 members in sections across the Alaska Section.



Club is a nonprofit organization dedicated conserving mountain environments, and

restrictive, the AAC vigorously represents federal, state, and private land managers. effective climbing management policies intervention. The Club currently has over country, including over 120 members in the

### Membership Benefits

As well as supporting the AAC advocacy, policy, and conservation work, the benefits of membership include:

- World-wide rescue insurance coverage for rescues and evacuations resulting from hiking, climbing, or backcountry skiing activities on peaks up to 6000 meters and the ability to purchase supplemental insurance for peaks higher than 6000 meters.
- Discounts with AAC Hut Association Members, and access to hut stamps for the European hut system.
- Free annual copies of *The American Alpine Journal* and *Accidents in North American Mountaineering*.
- A subscription to *American Alpine News*, the Club's award-winning quarterly newsletter.
- A monthly electronic newsletter.
- A coupon book that provides you with discounts on trips, gear, publications, and other climbing resources.
- 20% off all books and calendars published by the AAC Press and The Mountaineers Books.
- Use of the AAC Library, including remote lending privileges and discounted research requests.
- Discounted introductory subscriptions to *Climbing* and *Rock & Ice* magazines.
- 10% off all AAC logo merchandise.
- Expedition support by providing information, advice, and endorsements, as well as financial assistance through loans and expedition sponsorship.
- Grants are awarded annually to expeditions to attempt new challenges, conduct scientific research, and push the envelope of human knowledge and accomplishment in mountain and polar environments.
- Conservation grants program provides funds to environmental responsible projects and expeditions.
- The Club maintains the Grand Teton Climbers' Ranch in Grand Teton National Park.

### Local Membership Benefits for Alaskans:

- AAC established the Denali Committee in April 2001 to oversee climbers' interests in the park.
- AAC involved in the Denali Backcountry Management Plan and Rescue Fee Recovery Study in 2001.
- AAC helped to get the 60-day registration period for Denali and Foraker climbs reduced to seven days for climbers meeting certain requirements.
- Discounts on charter flights with Alaska air taxis, and merchandise at participating retailers.
- AAC is getting more involved with local groups such as the Mountaineering Club of Alaska.
- Semi-annual meetings, sponsored slide shows, dinners, climbing rodeos and other social events.

In April of 2001, we hosted the Spring board meeting of the AAC. At this time, the Alaska Section was challenged to become more active and provide greater benefits to its local members. In that effort, we are currently organizing a number of events for 2002. Membership is \$75 annually, discounted to \$35 for members under 25, and \$50 for members over 65 years of age. Joint memberships are available for \$100. If you are interested in the Club, either contact us through the AAC website at [www.americanalpineclub.org](http://www.americanalpineclub.org), or locally through Danny Kost, Alaska Section Chair, email: [dkost@alaska.net](mailto:dkost@alaska.net), or telephone: (907) 562-2297.

# MOUNTAINEERING CLUB OF ALASKA

## MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

The Mountaineering Club of Alaska (MCA) was formed in 1958 to promote the enjoyment of hiking and climbing in Alaska and the exploration of its mountains. We welcome all who wish to become members.

**Participate and Learn:** The MCA conducts scheduled hikes and climbs led by experienced club members, technical mountaineering and climbing courses, and other instruction throughout the year. The club maintains eight mountain huts in the nearby Chugach and Talkeetna mountains. The MCA's Vin Hoeman Library, located upstairs in Alaska Mountaineering & Hiking at 2633 Spenard Road, contains hundreds of books, numerous periodicals, bound volumes of the *SCREE*, and a 'Peak File' with information on local climbs. The club also loans climbing gear to members, including ice axes, helmets, crampons, snowshoes, and avalanche beacons.

**Stay Informed:** The MCA publishes a monthly newsletter, *SCREE*, and sends it to all members. The *SCREE* contains the minutes of the previous meeting, announcements of upcoming events, the hiking and climbing trip schedule, and trip reports written by club members. A monthly meeting and slide show are held on the third Wednesday of each month at 7:30 p.m. at the First United Methodist Church at 725 West Ninth Avenue (corner of 9th & G Streets, downtown Anchorage). Special events or changes to the meeting will be noted in the *SCREE*. Be sure to visit our website at: **www.mcak.org**

- ◆ **Complete both sides of this form.** To participate in club-sponsored trips, every member must read and complete the Release of Liability Agreement on the back of this application.
  - ◆ Please make checks payable to **Mountaineering Club of Alaska, Inc.**
  - ◆ Dues are \$10 for an individual or \$15 for a family (one *SCREE* per family).
  - ◆ Membership is for one calendar year, through the 31st of December.
  - ◆ Memberships paid after October 1st are good through December 31 of the following year.
  - ◆ If applying by mail, please include a stamped, self-addressed envelope for your membership card. Otherwise, you may pick it up at the next monthly meeting.
- Our address is: **P.O. Box 102037, Anchorage, Alaska 99510-2037** **www.mcak.org**

NEW <input type="checkbox"/>	DATE <input style="width: 100%;" type="text"/>
RENEWAL <input type="checkbox"/>	NAME <input style="width: 100%;" type="text"/>
INDIVIDUAL (\$10) <input type="checkbox"/>	FAMILY <input style="width: 100%;" type="text"/>
FAMILY (\$15) <input type="checkbox"/>	MEMBERS
How do you want your <b>SCREE</b> delivered? ( <i>check one or both</i> )	
ELECTRONIC <input type="checkbox"/>	Fastest! Least expensive! Direct to your email address specified below.
PAPER <input type="checkbox"/>	Postal Service – please include \$5 extra if outside U.S.
STREET or PO BOX	<input style="width: 100%;" type="text"/>
CITY / STATE / ZIP	<input style="width: 100%;" type="text"/>
TELEPHONE	<input style="width: 100%;" type="text"/>
E-MAIL ADDRESS	<input style="width: 100%;" type="text"/>
<p>I am interested in joining a committee (Programs, Hiking &amp; Climbing, Huts, Geographic Names, Parks Advisory, Equipment, Honorary, Membership, Training, or ad hoc committees). _____ I am interested in leading a trip. _____</p>	

Do not write below this line:

Paid: ☐\$10 ☐\$15 on Date: \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_  
☐ Cash or Check Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Membership Card Issued for Year: \_\_\_\_\_ ☐  
Address Added to Mailing List ☐

**RELEASE OF LIABILITY—READ CAREFULLY**

I, \_\_\_\_\_ (print name), am aware that mountaineering sports (including hiking; backpacking; rock, snow, and ice climbing; mountaineering; skiing; and ski mountaineering) are hazardous activities. I wish to participate and/or receive instruction in these activities with the Mountaineering Club of Alaska, Inc. ("MCA") I recognize that these activities involve numerous risks, which include, by way of example only, falling while hiking, climbing, skiing or crossing rivers or glaciers; failure of a belay; being struck by climbing equipment or falling rock, ice or snow; avalanches; lightning; fire; hypothermia; frostbite; defective or malfunctioning equipment; and attack by insects or animals. I further recognize that the remoteness of the activities may preclude prompt medical care. I further recognize that risk of injury or death may be caused or enhanced by mistakes or negligence on the part of either my fellow participants or MCA officers, directors, guides, instructors, or trip leaders. I nevertheless agree to accept all risks of injury, death, or property damage that may occur in connection with any MCA activity, including use of MCA furnished equipment and MCA backcountry huts.

\_\_\_\_\_ (initial that you have read this paragraph)

**GIVING UP MY LEGAL RIGHTS**

By signing this Agreement, I agree to give up for myself and for my heirs all legal rights I may have against the MCA and my fellow participants in MCA activities (except to the extent that insurance coverage for any claim is provided by an automobile insurance policy or related excess insurance policies). **I give up these legal rights regardless of whether the injury, death, or property damage results from mistakes or negligence on the part of either my fellow participants or the MCA.** (As used in this agreement, MCA means the Mountaineering Club of Alaska, Inc., and all of its officers, directors, guides, instructors and trip leaders.) I understand this agreement shall remain in effect until such time as I provide signed written notice of its revocation to the MCA.

\_\_\_\_\_ (initial that you have read this paragraph)

**MY PROMISE NOT TO SUE**

I agree that I will not sue, or otherwise make any claim against, the MCA or my fellow participants in MCA activities for injury, death, or property damage which occurs in the course of my participation or instruction in mountaineering sports. Any lawsuit relating to MCA activities or this release shall only be filed in the Superior Court for the State of Alaska, Third Judicial District., Anchorage, Alaska. The provisions of this release are severable and if any part of this release is found unenforceable, the remaining provisions shall remain in full force and effect.

\_\_\_\_\_ (initial that you have read this paragraph)

**MY RELEASE OF LIABILITY**

I also agree to release and discharge the MCA and my fellow participants in MCA activities from all actions, claims, or demands, both for myself and for my heirs, dependents, and/or personal representative, for injury, death, or property damage occurring in the course of my participation or instruction in mountaineering sports.

\_\_\_\_\_ (initial that you have read this paragraph)

**MY PROMISE TO INDEMNIFY**

I agree to pay all expenses, including attorney's fees and court costs, that the MCA or my fellow participants in MCA activities may incur as a consequence of any legal action arising out of injury, death, or property damage suffered by me.

\_\_\_\_\_ (initial that you have read this paragraph)

**MY CONSENT TO MEDICAL TREATMENT**

I consent to any hospital care or medical or surgical diagnosis or treatment which may be necessary as a result of my participation in activities with the MCA. I also understand and agree that I am solely responsible for all applicable charges for such medical treatment, including evacuation and/or rescue cost.

\_\_\_\_\_ (initial that you have read this paragraph)

**I HAVE CAREFULLY READ THIS AGREEMENT AND FULLY UNDERSTAND ITS CONTENT. I AM AWARE THAT THIS IS A BINDING, LEGAL AGREEMENT BETWEEN ME AND THE MCA.**

Dated: \_\_\_\_\_ Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of Parent or Guardian (if under 19): \_\_\_\_\_

seconds he would continue on his way and we would pull even closer without making a sound. Finally at forty yards and after many stops he concluded that we were people and bolted to the woods. The other one was when I was cleaning fish a group of eight river otters appeared. They moved in a tight group and dashed into the forest. It was something to see.

## ADZE

### For Sale

Koflach Arctis plastic soubel boots, size 12, \$100. Hanging tent for two, custom design, \$250.  
Andy 835-4200 or fax 835-4799



### Partners Wanted

River rafting. We looking for people interested in rafting the Firth River, a ten day trip beginning 23 June. The Firth is a Class IV, wild river. We will be flown to the put in site in northeastern Alaska, raft into the Yukon Territory, Canada, then fly out.

Matt 278.3648

### Info Needed

In May of 2002 I will be going into the Sheldon Amphitheater below Denali. I'm looking for information and route descriptions for climbs in the area. One of the members of our team is new to climbing, so I'm also looking for info on "easy," beginner routes.

Bill [wkelly@jkkeller.com](mailto:wkelly@jkkeller.com)

### National Orienteering Day

May 4, noon to 4:00 p.m. Fun and introduction to orienteering. Door prizes, snacks, games for kids, and family activities. Campbell Creek Science Center, Abbott Loop Road. \$4 for non-members of Orienteering Club.

Dan Ellsworth, 333-5429

### Beginner Orienteering Class

May 14th 7:00 p.m. Map reading and basic orienteering skills. Please pre-register by calling REI. \$1 to cover map costs.

Dan Ellsworth, 333-5429

### Beginner/Intermediate Orienteering

May 15th, 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. APU Moseley Sports Center. Lots of help available for beginners. Put to use what you learned the previous evening. \$4 for non-members of the Orienteering Club.

Eric and Jill Follett, 346-2294

## Scree Editor

The editorship of Scree has passed to a new volunteer, this is my last issue. I started doing Scree in August 1983, first as typist, later as editor. The Scree went from the typewriter to the keyboard to the internet during that time. I think I missed two issues out of 224 (because of the best of all reasons, I was climbing). Please be kind to your new editor, Robert Baker, giving him the time he needs to get issues out. As editor I found, like any volunteer effort, the person who gives gets more than the people who receive, a fact that you can only appreciate if you try it. I'm glad Robert is trying it.

Respectfully submitted,  
Willy Hersman



# Mountaineering Club of Alaska

## *Officers*

President	Bill Romberg	677-3993
Vice-President	Tom McDermott	277-0774
Secretary	Jayne Mack	258-7571
Treasurer	Steve Gruhn	344-1219

## *Board*

John Hess	348-7363
Karen Herzenberg	223-0351
Dave Hart	227-9584
Stuart Grenier	337-5127
Sean Bolender	274-4457

Annual membership dues: Single \$10.00 Family \$15.00 (one *Scree* per family)

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 treasurer. The post office does not forward the newsletter.

*SCREE* is a monthly publication of the Mountaineering Club of Alaska. Articles and notes submitted for publication and other communication related to the newsletter should be mailed to my address: 1830 E. Parks Hwy. #600, Wasilla, AK 99654, or e-mailed to [mcak@photoalaska.biz](mailto:mcak@photoalaska.biz) Articles should be received by April 26th to be included in the May issue. Sorry, no exceptions.

Paid ads may be submitted to the attention of the Vice-President at the club address and should be "camera ready" and pre-paid. Your cooperation will be appreciated... Robert Baker, Editor, 357-2946.

Missing your MCA membership card? If so, stop by one of our monthly meetings to pick it up or send us a self-addressed stamped envelope and we'll mail it to you.

MAILING LIST/DATABASE ENTRY: don smith  
HIKING/CLIMBING CHAIR: matt nedom, 278-3648  
HUTS: mark miraglia, 338-0705  
WEB: [www.mcak.org](http://www.mcak.org) (go here to change your address)  
MAILING LIST SERVICE: [mcak@yahoogroups.com](mailto:mcak@yahoogroups.com)