

## **Mountaineering Club of Alaska Policies**

This list, as compiled in 1996 by Willy Hersman and amended by subsequent Executive Committees, is a complement to the club By-laws and Articles of Incorporation. By definition, a policy is a consistent method of applying rules or an approved course of action for club issues, functions and operations. Some policies in the past became part of the by-laws, which made them more official and harder to change.

Only the most recent version of each policy is presented here, although many of them went through several changes over time.

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### **Approved Policies:**

- Geographic Names
  - Limit Individual SCREE Contributions
  - Mailing List Distribution
  - Membership Application
  - Membership Card Mailing
  - Membership Dues
  - Slide Shows at Monthly Meetings
  - Paid Advertising in SCREE
  - Hut Rules
  - Commercial Use of MCA Huts
  - Honorary Membership Committee
  - Rules of Borrowing MCA Library Books and Gear
  - Gear Replacement
  - Club Sanctioned Trips
  - Training to Trips Program (TroTs)
  - EPIRB, FRS Radio, Avalanche Beacon Use
  - Awards Committee
  - Release of Liability
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## **Policy: Geographic Names**

**Approved: MCA Committee on Geographic Names, August 15, 1963; published in SCREE January 1964**

The purpose of the MCA Committee on Geographic Names is to secure official approval of the simple, unusual, alliterative, non-eponymic, and descriptive names that we propose for features in the mountain areas with which we are familiar. Our policies are as follows:

- No names of persons, living or dead, shall be proposed.
- Duplication of existing names will be avoided within reasonable area limits.
- Changes of long-standing names used on maps and in literature will be opposed.
- Attempts will be made to adhere to a central theme in areas where several features are to be named.
- Local names which conform with our policies, or are acceptable to us, but not yet official, will be proposed.
- We will avoid naming features in areas not yet explored on the ground, for to name them would rob their future explorers of the privilege.
- We recognize the difference between names for major features requiring approval, and guidebook names for minor features of interest only to mountaineers.

## **Policy: Limit Individual SCREE Contributions**

**Approved: MCA Board, January 22, 1985; published in SCREE January 1985**

One contributor to SCREE can only account for 25% of printed matter.

## **Policy: Mailing List Distribution**

**Approved: MCA Board, February 13, 1986; published in SCREE March 1986**

It was felt that since the club was a non-profit organization it did not need to sell the mailing list; not to mention it being unethical to give out members' names and addresses. The board agreed it would be acceptable to inform the membership of the availability of outdoor-related catalogues, etc. and how to send off for them through a short paragraph in SCREE. It was also agreed that outdoor catalogs could be on the front table at the monthly meetings, available to those interested.

## **Policy: Membership Applications**

**Approved: MCA Board, March 14, 2001; published in SCREE June 2001**

1. The MCA Membership application includes the General Release of Liability and will be completed by all new members and any person who wishes to renew their membership.
2. Club Officers that accept membership applications for processing by the Treasurer will verify that new applicants and renewing members have signed the MCA General Release of Liability for the current year.
3. For family memberships, all family members who wish to participate in club activities must sign the MCA General Release of Liability (or have their parent sign the form if the family member is under 18). Family members can initial and sign the same release form OR complete a separate release that will be attached to the membership application.
4. Junior Members who will turn 18 years of age during the calendar year must review and complete the General Release of Liability form in addition to having their parent or guardian sign the Release form.
5. Any person who is a current member of the MCA (including spouse and other family members) may request an MCA membership card once a completed membership application is received and the release of liability is signed.
6. The MCA membership application (including Release of Liability) will be printed only in the October, November, December, January, February, and March issues of the SCREE to facilitate membership renewal. Membership applications will be available at all times on the club's web site and at regularly scheduled meetings.

## **Policy: Membership Card Mailing**

**Approved: MCA Board, February 13, 1986; published in SCREE March 1986**

The board defeated a motion to mail out membership cards. This vote was reached after a general feeling by the board that the people already volunteering a substantial amount of their time, either handling the membership dues or mailing out the SCREE, should not have another duty imposed upon them. (That is, it is not too much for an individual member to take a few minutes to provide his/her own self-addressed, stamped envelope to receive a card if that member cannot pick it up at one of the monthly meetings.)

## **Policy: Membership Dues**

**Approved: MCA Board, February 13, 1986; published in SCREE March 1986**

The board decided there would be no out-of-state membership discounts. Complementary SCREEs will continue on as they are, and Honorary Members have no dues.

## **Policy: Slide Shows at Monthly Meetings**

**Approved: MCA Board, February 13, 1986; published in SCREE March 1986**

Outdoor groups can present a slide show as long as it is presented as a personal adventure and not as an advertisement for their organization, club, or class.

## **Policy: Paid Advertising in SCREE**

**Approved: MCA Board, Dec. 3, 1987; Revised July, 2002; Revised August 2011**

### **Paid Ads in SCREE**

1. Paid ads are limited to a maximum of one page and should not appear on the first or second page nor on the back page of the newsletter.
2. All ads must be "camera ready" and conform to a format devised by the editor.
3. All ads submitted must conform to the guidelines expressed in the club's purpose as stated in the by-laws. Any ad found to be of questionable content by the editor should be sent to the Board for approval prior to publishing.
4. The advertisement rates shall be established by the SCREE editor and approved by the Board via a majority vote. The advertisement rates will be revised at the request of the SCREE editor as needed. Current rates are \$60 for a full page, \$40 for a half page, \$30 for a third of a page and \$25 for a quarter page space.
5. Members may advertise for free any items of gear for sale, solicitations for climbing partners, etc. These ads must be of a personal nature not for commercial activities. They must also be relevant to the mountaineering club and its activities, and will be placed in the ADZE section in the SCREE and official website.
6. Questions about advertisements should be directed to the SCREE editor (see back page of SCREE for contact information.).
7. Payment for ads should be made payable to:  
MCA  
Mountaineering Club of Alaska  
Box 243561  
Anchorage, AK 99524-3561

## Policy: Hut Rules

Approved (Mint Hut): MCA Hut Committee, September 1987; published in SCREE October 1987, revised to apply to all huts June 2001.

### MCA Hut Rules

This hut was built by the Mountaineering Club of Alaska for use by club members. Building and maintenance of club huts is done with club dues, donations, and volunteer time. If you are not a member, please join. If no membership applications are found in the hut, an application can be obtained from MCA by writing to PO Box 102037, Anchorage, AK, 99510. Dues are only \$10 per year. Our meetings occur at 7:30 p.m. on the third Wednesday of every month at the First United Methodist Church on the corner of 9<sup>th</sup> and G Streets in Anchorage.

1. This hut is open to the public. However, MCA members have preference if there is a conflict. We ask that notice be given to the MCA if any organized trip is planned to the hut. The hut is NOT to be used by guides or commercial operators for commercial (for-profit) activities.
2. An outhouse or RESTOP bucket system is located near the hut. PLEASE USE IT! In the winter you may have to dig out in front of the door. DO NO PUT TRASH IN THE OUTHOUSE or the human waste barrel! If there is no outhouse or bucket system, please consider packing out your waste in bags OR deposit human waste WELL away from the hut.
3. Be courteous towards others using the hut at the same time. Be considerate about things like smoking, dogs, dripping clothes, and floor and table space.
4. Try to limit fuel consumption to what you brought with you and leave behind any extra you may have in fuel containers located in the hut.
5. Be careful when using the lanterns and stove. Do not over-pressurize and remember to provide adequate ventilation (especially during the winter). A fire extinguisher is located in the hut, but don't count on it being operational.
6. Please do not burn holes in the insulation with candles. In fact try not to use candles at all (unless it is a candle lantern), since they leave a mess and pose a significant fire hazard.
7. Use the big pot in the hut for melting snow only.
8. Check around for personal items before you leave and do not leave any trash.
9. We do not recommend that you leave any food in the hut, particularly perishable items or cans/bottle that might burst when frozen (such as beer). Food left behind attracts rodents and bears that can damage the hut.
10. Sleeping bags and pads should have the owner's name on it, and can be used by anyone in their absence.
11. Before leaving, clean any dishes used, sweep the floor, and fill the lanterns and stove.
12. Hang the snow shovel high above the door or on the roof so winter parties can retrieve it for use.
13. **Latch all doors as you leave and replace any bear guards on doors and windows.** Also, check to make sure the outhouse door is latched.
14. Report any damage, inoperative equipment, empty fire extinguishers or other concerns to the Hut Committee Chairperson or the MCA President.

## **POLICY: Commercial Use of MCA Huts**

**Approved: MCA Board, August 2002 published in SCREE September 2002.**

### **Background**

Prior to the early 1990's there was minimal commercial operator use of the eight MCA backcountry huts. However, over the past several years, competing use between both private and commercial users has increased markedly. Overall use of the MCA huts is expected to rise for several reasons. First, MCA membership has increased from 400 members in 1995 to approximately 600 members. Secondly, information on how to access the MCA huts has been published in at least one book ("How to Rent A Public Cabin in Southcentral Alaska, A. Romano-Lax, 1999), as well as Outside Magazine (a 2002 issue).

Much of this competition has centered around the five MCA huts whose land is leased to the MCA by the Alaska Department of Natural Resources (AKDNR) through their section .810(b-d) Public and Charitable lease program. These five huts are the Scandinavia Hut and Bock's Den on the Matanuska Glacier and the Mint Glacier Hut, the Bomber Hut and the Dnigi Hut in the Talkeetna Mountains. The Scandinavia Hut and the Mint Hut receive the highest concentration of users, both private and public. Attachment A is a letter to the MCA from the AKDNR dated March 18, 2002 which **strictly prohibits** commercial use of these five huts under our .810(b-d) lease agreement. This letter also confirms it is the responsibility of the MCA to insure compliance with the terms of the lease. These huts are open to members of the public upon obtaining membership to the MCA.

The three remaining MCA huts are located in the Chugach State Park (CSP) along the Eklutna Traverse. They are Pichler's Perch, Hans' Hut and Rosie's Roost. Increasing private and commercial use is also impacting these huts. The CSP has a draft policy regarding the three Eklutna Traverse Huts in which they state, "In the absence of a property interest being held by MCA, it is the state's position that the huts are publicly owned and are to be managed as public facilities in Chugach State Park. MCA is encouraged to continue to conduct maintenance work on the huts. However, as publicly-owned structures in the park, the state is responsible and liable for these structures." The CSP does not prohibit commercial use of these three MCA huts, although commercial users must obtain a commercial use permit to operate in the CSP.

In light of growing use of the MCA Huts, the MCA has established the following policy regarding the use of the huts by commercial (for profit) companies:

#### **Policy**

1. All hut users are strongly encouraged to join the MCA to support maintenance of these structures.
2. The Hut Committee shall contact all commercial operators (guides, outfitters, etc.) known to be using the huts and inform them of hut rules, this policy, and membership applications. Specific reference will be provided to the March 18, 2002 letter from the Alaska Department of Natural Resources stating that commercial use of MCA huts is prohibited at the 5 huts for which MCA has a lease with the State (Mint/Rainery, Bomber, Dnigi, Scandinavian, and Bock's).
3. The Commercial Use of Huts Policy will be posted at all MCA huts
4. Any conflicts between MCA members and commercially operated groups shall be brought to the attention of the Hut Committee Chairperson, who will relay this to the MCA Board.
5. The Hut Committee Chairperson shall contact the commercial operator regarding all conflicts.
6. Conflicts occurring at Eklutna Traverse Huts which are not resolved between the Hut Committee Chairperson and the commercial operator shall be reported to the Chugach State Park. (see letter from CSP re: Eklutna Traverse Huts—Attachment B)

Additional Policy for huts under Alaska Department of Natural Resources Jurisdiction:

1. Signs prohibiting commercial use will be posted at each of the five MCA huts located on Alaska Department of Natural Resources (AKDNR) land: Scandinavia Hut, Bock's Den, Mint (Rainery) Hut, Dnigi Hut and Bomber Hut. A copy of the sign is included in Attachment B. A copy of the March 18, 2002 AKDNR letter will also be posted at the five huts.
2. The Hut Committee Chairperson shall contact the commercial operator regarding reported commercial use of the AKDNR huts to remind them of this policy and request that they discontinue use of these huts.
3. The Hut Committee Chairperson shall contact the Alaska Department of Natural Resources to report any documented commercial use of MCA huts under lease with AKDNR-

## **Policy: Honorary Membership Committee**

Approved: November 15, 1988; published in SCREE, December 1988

### **MCA HONORARY MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE**

#### Honorary Membership Committee Rules:

1. The Committee shall consist of 3 or 5 members (an odd number being best for breaking ties), appointed by the Executive Committee.
2. Committee members must be MCA members in good standing and must have been a member of the club for six years (not necessarily consecutively).
3. Committee member terms shall be for three years.
4. The Committee shall submit its nominations to the Executive Committee each year by December 31st.
5. The Committee may submit no more than two nominations per year. (No minimum requirement.)
6. a) Although recommendations may come from any source, all official nominations to be submitted must originate in the Honorary Membership Committee. It is important that any discussions pertaining to perspective nominees be avoided at the MCA general meeting, and that the presiding officer at the meeting defer such discussion to a committee level.  
b) In any case, any recommendation must be in the form of a written proposal.
7. The Executive Committee shall make the final approval for Honorary Membership through a majority vote at an Executive Committee meeting.

#### Criteria for Honorary Membership:

1. Past or present membership in the MCA is not necessary.
2. Must be living.
3. Must have made an outstanding contribution which is in alignment with the purposes of the club (Article II of the Articles of Incorporation).
4. Cannot be currently holding an elected office in the club.

#### Honorary Membership Benefits

1. Lifetime member with all the benefits of membership.
2. Certificate from the MCA.
3. Honor should be bestowed at a general MCA meeting no less than six months after election to Honorary Membership. It is desirable, but not necessary that the Honorary Member be present.

## **Policy: Rules for Borrowing MCA Library Books and Gear**

**Approved: December 28, 1993**

1. **Current MCA membership card required.** No exceptions, due to liability!
2. To check out a book: attach MCA card to book check out card and give to AMH.
3. Library books have a **three week due date**. Please note that **some material may not be checked out**. This includes all books with a **white spot** on the outside lower binding of the book. All AAJ's, AJ's, periodicals and bound back issues of SCREE are not allowed to be checked out, even if the white dot is missing.
4. To borrow gear: fill out a rental slip, attach your MCA card and give to AMH.
5. **All borrowed gear should be limited to four (4) days, although it should be returned as soon as possible after your trip** so that others may use the gear.
6. MCA-sanctioned classes and trips take precedent over other borrowers, if the trip leader arranges for the equipment in advance.
7. Please clean gear before returning it to AMH. No dirt, mud, etc.
8. Club ropes are for class use only.
9. **Know how to use the gear you are borrowing, especially avalanche beacons!!!** Check beacon batteries before and after each use. Please replace weak batteries with fresh ones. Batteries will not be issued with beacons so that the borrower can install his own and be sure of its condition.
10. Please understand that this gear is not meant for the exclusive use of any one person. If you find yourself borrowing the same item every weekend, please consider purchasing one for yourself.
11. While you're checking out/returning MCA gear, please understand that AMH is operating a business. They are doing us a great favor by allowing our gear to be stored in their shop. **If it is really busy, AMH employees should not be expected to help adjust crampons, give instruction in the use of beacons, etc. They are more than happy to help with things like that if they're not busy, but understand that you may have to do these things yourself.**
12. AMH will return your MCA membership card when all of the items you checked out have been returned.
13. **Show AMH your appreciation** by both being patient when checking out/returning gear, and by patronizing their shop with your outdoor purchases!

## **Policy: MCA Gear Replacement Policy**

**Voted on and approved by the MCA Board: 2 May, 2007.**

This policy covers personal, club and other gear replacement for sanctioned MCA training events only. MCA is not responsible for replacement or repair of any gear on other club sanctioned trips.

In all cases gear replacement or repair is by MCA board of directors' approval only. All gear replacement requests must be presented to the MCA board of directors at a regular MCA board meeting. Facts of the gear loss or damage incident must be presented to the MCA board of directors at that time, so the validity of the request can be assessed and voted on. Replacement determinations are by a simple majority vote of active board members present at the meeting. A minimum of five active board members must be present to reach a quorum.

For the purpose of this policy, gear is defined as any equipment, clothing or other effects, meaning anything brought or used by an attendee of a sanctioned MCA training event.

1. It is recognized that Demo or rental gear provided by a commercial organization or third party, even if distributed by an MCA member or members, is primarily distributed for the commercial benefit of that commercial organization and/or a commercial manufacturer. It is therefore recognized that the MCA is not liable for the replacement or repair of any Demo or rental gear used by anyone at any MCA training function.
2. The MCA is not responsible for the replacement or repair of student attendees' personal gear at any MCA training function.
3. Students may be responsible for replacement or repair of borrowed MCA club gear, subject to an MCA board of directors' decision as outlined above.
4. In recognition of the contribution volunteer instructors make to MCA training events, volunteer instructors' personal gear may be replaced or repaired by the MCA, subject to an MCA board of directors decision as outlined above.
5. In rare cases when an instructor is shown to be negligent, an instructor may be held responsible for the replacement of borrowed MCA gear, subject to an MCA board of directors' decision as outlined above.

## Policy: Club Sanctioned Trips

Approved: MCA Board, February 1995; Amended February 15, 2000, Feb 13, 2001, June 2010; published periodically

Mountaineering involves inherent risk that can result in severe injury and death. In order to minimize risk while providing an enjoyable, adventurous and interesting experience, club sanctioned trips and field training shall adhere to this policy. All participants shall familiarize themselves with this policy prior to participating in any club sanctioned trip or field training course.

## By-Laws

The following excerpt from the MCA By-Laws is included for reference.

Adopted as of July 1997 and amended as of Feb 2000 and June 2010.

### Section XI SANCTIONED TRIPS

- A. Definition: A sanctioned club trip shall be one which is approved by the Hiking and Climbing Committee or Training Committee and advertised in the club publication or on the club website in the Trips or Training Schedules. Such advertisement shall contain a description of the trip as to the difficulty and special requirements and designated leaders(s).
- B. Classifications: A sanctioned trip shall be classified as to its difficulty according to a classification scheme approved by the Executive Committee.
- C. Leaders: Leaders of any sanctioned trip must be approved by the Hiking and Climbing Committee (a simple majority) prior to the trip date. He/she must be a member of the MCA and must have participated in a trip of the same or higher classification than the one being advertised. A set of guidelines and qualifications approved by the Executive Committee shall determine current club policy as to procedures to be followed by the leader(s).
- D. Rules: A list of club rules for sanctioned trips, formulated by the Hiking and Climbing Committee and approved by the Executive Committee shall be made available to prospective trip participants. Among the rules must be a requirement for all participants to sign a liability release prior to trip departure.

### Section IV, Subparagraph F: Trip Officers

Trip Officers: All trip leaders of any sanctioned trip organized and advertised by the club shall be given the position of Trip Officer. This designation as an officer of the organization shall be for the duration of the advertised trip and does not carry with it any power to vote at Executive Committee meetings.

## MCA Trip Classification Scheme

MCA sanctioned trips are classified according to the **physical demand** and nature of the **terrain**. Trips that do not require special skills are generally referred to as *non-technical*. These trips usually involve hiking, scrambling and skiing low angle (avalanche free) terrain. Trips that require special skills are referred to as *technical* trips. Due to the broad nature of potential trips and the

subjectivity of a letter designation system, the MCA no longer uses letter designations to classify trips.

Please note that terrain descriptions do not account for potential hazards such as rock fall, bears, etc. Trip leaders shall inform participants of potential hazards either verbally, on the sign-up sheet, or in the trip description on the web site or Scree.

**Physical Demand:** Simply put this is elevation gain, distance and duration. Please note that terrain can also affect physical demand. For example bushwhacking and scree sloggng requires more energy than trail hiking.

**Terrain:** Terrain may consist of trail hiking; bushwhacking; off-trail hiking on tundra, snow, ice, scree, talus or boulders; exposed hiking on steep slopes covered with snow, ice, slick vegetation, scree, talus or boulders; scrambling; scrambling on loose rock; exposed scrambling; exposed scrambling on loose rock; technical snow, ice, rock and/or mixed climbing; stream crossing; glacier travel on snow, ice and/or scree; etc. Trips are classified as either non-technical or technical depending on the nature of the terrain as follows:

- **Non-Technical:** Non-technical trips generally consist of hiking, scrambling and skiing in low angle, non-avalanche terrain.
- **Hiking and Scrambling:** Trips consisting of hiking and scrambling are classified in accordance with the Sierra Club System described in the Seventh Edition of Mountaineering, The Freedom of the Hills, Appendix A, Rating Systems, as follows:
  - **Class 1:** Hiking on or off trail. Hands are not required for upward or downward movement and climbing can be likened to a stairway.
  - **Class 2:** Hiking over rough terrain. Hands may be required to steady oneself for movement around or over obstacles. Class 2 includes simple scrambling, with possible occasional use of the hands. Examples include ascending, descending and traversing scree and talus slopes.
  - **Class 3:** Scrambling over rock and talus where handholds and footholds are used for balance and upward or downward movement. The terrain is steep and if one were to slip and fall, moderate to serious injury (depending on how you land) may result. In order to be considered non-technical, the exposure must be minimal so that a belay is not required.
- **Technical:** Technical trips, by nature, require specialized equipment, skills and experience. These trips generally involve difficult and hazardous terrain. Technical trips (not classified as *training*) are only open to qualified members who have the appropriate skills and experience. The trip leader and/or Hiking and Climbing Committee will determine the qualifications required to participate on the trip. Examples include, but are not limited to:
  - **Class 4:** Scrambling and simple climbing (usually not requiring strength of grip) on very steep but not completely vertical terrain. Exposure can be severe, and may cause vertigo. A fall could be fatal. Knowledge of belays, anchors and rappels is a prerequisite for a Class 4 route.
  - **Class 5:** Fifth class rock climbing. Climbing difficulty varies widely with each trip.
  - **Ice and Mixed Climbing:** Climbing ice or mixed rock and ice. Climbing difficulty varies widely with each trip.
  - **Glacier Travel:** Trips involving potentially hazardous glacier travel.

- **Steep Snow Climbing:** Climbing steep (exposed) snow slopes or slopes subject to avalanche.
- **Backcountry Skiing or Snowboarding:** Skiing or snowboarding on steep (exposed) slopes or slopes subject to avalanche. Skiing low angle slopes not subject to avalanche is considered non-technical.
- **Avalanche Terrain:** Any trip in avalanche terrain.
- **Packrafting:** Any trip involving packrafting.
- **Kayaking:** Any trip involving river, lake or sea kayaking.
- **Stream Crossing, Hazardous:** Any trip with a potentially hazardous stream crossing.

### General Rules for Participation on MCA Sanctioned Trips

1. Participants shall familiarize themselves with the *physical demands, anticipated terrain* and *potential hazards* associated with the proposed trip. Examples include, but are not limited to:
  - **Physical Demands:** Estimated elevation gain, distance and duration.
  - **Anticipated Terrain:** Trail hiking; bushwhacking; off-trail hiking on tundra, snow, ice, scree, talus or boulders; exposed hiking on steep slopes covered with snow, ice, slick vegetation, scree, talus or boulders; scrambling on loose rock; exposed scrambling on loose rock; technical snow, ice, rock and/or mixed climbing; stream crossing; glacier travel on snow, ice and/or scree.
  - **Potential Hazards:** Avalanche; falling while skiing, hiking or climbing; falling into a crevasse; being struck by falling rock, snow or ice; attack by a bear, moose or insects (bees, wasps, mosquitoes, biting flies, etc); lightning; fire; carbon monoxide poisoning; suffocation; frostbite; hypothermia; drowning from falling through snow, crossing a stream, packrafting or kayaking; injury from use/ misuse of equipment. Note that it is impossible to predict all potential hazards that may be encountered while participating on MCA sanctioned trips.
2. Participants may be required to demonstrate the skills and experience necessary to participate on any given trip.
3. Participants shall sign-up on the club sanctioned trip sign-up sheet.
4. Participants shall read, initial and sign the Release of Liability Agreement prior to departing on the trip.
5. The trip leader may refuse participation to any member for any reason. If someone feels that they have been discriminated against or treated unfairly, they may present their case to the Hiking and Climbing Committee and/or the Executive Committee.
6. Proper clothing and equipment is required to participate on club sanctioned trips. The trip leader can require special equipment and refuse participation to any person that is ill-prepared (e.g. inappropriate clothing, footwear or gear). See recommended equipment list at the end of this policy.
7. Participants shall follow the leader's instructions. Participants shall not go off alone, return or rush ahead without permission from the leader. Participants shall not ford a stream before the leader assesses the situation. Remember, this is a club trip and the leader must

know where all participants are. Anyone intentionally separating from the group without the leader's approval shall no longer be considered a participant on the club sanctioned trip.

8. The trip leader has the authority to split the group (fast and slow), dependent upon current conditions and experience level of the participants. The leader must appoint a qualified co-leader to lead the second group using the guidelines specified under Trip Leader Responsibilities.
9. **Glacier Travel:** For trips requiring roped travel over glaciers, knowledge of crevasse rescue, and ice axe and crampon skills are required. A basic understanding of ice and snow anchors is also required.
10. Participants who in the leader's opinion, put themselves or other members of the group in danger, shall be subject to sanction by the club. Sanctions may include, but are not limited to, reprimand at the general meeting, exclusion from future trips, termination of annual membership, or lifetime exclusion from the club. The Executive Committee, and only the Executive Committee, shall have the authority to issue sanctions.
11. Number of people on club trips:
  - Minimum: For safety reasons, three people minimum. Trips undertaken with fewer than the minimum required participants shall not be considered club sanctioned trips.
  - Maximum: Registration on any particular trip must be restricted to a safe and manageable number of members. The Leader and/or Hiking and Climbing Committee shall determine the maximum number of participants. In trail-less areas or State and National Parks the maximum number depends upon the trail and campsite conditions, but will generally be limited to 12 people.
12. In general dogs are not allowed. Among the reasons are bear problems. Well behaved, bear savvy dogs may be approved at the discretion of the trip leader and all trip participants. Approval must be unanimous and must occur prior to meeting for the trip.
13. Firearms are not allowed on club sanctioned trips, unless approved by the trip leader and all participants. Approval must be unanimous. Aerosol bear repellent is preferred in lieu of firearms.
14. If you find you cannot participate after signing up on the roster, please let the leader know as soon as possible, for transportation and gear-planning and so someone else can go. If you are the leader, help find a replacement.

## **Hiking and Climbing Committee and Training Committee Qualifications**

1. Any current MCA member may serve on the Hiking and Climbing and Training Committees.
2. In order to reduce risk to participants, leaders, instructors, the board of directors, club officers and the MCA as a whole, the combined minimum Alaska mountaineering experience of all members comprising either the Hiking and Climbing Committee or the Training Committee shall be 10 years. In the event the Hiking and Climbing Committee or Training Committee lacks the minimum required experience, all proposed club sanctioned trips and field training courses shall be approved by the Executive Committee.

## **Hiking and Climbing Committee Responsibilities**

1. All club sanctioned trips shall be approved by the Hiking and Climbing Committee in accordance with the by-laws and this policy. The committee reserves the right to disapprove any proposed trip.
2. The Hiking and Climbing Committee shall maintain a list of approved trip leaders. The list shall include descriptions of the types of trips the leaders are approved to lead.
3. The Hiking and Climbing Committee shall review trip reports from all sanctioned trips. All injuries and areas of concern shall be reported to the President.

## **Training Committee Responsibilities**

1. Field training shall be approved by the Training Committee in accordance with the by-laws and this policy. The committee reserves the right to disapprove any proposed training.
2. The Training Committee shall ensure that required permits are obtained for training that takes place in Chugach State Park and other public lands. Permits shall be obtained prior to the training.
3. The Training Committee shall maintain a list of approved instructors, including a description of the type of training that each instructor is approved to teach.
4. The Training Committee shall review reports from all approved field training courses. Areas of concern shall be reported to the Executive Committee.

## **Executive Committee Responsibilities**

1. The Executive Committee shall act in accordance with the MCA By-Laws as necessary to resolve conflicts between participants, trip leaders, instructors and committees.
2. The Executive Committee shall review reports submitted by the Hiking and Climbing and Training Committees and take appropriate action when necessary to minimize risk and improve the quality of future trips and field training courses.
3. The Executive Committee shall investigate allegations of discrimination or inappropriate action by trip leaders, instructors or participants and take appropriate action as necessary.

## **Instructor Qualifications**

1. Instructors must have majority approval of the Training Committee.
2. Instructors must have relevant experience acceptable to the Training Committee.

## **Instructor Responsibilities**

1. Instructors shall use good judgment and act in accordance with this policy and the MCA By-Laws.

## **Trip Leader Qualifications**

1. Must be a member of the MCA.

2. Must have majority approval of the Hiking and Climbing Committee.
3. Must have received certification in Standard First Aid or a more advanced medical certification (e.g. WFR, EMT) within the last 10 years or lead trips with an approved co-leader that meets this requirement.
4. Must attend an MCA Trip Leader Orientation course prior to leading any trips.
5. Must have participated on trips of the same type and classification as the one being led, showing competence in the opinion of the leaders of those trips; or must demonstrate equivalent experience acceptable to the Hiking and Climbing Committee.
6. Leaders on technical trips must have served as a co-leader with an approved MCA trip leader on at least one trip of the same type and classification, or have equivalent experience acceptable to the Hiking and Climbing Committee. Persons with technical climbing experience wishing to waive this requirement must provide a letter to the Hiking and Climbing Committee outlining their climbing/guiding experience, training, and include at least one personal reference.
7. Leaders on trips that involve avalanche terrain must have completed formal training in avalanche hazard recognition and victim search and rescue as approved by the Hiking and Climbing Committee.
8. Leaders on trips that involve hazardous stream crossings must have either formal training in safe stream crossing methods or have extensive experience crossing streams.

## **Trip Leader Responsibilities**

1. Use good judgment.
2. The leader shall obtain approval for the proposed trip from the Hiking and Climbing Committee prior to advertising the trip.
3. Per MCA bylaws, club sanctioned trips must be advertised in the club publication or on the club website.
  - In other words, the MCA membership must be informed of the trip. In order to publish the trip in the Scree, the Hiking and Climbing committee must approve the club trip about 35 days before the trip so that the Hiking and Climbing chair can forward the approved trip list to the editor of the Scree. For example, a trip for the month of June or later would have to be approved by the Hiking and Climbing committee by April 25. A trip for July or later would need to be approved by May 25<sup>th</sup>, and so on.
  - If a leader does not wish to plan a trip one month in advance, the trip may be submitted to the Hiking and Climbing committee to be posted on the MCA website and then advertised as a club sanctioned trip on the MCA email group list service.
  - **IMPORTANT:** Anyone may advertise a personal trip at the general membership meeting or on the MCA email group list service, which is an important service the club offers to all members -- to help bring hikers and climbers together. Personal trips are not and shall not be considered club sanctioned trips.

4. The trip leader shall ensure that all participants sign up on the club sanctioned trip sign-up sheet. The leader is responsible for providing and maintaining the trip sign-up sheets at monthly meetings.
5. The leader shall coordinate with the Hiking and Climbing Committee Chair if he/she is unable to make the monthly meeting prior to the trip.
6. The leader should describe their proposed trip at Club meetings.
7. The leader shall contact all participants prior to departure and describe the physical demands, anticipated terrain, potential hazards, required skills and required clothing and gear.
8. The leader shall coordinate meeting arrangements.
9. The leader shall leave a trip roster containing a brief description of the proposed route and the names and telephone numbers of participants with a responsible person that will be able to contact a Hiking and Climbing Committee member (names and telephone numbers are on the sign-up sheet) in case of an emergency or delayed return.
10. The leader should brief trip members on the General Rules for MCA Sanctioned Trips using the Trip Leader Checklist. If members already know each other and have been on previous trips, not much may need to be said. If new members are on the trip, use the checklist.
11. For safety and liability reasons, the leader shall act in accordance with this policy.
12. The mountains are a very dynamic environment. Since trips are planned more than a month in advance, factors such as weather, snow stability, stream water level, etc. must be evaluated at the time of departure. The trip leader shall use the best relevant tools available such as the National Weather Service, Chugach National Forest Avalanche Information Center, Hydrology/Stream forecasts, etc. to check conditions prior to departure. When conditions are unsafe, the trip shall be cancelled or postponed.
13. **Trip Report:** After every trip, the leader shall provide a brief trip report (over the phone or via email) to the Hiking and Climbing Committee. The report shall include any injuries, incidents or personnel problems. When requested by the President, a written report shall be provided.

## **Attachment - Trip Leader Check List**

The intent of this checklist is to provide a well-organized trip for club members, to help minimize risk and make sure participants know what to expect on a MCA trip.

### **BEFORE the trip**

1. Verify that all participants have signed the Release of Liability form. Participants do not have to be MCA members, but they must sign the Release of Liability form.
2. Prepare a trip roster with route description, list of participants, and emergency contact numbers. Make sure that each participant provides the name of a person to contact in case of emergency.
3. Inform participants of potential hazards, discuss the difficulty of the anticipated terrain and review the physical demands of the proposed trip.
4. Inform participants of expected gear and any special equipment that may be required (i.e., ice axe, crampons, etc.).
5. Leave a trip roster with a responsible person that will be able to contact a Hiking and Climbing Committee member (names and telephone numbers are on the sign-up sheet) in case of an emergency or delayed return.

### **At the Trailhead**

1. Set the tone: This trip is for fun. It is a MCA sanctioned outing. The goal may be to hike to a certain destination or climb a mountain. The priorities for a club trip are safety, fun, and achieve the goal, in that order.
2. Take attendance and have everyone introduce themselves.
3. Review the General Rules listed in the Club Sanctioned Trips Policy. Be prepared to disallow a participant if you feel the General Rules are not followed or the individual is not prepared for the trip. For example, if a participant forgot required gear (e.g., helmet or rain gear), the leader is empowered by MCA rules to disallow that person from the outing. One approach to handling this type of situation is to bring that person aside and explain that club rules are designed to provide a safe trip for the entire group. If appropriate, add that this happens once in awhile, and encourage the person to sign up for future MCA trips.
4. Discuss the planned route, anticipated terrain, expected conditions, physical demands and potential hazards. Describe trail, brush, bears, bugs, rock, scree, snow, weather, etc. Also, review the skill level that may be required.
5. Identify who is trained in first aid. Tell the group that if someone gets hurt, the goal of the trip will change immediately to assisting that person. Re-emphasize the priorities of the trip: safety, fun, trip goal.
6. Explain that decisions will generally be based on consensus, but may be authoritarian in emergency situations or at the discretion of the trip leader.
7. Discuss how the group may travel.

- a. The leader will facilitate keeping the group together. Techniques may vary, especially if there is a wide range of capabilities among the participants. Let everyone know common methods used:
  - i. If a fast and slow group develops, the group may split with co-leaders. Alternatively, the fast group may have to stop at intervals so the other can re-join. The fast group, for example, may have to wait 10 minutes every 30 minutes of travel. Or, the fast group may be limited to never losing sight of at least one member in the slower group.
  - ii. The fast group must stop at all trail intersections.
  - iii. If someone gets lost, the leader should collect the remaining group and develop a plan to find the missing person. The lost person should stay put -- not wander around.
8. Ask if anyone has questions or concerns.
  - a. Does anyone have to be back by a certain time?
  - b. Does anyone have any physical concerns (a weak knee, allergies, on medication, etc.) -- see leader after remarks.
  - c. If anyone feels uncomfortable during the trip, let the leader know.
9. Prior to leaving the trailhead, make sure everyone is 100% ready to go. This helps keep the group together, especially with larger groups.

### **After the Trip**

**Contact the Hiking and Climbing Committee to file a brief trip report. The report shall include any injuries, incidents or personnel problems.**

## Attachment - Equipment List

Note: Consult Trip Leader for required equipment.

### Summer

Rain gear that works  
Wind gear  
Wool or fleece pants  
Shorts (not recommended due to plants and wasps)  
Light long johns  
Wool shirt  
Jacket  
Baseball cap  
Gloves  
Extra socks  
Wool or pile hat  
Hiking boots  
Stream-crossing footwear  
Sunscreen  
Mosquito repellent  
Whistle  
Large plastic bag  
Lighter, matches  
Map, compass  
Aerosol bear repellent (if desired)  
Moleskin/Spenco 2nd skin  
Ace bandage  
Surgical tape  
Aspirin  
Gauze  
Anti-bacterial ointment  
4" x 4" pads, Band-Aids  
Wire  
Vice grips or pliers  
Utility cord  
Sewing kit  
Tent  
Sleeping pad  
Sleeping bag  
Backpack cover  
Cook pot  
Stove (fires not allowed)  
Fuel bottle  
Walking stick or ice axe  
Water bottles (not canteens)  
FOOD

### Additional for Glaciers

Ice axe  
Gaitors  
Climbing boots  
Slings, carabiners  
Rappel device  
Belay device  
Rope  
MCA Policies Aug 2011.doc

Wands  
Mittens  
Crampons  
Seat Harness  
Ice screw(s)  
Pulleys  
Prussiks/ascenders  
Glacier glasses/cream

### If snow on glacier:

Picket  
Skis or snowshoes

### Winter

Wind gear  
Wool/fleece pants  
Wool/fleece shirt  
Long johns  
Down jacket  
Wool/fleece hat  
Face mask  
Mittens  
Double boots  
Avalanche beacon  
Shovel  
Lighter  
Headlamp  
First aid kit  
Repair kit  
Tent (or snow shelters)  
Sleeping bag  
Sleeping pad  
Large cook pot  
Stove  
Windscreen for stove  
Fuel bottle  
Thermos  
Gaitors  
Thermometer  
Skis or snowshoes

**Policy: Training to Trips Program (TroTs)**

**Approved: MCA Board, February 2010; published in SCREE March 2010**

This incentive program is designed to educate Mountaineering Club of Alaska members and inspire them to safely lead (and instruct) trips for the MCA.

Existing or future leaders/instructors will be reimbursed by the MCA for 30% (to a maximum of \$50 for WFA and CPR) of the cost of the standard Wilderness First Aid (WFA) class after leading/instructing five full days. Higher level medical training is encouraged but will be reimbursed only to the WFA rate. Recertification's will also be reimbursed with the same stipulations.

Existing or future leaders/instructors traveling on avalanche potential slopes will be reimbursed by the MCA for 30% (to a maximum of \$100) of the cost of the Avalanche Level 1 class after leading/instructing five full days. The trips need not be exclusively snow trips.

Higher level avalanche training is encouraged but will be reimbursed only to the Level 1 rate. Recertifications will also be reimbursed with the same stipulations.

Participants in this program are required to maintain their own receipts and paperwork. Notifying the treasurer and/or the MCA board of your participation in this program is advisable to confirm funding status.

The MCA will have an annual cap on this program. Should Trots exceed this cap the MCA may reimburse participants equally at a lower rate, or vote to exceed the budget. Should there be extra funds for TroTs during the year, participants may be reimbursed at a higher rate. The first group of responders to this program will be reimbursed at the original rate.

**Policy: EPIRB, FRS Radio, and Avalanche Beacon Use**

**Amended: April 18, 2000**

**EMERGENCY POSITION LOCATING RADIO BEACON (EPIRB)  
FAMILY SERVICE RADIO (FRS)  
AND AVALANCHE BEACON USE RULES**

The EPIRB and avalanche beacons, referred to as BEACON in this policy, are only to be used in emergency situations. An EPIRB transmits a signal so that rescue aircraft can “home” to the EPIRB. The Motorola FRS radios are to be used on club sanctioned trips as a means to maintain communication between trip members.

The Hiking and Climbing Committee Chairperson or other MCA Board designee shall store the BEACONS and FRS radios. Club members/trip leaders can make reservations for the BEACONS/FRS radios by contacting that person.

BEACONS/FRS radios must be returned within one week from the scheduled return date or, if applicable, forfeiture of the deposit will result. The BEACONS/FRS radios will be tested for proper operation prior to return of the deposit, again if applicable. If the BEACON/FRS radio return is to be later than scheduled due to weather, injury or such the Chairperson/designee must be notified immediately upon member’s return from the trip.

- BEACONS
1. Only members may checkout and use a BEACON.
  2. A member checking out a BEACON must provide a \$250.00 ` deposit and assumes responsibility for loss or damage that would result in forfeiture of deposit.
  3. An MCA sanctioned Trip Leader or Co-Leader checking out a BEACON is not required to provide a deposit. The Club assumes responsibility for loss or damage.
  4. Club sanctioned trips have priority use even if a member has previously scheduled a BEACON for a personal trip.

EPIRB                    When using an EPIRB a member must fill out an Alaska State Trooper Search and Rescue (AST SAR) Travel Plan. These Travel Plans are available from the Hiking and Climbing Chairperson.

FRS Radios            Only Trip Leaders or Co-Leaders may check out the FRS radios for the trip they are scheduled to lead.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date Checked Out

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date to be Returned

I have read these terms and agree to them. I know how to operate the BEACON/FRS radio.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

## **Policy: Awards Committee**

**Approved: February 13, 2002; Published in SCREE March 2002**

### **MCA Awards Committee**

#### Awards Committee Rules:

1. The Awards Committee will be comprised of 3 MCA members (an odd number being best for breaking ties) appointed by the Executive Committee.
2. Committee members must be MCA members in good standing and will have been a member of the club for minimum of 2 years (not necessarily consecutively).
3. Committee member terms will be for 3 years (staggered terms), with one new member appointed annually by the Board.
4. The most senior member of the committee will act as chairperson and serve as the primary contact for the Executive Committee.
5. Committee members will be responsible for:
  - a) collecting and reviewing all nominations for club awards annually.
  - b) developing and maintaining the specific criteria and process that the committee will use to review nominations for club awards within guidelines provided by the Executive Committee.
  - c) Selecting award recipients and submitting those names to the Board for confirmation
  - d) Acquiring award certificates and ensuring that the names award recipients are added to the appropriate plaque.

#### **MCA Hoeman Award**

In May, 2001, the Board of the Mountaineering Club of Alaska created a new award to honor Vin and Grace Hoeman--two of the club's most prolific climbers, who made significant contributions to the early exploration and documentation of hiking and climbing opportunities throughout Alaska and the Yukon during the 1960s. As defined by the Executive Committee, the **Hoeman Award** is:

“An award given to a person(s) associated with the Mountaineering Club of Alaska (MCA), including current, former, and honorary members, who has made a significant contribution to the exploration, documentation, and promotion of hiking and climbing opportunities in Alaska's mountain ranges. The Hoeman Award is the Mountaineering Club of Alaska's most prestigious award, and, as such, shall be bestowed only upon those who have demonstrated a long-term commitment to the exploration, documentation, and promotion of hiking and climbing opportunities in Alaska.”

The Hoeman Award will consist of a permanent plaque housed in the MCA Vin Hoeman Library. A person(s) who has been selected to receive the award will have his or her name permanently engraved on the Hoeman Award plaque and will also receive a certificate suitable for framing that recognizes their achievement.

#### Hoeman Award Nomination Criteria:

1. Nominees should have some association with the MCA, through membership or a working relationship with the club.
2. Nominees cannot be currently holding elected office in the club.
3. Nominations for the Hoeman Award may be made at any time and shall be provided **in writing** to the MCA Awards Committee.
4. Written nominations must include:
  - a) the name of the candidate(s)
  - b) the name(s) of the person(s) nominating the candidate(s)
  - c) a written description of the contributions the candidate(s) has made to the exploration, documentation, and promotion of hiking and climbing opportunities in Alaska
  - d) name(s) and contact information of club members or other persons who may be able to provide more information to the committee regarding the candidate's contributions
5. The Hoeman Award may be awarded posthumously to a qualified candidate.

#### Hoeman Award-- Committee Instructions:

The MCA Executive Committee adopted the following instructions/guidelines for the Hoeman Award:

1. The Awards Committee will be responsible for requesting nominations for the Hoeman Award at least once per year via an announcement in the club's newsletter, SCREE.
2. The Awards Committee will collect all written nominations and review them for completeness, making any necessary inquiries with current and former club members to confirm the information provided in the written nomination is accurate. References should be contacted to obtain any additional information that might be desired.
3. The Awards Committee will develop written criteria that will be used to rank nominations and select award recipients. The criteria and process to be used by the committee to evaluate award nominees need not be extensive, but will be submitted to the Executive Committee for approval prior to selection of the first award recipients.
4. The committee will retain the ranking and selection criteria in a committee handbook for future use. Revisions to established criteria must be submitted in writing to the Executive Committee for approval by a majority vote of the Executive Committee members in attendance at a scheduled Board meeting.
5. The Awards Committee will select the Hoeman award recipient(s) and make a written recommendation to the Executive Committee outlining the award recipient(s) and a brief description of why she/he is deserving of the award. Award recipients will be confirmed by a majority vote of the Executive Committee members in attendance at a scheduled Board meeting.
6. The Awards Committee will be responsible for the design and purchase of the Hoeman Award plaque as well as the certificates to be given to awardees, subject to Board approval. The committee will also be responsible for installing the plaque in a suitable location in the Vin Hoeman Library and making sure award recipients' names are engraved on the plaque prior to bestowing the award.
7. The Hoeman Award will be conveyed at a regularly scheduled MCA meeting by the Awards Committee Chair (or President). An announcement stating that the award will be presented (but **NOT** the award recipient's name!) will be placed in the club's newsletter SCREE at least one month prior to the meeting at which the award will be conveyed. The Awards Committee will make all attempts to insure that the award recipient (or his/her representative) is present at the meeting in order to receive the award.

### **President's Award**

In May 2001, the Board of the Mountaineering Club of Alaska created a new award to recognize significant contributions of time and effort of **a current club member(s)** toward an MCA project(s) or other club activities during a calendar year.

#### President's Award Criteria:

1. Nominee must be a current club member in good standing.
2. Nominations are to be submitted in writing to the Awards Committee by September 30 and include:
  - a) The name of nominee.
  - b) A brief description of the contributions made by the individual in the current calendar year that warrant consideration for the award. They must have made an outstanding contribution that is in alignment with the purposes of the club.
3. The Awards Committee will simply collect all nominee packets and submit them to the current President, by October 1.
4. The President selects the final award recipient(s) subject to confirmation by a majority of the Executive Committee members present at a regularly scheduled Board meeting.
5. The President presents the award(s) at either the October or November general membership meeting, making all attempts to ensure that the recipient(s) are present at the meeting.
6. No more than 2 awards will be given annually.
7. The award will consist of a \$50 gift certificate to Alaska Mountaineering and Hiking.

**Policy: Release of Liability**

**Approved: February 2009; published monthly**

**SIGN AND INITIAL THIS RELEASE OF LIABILITY— READ IT CAREFULLY**

I \_\_\_\_\_ (print name) am aware that mountaineering and wilderness activities (including hiking; backpacking; rock, snow, and ice climbing; mountaineering; skiing; ski mountaineering; rafting and packrafting, kayaking, and use of remote backcountry huts) are hazardous activities. I wish to participate and/or receive instruction in these activities with the Mountaineering Club of Alaska, Inc. (“MCA”). I recognize these activities involve numerous risks, which include, by way of example only, falling while hiking, climbing, skiing or crossing rivers or glaciers; falling into a crevasse or over a cliff; drowning; 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 or rescue. I also recognize that risk of **injury or death** may be caused or enhanced by **mistakes, negligence or reckless conduct** on the part of either my fellow participants; MCA officers, directors, instructors, or trip leaders; and the State of Alaska and its employees regarding MCA backcountry huts. 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. **(As used in this agreement, MCA includes its officers, directors, instructors and trip leaders.)**

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

**GIVING UP MY LEGAL RIGHTS** I agree to give up for myself and for my heirs all legal rights I may have against the MCA; my fellow participants in MCA activities (except to the extent that insurance coverage is provided by automobile insurance policies) and the State of Alaska and its employees regarding MCA backcountry huts. **I give up these legal rights regardless of whether the injury, death, or property damage results from mistakes, negligence or reckless conduct of others.** I understand this agreement shall remain in effect until I provide a signed, dated, written notice of its revocation to the MCA.

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

**MY PROMISE NOT TO SUE** I will not sue or otherwise make a claim against the MCA; my fellow participants in MCA activities (except as noted above for automobile accidents); and the State of Alaska and its employees regarding use of MCA backcountry huts, for **injury, death, or property damage** which occurs in the course of my participation or instruction in mountaineering and wilderness activities. Any lawsuit relating to MCA activities or this release shall only be filed in Anchorage, Alaska. The provisions of this release are severable and if any part is found unenforceable, the remaining provisions shall remain in effect.

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

**MY RELEASE OF LIABILITY** I agree to release and discharge the MCA; my fellow participants in MCA activities; and the State of Alaska and its employees regarding use of MCA backcountry huts, 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 and wilderness activities.

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

**MY PROMISE TO INDEMNIFY** I will pay all expenses, including attorney fees and court costs, that the MCA; my fellow participants in MCA activities; and the State of Alaska and its employees may incur as a consequence of any legal action arising out of **injury, death, or property damage** suffered by me in connection with any MCA activity or the use of any MCA backcountry hut.

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

**MY CONSENT TO MEDICAL TREATMENT** I consent to any hospital or medical care that may be necessary as a result of my participation in MCA activities. I understand and agree that I am solely responsible for all charges for such medical treatment, including evacuation and/or rescue costs.

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

**I HAVE CAREFULLY READ THIS AGREEMENT, UNDERSTAND ITS CONTENT, AND RECOGNIZE IT IS A BINDING LEGAL AGREEMENT**

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

Signature of Parent or Guardian (if under 18): \_\_\_\_\_

**Revised 2/19/09**