



Mountaineering Club of Alaska
BP Energy Center
1014 Energy Ct., Anchorage, AK

Wednesday, November 2nd, 6 - 8 p.m.



The 30,000 Kilometer Mountain Snow Travels and Studies in Arctic Alaska

Dr. Matthew Sturm, Geophysical Institute-University of Alaska

Starting in the early 1990s we began perfecting our ability to make snow measurements during long (and cold) over-snow traverses in the Arctic. These expeditions bore a striking similarity in both conditions and mode of operation to my earlier big mountain climbing experiences in Alaska (Denali, Wrangell, Sanford, Hayes, Drum, Redoubt, Cloud Peak). I will share slides of these long over-snow trips and talk about the physics that makes snow an interesting material to travel and climb on.



Matthew Sturm came to the Arctic in 1973 aboard the U.S. Coast Guard Icebreaker Northwind. That was his first experience with sea ice and tundra. After completing an undergraduate degree in Geology at New Mexico Tech (1978), he returned to Alaska in 1981 to study glaciers for his MSc (1984), and snow metamorphism for his Ph.D. (1987). Since that time, he has split his time between studying snow on tundra and on sea ice. He was employed by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineer's Cold Regions Research and Engineering Laboratory-Alaska between 1987 to 2012, following which he returned to his alma mater (UAF) as a Professor of Geophysics and the leader of the Snow-Ice-Permafrost Group. A mountain climber since age 16, he has led over 35 long expeditions in the Arctic and Antarctic, often staying out for months. He is the author of 4 books, over 150 technical papers on snow, and holds patents for several specialized tools for measuring snow. His newest book, Field Guide to Snow, explains how snow works in simple terms for the public.