

# the **SCREE**

## Mountaineering Club of Alaska

January 2011

Volume 54 Number 1



**Records are less important for me than  
what I feel when I come down the mountain.**

**~ Bode Miller**

**Skinny Ski Peak Bagging in the Sound  
Organ Mountain  
POM – Peak 5320**

**Monthly Meeting**

**Wed. January 19 @ 6:30 PM**

**Program: Presentation by Nikki Green:**

**An Introduction to Caving and the 2009 J2 Expedition**

# The Mountaineering Club of Alaska

[www.mtnclubak.org](http://www.mtnclubak.org)

*"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"*

Join us for our club meetings the third Wednesday of the month at the BP Energy Center, 900 East Benson Boulevard, Anchorage, Alaska  
[www.akpeac.org/conference/BPEC\\_map\\_06-04-03.pdf](http://www.akpeac.org/conference/BPEC_map_06-04-03.pdf)

**Cover Photo:** JT Lindholm, Eric Parsons, and Todd Kelsey near the summit of Peak 5320 in April 2010. Peeking Mountain at far left. Photo by Billy Finley.

## Article Submission:

Text and photography submissions for the *Scree* can be sent as attachments to [mcascree@gmail.com](mailto:mcascree@gmail.com). Do not submit material in the body of the email. We prefer articles that are under 1,000 words. If you have a blog or website, send us the link. Cover photo selections are based on portraits of human endeavor in the outdoors.

For best viewing of the *Scree* on a monitor using Adobe Reader, click on 'View' and 'Full Screen.'

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**MCA Final Budget for Approval**

## MCA Meeting

An Introduction to Caving and the 2009 J2 Expedition

Presenter Nikki Green: "I've been caving for 4 years and have logged over 55 days underground in that time. I got started caving at University of Maryland with the Terrapin Trail Club and quickly fell in love with the hobby. I spent every weekend for the next two years surveying or leading beginner caving trips. I went on the 2009 J2 expedition in Oaxaca, Mexico, for three months sponsored by the United States Deep Caving Team and in part by Poseidon and National Geographic. I am currently food coordinator for the United States Deep Caving Team which promotes international exploration with emphasis on deep caves of Mexico. I am also an active member of the AMCS (Association for Mexican Cave Studies) and the NSS (National Speleological Society)."

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At the January meeting, the MCA membership will vote on accepting the proposed budget. The proposed budget was included in the last *Scree* and is included in this *Scree*.

## Hiking and Climbing Schedule

January 15 Ice Climbing Trip

Limited to six – two teams of three or three teams of two. Must be able to lead Grade 3 ice or bring a partner. Location is condition dependent. Email [marcinksok@netscape.net](mailto:marcinksok@netscape.net)

January 29 - 31 Crescent Lake Ski Tour

Crescent Lake Ski tour (cabin rental fees apply). Contact Greg Bragiel for details.

February 19 - 28 Resurrection Trail

Seward to Hope ski tour. (Cabin rental fees apply and must be paid when signing on to the trip, non-refundable.) The Seward to Cooper Landing portion is February 19 to 22 (This portion of the trip is a challenging section of the Resurrection Trail and NOT for novices). On February 22 I plan on a resupply at the Cooper Landing Trailhead, pick up anyone who wants to meet us on this day (about noon), and then

continue northbound toward Hope. February 22 to 27 or 28 is Cooper Landing to Hope. (Cabin rental fees apply and must be paid when signing on to the trip, non-refundable.) Contact Greg Bragiel.

February 26 Indian to Arctic/Arctic to Indian Ski Traverse  
Depending on the snow conditions, we will do this ski traverse with one group starting at each end and a key swap in the middle. Technical, Class 4. Avalanche gear required. Contact Stu Grenier at [oinkmenow@hotmail.com](mailto:oinkmenow@hotmail.com) for details. Weather permitting.

March 19 - 27 Scandinavian Peaks Trip  
Fly into Scandinavian Peaks Hut (fees apply). Ski and climb as conditions dictate. Contact Stan Olsen, ([stan1olsen@yahoo.com](mailto:stan1olsen@yahoo.com)) for details.

April 19 - 26 Harding Icefield Ski/Climb  
Dates Approximate. Fly into the Tustumena Glacier and traverse over to Exit Glacier. About 30 miles +/- . Probably try to ski up or climb up something, conditions permitting. Will try to be out Friday or Saturday.

before Easter. Requirements: good glacier travel experience, winter camping, ability to appreciate tent days, and a strong snow shoveler. Contact Stan Olsen [stan1olsen@yahoo.com](mailto:stan1olsen@yahoo.com)

June 24 - 26 Kenai Peninsula - peaks less traveled  
SAVE THE DATE - exact details to be decided later. This will be the traditional Solstice weekend trip to the Kenai Peninsula. Destination undecided, but we usually hike in two hours Friday to a basecamp. Climbing Saturday and Sunday on less-traveled walk-up peaks. Option to do one-night or even day trips with the group. Exact valley will depend on depth of snowpack, and determined about May meeting time. Leader: Tom Choate, [mtngoatc@gmail.com](mailto:mtngoatc@gmail.com)

July 09 Mystery Mountain  
Tom Choate will resurrect his 1990s tradition of 'Mystery Mountain.' He will lead a trip to a peak within 75 miles of town that no one can tell him about (no name?). Details to come! Tom Choate, [mtngoatc@gmail.com](mailto:mtngoatc@gmail.com)

## ADZE

### For Sale

La Sportiva Karakorams Size 42  
(approximately men's 8/women's 9.5)  
Excellent condition  
Crampon compatible  
\$110.

Kristen 907-360-7975

### Wanted

Clean, Professional Roommate Wanted  
CLIMB AND SKI RIGHT OUT YOUR FRONT  
DOOR!  
No smokers, No couples

I have a home back by the Eagle River Nature Center with a downstairs that would be mostly yours. The downstairs has a separate bathroom, living room, and entrance. The house does have a hot tub on the back deck overlooking the mountains. Four-wheel drive is NOT necessary.

I do have one older dog and another dog may be negotiable. No cats, as I am allergic.

This house is not on the bus line so you must have a car.

Depending on what you use (Dish network, internet etc)...I would expect you to pay half of the utilities.

Kristen 907-360-7975



# Skinny Ski Peak Bagging in Prince William Sound

by Tim Kelley



**Culross Island**

After a long winter of trying to spend as much time as possible on cross-country skis, I like to change gears in the spring. I like to take a break and go to a beautiful, sunny, island paradise where no one else is around ... and try to do as much cross-country skiing as possible!

The beautiful, sunny paradise I am referring to is only 60 or so miles from Anchorage, a place called Prince William Sound. If you are reading this you are likely familiar with Prince William Sound. You have probably gone there to sea kayak, boat, fish, hunt, sail, ride a ferry or cruise ship, hike or scramble up peaks, or maybe backcountry ski.

In the last 10 years or so I've discovered that Prince William Sound is also a fun place to cross-country ski. In May and June skate skiing on cross-country racing skis, or touring on light wax-less skis, is a blast on many of the snow plastered ridges in the western part of the sound. And while you are up on the ridges you might as well see if you can ski to the highpoints. So these ski outings sometimes

turn into efforts to ski to remote summits on cross-country skis. And thus a new niche sport has emerged - skinny-ski peak bagging in Prince William Sound!

## **Tim Miller above Lake Jack**



The premiere cross-country skiing destination in Prince William Sound, in my opinion, is Culross Island. This location has two things going for it: 1) it's a Gulf of Alaska whipping boy for incoming storms, huge amounts of snow accumulate on this island, and 2) this

island has a long, skiable backbone ridge which offers lots of skiing terrain.

I've skied Culross Island seven times so far. Most of the times it's been by skiing up from Goose Bay, off of Culross Passage, and heading east to the saddle that overlooks Hidden Bay. This saddle is just to the northeast of the 1650-foot point that is popular with the skin-up and ski down fat-ski crowd. From the saddle you can ski either northeast or south to the end points of the ridge. I've been to the highpoint (2550 feet) of Culross Island three times on skis, twice (2007, 2008) by coming up from Goose Bay and once (2010) by skiing up the north ridge from Culross Bay. MCAers have been to the north summit on Culross Island before. Stu Grenier, Sam Pepper, and Sarah Quimby snowshoed up from Culross Bay and on to this summit in June 2002. On the southern part of Culross Island, I skied with friends up the 2060-foot peak in May 2009.

Besides the highpoints on Culross Island, I've had a lot of fun skiing to the south of Lake Shrode and Lake Jack. In June 2007 I skied to

## Benji Uffenbeck skates near the highpoint of Culross Island.



near the top of Peak 2850, to the south of Lake Jack (Section 13) with Tim Miller. We then scrambled to the summit in racing skate boots, which aren't known for their traction. We had to down-climb through the notch between the summit and the sub-summit to the west, which was a bit sketchy in these slippery boots. Whether this 2850-foot summit is higher or lower than the 2850-foot summit a mile to the east, I couldn't tell.

## The Locals



Other peaks I've skied in this area are Peaks 2720 (Section 34) and 2660 (Section 23) to the

northeast of Shady Cove in Port Nellie Juan, in June 2009. This is some great ridge cruising, which can be accessed from Shady Cove. And the descent back down during a sun-drenched day is spectacular. Another fun location in the sound to ski on cross-country skis is the popular Granite Bay area on Esther Island. From the North Arm of Granite Bay you can ski south and then east up to the 1750-foot summit. And then it's a great run back down.

Last year I started skiing some new terrain near McClure Bay. I found some nice cross-country skiing terrain, but haven't yet been to the top of any highpoints there that are true summits.

This kind of Prince William Sound Nordic skiing won't likely make Warren Miller's next film. The idea with this type of skiing is to maximize distance, not vertical. Nevertheless, on days when you encounter super-easy-to-turn-in "hero" corn snow, you pull out the stops on the run back down and fantasize that you are Warren Miller material.

I've occasionally seen wide-board ski tracks from backcountry skiers in Prince William Sound. But I have yet to see tracks of or unexpectedly run into another skinny skier skating the high country. So, cross country skiing the western sound ridges is mostly an activity of solitude with my wife or a few friends, which is fine with me. The only folks you regularly run into while skiing here are black bears and mountain goats. Both of which usually shake their heads in amusement, chuckle and mutter under their breath: "Humans! Geez! What goofy creatures!"

## Skiing off the Highpoint of Culross Island



Prince William Sound is a great location for many activities. But it's an exceptional location for skiing, as it allows you to extend your ski season by a couple of months during a time when, with luck, weather can be its best in the sound. I've skied as late as mid-July in the sound.

When you luck out on the weather and the sun is out, you're surrounded by snow and ocean, the skiing is great and Prince William Sound is radiating its trademark Alaskan grandeur ... you just have to pinch yourself, and ask: "Is this for real!?" It's a great feeling that most folks who read *Scree* know well.



Tim Kelley above McClure Bay

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6pFwquvIRZ0> (Check it out - Ed.)

# Organ Mountain

by Marcin Ksok

As Greg Encelewski and I have ventured farther into the Chugach Mountains, we started to realize that as frequented as the Front Range Chugach peaks are, the slightly more removed ones are hardly ever visited. The prominent Organ Mountain was an excellent example. An important personal objective, it marked an end to a small "South Fork Eagle River Project" I have been dabbling in for a while now.

As resources I consulted both Ross Noffsinger's March 2004 and Bill Stivers' October 1975 *Scree* accounts, the latter providing an excellent route information.

## Greg by Grizzly Bear Lake



We started out for Crow Pass on a Friday in September 2010 under perfect skies which lasted all weekend. After a rainy summer the fantastic fall weather allowed for excellent

hiking. After descending a few hundred feet on the north side of the pass we contoured west along the hillside and dropped into the Clear Creek drainage, crossed the creek, and proceeded with a dreaded sidehilling into the Paradise Creek valley. After the steep, wet grass and occasional loose scree slopes a tent was erected by Paradise Creek at around the 3200-foot elevation. The base of our goal was still a long way off; therefore, a decision was reached to move camp to the other side of Paradise Pass the following morning and continue on toward the summit.

## Greg and the Summit Pinnacles



The plan was executed; Saturday morning we reached Paradise Pass which offered a spectacular view of the objective, progressed through the desolate landscape of Moraine Pass and pitched camp by gorgeous Grizzly Bear Lake. After a break we focused on the peak itself and traveled into the valley below its

southern slopes, aiming for a prominent gully from the Stivers' route information (it is farther up valley than I anticipated, but would be difficult to miss. Unlike Bill, we gained the slopes early instead of staying low to get some elevation, it proved beneficial). For the rest of the climb Bill's route was followed, but we made some helpful notes: #7 at 5700 feet when the climber is prompted to jog left and enter a gully upslope a jog of only a few feet is meant because he is continuing up the gulley almost directly above. #8 takes the left fork of the gully. #10 disregard this step, just traverse the northern slope heading west until reaching the well-defined scree gully, head up, trending right, it gets narrower and steeper, finally reaching a ridge. Bill's directions seem to exit the gully's left channel over the south instead of north face, a route we did not follow. After topping out on the main, right side channel, the summit is reached after a short, scramble on wide ledges to the left of the gully.

## On the Way Back



There was a register on the summit with the most recent entries made in 2006 by Cory Hinds and 2004 by Ross Noffsinger and Wayne Todd, a truly seldom visited peak. At least now we knew why: the endless supply of scree slopes leading to it.

On the descent we accidentally overshot the initial southeast gully and dropped down what turned out to be an easier route just east of the original one - a possibility to consider. After eight hours of scree and boulders, we reached the tent, relieved that it was on the near side of Paradise Pass. On Sunday we trudged over Moraine, Paradise, and Crow Passes, finding a good game trail high up on the slope between Clear and Paradise Creeks. It would have

been great to use on the way in, but it does not extend all the way to Clear Creek and, therefore, would have been difficult to spot. On the final stretch to the parking lot, passing a multitude of Sunday hikers huffing and puffing up the trail, I realized how our frame of reference affects our perception. Sometimes a Sunday stroll seems difficult and strenuous, yet when a far or difficult objective is in mind, the same distance or gain is barely noticed. Now the last mile was just a breeze after a long trek, but on another day it can be an exhausting affair. I was reminded again how large the mental portion of our abilities and possibilities really is.



**Marcin on the Summit**



## Peak of the Month: Peak 5320

By Steve Gruhn

**Yvonne Lamoureux & Eric Parsons  
on the Summit, September 2010  
Photos by Billy Finley**

Mountain Range: Western Chugach Mountains  
Borough: Municipality of Anchorage  
Drainages: Falling Water Creek and Peters Creek  
Latitude/Longitude: 61° 17' 8" North, 149° 14' 20" West  
Elevation: 5320 feet  
Prominence: 670 feet from Peeking Mountain (6925)  
Adjacent Peaks: Peeking Mountain and Mount Significant (5456)  
Distinctness: 670 feet from Peeking Mountain  
USGS Map: Anchorage (B-6)  
First Recorded Ascent: July 3, 1980, by Greg Higgins and Rick O'Kelly  
Route of First Recorded Ascent: Southeast ridge  
Access Point: Peters Creek Trailhead

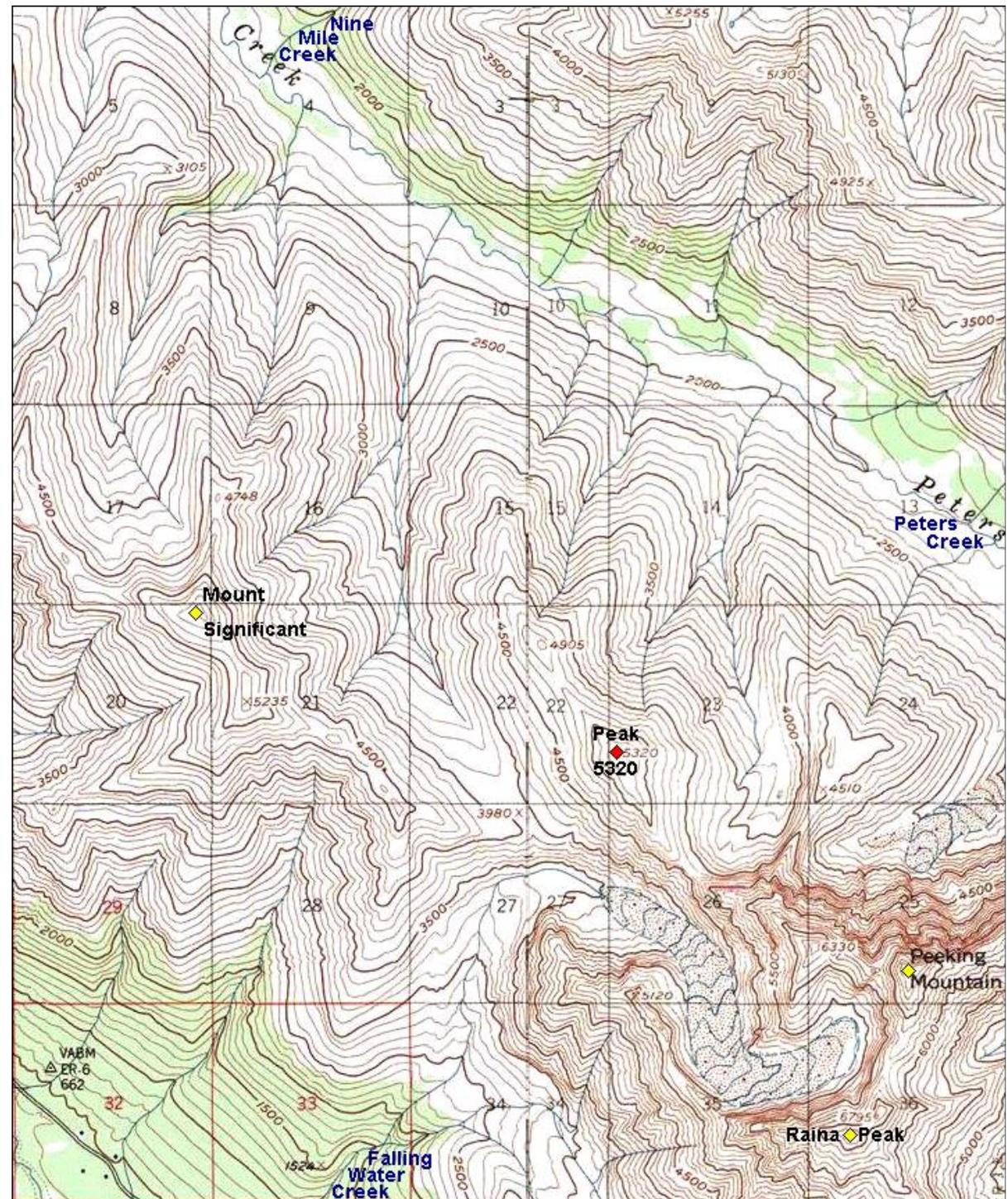
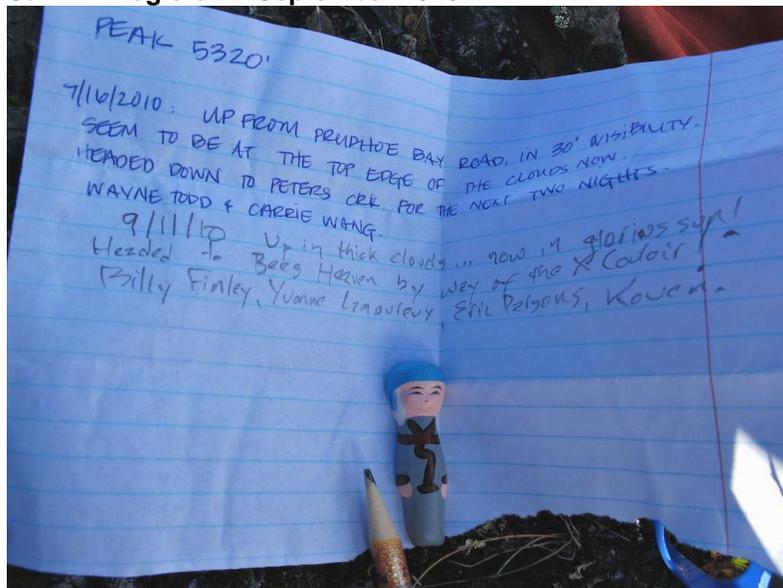


On July 3, 1980, after a weather-aborted attempt to climb Mount Rumble from Peters Creek, Greg Higgins and Rick O'Kelly decided to exit to the Eagle River drainage. They hiked down the Peters Creek drainage past Peeking Mountain and then headed up a tributary to the saddle between Peak 5320 and Peeking Mountain. From the saddle, they dropped their packs and hiked up Peak 5320 in dense fog as a sort of consolation prize. They then returned to their packs and descended to the road above the North Fork of the Eagle River.

On March 29, 2003, Paul Davis and I climbed Peak 5320 from the Ram Valley trailhead off Dolores Street above Prudhoe Bay Road. Paul and I snowshoed up soft, wet snow to the base of the east ridge of Point 4613 (south of the saddle between Peak 5320 and Mount Significant). We left our snowshoes there and booted north up the slope and then headed northeast to the summit of Peak 5320.

Greg Higgins' brief trip report appeared in the July 1980 Scree. My trip report appeared in the June 2004 Scree.

### Summit Register in September 2010



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

# Mountaineering Club of Alaska

## 2011 PROPOSED BUDGET

\* Last Updated 11/19/2010

		Proposed for 2011	Change 11 vs 10	Current for 2010*	Approved for 2010	Final for 2009	Final for 2008
<b>REVENUE</b>							
Membership Dues	<i>received during calendar year</i>	\$7,000.00	0%	\$6,375.00	\$7,000.00	8,313.00	7,683.00
Screen subscriptions		\$250.00	25%	\$200.00	\$200.00	160.00	305.00
Training	<i>ice climbing, crevasse rescue, other</i>	\$8,000.00	38%	\$8,918.00	\$5,800.00	7,950.00	6,690.00
Photo Calendar		\$3,000.00	0%	\$1,610.00	\$3,000.00	1,395.00	1,339.00
MCA Products: T-Shirts, Patches, Etc.		\$0.00	0%	\$260.00	\$0.00	690.00	721.00
Donations		\$0.00	0%	\$5.00	\$0.00	-	-
Other-Interest on Accounts		\$200.00	0%	\$170.58	\$200.00	213.86	344.77
Other-MCA Products for 50th Anniversary		\$0.00	0%	\$0.00	\$0.00	-	-
Other		\$0.00	0%	\$0.00	\$0.00	93.00	-
<b>TOTAL REVENUE</b>		<b>\$18,450.00</b>		<b>\$18,628.58</b>	<b>\$16,200.00</b>	<b>18,820.86</b>	<b>17,084.77</b>
<b>EXPENSE</b>							
Training	<i>campsite, access fees, instructors, trip leaders</i>	\$6,000.00	13%	\$5,621.50	\$5,300.00	3,218.78	3,974.59
Screen	<i>postage, mailing, printing</i>	\$2,300.00	0%	\$2,016.90	\$2,300.00	1,999.29	2,444.85
General Meeting	<i>rent, refreshments, entertainment</i>	\$2,000.00	-9%	\$1,162.00	\$2,200.00	1,978.10	1,618.32
Administrative	<i>supplies, forms, PO fees, bank fees, web site</i>	\$1,000.00	0%	\$348.22	\$1,000.00	613.34	246.99
Hut Construction & Maint.	<i>materials, supplies, hut equipment, lease fees*</i>	\$2,500.00	0%	\$297.94	\$2,500.00	9,963.71	5,695.78
Insurance	<i>reincorporation fees, insurance</i>	\$3,000.00	0%	\$0.00	\$3,000.00	-	-
Club Equipment	<i>climbing gear, auto equipment</i>	\$300.00	0%	\$34.86	\$300.00	498.70	143.98
Library	<i>new books, periodicals, Screen binding</i>	\$100.00	0%	\$0.00	\$100.00	-	-
Other:	<i>miscellaneous expenses</i>	\$0.00	0%	\$0.00	\$0.00	-	-
Photo Calendar		\$2,600.00	0%	\$2,610.00	\$2,600.00	2,190.00	1,760.00
MCA Products: T-Shirts, Patches, Etc.		\$0.00	0%	\$0.00	\$0.00	-	810.50
Other-MCA 50th Anniversary Party, Products		\$0.00	0%	\$0.00	\$0.00	-	2,726.09
Other - Awards		\$1,300.00	63%	\$337.99	\$800.00	270.60	250.00
<b>TOTAL EXPENSE</b>		<b>\$21,300.00</b>		<b>\$12,429.41</b>	<b>\$20,300.00</b>	<b>20,732.52</b>	<b>19,671.10</b>
<b>DUE TO (FROM) RESERVE (To Balance)</b>		<b>(2,850.00)</b>		<b>6,199.17</b>	<b>(4,100.00)</b>	<b>(1,911.66)</b>	<b>(2,586.33)</b>
<b>CASH BALANCE - All Accounts</b>							
Beginning Balance - January 1, 2010				\$20,368.13		22,279.79	25,811.64
Increase (decrease) during 2010				\$5,859.17		(1,911.66)	(2,586.33)
Current Balance for 2010				\$26,227.30		20,368.13	23,225.31
Checking - Credit Union 1				\$4,350.47		2,389.79	1,401.27
Money Mkt and CDs - Credit Union 1 (.75 - 1.89%)				\$20,262.72		14,765.90	18,499.77
Savings - Credit Union 1 (.7%)				\$412.64		2,021.59	2,160.07
18-month CD - in trust for hut lease - Northern Bank (1.23%)				\$1,151.47		1,140.83	1,114.20
Petty Cash				\$50.00		\$0.00	\$0.00
<b>TOTAL ALL ACCOUNTS</b>				<b>\$26,227.30</b>		<b>20,368.13</b>	<b>23,225.31</b>
Ending Balance - <b>November 19, 2010</b>							

The 2010-2011 MCA Board reviewed budget: from 2006-2010 and the following projections: of revenue and expenses: were unanimously approved to present to the membership. Please review as we will vote on the proposed budget at the January 19, 2011 General Membership Meeting.

**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**

## 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.

**Revised 6/18/10**

# Mountaineering Club of Alaska

President	Tim Silvers	250-3374	Board member	Wayne Todd	522-6354
Vice-President	Jayme Mack	382-0212	Board member	Mark Smith	868-3155
Secretary	Brian Aho	223-4758	Board member	Vicky Lytle	351-8246
Treasurer	Randy Plant	243-1438	Board member	John Recktenwald	317-2564
			Board member	Jim Sellers	

Annual membership dues: Single \$15, Family \$20

Dues can be paid at any meeting or mailed to the Treasurer at the MCA address at right. 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@mtclubak.org](mailto:membership@mtclubak.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 e-mailed to [MCAScree@gmail.com](mailto:MCAScree@gmail.com). Articles can be submitted anytime.

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.

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: Yukiko Hayano and Randy Plant - 243-1438

Hiking and Climbing Committee: Vicky Lytle - [hcc@mtclubak.org](mailto:hcc@mtclubak.org)

Huts: Greg Bragiel - 569-3008

Calendar: Stuart Grenier - 337-5127

Scree Editor: John Recktenwald - 346-2589

Web: [www.mtclubak.org](http://www.mtclubak.org) (change your address here)

Mailing list service: [MCAK@yahoogroups.com](mailto:MCAK@yahoogroups.com)

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