

the SCREE

Mountaineering Club of Alaska

January 2019

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Contents

Vigesimal Peak

Sapphire Peak

New Routes in the Cracked Ice Arena of Valdez
Peak 4430 and Peak 4350, Kenai Mountains

Bystander Peak, El Tercero, Stormy Peak, and Peak 4950, Kenai Mountains
Mount Alice

East Kiliak Peak

New Routes in Arrigetch Valley

North Suicide Peak Couloir

Point 1452 meters, Western Chugach Mountains

Peak of the Month: The Penthouse

“A goal is not always meant to be reached, it often serves simply as something to aim at.”

– Bruce Lee

JANUARY MEETING:

Wednesday, January 2, at 6:30 p.m. at the BP Energy Center at 1014 Energy Court in Anchorage. Dave Hart will give a presentation on Kenai Peninsula Borough classic climbs.

"To maintain, promote, and perpetuate the association of persons who are interested in promoting, sponsoring, improving, stimulating, and contributing to the exercise of skill and safety in the Art and Science of Mountaineering."

This issue brought to you by: Editor—Steve Gruhn assisted by Dawn Munroe

Cover Photo

Ryan Sims on "Center Line" (5.5) on Cracked Ice Spire.

Photo by Taylor Brown

JANUARY MEETING: Wednesday, January 2, at 6:30 p.m. at the BP Energy Center at 1014 Energy Court in Anchorage.

<http://www.alaskageology.org/graphics/meetingmap.gif>

Dave Hart will give a presentation on Kenai Peninsula Borough classic climbs: Iliamna Volcano, Redoubt Volcano, Mount Torbert, Truuli Peak, and Isthmus Peak. Lee Helzer and Dave climbed these five ultra-prominent Kenai Peninsula Borough peaks together over the past three years with a cohort of local friends. Come see Dave's multimedia presentation of these ascents with lots of warm sunshine, big smiles, blue skies, good views, and glacier skiing. If you ever wanted to climb any of these peaks, come ask Dave and Lee questions after the show.



Nathan Hebda, Josh Allely, Dave Hart, Ben Still and Joe Chmielowski celebrating on the Harding Icefield after a successful ski descent of Truuli Peak, May 2018.

Photo Lee Helzer

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

Article Submission: Text and photography submissions for *the Scree* can be sent as attachments to mcascree@gmail.com. Articles should be submitted by the 11th of each month to appear in the next issue of *the Scree*. Do not submit material in the body of the email. Do not submit photos embedded in the text file. Send the photo files separately. Send high-resolution file photos separately, including captions for each photo. We prefer articles that are under 1,000 words. If you have a blog, website, video, or photo links, send us the link. Cover photo selections are based on portraits of human endeavor in the outdoors. Please submit at least one vertically-oriented photo for consideration for the cover. Please don't forget to submit photo captions.

Hut Closure

The Mint Hut will be closed for member training February 22 to March 2, 2019. If you are traveling in that area, bring a tent and plan to camp outside. Greg Bragiel - Lead Instructor

Hiking and Climbing Schedule

December 21: Flattop Mountain Sleepout. No leader.

December 22 - 23: Ship Creek/Arctic Valley Trail Maintenance. Trip Leader: Greg Bragiel, contact at huts@mtnclubak.org.

February 22 - March 2, 2019: Winter Mountaineering Instructional Trip. Introductory course involving leadership, menu planning, trip planning, navigation, stream crossing, leave no trace, knots/rope/cord types, snow travel/anchors, running belay, rope handling, communication, terminology, staying warm, nutrition/hydration, glacier travel, belaying, avalanche recognition/rescue, route finding, crevasse rescue, snow shelters, gear essentials, wilderness medicine, and unexpected camping trip. Trip Leader: Greg Bragiel, contact huts@mtnclubak.org.

March 31 - April 6: MCA Eklutna Traverse. Type: Glacier travel. Trip Leader: Greg Bragiel, huts@mtnclubak.org. Sign up at the January 2 MCA Meeting.

Contents

Vigesimal Peak (6550 feet), Chugach Mountains.....	3
Sapphire Peak (6352 feet), Chugach Mountains	4
New Routes in the Cracked Ice Arena of Valdez, Chugach Mountains.....	5
Peak 4430 and Peak 4350, Kenai Mountains	6
Bystander Peak (4972 feet), El Tercero (5450 feet), Stormy Peak (5250 feet), and Peak 4950, Kenai Mountains....	8
Mount Alice (5318 feet), Kenai Mountains	10
East Kiliak Peak (7150 feet), Western Chugach Mountains	12
New Routes in Arrigetch Valley	13
North Suicide Peak Couloir, Suicide Peaks	15
Point 1452 meters (4764 feet), Western Chugach Mountains..	17
Peak of the Month: The Penthouse (6945 feet), Hidden Mountains	18
October Board of Directors Meeting Minutes.....	19
Proposed 2019 Budget	20
November Board of Directors Meeting Minutes.....	21

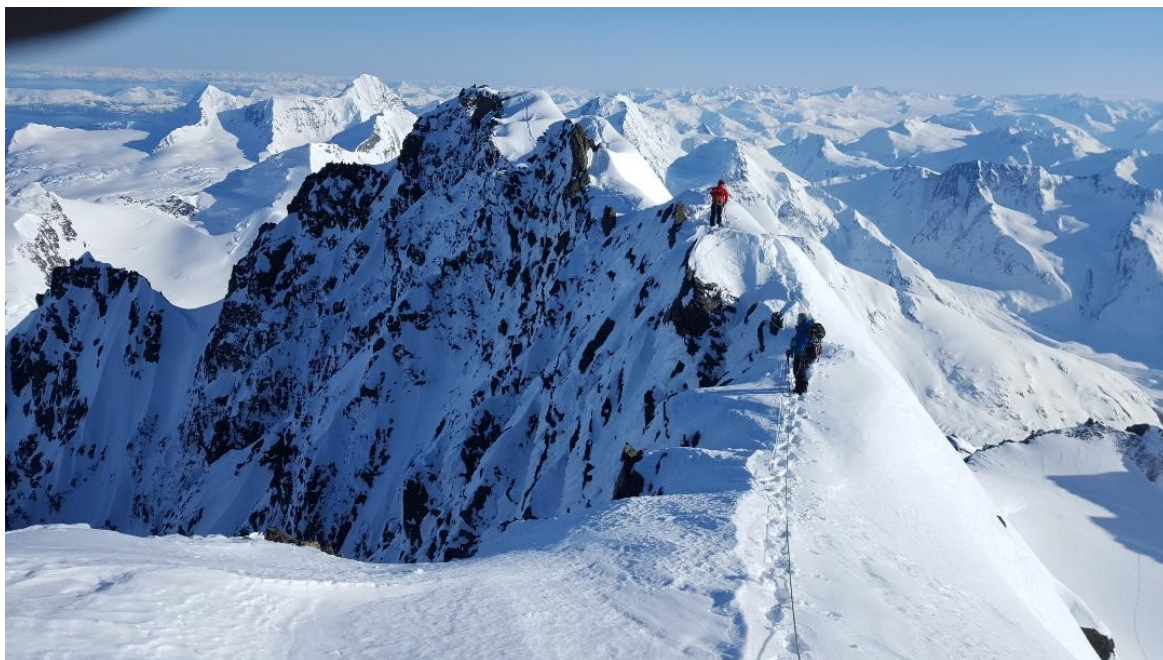
Check the Meetup site and Facebook for last-minute trips and activities. Or, schedule one that you want to organize.

Online? Click me!



Vigesimal Peak (6550 [±50] feet), Chugach Mountains

Text and photos by Ross Noffsinger



Looking back along the summit ridge.

In mid-April 2017, Richard Baranow, Robert Suenram, and I camped west of the Lake George Glacier for some peak bagging. April 18 we skied up through the 4500-foot saddle south of camp, descended to about 3300 feet and ascended southeasterly toward Vigesimal Peak. Glacier travel in that area is straightforward skiing. We skied to 6000 feet, cresting the ridge south of the summit. Booting up the final 500 feet of steep snow got sketchy. It was early evening and the west-facing slope was getting mushy from baking in the sun. The sick feeling one gets when his ice axe hits shallow rock sent me traversing for fat snow. Scratching through a thin, mushy section, I found fat snow and buried a picket as a deadman. Topping out on the summit ridge and hitting cold/firm snow brought both relief and new concern, seeing the summit was some distance to the north with big steep drops on each side. We slung horns where possible, and fortunately no one fell into any holes along the snow/rock interface. The spectacular summit ridge traverse was the highlight of the climb. Note the peak is probably easier to summit from the north.



Richard Baranow (left) and Robert Suenram with Vigesimal Peak on the upper left.

Robert Suenram looking south toward Prince William Sound at 6000 feet where the party started booting up.



Sapphire Peak (6352 feet), Chugach Mountains

Text by Mat Brunton



*Views from the upper west ridge of Sapphire Peak.
Photo by Mat Brunton*

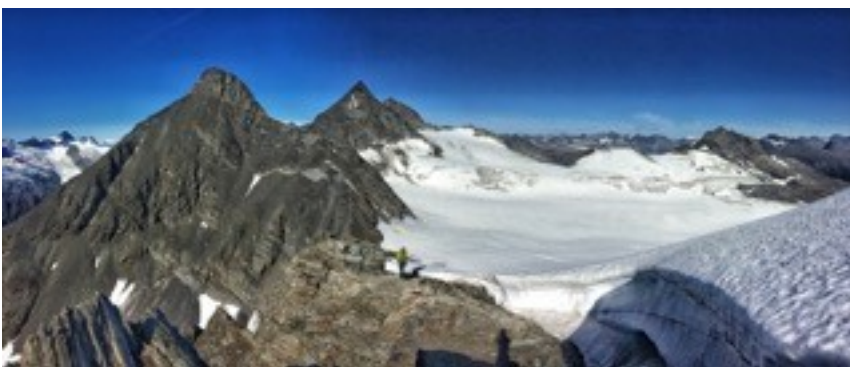


After an oppressively rainy and cloudy August in Southcentral Alaska, September 2018 started with an amazing stretch of sunny weather provided by an “Omega Block” high-pressure system. Despite the forecast clear skies, Thompson Pass is notorious for ravaging outflow winds that accompany sunny days. After much dirtbag hemming and hawing over whether or not the drive from Anchorage would be worth it in terms of gas money and carbon emissions (due to the potential for blustery winds making alpine climbing uncomfortable), I took my chances and headed there.

I’ve been meaning to get to Valdez for a mission with Wrangell Mountains/Eastern Chugach Mountains guru Taylor Brown for over a year. Taylor keeps his third eye squeegeed crystal clear, and his mountain vision is remarkable. He had a couple prize options for a vision quest venue in mind for the second week-

end of September 2018. While Thompson Pass is renowned as a big mountain skiing venue, it’s not known for its alpine climbing potential. Nevertheless, Taylor has contributed a lot to the community by establishing and/or providing information on numerous quality routes in the area. Taylor has posted information on several alpine routes in the Thompson Pass area on Mountain Project.

Since we were car camping in the vicinity of the Worthington Glacier, we decided to quest in that area. The objective was a full traverse of Sapphire Peak, with an ascent of its west ridge (a likely first, at least as an alpine rock climb, and the only ridge up Sapphire that Taylor hadn’t yet climbed), via a very classy big glacier loop: 5.6 IV, Alaska Grade 3, D.



*Left: Taylor Brown on the lower crest of the west ridge of Sapphire Peak.
Photo by Mat Brunton*

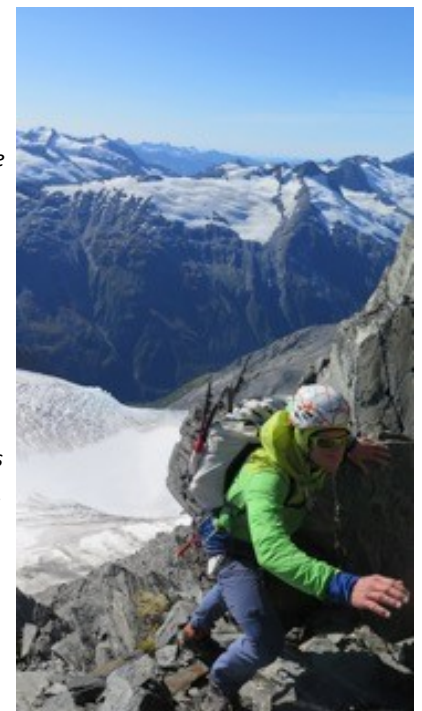


Right: Mat Brunton nearing the belay for the first pitch. The team roped up for four pitches up to about 5.6 with some extreme exposure.

Photo by Taylor Brown

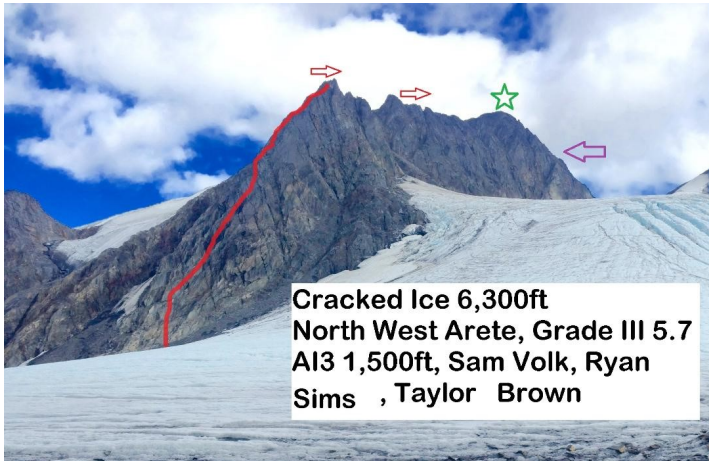
Left: Mat Brunton un-roped for some easier 5th class, leading to the gendarme that seemed like the true summit, before roping back up for two more.

Photo by Taylor Brown



New Routes in the Cracked Ice Arena of Valdez, Chugach Mountains

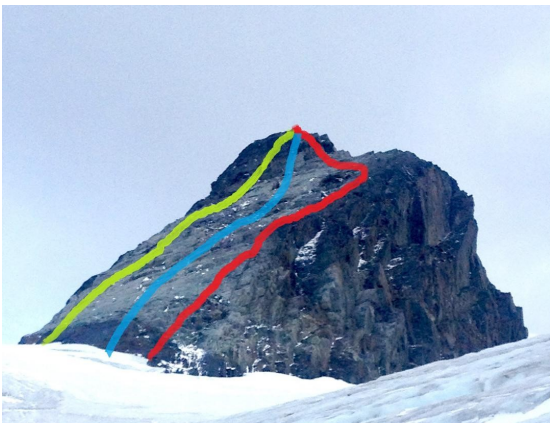
Text and photos by Taylor Brown



Cracked Ice 6,300ft
North West Arete, Grade III 5.7
AI3 1,500ft, Sam Volk, Ryan
Sims , Taylor Brown

With each pass of the sickle through the seemingly impenetrable alder jungle, just off the Richardson Highway near Thompson Pass, a faint climbers' trail starts to emerge. The trail eases access into the alpine of the Cracked Ice Arena, a popular backcountry ski destination during the snowy months. Over the summer of 2016, various partners and I managed to climb 12 alpine routes, 9 of those that we believe to be first ascents.

The Cracked Ice Arena, as it's called in Matt Kinney's ski guidebook [*Ed. note: Alaska Backcountry Skiing: Valdez & Thompson Pass*], is a rare find for roadside summer alpine climbing in Alaska. With a relatively easy approach of two to three hours to the base of the climbs, good rock (composed of greywacke and quartzite) allows for sound belays and protection, user-friendly glaciers, and of course amazing views of Wrangell-Saint Elias National Park and



Cracked Ice Spire 5,600ft
Routes: Left to Right

Canadian Kitten, Grade III 5.6 AI2 1000ft
Taylor Brown and Jessica Young

Center Line, Grade III 5.5 AI2 1000ft
Ryan Sims and Taylor Brown

North West Ridge, Grade III 5.5 AI2 1000ft
Taylor Brown and Ian Overton

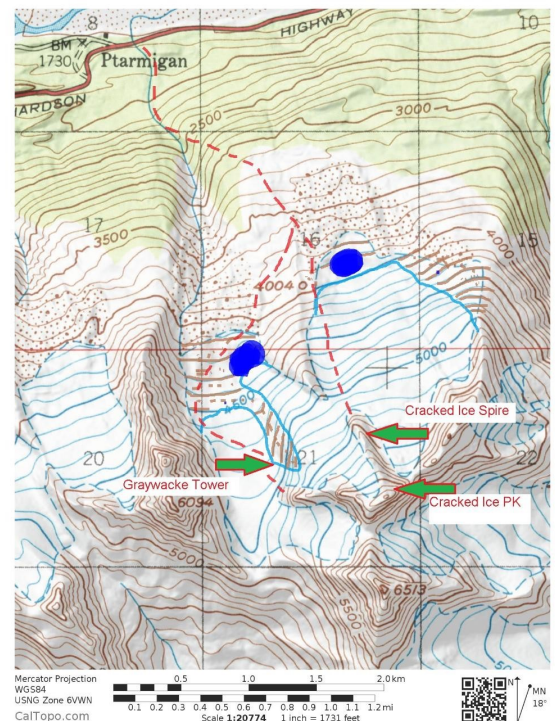
Prince William Sound. The routes range in difficulty from 5.5 to 5.9, and all require glacier travel. The Graywacke Tower and the Cracked Ice Spire are subsidiary features of the 6350-foot peak Cracked Ice and are relatively new swaths of

rock exposed due to glacial recession according to the 1984 revised USGS topographic map [*Ed. note: Valdez (A-5)*], which show these areas covered in glacial ice (see map for edited version).

While all these routes are enjoyable day outings, the three routes that stand out as classics on each formation are the Northwest Ridge of the Cracked Ice Spire, the Northwest Arête of Cracked Ice, and "Jujimufu" on the Graywacke Tower. The Northwest Ridge of the Cracked Ice Spire, which I climbed with Ian Overton, was the first route to be climbed in the area. It provided an aesthetic ridge with five pitches of 5.5 climbing and it also made for a good descent route for other routes on the formation. The longest route completed was the Northwest Arête of Cracked Ice, at a little over 1,500 feet of technical terrain up to 5.7, with Ryan Sims and Sam Volk. The steepest and most-technical formation is the Graywacke Tower with its 500-foot-tall vertical plaque of rock and another 500 feet of fourth class to the summit of the formation. I climbed "Jujimufu," rated at 5.9, with Daniel Linnel and it is easily identified by the striking 5.9 arching finger crack for the first pitch.

The other route worth mentioning is the standard glacier route on Cracked Ice. The route ascends the main glacier on the northwest aspect of the peak, as seen from the highway. There are many large crevasses to navigate that provide a true big mountain experience, hence the peak's name "Cracked Ice."

Thank you to all the partners that made it a summer of adventure climbing these routes: Jessica Young, Ryan Sims, Nick Weicht, Daniel Linnel, Nicole Aikins, Sam Volk, and Ian Overton. I hope this information inspires others to pursue many of the quality alpine routes in the Thompson Pass and Valdez corridor.



Peak 4430 and Peak 4350 (± 50 feet), Kenai Mountains

Text by Steve Gruhn; photos by Wayne Todd



View east from the summit of Peak 4350. Peak 4430 is in the foreground at right.



View north from the summit of Peak 4350.

On September 30 Wayne Todd and I drove to a gravel pullout just past the Granite Creek Bridge on the Seward Highway, arriving at 9:10 a.m. The temperature was above freezing and the air humid. A layer of fog filling the East Fork of Sixmile Creek valley slowly moved up the valley toward us.

We set out up an old logging road until it made a sharp bend, where we ducked into the timber for a short bit until we reached meadows of tall grass. Remaining above the fog, we navigated through the meadows around alder patches, gradually working our way up the hillside to the 3650-foot saddle above the Gulch Creek drainage. The fall colors, although past their peak, were still quite pretty. An eagle soaring overhead and firm blueberries gave us ample opportunities to pause to enjoy the views and tastes of nature. Eventually the fog burned off and nary a cloud was to be seen for much of the day.

We traveled northward east of Point 3852 to reach the saddle. We continued north to the summit of Peak 4430. Both of us had previously visited that summit – Wayne in 2000 and I in 2014 with Ben Still (see the March 2015 *Scree*). But our eyes turned to the northwest as we contemplated the connecting ridge to Peak 4350. Tim Kelley had visited that summit from the northeast and had called the ridge that lay before us "hunter-proof" (see the October 1993 *Scree*). Noting a couple spires that might block our progress, we began our descent down the northwest ridge of Peak 4430, unsure that it would go.

We found some goat tracks that helped guide us from one side of the ridge to the other to meander around the gendarmes. Slowly we progressed around the challenges. The steepest section would have been quite dangerous if it were wet or covered with either snow or ice. Several other shorter sections were of a similar nature. Below our feet on either side of the ridge lay gorgeous valleys pockmarked with alpine tarns.

From the 3850-foot saddle it was a pretty straightforward ascent to the summit of Peak 4350. For the descent, we returned to the saddle and to save time we opted to descend a scree slope and rock glacier to the south. Moving one at a time to avoid injuries from rockfall, we made our way to the valley floor, which provided pleasant hiking. En route we flushed several groups of white-tailed ptarmigan.

The ascent to regain the saddle south of Peak 4430, though, was tiring for me. As Wayne scampered ahead, I paused to gulp some water and snack on some candy. Eventually I arrived at the sad-



Steve Gruhn on the slopes above the fog.

dle where Wayne had been waiting for me. Dusk was close at hand, so I didn't pause, but moved southward, trying to put as much distance behind us as possible before the pall of darkness overcame us. We lost the race.

I pulled out my headlamp and Wayne used the light from his phone for us to see. As we descended, I led us seemingly from one alder patch to another. The setting sun had led to cooler temperatures, which caused our exhaled breath to condense right in front of our eyes. Inches from my nose moths flitted about in the light of my headlamp. Wayne used the Gaia app on his phone to determine where we needed to go. We'd follow his direction for 15 minutes or so and then re-check. It seemed like we made no progress at all. What should have been a descent of less than an hour in daylight grew into a more-than-three-hour siege battle the darkness.

We eventually stumbled out onto the logging road near where we had departed from it and hiked quickly back to the truck, arriving about five minutes before midnight.

I was thoroughly tired, but had enjoyed the trip, the scenery, and the companionship. The memories will certainly last longer than my fatigue.



Steve Gruhn on the summit of Peak 4430, viewing east.



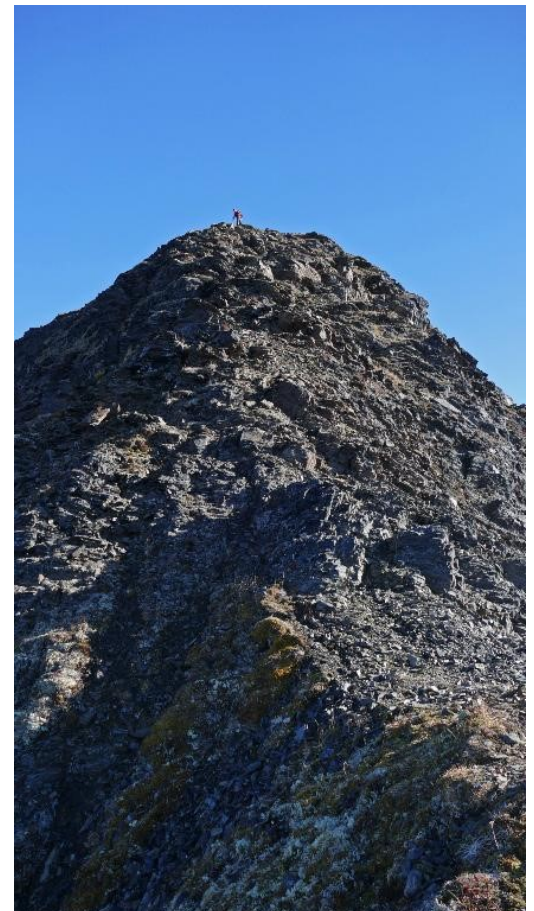
Above: Steve Gruhn descending the northwest ridge of Peak 4430.

Below: Steve Gruhn beginning the descent of Peak 4430's northwest ridge.



Above: Peak 4430 (right) and its northwest ridge.

Below: Steve Gruhn (left) and Wayne Todd on the summit of Peak 4430.

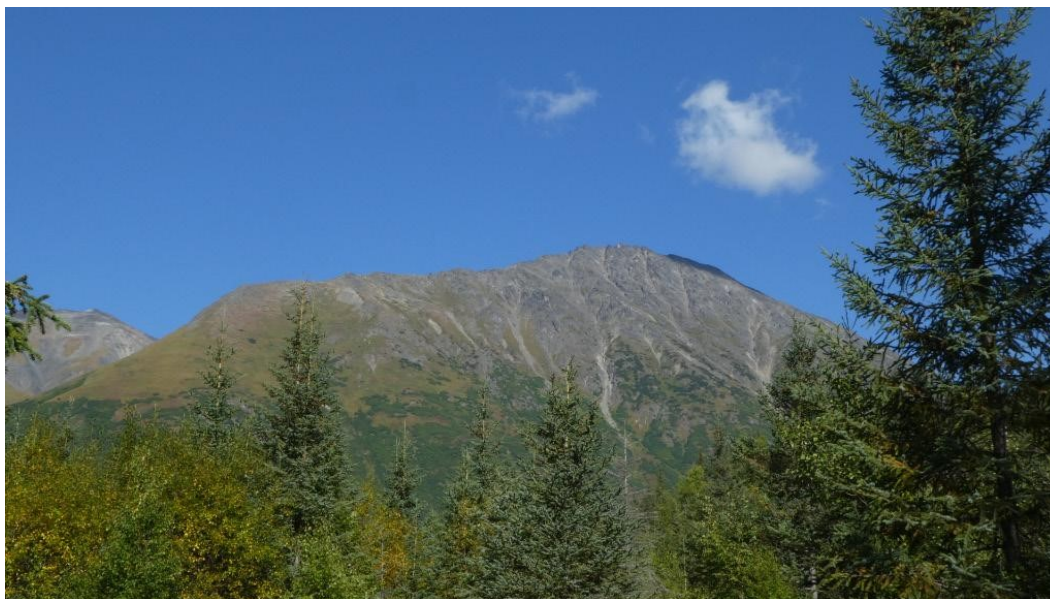


Bystander Peak (4972 feet), El Tercero (5450 [±50] feet), Stormy Peak (5250 [±50] feet), and Peak 4950 [±50], Kenai Mountains

Text by/stander (3rd times the ?) Wayne L. Todd

With Carrie Wang

September 2018



Southeast aspect of Bystander Peak.

Photo by Wayne Todd

After a reconnaissance and a noble early-winter attempt on Bystander Peak [*Ed. note: see the March 2018 Scree*], I return in good weather and proper season with Carrie Wang. We opt to "go long" on the ingress, as that's logical for our loop plan. As is standard, we bike from the south end of the Johnson Pass Trail, but this time bike to within a couple miles of Johnson Lake. The now-familiar-to-me trail has a little surprise with late summer foliage encroaching on the trail. Even though it's a cool, foggy morning, I'm glad to have long pants, shirt, and gloves, as I've been a recipient of cow parsnip blisters.



Wayne Todd crossing Johnson Creek.

Photo by Carrie Wang

By the time we pseudo-strip for the easy knee-deep Johnson Creek crossing, the sun is unobscured. We're soon connecting fields to avoid shrubbery, but

traveling in head-high grass is slow with a two-phase swimming motion with the arms to separate the grass, then step forward, repeat. Plus you couldn't see a large animal if it were only six feet away. As learned with numerous other trips, the best travel is under the mature alder canopy. Less-dense foliage grows underneath, it's shaded, the bugs aren't bad, there are convenient (alder) handholds when needed, and there are berries. The watermelon berries are good fluid replacement, but we also find many ripe, tasty salmonberries.

As that tapers out, we segue to steep hiking with brief all-four-extremity moves on the southeast flank below the north ridge. We intersect the northeast ridge above 4000 feet, and quite opposite to the southwest ridge, find very easy walking. The bugs have been mild, also quite opposite to a nearby trip a year ago.

I still don't see that elusive lake that I've been wanting to camp at on two previous trips. Has it dried up? Near the summit of Bystander, the lake and a smaller upper lake come into view. Yes!

The views have been splendid, including Johnson and Bench Lakes, but now also include Trail and Kenai Lakes, and a gazillion mountains, mostly the Kenai, but other ranges, also. Bystander casts a long shadow as we drop back down the northeast ridge. At a suita-

ble descent we drop left (west) and traverse until attaining the elusive lake. By rock markings it's obvious the lake shrinks as summer passes. Seeing the upper southwest ridge in profile reinforces a smart turnaround from the previous early winter. I'm excited to try out a newly acquired tent.

After a very windy night I'm impressed how well the tent fared with the tail into the wind, but the weatherproofness of it causes some condensation issues. The morning sun steadily makes its way down across the valley, with advantageous goats, so waiting for sun drying makes sense. Except at some point the sun seems to have stalled.

We break camp and soon after enter the sun zone, and with the easy above-alpine traveling, achieve El Tercero earlier than expected. More great views, some food, and then we're off on the north ridge, noting our camping lake is still shaded. Travel is reasonable walking (running, I imagine, for the über-fit second-ascent crew [Ed. note: see the October 2000 Scree]). The upper section of Peak 5250 [Ed. note: skiers have called this peak Stormy Peak] comprises millions (?) of football-sized rocks, which leads me to walk on the adjacent snow. Peak 5250, if not having 500 feet of prominence, is very close.

As we eastward-ho down the ridge, a large, blue, alpine lake comes into view to the north and I can already foresee another trip. Abruptly a large, full-winter-coated goat appears just down the ridge, seemingly ready for a standoff. I'm mixed between "great, awesome picture potential" and "should we gather rocks for defense?" Before reckoning time, he/she traipses around the corner.

Along the low section of the ridge, snow, perhaps when peeling off as cornices, has torn away the alpine organic material down to gravel well beyond the flats. From a distance the southwest ridge of Peak 4950 looks rather steep and foreboding, but as we make our way up, it's actually a fun, minor scramble with options around gendarmes. The alpine lake, now with a feeding glacier and steep, rock arête in view, is even more gorgeously enticing. Carrie scouts for a route down as I lounge barefoot on 4950.

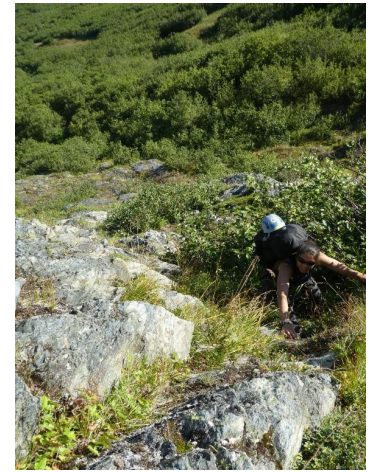
We drop south off the peak, connecting small scree slopes. Numerous alpine flowers are still proudly blooming away while in the valley below; red is a prevalent fall color.

Below, we water up at an idyllic mountain stream of sound and beauty that is easily crossable and has no bugs. This presents as one of the many magical places with a mix of turned-fall-color plants and still-blooming flowers. Alas, we're not prepared for another night out (this is much more scenic than our lake camp, only a mile distant). And I'm remiss to see summer passing.

We traverse the northern flank of the northeast ridge and, after a

short bit of brush (honestly), a field, parallel wading of Johnson Creek, and a mile hike back to the bikes, voila, just a bike ride out in shadowed light to conclude another great Kenai Mountains outing.

About 16 hours, 29 miles (19 by bicycle), 8100 feet of elevation gain.



Above: Carrie Wang ascending the east slope of Bystander Peak.

Photo by Wayne Todd



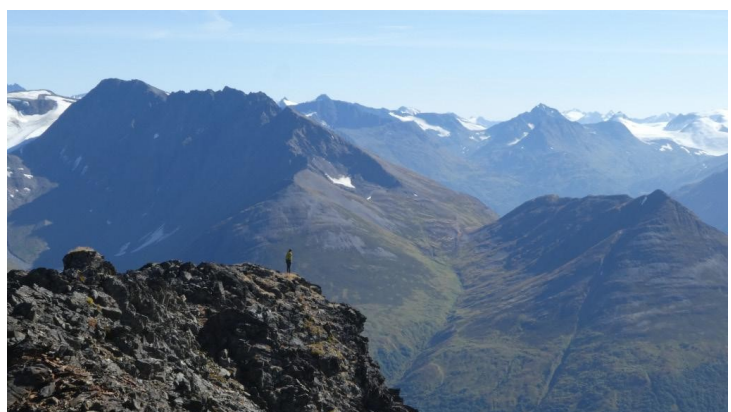
Left: Carrie Wang traversing toward Peak 4950.

Photo by Wayne Todd



Below: Unnamed lake and future destination.

Photo by Wayne Todd



Carrie Wang scouting a route off of Peak 4950.

Photo by Wayne Todd

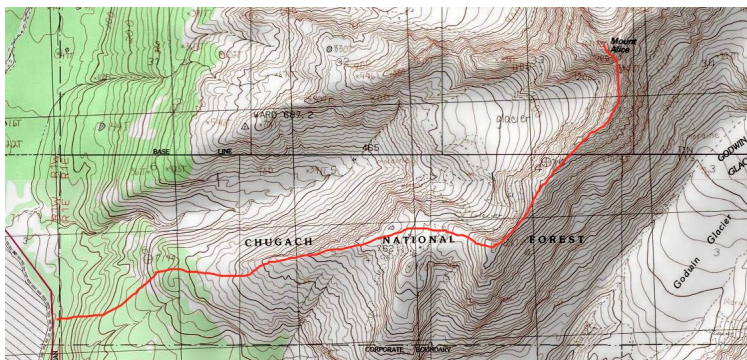
Flirting with Alice is Flirting with Death

Mount Alice (5318 feet), Kenai Mountains

Text and photos by Mat Brunton



Route taken by Mat Brunton on the southeast aspect of Mount Alice's summit pyramid.



The mountains of Southcentral Alaska are not known for their rock quality (although what they lack in splitter cracks they more than compensate for with splitter couloirs). There are some pockets of decent stone in the vast Chugach and Kenai Mountains, but they're few and far between. In the greater Anchorage area, it generally seems like the Front Range (Ship Creek to Indian Creek) has the most solid rock. South of Indian Creek through the Kenai, where not directly influenced by glaciation, the "rock" seems overwhelmingly to be friable shale.

I'd largely written off Mount Alice as a scramble route; the limited beta I could find emphasized how sketchy the climbing was due to loose and nearly un-protectable rock with rockfall in channeled terrain being such an issue that even going with a partner would be questionable. Down in Seward for the beautiful fall weekend of September 29 and 30, 2018, I decided to at least give it a look, going by the classic Alaskan "don't know 'til you go" adage, as it was a high and prominent summit of the area that

undoubtedly promises wow-inducing quantities of eye candy on a clear day. While Alice doesn't get climbed often via any route, it's south ridge is the "standard" summer route (after the much saner southwest-face snow route disappears for the season).

The south ridge is relatively sane, until the thoroughly deranged final 700 to 800 feet up the summit pyramid from the col above the prominent southwest couloir. About four miles of hiking and reasonable scrambling (with beyond world-class views the entire way) from near sea level, through a bit of rainforest, and along a westerly ridge that becomes more southerly, brings one to this notch below the last 700 to 800 feet of demented 4th- to 5th-class climbing. Throughout that four mile stretch of hiking and scrambling to the base of the summit pyramid, I kept thinking to myself: *maybe it'll look better once I'm directly below it; I'm too far away to really tell ...*

Well, it did not look better once I was directly below. The beta I had noted the crux of the route being directly above the col in the form of a 30-foot, 5.0 crack with the best rock of the route. I did not notice a "crack" directly above the col. I did, however, notice a striking approximately-50-foot crack climber's right of the col – but it was more like a 5.7 flaring fist crack. I spent at least 45 minutes looking and scrambling around the first approximately 20 feet above the col, but did not find anything I was comfortable with sans rope, gear, and knowledge of what lay above.

I took another look DIRECTLY above the col, and did notice a chunky "crack" of decent rock with exposure to the west. My beta

mentioned exposure to the east, and that really threw off my route-finding and had me thinking the 5.7-ish fist crack to the climber's right was the way.

I went up the chunky low-5th-class crack, and found myself standing on top of a steep slope of wickedly exposed gravel that went into a steep, loose gully that headed up toward a prominent "tower" of choss. From the route description I had, it seemed I was back on track. I followed that 4th-class gravel slope up to a steeper, but more solid, wall. That wall of more vertical rock wasn't as steep as the first, but longer, and the rock was much less desirable (near-vertical climbing through talus chunks glued in place by mud). Above that was an extended section of more wickedly exposed 4th-class scrambling through blocky steps covered in fine-grained gravel that led to a second prominent choss "tower." Above that, another easy 5th-class section on questionable, but relatively solid, rock. Then, a final (relatively easy – compared to what had already been climbed) 3rd- to 4th-class scramble to the summit.

Hanging out on the summit was no relief; I still had to get back down 700 to 800 feet of the steepest, s-----t rock I'd ever climbed (at least without any significant breaks less than 4th class). The typical flirting-with-death thoughts ran through my head: I'll be so glad to get off this alive, I should be more thankful for what I have, I should do something chill next weekend, etc. As the route was 4th to 5th class for several hundred feet, the route-finding was still intense, even though I'd just climbed up it: all that loose s--t looked the same. With some exposed ledges that I couldn't see beyond, there was a lot of tip-toeing around and peeking over the ledges to make sure I picked the right line down.

I finally made it back to the col. It was a relief, but I still had about four miles to get back to the trailhead – over a mile of which was still heads-up, exposed 3rd to 4th class. I would have liked to enjoy the views more, and take my time (with a long break for food, herb, and removing my boots), but I had no water and there isn't any reliable water available along the entire route late season (there were a couple pools of snow melt, but I didn't trust them without a water filter given that they were relatively stagnant and had items like ptarmigan feathers floating on the surface).

I do not feel it would be responsible to recommend this route to the summit, even though there's route beta on <https://www.summitpost.org/> and the views were absolutely stunning. It would, however, still be a worthwhile and challenging hike just to do the westerly-southerly ridge to the base of the summit pyramid – and that section is recommendable. If you want to bag the summit, I'd suggest climbing the much saner southwest face snow route in the spring. It requires good timing in terms of desirable snow and avalanche danger, but if you have the knowledge and

experience to figure that out (and the technical skills for steep snow climbing with a bit of rock scrambling) it looks like a fantastic alpine route. It's also likely much faster, if you've got the approach dialed, because you avoid the entire westerly-southerly ridge section (that involves time-consuming scrambling and route-finding) by just heading up the valley, moraine, and glacier directly to the base of the relatively straightforward southwest face.



The Godwin Glacier from Mount Alice's summit.



The complete south ridge of Mount Alice, as viewed from the summit.



The Godwin Glacier and peaks to its north, as viewed from Mount Alice's summit.

East Kiliak Peak (7150 [±50] feet), Western Chugach Mountains

Text and photos by Marcin Ksok



Greg Encelewski on the summit of East Kiliak Peak.



Greg Encelewski on the sheep trail above Bombardment Pass.

As one approaches the top of Mount West Kiliak, he cannot miss the proximity of its neighbor, East Kiliak Peak. Separated by a narrow saddle, they are very close in distance, yet far away in attainment. During my West Kiliak trip, I considered trying to get to East Kiliak, but I also didn't want to carry climbing gear up the Icicle Creek drainage in order to get us there. There was always hope that it would go, at least until I looked at the steepness of the walls needing to be negotiated; we didn't even consider trying.

The standard route up East Kiliak Peak is a different animal than for West Kiliak; instead of bushwhacking and ridge route-finding, one is presented with distance, boulders, and side-hilling. We had two days, a decent forecast, and strong legs. Greg Encelewski, a self-proclaimed glutton for punishment, was now leading us up Ram Valley toward Bombardment Pass. There is a nice trough on the north side of the Ram Glacier, which lets one avoid a lot of boulder and scree action on the glacier proper. The pass possesses a strange aura of gloom and darkness. It is sheltered by the huge northern wall of Korohusk Peak and south ridge of Pleasant Mountain. It is strewn with rocks and boulders; at the time low clouds rolled in, making the place damp and cool. I thought of it as a gateway to some unknown realm—and it was because we were crossing it for the first time. The key to uneventful passage is to aim for a slope of very loose, fine scree at the base of the Pleasant ridge, before getting to the pass itself. The going is frustrating, but results in crossing the divide above the pass proper and finding oneself on a sheep trail, which skirts the east slopes of Pleasant Mountain's south ridge. The trail is key to avoiding boulders on the east side of the pass and is very well defined. At some point we needed to leave the trail, as it was not heading in our direction of travel, so we de-

scended the slope and headed toward Peters Creek. The aim was the Raisin Glacier, so as soon as was feasible, we turned right and followed more sheep trails, sometimes having to side-hill so as not to descend too much. We passed one valley spilling from the north banks of the Kiliak massif and gained the Raisin Glacier rubble. Soon we hit snow and carefully made our way up the slightly-crevassed ice. The cracks were predictable and seemed benign, so we didn't rope up, as we didn't have a rope. As shadows overtook us and the temperature dropped far below where we thought it should be in September, we made camp. It dipped well below freezing, yet I had a sleeping bag optimistically rated to 40 degrees. Looking back, we could have kept going and summited the same day, but who knew how close to the summit we then were? Therefore, we slept, or tried to at least. The following morning brought sunshine and warmth. On we went toward the top of the glacier and a small pass interrupting the north ridge of East Kiliak Peak. A left turn and 600 feet of easily-negotiated snow slopes deposited us on the summit ridge, which was delightful with views all around. We topped out and kept going to the next stack of rocks just to make sure of achieving the high point. The descent was enjoyable until the bottom of the glacier, where the cross-country trek began. Somehow we missed some sheep trails on the side-hilling part and ended up too low, having to negotiate steep grass. Bombardment was a chore to get up and over again, then a trudge down glacial rubble and Ram Valley, at least downhill then. Overall it was an enjoyable journey through interesting terrain to a mediocre summit, but well worth undertaking to experience the deeper, less-visited part of Chugach State Park.

New Routes in Arrigetch Valley

Text and photo by Lang Van Dommelen



The team's approximate line on the southeast face of Caliban Peak.

Chris Williams looked up at me from the piton he'd been caressing before hammering it into a crack with crazy eyes and said, "Can you hear the ice-cream truck?" It was 3 or 4 a.m., and we had gotten up at 5:30 a.m. the previous day and we were all starting to feel a bit loopy. Gus Barber snapped himself out of a doze, and said "Guess who's back, back again, Shady's back!" We all started rapping Eminem lyrics at each other as we slowly worked our way from the east summit of Caliban Peak on July 30th, 2018.

Beginnings. We left Anchorage on July 20th for the long drive to Coldfoot, our launching point for a trip the three of us had been dreaming of for several long years. In 2010 Sam Johnson had showed me some photos of unclimbed faces in the Arrigetch Peaks and I had been thinking about those towers since then. In 2014, a trip to the Brooks Range fell through and I ended sitting in the rain in Deepwater Bay for 14 days, and in 2015 Chris, Gus, and I had put up new routes off the Sheep River Glacier [*Ed. note: see the August 2016 Scree*], but this time things were looking promising for actually getting into the Arrigetch!

On July 23rd we stepped off a Beaver on a gravel bar on the confluence of Arrigetch Creek and the Alatna River. We had about 8 to 10 grueling miles with 110- to 120-pound packs ahead of us. A day and a half later we had established base camp at the base of the impressive east face of Caliban. Gus, who had never backpacked before, brought a glass jar of olive oil, sundried tomatoes, and half a

dozen eggs; he had spent our first night puking, but survived the hike by the one hair in his chin and was looking fit.

"Calibration" on Caliban. For years we had been poring over pictures of Xanadu Peak's Grayling Wall, which towers above the Arrigetch valley, and was our main objective for the trip, so we had brought fixed lines and a full aid rack, but we needed a warm-up before we scared ourselves too badly. Just above camp was a nice buttress that looked easy and like it would meet with Sam Johnson's and Ryan Hokanson's "Pillar Arete" (V 5.10b) route [*Ed. note: see pages 126 and 127 of the 2009 American Alpine Journal*] on Caliban's east ridge. We decided to see if we could meet with their route and descend as a casual day adventure. On July 25th we started up climbing several pitches of 5.7 and 5.8 climbing until we were met by 4th- and easy 5th-class terrain we chose to solo. That led us to a steep, but moderate 5.8+ pitch, followed by several more pitches in the 5.7 range. Chris led the crux pitch at thuggy 5.8+ and several pitches of soloing led us to our descent point. We descended onto the southeast face with lots of (scary) down-climbing, and after several rappels we were back in camp after 14 hours, having established a line "Calibration" 5.8+, 1,500 feet, Grade III/IV. The logical finish of that route be continuing Sam's and Ryan's route and would be a proper day in the mountains!

"Guzzle's Vision Quest" on The Albatross. Several days of unsettled weather gave us a chance to scope Xanadu to do some

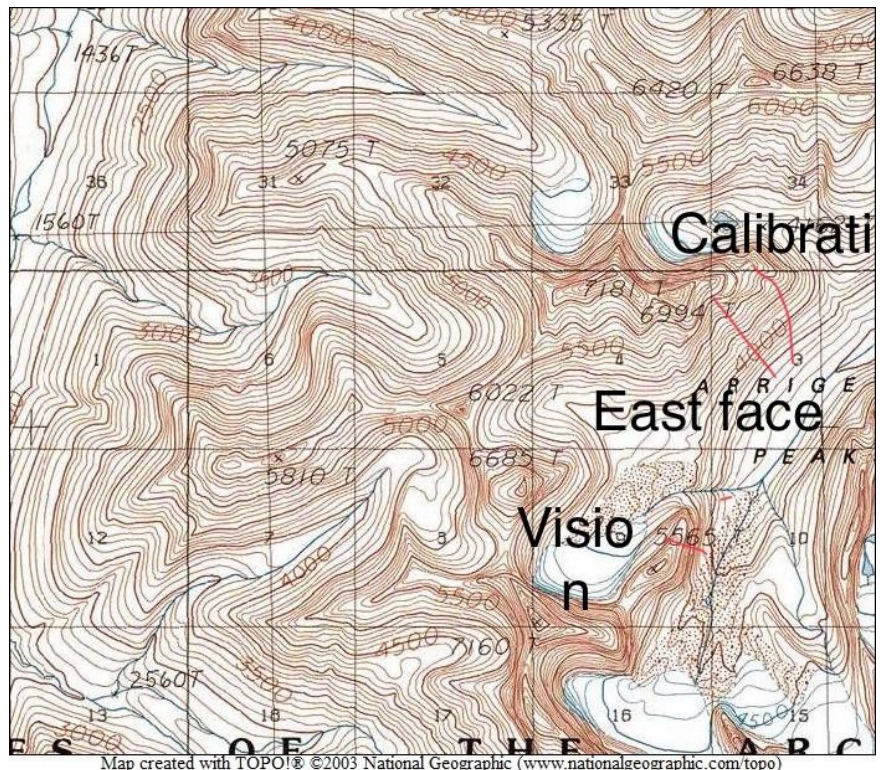
cragging on a 45-foot boulder at the base of The Albatross, climbing beautiful splitter cracks from 5.6 to 5.11- and do a gear haul, prepping us for climbs farther up the valley. Chris and I hiked to a vantage point to scope the Grayling Wall, which had waterfalls down the entirety of the only line we could realistically climb and one little snow patch clinging to a slabby corner where we had planned to ascend. We told a very dejected Gus that the route wasn't in the cards that trip. He was itching for hard climbing, so we let him pick a line on Albatross. In true Guzzlejugs style he picked the steepest line on the eastern aspect. On July 28th, Chris and I led the approach 5.8 to 5.9 pitches that led us to the steep climbing. Gus racked up and started vision questing into very serious terrain. The first pitch Gus led was nearly 40 meters and 5.11R and ended on a hanging belay. The second pitch was another 5.11R/X and falling was not an option for anyone. The next pitch was in the 5.9 range, and less scary, that led us to a huge corner we hoped would lead to a ledge system, and another corner that would take us to the summit after a 5.10 pitch, where we were turned away by "spaghetti" rock. Our attempt was about 700 to 800 feet, and referred to the route as "Guzzle's Vision Quest" 5.11R/X.

As we readied for dinner that night, we got a weather forecast on our InReach. The short of it was we had just a few days of climbing weather for an attempt on something big before a big front was going to move in, bringing rain, snow, and generally unpleasant conditions. On our first day of climbing, we had seen a potential line on the left side of the east face of Caliban, which looked to be a one- to two-day objective. We decided that would be our line. I set an alarm for 5:30 a.m. and settled in for the night.

Fruition on Caliban. My alarm jolted me awake and I peeked outside; the day was crisp and clear, not a cloud in sight. We quickly made some coffee and oatmeal and headed to the base of the climb, where we realized we had forgotten half the rack in camp. I sprinted back and up as Chris led the first pitch and tied in just as Chris finished building an anchor. With the rest of rack, Gus and I followed together, Chris and I swung leads for several pitches before we unroped and scrambled easy 5th-class (5.3 to 5.6) terrain for several hundred feet, which took us to the beginning of the headwall. As we headed up, the climbing got steeper, more sustained, and often serious. Up to that point, Chris and I swapped leads, but it was time to get the rope gun out; we put Gus on lead. He quickly dispatched a few pitches of 5.10 to 5.10+ climbing. Gus belayed under a large roof, and we had to decide to go either right or left to continue the line. Right led us into a series of what

looked like potentially detached flakes; left was unknown. It was time for Chris to have his moment; he racked up and went left under the roof. He climbed into 5.10 climbing with sparse gear through a traverse; that was the mental crux of the climb. It was hard 5.10R. Chris pulled a small roof and, out of sight, called, "Off belay." The next pitch was the difficulty crux of the route. Gus led off on thin tips and hard, dynamic climbing through a small roof to a sublime, sustained 5.10, splitter finger crack above it. After that we pushed upward, Chris and I swapping leads through pleasant and sustained crack climbing as hard as 5.9+. As the day faded to dusky night, we approached what we believed was the east summit as howling wind chilled us and ominous clouds darkened the skies over us. We checked the InReach and confirmed our location and began our descent, having climbed what we believed was the first ascent on Caliban's southeast face 5.11, 2,500 feet, Grade V.

Return. The front we were expecting was still holding, so we decided to bump our camp down to the fork of the Arrigetch valley and Aquarius Valley. We made the short hike and woke up to clear skies so we packed a rack and ropes and headed toward the eastern side of The Parabola to scope a line there. To our left The Maidens soared above us. As we neared Parabola the rain started; for the next several days it rained on and off all day. We moved camp down to the gravel bar where we anticipated our pickup and waited there as moose, bears, and wolves came and went around us. Dirk Nickisch finally got a weather window and swooped down to get us and deliver us to the all-you-can-eat buffet in Coldfoot. After copious servings of lamb and rockfish, we heard about the bar ...



North Suicide Peak Couloir, Suicide Peaks

Text and photos by Azriel Sellers



North Suicide Peak Couloir in the 2013-14 season, as viewed from the top of the Homicide Chute.

It is an axiom of skiing in Alaska. There is no end. As you crest the ridgeline and your dreams become reality, the feeling of conquest slips. Jagged mountains hover in the distance with new lines pouring from them. Where once the goal was singular, it spreads into the future, which lurks along the horizon. Then the skis are on your feet and the snow is fluttering. The vast expanse fades behind you. You are in the moment, living your dream, but there is no finality as you reach the bottom, because limitless goals hide behind the ridge, beckoning you.

This was the axiom that led me to the North Suicide Peak couloir. From a saddle southwest of the summit of Avalanche Mountain, I spotted a line of snow curving from Homicide Peak. As I crested the top of the needle-thin Homicide chute I saw a magnificent stretch of snow curling down North Suicide. Alas Wolverine Peak, with its southwest-facing spine bowl, and good company pulled me away from the magnetism of the couloir. Spring faded to sum-

mer, but the vision of its massive sidewalls and divine structure did not.

The next winter passed and I clutched desperately to every day. College graduation loomed over me like a dark cloud. Soon my days of roaming the mountains would be replaced by four walls and a computer screen. Responsibility would replace freedom.

One bright spot peeling back the brown haze of the future, like blue sky hovering above a sucker hole, was a priceless offer from my family. Free babysitting and a one-day pass into the mountains. From there a slumbering dream was given the opportunity to wake.

On April 28th, 2015, I snapped awake and began checking the temperature sensors. Thirty-four degrees Fahrenheit at Indian Creek Pass. It had not frozen for days. A red flag flapped in the breeze. Yet ambition refused logic and soon I was sliding up the Powerline Pass Trail, allowing the slight drips of snow that plummeted down from the gray curtains of sky to comfort me. An illusion captivated me and there was always the feeling that a little higher, a little more to the north, I would find perfect conditions and powder snow. The resilience of that feeling was strong; it accompanied me as I climbed up the melt-freeze crust over Powerline Pass, and as my ski popped from my feet and slid down the icy slopes of Homicide's west face.

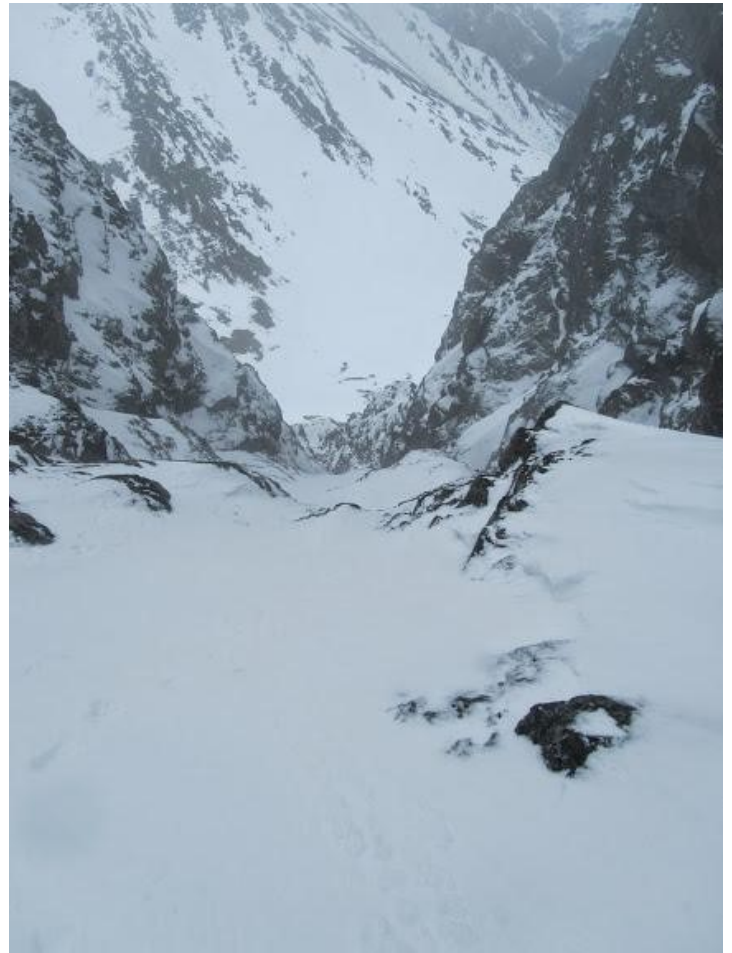
After retrieving my ski from the valley floor, I found myself booting upward through thin corn snow with taluses of scree pouring to either side of me. The clouds drifted in and out, but always obscured the summit above. Finally, I passed the lower scree slopes and entered the chasm. Gargantuan walls of rock jutted upward on both sides and the snow loosened. My boots sank through the white expanse and I pushed onward, awestruck and intimidated. I could feel the sun seeping through the clouds and warming the slopes above. The feeling pushed me forward with a sense of urgency to the crux.

Nearing the top of the couloir's first curve, a cliff band expanded from the climber's right, almost choking off the chute. To the left a small tunnel of snow shot forward, steepening with each step before metamorphosing into rock. The only option was to climb to the right, above the large cliff wall, and wind upward through patches of salt and pepper. The crusty nature of the snow was a blessing in disguise; it provided enough structure to keep my feet from sliding off the rock, which was only inches below. I worked myself up small snow patches through bands of cliffs until the

chute opened. Above was a steepening snow slope, punctuated by old fracture lines, disappearing into the clouds. The snow hardened. Persistence fought against logic and I pushed onward into the gray, with my mind smashing my doubts like pesky mosquitoes.

I pulled through a bank of thick fog to the top of the couloir with a minute sense of relief. A serrated rock spine ran to my skier's right, and directly below the snow rolled out of sight into the mist. The summit of North Suicide remained shrouded above. I clipped into my bindings and began to sweat. If my binding released, as it had on my way to this glorious moment, the hard snow would send me plummeting down the fall line into the middle cliff band. There was no room for error. Each turn was accompanied by a terrifying slide as the metal of my edges dug themselves in against the momentum of my body. Each turn became more satisfying. It was a divine moment. Soon I was down below the steepest pitch of the couloir and cautiously picking my way down.

As I reached the bottom of the crux and encountered the dense powder, I let out a sigh. The accomplishment rushed through me like adrenaline. I felt comfortable. No longer terrified by the jutting walls, I relaxed and embraced the moment. The fear did



View while skiing down through the salt and pepper above the crux of the North Suicide Peak couloir.



Looking up the crux of the North Suicide Peak couloir.

not have time to finish fading before it was awakened by a sound like thunder above me, crashing down the walls. I ran to a small overhang in the cliffs and ducked underneath, shivering. Somewhere above a rock was shuddering against the mountain. As soon as the ricocheting subsided, I rushed to my skis, popped into my bindings, and skied as fast as I could into the valley. There was no time to enjoy the small stretch of dense powder I had discovered.

As I crested a saddle to the west of Homicide, with the powerline below me, I turned around. The clouds had begun to separate and the chute became visible for the first time. I gazed back as it dawned on me that that line was the death of an era. The mountains would still hang there in the future, and I would still climb them and ski them, but my days of freedom, joy, and unlimited time had run dry. It was a bitter pill to swallow, but staring into the magnificent structure of the couloir was like a glass of cold water. I clipped into my skis and dropped toward the powerline, giggling the entire way.

Point 1452 meters (4764 feet), Western Chugach Mountains

Text and photos by Wayne Todd



Eagle Lake (top) and Symphony Lake (center) from Point 1419 meters (4655 feet).

Another solo trip and ... REALLY, TWO bear warning signs at the South Fork Eagle River trailhead! I mentally flash to my harmonica (noisemaker and bear slayer, well not really slayer, but it did once probably save me from a mauling) which is in a drawer somewhere at home. I have bear spray, two poles(?), and a cell phone; good enough.

There are only a couple cars in the parking lot. Hmm, I bet the bear signs have a lot to do with that.

The fairly new trail, thanks, Blaine Smith, despite all the grief you received, disguises the elevation gain to bypass private property. A large-racked bull moose stands on the trail. That's how my almost bear mauling trip started, but he mellowly meanders up slope, perhaps knowing it's hunting season (somewhere).

The fall colors are prevalent, but I'm on a beat-the-forecast mission, which is for rain after 4 p.m., so I limit my picture-taking breaks. Passing below the old between-the-lakes hut a couple hours later, I hear and glimpse a jubilant group preparing to disembark.

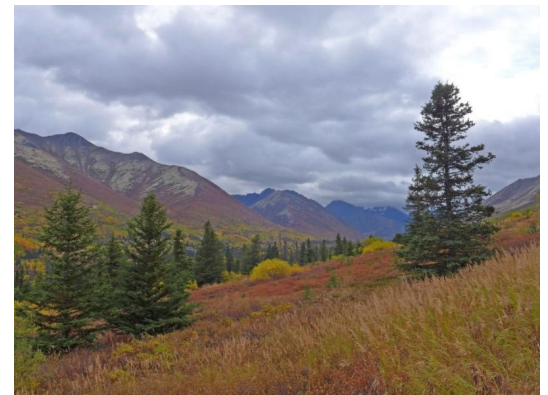
I opt to go clockwise around Symphony Lake, which fits for going long and getting the farthest objective first. All the tent sites are vacant, curious if this will hold for tomorrow, which will be Saturday. I've not been here in years and am pleasantly not surprised to find a trail around the lake.

I now see my triangular-shaped objective above on the ridge, though not Triangle Peak itself. I cross the beaver dam and beeline for the ridgelet that separates the two alpine lakes. Below the lakes I intersect a very good probable human trail. For those that find camping at Symphony Lakes crowded, a little extra hiking and elevation will reward with a likely solitude site, and the uphill drainage advantage.

There's that other alpine lake, probably even less visited. Then the mighty view of 1452 (OK, it's not that impressive, but ...). Despite the threatening clouds, and chilly wind, I have excellent views of Concerto Peak and Ship Creek, Cantata Peak, Calliope Mountain, and Triangle. The Bird Ridge peaks are hiding a bit. Snacks, pictures, and off toward Point 1419 meters (4655 feet), as, unlike the easy walk up here, it looks steep. It really isn't, simply by staying on the west side, eeny meeny between two pinnacles. Another break with crisps, potato chips, actually. Off west on mildly steep terrain. At the saddle; looks good, drop, zig-zag down, utilizing mini-scrub feathers (my knees appreciate it), and angle down to west end of Symphony Lake to another trail through the boulders.

A lightly equipped couple is carefully making their way toward Symphony Lake, hoping to see both lakes simultaneously. Back at the Eagle Lake bridge, hmm, weather looks better than ever. I only encounter two people within a ½ mile of the trailhead, and no bears, and no more moose.

The weather looks really nice now, contrary to forecast, but I've had a good day. After a short food stop, it's raining by the time I hit home. Good call. Weather people are just an hour off.



The upper South Fork Eagle River Valley, as viewed from the South Fork Trail.

Peak of the Month: The Penthouse

Text by Steve Gruhn; photos by Ray Borbon

Mountain Range: Alaska Range; Hidden Mountains

Borough: Kenai Peninsula Borough

Drainage: Igitna Glacier

Latitude/Longitude: 61° 14' 25" North, 153° 13' 22" West

Elevation: 6945 feet

Adjacent Peaks: Igitna Peak (7150 feet), Peak 6550 in the Igitna River drainage, Peak 6350 in the Igitna Glacier drainage, Peak 6250 in the Another River drainage, Peak 6055 in the Another River drainage, and Peak 6720 in the Igitna River drainage

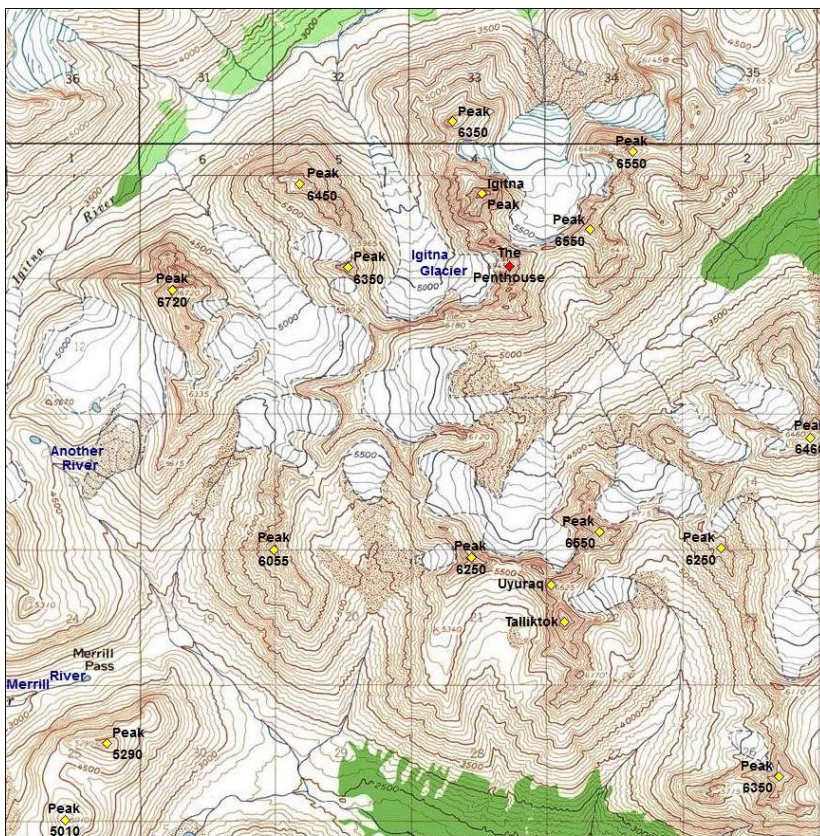
Distinctness: 895 feet from Igitna Peak

Prominence: 895 feet from Igitna Peak

USGS Maps: Lime Hills (A-1)

First Recorded Ascent: This peak might be unclimbed.

Access Point: Igitna Glacier



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



West aspect of The Penthouse.

On May 20, 2005, Rob Jones, Jr., flew Fred Beckey, Ray Borbon, and Aaron Clifford from Anchorage to a landing strip near the Stony River in a Cessna 206. Jones then shuttled the trio one at a time in a Piper Super Cub from the landing strip to the upper cirque of the Igitna Glacier, where they set up camp. Directly above their camp rose a peak that the party dubbed The Penthouse after a magazine that their Anchorage friends had slipped into their duffel bags before they boarded the 206. The team made a couple unsuccessful attempts to climb Igitna Peak north of The Penthouse from the col between the two summits. However, unsettled weather and rotten rock stymied those attempts. Other than climbing to the col, they team made no attempt to climb The Penthouse. For most of the rest of their trip, the trio passed the

time in their tents or stomping out a runway with their snowshoes during breaks in the weather.

On May 30 Jones returned in the Super Cub to shuttle the team to the Stony River landing strip. From the landing strip, the party was flown back to Anchorage in the Super Cub and 206.

The name of The Penthouse was first published in the October 2010 *Scree* as part of the Peak of the Month column for Igitna Peak.

I don't know of any attempts to climb The Penthouse; yours could be the first.

The information for this column came from my correspondence with Fred Beckey, Aaron Clifford, and Ray Borbon.

Fred Beckey intently studying the magazine that provided the name for The Penthouse.



Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

October 31, 2018 at 6:00 p.m.

Roll Call

Michael Meyers (President) - Present
Gerrit Verbeek (Vice-President) - Present
Jen Aschoff (Secretary) - Present
Katherine Delia Cooper (Treasurer) - Absent
Max Neale (Director) - Present
Tom Meacham (Director) - Present
Lila Hobbs (Director) - Present
Jonathan Rupp (Director) - Present
Mark Smith (Visitor) - Present

Scribe: Jen Aschoff

Call to order at 6:10

Committee Reports

President (Michael Meyers)

- New committees have been established to accommodate strategic plan. Committees will bring ideas/plans forward to executive board at future meetings.
- When the Executive Committee votes or decides an issue, it becomes an official club position. All members of the Executive Committee should “fall in line” and support that position.

Vice-President (Gerrit Verbeek)

- In the past the Christmas Party was about \$500 at the Pioneer Schoolhouse, so we looked at several venues including Eagle River Alehouse for free. It’s a 50- to 75-person venue and will be December 13th, but members will need to buy their own beverages. MCA will buy up to \$200 in pizza for attendees; motion was made and passed to adopt the Eagle River Alehouse as our 2018 Christmas party venue.

Secretary (Jen Aschoff)

- Lila and/or Jen will scribe at the general meeting.
- Change board meeting date to Tuesday, December 18th.
- Change January 2 general meeting to January 9.

Treasurer (Katherine Cooper)

- 2019 Budget proposal was delivered to the board and discussed; one key change is that hut maintenance is expected

to be higher in 2019 due to Dinigi Hut repairs (\$10,000 is currently budgeted).

- Charlie Sink mentioned that an external audit might be warranted every two years or so.
- Budget passed with an increase of \$2,000 to the training budget.

Training (Max Neale)

- Training committee partially formed.

Ice Fest is on the schedule for September. Talk to Jayme Mack for details. Board would like more clarity in finances of Ice Fest.

Strategic Plan Task Force (Max Neale)

- Submitted draft of committee structure for the board to review and discuss at a later date.
- Submitted 2019 work plan

Liability Committee (Tom Meacham)

- Tom will work on revised liability waiver; existing waiver is sufficient for now.
- Tom suggested a vetting for trip leaders and keeping records of trips only if there is an incident.
- Tom suggested new signs for huts: carbon monoxide and fire danger.

Parks Advisory (Tom Meacham and Ralph Baldwin)

Trips (Jen Aschoff and Nick Baker)

- Find trip leaders and members of the committee.

Scree (Steve Gruhn and Dawn Munroe)

- *Scree* submission and editorial guidelines will be distributed to the Board for review and adoption.

Ice Fest Committee (Jayme Mack)

- Ice Fest Co-Coordinator

Huts Committee (Greg Bragiel, Cory Hinds, and Victoria Lytle)

- Established committee and work plan will be the next step.
- Issue was raised that Mint Hut is too small and toilet overuse issues – Dnigi Hut west wall will need to be rebuilt in 2019.

Awards Committee (Tom Meacham, Cory Hinds, and Steve Gruhn)

- Hoeman Award / Honorary member selection / President's Award
- Tom and Steve would like to stay on the board (looking for a third).

Mentorship (Alexandra Janczewska)

- Need mentor and mentees.

Library (Charlotte Foley)

- Hoarding Marmot Move – Volunteers to pack and move November 1, 2018. Liability and Waivers Committee

Time and location of next meeting

November 29, 2018, at 6 p.m. on the UAA Campus, ConocoPhillips Integrated Sciences Building, Room 105A (main floor by the coffee stand).

Proposed 2019 Budget

		Proposed for 2019	Budget Change	Approved for 2018	Current for 2018
REVENUE					
Membership Dues	<i>received during calendar year</i>	\$13,320	\$0	\$13,320	\$11,985
Scree subscriptions		\$180	(\$220)	\$400	\$225
Training	<i>BMS, ice climbing, rock climbing, other</i>	\$5,400	(\$2,300)	\$7,700	\$4,760
Photo Calendar		\$2,300	\$0	\$2,300	\$2,901
MCA Products: T-Shirts, Patches, Etc.		\$200	(\$4,800)	\$5,000	\$95
Interest on Accounts		\$104	\$29	\$75	\$96
Other - Donations, etc	<i>Donations, check reimbursements</i>	\$0	(\$4,451)	\$4,451	\$10,140
TOTAL REVENUE		\$21,504	(\$11,742)	\$33,246	\$30,201
EXPENSE					
Training	<i>campsite, access fees, instructors, trip leaders</i>	\$5,745	\$1,373	\$4,372	\$3,914
Scree	<i>postage, mailing, printing</i>	\$1,800	(\$721)	\$2,521	\$2,164
General Meeting	<i>rent, refreshments, entertainment</i>	\$1,464	(\$36)	\$1,500	\$1,091
Administrative	<i>supplies, PO box, web site, ads, travel, misc.</i>	\$1,030	(\$25)	\$1,055	\$514
Hut Construction & Maint.	<i>materials, supplies, hut equipment, lease fees</i>	\$12,790	(\$10,420)	\$23,210	\$30,002
Insurance	<i>reincorporation fees, insurance</i>	\$110	\$3	\$107	\$104
Club Equipment	<i>climbing gear, misc. equipment, storage</i>	\$709	\$232	\$477	\$452
Library	<i>new books, periodicals, storage</i>	\$412	\$12	\$400	\$259
Other:	<i>miscellaneous expenses</i>				
Photo Calendar		\$1,828	\$53	\$1,775	\$0
MCA Products: T-Shirts, Patches, Etc.		\$0	(\$5,000)	\$5,000	\$0
Other - Awards		\$105	\$5	\$100	\$102
Other -		\$0	(\$1,000)	\$1,000	\$981
TOTAL EXPENSE		\$25,993	(\$15,524)	\$41,517	\$39,584
DUE TO (FROM) RESERVE		(\$4,489)	\$3,782	(\$8,271)	(\$9,383)

CASH BALANCE - All Accounts

Beginning Balance - January 1, 2018	\$51,973
Increase (decrease) during 2018	(\$9,383)
Current Balance for 2018	\$42,590
Checking - Credit Union 1	\$16,006
Money Mkt and CDs - Credit Union 1 (0.75 - 1.89%)	\$24,890
Savings - Credit Union 1 (0.7%)	\$417
18-month CD - in trust for hut lease - Northrim Bank (1.25%)	\$1,182
Petty Cash	\$95
Ending Balance Revised 11/8/18	\$42,590

Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

November 28, 2018 at 6:00 p.m.

Roll Call

Michael Meyers (President) - Present
Gerrit Verbeek (Vice-President) - Present
Jen Aschoff (Secretary) - Present
Katherine Delia Cooper (Treasurer) - Present
Max Neale (Director) - Present
Tom Meacham (Director) - Present
Lila Hobbs (Director) - Present
Jonathan Rupp (Director) - Present
Charlie Sink (Past President) - Present
Ralph Baldwin (Visitor) - Present

Scribe: Lila Hobbs

Call to order at 6:04 p.m.

Committee Reports

President (Michael Meyers)

- New stickers are available. Mike will have them for sale at the general meetings.
- Calendar will be going digital next year (submissions and voting). Photo submission winners will be recognized at general meeting and be given the opportunity to speak about their photos.
- MCA Apparel/Flag/Create slideshow. Mike is working on the slideshow. If you have pictures of the MCA huts, please forward them to Mike. Apparel and flag discussions tabled.
- MCA meeting June, July, August (Flattop Mountain Sleepout - the solstice event). Mike recommended that the board meet during those months if there is business to discuss. MCA will have some sort of general meeting (location to be determined).
- Job Descriptions: review and add details as needed.

Vice-President (Gerrit Verbeek)

- In order to announce speakers, we need to send notice to *the Scree* by the 11th of each month.
 - David Hart presentation will be moved to January 2 due to earthquake complications at the BP Energy Center.
 - Communications Committee discussed recording presentations. Dave Hart gives his permission. Gerrit will touch base with AK Media about recording. He might also do a MCA Facebook post to gauge interest/skills of club members.

- Lila will share the Communications Committee media release draft.
- Christmas Party December 13 at Matanuska Brewing Company (Pizza \$200/Fee \$200 if not 50 people).
 - FYI: Eagle River Alehouse is now Matanuska Brewing.
 - Tom Choate will attend, may be interested in speaking.
 - FYI: Tom's knee surgery was a success, back to walking.
 - Contacted Eagle River Alehouse event coordinator on November 26 and 28 about live music, answering machines so far.
 - Will probably need to use the MCA slide projector.
 - FYI: Costco will digitize slides for about \$0.32 per slide, three weeks lead time
- Filmfest 2019 - March (\$750 last year)
 - Dick Griffith – *Canyons and Ice*
 - Jeff Lowe's *Metanoia* – \$2,000, but with lots of wiggle room
- Serenity Falls Hut – February (\$400 last year)

Secretary (Jen Aschoff)

- BP Energy Center is booked for the MCA General Meetings in September, October, and November 2019 in Birch Room first Wednesday of the month. Confirmation was sent to President and Vice-President. December 2019 request will be submitted on December 1, 2018.
 - Gerrit agreed to submit the MCA requests at midnight on the first of the month.
- General meeting dates will not be posted in the calendar because there is too much uncertainty with booking the BP Energy Center.

Treasurer (Katherine Cooper)

- Katherine submitted the proposed 2019 Budget to *the Scree*. Will be on the agenda of January general meeting for approval.
- Katherine and Mark Smith met again today to continue information sharing and transferring of documents.
- MCA should be receiving a letter from the Division of Commerce to complete non-profit incorporation status. Biennial report is completed every odd year.

Training (Gerrit Verbeek)

- 2019 work plan in progress and committee is meeting to-night.
- Max Neale worked with Mark Smiley to secure a deal that would give MCA members lifetime access to his *How to Denali* video (4.5 hours) for \$389.
- Gerrit introduced a proposal for the Training Committee to spend \$389 on Mark Smiley's *How to Denali* video. Tom moved that the board endorse Gerrit's proposal. Jonathan seconded the motion. The board voted unanimously to approve the \$389 expenditure on the *How to Denali* video.
 - Action item: Follow up with Billy Finley to ask if the video be protected.
- Ice-climbing training guidelines drafted, have interested instructors, waiting on Tom Meacham review and some final decisions.
 - Ralph has a contact at the American Alpine Club and suggested Gerrit follow up with him.
- Crevasse training theory drafted, dry run went well, need to draft guidelines and find locations.
- Priorities:
 - Proposal to the board for instructor compensation. Suggestion was made to offer training to instructors rather than compensation (e.g., AVY 1). Another idea is to give instructors mugs/water bottles with MCA logo.
 - Approved instructor database.
- Board Requests:
 - Some clarification on the boundary between trips vs. training, trip leaders vs. instructors, and Trip vs. Training Committee overlap. MCA bylaws have much more rigorous standards for trips than for training. Does a full-day ice climbing instruction involving an approach count as a trip? Gerrit has been erring on the side of caution. At least organize outdoor training as if it were a trip, even if the Training Committee still approves them.
 - Draft guideline in the Ice-Climbing Training Guidelines is: "If the training takes on the characteristics of a trip, for example by involving a complex approach, a committing climb, multiple days, etc., it should be filed as a Trip instead and follow the guidelines set forth by the MCA Bylaws and the Trips Committee"
- Mentorship liability concerns. A volunteer mentor has approached me and asked what to expect from the MCA if something goes wrong while out with their mentee.
- Action item: Write description of Training Committee and its processes. What constitutes training? Update the by-

laws.

- Potential policy update regarding minors. Action item: Tom will draft a paragraph and run it by the board.

Strategic Plan Task Force (Max Neale)

- Select Survey Results that apply to all MCA initiatives:
 - Seventy-five percent of the 111 survey respondents are willing to pay significantly more than the current membership fee.
 - Most respondents have been members for less than five years
 - Most respondents are motivated to be a MCA member for (1) huts, (2) to learn about outdoor recreation destinations/opportunities, (3) learn more trainings.
 - Respondents primarily pursue: (1) backcountry skiing, (2) backpacking, and (3) day hiking. About 15% of respondents identified ice climbing and mountaineering as their primary outdoor activity.
 - Respondents found the following to be the most valuable aspect of MCA membership: (1) huts, (2) training, and (3) *the Scree*.
 - Most members rarely attend in-person meetings.
- Action items:
 - Create a proposal to make membership fee donation based with different levels. Max will draft a one-paragraph notice about the proposal for *the Scree*.
 - Communications Committee leads redesign of messaging around automatic membership renewal and renewal reminder emails.

Liability Committee (Tom Meacham)

- Tom will share recommended changes for MCA waivers during our December meeting.

Parks Advisory (Tom Meacham and Ralph Baldwin)

- Stuart Leidner is the new superintendent of Mat-Su/Copper River Basin State Parks.

Scree (Steve Gruhn and Dawn Munroe)

- *Scree* guidelines adoption has gone through and will be published in *the Scree*.

Huts Committee (Jonathan Rupp, Greg Bragiel, Cory Hinds, and Vicky Lytle)

- Haven't met yet, but have corresponded via email.
- More room for Mint Hut and toilet issues – Dnigi Hut west wall rebuild (priority). Board is not in favor of spending \$2,000 on helicopter for reconnaissance for Dnigi Hut.
- Committee will make a proposal and bring it to the board

to review.

- Discussed maintenance and renovation plans for 2019.

Awards Committee (Tom Meacham, Steve Gruhn)

- Hoeman Award once a year/honorary member selection/ President's Award.
- Committee is still seeking one more member.

Trips ("Hiking/Climbing Committee") (Jen Aschoff)

- Committee is now formed and first meeting is tentatively set for December 12th.
- Members include: Jen Aschoff, Andy Kubic, Katherine Cooper, Gerrit Verbeek, Meg Pritchard, Mark Smith, Ashley Saupe.
- Trips in the works: Nathan Pooler is organizing a climbing trip. Jen and Mark are organizing a regular hiking outing after work. Jen will start hers in January.
 - If you have trip ideas, please email them to Jen.
- Committee currently tracks trips via its Excel spreadsheets on Google Drive.
 - Committee needs to determine (with Tom's guidance) which committee documents need to be saved.

Communications Committee (Lila Hobbs)

- Committee is newly formed and met for the first time on November 15th.
- Members include: Lila Hobbs, Max Neale, Mike Meyers, Gerrit Verbeek, Katherine Cooper, Jonathan Rupp. Steve Gruhn will be included in any meetings in which *the Scree* is discussed.
- Committee created a draft work plan, which outlines areas on which the committee would like to focus its efforts. High-priority items include: creating new payment system for membership fees on the website, generating a promotional procedure checklist, drafting wish list for website change, and holding website planning meeting.

- Longer term, the committee would like to work on outreach and engagement, with MCA members and the broader community.

- Lila is trying to organize a website planning meeting with Billy Finley and Jonathan in December. If you'd like to join that meeting, let Lila know.

Mentorship (Alexandra Janczewska)

- Need mentor and mentees.

Library (Charlotte Foley)

- Charlotte requested money for supplies. We granted it because the Library has a \$400 annual budget. She now has a couple chairs and will do a Library presentation in January.

Unfinished Business

- Thank-you letters to contributors are done.
- Matanuska Glacier deal for MCA members.
- Update of President's Award from \$50 to \$150 is done.

New Business

- Update MCA bylaws
 - Action items: please come to January board meeting with proposals for bylaw revisions. Ralph and Tom to lead board succession planning efforts. Ralph to have proposal ready for December meeting.
- Training and mentorship: offering shorter seminars/training sessions.
- Grants and other fund-generating opportunities: potential revenue generators' (grants, apparel, events) effect on non-profit status.

Time and Location of Next Meeting

- December 18, 2018, at 6 p.m. on the UAA Campus, ConocoPhillips Integrated Sciences Building, Room 105A (main floor by the coffee stand).
 - Jen to double-check on availability of room. She might need to let us in if the building is locked.

The December 5 general membership meeting was canceled due to plumbing problems at the BP Energy Center resulting from the November 30 earthquake.

Mountaineering Club of Alaska

President Mike Meyers mcmeyers24@msn.com
Vice-President Gerrit Verbeek 903-512-4286
Secretary Jen Aschoff jlaschoff@gmail.com
Treasurer Katherine Cooper 209-253-8489

Director 1 (term expires in 2019) Tom Meacham 346-1077
Director 2 (term expires in 2019) Max Neale 207-712-1355
Director 3 (term expires in 2020) Jonathan Rupp 202-6484
Director 4 (term expires in 2020) Lila Hobbs 229-3754
Past President Charlie Sink 529-7910

Annual membership dues: Single \$20, Family \$30

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

The Scree is a monthly publication of the Mountaineering Club of Alaska. Articles, notes, and letters submitted for publication in the newsletter should be emailed to MCAScree@gmail.com. Articles should be submitted by the 11th of the month to appear in the next month's *Scree*.

Paid ads may be submitted to the attention of the Vice-President at the club address and should be in electronic format and pre-paid. Ads can be emailed to vicepresident@mtnclubak.org.

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

Mailing list/database entry: Katherine Cooper—209-253-8489 or membership@mtnclubak.org

Hiking and Climbing Committee: Mike Meyers—mcmeyers24@msn.com, Jen Aschoff—jlaschoff@gmail.com or hcc@mtnclubak.org

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Web: www.mtnclubak.org

Find MCAK listserv at <https://groups.yahoo.com/neo/groups/MCAK/info>.

Greg Encelewski on the summit ridge of East Kiliak Peak.

Photo by Marcin Ksok

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