



FEBRUARY 2002 *A Publication of the Mountaineering Club of Alaska* Volume 45 Issue 02  
Box 102037, Anchorage, Alaska 99510

### FEBRUARY MEETING

Wednesday

February 20, 7:30 pm

First United Methodist Church

9th & G Streets

next to the Phillips Building

Downtown Anchorage

**Program:** Dave Hart will show slides of *Broad Peak*,  
world's 12th highest mountain.

### HIKING AND CLIMBING SCHEDULE

#### Feb 23 Ship Creek

Ski tour and trail clearing day ski. Lets set a third of the Arctic to Indian trail and do a bit of clearing. Start from Arctic Valley Rd. Drop 1300 ft into the valley and go up as far as we can and then come back. Skijourers welcomed. Skins recommended.

Leader: Stuart Grenier 337-5127

#### Feb 27 Moon Ski

If it is clear the full moon can light our way on a local back country ski. 7:00 P.M.

Leader: Stuart Grenier 337-5127

#### Mar 2 Indian to Arctic

A marathon length traverse over Indian Creek Pass, unmaintained trails and possible open water crossings. Experienced strong skiers with avalanche gear, neoprene socks, skins and a good head lamp.

Leader: Stuart Grenier 337-5127

### TRAINING SCHEDULE

#### Feb 7, 9-10 Beginning Ice Climbing

This is for people who have little or no experience climbing ice. You should know your climbing knots and will need the following equipment: Helmet, Harness, Crampons, two locking carabineers, Ice climbing boots, Goggles, a belay device and lots of warm, waterproof clothing. You are encouraged to bring ice tools (if you have them), four regular oval carabineers and an eight-foot section of one inch tubular webbing.

Leader: Steve Parry 248-8710

#### Feb ?

Come join us for our snow shelter/winter camping class, dig a hole in the snow and sleep in it! It's a real back to nature experience and the warmest way to spend a night out in our cold Alaska winters. It may even save your life some day.

Location TBA

Leader: Steve Parry 248-8710

## Mountaineering Club of Alaska Proposed 2002 Budget

	Proposed for 2002	Actual through 12/31/01	Actual for 2000	Actual for 1999	Actual for 1998	Actual for 1997	Jan 96 -Dec 96
<b>REVENUE</b>							
Membership Dues	<i>received during calendar year</i>	5,500	5,579.00	5,858.00	6,311.00	4,422.00	2,116.00
Training	<i>ice climbing, crevasse rescue, other</i>	3,000	3,385.00	1,815.00	3,630.00	2,175.00	1,870.00
Other:	<i>interest, MCA product sales, advertising</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-
Photo Calendar		1,000	1,238.00	848.00	1,166.00	1,342.00	1,824.00
MCA Products: T-Shirts, Patches, Etc.		570	599.50	1,229.50	301.00	495.00	-
Donations		-	548.00	-	-	-	-
Interest on Accounts		300	285.29	328.70	321.23	434.82	153.33
Grant - REI/AAC Road Sign Project		-	-	-	2,300.00	-	-
Bulk Purchase - AMH Avalanche Gear		-	-	4,108.00	-	-	-
Bulk Purchase - Chugach State Park Maps		-	-	288.00	-	-	-
Bulk Purchase - Alaska Book Sales		-	20.00	470.00	-	-	-
Bulk Purchase - Mountain House		-	-	-	-	-	-
Grant - TRAAK		2,500	-	-	-	-	2,380.94
Other -		-	-	-	-	-	-
Other -		-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>TOTAL REVENUE</b>	<b>12,870</b>	<b>11,654.79</b>	<b>14,945.20</b>	<b>14,029.23</b>	<b>9,417.82</b>	<b>10,955.27</b>	<b>3,986.00</b>
<b>EXPENSE</b>							
Training	<i>computer and access fees, instructors</i>	3,000	2,593.39	1,985.00	2,100.00	1,524.38	1,347.50
Screen	<i>postage, mailing, printing (currently free - BF)</i>	4,150	1,125.00	1,725.10	1,210.92	1,358.90	1,043.80
General Meeting	<i>rent, refreshments, maintenance</i>	2,000	419.91	885.73	1,023.14	732.29	891.41
Administrative	<i>supplies, forms, PO box, bank fees, phone</i>	1,000	1,160.51	1,013.12	826.51	678.96	568.50
Hut Construction & Maint.	<i>materials, supplies, hut equipment, lease fees*</i>	1,500	600.00	393.95	1,136.04	290.85	1,313.95
Club Equipment	<i>climbing gear, misc equipment</i>	100	261.92	1,648.07	269.98	682.89	-
Library	<i>new books, periodicals, Screen binding</i>	200	23.58	209.84	263.42	180.24	204.44
Other:	<i>miscellaneous expenses</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-
Photo Calendar		1,000	677.25	1,175.54	1,803.75	1,227.15	2,912.08
MCA Products: T-Shirts, Patches, Etc.		250	378.00	2,062.80	-	684.38	-
Donation - Memorial for Pia		-	-	-	-	500.00	-
Grant - REI/AAC Road Sign Project		-	-	-	872.24	-	-
Bulk Purchase - AMH Avalanche Gear		-	-	4,418.00	-	-	-
Bulk Purchase - Chugach State Park Maps		-	-	173.50	-	-	-
Bulk Purchase - Alaska Book Sales		-	20.00	400.00	-	-	-
Bulk Purchase - Mountain House		-	-	-	-	-	-
Grant - TRAAK		2,500	-	-	-	-	2,380.34
Awards		500	-	-	-	-	-
Summit Registers		100	-	-	-	-	-
<b>TOTAL EXPENSE</b>	<b>16,300</b>	<b>7,259.56</b>	<b>16,090.65</b>	<b>9,506.00</b>	<b>7,360.04</b>	<b>11,162.02</b>	<b>3,961.64</b>
<b>DUE TO (FROM) RESERVE</b>	<b>(3,430)</b>	<b>4,395.23</b>	<b>(1,145.45)</b>	<b>4,523.23</b>	<b>2,057.78</b>	<b>(206.75)</b>	<b>24.96</b>

This budget proposal was developed by the MCA Board on December 12, 2001.

This proposal should be published in the January 2002 Screen for comments from the membership.

The final budget proposal should be published in the January 2002 Screen for voting by the members at the General Meeting on January 16, 2002.

REV	Dues	No change to membership rate (\$10 individual, \$15 family) for 2002. \$10 Screen subscription fee proposed for 2003.
	Training	No significant change anticipated in training revenue.
	Calendar	Calendar revenue will decrease due to decreasing the price of calendars and limiting production to 75 calendars.
	T-Shirts, Patches	Continued sales of T-Shirts & Patches. Possible MCA bumper sticker.
	Interest	Interest, less bank fees, is expected to remain unchanged.
EXP	Training	Ice climbing school and mountaineering training programs, club will pay for photocopies and miscellaneous supplies.
	Screen	Propose paying a commercial service to print and mail the Screens.
	General Meeting	Additional funds for a larger meeting place.
	Administration	No significant changes to administrative expenses.
	Hut Maintenance	Human waste disposal system purchase and installation, hut fees, general maintenance.
	Club Equipment	No major purchases planned, purchase gear check-out cards for use at AMH.
	Library	Reduced budgeted library expenses to be closer to actual expenses.
	Calendar	Limiting calendar production to 75.
	T-Shirts, Patches	Possible MCA bumper sticker.
NET	We expect to significantly draw down the reserves during 2002 rather than raise dues at this time.	

### CASH BALANCE - All Accounts

Proposed Beginning Balance - January 1, 2002	16,026.43
Increase (decrease) during 2002	(3,430.00)
Proposed Balance - December 31, 2002	12,596.43
<b>Current Balance for 2002</b>	<b>16,026.43</b>
Checking - Northrim Bank	8,589.88
Money Market - Northrim Bank	6,386.55
18-month CD - in trust for hut lease - Northrim Bank	1,000.00
Petty Cash	50.00
<b>TOTAL ALL ACCOUNTS - through 12/31/2001</b>	<b>16,026.43</b>
Ending Balance - December 31, 2001	16,026.43

## MINUTES

### JANUARY MEETING

Approximately 65 members attended the January General Meeting and six new people introduced themselves.

#### TREASURER

The total revenue for 2001 was \$11,689.73, the total expenses were \$7,259.56, and the total balance in all accounts is \$16,026.43.

#### COMMITTEE REPORTS

##### *Hiking and Climbing*

**Matt Nedom** announced upcoming MCA trips, including a day ski to Williwaw Lakes, several day and overnight ski trips led by Stu Grenier. Most trips are in the Scree and on the MCA web page. If you have any trips you want to lead or have questions about contact Matt Nedom at 278-3648 for further information.

##### *Training*

**Steve Parry** announced upcoming training classes on outdoor clothing and equipment and beginning ice climbing in the next 2 weeks. Interested persons should contact Steve or the Scree for information about upcoming classes. Instructors for several courses are still needed. Contact Steve P at 248-8710.

##### *Huts*

**Mark Miraglia** reported that the Outdoor Studies Program at APU had contacted the club to request use of the Scandinavian Hut for approximately 10 days in January for a mountaineering course field expedition. Membership applications and dues for all persons going to the hut were sent to MCA by APU. Mark also reported that Chugach State Park will be issuing hut reservation fee credits in the amount of \$5 per hour to all persons who donated labor to help build the new Serenity Fall hut at the east end of Eklutna Lake. If you donated time to build the Serenity Fall hut (and it was recorded in the log), contact the AK Dept. of Natural Resources public lands information office to determine how much credit you are eligible for. The credit can be applied to reservations at the Serenity Falls hut.

##### *Parks Advisory*

**Cory Hinds** announced that the public comment period for the Airport Expansion plan (the original plan included developing a portion of Kincaid Park) is being challenged by several organizations due to lack of information being provided by the Airport Development Authority. He also mentioned that the Quiet Rights Coalition has developed a form for backcountry recreationists to use to help document habitat damage and/or illegal motorized uses on public

lands in Alaska. A link will be forthcoming on the MCA web page. **Bill** encouraged members to attend a workshop hosted by the National Park Service Sat, Jan 19th for the climbing community re: the climbing and mountaineering alternative being proposed in the Denali NP Backcountry Management Plan.

##### *Equipment*

**Carl Battreal** reported that he will be inventorying club gear and calling members who have checked out equipment for extended periods that need to be returned. Efforts to build a new gear storage system will be verified with AMH before proceeding with those plans.

##### *Library*

Elena Hinds has developed a list of books for the club to purchase with the remaining library budget for 2001. If persons have any suggestions for additions to the library, contact Elena at 248-6606.

#### OLD BUSINESS

Starting in February 2002, the club meetings will be held at the **new meeting location**: the First United Methodist Church on the corner of 9<sup>th</sup> and G streets, across from Skinny Raven and behind the Phillips building. Same time, same faces, bigger place, more parking.

The President outlined the proposed 2002 budget that was present at the December meeting noting that the proposed budget would spend \$3,430 more than estimated 2002 revenue, primarily due to the decision to have a commercial printer print, fold, address and bulk mail the *Scree* in 2002. The President noted that **the membership and Board approved a \$10 subscription fee** for persons wishing to continue receiving a paper copy of the *Scree* at the December meeting, and that this subscription fee would begin in 2003 to cover printing/ mailing costs. A motion was made to have the Board consider donating money to local conservation groups for easement protection or land purchases in 2002. This generated some discussion and the motion was ultimately withdrawn after Mark Miraglia noted that the budget could be amended after approval via Board action and a membership vote at a later date. **A motion to approve the 2002 budget** as proposed was made and passed by a majority of members present.

#### NEW BUSINESS

The President reported that a mistake had been made in October during the annual elections in which the sitting Past-President was kept on the Board with the re-election of the President. The By Laws state that in the event that the President is re-elected an additional 1-year Board seat will be created and filled to replace the Past-President seat. A

**special election** was held to fill the **1-year Board seat**. Sean Bolender was the only person nominated for this position and was duly elected to fill this 1-yr Board seat.

Stu Grenier reported that only 10 of the 90 2002 MCA **photo calendars** remained. **All were sold** by the end of the meeting, and a sign-up list was started to see if there was sufficient for a second printing.

#### ANNOUNCEMENTS

The *Scree* is available on the web page and can be delivered via e-mail. Contact Don Smith or go to web page to change your delivery preference.

AMRG Raffle.

AAC Monthly slide shows, next one is February 6<sup>th</sup> at AMH.

Ralph Tingey presented a wonderful slideshow entitled "Five Decades of Climbing" depicting his lifetime of climbing and many classic climbs in the western U.S.

Respectfully submitted,  
Bill Romberg

### History Corner

Willy Hersman

Since the club is contemplating a dues increase (at least for *Scree* subscription), a look back at dues history may be in order. Our current rate of \$10.00/\$15.00 goes back to January, 1986, a period of 15 years so far. For 11 years prior to that, it was \$7.50/\$10.00, going back to January, 1975. Between October, 1959 and December, 1975 the rate was \$5.00/\$7.50, about 16 years. In 1958, the first year of the club, you could join for \$2.00. Raising it to \$15.00/\$20.00 would still be the bargain it has always been.

## Letters to the Editor



### Locate Your Peaks

Robyn Russell  
Indexer, Bib/APR  
AK & Polar Regions Dept.  
Rasmuson Library  
U. of Alaska Fairbanks  
fnrlr1@aurora.uaf.edu

Here at the Bibliography of Alaskana (also known as Alaska Periodical Index) we regularly index issues of *Scree* and we were wondering if you could prevail upon your writers to mention the mountain range the peaks they climb are in. For example, "we prepared to make our traverse of the north face of Mount Dreadful (Wrangell Mountains)." I realize that the writers and the other members of the Mountaineering Club probably know where these peaks are located, but the rest of us don't.

Incidentally, we have solid coverage of *Scree* from 1989 on if anyone wants to look up past trip reports or other articles from back issues of the newsletter. You can reach the Alaska Periodical Index via the Net by going first to SLED (Statewide Library Electronic Doorway) at <http://sled.alaska.edu>, choosing Libraries and Other Catalogs, and then selecting Alaska Periodical Index. You can search by title (t/), author (a/), or subject (s/). No space after the slash.

The Alaska Periodical Index is an on-line database maintained by the Rasmuson Library at UAF. We scan all the periodicals that the university gets and index any articles that mention Alaska, the Arctic, or the Antarctic. We have a good selection of mountaineering articles indexed if your readers are interested.

(Letters continue on Page 7.)



# MOTOR VEHICLE CONFLICT REPORT

**Have you been bothered by motorized vehicles while trying to enjoy Alaska's natural quiet?**

When you encounter a conflict with a motorized recreational vehicle on Alaska's public lands, tell the Alaska Quiet Rights Coalition about it!

Please either use this form or fill it out online at [www.quietrights.org](http://www.quietrights.org).  
Please use one form for each incident. Feel free to make copies of this form.

Your name: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Your address: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

## Description of Incident

Date/time of conflict: \_\_\_\_\_

Location: \_\_\_\_\_

*(please be as specific as possible: name of trail or valley? highway milepost? land managing agency?)*

\_\_\_\_\_

**Source of conflict:**  
*(check one or more)*

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Snowmachine           | <input type="checkbox"/> All-Terrain Vehicle (ATV, ORV)      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Airplane overflight   | <input type="checkbox"/> Motorcycle                          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Helicopter overflight | <input type="checkbox"/> Personal Watercraft (Jet-Ski, etc.) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Automobile/Truck      | <input type="checkbox"/> Motorboat/Airboat                   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____          |  |

**Nature of incident:**  
*(check one or more)*

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Annoyance       | <input type="checkbox"/> Concern for your safety                      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Excessive noise | <input type="checkbox"/> Vegetation damage                            |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Exhaust smell   | <input type="checkbox"/> Wildlife harassment                          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Crowding        | <input type="checkbox"/> Displacement (you left area, shortened trip) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Visual impact   | <input type="checkbox"/> Trespass in non-motorized area               |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____    |   |

Was motor vehicle registration number visible?

Yes

No

Don't know

If so, what was the registration number? \_\_\_\_\_

**PLEASE PROVIDE A DETAILED DESCRIPTION:** *Examples:* How many people were in your group? How many were in the motorized group? Were any children present? Was the motorized group a private group or a commercial trip? Did you notice any behavior that you felt was inappropriate? Were you on a designated trail or in the backcountry? How did you react? What happened? *(please attach additional pages if necessary)*

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# WHY REPORT MOTOR VEHICLE CONFLICTS?

The Alaska Quiet Rights Coalition is tracking conflicts between motorized and non-motorized recreational users. Please report user conflicts, excessive noise, resource damage, wildlife impacts, safety concerns, or motorized trespass in closed areas. **If you think it's a conflict, then tell us about it.** Make observations, gather as much information as possible, and pass it on to the Alaska Quiet Rights Coalition. All reports will be forwarded to the responsible authorities. Photos or video are extremely valuable.

## PLEASE DO NOT CONFRONT VIOLATORS OR TAKE THE LAW INTO YOUR OWN HANDS!

These incident reports will help retain, promote, and establish new non-motorized areas. By documenting the level, nature, and effects of motorized recreational vehicle use on Alaska's public lands, you will provide valuable help to non-motorized recreationists interested in maintaining and restoring natural quiet. At this time, it is unlikely that the responsible agencies will take any specific law enforcement actions against individual violators, but they may in the future. Our hope is that this information will lead to changes in land management that will protect quiet rights.

**Please carry copies of this form when you recreate, using one form for each incident.** You can file by fax, file electronically on our web site, download blank incident forms, or call our message telephone for more forms. The key is to be as specific as possible in your description of the incident and location. Encourage your friends to carry blank forms to help protect our quiet areas and wild lands. Thank you for your time and help!

We may be reached at:  
**Alaska Quiet Rights Coalition**  
**(907) 566-3524**  
**fax: (907) 346-1028**  
[www.quietrights.org](http://www.quietrights.org)  
[quietrights@yahoo.com](mailto:quietrights@yahoo.com)

**Please check here if you would like  
more information about the  
Alaska Quiet Rights Coalition:**

**Please fold, staple, stamp, and mail completed form to:**

Alaska Quiet Rights Coalition  
P. O. Box 202592  
Anchorage, AK 99520

**Attach  
First-Class  
Postage**

**ALASKA QUIET RIGHTS COALITION**  
**P.O. Box 202592**  
**Anchorage, AK 99520**

*The Alaska Quiet Rights Coalition is an all-volunteer, non-profit organization dedicated to a fair and balanced allocation of Alaska's public lands for both non-motorized and motorized use.*

(Letters to the Editor Continued.)

## **Suggestions for Landing Stakes**

Tim Kelley

In the January issue, Dave Hamre of Chugach Powder Guides (CPG) accused me of giving his business a "whack in the butt" concerning an article that I wrote. The accusation is valid, as I have griped about finding "heli-trash" in local mountains in past *Scree* articles.

So instead of making this response letter an attack on the impacts of heli-skiing, I would like to make some constructive suggestions to Mr. Hamre. The first suggestion is to please educate and vigilantly police heli-skiing clients. Visibility stakes are not the only refuse my climbing peers and I have found near landing sites. Add to the list: soda cans, Sobe bottles, discarded ski and rescue gear, food wrappers and latte cups. I realize that Chugach Powder Guides does not leave this garbage. It's their clients. But if each client could be alerted to the fact that pristine Alaskan mountains are not garbage cans - that would be a good start.

My second suggestion concerns choice of landing site stakes. The stakes I often find are 1 by 6's that are painted orange. 1 by 6's are thin and wide; they have a lot of surface area. When the high winds hit them they blow out of the snow or snap off relatively easily. Why not use slalom poles? They have much less surface area and are more resistant to high winds. A slalom pole drill could help place the poles solidly. Preferably thick bamboo poles, without plastic tape, and with black cloth streamers could be used. That way if they are lost they will eventually disintegrate, as opposed to plastic slalom poles.

I would also like to make a suggestion on landing stake recovery trips. I'm not sure what time of the year CPG picks up landing stakes, but I seem to find most of them in mid to late August when the snow cover is at its lowest. During August I have found stakes that are still standing in their original locations, and stakes that have blown far away from landing sites. So it seems that at least two clean-up trips are necessary: one right after the heli-skiing season ends, and one in late summer. The late summer trip should extend its search down the western, leeward sides of the ridges that CPG landing sites are on. Landing stakes can be blown thousands of feet away and down from their original locations.

My final suggestion will surely not be readily embraced by Mr. Hamre, but it has merit. If the purpose

of visibility stakes is for landing in flat light, then get rid of the stakes and don't operate in flat light conditions. Without stakes, there would be no refuse problem.

Skiing in flat light, from my experience, is not fun. And it is dangerous. Heli-skiing clients would get a better value if CPG only operated on clear days when skiing conditions were enjoyable. I understand that cutting back on the days that CPG flies would have an adverse affect on incoming revenue. So I will have to ask the question, what really drives the need for visibility stakes - safety or profit? I would hope that CPG has paid heed to the Juneau glacier tour helicopter mishaps. The lesson from Juneau is that helicopters, tourism, greed and bad weather aren't a good combination.

I would like to thank Mr. Hamre for his offer to help clean up the Maynard Mountain communication tower site. But in the "Climbing Notes" section of the December *Scree* I noted that Orville Lamson of the USFS said that he would arrange the clean-up of this old USFS site.

I am not opposed to heli-skiing or snow cat skiing operations. My gripe is with "heli-trash" and "cat-trash." If I keep finding it in South Central Alaskan mountains, I will no doubt continue my "butt whacking" ways.

## **BOARD MEETING**

January

The following members attended the January Board meeting held at Bill Romberg's residence: John Hess, Dave Hart, Karen Herzenberg, Steve Gruhn, Bill Romberg.

### *New Meeting Location*

All arrangements have been made to move the monthly club meetings to the First United Methodist Church at 725 W. 9<sup>th</sup> Street, starting in February 2002. Steve Gruhn will revise the membership application to reflect the new meeting location, print new copies, and make sure Willy has the new version on the website.

### *Budget*

The Board approved a motion made by the President to have a local print company (Great Originals) print, fold, address, and monthly issues of SCREE starting with the February 2002 issue. This action will result in an additional expense of \$2700.00 for the 2002 membership year, and was taken to make delivery of the SCREE more predictable and insure that members received their copy at



least 5 days prior to the monthly meeting. The club will pay for this service for 2002. A second motion was approved to institute a \$10/year SCREE subscription fee for those members who wish to continue receiving a paper copy of the SCREE via the mail to cover the annual printing and postage costs (approximately \$9.25/member) associated with paper delivery of the newsletter. A majority of the members present at the December general meeting indicated being in favor of instituting the \$10 paper subscription fee (on top of the \$10 membership fee) for those who want to continue receiving a paper copy. The two other options were to raise dues by \$10 for all members in 2003, or status quo. The new fee will not take affect until the 2003 membership year (i.e., start with renewals in September 2002).

#### *Awards*

Bill is working on drafting brief instructions for the Awards Committee and will be sending all nominations received for the Vin Hoeman and President's Awards to the committee by January 20<sup>th</sup>. At the January meeting, the semi-annual trip leader and SCREE trip report awards will be given out via a drawing.

#### *Calendar*

Stu Grenier reported via e-mail that all but 10 of the 90 copies of the 2002 calendar had been sold. The Board agreed to have Stu put out a sign-up list at the next 2 meetings to see if there is interest in having more copies printed. Any additional copies to be printed will be pre-paid by members.

#### *Huts*

Mark Miraglia reported via e-mail to the Board that our \$2500 grant request to the TRAAK Board for installation of human solid waste disposal systems at the Eklutna Traverse huts had received "tentative approval" status from the TRAAK Board pending AK DNR review. A final answer on the grant request is due sometime in February, 2002.

Bill reported that a commercial guiding company in Colorado had contacted the club to request use of the Scandinavian hut for approximately 20 days in April. A letter was sent to the company clarifying the first-come, first-serve status of these huts, the membership requirements, and requesting that they modify their plans so that they do not intrude upon member trips to the hut. Alaska Pacific University also requested approval from the club to take an Outdoor Studies mountaineering class to the Scandinavian Hut for 10 days in January which was approved contingent upon receiving dues from all students in the class. In the coming year, the Board will be considering a number of options to address growing commercial use of the club huts, starting with the establishment of a policy regarding commercial use of MCA huts. In addition, the Board will ask Willy if the hut route descriptions available

on the web can be made available only to club members via the password (similar to the SCREE issues).

#### *Special Election*

Bill reported that a mistake had been made in October during the annual elections in which the sitting Past-President was kept on the Board with the re-election of the President. The bylaws state that in the event the President is re-elected a new, 1-year Board seat will be created and filled. Richard Baranow was notified of this mistake, and a special election will be held at the January general meeting to fill the 1-year Board seat.

#### *Web Server*

At the suggestion of the webmaster at the December meeting, the Board briefly discussed the need to develop a plan for replacing the aging server that Willy Hersman donated and currently maintains as the host for the MCA web site. Noting that the club is becoming more reliant on the web site for many of its services and functions, it was suggested that a small committee be formed this year to put together an "upgrade and transition plan" (including costs for new hardware, software, and teaching an additional person how to manage the page) to insure that the web site is a reliable resource in the coming years.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Bill Romberg





# MOUNTAINEERING CLUB OF ALASKA

## MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

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

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

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

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

NEW	<input type="checkbox"/>	DATE	<input type="text"/>
RENEWAL	<input type="checkbox"/>	NAME	<input type="text"/>
INDIVIDUAL (\$10)	<input type="checkbox"/>	FAMILY	<input type="text"/>
FAMILY (\$15)	<input type="checkbox"/>	MEMBERS	
How do you want your <b>SCREE</b> delivered? ( <i>check one or both</i> )			
ELECTRONIC	<input type="checkbox"/>	Fastest! Least expensive! Direct to your email address specified below.	
PAPER	<input type="checkbox"/>	Postal Service – please include \$5 extra if outside U.S.	
STREET or PO BOX	<input type="text"/>		
CITY / STATE / ZIP	<input type="text"/>		
TELEPHONE	<input type="text"/>		
E-MAIL ADDRESS	<input type="text"/>		
COMMENTS	<input type="text"/>		

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

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

**RELEASE OF LIABILITY—READ CAREFULLY**

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

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

**GIVING UP MY LEGAL RIGHTS**

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

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

**MY PROMISE NOT TO SUE**

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

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

**MY RELEASE OF LIABILITY**

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

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

**MY PROMISE TO INDEMNIFY**

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

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

**MY CONSENT TO MEDICAL TREATMENT**

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

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

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

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

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

## MCA Trip Classifications

The classifications below do not take into account individual trip hazards such as river crossings, scree slopes, snow fields, bears, etc. Trip leaders are required to inform the trip participants of any such hazards either verbally, on the sign-up sheet, or in the trip description. Leader approval is required for participation on all trips.

**NON-TECHNICAL:** Following are a few standards used to classify non-technical trips. The classification is made in terms of hiking distance and altitude gain. Many trips are not on established trails.

**CLASS A:** Easy hikes with a maximum distance of 8 miles for day trips or 4 miles per day for overnight trips. Altitude gain up to 1200 feet.

**CLASS B:** Trips involving a maximum distance of up to 12 miles for a day trip or 6 miles per day for an overnight trip. Altitude gain of 1200 to 2500 feet.

**CLASS C:** Trips up to 15 miles for a day hike or 8 miles per day for an overnight trip. Altitude gain up to 3500 feet. Scree, steep grass or other rough terrain problems may be encountered.

**CLASS D:** Hikes and climbs with an altitude gain of over 3500 feet or a distance of greater than 15 miles for a day-hike or greater than 8 miles a day for an overnight trip. Peaks in this classification may require minimal climbing skills.

**CLASS E:** Hazardous climbing conditions or stream-crossing conditions may be encountered. A basic mountaineering course may be required.

**TECHNICAL:** Technical trips are open to all qualified climbers. However, the registration on any particular trip must be restricted to a safe and manageable number of climbers. Registration is made directly with the leader, who determines the qualifications needed for the trip.

**GLACIER TRAVEL:** Trips requiring roped travel over glaciers. Knowledge of crevasse rescue, and ice axe and crampon skills are required. Basic understanding of ice and snow anchors also required.

**FIFTH CLASS:** Trips which involve fifth class climbing. A Basic Mountaineering course or equivalent is required. Knowledge of belay and rappel techniques and placing anchors is required. Climbing difficulty varies widely with each trip.

**TRIP PARTICIPANTS** have the obligation to acquaint themselves with the nature of the trip and to verify that it is within their capability and experience. Anyone wishing to participate in any trip above CLASS A must have completed one or more trips of the next lower classification, or the equivalent.

Approved: MCA Board, February 15, 2000

## General Rules for MCA Sanctioned Trips

1. Proper equipment is available from the trip leader.
2. No dogs. (Among the reasons are bear problems.)
3. The trip leader can require special equipment and refuse participation to any person that is ill-prepared (e.g. inappropriate clothing/gear).
4. The leader's suggestions are to be followed. Do not go off alone, return or rush ahead without his (her) permission, and don't 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 separating from the group without the leader's approval is no longer considered a participant the MCA Sanctioned trip.
5. The trip leader has the authority to split the group (fast and slow), dependent upon current conditions. However, he/she must appoint a qualified co-leader to lead the second group using the guidelines specified in the current Trip Leader Responsibilities.
6. Trip participants who, in the leader's opinion, put themselves or other members of the group in danger by disregarding the leader's suggestions, shall be subject to sanction by the club. Sanctions may include, but are not limited to, reprimand at general meeting, exclusion from future trips, termination of annual membership, or lifetime exclusion from the club.
7. You must sign up on a trip roster (club meetings) or contact the leader, and you must have signed the club waiver to be on a club trip.
8. If you find you cannot participate after signing up on the roster, please let the leader know, both for transportation and gear-planning and so someone else can go. If you are the leader, help find a replacement.
9. Total number of people on club trips:
  - Minimum: 4 (for safety reasons)
  - Maximum: Leader option, depends upon the trail and campsite conditions, but generally limited to 12 in trail-less areas or State/National Parks
10. Firearms are not encouraged, and please let the leader know if you want to carry one - it will be leader's option. Aerosol bear repellent is preferred.

Approved: MCA Board, February 15, 2000



# Mountaineering Club of Alaska

## Officers

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

## Board

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

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

Dues can be paid at any meeting or mailed to the treasurer at the MCA address below. If you want a membership card, please fill out a club waiver and mail it with a self-addressed, stamped envelope. If you fail to receive the newsletter, or have questions about your membership, contact the club treasurer. The post office does not forward the newsletter.

*SCREE* is a monthly publication of the Mountaineering Club of Alaska. Articles and notes submitted for publication and other communication related to the newsletter should be mailed to my address: 1106 W. 54th Ave., Anchorage, AK 99518, or e-mailed to [willy@mcaak.org](mailto:willy@mcaak.org) Articles should be received by March 1st to be included in the March issue. Sorry, no exceptions.

Paid ads may be submitted to the attention of the Vice-President at the club address and should be "camera ready" and pre-paid. Your cooperation will be appreciated... Willy Hersman, Editor, 561-7900.

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

E-MAILING: [willy\\_hersman](mailto:willy_hersman)

HIKING/CLIMBING CHAIRS: [matt\\_nedom](mailto:matt_nedom), 278-3648, [richard\\_baranow](mailto:richard_baranow), 694-1500

HUTS: [mark\\_miraglia](mailto:mark_miraglia), 338-0705

WEB: [www.mcaak.org](http://www.mcaak.org) (go here to change your address)

MAILING LIST SERVICE: [mcaak@yahoo.com](mailto:mcaak@yahoo.com)