

FEBRUARY 2005 *A Publication of the Mountaineering Club of Alaska* Volume 48 Issue 02

Box 102037, Anchorage, Alaska 99510

FEBRUARY MEETING

Wednesday

February 19, 7:30 pm

First United Methodist Church

9th & G Streets

Next to the Phillips Building

(you may use marked parking after hours...)

Downtown Anchorage

Program: *Maritime Climbs* by Wayne Todd

HIKING AND CLIMBING SCHEDULE

Feb 12 Baldy and Black Tail Rocks

I decided we should hike up Mt. Baldy before we possibly lose this important trailhead access. We'll hike to the summit of Mt. Baldy and then on to Black Tail Rocks. This will be a Class B trip. For safety's sake we will stop at one of the false summits. Outstanding views of Eagle River, Cook Inlet, the Alaska Range and parts of the Chugach. Depending on snow and weather conditions, bring ice grippers of some sort (or crampons), snowshoes, ski poles or ice axe (if you have one), lunch, water, warm clothing and good cheer!

Leader: Amy Murphy at 338-3979 or

hayduchesslives@yahoo.com

19 Arctic to Indian recon

Check conditions for the Arctic to Indian ski traverse. Class C.

Leader: Greg Bragiel 569-3008

Feb 20 Ski Williwaw Lakes

We'll go for a ski in all of the fresh powder (keep your hopes up!) to Williwaw Lakes. (possibly frozen) If conditions change, we'll change our plans. Bring lunch and a good attitude! Come prepare yourself for the Arctic to Indian Marathon. Class B.

Leader: Matt Nedom 278-3648

26 Arctic to Indian

Sign up at January or February meeting. This is a 12-hour trip, so get prepared. Class D.

Leaders: Greg Bragiel 569-3008, Tom Dolan 223-1308

Apr 10-17 Eklutna Traverse

From Eklutna Lake to Crow Pass. (Approximate dates) Sign up at February or March meeting. Any participants without sufficient experience at glacier travel and rescue are also required to attend the MCA classes on Beginning Snow Travel, February 24 and 26th, and Glacier Travel and Crevasse Rescue March 1,3 and March 5-6. Class: Technical – Glacier Travel.

Leader: Greg Bragiel 569-3008

TRAINING SCHEDULE

Beginning Mountaineering School (ongoing) as follows:

Feb 8, 10, 12, 13 Avalanche Awareness

7:00 P.M. on Tuesday the 8th, location TBA.

7:00 P.M. on Thursday the 10th, location TBA.

12th and 13th in the field. \$15.00 for room rental, supplies and equipment replacement.

Coordinator: Carl Battreall 258-0075

17 Knots

7:00 P.M. on Thursday, location TBA.

Coordinator: Carl Battreall 258-0075

24, 26 Snow Travel

7:00 P.M. on Thursday, location TBA.

26th in the field. \$10.00 for room rental, camping fees, supplies and equipment replacement.

Coordinator: Carl Battreall 258-0075

Mar 1, 3, 5, 6 Glacier Travel and Crevasse Rescue

7:00 P.M. on Tuesday, the 1st, location TBA.

7:00 P.M. on Thursday, the 3rd, location TBA.

5th and 6th in the field, overnight. \$20.00 for room rental, camping fees, supplies and equipment replacement.

Coordinator: Carl Battreall 258-0075

TRIP REPORTS

Mt. Thunderbird Paddle Climbs

by Stu Grenier



For people like myself who can't resist the chance to use kayaks to access peaks, Thunder Bird Peak at 6575 feet near Eklutna Lake is an irresistible target. In the 1980s I climbed the long ridge from the north end of Eklutna Lake with a pack raft.

For whatever reason I found myself floating in the tarn just off the ridge in the North Fork of the Thunder Bird Creek. From there I made it up Thunder Bird and out to Peters Creek where I tried to raft out. After doing what seemed to be a couple of very blurry nerve-racking miles on the creek I had had enough and gladly rolled my thirty-dollar raft up and walked out.

After getting enough money to buy a kayak I started going up to Eklutna Lake about five times a summer to paddle around. Soon the ridge above the lake and Thunder Bird began to call again so I got a paddle climb going with Charles Sink and Thomas Faulkenbery. Due to limited schedules we decided to do the trip in a day. I spiked it on the climb up, losing my lunch, and set up shop about 800 feet below the summit while the others summited. When Charles got back to my bivy he said the maps were wrong. He pointed out what people have been talking about for decades. The point that is marked as Thunder Bird on the maps does not appear to be the highest peak on the ridge.

On the USGS maps the point, which is called Thunder Bird, is marked with a brown X. You will notice that peaks like Pioneer are marked with a black X. When I asked the guy at USGS about this he said that the brown X is a point that may or may not be a high point of a given area but a black X was a known high point. So with all this information and Steve Gruhn's urging for us to go up there and see if we could figure out which one was the true summit I did two more paddle climbs to the summit in 2003. The first was with Tom Dolan and John McCormick and included swimming in the tarn, which I previously mentioned. The next was with Steve Vilter and Leslie Robins. On this trip we took a level and though they are very close, the consensus was that the peak to the south just past where the ridge forks is the higher. The GPS gave the distance between the two as .48 miles. The low point on the ridge between the two does not appear to be 500 ft lower so the two do seem to be the same mountain. We moved the register and cairn to the higher peak on Gruhn's urging.

The first documented ascent of Thunder Bird was on May 24, 1969 by Grace Hoeman and Lotte Kramer. According to Steve Gruhn, in Grace's diary she noted it as a first ascent. In the July 69 Scree article she mentioned that "the summit showed no sign of previous visit by humans." In the AAJ, the "first ascent" had been dropped that was included with other peaks that she climbed that year. I think she probably concluded that the peak had been climbed before by hunters. The reason being that the Peters Creek side of the peak is a known natural mineral lick which draws loads of sheep and the natives have been hunting in the area and accessing the area from Eklutna Lake since at least the 1920s. Both peaks are easily accessed without exposure if you take the ridge that divides the two forks of Thunder Bird Creek and stay on the Peters Creek side of the

ridge coming from the north. If you follow the ridge above Eklutna Lake all the way around there is a wee bit of exposure and you need to do a short detour to the south to hit the true summit. From Bee's Heaven Peak to the south the ridge is challenging.

We know now from the most recent addition of Shem Pete's Alaska, a book that details Native names and facts about Upper Cook Inlet, that the ridge along the south side of Eklutna Lake was called Nuhdaltunt or the ridge that extends across. And that Thunder Bird Creek which dates back to 1942 when it was registered as a local name for the falls near the highway was called Chishkatnu by the Natives which means big ocher creek. Come to think of it, the earth in the upper reaches of Thunder Bird Valley is unusually red in places. Taking into consideration the descriptive Native name for Thunder Bird Creek I would like to propose the name Chishka Pond for the above mentioned tarn which is rather unique in the area and a noted swim hole.

Another question that I have been asked is whether it is easier to use kayaks to climb Thunder Bird or if it is easier to just hike from the end of the lake and take the trail up the ridge from the dam. The answer is I don't know which is faster. If you use kayaks it does reduce the amount of ridge you have to hike by about five miles but then you have a steeper climb to access the ridge. I have found that if you land at the cove that is shaped like a right angle $\frac{3}{4}$ of the way down the lake and climb straight up through the small tree on the steep face the brush is minimal. Using kayaks or canoes is just a refreshing element to a gentle climb. The area does offer the potential for a MCA paddle climb / sweat lodge weekend that could be a lot of fun if conditions were right. Hunters seem to have left a lot of trash high above tree line that needs to be picked up.

Portage Lake Skiing

by Micah McGuire



he weather had been extremely cold for a very long time, there had been no snowfall anywhere in the area for weeks, and strong winds had blown much of the snow off of the lakes, rivers, gravel bars, ridgelines,

and other prominent features of the landscape. Dick called me the morning of January 16th with an

idea to hoof it across Portage Lake to check out the Portage and Burns Glaciers. It sounded like a good plan to me, so I packed up my skis and we headed out to the lake.

I have heard rangers suggest that Portage Lake, especially near the glacier, has a tendency to develop pretty thin ice due to the lake's depth or something. I hear it is a very deep lake, multiple hundreds of feet at its deepest. I also have it on good authority that the ice very close to the glacier is a very dangerous place to be since it can become unstable due to the movements of the glacier. Also, massive icebergs sometimes break off from the undersides of the glacier and come bursting up through the ice like some giant submarine surfacing for a peek above the water. Given that the conditions had been warmer, or the duration of our cold spell shorter, I would perhaps have thought twice regarding the ranger's advice, but since I saw several ski tracks criss-crossing the lake ice near the visitor center, I reasoned that the ice would probably be fine. Indeed it was.

We headed towards the point where Byron Peak juts into Portage Lake, and made good time across the ice. It was blissful skiing conditions, as most of the snow had been blown off of the ice, and the snow that remained was hardened like a groomed ski-trail. We made a short stop at a couple of small icebergs jutting from the ice, then continued onward until we stood face-to-face with Portage Glacier. We could easily see how dangerous the ice directly in front of the glacier was. There were areas of open water, cracks with steam rising from them, places where seracs had obviously calved off and cratered into the ice, and lots of very thin-looking spots. Most disturbing of all were the places where the ice had been lifted by some force underneath, sometimes bulging to a height of six feet or more. Some icebergs had even managed to penetrate the ice from beneath and now stood as monuments to their own impressive power.

We walked the breadth of the glacier, taking pictures and making various comments to express how awe-struck we were with the ruggedness and beauty of the towering seracs. Every few seconds, the whole east end of the lake reverberated with the sounds of the glacier's movements. Huge cracks and moans reminded us of how very much alive the Portage Glacier is, despite its dramatic recent retreat.



Soon, we found a spot where the glacier's recession enabled us climb onto the beach and physically access the glacier ice. We spent a few minutes pawing and probing at the glassy ice, took a few more pictures, and headed back onto the lake.

The Burns Glacier was rather a disappointment, as not even a single crevasse was visible under the snow. However, the whole event was so amazing, it's hard to label any part of it a disappointment. We made as straight a line as we could to the car, stopping along the way to take a couple pictures of Byron Glacier before the sunset.

To see pictures of this trip, visit <http://chugachpics.tripod.com/Portage.html>

The Wedge

by Amy Murphy



I have spent a lot of time playing in the Powerline Pass area this winter, and for some reason the Wedge had been beckoning me. Since most of the snow in this area is either hard packed or blown away and avalanche danger seemed minimal, I de-

ecided it might be a safe time to attempt to visit the Wedge. I called a few friends and we met at the Glen Alps parking lot at 10:00 a.m. on January 22nd to start our day's adventure. Trip participants were me, Sam Pepper, Rick Hagen and Ron Gehres. Chuck Kennedy showed up late but met up with us later in the day.

The Powerline Pass trail was groomed so we didn't even need our snowshoes for the first 2 or 3 miles. Once we hit the trees near the start of the trail to Hidden Lake/Ship Pass, we put our snowshoes on. The weather forecast called for strong winds at higher elevations and normally this valley gets pretty windy. We already noticed a pretty stiff breeze picking up, so we donned some extra clothes. As we continued making our way up the valley the wind started increasing in strength.

We stopped to eat some lunch behind a little rock that didn't provide much shelter from the wind and discussed the wonderful benefits of hiking in invigorating conditions like we were encountering. The biting, stinging snow carried by the wind just has to be good for your complexion!

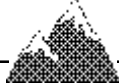
And winter hiking means no bears, no tourists, no gnarly devils club, no bushwhacking, and the wind keeps the mosquitoes away and keeps you from overheating. There were no crowds, ummm.... Well, it seemed like we came up with lots of great benefits for continuing to climb in the cold winter temperatures while the winds grew stronger; I just can't remember all of them!

After eating lunch we continued making our way up towards Ship Pass. Shortly before arriving at the pass we turned to climber's right and headed up a ridgeline that leads to the summit of the Wedge. At about 4200 Rick Hagen decided to sit and wait for us as he didn't have snowshoes or crampons and the steep slopes were covered with a thin layer of hard-packed snow and ice. Sam, Ron and I continued plodding our way to the summit, admiring the continually expanding view of the Chugach State Park that was exposed the higher we climbed.

At one point when I stopped to admire the awesome view on my left, I was a little disconcerted to discover that the slope we were on seemed *much* steeper than what I remembered it being in the summer. Then I looked over to the right, and, yes, the slope seemed really steep looking that direction as well. Yikes! Then I looked down. Double yikes! I decided it was best to just concentrate on making the summit and just gaze off into the distance and not look closely at the steep slope I was on. We enjoyed the view from the summit for a little while before descending, very carefully, back down to the valley.

We saw Chuck Kennedy on our way down and he decided to turn around with us and stay with the group. We headed back down the valley and noticed that the wind started to "coincidentally" taper off once we turned around. Down at the base of the valley we discovered some people building snow caves to sleep in that evening. They said we could spend the night in their caves for a mere \$10! We took a break and visited for a little bit while I let one of the guys borrow my ice axe to loosen some really hard snow/ice in his cave. Now we have free use of his snow cave as long as it's there.

A different group of "youngsters" (people in their early 20s) had started out for the Wedge the same time we did, and us "old geezers" felt pretty good that we made the summit before these youngsters did. I guess you could say we took kind of a shortcut that gave us a slight advantage! But at least we didn't have to tie them up, feed



them Ex-Lax, or “accidentally” give them false directions in order to reach the summit faster than they did! The ironic thing is that when we found out where they were going, we made some comment about how we should slow down so they could get to the valley first and break the trail for us. After looking us over, they said sure, they would gladly help us out. I bet they were a bit surprised we beat them to the Hidden Lake trail. When we stopped to put our snowshoes on, we could see them standing on the Powerline Pass trail looking over at us from the other side of the valley!

This hike is about 12-miles roundtrip with 2500 feet elevation gain and the high point is 4660 feet. It took us six hours. We thought about possibly climbing the Ramp (5240) while we were in the neighborhood, but decided the conditions were a bit too icy. One night after work this past summer I led a trip back here and we climbed both the Ramp and the Wedge in six hours. However, we took advantage of the fact that you can ride bikes part of the way back there in the summer, and that really cuts down on your time. I’ll probably lead another hike back here next summer, as this is an exceedingly beautiful, secluded valley with lots of flowers and pretty, cascading creeks. And there are no crowds of people back there!

The Wedge

by Amy Murphy



I planned an MCA trip to Williwaw Lakes for December 18th and hoped there would be enough snow on the ground to allow for decent skiing. If not, snowshoeing or hiking were the alternatives. I had a feeling quite a few people might show up for

the trip, so I made sure a couple other trip leaders were coming.

We met at the Glen Alps trailhead shortly after the break of dawn, or, in this particular case, at 11:00 a.m. Amazingly 24 people showed up for this trip! Eighteen of us were on skis, and four were on snowshoes. I appointed assistant trip leaders to help out and we started out. Some of us had decided we would like to decorate a tree somewhere along the trail to spread some Christmas cheer, so we brought ornaments with us. We selected a tree fairly close to Powerline Pass trail

intersection and stopped to hang our ornaments.

Tom Dolan’s contribution was a small Altoids tin, and his ornament was one of the few that survived the tremendous windstorms that swept through the area after the MCA Solstice Sleepover. (Several of us went back after the start of the new year to retrieve the remaining ornaments.) Marilyn and Lee Whitten really got into the Christmas spirit and Lee donned a Santa hat while Marilyn wore a headband with cute little reindeer horns. After we decorated the tree, most of us posed next to our beautifully decorated tree for group photos. And, thinking of the calendar, we took both horizontal and vertical photos.

Once the photo shoot was over, we headed down the trail. After we turned off on the Middle Forks/Williwaw Lakes trail and crossed the bridge, our group started spreading out, with the faster skiers out front. I asked the assistant leaders Steve Parry and Tom Dolan to go up front and in the middle, and I forlornly decided to be the sweep for the skiers. (Another assistant leader, Devin Nix, stayed with the snowshoers.) I’m usually up in the front of the pack, cheerfully helping break trail. However, I quickly discovered why John Recktenwald clearly enjoys being the “caboose” on trips like this: with lots of people in front of you, the trail is fairly well packed by time the last person comes through!

The lead skiers stopped to wait for us at the trail intersection where you turn right to head up the valley to Williwaw Lakes. We discussed route options and then prepared to ski down the hill to the creek bed. There was some unbroken snow, so I decided to go first. I got moving pretty fast down the hill, breaking through intermittent pockets of soft snow. I ended up stopping my rapid descent by unwittingly demonstrating how to perform quite an outstanding face plant in the crusty snow! Tom Dolan asked me if I was investigating snow conditions up close and personal, so of course I had to agree with his astute (smart-aleck) observation.

After my “dazzling” crash, everybody else took his or her turn going down this slope. Numerous people also ended up crashing, despite performing a variety of contortions trying to maintain their balance. It was hilarious watching everybody come down, and it would have been a perfect time to have a video camera!



After surmounting this fun obstacle, we headed up the trail, stopping to eat lunch while we were still in the trees. Past experiences on this trail usually included encountering strong winds once we broke out of the trees, so I wanted to sit and eat in a sheltered area. The snowshoers who hadn't turned around early caught up to us so we had a big, friendly group lunch, with lots of laughter and even some sunshine!

After lunch, the rest of the snowshoers and a few skiers turned around to head back to the cars. The rest of us resumed our journey and established a turnaround time since we knew the group would get spread out again and it was obvious most of us wouldn't reach the lake due to lack of time. Once we got out of the trees, the wind started blowing and grew increasingly worse as we skied up the valley. After a while, a few people not-surprisingly decided they weren't having fun any more and turned around to head back to the trailhead.

Skiing up the valley towards the lake turned into more of a battle the farther we progressed. The strength of the wind increased, visibility diminished, and the snow was becoming even more hard-packed, icy, and pretty minimal in places. Amazingly people kept skiing forward, despite the less-than-pleasant conditions, which is a great testament to the fortitude of some of MCA's members. At the turnaround time, even I was getting tired of battling the wind and was ready to head back, especially since I have been to the lakes a few times before. Finally it looked like the people way up front were starting to head back, so I gratefully turned my back to the wind. Skiing down the valley was pretty easy and fast as the wind literally blew us over the hardpacked snow!

As we drew closer to the trees, the wind slowly abated. By time we got farther down the valley and well into the trees, the wind disappeared. Everybody made it back to the trailhead, safe and sound, in the daylight, marking the end of another successful, and fun, MCA backcountry ski trip!

Solicitation for Awards

Bill Romberg

The MCA Awards Committee is currently seeking nominations for the MCA **Hoeman Award** — an award honoring two of the club's most prolific climbers, who made significant contributions to the early exploration and documentation of hiking and climbing opportunities throughout Alaska and the Yukon during the 1960s. The award was developed to recognize persons associated with the Mountaineering Club of Alaska (MCA), including current, former, and honorary members, who have made a significant contribution to the exploration, documentation, and promotion of hiking and climbing opportunities in Alaska's mountain ranges. The Hoeman Award is the Mountaineering Club of Alaska's most prestigious award and was created to recognize those individuals who have demonstrated a long-term commitment to the exploration, documentation, and promotion of hiking and climbing opportunities in Alaska. The award consists of having the awardees name permanently engraved on a dedicated plaque housed in the MCA Vin Hoeman Library as well as a separate award certificate for the recipient. Nominations for the award can be made at any time and must be made in writing to the MCA Awards Committee. The written nomination must include:

- 1) the name of the nominee
- 2) affiliation with MCA (if any)
- 3) a written description of the contributions the nominee has made to the exploration, documentation, and promotion of hiking and climbing opportunities in Alaska, including (if known): number of first ascents, number of club climbs, hikes, training trips led, stories/peak descriptions published in SCREE, service to the club (as officer, committee chair, etc.), and any published works documenting hiking and climbing in Alaska.
- 4) the names and contact information for 2 personal references.

Nominations are currently being accepted for consideration through May 15, 2005 and should be sent to: MCA Awards Committee c/o Bill Romberg, wromberg@acsalaska.net or 3530 Tanglewood Pl., Anchorage, AK, 99517

The MCA Awards Committee is also seeking nominations for the **President's Award** for calendar year 2004. The President's Award is given to a current club member in recognition of significant contributions of time and effort toward an MCA project (or projects) or other club activities during a calendar year. All club members are eligible for the award including current



Officers & Directors (except President). Nominations should be submitted in writing to the address below by March 15, 2005 and include the name of nominee, a brief description of the contributions made by the individual in the 2004 calendar year. The Awards Committee will simply collect nominees and submit their names to the current President who selects the final award recipient(s) and presents the award(s) – a certificate and a \$50 gift certificate to Alaska Mountaineering and Hiking.

Send award nominations to: MCA Awards Committee
c/o Bill Romberg, wromberg@acsalaska.net or 3530
Tanglewood Pl., Anchorage, AK, 99517

BOARD MEETING

January

Membership Committee

Greg Bragel has volunteered to be our membership committee chair. The board approved and appointed him for same.

Awards Committee

Bill Romberg has volunteered to put together an awards committee (we have several Vin Hoeman award nominees). The board approved and appointed him for same.

Awards in February for trip leaders (Two \$50 gift certificates) discussed. Hiking and climbing chairs will need to present list of leaders for the last year.

A \$25 award for scree submissions was discussed. Steve G. will pull up old Screes to get names of candidates.

Scree Committee

Shared responsibility for Scree editor discussed. Not all volunteer candidates present. Tabled to next meeting.

50th Anniversary Committee

Willy suggested we start a 50th anniversary committee.

Old Business

Our club **secretary** was voted on at the December membership meeting and now officially Carlene Van Tol.

Paperwork filled out for new (president) **signature cards** on club accounts. Once this is filed with the bank, we can move forward in switching financial institutions at a later date.

Our **club projector** has been ordered but still on backorder at this time.

Alternate meeting spot for board meetings discussed but no

viable solutions offered so subject was dropped.

New Business

We have an applicant for **the MCA climbing grant**. President will obtain binders and club info from previous president (not present tonight) so we may go over the criteria for awarding grant.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Carlene Van Tol

IN MEMORIAM

Florence Emro-Grenier (1933-2005)

Florence (Flo) Grenier was an active MCA member in the late 1960's. She participated in a number of MCA trips and events. According to some she helped type the Scree. She was a big fan of Nordic skiing, hiking and the mountains in general. She often succeeded in getting our family out all year around. She was a very loving person. As she grew older the experiences she had in the MCA increased in value. She greatly enjoyed telling stories about club trips that she went on decades after her aging body would no longer allow her to take part in such activities. She spoke warmly of the many people she met in the club. She always eagerly awaited details of trips that her sons Mark, Tom, and Stu did after she was no longer able to do her own.

One account that she often shared was of a summer 1968 MCA trip up Bold Peak's North East Ridge led by Hans Van Der Laan and John Samuelson. Over ten people showed for this climb, my mother and brother Mark age 12 included. As the group continued up the ridge people began to throw in the towel due to fatigue and exposure. My mother and Mark managed to stay near the lead group.

As anyone who has been on Bold's N.E. Ridge can tell you there is a point just before the summit where the ridge drops off on both sides and continuing becomes very exposed. Most people at this point call it a day and turn back. In the 1960's this point was commonly known as Chicken Point because that is where most people chicken out. Hans, John, my mother and brother all stood on this point with a few others and debated what to do. The story goes that John wanted to push on and Hans wanted to call it. My brother Mark wanted to push on and John offered to my mother to take Mark to the summit. It was her call.



She thought about it for a while and decided not to risk her oldest and to turn back with the others. Her recollection was only John Samuelson summited. Unfortunately no Scree article was ever published of this trip until now. My mother always questioned if she had made the right decision. My brother, in his adolescent wisdom was disappointed he didn't summit and questioned the value of climbing without summiting.

As the decades flowed by my mother and brother never summited Bold Peak, but eighteen years later Steve Spalding, Christian Wilkins, and I found our selves at Chicken Point for Thanksgiving weekend. As we stood and looked across the ridge to the summit I thought of mother trying to decide to retreat or push on. With the snow it looked less formidable. On Steve's urging we pushed on and dropped into the south gully skirting the ridge and then cut back for the summit. As we topped out on the summit my steps were extra heavy and I felt a very special feeling of satisfaction. My thoughts went back to 68. It was a special summit indeed.

For whatever reason the mountains call to certain people. As we enter their realm we may at times fall into schools like salmon swimming up a stream. Though a million things may happen in a lifetime, it is these moments when we seem to shine the brightest. I am grateful that someone so close to me shined so brightly.

We all shine on.

Stu Grenier

For Sale

Climbing gear sale, up date....
Scarpa 12/13 plastic boots – worn 4 times – paid \$290 take \$200,
Black Diamond Alpine Bod
Harness – worn once – paid \$30 take \$20.
Dan dano99577@yahoo.com

WFR recertification/challenge

Where: Anchorage (or Eagle River) on
When: March 4-6 (9 a.m. to 7 p.m.) I
Cost: \$199
This course qualifies to recertify WFR as well as WEMT from pretty much every vendor (WMA, WMI, etc.) Contact: Deb Ajango Debajango@att.net or 907-696-3490.

First Aid Classes

Date: April 9th and 10th, 2005
Time: 9am-7pm both days
Cost: \$140

This Wilderness First Aid course will be taught using the American Safety & Health Institute curriculum. The 20-hour course will be held over 2 days, and will include both classroom and hands-on in-the-field training. This class is sufficient to meet MCA Trip Leader first aid requirements, and is a good introduction to wilderness oriented first aid for students considering taking Wilderness First Responder training in the future. Contact: Andrea Andraschko. If you're interested and haven't already talked to me, please send me an e-mail at Enviroknow@aol.com (preferred) or call me at 333-7374

WEB CHAT



ananova.com:

Hot on the heels of the tremendous news that beer can help fight cancer, we are delighted to report that a Slovak man trapped in his car by an avalanche urinated his way to freedom after working his way through 60 half-litre bottles of beer. Richard Kral was off on holiday when the snow swallowed his Audi in the Tatra mountains. Initially, he tried to dig his way out via the car's window, but soon realized that the snow would fill the vehicle long before he could break free. Mercifully, he had stocked up on essential supplies of alcohol and quickly formulated a cunning plan: "I was scooping the snow from above me and packing it down below the window, and then I peed on it to melt it. It was hard and now my kidneys and liver hurt. But I'm glad the beer I took on holiday turned out to be useful and I managed to get out of there." Rescuers eventually found Kral staggering drunk on a mountain path four days after his ordeal began.

Ok boys and girls, I'm tossing this job out there once again to a hopeful volunteer. John Recktenwald will be the new editor starting with the March issue. Steve Gruhn is going to stand in as a back-up. You can keep submitting items for the Scree to the same e-mail address, while I work on a solution for everyone to submit to the MCA web site. More about that later. Till next time, have fun in the outdoors, and I hope this thing don't return too soon.



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 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 Ninth & 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

- ◆ **Complete both sides of this form. Write neatly!** 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.**
- ◆ Annual dues are \$15 for an individual or \$20 for a family (includes electronic *SCREE* subscription – either **delivered** to your e-mail address or **downloaded** from the MCA webpage).
- ◆ Mailed *SCREE* subscriptions are \$10 per year and are non-refundable (one *SCREE* per family).
- ◆ Annual membership is for one calendar year, through the 31st of December.
- ◆ Two-year, non-refundable, memberships are available for double the annual dues.
- ◆ Memberships paid after October 1st are good through December 31 of the following year.
- ◆ If applying by mail, please include a self-addressed, **stamped** envelope for your membership card. Otherwise, you may pick it up at the next monthly meeting.

Our address is: **P.O. Box 102037, Anchorage, Alaska 99510-2037** www.mcak.org

NEW <input type="checkbox"/>	DATE <input type="text"/>	
RENEWAL <input type="checkbox"/>	NAME <input type="text"/>	
INDIVIDUAL (\$15) <input type="checkbox"/>	FAMILY MEMBERS <input type="text"/>	
FAMILY (\$20) <input type="checkbox"/>		
2-YR MEMBERSHIP <input type="checkbox"/>		
Note that two-year membership dues are double the annual dues and subscription fee.		
How do you want your <i>SCREE</i> delivered? (check one or both)		
ELECTRONIC (Free) <input type="checkbox"/>	E-mail attachment or notify when available for downloading (circle one).	
PAPER (\$10/yr.) <input type="checkbox"/>	Postal Service – please include \$15 per year if outside the U.S.	
STREET or P.O. BOX <input type="text"/>		
CITY / STATE / ZIP <input type="text"/>		
TELEPHONE <input type="text"/>		
E-MAIL ADDRESS <input type="text"/>		
I am interested in joining a committee (Circle which ones: Programs, Hiking & Climbing, Huts, Geographic Names, Parks Advisory, Equipment, Honorary, Membership, Training, or ad hoc committees). _____ I am interested in leading a trip. _____		

Do not write below this line:

Pd: \$15 \$20 \$30 \$40 \$10 for paper *SCREE* \$20 for 2 years of paper *SCREE* Membership Card Issued for Yr: _____
on Date: ___/___/___ Cash or Check Number: _____ 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	Steve Parry	248-8710
Vice-President	Steve Gruhn	344-1219
Secretary	Carlene VanTol	748-5270
Treasurer	Joe Kluberton	301-4039

Board

Eric Teela	240-9693
Annette Iverson	222-0581
Sean Bolender	333-0213
Randy Howell	346-4608
Jayne Mack	694-1500

Annual membership dues: Single \$15.00 Family \$20.00 (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 Scree Editor Box 102037 Anchorage, AK 99510, or e-mailed to mcak@gci.net. Articles should be received by February 25th to be included in the March issue.

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, Temp. Editor.

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.

MAILING LIST/DATABASE ENTRY: greg bragiel

HIKING/CLIMBING CHAIR: matt nedom, 278-3648, richard baranow, 694-1500

HUTS: hans neidig, 355-3244

CALENDAR: stuart grenier, 337-5127

WEB: mcak.org (go here to change your address)

MAILING LIST SERVICE: mcak@yahoogroups.com

Mountaineering Club of Alaska
Box 102037
Anchorage, Alaska 99510