



the **SCREE**

Mountaineering Club of Alaska

February 2007

Volume 50 Number 2

**Reflections on Denali
Kilimanjaro
Baneful 2006
Baneful 1963
Peak of the month, new column**

**'It is not the mountain we conquer,
but ourselves'**

Sir Edmund Hilary

Monthly Meeting:

Wednesday, February 21st @ 7:30 PM

**Program: Tim Kelley and Stu Grenier will
share their experiences climbing on Knight
Island.**

The Mountaineering Club of Alaska

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

Join us for our club meetings the 3rd Wednesday of the month at the First United Methodist Church, 9th and G Streets next to the Philips Building (you may use marked parking after hours)

Contact information is provided on the back page or visit us on the web at www.mcak.org

Cover photo: . In June of 2006 Martin Ksok went solo from the 17,200 camp to the top of Denali. At the summit he tied in with a team of Japanese climbers for the descent. Here he captures a tired team of climbers as they round Denali Pass on the descent from the summit. Historically, this is the most dangerous section of the West Buttress

Article Submission: Articles and photos are best submitted on the web at MCAK.org. You can also attach a word processing document to an email. Due to formatting problems please do not submit material in the body of an email. We prefer articles that are under 1,000 words. To get on the cover a photo should convey the feeling of mountaineering and show human endeavor.

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Hiking and Climbing Schedule

January 27 - 28, Powder hut

Class C, elevation gain 2,100 feet, 12+ miles.
Contact: Greg Bragiel, 569-3008

February 1, Full Moon backcountry ski

Meet at the Glen Alps parking lot at 6 PM. Ski towards Williwaw lakes.
Contact Amy Murphy:
338-3979, 248-2067 or
hayduchesslives@yahoo.com

February 03 - 04 overnight up Eagle River Valley,

This is a Class A via skis or snowshoes, maximum 8 or 9 miles roundtrip. We will camp out on the river somewhere (either at Echo Bend or the Perch) under the nearly full moon. This will be a somewhat informal trip and folks can come out whenever they want and leave when they want. To sign up contact trip leader Amy Murphy at 338-3979, 248-2067 or via e-mail: hayduchesslives@yahoo.com.

February 16 – 18, Women's Ice Climbing Retreat,

Women Only Event!! Come explore the ice at Echo Bend while climbing with other women. All abilities welcome. Will spend the evenings around the wood stove in the Rapids Camp Yurt swapping stories, and hike to the climbs. Some

camping available. Limited to 6 students. Contact Jayme Dixon, jaymelmack@hotmail.com, or Carlene Van Tol, cvantol_1@hotmail.com

February 18th & 19th Hatchers Pass Ski Trip

Class C. This is a Sunday and Monday trip over President's Day. We are planning on traveling up to the A-Frame lodge and possibly renting cabins or sleeping in tents. On Sunday, an ascent of Microdot Peak will make for a great destination. Contact Sean Bolender with any questions, seanbolender@gmail.com

Feb 23-25 Mint Hut

Class C. 9 miles to the hut. Skiers only. Celebrate the equinox, rebirth through Proserpina and Bacchus a Numinist tradition. Bring avalanche beacons, shovels, skins, headlamps, plenty of fuel, and of course the Bacchus stuff. Leader: Willy Hersman, mcak@gci.net

February 24 & 25 Indian to Arctic

Class D, elevation gain 1,800 ft, 21 miles. Leader: Greg Bragiel, Contact at 569-3008

February 25, O' Malley Peak

Class C. Ascend one of Anchorage's Front Range peaks with rewarding views. This is an MCA must. Contact Sean Bolender, seanbolender@gmail.com

March 1 – 5, Resurrection Trail

Class D, elevation gain 3,100 feet.
Contact: Greg Bragiel 569-3008

March 3, Arctic to Indian

Annual day ski traverse between Arctic Valley and Indian. About 24 miles of back country travel. Possible open water crossing and unbroken trail. AV gear and skins. Fairly experienced folks only. Stu Grenier oinkmenow@hotmail.com 337-5127

March 11, South Suicide Peak

Class C. This Peak lies in the southern part of the Anchorage Front Range. We will travel to the Falls Creek trail head and ascend this peak in one day. Contact Sean Bolender seanbolender@gmail.com

March 25, Tikishla Peak

Class C. Yet another of Anchorage's classic mountain climbs. This will be a one day ascent of Tikishla. Contact Sean Bolender, seanbolender@gmail.com

March 25 – 31, Bomber Traverse

Glacier travel, Elevation gain 6,100 feet Contact: Greg Bragiel, 569-3008

April 14 & 15, Eklutna Traverse training weekend

Must attend if you are going on the club ET trip.
Contact: Greg Bragiel 569-3008

April 21 & 22, Lane Hut Ski trip & peaks

Class C. This will be a Saturday and Sunday overnight trip to the Lane Hut and Lane glacier. An ascent of the surrounding peaks above the Lane glacier is planned for Sunday. Contact Sean Bolender, seanbolender@gmail.com

April 29 – May 5, Eklutna Traverse

Glacier Travel, elevation gain 6,000, 30+ miles.
Contact: Greg Bragiel 569-3008

New Column by Steve Gruhn

Our tireless editor has mentioned that he frequently finds himself scrambling to fill the pages of the *Scree*. So, I offered to help him out. We have a lot of people in the club who are new to Alaska's mountains and I thought it would be a neat idea to introduce both newcomers and old timers alike to the mountains of Alaska. Each month I'll prepare a short column on the "Peak of the Month." These peaks will be chosen randomly from those Alaska peaks about which I have some information. The first records of ascents are the earliest records that I could find; prior ascents could be possible, but I don't know of any records of them. I hope that this column will spawn future club trips; I look forward to reading the resulting trip reports in the *Scree*.

So, without further ado, here's the "Peak of the Month."

Peak of the Month by Steve Gruhn

Name: **Peak 5450**

Mountain Range: Western Chugach Mountains

Borough: Matanuska-Susitna Borough

Drainages: Goat Creek and Yuditnu Creek

Latitude/Longitude: 61° 25' 38" North, 148° 57' 55" West

Elevation: 5450 feet (± 50 feet)

Prominence (nearest higher parent peak): 500 feet
(Yudikench Peak)

Adjacent Peak(s): Yudikench Peak (5732) and Peak 5285

USGS Map: Anchorage (B-6), AK

First Recorded Ascent: September 22, 1991, by Tim Kelley

Route of First Recorded Ascent: West ridge from Peak 5285 via Point 5385

Access: Eklutna Lake parking lot

I first became aware of this little peak while poring over maps of the local Western Chugach Mountains. The peak's existence is nearly obscured by the text demarcating the boundary between the Matanuska-Susitna Borough and the Municipality of Anchorage. The second "A" in "Matanuska" nearly obscures the highest contour of Peak 5450. I read Tim Kelley's trip report (November 1991 *Scree*) and, although he didn't specifically mention ascending Peak 5450, there were enough clues to make me suspect that he had. Tim recently confirmed that he had, indeed, climbed Peak 5450, ascending the west ridge from Peak 5285 via Point 5385 and descending the southeast ridge toward Yudikench Peak. There are no technical difficulties and, in fact, Tim ran most of the way. The hike can be done either as a long day trip or as an interesting training run for athletes in good condition.

<http://www.topozone.com/map.asp?lat=61.42716&lon=-148.96525&datum=nad27&u=4&layer=DRG50&size=l&s=250>

Reflections on Denali 2006

By Martin Ksok



You have to pay some dues to take this shot

Two years in planning and I was finally on the airplane to Denali base camp with my partner, John Recktenwald and our girlfriends who accompanied us to basecamp. I was nervous and worried, hoping that everything would work out. Supposedly finding a good partner is the most difficult part of any trip, but I was convinced that we would make a good team and was proven correct.

A famous question of mountain climbing (or what we experienced as mountain camping) is why? Why do we go up there? I don't think that there is a universal answer, but I found my answer during and after this trip. John and I had different goals - I wanted the summit, convinced myself, that once I get to the top some magical thing will happen, I will get rewarded for all the preparations, and hard work, my desires and dreams will be completed, things will be perfect, I couldn't be more wrong. John had a completely different outlook, he savored the experience, not looking forward to one climactic day, bypassing the rest in the process of getting there, but treating them all with the same attention and respect that every day spent in such beautiful surroundings deserves. Not that I was closed off to the wonder of the mountains, being there, above the clouds, looking down on the summit of Hunter, eye leveled with Foraker it is impossible not to marvel in the beauty of these places, it was

overwhelming. I portrayed the summit to be far greater than anything on the trip, however that was not the case. The challenge was in hauling loads, burning calves and boring food, not in carrying a light pack for twelve hours up and down the final five miles or so. The whole time I looked towards the few final steps, gloriously cramponing my way to the summit, enjoying the view, proudly planting the ice axe. The view consisted of five to twenty foot visibility in a whiteout, crampon tracks left by a Japanese team and a summit marker.

So far summit-less trips have left more of an impact on me, there is the feeling of under accomplishment, the promise to return, a goal unfulfilled and the drive to return and try again. The summit of Denali created emptiness for a while, until I realized that

the whole trip was a summit in itself, not that one single, final day. Reaching the top matters less, time spent getting there in a company of a good partner, learning from each other and sharing the experience became more important.

(Martin summited solo from 17,200 the day after we arrived. I tried two days later and got no higher than 18,700. John)



Japanese climbers leaving the Summit

Kilimanjaro

by John Recktenwald



Baraka, assistant guide, descending from the summit

'Mid-December through mid-March is dry and warm', so says the Kilimanjaro and Mt Kenya climbing guide. Sounded good, so off we went to Tanzania for three weeks on December 30, 2006. A stop in Seattle and another in Amsterdam and next thing you know you are in Kilimanjaro International Airport. A day to recover from the 12 hour time difference and we were on the trail.

I have never had an interest in Africa but when my partner Marcy Custer seemed open to trying some high altitude trekking, Kilimanjaro, at 19,340 feet seemed a good choice. You are required to have a guide and porters so this is a pleasant but still adventurous trip. We had a guide, an assistant guide, a chef, assistant chef/porter and some porters for a contingent of 11 plus the 2 of us. You could get spoiled. You stroll off each day with a light daypack. The porters and chef pack the gear and rush ahead to set up a tent for a hot lunch with table and chairs. All meals are hot with lots of fresh veggies. There is a bowl of hot water for washing

morning and evening. Marcy thinks that this will be the norm in the future...



The Porter advantage

We took the 7-day Machame route. This route is one of the two popular routes up the mountain. It is the more scenic route with a good success rate due to a long traverse around the south side of the

mountain with several days of up and down between 12,000 and 14,500 feet before the summit push. The Marangu route is faster and easier but I think the rate of ascent is a bit fast and it has a lower success rate. We had one morning of light scrambling with occasional exposure. I hesitate to mention it since porters run up it balancing awe inspiring loads on their heads, and even an occasional stack of resin chairs on top of the already huge bags of stuff they carry. As is usual for me, I have no pictures of the interesting stuff.



'Dry and warm season', lots of up and down on this route, here passing Lava Tower at 14,500 feet

The guides were very focused on insuring that we summited and maintained the 'pole pole' pace (po-lay po-lay, 'slowly') which seemed a bit slow at times but brought us to the summit with little trauma. Summit day started at 11:50 PM around 15,000 feet. We were slightly past a full moon and I was able to travel without a headlamp for a good while before the visibility closed down. Summiting in early morning, we returned to 15,000 for a brief rest and continued down to 10,200 for a long but relatively moderate day.



A clear day at Karanga camp, 12,900 ft, our route is roughly on the right skyline.

Remember 'the dry and warm season' I mentioned from the climbing guidebook? Remid ('remedy'), the lead guide, thought that was pretty funny. It rained an hour at lunch the first day, two hours at lunch the second day and the only time it was not raining on the third day is when it was snowing. No one uses crampons here but a pair of running crampons or some instep crampons would have been nice to have for summit day, especially for the descent. There was a lot of snow from 16,000 to the summit; this route is usually bare. This year they were coming out of a 6 or 7-year drought. There were clear spells but seeing the alien vegetation and landscape in the mists made it even more exotic.

Overnights are made at designated camp areas and have outhouses with squat holes. Oddly, the holes get smaller as you get higher. Perhaps they expect the tourists aim to improve with practice. It does not. Other than that, the mountain was relatively clean considering the number of people on the trail.



Required summit shot with Baraka, Zephinea, Marcy, John and Remid, lead guide

We followed the Trek with a few days in Zanzibar and a 6-day Safari. Tanzania is a long way to go without adding some time for sightseeing. This is a unique and beautiful country. Highly recommended.



Save some time to visit the locals

Baneful Peak 2006

How to Turn a Simple Hike into an Epic

(Western Chugach Mountains; elev. 5495; T14N, R3E, S27, S.M.)

by Steve Gruhn

I climbed Baneful Peak on Labor Day, September 4, 2006. Since it's pretty low (5495 feet) and close to a decent trail, I started late (didn't leave my house until about 10). I borrowed a bike from Wayne Todd, who had previously climbed Baneful Peak, and he expressed surprise that I was starting so late – the first toll of the warning bell. Wayne said it was a simple, straightforward hike, but it took Bill Romberg and him 11 hours in August 2000. Some quick math made me realize that 11 hours after I started would have me coming out after dark. I wanted to avoid nighttime maneuvers. The warning bell tolled again.

I drove to the Eklutna Lake trailhead, got there at 11 a.m., and raced to the East Fork Trail, reaching it before noon. I took 10 minutes to stash the bike and I proceeded up the trail. I came to the Tulchina Falls area, crossed the stream, and, after poking around a bit near the upper end of the gravel bar, found the hunter's trail up to the aptly named Rockheap Valley above. By then it was 1:10 p.m. I ran up the steep muddy trail, ever mindful that I was going to be racing the available daylight on this one. This time of the year the trail through the thick alders is very overgrown with underbrush (devil's club, ferns, cow parsnip, etc.). Well, somewhere along the way I lost the trail and followed a dry watercourse up the slope, thinking that, because it was devoid of dirt, it must have been the trail. I finally broke out of the alders and could see that I was about 800 feet of thick brush above the valley floor. Exasperated at my route-finding performance, I looked down at the thick brush below me. The warning bell tolled again.

I sidehilled at the base of the cliffs along steep, wet grass and cow parsnip. My running shoes did an admirable job on this slippery vegetation, but no one would have mistaken them for climbing boots with crampons – which I would rather have been wearing. It took a couple hours, but I finally came to a point where I could drop down only 200 feet and connect with the valley floor. I did so and headed up the boulder fields to the scree-filled gully that descends to the north-northwest of the summit of Baneful Peak. This scree slope went fast until it

terminated in cliffs with a few slots offering potential routes through. None of the slots looked all that enticing. That warning bell was becoming monotonous.

I took the left gully, figuring that it was headed more directly toward the summit. A half hour later I found myself clinging to some wet, smooth, downward-sloping nubbins several hundred feet above the bottom of the gully, promising God for the hundredth time that if He would just get me out of this jam that I wouldn't do this stuff again – and this time I meant it. I didn't want to die on a reputedly simple peak just because I had gotten off route and had a late start. I looked to my right and, from my higher vantage point, I could see that if I had taken the right scree slope it would have been a hands-in-the-pockets cakewalk to the summit. Instead I had to either ascend or descend 700 feet of steep, wet, rotten, smooth, downward-sloping rock. I chose to ascend, figuring that I didn't want to come down what I had just come up and what was unknown had to be better than what I had already experienced. I looked at my watch. I had spent two hours on this wall. I was becoming frantic because I knew I couldn't afford to spend that kind of time on the wall and still hope to be out by dark. The tolling of the warning bell began to keep pace with my racing heart.

Eventually, I inched my way up the wall and was able to connect over to easy hiking on the ridge overlooking the East Fork of the Eklutna River. From there I reached the summit with ease. It was 6:30. And snowing. The warning bell tolled again. Ever conscious of the approaching darkness, I literally ran down the scree slope (the one I should have climbed) and was at the base of the gully by 7:30. The snow had turned to rain at this elevation (about 3000 feet). The warning bell tolled again - the prospect of bivying in a rainstorm was one I hoped to avoid. I decided to try to find the trail through the brush. I found it! Then I lost it and the warning bell tolled again. I went through this elation and exasperation several times until I lost it for real and the warning bell's toll became a constant siren in my head. Rather than waste precious time trying

to find the trail, I headed 1,000 feet downhill through the alder, devil's club, ferns, and cow parsnip. Eventually I stumbled onto the trail again. And promptly lost it. I picked it up again about 200 feet above the bottom of the slope. I got to the East Fork Trail at 9:15. And then the skies opened up into a torrent. That constant siren got louder. I raced down the trail, crossing Bashful Creek, but at 9:45 stopped to put on my headlamp at the next stream. And I promptly lost the trail after crossing the stream. That warning bell had become a toll of near-certain impending doom. I bushwhacked toward the East Fork of the Eklutna River in hopes of finding the trail. It was dark, raining in a deluge, and I had a meager Petzl Tikka LED headlamp that merely reflected the raindrops and my exhaled breath. I staggered around for a half hour until I stumbled onto the trail.

I raced down the trail to the bike. I got on the bike at 10:50 and pedaled hard for a couple minutes until I realized that I couldn't see anything. My meager headlamp could not illuminate an area far

enough in front of me to be useful. Instead, I got great views of raindrops, my exhaled breath, and mud puddles and rocks a fraction of a second before I hit them. After traveling like this for about 3 miles, I realized that to descend the hills on the Lakeside Trail would be suicide, so I gritted my teeth and walked the bike a good chunk of the way back to the truck. I rode when I could, but there were still several miles of walking. Exhausted, I staggered out to the trailhead at 1:11 Tuesday morning.

But the adventure was not yet done. While driving down the Glenn Highway on the way home I caught myself waking up. Several times. Evidently, the warning bells had ceased scaring me into staying awake and the hydroplaning was effective for only short periods of time. I had to slap my face to try to wake up. Somehow I made it home alive, although, since it was after 2 a.m. Tuesday morning, I didn't feel too alive.

I promise that I'm going to listen to the toll of the warning bell in the future. And this time I mean it.



Baneful Peak 1963

Sheep hunters claim first ascent

By Frank E. Baker & Jerry McNight

On or about September 19, 1963, a friend from Oregon (Jerry McNight) and I hiked up East Fork Eklutna River on a sheep hunting trip. I was 18 years old at the time and Jerry was 20.

In those days one could drive a car across the East Fork Bridge, and park there. We hiked up East Fork on the opposite bank from the current trail. On or about Sept. 20 we crossed East Fork about mile 5, before the large knob, and ascended a large scree slope. We made camp in a large, flat saddle at about 5,000 feet.

We were poorly equipped, with only a canvas tarp and paltry food rations--Lipton powdered soup and Pilot Bread. There was light snow on the ground but it rained for a week straight with temperatures in the 30s and 40s. Our down sleeping bags did not stay dry for long.

On the second day, Sept. 21, we hiked from the saddle in a general northerly direction along the

ridge until we reached a summit that I now think was Baneful, because beyond that point the ridge dropped off again farther to the north. We were sheep hunting, not peak bagging, so it didn't occur to us to think of this as any kind of accomplishment. We went back to camp, waited out more bad weather (rain and wind).

On the third day, Sept. 22, we walked out along the ridge extending to the south. From this area we spotted sheep far below us but none close enough to shoot. That night at dusk a young ram walked right through the middle of camp.

On the fourth day, Sept. 23, we walked back out on the ridge to the south, and saw a full-curl ram on a connecting ridge, below us and to our left. He was about 550 yards from us. We watched him for hours and when he got within 300 yards, Jerry tried a shot with his 300 magnum rifle. He missed and the sheep ran up the ridge, closer to us! At about 200 yards Jerry fired again and this time

connected, somewhere toward the rear hindquarter. The sheep disappeared over a ridge and we spent the entire rest of the day trying to find him, following a blood trail over extremely difficult terrain. I never knew how deftly sheep could negotiate steep terrain until I saw that blood trail. Neither of us were experienced mountaineers nor had any climbing equipment.

On the fifth day, Sept. 24, we decided to head back down to East Fork, go up-valley and take the next gully up. We calculated it would take us to the approximate area that the sheep disappeared. By the time we ascended to about 5,000 feet again, the terrain got too gnarly and our Lipton-soup, malnourished bodies were giving out. We retreated and camped down along East Fork that night.

On the sixth day, Sept. 25, we began hiking out. There was wet snow but mostly rain for the entire trip. We got back to the car late on Sept. 25. The trip had its moments--but mostly, it was a cold, wet, hungry, hypothermic ordeal for two young guys who were definitely into an adventure beyond their experience level. To my recollection I have no photos of this trip so cannot prove the claim that we summited Baneful. I do remember that from the saddle where we camped it was a rather easy hike to that peak, lo those 44 years ago.

And on the seventh day, Sept. 26, back in Anchorage, we rested and ate, and ate.



Letters to the Editor

The Board of Game is reviewing hunting and trapping regulations for Southcentral Alaska. Several proposals have been made that would change things in Chugach State Park. I have made a point of reviewing proposals concerning Chugach State Park. Here is a short summary of some proposed regulation changes that might be of interest to MCA members.

Proposal 11 would open Chugach State Park to wolverine trapping when lynx trapping is authorized. Lynx trapping is authorized from time to time when lynx numbers are high. Wolverine trapping hasn't been authorized in the Park for many years. The proposal has been made by the Southcentral Chapter of the Alaska Trappers Association, and has a good chance of passage for that reason.

Proposal 13 is by me. It would require trappers to place large traps and snares at least 50 yards from publicly maintained trails and trailhead parking lots. Dogs are often trapped, and some killed near trails and parking lots. It is not likely to be passed, but who knows.

Proposals 15 and 16 would liberalize black bear hunting regulations to extend the season in the Eagle River valley through June 30, allow bear hunting upstream of Dishwater Creek (currently bear hunting is allowed upstream of Icicle Creek),

and allow each hunter to take three bears (currently the limit is one).

Proposals 60, 61 and 62. Each of these three proposals would allow brown (grizzly) bear hunting in Chugach State Park. The Anchorage Fish and Game Advisory Committee is the proponent of Proposal 62 which makes it somewhat likely it will be adopted. Brown bear hunting has not been allowed in Chugach State Park for many years.

Proposal 97 would increase the numbers of goats taken out of the East Fork of the Eklutna, Eagle River, Bird Creek and other places, and will probably pass since it is by the Department.

Proposal 126 is by the Department and would provide for more moose hunting in Ship Creek. It will probably pass.

Proposal 128. The Department of Fish and Game initiated a limited moose hunt on the upper Anchorage hillside (i.e. the upper Campbell Creek drainages) in 2005. The Department wishes to reauthorize and expand it. They propose to issue 10 permits for the upper Campbell Creek drainages and authority to expand the hunt into other areas, including for instance the Rabbit and McHugh Creek drainages.

Proposal 132. The Anchorage Fish and Game Advisory Committee has proposed more liberalized moose hunting in the Anchorage bowl than that proposed by the Department. One difference is that the Advisory Committee would authorize the taking

of the very biggest bulls, while the Department would allow the taking of only cows and spike fork bulls. Another difference is that the Advisory Committee proposal (if adopted unchanged) would allow moose hunting throughout the Anchorage Bowl, including places such as Kincaid Park, and Far North Bicentennial Park. The Advisory Committee has political pull with the BOG and adoption by the BOG is possible.

Proposal 159 is by the Department and would change sheep hunting in Chugach State Park to allow hunters to take any sheep, (including rams with less than a full curl.) Probably a good idea because of the impact on the sheep if only the biggest and oldest sheep are hunted.

There is limited hunting and trapping currently authorized in Chugach State Park. In 2005 the MCA has submitted a letter to the BOG asking that no substantial changes be made. My hope is that the MCA Board will do this again. If any of this is of interest to you please send in comments to the BOG. Written comment are being taken by the BOG until February 16. The address and fax are as follows: BOG Comments, ADF&G, Box 115526, Juneau, AK 99811. Fax: 907-465-6094. You can testify live at the BOG meeting which is being held in Anchorage on March 4-14. More information can be obtained at <http://www.boards.adfg.state.ak.us/gameinfo/meeting/gprop.php>. Or you can call me at 278-4040 or 248-1003.

Kneely Taylor

MCA Shirts for sale

by Amy Murphy

MCA has some long-sleeve, black shirts for sale for \$28 each. There have been questions about what type of material the shirts are made out of. They are made out of 100% polyester material that is quick-drying with wicking properties. I was given a sample shirt to test before I purchased them and therefore I felt obligated to have the shirt undergo

somewhat rigorous testing procedures before I approved buying them. Unfortunately (haha!!) this involved going on trips in various weather conditions.

I was really impressed with the performance of this particular shirt when I ended up backpacking through a snowstorm in Glacier Nat'l Park in September. The shirt did a great job of repelling water and even though it got a little damp in places from both sweat and the continuously falling, wet snow, the shirt dried very quickly when the sun came out for a short time. It makes an excellent base layer or works well as a lightweight (6.4 oz.) intermediate layer over a turtleneck. Therefore, I highly encourage MCA members to show support for our club and purchase one of these shirts and proudly wear them around town and out in the mountains. Similar shirts sell for \$40 on up in retail stores, so you're getting quite a bargain, especially since they have been weather tested by the infamous Weather Magnet!

ICE Pixies

March 8-11

The Alaska Ice Pixie Festival in Valdez: A gathering of women skiers and ice climbers, free if you camp and don't buy anything (yoga, sweatshirts, tattoos)! Info: www.alaskaicepixies.com

Adze

Partner(s) wanted

Stu is planning numerous day ski trips like we did last year that involve summits on variations of the Arctic to Indian trail. On both weekdays and weekends. 337-5127

Lake George Ski Expedition. Leaving Feb. 14. from the Knik River end. Fixed wing bag drop request Stu 337-5127

Join the animals that attempt to clear the Arctic to Indian Trail. Stu 337-5127

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 nontechnical 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

President	Sean Bolender	333-0213	Board member	Steve Gruhn	344-1219
Vice-President	Annette Iverson	222-0581	Board member	Don Hansen	243-7184
Secretary	Bridget Paule	337-8163	Board member	Randy Howell	346-4608
Treasurer	Travis Taylor	382-4823	Board member	Andy Rembert	688-3230
			Board member	Sara Ellen Hutchison	382-7097

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

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 will not forward the newsletter.

The '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 submitted on the web at www.mcak.org or mailed to Scree Editor Box 102037 Anchorage Alaska 99510. Articles should be received by February 21st to be 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.

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

Mailing list/database entry: Yukiko Hayano and Randy Plant 243-1438
Hiking and Climbing Committee: Randy Howell – 346-4608, Jayme Dixon – 382-0212
Huts: Greg Bragiel - 569-3008
Calendar: Stuart Grenier 337-5127
Scree Editor: John Recktenwald 346-2589
Web: www.mcak.org (change your address here)
Mailing list service: MCAK@yahoo.com

Mountaineering Club of Alaska
Box 102037
Anchorage AK 99510