



MARCH 2002

*A Publication of the Mountaineering Club of Alaska*

Volume 45 Issue 03

Box 102037, Anchorage, Alaska 99510

### MARCH MEETING

Wednesday

March 20, 7:30 pm

First United Methodist Church

9th & G Streets

next to the Phillips Building

Downtown Anchorage

Program: **Rash Dashan and other Ethiopian Mountains**  
by **Stuart Parks**

### HIKING AND CLIMBING SCHEDULE

#### Mar 23 Symphony Lakes Ski

Day ski up South Fork Eagle River. 12 miles round trip. Class B.

Leader: Amy Murphy 338-3979

#### Mar 23 Cumulus Peak

Class D. Ice axe, crampons, helmet, harness, avalanche gear required. Climb this Eagle River Valley peak from Prudhoe Bay Road. Exposed scrambling, we may fix a line or two. Limited to 8 experienced participants in good physical shape.

Leader: Dave Hart 868-2673

#### Apr 5-8 Scandinavian Peaks

The trip is full, but I'm taking wait list people. \$250 flight cost. Class D, glacier travel, avalanche, glacier travel gear required.

Leader: Dave Hart 868-2673

#### Apr 6 Indianhouse Mtn.

Technical scramble up S. ridge from Indian—4300 ft elevation gain. Class: Technical. Hazards = some exposure, rockfall, devils club! Helmet, harness, ice axe, crampons, and experience rock climbing/scrambling required. Limit 5 persons. Currently full, but call to get on wait list.

Leader: Bill Romberg 677-3993

#### Apr 6 Baldy-Ptarmigan Valley Traverse

Hike, with a required vehicle shuttle so cars are at both trailheads, 8-9 miles one-way. Class B.

Leader: Matt Nedom 278-3648

#### Apr 20 Dome to Knoya

Hike as high up the trail as we can safely go; approx. 9 miles RT. Class B.

Leader: Matt Nedom 278-3648

#### Jul 20 - Aug 3 ANWR Lake Peters and Mt. Chamberlin

Class B. Explore the Lake Peters and Lake Schrader Area with possible hike up Mount

Chamberlin. Alternate route if we can't land near the two lakes. Experienced in backpacking for extend periods (at least a week) required. Party limited to 6 people. Backpacking gear needed and trekking poles or ski poles handy hike up the mountain.

Leader: Don Hansen 243-7184 e-mail  
[donjoe Hansen@msn.com](mailto:donjoe Hansen@msn.com)

The following trips are a series of mid-week, after-work trips. These are going to be relatively fast-paced trips ranging from Class A to Class D. The destinations are tentative, dependent on weather, traffic, snow conditions, etc. Reaching the destinations with the daylight available in the spring will not be possible if anyone shows up late, so please be on time. Steve would like to gather the e-mail addresses of interested parties. The day before each excursion, he will confirm the destination and time and get a head count. Maximum of 12 people (including leader) on each trip. Dogs will not be allowed.

Leader: Steve Gruhn 344-1219 h, 276-7475 w e-mail:  
[scg@hartcrowser.com](mailto:scg@hartcrowser.com)

- Mar 25 Turnagain Arm  
McHugh-Rainbow. Monday 5:30 PM. Class A.
- Mar 26 Turnagain Arm  
Rainbow-Windy Corner . Tuesday 5:30 PM. Class A.
- Mar 27 Upper Winner Cr.  
Wednesday, 5:30 PM. Class A.
- Mar 28 Bird Ridge Pt.  
Thursday Class C.
- Mar 30 A1 (4950 +/- 50)  
Saturday All Day. Class D.
- Apr 2 Winner Cr. to Glacier Cr.  
Tuesday, 5:30 PM. Class A.
- Apr 3 Bird Cr.  
Wednesday, 5:30 PM. Class A.
- Apr 4 Rabbit Lake  
From McHugh Creek . Thursday, 6:00 PM. Class C.
- Apr 8 Rainbow Peak  
Monday, 5:30 PM. Class C.
- Apr 9 Four Mile Cr.  
Tuesday, 5:30 PM. Class A
- Apr 16 Bear Pt.  
Tuesday, 5:30 PM. Class B.

## TRAINING SCHEDULE

Mar 20

### Leader Orientation

Prior to the General Meeting, an introduction to the basic rules and procedures for club sanctioned trips. Ask questions and get signed up to lead trips. A requirement for all persons who want to lead trips for the MCA. Location: 1st United Methodist Church, 9th and G. Sts. Will be offered again in May or June depending on demand.  
Contact: Bill Romberg 677-3993

## TRIP REPORTS

### Peaks 2831 and 4009

by Steve Gruhn



Western Chugach, Anchorage B7, T14N, R01W, S09

After work April 24, 2001, Tom McDermott, Robert Baker, Blanton Fortson, Wayne Todd, Robert

Humphreys, and I met in Eagle River and drove to the trailhead for Mile High Saddle. Parking here, we started hiking up the hill, following the utility easement. Once on the old four-wheel drive road, we began to encounter snow, occasionally punching through the breakable crust. Upon reaching Mile High Saddle, we turned to the west and stopped for photographs. Scrambling up the rocky promontories, we encountered quite a bit of wind, which was in sharp contrast to the warm spring evening we encountered at the lower elevations. We stopped for a bite to eat on top and, after a few photographs, retreated to the trees, arriving back at the parking area before dusk. This peak has been climbed countless times prior to our visit. It makes for a much nicer after work destination than the living room couch.

Western Chugach, Anchorage B7, T15N, R01E, S08

After work April 26, 2001, Amsl Apflauer, Amy Murphy, Andy Cason, and I met at Peters Creek and followed the snow-covered old road about a mile and a third to the turnoff to the north for Mount Eklutna. We hiked up to the base of Mount Eklutna and turned to head up the gully to the east. This gully was snow-filled, so we traveled on the tundra-covered slopes on either

side of the gully until we reached the top of the gully. It was pretty breezy here, so we sought shelter behind some rock outcroppings. After realizing that we weren't going to get any warmer by sitting around, we headed northeast down the ridge until we reached the saddle between Mount Eklutna and Peak 4009. Here Amy opted to turn around and wait for us up on the ridge we had just descended. Amsl, Andy, and I continued on the short distance to the summit, where a weathered wooden post marked the summit. The breeze was just as strong there, so we didn't waste any time before we retraced our steps to catch up to Amy, who was watching the gorgeous sunset. We returned to the trailhead via the same route, arriving at dusk.

Last year I led 18 MCA trips in the evenings after work, including the 2 mentioned above. I intend to do something similar this year and am looking for ideas for destinations. With the increasing daylight and the proximity to some really neat areas, there is much that we could do after work instead of plopping down in front of the television.

## Hatcher Pass Ski

by Eryn Boone



It was lightly snowing when John Hess, Tom Choate, Annette, and I left Anchorage on January 27<sup>th</sup>, 2002. Little did we know we were heading for an even greater winter wonderland.

Driving into Hatcher's Pass area, the flakes got bigger and more concentrated. We found Bruce waiting for us at the parking lot, so we geared up, waxed up (blue), and set off up the unplowed road that leads to Reed Lakes trailhead and beyond. Bruce opted for skins from the get go, while the rest of us relied on wax. We climbed the gradual road up into Archangel Valley through the falling snow and made our first big stop at the Reed Lakes summer trailhead. Here we de-layered (as most of us were dressed for the single digits of the past week) and re-waxed. I consulted my thermometer for about the 5<sup>th</sup> time that morning and it still read 25 degrees F. Stuck? Maybe. We kept moving to avoid the chill and skied up to the first mining cabin/ruins site of the day. Tom and I took a detour to explore as Bruce and Annette continued steadily up and John stopped to put on

his skins. The cabin was rustic yet sturdy and even offered an old sleeping bag in the sleeping loft. Tom informed us that this hut is now used mostly by rock climbers who want the challenge of the dramatic rock face above. The privy is also still in working condition and Tom's recollection of a quality toilet seat proved to be correct. It was made of foam, the best option for a cold climate.

After a little exploring, we headed back up the road deeper into the valley. The terrain got a little steeper and the snow a little deeper, which made the going for those of us without skins a little tougher. Along came the second major mining ruins site where from the road dissipated into a small gully up to the left, a wider gully up to the right, and a steep rock face in between. According to Tom, both gullies will take you to the same place, but he led us up the right one, as it is more direct to the Lane Hut and free of avalanche danger. As we picked our way around the refrigerator-sized boulders, powdery snow sloughed off the steep rock face to our left.

Just as we got started up the steeper incline, we looked back to see a couple of faint dark spots moving toward us through the white out conditions. We made voice contact and discovered it was Donna and her dog Makenzie, finding us by our tracks. Annette and I continued sidestepping our way up the slope and reunited with the rest of the group. Donna joined us just a few moments later. It seemed like someone was missing and I looked further up the valley to see Tom (aka Choate the goat) continuing on. I just hope that's me when I'm his age.

We did a time check and agreed that we should turn around due to the waning daylight. John continued up to retrieve Tom, while the rest of us continued eating and drinking. From this point, we could see that the route was flat for a good half mile ahead; where after there was another small pass to ascend. After the pass, the valley turns a corner to the right, and the rest of the route was obscured by mountain from here. We decided to save the remainder of the trip for another day. On the way down, we negotiated the sloped boulder field unscathed (still on our skis), although Annette took quite a tumble. Luckily the deep snow padded her fall. Once down on the road again, we embarked on the smooth sailing ride down to the car. The slope was gradual enough to maintain control, even though I couldn't see through the pelting snow. I just hoped that my skis would follow the path of least resistance that we created on the way up.

Down into the low brush again, I could hear ptarmigan's if I stopped skiing long enough to listen. They showed themselves only briefly enough to fly away from me. It was a great ski down, with the wax finally performing as it was meant to.

We reached the car just as the surroundings were fading to gray from the falling darkness. Bruce and Donna departed, and the rest of us piled back into John's car. On the drive out, we noticed a crowd of cars at the Motherlode and couldn't resist the thought of cold beer. Even better, we found a live jazz band playing, free hors d'oeuvre's, a toasty lodge, and cold beer on tap. All that and the good company was a perfect end to a terrific day.

## Is this the right Wrong Mountain?

by Tom Choate



he solstice weekend club trip had 13 people signed up at the April and May meetings but none had called by 3 days before the trip, so I called them (the leader should not have to do this!) and found only 4 and

a couple of possibilities said they would make it. Friday night I was dropped off at the trailhead and found only Stu Grenier waiting. There had been a fire on the Kenai Lake shore so intense that the smoke looked like a volcano from a distance (was that scary? The rest of you missed a great trip, despite smoke and snow up high.)

Most of the way up the hill on the old road/trail to Carter Lake we began to encounter stream flooding and snow patches but managed to make all 4 crossings without getting soaked. At the top there was more snow than expected, and the lake was still frozen. We found a dry campsite under some hemlocks, and put up the tent under alpenglow just after 10 pm. No other climbers showed up by 9:30 am. So we set off to climb Wrong Mtn. as advertised. After a half-mile of snow, we got on the steep, bare ridge and climbed on spring tundra. At the first hour break, I counted 10 kinds of flowers, including white and yellow anemones, Labrador tea, blue-,crow-, bear-, and cranberries. Heather bells and mt. avens flowers abounded, with alp lilies, primroses and louseworts scattered among them.

As I slowed down to play flower games, I realized that Stuart was slower still, but at this point not admitting anything. At the second hour break, above 3500 ft. in rocky tundra, he was 10 minutes behind, and when he arrived, he promptly puked. I know I don't look beautiful, but what an insult! Soon he was looking better, and shouted out another of his famous outrageous quotes: *"there's nothing that makes your body feel so good right away as pukeing (except maybe sex)!"*.

So we continued slowly up the increasingly rocky ridge to its highpoint (4950) which had a cairn, where we sat and enjoyed the smoky view and the mild, sunny air, while eating a 1:30 pm lunch. We were obviously on the right mountain, but which of these several summits was the real wrong mountain, we pondered, and out came the map. Traversing eastward to a col, we left our packs and continued for about an hour to the top, a half tundra, half snowy summit, 5260 ft. high. We found no cairn and register, but left one. Surely this was the right Wrong Mtn. , but looking to the west there was one other peak that looked to be higher... and it was only 3 pm.

Back at the col an hour later, we picked up our packs and continued ridge-running for an additional hour, and reached the final col before the summit, where Stu traversed and I ascended a ways before traversing the south face. Here I left my pack at 5:30 and hurried to the top. It had no cairn or register, but had great views, despite the smoke, of all peaks in the area and the great curve of Crescent Lake. Here in the heart of the curve, it seemed right to dub this 5320-ft. summit 'Crescent Peak' (or was that wrong?). Who knows of another name?

Reluctantly leaving at 6:40, I scrambled down to the pack and beyond, soon reaching snow where foot glissading was fast and fun. Parallel to Stu, and then almost together, we plunge-stepped the last part to the lake, arriving 3800 ft lower by 8:00pm. At camp, we found no new tents, and so enjoyed the cool solitude through dinner and alpenglow, and the familiar songs of white-crowned and golden-crowned sparrows sung us to sleep. At 2:00 am we were awakened by a familiar voice and snow crunching; and found MCAers Donna and Sam returning from a visit to Crescent Lk. They had day packs only, and soon were down to the trailhead.



Sunday morning at 6:15 am. I peeped out to find fog everywhere, but decided to try to get above it on a climb of L V Ray Peak opposite to the Saturday climbs. Stu had no such ambitions and elected to dream on. After leaving info on the prominent gully I planned for a route, I left about 8:00 am to crunch around the lakeshore and cross the southwest stream. I could barely make out a tree on the other side of the valley and made a beeline to it. Behind it was more forest with an obvious opening, which led to a gully and to my great surprise, eventually the very stream valley going up where I had planned on the west side of LV Ray. I didn't even need to consult map and compass!

Before long I was above the fog, where the sun was out and the cliffs above revealed themselves. Turning around to admire yesterday's peaks, I caught a small movement on the ridge. It was a fox, searching the rocks poking out of the snow, and he didn't see me: so I sat with binoculars and watched until the whole field of view was filled by his fluffy, flowing reddish image. Finally at 40 ft. he looked up and stared as I held my breath. Wheeling, he trotted off, but not in a terrified hurry.

At the head of the valley there were suspicious, steep, lee-side snowfields, so I ascended the west face to the nearest ridge, where there was a bit of tundra showing. From here it was just scrambling in the sun, and by 12:30 I was standing on the summit. The map shows a summit of L V Ray at 4840 ft to the north and another, which I thought higher, to the south (4850?ft) after visiting both. Great views down the steep east face to the highway and lakes were enjoyed during lunch. Over an hour passed before I reluctantly made a register and departed.

With all the snow, it took less than an hour to glissade and plunge all the way down to the lake shore, where I could see just how lucky I had been in the fog. Back at camp by 3:00, it was deserted, but Stu showed up within 15 minutes from a visit to Crescent Lake. I had noticed a couple of 30 ft wide openings in the ice at inlets, so took a half hour to find out if there were any hungry trout hanging around. They never showed up, but a common sandpiper and a semi-palmated plover were hanging around, obviously, like us, surprised by the late ice.

An amazing amount of snow had turned to water in the 40 hours since we came up, and we

broke through into wetness several times on the way down. But who could complain after a sunny, 3 peak spring weekend, only marred by a bit of smoke?

*Postscript: I could find nothing in the Scree index or place names references about ascents and the origin of Right and Wrong. L V Ray was the 1<sup>st</sup> president of the Alaska Senate in 1913. These are easily accessible peaks. I think I was up to point 4950 in 1982. I'll bet some of you can enlighten us about earlier climbs and names.*

## BOARD MEETING

February

The following members attended the Board Meeting: Dave Hart, Karen Herzenberg, John Hess, Sean Bolender, Steve Gruhn, Jayme Mack, Bill Romberg, Matt Nedom, Steve Parry and Stu Grenier.

### *Huts*

The Huts committee is still waiting for a response from DNR on the approval of the Human Waste System grant.

### *Equipment*

AMH and MCA finalized the plans for the rope storage system in the MCA Library at AMH. All MCA Avalanche Beacons have now been transferred from Richard Baranow in Eagle River to Carl Battreal in Anchorage to make it easier to borrow club beacons on short notice.

### *Scree*

Willy Hersman will be retiring from his position as Scree Editor soon and is looking for interested parties to take over the job. Computer knowledge and software is required along with a modem and internet connection. Some training will be involved.

### *MCA Leader Requirements*

Steve Parry and Matt Nedom voiced concern to the board on behalf of some members of MCA, that the first-aid requirements for MCA Leaders was actually keeping potential leaders from becoming a leader due to expenses and the requirements to stay current. They felt that if the requirements were relaxed that more members might pursue becoming a Leader. Stu Grenier motioned to "require medical experience of a Leader OR the Co-Leader", to ease the burden on the Leader." The motion was discussed but not seconded. Steve Parry then motioned to "require documentation of previous CPR/1st Aid Training (or



higher) within a 5 year period.” This motion was also discussed extensively and in a unanimous vote (8-0) the board decided to reword Steve’s motion to say, “Must have received certification in Standard 1st Aid or a more advanced medical certification (e.g. WFR, EMT) within the last ten years OR lead trips with an approved co-leader that meets this requirement.”

#### *Awards Committee*

Bill Romberg announced that the instructions for the committee were drafted and were to be submitted as MCA policy. A motion was initiated to change section #2 on the President’s Award Criteria to read “nominations are to be submitted by September 30th” instead of “between August 15th and September 30th.” The motion passed and the board voted in favor of the new policy 8-0.

#### *Board Meeting Schedule*

The board decided to change the schedule of Board meetings to as follows: January-March, May, and July-December. The board used to meet every month as long as enough voting members were present.

#### *Commercial Use of Huts*

The Board continues to discuss the issue of commercial usage. Since this topic is quite extensive the board has decided to develop an ad-hoc committee. The purpose of the ad-hoc committee will be to develop strategies for this issue working in conjunction with Huts Committee chairperson Mark Miraglia and Chugach State Park. John Hess and David Hart both volunteered to head up the ad-hoc committee.

#### *Motorized vs. Non-motorized use at Eklutna Lake*

The board discussed other alternatives to the current schedule for motorized vs. non-motorized use because members of the club and board have run into conflicts with other user groups. The board also thought maybe an alternating schedule of one week motorized and one week non-motorized might avoid future conflicts. It was suggested for the board to take a straw poll at the February general membership meeting to get a feel for the club’s opinions.

#### *State Park Permits for MCA Trips*

Due to some confusion surrounding an MCA trip led into the Eklutna area in late January the board is proposing to seek out an annual permit for MCA trips instead of the required individual permit for all large groups in the park, due to variety of trips that MCA offers. The board will be sending some representatives to a meeting with Chugach State Park in mid-March to discuss these concerns.

#### *Request to Change Non-Profit Status*

The board discussed possibly changing MCA’s Non-Profit 501(c) status to a 501 (c) 3 status to allow for donations to be tax deductible. In order for the club to do this we would have to change the focus to exclusively educate members to qualify for the 501 (c) 3 status. The board decided that they needed a little more info to make any further decisions and assigned Sean Bolender and Steve Gruhn to the task.

#### *Complimentary Screes*

The Anchorage Daily News and Coast Magazine had both requested copies of the Scree so that they could publish trips and training offered by the club. The board decided that they would provide contact information and schedules of the meeting times and places but would not provide trip offerings because they felt potential members should get this information from attending meetings or becoming a member of MCA.

#### *Hiking and Climbing Committee*

Board member Stu Grenier proposed to change the name of the “Hiking & Climbing” section in the Scree since the club offers many other trips that don’t always fit under this section. Since the bylaws are specific about what the title of this section of the Scree should be called, it would require a change of the bylaws. Most Board members did want to amend the bylaws for this little issue. Bill suggested that Stu write an article in the Scree with his suggestion to get feedback from others.

#### *Trip Incentives*

Due to a lack of time and the extensiveness of this issue the board decided to table this discussion until the March board meeting.

For all members interested you may attend the next Board Meeting to be held March 13th at the Downtown New Sagaya City Market @ 6:30pm.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Jamy Mack



## 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 on the reverse side of this list.
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

## Equipment

### Summer

Rain gear that works	Mosquito repellent
Wind gear	Whistle
Wool or fleece pants	Large plastic bag
Shorts	Lighter, matches
Light long johns	Map, compass
Wool shirt	Aerosol bear repellent (if desired)
Jacket	Moleskin/Spenco 2nd skin
Baseball cap	Ace bandage
Gloves	Surgical tape
Extra socks	Aspirin
Wool or pile hat	Gauze
Hiking boots	Anti-bacterial ointment
Stream-crossing footwear	4" x 4" pads, Band-Aids
Sunscreen	Wire



Vice grips or pliers	If snow on glacier:
Utility cord	Picket
Sewing kit	Skis or snowshoes
Tent	
Sleeping pad and bag	<u>Winter</u>
Backpack cover	Wind gear
Cook pot	Wool/fleece pants, shift
Stove (fires not allowed)	Long johns
Fuel bottle	Down jacket
Walking stick or ice axe	Wool/fleece hat
Water bottles (not canteens)	Face mask
FOOD	Mittens
	Double boots
<u>Additional for Glaciers</u>	Avalanche beacon
Ice axe	Shovel
Gaitors	Lighter
Climbing boots	Headlamp
Slings, carabiners	First aid kit
Rappel device	Repair kit
Rope	Tent (or snow shelters)
Wands	Sleeping bag and pad
Mittens	Large cook pot
Crampons	Stove
Seat Harness	Windscreen for stove
Ice screw(s)	Fuel bottle
Pulleys	Thermos
Prussiks/ascenders	Gaitors
Glacier glasses/cream	Skis or snowshoes

### Leader Qualifications

1. Must be a member of the MCA.
2. Must have approval of the Hiking and Climbing Committee (A simple majority.)
3. Must, have received certification in Standard First Aid or a more advanced medical certification (e.g.WFR, EMT) within the last 10 years or have an accompanying co-leader that meets this requirement.
4. Must attend an MCA Trip Leader Orientation course once every five years.
5. Must have participated in trips of the same or higher classification than the one being led, showing competence in the opinion of the leaders of those trips; or equivalent experience acceptable to the Hiking and Climbing Committee.
6. Leaders on trips of Class E or higher must have served as a co-leader with an approved MCA trip leader on at least one trip of the same classification or higher, or have equivalent experience acceptable to the Hiking and Climbing Committee. Persons with technical climbing experience wishing to waive this requirement must provide a letter to the Hiking and Climbing Committee outlining their climbing/guiding experience, training, and at least one personal reference.
7. Leaders on trips that may involve any avalanche-prone terrain must have completed formal training in avalanche hazard recognition and victim search as approved by the Hiking and Climbing Committee.
8. Leaders on trips that involve any hazardous stream crossings must have either formal training in safe stream crossing methods or have extensive experience crossing streams.

### Trip Leader Responsibilities

1. The leader must get approval of the proposed trip from the H&C Committee prior to advertising the trip.
2. Per MCA by-laws, club trips must be advertised in a club publication. In other words, the MCA membership must be informed of the trip. The H&C committee must approve the club trip about 35 days before the trip so that the H&C chair can forward the approved trip list to the editor of the Scree.
3. Important: If a H&CC approved trip cannot be planned a month in advance, the organizer may announce the trip as a personal trip at the next club meeting when the MCA president asks for announcements. Anyone may advertise a personal trip at the general membership meeting, which is an important service the club offers to all members - to help bring hikers and climbers together. The value of a club sanctioned trip is it offers the membership a trip leader that has been approved by the H&CC as a qualified leader.
4. The leader is responsible for providing and maintaining the trip sign-up sheets at monthly meetings. Coordinate with the H&CC Chair if unable to make the monthly meeting prior to the trip.
5. The leader should describe their proposed trip at club meetings.
6. The leader should contact members that have signed up for the trip to discuss the details of the trip, including proposed route, required gear, hazards, and meeting arrangements.
7. The leader must leave a trip roster containing a brief description of the proposed route and the names and telephone numbers of participants with a responsible person that will be able to contact a H&C Committee member (names and telephone numbers are on the sign-up sheet) in case of an emergency or delayed return.
8. The leader should brief trip members on the general rules for MCA sanctioned trips using the Trip Leader Checklist. If members already know each other and have been on previous trips, not much may need to be said. If new members are on the trip, use the checklist.
9. For safety and liability reasons, the leader must follow the general rules for MCA sanctioned trips as published in the MCA policies.
10. After the trip, the leader is encouraged to provide a trip report (over the phone or in writing) to the H&CC This is just "how did the trip go" and who participated. It also serves as a means to let the H&C Committee know the trip members returned safely.

Other documents trip leaders should consult:

1. MCA Club Sanctioned Trips policy, sections on: trip classifications, general rules, leader qualifications, and recommended gear).
2. Trip Leader Checklist

Approved: MCA Board, February 15, 2000





# 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, Alaska 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"/>		
<p>I am interested in joining a committee (Programs, Hiking &amp; Climbing, Huts, Geographic Names, Parks Advisory, Equipment, Honorary, Membership, Training, or ad hoc committees). _____ I am interested in leading a trip. _____</p>			

Do not write below this line:

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): \_\_\_\_\_

**ADZE**



**For Sale**  
Charlet Moser Ice Tool Pulsar bent-shaft 50 cm w/ adze Like New, \$90 o.b.o.  
Bryan 349-7149

**National Orienteering Day**  
May 4, noon to 4:00 p.m. Fun and introduction to orienteering. Door prizes, snacks, games for kids, and family activities. Campbell Creek Science Center, Abbott Loop Road. \$4 for non-members of Orienteering Club.  
Dan Ellsworth, 333-5429

**Beginner Orienteering Class**  
May 14th 7:00 p.m. Map reading and basic orienteering skills. Please pre-register by calling REI. \$1 to cover map costs.  
Dan Ellsworth, 333-5429

**Beginner/Intermediate Orienteering**  
May 15th, 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. APU Moseley Sports Center. Lots of help available for beginners. Put to use what you learned the previous evening. \$4 for non-members of the Orienteering Club.  
Eric and Jill Follett, 346-2294

**WEB CHAT**



camp4.com:

**Warren Harding Dies**

Warren Harding has passed away late on February 28th due to liver failure. Known as Batso to some, Warren was always guaranteed to shake thing up. Visionary or anarchist he was accredited to many great accomplishments.

For those of you who didn't know of him, this introduction from MountainFilm in Telluride (where he was a special guest in '99) gives a better idea of the legendary "mad bolter"... "Over a period of 45 days in 1958, Warren Harding put up what remains as 'one of the great rock climbs' in history. His lead of the Nose on El Capitan fascinated tourists, captivated headline writers, and propelled Harding into his role as the 'ultimate Yosemite hard man.' Over the years Harding's accomplishments, including 27 days on The Wall of the Early Morning Light, cast him as a man ahead of his time. Never one to take the simple path, Harding remains as a charmingly, gruff and outspoken character who never bowed to convention, turned down a drink, nor passed up the chance for a good story."

Rest in peace.



# 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 30th to be included in the April 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@alaska.com)

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

HUTS: [mark\\_miraglia](mailto:mark_miraglia@alaska.com), 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)