



March 2005

A Publication of the Mountaineering Club of Alaska
Box 102037, Anchorage, Alaska 99510

Volume 48 Issue 3

Monthly Meeting
March 16th @ 7:30 PM
First United Methodist Church
9th & G Streets

Next to the Phillips Building (you may use reserved parking after hours)

Downtown Anchorage

Program: Laurent Dick will give a presentation on climbing the West Buttress of Mount McKinley.

Hiking and Climbing Schedule

March 12-13 UAA Outdoor Club/MCA Ice Climbing
Come meet some new up and coming UAA students out on the ice back in the Echo Bend area of Eagle River. Climbing Grades II-IV available or just come out to camp-out and explore the valley by foot or on skis. Overnight in the Echo Bend area or come out for either day. The UAA folks will be coming out mostly on the 12th; more ice will be available for MCAers on the 13th. Overflow climbers will explore the Icicle drainage. Contact Richard if interested 694-1500 eralpine@mtaonline.net.

March 22, Tuesday at 5:30 p.m.
Rainbow to McHugh Creek (Class A)
Contact leader at least one day in advance of trip. Leader: Steve Gruhn 344-1219 (h), 276-7475 (w), steven.gruhn@hartcrowser.com

March 24, Thursday at 5:30 p.m.
Rainbow to Windy Corner (Class A)
Contact leader at least one day in advance of trip. Leader: Steve Gruhn 344-1219 (h), 276-7475 (w), steven.gruhn@hartcrowser.com

March 26, Saturday
Bird Creek Pass (Class D)
Contact leader at least one day in advance of trip. Leader: Steve Gruhn 344-1219 (h), 276-7475 (w), steven.gruhn@hartcrowser.com

March 28, Monday at 5:30 p.m.
Section 36 (Bear Valley) (Class A)
Contact leader at least one day in advance of trip. Leader: Steve Gruhn 344-1219 (h), 276-7475 (w), steven.gruhn@hartcrowser.com

March 30, Wednesday at 5:30 p.m.
Falls Creek (Class B)
Contact leader at least one day in advance of trip. Leader: Steve Gruhn 344-1219 (h), 276-7475 (w), steven.gruhn@hartcrowser.com

April 2, Saturday
Indianhouse Mountain (Class D)
Contact leader at least one day in advance of trip. Leader: Steve Gruhn 344-1219 (h), 276-7475 (w), steven.gruhn@hartcrowser.com

April 2-10 Mt. Marcus Baker/ Mt. Goode Expedition
Join fellow MCAers on this attempt of the Chugach's highest summit and practice your glacier travel skills. Members will fly onto the Knik Glacier at the 8200' level and climb the SW aspect of Marcus Baker followed by an attempt of Mt Goode's NE face/ E ridge. All participants must be current in Glacier Travel/ Rescue skills. Highcountry skiing, Peak Bagging, Snow Shelter Construction, BB-Q and Brew will all be had. Contact Richard if interested. Trip leaders: Richard Baranow 694-1500(h) / eralpine@mcaonline.net and Randy Howell 346-6091(h) / chowellR@gci.net

April 09 Wolverine Peak

Climb this 4455' front range peak standing above Anchorage. We will ski and/or snowshoe to the summit. This is a fun, all day trip with considerable elevation gain and great views. Required Equipment: snowshoes and/or backcountry skis with skins, avalanche gear. Contact Leader Sean Bolender for more info. 333-0213

April 10 - 17 Annual Eklutna Traverse

Travel from Eklutna Lake up over the Eklutna glacier to the Crow Pass trail head near Girdwood. (Approximate dates) Sign up at February or March meetings. This group MUST meet for pre planning and training sometime in March. i.e. Safe glacier travel techniques and crevasse rescue.

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, 2005. Glacier Travel.
Leader: Greg Bragiel 569-3008

April 4, Monday at 5:30 p.m.

Rainbow Peak (Class C)
Contact leader at least one day in advance of trip. Leader: Steve Gruhn 344-1219 (h), 276-7475 (w), steven.gruhn@hartcrowser.com

April 6, Wednesday at 6:00 p.m.

Winner Creek Gorge (Class A)
Contact leader at least one day in advance of trip. Leader: Steve Gruhn 344-1219 (h), 276-7475 (w), steven.gruhn@hartcrowser.com

April 12, Tuesday at 6:00 p.m.

California Creek (Class A)
Contact leader at least one day in advance of trip. Leader: Steve Gruhn 344-1219 (h), 276-7475 (w), steven.gruhn@hartcrowser.com

April 14, Thursday at 6:00 p.m.

Notch Mountain (Class C)
Contact leader at least one day in advance of trip. Leader: Steve Gruhn 344-1219 (h), 276-7475 (w), steven.gruhn@hartcrowser.com

April 19, Tuesday at 5:30 p.m.

Falls Creek Ridge (Class D)
Contact leader at least one day in advance of trip. Leader: Steve Gruhn 344-1219 (h), 276-7475 (w), steven.gruhn@hartcrowser.com

Trip Reports

Wolverine Peak in the Full Moon By Amy Murphy



ack in November, Katie Hahn and I climbed Wolverine Peak during the full moon and, despite encountering very strong winds, enjoyed the hike so immensely we wanted to do it again during December's full moon. Lousy weather conditions prevented us from doing the hike in December, so we anticipated doing another trip during the January full moon. We planned the night hike for January 26 and were rewarded with good weather and clear skies! Katie Hahn, John Recktenwald, Ray Nabinger, Ron Gehres and myself met at the Prospect Heights parking lot at 5:30 to excitedly begin our evening's journey.

Since we hadn't had much new snow, the trail was well packed and easy to travel on, so we were able to set a good pace. As we turned off the main trail onto the Wolverine trail, we wondered when we were going to see the moon, as it hadn't risen yet. We stopped to take a break at the big rock sitting on the edge of the open meadow area and took a few minutes to view the twinkling lights of Anchorage down below us. From there we started the uphill climb, heading for the center ridgeline that leads to the summit ridge. We encountered some slick, icy conditions on the slope leading up to the ridge, but the conditions didn't warrant putting our crampons on yet. We didn't stop when after we reached the cairn on the main ridgeline, deciding to keep pushing our way on up. We still hadn't seen the moon, so Ray teased Katie and I about leading him on a wild goose chase to see the full moon!

We finally stopped to take a break and put our crampons on at a spot right below the rocks at the intersection of the center ridgeline and the summit ridge. The moon was still being elusive, but we knew it was only a matter of time before it finally appeared. We hiked up to the summit ridge and were finally rewarded with the view of the full moon, illuminating everything around us. Of course we had to start howling at the moon, out of sheer enjoyment of the magical beauty of the glowing, moonlit scenery! We continued up the summit ridge to the summit, where we took a good long break so we could kick back and soak up the good feelings

and outstanding views of the mountains, snowfields and valleys all around us. We were extremely pleased that there was no wind – now how rare is that?

We finally decided to turn around and head back down, but since nobody was in a hurry and the evening, scenery and camaraderie were so enjoyable, we stopped to take another long break down near the rocks at the top of the center ridgeline. We checked out routes on some of the mountains to the northeast of us in anticipation of a future peak-bagging trip in the area this summer, including Tikishla, the Tanainas, Koktoya, Temptation and Williwaw. It's amazing how clearly you can see things when the moon is shining so brightly! Plus, you save money on batteries as you don't even need to use headlamps.

While we were sitting there, a ghostly apparition arose up over the rocks and clambered towards us, which was a little surprising, to say the least! I realized it must be Allison Sayer, who said she would arrive at the trailhead late but would hike up the trail to meet us. So we sat and chatted with Allison for a few minutes before we all reluctantly headed back down. We walked down the big snowfield to the north of the center ridgeline, which was definitely much easier than hiking down the slick, ice-coated rocks and ground on the ridgeline. We returned to the trailhead around 11:30 p.m. and agreed that we should start planning monthly moonlight MCA hikes since it is such an enjoyable, almost-mystical experience.

O'Malley Peak Winter Hike By Amy Murphy



In January 29, 2005, MCA President Steve Parry led a trip up O'Malley Peak, one of the 12 peaks over 5,000' in the Chugach front range. Amazingly, 24 people signed up for the trip, but luckily the trip ended up only having 14 participants, including Steve and three assistant trip leaders. Having more than 20 people could have presented some challenges, but one really neat thing about this trip was the large number of "new faces" who showed up. It's always great to meet new MCA members who come on these trips!

We met at the Carrs Huffman coffee shop around 8:30 in the morning and carpoled up to the Glen

Alps parking lot. Steve checked to make sure everybody had crampons and ice axes and warm clothing, as we were expecting cold temperatures. We left the parking lot and headed for the trail that leads up to the Ballfield area. I felt a little guilty because we were hiking on newly-groomed ski trails and leaving footsteps, but the Powerline Pass trail is a multi-use trail so I knew other hikers, bikers and skiers would soon be out tracking up the trail. We stopped to put our crampons on at the bottom of the snow-filled gully that leads up to the Ballfield. We probably could have walked up the gully without crampons, but Steve had everybody put crampons on just to be safe and to get more practice walking with them on.



Some of the O'malley gang, by Lee Whitten

Once we got to the top of the gully, we sat down to wait for everybody to get to the top and removed our crampons for the hike up the Ballfield. There wasn't much snow up in the Ballfield as a lot of it had been blown away, so we had pretty easy walking. We stopped at the base of the big snow gully that is one of the most-popular routes to get up O'Malley to put our crampons back on. We also got our ice axes out and ready to use, and then spread out and started to climb up the gully. Luckily the snow was hard-packed and stable so we didn't have to worry about avalanche danger. However, the snow was soft enough to allow us to kick steps in as we ascended to the top of the ridgeline, which is always helpful!

We stopped right below the top of the gully to eat lunch as we could hear the wind howling at the top of the ridgeline. We knew we should eat while we could find some shelter from the wind, as we had a long, windy ridgeline to traverse before arriving at

2006 MCAK Calendar

The Calendar Committee has decided that it is in the interest of the MCA calendar that the project be moved forward in the year for the 2006 calendar so that calendars may be sold to the summer tourist. It is hoped that this larger market will allow us to produce more calendars at higher quality and lower unit cost. What this means is rather than starting the project in September we will start it at the March General Meeting. Please bring your VERTICAL photos to the March or April Meetings. We hope to have them on the wall for voting at the May Meeting. Please have your name and phone number on the back. We recommend 8 by 10's which can be done for \$2 at Costco, but will accept anything. Most any Alaskan mountain culture shot will be accepted.



Vertical shots are needed for the next MCAK Calendar (Ripple by Carlene Van Tol)

For more details contact Stu at oinkmenow@hotmail.com or 337-5127 The 2005s sold out at 325 units. We should have printed more.

the summit. As we were sitting there eating lunch and enjoying the day, Ross Noffsinger and his two dogs climbed up the snow gully and joined us. After eating, we climbed to the top of the gully and headed east along the ridgeline up and over towards the summit.

Along the way we made numerous stops wait for people and to marvel at the steep, sheer drop-offs on the north side of the ridgeline. If somebody fell through a cornice or slipped and fell the wrong way, they would sure have a long drop to the bottom of the valley floor! Lee Whitten and John Recktenwald both know I love to slide down snowfields, and they thoughtfully pointed out a couple of really steep, snow-filled gullies they just knew I would love to slide down. Ha! I'm glad they are my friends, helpfully(?) pointing out something fun and exciting for me to do, or I would have thought they were trying to get rid of me! I hadn't even started singing on this trip yet, so I don't know why they would have wanted me to make a quick exit from their presence, unless it was due to a very few teasing (harassing) comments I may have made.

Anyway, after a seemingly-long but scenic ridge walk, we finally made it to the summit and sat and waited for everybody to join us. We enjoyed the stunning views of all of the peaks surrounding us and took lots of photos. We became chilly after sitting around in the strong winds for a while and decided not to wait any longer for the other two people who hadn't yet made it to the summit. On our way back we came upon the two other hikers, Jim Szender and Chuck Kennedy, and learned that Chuck decided he couldn't make it to the summit. However, Jim wanted to continue on to the summit, so I offered to be the sweep and hike back with Chuck.

The group waited for Chuck, Jim and I at the top of the snow gully where we had stopped for lunch. The sun had finally broken through the clouds and was shining all around us and it helped make a great day even better! We descended this gully and hiked over to the less-steep snow gully that leads down from the Ballfield. I think just about everybody sat and slid down this gully, whooping and hollering and really enjoying life! Then we headed back to the parking lot and thanked Steve for leading another fun trip.

Hot Tip

Willy Hersman has upgraded the Scree peak index on the Web site into a valuable and entertaining research tool. Check it out.

Solicitation for Awards Bill Romberg

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. 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 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

Slide show, Route information and Pizza

Interested in seeing what makes a Chugach Junky tick? Come to Richard Baranow's slide presentation "**Adventuring in the Chugach Mountains**", part of UAA's Outdoor Adventure Series, Tuesday, March 15th at the Student Union Bldg; 7-9pm. It's FREE. Pizza provided for the early birds! Richard will chronicle his early formative years and highlight favorite climbs in the Chugach and beyond. Route questions during and after the show are welcome. Come and bring a friend! For more info, contact Richard at 694-1500 / eralpine@mtaonline.net or call the UAA Student Union at 786-1204.

MCA Membership Meeting Minutes
February 16, 2005
7:30 p.m.

7:30 – Meeting called to order by Steve Gruhn

Introductions of new folks.

Treasurer's report

Committee reports

Hiking and Climbing – Marcus-Baker in April, Indian to Arctic, Eklutna traverse, Ski Williwaw Lakes

Training – Carl reports our mtn skills classes are now full, however, anyone aspiring to do Eklutna traverse must attend knots, snow travel, and crevasse rescue training. There will be a trip leader training in March, one hour before our regular membership meeting (6:30 p.m., March 16)

Equipment committee – No new purchases. Stu asked about satellite phone; the board has looked into that and found they can be rented for \$40/week, if folks want one on a trip. We will replace the battery in our EPIRB for club use.

Membership committee – Greg Bragiel now chairs. Contact Greg with questions about your membership/receiving the Scree.

Awards committee – We have info on our website about the Vin Homan award, President's award, and Meekins award; submit candidates to the awards committee (Mark Miraglia and Bill Romberg).

Library (Elena absent) Sean said some shelves have been moved. Stu requested old logs on Eklutna traverse.

Programs committee – Has four vacancies; contact Steve Gruhn if interested.

Peak registers – If full, take down and give to Steve Gruhn so he can archive.

Our next calendar will use pictures shot in vertical format (preferably 8x10s). Will start taking pictures in March, vote on in May, and start selling in June.

Old Business

Andi Andraschko is taking sign-up for a Wilderness First Aid class to be offered 4/09 and 4/10. This will be a 20-hour course for \$140. Please e-mail Andi to sign up. Her E-mail is enviroknow@aol.com

New Business

Kneely Taylor said the AK Dept of Fish and Game wants comments on proposals to change hunting regulations. After discussion on the subject, the club voted in support of Neely's suggestion to leave things as they are, and to write a letter of such support.

Additionally, discussion was held regarding the request by Glacier City Snowmobile Tours to move their operations from the Spencer glacier to the Eagle Glacier, which is part of the Eklutna traverse. The club voted on strongly opposing such a request and to write a letter opposing use of snowmachines on the Eagle glacier.

40th anniversary patches are still available at \$5 each.

Thanks to John Recktenwald for stepping up to be our Scree Editor! Willy can now enjoy some much-earned rest and more free time! Thanks John and Willy!

Interested in doing a guided climb Denali via West buttress , or highest peak in Kenai Fjords? Contact Steve Gruhn for more information.

The club receives mail from AK Mtn Huts Association, Outward Bound, and other brochures/info available for club members to peruse at our meetings.

Wayne Todd did a presentation entitled "Maritime Climbs".

**MCA Board Meeting Minutes
February 9, 2005
7:00 p.m., Harry's**

John Recktenwald was voted in to be the new Scree Editor.

Discussed a 50th Anniversary committee.

Bill Billmeier has expressed interest in the MCA climbing grant.

The projector is here. Eric will check into the cost of purchasing a back-up bulb.

Officer and board binders are still not updated and distributed. Carlene will contact Jayme about getting these finalized.

Satellite phone report by Sean. It was decided that renting is more cost-effective than purchasing. The board did vote to purchase a new battery for the old EPIRB (\$125).

Scree mailing list: Greg handles snail mail; John handles the E-mail.

Discussion on charging for our mtn skills classes. Sean will talk to attorney re liability increase with fees charged; the board voted to support charging for training classes.

Calendar photo submission and judging dates. Eric will talk to Stu about dates.

Change club banking. Annette checking into Denali Alaska; Randy checking into Credit Union One.

Provide trip leader training in March, prior to the general membership meeting.

Adze

Visit the web for links to the e-mail addresses below

For Sale:

REI mountain ax \$30, REI harness \$30, Avalanche beacon \$90, Avalanche probe \$25, 561-1785

Looking For

Three-pin Backcountry boots. Looking for a pair of lightweight boots for some touring skis. Size 9.5 or 10. Steve - [e-mail](#)

For Sale

Farmer Betty wetsuit (Fits me I'm 5'7 150 lbs) and PFD, worn for about 2 weeks. I like them but don't anticipate using them again. Would like to trade for or use to supplement cash for winter gear/clothes.

Allison Sayer 334-9288

Looking For

Marmot Plasma, NF Boltero etc. Small, yellow or red baffled down parkas. Wayne 522-6354, or [e-mail](#)

Looking For

Am looking for tube picks for A Charlet Moser Pulsar; if you have any of these laying about and your not using them, give me a ring! Will make it worth your while. Thanks. Richard at 694-1500 or [e-mail](#)

Info Needed

I'm working on a feature story for the Anchorage Press about roadside ice climbing along the Seward Highway. My article hopes to give the general audience a sense of what the clowns with the strange looking ice axes and spikes on their feet are doing out there. Focus is on the absurd, quirky nature of climbing on the highway; traffic roaring by inches away, ancient anchors, permit issues. Would like to hear about other climber's experiences (good, bad, ugly) to add to my own observations. Feel free to contact me if you have an interesting anecdote. Matt Hage 561.1881 [e-mail](#)

For Sale

Downhill / backcountry skis K2 escape 2500, used one season \$45; Downhill skipoles 115cm and 125cm \$5 each pair; sled for children or stuff \$1. Petra and Christof, phone: 783 0351

For Sale

Cross country skis (classic, fishscales): Trak spectrum 200cm with Salomon SNS bindings \$15; Fischer SL control 187 cm with NEW Salomon SNS bindings \$20; Crosscountry skipoles 155cm and 130 cm \$1 each pair. Petra and Christof, phone: 783 0351

For Sale

Slide projector Sawyers automatic 707 AQ, works with round vertical (one incl.) or straight horizontal trays \$15; Slide viewer Hama \$5
Petra and Christof, phone: 783 0351

Partners Wanted

I am looking for a partner or partners interested in climbing Denali via the West Buttress route. I am looking at a May time frame, but I am flexible. Please email me if you are interested. Shane Jolin, [e-mail](#)

For Sale

Used 2003 Dyna-Fit TLT700 AT Boots. Size 27-27.5 (9.5 - 10) Thermofit Liners. Call 455-3888

Notice

Because It Had to Be Done, a black-tie-and-blue-jeans gala benefit for climber and cancer patient Mike Howerton, will be held at the Alyeska Prince Hotel in Girdwood, Alaska. Individual tickets are \$50; corporate tables are available. February 26. 301-5770

MOUNTAINEERING CLUB OF ALASKA
P.O. Box 102037
Anchorage, AK 99510

February 18, 2005

Teresa Paquet
U.S. FOREST SERVICE
Glacier Ranger District
P. O. Box 129
Girdwood, AK 99587

FAX: 907-783-2094

Re: Snowmachine use on Eagle Glacier

Dear Ms. Paquet:

Glacier City Snowmobile Tours has submitted a proposal to move their summertime operation from Spencer Glacier to Eagle Glacier near the Nordic Training Center. I understand they are requesting an opening of approximately 3 square miles for a "handful" of snowmachines, and that access to the glacier will be via fixed wing and helicopter.

The Eagle Glacier lies north of Girdwood and is a part of the Eklutna Traverse, a 40-mile glacier traverse across three glaciers, with three huts along the way. The Mountaineering Club of Alaska maintains the huts. Although Glacier City is claiming that their operation will not interfere with the mountaineering route, and they claim they will not be going near the huts, we ask you to not grant permit for snowmachines on Eagle glacier.

This company currently has a permit to operate on the Spencer glacier. We would like to see them stay there, or find another alternative, rather than be allowed on the Eagle glacier/Eklutna traverse. Snowmachines are not compatible with the backcountry experience mountaineers seek while skiing the Eklutna traverse. We do not believe there will be adequate monitoring of conditions of the permit, and that there will be problems having two different types of users in one area.

Thank you for your careful attention to the above matter.

Sincerely,

Carlene Van Tol, Secretary
Mountaineering Club of Alaska

MOUNTAINEERING CLUB OF ALASKA
P.O. Box 102037
Anchorage, AK 99510

February 18, 2005

ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME
P. O. Box 25526
Juneau, AK 99802-5526

FAX: 907-465-6094

Re: Spring meeting, 2005
Proposals 67-73; 99-102; 129

Dear Board Members:

The Mountaineering Club of Alaska wishes to comment on the above proposals as they concern Chugach State Park.

Members of the Mountaineering Club of Alaska enjoy mountain climbing, skiing, and hiking, in addition to other outdoor activities. The MCA was organized in 1958 and has grown to approximately 350 members. Club members may participate in club trips, club training programs, and the maintenance of our backcountry huts. We publish a monthly newsletter for members, and have monthly meetings that are well attended.

Chugach State Park is the area in which MCA members spend a lot of their time. This is due to the spectacular nature of the area in addition to its close proximity to Anchorage, where the majority of members live. There are inherent dangers posed by hunters to hikers with the presence of gut piles at kill sites near trailheads, which could attract bears, thereby endangering the public. Also, the use of leg hold traps could endanger pets in the heavily used park.

At our general membership meeting on February 16, 2005, we discussed the matter of various proposals to modify hunting and trapping regulations within Chugach State Park. A resolution was introduced and passed by the general membership requesting that hunting and trapping regulations not be changed as they relate to the park.

The current regulatory scheme provides for various controlled areas and prohibitions. Hunting and trapping of some species is permitted, but various restrictions apply, including the requirement that a hunter obtain a permit, numbers of which are limited. The MCA asks that these controlled areas, prohibitions, and restrictions not be changed.

Thank you for your careful attention to the above matter.

Sincerely,

Carlene Van Tol, Secretary
Mountaineering Club of Alaska

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

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 unenforcible, 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): _____

Mountaineering Club of Alaska

President	Steve Parry	248-8710	Board member	Eric Teela	240-9693
Vice-President	Steve Gruhn	344-1219	Board member	Annette Iverson	222-0581
Secretary	Carlene Van Tol	748-5270	Board member	Sean Bolender	333-0213
Treasurer	Joe Kluberton	301-4039	Board member	Randy Howell	346-4608
			Board member	Jayne Mack	694-1500

Annual membership dues: Single \$15, Family \$20 (one Scree to a 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 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 mailed to Scree Editor Box 102037 Anchorage Alaska 99510 or emailed to Scree@yahoogroups.com or submitted on the web at MCAK.org. Articles should be received by April 1st to be in the April 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: 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 (change your address here)
Mailing list service: MCAK@yahoogroups.com

Mountaineering Club of Alaska
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