

# the SCREE

## Mountaineering Club of Alaska

March 2006

Volume 49 Number 3

Jokulhlaup

Indian to Arctic in September

A new Hut for the club

Difficulties strengthen the mind,  
as labor does the body

Lucius Seneca

Monthly Meeting

Wednesday, March 15th @ 7:30 PM

Program: Greg Bragiel with slides from  
previous Eklutna Traverse trips



# 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 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of the month at the First United Methodist Church, 9<sup>th</sup> 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](http://www.mcak.org)

Cover photo: Trond Jensen on a 26 mile, 9,000 vertical foot 10 hour romp on the Kenai Peninsula. Photo by Tobias Schwoerer. See 'Jokulhlaup' in this issue.

**Article Submission:** Articles and photos are best submitted on the web at MCAK.org. 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

March 1, Mt. Baldy in Eagle River

This is a Class B snowshoe trip up Mt. Baldy in Eagle River and a free permit from Eklutna, Inc. is required. (Visit their Website at [www.eklutnainc.com](http://www.eklutnainc.com) for more information and to download a permit.) Meet at the Carrs Eagle River coffee shop at 5:45 p.m. to carpool to the trailhead, or meet at the trailhead at 6:15 p.m. Depending on snow conditions, an ice axe may come in very handy. No dogs allowed. Trip leader: Amy Murphy, 338-3979 or e-mail: hayduchesslives@yahoo.com.

March 4, Symphony Lakes

This is an all-day, 12-mile, Class C snowshoe trip up the South Fork of Eagle Valley back towards Symphony Lake. Bring snowshoes and appropriate gear for existing weather conditions. Please leave your dogs at home. Trip leader: Amy Murphy, 338-3979 or e-mail: hayduchesslives@yahoo.com.

March 9, The Dome (Stuckagain Heights)

This is a Class B snowshoe trip up to the Dome and back along the ridgeline towards the base of Knoya. Meet at the old Stuckagain Heights trailhead at the top of Campbell Airstrip Road at 5:45 p.m. Bring snowshoes and appropriate gear for existing weather conditions. No dogs allowed. Trip leader: Amy Murphy, 338-3979 or e-mail: hayduchesslives@yahoo.com.

March 16, Flaketop (nearly full moon)

This is a Class C trip to Flaketop Peak in the nearly full moon. (Flaketop is the peak right before Ptarmigan Peak near Rabbit Lake.) Meet at the Carrs Huffman coffee shop at 5:30 to carpool to the trailhead. Bring crampons, ice axe, snowshoes and appropriate gear for existing weather conditions. No dogs allowed. Trip leader: Amy Murphy, 338-3979 or e-mail: hayduchesslives@yahoo.com.

March 18, Williwaw Lakes/Long Lake traverse

This traverse is about 16 miles long and starts at the Glen Alps parking lot. From there we will snowshoe back to Williwaw Lakes, climb up and over the pass and drop down to Long Lake and hike down the N. Fork of Campbell Creek valley to the Stuckagain Heights trailhead. This all-day, Class C/D trip will require spotting cars at both trailheads and is dependent on stable snow conditions. Bring crampons, ice axe, snowshoes, headlamp, plenty of food and water and appropriate gear for existing weather conditions. Please leave your dogs at home. Trip leader: Amy Murphy, 338-3979 or e-mail: hayduchesslives@yahoo.com.

Monday, March 20, 5:30 p.m. Rainbow to Windy Corner  
3.8 miles, 800 feet of elevation gain. Class A  
Contact leader at least 24 hours in advance.  
Leader: Steve Gruhn;  
[steven.gruhn@hartcrowser.com](mailto:steven.gruhn@hartcrowser.com);  
868-9118(work)

Wednesday, March 22, 5:30 p.m. Rainbow to McHugh  
8.4 miles, 1,600 feet of elevation gain. Class B  
Contact leader at least 24 hours in advance.  
Leader: Steve Gruhn; 868-9118 (work)  
[steven.gruhn@hartcrowser.com](mailto:steven.gruhn@hartcrowser.com);

March 23, Harp Mountain

This is a Class C trip to the summit of Harp Mountain in Eagle River. Meet at the Harp Mountain trailhead (at the end of Hiland Road) at 6:15 p.m. Bring crampons, ice axe, snowshoes and appropriate gear for existing weather conditions. No dogs allowed. Trip leader: Amy Murphy, 338-3979 or e-mail: [hayduchesslives@yahoo.com](mailto:hayduchesslives@yahoo.com).

Saturday, March 25, Eklutna Lake

This is a Class C, all-day hike or snowshoe trip towards the end of Eklutna Lake and back. There is minimal elevation gain but we plan on hiking 15 or 16 miles on the lakeside trail. If trip participants want to spend the night out at the Serenity Falls cabin while they are "in the neighborhood," they could check on the cabin's availability and hike out on their own the following day. Bring snowshoes and appropriate gear for existing weather conditions. Please leave your dogs at home. Trip leader: Amy Murphy, 338-3979 or e-mail: [hayduchesslives@yahoo.com](mailto:hayduchesslives@yahoo.com).

Saturday, March 25 Eagle River Ski/Snowshoe

20 miles, 300 feet of elevation gain. Class D  
Contact leader at least 24 hours in advance.  
Leader: Steve Gruhn;  
[steven.gruhn@hartcrowser.com](mailto:steven.gruhn@hartcrowser.com); 344-1219  
(home); 868-9118 (work)

Saturday, March 25 End-of-Month Traverse:

North Fork to Glen Alps  
Class C+. 17 miles. Elevation gain 2500'. Start at Prospect. Skis only. Bring avalanche gear unless told otherwise. Requires spotting vehicles, capable of going to Glen Alps.  
Leader: Willy Hersman: [mcak@gci.net](mailto:mcak@gci.net)

Monday, March 27, 5:30 p.m. Bird Creek Trails

4 miles, 100 feet of elevation gain. Class A  
Contact leader at least 24 hours in advance.  
Leader: Steve Gruhn;  
[steven.gruhn@hartcrowser.com](mailto:steven.gruhn@hartcrowser.com); 868-9118  
(work)

Wednesday, March 29, 6:00 p.m. Peak 2831

2 miles, 1,230 feet of elevation gain. Class B  
Contact leader at least 24 hours in advance.  
Leader: Steve Gruhn;  
[steven.gruhn@hartcrowser.com](mailto:steven.gruhn@hartcrowser.com); 868-9118  
(work)

April 01 – 02, Eklutna Traverse training weekend  
A preparation and familiarity session for Eklutna Traverse participants.

Tuesday, April 4, 5:30 p.m. Falls Creek

3 miles, 1,300 feet of elevation gain. Class B  
Contact leader at least 24 hours in advance.  
Leader: Steve Gruhn; 868-9118 (work)  
[steven.gruhn@hartcrowser.com](mailto:steven.gruhn@hartcrowser.com);

Thursday, April 6, 6:00 p.m. Falls Creek Ridge from Windy Corner

3 miles, 3,900 feet of elevation gain. Class D  
Contact leader at least 24 hours in advance.  
Leader: Steve Gruhn; 868-9118 (work)  
[steven.gruhn@hartcrowser.com](mailto:steven.gruhn@hartcrowser.com);

April 09 – 15, Eklutna Traverse

Glacier Travel. Elevation gain: 6000'+ Distance is 30+ miles Contact: Greg Bragiel 569-3008

Thursday, April 13, 6:00 p.m. Falls Creek Ridge from Falls Creek

3 miles, 3,900 feet of elevation gain. Class D  
Contact leader at least 24 hours in advance.  
Leader: Steve Gruhn; 868-9118 (work)  
[steven.gruhn@hartcrowser.com](mailto:steven.gruhn@hartcrowser.com);

May 18-31 Chenega to Valdez.

Plan to climb and explore along the way. Sea Kayaking experience and gear. AV gear. Class D. Stu Grenier [oinkmenow@hotmail.com](mailto:oinkmenow@hotmail.com) 337-5127

## Training

March 4 – 5, Wilderness First Aid

Two days with Deb Ajango, 9am to 6pm each day. National Wilderness First Aid certification provided upon successful completion of the course. E-mail Andi to get a registration form.  
[enviroknow@acsalaska.net](mailto:enviroknow@acsalaska.net)

## Calendar

Last call; Give your best horizontal Alaskan Mountain Culture Shots to Stu Grenier by March 14. (the day before the monthly meeting) [oinkmenow@hotmail.com](mailto:oinkmenow@hotmail.com) or 337-5127.

# Jokulhlaup by Tobias Schwoerer

Cory Smith Photo



Jokulhlaup [ yokel-lop ] “What is it? A yodeler with a hiccup, a galloping jockey, or a Norwegian with a speech impediment?”, I wonder while driving with my fellow peak baggers Tim Kelley, Trond Jensen and Cory Smith to the Kenai Peninsula in mid-August of last year. Being the rookie on this team, I have no clue what I will get into. Trond, the Norwegian, explains that a Jokulhlaup is Icelandic for *water releases from a glacier*. “Do I need a pack-raft for this trip? Are the tennis shoes, shirt, shorts, and granola bars enough?” I thought. Tim, “the man” put many hours of research and planning into this trip. He knew exactly where we would go. A couple days ago he sent out an e-mail that said: “10 hours of fun on the Kenai.” Honest to god, the e-mail header could have been anything in the world. I would have told them nothing else but: “Yes, I am coming!” Too late now, I am in for some real, real good exercise as “the man” always says.

The weather is crummy in Anchorage but once across Turnagain Pass it's a different deal. We

get to the southern end of Trail Lake under a blue sky, put on our running shoes and light daypacks, and there we go jogging up the old mining road that leads into the Falls Creek drainage. The observant eye will find lots of evidence from mining activity that occurred in the early 1900s, such as an old bulldozer blade, now used to inhibit ATV access to the upper Falls Creek Valley. After the first four miles the trail crosses Falls Creek a couple times. Then it becomes fairly primitive and overgrown. Finally it turns into a single track path that disappears above brush line.

En route to the small glacier of Falls Creek Pass, we come along an interesting rock outcrop, nicknamed “the castle of the feisty marmot.” Tim mentions that he once left a 44 magnum there while on a hike with Wiley Bland. As he came back the gun was gone from where he had placed it. Tim found it 100 feet away. The rubber-grip was chewed off and there sat a marmot who looked like he was having some digestive tract disorder.



Across Falls Creek Pass, 8.5 miles from where we started, a plateau opens up that offers some magnificent views to the South of Snow River Pass and the upper Paradise Valley. To the East, Trident Peak towers with glaciers draped across its flanks feeding the North Fork of Ptarmigan Creek. We follow a Northeasterly direction across the plateau and head for a narrow pass providing a glimpse of Snow Glacier in the far distance. From the plateau we also get a first look at the two peaks we are after. The first mountain rises to 5280 feet and can be found on Seward B-6, T4N, R2E, Section 22. The second peak, located on Seward B-6, T4N, R2E, Section 14, reaches to 5520'. Viewed from the plateau, it appears to be partially hidden by Peak 5280.

Our route takes us to a small saddle in-between the two peaks and on to the northeastern slope of Peak 5280. From here to the summit of Peak 5280 we go from a run to a 2/1 scramble (two steps forward /one backwards) that requires a bit more patience. "Is there going to be a cairn on this summit?" I wonder. At 5000 feet, I pass Trond. He says: "Go get your first one!" I run up the last meters to the summit and there it is, my first *first* summit, I raise my arms, look into the sky and feel a bit like what it must have felt to be part of Hudson Stuck's party climbing Denali in 1913. We believe Mile Pile Peak, to be a fitting name for this 5280' or one mile high pile of rubble.

After "scree-skiing" from the summit of Mile Pile Peak back to the small saddle, the southwestern buttress of Peak 5520 naturally follows for us to climb next. On the final steps towards the summit of Peak 5520, a surprise opens up in front of us. The peak drops off on its eastern side and offers a breathtaking view of the sprawling fan of the Snow Glacier terminus. The view onto the glacier's "tongue" from high above also explains the mystery behind Jokulhlaup. The Snow Glacier dams a side valley creating a lake of rainwater and snowmelt. Every two to four years the lake releases its water within 7 to 14 days resulting in a flood that can severely affect Kenai Lake and the upper Kenai River. The last overflow occurred in 2003. There is probably no better spot to watch this natural phenomenon than from the summit of Peak 5520. Naming this beautiful spot "Jokulhlaup Peak" seems to be the obvious choice.



Tim Kelley Photo

We are finally able to grasp the day's work ahead. Running the plateau comes at ease compared to the steep 1500 feet descent on a grassy slope into the North Fork of Ptarmigan Creek, a hairy creek crossing, and a 1500 feet scrambling ascent towards the narrow pass. Mountain goats and Dall Sheep observe us from secure distance as we cross the narrow pass eastwards, then descend into a bowl with a marvelous mountain tarn left by the glaciers that once hung off Peak 5280 and Peak 5520.



Tim Kelley Photo

It is midday as we depart from the summit of Jokulhlaup Peak, leaving a summit registry. Temperatures reach the 80s, our shirts are off, and the camelback is empty. The mountain tarn beckons us for refreshment before the 13 mile long pounding return that waits. Refilled and refreshed, we cross the narrow pass westward before descending into the North Fork of Ptarmigan Creek

. After running for 18 miles and climbing 7500' the last ascent of another 1500' to the plateau seems never ending. As we reach Falls Creek Pass, we are eight and a half hours into this adventure. The last 8 miles require some extra bone strength when crossing the glacier ice, jumping along the creek bed of Falls Creek, and running the pounding ATV trail. With stunning views in mind, 26 miles in legs, and an exceptional, down to the minute, 10 hour "exercise" we depart for Anchorage. Special Thanks to Tim who puts in an incredible amount of time to find these spectacular places, which for the

good and the bad we gave names in Alaska's treasure box of unclimbed peaks.



**Toby, Tim, Trond and Cory on Jokulhlaup  
Cory Smith Photo**

Find out more on the Snow Glacier Jokulhlaup at:  
<http://ublib.buffalo.edu/libraries/e-resources/ebooks/records/eem8471-1.html>



## **Indian to Arctic By Marcin Ksok - September 2005**

Looking at the Chugach State Park map it's easy to spot a prominent trail from Arctic Valley to Indian. I believe it is about 23 miles,



I have never calculated the exact distance, and guidebooks were not precise. The northern part of that route has a few pink-colored areas marked "winter route only" next to a swamp mark. From what I understand it is a popular cross country ski traverse done by the club in the spring, and everyone I have talked to warned me of the boggy terrain. After hiking the prominent peaks of the "Chugach Front", I really wanted to take a closer look at them from the back side and do the whole traverse, but I was not going to wait for the winter to arrive. I also knew just the right person to do it with – Greg Encelewski, he never asks too many questions about the trips I plan and will pretty much go anywhere he hasn't been yet. We were also joined by Britta Maas who probably didn't realize what was in store.

Friday night Greg and I shuttled a car to Arctic side of the trailhead and Saturday morning the three of us drove to Indian in somewhat damp and cloudy weather, we got lucky and it never turned into more than a slight drizzle. The trail was great for the first few miles, walking was easy, bridges made stream crossing a breeze, however, Britta slipped on the wet boards and bruised her shin. She bravely dealt with the pain and kept hiking. We got to Indian pass in a very short time, seemed like my calculated trip time of twelve hours might be cut by three or four,





but I couldn't be any farther from the truth. Indian pass was more like a high meadow than a pass; couple of streams flowing through it, to the left was Ship Lake and Avalanche peak, The Suicides were already behind us, Williaw and Temptation still ahead. Unfortunately the clouds were low and we couldn't admire their beauty.

The trail has almost disappeared, and as we progressed through the valley the map prompted us to cross one of the streams feeding Ship creek. After searching for a suitable spot, I jumped over a wet boulder, but it was not the best idea and I could have ended up in the stream, so Britta and Greg searched for a better place, however, after a while they gave up and crossed barefoot. The whole process took us approximately thirty minutes, which made me apprehensive about the streams we were anticipating. One of the streams we had to cross was about a half mile down the trail, it was wider and we all got our boots wet, the water was cold and the current strong, took a good effort not to slip on the rocks.. After that point we gained some ground on the west side of Ship creek to save ourselves from bushwhacking, but it was only temporary. On our right, the valley of the North Fork was opening and we started searching for the remains of the roadhouse which were marked on the map, also hoping to find the trail we had lost. Bushwhacking got severe and it started wearing me out. We tried to find a faint trail just to see it disappear in a hundred yards; it happened over and over, we never found the ruins so we kept hiking towards the creek hoping to find the proper trail and the ford site. The ground was wet and the streams were a lot tougher to cross. There were a few beaver ponds that we sauntered through, but by then our boots were soaked, and a few times I was knee-deep in the water

Finally we picked up a wanded trail and firmer ground eventually finding the ford site. By that time Ship Creek seemed like a small river and the crossing didn't look promising. Greg got in first and cautiously moved across, Britta and I followed. The current was strong and when Greg was almost to the other side he slipped, fell and started floating in the water for a few seconds. He quickly got back up on his feet and made it to the other side. Britta and I were lucky and didn't have to go for a swim.

#### **Greg contemplating a swim**



The trail was a little better but only for a few hundred yards. We would loose the trail and find it again; this game became very arduous. We crossed numerous streams, trekked through ponds, walked on slippery logs. I think everyone just about had it when the trail reappeared and got progressively better, the ground became drier, and we gained some elevation leaving the swamp behind. We still had plenty of daylight and could see the alpenglow ski lift. The sight of civilization gave me extra strength just as my right knee was giving out. Sharp pain made walking difficult, I didn't know what happened, my knees were always dependable and never gave me any trouble. Fortunately Britta was prepared and brought plenty of vitamin I, which I loaded up on and slowly progressed uphill. By that time Greg grew wings and left us by a quarter of a mile, I think he could already smell the car and feel the warmth of a heater. As we reached the end of the trail it got darker. Driving out we came across a lynx crossing the road, I never knew they were so big, definitely wouldn't want to make it mad, but it was a nice reward after a day of pain.

I promised myself never to try the traverse in summer months again, and I doubt it if I would do it

in the winter, but the memories will last forever. Although at the moment it seemed like a nightmare of a trip, it was also an unforgettable experience. The three of us still hike together proving that our

friendships are more solid than the mud we waded through.



## Huts Committee Report

### HUTS COMMITTEE REPORT

Submitted By Hans Neidig, Chair  
February 17, 2006

First, let me remind members that Huts Committee Meetings are OPEN to the all members. If you have an interest in Huts, please plan on attending. A Huts Committee meeting has been scheduled for March 15<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 pm at the Church at 9<sup>th</sup> & G (one hour before the monthly general member meeting and at the same location as the general meeting).

During this meeting, the Huts Committee will be discussing various huts issues: Human Waste, Huts Maintenance needs and trips for 2006, & New Hut recon trips this season.

**Please contact Hans Neidig if you are heading out to the huts or have returned from a trip to a hut. All reports are welcome!**

[hansn@mtaonline.net](mailto:hansn@mtaonline.net)

### PROCESS FOR DETERMINING POSSIBLE NEW HUT SITES

This thorough process has been ongoing since 2003 when the MCA board of directors directed the huts committee to explore the possibility of building a new hut. It was determined that a process would be developed that would lead to the proposal of 3 to 5 possible sites for consideration and a vote by the general membership. 2003 and 2004 were spent soliciting comments on possible sites for a new hut. The final list considered by the huts committee included twenty-two possible sites.

The Huts Committee compiled this list and then met on January 19, 2005 to establish scoring criteria. The scoring criteria were listed allowing all suggestions to be included. Then committee members in attendance weighted the criteria, which determined criteria to be used, and the importance or weight of each criterion. In order of importance the criteria established were:

1. **Inaccessibility by ORVs** (10 pts)—Huts should be difficult/impossible to reach by ORVs;
2. **Remote enough to discourage “casual” users** (10 pts.)—not on an existing trail but easily reached using mountaineering skills;
3. **Within Reach of another MCA Hut** (10 pts.)—within 1 day’s travel of another MCA hut;
4. **Requires Glacier Travel to Access** (5 pts.);
5. **Within reach of another public hut or trailhead** (5 pts.)— one day’s travel;
6. **A predominately Fly-in Hut** (5pts);
7. **Area has good access to desirable Peaks** (5 pts);
8. **Area has good Rock/Ice Climbing** (5pts);
9. **Area has Good Skiing** (5pts);

The listed criteria were debated at length by the committee. It was also determined by the committee that issues such as land status, regulations, costs and adequate volunteers would be considered after the top sites were selected and ready to be proposed to the membership.

On May 18, 2005, the Huts Committee met to score & rank the sites. There were 12 MCA members present. Hans Neidig, Amy Miller, Mark Miraglia, Jim Szender, Peter Smith, William Hersman, Greg Bragiel, Dano Michaud, Steve Gruhn, Stu Grenier, Eric Teela & Randy Howell.

Here are the results:

1. W. Fork Powell Glacier (Chugach) – 328
2. Eska Basin (Talkeetna Mountains) – 316
3. Golden Crown/Sparrow Peaks, in the area of (Eklutna Traverse)—316
4. Confluence of Sparrow & Finch Glaciers (Eklutna Traverse variation) –313
5. Upper Troublesome Glacier (East Fork of Eklutna/Whiteout Glacier) –312
6. Upper Chickaloon Glacier (Talkeetna Mts.)—310
7. Inferno Pass (Chugach State Park)—298
8. Marcus Baker Glacier (Chugach) – 295
9. Upper Granite Creek (Talkeetna Mts.)—259



10. Hunter Creek (East Fork of Hunter)—251
11. Blissful Lake (West Fork of Hunter Creek)—239
12. Upper East Fork of Eklutna River—233
13. Chief Glacier/Yudi Peak (Girdwood)—219
14. Triangle Peak (Upper Ship Valley)—205
15. Rumble Pass (Chugach State Park)—189
16. Moraine Pass/Grizzly Bear Lake (North Fork Ship Cr.)—183
17. Kashwitna Headwaters—0
18. North Side of Ewe Peak—0
19. Flute & Organ Glaciers—0
20. Whittier Glacier—0
21. Campbell Lake—0
22. Harding Ice Field—0

The plan is to use the 2006 season to reconnoiter and secure information about the top 1 to 7 sites. The top five sites will be the priority for these information finding MCA Trips. The hope is to have the membership select a site by the end of 2006 and for construction to begin in 2007.

## Board Meeting Minutes

Minutes from BOARD MEETING 2.8.06  
 6:00 pm at SaraEllen Hutchison's house  
 Present: Steve Gruhn, Sean Bolender, Debbie Arens, SaraEllen Hutchison, Steve Parry, Hans Neidig, Eric Teela

Scree: The board discussed print quality variables for the paper version of the Scree, and determined that all free copies of the Scree will continue to be printed in black & white. As for paper quality, the board discussed options such as acid-free paper for the MCA library copies, storing the Scree in 5-year bundles on DVD, and printing color copies for AMH and REI. In the meantime, the board elected to table the issue until the board responsible for binding the next 5-year bundle comes along.

Officer and Director Binders: All officers and board members must update their job descriptions in the handbooks by August. At that time, SaraEllen will collect the binders, figure out how many new binders need to be purchased, fully update the text, and redistribute the binders to the new board. SaraEllen's goal is to make the handbooks as organized as possible by having all the printed text numbered sequentially and stored in one electronic document.

Huts: Hans reported that the Huts Committee is making progress looking into ways to address the waste issues at the Mint Hut and the acquisition or construction of potential new huts, with announcements expected at the next general meeting.

Awards: The board discussed the criteria for the Meekins Award so that this could be clarified at the next general meeting.

MCA Products: The board discussed various product ideas in circulation, such as t-shirts, 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary patches, stickers for water bottles, refrigerator magnets, and uses for the 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary patches. The board is considering making stickers part of the 2007 budget and awarding patches to people who make significant contributions to the club.

Library: The club still needs a tall bookshelf for upstairs at AMH. Sean will measure the space and provide this information to Debbie and SaraEllen, who volunteered to help find a bookshelf.

Next meeting: Wednesday, March 8 at the upstairs conference room at the Snow Goose.

## General membership Meeting Minutes

Minutes from GENERAL MEETING 2.15.06  
 7:00 pm at First Methodist Church  
 Board Members Present: Steve Gruhn, Sean Bolender, Debbie Arens, SaraEllen Hutchison

7:00 pm Open meeting and welcome new members and visitors.

Treasurer: Debbie reported that current revenue for 2006 is \$1,382.00, and expenses to date total \$1,505.54. Cash balances in MCA accounts are as follows: Credit Union 1 checking, \$6,810.36; Credit Union 1 money market account, \$17,649.34; Northrim Bank 18-month CD in trust for hut lease, \$1,000; and \$50 in petty cash. Total for all accounts so far in 2006 is \$25,509.70.

Equipment: Steve Parry was not present tonight, but the Committee is looking at getting another beacon for club use.

Geographic Names: Tom Choate was not present at the meeting, but the latest news is that the true summit of Mount Alyeska has been renamed Hibbs Peak over the MCA's objection.

Hiking and Climbing: Richard Baranow, Matt Nedom, Randy Howell, and Carlene Van Tol were not present for the early part of the meeting tonight, but trip leaders Stu Grenier and Greg Bragiel were present to promote a few upcoming trips. Steve Gruhn also has upcoming after-work trips planned for those folks with full schedules. Greg Bragiel encouraged members to organize groups and find new trip leaders. Talk to Greg if you are interested going on or leading a particular trip. Sean

Bolender reported that the upcoming MCA slideshows will correspond with upcoming trips, to better promote them.

Here are the upcoming trips:

2/18 Long Lake—Amy Murphy  
2/23 Powerline and Gasline Trails from South Bivouac Trailhead—Amy Murphy  
2/25 Glen Alps to Campbell Airstrip—Willy Hersman  
2/26 Indian to Arctic—Stu Grenier  
3/1 Mount Baldy—Amy Murphy  
3/4 Symphony Lake—Amy Murphy  
3/9 The Dome—Amy Murphy  
3/16 Flaketop Peak—Amy Murphy  
3/18 Williwaw Lakes/Long Lake Traverse—Amy Murphy  
3/20 Rainbow to Windy Corner—Steve Gruhn  
3/22 Rainbow to McHugh Creek—Steve Gruhn  
3/23 Harp Mountain—Amy Murphy  
3/25 Eklutna Lake—Amy Murphy  
3/25 Eagle River—Steve Gruhn  
3/27 Bird Creek—Steve Gruhn  
3/29 Peak 2831—Steve Gruhn  
4/1 - 4/2 Eklutna Traverse training weekend—Greg Bragiel  
4/4 Falls Creek—Steve Gruhn  
4/6 Falls Creek Ridge from Windy Corner—Steve Gruhn  
4/9 - 4/15 Eklutna Traverse—Greg Bragiel  
4/13 Falls Creek Ridge from Falls Creek—Steve Gruhn  
4/18 Rainbow Peak—Steve Gruhn

Huts: Hans Nedig reported that as of right now, the Snowbird acquisition is off, but there are exciting opportunities for members to get involved in huts. The Huts committee is looking to form a subcommittee to deal with the human waste issue at huts in the Chugach and Talkeetna Mountains. This subcommittee will thoroughly investigate biodegradable systems, grants and other resources, and seek experts with technical knowledge on how to deal with human waste in an environmentally sound way. As always, call Hans before going to any hut! Anyone interested in serving on Huts or the potential subcommittee is encouraged to attend the Huts meeting at 6:30pm at First Methodist Church on March 15 (one hour before the next general meeting, same location).

Parks Advisory: Cory Hinds reported that the Anchorage Daily News had a story about the Municipality of Anchorage potentially buying trailhead property near Mount Baldy.

Training: Carl Battreall's Glacier Mountaineering Course is underway and is not open to new students. Andi Andraschko reported that Deb Ajango's Wilderness First Aid courses shall be held 2/18 to 2/19 and 3/4 to 3/5. To sign up, email Deb at [debajango@att.net](mailto:debajango@att.net). If you want to

be a trip leader, this 20-hour course satisfies the first aid training requirement. Last but not least, the Ice Festival will be held 9/23 and 9/24.

Awards: Steve Gruhn reported that the Meekin Award is a moderate stipend for an MCA member who is under 26 years old and wishes to do a first ascent or significant second ascent. The Hoeman's Award is for someone who makes a significant contribution to mountaineering in Alaska, and the annual President's Award is for someone who makes a significant contribution to the MCA. The committee is seeking nominations for the Hoeman and Meekin awards.

Calendar: Stu Grenier reported that the 2007 calendar should be of increased quality over previous years, and so pictures are needed ASAP. Please bring your picture submissions by the next general meeting. Submission of a picture does not guarantee that it will be in the calendar—pictures need to be judged first.

Library: Sean Bolender reported that we are looking for volunteers to organize the library and for donated bookshelves.

Scree: John Recktenwald reported that submissions for the April Scree are due March 15.

Trip Leader and Scree Author Awards: last month, Stu Grenier and Greg Bragiel each won \$50 gift certificates to AMH. Congratulations to both.

Past President's Award: Steve Parry won a \$50 gift certificate to AMH.

Announcements: Patches are \$5 each. Amy Murphy was not present at the meeting, but is expected to announce t-shirts soon.

New business: Carl Battreall reported that there will be an extended trip in April as an alternative to the Eklutna Traverse. Must be a capable skier. Ask Carl if you're interested.

Tonight's slide show: Jay Rowe—climbs of the Moose's Tooth, The Bear Tooth, The Eye Tooth, and The Wisdom Tooth in the Alaska Range.

One last note: please contribute to the refreshments fund.



**Mountaineering Club of Alaska**  
**2006 BUDGET**

	<b>Current for 2006</b>	Approved for 2006	<b>Final for 2005</b>	<b>Final for 2004</b>	<b>Final for 2003</b>
<b>REVENUE</b>					
Membership Dues <i>received during calendar year</i>	764	\$7,200.00	6,575.00	4,510.00	5,977.00
Scree subscriptions <i>(projected revenue- no history to gauge from)</i>	20	\$300.00	335.00	200.00	140.00
Training <i>ice climbing, crevasse rescue, other</i>	0	\$6,000.00	5,565.00	4,865.00	5,781.37
Photo Calendar	0	\$4,000.00	2,787.00	1,570.00	4,642.00
MCA Products: T-Shirts, Patches, Etc.	0	\$2,700.00	15.00	5.00	43.00
Donations	18	\$0.00	90.00	1,536.87	320.00
Other--Interest on Accounts	0	\$100.00	93.02	436.84	89.04
Grant - REI/AAC Road Sign Project			-		-
Bulk Purchase - AMH Avalanche Gear			-		-
Bulk Purchase - Chugach State Park Maps			-		-
Bulk Purchase - Alaskana Book Sales			-		-
Bulk Purchase - Mountain House			-		-
Other - TRAAK Grant			-		-
Other -			-		-
Other -			-		-
<b>TOTAL REVENUE</b>	<b>802.00</b>	<b>\$20,300.00</b>	<b>15,460.02</b>	<b>13,123.71</b>	<b>16,992.41</b>

<b>EXPENSE</b>					
Training <i>campsite and access fees, instructors</i>	80	\$4,800.00	2,922.81	5,797.17	2,734.83
Scree <i>postage, mailing, printing</i>	0	\$2,000.00	1,481.03	1,615.61	1,398.98
General Meeting <i>rent, refreshments, entertainment</i>	900	\$2,400.00	1,489.22	1,847.45	2,062.44
Administrative <i>supplies, forms, PO box, bank fees, rewards, phone</i>	0	\$500.00	504.03	239.31	346.40
Hut Construction & <i>materials, supplies, hut equipment, lease fees*</i>	0	\$3,000.00	589.41	1,094.65	1,246.71
Club Equipment <i>climbing gear, misc equipment</i>	0	\$1,800.00	125.00	1,580.68	1,108.05
Library <i>new books, periodicals, Scree binding</i>	0	\$800.00	32.97	-	-
Other: <i>miscellaneous expenses</i>	46.68		-	163.89	55.95
Photo Calendar	0	\$3,000.00	968.50	4,565.33	838.42
MCA Products: T-Shirts, Patches, Etc.	0	\$2,500.00	-	-	-
Donations - MCA donations to others			-	-	-
Grant - REI/AAC Road Sign Project			-	-	-
Bulk Purchase - AMH Avalanche Gear			-	-	-
Bulk Purchase - Chugach State Park Maps			-	-	-
Bulk Purchase - Alaskana Book Sales			-	-	-
Bulk Purchase - Mountain House			-	-	-
Other- Meekins Grant		\$520.00	-		-
Other - TRAAK Grant			-	-	-
Other - Awards		\$300.00	-	-	-
Other - Summit Registers		\$50.00	-	-	-
<b>TOTAL EXPENSE</b>	<b>1,026.68</b>	<b>\$21,670.00</b>	<b>8,112.97</b>	<b>16,904.09</b>	<b>9,791.78</b>

<b>DUE TO (FROM) RESERVE</b>	<b>(224.68)</b>		<b>7,347.05</b>	<b>(3,780.38)</b>	<b>7,200.63</b>
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**CASH BALANCE - All Accounts**

Beginning Balance - January 1, 2005	25,629.24		15,547.04	22,365.11	15,164.48
Increase (decrease) during 2005	(224.68)		7,347.05	(3,780.38)	7,200.63
<b>Current Balance for 2005</b>	<b>25,404.56</b>		<b>22,894.09</b>	<b>18,584.73</b>	<b>22,365.11</b>
Checking - Credit Union 1	6,705.22		15,194.75	7,898.18	14,768.83
Money Market - Credit Union 1	17,649.34		6,649.34	6,602.86	6,546.28
18-month CD - in trust for hut lease - Northrim Bank	1,000.00		1,000.00	1,000.00	1,000.00
Petty Cash	50.00		50.00	50.00	50.00
<b>TOTAL ALL ACCOUNTS - for 2005</b>	<b>25,404.56</b>		<b>22,894.09</b>	<b>15,551.04</b>	<b>22,365.11</b>
Ending Balance - December 31, 2005	<b>Not Finished</b>		<b>Not Finished</b>	<b>15,551.04</b>	<b>22,365.11</b>

# Mountaineering Club of Alaska

President	Steve Gruhn	344-1219	Board member	Eric Teela	240-9693
Vice-President	Sean Bolender	333-0213	Board member	Annette Iverson	222-0581
Secretary	SaraEllen Hutchison	269-6300	Board member	Randy Howell	346-4608
Treasurer	Debbie Arens	563-1960	Board member	Rebecca Bisette	375-0959
			Board member	Steve Parry	248-8710

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](http://www.mcak.org) or mailed to Scree Editor Box 102037 Anchorage Alaska 99510. Articles should be received by March 15th (the club meeting) 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 - 569-3008  
Hiking Committee: Matt Nedom - 278-3648, Carlene Van Tol - 748-5270  
Climbing Committee: Richard Baranow - 694-1500, Randy Howell - 346-4608  
Huts: Hans Neidig 355-3244  
Calendar: Stuart Grenier 337-5127  
Scree Editor: John Recktenwald 346-2589  
Web: [www.mcak.org](http://www.mcak.org) (change your address here)  
Mailing list service: [MCAK@yahoo.com](mailto:MCAK@yahoo.com)

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