

# the **SCREE**

## Mountaineering Club of Alaska

March 2008

Volume 51 Number 3



*50 years*



Chance favors only the prepared mind.  
~Louis Pasteur

**Mount Susitna  
Blackburn Journal #3  
Iceworm Peak - POM**

Monthly Meeting  
Wed, March 19 @ 7:30  
Program: To be announced

# 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> Avenue and G Streets next to the ConocoPhillips 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:** Summit day, Carrie Wang on Mount Blackburn; Photo by Wayne Todd

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

## Contents

**Mount Susitna**

**Blackburn Journal, #3 in a series**

**Iceworm Peak – Peak of the Month**

**Letters, Corrections, Parting Shot**

## Hiking and Climbing Schedule

March 5, ski or snowshoe or hike – Bicentennial Park  
Class A, 1 to 1.5 hours, meet at the North Bivouac trailhead. Bring a headlamp. Contact Amy Murphy 338-3979  
[hayduchesslives@yahoo.com](mailto:hayduchesslives@yahoo.com)

March 7-9 Bird to Arctic ski tour  
Class D, elevation gain 2300'+, distance 26+ miles Sign up at the February 20 MCA meeting.

March 8, ski up North Fork of the Eagle River  
From the Nature Center, Class D, Elevation gain 200 ft, distance 20 miles. Cross country skis.  
Tom Dolan 223-1308, [paradox@acsalaska.net](mailto:paradox@acsalaska.net)

March 15, (rescheduled) Indian to Arctic / Arctic to Indian day ski  
20 mile traverse, A classic backcountry ski in the Chugach State Park. Ability and endurance are a must, conditions may be tough. Touring gear with metal edges, avy and survival gear and a good attitude are required. Plan to stage cars at both ends for carpooling. Weather dependant.  
Stu Grenier, [oinkmenow@hotmail.com](mailto:oinkmenow@hotmail.com)

March 15, South and North Fork, Eagle River  
Class C, elevation gain 2,000 feet, distance 15 miles. Ski South Fork of Eagle River to the Eagle River overlook and back down the North fork. x-country skis and skins, avy gear, ice axe, crampons.  
Tom Dolan 223-1308, [paradox@acsalaska.net](mailto:paradox@acsalaska.net)

March 20, 5:30, Peak 2831 (west of Mile High Saddle)

Class B, 2 miles round trip, 1200 ft elevation gain. Contact leader at least 24 hours in advance of trip. Leader: Steve Gruhn  
[sgruhn@clarus-ak.com](mailto:sgruhn@clarus-ak.com)  
694-4272 (w), 344-1219 (h)

March 22 Portage Peak  
Class D, 6 mile round trip, 4300 ft elevation gain. Early start. Contact leader 24 hours in advance of trip. Leader: Steve Gruhn  
[sgruhn@clarus-ak.com](mailto:sgruhn@clarus-ak.com)  
694-4272 (w), 344-1219 (h)

March 24-30, Bomber Traverse  
Lane, Snowbird, Bomber, Mint Huts. Class Glacier, elevation gain 6,100'+, 23+ miles. Sign up at the February 20 MCA meeting.

March 25, 5:30 p.m. Peak 3980 (near Ship Creek and the South Fork of the Eagle River)  
Class B, 4 miles round trip, 1800 ft of elevation gain. Contact leader at least 24 hours in advance of trip. Leader: Steve Gruhn  
[sgruhn@clarus-ak.com](mailto:sgruhn@clarus-ak.com)  
694-4272 (w), 344-1219 (h)

March 27, 5:30 p.m. Mount Eklutna  
Class C, 5 miles round trip, 2800 feet of elevation gain, Contact leader at least 24 hours in advance of trip. Leader: Steve Gruhn  
[sgruhn@clarus-ak.com](mailto:sgruhn@clarus-ak.com)  
694-4272 (w), 344-1219 (h)

March 29, Ski Center Ridge at Turnagain Pass  
Class C, elevation gain 1200 ft, distance 10 miles.

Tom Dolan 223-1308, paradox@acsalaska.net

sgruhn@clarus-ak.com  
694-4272 (w), 344-1219 (h)

April 1, 6:00 p.m. Rainbow Peak  
Class D, 4 miles round trip, 3500 feet of elevation gain, Contact leader at least 24 hours in advance of trip. Leader: Steve Gruhn  
sgruhn@clarus-ak.com  
694-4272 (w), 344-1219 (h)

April 10, 6:00 p.m. Rainbow to McHugh Creek  
Class B, 8.4 miles round trip, 1800 feet of elevation gain. Contact leader at least 24 hours in advance of trip. Leader: Steve Gruhn  
sgruhn@clarus-ak.com  
694-4272 (w), 344-1219 (h)

April 3, 6:00 p.m. Falls Creek  
Class C, 6 miles round trip, 2700 feet of elevation gain, Contact leader at least 24 hours in advance of trip. Leader: Steve Gruhn  
sgruhn@clarus-ak.com  
694-4272 (w), 344-1219 (h)

April 14, 6:00 p.m. Flaketop Peak  
Class C, 5 miles round trip, 2600 feet of elevation gain, Contact leader at least 24 hours in advance of trip. Leader: Steve Gruhn  
sgruhn@clarus-ak.com  
694-4272 (w), 344-1219 (h)

April 5, South Suicide Peak, North Suicide Peak, and Rainbow Peak  
Class D, 11 miles, 7800 feet of elevation gain, Early start. Contact leader at least 24 hours in advance of trip. Leader: Steve Gruhn  
sgruhn@clarus-ak.com  
694-4272 (w), 344-1219 (h)

April 27-May 4, Eklutna Traverse  
Pichler's, Hans' and Rosie's huts, Class Glacier, Elevation gain 6000'+, distance 30+ miles. Sign up at March 19 MCA meeting.

April 5-6, Eklutna Traverse training weekend  
MANDATORY training weekend for Eklutna traverse participants.

July 18 to Aug 3, Survey Pass and Shivering Mountain Gates of the arctic National Park, Class C, \$200 air charter deposit per person due by May 1. Costs: \$320/person Fairbanks to Bettles and return, estimated air charter \$610/person Foley Lake drop off from Bettles & Natak Lake pickup Party limit 5. Leader Don Hansen  
243-7184, donjoehansen@msn.com

April 8, 6:00 p.m. Rainbow to Windy Corner  
Class A, 3.8 miles round trip, 400 feet of elevation gain, Contact leader at least 24 hours in advance of trip. Leader: Steve Gruhn



## Last Days of Winter on Mt. Susitna by Stu Grenier



**Mount Susitna from the Ice Road**

After paddle climbing Mount Susitna three times in summer I was eager to see the mountain in its March glory. On March 15 Dan Byrnes and I took advantage of the cold winter of '06-'07 to get the good ice to Mt. Susitna. The ice road that was in the news was a subject

at the February MCA meeting. Tim Kelley said it cut a big part of the approach off the climb. It was made to fix the power lines that were knocked down over the Big Su (Susitna River) in the August floods. Dan and I were not going to let this opportunity slip by.



On the first day, not wanting to leave a car on an unmaintained road that could melt, my wife dropped Dan and I off where the ice road crossed Fish Creek just before the road meets the Big Su. The ice road cut about 13 miles off the approach. The GPS said we were just 10.54 miles from the summit. (As the locals do we were using the Big Lake Pt. Mackenzie map put out by Todd Communications. You can pick one up at REI but unfortunately it doesn't show Mt. Susitna's summit.) Hitting the trail at 5 pm we were content to just go one hour or so and camp in a stand of spruce and cottonwood. Being a winter with good snow, forest fire danger was nil so we had a campfire and roasted hot dogs. Since we had no intention of camping above tree line we just brought tarps instead of a tent. All five nights we just slept on top of our tarps under the stars.

**Dan Byrnes on the Big Su**



On day two we moved up the Big Su to find gray sand had blown over much of the snow making it something we would rather walk over than ski on. No wonder they call this river Susitna, which means sand river. We hit a westbound snowmachine trail that got us through Bell Island and then continued up the Big Su some more. I decided to cut through the forest to Alexander Creek.

We hit the creek about a mile south of Pierce Creek after breaking trail and running loads through about a mile of forest on snowshoes. We camped in a black spruce forest. Once again, the usual fire and roasted hot dogs. I enjoyed falling asleep as the firelight danced on the trees.

**Stu Grenier on Alexander Creek**



Day three we cached the skis and one sled and headed up Pierce Creek on snowshoes with three days of food. We were doing a leisurely pace. This is the same route I used to summit the mountain on my last two trips (Screed Sept. '06). We hit the usual alders but most of the devil's club was buried deep in the snow. I enjoyed seeing these places that I know fairly well in winter. In the summer you cannot see much because of the leaves. Even with the snow the alders would have made skiing here with skins a negative experience, especially coming down.

**Traveling through the Alders**



That night we camped in usual style up on the large bench with a view of the lights of the Valley and Anchorage off in the distance. ACS cell phones work well here, but ours was not an ACS phone, so we couldn't call home.

The next morning we worked our way across the bench to the Granite Creek Gully where we crossed the creek by the conspicuous cottonwood tree. From there it was

back into alders on steep slopes as we went climbers left of the gully. If we wanted some ice, going up the gully probably would have been better. After skirting the gully we broke out of the alders right where the buttress starts. This buttress heads right for the true summit. We used crampons and ice axes and had to skirt climber's left to avoid one steep unstable slope on the buttress. From there you go up to the false summit after a little cornice work and then it is a short walk to the true summit at 4396 feet.

Next to the summit there is a new shack with a funny antenna. It was not there in July '06 when I last summited. The shack is unlocked and full of batteries. There is a big solar panel. The permit on the shack says it is a plate boundary observatory.

### The Summit



I dug for my orange colored summit register that I left in July '06 but the ground was solid ice so I gave up. I'll have to check it next time to see how many people signed in and maybe not put it in such a deep hole where you only can find it in the summer. The 2 by 2 summit pole that I left standing in July and that was pictured in the Sept. '06 Scree article had been snapped off at it's base probably by wind from the west. I sure wouldn't want to be up there the day that one snapped.

Going out we decided to go down Alexander Creek to Alexander and hit Gabbert's Bar and Grill. We were lucky to find it open because it is closed half the year. There we enjoyed burgers and beer and watched satellite TV. The locals told us exciting bear stories about some of the many problem bears that are in the area. Another good reason to put Mt. Susitna on your winter list. We took the gas line back to the ice road where we camped before hitching back to civilization. The ride that took us out told us they could drive past Tyonek when conditions were right. It took only one day to get from high camp to the ice road so skiing Alexander Creek to Alexander and then take the gas line is the faster route with the conditions we had.

This was a fun, leisurely, five night trip with cold winds, bright fires and sunny days with starry nights. When I got home I found that I had eaten a few too many hot dogs and burgers, not to mention beer. I had gained five pounds. I suspect I'll be heading up there again for a winter jaunt when the mountain beckons again.

### The Route Runs up the Ridge from Lower Right to Upper Left





# Blackburn Journal

by Wayne Todd

*Editor's note: This is the third of a series of five articles that constitute a journal kept by Wayne Todd of an ascent of Mt. Blackburn by Billy Finley, Ben May, Carrie Wang and Wayne Todd from May 5<sup>th</sup>, 2005, through May 18<sup>th</sup>, 2005. The series is a direct transcription from the journal and no editing or corrections have been made to the original.*

**Billy Finley on the Summit**



**Photo by Wayne Todd**

## SUMMIT DAY ☺

5/13/05 A 4AM alarm led only to discussion of weather (mostly sunny, partly cloudy but with a few lenticulars over the big peaks). Ben stated he wasn't going and then was quiet. Carrie and I decided we were up for it, I was earlier on, then Billy decided to go too (or would just Carrie & I have gone?).

So after 5 we began brewing, later gearing & were headed up about 7:15AM. We all carried a bivy sack, good parka & poofy pants, and a bit of food to cache at the 13K' home crevasse. (& I also carried stove, pot & fuel to leave there.

Our ascent route followed our recon descent route until the last slope before cache crevasse. There I led directly up a full pitch of grade 2 ice w/whippet & axe. Whippet worked better than axe in the rotten snow. ½ way up this pitch I had to cross a sketchy-covered crevasse & then do a picket & axe heave to get up. Put in a solid 2 picket anchor & belayed C & B diagonally across the crevasse. ¶Weather had been mildly windy & partly sunny.

We made the crevasse cache @ noon, calling Ben as agreed. I was slightly disappointed w/our progress at this point.

I went to mid-rope so Carrie & Billy traded leads. Carrie led quite a bit and set an excellent pace.

From the c s we were in cloud with the route going from mellow ridge to sharper ridge {Crossed one scary lsep zig zagging crevasse on ? snow bridge. w/ a far drop of exposure to the right. Though we couldn't see it. Angling left the slope lessened & broadened. I took occasional GPS points & Billy placed wands until running out.

We tended r w/ Carrie leading on. We were making steady good progress. When Carrie petered out Billy took lead. The plateau was excellent traveling of styro snow, rotten ice w/only occasional snow drift. Still in clouds until about 15K' & ~ 5P tried calling Ben. Once out of the clouds we had lt winds & views of mostly cloudy lesser elevations. I took lead heading up from the plateau into gradually increasing winds. Travelling still good w/ occ snow pockets as I headed directly up the slightly steeper slope. The visibility allowed for a visual where to-go.

The higher we climbed the windier it became & Billy & Carrie began cooling. We stopped occasionally for them to Don more clothes. My 4 layers on bottom finally were paying off. At this point I was determined to summit regardless & was asked to slow occasionally. As the slope lessened the wind was at our faces of ~20mph w/ spin drifted snow. Toward the top I had Carrie walk on my leeward side for protection.

**Wayne and Carrie on the Summit**



**Photo by Billy Finley**

Summit drug on a bit & surface turned to rime-like snow. Found the highest section, left a green wand, contemplated leaving my old ice tool but didn't. Helped Carrie don her down parka.

My digital camera had boinked about ½ hr previous but shot video w/ Carrie's camera & Billy & I exchanged shots w/his SLR.

Summit was not very exciting, very broad & flattish, could see only low lying peaks to the NE ? Due to near cold emergency of Carrie I was not allowed to travel 20 yards to look out to the north.☹

We spent maybe 5 minutes on the summit & then I led off at a quick pace, the wind had me concerned. 6:45P. Carrie corrected my direction once & thank goodness we then had visibility so I could see long range points and our up tracks.

In our required haste, Billy broke into a crevasse to his waist but Carrie quickly pulled him out. Until the ridge, the wind was mostly to our back.

Billy took lead at the ridge though he was tired. The wind was assaulting the ridge from the right at 50+mph. The snow was being disintegrated, even on the leeward side. We were mostly on the leeward side but most of the time our upper bodies were in the wind. At one point I couldn't see Carrie just 15' in front of me due to the blasting snow (wasn't snowing though). Except for the danger, would've been great photos & videos.

I took lead from the ridge to the s c, & was a bit cold w/ just gloves, fleece & goretex.

We made the crevasse cache about 9:30P, ate, retrieved cache & decided to head on down w/ Carrie leading (Billy had requested mid-rope position due to fatigue).

As Carrie approached the overhanging crevasse lip she realized visibility was very poor and called for a turnaround. We were at full rope length and I was glad to be 200' higher up the slope.

In the blowing snow I barely could follow our just-made down track.

Back in crevasse stache, I started melting snow whilst radio contact was crudely made w/Ben. Then Billy cleared out a bivy area between a crevasse & large

overhanging cornice partway up a slope in the major maw crevasse.

I continued to brew in the mild sped drift as the others settled in for the sitting bivy. Billy actually slept & snored. I went through the motions of bivying after stove duty (taking off upper body clothing to remove bibs & don Chugach pants, removing boots, extricating the frozen boot liners, re-applying upper body clothing w/ balaclava added & inserting into the bivy bag.

My toes were cold, tried removing liners & putting socked feet on warm bottle which only worked for a few minutes. Resting on two packs, shared w/ Carrie, w/ bursts of spendrift on my face & rest of body not really warm knew I couldn't sleep & one day progressed into the next.

(Day had enough adventure until the bivy).

#### Sitting Bivy at 1 AM



Photo by Wayne Todd



## Peak of the Month: Iceworm Peak

by Steve Gruhn

Mountain Range: Kenai Mountains

Borough: Kenai Peninsula Borough

Drainage: Nuka River

Latitude/Longitude: 59° 36' 31" North, 150° 47' 41" West

Elevation: 5850 feet

Prominence: 4600 feet from Peak 6340 near the Dinglestadt Glacier and the McCarty Glacier

Adjacent Peaks: Peak 5470 near the Dixon Glacier and the Nuka Glacier and Peak 5285 near the Yalik Glacier and the Nuka River

Distinctness: 1200 feet from either Peak 5470 or Peak 5285

USGS Map: Seldovia (C-3)

First Recorded Ascent: July 1951 by Robert (Bob)

Goodwin and Paul Livingston

Route of First Recorded Ascent: Nuka Glacier and the upper part of the Dixon Glacier

Access Point: Bradley Lake

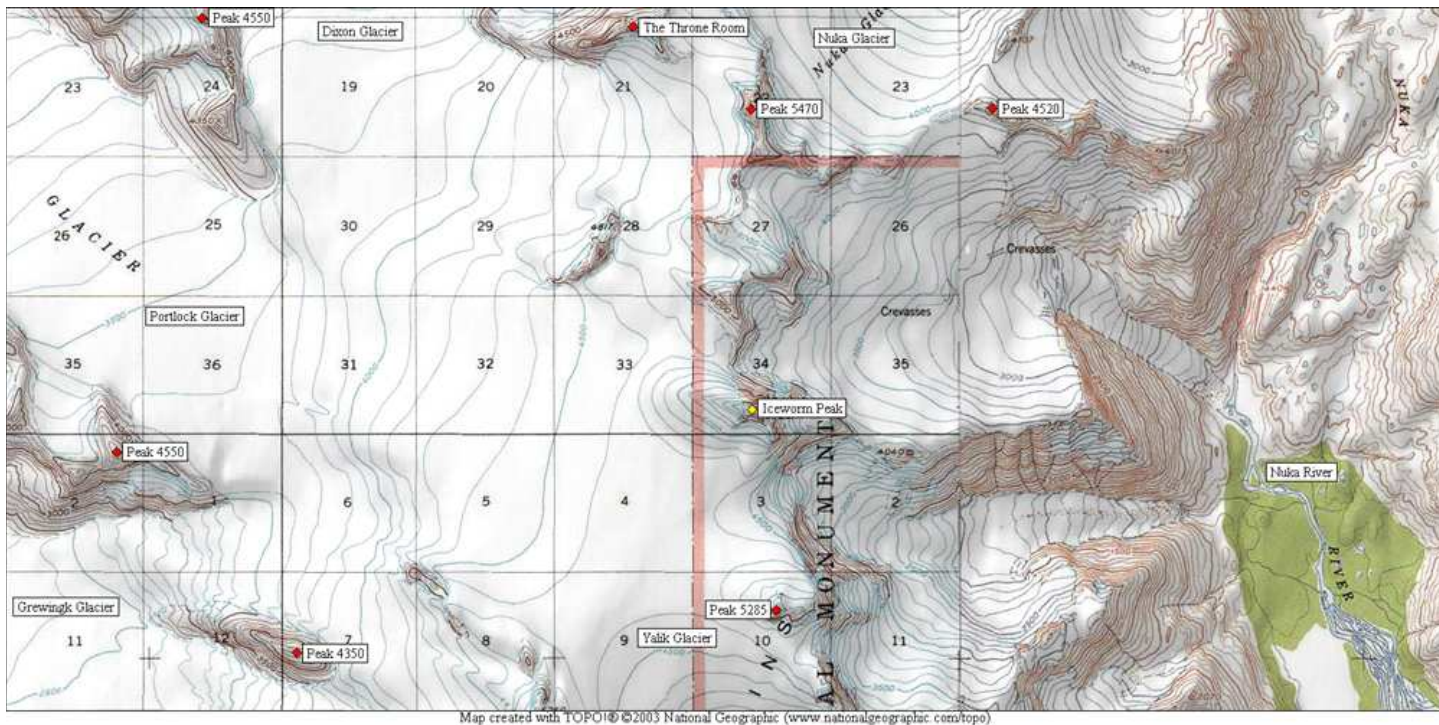
Rising high above the Nuka River in Kenai Fjords National Park, Iceworm Peak is the sixth-most prominent peak in the Kenai Mountains after Truuli Peak, Isthmus Peak, Mount Ascension, Peak 6150 (near the Chenega Glacier and the Ellsworth Glacier), and Madson Mountain. The striking summit is visible from East End Road near Fritz Creek.

After being flown to Bradley Lake, Goodwin and Livingston ascended the Nuka Glacier and the upper reaches of the Dixon Glacier to reach the summit, noting



numerous iceworms while en route. In 1966 the Mountaineering Club of Alaska officially named Iceworm Peak after the fauna encountered on the Nuka and Dixon Glaciers during the ascent. In the December 1966 Scree Vin Hoeman commented that their ascent was the

first real mountaineering trip in the Kenai Mountains and, nearly 57 years after their pioneering climb, many peaks in that range remain unclimbed.



Iceworm Peak



## Letter to the Editor

In the October 2000 and February 2001 issues of *Scree*, there were a couple articles by Tim Kelley regarding four peaks in the Kenai Mountains north of Upper Trail Lake near the headwaters of Mills Creek. Based on registers he found on the summits and information archived in the Vin Hoeman Library, there was some confusion as to the names of these four peaks, although it was apparent that they were named with a train theme.

I have recently been corresponding with brothers Dub and Harry Bludworth who pioneered the climbs of all four of these peaks on July 27, 1969, starting from Moose Pass. They supplied the following names for the peaks (from southwest to northeast): The Engine (4950; T5N,

R1W, Sec. 10, S.M.), The Tender (4760; T5N, R1W, Sec. 2, S.M.), The Caboose (5050; T6N, R1W, Sec. 36, S.M.), and El Tercero (5450; T6N, R1W, Sec. 25, S.M.). Dub worked for the Alaska Railroad in Moose Pass and from both there and the slopes near Carter Lake, the outlines of the first two peaks looked like a train engine and a tender to the Bludworth brothers. They named The Caboose to maintain the train theme. Collectively, all four peaks were grouped together and called The Four Brothers.

Steve Gruhn

## Correction

In a letter to the editor written in response to the February Peak of the Month and published in the May 2007 *Scree*, Greg Higgins mentioned that he and Loretta had climbed Peak 5450 in 1974 and found evidence of prior ascents. Recently Greg confirmed that the peak he and Loretta climbed was actually Pepper Peak, and not the Peak 5450 that is in the Yuditnu Creek drainage approximately 4 miles east of Pepper Peak. The earliest recorded ascent of the Peak 5450 in the Yuditnu Creek drainage was by Tim Kelley in 1991.

## Parting Shot



Tim Kelley with goat hair in his mouth  
or  
'Why we don't run too many pictures of Tim Kelley'

## 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 Sean Bolender 830-5102  
Vice-President Annette Iverson 222-0581  
Secretary Bridget Paule 230-9903  
Treasurer Travis Taylor 382-4823

Board member Don Hansen 243-7184  
Board member Andy Rembert 688-3230  
Board member Jayme Dixon 382-0212  
Board member Steve Parry 248-8710  
Board member Tom Devine 529-0618

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, notes and letters submitted for publication in the newsletter should be submitted on the web at [www.mcak.org](http://www.mcak.org) or e-mailed to the Scree Editor. Articles should be received by the monthly club meeting (third Wednesday of the month) to be in the next month's Scree.

Paid ads may be submitted to the attention of the Vice-President at the club address and should be 'camera ready' and pre-paid.

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

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

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