

APRIL MEETING
Wednesday
April 16, 7:30 pm
Pioneer Schoolhouse, 3rd & Eagle Streets
Downtown Anchorage

Slide Show: Steve Davis will give us an account and slides of a first ascent done on Mt. Logan.

HIKING AND CLIMBING SCHEDULE

Apr 19 - May 4 Grand Canyon and Paria Canyon
 The Boucher-Hermit loop in Grand Canyon is full. The second hike is not full. If interested, please contact me.
 Leader: Bill Wakeland 563-6346

May 3-4 Glacier Travel Class
 Contact: Aze Azegami 266-9249

24 Blueberry Hill (4531)
 Class D. Western Chugach. Another climb in the Chugach National Forest. One of the last peaks along Turnagain Arm to be climbed. Come find out why.
 Leaders: Kneely Taylor 248-1003 (h) and Steve Gruhn 344-1219 (h).

Jun 20-22 Mount Ascension (5710)
 Easy Glacier Travel. Kenai Mountains. Start from Primrose Campground in the Chugach National Forest. Trip follows

the Primrose Creek Trail to Lost Lake. Camp near Lost Lake. Limited to 9 people.
 Leader: Dennis Morford 522-1179 (h) or 266-1528 (w).

Jun 21 Flattop Mountain (3554)
 Class B. Western Chugach. Annual summer solstice sleepout. Start from Glen Alps in Chugach State Park. No leader.

21-25 Hicks Creek to Boulder Creek
 Class C+. 42-mile hike through the Talkeetna Mountains. Limited to ten people. Listed in 55 Ways.
 Leader: Bill Wakeland 563-6246.

Jun 28 - Jul 6 Aniakchak Crater and Vent Mountain
 Class B - C. Charter from King Salmon at a cost of \$240 - \$475 per person (plus air fare to King Salmon). Base camp will be in the crater. Trip limited to nine people including leader.
 Leader: Don Hansen 248-7184 (h) or 271-6656 (w).

Jul 11-16 The Goat Trail (Chitistone Gorge)
Class C. Fly in from McCarthy for \$200 per person. This trip follows an old miner's trail through the Wrangell-Saint Elias National Park and Preserve. Limited to 8 people.
Leader: Curvin Metzler 333-8766 (Voice)

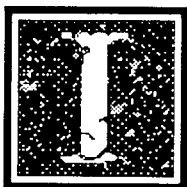
July 26 - Aug 3 Mount Igikpak area of Gates of the Arctic National Park and Preserve
Class C. Charter from Bettles at a cost of \$430 - \$450 per person (plus approximately \$248 air fare from Fairbanks to Bettles). Climb of lesser peaks in the Mount Igikpak area. Trip limited to 8 people including the leader. Note: This trip is NOT a climb of Mount Igikpak.
Leader: Don Hansen 248-7184 (h) or 271-6656 (w).

Aug 28-Sept 1 Kesugi Ridge to Curry Ridge
Class C. 25-mile hike through Denali State Park.
Leader: Curvin Metzler 333-8766 (Voice)

TRIP REPORTS

A Party on Carpathian

by Dave Hart



"I'm soaked, I'm miserable and I'm never coming back to this place," I promised to Ron and Bryan as we finally reached our truck. Water sloshed in our plastic boots; every piece of equipment we carried was completely saturated. Our Skookum Valley approach to climb

Carpathian Peak (6,000') had been thwarted by an all too common Prince William Sound horizontal rain-storm.

Five years later with the memory of that trip still ingrained in my brain, Keith gently lands his Cessna 185 at the 3,000 foot level of the Spencer Icefield. Two miles to the north, Carpathian Peak rises 3,000 feet into the crisp winter sky. March 14, 1997 is a rare beautifully sunny day in Prince William Sound. MCA'ers Bryan Carey, Kneelely Taylor and I bid Keith farewell, as he taxis down the glacier.

His next stop is to pluck some UAA/AWS climbers off of Marcus Baker. Alpine Air, the Girdwood flight service owned by Keith and his wife

Donna, is fully booked this weekend with local climbers and skiers anxious to soak up some spring sun. One mile north of us, Chris Flowers and his partner are skinning up towards a pass which will allow them access to the upper Skookum Glacier, their route home. They should reach their truck on the Seward Highway by early afternoon. Keith flew them in two days ago, during which time they skied down the north face of Isthmus Peak and the southwest ridge/south face of Carpathian Peak - routes most mountaineers would be content to simply climb.

By 10:00 AM, Bryan, Kneelely and I are following Chris and his partner's tracks toward the southwest ridge of Carpathian. At 4,800 feet, we exchange skis for crampons, and begin the final southwest summit ridge. We remind ourselves that several years ago a rope team was killed when they slipped and tumbled off this ridge.

We start climbing at 1:00 PM, by which time the afternoon sun has softened the snow to the point where every step is a wallow, at times up to our thighs. Although not excessively steep, the route traverses just below the ridge crest on 30-50 degree slopes all the way to the summit. The huge clumps of snow balling up on our crampons require extra caution each time we take a step. Behind us, a trench snakes its way up the ridge, a result of our hard earned progress. We follow Chris' ski tracks for three hours, amazed at the exposed terrain they skied up. One slip, and it's all over. Only a few short 40-50 degree sections forced them to remove their skis and boot up.

At 4:00 PM, we kick the last step into the final 50 degree headwall and gain the summit ridge. The top is invitingly close; only minutes away. Blackstone Bay and the entire Prince William Sound open up before our eyes. Mount Marcus Baker, the highest peak in the Chugach Range at 13,300 feet, and portions of the Tordrillo Range across Cook Inlet come into view as we look to the horizon. We spend a few moments here soaking in the scenery before wandering up to the summit proper. This is surely one of the more spectacular perches from a peak "only" 6,000 feet tall. Ours is the second ascent of Carpathian in as many days.

Kneelely has his cellular phone in his pack, so we make a couple phone calls to some friends back in Anchorage. I empathize with the view that it is getting too easy to bring the civilized world into the mountains with phones and radios and the like. However, from purely an entertainment standpoint, it is fun. Shame on us. Fortunately by the time we start down at 4:30 PM, the snow has begun to re-freeze,

and the balling up crampons are much less of an annoyance. By 8:00 PM, we finally reach our gear we cached on the Spencer Icefield ten hours earlier. We set up camp and prepare dinner under an almost full moon watching the Hale-Bopp comet above Carpathian Peak. Simply spectacular.

The next morning as we're packing up camp, we see Keith's plane pass overhead, bringing in three more folks to repeat our adventure. Brad, Toni and Stuart would ascend Carpathian a third time by the same route in as many days. Interestingly, all three parties skied out via a different route. Chris and his partner went down the Skookum Glacier; Brad, Toni and Stuart chose the Portage Glacier and we opted for the long and easy Burns Glacier exit.

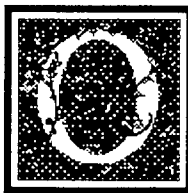
At 10:15 AM, we heft our backpacks, and start skiing north towards the Burns Glacier and Portage Lake. At the head of the Burns Glacier, we see five climbers in the distance leaving their Burns Glacier campsite en route to the east ridge of Carpathian. We later found out that Chris, Elena, Cory and two friends were unsuccessful due to difficult double cornicing on their route.

On their descent, they were surprised to encounter at least twenty snow machiners zipping across the Spencer Icefield. Most came in from the Seward Highway, the Placer Valley, and up the Spencer Glacier. Several motored right to the base of their ridge. They even met one snow machiner on the upper Burns Glacier who came in up the Whittier Glacier from Whittier. I realize they have as much right to be there as we climbers and skiers. I also admit that we employed a motorized means to access the area. However, one must concede that their presence and incessant noise detracts from the enjoyment had by others in the area. I suppose with an increasing number of people enjoying the Alaskan wilderness, we must all learn to be tolerant of others. It is ironic that on this same day, three snow machiners made the front page of the Anchorage newspaper after driving in to a crevasse on a glacier traverse between Eureka and Valdez.

Six uneventful hours and nine miles after leaving our base camp, we ski off of the toe of the Burns Glacier, onto the south shore of Portage Lake. A flat three mile ski across the lake to the visitor center brings our 36 hour Carpathian adventure to a successful close.

A Mint Hut First Visit

by K.J. Stevens



One of the best hiking experiences I recall in my life was 1994 when I decided to hike down the Goldmint Trail in the Alaska Talkeetna Range. I heard there was a hut at the end of the trail, the Mint Hut. My friend, Kathy and I wanted to find this hut. We called the forest service. They said the trail was nine miles long. At the end of the trail we had to stay to the left to find the hut. They weren't sure of the exact location, as none of them had ever been there.

We packed up enough gear for two days and headed down the trail. The trail was easy going, rocky, but not steep. It went through a mountainous valley following the Little Su River, a river of emerald green, twisting rapidly over and around massive boulders. We had to shout over the powerful roar of the water.

At mile six of the trail we came to a waterfall crossing. The water was high so the stones that were usually available for stepping across seemed to have disappeared under the angry rushing water. We stopped to change into river-crossing shoes and put on water gear. It had started to rain earlier so our packs were already covered with rain gear. I slowly made my way across, trying to remember not to look down at the water rushing past me and grabbing at my feet and legs. I hung on to a branch that I was lucky enough to be able to reach from the other side. Once across, I threw off my pack to strip off the soggy wet shoes and put hiking boots and dry socks on.

I grinned at Kathy, who was making a feeble attempt to cross. She was nervous. "Grab the branch." I shouted out to her. She reached over to grab the support branch, her foot slipped and down she went. Her mouth flew open in surprise and she screamed. She recovered quickly, as if the water bounced her back up and over to the other side. Luckily she had on the rain gear, everything remained dry, except one leg, where water got down her pants.

At the end of the trail we stared in amazement at the towering, gray rock surrounding us. To our right was an impressive waterfall cascading down into the Little Su. We turned to our left. Where was this magical hut? There was no hut, instead, we were face to face with Heartbreak Hill. We were cranky and wet, but somehow we had to get up that hill with forty-pound packs.

Because of the dreary rain and thick blankets of low clouds, visibility was poor. There was no trail. Instead there were cairns to follow through a boulder field and up the side of the hill. One wrong step and falling over a cliff was possible.

We stopped for a nourishing snack of trail mix before beginning our trek. The rain pelted down harder, forcing me to stuff my face with nuts, raisins, and M&Ms that were melting in my hands, not in my mouth. I was disgusted with the weather. I was starting to feel the heavy wetness through my raingear, my hair was plastered to my skull from sweat and rain under the hood. My fingers were stiff with the cold. Slimy mud crept up my pant legs to my crotch. I was whining like a sissy and couldn't seem to stop. I was no longer enjoying the trip after being in the rain for six hours. I wanted something hot to eat, I wanted my hot chocolate, I wanted to be comfortable in my own home. My legs were aching with fatigue. How was I supposed to climb this hill?

We got half way up Heartbreak Hill when I heard Kathy mumbling behind me. I looked back to see her crawling on her hands and knees. "I don't think I can go any further," she moaned in misery. "I'm not in good enough shape for this kind of trip." "You don't have any choice," I said. I looked up. The clouds were creeping lower, pushing in on us, about to smother us and trap us on the cliffs for the night. I didn't know my way for sure and the cairns were disappearing under the clouds. I looked at Kathy crawling like a cripple up the hill. "If only I could dump this pack," she mumbled.

"I hate to say this, but we might want to go on around this knob instead of up it. I'm not sure I'm comfortable with this when I can't see what we're doing. It will take lots longer."

"Nooooo, we can't do that!" Kathy cried. "Let's take a chance. We can just rest a few minutes." So we dropped our packs and rested. Heartbreak Hill was breaking our backs. After 15 minutes I stood up, "Okay, let's get moving, I need some dinner." I struggled to get my pack back on. We inched our way up the hill, my heart was pounding like a machine gun, I could see my breath coming out in rapid puffs of fog.

I was just about to give up when I spotted something weird perched on the edge of the cliffs. It was an odd rickety outhouse! Climbing past it I saw the hut. It stood tall and narrow, lonely in a small valley surrounded by more massive gray mountains. It was an A-frame, an ugly yellowish color, the siding

was metal. There was a brown door that clearly stated, "No Bears Allowed." Obviously the sign had been ignored on more than one occasion. Upon closer inspection I could see nails sticking viciously out of the door, a few bear hairs clinging to them. Deep gash marks from sharp claws were raked across the wood. I clutched my shot gun and peered around the falling dusk. I felt as though I were in the Swiss Alps. Kathy popped up over the edge and we entered the hut.

We changed into dry clothes, cooked our dinner of noodles, peanut butter and jelly sandwiches and hot chocolate. We felt renewed as we explored the loft and made up our beds. We lit candles and lanterns and did some reading before sleep. It was like a slumber party.

I awoke to Kathy yelling, "It's sunny out, get up, there's a beautiful view!" She was right. We were surrounded by a deep silence and the mountains, some snow-capped. To our left was the Mint Glacier, the start of the Little Su River. I wondered how many people are lucky enough to see this incredible country up here. I suddenly had not a care in the world. It was worth the misery and hard work getting up here. I couldn't wait to come back, rain or shine.



Here are GIS readings for the Eklutna Traverse:

Girdwood Airport:	60 D 58.096'	149 D 07.010'
Nordic Training Center:	61 D 02.553'	149 D 00.432'
Rosie's Roost:	61 D 05.365'	149 D 00.916'
Hans' Hut:	61 D 08.498'	148 D 57.441'
Pichler's Perch:	61 D 14.720'	148 D 58.397'
Eklutna Parking Lot:	61 D 24.669'	149 D 07.926'

Joe Anders



**ARCTIC ORIENTEERING CLUB SCHEDULE
1997**

- May 6 Ed and Mark's Orienteering
Starts from 6:00-7:30. Crevasse Moraine Trailhead.
- May 12 Beginner Training
Classroom session at REI at 7:00 pm
- May 13 Beginner/Intermediate Orienteering
Starts 5:30 - 6:30 pm- Russian Jack Chalet
- May 20 Dan and John's Orienteering
Kincaid Park, Jodphur entrance
- May 27 Ann's Orienteering
Starts from 5:30-6:30 pm, APU Moseley Center
- May 29 Beginner/Intermediate Orienteering Training
Group start at 6:00 pm, APU, Mosely Center
- Jun 3 Ted's Score-O Orienteering-Anchorage
Mass Start at 6:15 pm, Hillside parking lot on Abbott Rd.
- Jun 10 Karl and Steve's Orienteering Anchorage
Starts from 5:30-6:30 pm, Mile 2.0 Basher Rd
- Jun 17 Tom and Scott's Orienteering- SCORE-O
Meet at 5:30 pm Mile 1.1 Basher Rd
- Jun 24 Mountain Bike Orienteering Anchorage
Starts from 5:30 -6:30 pm, Kincaid Chalet
- Jun 28 Anchorage Parks Relay
Teams or solo. Score-O format. Start - Inside the Northeast
Community Rec Center Mass start at 10 am will be on Ft. Rich.
- Jul 8 MEMORY-O Orienteering-Anchorage
- Jul 15 Weird-O Orienteering-Anchorage
Tues Starts: 5:30-6:30 pm, Russian Jack Chalet
- July 26 Alaska Orienteering Festival -Day 1
Starts from 10-11:30 am. Service HS, little gym

- July 27 Alaska Orienteering Festival-Day 2
Starts from 10-11:30 am. inside the Northeast
- Aug 6 Line-O Orienteering-Anchorage
Starts from 5:30-6:30 pm, UAA Arts Building
- Aug 9 Suicide (Mountain) Orienteering- Anchorage. Approx 3 or 6 hr running/ hiking course. Starts from 10-11 am. Access Rabbit Cr. Valley
- Aug 12 Mountain Bike Orienteering- Anchorage
Starts: 5:30-6:30 pm, Mile 1.1 Basher Rd.
- Aug 19 Pixie and Graham's Orienteering-Anchorage
Meet at 5:30 pm, W. end of BLM airstrip, access via Abbott Loop Rd
- Sept 4 Ed and Mark's Orienteering-Palmer
Thurs Starts from 6:00-7:30 pm, Crevasse Moraine trailhead.
- Sept 13 Search and Destroy-O Orienteering-Anchorage
Mass Start at 1:00 pm, Score-O format
Elemendorf AFB
- Oct 10 Night-O, Score-O format-Anchorage
Meet at 7:30 pm at UAA Arts Building Parking lot
- Oct 26 Halloween Orienteering-Anchorage
Starts from 7:30-8:30 at Kincaid Chalet

Updated schedule information is available on the club's home page at:

<http://www.alaska.net/~oalaska>

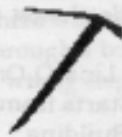
For additional information contact:
Jill Follett 346-2294, 267-2395
jillf@fishgame.state.ak.us

Dan Ellsworth 265-5528, 333-5429
ellswort@pobox.alaska.net

Joe Anders 345-3917



ADZE



1997 Cho Oyu Expedition

Do you enjoy adventures in a foreign country? Have you ever considered climbing an 8,000 meter peak? Are you available for six or seven weeks this fall? If so, consider joining a group of Anchorage climbers as we travel to Nepal and Tibet this September and October 1997 in an attempt to climb Cho Oyu (26,905). We have arranged a private, non-guided expedition to the standard Northwest Ridge of Cho Oyu, the 6th highest peak in the world. Cho Oyu is a border peak between Nepal and Tibet. We will meet in Kathmandu, Nepal and then fly to Lhasa - the capital of Tibet. From there we will travel over land to our 16,000 base camp in the Tibetan foothills below Cho Oyu. The route is relatively straightforward, with little objective danger. Historically, over 50% of the expeditions on this route are successful. One might liken it to the Denali's West Buttress, but 6,500 taller. Our group is limited to 8 members; we still have three spots available for qualified climbers. We have employed a respected local agency in Kathmandu to organize all logistics and permitting for us. All expenses will be shared equally among all members - this is not a commercial expedition. The total estimated cost per person excluding climbing gear and air fare between Anchorage and Kathmandu is \$5,500. This will cover all permits, travel, living and base camp expenses during our six week absence from Kathmandu, including an acclimatization period in Lhasa. Commercial expeditions advertise rates from \$8,000 to \$12,000 for a similar trip. These more expensive expeditions provide climbing guides and Sherpa support, which we will not have. Contact Dave Hart 338-0554

MINUTES

FEBRUARY MEETING

The meeting started at 7:30 p.m. in the Pioneer School house. About 50 attended, including 11 visitors.

The prior board meeting minutes were presented, followed by the treasury report.

TREASURY REPORT

Kirk Towner reported the club has \$6,111.65. He also reported that expenses were approximately equal to revenues for the month of January.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Huts

Mark Miraglia asked for members to let him know the model number of the stoves and lanterns at the huts.

Parks Advisory

Scott Bailey reported that the National Park Service had the South Side Denali Final Development Concept Plan Environmental Impact Statement completed.

Hiking & Climbing

Steve Gruhn announced 3 upcoming trips that are advertised in the Scree.

Geographic Names

Tom Choate is researching information on Anchorage grid A6. He would appreciate any information about the area.

Training

Aze Azegami announced a beacon practice and self-arrest class on March 22 and a glacier travel and crevasse rescue class on May 3 and 4. He is also planning an avalanche training class — no date set.

OLD BUSINESS

If you ordered **freeze-dried food** contact Willy Hersman to pick it up.

NEW BUSINESS

Kirk Towner announced the MCA plans to sponsor a photo contest for a 40th anniversary **calendar**.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Kneely Taylor asked for members to let him know if they were aware of **trapping lines** near hiking trails.

The **Alaskan Alpine Club** announced it is looking for members. The club raises funds to assist in paying a portion of the public expenses for off-road rescues involving Fund members. It cost \$10 to join, (907) 479-2149.

Garth Lenz gave a comprehensive presentation on the history and duties of the 210th Rescue Squadron, and how rescues are performed in Alaska. Thanks Garth.

Respectfully submitted,
Mark Fouts

MARCH MEETING

There were 4 or 5 visitors and the total attendance was more than 70.

TREASURY REPORT

Chairperson **Kirk Towner** was absent but **Mark Miraglia** announced that the total in all accounts is \$6,566.08. Mark reports that the Club has already received half of the projected revenues, most of which comes from membership dues.



COMMITTEE REPORTS

Hiking & Climbing

Don Hansen announced upcoming trips to Aniakhak Crater and Igikpak area. The trip to the Igikpak area will begin on 26 July, not 19 July as reported in the last Scree. **Curvin Metzler** announced a trip to the Goat Trail on 11-16 July. Signup sheets for these trips were posted.

Huts

Club members visiting any of our huts this spring should report any required maintenance to chairperson **Mark Miraglia**. Also, members who are heading out to the huts are encouraged to talk to Mark before you go to see if there are supplies that could be brought in and/or repairs that could be made.

Geographic Names

Chairperson **Tom Choate** reports that the committee is now working on names in the Anchorage A-6 quad. Members with information on peak names in this area are encouraged to talk to Tom.

Equipment

Chairperson Dave Hart was absent but **Mark Miraglia** mentioned that the 600ft spool of rope has been received and will be cut to appropriate length for future club trips.

Training

Chairperson Aze Azegami was absent. However, two upcoming training events were announced; avalanche beacon practice and glacier travel and crevasse rescue. Signup sheets were provided.

OLD BUSINESS

The photo calendar and membership survey presented in the last Scree were introduced. Check it out.

NEW BUSINESS

The Club is grateful for the receipt of several donated avalanche beacons. The beacons will go to the equipment chairperson for signout/distribution. Club members interested in borrowing avalanche beacons or the EPIRB are reminded to plan in advance and return the equipment as soon as possible.

Tom Meecham provided some information on the Alaska Quiet Rights Commission. This goal of this organization is to solicit and mobilize opinion to voice support for maintaining a fair balance of lands open only to non-motorized activities. Presently, approximately 95% of state lands are open to motorized activities. A sign-up sheet for people interested in signing a petition or helping this cause was provided.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The **Breast Cancer Climb** is looking for support and sponsorship. See Michele Potkin.

Tom Choate presented an excellent slideshow on climbing in New Zealand 30 years ago. A bit of rock fell off Mt. Cook and some of the glaciers are receding. Other than that, not much has changed. Great show, great destination.

Respectfully submitted,
Cory Hinds

BOARD MEETING

Feb 18, 1997

Club members present included Neil O'Donnell, Willy Hersman, Mark Miraglia, Wayne Todd, Aze Azegami, Kirk Townner, Wendy Sanem and Dave Storkel.

Bomber Hut

Lease approval is pending. The State DNR wants liability insurance and insurty bond. We are presently negotiating these to get the lease approved.

Home Page

Willy will be working on an MCA home page, TBA when finished. Member input is welcome.

Club Finances

Kirk is pursuing a change in our bank accounts due to fees and low interest rate which we now receive.

Memberships

Renewal rate is lower than in recent past. The board discussed ways to beat this trend. March Scree will go out to everyone on the mailing list, dues paid or not, to stimulate interest.

Calendar

The board discussed starting an annual MCA calendar, featuring member photos, schedule of events and historic notes on local ascents. A photo contest will be held, to be judged in the fall. Kirk is coordinating this.

Respectfully Submitted,
Wayne Todd

