

### APRIL MEETING

Wednesday

April 21, 7:30 pm

Pioneer Schoolhouse, 3rd & Eagle Streets  
Downtown Anchorage

**Slide Show:** Kevin Turinsky will show slides of his attempt on *Makalu*.

**May Preview:** Adventuring in PrinceWilliam Sound

### HIKING AND CLIMBING SCHEDULE

#### May 31 Killiak Peak

Western Chugach. Class E, 20 miles, 7000 feet elevation gain, 15+ hour day. Southeast Face. This will be a very long day with bushwhacking, devil's club, scree, loose rock, and bears. Hike 6 miles up Eagle River to Icicle Creek. Bushwhack to Icicle Glacier. Scramble up Killiak's southeast face. Participants must be competent with self arrest, unroped exposed scrambling and rappelling. Crampons, ice ace, helmet, harness, rappel device, sturdy boots and **excellent physical condition** are required. Group sizelimited to 8. No dogs, guns or whiners. Register with leader.  
Leader: David Hart 338-0554

#### Jul 24 - Aug 7 Jago River, ANWR

Backpacking and nontechnical climbing trip to explore the Jago River drainage and surrounding mountain peaks (7000-8000 feet). Fly in trip by charter out of Fairbanks, Alaska. Costs \$750 per person. Trip will include about 30 to 40 miles of backpacking (Class B-C) over the two week trip with several camps along the river with 2 to 3 days of day hikes at each camp. We will return to the same airstrip that we will be flown into.  
Leader: Don Hansen, 243-7184

## TRIP REPORTS

### *Wall Tents and Wood Stoves*

by Derek Nelson



Something was missing...light. The lantern was having another one of its fits and the wall tent we had commandeered for use at our advanced camp need the compliment of soft light to make it complete. So as Mike Tebbut and myself sat idly by, cooking and eating in the darkness, Dan O. made the daunting journey back to Port Alsworth, and acquired the necessary materials. Returning the next afternoon, Dan found Mike and I still in the dark enjoying the luxury of the wood stove while the temperatures outside our capsule hovered at minus 15. The motivation we had presumed came with such comfort had already deteriorated into long, drawn out strategy sessions and one more cup of coffee.

The looming peaks splitting the pass had for the past two years ravaged our minds. Granite monoliths and walls of many face, stared down on our camp as we diligently lurked beneath the summits, foraging on the icy flows cascading down their lower ramparts. Now at 12 noon on Wednesday, March 10th, we decided the conditions on our desired route and the thought of returning to the wall tent was good enough reason to go for a peak.

The route we had been eyeing would present a number of challenges before relinquishing its summit. Starting at lake level, 250 feet, we would have to overcome 1000 feet of waterfall ice, precarious but seemingly safe snow ramps, and a yet unknown slog up broad couloirs and frozen talus, before reaching the top at 6240. By 2:30 we were geared up and sharp at the base of the first pitch. Being that I was the only one of our party who had yet to lead this pitch in our past attempts I was keenly aware the option would be in my lap. I summoned up the "Power of Greyskull," and pulled on to the vertical step. Scratching, clawing, kicking, and screaming ensues but a rope length later I breath a sigh of relief and clip in to the anchor. The next pitch was a fulfillment of childlike bewilderment. Many days we had spent on our snowmachines idling on the lake below staring up at this awesome formation waiting for conditions to allow our

passing. Dan would swing and Mike and I fell back to watch. A buttery smooth flow cascading over a perfect granite ramp. Mechanically Dan moved upward, the slope ideal for a good "calf fry," stretching our 70 meters he pulled on to the flats and belayed us up. Team Crack of Noon was now getting a dose of "wall tent motivation," the sunless gully we were in mattered not as the glowing orb was setting to the West. Darkness would great Mike on lead as we made it to the base of the next ice pitch. Headlamp on and Dan and I in support, he ventured up what looked like a "wine bottle" from the ground, now utterly featureless here in the dark. As our partner disappeared into the mountain, Dan and I saw the beginning of what would seem like a new day. We had timed our attempt perfectly. The moon was on the rise, full under clear skies.

Continuing in the light of the moon, we slogged up another long firm snow ramp and into uncharted territory. Our views from the lake, our camp and elsewhere had all but hidden this section of the route. Glowing couloirs stretching to the right and left. We followed left feeling the hours of effort on the pitches below. An unexpected pitch lurked in the shadows, my turn. I turned on my lamp, quickly surveyed the thin, rock walled gully, set my tools and pulled up. Memorable for its being hidden from view and somewhat mixed conditions I finished what would be the last of the ice and got a good seat to belay the boys. Basking in the lunar glow but low on energy, we lunched on a chunk of rock, brewing up and refueling for the posthole ahead.

From the top of the ice we now had only to route find our way to the summit past countless false peak and through grueling hollow talus. The summit would wait. Drained, our ambitious team strung out in various degrees of slog. One last precipitous roll and the true summit came into reach, finishing on a beautiful knife-edge ridge, granite falling steeply to our right. Time check, 6:30 AM, Thursday, March 11.

Bathing in the light of the moon the peaks surrounding us took on new proportions. Illiamna and Redoubt cast their images to the south of us and the Alaska Range rose to the North. We enjoyed our perch, recounted the accomplishments and soaked up the rest of our fuel for the long descent.

Stumbling through the talus and down the couloirs, glissading when possible, we reached our gear cache quickly. The first of our rappels,



off a solid snow bollard, came under the light of the rising sun. A series of raps off pre-slung v-threads and a few daring glissades down the ramps in between and we were on solid ground once again, twenty-one and a half hours later, with a renewed hunger. Team Crack of Noon rides again.

### ***Triangle Peak in the Winter***

by David Hart



It must have been the 6AM meeting time that kept our group size to a very manageable foursome. On Sunday February 28, 1999 our hearty quartet of Wayne Todd, Ben Still, Elena Hinds and myself carpoled to

the South Fork Eagle River trailhead (1950) to begin our 18 mile journey up Triangle Peak (5455).

No sooner had we unloaded our cars at 7:30AM did two local black labs appear from a house across the road, eager to join our day's adventure. Ruby and a smaller pup make a habit out of joining skiers and hikers year round. Ruby's collar reads: "I live in the house with a metal roof across from the trailhead." They were in for an adventure today.

We skied the 6 miles to Symphony Lake (2648) in 3 hours as thick clouds obscured our view of everything but the valley floor. An 11:00AM lunch break finally saw the clouds lift, allowing a profile view of our southwest ridge route up Triangle Peak. Cantata, Calliope, Eagle and Hurdy-Gurdy each looked intimidating in the winter conditions; I was glad our goal was the mellow Triangle Peak.

After skiing across Symphony Lake, we put on skins and began angling south up the hillside to a tarn (3350) 1-1/2 miles northwest of Triangle Peak. We found a ski-able route to the tarn, safe from avalanche danger by avoiding the suspect steeper slopes and gullies. At this point Elena opted for a shorter day, as she was recovering from the flu. She bid us farewell, locked down her heels and began her ski descent back to the valley floor.

Wayne, Ben and I and the dogs were soon packing our skis while post-holing up the rocky ridge leading to the broad plateau east of Peak

4710. It began to snow here and the remaining mile to the summit of Triangle Peak looked further than expected.

We traversed the plateau southeast to the base of the southwest summit ridge. Easy scrambling lead to the summit with the dogs on our heels the entire way. Wayne, Ben and I and the dogs enjoyed a breezy and snowy half-hour lunch on the summit at 2:30 PM. By 3:00PM we were heading down.

Using every bit of daylight we arrived back at the trailhead at 7:45 PM, exactly 12 hours after our departure. Before we knew it, the 2 dogs had disappeared to their home across the street, no doubt to fill their bellies before going to bed. After such a long yet enjoyable day, we weren't far behind them.

### ***New Ice Climbs in Eagle River***

by Richard Baranow



*Nygelina* (grade 4+). On 13 and 14 February, the MCA Secretary and President claimed the first ascent of a fat 250-foot ice route in the Icicle drainage off of the North Fork of Eagle River. The base of the climb is located

about 1000 feet above the valley floor on the flank of Kiliak Peak, and can be seen from the river. The approach is substantial and requires climbing a grade 3+ icefall to access the upper drainage.

The team climbed the approach icefall then kicked in a trail until it got dark on the first day. On the second day the team re-climbed the approach icefall, regained the high-point via "technical scrambling," and made the first ascent. The easiest line was sustained 75 to 85 degrees with a minimum 20-foot vertical section about halfway up. Harder lines would yield up to 60 feet of vertical ice. The climb was done in bright sunshine and lead as one pitch with a 300-foot rope. There is a 5-inch diameter tree at the top of the climb, seemingly made for a rappel anchor.

*Nygelina* means "the woodsman," and has connotations similar to Kiliak which roughly means "the bogeyman." The views of Eagle Peak from the upper Icicle drainage are awesome. *Nygelina's* twin sister remains unclimbed. First



ascents are still out there, it's just harder to get to them.

**Luther's Delight** (grade 4+). On February 20, Carl Oswald and Wendy Sanem accompanied the club president on the ascent of the 225-foot icefall just to the right of Nigelena. Following the same approach route as described above, the trio reached the base of the climb with slightly shattered nerves; the previous weeks' high winds with approximately six inches of new snow had made the 1000-foot approach a bit more formidable. The ice on the climb was a bit more rotten due to the increased amounts of daylight received, the bottom 50-foot section being thin ice and frozen snowmelt. A beautiful 80-foot vertical pillar defines the middle section, with easier rolling grade 3 ice near the top. Carl, leading in fine style, placed three pieces of pro in rapid succession just below the central pillar, followed with only one 17cm screw halfway up this 80-foot forearm pumper. Wendy, coming up as the third, enjoyed climbing by the Braille method...the sun having slipped low behind the shoulder of Eagle Peak just before tightening her leashes. The rappel consisted of tying off three small alders (about the diameter of an ice axe!); equalizing and rappelling off with abated breath.

The name of the climb makes reference to Luther Kelly, the assistant who accompanied Walter Mendenhall and Co. during their explorations of the Eagle River valley one hundred years ago, during the summer of 1898 while investigating routes to the Klondike Gold rush.

The views from these two climbs is spectacular, with the Heritage drainage peaks (Polar Bear, Piano, Organ, Piccolo, Flute, Allegro, A Cappella, Andante, The Fledgling and Eagle) defining the southern skyline. Future parties attempting these two gems should take special care during the 1000-foot section of the approach due to its avalanche potential. Plan on a four-hour approach from the mouth of Icicle creek following an established trail. First ascents are still out there, it's just more fun getting to them these days!

## **Exploring the Bird Country II**

by Tom Choate



The weather was too fine to miss on Monday June 16, so Jeff Jablonski and I headed out about lunchtime to cross Crow Pass.

We passed a lot of snow on the trail, but enjoyed patches of tundra in first bloom and streams and waterfalls seemingly everywhere. The cabin was still nearly buried by snowdrift and the outhouse nowhere to be seen, which resulted in crap melting out of the snow all around (I hope they will move the outhouse!). We'd heard of encounters with both black and grizzly bears around the pass in June, so we decided to drop down to the Raven Glacier and climb a few hundred feet up the other side in order to camp off the beaten track. The only flat place we found was on the snow!

Tuesday we were off by 7:30 AM to look for a safe route to the west ridge of Pt. 6450 ("Rooklet") that would keep us off the glacier (no crevasse gear). The local cloud cap rarely opened enough to see the walls of Rook Mt. for orientation, but finally we saw the ice at the end of "Rook Glacier" and were able to find a route up the steep snow just at its south edge that put us on the ridge. Mostly easy snow led to an overlook with two small points where we caught a glimpse of Summit "Mt." (Point) across the Raven Glacier.

We avoided steep rock on the next section by traversing left and back over 3 moats (hopefully not bergschrunds!) to regain the ridge on soft snow. More scrambling led to a sunny shoulder and then the dome-like summit slope, where we began to see over the Rook ridge to the Eagle country. On the summit we had fine views above the clouds of peaks all around and sat sunning and snacking. We couldn't find any register in the cairn on top of this point and left none.

Now we descended the north ridge and traversed or bypassed several pinnacles on the way over to Rook Mt. proper. The cairn here had only the 1997 register from Richard and Wendy who didn't mention their continuing traverse to the north on the way back to Eagle hut. I explained in the new, larger register note that a Rook is a crow-like bird, not a chess piece! Water bottle leveling indicated the three western summits were all within six feet of our height, and, being curious about previous ascents, we continued our "horseshoe" traverse. We climbed exposed but minor rock pitches on each summit, and no cairns were found (we left two). What views we had! It was so calm we spent 1 1/2 hours on top.

The west ridge is easy scrambling for a while, but soon has considerable exposure, especially to the north. Many steep places could easily be bypassed to the south, except that at

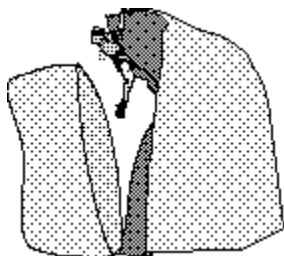


this time (2:30 PM) we set off a number of surface sloughs, which turned into bigger wet snow avalanches further down. Fortunately, the firmer snow beneath held the ice axe and footsteps well, so no belays were needed. Many places required using the typical shattered "Chugach crud", and Jeff had a piece nearly knock him off when it came loose on the climb up, so he took his chances with the avalanches in some places where I stayed on the ridge. Finally we had a long foot glissade down to a frozen pond at the end of the ridge, and another one down to camp.

Wednesday was mostly clear again, so we departed at 7:30 for Raven Cr., crossed on snow bridges, and ascended to the pass trail just before it drops off the moraine. From here the traverse into Clear Cr. was pleasant, following tundra full of anemones, crowberries and bearberries with territorial birds to admire. A big pile of grizzly droppings caused a momentary speeding up, but with the sun at our backs we soon slowed on the hot climb to Steamroller Pass. The steep snow on the Archangel side looked like a return to winter, however. We made a quick climb of the 500 feet elevation up to Peak 5750 (20 min. to the north) and searched in the survey marker cairns for a sign of previous climbers. Near such a regular pass it must have regular visits but we found nothing, so we left a register suggesting the name Grey Jay in keeping with Camprobber and Magpie (there are four other points on this peak: 5465, 5405, and two of 5550).

Back at the pass, we raced for the summit of Camprobber, and I made it in 17 minutes, and back in 11 with no running allowed, not bad for age 63! I couldn't even leave a record (only a candy wrapper) because there is no pencil in the register! (Please bring one). We had to speed back to town too, so we wouldn't miss the MCA meeting!

### Climbing Notes



MCA trip up Significant Peak. Four brave club members battled bright sunshine and clear views while ascending the summit of Significant peak near the Nature Center in the North Fork of Eagle River, February 12.

### ADZE



#### For Sale

- Telemark Boots - Alico Corniche lace/buckle. Size 10-1/2. Like new. \$100 OBO
  - Down/Goretex Parka - Great for Denali trip. Large. A bargain. \$125 OBO
- Dave 338-0554

#### For Sale

- Feathered Friends high-altitude down parka, men's large, mint condition. \$300.00
  - Dagger RPM whitewater kayak, good condition, \$300.00
- Josh 245-1943

#### For Sale

- Rossignol TMS 205cm metal edged skis
  - Alpina double leather 3 pin boots size 42
  - One Sport Jannu boots size Euro 10
  - Koflach boots w/ Scarpa Liners size 10
  - Soloman Adventure 9 boots size 9 1/2
- Mark 338-0705

#### Partner Wanted

For Nepal Climbing Trip, September 11-October 24, Baruntse (23400). We're looking for one or two experienced climbers to join our small, private, non-guided Alaskan expedition into the Makalu region of Eastern Nepal. Two week supported trek up the Arun Valley to a base camp at the foot of Makalu. Two week climb of Baruntse. Ten day trek out. Reference Fanshawe's "Himalaya Alpine Style" book for details. Expenses shared at about \$3,500 per person, excluding airfare. Dave 338-0554 or "houdini1@gci.net"

### TRAINING SCHEDULE

Mar - Apr Expedition Mountaineering Training  
Weekends.

Prerequisites: Alaska Winter Camping / Backpacking Skills & Gear and Basic Mountaineering Skills & Gear.

Where: Chugach or Talkeetna Mts.

Coordinator: Gary Runa 275-3613 msg.

May - June Glacier Travel & Crevasse Rescue

One weekend and one week.

Prerequisites: Alaska Winter Camping / Backpacking Skills & Gear and Basic Mountaineering Skills & Gear. (Air Transport Cost approx. \$250)

Where: Alaska Range or Wrangell Mts.

Coordinator: Gary Runa 275-3613 msg.



## BOARD MEETING

3/15/99 (Barnes & Noble)

The following officers and board members attended the meeting: Richard B., Mark M., Matt N., and Cory H. The following were discussed:

### *Road Signs*

We received a \$2,000 grant from REI to cover costs associated with the placement of approximately 50 signs near local climbing areas from Anchorage to Portage.

### *Trip Award*

Annual Multidiscipline Trip Award: an annual award was proposed to provide recognition for outstanding club trips and to promote positive peer pressure and push local climbing standards. The board discussed separate awards for hiking, mountaineering, ice climbing and rock climbing. Tentative criteria this award might include first ascent, new route or traverse, good style and linking of multiple club huts. It was decided that a committee of volunteers would be formed to generate recommendations for the board. A plan was hatched to contact other board members and solicit feedback, then introduce the idea at the March general meeting.

### *Equipment*

We need a new equipment chairperson since Dave Hart is retiring. Member Todd Steele has expressed interest. This will be announced at the next general meeting.

### *Scree*

We are attempting to obtain a further reduction in our mailing rate based on our tax-exempt, non-profit status. Richard dug out proof of tax-exempt status and Cory recently filed the application that, upon approval, will be retroactive to 3/25/99.

### *Scree*

- We are attempting to obtain a further reduction in our mailing rate based on our tax-exempt, non-profit status. Richard dug out proof of tax-exempt status and Cory recently filed the application that, upon approval, will be retroactive to 3/25/99.
- Member Amy Cabanis may be interested in Scree publishing.

### *Huts*

Several local guiding outfits are interested in using our huts on their guided trips. The board is not outright opposed to this. However, although we cannot enforce collection of hut fees on public lands, the board unanimously feels that commercial guides should, at minimum, collect the \$10 membership fee from their clients and forward this money to the treasurer to help defray maintenance costs. There is

also some question about liability for huts on National Forest Lands. Mark M. will contact DNR to resolve. The board will follow up on this issue, determine appropriate policy and contact appropriate guiding outfits.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Cory Hinds

## MINUTES

### MARCH MEETING

The meeting was called to order at about 7:45 PM. Total of 70 people in attendance. Approximately 10 new members or visitors introduced themselves.

### TREASURER'S REPORT

We are on-track with revenues at approximately 55% of our membership goal.

### COMMITTEE REPORTS

#### *Hiking and Climbing*

There were 9 trip reports: Significant Peak, Eagle River Ice Climb, Valdez Ice Climb, Triangle Peak, The Ramp, Harp Mountain, West Ridge Mt. Williwaw, East Twin Peak, and Williwaw Lakes Ski. A lot of skiing, climbing and hiking was done and no injuries were reported. There were 9 trip announcements including: Caribou Creek Ice Climb, King Mountain, O'Malley, Eagle River Ski Tour, Marcus Baker, Tin Can Mt. Ski, Glacier Travel Training, Escalante Canyon, and Jago River. A list of upcoming trips was published in the March Scree. Chairperson **Wendy Sanem** reviewed the list of trips and various trip leaders described the trips. Signup sheets were available for the upcoming trips. The chairperson was commended on an excellent job lining up trips.

#### *Huts*

Chairperson **Mark Miraglia** announced that there will be a new guide to huts in South Central Alaska published soon. Some of our huts are in this guide which will mean more "outside" traffic.

Eklutna River Hut: the MCA is partnering with the American Alpine Club, Chugach State Park, and DNR to design and construct a new hut near the snout of the Eklutna glacier. This hut will be open to the public and is designed to accommodate three small parties at once.

There was a brief discussion on commercial use of our cabins. The board will be following up with DNR and



concerned parties.

*Parks Advisory*

Chairperson **Scott Bailey** provided an update on the proposed snowmachine trail from Anchorage to Eagle River. Scott also announced a collaborative planning meeting for Chugach National Forest at the Anchorage Public Library Friday 3/19 7:00 to 10:00 PM.

*Equipment*

**Todd Steele** is the new equipment chairperson. Members thanked **Dave Hart** for the service.

*Training*

**Gary Runa** is continuing with Expedition Mountaineering Training, and Glacier Travel and Crevasse Rescue. See Gary for details and check the Scree.

OLD BUSINESS

The new **Club Trip Hotline** voice-mail system for getting latest news on club trips is up and running. The phone number is 566-4MCA, that's 566-4622. Press 1 for general info, press 2 for club-sanctioned trips, and press 3 for personal trips.

Seward Highway "climb responsibly" **sign project**: Mark Miraglia announced the receipt of a \$2,000 grant from REI to cover costs associated with the placement of approximately 50 signs near local climbing areas from Anchorage to Portage.

NEW BUSINESS

Annual Multidiscipline **Trip Award**: Cory Hinds introduced the concept of an annual award to provide recognition for outstanding club trips and to promote positive peer pressure and push local climbing standards. The board solicited volunteers to join a committee to discuss this concept and provide recommendations. Ideas include separate awards for hiking, mountaineering, ice climbing and rock climbing. Tentative criteria this award might include first ascent, new route or traverse, good style, and linking of multiple club huts. A signup sheet for the committee was placed up front.

The rumor of a spring club trip to the Scandinavian Peaks area continuing with an ascent of **Mt. Marcus Baker** from the north is no longer a rumor; it will happen. Contact Richard Baranow or Wendy Sanem and check the trip schedule for details. The timing on this will be coordinated with Gary Runa's Glacier Travel and Crevasse Rescue training on the Matanuska Glacier.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Cory Hinds  
Secretary

