

APRIL 2000

A Publication of the Mountaineering Club of Alaska

Volume 43 Issue 04

Box 102037, Anchorage, Alaska 99510

### APRIL MEETING

Wednesday

April 19, 7:30 pm

Pioneer Schoolhouse, 3rd & Eagle Streets

Downtown Anchorage

Program: *Mountains of Mongolia* will be presented  
by Sage Cohen.

### HIKING AND CLIMBING SCHEDULE

Apr 22 - May 7 Arizona-Utah

One week in Grand Canyon, one week in Grand Gulch backpack. Trip is now full, but if you could go on short notice, let me know.

Leader: Bill Wakeland 563-6246

May 20 Tikishla Peak

Class C . Western Chugach. Starting near E. 36th and Muldoon. Hike/scramble 15 miles round trip . Approx. 10 hour day.

Leader: Rick Zimmer 278-2033

27 Mount Eklutna

Class C. Western Chugach. Another 10 hour day to the summit of Mt. Eklutna. Starts near Peters Creek.

Leader: Rick Zimmer 278-2033

May 13 Souvenir Peak

Class E. Talkeetna Mountains. This will be a one day climb that will leave from the Little Susitna trailhead near Hatcher Pass. Participants will be required to bring ice axe, helmet, climbing harness, crampons, 2 locking carabiners, and appropriate clothing for being outside all day in foul weather. Two stream crossings will be required. Participants must have belay/rappel, snow travel, and stream crossing experience. Maximum group size: 10 persons.

Leaders: Kirk Towner 344-5424, Bill Romberg 677-3993

Jul 22 - Aug 5 Gates of the Arctic

Two weeks, Reed River to Pingo Lake-Noatak River. Backpack trip up Reed River drainage through Angiak Pass to Pingo Lake along the Noatak. Day trips Igikpak Mountain and other areas in the Schwatka Mountains. Class C trip 3,500 ft elevation gain.

Leader Don Hansen (907) 243-7184

## TRAINING SCHEDULE

Apr 21-23 Glacier Travel / Crevasse Rescue  
Field exercises at Matanuska Glacier.  
Instructor: Gary Runa 275-3613

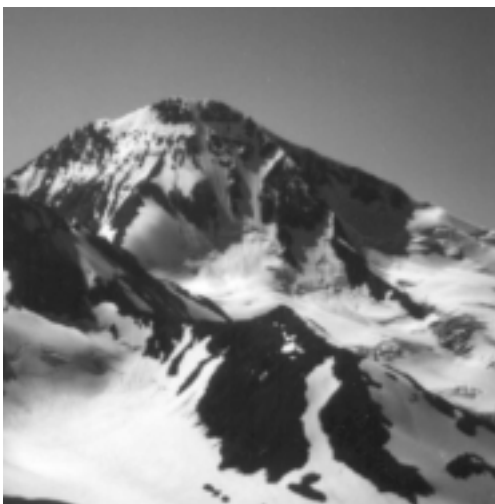
May Mountain Safety Training Outing  
One week in either Little Switzerland or Mt. Blackburn. For those participating in Gary's training classes.  
Instructor: Gary Runa 275-3613

May 16-17 Orienteering Training  
Hosted by the Arctic Orienteering Club. REI, 7:00 P.M. \$1.00 donation for maps. Pre-register at REI. Field training on the 17th, \$4.00 fee.  
Contact: Steve Gruhn 344-1219

### CPR and First Aid Training

All these providers offer courses too numerous to list. Give them a call!

1. American Red Cross (277-1538). Offers from basic CPR to a BLS, and First Aid, \$47.00, \$31.00 for renewal. Once per quarter offers a nine hour Remote Alaskan First Aid Course, concentrating on wilderness emergencies for \$55.00 (depends on demand).
2. Aurora North Emergency Services Academy (264-2090) BLS/CPR \$45.00, Basic First Aid \$30.00 and CPR for \$25.00.
3. Respond Systems (344-0302) Adult CPR/First Aid \$50.00.
4. Safety Training in the Northland (333-2666)
5. Emergency Medical Training (346-2088)



The unclimbed North Cross of Bounty Peak, Western Chugach  
wgh

## TRIP REPORTS

### *Ruthless, Spooky and Fortress, 1998*

by Tom Choate



We were on our way back to camp after the glacier training at the Matanuska on a pretty evening. Looking at the sunset and mountains to the west, I saw what appeared to be a green glow in a gorge on a peak some 5 miles away, and resolved to examine it in different light. The next day I was sure it was a frozen waterfall, and by the end of the course several people wanted to investigate it before going home. Next morning we crossed the ice on the Mat. River and headed for the low ridge separating it from the next drainage to the west. We found a rough road and followed it up to a hunting cabin on the crest, then descended the ridge back north to a pass where a prominent moose/horse/ people trail crossed. It took us steeply down to one of several beaver dams, which we crossed to reach easy gravel flats along the stream. About three miles good walking brought us to the beginning of a gorge through the mountains, where we crossed on a late snow bridge (May 6) and entered the woods. Maybe an hour of brush bashing brought us to where we could ascend a narrow ridge that curved around leftwards to become the western ridge above the gorge containing the waterfalls. Here we encountered snow that rapidly deepened as the ridge steepened. After 40 minutes of floundering and not finding a way down into the gorge through the cliffs, we stopped for a break. We had seen a shorter waterfall below the one we sought, and now we could see a third, perhaps 35 ft high, in the upper valley. There were clear signs of recent avalanches above it, which had obviously swept the ice.

This thought kept surfacing as we descended back to near the ridge base and scrambled down thirty-foot cliffs into the gorge. Soon we had climbed back up to the green ice, where we admired a suspended waterfall on the right, vertical columns nearer center, and a wide band of ice easing into a 75-foot ramp toward the left. Jeff elected to be first leader, and moved rapidly up the central section, to set up a belay



about 60 feet up where it leveled off. Having borrowed some Kajita tools, I was pleased to have the chance to try them out on the steeper right hand ice. This was irregular and hollow in places, and led to a ledge with an interesting detached curtain above, but here Jeff reminded me that the rope was already leading 45 degrees left. Hearing no takers to follow and remove screws, I took the safer traverse left and followed Ill ice to Jeff. It was growing late and also perhaps due to the nagging avalanche threat there were no other takers, so we rappelled down the left (east) side, and soon were headed homeward. We called the waterfall "Ruthless" because the training was supposed to have been on the Ruth Glacier (and were weathered out), not because of the difficulty (Ill where first climbed). It has been rumored that years ago someone climbed this waterfall. Jeff and I vowed to return the next weekend with snowshoes and completed the climb of the mountain.

In the week since our first exploration, the riverbed had become easier walking, but we could find no snow bridge for crossing, so we waded. Knowing the route through the brush to the ridge helped, and soon we were above timberline at our previous highpoint. Ahead were snowshoe tracks going up very steeply to where our MCA friends had camped the night before: no wonder we had missed them at the end of the road in Glacier Park Resort. They had already left, so we hurried up the tracks and put on our snowshoes on the less steep ridge above. The going was slippery, and even with snowclaws I lost traction regularly. Soon I lost sight of my struggling partner, as I pushed hard to catch the two ahead before they reached the highpoint of the eastern ridges (he turned back later).

On the last steep section they waited, uncertain of the avalanche conditions in the lee below a small cornice. Two test pits suggested that the snow was not as spooky as it seemed, and before long we were enjoying a break on top and admiring the many peaks to the south, at last revealed. Now a party of three, we walked along the easy ridge toward the formidable-looking true summit to the west. I tried to convince them of my motto "don't turn back until you have actually laid hands on the doubtful pitch" but I had only one follower when we began traversing off the ridge to the left to skirt the cliffs. On this aspect, the snow was soft and beginning to avalanche down sun-soaked gullies around the corner, so I broke trail as close to the base of the rocks as was practical. Jeff followed at a reasonable distance, his beacon also peeping.

Surprisingly the snow packed into good steps as we followed a small ledge around to a gully and then up to the summit (5812). Since the snow had been rather spooky, and no cairn existed, we built one and left a register with that name in the entry.

We followed along the now bare summit ridge to the west to another bump with great views of the many mean-looking peaks on that side, before retracing our steps down and around and back to the east. After a lot of slipping and purposeful sliding down our ascent ridge, mindful of the potential for depthhoar avalanches here on the north, we soon were lying on the tundra having lunch at their tent. The smell of old crowberries and drying lichens surrounded us, birdsongs drifted up from the forest, mingling with the strong spring sun, and the elation of a successful and possibly first ascent.

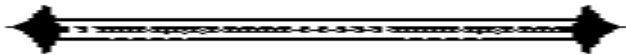
Back at the vehicles, the weather was holding, so I decided to stay over Monday and investigate a route to Fortress Pk. (5850+) so prominent to the north. The first problem was access: all four of the tracks were 4-wheeler routes that started from private property. After several phone calls I got permission to park on the high ridge behind the "Long Rifle," and soon was on the wide track which winds around a pond and over the ridge. After descending, the trail forked at a swampy lake. There was an apparent route up the steep ridge by a waterfall leading to the valley NW of Fortress, and there was sign of a road to the east, heading toward the S. face of Fortress. I branched right and walked a couple of miles around lakes and along a small ridge until the trail made forks. Again going right and across the stream, I joined a good road and followed it past a junked VW and up onto a ridge from the peak. The road crossed a pass and descended, so here I scrambled through mild brush onto talus slopes leading to the col between two cliffy parts of Fortress. There was hot and unpleasant scree on the upper part, but the tundra and scenic ridge were a blessing when reached. I followed along this ridge the rest of the way to the summit, mostly walking, with spectacular views of the steep cliffs below and the Mat Glacier.

No cairn was found at the top, so I made one with a little register. Neighbors in the area say they have been on top in the winter, using snowmachine access in a 30-mile route to the north. In summer I recommend this quiet and spectacular peak if you can figure out the access problem.



## Thanks

A big THANK YOU from the MCA to Art & Carol Weiner for digging out the appropriate state statutes to allow the MCA to appeal the decision of the Snowmobile Trails Advisory Committee (SnoTRAC) for the 2000 Snowmobile Trail Grants award. Instead of not being funded in spite of scoring Number 1 in the initial award decision, the Eklutna Cabin Project has received full funding of \$11,000.00 after our appeal caused the initial awards to be cancelled and a revision of the award process to occur. We have also received a grant of \$500.00 from the Polaris Snowmobile Company. Thank you Art for your fine work as grant applicator for this project.



## Web Chat



rec.climbing:

Resource Violation, Rocky Mt. National Park

Last December, ranger Jim Detterline discovered the intentional diversion of the Hidden Falls spring in the Wild Basin area of the park to create a new ice climbing route. A 51-foot-long, up to 14-inch-deep trench had been dug to fashion the new 80-foot route.

This practice, called "ice farming," has become popular in many areas to create climbing routes. Through contacts in the local climbing community and by monitoring a web site on rock and ice climbing conditions, Detterline and ranger Bill Alexander were able to identify Fort Collins resident Bob Daneker as the responsible party. Daneker had written an entry on the site claiming an ascent of a new ice route named "Hidden Dream." In lieu of legal action, Daneker agreed to assist ranger staff in a rehabilitation project at Hidden Falls this spring. Aside from the trenching, resource damage was minimal. An article will also be submitted to Rock and Ice Magazine explaining NPS policy on this type of activity.

## ADZE

### For Sale

Mountain Hardwear Trango Assault tent for sale. 2 person, 4 season, mountaineering tent, with UVX window, tension shelves, large vestibule. Great condition, but would like a larger tent for Denali. Paid \$395 brand new, asking \$250. Call Roger: 428-3338 or email at [mayvertical@aol.com](mailto:mayvertical@aol.com)



### Partners Wanted

Mid-late May P.W.S. for paddling/ climbing  
Call Stuart: 337-5127

## FICTION

### FutureClimb

by Paul Templeton

"Paul, I can't imagine how they did it. True bad-asses."

"I know what you mean. I once heard they would carry 20-30 kilograms on a climb like this."

"Whoa. Incredible. When was that again?"

"Oh, I don't know - 1980's, 1990's, somewhere around the turn of the millenium."

As Cory deftly placed a suction bolt on the 13<sup>th</sup> pitch on the North Face of the Great Trango Tower, it was easy to wax philosophical about the past rigors of climbing. It was said that this route used to take days and that the early climber used to be in great peril as they relied on "protective" devices that were difficult to place and always prone to failure. Furthermore, the slow pace increased greatly the less tangible risks of weather and fatigue. It seemed almost akin to David taking on Goliath without even a sling shot - maybe a pointy stick against a well-armored adversary. In any case the suction bolt adhered perfectly to the smooth granite and I fed out a few more meters of polyfilament LifeLine as Cory moved higher into some really blank terrain. Another two hours or so and we would be to the top and be treated to a commanding view of the entire Karakoram region - the Baltoro glacier 1800 meters below, Broad Peak to the East, K2 to the North. Hell of a way to spend a weekend!



Unexpectedly, Cory slipped. His fall from about two meters put a considerable jerk on my belay stance even with the energy dissipating properties of our LifeLine. I could perceive a momentary glow in the cord as the heat quickly radiated into the icy void. The suction bolt held, of course. There was never any doubt about that. I'd never heard of them failing on good rock and you used something else or just didn't climb on bad rock.

"Uh, huh. Better get those shoes resoled when we get back. I don't think you have the right polymer for this temperature."

"Now hurry up. I want to catch the sunset"

More pensiveness. That little bobble would have scared the bejeezus out of the old guys. Their anchors were not nearly so solid. First the bolts or cams, or whatever they used, were very suspect to a sudden load. Then the rope - rope! - was also a weak link. I'd seen scraps of that stuff in the museum. Huge, heavy, and weak. 50 meters of 11mm rope might weigh 8kg. It also took up a lot of space. The 200 meters of polyfilament we were using I payed out through a wound hip holster similar to the old style fishing reels. It wasn't even a millimeter thick and would hold one of the new Buicks in a fall. Well, lucky for Cory, I guess.

...But still I wondered. How much more a test of physical and mental endurance was it to climb back then. Were we missing something now? This was a very hard thing to answer. At times I almost wanted some risk. Everything was safe and clean in our society. Satellite guided hovercraft (there hadn't been a car wreck in 75 years), earthquakes and hurricanes were precisely predicted, hell, even the common cold had been eradicated. It just didn't seem like much was left to chance.

Our mountaineering was likewise. Glacier travel used to be hazardous. Now, transport was either by hovercraft, or, if one must walk, a 5-meter probe carried in front and utilizing sonar could warn with "six-nines" accuracy a change in the subsurface density indicating a crevasse. One simply went around. Hypothermia and frostbite were all but forgotten. Temperature controlled fabrics had long replaced down and bulky synthetics as a form of insulation. Even a minute drop in body temperature immediately activated the Solarthread in our suits and returned core temperature to normal. Avalanche conditions could be predicted miles away by aiming a pen-sized laser at a slope and measuring the amount of adsorption or weather conditions mapped by satellite could be retrieved from your watch in an

instant. Sunburn was the least of our worries as anyone older than 14 had developed complete UV immunity through the use of Sun Protection Compounds (SPC's) in the municipal drinking water. I sometimes thought that all that was left to fear was the abominable snowman himself. I still remembered the dusty laser disk of Rudolph the Rednose Reindeer. The Bumble wasn't roped in and he lived. "Bumbles bounce," was the historic line.

During all this musing, Cory had climbed another 150 meters. "On Belay" signaled it was my turn to climb. I snapped out of my thoughts and quickly popped an O<sub>2</sub> saturation pill to counteract the effects of altitude. As I moved through the section where Cory had slipped, I realized it was not the shoes. The climbing was really tough. I placed a drop of phenylalanine on the suction bolt and it released with a pop. Just then, I too slipped and a 1/2 meter of slack line came taught. I caught my breath even though I knew the system was foolproof. O.K. Maybe I didn't need any more risk after all! I remembered the ancient cliché: 'At least he died doing what he loved.' I never believed it. No one wants to die climbing. No one EVER wanted to die climbing.

That's why the sport continued to evolve. Better and better gear was invented. But climbers still needed that thrill. Harder and harder climbs and routes were explored. Discoveries and techniques spurred manufactures toward an even higher level of innovation and excellence. A dichotomy was revealed that would always typify the sport of climbing. The battle between man's ingenuity and his timeless fear was what made the challenges possible. Could there ever come an end to this war and the challenges disappear forever?

Really, it was larger than this. Human kind had propagated this philosophy in all areas of its existence. The quest for comfort and convenience has long competed with the arduous task of building personal character. Art has been replaced by computer generated images, mastery of an instrument substituted with sampled and synthesized sounds, fine cuisine now processed - fortified, most cannot remember what a library was since the advent of the Internet, GPS has relegated the compass to a museum piece. Have we all lost our internal guidance?

A couple of thin smears and I was level with Cory at the belay stance just 20 easy meters below the summit.

"Why did you stop here?" I asked. "It is basically a walk to the top."



"I don't know exactly. I kind of had a wild realization."

"And that was....?"

"You'll think I'm crazy, but I think we should do the last bit of this climb without a Lifeline."

He didn't need to explain why. It only made sense. Fear welled up inside. Internal bells tolled both the triumph and failure of generations of climbers. In spite of my Solarsuit I felt a chill throughout my body.

"I'll go first," I said.

I made the mistake of looking down. Nearly 2000 meters to the glacier below. I felt nauseous. Then I looked up. The climbing above was easy. Not without risk but by far the easiest of the route. The battle would be against fear alone. It would be against myself, not the mountain.

I removed my body net and coiled 200 meters of Lifeline with the touch of a button and stowed all within my waste pouch. I placed one hand on a firm hold above me and simultaneously set my feet on a small step. Near terror, I repeated the process again, and again. In the act of doing, focus was achieved and the fear of consequence diminished. Absolute awareness. Confidence. In minutes I was on top, the Himalayas spread out before me. An euphoric sense of relief and exhilaration spread throughout my body.

I let out a whoop and a holler as soon as Cory crested the summit. Together we sat and pondered the most beautiful and satisfying sunset ever. The deepening alpenglow poured truth and possibility upon the mountain landscape. It was suddenly clear - as long as there were dreams there would be challenges. One is born of the other. It is the way of things.

*Letters to the Editor*

✍

### Watch the Attitude

In the 31 years I've been going to MCA meetings I never heard any whining about instructing novices. That changed at the March meeting when one of the volunteer instructors proclaimed that he "had better things to do with his time" than to fuss over a bunch of mountaineering novices. Well my thought on

that is: *Get out of the instructing business, and get out fast!!* We don't need this kind of attitude or the lack of one. It's a sad day for the MCA and for mountaineering when even instructors begin to whine. Fact is, most folks who *really* want to learn to climb, can probably do so without an instructor. The club shall be a place where folks from all walks of life can interact with those from out of town or uptown, where those who are less competent meet the competent and hopefully "come along" to get their initial feel for what it's like to wander through higher places. Climbing/mountaineering etc. is an activity which brings back feelings many have forgotten or never knew they had. It's one of the greatest things a person can engage in. Let's forever make sure it doesn't get diminished by red tape (an unfortunate trend) or someone's personal burdens unleashed on hapless beginners.

Pete Sennhauser

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### Leading Pays Even Volunteers

I can remember the first MCA trip I led in 1982, over Portage Pass, which later turned out to be an annual event for the club. At the time I recall being struck by something unexpected: everyone really appreciated what I did and thanked me a lot, but in fact, I got more out of it than they did! It's something no one tells you, but you find out for yourself if you ever take folks out to see the mountains the way you see them. This was still true even last month when I took a small group out to make snow shelters. Mark Fouts calculated that I had led the most trips for this club, but I can tell you it was never such a thing as a burden.

It does not reflect well on the club to make your participants feel they are taking up your valuable time. This is particularly offensive to those of us who have volunteered in the past. It is important that the MCA continue to sponsor trips, but it won't be the end of the club if there are none. This club's real stong point is simply a catalyst for people to meet and enjoy each others' company. So, when I hear someone say they have better things to do with their time, my suggestion is this - Please, go out and do those better things, because you just haven't learned. There is no *better thing* to do than help others enjoy life.

Willy Hersman



## BOARD MEETINGS

(Barnes & Noble)

3/14/00

The following members attended the meeting: Richard B., Kirk T., Wendy S., Bill R., Dolly L., Patty M., Steve P. and Cory H. The following was discussed:

### *Trip Injuries*

Steve Parry recounted an injury to a participant's knee on a training trip. Steve described actions taken to transport the participant back to the parking lot, to a local health clinic and then to her home. Steve will document the injury and actions taken by the club. Board decided that we need to develop an injury incident report form. Kirk will modify an existing form that will be distributed to trip leaders.

### *By-Laws*

Bill R. made a motion to amend the By-Laws so that training trips are club-sanctioned trips. The board unanimously approved the motion.

### *MCA Trip Database*

Several members questioned the use of this database, but it became obvious that it is needed in order for the Hiking & Climbing Committee to review qualifications of potential leaders.

### *Leader Guidelines*

The board reviewed the list of trip leaders and recommends that the Hiking and Climbing Committee add columns for CPR/First Aid and Avalanche training.

Edits to Trip Leader Guidelines forwarded by the Hiking & Climbing Committee were approved by the board.

### *Avalanche Training*

Cory H. made a proposal to have the club provide avalanche training for its leaders (since the requirement for avalanche training has recently been added). Arguments against this proposal were that it is not the function of the club to fund training for leaders. Rather, we make information available, and pursue opportunities to provide training at reduced cost. After hearing arguments against the proposal, the motion was unanimously opposed.

### *Trip Announcements*

A discrepancy relating to the announcement of club-sanctioned trips was identified by the Hiking & Climbing Committee and brought to the attention of the board. The trip leader responsibilities write-up included a statement that a club-sanctioned trip may be announced at the general meeting if it has not been published in the Scree. The board voted unanimously to remove this statement from the

trip leader responsibilities. Per the By-Laws, sanctioned trips must be published in the Scree. One important reason for this is that trip publication provides documentation of what the trip involves, and lets participants know what they are getting into.

### *Club Equipment*

The board approved the immediate purchase of 4 radios (2 sets) to improve communications on club trips. Money for radios was already included in the budget.

Gary Runa requested some new ropes for training classes (specifically for ascending practice). Before granting the request for new ropes, the board wanted to know the status of existing club ropes. The following motions were unanimously approved:

- The equipment chairman should give the board an update on condition of ropes and number of ropes. The equipment chair should mark each good rope, generate a rope history card, and provide recommendation on number of rope bags to purchase.
- The equipment chair shall conduct a rope check twice per year where the ropes are checked by hand for damage. Richard will teach equipment chair Todd Steele how to check a rope.

### *Motion Failed*

Richard B. introduced a proposal to eliminate dues for officers. This proposal was unanimously opposed, because it would require a By-Laws change and because officers would lose credibility.

### *T-shirt Committee*

Dolly L. is checking into costs. Richard will get a previous list of club members interested in helping with the design to Dolly. An announcement will be made at the General Meeting that the club is looking for designs.

### *Huts*

Mark announced that we received a grant for \$11,000 to finish construction of the Eklutna Hut

### *Trip Awards*

We need to conduct trip leader awards for December. The secretary was requested to review minutes to see what money the board had decided to allocate to award trip leaders. [Notes indicate decision to provide four (4) \$30 awards twice per year.]

Respectfully Submitted,  
Cory Hinds

**MINUTES**



**MARCH MEETING**

There were a total of approximately 60 people in attendance. Four new members or visitors introduced themselves.

**TREASURER**

Treasurer **Patty McPherson** provided a brief update on the budget: revenues \$2,700, expenditures \$1,440, and approximately \$12,000 in reserves.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

*Hiking and Climbing*

Upcoming trips are posted in the Scree and on the club voicemail (566-4MCA). Several new trips were announced and signup sheets were provided. A list of approved trip leaders was posted for review.

*Training*

Chairperson **Steve Parry** announced that avalanche tranceiver practice is coming up (see *Scree*). Other training is currently full. **Gary Runa**'s basic mountaineering courses are ongoing, and are also full.

*Huts*

Chairman **Mark Miraglia** announced that the grant proposal that was submitted for construction of the Eklutna Hut was re-evaluated and fully funded. Work on this hut will continue this summer. **Dave Staeheli** announced that the log at the Mint Hut is full, and the Bomber Hut needs a set of wing nuts and new door strip to keep snow out.

*Equipment*

Chairperson **Todd Steele** will be checking condition of club ropes.

**OLD BUSINESS**

**Calendars** on sale for \$16.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**Scree** is now available for download off the internet.

The **trip leader orientation** course was described (will

become mandatory soon). Next course to be offered at 6:30 pm just prior to the next General Meeting.

**Peak registers** – if you climb a peak and find a screwed up register, let Wendy Sanem know.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**Information** was requested about Ruth Gorge and Todrillos..

Members were reminded to pay **dues** or you won't get the Scree.

**Avalanche awareness** courses – see Dave Staeheli.

**Rescue management** training May 5<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> – contact Jerry Lewansky at Chugach State Park

**Physics of climbing** – April 5<sup>th</sup> – Contact Blaine Smith.

Shawn Lyons presented an excellent slideshow of 1998 climbs and hikes all over Alaska. Shawn's new book was available at discount to club members.

Respectfully submitted,  
Cory Hinds

**Proposed Change to the MCA By-Laws**

The MCA Board of Directors has proposed a small change to the MCA Bylaws to include Training Trips in the definition of club sanctioned trips to make such outings subject to the same guidelines and rules for club sanctioned trips.

The proposed change is to Section XI (A.). The proposed change in wording is underlined.

**Section XI SANCTIONED TRIPS**

**A Definition:** A sanctioned club trip shall be one which is approved by the Hiking and Climbing Committee or Training Committee and advertised in the club publication in the Hiking and Climbing or Training Schedules. Such advertisement shall contain a description of the trip as to the difficulty and special requirements and designated leaders(s).





## 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 non-technical 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 by MCA Board, February 1995

## General Rules for MCA Sanctioned Trips

1. Proper equipment is on the reverse side of this list.
2. No dogs. (Among the reasons are bear problems.)
3. 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.
4. 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.
5. 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.
6. When carpools are arranged, please plan to pay the driver your share without his (her) asking you. Generally \$5 - short trips, \$10 or more for longer.
7. 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.
8. 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 trailless areas or State and National Parks
9. 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 by MCA Board, February 1995

## Equipment

### Summer

Raingear that works	Ace bandage
Windgear	Surgical tape
Wool or fleece pants	Aspirin
Shorts	Gauze
Light longjohns	Anti-bacterial ointment
Wool shirt	4" x 4" pads, band-aids
Jacket	Wire
Baseball cap	Vice grips or pliers
Gloves	Utility cord
Extra socks	Sewing kit
Wool or pile hat	Tent
Hiking boots	Sleeping pad
Stream-crossing footwear	Sleeping bag
Sunscreen	Backpack cover
Mosquito repellent	Cook pot
Whistle	Stove (fires not allowed)
Large plastic bag	Fuel bottle
Lighter, matches	Walking stick or ice axe
Map, compass	Water bottles (not canteens)
Aerosol bear repellent	FOOD
Moleskin/Spenco 2nd skin	

### Winter

Windgear	First aid kit
Wool/fleece pants	Repair kit
Wool/fleece shirt	Tent (or snow shelters)
Longjohns	Sleeping bag
Down jacket	Sleeping pad
Wool/fleece hat	Large cook pot
Face mask	Stove
Mittens	Windscreen for stove
Double boots	Fuel bottle
Avalanche beacon	Thermos
Shovel	Gaitors
Lighter	Thermometer
Headlamp	Skis or snowshoes

Approved by MCA Board, February 1995

## Leader Qualifications

1. Must be a member of the MCA.
2. Must have approval of the Hiking and Climbing Committee (A simple majority.)
3. Must have participated in trips of the same or higher classification than the one being led, showing competence in the opinion of the leaders of those trips; or equivalent experience acceptable to the Hiking and Climbing Committee.
4. Leaders on trips which may involve any avalanche-prone terrain must have passed formal avalanche training approved by the Hiking and Climbing Committee.
5. Leaders on trips which involve any hazardous stream crossings must have either formal training in safe stream crossing methods or have extensive experience crossing streams.

## Leader Guidelines

1. Must follow the general rules for MCA Sanctioned Trips.
2. Must have a sign-up sheet with all participants' names on it.
3. Select a meeting time and place disclosed only to those persons on the sign-up sheet, unless call-ins are acceptable to the leader.
4. Must verify that each participant has signed a valid waiver and that it is on file.
5. Can require special equipment and refuse participation to any person that is ill-equipped (including clothing).
6. Has the authority to split the group (fast and slow), but must select a co-leader to help.
7. Must report any injuries to the MCA President.
8. Must report any personnel problems to the Hiking and Climbing Committee.

Approved by MCA Board, February 1995



**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 and not limitation, falling while hiking, climbing, skiing or crossing rivers or glaciers; being struck by 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 any and all risks of injury, death, or property damage that may occur in connection with any MCA activity, including use of MCA furnished equipment and use of 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 or my fellow participants in MCA activities. **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.

\_\_\_\_\_ (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 may incur as a consequence of any legal action arising out of injury, death, or property damage suffered by me, or suffered by someone else as a result of my conduct.

\_\_\_\_\_ (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 CONTENTS. I AM AWARE THAT THIS IS A BINDING, LEGAL AGREEMENT BETWEEN ME AND THE MCA AND I SIGN IT OF MY OWN FREE WILL.**

Dated: \_\_\_\_\_ Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of Parent or Guardian (if under 19): \_\_\_\_\_

# Mountaineering Club of Alaska

## *Officers*

**President** Richard Baranow 694-1500  
**Vice-President** Tom Choate 333-5309  
**Secretary** Cory Hinds 277-2412  
**Treasurer** Patty McPherson 563-4806

## *Board*

**Kirk Towner** 344-5424  
**Shawn O'Donnell** 333-9176  
**Dolly Lefever** 243-7027  
**Wendy Sanem** 694-6867  
**Bill Romberg** 677-3993

**Annual membership dues: Single \$10.00 Family \$15.00 (one *Scree* per family)**

Dues can be paid at any meeting or mailed to the treasurer at the MCA address below. If you want a membership card, please fill out the club waiver found on the previous page 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 does not forward the newsletter.

*SCREE* is a monthly publication of the Mountaineering Club of Alaska. Articles and notes submitted for publication and other communication related to the newsletter should be mailed to my address: 1106 W. 54th Ave., Anchorage, AK 99518, or e-mailed to [willy@mcaak.org](mailto:willy@mcaak.org) Articles should be received by April 28th to be included in the May 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. Your cooperation will be appreciated...  
Willy Hersman, Editor, 561-7900.

**MAILING:** bill romberg

**HIKING/CLIMBING CHAIRS:** matt nedom, 278-3648, paul templeton, 688-2551

**Web Page:** <http://www.mcaak.org>

**Hot Line:** 566-4MCA (kristen schultz, 694-5788 to make updates)



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