

# the SCREE

Mountaineering Club of Alaska

April 2006

Volume 49 Number 4



**Eagle Glacier Climbs**

**ViLDA Chasing on  
Knight Island**

**Monthly Meeting  
Wednesday, April 19th @ 7:30 PM  
Program: Steve Parry will show slides  
from this years Mountaineering class**

**Believe, if thou wilt, that mountains change their place  
but believe not that man changes his nature.**

**Muhammad**



# The Mountaineering Club of Alaska

*"To maintain, promote and perpetuate the association of persons who are interested in promoting, sponsoring, improving, stimulating and contributing to the exercise of skill and safety in the Art and Science of Mountaineering"*

Join us for our club meetings the 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of the month at the First United Methodist Church, 9<sup>th</sup> and G Streets next to the Philips Building (you may use marked parking after hours)

Contact information is provided on the back page or visit us on the web at [www.mcak.org](http://www.mcak.org)

Cover photo: Tom Choate leads, Steve Gruhn seconds and Bruce Kittredge has the camera. See 'Eagle Glacier Climbs' in this issue

**Article Submission:** Articles and photos are best submitted on the web at MCAK.org. We prefer articles that are under 1,000 words. To get on the cover a photo should convey the feeling of mountaineering and show human endeavor.

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## Hiking and Climbing Schedule

March 25 End-of-Month Traverse

North Fork to Glen Alps Class C+. 17 miles. Elevation gain 2500'. Start at Prospect. Skis only. Quite likely we'll have to break trail, so need early start. Bring avalanche gear unless told otherwise. Requires spotting vehicles, which must be capable of getting to Glen Alps. Leader: Willy Hersman, [mcak@gci.net](mailto:mcak@gci.net)

Saturday, March 25, Eklutna Lake

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

Saturday, March 25 Eagle River Ski/Snowshoe

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

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

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

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

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

April 01 – 02, Eklutna Traverse training weekend

A preparation and familiarity session for Eklutna Traverse participants.

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

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

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

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

April 09 – 15, Eklutna Traverse  
Glacier Travel. Elevation gain: 6000'+  
Distance is 30+ miles Contact: Greg Bragiel  
569-3008

Thursday, April 13, 6:00 p.m. Falls Creek Ridge  
from Falls Creek 3 miles, 3,900 feet of  
elevation gain. Class D Contact leader at  
least 24 hours in advance. Leader: Steve  
Gruhn; 868-9118 (work)  
[steven.gruhn@hartcrowser.com](mailto:steven.gruhn@hartcrowser.com);

Tuesday, April 18, 5:30 p.m. Rainbow Peak (3543)  
4 miles, 3,500 feet of elevation gain. Class  
D Contact leader at least 24 hours in  
advance. Leader: Steve Gruhn; 868-9118  
(work)  
[steven.gruhn@hartcrowser.com](mailto:steven.gruhn@hartcrowser.com);

6:00 p.m. Thursday, April 20 Peak 3980 (Western  
Chugach Mountains; South Fork of the  
Eagle River and Ship Creek) Class B 1,800  
feet of elevation gain, 2 miles Ice axe  
recommended. Steven C. Gruhn (907) 276-  
2104 Voicemail: (907) 868-9118  
[steven.gruhn@hartcrowser.com](mailto:steven.gruhn@hartcrowser.com)

5:30 p.m. Monday, April 24 Mount Eklutna (4065)  
Class C 2,800 feet of elevation gain, 4  
miles. Steven C. Gruhn (907) 276-2104  
Voicemail: (907) 868-9118  
[steven.gruhn@hartcrowser.com](mailto:steven.gruhn@hartcrowser.com)

5:30 p.m. Wednesday, April 26 Winner Creek  
Gorge Class A 800 feet of elevation gain, 4  
miles. Steven C. Gruhn (907) 276-2104  
Voicemail: (907) 868-9118  
[steven.gruhn@hartcrowser.com](mailto:steven.gruhn@hartcrowser.com)

Saturday, April 29 Indianhouse Mountain (4350)  
Class D 4,300 feet of elevation gain, 5 miles  
Ice axe required. Steven C. Gruhn (907)  
276-2104 Voicemail: (907) 868-9118  
[steven.gruhn@hartcrowser.com](mailto:steven.gruhn@hartcrowser.com)

April 29 End-of-Month Traverse  
Glen Alps to McHugh Class C. 15 miles.  
Elevation gain 1800'. Requires spotting  
vehicles. Leader: Willy Hersman,  
mcak@gci.net

5:30 p.m. Monday, May 1 Peak 4009 (Western  
Chugach Mountains) Four Mile Creek and  
Thunder Bird Creek. Class D 3,800 feet of  
elevation gain, 6 miles Steven C. Gruhn  
(907) 276-2104 Voicemail: (907) 868-9118  
[steven.gruhn@hartcrowser.com](mailto:steven.gruhn@hartcrowser.com)

Saturday, May 13 Begich Peak (4623) Class D  
4,500 feet of elevation gain, 5 miles Ice axe  
and fondness of bushwhacking required.  
Steven C. Gruhn (907) 276-2104 Voicemail:  
(907) 868-9118  
[steven.gruhn@hartcrowser.com](mailto:steven.gruhn@hartcrowser.com)

5:30 p.m. Monday, May 15 Flaketop Peak (4514)  
Class C 2,600 feet of elevation gain, 6 miles  
Steven C. Gruhn (907) 276-2104 Voicemail:  
(907) 868-9118  
[steven.gruhn@hartcrowser.com](mailto:steven.gruhn@hartcrowser.com)

May 18-31 Chenega to Valdez.  
Plan to climb and explore along the way.  
Sea Kayaking experience and gear. AV  
gear. Class D. Stu Grenier  
[oinkmenow@hotmail.com](mailto:oinkmenow@hotmail.com) 337-5127

July 1-July 9, 2006 Lake Clark National Park  
Class B Backpacking trip Twin Lakes to  
Turquoise Lake traverse. Charter out of  
Lake Hood, Anchorage. Charter costs \$700-  
730/ person round trip. Set up 1<sup>st</sup> camp at  
Twin Lakes and spend a couple of days  
hiking in the area. Take 2 to 3 days to  
backpack to Turquoise Lake (about 10 miles  
between the lakes) set up camp and spend  
a few days exploring this area and get  
picked up on July 9<sup>th</sup>. We may setup food  
cache at Turquoise Lake on the charter trip  
into Twin lakes. Leader: Don Hansen 243-  
7184 home. [donjoehansen@msn.com](mailto:donjoehansen@msn.com)

July 20-August 2, 2006 Arctic National Wildlife  
Refuge Class B Backpacking trip into the  
Spring Creek drainage. We plan to air  
charter out of Arctic Village or Fort Yukon  
with Yukon Air Charter. We will explore the  
tributaries of Spring Creek, hike up some of  
the peaks and ridges in the area. Estimated  
charter cost is about \$440 to 587/person.  
Leader: Don Hansen 243-7184 home.  
[Donjoehansen@msn.com](mailto:Donjoehansen@msn.com)

# Eagle Glacier Climbs

by Steve Gruhn



Photo by Bruce Kittredge

On May 28, 2005, Tom Choate, Bruce Kittredge, and I started out for Crow Pass and a nine-day trip on the Eagle Glacier. Encountering horizontal rain at Bird Creek, we made a pit stop at the Bird Ridge Bakery and decided to try again the next day for an eight-day trip on the Eagle Glacier. Having a flexible schedule certainly can make climbing in Alaska a bit more tolerable.

Low clouds shrouded the mountains the next day, but there wasn't much in the way of precipitation, so we headed out again. This time we made it all the way to the Crow Pass trailhead. We hiked up rather quickly, crossing avalanche debris along the main trail below the old mill site. We continued on up to the Crystal Lake cabin where we ran into Jim Szender. After a bit of chatting, we continued through the pass and onto the Raven Glacier, where we donned snowshoes and roped up. Jim climbed the ridge to our south and called out to us from above. He would be the last person we saw for over a week.

The trek up the glacier went well enough and soon we were below Raven Pass. Due to poor snow conditions, we took off our snowshoes and headed up the west side of the snow slope to the pass, just below a rocky area that offered some protection from falling snow above. This rocky area, however, was protected by some bottomless snow, which

afforded us the opportunity to test our floundering skills. After quite some time, we stood at the pass, looking northward down the West Fork Glacier.

Here the weather improved markedly. By the time we reached Rosie's Roost a couple hours later the sun was out.



Photo by Bruce Kittredge

The next morning, however, the weather wasn't very favorable. We declared a weather day and we pattered and lounged around the hut – Tom and Bruce doing more pattering with me doing more lounging.



On the morning of Tuesday, the 31st, we set out for Roost Peak (Section 32, Township 12 North, Range 3 East, of the Seward Meridian). We crossed some old tracks across the Eagle Glacier as we headed toward the icefall in the southwest portion of Section 29. We climbed up to Point 5485 where we ate lunch. Tom led us down to the ridge to the southeast. Here we debated about whether to head directly toward the summit, which was guarded by numerous seracs. Not liking that idea, I suggested that we skirt the northern portion of the mountain and ascend the north ridge. This could take longer, but I thought it would be safer. After some more debate, Tom led us around my route. The climbing was enjoyable and the weather was superb. Snow conditions were such that we tried to hug the north ridge as much as possible, occasionally venturing a bit to the west of the ridge to avoid gendarmes. At some places the snow was soft and our climbing appeared more like wallowing. But we were soon on top, signing in the register and enjoying the views of the surrounding peaks. It looked like Golden Crown (Sec. 4, T11N, R3E, S.M.) and Sparrow Peak (elevation 6635 feet, Sec. 9, T11N, R3E, S.M.) were both higher than we were, but we couldn't tell whether we were higher or lower than North Raven Peak (Sec. 11, T11N, R2E, S.M.). After much gawking and some more eating, we descended as evening approached. Instead of returning over Point 5485, we headed down the icefall to the north one at a time and soon we were making the long trudge back to Rosie's Roost.

The next day the weather was again marginal, so I did more lounging, and Tom and Bruce did more puttering.

The morning of Thursday, the 2nd, dawned clear and calm. We headed out for Golden Crown. The conditions in the morning were superb and we were soon snacking in the basin southwest of Golden Crown. We kicked steps up the headwall to the northern portion of the saddle between Golden Crown and Point 6352 to the south. We had lunch at the saddle and Bruce decided that he didn't want to continue. Tom and I left him at the saddle and we headed north along the ridge toward the summit. We were soon forced off the ridge to the east, above the Sparrow Glacier. The snow on this side of the ridge consisted of bottomless ice crystals, so we took our time as we dropped a couple hundred feet below a gendarme and then re-ascended to the ridge. Once on the ridge, the snow conditions improved markedly and we were shortly on top. From the summit, we could see that Bruce had descended the headwall back to the

basin below the ridge and was waiting for us there. Tom and I used a water bottle as a level to determine the relative elevations of the nearby peaks. We confirmed that Roost Peak was lower than Golden Crown and that Sparrow Peak was, indeed, higher. So, the elevations of both Roost Peak and Golden Crown are less than 6635 feet, but higher than 6600 feet. Splitting the difference, I estimated their elevations to be 6618 feet. After making notes in the register, I led us back down the same way we came. Descending from the saddle proved quite a bit more challenging in the sun-softened snow of the afternoon. The three of us roped up for the long trudge back to Rosie's Roost. After a while of slogging along, I figured we needed some entertainment, so I burst into song. Well, I called it song, anyway. "Roxanne!" I did my best impression of Eddie Murphy impersonating Sting. Tom and Bruce thought the impression was more like that of a wounded animal caught in a trap but I was having fun, so I serenaded them with different songs (or wounded animal noises, depending upon your perspective) all the way back to the hut. I was amazed at the fast pace on the return trip that night. For some reason, Tom and Bruce really wanted to get back quickly.

### **Tom Choate on Golden Crown**



**Photo by Steve Gruhn**

The next morning we headed out to attempt Bunting Peak (el. 6585, Sec. 27, T12N, R3E, S.M.). We headed up the same icefall we had descended on our return from Roost Peak a few days earlier. The wind from the northwest had picked up and the snow was covered with aphids and yellowjackets that had been blown up the glacier. It looked like it was going to be a bad yellowjacket year. We attained the northwest ridge of Bunting Peak without much difficulty and followed the ridge upward. As the ridge became steeper the snow became icy and Bruce was rapidly looking for us to find a different route. Tom went out across a steep slope to the north to check out the conditions, but Bruce was having none of that. Bruce and I returned to the ridge and I led us over a different route, below and to the west, where we could access the north buttress. Tom, in bunny boots, proceeded to sidehill across the 65-degree slope above us, stabbing his ice axe in above his shoulder to provide some security. Tom made it across before Bruce and I had climbed back up the north buttress and he was waiting for us on the summit. The views to the east were phenomenal, but we could see thunderstorm activity down the Eagle River Valley to the northwest. After a short stay, we descended the route that Bruce and I had gone up and trudged back to the hut. "Roxanne!" More singing/caterwauling ensued and we made great time as Tom and Bruce hastened back to the hut.



Photo by Bruce Kittredge

**Bruce (left) and Steve summit**



Photo by Tom Choate

The next morning we set out for Yudi Peak (el. 6540, Sec. 18, T11N, R3E, S.M.). Fog shrouded our views of the southern end of the Eagle Glacier and it became difficult to navigate. We found ourselves on the east side of a ridge that juts out north of Yudi Peak. We kept this ridge to our right as we headed up the glacier. The fog cleared for a moment and we could see that we were exactly where we wanted to be: in the basin on the north side of Yudi Peak. We headed up and attained the northeast ridge at an elevation of about 6,000 feet. Bruce decided that he didn't want to climb in the fog and he descended to the basin to await our return. I led Tom upward until we reached a high point. We began shoveling to look for a cairn or a register. Then the fog lifted for a bit and we could see higher ground off to the west. Tom led us to Point 6540 and we placed a cairn and a summit register there. As the fog moved in and out of the area, we tried to discern whether we were higher than a point to the northwest. But we could not determine which point was higher. We returned to Bruce and I again provide song ("Roxanne!") and humor (or torture) for our return. Again we made great time.

The next day we bagged up our human waste (and that of some other lazy people) and headed up the West Fork Glacier. We got to Raven Pass just before 11 a.m., and took a break. When we finally descended to the Raven Glacier, the sun had warmed up the slopes and made them soft, so we went very slowly. Even so, I fell in one of the three bergschrunds we saw. I only went in to my waist,



so I was able to crawl out on my own. Once back on the flats of the Raven Glacier, we turned west and headed home. Cresting a small rise, Bruce, in the lead, motioned for us to get down. A wolverine was following our tracks from a week before and it hadn't seen us. But soon enough, the wolverine spun around and ran far down the glacier. I have seen wolverine tracks numerous times, but that was the first wild wolverine I had seen.



**Think REI will take the boots back?**

**Photo by Bruce Kittredge**

We got to the moraine on the southern side of the Raven Glacier and took off our snowshoes. In the distance, we saw a group of people descending toward Raven Creek, the first people we had seen in a week. We hiked over to the Crystal Lake cabin and met Pam Alborg and Jeff Golden, former MCA members now living in Oregon. The trip back to the parking lot was uneventful. We savored memories of a terrific trip, fast friends, wild wolverine, and, well, the sounds of wounded wildlife. "Roxanne!"



## **ViLDA Chasing**

**By Tim Kelly**

Surfing the Internet can get you in trouble! If you don't watch out you can stumble across a web site that will mess with your life. Maybe even a web site that will prompt you to throw a camera and GPS in your pack and start chasing ghosts in obscure, mountainous places in remote Alaska. This "web trauma" happened to me. An Internet site turned me into a "ViLDA Chaser"!

The web site I'm referring to is [vilda.alaska.edu](http://vilda.alaska.edu), the State of Alaska's Visual Library and Digital Archives web site. This web site allows you to peruse an online database of thousands of old



Alaskan historical photographs from museums around our state. If you are an Alaskan history enthusiast like me, you can really get drawn into this web site. ViLDA is a great asset to the State of Alaska as a way to preserve and share the history of our past.

Last year I was surfing around ViLDA when I spotted a black and white picture taken on Knight Island. Likely taken between 1910 and 1913, this photo is now the property of the Alaska Museum of History and Art. The caption of the picture says that it was taken on Knight Island in Prince William Sound, above Port Audrey at the head of Drier Bay, from the Jonsie Copper Mine.

As soon as I saw this picture I was hooked. I just had to track down this location and try to recreate the shot.



Why? Because the Internet is evil and I'm now a ViLDA junkie ... that's why!

### **ViLDA photo from 1900-1913, Alaska Museum of History and Art**



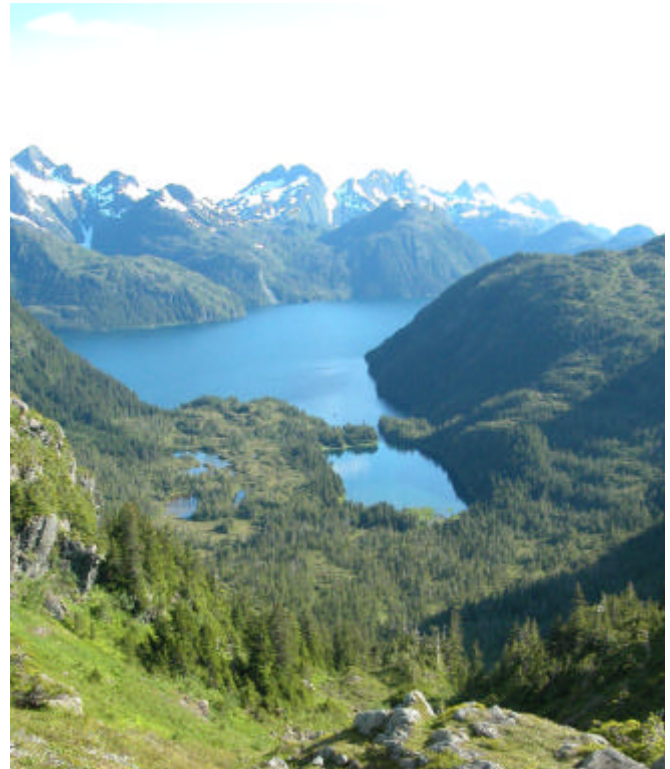
During June of last summer I was in the neighborhood of Drier Bay so I took some time to track down this Knight Island photo location. I bushwhacked north from Port Audrey while using landmarks from the old picture as guides. I ran into some very steep jungle thrashing to get above tree-line. So the old-timers evidently knew their way around these hills better than me.

Above tree-line I knew I was getting close. And then I saw it - the exact rock the unknown photographer had used 90+ years ago to take the picture now on ViLDA. After retaking the picture I poked around the hills of this area. I found no evidence of a copper mine, but I did find a cairn that looked like it could be pushing 100 years old. So maybe the photo caption was mistaken. Maybe this photo was from prospectors staking a copper claim instead.

Museums around the state are constantly adding new historical photos to ViLDA. And I'm frequently visiting [vilda.alaska.edu](http://vilda.alaska.edu). So who knows what destination will result from the next: "Damn! I've GOT to go there!" discovery.

If other readers of Scree are interested in Alaska's history, you really ought to check out ViLDA on the web. But watch out! You too could end up traipsing off to strange places with a camera and a printout of an old picture, chasing ghost photographers from days of old. Yes, you too could end up being a "ViLDA Chaser"!

### **2005 Tim Kelley photo from same spot 90+ years later**



### **Knight Island**





## Allison's Contest

### Allison Sayer says 'Let's have a contest'

So here is how it goes:

Send her your candidates for favorite Ridge Walk in the Chugach State Park. You can send your nominations to Allison at [hineini2000@yahoo.com](mailto:hineini2000@yahoo.com) (and ask her for me what hineini2000 means?)



## Letters to the Editor

### "Inlet" or "Snow" Glacier

An article in the March Scree has a reference to and picture of the "Snow Glacier" on the Kenai Peninsula. Some years ago when I was doing research for the Scree peak index, I became aware of several names in that area which Vin Hoeman had chosen, as Greg



## Board Meeting Minutes

BOARD MEETING 3.8.06

Minutes of meeting

6:00 pm at The Snow Goose Restaurant

Present: Steve Gruhn, Sean Bolender, Debbie Arens, SaraEllen Hutchison, Garry Green (for Rebecca Bissette), Annette Iverson, Hans Neidig, Stu Grenier, guest Park Ranger Dan Amyot

Old Business: the club voted to award \$225 for a Meekin Grant for a potential member's proposed trip, pending that person's membership. So far, there have been no nominations received for the Hoeman Award and President's Award.

Park Ranger Dan Amyot came to the Board Meeting to join us in our ongoing hut discussion. Stay tuned for hut news.

The Website: There is a new bulletin board on the website. Willy Hersman would like to know if members are interested in being able to use PayPal through the MCA website.

She will compile a list and we'll put it in the Scree. She gets to pick a winner and the winner gets a prize. What is the prize you ask? Well she gets to pick that too. Maybe some of her delicious trail treats or a new Marmot sleeping bag. Hmmm, more likely some trail treats but it's up to her...

Editor.

Higgins had pointed them out to me. Although the Snow River emanates from this icefield, and there is a temptation to reuse that name, Vin chose the name Inlet Glacier, instead. I propose we use Vin's name. The name Tom Choate, Rick Maron and I used for the icefield which connects all those glaciers, when we made our 1989 traverse, was the Isthmus Icefield.

Willy Hersman

T-shirts, logos, and other merchandise: There are no t-shirts available for sale yet. The Board also discussed using a uniform logo for banners, promotional materials, and merchandise.

Library: Ladders have been purchased and bookshelves are on the way.

New Business: Jayme would like to change the dates of the Ice Festival to September 30-October 1. The board shall defer to her choice.

Steve Gruhn will be unavailable for some future board meetings, perhaps June and July. This is important so that we can plan our summer picnic.

SaraEllen needs to contact Carlene to reserve Valley of the Moon Park for the 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday in July for the summer picnic.

Next meeting: April 5, 2006 at the upstairs room at the Snow Goose—this is the first Wednesday.

# General membership Meeting Minutes

GENERAL MEETING 3.15.06

Minutes of meeting

7:30 pm at First Methodist Church

Board Members Present: Steve Gruhn, Sean Bolender, Debbie Arens, SaraEllen Hutchison

7:35pm--Meeting called to order by MCA President Steve Gruhn with introductions by visitors and new members.

**Treasurer's Report:** Debbie Arens reported that total revenue for 2006 is \$2,089.00, total expenses are \$1,922.04, and all accounts are looking good.

**Equipment:** Steve Parry reported that we still have equipment, and have not recently purchased anything new.

**Geographic Names Committee:** Tom Choate was not present; no news.

**Hiking and Climbing Committee:** Carlene Van Tol reported some upcoming trips and directed members to the sign up sheets at the front tables. Contact trip leaders for details.

Steve Gruhn reported that most of his trips are after work trips, except the Eagle River trip, which shall be an all day ski/snowshoe trip.

Greg Bragiel is leading the Eklutna Traverse—if you are serious about this trip, you must attend training. Annette Iverson will be in charge of the training trip. There is a mandatory meeting on March 25; please contact Greg Bragiel for details.

## Upcoming Trips with Leaders listed:

- 3.16 Flaketop Peak for the Full Moon; Amy Murphy.
- 3.18 Williwaw Lakes/Long Lake Traverse; Amy Murphy
- 3.20 Rainbow to Windy Corner; Steve Gruhn
- 3.22 Rainbow to McHugh Creek; Steve Gruhn
- 3.23 Harp Mountain; Amy Murphy
- 3.25 Eagle River; Steve Gruhn
- 3.25 Campbell Creek Canyon to Williwaw Lakes; Willy Hersman
- 3.27 Bird Creek; Steve Gruhn
- 3.29 Peak 2831; Steve Gruhn
- 4.1 – 4.2 Eklutna Traverse training weekend; Greg Bragiel & Annette Iverson
- 4.4 Falls Creek; Steve Gruhn
- 4.6 Falls Creek Ridge from Windy Corner; Steve Gruhn
- 4.9 – 4.15 Eklutna Traverse; Greg Bragiel
- 4.13 Falls Creek Ridge from Falls Creek; Steve Gruhn
- 4.18 Rainbow Peak; Steve Gruhn

**Huts Report:** Hans Neidig said that waste is the biggest issue facing huts. We are going to try to move the Mint hut to a pack-out system over the summer. The outhouse is full, and there are no good sites to put a new outhouse. If you are interested in researching waste issues, please contact SaraEllen Hutchison.

We are also going to check out sites for new huts this summer. If you are interested in leading one of these trips, please contact Hans.

We are also organizing hut maintenance trips. A list of work needed on each hut is available. We are looking for volunteers to assist with this too.

Commercial use of huts—the general rule is that there is to be no commercial use of huts. If you have any questions, please contact Hans.

**Parks Advisory:** Cory Hinds reported that on April 4, vote yes on Proposition 5, so that there will be a vote on whether to acquire land for a trailhead for legal access to Mount Baldy.

**Training:** Carl Battreall was not present, so Steve Parry reported that the Glacier Mountaineering Course was a great success. Congratulations to graduates and thanks to instructors. Andi Andraschko reported that Deb Ajango's Wilderness First Aid training dates will be posted on the new Bulletin Board.

**Ice Climbing:** Jayme Dixon has moved the Ice Festival to 9.30 – 10.1; this was ratified by the Board at the last Board meeting. Please mark your calendars.

**Awards:** Bill Romberg reported that we have Hoeman, President's, & Meekin awards, and the committee is still seeking nominations. Natalia Aulenbacher was awarded a \$225 Meekin Expedition Grant for her trip to Peak 8947. Steve Parry was awarded a gift certificate

**Calendar:** Calendar picture voting was tonight.

**Scree:** John Recktenwald needs your April Scree submissions today; submissions for the May Scree are due April 19.

**Website:** There is a new bulletin board on the website; on it there are polls for things such as the potential use of PayPal on the website. Please check out the bulletin board.

**Products:** Steve Gruhn reported that the t-shirts are tabled until Amy Murphy is finished with her Nepal trips. Patches are available for \$5 each. Free maps and other things were offered on the side table.

**Slide Show:** Please be quiet during our slide shows. Tonight's presentation was on the Eklutna Traverse, by Greg Bragiel.



## MCA Trip Classifications

The classifications below do not take into account individual trip hazards such as river crossings, scree slopes, snow fields, bears, etc. Trip leaders are required to inform the trip participants of any such hazards either verbally, on the sign-up sheet, or in the trip description. Leader approval is required for participation on all trips. **NON-TECHNICAL:** Following are a few standards used to classify nontechnical trips. The classification is made in terms of hiking distance and altitude gain. Many trips are not on established trails.

**CLASS A:** Easy hikes with a maximum distance of 8 miles for day trips or 4 miles per day for overnight trips. Altitude gain up to 1200 feet.

**CLASS B:** Trips involving a maximum distance of up to 12 miles for a day trip or 6 miles per day for an overnight trip. Altitude gain of 1200 to 2500 feet.

**CLASS C:** Trips up to 15 miles for a day hike or 8 miles per day for an overnight trip. Altitude gain up to 3500 feet. Scree, steep grass or other rough terrain problems may be encountered.

**CLASS D:** Hikes and climbs with an altitude gain of over 3500 feet or a distance of greater than 15 miles for a day-hike or greater than 8 miles a day for an overnight trip. Peaks in this classification may require minimal climbing skills.

**CLASS E:** Hazardous climbing conditions or stream-crossing conditions may be encountered. A basic mountaineering course may be required.

**TECHNICAL:** Technical trips are open to all qualified climbers. However, the registration on any particular trip must be restricted to a safe and manageable number of climbers. Registration is made directly with the leader, who determines the qualifications needed for the trip.

**GLACIER TRAVEL:** Trips requiring roped travel over glaciers. Knowledge of crevasse rescue, and ice axe and crampon skills are required. Basic understanding of ice and snow anchors also required.

**FIFTH CLASS:** Trips which involve fifth class climbing. A Basic Mountaineering course or equivalent is required. Knowledge of belay and rappel techniques and placing anchors is required. Climbing difficulty varies widely with each trip.

**TRIP PARTICIPANTS** have the obligation to acquaint themselves with the nature of the trip and to verify that it is within their capability and experience. Anyone wishing to participate in any trip above CLASS A must have completed one or more trips of the next lower classification, or the equivalent.

Approved: MCA Board, February 15, 2000

## General Rules for MCA Sanctioned Trips

1. Proper equipment is available from the trip leader.
2. No dogs. (Among the reasons are bear problems.)
3. The trip leader can require special equipment and refuse participation to any person that is ill-prepared (e.g. inappropriate clothing/gear).
4. The leader's suggestions are to be followed. Do not go off alone, return or rush ahead without his (her) permission, and don't ford a stream before the leader assesses the situation. Remember, this is a club trip and the leader must know where all participants are. Anyone separating from the group without the leader's approval is no longer considered a participant the MCA Sanctioned trip.
5. The trip leader has the authority to split the group (fast and slow), dependent upon current conditions. However, he/she must appoint a qualified co-leader to lead the second group using the guidelines specified in the current Trip Leader Responsibilities.
6. Trip participants who, in the leader's opinion, put themselves or other members of the group in danger by disregarding the leader's suggestions, shall be subject to sanction by the club. Sanctions may include, but are not limited to, reprimand at general meeting, exclusion from future trips, termination of annual membership, or lifetime exclusion from the club.
7. You must sign up on a trip roster (club meetings) or contact the leader, and you must have signed the club waiver to be on a club trip.
8. If you find you cannot participate after signing up on the roster, please let the leader know, both for transportation and gear-planning and so someone else can go. If you are the leader, help find a replacement.
9. Total number of people on club trips:  
Minimum: 4 (for safety reasons)  
Maximum: Leader option, depends upon the trail and campsite conditions, but generally limited to 12 in trail-less areas or State/ National Parks
10. Firearms are not encouraged, and please let the leader know if you want to carry one - it will be leader's option. Aerosol bear repellent is preferred.

Approved: MCA Board, February 15, 2000

# Mountaineering Club of Alaska

President Steve Gruhn 344-1219  
Vice-President Sean Bolender 333-0213  
Secretary SaraEllen Hutchison 206-419-9386  
Treasurer Debbie Arens 563-1960

Board member Eric Teela 240-9693  
Board member Annette Iverson 222-0581  
Board member Randy Howell 346-4608  
Board member Rebecca Bisette 375-0959  
Board member Steve Parry 248-8710

Annual membership dues: Single \$15, Family \$20

Dues can be paid at any meeting or mailed to the Treasurer at the MCA address below. If you want a membership card, Please fill out a club waiver and mail it with a self-addressed stamped envelope. If you fail to receive the newsletter or have questions about your membership, contact the club treasurer. The Post Office will not forward the newsletter.

The 'Scree' is a monthly publication of the Mountaineering Club of Alaska. Articles and notes submitted for publication and other communication related to the newsletter should be submitted on the web at [www.mcak.org](http://www.mcak.org) or mailed to Scree Editor Box 102037 Anchorage Alaska 99510. Articles should be received by April 19th (the club meeting) to be 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.

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

Mailing list/database entry: Greg Bragiel - 569-3008  
Hiking Committee: Matt Nedom - 278-3648, Carlene Van Tol - 748-5270  
Climbing Committee: Richard Baranow - 694-1500, Randy Howell - 346-4608  
Huts: Hans Neidig 355-3244  
Calendar: Stuart Grenier 337-5127  
Scree Editor: John Recktenwald 346-2589  
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