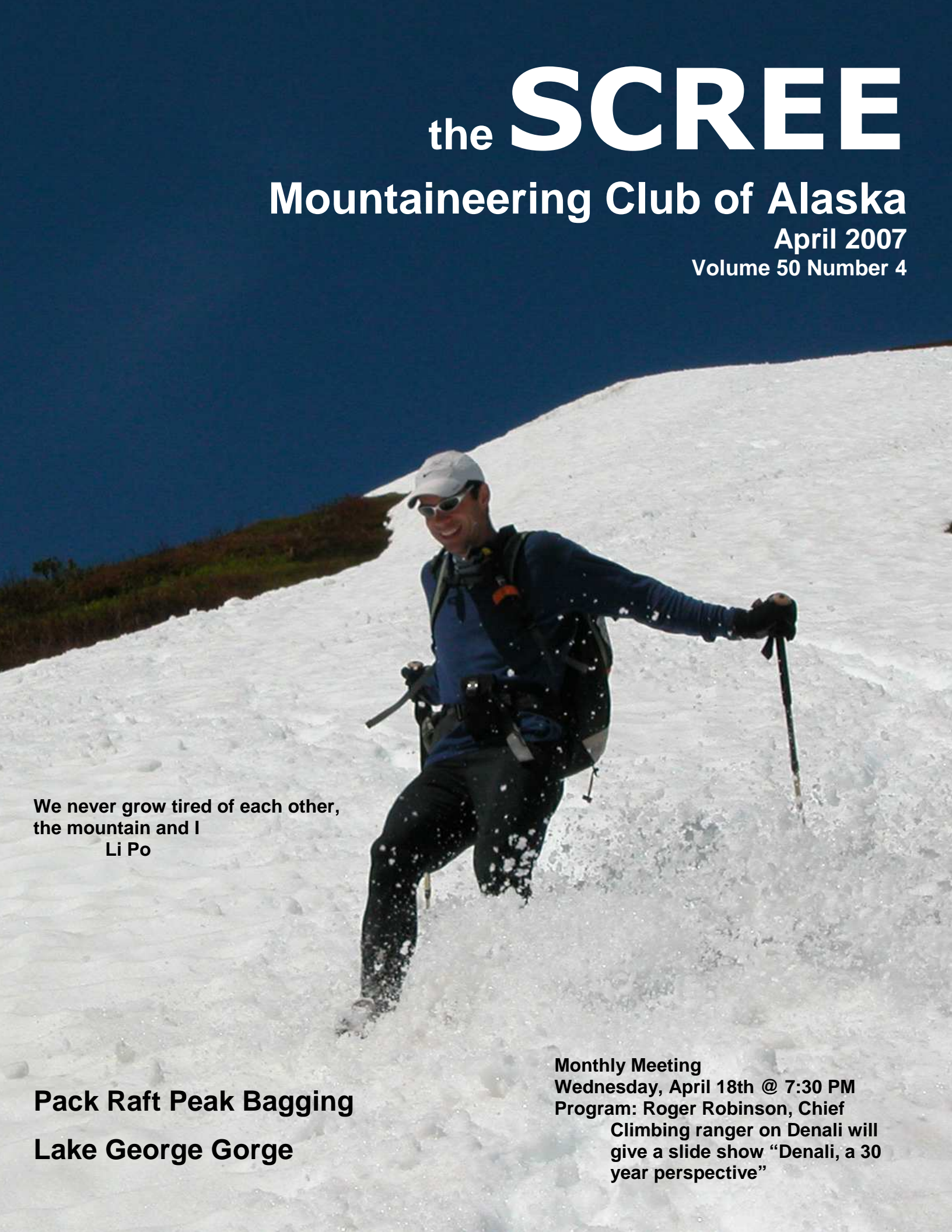


# the SCREE

## Mountaineering Club of Alaska

April 2007

Volume 50 Number 4



We never grow tired of each other,  
the mountain and I  
Li Po

**Pack Raft Peak Bagging**  
**Lake George Gorge**

**Monthly Meeting**  
**Wednesday, April 18th @ 7:30 PM**  
**Program: Roger Robinson, Chief**  
**Climbing ranger on Denali will**  
**give a slide show "Denali, a 30**  
**year perspective"**

# 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:** Cory Smith glissading near Lynx Creek on the Kenai Peninsula. See 'Pack Raft Peak Bagging on the Kenai Peninsula' in this issue. Photo by Tim Kelley.

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

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#### Mount Grosvenor, 'Peak of the Month'

#### Lake George Gorge

#### Seen Wolverines?

#### ADZE

#### Release of Liability and Trip classifications

## Hiking and Climbing Schedule

March 29, Mount Eklutna

Class C. After-work hike starting at 6 p.m.  
Contact leader at least 24 hours before trip.  
Leader: Steve Gruhn,  
[steven.gruhn@hartcrowser.com](mailto:steven.gruhn@hartcrowser.com) 868-9118 (w)  
344-1219 (h)

April 5, Rainbow Peak

Class D. After-work hike starting at 5:30 p.m.  
Contact leader at least 24 hours before trip.  
Leader: Steve Gruhn,  
[steven.gruhn@hartcrowser.com](mailto:steven.gruhn@hartcrowser.com) 868-9118 (w)  
344-1219 (h)

April 7, South Suicide Peak, North Suicide Peak, and Rainbow Peak Class D. Early start. Bring ice axe and crampons. Contact leader at least 24 hours before trip. Leader: Steve Gruhn,  
[steven.gruhn@hartcrowser.com](mailto:steven.gruhn@hartcrowser.com) 868-9118 (w)  
344-1219 (h)

April 7, Eklutna Canyon – Ice Climbing,  
Technical Ice Climbing day trip, WI III – IV, 1-3 miles round trip. Previous experience required. Need boots, crampons, harness, belay device, helmet and tools. Meet at 8 AM Carrs Muldoon. Please call leader 24 hours in advance. Leader Jayme Mack-Dixon 382-0212

April 10, Bird Creek Waterfall

Class A after work hike beginning at 5:30,  
Contact leader at least 24 hours in advance of trip. Leader: Steve Gruhn  
[steven.gruhn@hartcrowser.com](mailto:steven.gruhn@hartcrowser.com), 868-9118 (w),  
344-1219 (h)

April 12, Peak 3980 (Ship Creek and South Fork of the Eagle River) Class B. After-work hike, ski, or snowshoe starting at 6 p.m. Contact leader at least 24 hours before trip. Leader: Steve Gruhn,  
[steven.gruhn@hartcrowser.com](mailto:steven.gruhn@hartcrowser.com) 868-9118 (w)  
344-1219 (h)

April 14 & 15, Eklutna Traverse training weekend  
Must attend if you are going on the club ET trip.  
Contact: Greg Bragiel 569-3008

April 17, Indian Valley

Class A. After-work hike starting at 5:30 p.m.  
Contact leader at least 24 hours before trip.  
Leader: Steve Gruhn,  
[steven.gruhn@hartcrowser.com](mailto:steven.gruhn@hartcrowser.com) 868-9118 (w)  
344-1219 (h)

April 19, Falls Creek Ridge

Class D, Meet at 5:30, 3,900 feet of elevation gain, 5 miles round trip. Mountaineering experience required. Contact leader at least 24 hours in advance of trip. Leader: Steve Gruhn  
[steven.gruhn@hartcrowser.com](mailto:steven.gruhn@hartcrowser.com), 868-9118 (w),  
344-1219 (h)

April 21 & 22, Lane Hut Ski trip & peaks  
Class C. This will be a Saturday and Sunday  
overnight trip to the Lane Hut and Lane glacier.  
An ascent of the surrounding peaks above the  
Lane glacier is planned for Sunday. Contact  
Sean Bolender,  
seanbolender@gmail.com

April 28 -Indianhouse Mountain  
Class D, 4,300 feet of elevation gain, 6 miles  
round trip, Mountaineering experience required.  
Early start. Contact leader at least 24 hours in  
advance of trip. Leader: Steve Gruhn  
steven.gruhn@hartcrowser.com, 868-9118 (w),  
344-1219 (h)

April 29 – May 5, Eklutna Traverse  
Glacier Travel, elevation gain 6,000, 30+ miles.  
Contact: Greg Bragiel 569-3008

April 30, 5:30 p.m. Flaketop Peak  
Class C, 2,600 feet of elevation gain, 5 miles  
round trip. Contact leader at least 24 hours in  
advance of trip. Leader: Steve Gruhn  
steven.gruhn@hartcrowser.com, 868-9118 (w),  
344-1219 (h)

May 5 Boggs Peak Class D  
4,400 feet of elevation gain, 10 miles round trip

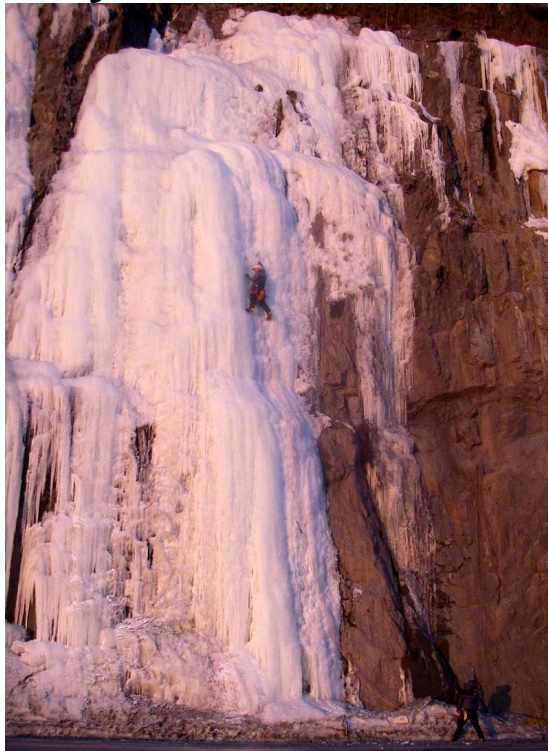
Mountaineering experience required. Early  
start. Contact leader at least 24 hours in  
advance of trip. Leader: Steve Gruhn  
steven.gruhn@hartcrowser.com, 868-9118 (w),  
344-1219 (h)

May 7, 6:00 p.m. Peak 4009 (Four Mile Creek and  
Thunder Bird Creek) Class D  
3,800 feet of elevation gain, 9 miles round trip,  
Contact leader at least 24 hours in advance of  
trip. Leader: Steve Gruhn  
steven.gruhn@hartcrowser.com, 868-9118 (w),  
344-1219 (h)

May 17–June 01 Prince William Sound Kayak/Climb  
Whittier to Chenega Bay by Ferry, Kayak from  
Chenega Bay to Cordova. Climb some snow  
capped peaks on Knight Island, Montague  
Island and Hinchinbrook Island. Contact the  
leader SeanBolender@gmail.com

July 20 – August 3 Arctic National Wildlife Refuge  
Class B/C. The trip may include elevation gains  
over 2,000 feet on day hikes. Destination will be  
Lake Peters to Canning River with possible  
climb up Mt Chamberlin or set up base camp at  
Red Sheep airstrip along the Chandalar River  
and do 2 one week loop trips in the area.  
Leader: Don Hansen, donjoehansen@msn.com.

## Why we live in Alaska

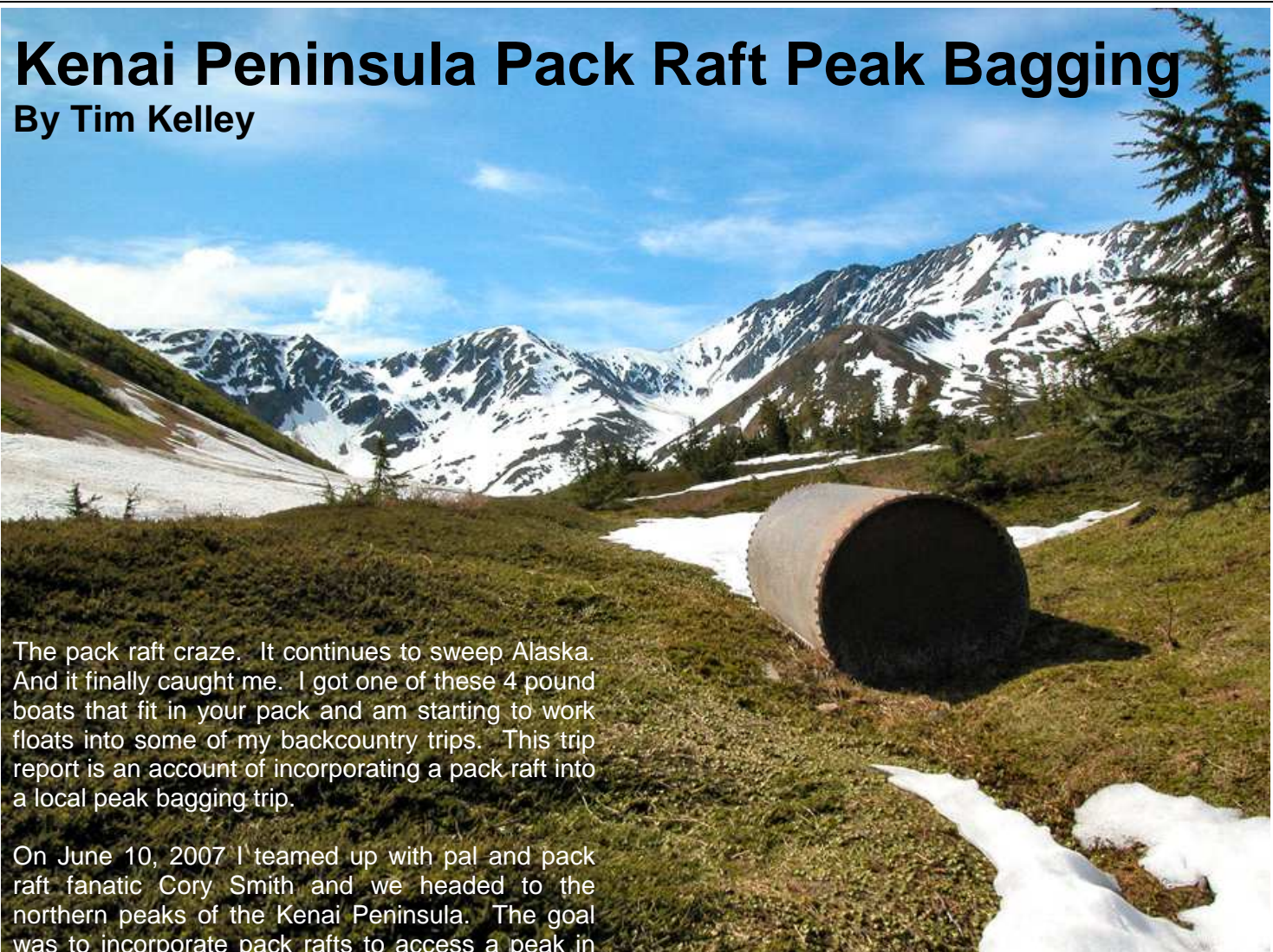


Minutes south of Anchorage  
Dean Carman on Roadside Attraction  
Carlene Van Tol belaying  
Lucia Halivnova on the shutter



# Kenai Peninsula Pack Raft Peak Bagging

By Tim Kelley

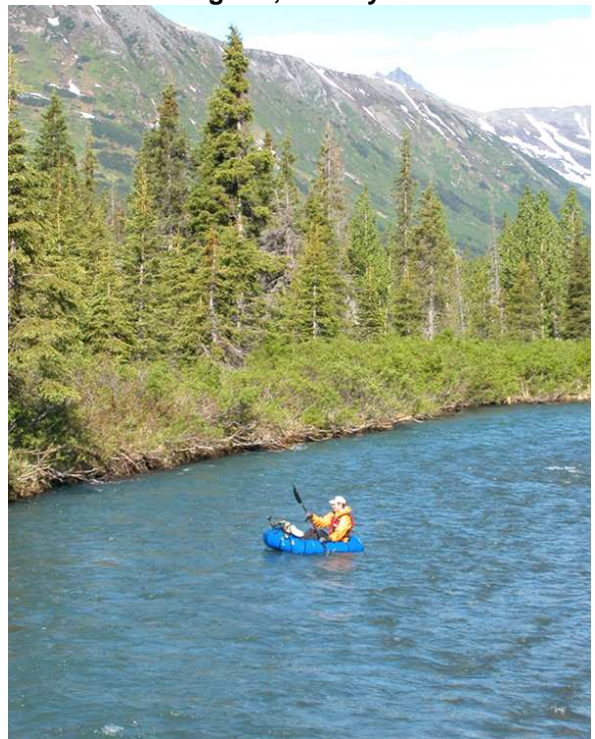


The pack raft craze. It continues to sweep Alaska. And it finally caught me. I got one of these 4 pound boats that fit in your pack and am starting to work floats into some of my backcountry trips. This trip report is an account of incorporating a pack raft into a local peak bagging trip.

On June 10, 2007 I teamed up with pal and pack raft fanatic Cory Smith and we headed to the northern peaks of the Kenai Peninsula. The goal was to incorporate pack rafts to access a peak in the Lynx Creek drainage, the target summit being Peak 4451 (Lat: 60.67185, Long: 149.34732). I had actually made two prior attempts on this peak. One attempt was from the south with Bill Spencer and Wiley Bland in 2000. We were doing a Moose Pass to Lynx Creek ridge-line traverse of the northern Kenai Mountains and this was to be our last summit. We attempted to follow the north ridge of Peak 4850 to this summit, but a section of wildly corniced knife edge ridge forced us to retreat and bail out into the headwaters cirque of Lynx Creek. I later made an attempt by myself from Peak 4650 to the northwest, but called it quits when I ran out of time.

Cory and I started our trip at the northern parking lot of the Johnson Pass Trail. We ran to the bridge over Center Creek where we blew up our pack rafts and started floating. Center Creek was a fairly easy float, but we strained to see what was coming around each bend. This was a good thing because in two places the creek was completely blocked by log jams. We had to carry our rafts around these obstacles.

“...the sea is so great, and my boat is so small...”



Cory Smith on Center Creek, photos by Tim Kelley



Just past the junction with Lynx and Bench Creeks we beached our crafts on the south side of the river. This location, where Lynx, Center and Bench Creeks meet, is considered the origin of Sixmile Creek. We stashed our rafts in the trees and found the old mining road that leads to the White's Roadhouse site. Over 100 years ago the Lynx Creek area was booming with gold mining operations. Also, the only copper mine in the Kenai Peninsula interior, the Ready Bullion claim, once existed here in 1904. The definitive source of information about these old mining days is Mary J. Barry's book: "A History of Mining on the Kenai Peninsula".

In 2000 I first saw the remains of White's Roadhouse, which was originally built around 1898 by Nathan White. It was a ratty mess, just filled with garbage. But on this trip I was surprised to see the old lodge cleaned-out and the whole area tidied up. Apparently Chugach National Forest did the clean-up several years ago. A CNF archaeologist named Seth DePasqual said he was involved in cleaning out the trash in the roadhouse. And Seth said that removing the trash was sooooo much fun!!

#### White's Roadhouse



From the roadhouse we followed the mining road that climbs into Lynx Valley. In a couple of miles it passes a turnoff to a private cabin and then continues upwards to end at an old trailer. The trailer looks to have been used in past years as a hunter's shelter, and it is in nasty condition. A trail continues past the trailer and takes you above tree-line.

Near perfect hiking conditions on tundra and hard snow brought us past an old metal tank, a relic of the Ready Bullion Copper Mine, and to the base of Peak 4451. We were having a great day in Lynx

Creek valley, but ghosts of miners that once had very bad days here were probably watching us.

In Mary Barry's book she mentions that in 1898 - 4 miners were killed in a snowslide in this valley. And her book also has this account:

*"[In the winter of 1900-1901] a snowslide came down on Lynx Creek and killed five men: Dick Lane, Ulysses Graham, Hank Willoughby, Michael Hogan and Fred Shackelford. They had leased the claim above Morgan's that belonged to Fred Smith. Two men survived, Frank Flaherty and Gill Devoe. Flaherty finally dug his way out. A crowd of men came to dig out the bodies. They rescued Devoe. He was buried by snow, but the tent wall was built up with logs and left some space for air.*

*The Morgans sold their claim, as his wife could see where the slide hit the men and she did not want to stay there any longer. They returned to Washington in 1901."*

Getting to the summit was a long, hot, non-technical grunt on snow softening under intense sun. On the summit we found a large cairn. The cairn seemed quite old as lichen had grown between the stacked rocks. So maybe this cairn was a mining claim boundary marker. Or, who knows – maybe it was a crude monument to those miners lost at the base of this mountain.

From the summit there were great views of this section of mountains that I have come to know well over the years. This niche of mountains is seen by many from the highway, but trekked by a relative few because there are no well established trails that break out of the valleys. And that is a good thing. The mountains are here for those willing to put a little effort into getting to them. I get discouraged thinking that a tourist hut-to-hut development is being proposed here. And it's being done because "everyone else has a tourist hut-to-hut hiking system, but we don't and we need to be like everyone else". That thought process baffles me. Alaska is unique because ... it's Alaska. If folks need backcountry tourism development and a pampered hut system, then they should consider moving to Colorado, California or Europe where this blight has taken hold. Places like the northern Kenai Mountains are unique and special because they are undeveloped. Let's keep them that way.

Ok, enough with the rant and back to the mountains. From the summit looking west I noticed the very cool sweeping ridge coming off the north of Peak 5050 down to Juneau Creek. I have yet to

climb this summit by this route, but it is now definitely on my list. I remember Bill Spencer and I climbed the west ridge to reach the top of this peak in June 1992. That year there were huge, and safe, cornices on the ridge that made for entertaining climbing and rocketing glissading coming back down.

Speaking of fast descents, Cory and I chose to descend the snow fields on the east of our summit and ripped down it. Cory's altimeter said for one stretch we were dropping about 400 feet per minute. Yee-haw!

Tracing our route back to our boats, we climbed into them and pushed off into the current of Sixmile Creek. We floated by Granite Creek and were soon at the highway. Instead of getting out here we decided to maximize our rafting fun and continued down the Sixmile to the commercial raft put-in. During this stretch we encountered some splashy sections. I usually played it safe and took an inside line. But Cory likes his waves big. He's a more experienced pack rafter and enjoys "looking for

trouble" and chasing the big water. It was fun watching "Cowboy" Cory doing the raft rodeo!

A week earlier a family had set off from the raft launch and headed down the Sixmile unknowingly in canoes. Kinda dumb in my opinion. Their near death experience was later chronicled in the Anchorage Daily News. In the article the canoers said they were going back to the Sixmile raft put-in and place signs up to warn boaters of the dangers ahead.

As I was bouncing through waves just above the raft put-in I noticed what looked like a piece of paper attached to the guardrail next to the road. As the paper was just your standard 9 1/2 by 11 inch sheet, I surely couldn't read it while bouncing up and down from 50 feet away. As we began our run back the bike trails to the parking lot, I stopped to check out the paper. Sure enough it was one of the "warning signs" the canoe people had left. Hmmm, to think someone can read a tiny piece of paper from the middle of a swift and choppy river. Geez, that seems kinda dumb too.



## Peak of the Month

### by Steve Gruhn

Name: **Mount Grosvenor**

Mountain Range: Alaska Range

Borough: Matanuska-Susitna Borough

Drainage: Backside Glacier

Latitude/Longitude: 62° 53' 14"N, 150° 42' 26"W  
(NAD83/WGS84)

Elevation: 8450 feet (± 50 feet)

Prominence (nearest higher parent peak): 1100 feet from Mount Johnson (8460); 1200 feet from Mount Wake (9150)

Adjacent Peak(s): Mt Johnson and Mt Church (8233)

Distinctness (from nearest adjacent peak): 1100 feet from Mount Johnson

USGS Map: Talkeetna (D-2), AK

First Recorded Ascent: May 1979 by Gary Bocarde, Charlie Lee, John Head, and Jon Thomas  
Route of First Recorded Ascent: From the Ruth Glacier up the couloir to the saddle between Mount Johnson and Mount Grosvenor and thence along the north-facing snow and ice slopes (which reached an angle of 70 degrees) to the summit.

Access Point: Ruth Glacier

Although the infamous Dr. Frederick A. Cook first published photographs of several peaks on the

west side of the Ruth Gorge (including Mounts Church, Grosvenor, Johnson, and Wake) in the May 1907 *Harper's Monthly Magazine*, these peaks saw relatively little climbing attention until the late 1970s when Gary Bocarde and several friends began exploring the area. Dr. Cook named these peaks after leaders of the National Geographic Society following his 1906 attempt to climb Mount McKinley. Specifically, Mount Grosvenor was likely named after Gilbert Hovey Grosvenor, the editor of the *National Geographic Magazine* from 1903 to 1954.

Gary Bocarde's account of his party's climb of Mount Grosvenor appeared on pages 525 and 526 of the 1980 *American Alpine Journal*. After camping near the col between Mount Johnson and Mount Grosvenor, and subsequently climbing the former, they completed their climb of Mount Grosvenor in deteriorating weather. Bocarde stated that the downclimb of the couloir amid spindrift avalanches was the most dangerous part of their climb.

<http://www.topozone.com/map.asp?lat=62.887&lon=-150.70702&datum=nad83&u=6&layer=DRG50&size=l&s=250>



# Lake George Ski, February 2007

by Stu Grenier



The "Gorge" as it is called on the USGS maps is one to those places that keeps popping up in public places around Anchorage. For decades large photos of it hung on the wall of Stewart's Photo on 4<sup>th</sup> Ave. Earlier this year a large photo was for sale at Costco entitled "The Gorge of the Knik". Ice climbers like Martin Martinez have published in the Scree about the ice climbs in the Gorge (Scree April 01) and some people like Chris Flowers and others have used pack rafts to go down it. After a short trip to the down stream end in 1979 with some school buddies I, too have been very curious about the Knik Gorge and what is above it. After hearing reports over the years and seeing a show or two about other peoples' trips in the area, I finally got a team going up after running a note in the Adze section of the Scree and on the MCA list serve for recruitment. The winter of 06-07 seemed plenty cold enough to freeze the Gorge up good for safe travels. (Knik is pronounced Kanik, the post office dropped the letter A about 100 years ago for reasons unknown.)

On Valentine's Day Dano Michaud, Sally Balchin, Stan Olson, and I skied up with sleds and camped just down stream of the Gorge. It became clear from the beginning that what kind of ski people brought was going to have a big impact on the range that the team would have. The variation of style of skis doomed this expedition to a limited range. The camberless turning skis which have been acceptable for the E.T. because people often keep skins on most of the way were no match for the waxless cambered skis that some brought for this very flat and crusty trip. It became such an issue that by day four we decided to split pairs of skis so the team could stay together as a group.

Skiing with one ski with kick and one with absolutely zero kick for three days meant a lot of double poling. I will not soon make this mistake again.

**Dano with the 'new school' skis**



We had clear and cold weather for the first part of the trip and it allowed for excellent views as we

dropped into the Gorge after skipping the first third or so of it. We had to cross at least one frozen Creek that ran over the top of the glacier to access this area. In warmer times this creek crossing could be a deal breaker. As Stan lead the rope team into the Gorge we were all impressed with the views. I had seen this place from the air a number of times but now realized that flight seeing is a lot like watching people eat. You don't get to taste the food until you get your feet on the ground.

As we were skiing through the Gorge we spotted four ice climbers doing what looked to be the highest of the many frozen waterfalls that lined the mountain side of the Gorge. Harry Hunt was on this team and we later compared notes.

At the Lake George end of the Gorge, Dano and I checked out the old run down shack a ways up in the alders. Tom Choate and I had spotted this place back in the eighties from the air and I had seen it in an MCA show once or twice over the years. Greg Bragiel and I looked for it from the air as recently as last April but could not find it. We took a few photos and sent them to the Huts Committee Chair. We suggested that we may want to consider fixing this place up for a possible variation of the E.T. after we get all the info on seasonal access and so on. One thing is for sure, it is located in one of the most scenic places around. The high number of low flying aircraft attests to this.

#### **An MCA fixer-upper?**



One of my goals of the trip was to make it as far as the Sparrow Glacier to check out possible hut spots in that area that may be a day ski away from Rosies Roost. By the time we crossed Troublesome Creek there was already turn around talk so we were lucky to make camp there just a mile or two down from where Whiteout Creek runs into the Lake George River. I suspect if we all had suitable skis we would have easily made the

Sparrow. As it turned out we made it a ways up the Gorge of the Lake George, (aka the George Gorge), with Sally going way up after skirting a cliffed out section above open water that the rest of us were content to just look at. As Stan and Dano headed back on the slower skis, Sally and I climbed the hill overlooking the toe of the Lake George Glacier. From up there I could see where I had skied with Theo and Lee in April of 2006 (Sneeze July 2006). Sally and I could look down on the George Gorge. The truth was I was bummed that we didn't push deeper but it was a cold February and the horses were headed back for the barn so...

#### **Looking up the Gorge heading out**



On the way out Dano and Sally on the faster skis tried to ski up Troublesome Creek Canyon. They found that there are some small falls not so far up, and from what they could see, if you are descending the Troublesome Creek drainage you need to stay skiers right to avoid most of the cliffs.

#### **Looking down the Gorge heading out**



On our trip out we stayed in the Gorge until the ice of Knik Glacier smashed into the rock of the West



Chugach. It was a blast to watch the walls close in on us as we moved down stream. When it was totally closed off we found ourselves popping back out on the glacier. In one area Stan and I investigated an area that the glacier was still moving forward. It made a rice crispies and milk like sound. There were signs of calving even in winter.

I hope to head back up to the Lake George area again. Watch the MCA list serve and the Adze in the Scree or let me know if you are interested. I think once the Sparrow has been checked out for a four season route to the Lake George area we can see if we want to think about extending the E.T. hut system in this general area. If nothing else it is one impressive back door to our back door. You may want to add it to your to do list if you haven't been there yet.

**Looking up the George Gorge**



**Photo by Sally Balchin**



## **Seen Wolverines?**

**Wolverine Sightings!**

If you have seen a wolverine in your mountain (or other) travels, I'd like to hear about it: Time, place and what you saw. I want to include observations and anecdotes in an informational book for middle school readers (and up).

Call, write, e-mail:  
Marie Lundstrom  
1601 F Street  
Anchorage, AK 99501  
907-276-1528  
altair@gci.net

## **Adze**

**Partners?**

Day skis on weekdays or weekends with climbs or trail clearing near Anchorage. Often Arctic to Indian variations.

Stu [oinkmenow@hotmail.com](mailto:oinkmenow@hotmail.com) or 337-5127



**See ya next month**

## **RELEASE OF LIABILITY—READ CAREFULLY**

I, \_\_\_\_\_ (print name), am aware that mountaineering sports (including hiking; backpacking; rock, snow, and ice climbing; mountaineering; skiing; and ski mountaineering) are hazardous activities. I wish to participate and/or receive instruction in these activities with the Mountaineering Club of Alaska, Inc. ("MCA") I recognize that these activities involve numerous risks, which include, by way of example only, falling while hiking, climbing, skiing or crossing rivers or glaciers; failure of a belay; being struck by climbing equipment or falling rock, ice or snow; avalanches; lightning; fire; hypothermia; frostbite; defective or malfunctioning equipment; and attack by insects or animals. I further recognize that the remoteness of the activities may preclude prompt medical care. I further recognize that risk of injury or death may be caused or enhanced by mistakes or negligence on the part of either my fellow participants or MCA officers, directors, guides, instructors, or trip leaders. I nevertheless agree to accept all risks of injury, death, or property damage that may occur in connection with any MCA activity, including use of MCA furnished equipment and MCA backcountry huts.

\_\_\_\_\_ (initial that you have read this paragraph)

### **GIVING UP MY LEGAL RIGHTS**

By signing this Agreement, I agree to give up for myself and for my heirs all legal rights I may have against the MCA and my fellow participants in MCA activities (except to the extent that insurance coverage for any claim is provided by an automobile insurance policy or related excess insurance policies). **I give up these legal rights regardless of whether the injury, death, or property damage results from mistakes or negligence on the part of either my fellow participants or the MCA.** (As used in this agreement, MCA means the Mountaineering Club of Alaska, Inc., and all of its officers, directors, guides, instructors and trip leaders.) I understand this agreement shall remain in effect until such time as I provide signed written notice of its revocation to the MCA.

\_\_\_\_\_ (initial that you have read this paragraph)

### **MY PROMISE NOT TO SUE**

I agree that I will not sue, or otherwise make any claim against, the MCA or my fellow participants in MCA activities for injury, death, or property damage which occurs in the course of my participation or instruction in mountaineering sports. Any lawsuit relating to MCA activities or this release shall only be filed in the Superior Court for the State of Alaska, Third Judicial District., Anchorage, Alaska. The provisions of this release are severable and if any part of this release is found unenforceable, the remaining provisions shall remain in full force and effect.

\_\_\_\_\_ (initial that you have read this paragraph)

### **MY RELEASE OF LIABILITY**

I also agree to release and discharge the MCA and my fellow participants in MCA activities from all actions, claims, or demands, both for myself and for my heirs, dependents, and/or personal representative, for injury, death, or property damage occurring in the course of my participation or instruction in mountaineering sports.

\_\_\_\_\_ (initial that you have read this paragraph)

### **MY PROMISE TO INDEMNIFY**

I agree to pay all expenses, including attorney's fees and court costs, that the MCA or my fellow participants in MCA activities may incur as a consequence of any legal action arising out of injury, death, or property damage suffered by me.

\_\_\_\_\_ (initial that you have read this paragraph)

### **MY CONSENT TO MEDICAL TREATMENT**

I consent to any hospital care or medical or surgical diagnosis or treatment which may be necessary as a result of my participation in activities with the MCA. I also understand and agree that I am solely responsible for all applicable charges for such medical treatment, including evacuation and/or rescue cost.

\_\_\_\_\_ (initial that you have read this paragraph)

**I HAVE CAREFULLY READ THIS AGREEMENT AND FULLY UNDERSTAND ITS CONTENT. I AM AWARE THAT THIS IS A BINDING, LEGAL AGREEMENT BETWEEN ME AND THE MCA.**

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

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



## 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 Sean Bolender 333-0213  
Vice-President Annette Iverson 222-0581  
Secretary Bridget Paule 337-8163  
Treasurer Travis Taylor 382-4823

Board member Steve Gruhn 344-1219  
Board member Don Hansen 243-7184  
Board member Randy Howell 346-4608  
Board member Andy Rembert 688-3230  
Board member Sara Ellen Hutchison 382-7097

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 February 21st to be in the March 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: Yukiko Hayano and Randy Plant 243-1438  
Hiking and Climbing Committee: Randy Howell – 346-4608, Jayme Dixon – 382-0212  
Huts: Greg Bragiel - 569-3008  
Calendar: Stuart Grenier 337-5127  
Scree Editor: John Recktenwald 346-2589  
Web: [www.mcak.org](http://www.mcak.org) (change your address here)  
Mailing list service: [MCAK@yahoo.com](mailto:MCAK@yahoo.com)

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