

the SCREE

Mountaineering Club of Alaska

April 2008

Volume 51 Number 4



50 years

**Bird to Arctic
Blackburn Journal #4
Upper Winner Creek Trail
Hoeman Award Nominations
The Citadel - POM**

Man's heart away from nature
becomes hard.

~Standing Bear

**Monthly Meeting
Wed, April 16 @ 7:30**

**Program: Steven Davis will present his 1978
1st ascent of Mount Logan's West Ridge
(Made with John Waterman)**

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 3rd Wednesday of the month at the First United Methodist Church, 9th Avenue and G Streets next to the ConocoPhillips 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

Cover photo: Lee Whitten on the North Fork of Ship Creek during a Bird to Arctic day ski. Photo by Tom Dolan.

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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April 3, 6:00 p.m. Falls Creek

Class C, 6 miles round trip, 2700 feet of elevation gain, Contact leader at least 24 hours in advance of trip. Leader: Steve Gruhn
sgruhn@clarus-ak.com
694-4272 (w), 344-1219 (h)

April 5, South Suicide Peak, North Suicide Peak, and Rainbow Peak

Class D, 11 miles, 7800 feet of elevation gain, early start. Contact leader at least 24 hours in advance of trip. Leader: Steve Gruhn
sgruhn@clarus-ak.com
694-4272 (w), 344-1219 (h)

April 5-6, Eklutna Traverse training weekend
MANDATORY training weekend for Eklutna traverse participants.

April 8, 6:00 p.m. Rainbow to Windy Corner

Class A, 3.8 miles round trip, 400 feet of elevation gain, Contact leader at least 24 hours in advance of trip. Leader: Steve Gruhn
sgruhn@clarus-ak.com
694-4272 (w), 344-1219 (h)

April 10, 6:00 p.m. Rainbow to McHugh Creek

Class B, 8.4 miles round trip, 1800 feet of elevation gain. Contact leader at least 24 hours in advance of trip. Leader: Steve Gruhn
sgruhn@clarus-ak.com
694-4272 (w), 344-1219 (h)

April 12, The Wedge

Class C, Hike or snowshoe to the summit of the Wedge, 12 miles roundtrip, 2,500 feet of elevation gain. Possibly summit the Ramp also. Bring crampons, ice axe and snowshoes.
Amy Murphy, 338-3979 or
Hayduchesslives@yahoo.com

April 14, 6:00 p.m. Flaketop Peak

Class C, 5 miles round trip, 2600 feet of elevation gain, Contact leader at least 24 hours in advance of trip. Leader: Steve Gruhn
sgruhn@clarus-ak.com
694-4272 (w), 344-1219 (h)

April 27-May 4, Eklutna Traverse

Pichler's, Hans' and Rosie's huts, Class Glacier, Elevation gain 6000'+, distance 30+ miles. Sign up at March 19 MCA meeting.

July 18 to Aug 3, Survey Pass and Shivering Mountain Gates of the Arctic National Park, Class C, \$200 air charter deposit per person due by May 1. Costs: \$320/person Fairbanks to Bettles and return, estimated air charter \$610/person Foley Lake drop off from Bettles & Natak Lake pickup Party limit 5. Leader Don Hansen
243-7184, donjoehansen@msn.com

Bird to Arctic Day Ski

by Tom Dolan



A Few Alders before Bird Creek Pass

So just what does Bird to Arctic mean? Is it a chilly waterfowl? Is it a route to a peak that nobody's ever heard of? Sounds a little like Arctic to Indian? Well, there's a clue! It means that a group of people will start a ski at the Bird Creek trailhead. Ski up Bird Creek for 5 or so miles, cross Bird Creek, go another 3 miles then turn north. In 3 more miles will you be in Bird Creek Pass. Once through Bird Creek Pass you enter the North Fork of Ship Creek. From here turn west and head down the North Fork for 7 miles to the confluence of the North and South forks of Ship Creek. After you get across Ship Creek once again, you head north for 7 miles, climbing out of the Ship Valley to the traditional Nike Site Trailhead near Arctic Valley - a total of 25 miles.

This is a trip that I have wanted to do for many years. The first thoughts of this as a day ski came about when I was skiing up Bird Creek one day with Rick Hagen, shortly after a completed Arctic-to-Indian trip. We discussed how hard it seemed like it would be to do it in a day. Rick told me that he had heard of a group of hearty Norwegians that used to do it; well, if the Norwegians can do it, by god, so can a German/Irishman.

Over the years I would go in from one end or the other a week before the planed trip to set tracks, so as to have something to follow at the end of the trip when it would surely be dark. Working at this alone I could never get it together, either it would snow, covering up my tracks and leaving too much snow to break trail, or something would come up and I couldn't depart the following week. I did manage to

get through Bird Creek Pass and up and down the north fork of Ship Creek a few times over the years, but never skiing and never in a day.

This brings us to present day - winter of '08, the year I was committed to lead many hard-core, long distance backcountry ski touring trips. My good friend Sam Pepper was the first to jump on board after I foretold of the possible fame and fortune to be had by resurrecting this old trip. Sam, John McCormick and I spent three days in Bird Valley clearing and remarking the trail after the big wind storms that took down so many trees. We got to the ford site and a bit beyond. Another recon trip which included Greg Bragiel got us almost to the pass, gaining much knowledge of the route.

Just past Bird Creek Pass



On March 1st, Lee Whitten, Sam Pepper, Lisa Ferber, and I meet at Carrs at 5:00 AM (possible reason for lack of participants?) We were on our skis by a little after 6:00. The trail to the ford site wasn't in too bad a shape from the snowmachine traffic and we had good luck navigating through the spruce forest to timberline. After getting to the pass, however, there were a few small obstacles. Once we got through the pass and into the Ship Creek drainage, it's a mellow downhill ski to the confluence of the North and South Fork of Ship Creek. This valley is very beautiful and I know not many people see it. For some reason when we got back into the woods the North Fork of Ship Creek

had very few snow bridges, but we found a way across. Sam found the Arctic-to-Indian Trail after we got into Ship Creek proper. We lost the tracks we were following as it was getting dark, but fortunately we made it to the area dubbed the beaver pond and the cleared trail runs from there all the way out. Ray Nabinger was waiting for us at the end of Sam's Hypotenuse trail (a short cut from going to the Nike Site Trailhead) with beer and pizza. It took us exactly 15 hours and was an awesome trip! It will be an annual thing now, so look for it next year.



A snow bridge? Well sort of...



Blackburn Journal

by Wayne Todd

Editor's note: This is the fourth of a series of five articles that constitute a journal kept by Wayne Todd of an ascent of Mt. Blackburn by Billy Finley, Ben May, Carrie Wang and Wayne Todd from May 5th, 2005, through May 18th, 2005. The series is a direct transcription from the journal and no editing or corrections have been made to the original.

5/14/05 I didn't sleep a wink during our bivy and knowing I'd be warmer moving about and w/ it a little more light I exited the cold cocoon/sack (mostly my feet were cold-in or out of the boot liners) Started the stove, slid down from our crevasse bivy a few times & climbed back up for warmth exercise, & searched & found my water bottle that popped out of my pocket.

Wind & spendrift increased as the wee morning lightened. With unstable snow slopes a concern I roused the others before sunrise.

By the time we headed out the sun had risen & the wind & drift increased even more. I led out, popping my left leg in a crevasse just 10 yards out.

The descent route was our original recon ascent route. At the crevasse lip I hopped down stood up & placed a picket above the overhanging gap, allowing the others a reasonable gap descent.

Waiting to descend



Most of our descent route was wind-scoured rather than wind-loaded.+ Billy & I traded off leads by pickets (6). The closer we got to C1, there was less wind and more sun to the point where my 4 bottom layers (black dry flow, It poly, fleece, & Chugach Pants) & down coat over fleece, & balaclava & bomber hat was way too warm.

A long, smooth lenticular was backlit to the east. Partly cloudy otherwise.

Ben, our most hospitable & gracious camp host was waiting for us as we arrived about 8AM (took us ~ 1 ½-2 hrs to descend). He supplied us with hot food (stuffing,

cranberries & turkey (yummy!)), hot fluids & de-mobe services.

After some brief stories, eating, & undressing I headed into the bag on a flat cushy t-rest in a warm cozy tent. Slept most of the day which turned to snow, mildly wet until evening.

Should have been descending to base camp!

Asked Ben about remaining in Camp 1, he stated he realized he was no longer into expedition mountaineering but really enjoyed being away from home & responsibilities & being able to relax. All worked out.

(In bed 11Pish thinking we'd get up early & descend ha, ha, ha).

5/15/05 written 5/17 though it seems like a week ago

A spooky, tiresome, wearing on the nerves day. Yet also being on/in the heart of nature. We listened to numerous low, deep, cascading rumbles to the west during the night. (Avalanches on our descent route)

Up ~6AM to shovel off the snow-stressed First Light and hopefully to see more good weather but alas it was mostly cloudy.

(We made numerous weather calls that morning (NWS, Carrie called her Mom for Dopler radar, sat phone text-no new since Cory left).



Storm at Camp 1

While Ben & I shoveled the wind began & steadily increased. Soon it was apparent that we weren't going anywhere as we were in a

raging storm. The wind, coming from the west, hit C & I side of the compound first. This was also the weak sides of our tents.

The storm abated about noon to calm but cloudy skies. My baro showed the bottoming of a low. Thought this might be a reasonable time to move but between unknown, hesitation & the NWS calling for only isolated showers & it winds in late afternoon we waited.

Within a couple hours the winds were blasting & the skies dumping snow. Between the two, one person couldn't keep up with the wind driven snow (the first deposition zone being the side & back of our tent). For awhile, Carrie I futilely traded off shoveling duties. The B's had a less difficult time of shoveling.

Ben suggested we went to 1 hour long shovel duties covering both tents, rather than wasting much transition time. After an initial 2 person detail, this worked well. Ben, Wayne, Billy, Carrie etc.

In an attempt to shore up the tent, Carrie shoved the packed sleeping bags against the back wall of the tent. We were losing tent real estate (& the tent floor by encroaching snow, intensified by people walking around the tents shoveling).

On my first official hour I decided to make the situation better so I dug the perimeter around the S & W side of the tents wider & deeper (also a bit between the closely staked tents). This led to faster, easier & more efficient shoveling. Also gained back tent real estate. The snow turned to grapple during my shift (4-5P) which was both fascinating & difficult to shovel.

Storm let up slightly during Billy's shift & by Carrie's @ 6P the storm was abating. Was clear by 7P.

The storm broke, blue skies & views were stupendous and that crisis was over!

The NW face activity now became more apparent. Near constant avalanches started high cascading over the many seracs & crevasses, flowing continuously.

We watched as minor winds & wind devils would trigger av's that had not yet been cleaned back to their natural hard, smooth ice/snow state.

I realized w/ sudden concern as the av's were progressing R to L above us. Suddenly our tent platform looked extremely vulnerable & treacherous.

Avalanche on descent route



(At this time, because of perceived danger to our team, & no safe haven available, I entertained thoughts of calling for a helicopter evacuation. I did not).

Continuing to move our way from above we watched & posted a constant observer. We placed axes & _____ at the back (upslope) wall.

Av's started above us but trended to climbers R onto the NW face. A few also started above but stopped on lesser angle slopes.

With the now-blue sky & ideal visibility we discussed descending but w/ the late hour (10P & knowing we'd be 2 hrs to get ready), the flow of snow down our route NW face & the hope that the weather would hold for 12 hrs (it truly looked like it) we decided to be up at 4 A for an early morning descent.

(At this time I called Bill R, advised him of our situation and our plan, & said if I hadn't called him back by Tuesday AM. to call the troopers).

Sleep would be questionable w/ the unknown slopes above us, the finicky weather & the condition of our descent route. 11:30Pish down time.



Upper Winner Creek Trail

by Amy Murphy

In late August 2007, we hiked up the Upper Winner Creek Trail to spend a few days exploring the area up at the top of the pass, looking for routes for future backpack trips. We had been up there before and always wanted to return to spend some extra time as the alpine scenery is so stunning, with huge, glacier-covered mountains in nearly every direction. The hike begins at the Alyeska Tram trailhead and is about 14 miles roundtrip. This trip can be done as a long day hike, a multi-day trip, or hike to the top of the pass and drop down the other side and packraft out the Twentymile River.

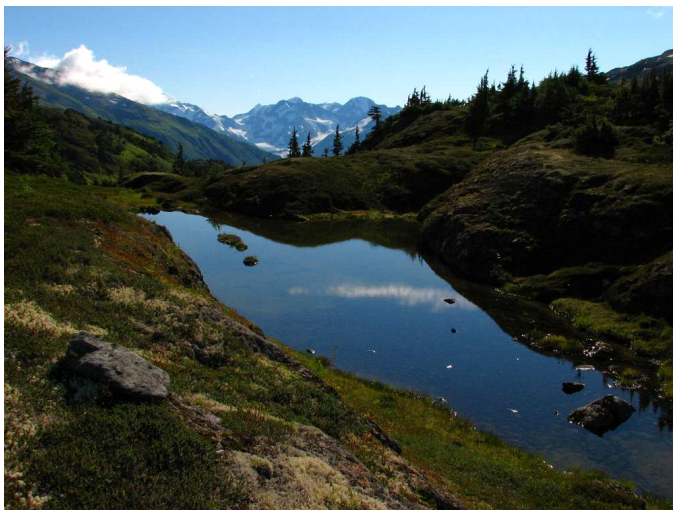
We arrived at the trailhead around noon on a sunny Friday and headed up the trail, which was built and upgraded by the U.S. Forest Service a few years ago. We were impressed with this trail the first time we hiked it and enjoyed the moderate



All photos by Ron Ramsey

grade of the switchbacks, which made ascending to the top of the pass a bit easier than hiking mostly straight up, like some of the other trails in the Chugach. Boardwalks cover wet, swampy areas and wood stairs are strategically placed to help prevent further trail erosion. A lot of hard work went into this trail and the scenery is incredible, so I encourage you to spend some time enjoying it! There is also no bushwhacking or getting tangled up with devil's club or cow parsnip. The trail crosses some obvious avalanche paths, requiring extreme caution to hike in the winter.

The trail starts in the heavy old-growth rainforest and contours the valley as it winds its way up to the open alpine slopes at the top of the pass. Along the way you wander through hemlock forests, cleared alders and numerous berry bushes and pretty flowers. We took our time hiking up, stopping to take photos and eat delicious, huge, ripe berries. It was late afternoon by time we came to one creek crossing not too far from the top of the pass that is fairly challenging. This is a beautiful creek, fed by a big snowfield, and it furiously cascades down over rock faces throwing rainbows in the sky. Our problem was that we got there after the sun had melted a lot of snow and the creek was running really high and fast and looked dangerous. All of the rocks you normally step on to cross the creek were covered by water, so my friend spent quite a bit of time finding a safe route across, throwing big rocks in at some places trying to make a relatively safe place to step. One our way back out we crossed this creek in the morning and the lower water level made it easier to find safe stepping stones.



After we got to the top of the pass we set up camp overlooking a pretty little tarn and prepared a delicious dinner of ravioli with alfredo sauce. After

dinner we kicked back in the sunshine, drinking aromatic hot chocolate, and noticed a big black bear on the hillside across from us, less than ¼ mile away. I immediately thought, “Oh poop, I’m sure the bear smelled our tantalizing dinner,” and I became worried we would have to share our dessert with an unwelcome visitor. Luckily the bear moved quickly and purposely away from us and we watched as he made his way up over the ridgeline and out of view.

The next day we again woke up to sunshine and set out on an exploratory trip to see how difficult it would be to get back toward the Sparrow Glacier. We meandered around checking out the best way to get to where we wanted to go. We worked our way past numerous tarns as we headed around the southeast side of Kelly’s Knob to make our way to the top. We had hiked for several hours without seeing anybody and had to scout around to find good routes through a few areas with steep rock bands as we made our way up to the long ridgeline. Ironically, after we had just discussed how there were probably very few people who had wandered around up there as it’s well off the trail and requires some strenuous effort to get up there, we looked up and saw a man and his dog walking towards us about ½ mile away. We were stunned as we were the only people who camped overnight in that area and couldn’t believe anybody could have hiked all the way up from the trailhead and all the way back to where this guy was before noon. I sure felt old and slow after seeing that guy in front of us! We hiked over to the guy and talked with him and to our relief we learned that he had hired a helicopter to fly him to a small valley on the other side of the ridgeline. He had just hiked up to where we saw him and from there was heading back down to the trailhead. Whew - I guess I’m not that old and slow after all!

As we ate lunch we reveled in the sunshine and outstanding scenery, but couldn’t sit too long because the nasty, unfriendly little black bugs were so persistently annoying. We realized there would be a huge amount of bushwhacking, and a substantial elevation loss resulting in even more elevation gain to climb up where we wanted to go, so we decided to head back down the valley on the opposite side of Kelly’s Knob that we hiked up. We viewed the magnificent mountains, snowfields and glaciers visible in almost all directions and felt lucky to live so close to areas like this, which are fairly accessible. As we descended down the valley back toward camp we discovered some good campsites

for future trips. We even took the opportunity to lie down and take a nap in the warm sun. What luxury!

When we got back to camp we found four exuberant young men swimming and jumping into the tarn near our camp, so we weren't alone any more. Plus, two other people hiked up and set up camp about ½ mile away. It suddenly felt crowded up there. The young men headed home after a while and we ate a quiet dinner while enjoying a spectacular sunset.



The next morning we reluctantly packed up and headed back down the trail toward civilization. Once again we came across some fresh grizzly bear tracks, going the same direction as we were, and they were the biggest paw prints we had ever seen. We had also seen different huge tracks on our way in, but luckily didn't see the behemoth either day (that was really fortunate because I was carrying all the food). We took photos of one of the paw prints because it dwarfed my friend's size 13 foot! As we hiked out we ran into several groups heading up to go packraft down the river and we answered questions about trail conditions.

The closer we got to the hotel, the more people we saw, and soon it seemed like non-stop hordes of people were out enjoying the scenic trail. We could easily tell it was a sunny Sunday in tourist and blueberry-picking season! As we drove back to the crowds, traffic and noise in Anchorage we realized how blessed we were to have the nearby solitude of quiet, majestic places to escape to and rejuvenate our souls. This was a blissful three-day escape from stressful work deadlines. And, we had sunshine all three days, which dispels the myth that I am a Weather Magnet!



Peak of the Month: The Citadel

by Steve Gruhn

Mountain Range: Alaska Range; Kichatna Mountains; Cathedral Spires
Borough: Matanuska-Susitna Borough
Drainage: Cul-de-Sac Glacier and Shelf Glacier
Latitude/Longitude: 62° 26' 2" North, 152° 42' 54" West
Elevation: 8520 feet
Prominence: 1370 feet from Kichatna Spire (8985)
Adjacent Peaks: Kichatna Spire, Sunrise Spire (7950), and Avalanche Peak (6950)
Distinctness: 1370 feet from Kichatna Spire
USGS Map: Talkeetna (B-6)
First Recorded Ascent: August 3, 1972, by Ludwig Ferche, Don Fredrickson, and William Katra
Access Point: Shadows Glacier
Route of First Recorded Ascent: North face and north ridge



The Cathedral Spires in the Kichatna Mountains were the subject of an elaborate hoax. In 1961 geologist Austin Post showed some oblique aerial photographs of the spires to a private gathering of climbers in Seattle. Knowing that climbers would be enthralled with the pictures of the granite spires, Harvey Manning dreamed up the prank. After

obtaining one of those photographs, he secretly submitted it to *Summit* magazine for publication in the June 1962 issue, captioning the photograph as the “Riesenstein Peaks of northern British Columbia.” He drew a line indicating a purported climbing route and fictitiously attributed the first ascent to a German party. *Summit* took the bait and climbers around the continent were instantly hooked.

Canadian map offices were quickly inundated with climbers’ requests for non-existent Canadian maps of the “Riesenstein Peaks.” For three years climbers vainly attempted to determine the locations of these awe-inspiring granite peaks. Finally, in 1965 Alvin DeMaria and Brownell Bergen solved the mystery and soon the climbing rush was on. On June 27, 1965, DeMaria, Peter Geiser, and John Hudson were the first to reach a summit of the Kichatna Mountains (Peak 7270 south of Gashley-Crumb Col). Other climbers soon followed and first ascents in the Kichatna Mountains began to occur with regularity. However, the Kichatna Mountains are so dense with interesting climbing objectives – and the weather so notoriously foul – that many peaks remain unclimbed.

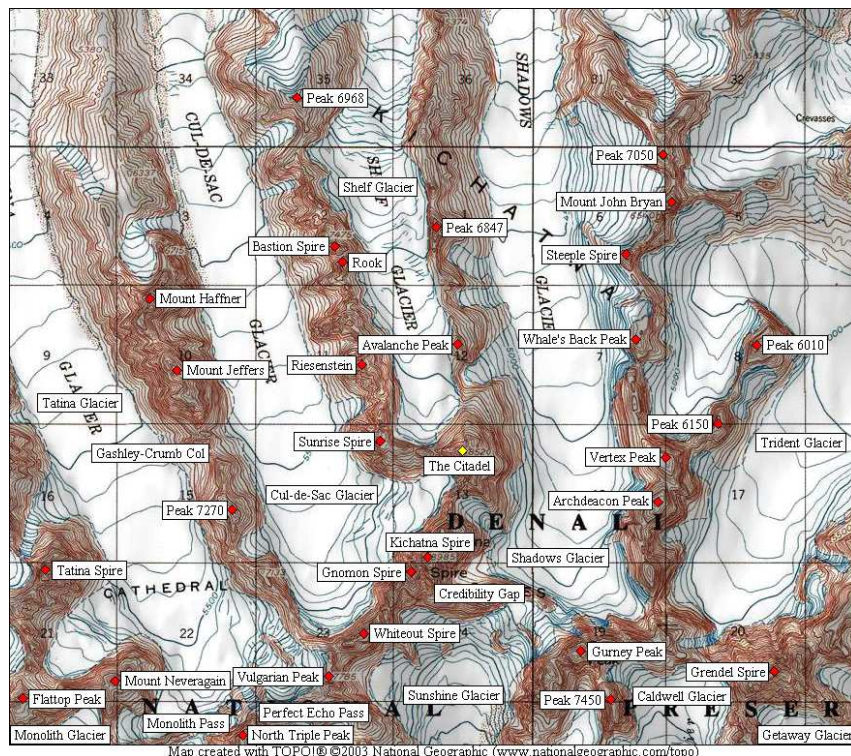
In late July 1972 while the Kichatna Mountains were still being explored, Ferche, Fredrickson, and Katra flew to the Shadows Glacier and the latter two subsequently made the first ascent of nearby Gurney Peak on the first of August. Two days later

all three headed up a tongue of the Shadows Glacier north of The Citadel and south of Avalanche Peak. From there they ascended a 3rd- and-4th-class snow-and-ice slope to reach the north arête, exiting westward onto the rocky north ridge. Fourth-class climbing led them to the summit where they bivouacked. The climb had taken 12 hours. The descent over the same route would take another 10 hours. Katra’s trip report appeared on page 408 of the 1973 *American Alpine Journal*.



PLATE 10
Photo: Bruce Kibbey, 1976
Alan Long leading on the third day on “The Citadel”. Behind rises the Northwest Face of Gurney Peak.

After his June 28, 1976, ascent of the east buttress, Alan Long published a trip report on page 106 of the 1977 AAJ in which he named the peak “The Citadel.” Subsequent parties have climbed both the imposing east face and the northwest buttress.



Map created with TOPO!® ©2003 National Geographic (www.nationalgeographic.com/topo)

Hoeman Award

The MCA Awards Committee is once again seeking nominations for the **MCA Hoeman Award**. The Hoeman Award is the Mountaineering Club of Alaska's most prestigious award and was created to honor Vin and Grace Hoeman--two of the club's most prolific climbers, who made significant contributions to the early exploration and documentation of hiking and climbing opportunities throughout Alaska and the Yukon during the 1960s. The purpose of the Hoeman award is to recognize those individuals who have demonstrated a long-term commitment to the exploration, documentation, and promotion of hiking and climbing opportunities in Alaska. Nominees can include current and former members, or any person who has made a significant contribution to the exploration, documentation, and promotion of hiking and climbing opportunities in Alaska's mountain ranges. The award consists of having the awardees name permanently engraved on a dedicated plaque housed in the MCA Vin Hoeman Library, Honorary Membership status, as well as a separate award certificate for the recipient.

Nominations for the Hoeman Award must be made in writing to the MCA Awards Committee. The award may be given posthumously. The written nomination must include:

- 1) the name of the nominee
- 2) affiliation with MCA (if any),
- 3) a written description of the contributions the nominee has made to the exploration, documentation, and promotion of hiking and climbing opportunities in Alaska, including (if known): number of first ascents, number of club climbs, hikes, training trips led, stories/peak descriptions published in SCREE, service to the club (as officer, committee chair, etc.), and any published works documenting hiking and climbing in Alaska.
- 4) the names and contact information for 2 personal references.

Nominations can be sent to: **MCA Awards Committee c/o Bill Romberg, wromberg@acsalaska.net or 3530 Tanglewood Pl., Anchorage, AK, 99517**

Letter to the Editor

My Dad, Wendell Oderkirk, was President of the club in 1971 and 1972. My mom, Shirley, and he left Alaska in 1973 or 1974 and although he has only returned a few times to visit, he has never lost his love for Alaska.

He has recently been diagnosed with Alzheimer's disease and is in the early stages.

I am bringing my sister, Shimane, and him to Alaska in June. I am planning a surprise get-together with friends of his from that time.

I have a newspaper photo taken in 1972 on a climbing team, of which my Dad was a member, preparing to climb Foraker. I have already

contacted two of those climbers, Norm Stadem and Steve Hackett.

I would like to extend an invitation to the get-together to anyone else who knew my Dad.

The date of the get-together will be sometime between June 18 and 20, in Anchorage. If you are interested, please contact me so I can keep you informed.

Thanks
Shonda Oderkirk
378-2685 – cell
fairbanksagility@yahoo.com

Annette's Corner

Thank you to Stu Grenier for presenting at the March meeting on his trip to Lake George.

April's program:
Local climber Steven Davis will share his 1978 1st ascent of Mt. Logan's west ridge made with John Waterman. This is the 30th anniversary of this climb and it has yet to be repeated.

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 830-5102
Vice-President Annette Iverson 222-0581
Secretary Bridget Paule 230-9903
Treasurer Travis Taylor 382-4823

Board member Don Hansen 243-7184
Board member Andy Rembert 688-3230
Board member Jayme Dixon 382-0212
Board member Steve Parry 248-8710
Board member Tom Devine 529-0618

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, notes and letters submitted for publication in the newsletter should be submitted on the web at www.mcak.org or e-mailed to the Scree Editor. Articles should be received by the monthly club meeting (third Wednesday of the month) to be in the next month's Scree.

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
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Huts: Greg Bragiel - 569-3008
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