

the **SCREE**

Mountaineering Club of Alaska

APRIL 2022

Volume 65, Number 4



"Believe you can and
you are halfway there."
– Theodore Roosevelt

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APRIL MEETING

Wednesday April 6, 2022

at 6:30 p.m.

Glen Alps Trailhead hike and
socialize.

"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."

This issue brought to you by: Editor—Abbey Collins assisted by Dawn Munroe

Cover Photo

Abbey Collins traverses back down to the California Creek Trail after a successful summit of California Peak and Fishs Breath. Photo by Andrew Holman

APRIL MEETING

Wednesday April 6, at 6:30 p.m.

The April meeting will be a loosely organized gathering at the Glen Alps trailhead (Flattop) in Anchorage. Start at your own time and hike, ski, run or bike, then meet back at the overlook to socialize at around 7 p.m.

[Directions](#)

Snacks or refreshments to share are welcome.

Article Submission: Text and photography submissions for *the Scree* can be sent as attachments to mcascreer@gmail.com. Articles should be submitted by the 11th of each month to appear in the next issue of *the Scree*. Do not submit material in the body of the email. Do not submit photos embedded in the text file. Send the photo files separately. Send high resolution file photos separately, including captions for each photo. We prefer articles that are under 1,000 words. If you have a blog, website, video, or photo links, send us the link. Cover photo selections are based on portraits of human endeavor in the outdoors. Please submit at least one vertically-oriented photo for consideration for the cover. Please don't forget to submit photo captions.

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For the MCA Membership Application and Liability Waiver, visit <http://www.mtnclubak.org/index.cfm?useaction=members.form>.

Training

MCA Spring Ski Tour, March 30- April 6, 2022- The Bomber Traverse- Must be a competent backcountry traveler, skier or snowshoer, and have 'Avy 1' training. Organizational meeting February 26. To sign up please contact trip leader Greg Bragiel (unknownhiker@alaska.net)

MCA Summer Mountaineering School, July 15-23, 2022- The Bomber Traverse- Basic Mountaineering instruction for accomplished backpackers. Hiking, climbing, and glacier travel in the Talkeetna Mountains. Learn: Snow travel, ice tool use, ice climbing, glacier travel, navigation, route finding, rappelling, rock climbing, fun, exploration, leadership skills and confidence building. Organizational meeting March 5. To sign up please contact trip leader Greg Bragiel (unknownhiker@alaska.net)

Instructors needed to assist with the Summer Mountaineering School. Please contact Greg Bragiel to help with any or all of the following:

- July 15- Meet at Kaladi Bros. Coffee on Tudor at 8 a.m. Stage 1 vehicle at Reed Lake trailhead. Post hut closure signs. Hike to Mint. Trip plan. Leave No Trace, Navigation and route-finding,
- July 16- Snow travel, Anchors, Running belay, Knots, Rope handling instructions, 10 essentials, Unplanned camping trip. (Service project: clean toilet/change barrels)
- July 17- Terminology, Glacier travel, Belaying, Ice climbing. (Service project)
- July 18- Hike to Bomber Hut, Navigation. Glacier travel/ Crevasse rescue. (Service project)
- July 19- Visit bomber airplane/ Bomber Pass, Crevasse rescue, wilderness medicine (Service project)
- July 20- Hike Rainy Day Knoll, Navigation, Bouldering (Service project)
- July 21- Hike to Snowbird Lake, Water crossing, Navigation. Route finding, Hike Snowbird lake area.
- July 22- Rappelling, Rock Climbing, Hike to Snowbird Hut
- July 23- Hike out to Reed Lake trailhead. Final Exam.

Announcements

'Face-to-Face' Fundraiser Success

We sold 196 tickets for our March fundraiser and general meeting – a presentation of 'Face to Face' by alpinists Ines Pappert and Luka Lindič. Based on a 50-50 split of profits, the MCA earned \$1210 for the March fundraiser, with an additional \$1210 going to the athletes. Thanks to everyone who showed up! Thanks to Ines and Luka for a fantastic presentation, and to Rolando Guzman and Bear Tooth Theatre for the venue support.

Proposed Changes to Existing Geographic Names

On March 10, the *Anchorage Daily News* reported on its website that the Department of the Interior has proposed to change more than two dozen geographic names in Alaska that contain the word "squaw," which Secretary of the Interior Deb Haaland has officially declared derogatory.

Among the proposed name changes are Squaw Bay in Prince William Sound, 12 Squaw Creeks (including streams in the Caribou Creek, Happy River, Kuskulana River, Kvichak River, Nushagak River, and Tiekkel River drainages in Southcentral; streams in the Harrison Creek, Lake Creek, Victoria Creek, South Fork of the Koyukuk River, and Yukon River drainages in the Interior; and a stream in the Whale Passage drainage on Prince of Wales Island), Squaw Crossing in the Tanana River in the Interior, Squaw Gulch in the Kal Creek drainage in the Interior, Squaw Island at the confluence of the Chitistone River and the Nizina River in Southcentral, 2 Squaw Lakes (including one in the Caribou Creek drainage and one in the Lake Creek drainage), 2 Squaw Mountains (including one on Dall Island and one in the Ogilvie Mountains), Squaw Point in the Tanana River, Squaw Rapids in the North Fork of the Koyukuk River in the Interior, Little Squaw Creek in the Lake Creek drainage, Little Squaw Lake in the Lake Creek drainage, Little Squaw Peak in the Brooks Range, and Squaw Crossing Slough between the Tanana River and Hay Slough.

Replacement names for most of the features have not yet been finalized at this point. Comments and proposed replacement names are being accepted by the U.S. Geological Survey until April 25.

For additional information, contact Steve Gruhn at geographic-names@mtclubak.org or visit <https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2022/02/23/2022-03748/reconciliation-of-derogatory-geographic-names>.

New Geographic Name

On February 10, the Domestic Names Committee of the U.S. Board on Geographic Names voted to make official the name Jade Mountain for a 3,057-foot summit in the Toolik Lake drainage of the Endicott Mountains of the Brooks Range. The peak was named for the color of the moss on its summit.

Proposals to Make Geographic Names Official

The Alaska Office of History and Archaeology has requested comments from the MCA regarding a proposal to make the name Mount Elliott official. The name of the 4,710-foot peak west-northwest of Williwaw Pass in the Front Range has been in unofficial use since Vin Hoeman used it in his article titled "The Western Chugach Range, Alaska," which appeared on pages 98 through 104 of the 1966 *American Alpine Journal*.

OHA has also requested comments from the MCA regarding four other proposals to name geographic features in Alaska. The proposals are to make official the names Jocko Lake for a lake southeast of Lake Louise, Kookanork Creek for a stream near Kalifornsky that drains to Cook Inlet, Unhghenesditnu for another stream near Kalifornsky that drains to Cook Inlet, TI'usel Vena for a lake in the Mulchatna River drainage northwest of the Bonanza Hills between Lime Village and Port Alsworth, and Tammo Island for an island in Surf Bay off the coast of Akun Island northeast of Akutan.

For more information or to submit comments on the proposals, contact Steve Gruhn at geographicnames@mtclubak.org by April 8.

Idaho Peak (5050 feet), Talkeetna Mountains

Text by Martin Ksok

Idaho is an easily attainable peak accessed from the Gold Mint trailhead. Our group consisted of myself, Greg Encelewski and four members of the Copp family. They were led by the patriarch Jason, followed by siblings Zoe, Ethan and Tiegan.

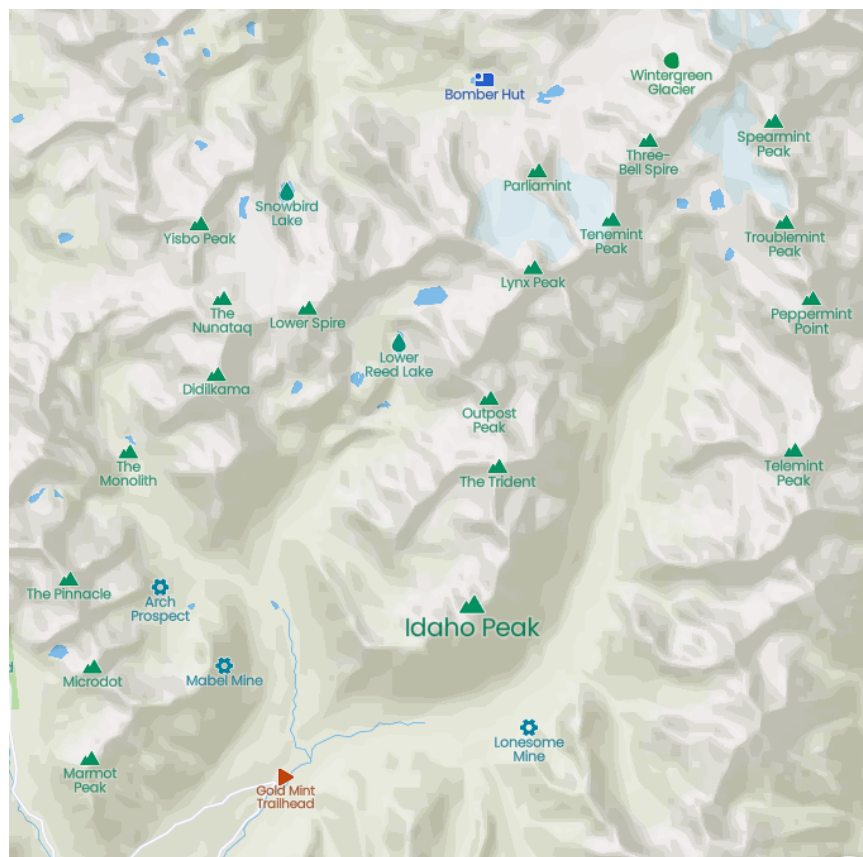
Zoe and Ethan, being 18-year-old athletes, decided to forgo the advantage of bicycles and walked in on foot. Literally, in Ethan's case, since he chose to attack the mountain barefoot, most certainty making the first shoeless ascent. The rest of us, being disadvantaged by age and/or lack of physical fitness, utilized two-wheeled machines and footwear for the distance of approximately two miles on the approach and descent via Gold Mint Trail.

At a convenient spot along the trail, a recent avalanche runout zone presented itself, offering a brush-free access to the west ridge of the summit. For most of the distance the slopes were grass and shrub covered, quite steep with at least one rocky step. Early on, Zoe and Ethan formed a spearhead of the expedition placing themselves ahead of the rest. Greg and I followed the youth, trying not to run out of breath and pass out and at the same time not to fall too far behind and embarrass ourselves. Jason and Tiegan did not care and formed a rear guard.

As we gained altitude, the sprinters up front started to lose steam and the slow, yet more experienced, midfielders caught up. The west ridge presented boulders to be hopped on and weaved through, and led the four of us to the summit. To my surprise and astonishment, Ethan's feet were still in decent shape at this point and he did not complain.

Utilizing clear skies, I took the opportunity to scope out the surrounding features, especially Goodhope Towers which have tickled my interest. We did not linger; the youth have a short patience and we hoped to run into the rear guard on the way down. We descended more directly towards the main trail utilizing a snow slope which ran almost the whole distance from the ridgeline. Only the shoeless Ethan found it less convenient since foot glissading was a risky option on rock studded spring snow and his feet soon grew numb from the cold. Regardless of such small inconveniences he persevered and with only a few cuts reached the trailhead.

It is often said that the opportunity for new, original ascents and explorations is rare and all significant peaks and lines have been climbed. Yet Ethan Copp proved that there is room for innovation, how about West Buttress barefoot? That would be a first.



<https://mapcarta.com/24074670>

Ladies Spring Chugach Ski Mountaineering Trips:

Ewe, Flute, Organ, Roost, Golden Crown, Sparrow, Yudi, Bunting, Finch and Hut Peaks

Text and Photos by Jen Aschoff



Kate Fitzgerald, Sophie Tidler and Chelsea Grimstad leading the way to Sparrow Peak.

Photo by Jen Aschoff



Becca Mamrol on her way down from Finch Peak.

Photo by Jen Aschoff

March is women's history month, and this always makes me reflect on life as a woman and the crazy, accomplished women in my life. Most of us won't ever make history, but we can make the most of the time we have on Earth, drinking in every ounce of beauty she has to offer. Life, climbing, skiing, and mountaineering as a woman just seems different from the male experience I read about as a kid, and somehow expected as an adult. Sometimes the experience was better, and sometimes it was worse than expected. I don't think life is harder as a female, I just think it's different. Furthermore, I don't believe in "toxic masculinity." I love and appreciate my male climbing/skiing partners – their strength, knowledge, enthusiasm, and goodwill. I just see everyone as human, and sometimes they are beautiful, kind and supportive creatures, and sometimes they are utterly horrific. However, there's something really special about sharing a rad backcountry trip with women. We do A LOT, but the expectations seem to diminish slightly, and my guard comes down a little bit more. I feel a little more free to make mistakes, laugh, and just say what's on my mind. My lady partners are very perspicacious. They always know when to offer sugar, a smile, encouragement, a hug, or forcefully take over setting the booter when I'm too hard-headed to admit I'm tired. As natural nurturers they just seem to know, and I don't have to say a word. Over the past few years I've made it my goal to organize more big ladies trips to the Chugach, and it's been one of the best decisions I've ever made. Here are a few short stories of some of my favorite ladies-only ski mountaineering trips close to Anchorage (most of which would be perfect for March, April or May), and some of the

fabulous women in our mountaineering community.

Roost Peak, Golden Crown, Sparrow Peak, Yudi Peak: Peak-bagging and Ski Descent Circuit (2.5 days): May 3-5, 2021

The first week of May 2021, I convinced a couple of my favorite lady partners to take on a 2 night trip to climb and ski peaks around the Golden Crown basin off of the Eagle Glacier. Our team consisted of Kate Fitzgerald, Sophie Tidler and Chelsea Grimstad. We all come from varied professional backgrounds so the conversation is always interesting- a geologist, an ER nurse, an engineer and a veterinarian! These women amaze me because of their strength, kindness, resilience, and accomplishments in and out of the mountains.

On the first day, we slogged up Goat Ridge early in the morning while the snow was still firm, and then enjoyed the glorious, mellow descent down the Eagle Glacier. I climbed Roost a few years prior while training for Denali with my climbing partner Seth, but we kicked ourselves for not taking skis up there. Not this time – we were taking skis! We cached our overnight gear and went up. I knew exactly the way to go up (up a very direct couloir from the east side of the Golden Crown basin to the ridgeline and then to the summit), and Kate knew the line she wanted to ski down (the steep line right next to the hanging glacier). The couloir is hidden from view for most of the way up, but careful study of the air photos prior to my 2018 trip belied its presence. On the Roost descent, the snow was icy and hard-packed, which was challenging for my very light and narrow skis. We skied this line, picked up our gear,

and continued to make camp before trying for Golden Crown.

On our way up Golden Crown we saw a massive bergschrund, and visibility was deteriorating as clouds moved in, so we turned back, finished making camp and were soon in a cloud. For our camp we used ultralight mids, dug in deep and secured with skis, ice axes and ski poles. Sophie carried surprise beers all the way up there – my favorite spruce tip beer from 49th State Brewery! The winds picked up overnight, making it hard for me to sleep. I was sure we were not going to get Golden Crown that trip, until the morning light shone through and the winds died down just enough. On the second day, we decided to “give Golden Crown a look.” The light was still very poor, and our alternate route up Golden Crown was rocky, so we summited, but did not ski down Golden Crown. I’m not sure how, but Chelsea managed to climb it with just a whippet, no ice axe! Longing for a good night’s sleep out of the wind, we decided to go to Rosie’s Roost for the night even though it added some distance.

That night at Rosie’s we decided to add a couple peaks on our exit since they were “on the way” and we had time. After a quick map distance/vert calculation and a drink, we decided to try a route to climb/ski Sparrow and Yudi peaks, and then take a shortcut through a notch back to Eagle Glacier. On the third day, we climbed/skied the other two peaks (Sparrow and Yudi) and skied out the shortcut to the Eagle Glacier. The shortcut was great except for the flat light. It was so flat that I collected pebbles and cobbles to roll down now and then to define the terrain below us. The shortcut worked out great and we reached the car in early/late afternoon. Sadly, the snow had turned isothermic in Surprise Bowl causing my 77 underfoot skis to nosedive every two turns, making the last part of the descent mentally and physically taxing with a heavy pack. Kate’s skins failed in isothermia somewhere in the alders near the bottom, then mine failed right after. We could see the car, but progress was frustratingly slow, side-stepping and bashing through alders. I exchanged some words with the alders at one point, but continued on. We all made it back to the car soaking wet, covered in alder debris and mud, but the memory of isothermia soon melted away with laughter and a cold beverage. Basically, it was just an awesome trip with some strong, kind, loving individuals. It was so awesome that you should probably do this trip too. Figure 1 shows a rough map of our route, but be sure to do

your research and study the satellite images carefully to find the shortcut by Yudi Peak.

Bunting, Finch, Hut and North Raven Peaks: Peakbagging and Ski Descent Circuit (2.5 days)

A fantastic weather window arose in late May 2021 to climb/ski a couple peaks in the Finch Glacier area. With such a high snow year and fairly cold temperatures up high I thought it just might be possible to pull this trip off. Becca Mamrol and Sophie Tidler have snow standards that are arguably lower than mine, so they were the perfect duo to join me on a smash-and-grab climb/ski of Finch, Bunting, Hut and North Raven Peaks. I met Becca back in

2018 on Denali. She and her partner Nina were (and still are!) hard to miss with their big smiles and love for pink. They hauled heavy packs and sleds with grace, wore LOTS of pink, laughed and smiled a lot, and then RIPPED on the way down. One by one, the men on the mountain fell in love with them, and called them the “Pink Ladies.” Sophie is a free spirit and has soloed many, if not most, of the Chugach State Park 120 peaks. She also held the solo record for the Front Range Linkup for a while. You’ll find her on the summit somewhere with a smile and a huge apple. I’ll never understand how such a small person carries all these apples – one for every summit, plus beers for pals!



*Jen Aschoff, Becca Mamrol and Sophie Tidler on a cloudy Bunting summit.
Photo by Rebecca Mamrol*

Sophie, Becca and I headed up toward Goat Ridge early in the morning when the snow was still frozen, finding a route up the left (west) side of the open creek, crossing into Surprise Bowl higher up than usual and finding a grassy spine to walk up instead of the snowy spine of Goat Ridge proper. There were a few alders on the way up, but it was tolerable even so early in the morning. The ridge seemed to go quickly and we were soon enjoying the lovely mellow descent down the Eagle Glacier. To our surprise, there was about 3 inches of fresh powder! At the base of Roost we skinned up and continued north, then turned east to our camp at the southwestern foot of Bunting Peak. There was plenty of light and energy to climb Bunting so we cached camp, climbed it and came back.

That night we were in a cloud, and our spirits were a little low thinking that we would not be able to navigate the Finch Glacier the next day to climb/ski Finch Peak. We were still in a cloud first thing in the morning, but the clouds lifted by late morning after

our leisurely breakfast and we were on our way. Cresting the ridge looking down the Finch Glacier we knew we were in for a treat! With huge smiles on our faces we descended down the Finch Glacier in glorious sunshine and 3 inches of fresh, cold, sparkle-powder. The views on this glacier were some of the most stunning, and I was very happy to be on it after a high snow year. I'd seen Finch Glacier a few years prior from the top of Whiteout Peak. In June, it was a scary, cracked-up, mess of a glacier. On this trip we did not rope up, but wore our harnesses, kept up our speed, and chose our line carefully on the way down, with the last person in line carrying the rope.

Nearing Finch, we decided to rope up and started to make our way up one of the spines leading to the summit ridge. The glacier was much more complex on the margins of the valley, and more than once I had some flashbacks from Marcus Baker where I broke some ribs on a crevasse fall. I loved how quickly the team was able to rope up, and how smoothly the decision making was as we moved over complex, cracked up terrain. Strong, kind, and experienced partners are such gems! We made it to the summit ridge and enjoyed an easy stroll to the summit. There were more rocks and patches of icy snow than we had hoped, as a lot of the summit ridge had melted, but we were able to ski the majority of the vertical including the steep couloir leading from the ridge to the valley below. I took it slow at the top and cut out a suspicious-looking windslab that was looming on the margin of our line. I felt better with that gone and the lower part of the run skied really well. I held my breath for a quick second going over the bergschrund, but it was uneventful beyond that. The snow, sun and scenery were so wonderful; I'm quite certain you could hear the happy noises all the way down in Girdwood! We skinned back to our camp, packed up, and the girls headed out the Raven while I added a solo night at Hans' Hut to climb/ski Hut Peak. They made it out by 7-8 pm on day two – strong ladies!

It was slightly eerie working my way up this part of the glacier alone, but I had crossed this so many times over the past 7 years and there was so much snow this year that I felt comfortable going solo. My biggest concern was the set of fresh, very large, bear tracks that traversed the top of the glacier where it rolls over onto Whiteout. It seemed so strange to see bear tracks in a sea of ice and snow. However, my curiosity morphed to goosebumps as I realized how tasty I would look to a bear fresh out of hibernation—a thought that would keep me awake as I lay alone at Hans' Hut that night. I buried the thoughts of being eaten on a glacier and continued to Hans' Hut where I dropped some gear, enjoyed a snack in the sunshine, looked over some paper maps, then climbed and skied down Hut Peak.

I was thankful for the paper maps at Hans' Hut since I'd forgotten my cell phone at the car with my Gaia maps. Even as a geologist, I

rarely use a paper map anymore but they certainly work just fine with a compass, and weigh a lot less. I was back at the hut early enough to have a leisurely afternoon alone in the sun looking out at Whiteout Peak. I felt so thankful for being in this awesome place and for the fond memories of this hut over the years with friends. I crawled into bed early, but was awoken by every noise outside thinking the bear had found me, and maybe he did but decided to spare me. By sunrise, I was ready to go home so I cruised down the glacier, past Rosie's Roost, where I saw some ski tracks from the Casey clan who had mentioned that they may go up to the glacier. I did a quick climb up North Raven Peak then descended the Raven Headwall, which was mostly corn with a little slow-moving slush. On May 22 I skied out, and I was surprised I could ski all the way down to Magpie on corn and slush before I had to walk. I had to walk about a mile or two to the car past the Crow Pass parking lot but was out by lunchtime. On high snow years, the Eklutna Traverse offers some spectacular terrain, scenery and skiing late into the season. We threaded the window on the glacier access perfectly, achieved our objectives and had a glorious time. At this point, I had about 10 peaks of the 120 left to complete, but more importantly I would not need to go back up Goat Ridge that year! My impression is that this trip is for folks who have a fair bit of glacier travel experience. My perception of risk on the Finch Glacier was higher than on other glaciers given what I'd seen in years prior, and some of the features we crossed while roped. I would not recommend soloing any of this.

SoFo to ERNC Traverse: South Fork to Eagle River Nature Center via Mount Ewe, Flute Peak and Organ Mountain (2.5 days)

This is definitely a ski mountaineering trip, although for some reason we didn't take skis on this trip. I'm including it anyway! Max Neale and Eric Parsons were the inspiration for this trip. They invited me on this same traverse with them a few years ago and I couldn't go without my boyfriend at the time launching into a jealous fit. I guess Max and Eric are just a little too handsome?! Luckily, I have some equally capable, equally beautiful, and fun lady crushers who were interested in doing this traverse. Patricia Franco won't tell you this, but if you Google her you will see that she holds the FKT (i.e., fastest known time) climbing Mt. Whitney, and has numerous mountain running and skimo race podium finishes. Instead, she will casually make conversation about life, love, dogs, and mountain sports while you gasp for air as she sets yet another bootpack and skis scary, steep lines with ridiculously skinny skis, then proceeds to giggle and tell you how much fun that was. Kate Fitzgerald won't tell you that she was one slot away from the Olympic cross-country race team, holds numerous impressive ski race wins and some super-fast mountain race times, or that she's done the AK Wilderness Ski Classic twice. You won't find much from Kate on social media either, but if it's a steep,

scary line in the Anchorage area she's probably skied it, and she can skate ski FAST with a 40 lb pack through 6" slush on heavy Armarda skis. I feel so blessed to have such strong and humble lady-crushers who, for some reason, will do trips with me (even when I stupidly suggest leaving skis at home)!

May 20-21, 2020 we traversed from the South Fork of Eagle River (Eagle Lake TH) to the Eagle River Nature Center, crossing the Flute and Organ Glaciers with several summits on the way. On this trip, I chose poorly and suggested not taking skis. This was a great idea for the first 10 miles when we were walking and wading out past Eagle Lake, but a lot of the trip was on snow. I now firmly believe you should just take skis everywhere with you in Alaska, and you will probably see me hiking with them to the most peculiar places. The first day we had a leisurely ½ day hike going in to the Flute Glacier where we set up our mid on the snow, climbed Mount Ewe and came back to camp. Ewe is a very easy walk-up with beautiful views.

The next day we went over the ridge to Organ Glacier, but chose a line up to a col that looked easier from the Flute Glacier only to discover that a massive bergschrund exists below the col on the Organ Glacier side. It took a bit of time to navigate the chossy rock ledges above the gaping bergschrund, but we eventually found our way down to the Organ Glacier. I suspect this fills in more in the winter so it could be less of an issue. However, I recommend that you proceed further up (southeast) the Flute Glacier valley to a steeper gully that ejects you onto a much easier descent to the Organ Glacier, just at the base of Flute Peak. We dropped our camp and climbed Flute Peak, using a rope for the exposed 5th class climbing on the summit block. I brought 2 cams, 3 nuts and a piton with some alpine draws. The snow gully leading up to Flute and



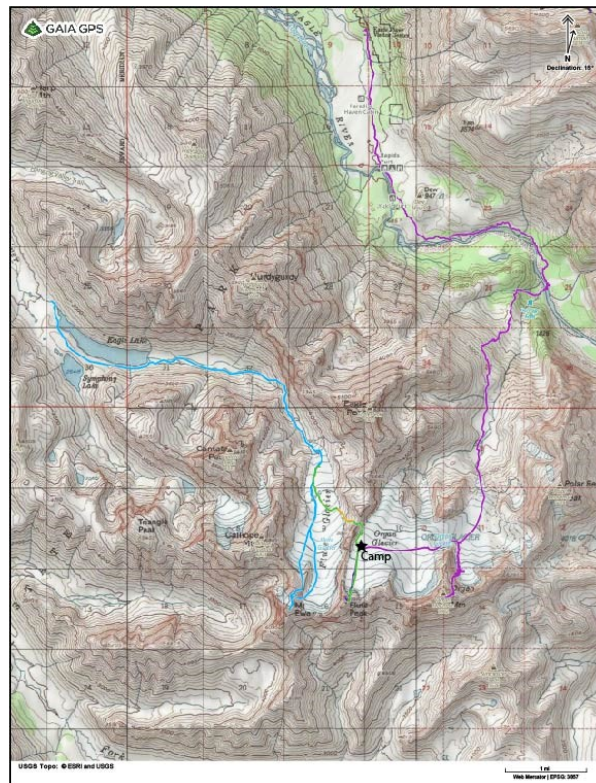
*Jen Aschoff starts up the summit block on Flute Peak.
Photo by Patricia Franco*

some of the northwest lines on Organ would have been fantastic to ski, and I'm hoping to go back with real skis soon. The third day we climbed Organ Mountain by going up along one of the eastern fingers of the Organ Glacier and following a series of snow gullies to the summit ridge. The climbing was very easy, and the descent would have been much better on skis. The snow became isothermic as the sun's heat intensified throughout the day. Our stoke level to climb Compass Butte disintegrated with the heat, and we descended the snowfields to the base of Polar Bear Peak, then out Heritage Falls to the Nature Center. The Eagle River had increased in volume throughout the heat of the day and it was difficult to find a good crossing. Kate charged through a sketchy-looking part of the river but made it look easy, so Trish and I followed. It turned out to be fine, but it's

always hard to tell when you can't see the bottom.

This is a fairly easy traverse with some fantastic terrain to explore, but be prepared for some glacier travel and changing avalanche danger. Bring gear for steep snow, and some rock/ice if you intend to climb Flute Peak; the other climbs are very easy and we didn't use any gear. We brought a light hyperlite mid, stove and

fuel for melting snow, ice axe, crampons, light rope, light alpine rock rack and light boots. Unless you go in the summer, you might not find a lot of water on the Organ Glacier. Finally, the Organ Glacier was heavily crevassed in several areas, and the route crosses numerous steep slopes and avalanche paths. Even in late spring to early summer these avalanche paths can run in the afternoon as slopes above may have warming snow. The map shows the approximate route we took, but be aware of changing conditions that might require you to alter your course. In conclusion, drink from the deep well of the Chugach but take skis, have fun, and support each other.



Route map

Peak of the Month:

Peak 7080

Text by Steve Gruhn; photos by Danny Kost

Mountain Range: Eastern Chugach Mountains

Borough: Unorganized Borough

Drainages: Granitic Creek, Hope Creek, and East Fork of the Chakina River

Latitude/Longitude: 61° 0' 14" North, 142° 59' 28" West

Elevation: 7080 feet

Adjacent Peaks: Acton Peak (7,510 feet) in the Granitic Creek and East Fork of the Chakina River drainages, Boone Peak (7,327 feet) in the Hope Creek and East Fork of the Chakina River drainages, and Peak 6602 in the Hope Creek drainage

Distinctness: 770 feet from Acton Peak

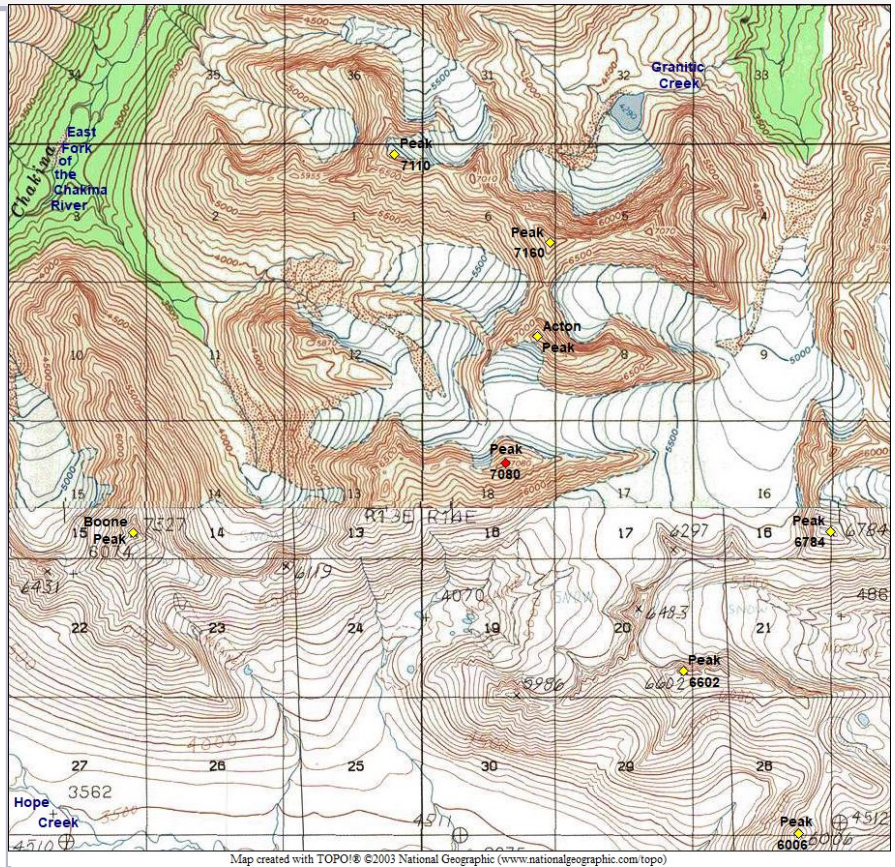
Prominence: 770 feet from Acton Peak

USGS Maps: 1:63,360: McCarthy (A-6) and 1:25,000: McCarthy A-6 SE

First Recorded Ascent: July 31, 1985, by Danny Kost

Route of First Recorded Ascent: South face to west ridge

Access Point: Tana River Landing Strip



East-northeast aspect of Peak 7080 from the unnamed glacier.

On July 16, 1985, Bob Jacobs flew Danny Kost in his Stinson from McCarthy to the Tana River Landing Strip on the west side of the Tana River near the eastern edge of the Eastern Chugach Mountains. Kost then bushwhacked, at times on all fours, along the west bank of the Tana River through what he described as “treacherous country” to eventually set up a base camp on July 21 near a small lake northeast of Point 3481 in a valley about two miles north of the West Fork of the Tana River, about five miles west of the Tana River, and about a mile and a half east of Hope Creek. He had traveled about 13 miles over six days to reach that base camp.

On July 22, Kost climbed Peak 6148 east of Hope Creek. The following day he moved his camp to an elevation of about 4,000 feet north of Hope Creek and southeast of Boone Peak (7,327 feet), which he climbed on July 25. (He called Peak 7327 Kristin Peak after his niece and goddaughter Kristin Boyd. However, Kost never publicized that name and bivouac.com

now calls Peak 7327 Boone Peak.) On July 26 Kost moved his camp southwest of Hope Creek and north of Yvonne Peak (7,111 feet), which he named in honor of his mother, Yvonne Knasel, at an elevation of about 3,800 feet. On July 27 he moved his camp to the 5,412-foot col between Yvonne Peak and Peak 6339 overlooking Hope Creek, climbed northeast up the spur to the northwest ridge of Peak 6339, and then followed the ridge southeast to the summit. On July 28 Kost left his camp at the col and climbed Yvonne Peak and Taunton Peak (7,689 feet). (He named Peak 7689 Arlis Peak to commemorate his father, Arlis Daniel Kost, who had died in 1978. However, he did not publicize the name and Peak 7689 is now called Taunton Peak on bivouac.com.) On July 29 he moved camp down to the toe of the glacier northwest of the saddle. The following day he moved his camp north of Hope Creek to about the 4,200-foot level southwest of Peak 7080.

On July 31, Danny Kost continued his exploration by climbing the south face of Peak 7080 in the Granitic Creek, Hope Creek, and East Fork of the Chakina River drainages to a steep snow gully that led to a 6,980-foot point on the peak's west ridge, which he followed for about a mile to the summit. He descended a steep gully on the north side of the peak, crossed an unnamed glacier, and ascended the south-southwest ridge of Acton Peak (7,510 feet) in the Granitic Creek and East Fork of the Chakina River drainages to its summit. (He called Peak 7510 Knasel Peak to honor Yvonne Knasel. However, he never publicized that name and bivouac.com now calls Peak 7510 Acton Peak.) He descended Acton Peak's east ridge to the unnamed glacier, on which he then traveled southwestward back to his camp.

On August 3 Danny Kost climbed Peak 101 (7234 feet) in the West Fork of the Tana River drainage. (He called Peak 7234 Sandra Peak in honor of his younger sister Sandra Kost Stepro, although he never publicized that name. In 1984 the USGS published an updated *Bering Glacier (D-6), Alaska*, map that noted a benchmark on the summit of Peak 7234 with the name Peak 101, which had been assigned by a U.S. Coast and Geodetic Survey party in 1953. However, Kost didn't have access to this updated map at the time of his trip.) On August 4 he climbed Peak 6985 in the Granitic Creek and West Fork of the Tana River drainages. On August 6 he climbed Peak 6650 in the Willow Creek and West Fork of the Tana River drainages. He then descended to Willow Creek, crossed a narrow pass east of Willow Creek and south of Peak 5465, and, avoiding bushwhacking except for the last few hundred feet of descent, returned to the Tana River Landing Strip, where he was picked up by Jacobs on August 8 and flown to McCarthy, completing his 24-day solo excursion into the Wrangell-Saint Elias Wilderness.

Because of their wider use than Danny Kost's unpublicized names for the peaks, I have opted in this column to use the names established by bivouac.com and the USC&GS.

I don't know of a second ascent of Peak 7080.

The information for this column came from Danny Kost's report titled "P 6148, P 6206, P 6313, P 6339, P 6650, P 6985, P 7080, P 7111, P 7234, P 7327, P 7500, P 7689, Chugach Mountains," which appeared on pages 148 and 149 of the 1986 *American Alpine Journal*; and from my correspondence with Danny Kost.



South aspect of Peak 7080, the broad summit in the center background. The summit of Acton Peak is visible behind and to the right of Peak 7080. Danny Kost ascended one of the three prominent south-facing snow gullies on the south face of Point 6980 and then followed the ridge to the right to reach the summit of Peak 7080.

Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

February 23, 2022, at 7:00-8:00 p.m., via Zoom

Roll Call

Gerrit Verbeek (President) - Present
Nathan Pooler (Vice-President) - Present
Curtis Townsend (Secretary) - Absent
Katherine Cooper (Treasurer) - Present
Brendan Lee (Director) - Present
Josh Pickle (Director) - Absent
Heather Johnson (Director) - Present
Andy Kubic (Director) - Absent
Peter Taylor (Director) - Present
Mike Meyers (Past President) - Absent

Scribe: Gerrit Verbeek

Action Items

- Gerrit, Peter, Heather and Andy to help add photo credits to the website. Gerrit or Andy can add the others to the website admins with editing privileges.
- Peter to investigate boosted Facebook ads for the March fundraiser / general meeting, as well as other advertising methods such as Eventbrite ticketing. Gerrit to share it to the Alaska Backcountry Skiing Facebook group.
- Nathan is currently swamped with work and UAA course planning, Gerrit to contact Arctic Valley for the April General Meeting.
- Board will contact Tim Silvers to request a handover of email administration. Goal is to create a general board@mtnclubak.org email for all director, and update info@mtnclubak.org which still forwards to Mike.

Board Votes/Decisions

- Voted to approve door prizes for the March Fundraiser – stickers and 3x copies of Ines Papert's book Vertical
- Voted to continue using Newtek as email hosts (Google Workspace would be more expensive)

Board Discussion

- **Director Position Open:** Luke Konarzewski has stepped down from the Board. A director with enthusiasm for web design or web maintenance would be a good addition for existing gaps
- **Concern** about number of tickets sold for Ines and Luka fundraiser. With one week remaining, tickets are half sold. Peter to explore. Some potential audience members might have seen the same material presented by Ines at the Valdez Ice Fest, is there a new angle or more material in this presentation to advertise?

Time and location of next meeting

- General Meeting March 3, 2022 (Thursday, fundraiser with Ines Papert and Luka Lindič at Bear Tooth Theatre, Anchorage)
- Next Board Meeting on March 30, 2022 via Zoom

Mountaineering Club of Alaska

| | | | | | |
|----------------|------------------|--|-----------------------------------|-----------------|--|
| President | Gerrit Verbeek | president@mtnclubak.org | Director 1 (term expires in 2022) | open | |
| Vice-President | Nathan Pooler | vicepresident@mtnclubak.org | Director 2 (term expires in 2022) | Brendan Lee | brendanlee718@yahoo.com |
| Secretary | Curtis Townsend | secretary@mtnclubak.org | Director 3 (term expires in 2022) | Josh Pickle | joshuampickle@gmail.com |
| Treasurer | Katherine Cooper | treasurer@mtnclubak.org | Director 4 (term expires in 2023) | Heather Johnson | hjohnson2211@gmail.com |
| | | | Director 5 (term expires in 2023) | Andy Kubic | andy.kubic@gmail.com |
| | | | Director 6 (term expires in 2023) | Peter Taylor | peter@peter.taylor.co.nz |

Annual membership dues: Basic ("Dirtbag") \$20, Single \$30, Family \$40

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 Membership Committee at membership@mtnclubak.org.

The Scree is a monthly publication of the Mountaineering Club of Alaska. Articles, notes, and letters submitted for publication in the newsletter should be emailed to MCAScree@gmail.com. Material should be submitted by the 11th of the month to appear 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 in electronic format and pre-paid. Ads can be emailed to vicepresident@mtnclubak.org.

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

Mailing list/database entry: Katherine Cooper — 209-253-8489 — membership@mtnclubak.org

Hiking and Climbing Committee: Vacant—training@mtnclubak.org

Mentorship: Katherine Cooper and Lila Hobbs—mentorship@mtnclubak.org

Huts: Greg Bragiel—350-5146 or huts@mtnclubak.org

Calendar: Lexi Trainer

Librarian: Gwen Higgins—library@mtnclubak.org

Scree Editor: Abbey Collins — MCAScree@gmail.com assisted by Dawn Munroe (350-5121 or dawn.talbott@yahoo.com)

Web: www.mtnclubak.org

Find MCAK listserv at <https://groups.io/g/MCAK>.

*Kate Fitzgerald and Trish Franco take a break in the Heritage Falls hanging valley looking up towards the descent route.
Photo by Jen Aschoff*

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