



**MAY 2000**

*A Publication of the Mountaineering Club of Alaska*

**Volume 43 Issue 05**

**Box 102037, Anchorage, Alaska 99510**

**MAY MEETING**

**Wednesday**

**May 17, 7:30 pm**

**Pioneer Schoolhouse, 3rd & Eagle Streets  
Downtown Anchorage**

**Program: Don Hansen will show slides of backpacking  
in the *Arctic National Wildlife Refuge* ,Brooks Range.**

**June preview: The Grand Canyon.**

**HIKING AND CLIMBING SCHEDULE**

**May 13      Souvenir Peak**

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

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

**20              Tikishla Peak**

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

Leader: Rick Zimmer 278-2033

**May 27              Mount Eklutna**

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

Leader: Rick Zimmer 278-2033

**June 5-12              Little Switzerland**

A "classic" Alaska Range destination on the Pica Glacier. Fly in with Talkeetna Air Taxi. Cost is approximately \$225/pp. Participants will need gear and experience required for glacier travel, crevasse rescue, and snow, ice, and rock climbing. Small, self-sufficient groups of 2-3 persons are encouraged. Maximum Size: 10 persons; Class: Glacier Travel, Fifth Class

Leader: Ned Lewis 243.5322

**17                      Flattop Sleepout**

Annual MCA tradition. Come one, come all and celebrate the longest day of the year MCA style. The more the merrier! No leader designated.

June 23-25 Grant Lake

Solstice hike with Tom and Matt, for those still in the solstice spirit. Hike to Grant Lake via Moose Pass with a climb of Lark Mt. Leave Friday afternoon as early as possible and return Sunday. Class C.

Leaders: Tom Choate 333-5309,  
Matt Nedom 278-3648

July 7-9 North and South Suicide

Western Chugach. Leave Friday afternoon from McHugh/Rabbit Lake trailhead. Set camp at either lake. Climb Saturday. Chill out on Saturday night and hike out Sunday. Round trip distance is approx 14 miles excluding the climbs. Class B to hike/camp and Class D to climb.

Leader: Paul Templeton 688-2551

July 14-16 Snowbird Glacier Rock Climbing

Hike in from either Archangel Trail or Reed Lakes (depending on conditions). Stay at the Snowbird Hut (\$10/pp) or tent out. Lots of potential for new rock routes in this Talkeetna Mt. hide-away.

Equipment and experience are required for glacier travel and technical rock climbing. Class: Glacier Travel, Fifth Class.

Leaders: Cory Hinds 248-6606,  
Paul Templeton 688-2551

Jul 22 - Aug 5 Gates of the Arctic

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

Leader: Don Hansen (907) 243-7184

**Radios:** new Motorola 2-way radios are available for trip leaders who anticipate splitting their groups for any reason. These radios are "line of sight" only and have a range of approximately 2 miles. Trip leaders should contact Paul Templeton to check these out.

**TRAINING SCHEDULE**

May 16 Orienteering Training

Hosted by the Arctic Orienteering Club. REI, 7:00 P.M. \$1.00 donation for maps. Pre-register at REI.

Contact: Steve Gruhn 344-1219

May 17 Orienteering Field Training

Hosted by the Arctic Orienteering Club. APU Moseley Sports Center, 5:30-7:30. \$4.00 fee.

Contact: Steve Gruhn 344-1219

**TRIP REPORTS**

**MT. CHICHANTNA & MT. NAGISHLAMINA**

by Kirk Towner



Early this April, MCA members Jim McDonough, Tim Griffin, Randall Krantz, Alan Miller, John Hawth, and I spent a week climbing in the Tordrillo Mountains. We were all inspired by the recent publication of

"TORDRILLO" by Rodman Wilson, Paul Crews Sr., Lowell Thomas Jr., and Tony Martin and just had to visit these peaks that look so inviting from Anchorage. On a beautiful Sunday, April 9<sup>th</sup>, Talkeetna Air Taxi owner Paul Roderick flew us to a site at 5300 feet on the Capps glacier - but not before we received a surprise blessing upon the trip from Archbishop Hurley, whom we met at the airport on the way out. Not a bad way to start a trip. (NOTE: Apparently Paul offered the flight to Tony Martin, but for some reason Tony declined the opportunity to fly us in. See Chapter 10 of TORDRILLO...)

From base camp where we were surrounded by inspiring peaks and the imposing bulk of Mt. Torbert. We skied (and snowshoed) with sleds to the foot of the Southeast Cirque of the Capps glacier, eventually choosing the left of the three branches as our route through this impressive icefall (see pg. 153 of TORDRILLO for a photo). Jim led the way through the generally well-bridged crevasses; we were all thankful for a solid snowpack and the early season conditions. Several hours later, after a false lead blocked by an immense "man-eating" open crevasse, we were forced to stow the sleds and make camp around 6400 feet. It would be a double-carry from here.

Tim, Randall, and I immediately dropped our packs and set out scouting while the others dug in a camp. Tim led the way, picking a delicate route through the maze of crevasses, serac



debris, avalanche slopes, and other assorted hazards. It was the only possible route. If we had seen any indication that the snowpack was anything less than bombproof, we would have had to give up the route; it was a scary place, indeed. At around 8000 feet, we ran out of daylight so we turned back, enjoying a lively ski down to camp. Some of us would pass through this gauntlet a total of six times as we scouted and double-carried our supplies through the icefall!

On Monday we rose to find a depressing overcast with poor visibility. Thanks to our previous day's effort, we were able to move our camp to 8000 feet, wandering every half rope-length to mark the route. We probed and dug into a small path between two huge open crevasses, reasoning that the monster above us was big enough to swallow any debris that might come down from the unknown terrain ahead. Later in the evening, the weather cleared enough to allow Randall, Alan, and I to scout ahead to 8500 feet; it seemed to us through the haze that the rest of the route to the ridge looked pretty good.

Unfortunately, the next morning brought rotten weather. We managed a single haul up to our new high point, but could not see well enough to safely continue. So we spent a third night camped in the icefall that I had hoped to get through in two days! Fortunately Wednesday dawned clear and calm. We hauled our camp past the cache and Tim led up a final committing slope to gain the ridge at 9400 feet. We spent the afternoon digging in a bombproof camp with massive double snow walls and returned to pick up our cache in the cool of the evening. From this site, the possibilities for day-trip ascents of Spurr, Chichantna, and Nagishlamina were wonderfully enticing!

Mt. Chichantna (10893) was less than two miles south of our camp along an easy, broad ridge. It was first climbed by Willy Hersman, Douglas Van Etten, and Phillip King in early March 1983 (along with the first winter ascent of Spurr) from the south. Ours was apparently the second ascent via a new route from the north (Grade I). On Thursday afternoon, after a detour to Point 9540 just above camp, we skied up to the broad summit amidst clouds and a steady breeze. With visibility at times down to a single rope length, we all particularly enjoyed the coating of rime ice that encrusted our clothing as we made cell-phone calls from the summit. Our source at the weather service advised that we "could see a bit

of wind tomorrow," then we retreated to camp to enjoy a few rounds of cards and some butter-scotch schnapps.

Mt. Nagishlamina (11068) was just over three miles north of our camp. David Johnston, Daniel Blake, Thomas Meacham, and James Sprott first climbed the peak in early April 1989 from the west. Thomas Brigham, Greg DuBois, Neil O'Donnell, and Kneeland Taylor made an earlier attempt of our route in May 1987, but the party was forced to turn back at 9,650' because two climbers did not have crampons. We were sure to bring ours.

As we peeked out the tent on Friday morning, an ugly gray lenticular cloud engulfed the summit of Nagishlamina. Mts. Spurr and Chichantna were similarly adorned. It did not appear to be a summit day as we geared up in the brisk breeze at camp. However, as this was our last available climbing day we determined to give it a shot, making sure to top out on every high point along the ridge. I watched intently as the clouds slowly dissipated from the rocky peaks to the northeast - could we be so lucky?

The route was straightforward (Grade I) and we had no problems except for two false steps by the leader into crevasses, never more than waist deep. We wore crampons the entire way rather than skis or snowshoes, gaining traction but losing flotation. Jim broke trail up to point 9640 where we confirmed that the clouds were indeed parting to grant us an audience with the summit. Tim took the lead along the exposed and heavily corniced section where the 1987 party must have turned back. Pickets are definitely recommended for about four rope-lengths, after which the angle eases up.

We continued to the top with the benefit of Tim's relentless step-kicking, reveling in our good fortune to succeed with such an amazing view of the surrounding peaks. The south face of Mt. Torbert made an impressive backdrop for our photos, then a few minutes later we turned back to camp, leaving nothing on the summit but our footprints. We descended in calm air with miles of unclimbed, unnamed, and beautiful peaks sprawling below us on either side. When we finally reached our camp, Jim expressed the awe that we all felt: "Boys, I believe that was the finest alpine day of my life."

Saturday morning found us up at 5:30 to allow time to descend with our ridiculously



overloaded packs before the sun could warm the slopes of the icefall. Thanks to a packed trail from our many trips through the maze, we were able to sneak through the trickiest sections on foot, only donning our skis to cross the worst of the sagging snow bridges that had aged remarkably in just a few days. We had a few tense moments with crevasses and a serac that cut loose way too close for comfort, shaking the ground like an earthquake! This was undoubtedly the most nerve-wracking part of the trip. However, along the way we got some good mileage out of Alan's grunge-punk rendition of "The Dukes of Hazzard" theme song: "...makin' their waaay - the only way they know how...." Every now and then someone would belt out a line and we'd all get a good laugh. We didn't rest until we retrieved the sleds and exited the icefall to the relative safety of the Capps glacier.

An enjoyable ski and a short uphill slog brought us to the landing site, where we stripped down and bathed in the snow under the full force of the sun as we gorged on outback-oven pizza and packed up our duffels. Right on schedule Sunday morning, Paul Roderick arrived to return us to Anchorage; it was a terrific week in the Tordrillos; we will definitely return...



Chichantna and Spurr from Nagishlamina kt

**ADZE**



Lost  
Black tent poles in blue stuff sack left at Pichlers' Perch. Reward to the folks who return them.  
Call Dave: 373-3051 or email at: [alpineak@aol.com](mailto:alpineak@aol.com)

Tuesday Night Hikes  
MCA member John Hess will lead various evening trips throughout the summer in and around Anchorage. This is a great opportunity to meet new hiking and climbing partners.  
Call John: 348-7363

Conference  
7<sup>th</sup> Annual Wilderness Risk Management Conference. September 21-23. Held in Anchorage at the Marriott Downtown, hosted by UAA and sponsored by the Wilderness Risk Managers Committee. Keynote speaker will be astronaut, Dr. Shannon Lucid, veteran of six space flights. The conference activities include:

- Wilderness First Responder Recertification by the Wilderness Medicine Institute
- Instructor training by Outward Bound
- Sea Kayak Rescue by NOLS
- Glacier Travel and Crevasse Rescue by NOLS
- Ice climbing, and backpacking by UAA

Conference topics include everything from Legal Liability to Safety Audits to Risk Assessment. There will be discussions about managing risks in many areas of outdoor activities, working with the media, analyzing accidents, medical emergencies, etc., etc. Registration \$275 by August 15, or \$375 at the door.  
Call UAA: 786-4068

**Web Chat**



[www.startribune.com](http://www.startribune.com):

Apparently there is a proposal to rename the highest point in Minnesota after a politician. This may be of interest because on July 1, 1966, Vin Hoeman completed his quest to set foot atop the highest point in each of the 50 states by visiting Eagle Mountain (2301 feet), his 50th state high point. (Thank you Steve Gruhn for this notice.)

Rep. Jim Oberstar, D-Minn., conceived the tribute to honor Rep. Bruce Vento, D-Minn., who carried legislation 22 years ago to expand the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness, the pristine wonderland of lakes and forest straddling the Minnesota-Canadian border. If you find this offensive, you can vent your frustration, along with many others by saying so in a poll being conducted at <http://highpointers.org>, the organization dedicated to climbing the 50 high points. This club offers a Vin Hoeman Award, named after Vin who was the first person to complete the 50 state highpoints. It is bestowed "for service to the club in the pursuit of highpoints."

According to the web page 86 people have so far completed the list of 50. 80% of those voting are against renaming Eagle Mountain to Mount Vento.



## IN MEMORIUM

Michele Potkin  
(1956 – 2000)  
Climber, healer, scientist, friend

Michele Potkin was tragically killed in a fall while skiing in the mountains near Talkeetna on April 8.

Michele was an experienced mountaineer and backcountry skier. She climbed Cerro Aconcagua in Argentina; Chimborazo, Cotopaxi, El Corazon, and Tungurahua volcanoes in Ecuador; Mt. Kenya in Kenya; Kilimanjaro in Tanzania; several peaks in the Swiss Alps; Mt Whitney in California and Mt Rainier in Washington; many peaks in the Wind River Range of Wyoming; many 7,000-footers in the Western Chugach Mountains; many peaks in the Talkeetna Mountains; Mt. Crosson and Mt. Spurr, and attempted Denali in 1992 and 1998. She had skied the Eklutna Traverse in the Chugach Mountains and the Bomber Glacier traverse in the Talkeetna Mountains. She had plans to climb in the upper Eagle Glacier area and Portage Glacier area with friends from MCA, and plans to return to Denali – all in spring 2000.

Returning with a guided group from the summit of Cotopaxi volcano (Ecuador) in 1997, another client at the front of the group tripped and began to fall while the guide was walking across a ladder spanning a crevasse. Michele's quick self-arrest saved the group from a terrible accident high on the mountain.

Besides the climbing, skiing, biking, hiking and kayaking she did in her spare time, she had worked as an ecologist in the Wind River Range of Wyoming, Prince William Sound, and the Brooks Range. Michele's trips to the mountains refreshed her spirit.

Michele was an active member of the MCA and AMRG, and had many close friends in both organizations. She had participated in many club trips and had lead several trips for the club in 1999. Clearly, she loved to be in the mountains and wanted to help others enjoy the mountains.

Always on the run juggling school, meetings, and other engagements, Michele would often work out wild plans for rendezvous with her friends. Night-before, late-night, and sometimes all-night packing sessions were common. Once, to catch up with friends biking in Denali Park, she arrived in the park late and pitched her tent near a river. Later that night she was awakened by a ranger who chastised her for sleeping in the middle of a bear trail. Next morning she befriended the ranger and convinced him to load her gear and

bike into his truck and drive her out to meet the group.

More recently, she dove into healing work, graduating from the Barbara Brennan School of Healing in 1999. She started her own professional healing science practice called Aurora Healing Touch, and saw clients at the Inner Dance Studio and at her home in Talkeetna. She learned healing and taught healing, and could talk for hours about it. She loved mountains, she loved healing, but most of all, she loved to connect with people. She was one of those people who would do anything for you, and she had a way to make you feel good about yourself. She was always looking for ways to combine her love of mountains with her healing work, and in 1998 she succeeded when she climbed Denali to support the Breast Cancer Fund, raising funds for research to fight breast cancer.

Michele's gentleness, sincerity, vibrancy, enthusiasm for life, passionate love of learning, and deep caring for others will be missed by all who had the privilege of meeting or knowing her. Michele was both a student and a teacher, a friendly and outgoing woman whose knowledge and ability to connect deeply with others touched and inspired many people. She was generous with her time and interest with her friends and family and gave many gifts of the spirit to those with whom she came in contact. She taught us to be present with each other.

We will miss her beautiful smile and easy laugh.

Compiled by Cory Hinds and Jeanmarie Crumb with  
input from friends.

The following poem is based on Tom and Michele's climb of Mt. Crosson.

### BURNING IMAGE

We survived soft snow, and rolling, rotten rock;  
we crossed sliding gullies, and icy, hidden holes.

Unperturbed, you climbed, sharing your soft smile:  
free souls all surrounded, by mountains everywhere.

Now it's getting late, the wind begins to howl;  
You consider turning back, then doggedly climb on.

Finally on the summit, against the late sun light,  
clouds of snow erupt, their flames pierce the sky.

You were there to share, that moment of forever,  
when snow turned to fire, and our souls began to see.

Tom Choate  
April 20, 2000



## BOARD MEETINGS

(Barnes & Noble)

4/18/00

The following members attended the meeting: Richard B., Kirk T., Bill R., Tom C., Patty M., Mark M., and Cory H. The following was discussed:

### *Equipment*

Status of club ropes: waiting on input from equipment chair.

Radio use. Mark will revise the policy so there are separate sections for avalanche beacons, EPIRB, and radios. Richard will ask Todd S. to replace the EPIRB battery.

### *Injury Reporting*

Review of draft incident report form. Mark will get UAA AOEE form for comparison.

### *Accident*

Discussion of Michele Potkin accident, and planned announcement. Cory will gather writings for Scree.

### *Awards*

Two trip leader awards will be presented at the April General Meeting. The plan is 4 awards twice per year (2-trip leaders, 2-trip reports). Richard to get two \$30 gift certificates from AMH.

### *Next Meeting*

The board meeting is standardized for every 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of the month (the night before the General Meeting). All club members are welcome to attend.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Cory Hinds

## MINUTES

### APRIL MEETING



There were a total of approximately 101 people in attendance. Six new members or visitors introduced themselves.

### TREASURER

Treasurer **Patty McPherson** provided a brief update on the budget: revenues \$3,125, expenditures \$1,740, and approximately \$12,000 in reserves.

## COMMITTEE REPORTS

### *Hiking and Climbing*

Upcoming trips are posted in the Scree and on the club voicemail (566-4MCA). Several new trips were announced and sign-up sheets were provided. Ned Lewis announced a club trip to Little Switzerland. The solstice camp out on Flattop will be 17 June.

### *Huts*

Chairman **Mark Miraglia** announced that Chris Riggio and friends made repairs to the roof of Rosie's Roost. If you are ever on the roof of this hut, you can read the 1976 newspaper imprinted onto the sheet metal. There is very little fuel at the huts. Fuel should be considered emergency only. Please bring extra fuel if you head in.

## OLD BUSINESS

**By-Laws change.** The membership voted to add training trips to list of club-sanctioned trips. The measure was unanimously approved by the membership.

Two **awards** were presented to trip leaders whose names were drawn from a hat. Winners were Kristen Shultz and Dennis Morford.

## NEW BUSINESS

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

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Paddle climbs** – interested people see Stewart Grenier.

Alaska **Run for Women** coming up.

See Kristen for updates to **hotline**.

**Tuesday night hiking** – see John Hess 348-7363.

Gear **for sale**.

Paid positions open to help **High Adventure Scouts** (see Tom Choate).

Club member Michele Potkin was tragically killed in a fall while skiing. A **memorial** celebration was announced.

Sage Cohen presented an excellent slideshow of biking and going to the mountains of Mongolia by horse.

Respectfully submitted,  
Cory Hinds



May 00

## MCA Trip Classifications

The classifications below do not take into account individual trip hazards such as river crossings, scree slopes, snow fields, bears, etc. Trip leaders are required to inform the trip participants of any such hazards either verbally, on the sign-up sheet, or in the trip description. Leader approval is required for participation on all trips.

NON-TECHNICAL: Following are a few standards used to classify non-technical trips. The classification is made in terms of hiking distance and altitude gain. Many trips are not on established trails.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Approved by MCA Board, February 1995

## General Rules for MCA Sanctioned Trips

1. Proper equipment is on the reverse side of this list.
2. No dogs. (Among the reasons are bear problems.)
3. The leader's suggestions are to be followed. Do not go off alone, return or rush ahead without his (her) permission, and don't ford a stream before the leader assesses the situation. Remember, this is a club trip and the leader must know where all participants are. Anyone separating from the group without the leader's approval is no longer considered a participant the MCA Sanctioned trip.
4. Trip participants who, in the leader's opinion, put themselves or other members of the group in danger by disregarding the leader's suggestions, shall be subject to sanction by the club. Sanctions may include, but are not limited to, reprimand at general meeting, exclusion from future trips, termination of annual membership or lifetime exclusion from the club.
5. You must sign up on a trip roster (club meetings) or contact the leader, and you must have signed the club waiver to be on a club trip.
6. When carpools are arranged, please plan to pay the driver your share without his (her) asking you. Generally \$5 - short trips, \$10 or more for longer.
7. If you find you cannot participate after signing up on the roster, please let the leader know, both for transportation and gear-planning and so someone else can go. If you are the leader, help find a replacement.
8. Total number of people on club trips:  
Minimum: 4 (for safety reasons)  
Maximum: Leader option, depends upon the trail and campsite conditions, but generally limited to 12 in trailless areas or State and National Parks
9. Firearms are not encouraged, and please let the leader know if you want to carry one - it will be leader's option. Aerosol bear repellent is preferred.

Approved by MCA Board, February 1995

## Equipment

### Summer

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

### Winter

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

Approved by MCA Board, February 1995

## Leader Qualifications

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

## Leader Guidelines

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

Approved by MCA Board, February 1995





# Mountaineering Club of Alaska, Inc.

## Membership Application

The Mountaineering Club of Alaska (MCA) was formed in 1958 to promote the enjoyment of hiking and climbing in Alaska and the exploration of its mountains. We welcome anyone who wishes to become a member.

**Participate and Learn** The MCA conducts scheduled hikes and climbs led by experienced club members, technical mountaineering and climbing courses, and other instruction throughout the year. The club maintains eight mountain huts in the nearby Chugach and Talkeetna Mountains. The MCA/Vin Hoeman Library, located upstairs in Alaska Mountaineering and Hiking on Spenard Road, contains hundreds of books, periodicals, bound volumes of Scree, and a 'peak file' with information on local climbs. The club also loans climbing gear to members, including ice axes, helmets, crampons, snowshoes and avalanche beacons.

**Stay Informed** The MCA publishes a monthly newsletter, Scree, and sends it to all members. The Scree contains the minutes of general meetings, announcements of upcoming events, the trip schedule and trip reports written by club members. A monthly meeting and presentation is held on the third Wednesday of each month at 7:30 P.M. in the basement of the Pioneer Schoolhouse (corner of 3rd and Eagle Streets, downtown Anchorage). Special events or changes to the meeting will be noted in *Scree*.

- **Complete both parts of this form** if you intend to participate in club-sponsored trips, or visit an MCA hut.
- Please make checks payable to Mountaineering Club of Alaska.
- Dues are \$10.00 for an individual or \$15.00 for a family (one Scree per family).
- Membership is for one calendar year, through the 31st of December. Memberships paid after October 1st are good through the following year.
- If applying by mail, please include a self-addressed envelope for your membership card which is required to participate on club trips and training. Or you may pick it up at any monthly meeting.

Our address is: MCA  
Box 102037  
Anchorage, Ak 99510

NEW	<input type="checkbox"/>	DATE	<input type="text"/>
RENEWAL	<input type="checkbox"/>	NAME	<input type="text"/>
INDIVIDUAL(\$10)	<input type="checkbox"/>	FAMILY	<input type="text"/>
FAMILY(\$15)	<input type="checkbox"/>	MEMBERS	
MAILING ADDRESS FOR SCREE			
STREET or PO BOX	<input type="text"/>		
CITY/STATE/ZIP	<input type="text"/>		
TELEPHONE	<input type="text"/>		
Join a committee?	<input type="checkbox"/>	Hiking & Climbing, Parks, Equipment, Training, Library, Other	
Lead a trip?	<input type="checkbox"/>	Location: _____	Date _____
COMMENTS	_____		

Paid:  \$10  \$15 on Date: \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_  
 Cash or Check Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Membership Card Issued for Year: \_\_\_\_\_.   
Address added to Mailing List

**RELEASE OF LIABILITY — READ CAREFULLY**

I, \_\_\_\_\_ (print name), am aware that mountaineering sports (including hiking; backpacking; rock, snow, and ice climbing; mountaineering; skiing; and ski mountaineering) are hazardous activities. I wish to participate and/or receive instruction in these activities with the Mountaineering Club of Alaska, Inc. ("MCA") I recognize that these activities involve numerous risks, which include, by way of example and not limitation, falling while hiking, climbing, skiing or crossing rivers or glaciers; being struck by falling rock, ice or snow; avalanches; lightning; fire; hypothermia; frostbite; defective or malfunctioning equipment; and attack by insects or animals. I further recognize that the remoteness of the activities may preclude prompt medical care. I further recognize that risk of injury or death may be caused or enhanced by mistakes or negligence on the part of either my fellow participants or MCA officers, directors, guides, instructors, or trip leaders. I nevertheless agree to accept any and all risks of injury, death, or property damage that may occur in connection with any MCA activity, including use of MCA furnished equipment and use of MCA backcountry huts.

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

**GIVING UP MY LEGAL RIGHTS**

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

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

**MY PROMISE NOT TO SUE**

I agree that I will not sue, or otherwise make any claim against, the MCA or my fellow participants in MCA activities for injury, death, or property damage which occurs in the course of my participation or instruction in mountaineering sports.

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

**MY RELEASE OF LIABILITY**

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

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

**MY PROMISE TO INDEMNIFY**

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

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

**MY CONSENT TO MEDICAL TREATMENT**

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

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

**I HAVE CAREFULLY READ THIS AGREEMENT AND FULLY UNDERSTAND ITS CONTENTS. I AM AWARE THAT THIS IS A BINDING, LEGAL AGREEMENT BETWEEN ME AND THE MCA AND I SIGN IT OF MY OWN FREE WILL.**

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

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



# Mountaineering Club of Alaska

## *Officers*

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

## *Board*

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

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

Dues can be paid at any meeting or mailed to the treasurer at the MCA address below. If you want a membership card, please fill out the club application found on the previous page and mail it with a self-addressed, stamped envelope. If you fail to receive the newsletter, or have questions about your membership, contact the club treasurer. The post office does not forward the newsletter.

*SCREE* is a monthly publication of the Mountaineering Club of Alaska. Articles and notes submitted for publication and other communication related to the newsletter should be mailed to my address: 1106 W. 54th Ave., Anchorage, AK 99518, or e-mailed to [willy@mcaak.org](mailto:willy@mcaak.org) Articles should be received by June 2nd to be included in the June issue.

Paid ads may be submitted to the attention of the Vice-President at the club address and should be "camera ready" and pre-paid. Your cooperation will be appreciated...  
Willy Hersman, Editor, 561-7900.

**MAILING:** bill romberg  
**HIKING/CLIMBING CHAIRS:** matt nedom, 278-3648, paul templeton, 688-2551  
**Web Page:** <http://www.mcaak.org>  
**Hot Line:** 566-4MCA (kristen schultz, 694-5788 to make updates)



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