



May 2005

A Publication of the Mountaineering Club of Alaska  
Box 102037, Anchorage, Alaska 99510

Volume 48 Issue 5

**Monthly Meeting**  
**May 18 @ 7:30 PM**  
**First United Methodist Church**  
**9th & G Streets**  
**Downtown Anchorage**

Next to the Phillips Building (you may use reserved parking after hours)

**Program: Don Hansen's slides of the Arrigetch Peaks of the Brooks Range**

## Hiking and Climbing Schedule

May 5 for about 10 days

Paddling in Western Prince William Sound, (and just maybe some hiking). Starts with a Ferry or water taxi out of Seward or Whittier to Chenega bay. Class B Contact Sean Bolender 830-5102.

May 9, Monday, 6 p.m.

Peak 4009  
Class D (6 miles, 3,800 feet of elevation gain)  
Leader: Steve Gruhn, 868-9118;  
steven.gruhn@hartcrowser.com  
Contact leader at least 24 hours in advance of trip.

May 16, Monday, 5:30 p.m.

Nest Peak  
Class D (14 miles, 4,800 feet of elevation gain)  
Leader: Steve Gruhn, 868-9118;  
steven.gruhn@hartcrowser.com  
Contact leader at least 24 hours in advance of trip.

May 21, Saturday

Blueberry Hill (4531) Class D 4,500 feet of elevation gain, 6 miles round trip. Contact leader at least 24 hours before trip.  
Leader: Steve Gruhn: [steven.gruhn@hartcrowser.com](mailto:steven.gruhn@hartcrowser.com), 868-9118 (w), 344-1219 (h)

May 23, Monday 5:30 p.m.

Knoya Peak (4669) Class D 3,700 feet of elevation gain, 10 miles round trip. Contact leader at least 24 hours before trip. Leader: Steve Gruhn: 868-9118 (w), 344-1219 (h) [steven.gruhn@hartcrowser.com](mailto:steven.gruhn@hartcrowser.com).

June 13, Monday 5:30 p.m.

West Ptarmigan Peak (4911) Class C, 3,000 feet of elevation gain, 6 miles round trip. Contact leader at least 24 hours before trip. Leader: Steve Gruhn: [steven.gruhn@hartcrowser.com](mailto:steven.gruhn@hartcrowser.com), 868-9118 (w), 344-1219 (h)

June 24 - 26

Tom's annual solstice trip this year begins Friday evening, 7pm. Hike from the Summit Creek trailhead to Summit Creek Pass. Three miles to camp, 1500ft elevation gain. Climb

peaks 4990 and 4982 on Saturday and Sunday. Flowers too!  
Leader: Tom Choate 333.5309

July 16 - 30

Gates of the Arctic National Park. Maybe the most beautiful place in Alaska. Class C. Steep and rocky terrain. \$200 air charter deposit due by June 1st. Party is limited to six.  
Leader: Don Hansen 243.7184, or donjoehansen@msn.com

## Trip Reports

### Solstice Holdout 2004

By John Maltas



CAers who read the Anchorage Daily News may recall the Dec. 24, 2004 article by Mark Baechtel, with photos by Bill Roth, about the Mountaineering Club of Alaska's 38th annual solstice sleepout on the top of Flattop. The reporter did not actually do the climb so here is 'the rest of the story':

I pick up the thread of the story after the usual club bonfire had died and the flashing lights that were attached to a kite fluttering in the night sky had fallen off, and all but the three in snow caves had risen at some dark, ungodly hour, and retreated to their responsibilities to the world below.

Without children or regular employment, I was comfortably ensconced and quite content

listening to the tinkle of wind chimes. However the music of the chimes gradually grew more insistent. Sometimes into the daylight hours the other two snow cavers emerged. A mighty wind had arisen before them but they had places to be. They geared up for the descent but after an initial thrashing by the wind they returned to shelter looking the worse for the wear and seeking reinforcement.

We consulted and I assured them that they would do fine without me, that there was a safe way down, and recommending the plunge step, they left and I settled back in my mummy bag.

Did I mention that I was comfortable in waiting out the storm? One of my last remarks to the departing duo was that "I don't foresee any problems."

I felt the cold stream of air about 4 A.M. the next morning. By candle lantern light, I could see the door still fairly well blocked with my pack and a build up of spindrift. I checked the air hole in the sagging roof. I checked the area of the shelf I carved and in the hole melted above the candle lantern I shoved a stuff sack. Cold air was still coming from the shelf area.

Quite suddenly, first the corner, then the whole back wall of the shelf began eroding. Shoving my thermarest against that side of the cave, I shoved my blue foam pad over the cave door to block the increasing amounts of snow spinning in from that side. Conditions in the cave became like those in a sand blaster with snow crystals instead of sand.

I worked at the tangled laces of my double boots with stiffening fingers while struggling to hold both the foam and the thermarest in place against opposite walls. The cave was giving in and I was racing time. Without enough support from the shelf sidewall the already sagging roof would collapse over me.

With hands too cold to zipper my parka, I got gloves on and started pushing my pack through the snow at the door. Behind my pack

I bellied through the door, now half blocked by snow.

Before I was half way out the wind tore my pack away. Grabbing a ski pole I stood to see how far it had gone. It was gone and then I was swept off my feet and bouncing across the top of the mountain. After about ten bruising yards, I was able to collect myself, low to the ground with almost no visibility into the wind and little better in any direction. Time to assess. Crawl back to a collapsing or collapsed sand blaster and burrow into my bag hoping for the best? I had everything I needed to make it down. One ski pole' a pair of gloves, two jackets (one zipped) and a hat. Retreat!

Disoriented on Flattop? I never would have thought it possible. But in the dark, in the blast, in the barrage of snow and grit, I had my doubts as I worked my way to the edge. What a difference the wrong chute could make! Familiarity with the lights of Anchorage, dimmed and shrouded though they were, saved the day. Finding the route, I slogged down the wind loaded slopes past a newly kicked off slide by Blueberry Hill, down to the surreal calm of the parking lot.

After getting to a phone I called the team leader to let him know I got out okay and CSP so they would not initiate a search if someone found some of my gear.

On rethinking this adventure, I have to admit I was quite thrilled and chilled at times. Despite the equipment loss, I profited from the experience. Though some pooh – pooh this mountain, it certainly has presented me with some challenges over the years. I know others have lost a lot more than some gear.

About the time my snow cave was disintegrating Glen Alps recorded winds at 102 miles per hour.

If you happen to come across any of the following could you give me a call? John Maltas 272-6546

- 1) Ice Axe with maroon handle with orange sling
- 2) Snow shovel, two piece metal handle, black handle, gray shovel
- 3) Wilderness Experience sleeping bag, left hand zipper, blue
- 4) Gregory backpack blue containing clothes, prescription glasses, kite etc.
- 5) Theremarest full size, orange
- 6) A borrowed Windchime set, metal
- 7) Ramer ski pole adjustable – light metallic blue

## Rainier in March By Clint Helander



Flying down to Washington, I had nothing but hope for a wonderful trip on Rainier, which would be my first big mountain experience. As a 20 year old who had done a decent amount of Chugach mountaineering, it was a formidable task, and had been a lifelong goal. Growing up in Washington, I looked at the looming peak every day and knew that someday I wanted to stand on top of it. Ironically, it took coming up to Alaska to make my dream a reality. When I got down there, the weather turned on me. Poor conditions were predicted for the next week. My hopes faded with the blue sky. Either way, on Thursday, March 24, we decided to give it a go regardless.

I arrived at the parking lot at noon with my partner Andy (who I met on [CascadeClimbers.com](http://CascadeClimbers.com)) and we proceeded to get ready. It was nearly whiteout conditions all the way up to Camp Muir, as we could tell. A foot of new snow blanketed the ground and with snowshoes we started out to the 10,200 foot level from Paradise (5,500 feet). We still had little hope of even achieving ground past 10,200 feet, but we thought we would at least hang out at Camp Muir and practice crevasse rescue.

We were making good time and passed a group of four other climbers who seemed exhausted at about 6,800 feet. I experienced cramping in my quads and hamstrings at about 8,000 feet and had to stop every few minutes and stretch them out. I knew this would impede any summit attempt. I didn't understand why my body was responding this way since I had kept myself extremely hydrated and had been eating tons of fruit and stuff days before the climb.

We made it to Muir by 6:00 PM and found a group of six climbers (their gear only) in the hut, as well as one separate guy named Bruce. We melted snow, cooked dinner, and discussed the nasty conditions so far as well as the low probability of a summit attempt.

At 7 PM, four of the six climbers returned after summiting the mountain and discussed the awfully exposed conditions on the Nisqually Icefall route. Descending on the Ingrahm Direct, they found it was heavily crevassed and either really icy or really powdery. This was to be our original line of descent.

At 8 PM the other two climbers from the other group returned, obviously pooped and exhausted. We continued to eat and converse with the other climbers and I nursed my legs and did everything I could to make them better.

I walked outside to gather more snow to melt and noticed that in a period of 10 minutes the entire sky had cleared and nothing but the moon and stars hung in the sky. Gibraltar Rock

and our line of ascent lay visible many thousands of feet above, while an ocean of clouds blanketed the terrain below.

By 9:40 PM, we were in bed, now much more hopeful of the following day's probability of a summit attempt.

We awoke at 2:10 AM and began getting ready. Bruce, the 49 year old climber we met that night asked if he could come along and we agreed. Roped up and ready, we started at 3:45 AM and climbed towards Gibraltar Rock. We made first prints the entire way up the mountain. We crossed the Gibraltar Ledges and stepped carefully across the sketchy parts. The sun rose and Mount Adams, Hood, and a steaming Saint Helens came up threw the sea of clouds.

We climbed for hours and made good time. Bruce was the slower one of the group and fell a few times. At one point he punched through a crevasse and we arrested. He was able to reach out (he only went in to his shoulders).

We stopped at 12,500 feet at the top of Gib Rock, rehydrated and ate Gu. After several false summit humps, we finally came to the top and rejoiced. We took off our packs, unroped, and looked to the south at the surrounding mountains. My camera continuously froze up and didn't allow me to take many photos.

We relaxed at the top for a while, before crossing the summit crater to reach the true summit across the top. Wading through knee deep powder, I screamed a 'woo-hoo' and raised my ice ax as I reached it. Andy came second, followed by Bruce a few minutes later. We found the summit log and I wrote my name and a brief message in it.

We descended the same route, picking up our wands along the way. Bruce fell a few times and we arrested, but nothing super serious. We were however worried about him as we came down the ledges, since they were treacherous and there were no places to arrest. He did OK however and I was quite

relieved when we passed the steep and rocky chutes, which would have meant certain death. Several large rocks came VERY close to hitting us as we crossed under the giant Gibraltar Rock. We saw Camp Muir and it took us nearly two hours to get to it. When we did, we were exhausted, but packed up as the sun set.

Two long hours, 4,200 vertical feet, and 4.5 fast paced miles later, we finally arrived at our cars, only to find the gates to the park locked. We were prisoners in the park and we were mad. We walked to an Inn, only to find out they had the combo to the lock. We were freed and drove home. I drove Andy home, then took a series of power naps, arriving at my parents' house at 3:30 AM. absolutely exhausted and suffering awful chest and throat pains which I think were minor reactions to the altitude.

It was an amazing trip and my first big mountain experience. We summited Rainier in March none the less, and made first tracks the entire way up the mountain. I feel we climbed the mountain at it's purest; no crowds, no boot packed trails up to the summit, no guides, just pure mountaineering. It couldn't have been any better. Next summer: Denali via the West Rib.

## **Ptarmigan Peak Moonlight Hike** **By Amy Murphy**



While sitting on the summit of Wolverine Peak during the January full moon, we checked out all the stunning, moonlit peaks and valleys surrounding us. For some reason, Ptarmigan Peak and O'Malley Peaks seemed rather inviting, so we decided to tackle one of those peaks during the next full moon. On February 23, 2005, Ray Nabinger, Tom Dolan, Lee Whitten, John Recktenwald, Martin Ksok, Wayne Helander, Katie Hahn and myself met at the Canyon Road parking lot to make our way to the summit of Ptarmigan Peak to view the full moon. It was still light out when we left, and the sky was overcast, but we had high hopes that the wind would blow the clouds

away and eventually the full moon would shine down on us!

Ptarmigan Peak, 4,880' high, is about 10-miles roundtrip with 2,700' elevation gain. The snow in Rabbit Creek valley, like most areas in the Chugach Mountains, was windblown, hard packed and icy, and luckily we didn't need snowshoes. After about 2 miles or so, the snow on the slope we were traversing got pretty icy. We finally stopped to put our crampons on, which made hiking much easier and we were able to cover ground more quickly!

We headed up to Ptarmigan Pass, and, like usual, the wind started blowing harder the closer we got to the Pass. We ducked behind some rocks at the top of the pass and took a short break to eat, get our ice axes out and leave some unnecessary gear waiting there. Then we headed up a snow-covered gully on the south side of Ptarmigan, with some of the guys taking turns breaking trail. In most places the snow was surprisingly, and luckily, soft, which made kicking steps up the steep gullies a bit easier! We continued steadily climbing up several steep gullies, slowly making our way towards the summit. The gullies grew increasingly steep the higher we climbed, and unfortunately the moon was still hiding behind the clouds.

Normally I am an avid skier in the winters (along with being a former, active hockey and PTA mom), but unfortunately we haven't had good snow conditions for skiing the past two or three years. So, I decided to buy crampons this year and try some winter climbing. Therefore, hiking with crampons is a new experience for me, and overall I was enjoying the stimulating thrill of climbing up Ptarmigan's steep slopes for my first time!

When we got really close to the summit, John Recktenwald and Tom Dolan decided to scout out different routes to the top. Meanwhile, Katie said she was ready to turn around, so I decided I had probably reached my comfort level as well. I like Deb Luper's philosophy about hiking; whatever high point we reach is

"our summit" for that particular trip, and we can always come back another time and try again. So, on this trip, Katie and I reached "our summit" slightly below the actual summit. Ray Nabinger, who is always pleasant and extremely chivalrous, escorted Katie and I part way down the final, really steep and narrow gully, while the rest of the guys climbed to the summit.

After we all got back together again, the moon started peeking through the clouds, and as we descended Ptarmigan's slopes, the moon slowly became fully visible, lighting our way back to Ptarmigan Pass. We stopped at the rocks to eat and drink and enjoy the silvery glow the moon cast on the scenery all around us. As we headed back to the trailhead, most of us sat and slid down the gully that goes down to the main trail. However, Ray Nabinger had carried his downhill skis and boots so they wouldn't get stolen out of his car, and he put them on to ski down.

We hiked on out to the cars, chatting, singing (well, I think I was the only one singing), enjoying the good vibes and delighting in the opportunity to experience another wonderful evening of hiking in the full moon with friendly companions. The wind slowly died down the closer we got to the cars, which was really nice! When we got back to the trailhead, Ray distributed a bottle of beer, I mean good cheer, to those who wanted one to help celebrate the evening. And since Ray was so generous in turning around with Katie and I right below the summit, I won't mention what happened to his pesky water bottle while we sitting on the top of Wolverine the previous month!

## **Eklutna Traverse 2005**

### **Greg Bragiel**



he Eklutna Traverse will be a trip that will be difficult to repeat. Steve Lord dropped us off near the serenity falls hut Sunday morning at 9:30 am. The ride in was worth the \$60.00 I paid him for the six of us. We skied up to

Pichler's in partly cloudy skies and a gentle breeze out of the north. Sat and enjoyed the scenery MANY times with the team and arrived at the hut at about 5pm. Found the hut in good shape. There are about 8 gallons of fuel there.

Left Monday morning at 9am heading to Hahns'. Skied under blue skies and a gentle breeze at our backs. Absolutely beautiful, phenomenal views. Hut in good shape. About 5 gallons of fuel present. Two climbers arrived at 9pm from Crow pass cabin. They were on their way to Valdez (started at Glenn Alps trailhead). This was rather humbling for us!



Jenny Magee Photo

We left Hahns' at 11:40 am, skied down the middle of the Whiteout, no crevasse problems at all. Arrived at Rosie' s about 4pm. Hut in good shape with 1 1/2 gal of fuel there. A friend of mine treated us to an acrobatic airplane show and dropped us a 12 pack of cervesa as he exited toward Eagle River valley doing a barrel roll. WOW, what a treat! The hut looks like it needs to be painted outside. Additionally, I felt it would be good to paint the inside white to brighten it up (maybe just the first floor). I will probably head up a group of the less experienced club members sometime in

August to do this. The team left Rosie's at 9am Wednesday under the same bluebird sky conditions. Over the Raven, stopped at the Crow Pass Cabin, skied down the valley and arrived at the mine at about 6pm. Conditions VERY hot on the headwall. Went down one at a time.

This was a trip that will be in the TOP 5 of my book for a long time.

### **That 'other' April club trip**

Tom Dolan enjoys a break from shoveling on the Marcus Baker trip.



Paul Hanis Photo

### **Paradise Revisited Harold Faust**



e parked at mile 13 out of Seward, next to the Snow River, at 2:30 PM on tax day, April 15. George Peck and I set out with overloaded day trip packs for the snout of the glacier in front of Paradise Peak, about six miles away. Climbing this gorgeous peak has been a dream for years, and we have made several exploratory hikes to figure out the lay of the land. The approach is over rough terrain, bounded by the Snow on the north and deeply fissured and forested hills to the south. Getting to the base in good time requires connecting up segments of sloughs, creek beds, sundry clearings, moose trails, and the general



wandering in between. The conditions varied from muddy banks to icy moss to deep, snow-filled canyons. At the South Fork ford George followed tradition and dumped several items off of his pack into the river, so we both splashed through the shallows picking up floating gear. That was our only wade. Once in the woods we switched to crampons for the iced hills, and eventually to snowshoes for the soft-snow meadows.

We reached 2,000 feet on the glacier debris at 8 PM and set up camp by a cabin-sized rectangular boulder, ousting two ptarmigan that were courting there. We settled into the only flat spot that was out of the wind, which also happened to be out of the comfort of the evening sun. Although the north wind rattled the tent all night, we remained reasonably comfortable. Remarkably, after sharing more than a hundred fine day trips to all corners of the east Kenai Peninsula, this was the first overnight George and I had ever done together.

At 5:20 AM I began trying to start the JetBoil, which initially refused to jet or boil. With little sense of urgency we fiddled with water making and gear until nearly 8 AM. Finally, we were on our way up the west ridge in deep shade on a perfectly clear morning. The ridge can be divided into four sections: The first is a 35-degree broad slope that runs to about 4,000 feet. This section was difficult because we were punching through an icy crust nearly to our knees. At 4,300 feet we squeezed up a narrow forty-foot shale chimney to gain the ridge proper. This involved jamming crampon points onto rock edges exposed like vertically stacked dinner plates. Once on the ridge, we roped up with a 30-meter piece and started climbing together. From there it was a roller coaster traverse for nearly half a mile along a very narrow, snow-plastered ridge. We carefully skirted areas of apparently solid cornices. I led this section, and at spots had to get down on hands and knees or shinny along on my butt to stay on the incredibly narrow snow crest with inspiring exposure on each side. At each problem, a solution presented

itself and we moved along steadily. The ridge feeds onto another 35-degree slope at about 4,900 feet. This slope takes you up to 5,600 feet, at the apex of a buttress that rises from the glacier to the south. We contemplated making our way down to the right onto the triangular summit glacier for the final approach to the top, but there was no clear route and we decided that our hard-won altitude was too precious to give up. The final hogback ridge is short but sharp and difficult. We eventually climbed off of the ridge onto the summit snowfield and at 2 PM walked up the edge of this to the true summit. The GPS indicated the elevation of the summit to be 6,029 feet, which is similar to that reported by the first ascent party (Scree, v. 12, n. 10). Why the map insists that this peak is 5,814 feet is a mystery. The summit sported fat cornices hanging over the north face and was plastered with rime ice. We snapped some photos and marveled at the blue and white wonders in all directions. It was too hazy to see the Alaska Range peaks, but the Sergeant and Harding Icefields, the Pacific Ocean, the city of Seward, and mountains on the western side of Cook Inlet were clearly visible. In the snow we could not find the original summit log placed by Grace Hoeman, so I stashed a white plastic vitamin bottle with another log page in a crack dug out of the only exposed rock on the summit's south edge. In the log I noted the first ascent by Hoeman, Johnson, et al. on June 29, 1969.

It would have been interesting to descend the summit glacier and connect with the south glacier, but with the snow beginning to soften 1,200-foot glissade to the glacier below. We reached camp at 6:20 PM. George was so tired he could not walk without stumbling in the sun and with the snowshoes back in camp, we elected to return via the west ridge route. The trip down was rather slow and difficult. Some sections of the ridge were quite steep, and down climbing them backwards was nerve wracking. In addition, our crampons kept gathering the increasingly sticky snow. Once, both of George's crampons iced into volley ball-sized icy clumps, and as he lifted his left boot to knock off the snow, the right boot

**Comment:** Maybe this is a good place to mention your late start again, and how it cost you.

shot out into the air. He slid down a steep slope between a couple of rocky ribs and yelled "falling", and then "FALLING!" I barely felt the tug when the rope, which was woven between snow crests, arrested his slide. The rock crack we had climbed on the way up now had to be down climbed. The difference was amazing. It was so much easier on the way up. But we both squeezed our way down in good order and then after a section of less exposed ridge walking came a good bit of fun with a smooth, and I was getting pretty grumpy, but we decided to pack up and head home anyway. At 7:10 PM we gave the ptarmigan back their home. We made good time on the return trip; occasionally stopping to gaze back at that wonderful ridge lit up by the remaining low-angle light. We found another deep snow swale that neatly bypasses a tricky slot canyon and feeds into what we call Paradise Creek at an apparent mining claim. From there, through some lucky tracking and gifted navigation, I managed to connect up the route in reverse. Clearing by clearing, moose trail by moose trail, slough by slough, we retraced our trail in quickly gathering darkness. At 10:30 PM it became quite dark, with just a bit of light provided by the half moon, so we finally deployed headlamps and continued on in our crampons, through the moose-browsed willow, river beds, hummocky grass and fallen timber. We reached the truck at 11:30 PM, as exhausted as we have ever been. We threw our packs in the back and started to get in the truck before I realized that we were still wearing our crampons.

Overall, the trip was a spectacular highlight of our decades of exploring in our piece of paradise.

## Scree submissions

### Note from the Webmaster

Scree articles, ads, announcements, trip reports, minutes, etc. can now be submitted on-line. If you go to <http://www.mcak.org> and click on Scree, you will find a link there to [Submit Material to Editor](#). Material can be

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uploaded to the website and kept there for the Editor to log on and download. You will be able to see when it was downloaded, confirming that it was received. Material remains on record until you decide to remove it. Not to replace e-mail, just to offer another choice. - Willy

## Orienteering anyone?

May 12, Thursday, 7 p.m. Orienteering Training – Classroom Session at REI. Hosted by the Arctic Orienteering Club. Fee: \$1 to cover maps

May 14, Orienteering Field Training, 1 – 3 p.m. Alaska Pacific University Sports Center. Hosted by the Arctic Orienteering Club. Fee: \$6 for non-Arctic-Orienteering-Club members to cover maps and refreshments

More Information?

868-9118 or [steven.gruhn@hartcrowser.com](mailto:steven.gruhn@hartcrowser.com)

## 2006 MCAK Calendar

Don't forget to Vote. Election day is at the May meeting. You can vote for vertical format pictures in several categories for the 2006 MCA calendar.

For more details contact Stu at [oinkmenow@hotmail.com](mailto:oinkmenow@hotmail.com) or 337-5127

## Water/ring/gut/tape Knot

This is the bend recommended for climber's tape or webbing.

In 'The Compleat Angler', the classic work on fishing first published in 1655, Issak Walton called this knot the water knot. Hutton referred to it as the ring knot in his Dictionary of 1815. In 1919 Dr. Holden, author of 'Streamcraft,' reverted to the name water knot. The water/ring knot has also been known as the gut knot. In addition the water knot is another name for the fisherman's knot; for this reason,



the name 'tape knot' is used by many modern climbers.

The Complete book of Knots  
Geoffrey Budworth

### **MCA Board Meeting Minutes April 13, 2005 7:00 p.m., Harry's**

We had two guests attend the meeting: A couple of ice climbers are developing a web site and wish to include information about the club's ice climbing festival. They also would like to put in a link to our web site. The board okayed this.

We still need a spare light bulb for our projector. Eric will handle this.

Club picnic in July. Carlene will see about reserving Valley of the Moon park.

Calendar planning board contact: Eric said members can bring pictures to the April meeting. Best to submit 8x10 prints, in vertical format.

Awards – Hoeman, President's, Meekins Grant: Board contact. Steve P will talk to Bill Romberg.

New Scree deadline: Minutes due in the day after monthly membership meeting.

We need a backup person for the club's webmaster. This person should have authority for full webmaster duties (in Willy's absence). Sean will talk to Willy about this in addition to backup protocol for the web site/how it is set up.

New EPIRB battery purchase has been done; the unit is currently on the Eklutna traverse with Greg.

The board had a discussion of liability issues and how to better protect against any mishaps

due to negligence. We have a lot of paperwork to keep organized (signed liability releases, first aid training—what level and expiration date, leadership training, etc.) and decided we need someone to step up and help get a system into place for this. (Records committee?)

We haven't heard about a second meeting of the hut site selection committee. Steve Gruhn will ask Hans to get that ball rolling.

We still haven't switched banks. Our president and treasurer will handle this.

Our club library, located upstairs at AMH, is in need of some volunteers to finish getting things organized and back on the shelves (more shelves may need to be installed). Nothing is being checked out until this is done. No members have volunteered to help out. The board agreed to meet at the library and see what needs to be done; Annette will contact Paul to get an okay on time to meet there.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:20 p.m.

### **MCA Membership Meeting April 20, 2005**

7:40 – Meeting called to order by president, Steve Parry

Introductions, new folks.

Treasurer's report  
We have \$12,640.55 in checking, \$6616.90 in savings, and \$1000 CD.

Committee reports  
--Hiking and Climbing (sign-up sheets up front; also, see club web site)  
--Steve Gruhn has several trips planned, mostly after work, of varying levels. Sign-up sheets available up front.  
--Sean Bolender is leading a 10-day paddle of Prince William Sound, round trip from Whittier,

5/05 – 5/14. Still room for a couple of more folks. See Sean at break to see a map he brought.

-- Randy Howell gave a trip report of Marcus Baker. Though no summit was reached, it was good training for Denali (snow cave, shoveling spin drift...).

-- Greg Bragiell gave a trip report of Eklutna traverse, which had unbeatable blue skies and no wind. He shared his growth as a leader and thanked those who have helped him to grow. He strongly encourages everyone to get out there and lead a trip.

-- Don Hansen will lead a backpack trip in Arrigetch Peaks area, 7/16-7/31.

#### Huts

-- Hans reports he took a group in to Mint Hut and did a major clean up, hauling out a lot of trash and junk. There is still a box of paper up there to be burned sometime; please burn on rock and scatter leftover ashes.

-- There will be a huts committee meeting at 6:00 p.m. May 18, same day and location as our next monthly meeting. The meeting will probably be in the back room of the church. Help select sites for a new hut and see sites this summer!

Rosie's hut has about 3/4 gallon of fuel left; Hans' hut without much; Pichler's has a lot so please feel free to distribute accordingly, if you are going in.

#### Parks Advisory

Reminder: Hatcher Pass area is now under the parking fee system. Denali Park road now cleared to mile 30 (and counting)

Training -Carl will not have any training over the summer. Andi reports the first aid training was a success, with a full class (1/2 MCAers). Also, congratulations, Andi, on obtaining your WFR!

Awards committee– Bill not present.

Library – Sean announced the board will be checking out the library before the board

meeting in May. Our club needs help with getting materials organized and back on the shelves so we can once again let members check out reading material.

Calendars – Stu collecting pictures, and then for two more weeks.

#### Old Business

The new Scree deadline is now the night of our monthly membership meeting (3<sup>rd</sup> Wed of each month). Submit any articles, trip info, etc. to John before leaving tonight's meeting. (Secretary will submit minutes the following day.

#### New Business

Stu brought to the club's attention the fact that the Forest Service will have Glacier City Snowmobile Tours fly one snowmachine in to drive around proposed permit area...The club may want a representative to be present at this event.

Scree deadline has been changed to the night of our monthly membership meetings (3<sup>rd</sup> Wed of each month). In doing so, we can now get recently-approved club trips into the Scree and allow the Scree to be published in plenty of time to reach members by the beginning of the month.

The club needs help in getting organized. We need someone to set up a system to help keep our records straight, and we also need volunteers for the library.

#### General Announcements

It was announced that both Robert Mansfield and George Hall had passed away recently. A moment of silence was allowed for reflection.

#### Slide show presentation

Stu Grenier, on paddle-club trips, Mount Susitna.

## MCA Trip Classifications

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Approved: MCA Board, February 15, 2000

## General Rules for MCA Sanctioned Trips

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

Approved: MCA Board, February 15, 2000

## Mountaineering Club of Alaska

President	Steve Parry	248-8710	Board member	Eric Teela	240-9693
Vice-President	Steve Gruhn	344-1219	Board member	Annette Iverson	222-0581
Secretary	Carlene Van Tol	748-5270	Board member	Sean Bolender	333-0213
Treasurer	Joe Kluberton	301-4039	Board member	Randy Howell	346-4608
			Board member	Jayne Mack	694-1500

Annual membership dues: Single \$15, Family \$20 (one Scree to a 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 a club waiver and mail it with a self-addressed stamped envelope. If you fail to receive the newsletter or have questions about your membership, contact the club treasurer. The Post Office will not forward the newsletter.

The 'Scree' is a monthly publication of the Mountaineering Club of Alaska. Articles and notes submitted for publication and other communication related to the newsletter should be emailed to [Scree@yahoogroups.com](mailto:Scree@yahoogroups.com) or submitted on the web at MCAK.org or mailed to Scree Editor Box 102037 Anchorage Alaska 99510. Articles should be received by April 20<sup>th</sup>(the club meeting) to be in the May Issue.

Paid Ads may be submitted to the attention of the Vice-President at the club address and should be 'camera ready' and pre-paid.

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

Mailing list/database entry: Greg Bragiell  
Hiking Committee: Matt Nedom - 278-3648, Carlene Van Tol – 748-5270  
Climbing Committee: Richard Baranow - 694-1500, Randy Howell – 346-4608  
Huts: Hans Neidig 355-3244  
Calendar: Stuart Grenier 337-5127  
Scree Editor: John Recktenwald 770-1636  
Web: MCAK.org (change your address here)  
Mailing list service: MCAK@yahoogroups.com

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