

# the SCREE

## Mountaineering Club of Alaska

May 2015

Volume 58 Number 5



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U.S. Army on Mount McKinley  
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**Monthly meeting: 6:30 p.m., Tuesday, May 19**

**Program:** Charlie Sassara will present an old school "slide show" featuring such climbs as the first winter ascent of Denali's West Rib, the East Face of University Peak, the West Pillar of Makalu, Fitzroy, and the limestone of Sardinia.

*"What we get from this adventure is just sheer joy. And joy is, after all, the end of life."*

- George Mallory

# The Mountaineering Club of Alaska

[www.mtnclubak.org](http://www.mtnclubak.org)

**"To maintain, promote, and perpetuate the association of persons who are interested in promoting, sponsoring, improving, stimulating, and contributing to the exercise of skill and safety in the Art and Science of Mountaineering."**

Join us for our club meeting at 6:30 p.m. on Tuesday, May 19, at the BP Energy Center, 1014 Energy Court, Anchorage, Alaska.

<http://www.alaskageology.org/graphics/meetingmap.gif>

For the MCA Membership Application and Liability Waiver, visit

<http://www.mtnclubak.org/index.cfm?fuseaction=members.form>.

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## Cover Photo

Scott Adamson dropping his pack to confront the hollow, detached pillar on "Down the Rabbit Hole" on Idiot Peak. He ultimately moved further right and aided the cracks to the bulletproof glacial ice above.  
Photo by Aaron Child.

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**Article Submission:** Text and photography submissions for *the Scree* can be sent as attachments to [mcascre@gmail.com](mailto:mcascre@gmail.com). Articles should be submitted by the 24th 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. 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 submit captions with photos.

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## Hiking and Climbing Schedule

**May 22-25**, Memorial Day weekend: Talkeetna Mountains - new hut reconnaissance trip. In and out via Reed Lakes/Bomber Pass. Should be a great trip with secondary goal of checking the route and getting GPS location for our new hut location (the Dnigi Hut relocation). Plan to go from trailhead to Bomber Hut in one day. Class D. Leader: Cory Hinds; email [chinds100@gmail.com](mailto:chinds100@gmail.com).

**June 6-7**: Alpine Rock Climbing, Eagle River Valley. Recon trip to explore some unclimbed rock walls on Mount Yukla. Camp at or near Heritage Falls Campground. Sign up as partners with a competent trad leader, or just come for a camping trip. Bring your own gear. Technical climb or Class B camping trip. Leader: Cory Hinds; email [chinds100@gmail.com](mailto:chinds100@gmail.com).

**June 20**: Flattop Mountain sleepout. No leader.

**September 25-27**: MCA Ice Festival at the Matanuska Glacier. Contact Jayme Mack at [jaymelynnemack@gmail.com](mailto:jaymelynnemack@gmail.com) for details.

**September 27-29**: Glacier Creek mountain climb. Come join the fun of wading the icy Matanuska River and exploring the wilds of Glacier Creek after the ice festival. Typically this is a hiking trip with some possible scrambling. Destination may be a first ascent. Class D. Leader: Cory Hinds; email [chinds100@gmail.com](mailto:chinds100@gmail.com).

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## Announcements:

The Mountaineering Club of Alaska recognizes the following members for sharing their time and talents instructing at Becoming an Outdoor Woman program at Victory Bible Camp March 7 and 8, 2015: Deb Kelly, Mary Beth Bragiel, Denise Saigh, Colleen Metzger, Dean Knapp, and Stephanie Rice. Many thanks for all your hard work!

Online? Click me!



**Check the Meetup site and Facebook for last minute trips and activities. Or, schedule one that you want to organize.**

## Recognitions

MCA Huts Chairman, Greg Bragiel, wishes to thank Kaarle Strailey and Deb Kelly for their stewardship of our huts.

While participating in the MCA Lane Hut to Bomber Hut trip April 12-18, they hauled 40 pounds of rubbish out of the Mint Hut for disposal.

Many thanks!



*Kaarle Strailey (right) and Deb Kelly hauling rubbish out of the Mint Hut for disposal.*

*Photo by Greg Bragiel.*

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## On the Web

Alpinist.com reported that on March 22 John Giraldo and Clint Helander climbed Peak 9304 in the Fish Creek Glacier and Wild Goose Glacier drainages of the Revelation Mountains. They named the peak Obelisk and their route on the southwest face “Emotional Atrophy” (Grade 4 M6 WI5 A0, 3,280 feet). Peak 9304 had previously been called Lyman Peak and was featured as the Peak of the Month in the February *Scree*. For more information and photos of their climb, click on <http://www.alpinist.com/doc/web15s/newswire-revelations-obelisk-clint-helander-john-giraldo>. We look forward to reading a full report in an upcoming issue of *the Scree*.—Steve Gruhn

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## Trivia

What is the westernmost peak in the Chugach Mountains that is at least 10,000 feet high?

- |                     |                            |
|---------------------|----------------------------|
| a. Awesome Peak     | h. Mount Grace             |
| b. Bashful Peak     | i. Ice Cream Cone Mountain |
| c. Confederacy Peak | j. Mount Muir              |
| d. Mount Gannett    | k. Mount Sergeant Robinson |
| e. Mount Gilbert    | l. Sovereign Mountain      |
| f. Globemaster Peak | m. Truuli Peak             |
| g. Mount Goode      |                            |

Answer on page 17.

# Conquest of The Eagle's Nest

By Sam Zmolek

With Andy McDermott

October 25, 2014

She's a real looker, one long ridge that flows for more than three miles along the north side of Captains Bay on Unalaska Island, and eventually emerges as an impressive peninsula bordered by Nateekin Bay to the north. Sure, the elevation

isn't particularly high; the entire ridge doesn't rise more than 2,000 feet from the sea once it descends beyond Pistriakoff Peak (2699) and its imposing neighbors to the southwest. However, the drop-offs are impressive on both sides, leaving only a narrow crest that traces three main peaks before disappearing into the abyss of the Bering Sea. The terminus of the ridge is less than a mile as the crow flies to the heart of Dutch Harbor, and yet the commitment is something closer to six miles each way on rugged, steep terrain.

This is the ridge that kept staring me in the face, for over two years on a daily basis. Oh sure, I put some half-hearted designs into getting up there over time. I'd laze around and contemplate the two most treacherous looking sections while gazing out the window from my couch, but more as a theoretical scrambling problem. I would eyeball it from different angles in pictures I took all over the island, but I had not yet been ready to throw myself fully into this intimidating route.

As the summer hiking season of 2014 drew to a close, I knew it was time to just do it already. I had no other reconnaissance

on the area beyond my own studies and photos, and had no local knowledge of anyone who had explored that area previously, but I had desire, a weather window, and even a buddy. Andy McDermott was lucky enough to be stuck in town

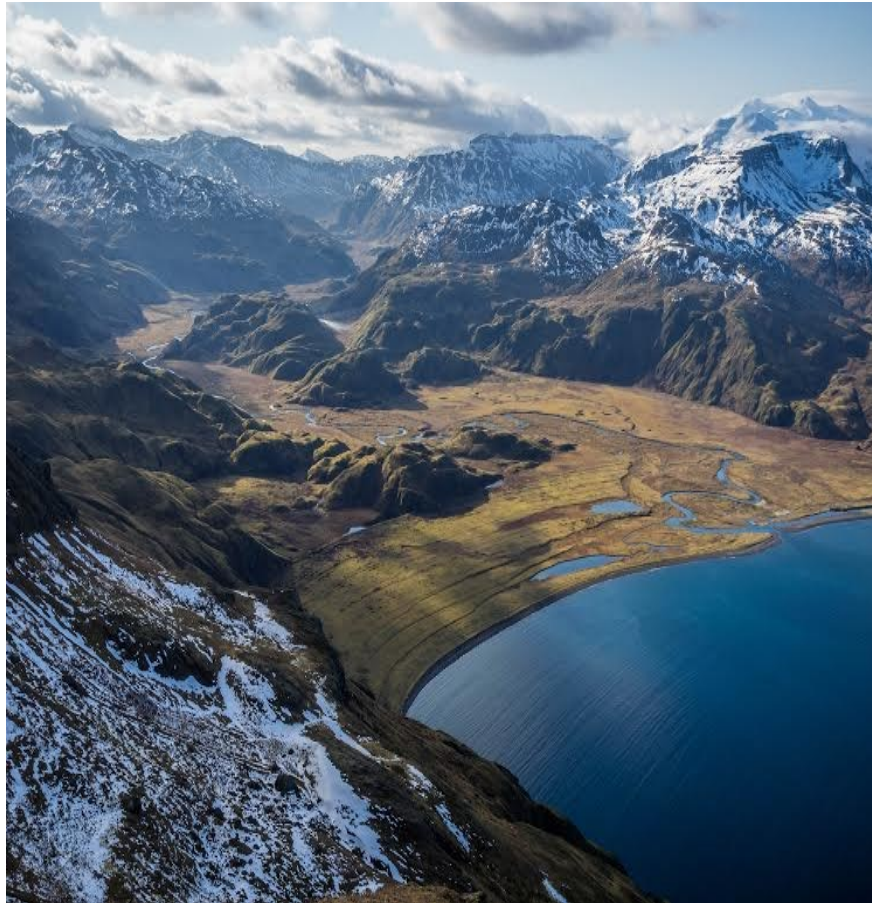
that day, and was looking for some adventure. I asked him if he'd be ready to go at daybreak, and he gave me an enthusiastic yes.

We met shortly before daybreak on October 25th, and started near the head of Captains Bay at the end of the road. After a short stroll, we forded the icy Shaishnikof River, and continued across the wetlands using an overgrown World War II jeep road. Much of the road walking involved ducking around and under large willows, and as the road turned north along the base of the mountains, we

started wading into vegetation that was head high and very

thick. Mercifully, the first snows of the year had depressed the vegetation in spots, and then melted away. This served to make the slog slightly less strenuous than it would have been just a few weeks prior.

After a tedious bushwhack that seemed to be somewhere around two miles, we started climbing out of the chokingly thick lowland vegetation. We used the easiest ramp we could find all along the ridge, which steepened as we ascended. As we suffered through the most painful part of the whole day, we were buoyed by the blue sky and sunshine that burned



*Nateekin Bay from the ridge.*

*Photo by Sam Zmolek*

away the morning grey. Eventually, the grade mellowed and we approached a low point along the crest.

Upon reaching the crest, we realized just what kind of beautiful abuse we were in for. The weather was grand and the views were glorious, but the climbing of the first peak was not going to be as gentle as we had hoped, and we were already feeling the effects of our efforts to this point. We soldiered on with big grins, in awe of views neither of us ever dreamed of. The Nateekin River Valley was the most spectacular surprise, as there isn't any other way to view that perfectly sculpted spectacle from town, and just seeing the mouth of the river from a boat is distinctly underwhelming by comparison.

We climbed up to the top of the first mountain, Peak 1990, with minimal fanfare. It was a steep and direct scramble up a constant and featureless slope, dodging small cliff bands on either side before cresting a small false summit that led along a gentle grade to the actual top. I dubbed this peak "The Ravens' Roost."

The next section only became more interesting, as the ridge narrowed noticeably, and dropped 500 feet to a gentle saddle that was close to a mile long. The steepest drop-offs were to the Captains Bay side for most of this section, and it was as lovely a ridgeline as I've ever been privileged enough to walk. As we gained elevation to the next summit, there were a few small steps that required basic scrambling technique, but nothing that was terribly exposed or sheer.

At the crest of Peak 1999 we didn't know what to expect. We could see a substantial mat of tufted grass that looked like a giant nest (I even assumed it was an overbuilt eagle nest until we got close). Upon standing on this impressive summit, I decided "The Eagle's Nest" would be an appropriate name for this peak.

Lost in the giddiness of this conquest, I had already forgotten the upcoming sections, but as soon as we stood on top of The Eagle's Nest we realized that the trickiest part of the entire ridge was looming below us like the drop and climb of a roller coaster. This was the section I always dreamed about, and I'd even had discussions with various friends as to its feasibility. It looked as fearsome as I envisioned. Once we got started down, though, we realized it was not going to stop us. The rock was good on the places where handholds were needed, but most of the going was just gentle enough for a careful walk downward. Going up the other side was a little trickier, but again the exposure was minimal and the rock was solid.



*Sam Zmolek practicing yoga on The Eagle's Nest.*

*Photo by Andy McDermott*

This final saddle is not quite 500 feet, so the final peak is just a sub-peak of The Eagle's Nest, but it was one of the most enjoyable scrambles I can remember. Upon cresting the top, we continued another half mile or so, walking a giant plank as it began its descent into the sea before the drop-off steepened and we decided it was time to stop and prepare for the return.

We headed back into the sunset along the ridge, savoring every moment while trying to get off the steepest sections before dark. We managed to just barely pull that off, and didn't stop to put on headlamps until we returned to the coastal lowlands. At that point we were starving and tired, and the rest of the way back we took turns going through blood sugar crashes and finishing off our remaining food. I remember at one point the realization that we might make it back to town after the grocery store and restaurant closed unless we picked up the pace, and that pushed us to the car with whatever we had left.

I don't remember if we ended up making it back in time to get food in town or not that night, but it doesn't matter. That scramble was the memory, and the wait was worth it

## U.S. Army on Mount McKinley

Text and photos by Matthew Hickey



*June 14, 2014, summit photo. Kneeling (left to right): Nate Chipman, Lucanus Fechter, Tyler Campbell, and Matthew Tucker. Standing, (left to right): John Harris, Stephon Flynn, Taylor Ward, and Matthew Hickey.*

It's been over two months since my team returned from Mount McKinley (Denali). In the time since I hobbled through a marathon, hobbled up and down Mounts Rainier and Baker, and slowly assimilated to my first real Alaskan summer. I went dipnetting for the first time along the Kasilof River and hauled ashore copious amounts of red salmon. A futile attempt at the Soggy Bottom 109 proceeded sympathy beers in the quaint Alaskan town of Hope, population 192, swelled to maybe 500 that day. It's nice to have sympathetic friends to console you after three flat tires, two broken chains, blown out front brakes, and an early withdrawal at Mile 82. Friends are nice no matter the situation – drinking beer, riding bikes or climbing Denali. As I reflect back upon the Denali Expedition, I realize that a group of spectacular human beings surrounded me. People I would call "friends" in the regular world, but when encompassed inside a military environment I'm supposed to refer to them as my subordinates. However, on Denali, we were a team and with the words I wrote below, written during my last days on the mountain, I hope to convey one member's meaning to me.

Enjoy.

**15 June 2014**

**Denali Base Camp**

**7,600 Feet**

*Scree—May 2015*

John Harris is older than I. He's had more leadership experiences than I. He's been to combat more than I. He's trained more soldiers than I and likely knows more technical systems and aspects about mountaineering than I. Yet I've been in charge of this mission and he listens. And he not only listens, but he listens intently, with a keen ear and a passionate heart. He listened as I rambled on about why we should do this or what we should have done. And he listened while I complained or when I was angry or when I was happy. I'd seek feedback, confirmation perhaps, that I did the right thing. John, ever the professional, listened every time. He could have interjected and said his piece. He could have interjected and said something passive such as, "We're fine, sir." Or, he simply could have not listened and said, "Roger that." But he listened. Actually listened! And then he processed my discombobulated words into discernable thought and then would subtly say something like, "So what you're saying is (fill in the blank here)."

And I'd quickly respond with, "Exactly."

I'm in charge simply because I was placed in charge. Yes, I've climbed Denali before and climbed other peaks at high altitudes and led expeditions long and short to peaks and places low and

high, but for this expedition I was selected because of my rank. "Captain, you're in charge. Find a good non-commissioned officer (NCO), put a team together and let me know what you need," a senior army officer told me during the very beginning of the idea that was the Army climbing Denali.

I found a good NCO. A great NCO. Likely the best NCO available to me at that time in that place. I found Staff Sergeant John Harris.



*Staff Sergeant John Harris, putting a fun spin on safety.*

While I created the training plan, John executed the training and ensured the soldiers were trained. When I was called to meetings or office-bound creating PowerPoint presentations John was drilling the guys on crevasse rescue or roped travel or finding my dog that ran off into the woods after I pawned him off on him. While I pondered the budget or the logistics of the trip, anticipating shortfalls and fearing we'd freeze in our army-issued clothing, John was creatively implementing ways to overcome the adversity. While I worried, John confidently moved ahead with my leadership, as sporadic and vague as it may have been, with steadfast assurance and loyalty. He was the rock.

We made it to the mountain. Finally. After three weather days in Talkeetna and three more weather days back in Anchorage,

we flew into Base Camp on 1 June. We were back at base camp two weeks later. Much faster than I expected. Sure, we weren't Killian Jornet fast. Most people, actually no people, are that fast, but compared to other groups ascending the standard route, we were fast! But perhaps fast is not the proper word. Efficient, maybe. Or as a guide-friend put it, "safe, smooth, steady, summit, and then sip (as in the beers in Talkeetna)." I can ski and climb fast, but I can't ski and climb fast for others. Somehow, John can.

The first task every day of mountain life is breaking camp. We broke, and later, made camp fast! Faster than our target times. We moved fast because the guys were efficient. Efficient with their layering, their hydrating, their hygiene, their morale, everything. I didn't realize how efficient we were until we climbed adjacent to other teams. I was always focused on the next task or the next day or the status of our fuel and food. John was focused on the guys – constantly drilling into them the importance of efficiency. And it paid off. It was this efficiency that allowed us a chance at, and ultimately the success of, the summit.

A few days ago at 14 Camp, when we were bogged down by windy and sporadic weather, I struggled with the decision of when to move higher. We'd dumped a cache above the fixed lines at 16,400 feet and had rested adequately enough to move higher. Everything was in place to move except for acceptable climatic conditions. I'd promised myself that I'd not assume the level of risk I would on a personal voyage. Furthermore, I'd sworn to those following our expedition back at U.S. Army Alaska (USARAK) Headquarters that I'd not move if the wind was "too high and temperatures too low (being careful to use the arbitrary word 'too' to allow for leniency)." I knew they were watching. When we got the word that the next few days



*Looking down from the top of the fixed ropes down to 14 Camp.*



*Early morning light after breaking camp on Denali.*

looked, "better," not good, but an improvement from cold, windy, and whiteout, I made the decision.

"John, we're moving up tomorrow. It's going to be windy and it's forecasted to pick up as the day progresses. We need to get to camp before 1400 or else we'll be exposed to the high winds along the buttress. That's not good. We're leaving at 0600."

"Roger that; the guys will be up at 0430."

No one leaves 14 Camp before 0800. It's too cold. The sun hasn't hit the basin yet as it's shielded from the sun until about 1000 this time of year. So, people move when it begins to warm. I wanted to move before other people moved. I wanted to be the first to the fixed ropes so we wouldn't be caught behind other, slower groups. But moving that early at that altitude in those temperatures is tough on both body and mind. Tough on the hands when dealing with the tents and stoves. Tough on the mind when wrapped in your warm sack, ice crystals poised and ready to sprinkle down upon you at your first move, chilling you further. "Just a few more minutes," you say to yourself, "just a few more minutes and I'll be ready to move." We needed to do this. I knew we did. I was absolutely certain.

"You ready for this," I said to John, the sound of the alarm emanating from somewhere deep in my sleeping bag.

"Time to get up!" John yelled. His words intended not for me, but for the rest of the guys.

We broke camp faster that morning than we had the entire trip or train-up. At 14,400 feet, in the shade of Denali's summit, amidst blustery, sub-zero temperatures, a difficult movement ahead of us, we broke camp in 79 minutes. We ate, hydrated, filled canteens, collapsed and packed tents, stored excess gear, roped up and started moving well under the two-hour bench mark. I did nothing to expedite this process. John did nothing either, at least he didn't do anything that morning. He'd made his mark on other mornings, on other mountains, during our preparation for this climb.

Months ago, on the Mint Glacier in the Talkeetna Mountains, John began timing the guys every morning as we broke camp, encouraging fast and efficient actions. He'd show them better ways of doing things – collapsing a tent, starting a stove, packing packs, rigging sleds.

"Multi-task and teamwork," he'd say to the guys. "All of you don't need to be doing the same things and you can always be doing more than one thing!"

Week by week we'd get faster and more efficient. John would speak less as time passed. It wasn't until that cold, quiet



morning high on Denali that I realized John wasn't speaking any more. John didn't say a word.

We summited a few days later, but I'm convinced we made the summit because of our actions that morning at 14 Camp. The weather remained unpredictable. We stayed tent-bound at high camp for three nights before sneaking to the summit and descending in less than optimal conditions. For the most part, summit day was easy and executed as planned. We made the summit not because we were strong on summit day nor because we acclimated properly. Yes, those things are important. We were strong and acclimated. We were mentally and physically ready, but so were many teams. The difference between our team and other teams was our performance coming out of 14 Camp and that performance was because of John.

We made it to high camp the afternoon after breaking 14 Camp. We were the first team to the fixed lines by over two hours that morning. And as we progressed higher on the West Buttress, with winds picking up and clouds moving in, I peered down through a hole in the haze to see a long line of climbers bogged down on the fixed lines. "They're not going to make it," I thought to myself. They didn't. Aside from a few soloists and Steve House, we were the only ones to make it to high camp. The next day a guided group led by renowned guide Scott Woolums arrived. No other teams went higher. For the most part, we were alone and in position for a shot, a chance, at making the summit.

The ascent from high camp to the summit requires physical and mental fortitude and little more, other than good decision making. There's nothing too tricky for the normal climber to overcome, but accidents do happen there. Our guys were tough and sharp. We made it up and down with a fair amount of ease and fair bit more of spindrift. I'm sure the other teams would have made it too...if they had the chance. If they had made it to high camp. If they had broken camp quick enough a few days ago to get there when the weather was somewhat suitable. If they had John.

We're at Base Camp now waiting for the plane to arrive. The ceiling is low and I don't think they're coming soon. I can taste the bitterness of Twisted Creek IPA and the greasy, sloppy bite of a cheeseburger. I know it will feel good to be back in civilization. To be back where I can make phone calls and watch sports. We'll likely receive some accolades from USARAK (I did call the general from the summit), maybe local news outlets. They'll make a story out of this. It'll be O.K., maybe even a little fun to be highlighted, to be in the spotlight for a moment. But they won't tell the story of what really

happened. They won't document the transformation of a 19-year old kid from Texas who hadn't seen snow until this winter who now climbs at an elite level. They won't highlight the astounding medical expertise of a young army specialist who received a crash course in high-altitude medicine and then was a sought after commodity on the mountain by those in need. They certainly won't highlight the individual leadership and initiative taken by all members of the team. And they most certainly won't highlight John, his consistency, his loyalty, his commitment. They won't interview him because he wasn't in charge and because he's not the youngest or the most newsworthy. John will sit there amongst his men, adjacent to me. He'll revel in how they are in the limelight. We made the summit. We are all safely back at Base Camp. His mission, the mission, is complete.



*Team resting on the fixed ropes as clouds move in on the West Buttress.*

## Skyline Trail

Text by Steve Gruhn

Photos by Pat Gray

with Matt Macri

March 28, 2015



*Skilak Lake as viewed from the ridge.*

In November I looked east from the summit of Hideout Hill (see the March 2015 *Scree*) to the Mystery Hills. Peak 3308 on the opposite side of Jean Lake caught my attention and then and there I formulated a plan to climb it.

Over the past couple of decades the Mountaineering Club of Alaska has been a tremendous resource for me. When Rachad Rayess announced the Mentorship Initiative, I saw an opportunity to give a little bit back to the organization that has given me so much. I signed up as a mentor and Rachad assigned me to students – Pat Gray and Matt Macri.

On March 28 Matt drove Pat and me to the Skyline Trail Trailhead on the southwest side of the Sterling Highway a short distance northwest of Jean Lake. As we got ready to head up the trail, which begins on the opposite side of the highway, a man in the parking lot was calling for his dogs, which had been gone for a half hour after he stopped to give them a potty break. I told him that the area was open to trapping and that

there had been reports in the *Alaska Dispatch News* of traps set really close to parking areas between Soldotna and Seward.



*Steve Gruhn (center) and Matt Macri (right) on the muddy Skyline Trail during the ascent.*



*Steve Gruhn (left) and Matt Macri break out above timberline and glimpse the first views of the ridge.*

We headed up the steep trail of frozen mud. For 45 minutes, we could hear the man calling for his dogs. I don't know if he ever found them. Travelers with pets should exercise extreme caution during trapping season along trailheads between Soldotna and Seward; the number of poorly placed traps creates a significant risk that pets will be caught in the traps.

As we approached the saddle at about 2300 feet, some 1800 feet above the trailhead, we could hear the wind on the ridge to the east. We stopped for a short break at the last few trees before entering the maelstrom.

There wasn't much snow or ice, so we kept our crampons in our packs. We followed the established trail to Point 3284 (1001 meters). After this point the trail became more difficult to follow, so we kept to the ridge crest for the most part and continued a mile to the southeast to the summit of Peak 3308. The strong wind (Matt estimated it at about 45 to 50 miles per hour) really limited communication and prevented us from tarrying on the summit.

We retraced our steps to the saddle. There Matt opted to wait while Pat and I headed northwest to attempt Peak 2851 (969

meters). Part way up the easy tundra slope, we came across a trail and followed that to the rocky ridge. On the summit we found that some prior visitor had used some of the abundant stones to make a windbreak. Because Peak 2851 is the westernmost peak on the Kenai Peninsula north of the Sterling Highway, we had great views to the west, from Skilak Lake to Anchorage. But we didn't want to make Matt wait any longer, so we quickly headed back to the saddle, returning about 40 minutes after we had left.

Because the day had warmed, the hike back to the trailhead was a little muddier than in the morning, but we made it back with no difficulties. When we returned to the parking lot, the man who had been calling for his lost dogs was no longer there. I don't know how his story ended, but we had had a fine day in the Kenai Mountains.



*Skilak Lake from the summit of Peak 2851.*

## “Down the Rabbit Hole” on Idiot Peak

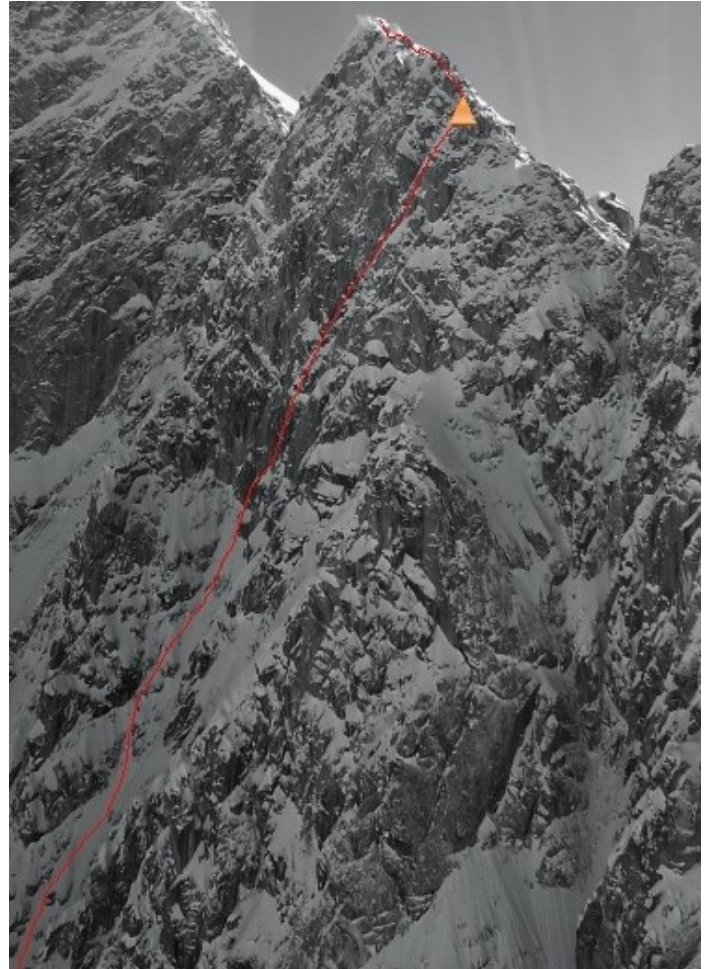
Text by Aaron Child

With Scott Adamson and Andy Knight

“Does everyone have a good feeling about this?” Scott Adamson said, before we were about to rappel and down climb over 2,000 feet into the formidable “Valley of Death” on the Tokositna Glacier. To our knowledge, we (Scott Adamson, Andy Knight, and I) were the only team that had made that descent to access climbing in that valley. [Ed. note: Jay Smith and Paul Teare also used that descent route in 1990 and again in 1991; see pages 50 through 58 of the 1992 American Alpine Journal.] Our goal was to put up a new route in the center of the west face of Idiot Peak – the south sub-peak of Mount Huntington. In the past, most parties have climbed to the top of the access couloir on the “Harvard Route,” and then traversed under the “Phantom Wall” on a sizeable ledge to access either the “Phantom Wall” or Idiot Peak (Will Mayo and Chris Thomas in 2005 [Ed. note: See pages 181 and 182 of the 2006 AAJ.]), but that eliminated 2,000 feet of climbing that makes the objective even that much more of a challenge.

Down the rabbit hole we plunged. As we rappelled and down-climbed the chest-deep sugar snow and blank slabs, we realized that we would probably not be able to escape that same way. At that point, the commitment level raised a few notches. At the bottom of this long couloir we had just rappelled, there lay a hanging serac. We decided to traverse above it through the icefall; they don’t call it the “Valley of Death” for nothing, and judging by the massive amounts of debris at the very bottom of the valley, this serac was a major culprit. Navigating the icefall was wild. Scott narrowly escaped a big crevasse fall when a snow bridge collapsed under him, and he escaped just in time. After that, a pitch of overhanging ice to dubious crawling led to our first bivouac under another solid hanging serac.

We woke up at 4 a.m. and traversed right 500 feet to the long snow slope that led to the main, rocky face. After soloing 2,500 feet of 60- to 80-degree snow and WI2-3 ice, we arrived to the first technical pitch: a long water-ice ribbon in a left-facing corner, which led to an M6 crux, which we protected with suspect gear. We were all surprised by the spiciness of the mixed climbing. This would prove to be the hardest mixed climbing on the entire route. The second pitch emerged from the left-facing corner, following thick ice and a mixed traverse right to the bottom of a right-facing corner. Luckily, there was



Route of “Down the Rabbit Hole” on Idiot Peak.

Photo by Scott Adamson

easy ice to be had on the third pitch. The fourth pitch entailed a drool of clear water ice in a squeeze chimney – something none of us had experienced. After the chimney, hard ice and mixed climbing (WI5+ M5) led to a good ledge.

A 30-foot column greeted us as we arrived on the ledge. The money pitch! ... or so we thought. Scott led out and discovered that the ice was not only extremely brittle, but also the column was detached from the rock behind it. To climb it would have proved fatal, so he made a pendulum out right 20 feet, and aided (A2) thin, flaring cracks for 10 feet before he reached glacial ice. In a good, fat year, this column would be exceptional, if attached.

One more full pitch of WI3+ glacial ice and a quick brew and we came upon a crossroads. One glacial-ice path led right, and a



*Scott Adamson leading the "Ship's Sail" pitch - the last technical pitch before the summit ridge. It was a rude awakening to climb something that difficult first thing in the morning after a very long climbing day the day before.*

*Photo by Aaron Child.*

steeper path led left. We couldn't see where either of them ended up, even when we examined the beta photos that we had taken. We took a gamble, and took the right-hand ice. One and a half pitches of WI4 led to a ledge where we followed a mixed, blocky chimney for 60 feet before finding more glacial ice. Yet another pitch of glacial ice and funky mixed climbing brought us to the "Thank-God Mushroom Bivy" at midnight, one pitch from the ridge proper. Merely a pillow of snow with a connecting walkway the size of a sidewalk, it was one of the most unique bivies any of us had experienced. Waking up hanging above the "Valley of Death" with much of the Alaska Range in view would be a memory not easily forgotten. We decided to sleep in the next morning. One more full mixed-climbing pitch led to the ridge, where the ridge traversing began.

We only had to navigate around one big gendarme at the beginning of the ridge. The next three pitches were straight-ahead snow wallowing, right underneath the summit ridge. The south-facing aspect was a nice relief from the cold, northwestern aspect on which we had been climbing. The next two pitches were exciting ice traverses, traversing underneath ice cornices. Because the summit was heavily corniced, standing on top of the mountain itself was sketchy, so a mere tap of the ice tool had to suffice. One pitch around the left side of the peak got us to where we needed to be to rappel to the col between Mount Huntington and Idiot Peak.

After rappelling to the col, more ice rappels led to sketchy

broken rock that Will Mayo described traversing through in his account of the first ascent of Idiot Peak. We rappelled through the broken rock to the base of the major snow slope to the left of Idiot Peak, and realized that we had to traverse left 500 feet and climb back up 800 feet over 70-degree snow to get to yet another technical pitch before reaching the ledge under the "Phantom Wall." We saw a possible cave bivy right next to said technical pitch. Sure enough, the cave was roomy after we dug in, and it housed three lads quite comfortably. The next morning around 8 a.m., we climbed the technical pitch (there was an old pin and nut anchor at the top – left by either Will Mayo and Chris Thomas, or Fumitaka Ichimura and Katsutaka Yokoyama, the Japanese team that established "Shi-Shi" [Ed. note: See pages 180 and 181 of the 2006 AAJ.]), traversed under the massive "Phantom Wall" to the top of the "Harvard Route's" access couloir, and rappelled down to the glacier right before some weather rolled in.

Inexplicably good weather left us feeling lucky that we completed our main objective so quickly, and without any major setbacks, especially considering the massive commitment level. We could have easily been stuck in that valley for eight days if a major storm had rolled in, the main objective danger being spindrift and slides off of the "Phantom Wall" and the traversing ledge below. Scott Adamson, Andy Knight, and I completed "Down the Rabbit Hole" (VI WI5+ M6 80-degree snow, 4,200 feet) on April 23, 2014, in four days, and in alpine style. And after those four days of movement, pulled-pork victory burritos back at base camp made us all realize how awesome base camp really is.



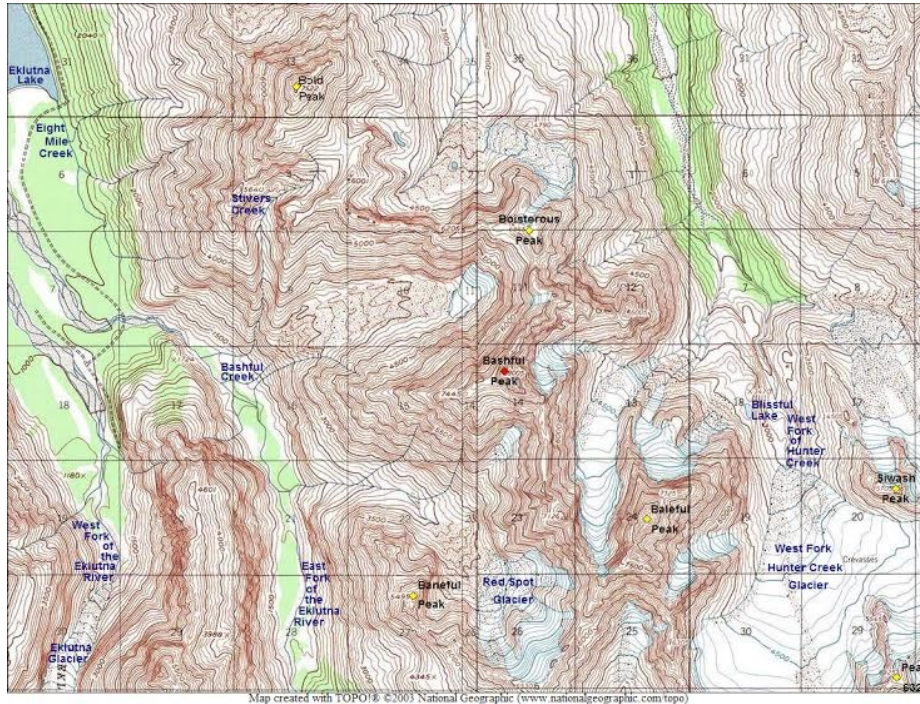
*Scott Adamson leading overhanging glacial ice in the thick of the icefall directly after rappelling into the "Valley of Death." This difficult pitch started the traverse of the "Valley of Death," which eventually led to the base of the line on Idiot Peak.*

*Photo by Aaron Child.*

# Peak of the Month: Bashful Peak

Text by Steve Gruhn

Photos by Wayne Todd



**Mountain Range:** Western Chugach Mountains

**Borough:** Municipality of Anchorage

**Drainage:** West Fork of Hunter Creek and Bashful Creek

**Latitude/Longitude:** 61° 18' 27" North, 148° 52' 12" West

**Elevation:** 8005 feet

**Prominence:** 5275 feet from Mount Gilbert (9638)

**Adjacent Peaks:** Baleful Peak (7990) and Boisterous Peak (6865)

**Distinctness:** 1355 feet from Baleful Peak

**USGS Map:** Anchorage (B-5) (1:63,360) and Anchorage B-5 SW (1:25,000)

**First Recorded Ascent:** July 18, 1959, by Helga Bading, Paul B. Crews, Sr., Gregg K. Erickson, John H. Johnston, and Rodman Wilson

**Route of First Recorded Ascent:** West ridge

**Access Point:** Bold Airstrip and Eklutna Lake Trailhead

For this 100<sup>th</sup> installment of the Peak of the Month, I wanted to select a challenging peak of local interest. As the highest peak in the Municipality of Anchorage, Bashful Peak fit the bill nicely. With over 5,000 feet of prominence, there is no higher peak within 22 miles of Bashful Peak. That's a recipe for some tremendous summit views – if the weather holds. In fact, Bashful Peak is one of the few summits in the Western Chugach Mountains from which Prince William Sound is visible.

In 1958 Jerry Nelson hiked up the East Fork of the Eklutna River in an attempt to reach the highest peak in the Western Chugach Mountains. Although his attempt was unsuccessful, he named the peak Bashful Peak because it hid behind Bold Peak.

The evening of July 17, 1959, Helga Bading, Paul Crews, Sr.,  
*Scree*—May 2015

Gregg Erickson, Johnny Johnston, and Rod Wilson flew in a Piper PA-14 from the north end of Eklutna Lake to the Bold Airstrip and began hiking along and through the East Fork of the Eklutna River for about five miles to reach the base of Bashful Peak, where they set up camp. At 5:30 a.m. on the 18<sup>th</sup>, they headed up the alder-choked slope above them, carrying their camp. By 8:30 a.m. they had reached the moraine-strewn hanging valley at the top of the slope. They dumped their camp in the boulder field and proceeded to head up to the West Ridge of Bashful Peak. They crested the ridge at about 5,000 feet, keeping track of their progress with Johnston's altimeter. They continued up the West Ridge, encountering fresh snow and rotten rock, known as Chugach Crud. Upon encountering steep, snow-filled Chickenshit Gully, they roped up. Crews and Johnston headed up



*The West Ridge of Bashful Peak from the bridge over the East Fork of the Eklutna River on October 3, 2007.*

the gully while Bading, Erickson, and Wilson skirted the gully on their left to avoid the deep fresh snow only to find themselves crawling over ice-covered rock, staring straight down to their camp 4,000 feet below. At 3:30 p.m. they reached the summit where they built a cairn and left a register in a bright red case. They descended to their camp on the moraine in four and a half hours. At 11 a.m. on the 19<sup>th</sup>, they packed up their camp and left the moraine. They arrived at the airstrip and dropped their packs. Erickson and Wilson decided to hike out to Eklutna Lake Road while the other three waited for the plane.

In December 1963 Vin Hoeman submitted the name Bashful Peak to the U.S. Board on Geographic Names. In 1964 the US BGN voted to make the name official.

In late July 1965, Art Davidson and Yoshiaki Nakamura ascended the North Face to the West Ridge and followed that to the summit to make the second recorded ascent of Bashful Peak.

On June 28, 1966, Yoshio Inukai, Dave Meyers, Nick Parker, and David Roberts climbed the West Ridge to make the third recorded ascent of the peak.

On May 27, 1973, John Pinamont, Larry Swanson, and Trent Swanson ascended the West Ridge to the summit.

On August 21, 1976, Jack Duggan, Linda Hestings, Gunnar Naslund, and Garnet Roehm ascended the West Ridge to the summit to make the eighth recorded ascent. On the summit they experienced an earthquake of 5.3 on the Richter scale.

In August 1984 John Dunlap, Mike Miller, Suzie Noldan, and Ron Van Bergeyk made the twelfth recorded ascent of Bashful Peak.

On June 28, 1998, Tom Choate ascended the south face to the southeast ridge and followed that to the summit. He rated the

exposed route with a grade of 5.4.

On July 31, 1999, I climbed the West Ridge of Bashful Peak with Bob Packard. The previous entry in the summit register included that of an 8-year-old girl. On the descent, Bob set down his JanSport daypack near the edge of a cliff and watched it roll over the edge, never to be seen again.

The information for this article came from Bading's article titled "Bashful Peak (8050 ft., July 17th to 19th)," which appeared in the July 1959 *Scree*; from Johnston's report titled "Bashful Peak," Chugach Range," which appeared on page 108 of the 1960 *American Alpine Journal*; from Vin Hoeman's report in the December 1963 *Scree*; from an announcement in the August 1965 *Scree*; from Hoeman's article titled "The Western Chugach Range, Alaska," which appeared on pages 98 through 104 of the 1966 *AAJ*; from Parker's article titled "Bashful Peak, 8001' – Third Ascent," which appeared in the January 1967 *Scree*; from Roberts' report titled "Alaska, Chugach Range," which appeared on pages 68 and 69 of the 1967 *Harvard Mountaineering*; from Trent Swanson's report titled "Bashful Peak 8005'," which appeared in the June 1973 *Scree*; from Roehm's article titled "Bashful – 8005'," which appeared in the October 1976 *Scree*; from Miller's trip report titled "Baleful," which appeared in the August 1985 *Scree*; from Choate's article titled "To the South Col with Tensing," which appeared in the January 1999 *Scree*; from my article titled "Bashful Peak," which appeared in the December 2000 *Scree*; and from the U.S. Board on Geographic Names' Geographic Names Information System ([http://geonames.usgs.gov/apex/?p=136:3:0::NO:3:P3\\_FID,P3\\_TITLE:1398649,Bashful%20Peak](http://geonames.usgs.gov/apex/?p=136:3:0::NO:3:P3_FID,P3_TITLE:1398649,Bashful%20Peak)).



*Southern aspect of Bashful Peak from Benevolent Peak (7126) on August 28, 1999.*

# MARCH MEETING MINUTES

March 17th, 2015

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## ***Welcome and Introductions of New Members***

## **Standing Committee Reports**

### ***Hiking and Climbing (Vicky Lytle)***

Upcoming Trips:

Eklutna Traverse April 12-19

### ***Training (Jayme Mack)***

### ***Mentorship (Rachad Rayess)***

Each mentor has two students, go out once per month, fill out post trip report. We still need two more general mountaineering mentors.

### ***Huts (Greg Bragiel)***

Hut improvement needs and notes are in *the Scree*. Scandinavian Peaks Hut is our top priority for repair because it has a broken window. Adopt-a-hut if you are a big hut user.

Pichler's Perch new skin: late June work party. Will set a date and get it announced by next month's meeting/*Scree*.

Dnigi Hut move: Conduct assessment of existing hut this summer. Member suggestions on hut location are welcome and should be submitted in writing to the board by the April meeting.

Waste protocols will be published in *the Scree*.

### ***Parks Advisory (Cory Hinds)***

Chugach State Park Access: Two competing ordinances from the Assembly heading to the Planning & Zoning Commission for hearing. Voted unanimously on March 9 to recommend the Johnston/Evans ordinance, which states that the Platting Board should "consider" the State Chugach Access Plan, but the CAP does not need to be approved by the Assembly. Goes back to the Assembly on March 24th for approval.

Hatcher Pass Mountain Huts: Ralph Baldwin led a successful Meet & Greet last weekend (March 14 and 15) in the parking lots near Hatcher Pass with some other volunteers. State Park winter-recreation brochures with maps designating motorized/non-motorized areas were handed out to 70 individual parties, both skiers and snowmachiners and some who do both. The goal was outreach and education and all were happy to receive

information. In general, there has been less trespass by motorized recreationists into closed areas this year, but also the winter snowpack has been unusually low and late in coming. On February 25, State Parks and Alaska State Troopers cited, fined, and trespassed out indefinitely six snowmachiners for riding in a closed area, a major enforcement activity. Looking for volunteers for this weekend for Saturday and Sunday. Build positive relationships with motorized users.

### ***Geographic Names (Steve Gruhn)***

Nothing new to report.

### ***History Moment (Steve Gruhn)***

Spoke about the founding of the Club.

### ***Peak Registers (Joshua Clark)***

Nothing new to report.

### ***Awards (Steve Gruhn)***

Nothing new to report.

### ***Equipment (Joshua Clark)***

Nothing new to report.

### ***Calendar (Stu Grenier)***

We need your gorgeous horizontal images by October.

### ***Library (Charlotte Foley)***

Added 200 books to an online database. Next step: add books from storage units.



# MCA Board Meeting Minutes – Monday, March 23, 2015

Attendees: Max Neale, Cory Hinds, Rachad Rayess, Aaron Gallagher, Carlene Van Tol

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## 1. *VP-Upcoming programs (Galen Flint)*

- a. May: Looking for rock-climbing presentation

## 2. *Treasurer's report (Aaron)*

- a. Aaron troubleshot a few technical membership issueLedger: \$42,000 in bank: \$20,000 in savings, rest in checking; looking into putting some money in a Certificate of Deposit. Huts are MCA's largest expense. We have \$15,000 budgeted for Pichler's Perch hut improvements, but we're unlikely to use it all.

## 3. *Secretary's report (Max)*

- a. Laptop sold. MCA recouped \$87.
- b. Cloud storage: Max will organize files and share with Board.

## 4. *Huts (Cory)*

- a. Pichler's Perch re-skin. Targeting June 24 through 30 for the work. Cory to post in *the Scree* and bring signup sheet at April meeting.
- b. Dnigi Hut relocation. New lease application is not required because new location is within five miles. Scree will publish map of proposed location. Have requested member comments in writing by April 21. By May board meeting, we should have final decision on location. Summer evaluation, then decide whether to move it or rebuild, develop budget.
  - 1. Rachad has volunteered to work with me to research costs of flying Dnigi Hut panels vs. purchase of new wood structure and fly direct from trailhead.
  - 2. Need volunteer to ground-truth new location.
- c. Mint Hut. Need work party to decant barrel and install urine-separating toilet this summer. Need volunteer to find volunteers to make this happen.
- d. Scandinavian Peaks Hut has broken window that needs replacement in the next month or two. Cory's friend Paul Andrews can do the repairs in May if no one does before.
- e. Leases on Department of Natural Resources land need to be updated every five years. Lease agreements are up for renewal on three huts: Bomber, Mint, and Scandinavian Peaks. Greg Bragiel has prepared the lease updates. Cory will review and submit them to DNR with payment by June 2015

## 5. *Training (Jayme Mack)*

- a. Summer rock course at Hatcher Pass?

## 6. *Mentoring (Rachad)*

- a. Still need two to three more mentors for general mountaineering. Board members should ask their friends to volunteer. Current mentorship period ends in June or July, then we'll evaluate program.

## 7. *Library (Cory)*

- a. Charlotte Foley has catalogued all books at REI and will catalog books at Best Storage next.

## 8. *Equipment (Josh Clark)*

- a. Game plan: Move books out of Best Storage, move all equipment to Best Storage, on shelves. Then close out the Arctic Self Storage unit. Save a few \$\$.

## 9. *Parks Advisory (Cory)*

- a. Assembly vote Tuesday, March 24, on several ordinances related to Chugach Park Access Plan.
- b. Hatcher Pass Meet & Greet: teaching snowmachine users about where they can and cannot go

## 10. *New Business*

- a. Inquiry about an adventure race incorporating the Eklutna traverse, asking for MCA help. Cory responded that the MCA is not a commercial operation, but there's possibility for collaboration.

- 11. Board reviewed suggestions from Tim Silvers and is taking action to improve various administrative aspects of the club

- 12. **Next Board meeting:** Monday April 20th, 6 p.m., REI Classroom. Next general meeting is Tuesday, April 21st, 6:30 p.m., BP Energy Center
- 

Answer to trivia question from page 3: d.

# MCA Board Meeting Minutes – Monday, April 20, 2015

Attendees: Galen Flint, Cory Hinds, Max Neale, Greg Enceleweski, Jayme Mack, Josh Clark, and Aaron Gallagher

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## 1. *VP-Upcoming programs (Galen)*

- a. April 21: Tom Choate/Denali. Guest: Frank Nosek '67—'68 president
- b. May: Charlie Sassara (past president of American Alpine Club)
- c. June and August general meetings: hike up Flattop Mountain, meeting at the top.
- d. July general meeting: Barbecue

## 2. *Treasurer's report (Aaron)*

- a. Aaron troubleshoot a few technical membership issues.

## 3. *Secretary's report (Max)*

- a. We're using Google Drive for meeting minutes and select other purposes.

## 4. *Huts (Cory)*

- a. Family of Lars Spurkland is looking to set up backcountry hut in his memory. Possible synergy where Spurkland family provides the funding and MCA maintains the hut.
- b. Pichler's Perch re-skin: targeting June 24 through 30 for the work. Gathering quotes for windows, framing lumber, helicopter transport, etc.
- c. Dnigi Hut relocation: new lease application is not required if new location is within five miles. Proposed location is within five miles. Ran map of proposed location in the March Scree. Have requested member comments in writing by April 21. By May board meeting we should have final decision on location. Summer evaluation, then decide whether to move it or rebuild, develop budget.
- d. Mint Hut: need work party to decant barrel and install urine-separating toilet. (Summer 2015). Need volunteer to find volunteers to make this happen.
- e. Scandinavian Peaks Hut has broken window that needs replacement in the next month or two. Paul Andrews will likely fly in and do it.
- f. Leases on Department of Natural Resources land need to be updated every five years. Lease agreements are up for renewal on three huts: Bomber, Mint, and Scandinavian Peaks. Greg Bragiel has prepared the lease updates. Cory will review and submit them to DNR with payment by June 2015.

## 5. *Training (Jayme Mack)*

- a. Summer rock-climbing course: need to find instructors, possibly early July.
- b. Evening training (primarily top roping) sessions at Boy Scout Rock. Dates, timing to be determined.
- c. Jayme will arrange a training for trip leaders
- d. MCA Ice Fest: 9/25-27, Matanuska Glacier

## 6. *Hiking and Climbing (Cory)*

- a. We need our leaders to run trips!
- b. Cory is leading: Memorial Day weekend (May 22-25): Bomber/New Hut scouting
- c. Cory, Max, possibly Richard Baranow leading: June 6-7 – Eagle River alpine rock climbing Mount Yukla/Heritage Falls Campground
- d. Glacier Creek: 9/27-29--climb some peak in the Mount Wickersham area

## 7. *Mentoring (Rachad Rayess):* ongoing, no updates.

## 8. *Library (Cory)*

- a. No word from Charlotte Foley; unclear if any action. Needs to visit Best Storage and work on getting those books cataloged.

## 9. *Equipment (Josh Clark)*

- a. Game plan: move books out of Best Storage, move all equipment to Best Storage after Ice Fest. Then close out the Arctic Self Storage unit to save some money.
- b. Josh will catalog equipment and add to shared folder for members to see. He also might digitize peak-register data.

## 10. *Parks Advisory (Cory)*

- a. Assembly approved ordinance requiring the Platting Board to consider Chugach Access Plan when approving platting actions along the park boundary. Very good news for access!

## 11. *New Business*

- a. Amy called Jayme: someone from "not to be named publicly" is using MCA huts for commercial huts. Jayme will give the details to Cory and he'll follow-up.

## 12. *Next Board meeting:* 5/18, 6 p.m., REI classroom. May general meeting: 5/19, 6:30 p.m., BP Energy Center

# APRIL MEETING MINUTES

April 21st, 2015

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## **Welcome and Introductions of New Members**

Past MCA President Frank Nosek shared several stories about MCA early days and creating *the Scree* with a mimeograph.

## **Standing Committee Reports**

### **Hiking and Climbing (Vicky Lytle)**

Upcoming Trips:

Memorial Day weekend “new hut reconnaissance trip:” hike in via Bomber Pass, Night 1 at Bomber Hut, Night 2 at potential new Dnigi Hut location; aiming to answer “is this a good location?”

June 6-7: explore unclimbed rock walls on Mount Yukla, camp at Heritage Falls.

9/27-29: climb some new mountain (how mysterious! Details to follow)

### **Training (Jayme Mack)**

Rock-climbing course at Hatcher Pass likely in early July.

### **Mentorship (Rachad Rayess)**

Each mentor has two students, go out once per month, fill out post trip report. We still need two more general mountaineering mentors.

### **Huts (Greg Bragiel)**

New roof on Pichler’s Perch: targeting June 24-30 for the work. Need two experienced volunteers.

Need someone to monitor human-waste barrels on Eklutna Traverse huts; Bomber Hut needs a new stove; mold at Dnigi Hut.

If you see maintenance issues at a hut, please send your suggestions to [huts@mtnclubak.org](mailto:huts@mtnclubak.org) and we will address them.

### **Parks Advisory (Cory Hinds)**

Chugach Park Access: assembly approved ordinance that requires consideration of platting (dividing parcels of land) that border the state park; this preserves access

Ralph Baldwin summarized the Meet & Greet program at Hatcher Pass for the winter season and reported one more Meet & Greet event was held on March 23 led by Cory Hinds. It was a low-use day at the Gold Mint Parking Lot, but nevertheless, eight more snowmachiners were contacted and some skiers, as well. Informational brochures were handed out detailing motorized/non-motorized areas. The goal of the program was

outreach and education and the building of good will among varied user groups.

### **Geographic Names (Steve Gruhn)**

For the first time in its history, the U.S. Board on Geographic Names is having its meeting in Anchorage 4/29-5/1. Steve will attend and may present about mountaineers’ perspectives on names.

### **History Moment (Steve Gruhn)**

Story from May 1967 *Scree*: Byron Peak, four Alaska guys, get up on glacier in two rope teams, get to the summit, eat lunch, about 0 degrees, wind coming from the north, suddenly BOOM; cornice collapsed – two people are anchoring ropes while the other two are dangling off the edge with ~3,000 feet of air below them. The guys hanging on the top can only talk by shouting, and just barely. Ninety minutes passes, they’re freezing cold, the sun is setting soon, they talk about cutting one rope and likely killing the person (their friend) who is hanging off the other end. The two that are hanging get creative: Nick Parker, 16 years old, uses his boot laces to tie a Prusik and ascend 80 feet up the rope to the point where he can get an ice axe in the edge of the cornice, and returns to safety and help haul up the fourth person. Lesson from this story: be careful of cornices! And read the old *Scree* issues because they have lots of great information on routes and excellent stories like this.

### **Peak Registers (Joshua Clark)**

Josh is digitizing peak registers.

### **Awards (Steve Gruhn)**

Nothing new to report.

### **Equipment (Joshua Clark)**

Josh is creating an inventory of all equipment.

### **Calendar (Stu Grenier)**

We need your gorgeous horizontal images by October.

### **Library (Charlotte Foley)**

Added 200 books to an online database. Next step: add books from storage units.

### **Upcoming meetings**

May 19, 6:30 p.m. BP Energy Center

June 16, 6:30 p.m. Glen Alps parking lot; hike Flattop Mountain.

July 21 Barbecue!

## Mountaineering Club of Alaska

President	Cory Hinds	229-6809	Board member (term expires in 2015)	Rachad Rayess	617-309-6566
Vice-President	Galen Flint	650-207-0810	Board member (term expires in 2015)	Joshua Clark	887-1888
Secretary	Max Neale	207-712-1355	Board member (term expires in 2016)	Jayne Mack	382-0212
Treasurer	Aaron Gallagher	250-9555	Board member (term expires in 2016)	Carlene Van Tol	748-5270
Past President	Greg Encelewski	360-0274			

Annual membership dues: Single \$20, Family \$25

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@mtclubak.org](mailto:membership@mtclubak.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](mailto:MCAScree@gmail.com). Articles should be submitted by the 24th 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@mtclubak.org](mailto:vicepresident@mtclubak.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: Aaron Gallagher - [membership@mtclubak.org](mailto:membership@mtclubak.org)

Hiking and Climbing Committee: Vicky Lytle - [hcc@mtclubak.org](mailto:hcc@mtclubak.org)

Huts: Greg Bragiel - 569-3008 or [huts@mtclubak.org](mailto:huts@mtclubak.org)

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Find MCAK listserv at <https://groups.yahoo.com/neo/groups/MCAK/info>.

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