

Mountaineering Club of Alaska

A Monthly Members-Only Publication

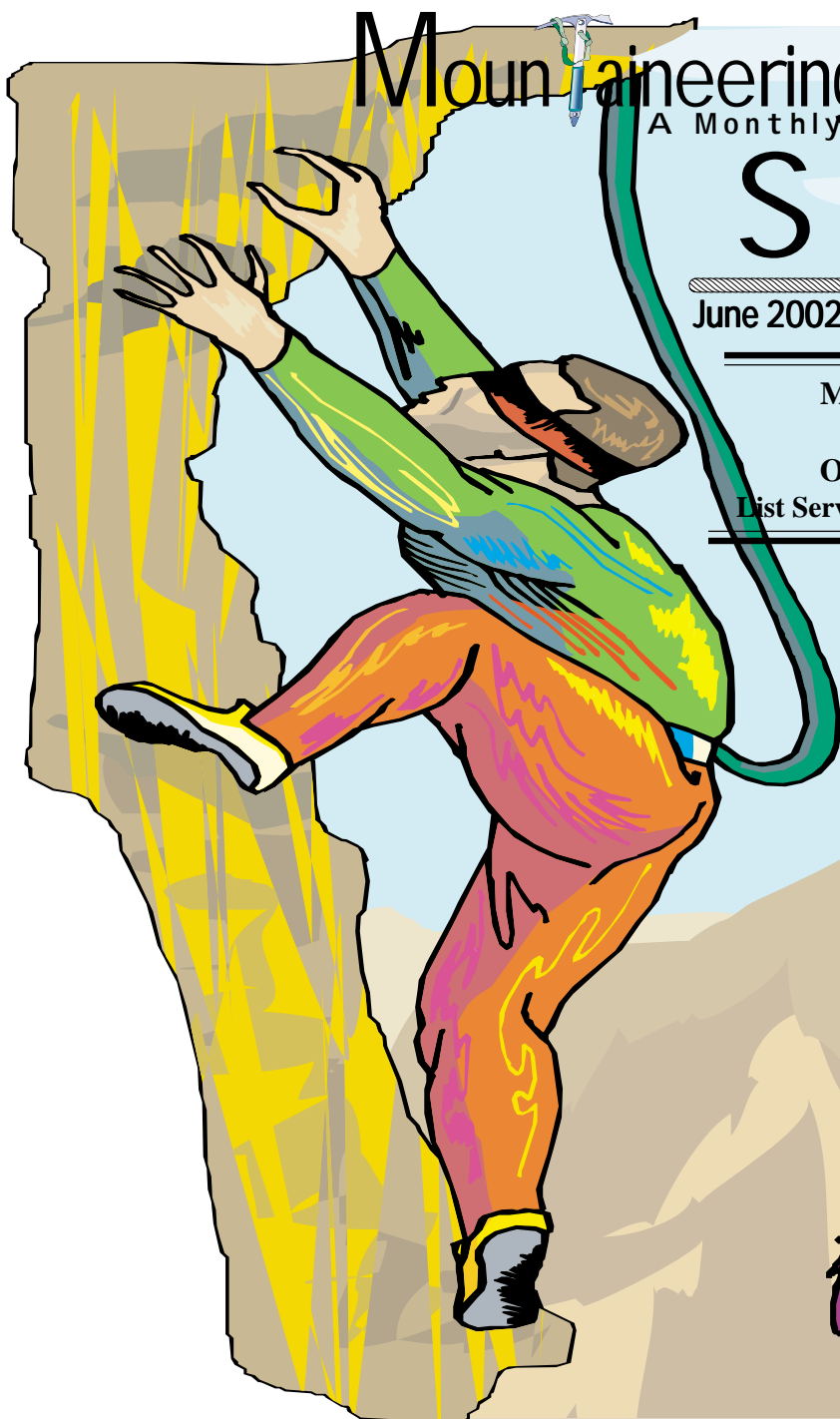
SCREE

June 2002 Volume 46 Issue 06

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 102037
Anchorage, Alaska 99510

On the web: <http://www.mcak.org>

List Serv: <http://groups.yahoo.com/groups/MCAK>



June Meeting

Wednesday, June 19th, 7:30 pm

First United Methodist Church

9th & G Streets

Next to the Phillips Building

(you may use marked parking after hours...)

Downtown Anchorage

Program: Trond Jensen will do a slideshow of trekking and climbing in the Everest region, with climbs of Mera Peak and Island Peak.



On this proud and beautiful mountain we have lived hours of fraternal, warm and exalting nobility. Here for a few days we have ceased to be slaves and have really been men. It is hard to return to servitude. (Lionel Terray)

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Hiking and Climbing Schedule

JUN 4 TUESDAY
 Time of Departure: 5:30pm Class B
 Trip Description: Indian Creek Pass
 Leader Name: Deb
 Primary Phone: 345-3543
 Email Contact: dahabo@yahoo.com
 XTRA COMMENTS: After-work hike.
 Rumor is that there will be surprise treats on the trip. Contact leader at least 24 hours in advance for meeting time and place.

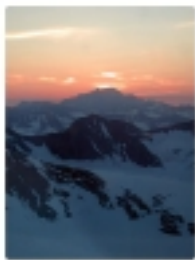
10 MONDAY
 Time of Departure: 5:30 pm Class C
 Trip Description: McHugh Peak Hike
 Leader Name: Deb
 Primary Phone: 345-3543
 Email Contact: dahabo@yahoo.com
 XTRA COMMENTS: An after work hike up McHugh Peak. Rumor is there will be some fiddle music and perhaps more. Contact leader at least 24 hours in advance for meeting time and place

18 TUESDAY
 Time of Departure: 5:30 pm Class C
 Trip Description: Falls Creek to the Lake
 Leader Name: Deb
 Primary Phone: 345-3543
 Email Contact: dahabo@yahoo.com
 XTRA COMMENTS: Swim suits optional. Contact leader at least 24 hr in advance for info.



21 FRIDAY
 Time of Departure: Whenever Class B
 Trip Description: MCA Solstice sleepout—Flattop Mtn. Leaderless Trip
 XTRA COMMENTS: Celebrate the longest day of the year on the summit. Bring food, drink, and spend the night if you choose.

22 SATURDAY
 Time of Departure: 8:30 a.m. Class D
 Trip Description: Pioneer Peak Ridge
 Leader Name: Bill Romberg
 Primary Phone: 677-3993
 Secondary Phone: 267-2366
 Email Contact: wromberg@gci.net
 XTRA COMMENTS: A very long day climb of Pioneer Peak Ridge to S. summit. Will attempt N. summit if party willing. Bring harness, locking carabiner, rappel device, helmet if want to attempt N. summit.



Pioneer Peak Sunset
 © Robert Baker

JUN 24 MONDAY
 Time of Departure: 5: 30 p.m. Class B
 Trip Description: Prospect to Near Point
 Leader Name: Deb
 Primary Phone: 345-3543
 Email Contact: dahabo@yahoo.com
 XTRA COMMENTS: After-work hike.
 Watch out for the trail surprise.
 Contact leader at least 24 hr in advance for info.

**JUN Date Out: 28
 Date Back: 30**
 Day of Departure: FRIDAY
 Time of Departure: 9:00 a.m. Class B
 Trip Description: Right Mountain/Crescent Lake
 8th Annual Soltice Club Trip-Call for more info!!
 Leader Name: Tom Choate
 Primary Phone: 337-5127
 XTRA COMMENTS: Easy Class B on trail to lake, Class D if climbing. Come down Friday, Saturday or all weekend!

**JUL Date Out: 6
 Date Back:7**
 Day of Departure: SATURDAY
 Time of Departure: TBA Class D
 Trip Description: Thunderbird Peak
 Leader Name: Stu Grenier
 Primary Phone: 337-5127
 Email: oinkmenow@hotmail.com
 XTRA COMMENTS: Paddle 2/3 of the way down Eklutna Lake, camp and climb.

**JUL Date Out: 12
 Date Back:14**
 Day of Departure: FRIDAY
 Time of Departure: TBA Class C
 Trip Description: Lost Lake - Backpack trip
 Leader Name: Deb
 Primary Phone: 345-3543
 Email Contact: dahabo@yahoo.com
 XTRA COMMENTS: Contact leader at least 3 days in advance.

**JUL-AUG Date Out: July 20
 Date Back: August 3**
 Day of Departure: Saturday
 Time of Departure: TBA Class B/C
 Trip Description: ANWR Lake Peters
 Leader Name: Don Hansen
 Primary Phone: 243-7184
 Email Contact: donjoehansen@msn.com
 XTRA COMMENTS: Trip now open!





HUT NEWS

Mark Miraglia-Huts Chairman
mark_miraglia@hotmail.com

->Anyone doing the Eklutna Traverse should contact the me at 244-0682 or mark_miraglia@hotmail.com to make arrangements to pick up

human waste bags. Due to the strenuous nature of hauling 30 gallon barrels full of waste bags from the huts to the plane I am asking members to haul their own used bags out. Thank you for your cooperation.

->Anyone traveling into the Bomber, Mint or Drnigi huts please contact Mark Miraglia at 338-0705 or mark_miraglia@hotmail.com . There are signs and laminated letters from DNR that need to be posted at the huts stating that the huts are not for use by for-profit groups.

Book Review

by Robert Baker

Alaska - A Climbing Guide

by Michael Wood & Colby Coombs



This long awaited comprehensive climbing guide book by two prolific climbers and homeboy's to Alaska finally gets released by THE MOUNTAINEERS BOOKS (mountaineersbooks.org) this summer. The book includes 80 detailed routes throughout Alaska. Many of the the photographic images were provided by MCA member Richard Baranow, along with Bradford Washburn, Jon Krakauer and many other notable climber-photographers. The back of the book includes a reader-climber friendly table of climbs grouped according to grade.

Personally, I found the book very easy to read and an obvious tool to planning future trips. The reputed mountaineering experience by the authors *and* the ability to communicate via text potentially achieves an elite status amongst the copious titles available in this genre. Most of the climbs are introduced with the history and the noted climbers first summit. I quickly transcended as almost having a real guide next me in my rocking chair as I dream of my next practical or fantasy backcountry experience here in Alaska. This book has zero color photos but you definitely want to add this book to your FAV Alaska library collection! Available now in local book stores.

WHITEOUT SPIRE
(7,600 ft; 2316 m)
Route ▲ West Face to North Ridge
Difficulty ▲ Alaska Grade 1
Elevation gain ▲ 1,500 ft
Average time ▲ 3-4 weeks, half day on route
Map ▲ Talkeetna (B-6)
Resources ▲ AAJ 1966, pp. 27-29; AAJ 1976, p. 435; AAJ 1981, pp. 160-164



Four out of Five Possible

For Sale:

1 Pair of Atomic Twincap Skate skis 193cm w/ Salomon SNS bindings (skate&classic) - \$50
Heike 770-6154 Email: heikemerkel@hotmail.com

1 Pair of Grand Raid Duret GR mountaineering skis 176cm w/AT-bindings - old style - small boot size (< 9) plus skins - \$50
Heike 770-6154 Email: heikemerkel@hotmail.com

Info Needed:

I will be doing a long hike in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge this summer and was thinking about climbing Mt. Chamberlin in the Brooks Range. Does someone know the best, least technical route, up the peak. I am an experienced climber, having done El Cap three times and Half Dome once. I've also done a summer of technical alpine climbing on the Mt. Blanc massif, and generally was a climbing bum for about fifteen years. Still, I will be alone and am looking for the easiest route, since I will be passing right by Lake Peters. I'd like to avoid the glaciers altogether, and it looks from the topo maps as if the ridge heading straight south from the summit is the best bet.

Mark Herndon Email: hern_99@yahoo.com

Partner(s) Wanted

Backpacking, 3 days to 2 weeks, from early May to late August, moderate to advanced or strenuous levels. Trips are to remote or seldom visited areas of the Talkeetna Mts, Wrangell-St.Elias Park, and Brooks Range. You must be self-sufficient and in excellent shape; interest in natural history recommended. See www.redundancydept.com for photos of previous trips. Please leave voice mail message; I'm usually on an expedition.

Curvin Metzler voice mail 333-876/563-5789

Rosie's Roost

Stu is trying to get the Rosie's Roost logs together so we can have complete copies of them at the Hut and in the library. What he has managed to find is 1982 to 1987 and 1990 to present. He plans to incorporate relative Scree articles and ADN stories. Any other ideas please contact Stu at 337-5127.



Trip and Trip Report Submissions:

Please submit your trips via the web:

<http://photoalaska.biz/scree>

A copy of your submission will be forwarded to Matt Nedom; Trips Coordinator. If he has any questions about your Club sponsored trip he will contact you. If the trip meets the Club's criteria, it will automatically be published in the forthcoming Scree and then to the MCA website. Trip reports may be submitted via email in Word or text formats. Please limit your trip reports to 2500 words or less and please spell check your document prior to submission.



Robert Baker SCREE EDITOR
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Wasilla, AK 99654 (907) 357-2944
Email: scree@photoalaska.biz

Trip Reports

Notorious McHugh

By: Ross Noffsinger

May 3, 2002

McHugh Peak is an Anchorage favorite and due to its south facing exposure and low elevation, it melts out early. McHugh however does have a downside, and we all know what it is. It is for this very reason that McHugh Peak is not crowded.

Friday evening I left the trailhead at 5pm with the intent of exploring a direct route up the southwest face. Accompanying me (as always) were my two Karelian Bear dogs, Taiga and Katmai. Since off trail I never encounter people, this is an excellent hiking area for the dogs who can be a little too rowdy for the Bird Ridge/Flatop crowd.

We followed the trail up to Table Rock, then bush-whacked up to the base of the southwest face. After the first couple hundred feet, the face lays back nicely. It is not as steep as it looks from the parking lot. We proceeded straight up the face until nearly gaining the ridgeline. Since I have previously done the ridge, I traversed upward to my left and remained on the face working my way through the

rock bands. We eventually gained the ridge at about 3000 feet and followed it for the last few hundred feet to the summit. It was now 7pm and the weather was absolutely gorgeous.

Having previously descended numerous routes off the south side of the ridge, I decided to try something different. A large snowfield still remained on the west flank. The snowfield emptied into a dominant gully. I checked the slope angle and determined that it was steep enough to slide, but I knew this snow had been baking in the afternoon and evening sun for weeks without any significant new accumulation and was stable. With the sun having softened the top couple of inches, it was the perfect glissade, and in little time we descended over 1000 feet.

The glissade ended in a narrow alder filled gully. At this point I noticed the dogs had disappeared. Considering that I was miles off the beaten path, and in ideal bear country, I was concerned and proceeded to quickly locate the dogs. They were within 50 feet of me just behind a drop off in the bottom of the gully. Their reluctance to come when called indicated that they had found a prize. The magpies indicated that it was something dead. Due to the drop off I could not see what it was.

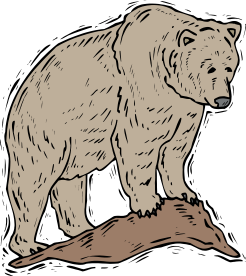
Having called the dogs back to me, I put my ice axe away, got out my walking sticks and proceeded to descend down the north side of the gully. Seeing that I had a major bush whack ahead of me, I stopped on a rock outcropping and surveyed the land below for the path of least resistance. The dogs were fired up, and I was using repeated voice commands to keep them close to me.

After a couple of minutes, I noticed that Taiga (who was approximately 150 feet from me down the north side of the gully) had alerted to something on the opposite side of the gully, slightly uphill. I searched in the direction she was looking, but could see nothing. Looking back at Taiga, I now noticed that Katmai had joined her and was also staring intently in the same direction. At this point I new something was there, but I could not locate it. I looked back at the dogs for more clues when suddenly the alders on the opposite side of the gully exploded.

I next heard a roar that sent a wave of fear throughout my body. This was only my fourth (known) brown bear encounter in the back-country, yet I instantly knew the identity of the mystery. The bear was approximately 100 feet away from me. Instantly the bear charged out of the alders, towards the base of the gully in the direction of the dogs. My mental microprocessor was in overdrive. I convinced myself the dogs were fast enough to get away. The animal was so huge it appeared to be moving in slow motion (just like on TV). Every part of its body was rippling and jiggling as it ran. Its ass was the size of a clothes washer. I looked at the dogs. They were holding their ground, just staring intently at this spectacle unfolding before them. I looked back at the bear. The bear had turned and was now running down the gully away from the dogs and I. Katmai started to bark and began to chase the bear. Instantly I called him off and he reluctantly stopped.

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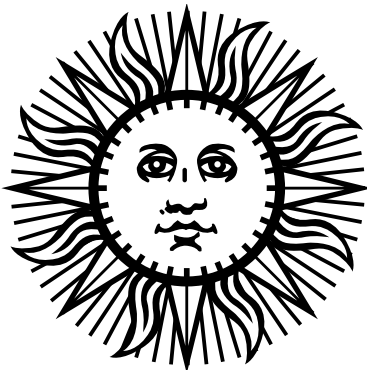
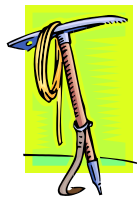
For the next few minutes I stood on my lofty perch and watched the bear run down the mountain toward the inlet. I could hear it breathing huge panting breaths as it ran crashing through the alders. In the distance I saw moose scatter to get out of its way. Even after it dropped out of sight several hundred yards distant, I could still hear its breathing.



It was now decision time. Since the bear had run off in the direction I was planning on going, that route was no longer an option. A huge snow bound alder patch was blocking the steep side hill traverse to the south. The best option was to ascend 700 feet back up the gully to get above the alders and traverse back across the southwest face of peak 3300.

Once across the face I descended to tree line and bush whacked back to the trail. We arrived back at the parking lot at 10pm.

While ascending the gully, I began to analyze the encounter. By pure circumstance we happened upon a food source being guarded by a brown bear. This could happen to anyone who spends a considerable amount of time in the backcountry. I consider myself lucky for a couple of reasons. One of course is because the bear chose to run away rather than defend its food. I am convinced that my dogs were the deciding factor in the bear's decision. If I would have been alone, I think the outcome would have been fatal. Because we remained within a 100 feet of the food source for several minutes before the bear revealed its presence, it is obvious that the bear was reluctant to leave. As it turned out, the bear was hiding near the exact location where I planned to cross the gully. If I had not noticed that Taiga had alerted on something, my path of travel would have taken me right to the bear. I am amazed that such a massive animal can go undetected in the transparent alders of early May, and I am extremely thankful that my dogs were there for me.



Bard Not By Wayne Todd

With 20mph winds at my back, I wished I had my blue tarp to use as a sail. I was headed east across Portage Lake with a sled in tow. On the crusted snow, it pulled easily, albeit noisily.

A herd of swans, then a bit later, a gaggle of geese flew west. The swans seemed to fair better against the wind. Numerous people were out enjoying the precariously sunny day, from skate- skiers to bikers. The bikers were walking and pushing their bikes, however.

The recently exposed jumbled ice of Portage Glacier was a fantastic sapphire blue. The scene was further beautified by vehicle-sized glacier pieces dispersed on the lake, shrouded by the perilous looking clouds hanging about Bard Peak.

At the base of the Burns Glacier, we donned randonee gear and left the x-country gear. We headed east up-glacier for our destination of Bard Peak. The Burns seemed innocuous so we didn't rope up. The wind abated a bit, but the grayness of the day increased.



The contrary winds had us concerned about snow conditions.

We made for the pass east of Bard, traveling over uneven body-sized wind-formed snow scallops. From the pass we turned west to ascend Bard from the backside. On a small incline I received a minor snow whoomphing. We accessed the situation, noticed the slightly darker and less glossy sheen of the eastern blown snow, and continued westward cautiously. Upon the approach to the base of Bard we had a much larger whoomph, simultaneously screamed 'run away!' and pointed the skis down back to the pass.

About this time the skies were clearing and we again noticed three sun-lit sub peaks to the east. The most southerly and closest one had gentle slopes to the summit block, so we opted to go there. Additionally, this would allow skiing almost to the top whereas we couldn't have on Bard.

We trudged perpendicularly thru the snow scallops to the summit block where we ditched the skis and donned all our wind gear. I headed up the brief steep section on the summit block and topped out into expansive views of ocean, bays, snow covered islands and islets, more peaks to the southeast and blue sky.

(We were overlooking Blackstone Bay). This view was quite unexpected and different from most of my climbs.

I motioned Kathy up, then walked to the summit and found a very calm and surprisingly warm spot behind a cornice. This was truly a place to stay and enjoy a bit but alas, as so many times, obligations in the city beckoned so we headed off.

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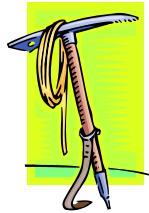
Skiing down, over, between and through the scallops was infinitely more fun than ascending them. On the Burns there was sufficient slope to keep up a good glide. We found good turns on the steeper snow descending to Portage Lake, now that it had softened to corn snow. We swooshed to a stop at the sled, 30 minutes after beginning our ski descent. Awesome! It was now hot and calm down here.

We had agreed to swap the sled so it was Kathy's turn to pull. I had not thought about the softening snow. We sank a foot even with our x-country gear so I broke trail while she pulled, until we made it to the shadow of Byron Ridge where the snow was more firm.

People were again out enjoying Portage Lake and I noticed one person coaxing a lap dog all the way to the glacier. Would have volunteered to give it a sled ride back had they been going that way. Memories of the day, and a big thirst, kept the momentum up back to the car, as for awhile that end of the lake seemed to not get any closer.

Eight hours after starting we were headed for Girdwood for some well deserved liquid sustenance. (We climbed Peak 3,609 SEW C-5 T7N, R4E, S2 which is a true summit, which we did not know at that time)

By Wayne L. Todd
Accompanied by Kathy Still
April 14, 2002



Ship Creek Hill and Point 3990

By Stu Grenier

This prominent buttress of the ridge leading to Temptation Peak was our point of choice for this Saturday May 4 club trip. After clearing it with the Army, under a clear blue sky, nine of us and four dogs set out from the now double bridge just below the Ship Creek dam off of the Arctic Valley Rd.

Team members included John Multas, Jose Oquendo, Tom Dolan, Donna Klecka, Joe Pulver, Matt Nedom, Alessandro (Sandro) Rigutto, Marina Telouchkina, and I.

We took the lower Snow Hawk trail past the cabin and on up the valley. Being the shady side of the world the trail was still frozen solid and in good walking condition. After a snack break at the cabin we started postholing so folks one by one started to put their snow shoes on. Staying on the trail as it worked its way through the alders we waited for it to deliver us to where we could drop down and cross Snow Hawk Creek on a near alder free route. After finding this spot we crossed and headed up for the saddle between points 3790 and 3990.

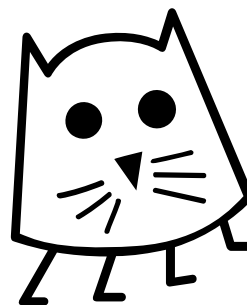
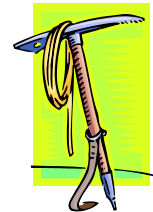
Rather than climbing to the saddle and then heading up to the right a few people elected to tackle the

rocky corniced ridge coming down from point 3990. Eventually we all reached our point of choice and took in the excellent views. A surprising number of pictures were taken. One lone ram watched us from Ship Creek Hill. We descended down to where the ram was but he mysteriously vanished. From Ship Creek Hill we had a great view of the lower Ship Creek Valley Below Arctic Valley Rd.

After taking another snack break in the sun we got up and decided it was time to head down. I back tracked toward the saddle to take advantage of the not so steep slopes. when I looked behind me only Jose was with me. Everyone else elected to take the steeper more direct rock face down. As Jose and I descended we often stopped to scope out the others with the binoculars. We kept counting heads but were always three short. Down by our creek crossing the binoculars finally located three people slowly heading down the ridge. Without telling the leader they seemed to have decided to take a direct route to the Lower Snow Hawk Cabin. This would save them a mile or more of walking but would force them to cross through the deep alder and devils club choked part of the Snow Hawk drainage.

As we headed down to the cabin I stopped a few times to give a shout into the valley below. One of the party shouted back so we all knew where everyone was. One time when they didn't shout back I assumed they were probably crossing the creek. When you are by the creek you can't hear anything. As we waited in front of the Lower Snow Hawk Cabin for everyone we enjoyed talking with the family staying there. When the others arrived they looked tired. Their leader described their route as awful. Most of us got a good laugh out of the whole ordeal. We made it back to the cars a satisfied group of hikers.

On club trips it is important to remember that if someone wants to leave the team for any reason, even if it is for a short cut, they must always check with the leader first. You never want to put the leader and the rest of the team in a position where he or she has to decided to go back and look for people of just go on and hope they show up before you reach the trailhead.



MCA Secretary Jayme Mack

May 2002, MCA Board Meeting Minutes

The following members attended the Board Meeting on May 1, 2002: Dave Hart, Steve Gruhn, Bill Romberg, Tom McDermott, Stu Grenier.



OLD BUSINESS

COMMERCIAL USE OF HUTS

Dave reported that the new signs notifying hut users that commercial (for-profit) use of MCA huts is prohibited under our leases with the state were ready to install along with a copy of a recent letter from AK DNR that clarifies the lease. The Hut Chairperson sent letters to local and non-local guides that have been known to use our leased huts for guided groups. Bill reported that the new sign and letter has been posted at the Scandinavian Hut. Colorado Mountain School cancelled their first proposed trip to the Scandy Hut but arrived with a small group of three on April 23. Per our request, they camped on the moraine. Dave, Mark, and John will pursue revision of the MCA Commercial Use of Huts policy and present to the Board and membership in summer 2002.

HUT WASTE SYSTEMS

Bill reported that the new human solid waste systems were installed at four of the club's eight huts (the three Eklutna Traverse huts + Scandinavian Hut) during mid-April. A \$3000 grant obtained by the Hut Committee from the TRAAK Board helped purchase the buckets, personal waste bags, storage barrels, and pay for some of the charter time to get them installed. Additional waste bags were recently purchased with the remaining grant monies to have on hand to replenish supplies. All visitors to these huts are asked to use the new waste system and pack out their waste bags to keep the alpine areas around the huts uncontaminated by human waste.

SCREE

The Board briefly discussed a proposal to revise the SCREE contribution policy. After some discussion, the Board decided not to take action on the proposal. Most felt that the SCREE editor had sufficient discretion under the existing policy to address any concerns related to contributions. The Board also discussed the new "look" of the SCREE as developed by editor Robert Baker. Some suggestions were made to Robert for future issues.

MULTI-YEAR MEMBERSHIPS

The Board approved a proposal to test the concept of allowing multi-year club memberships, pending a quick review of the bylaws by Tom Meacham. Starting in 2003, members will have the option of paying for 2 years of membership dues instead of annually. After reviewing the accounting/budgeting aspects of the 2-yr option, longer multi-year memberships may be offered to members.

AWARDS COMMITTEE

Bill announced that the Awards committee will be working to develop criteria for administering the Hoeman Award and will be making a selection in the coming months. The Awards policy didn't make it into the April SCREE as planned, but will be published in the June SCREE along with a request for nominations by the Awards committee for 2002 President's Awards.

NEW BUSINESS

CHUGACH STATE PARK—PERMIT & HUT POLICY

Attempts to set up a meeting with Chugach State Park superintendent, Al Meiners, have been unsuccessful due to Mr. Meiners being out of town. Bill reported that e-mail and phone contacts with CSP indicate that MCA would be required to have a permit for club trips, but that CSP would likely issue "blanket" annual permit for all club trips—with a reporting requirement at the end of the year. Bill also noted that he had requested Al Meiners to adopt a final CSP policy on the relationship between MCA and CSP regarding the Eklutna Traverse Huts, which are located within park boundaries.

DONATIONS

Air taxi operator, Mike Meekins, donated \$125 to the MCA with the request that the club use the money to establish a scholarship program to help young, aspiring climbers with costs associated transportation into the mountains for climbing. The Board briefly discussed some criteria that would have to be developed to develop and administer a scholarship. Dave Hart volunteered to draft a scholarship program plan and bring it back to the Board this summer. Steve reported that the club also received a \$300 donation from Phillips Petroleum on behalf of an employee who is a club member. The Board voted to use the donation to support the club's mountaineering education and training program and a thank you letter was sent.

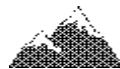
MEMBERSHIP LIST REQUEST

The Board voted down a request from the Alaska Mountain and Wilderness Huts Association to use the club's mailing list to send out a solicitation for membership and volunteers as part of their efforts to develop support for a hut-to-hut system along the Snow River drainage in Chugach National Forest. However, the Board voted unanimously to allow AMWHA a one-time, free, one-page ad in the SCREE to announce its plans and membership request, as well as announcements at meetings and on the club listserv.

The next Board Meeting will be held June 12th at 7 p.m..

Respectfully Submitted,

Bill Romberg



New Policy: Awards Committee

Approved: February 13, 2002

MCA Awards Committee

Awards Committee Rules:

1. The Awards Committee will be comprised of 3 MCA members (an odd number being best for breaking ties) appointed by the Executive Committee.
2. Committee members must be MCA members in good standing and will have been a member of the club for minimum of 2 years (not necessarily consecutively).
3. Committee member terms will be for 3 years (staggered terms), with one new member appointed annually by the Board.
4. The most senior member of the committee will act as chairperson and serve as the primary contact for the Executive Committee.
5. Committee members will be responsible for:
 - a) collecting and reviewing all nominations for club awards annually.
 - b) developing and maintaining the specific criteria and process that the committee will use to review nominations for club awards within guidelines provided by the Executive Committee.
 - c) Selecting award recipients and submitting those names to the Board for confirmation
 - d) Acquiring award certificates and ensuring that the names award recipients are added to the appropriate plaque.

MCA Hoeman Award

In May, 2001, the Board of the Mountaineering Club of Alaska created a new award to honor Vin and Grace Hoeman—two of the club's most prolific climbers, who made significant contributions to the early exploration and documentation of hiking and climbing opportunities throughout Alaska and the Yukon during the 1960s. As defined by the Executive Committee, the **Hoeman Award** is:

"An award given to a person(s) associated with the Mountaineering Club of Alaska (MCA), including current, former, and honorary members, who has made a significant contribution to the exploration, documentation, and promotion of hiking and climbing opportunities in Alaska's mountain ranges. The Hoeman Award is the Mountaineering Club of Alaska's most prestigious award, and, as such, shall be bestowed only upon those who have demonstrated a long-term commitment to the exploration, documentation, and promotion of hiking and climbing opportunities in Alaska."

The Hoeman Award will consist of a permanent plaque housed in the MCA Vin Hoeman Library. A person(s) who has been selected to receive the award will have his or her name permanently engraved on the Hoeman Award plaque and will also receive a certificate suitable for framing that recognizes their achievement.

Hoeman Award Nomination Criteria:

1. Nominees should have some association with the MCA, through membership or a working relationship with the club.
2. Nominees cannot be currently holding elected office in the club.
3. Nominations for the Hoeman Award may be made at any time and shall be provided **in writing** to the MCA Awards Committee.
4. Written nominations must include:
 - a) the name of the candidate(s)
 - b) the name(s) of the person(s) nominating the candidate(s)

- c) a written description of the contributions the candidate(s) has made to the exploration, documentation, and promotion of hiking and climbing opportunities in Alaska
- d) name(s) and contact information of club members or other persons who may be able to provide more information to the committee regarding the candidate's contributions

5. The Hoeman Award may be awarded posthumously to a qualified candidate.

President's Award

In May 2001, the Board of the Mountaineering Club of Alaska created a new award to recognize significant contributions of time and effort of a **current club member(s)** toward an MCA project(s) or other club activities during a calendar year.

President's Award Criteria:

1. Nominee must be a current club member in good standing.
2. Nominations are to be submitted in writing to the Awards Committee by September 30 and include:
 - a) The name of nominee.
 - b) A brief description of the contributions made by the individual in the current calendar year that warrant consideration for the award. They must have made an outstanding contribution that is in alignment with the purposes of the club.
3. The Awards Committee will simply collect all nominee packets and submit them to the current President, by October 1.
4. The President selects the final award recipient(s) subject to confirmation by a majority of the Executive Committee members present at a regularly scheduled Board meeting.
5. The President presents the award(s) at either the October or November general membership meeting, making all attempts to ensure that the recipient(s) are present at the meeting.
6. No more than 2 awards will be given annually.
7. The award will consist of a \$50 gift certificate to Alaska Mountaineering and Hiking.

The MCA Awards Committee is seeking nominations for the President's Award for calendar year 2001. The criteria for the award are:

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Name of nominee

Brief description of contributions made by the individual in the Calendar year 2001 that warrant consideration for the award. They must have made an outstanding contribution that is in alignment with the purposes of the club.

Contact Mark Miraglia at 338-0705 or mark_miraglia@hotmail.com



The biggest mountains: *Prominence, significance, distinctness.*

By Tom Choate

For several decades members of this club have recognized that elevation above sea level ("highest peaks" was a poor indicator of the size of the mountain one is climbing. We back the statement that "Denali is bigger than Mt. Everest" with base to summit rise (and also circumference of base). Measuring the "base" is a problem, and a minimal rise can be measured in several ways. One measure that was discussed by Steve Gruhn in the January *Scree* is a version of prominence. The definition (given by a national group) is the elevation difference between the summit and the saddle to the next higher peak. This singles out the highest peak in a group by only allowing comparison to a higher group, not its immediate neighbors. Tim Kelley used an interesting analogy in disagreeing with this next higher peak requirement (which often means going across valleys to find the comparison peak): "If someone is giving you the finger, the middle finger is prominent compared to the other fingers on that hand (it) is not prominent based on what is going on with the fingers on the other hand."

In the early 1960's Vin Hoeman and I discussed what constitutes a true peak and what has too little prominence, distinctness and separation to be called a "peak" or "mountain" (which then should be called a "point" or not named). His general Alaskan criterion was 500 ft. prominence or more, and a quarter mile or more from a neighbor peak. This has been the criterion used by the geographic names committee of the MCA for as long as I can remember. Vin apparently used a minimum 1000 ft. prominence in discussing "significant" peaks in distant, little explored ranges, and it may be necessary to go even higher to retain a single name for giant peaks like McKinley or Hunter. Conversely, as ranges like the western Chugach get thoroughly explored, there has been a trend to name smaller and smaller features such as Benevolent "peak" and Hermann Buhl "peaks", which could only be considered peaks using a 200 or 300 ft. prominence minimum such as is found in many lower 48 states.

On the next page is a list of the top 30 western Chugach peaks using prominence measured from the summit to the pass to the nearest true peak (as above). Good elevation data is not always available (re-mapping has been delayed in the last decade) and estimates halfway between contour intervals have often been used to calculate elevation of a few summits and most passes. Prominences could change a lot if a resurvey shows a neighbor to be less than 500 ft, necessitating designating a different neighbor pass. The more accurate 1990 photo maps with metric elevations were used wherever possible (converted).

These peaks are the big ones in our area, and the prominence represents the smallest elevation gain a mountaineer would have to make to climb the peak from any direction.



WESTERN CHUGACH PEAKS BY PROMINENCE

Rank	Prom. (1)	Elev.(2)	Name(3)	Neighbor Peak(4)	MAP	MAP #	T	R	SEC
1	2480	7530	Rumble, Mt.	Peters(Crumble) Pk.	ANCH	B-6	14N	2E	34
2	1872	7522	Bold Peak	Boisterous Peak	ANCH	B-6	15N	3E	33
3	1848	6398	Pioneer Peak	Yudikench Peak	ANCH	B-6	16N	2E	14
4	1785	7235	Benign Peak	Belicose Peak	ANCH	B-6	14N	2E	25
5	1627	6909	Eagle Peak	Flute Peak	ANCH	A-7	12N	1E	3
6	1540	6390	Whitecrown Peak	Sparrow Peak	ANCH	A-5	11N	3E	1
7	1391	4423	Alyeska (True Summit)	Berg Peak	SEW	D-6	10N	2E	23
8	1358	4403	Nagoon Mtn.	Lingon Peak	SEW	D-6	10N	3E	17
9	1355	8005	Bashful Peak	Baleful Peak	ANCH	B-5	14N	3E	14
10	1340	7990	Baleful Peak	Bashful Peak	ANCH	B-5	14N	3E	24
11	1320	4970	Bird's Eye Peak	The Wing	ANCH	A-7	11N	1W	2
12	1305	4955	Hover Peak	Peak 4555	ANCH	A-5	11N	3E	25
13	1300	5050E	Avalanche Mtn.	Wedge, The	ANCH	A-7	11N	1W	7
14	1290	7640	Bellicose Peak	Peters(Crumble) Pk.	ANCH	A-6	13N	2E	2
15	1285	7535	Yukla, Mt.	Mt. Soggy	ANCH	A-6	13N	2E	28
16	1264	6614	Polar Bear Peak	Organ Mtn	ANCH	A-6	12N	1E	12
17	1255	5505	Bird Peak	California Peak	ANCH	A-7	11N	1E	33
18	1227	5000	Harp Mtn.	Hurdygurdy Mtn.	ANCH	A-7	13N	1W	14
19	1225	5775	Vertigo Peak	Soggy, Mt.	ANCH	A-6	13N	2E	34
20	1224	4669	Highbush Peak	Lowbush Peak	SEW	D-6	10N	3E	19
21	1199	7549	Hunter's Peak	Troublesome Peak	ANCH	B-5	14N	4E	15
22	1186	4311	McHugh Peak	Suicide Peak, North	ANCH	A-8	11N	2W	17
23	1152	4531	Blueberry Hill	Lowbush Peak	SEW	D-6	9N	3E	6
24	1130	7280	Beelzebub, Mt.	Devil's Mistress	ANCH	A-6	13N	2E	25
25	1125	6575	Thunder Bird Peak	Bee's Heaven Peak	ANCH	B-6	14N	2E	9
26	1115	7465	Troublesome Peak	Hunter's Peak	ANCH	B-5	14N	4E	22
27	1109	6391	Cantata Peak	Calliope Peak	ANCH	A-7	12N	1E	5
28	1106	5994	Hurdygurdy Mtn.	Eagle Peak	ANCH	A-7	13N	1E	29
29	1100	6650E	Mitre, The	Ovis Peak	ANCH	B-6	14N	3E	32
30	1100	5850E	Hale-Bopp Peak	Big Timber Peak	ANCH	B-5	15N	4E	15
31	1090	7040	Peril Peak	Beelzebub Peak	ANCH	A-6	13N	3E	18
32	1089	4468	Kinnikinnick Mtn.	Lowbush Peak	SEW	D-6	10N	3E	22
33	1086	4333	Penguin Peak	Adelie Peak	SEW	D-7	10N	1W	12

(1) The minimum rise of the summit, measured in feet from the highest pass to a neighboring peak. The contour midpoint may be used.

(2) Elevations are from the newest map, converted from metric to feet where needed, using the meters to feet if needed, or estimated (E) using contour midpoint .

(3) Name either as originally given by first ascent party, or later parties where no name was given, or recommended.

(4) Name of nearest peak, normally the one separated by the highest pass used in prominence calculations.



MCA Trip Leader Qualifications (Revised Year 2002)

1. Must be a member of the MCA.
2. Must have approval of the Hiking and Climbing Committee (A simple majority.)
3. Must have received certification in Standard First Aid or a more advanced medical certification (e.g., WFR, EMT) within the last 10 years **OR** lead trips with an approved co-leader that meets this requirement.
4. Must attend an MCA Trip Leader Orientation course once every five years.
5. Must have participated in trips of the same or higher classification than the one being led, showing competence in the opinion of the leaders of those trips; or equivalent experience acceptable to the Hiking and Climbing Committee.
6. Leaders on trips of Class E or higher must have served as a co-leader with an approved MCA trip leader on at least one trip of the same classification or higher, or have equivalent experience acceptable to the Hiking and Climbing Committee. Persons with technical climbing experience wishing to waive this requirement must provide a letter to the Hiking and Climbing Committee outlining their climbing/guiding experience, training, and at least one personal reference.
7. Leaders on trips that may involve any avalanche-prone terrain must have completed formal training in avalanche hazard recognition and victim search as approved by the Hiking and Climbing Committee.
8. Leaders on trips that involve any hazardous stream crossings must have either formal training in safe stream crossing methods or have extensive experience crossing streams.