



**JUNE 2003** A Publication of the Mountaineering Club of Alaska **Vol 46 Issue 06**

**Box 102037, Anchorage, Alaska 99510**

**JUNE MEETING**

**Wednesday**

**June 18, 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: TBA (Ready To Show Those Slides Yet?)**

**HIKING AND CLIMBING SCHEDULE**

**June 14 DAY HIKE - RAM VALLEY**

Class C

Come explore the hidden Ram Valley back in Eagle River. A full day of hiking in a beautiful valley with views of Eagle River and Knik Arm. Just over 3,500' of elevation gain and about 6 miles roundtrip. We will try and hike back to Bombardment Pass. Bring food, water, sturdy boots and some rain gear just in case. If you are interested call Jayme Mack @ 694-1500. Limited to 6 unless I get a co-leader.

**June 17 Mount Magnificent**

Class C. 5:30 p.m. Eagle River Walmart. Left side of parking lot as you face the main entrance. Elevation gain - 3,100 ft. 6 miles. Estimated 4.5 hours. Leader - Deb Luper 345-3543 Contact. leader at least 24 hours in advance.

**June 24 Hanging Valley Eagle River**

Class C. 5:30 p.m. Trailhead at South Fork of Eagle River. Elevation gain - 3000 ft, 11 miles. Estimated 4.5 hours. Leader Deb Luper 345-3543. Contact leader at least 24 hours in advance.

**June 27-29 RESURRECTION PASS TRAIL**

**3 DAY BACKPACK**

Class C. A 3 day backpack on the Resurrection Trail from

Hope to Copper's Landing, roughly 38 miles. The trail is well marked and the hiking effort would be considered moderate. We will be camping. This is beautiful country and bears are a definately hazard. We will be leaving on Friday and returning on Sunday. There is a pre-trip meeting the week beforehand. Can take 12 on this trip if I have a co-leader. Please call Jayme Mack @ 694-1500

**June 27 - 29 Summer Solstice Annual Backpack**

Class B/C

This year continues the Crescent Lake Triolgy. This year will be the third annual camp, climb, fish, and maybe a first ascent!?!? We will hiking in Friday 27 June +/- 7pm\* from Carter Lake trailhead, camp on Crescent Lake, and climb the highest peak. Then before returning Sunday we will check out a new(?) peak.

\*come in Saturday or even do a day trip Saturday or Sunday. Leaders: Tom Choate and Matt Nedom.

**July 01 Penguin Peak Evening Hike**

Tuesday Evening Hike

Class C. Meet at 5:30pm, Huffman Carr's In front of the coffee shop.

Elevation gain - 4,200 ft. Mileage - 8-9 miles

Estimated duration - 4.5 - 5 hours

Leader - Deb Luper - 345-3543 or dhabo@yahoo.com.

Contact leader at least 24 hours in advance.

## HIKING AND CLIMBING SCHEDULE

### July 08 **Rendezvous Peak**

Class C. 5:30 p.m. Alpenglow Ski Area. Elevation gain -2900, 6 miles. Estimated 3.5 hours. Leader Deb Luper 345-3543. Contact leader at least 24 hours in advance.

### July 11 - 13 **Rock Climb the Snowbird Glacier area**

Come check out the backcountry rock climbing, or come and enjoy some hiking and exploring around the Snowbird Glacier.

If you want to climb, sign up as groups of two, each with experience, each with gear.

If you are not climbing, you can sign up as a sole participant.

Cost is \$5/person/night for the hut.

Contact Cory Hinds for more info. 248.6606

Dates are as permitted by the weather.

### August 08 - 10 **EAGLE/SYMPHONY LAKES & TRIANGLE PEAK**

More information to come!!! If interested call Jayme Mack @ 694-1500.

## TRIP REPORT

### A Day of Retreat

*-Wayne Todd*

Awaking to the sound of Mark yelling "Does anyone have goggles handy?", I immediately become aware of profusely flapping tent walls. This indicates high winds as we are dug in behind a five foot high snow fortress.

I hear Randy, my tent mate, dressing to venture out and assist in the shoveling out of the tents in the wee light of 2:30 AM. Merrick also joins the outdoor foray. I volunteer if another is needed, luckily one is not, but really I just want to stay tucked in my sleeping bag despite an urge to pee (should have brought a pee bottle on this attempt of Mt. Blackburn).

I take a turn at shoveling around 8 AM, no longer able to ignore my pressing bladder. In the 30+ mph winds, even peeing downwind has the dilemma of back spray to the head. Fortunately I'm wearing a balaclava and goggles because of the wind and have no exposed flesh. I then dig a new latrine on the leeward side.

Shoveling is surreal from behind goggles and numerous layers of clothing. I observe a myriad of forming, flowing, shifting, layering and expanding lenticular clouds over Wrangell, Sanford and other glacier mammoth mountains. Below those are more rugged and numerous peaks, most of them clear of clouds. The lenticular towering above us on the top of Blackburn is a little disconcerting from our 11,000' camp on the northwest ridge.

When shoveling the spindrifted snow from around the tents, it initially breaks into convenient shovel-size blocks. After tossing though, as is contacts the wind, it disintegrates into smaller chunks, some impacting the tents

again, some blowing 50' down ridge.

The group digs out and breaks camp amidst increasing winds. We know this descent means an end to this attempt of Blackburn, even without official discussion. The long term forecast was for high winds and a strong low pressure system. We gambled that we could beat the system or that it would slow. The front did not slow and we lost the gamble. Yesterday, during one of our few nice weather windows, we took the blue-hole bait and decided to move camp.

The first rope team comprises of Dolly, Jennifer and Merrick and the second team of Mark, Randy and me. In the buffeting wind, we descend carefully with our heavy packs, made so from making two trips to this camp. The rope arcs two feet off the ground from climber to climber much of the time. Communication is sketchy even when yelling because of the wind on our hooded and goggled heads. A number of us do the ice axe shuffle: tapping crampons with axes every few steps to clear the balling snow from underfoot. Mark utilizes a boot axe belay on a few steeper and exposed sections.

The visibility remains excellent during the decent, which somewhat appeases the mind of failure, as we appreciate being in this world of sun, sky, clouds, ice, snow and rock; all painted together on a dynamic canvas.

A lone raven lofts quickly from below and right to above and left with barely perceptible wing movements; a fine display of lift.

Back in base camp, the fine foods of smoked salmon, Pirouline and snow-made ice cream are shared as we hope to fly out tomorrow, a week earlier than planned. (A cell phone call was made earlier asking for Paul Claus to retrieve us as soon as possible in his incredible turbine Otter).

After playing Hearts, we settle in for the night dreaming of landing planes to soon carry us away from the approaching low pressure monster.

(Unfortunately we were not able to fly out the next morning in the brief windy weather window and spent the next five days shoveling out camp from the six-plus feet of new snow, with deeper drifts and..... Playing cards, telling stories, circuit training, reading, napping, planning, contemplating, reminiscing, listening to avalanches and occasionally psyching others out by exclaiming 'plane')

Team members included Randy Howell, Jennifer and Merrick Johnson, Dolly LeFever, Mark Miraglia and me on this eighth day of May, 2003.



## HUTS REPORT

### Update from the Huts Committee

Dear Members:

It is my belief that all of the huts are currently in solid and functioning condition. The exceptions to this may be Dnigi Hut and/or Bock's Den. Anyone with up-to-date beta on their condition is requested to contact me as soon as possible. I always appreciate hearing from folks if they are heading out to any of the huts or returning from a trip so that I can get the latest information, and or provide you with information. I may also know if another party is headed into a hut. Please do not hesitate to call or email me!

### **Human Waste Issues**

Please note that the Human Waste Barrels (blue 30 gallon barrels) are missing from Pichler's Perch and Hans' Hut on the Eklutna Traverse. Anyone going over the traverse is kindly requested to conduct searches for these barrels and return them to the outside of the respective hut—please anchor them. If you are successful in finding a barrel please contact me ASAP. I hope to have the barrels replaced by the end of June, if the originals are not located.

I have also received reports that human waste bags (from the hut waste system) have been left around the huts under ballast rocks or under the Eklutna Traverse Huts. Such behavior is disappointing to say the least. Please pack out your waste using a compactor bag or, if that is too much trouble, dump your waste into the deepest crevasse you can find. Thank you for your assistance with this matter.

### **Emergency Fuel Issues**

It is my understanding that there is no emergency fuel at the Mint Hut and that several other huts are running low. Please help everyone by leaving extra fuel at the huts for emergency purposes, and by also taking enough fuel for your trip so that you're not tempted to use the emergency supplies.

### **Meeting Other Groups**

You may meet other groups at any of the huts, so be prepared if there is no room to stay in the hut. Commercial groups can use the Eklutna Traverse Huts, but they are supposed to defer to private parties. The general public can also use the Eklutna Traverse Huts, as they are the property of Chugach State Park. However, always encourage others to become MCA members if you find them using the huts so that we may defer maintenance costs.

Commercial groups cannot use the huts in the Talkeetna Mountains or those on the Matanuska Glacier. If anyone runs into a commercial group using these huts, please find out who they are (names if possible) and provide that information to myself or any MCA officer immediately.

Commercial use of the Talkeetna or Matanuska huts is strictly prohibited in our lease agreement with the State of Alaska. Consequently, any such use jeopardizes our lease.

### **Serenity Falls Hut**

Although not formally one of our huts, MCA members did build the Serenity Falls Hut to offer a safe haven for those climbing in the Eklutna drainage. You must reserve this hut with the State Department of Natural Resources (Division of Lands) for a nominal fee. Also, Eklutna Area Ranger, Dan Amyot, informed me that he is closely watching the use of the hut and that those not registering to use it (unless it is emergency use) could be fined up to \$100 if they are caught using it.

Additionally, we have recently placed a fairly serious medical kit and a portable emergency stretcher at this hut for medical emergencies. They are located inside the hut, and are accessible to anyone who may need them in the case of an emergency.

Finally, I also ask that anyone using a hut please take stock of the condition of the hut you visit; e.g., Does the stove and lantern work? Is the roof leaking? Is a window broken? How much fuel is there? etc and report back to me as soon as possible upon your return. When you report, I will ask for the stove or lantern type (model number) or the size or location of the broken window. *Try to get as many details as possible.* By reporting this information to me, you help ensure we make the necessary repairs quickly so that the next group of MCA members has a good trip and experience.

Good Climbing!

Respectfully,

Hans Neidig  
907-357-2026  
hansn@mtaonline.net



## HUTS REPORT

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Good Climbing!

Respectfully,  
Hans Neidig  
907-357-2026  
hansn@mtaonline.net



# MOUNTAINEERING CLUB OF ALASKA

## MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

The Mountaineering Club of Alaska (MCA) was formed in 1958 to promote the enjoyment of hiking and climbing in Alaska and the exploration of its mountains. We welcome all who wish to become members.

**Participate and Learn:** The MCA conducts scheduled hikes and climbs led by experienced club members, technical mountaineering and climbing courses, and other instruction throughout the year. The club maintains eight mountain huts in the nearby Chugach and Talkeetna mountains. The MCA's Vin Hoeman Library, located upstairs in Alaska Mountaineering & Hiking at 2633 Spenard Road, contains hundreds of books, numerous periodicals, bound volumes of the **SCREE**, and a 'Peak File' with information on local climbs. The club also loans climbing gear to members, including ice axes, helmets, crampons, snowshoes, and avalanche beacons.

**Stay Informed:** The MCA publishes a monthly newsletter, **SCREE**, and sends it to all members. The **SCREE** contains announcements of upcoming events, the hiking and climbing trip schedule, and trip reports written by club members. A monthly meeting and slide show are held on the third Wednesday of each month at 7:30 p.m. at the First United Methodist Church at 725 West Ninth Avenue (corner of Ninth & G Streets, downtown Anchorage).

Special events or changes to the meeting will be noted in the **SCREE**. Be sure to visit our website at: [www.mcak.org](http://www.mcak.org)

- **Complete both sides of this form. Write neatly!** To participate in club-sponsored trips, every member must read and complete the Release of Liability Agreement on the back of this application.
  - Please make checks payable to **Mountaineering Club of Alaska, Inc.**
  - Annual dues are \$10 for an individual or \$15 for a family (includes electronic **SCREE** subscription – either **delivered** to your e-mail address or **downloaded** from the MCA webpage).
  - Mailed **SCREE** subscriptions are \$10 per year and are non-refundable (one **SCREE** per family).
  - Annual membership is for one calendar year, through the 31st of December.
  - Two-year, non-refundable, memberships are available for double the annual dues.
  - Memberships paid after October 1st are good through December 31 of the following year.
  - If applying by mail, please include a self-addressed, **stamped** envelope for your membership card. Otherwise, you may pick it up at the next monthly meeting.
- Our address is: **P.O. Box 102037, Anchorage, Alaska 99510-2037** [www.mcak.org](http://www.mcak.org)

NEW	<input type="checkbox"/>	DATE	<input style="width: 90%;" type="text"/>
RENEWAL	<input type="checkbox"/>	NAME	<input style="width: 90%;" type="text"/>
INDIVIDUAL (\$10)	<input type="checkbox"/>	FAMILY	<input style="width: 100%; height: 40px;" type="text"/>
FAMILY (\$15)	<input type="checkbox"/>	MEMBERS	
2-YR MEMBERSHIP	<input type="checkbox"/>		

**Note that two-year membership dues are double the annual dues and subscription fee.**  
How do you want your **SCREE** delivered? (*check one or both*)

ELECTRONIC (Free)	<input type="checkbox"/>	E-mail attachment or notify when available for downloading (circle one).
PAPER (\$10/yr.)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Postal Service – please include \$15/year if outside the U.S.

STREET or P.O. BOX	<input style="width: 95%;" type="text"/>
CITY / STATE / ZIP	<input style="width: 95%;" type="text"/>
TELEPHONE	<input style="width: 95%;" type="text"/>
E-MAIL ADDRESS	<input style="width: 95%;" type="text"/>

I am interested in joining a committee (Circle which ones: Programs, Hiking & Climbing, Huts, Geographic Names, Parks Advisory, Equipment, Honorary, Membership, Training, or ad hoc committees). \_\_\_\_\_ I am interested in leading a trip. \_\_\_\_\_

Do not write below this line:  
 Pd: ~~/\$10~~ ~~/\$15~~ ~~/\$20~~ ~~/\$30~~ \$10 for paper **SCREE** ~~/\$20~~ for 2 years of paper **SCREE** Membership Card Issued for Yr: \_\_\_\_\_  
 on Date: \_\_\_/\_\_\_/\_\_\_ ~~/\$~~ Cash or Check Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Address Added to Mailing List ~~/\$~~

**RELEASE OF LIABILITY- READ CAREFULLY**

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

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

**GIVING UP MY LEGAL RIGHTS**

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

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

**MY PROMISE NOT TO SUE**

I agree that I will not sue, or otherwise make any claim against, the MCA or my fellow participants in MCA activities for injury, death, or property damage which occurs in the course of my participation or instruction in mountaineering sports. Any lawsuit relating to MCA activities or this release shall only be filed in the Superior Court for the State of Alaska, Third Judicial District, Anchorage, Alaska. The provisions shall remain in full force and effect.

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

**MY RELEASE OF LIABILITY**

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

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

**MY PROMISE TO INDEMNIFY**

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

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

**MY CONSENT TO MEDICAL TREATMENT**

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

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

**I HAVE CAREFULLY READ THIS AGREEMENT AND FULLY UNDERSTAND ITS CONTENTS. I AM AWARE THAT THIS IS A BINDING, LEGAL AGREEMENT BETWEEN ME AND THE MCA.**

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

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

**ADZE**

For Sale

North Face Kichatna 3-ply  
Gore-Tex Bibs & Jacket, Men's  
Medium Red, Good Condition  
\$150 each North Face Chogolisa  
Polarguard 3-D Parka, Men's Lg  
Red w/ Detachable Hood, Excel-  
lent Condition \$250  
Mark Miraglia, 244-0682

For Sale

Black Diamond Black Prophet Ice Tool.  
Hammer head, straight (aluminum) shaft.  
Only used 4-5 times - \$95 obo. Great alpine/  
water ice tool or use as back-up 3rd.

Dave @ 264-0763 (wk) or 258-0763 (hm)

**FROM THE EDITOR...**

***Hi Folks...***

Amsl here... It's summer time and the yardening has  
been tended to; at least, all it's going to get this season.  
Relatives are on the way.

Where are your favorite places to take friends and family?  
Please share where you go and why, unless it is you own  
'secret garden', and the rest of us don't rate.

Please write me at [mtndamsel@alaska.net](mailto:mtndamsel@alaska.net) or snail mail it to  
Editor, Box 102037, Anchorage AK 99510

Until then...

Amsl

***Make Some Plans Here...***



# Mountaineering Club of Alaska

## *Officers*

President      Jayme Mack      694-1500  
Vice-President   Karen Herzenberg   223-0351  
Secretary      Sean Bolender      274-4457  
Treasurer

## *Board*

Stuart Grenier      337-5127  
Dave Hart      227-9584  
Richard Baranow      694-1500  
Matt Nedom      278-3648  
Bill Romberg      677-3993

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

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

*SCREE* is a monthly publication of the Mountaineering Club of Alaska. Articles and notes submitted for publication and other communication related to the newsletter should be mailed to Scree Editor Box 102037 Anchorage, AK 99510, or e-mailed to [mntdamsel@alaska.net](mailto:mntdamsel@alaska.net). Articles should be received by July 7th to be included in the July issue. Sorry, no exceptions.

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

Missing your MCA membership card? If so, stop by one of our monthly meetings to pick it up or send us a self-addressed stamped envelope and we'll mail it to you.

MAILING LIST/DATABASE ENTRY: don smith

HIKING/CLIMBING CHAIR: matt nedom, 278-3648, richard baranow, 694-1500

HUTS: hans neidig, 357-2026 or [hansn@mtaonline.net](mailto:hansn@mtaonline.net)

WEB: [www.mcak.org](http://www.mcak.org) (go here to change your address)

MAILING LIST SERVICE: [mcak@yahoogroups.com](mailto:mcak@yahoogroups.com)