

A person in a blue jacket and white helmet is rappelling down a rope on a snowy mountain peak. The person is positioned on the left side of the frame, with their body angled towards the right. They are wearing a blue jacket, dark pants, and a white helmet. A large black backpack is attached to their harness. The background is a vast, snowy mountain landscape with jagged peaks and a clear sky.

# the **SCREE**

## **Mountaineering Club of Alaska**

June 2006

Volume 49 Number 6

**If a little knowledge is dangerous,  
where is the man who has so much  
as to be out of danger?**

*Thomas Henry Huxley*

**Monthly Meeting**

**Wednesday, June 21st @ 7:30 PM**

**Program: to be announced**

**Basic Mountaineering Class 2006**

**Bushwhacking Thrill on Blueberry Hill**

**Vin Hoeman Awards**

# The Mountaineering Club of Alaska

*"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 meetings the 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of the month at the First United Methodist Church, 9<sup>th</sup> and G Streets next to the Philips Building (you may use marked parking after hours)

Contact information is provided on the back page or visit us on the web at [www.mcak.org](http://www.mcak.org)

Cover photo: Ascending practice in the glacier travel and crevasse rescue session of the MCA Basic Mountaineering classes.

**Article Submission:** Articles and photos are best submitted on the web at MCAK.org. We prefer articles that are under 1,000 words. To get on the cover a photo should convey the feeling of mountaineering and show human endeavor.

## Contents

### Hiking and Climbing Schedule

#### Basic Mountaineering Class 2006

#### Bushwacking Thrill on Blueberry Hill

#### Vin Hoeman Awards

## Hiking and Climbing Schedule

June 30 – End-of-Month Traverse

Pioneer Ridge to Eklutna Lake. Class C. 17 miles, a long Friday with many ups and downs. Requires spotting vehicles, Leader: Willy Hersman, [mcak@gci.net](mailto:mcak@gci.net) 561-7900

June 10, Byron Peak in the Portage Lake area

Crampons, ice axe, harness and competent in their use. Class D 5,000 feet.  
Leader Randy Howell - 346-4608

June 19, Upper Winner Creek

5:30 p.m. Class C: 14 miles, 1900' elevation gain. .  
Steven C. Gruhn (907) 276-2104  
Voicemail: (907) 868-9118  
[steven.gruhn@hartcrowser.com](mailto:steven.gruhn@hartcrowser.com)

June 23 – June 25, Annual Kenai Climbing weekend

3.5 miles and 1,500 feet to Summit Lake base camp. Ice axe recommended on optional climbs.  
Leader Tom Choate 333-5309

June 23 Flattop Sleepout on Friday,

It's a leaderless trip, but a club tradition. Bring dinner and refreshments, stay for the evening or stay for the night.

July1-July 9, 2006 Lake Clark National Park

Class B Backing trip Twin Lakes to Turquoise Lake traverse. Charter out of Lake Hood, Anchorage. Charter costs \$700-\$730 per person round trip. Set up 1<sup>st</sup> camp at Twin Lakes and spend a couple of days hiking in the area. Take 2 to 3 days to backpack to Turquoise Lake (about 10 miles between the lakes) set up camp and spend a few days exploring this area and get picked up on July 9<sup>th</sup>. We may setup food cache at Turquoise Lake on the charter trip into Twin

lakes. Leader: Don Hansen 243-7184 home.  
[donjoehansen@msn.com](mailto:donjoehansen@msn.com)

July 6, Thursday 6:00 pm, west Ptarmigan Peak (4911)

Class C, 3,000 feet of elevation gain, 7 miles  
Contact Steven Gruhn at least 24 hours in advance  
868-9118 (w) 344-1219 (h)  
[steven.gruhn@hartcrowser.com](mailto:steven.gruhn@hartcrowser.com)

July 17, Monday, 5:30 p.m. South Suicide Peak

(5005) Class D 5,000 feet of elevation gain, 8 miles.  
Contact Steven Gruhn at least 24 hours in advance  
868-9118 (w) 344-1219 (h)  
[steven.gruhn@hartcrowser.com](mailto:steven.gruhn@hartcrowser.com)

July 20-August 2, 2006 Arctic National Wildlife Refuge

Class B Backpacking trip into the Spring Creek drainage. We plan to air charter out of Arctic Village or Fort Yukon with Yukon Air Charter. We will explore the tributaries of Spring Creek, hike up some of the peaks and ridges in the area. Estimated charter cost is about \$440-\$587 per person.  
Leader: Don Hansen 243-7184 home.  
[Donjoehansen@msn.com](mailto:Donjoehansen@msn.com)

August 4 – 8 Rosie's Roost and Han's hut maintenance

trip, Glacier Travel, Gain ~6,000 feet, 40 miles RT.  
Leader Greg Bragieli, [unknownhiker@ak.net](mailto:unknownhiker@ak.net)

August 5, Saturday Bench Peak (5575) Class D 5,000

feet of elevation gain, 22 miles Contact Steven Gruhn  
at least 24 hours in advance 868-9118 (w)  
344-1219 (h) [steven.gruhn@hartcrowser.com](mailto:steven.gruhn@hartcrowser.com)

August 11 – 13 Annual couple's trip to Upper Snowhawk

Hut, Barbeque and Climb. Class B/D depending on Saturday's hike, Gain 2100 feet, 12+ miles Leader Greg Bragieli, [unknownhiker@ak.net](mailto:unknownhiker@ak.net)



# Basic Mountaineering Class 2006

By Steve Parry



Another winter has come and gone and I find myself asking the usual questions, what happened to it and why didn't I go skiing and climbing more often. Of course the answer to this somewhat dim witted question could simply be that I just forgot what happened due to my degraded memory facilities... Ok the preceding is just my way of trying to cover my tracks for those events that I will inevitably forget to relate in this article on what we did in BMS this year.

The usual start was and is the lecture on clothing, equipment and knots in hopes of keeping our students from freezing to death in the dead of our Alaskan winter, or falling into a crevasse because we failed to teach them how to properly tie into a rope. (I think we've only lost one or two that way but memory fails...). As usual nothing exiting happened in the knots class so I really don't remember much.

In all previous years we would freeze test our students by taking them on an overnight trip and making them sleep in a snow cave, (preferably in below 0 temps), but this year we started immediately with the avalanche course. Which normally is held near Flattop but this location was decided against as someone had recently died in an avalanche there. The avalanche conditions this winter where some of the most horrendous I have encountered, all the melt and freeze we experienced led to an extremely unstable snow pack. Even so I was dumb enough to go check out





**Dealing with 'hanger crevasses'.**

Fortunately no one got pictures. Now back to the snow pit gully which turned out to be one of my less than sterling ideas but fortunately didn't end in disaster. As I was giving my usual dry boring snow pit lecture one of the students, (a rather larger guy who will remain nameless), decided to walk along the top of the cornice, the next thing I know I'm wearing the entire side of the gully in my lap. Our wandering student managed to start a real avalanche, propagating a 20' fracture right across the top of the gully which brought a 6 foot long slab down on top of me, in what I am convince was an attempt to shut me up.

our normal spot where the guy had recently been buried. It was completely re-drifted in and quickly convinced even my slow brain to get the heck out of there. All the aforementioned drivel could have been said as: "We went to Alpenglow this year for the avalanche course due to bad avalanche conditions elsewhere". Oh well... someday I'll get the hang of this writing stuff.

There was a decided lack of snow at Alpenglow this year, (which is probably the only reason it was safe). We held the course on the side opposite the ski area partially due to the vicious guard dogs employed by Alpenglow to keep non-ticketed persons out, (well ok, entirely due to the guard dogs). We did the usual stuff, dug snow pits, went for a hike, displayed dismally poor acting skills but still managed to have fun despite all this.

Due to the lack of snow I decided to be clever and dug pits in a gully that had a wind loaded side so life wouldn't be too boring for the students... this actually worked our for once but not before I gave a dazzling demonstration of how to leap off of a 5 foot high cornice on telemark skis, (honestly folks I really intended to do that face plant).

### **Snow travel weekend**







**We're going to sleep in snow caves, yeeaaaaay!**

Unfortunately for the students there wasn't really enough snow to bury anyone real deep. After shaking off the shock I decided to attempt a recovery and used the event as a teaching tool. Nothing like a real avalanche to teach about avalanches eh! I really don't think the students bought my act but hey, one has to try...

The next memorable event came the next day during our annual display of poor acting skills which we call mock avalanche training. I was watching the scene unfold as two students walked into a confusion of insane instructors trying to pretend their friends were lost and buried, (usually we only bury beacons but I seem to recall... no never mind). One of the students was a really big guy, like muscular big and the other was a smaller dude. This

particular combination almost cost us an instructor, who in a successful attempt to be incredibly obnoxious kicked snow in the big guys face while he was questioning him and then had the gall to take his shovel and throw it!!! As the big guy was stomping off after his shovel with smoke coming out his ears, the little dude looked at me and said, "He should be more careful, 'name deleted', has a bad temper". At that point I started backing away from the doomed instructor trying to decide where we were going to conceal the body. Fortunately the big

guy also turned out to have a lot of control, whew!!!

Well I can only manage to spew a limited amount of nonsense in one sitting so this story is to be continued....

Stay tuned next Scree,

**Saturday night annoying students are burned to death**



# Finding My Bushwhacking Thrill on Blueberry Hill

By Steve Gruhn

I had long wanted to climb Blueberry Hill in the Berry Peaks of the Western Chugach Mountains. While doing some Scree research I noticed that Blueberry Hill was the last peak along Turnagain Arm to be climbed. This intrigued me and I often wondered why. To answer that question I tried leading three different MCA trips to the summit. On each of them, though the weather interfered and the trips never even started. Finally, on June 26, 2005, I decided to have a go at it by myself. I didn't know exactly where to start, but having poked around in that neck of the woods a bit, I knew I was going to feed my insatiable love of bushwhacking.



I started at a small pullout on the northeast side of the Seward Highway near a pipeline valve station. I followed a trail into the timber and crossed a small creek a couple times, eventually finding myself on a steep spur ridge on the west side of the small creek. From here I bushwhacked up the steep, hemlock-forested slope. Usually hemlocks can be counted upon to provide sufficient shade to prevent significant undergrowth. This was not the case, however, with my chosen route. I have rarely seen such tangles of alder, devil's club, wild roses, and false azaleas. The terrain was steep enough that I often found myself sliding backward, down the

slope. And if the Class V bushwhacking weren't enough, the hordes of mosquitoes rivaled only those I have seen near the Tangle River in Interior Alaska. Bushwhacking, bugs, and steep slopes: I was in heaven.

It was a sunny day and soon I was dripping with sweat, pine needles, alder cones, swatted insects, and blood. What a refreshing jaunt! Ordinarily I would be concerned about bears when traveling through thick brush. But this day I'm sure a bear could have smelled me from a couple hundred yards upwind and long before smelling me it would certainly have heard me vocalizing my mental anguish and fighting the brush.

I fought my way up the slope and eventually found myself standing amidst a swamp on the slope. One

would think that water would rapidly flow downhill and result in a drained swamp, but the vegetation indicated that this swamp had been there for a while. Bushwhacking, bugs, steep slopes, and now a swamp! This was turning out to be a fine day! And my appetite for bushwhacking was quickly becoming sated.

I got onto a small ridge northwest of the swamp and overlooking Turnagain Arm. Well, at least it would have overlooked Turnagain Arm if I could have seen through the brush. Soon the ridge disappeared and with it the hemlock. I found myself on the face of a slope in the middle of



alders, false azaleas, and devil's club. I tried fighting directly up the hill through the vegetation, but it spat me back down the hill and I was forced to angle up and to the right (northeast).

Eventually, I found myself above the brush and with a view. It had all been worth it. I snapped a picture of the gorgeous Placer River Valley to the south. I could see a boat heading up the Twentymile River. And I could see the relentless flow of traffic below me on the Seward Highway. But I was alone above the fray. It was all very peaceful, like a cease-fire in a battle.

I sidehilled across loose scree to a broad area on the ridge crest. The ridge narrowed and I followed it in a northeasterly direction over several gendarmes to the summit, at times veering to the east side of the ridge in search of a better route on large lichen-covered mobile boulders. The summit (elevation 4531 feet) is the third of three highpoints along the ridge and is approximately a mile northeast of the broad area where I first reached the ridge. There was a register atop the summit with the names of several other bushwhack-loving MCA members were included therein. Supposing that this list was to be used in the formation of some sort of 12-step bushwhacking self-help group, I added my name to the list and headed down.

I retraced my steps to the broad area on the ridge and decided to descend along a creek west of my ascent route. By now I had long been out of water and needed to replenish my supply. The water quenched my thirst, but I had great difficulty returning to my ascent route. I tried planning my descent route before I descended into the brush, but once in the thick of things I quickly found the vegetation planning a different route for me. I fought this for a while, trying to line myself up so that I didn't find myself on the wrong side of a

swamp at the bottom of the mountain. If anything, my descent route was a more challenging bushwhack than my ascent route. I suspected that I was only a couple hundred yards west of the ascent route, but I seemed unable to get back to that route. The vegetation kept spitting me downhill and west of where I wanted to go.

After several hours of bushwhacking on the descent I headed east, crossed a stream on a fallen log about 4 feet above the ground, clawed my way up another fallen log, climbed over the rootstock and collapsed in the earth cavity below it. I was exhausted; swarms of mosquitoes filled my eyes, ears, nose, and mouth. At one point I swatted a flock of them on my arm and counted 27 dead mosquitoes from the one swat. My water had long since run out and I was rapidly getting dehydrated through sweat and loss of blood – both to the thirsty insects and the hungry branches.

Relying on some hidden reserves, I struggled to stand up, staggered to the east, and stumbled down the hill, falling several times. Eventually I found myself on a slight rise with gravel (as opposed to vegetation) underfoot. I was at the edge of an old gravel pit, which is shown on the USGS 1:25,000 map. I slid down the steep gravel slope and made my way south through the brush to the railroad tracks and the parking area. I had emerged from the brush about 200 yards west of my ascent route.

I now know why this peak was the last one along Turnagain Arm to be climbed. And if ever you feel the need to join that 12-step bushwhacking self-help group, you can sign up at the summit of Blueberry Hill.



## **Tom Choate and Greg Higgins Receive Hoeman Award**

**By Bill Romberg and Cory Hinds**

Long time MCA members, Tom Choate and Greg Higgins were recently honored as the 2006 recipients of the MCA Hoeman Award during a brief ceremony at the April 2006 general meeting.

Established the by Board in 2001 in honor of pioneer club members and climbers Vin and Grace

Hoeman, the Hoeman Award recognizes current and former club members who have made a significant contribution to the exploration, documentation, and promotion of hiking and climbing opportunities in Alaska's mountain ranges.

The MCA Awards Committee recommended that Mr. Choate and Mr. Higgins become the next recipients of the Hoeman Award because of their significant contributions to climbing and exploration in Alaska, as well as their individual efforts to document and preserve the history of climbing in

Alaska through their service to the MCA during the past several decades. A brief summary of the accomplishments and contributions made by Mr. Choate and Mr. Higgins to mountaineering in Alaska are noted below.

In addition to having their names engraved on a permanent Hoeman Award plaque housed in the Vin Hoeman Library, Mr. Choate and Mr. Higgins received a personal copy of the Hoeman Award plaque and became honorary members of the Mountaineering Club of Alaska.

Please join the Board of Directors in congratulating Mr. Choate and Mr. Higgins on receiving the award and thank them for their contributions to mountaineering in Alaska.

### **Tom Choate: Accomplishments and Contributions**

- ? 40 to 50 first ascents of Alaskan mountains – Chugach, Brooks, Alaska, and Talkeetna ranges and probably several others (too many to list).
- ? Partners on many of these first ascents have included Vin Hoeman, Dave Johnston, Willy Hersman, Steve Gruhn, Stu Grenier, Ken Zafren, James Larabee, Wayne Todd, Mike Miller, Neil O'Donnell, Dwight and Annette Iverson, and others.
- ? He has led over 30 hiking and climbing trips for the club
- ? He has led over 20 training trips for the club
- ? He has performed many hours of hut maintenance on the MCA club huts.
- ? He has served for over 15 years chairperson of the Geographic Names Committee
  - o Are you sure it was a “true” peak you just climbed??

### **Stories and highlights**

- ? It is particularly appropriate that Tom is being awarded the Vin Hoeman award because one of Tom's formative climbs was with Vin himself, the 1963 – Grand Traverse of Alaska Range with Vin Hoeman, Dave Johnston, and Cliff Ells. The team walked in from Wonder Lake, up the Muldrow Glacier, and summited the north and south peaks on McKinley in 14 days. Apparently they needed to move fast so they could be on the summit for the solar eclipse. They started in July, wore bunny boots and walked straight through rivers, slush, water-

filled crevasses, etc. They were four on a rope and when someone fell in a crevasse, they simply pulled each other out and kept going. After summiting McKinley, they descended the West Buttress, resupplied at Kahiltna Base, then proceeded to climb all three summits of Mt. Hunter via the west ridge. These were the first ascents of middle and south peaks. During the ascent of the west ridge a cornice broke and Tom held Vin's 50' fall down the north side. After summiting the middle and south peaks, they summated the main peak at night, racing an approaching storm that pinned them down for two days. On the walk out the Kahiltna, Vin Hoeman writes, “The walkout took us nearly a week, traveling first by compass in a whiteout, falling into water-filled crevasses in a bad icefall, and finally completing our saturation in rain-soaked brush and swollen streams when we got off the edge of the glacier to cross Dutch and Peters Hills...”

- ? On the 40 –year anniversary, 2003, Tom again summited McKinley. After trying on all the newfangled boots out there, Tom went back to the old school bunny boots. The 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary climb will probably be the same!
- ? Recently Tom has been leading popular annual trips such as Mt. Ascension on the Kenai.
- ? One of the great benefits of being on a trip with Tom and his wife Charlu are their knowledge of the flora and fauna. They can tell you what that bird is, what animal made that track, or what flower that is.
- ? When Tom gets close to the summit of a peak, he has been known to use the “water bottle level” technique to determine which summit is higher. He stands on one summit and gets his eye level with the water surface in his bottle and looks out at the other summit. If he sees air, he is on top, if not, he climbs the other one too.
- ? One of the ways Tom keeps going on these climbs is his disciplined rest schedule. When you climb with Tom, you will notice that he stops for a 5 minute rest and refuel every hour. However, you had better be ready to go after 5 minutes, because he is up and moving. Many have heard the old, “Well, I guess I'll start moving up slowly” only to find him waiting on the summit!
- ? Climbing along unroped a corniced ridge in the Western Chugach, Tom unexpectedly dropped through a hole out of sight. He



partners were terrified and screamed "TOM! TOM!" As he climbed out of the hole, he scolded his partners for worrying, "I'm allright.."

- ? Tom is a master of puns, and he is always looking for the perfect occasion to get in that perfect pun. In fact, "the punster" is probably cooking one up right now.
- ? Those who have climbed with Tom know that his gear is notoriously old and some of it is in questionable shape. In recent years, he has been known to spend the majority of time in camp with a needle and thread trying to hold his gear together.

### **Greg Higgins: Accomplishments and Contributions**

Greg Higgins was very active in the Mountaineering Club of Alaska in the 1970s and 1980s. He moved to California in the 1980s and currently resides in Chico, CA.

- ? Mr. Higgins has numerous first ascents in Alaska to his credit, including North Andiron (1986), Mount Eva (1986), East Kiliak Peak (1986; solo), Palmer Thumb (1977; solo), Peak 5007 in the Kenai Mountains (1985), Fog Peak (1987), and Three Bell Spires (1973).
- ? Mr. Higgins served as the chairman of the MCA's Geographic Names Committee and was considered by others (namely Willy Hersman) to be the authority on peak names in Alaska.
- ? Mr. Higgins frequently wrote articles in the Scree, which have provided information to many a future climber. In fact, he wrote 44 Scree articles, including trips to East Tanaina Peak (1972), Homicide Peak (1977), Palmer Thumb (1977), Montana Peak (1977 and 1987), Pioneer Peak (1977), Mount Sanford (1978), Mount Soggy (1980), Mount Yukla (1980), Vertigo Peak (1980), Baleful Peak (1980 and 1981), Mount Drum (1980), Pleasant Mountain (1980), The Ramp (1980), the Churchill Peaks (1981), Mount Rumble (1981), Phoenix Peak (1981), Ptarmigan Lake (1982), Mount Alice (1985), Moonlight Mountain (1985), Pellet Point (1985), Significant Mountain (1985), Peak 5358 in the Kenai Mountains (1985), Peak 5007 in the Kenai Mountains (1985), Mount Gerdine (1986), Penguin Peak

(1986), Mount West Kiliak (1986), Whiteout Peak (1986), Ovis Peak (1986), The Mitre (1986), Mount Eva (1986), North Andiron (1986), Paradise Peak (1987), Mount Wickersham (1987 and 1993), Lemonade Peak (1987), Peak 8450 in the Chugach Mountains (1987), Fog Peak (1987), Temptation Peak (1987), Gunsight Mountain (1987), and Spearmint Spire (1987).

- ? He took charge of the MCA's summit registers and undertook a major effort to gather all of the original, Vin Hoeman-era summit registers from Alaskan peaks in the Chugach-Kenai-Talkeetna area, archive them, copy them into new containers and put them back out on the summits.
- ? He produced a card catalog index of peaks, which he made available in the Vin Hoeman Library for references for trip reports and the names of those who had climbed the peaks previously. This index later became the Scree index and was placed in the back of the bound Screes.
- ? He led a number of MCA trips including ones to Homicide Peak (1980), South Avalanche Mountain (1980), Peters Creek Valley (1981) and Ptarmigan Lake (1982), assisted in teaching basic rock-climbing classes (1980), and served as the unofficial MCA historian and caretaker of the Vin Hoeman collection.
- ? Mr. Higgins also served as club Secretary for one year.

Mr. Higgins' activities resulted in a vast increase in the body of knowledge for local climbers and enabled many others to explore further into the mountains. He also maintained records so that those who never knew him are still able to obtain detailed information on routes, geographic names, and ascent histories.

According to friend and local MCA climber Tom Meacham (a long-time member of MCA), Greg is now living in Chico, California where he is retired from practicing medicine. He just recently completed all of the 50 state highpoints in late 2005 and is also an avid kayaker who (like our other award recipient) remains passionate about mountains, birds, plants, everything to do with the out-of-doors.

A copy of the video presentation of the award will be sent to Mr. Higgins along with his plaque, a photo of the master plaque and a letter of congratulations.

Future Hoeman Awards will be given on an ad hoc basis, but hopefully annually. Nominations for the Hoeman Award are accepted year round and should be made in writing to the club's address. Nominations should include the name of the candidate(s), the name(s) of the person(s)



## MCA Board Meeting Minutes

Meeting Minutes for the MCA Board meeting held Wednesday, May 11th, 2006 at the Snow Goose Restaurant.

In attendance Steve Gruhn, Steve Parry, Hans Neidig, Debbie Arens, Julie Perilla, Eric Teela, Greg Bragiel, Annette Iverson, Sean Bolender, and Matt Nedom.

Old Business - Debbie requested a budget review

Voted in New Secretary Julie Perilla.

Awards - candidates must be members before being considered for awards.

Discussion of Paypal on website. Motion to allow members to use paypal to renew their membership dues. All in favor.

Letter was sent to UAA on behalf of Bill Romberg, to ask them to house our Vin Hoeman library collection. We haven't heard back from them yet.

Hiking and Climbing committee - Carlene and Randy want a list of approved trip leaders for the board members. Matt Nedom will submit list. Steve Parry requested one chairman be appointed to the committee.

Heritage Land Bank has a hut at Winner Creek that they want us to take it over. There was a discussion whether we are interested or not. Motion to keep it on the table and look into it further.

Amy Murphy is pursuing other companies to make t-shirt for the club.

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

*Submitted by Bill Romberg*

Library - Sean Bolender said he needs a bookshelf for the library.

Sean will run the next member meeting, Steve Gruhn will be late.

Next Meeting Tuesday, June 13.

Meeting adjourned at 7:02.

## General Membership Meeting Minutes

**May 17, 2006**  
**7:30 pm**

Sign up sheet for summer hikes/trips were up front.

The meeting was called to order at 7:35, by club president, Steve Gruhn.

New member/visitor introductions were made.

### **Treasurer's report**

2006 revenue so far this year is \$3,621.00. Total Expenses have been \$4595.13. Our beginning balance in January was \$25,629.24. Our total accounts are \$24,299.11.

### **Committee reports**

#### **Hiking and Climbing**

-- The committee met before the general meeting and elected Randy Howell the new chairperson.

-- The committee reported that we need new leaders. Steve Parry provided leader training in the break between the meeting and the slideshow. If you want to become a leader contact Randy Howell or Carlene Van Tol.



-- Carlene announced various trips that are planned for this spring/summer, they are listed in the Scree and on the website.

-- Tom Choate announced a trip he will be doing at Summit Lake Pass the weekend after the solstice. They will be camping out and exploring some unnamed, unexplored peaks at around 4500 feet and one at 4900 feet. If you are interested, contact Tom. Sounds like a fun trip!

**Huts** - Hans Neidig regretfully reported that he will be resigning from the position as Huts chair. Thank you Hans for all your hard work! If you are interested in volunteering as huts chair, please contact Steve Gruhn. Hans also reported that there is a need for an Eklutna traverse supply trip to take in supplies for the trip in August. The human waste barrel at the Rosie's Hut is missing; if you see it, take it back to the hut. We have about 5 possible sites for the new hut, and we need to get some trips together to check them out.

**Ice climbing festival** -- Jayme Dixon announced that the Ice Fest will be the last weekend in September. She will be soliciting instructors in July to help out with the festival. Look for a post on the website.

**Library** – Sean Bolender announced that help is needed in the library to inventory and organize the books. If you want to help out with that contact Sean. Bill Romberg is still working on getting the Vin Hoeman collection housed at the UAA Consortium Library.

### **Scree**

John Recktenwald announced that submissions for the June Scree are due today. Submissions for the July Scree are due June 21.

### **Awards**

Bill Romberg is still seeking nominations for the Hoeman, Presidents and Meekin Awards.

### **Announcements**

Amy Murphy is looking for a new vendor for the t-shirts.

Steve Gruhn has patches for sale for \$5 apiece.

### **No new business.**

### **Slideshow presentation**

Dick Griffith presented an awesome slideshow on his adventures in Alaska and the Arctic. Thank you Dick!

## **Adze**

Men's size 6 Koflach boots Used but in good condition Free Mindy Baum [minbaum@msn.com](mailto:minbaum@msn.com)  
349-3760

### **Partners Wanted:**

Volcano Redoubt Paddle and/or just climb. Once again heading over to Redoubt by kayak. Leaving around June 5. Plan to fly in some non-paddlers and gear around 6/15 about 18 miles up the Drift River. We may do other climbs in West Cook Inlet depending on the team. Can help equip and train right people. We hope to be back by July 3 for paddlers and as soon as we summit for just climbers. Stu Grenier oinkmenow@hotmail.com or 907 337-5127 I will be out from 5/18-6/1 on MCA paddle-climb.

# Mountaineering Club of Alaska

President	Steve Gruhn	344-1219	Board member	Eric Teela	240-9693
Vice-President	Sean Bolender	333-0213	Board member	Annette Iverson	222-0581
Secretary	Julie Perilla	222-6939	Board member	Randy Howell	346-4608
Treasurer	Debbie Arens	688-4606	Board member	Rebecca Bisette	375-0959
			Board member	Steve Parry	248-8710

Annual membership dues: Single \$15, Family \$20

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

The 'Scree' is a monthly publication of the Mountaineering Club of Alaska. Articles and notes submitted for publication and other communication related to the newsletter should be submitted on the web at [www.mcak.org](http://www.mcak.org) or mailed to Scree Editor Box 102037 Anchorage Alaska 99510. Articles should be received by June 21st (the club meeting) to be in the July Issue.

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

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

Mailing list/database entry: Greg Bragiel - 569-3008

Hiking and Climbing Committee: Randy Howell – 346-4608, Greg Bragiel – 569-3008

Huts: Vacant, Your name could be here

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