

# the **SCREE**

**Mountaineering Club of Alaska**

**July 2006**

**Volume 49 Number 7**

**Harriman Traverse**

**Annapurna Circuit Trek**

**Chilkoot Trail**

**Mountaineering School**

**Eagle River Overlook**

**I tried being reasonable,  
I didn't like it**

***Clint Eastwood***



**Monthly Meeting  
Wednesday, July 19th @ 7:30 PM  
Program: Annual Picnic  
(See inside for details)**

# 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: Lee Whitten sitting down on the job. (Leading down the Finch Glacier) Harriman Traverse Attempt, this issue.**

**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**

**Harriman Traverse**

**Annapurna Circuit Trek**

**Chilkoot Trail**

**Mountaineering School**

**The Annual Club Picnic 'Meeting'**

## Hiking and Climbing Schedule

July 1-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/ 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, Thursday, Memorial hike for Gail Wilson

Join us for a memorial hike to Rabbit Lake to honor the life and memory of Gail Wilson, a special lady with unlimited enthusiasm for spending time in the mountains. Bring candles, prayers, stories or happy thoughts of Gail and we'll celebrate her positive spirit in this beautiful setting in the Chugach, one of her favorite playgrounds up until the end. 8 miles roundtrip with about 1,000' elevation gain. Meet Carrs Huffman coffeeshop at 5:30 p.m. to carpool to the trailhead, limited parking. Leaders: Deb Luper, 345-3543, e-mail: [dahabo@yahoo.com](mailto:dahabo@yahoo.com) and Amy Murphy, 338-3979, e-mail: [hayduchesslives@yahoo.com](mailto:hayduchesslives@yahoo.com).

July 20-August 2, 2006 Arctic National Wildlife Refuge

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

July 30, Sunday, End of Month Traverse, Class C

Gold Cord traverse. Talkeetna Mountains. Archangel Road, over the ridge to Gold Cord Lake and Independence Mine. Bicycle back to the car. 11 mile hike and bike. 2,000 ft. gain. Easy day.

August 1 Tuesday 5:30 pm - Penguin Peak Class D

4,200 feet of elevation gain, 5 miles round trip. Contact leader at least 24 hours before trip. Steve Gruhn 868-9118 (w) 344-1219 (h) [steven.gruhn@hartcrowser.com](mailto:steven.gruhn@hartcrowser.com)

August 3, 6 pm Thursday - Ptarmigan Tarn, Class B

1,700 feet of elevation gain, 6 miles round trip. Contact leader at least 24 hours before trip. Steve Gruhn 868-9118 (w) 344-1219 (h) [steven.gruhn@hartcrowser.com](mailto:steven.gruhn@hartcrowser.com)

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

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

# Harriman Traverse Attempt

## By Stu Grenier



### Blowhole Pass

On April 12 Theo Hunt, Lee Whitten, and I attempted to go from Eklutna Lake to the Harriman Fjord in Prince William Sound by ski. The motivations for such an attempt were many, ranging from seeking out potential hut spots and a relatively safe route that would open up access to the glacier ringed forest of the Lake George drainage to a childhood desire to make it to this region and the ocean behind the mountains in Anchorage's back yard. After doing the Eklutna Traverse (E.T.) at least six times, I felt it was high time to reach deeper, into both the Chugach and ourselves, and see what we would find.

I recruited on the MCA list serve and at MCA general meetings. By mid March, the team was set. Lee and Theo had summited Denali in 12 days. Lee had done the E.T. with me a few years earlier. I was lucky to have this team.

We left the standard E.T. route at the moraine about half way down where the Whiteout Glacier

runs into the Eagle Glacier and headed for the notch above the large rock outcropping due east and just south of Rosey Peak's west ridge. We called this notch Rosey Corner. This worked out nicely to put us in line to ski up the fork of the Eagle Glacier that leads to Rosey and Bunting Peaks. We hit the probable low point in the ridge just south of Rosey Peak and dropped down to the Finch Glacier. This pass is called Rosey Pass. We had to descend traversing skier's left to avoid a steeper slope that dropped into a sizable wind hollow that cut off easy access to the Finch. We eventually ended up in the bottom of this wind hollow by way of less steep slopes and had to kick steps out it's lower end to get on what in April looked to be the easy going Finch Glacier. Looking back up at Rosey Pass from the Finch leads one to think that there is an easier route over the ridge near Bunting Peak. The Finch side of Rosey Pass does not offer an avalanche safe route if conditions are bad.



### **Theo and Stu in the Gap between Finch and Sparrow Glacier**

We continued down the Finch to where a major icefall cuts across the glacier at about the 2700 ft. level. Here we dismounted the glacier skiers right and traversed an avalanche slope to the buttress that divides the Finch and the Sparrow Glaciers. This area was a suggested hut spot. There is a conspicuous gap here with a wind hollow created by a rock face. Though it was near snow free because of wind it was subject to avalanche and rock fall. Everywhere else on the Finch seemed to have prodigious amounts of snow. There were no obvious potential hut spots. It seems once you push east past the Whiteout Glacier the snow level doubles.

From this gap, we tried to descend to the Sparrow Glacier to avoid yet two more icefalls on the Finch. The slope was a bit steep for our taste so we returned to the Finch on a bridge that got us below the first icefall that pushed us off skier's right. From here in deteriorating visibility, we worked our way northeast to the toe of the Finch through this second icefall. Theo spotted a key route that got us through this second icefall. April conditions made things doable. Later in the year without the snow bridges this area could be a real mess. Let us hope that future recons of the Sparrow Glacier find a comparatively safer route to the Lake George drainage.

Once off the Finch at its toe, we continued down Finch Creek, shook hands with our first Lake George cottonwood and then climbed over the 2000-foot ridge to the east to make camp in the deciduous forest west of Sparrow Creek where some cottonwoods were about two foot in diameter.

Moving next into the Sparrow Creek Canyon we crossed the Frozen Sparrow Creek and made for a gully just upstream from a steep rock face on the east side of the creek that leads to an overlook of the Lake George Glacier. From here we gained some elevation and contoured on the ridge above the glacier thus avoiding just about all the ice falls while heading south up

glacier. There were many rock outcroppings with wind hollows that may be suitable for huts, though as we learned with the Bock's Den Hut anything in the alders gets thrashed by bears. In the area of 2400 ft. there were near flat spots that were wind blown that might be suitable hut locations but I could see no supply of rocks for the ballast boards.

After mounting the L.G. Glacier at about the 2400ft level we continued on over to the Twenty Mile Glacier where MCA pilot/climber Paul Andrews chucked a duffel bag full of food and gas out of his plane. It landed with a loud puff and a cloud of snow. We skied over with shovel and probe

### **Weather days**



expecting to do some digging but there it was right on top. We had called it in with a sat phone we got from Dave Hart.

With one more week of food and gas in our packs, we worked our way down to the one big icefall that traverses the branch of the Twenty Mile that runs into the L.G. Glacier. Skier's far left or left middle works. We rounded the corner to head for the due east branch of the Twenty Mile Glacier that leads to the 3450 ft. pass that goes to the Harriman Glacier and Fjord. It was our misfortune to find that this pass was like a blowhole. Wind was wiping out of it from the sound. We took shelter behind two large conspicuous rocks on a moraine.

When weather allowed we went for the pass, but we had already agreed that due to the high winds and snow our side would most definitely be loaded. I was hoping we could find a nice buttress that would help us out. Unfortunately, there was no avalanche free route. Sitting about three-hundred yards from the bottom of the pass we sat on our packs. Just nine miles from where the salt water of Harriman Fjord meets the Harriman Glacier, we accepted that we were not going to get to the fjord. An eagle appeared flying over the pass towards Turnagain. Five minutes later an avalanche released behind us knocking out about 80 yards of our tracks. We skied back to the two rocks and sat phoned an Alpine Air helicopter for a pick up because we reasoned that the swamps of the Twenty Mile drainage would have opened and made skiing out to the Seward Hwy. a true mess. I suggest the name Blowhole Pass for the above-mentioned pass.

I need to thank Greg Bragiel for hooking me up with Greg Grubba who flew us on the pre-trip recon. It was clear from the plane that Blowhole Pass has a nice buttress on the Harriman side

that would have allowed us to take the pass and then possibly trigger it from above as we have done on the Raven Headwall. With luck, this would have allowed us to complete the traverse but weather set the tone of this trip from day one. Our departure date's weather negated any taxi boat drop off from Whittier. Of the fourteen days we were in the field, six were weather days. The closer we got to Blowhole Pass and the Portage area the faster the storms moved through. After receiving our airdrop on the Twenty Mile, we spent three days underground. It was a good thing that Lee had developed such good cave building skills on the infamous (frozen beer keg) Marcus Baker expedition of last year.

As far as talk of a new hut leading down to the forest of the Lake George drainage from the E.T. I think a team needs to check the Sparrow Glacier route out for a four-season route. With luck, maybe the Sparrow Glacier has ramps that lead around any icefalls. After what we saw on the Finch I suspect that the Finch is not the best way. If Blowhole Pass proves to be too unsafe for a regular MCA trip route, using boats on the Twenty Mile River to tie up with the road system could make for a deeper variation of the E.T.

Going deep was good. I hope to go again.

### Three days in the hole and still smiling



# Annapurna Circuit

## By Amy Murphy



I enthusiastically fulfilled a life-long dream to go trekking in the Himalayas when Devin Nix and I spent the month of April over in Nepal. We did the Annapurna Circuit, a circumnavigation of the Annapurna Range with outstanding views of three of the famed 8,000-meter peaks: Annapurna, Manaslu and Dhaulagiri. Other major peaks seen along the trail include Annapurnas II, III and IV; Gangapurna; Annapurna South; Lamjung; the Nilgiris; Tilicho; and Machupuchare. Seeing these massive mountains up close is breathtaking, especially after reading about some of the harrowing mountain-climbing expeditions in the Himalayas.

This trek provides a fascinating opportunity to see and experience a wide variety of scenery and geographic environments, as well as different ethnic groups and cultures. The trip turned out to be a life-changing journey for both of us. It was almost a decadent trip because we hired a porter, stayed in “hotels” every night (most of which had showers) and ate hot, freshly-prepared food for every meal. Sometimes the vegetables were freshly picked from a garden and in one village we enjoyed freshly-squeezed orange juice from recently-picked oranges!

We trained for several months before flying to Kathmandu and I’m extremely glad as it made the 200-mile-long trip slightly less grueling than it would have been. Sometimes trekking along the trail became somewhat disheartening because you hike upwards and gain elevation, but after cresting a hill you discovered you had to drop back down, and then climb up again, and down again.... Luckily great camaraderie and the beauty and tranquility of the mountains made the journey enjoyable.

### Thorung Himal sunrise



The trek starts at the quiet, little town of Besi Sahar, which is 2,700' in elevation. The first part of the trail follows the Marsyandi River up to its headwaters and the trail goes through incredible river valleys with numerous exciting river crossings over suspension bridges! The first part of the trip covers fewer miles per day than the second part as you need time to acclimatize while ascending to Thorung La Pass, which is 17,800' high and the highest trekking pass in the world. After crossing over the pass, the trail eventually drops down into the Kali Gandaki River and one of the deepest gorges in the world. The trek ends near the city of Pokhara.



**Dhaulagiri**

We were in Nepal during the three-week nationwide strike, with shoot-to-kill curfews, huge demonstrations and numerous outbreaks of violence throughout the country. Luckily we were in the mountains away from the violence, but we heard accounts of current events through word of mouth, radio and television reports. Due to the strike, no vehicles were running, so we had to hike

all the way to Pokhara from the trail's end. Plus we had to extend our trek as it was safer for us up in the mountains than in the cities, so we were exhausted by time we returned to civilization.

We met wonderful, friendly, happy people who generously and proudly shared the beauty of their country and culture with us, making it hard to leave.

Both of us fell in love with the land of "Never Ending Peace And Love" and plan to return some day. I encourage everybody to go on a life-changing journey in Nepal as it's very inexpensive and an astoundingly scenic country. Go within the next few years though as roads are getting built at both ends of the trail, which will really degrade the trekking experience.

*The trekking agency we used in Kathmandu is very knowledgeable, friendly and extremely organized and I highly recommend them. Their Website is [www.langtang.com](http://www.langtang.com). They worked hard to ensure our safety and enjoyment of our trip!*



**Annapurna sunrise**



# The Chilkoot Trail

## by Marcy Custer



The famous Chilkoot Trail was widely traveled by those seeking gold during the Klondike Gold Rush of more than a century ago. In 1998, this 33-mile trail became recognized as part of the Klondike Gold Rush International Historical Park. Having wanted to hike this trail for a long time, in early June I got the opportunity to do so along with Wayne Marquis, Joe (Richard) Cardenas, and Devin Nix. We had spectacular weather with sunshine and not a drop of rain for our entire 3½-day hike.

The first day we hiked 11.8 miles to Sheep Camp. This was cause to recycle some of those old Wyoming sheep jokes, such as Q: "Where does virgin wool come from?" A: "Ugly sheep." Things turned "baaaad" from there.

The next day was the big climb over the pass. We met three other hikers on the trail - a man from Australia and two women from Canada. They were just behind us for the big climb, but had not appeared by the time we finished enjoying our leisurely 1½-hour rest at the summit shelter. Concerned, I walked back to the summit but did not see them. Therefore, Wayne sent Devin and me

ahead to Happy Camp while he and Joe went back to check on the other hikers. They found them still making their way up the pass. Hiker #1 was shoveling golden stairs for Hiker #2 while Hiker #3 was pushing him up the hill. Wayne and Joe kindly carried the packs of Hikers #2 & #3 to the summit. This is when they learned that these hikers had not eaten breakfast. The hikers invited them to stay and have breakfast together, and to travel the rest



**'Better be some gold up there'**



**'Let's go this way'**



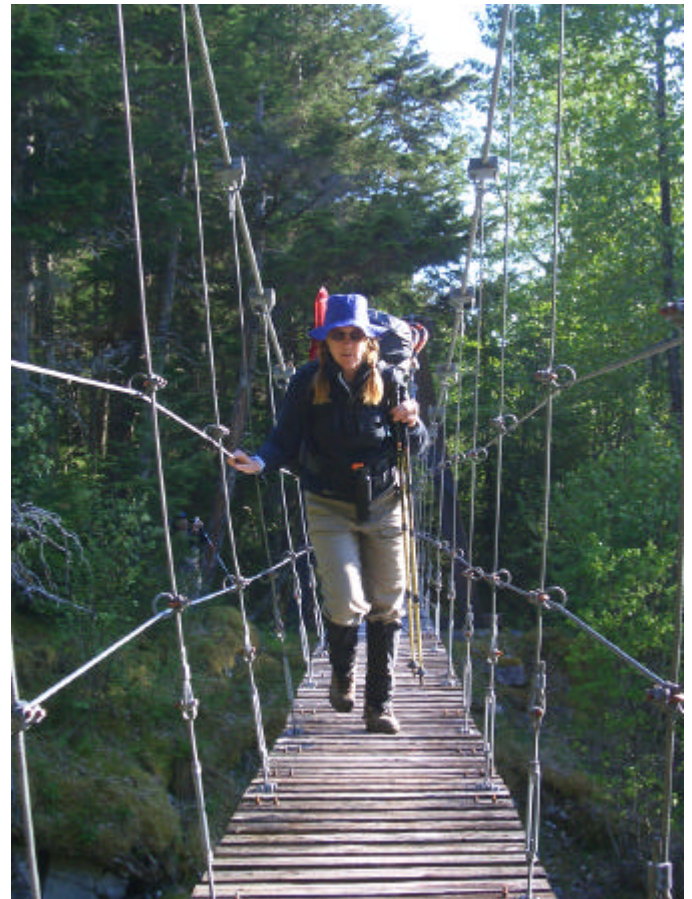
we hiked out the last 7 miles to Bennett, and rode the train back to Skagway. Wayne really wanted to end the trip with an old time group photo, but unfortunately (or not) the photo shop had closed. However, Wayne is a determined man. He called the number in the window, the owner came down, and shot a series of old time silly photos. Wayne looks particularly crazy in each one of them.

It was a great experience hiking the Chilkoot and thinking about what it must have been like for the early gold seekers. I recommend the trip to other experienced and prepared hikers.

of the way with them. However, the guys decided to go on ahead to catch up with Devin and me, and to get across the avalanche zone. We were happy campers to arrive at Happy Camp, and celebrated by singing songs like, *If You're Happy and You Know It, Clap Your Hands; Happy Birthday; Happy Days Are Here Again; Happy Happy Joy Joy; and Happy Trails to You.*

Hours later, the other hikers arrived at Happy Camp. These hikers did not appear all that happy, nor very experienced or prepared for this kind of trip. Hiker #2 was not feeling well and reported having a heart murmur. The ranger at Happy Camp assessed the situation and went into medical mode. He saw to it that these hikers ate and took fluids, and set up a heater in the eating shelter where all three of them slept and stayed toasty warm for the night. The next morning after the ranger reassessed Hiker #2 and connected him to oxygen, he arranged for a helicopter to evacuate all three of them. Meanwhile, we happily hiked the next 6 miles to Lindeman City.

For our last night of camp, we were right on a lake surrounded by majestic mountains. It was a nice, peaceful evening and we took in the interpretive display on the history of the Chilkoot. The next day



**Devin Nix on the trail**

# MCA Basic Mountaineering School 2006

## (or Why are you wearing a snow cave around your neck)?

### By Steve Parry - Continued from last issue

Last time we left our hero's at an avalanche site where an overly obnoxious instructor was about to be murdered, fortunately or unfortunately, (depending on your perspective); no instructors were murdered during the avalanche course. Fortified by this good fortune we decided to take our students on our annual attempt to freeze them to death that we call, "Winter Camping". In this exercise everyone gets to drag a huge pack or loaded sled through deep snow for a few miles and then dig a hole in the snow in which to sleep, (Denali climbers should be more than familiar with the afore mentioned activity). Some people even claim that this is "fun" and will do it without being forced, and you wonder why there are so many shrinks in the world!

This year we started out on a particularly balmy mid-winters day in Alaska, meaning it was not below zero, on our trek to the standard Turnagain pass caving site. We picked this spot as it never seems to have enough snow and there are many buried alders which provide some grand entertainment when people run into them. As usual, we ended up with a lack of snow and ended up building quincys, or caves inside a self-made pile of snow. As luck would have it, the snow also had the additional property of being very loose and dry, so that you really could not get it to stick together well. This turned out to provide tons of entertainment for the students and instructors alike.

In my normal overconfident way, I told the students to spread out and start to dig. Finding what I thought was a good spot I pulled my shovel out and started to dig. After about 4 feet, I hit pay dirt, which in this case is a bad thing. Everyone else seemed to be having a similar experience except for Carl who had the good sense to bring a tent. After a bit of grumbling I started to make a pile up snow until I considered it good enough, (which just means I was tired of piling up snow). Nancy of course saw through this immediately and said, "Don't you think we should add some more snow?", "Naw that's good enough".... And so I began to dig. After what seemed like hours, I was finally at the point where the cave was almost done, just a few more scoops for finishing touches. Scoop, scoop, WHUMP!!!! The next thing you know I am buried up to my waist in the roof of my cave and slowly

recovered my senses, "&^%\$\$\$^&" The previous statement seemed to cut of all the merriment that had ensued at the beginning of the event, e.g. everyone stopped laughing and pointing at least in the immediate vicinity. Nancy however did not stop laughing and pointing and as a matter of fact started rolling in the snow. Greg ran over and started taking pictures, alas too late I had already extricated myself from the snow. If you look at the picture, you see Nancy in the background holding a shovel. What you don't know is that she had just threatened to bean me with it if I did not quit moping around and start building another cave pronto!

#### Fearless leader



This time we piled snow up to Nancy's specifications and then added some more just for good measure. I also dug out a smaller cave just to make sure!

That night we had the usual fire circle, which was started as an attempt to keep from freezing to

death before everyone gets a chance the experience sleeping in a hole in the snow. For those that survive the whole experience it makes a great story, just imagine the answer to the standard question... What did you do this weekend? "Well" I start, "I backpacked in 20 miles through chest deep snow during a blizzard in 60 below weather, then dug a hole in the snow and slept in it". This usually produces a few looks of shock, wiser people will simply roll their eyes, although I did have one woman pick up the phone and start dialing while watching me real close one time. I did not realize what she was up to until the two big

guys in white suits holding a straight jacket came in asking for me. Fortunately they hadn't covered the back door.

*The Basic mountaineering school is run every winter; usually on weekend with some evening sessions. The cost is nominal and sessions cover essential skills such as knots, avalanche risk, beacon search and recovery, Ice axe arrest, snow travel, crampon usage, glacier travel and rescue, snow caving, snow camping and lots more. Steve will be heading up the training next winter. – Ed.*



## **Eagle River Overlook – June 25 2006 By Allison Sayer Panning**

I am not sure why this hike is so often "overlooked" because it is a lot of fun and it is hardly a great distance from the S. Fork trailhead. Valdemar, Christa, new member Christina and I met at Carrs' Muldoon at 10. We left at about 10:30 and headed up to the South Fork Eagle River trailhead. It was sunny and hot and we put on sunglasses, visors, sunblock, etc to protect ourselves. The trail out towards Eagle Lake was crowded with families and dogs all out for a stroll, but after we crossed the bridge and headed east off the main trail we only saw a couple of people for the rest of the day.

Hanging Valley was just starting to look really green. Travel through the valley was very easy and pleasant. Our party gradually gained 1000'. There were still some snow patches here and there, but they were quite firm and easy to walk across. One of many clear pools provided a scenic lunch spot. We felt some rain we hoped was just passing through while we ate, and for the next hour or so it came and went. After eating, we found a good place to jump the stream and headed for high ground at the notch between Harp Mountain and the ridge leading to the Overlook. The hillside below the notch was pretty steep, but the climb was only 1000' so we pushed up quickly. By this point, we were wearing our raingear.

Up in the bowl, it was very quiet. There were no social trails or other signs that the area was visited by a great many people. We had beautiful views of the perched tarn across the valley and the tundra

flowers were blooming furiously. We followed the eastern ridge around to ascend the next 1000'. When the first of our party reached the far rim of the bowl, the weather let us know it was there to stay. Thick hail surrounded us. Two of us scrambled a few feet up to the overlook proper and caught a quick glimpse of the Eagle Glacier, while two stayed out of the wind behind some rocks.

The valley floor was white with hail and snow. We laughed at our earlier sunscreen-applying selves. Hats, gloves, parkas, and other layers were distributed around the party. I was really glad I shoved a bunch of extra clothes in my pack that morning because I gave out everything I had, including some really goofy looking stuff people usually aren't interested in like my husband's big brown hat I call "the ewok." In my haste, I put my own pants on backwards so I had a little bubble butt in front of me for the rest of the day. We decided to forgo the ridgewalk up and down Harp Mountain, which was disappearing from sight, and headed out the way we came. On a nice day that ridge is a great addition to the hike and I highly recommend it.

The way out was pretty quick, especially with glissades in the bowl accelerating our descent. In a sheltered spot, we ate chocolate before heading down to the valley. The wet grass on the way down from the notch was slick, but not as bad as we thought it would be. We enjoyed some breaks in the weather as we traveled through the valley, but the rain kept coming back, building to a downpour as we got to the main trail.

We got back to the car with mud all over ourselves. I was happy we took my car because the interior is already pretty crummy and we did not have to worry about it. We drove away at 6:30, so the hike

had taken just over 7 hours at a moderate pace. Despite the weather, we had a good time and a safe hike. We all got to know each other a little bit

and we hope to do some other trips in Chugach State Park together in the future.



### **July Club Meeting (Picnic!)**

The July 19<sup>th</sup> Club Meeting is the annual Picnic. Join us at Valley of the Moon Park near Chester Creek where Arctic Boulevard turns into E Street. The Club provides Burgers, hot dogs and such. Members are encouraged to bring a dish by last name:

A-E / Chips, Salsa, Etc.  
F-K / Desert  
L-Z / Salads

### **MCA Board Meeting Minutes**

MCA Board Meeting Minutes June 13, 2006

Board members present - Steve Gruhn, Steve Parry, Randy Howell, Julie Perilla, Eric Teela, Annette Iverson, Debbie Arens

Old Business

-- Willy should have paypal up and ready to use by members by the end of August

--UAA has agreed to take the Vin Hoeman Collection Library. It will be transferred and UAA will archive, catalog and maintain it. The collection will be open to the public.

--The board is considering taking over maintenance of the Powder House in Girdwood, currently owned by Heritage Land Bank.

--Steve Parry was voted in as Training Chairperson.

Hiking and Climbing

--It was suggested that a list of approved trip leaders be posted on the website along with the highest level trip they are qualified to lead. We need more people to lead trips. Ideas were tossed around as to how we can match leaders up with trips. One suggestion was to have a jar at the

meetings for people to put trip ideas in. The top 10 or so trip ideas would be posted on the website where leaders could see them and sign up.

Awards

--There is one candidate that was nominated for the Meekin Award. The board agreed that we need more information on his proposed trip before we can vote.

Huts

--We need a new huts chairperson.

Picnic

--The annual MCA picnic is on July 19th at Valley of the Moon park instead of the regular member meeting. The board generated a plan. Members will be encouraged to bring lawn chairs and side dishes for the potluck.

Tshirts

-- Amy Murphy is looking for new vendor to make MCA tshirts.

No new business

Next board meeting is Wednesday July 5th.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:10pm

### **General Membership Meeting Minutes**

**June 21, 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 \$3,526.00. Total Expenses have been \$5,073.21. Our beginning balance in January was \$25,629.24. Our total accounts are \$24,086.03.

**Committee reports**

### **Hiking and Climbing-**

-- Randy Howell announced 19 various trips that are planned for this spring/summer, they are listed in the Scree and on the website. Please be sure your legible email address is included in your sign up.

--Greg Bragiell announced a couples trip he will be doing August 11-13. Sign up sheet is available up front. If you are interested, contact Greg. Had a blast on last year's trip, should be a fun trip this year!

### **Equipment -**

Steve Parry purchased a beacon for Club.

### **Training-**

Steve Parry announced there is currently no training going on during the summer.

**Huts** – Volunteers need for Huts Chair. If you are interested in volunteering as huts chair, please contact Steve Gruhn. Hans Neidig reported that he will help make the transition for the Huts chair. Hans is still working on the waste issue at several huts and may have discovered a burn system, which we might be able to implement.

**Ice climbing festival** – Training announced. Look for a post on the website. For more information on volunteering or details contact Jayme.

**Library** – Book inventory/organization is on hold until Sean Bolender returns. However, Bill Romberg is transferring library materials, Vin Hoeman collection, to the UAA Consortium Library.

### **Scree-**

John Recktenwald announced that submissions for the July Scree are due today. Submissions for the August Scree are due July 19. We need more articles for the Scree! **Awards-**

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

### **Moment of Silence-**

Steve Gruhn asked for a moment of silence for Gail Wilson and Helga Bashor. Both were members of MCA who have passed away this past week. They will be greatly missed.

### **Announcements-**

#### **MCA Picnic July 19-**

July's MCA meeting will be our annual picnic. It will be held at valley of the Moon Park, in Anchorage, at 7:30 p.m. Please bring a side dish with you. Main meal and Drinks will be provided.

Amy Murphy looking for printing places; will take orders for the MCA T-Shirt at the August 23 MCA meeting.

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

#### **No new business.**

**Slideshow presentation by Don Hansen.**



**See you next month!**

# 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**

- ? **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 \$15 for an individual or \$20 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**

NEW <input type="checkbox"/>	DATE <input style="width: 100%;" type="text"/>
RENEWAL <input type="checkbox"/>	NAME <input style="width: 100%;" type="text"/>
INDIVIDUAL (\$15) <input type="checkbox"/>	FAMILY MEMBERS <input style="width: 100%; height: 50px;" type="text"/>
FAMILY (\$20) <input type="checkbox"/>	
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)  E-mail attachment or notify when available for downloading (circle one).

PAPER (\$10/yr.)  Postal Service – please include \$15 per year if outside the U.S.

STREET or P.O. BOX	<input style="width: 100%;" type="text"/>
CITY / STATE / ZIP	<input style="width: 100%;" type="text"/>
TELEPHONE	<input style="width: 100%;" type="text"/>
E-MAIL ADDRESS	<input style="width: 100%;" 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:  \$15  \$20  \$30  \$40  \$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 only, 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 all risks of injury, death, or property damage that may occur in connection with any MCA activity, including use of MCA furnished equipment and 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 and my fellow participants in MCA activities (except to the extent that insurance coverage for any claim is provided by an automobile insurance policy or related excess insurance policies). **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 of this release are severable and if any part of this release is found unenforcible, the remaining 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 or my fellow participants in MCA activities 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 CONTENT. 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): \_\_\_\_\_

# 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 July 19th (the club meeting) to be in the August 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  
Calendar: Stuart Grenier 337-5127  
Scree Editor: John Recktenwald 346-2589  
Web: [www.mcak.org](http://www.mcak.org) (change your address here)  
Mailing list service: [MCAK@yahoo.com](mailto:MCAK@yahoo.com)

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Box 102037  
Anchorage AK 99510