

# the SCREE

Mountaineering Club of Alaska

July 2009

Volume 52 Number 7



Turn your face to the sun,  
and the shadows fall behind you.  
~ Maori Proverb

Monthly Meeting

Wed. July 15 @ 6:30 PM

Program: Annual Club Picnic

Eklutna Traverse  
Calliope Mountain  
POM, Peak 9510

# 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 third Wednesday of the month. The July meeting is the annual picnic, which will be held at the Bayshore Clubhouse. See below for details.

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

**Cover photo:** Ray Nabinger on the Eklutna Traverse, photo by Greg Bragiel.

**Article Submission:** Articles and photos are best submitted on the web at [MCAK.org](http://MCAK.org). You can also attach a word processing document to an email. Due to formatting problems please do not submit material in the body of an email. 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.

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## Training Classes

July 25 – 26 Hatcher's Pass Rock Climbing Course

Want to learn to rock climb? Improve your current skills or try trad climbing? This is a weekend training event focused on rock climbing skills, anchor building, racking gear, using traditional protection and may include multi-pitch techniques. The class is limited to 12 students. Ratio 1:3. Cost \$50. Must be 18 years of age or older. If you are not 18, you must have a guardian. Students must be MCA members.

Lead Instructors: Dave Lucey and Cory Hinds.  
Sign-up available online

## July Club Meeting Annual Club Potluck at Bayshore Clubhouse

Where? 3131 Amber Bay Loop. Wednesday July 15, 6:30 PM

Exit Minnesota @ 100th Ave. Head west.  
Turn LEFT at 4-way stop onto Southport Drive.  
Go straight through round-about.  
Turn right onto Ensign.  
Turn right onto Bayshore Dr.  
Turn left @ 4-way stop onto Admiralty Bay Dr.  
Take first left onto Amber Bay Dr.  
Clubhouse has a totem pole in front.

The directions are usually easier, but there is road construction on 100th. Orange detour signs mark

the route. Blue "Bayshore Clubhouse" signs also point the way.

What? Hotdogs, hamburgers, veggie burgers, fixings, plasticware and drinks are provided. Please bring your own cup and plate (this is an environmental move).  
No alcohol is allowed at the MCA picnic.  
Please bring something to share as indicated below:

A-H: Salad  
I-R: Side dish  
S-Z: Dessert

# Eklutna Traverse

by Greg Bragiel



Tom Choate points out some peaks  
All Photos by Greg Bragiel

**MCA 2009 Eklutna Traverse** - Participating: Ray Nabinger, Travis Taylor, Tom Choate, Neil Murphy, Mark Smith, John Recktenwald, and Greg Bragiel.

We were dropped off at the end of the trail and started skiing at 10:50 a.m. on April 19<sup>th</sup>. The weather report was promising. A few clouds at the south end of the lake were the only ones to disturb the mostly blue skies. Typically the trip to Pichler's Perch is all skiing. This year we encountered fins of blue ice about 1 mile from the toe of the glacier that necessitated crampons for a short time. The group arrived at the hut at 5:30 p.m. On this type of trip it is a tradition of mine to cook dinner as a group meal. Each participant prepares a dinner to feed all team members that includes a hot drink, appetizer, main course and a dessert. After settling in we had the "Dinner Show." The dinner show allowed everyone to tell about their dinner and what was on their menu. Embellishment and exaggeration were expected. After everyone told their tale, the group voted to have Dr. Neil Murphy cook his dinner: Hot chocolate, soup, fillet mignon steak, Yukon Jack with lime, and chocolate. Yum!!

I suggested that the team move to Hans' Hut on day two, especially under the blue-sky conditions. As we were cleaning up and getting ready to move, we noticed a place on the roof where the metal had been torn off by the wind. The group made a nice repair with scraps found inside the hut. I added a roll of sheet metal to the list of supplies needed. We ended up leaving the hut at 10:50 a.m. with Travis in the lead. We stopped a

number of times along the way to snack, rest, and enjoy the scenery. Upon arriving at Hans' Hut, we cleaned up the ice and snow that had blown in through a broken window on the south side of the building. Tom placed a temporary repair. Ray Nabinger fed us caribou sausage, salmon patties, cheese, moose sausage, triscuits, cranberry/blueberry liquor, and brownies. Excellent!! Everyone was tired and sore from the day's trip.

## 'What's Cookin' with Chef Ray



Day three was a rest day. Greg cooked pancakes for everyone. We spent the day in the sunny, warm, and calm weather checking out peaks, repairing the broken window, and relaxing. Greg cooked a spaghetti lunch for the team. Travis cooked salmon burritos for dinner and we all enjoyed each other's company; relaxed; and told stories, jokes, and, of course, plenty of puns from Tom.

Day four was our planned climb of Whiteout Peak. A few years ago, Roger Clifford placed an entry in the hut log that described the scenery from the summit as "stunning." I have skied past Whiteout Peak many times and have always wanted to go up. John Recktenwald led the group to the summit. While en route the lead team set off a sizeable cornice avalanche that was visible all the way back to the hut. The skies were clouding and the wind was picking up. We skirted places where the snow was grey from the Redoubt Volcano eruption. Greg cooked dinner for everyone. Plexiglas for window repairs was added to the growing list of needed supplies.

**Han's Hut**



We greeted the morning of day five and saw that it would be a cloudy day, but with decent visibility and nice enough to travel. Since there was no barrel at Hans' Hut we had to pack out our waste and deposited it in a crevasse near Rosy Peak. As we traveled south from the Whiteout Glacier to the Eagle Glacier we saw the sun glinting off the roof of Rosie's Roost and I promised that we would be there in 15 minutes. It looked close, but ..... The group encountered really nice skiing conditions down from the Whiteout Glacier to the lateral moraine of the Eagle Glacier where we had to walk for a while on the icy, crusty slopes down to the Eagle Glacier. The clouds were lowering and thickening and it was starting to blow and we encountered flat-light conditions crossing the Eagle Glacier. Farther on it started to snow. Rosie's Roost was in decent shape, but the escape hatch had been loose for some time and the second floor had ice built up near the escape hatch door and the second floor was very wet. Water was dripping down onto the main level. John Recktenwald showed off his lightweight gear, including his titanium wedding ring as he was preparing dinner for all. Greg was told to "shut up and sit down."

We had day six scheduled as a rest day, so everyone slept in until 8:00. Tom Choate dug into the hut food cache and pulled out a can of bacon he claimed to have left there MANY years ago. No one died or got sick. The bacon was good!! Everyone got busy doing hut maintenance. Tom repaired the ladder the bears had

chewed on. We caulked holes in the hut, screwed down loose siding, and placed bracing under the supports for the second floor. Seven additional people in two separate groups showed up in the afternoon. They were disappointed that the hut was occupied. One group decided they would move on to Hans' Hut and the other stayed and set up tents. We were told that Rosie's Roost is a frequent destination for skiers that are dropped off at the head of the Eagle Glacier. This group was here to kite ski on the glacier.

**Tom's Stash**



Day seven was our departure day. We were up at 6:00 and heading out at 9:05. Blue skies and sun were in order for the day. It was windy at Raven Pass. I had the group retreat out of the wind as Ray, Travis, and I checked out the headwall. The clouds in the valley were surging toward us. As we began our descent, we were enveloped in the fog, wind, and snow. We descended as though in a bottle of milk – zero visibility. My team waited in a safe area on the Raven Glacier and got an occasional look at the second team downclimbing. It was amazing that we had managed to avoid the three bergschrunds. As we made the south turn onto the Crow Pass trail we encountered increasing wind. The group stopped at the Crow Pass Cabin to eat, water up, and talk over the conditions. We decided to descend the probably avalanche-prone slopes. The snow conditions were crusty up high and rotten down below. Everyone was having a tough time skiing. It was slow going and John took a nasty fall off the trail but was OK. We made the parking lot by Glacier Gulch at 9:45 p.m.

**Hut Maintenance is a Frequent Occurrence**



# Calliope Mountain

by Marcin Ksok



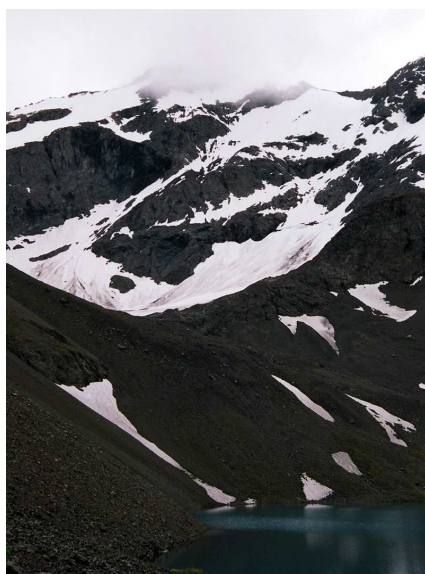
Kate, Greg, and I were hiking through the heavy underbrush toward the north face of Calliope Mountain. After passing Symphony Lake the trail got progressively more overgrown, but never too bothersome. We found a good campsite right before dusk on a calm and dry August afternoon.

not the warmest one. Uninterrupted we gained the slopes to the left of the glacier and in about an hour stood on the ridgeline.



The next morning the three of us gained a small rise to the left of the waterfalls and went around the glacial tarn. At one point I noticed a familiar object between some rocks, picking up an old water-bottle cozy I could not believe my luck, I had lost it on Cantata Peak the previous year. Although the bottle inside had minor injuries to the lid, the thing was in one piece. It just proves how few people venture off the main trails. After crossing the remnant of a glacier on the northwestern side of the mountain, Kate decided not to go to the summit. So, Greg and I started kicking steps in what seemed like fresh snow, which might sound odd, but the summer of 2008 was

Not to break with tradition, the upper portion of the peak was in thick fog, which we had by then learned to enjoy. To gain the top we approached the summit block from the south side and, after scrambling around and trying different options, the western side of the block and its cracks and ledges yielded to my efforts. After a few scrambling moves I sat on the summit and started on the snacks. Not having any views we descended back to the ridge and carefully retraced our steps down the face, making sure not to slip above broken-up rock bands and gendarmes. Rejoined by Kate, we returned to camp, packed up, and slogged back toward the South Fork Trailhead.



# Peak of the Month: Peak 9510

by Steve Gruhn

Mountain Range: Alaska Range; Delta Range

Borough: Unorganized Borough

Drainage: Gerstle Glacier and Spur Glacier

Latitude/Longitude: 63° 29' 16" North, 145° 12' 28" West

Elevation: 9510 feet

Prominence: 1540 feet from either Mount Hajdukovich (9650) or Tusac (9860)

Adjacent Peaks: Peak 9010 in the Spur Glacier drainage, Peak 9186 in the Gerstle Glacier drainage, and Peak 8806 in the Gerstle Glacier drainage

Distinctness: 960 feet from Peak 9010

USGS Map: Mount Hayes (B-3)

First Recorded Ascent: November 6, 1977, by Doug Buchanan and two partners

Route of First Recorded Ascent: West face

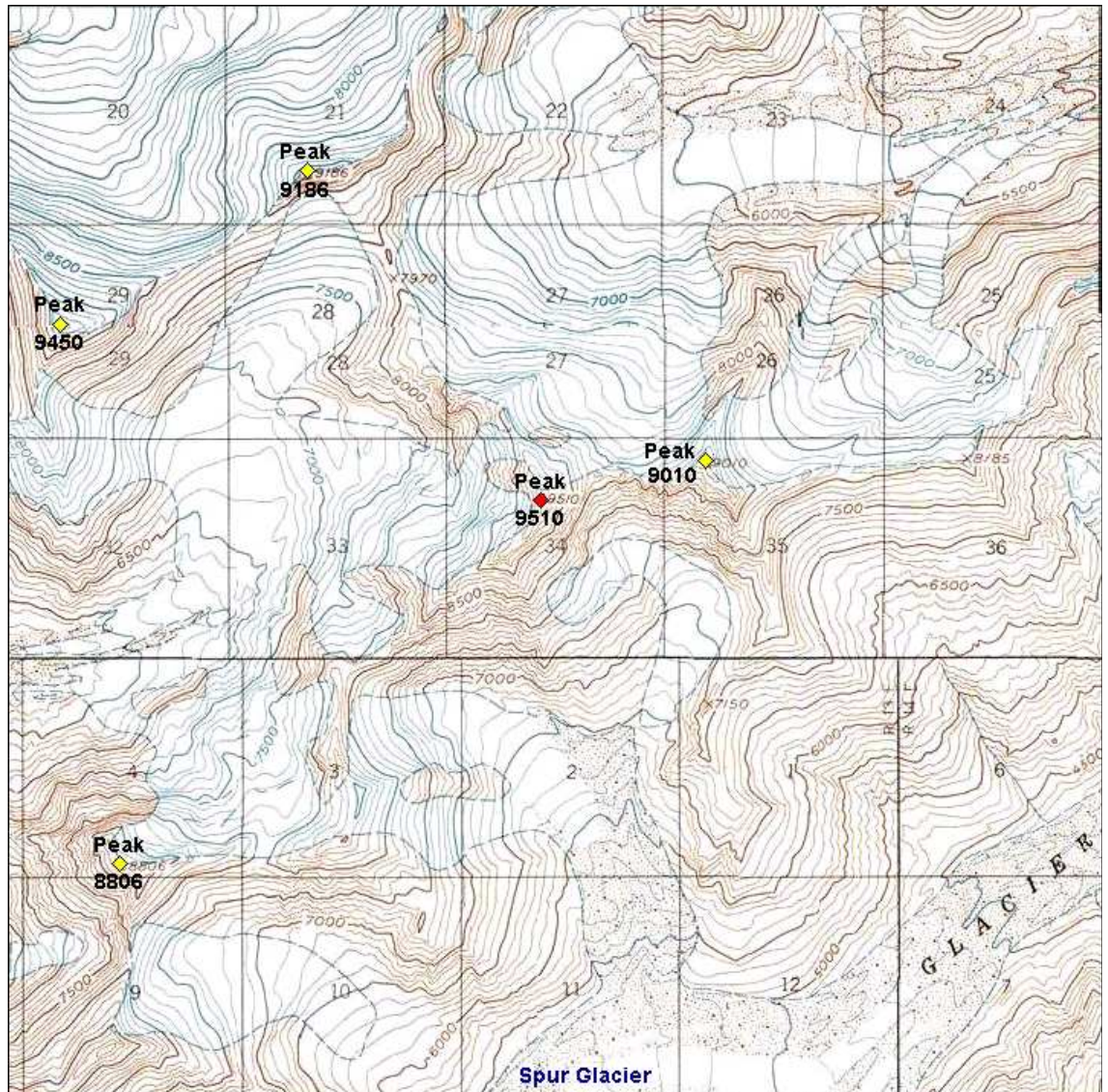
Access Point: Trims Camp on the Richardson Highway

In early November 1977 Buchanan and his partners left Trims Camp on the Richardson highway and skied up the Castner Glacier for three days to reach Thunder Pass. The next day they descended to the Johnson Glacier and then turned north to ski down the Gerstle Glacier. After skiing about six miles down the Gerstle Glacier, they headed up a tributary glacier to the east and established their fourth camp. From this camp they climbed both Peak 9510 and Peak 9450 on the

northwest side of the tributary glacier and described both climbs as nice walking up slopes and ridges without difficulties. Buchanan, though, called the climb of Peak 9510 a slog.

Abandoning further climbing due to cold temperatures, they skied out the Gerstle River to the Alaska Highway, where they hitchhiked back to Trims Camp.

Buchanan's trip report for the ascent of Peak 9510 was documented on page 25 of the December 1977 *Descent*, the newsletter of the Alaska Alpine Club, which is based at the University of Alaska, Fairbanks.



Map created with TOPO!® ©2003 National Geographic ([www.nationalgeographic.com/topo](http://www.nationalgeographic.com/topo))

## Adze

Trekking partners wanted

I am looking for few more people interested in participating in a month-long trek in Nepal in October, hiking around Manaslu Peak, the 8th-highest mountain in the world at 26,775'. This trek is strenuous and requires excellent physical condition. A friendly personality, positive energy and group compatibility is also required. The trail is not developed for tourism so we will sleep in tents and cooks will prepare our meals. The 25-day trek costs approximately \$2,300 and covers the cost of the guide, cooks, permit fees, internal transportation and lodging, and porters to carry most of the gear. Roundtrip airfare to Kathmandu, a few extra meals and personal items are not included. For more information, contact Amy Murphy at e-mail: hayduchesslives@yahoo.com.

## Baneful Correction

In the February 2007 Scree, Frank Baker shared a trip report from a 1963 trip he made in the East Fork of the Eklutna River area and claimed to have ascended the south ridge of Baneful Peak to make the first recoded ascent of the peak. However, upon recently reviewing photographs of the south ridge, Baker now reports that he did not, in fact, reach the summit. Thus, the first recorded ascent of Baneful Peak was on September 6, 1993, by Tim Kelley and Tim Miller (see the November 1993 Scree).

## From the Blogs

Ryan Hokanson reported on his blog that Tory Dugan, Jason Kwiatkowski, and he climbed and skied Peak 9365 in the Columbus Glacier and Yahtse Glacier drainages of the Saint Elias Mountains in April. This ascent may have been the mountain's first recorded ascent.

<http://www.ryanhokanson.blogspot.com/>

## Canyon road gate

*(This is being passed around to 'share the information' Ed.)*

Date: Saturday, May 16, 2009, 12:26 PM

Fellow Park Users,

I'm writing you all because I know you enjoy using the Canyon Rd Park access. And I know that some people weren't happy about the gate that went up on Canyon Road last summer. Just wanted to let everyone know

that the gate is back (after getting ripped out by somebody last fall) and why that is a good thing.

The gate went up after several years of frustration in our neighborhood. By last year, there were teenage parties several times a week at the end of the road during the summer. Not mellow tailgating stuff. Some of them were more like festivals. We had major issues with the place getting trashed - broken glass everywhere, pallets, pallet nails, cans, not to mention smashed mailboxes, high speed late night traffic, etc..

By far the biggest issue was the bonfires. There were some ragers. Ragers that on multiple occasions were still raging in the morning long after everyone had headed home. All it takes is a little wind and some dry conditions to spark the beatlekill forest on Anchorage Hillside. The risk is high.

Our neighborhood has been frustrated with how unresponsive APD has been to this stuff. Almost always there was no response to calls about a rager at the end of the road. They were either understaffed or thought it was too low of a priority.

The neighborhood met with APD about the problem, city officials, park officials. Repeatedly. Nothing changed. Our neighborhood finally went vigilante and took turns hanging out at the end of the road late at night turning people around. The Park did finally agree that a gate was a good idea.

The gate was a huge success last summer. It totally eliminated the problems we were having. It does require that park users before 8am and after 10pm to park below the gate, which is another 100 yards or so below the traditional parking spot. But please know that the gate has made our neighborhood safer at a very low cost to taxpayers. And just because your car is a little further down the road does not mean that you can't access the Park 24-7.

Please know that this is probably the least NIMBY neighborhood in all of Anchorage. Most everyone up here is an park user themself and I don't know anyone in the hood that is opposed to people having access to the park.

I'm usually not a big fan of gates, signs, locks, fences, etc, myself - especially when they're in front of my park land so I can understand some of the "hate the gate" sentiment. Please share this information with anyone that might be interested in hopes that everyone can "tolerate the gate" and help keep it from getting ripped out of the ground again. Thanks and sorry about the long email!

See you out there!

Harlow

# Mountaineering Club of Alaska

President	Wayne Todd	522-6354	Board member	Jayne Dixon	382-0212
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Treasurer	Travis Taylor	382-4823	Board member	Tim Harper	240-1506
			Board member	Richard Baranow	694-1500

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, notes and letters submitted for publication in the newsletter should be submitted on the web at [www.mcak.org](http://www.mcak.org) or e-mailed to the Scree Editor. Articles should be received by the monthly club meeting (third Wednesday of the month) to be in the next month's Scree.

Paid ads may be submitted to the attention of the Vice-President at the club address and should be in electronic format and pre-paid.

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: Yukiko Hayano and Randy Plant - 243-1438  
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Huts: Greg Bragiel - 569-3008  
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