



AUGUST 2001

A Publication of the Mountaineering Club of Alaska

Volume 44 Issue 08

Box 102037, Anchorage, Alaska 99510

AUGUST MEETING

Wednesday

August 15, 7:30 pm

Pioneer Schoolhouse, 3rd & Eagle Streets

Downtown Anchorage

Program: Mountain photography by Ian Sharrock.

HIKING AND CLIMBING SCHEDULE

Aug 12 Matanuska Peak

Class C. The climb includes a bit of a scramble at the top. Estimate 12 miles round trip and 5500-foot gain. Gear requirements are: sturdy boots, rain gear, plenty of food & water.

Leader: John Hess 762-1778 (day) or 348-7363

Sep 1-3 Kesugi Ridge

Class C. Many miles, but fairly easy. Two nights. Great views of the Alaska Range.

Leader: Matt Nedom 278-3648

Aug & Sep Gold Mint Trail Work

Ranger Murphy has organized a trail crew to improve the trail and is looking for volunteers from MCA to provide labor. The crew will be clearing brush, building boardwalks, etc., working most weekends throughout August and September. Contact: Cory Hinds 248-6606

TRAINING SCHEDULE

TECHNICAL ICE CLIMBING CLASS

place: Matanuska Glacier

date: September 29-30

fee: \$35.00 covers access to glacier, camping and club equipment replacement

meeting: Wednesday, September 26, Pioneer Schoolhouse 7:00 P.M (Instructors at 6:15). This meeting is mandatory, so plan to attend.

The ice climbing class is for all levels of experience from beginner to leader. We will present the techniques necessary to become at least a competent second on steep ice. We will not emphasize glacier travel techniques.

PRE-REGISTRATION WILL BE REQUIRED.

Sign-ups are at the regular September club meeting - **for MCA members only**. Potential instructors should call Steve Parry, 248-8710 or Bill Romberg, 677-3993. Participation will be limited by how many instructors there are.

An equipment check will be done at the organization meeting on the 26th. Students are required to bring their boots and crampons for inspection. Club equipment will be handed out. (The club has limited supplies of crampons, ice axes and helmets.) **Fees will be collected.** Questions will be answered. **ALL STUDENTS MUST ATTEND.** AMH, on Spenard Rd., also rents boots, crampons and ice tools for people signed up for the class. Some equipment is sometimes available from instructors, but you should not count on it. Club crampons are not designed for serious ice climbing; you should consider other options. For this class all attendees must have helmet, crampons, climbing harness, ice axe, two locking carabiners, and climbing boots.

The school begins at 9:00 A.M. on Saturday, September 29th, at the Matanuska Glacier parking lot closest to the glacier. Plan on leaving Anchorage no later than 6:30 A.M. or go up on Friday night, this year's camping spot has been changed to the airstrip. Signs will be posted. Please leave your dogs, cats, horses, llamas and other four-legged things at home. Under-age drinking will not be tolerated. In fact, all minors should be accompanied by a guardian who will be responsible for them.

Course Goals

- Learn a useful and safe technique for climbing ice in the alpine and waterfall environment.
- Learn to use modern tools in order to insure maximum safety and speed.
- Learn and practice all of the basic state of the art rope management techniques, with emphasis on skills most useful for winter and ice climbing.
- Belaying the leader through mechanical devices and non-assisted or traditional technique.
- Building safe anchor systems, regardless of terrain or conditions.
- Route-finding to rapidly and safely achieve the goal without having unnecessary objective hazards.
- Achieve a climbing and fitness level to assure basic competency in alpine winter climbing.

Equipment for Ice and Winter Alpine Climbing

Technical gear

Ice axe - your basic tool. Most useful in 55 cm to 60 cm range as the primary tool. Modern ice tools have curved or re-curved picks with serrated teeth for maximum holding power in most ice conditions. Taller climbers or those who primarily are snow-climbers will prefer a 70 cm axe. The second tool will be in 45 cm to 55 cm range, specialized for

steep water ice climbing. A great variety is available, so try to use as many styles as possible to find the tool that best suits your style.

Crampons - rigid 12-point are the best choice for ice climbing. The new one-buckle system is *far* superior to the neoprene straps. Footfangs are an obvious choice also.

Helmet - a must for the beginning to experienced ice climber, ice hurts

Boots - double plastic or leather. Plastic boots are the warmest and as stiff as the best leather without breaking down. Alveolite foam inner boots are the best liner yet made, in terms of warmth vs. weight.

- Neoprene socks or booties which are loose fitting are also helpful.
- Neoprene or cloth/insulated overboots are necessary for altitude and all but spring conditions in Alaska. A margin of warmth must be maintained for safety.

Harness - must be adjustable with wide leg loops, that will open up to put on over all your various clothing systems. Most modern styles have this capacity.

Ice Screws/Spectres - you should employ a variety of types and lengths to accommodate varying ice conditions. Pound-in and screw-in types should be carried on the rack.

Carabiners - you must have two large locking types and several regular carabiners. As you increase your proficiency and the difficulty of the routes you lead, you will require increasing amounts of hardware to protect your leads.

Slings - you will need to carry several lengths, plus you should have a quick-draw for each ice screw on the rack. You will also need several two-meter length slings of 6mm to 8mm perlon for prussik slings and other specialized uses for which tubular webbing is not suitable.

Special mechanical devices - jumars, figure-8 and other gizmos will be used and discussed to establish their relevance.

Clothing Systems for the Winter Alpine Environment

The clothing system should layer well and be adaptable to a variety of uses and temperatures. Strive to use the minimum amount necessary to reduce both weight and bulk. The use of pile and Gore-Tex should yield a warm and light suit. An expedition parka and/or suit would be the final layer.

Socks - light wool or poly liner, heavy wool or pile outer. Or a neoprene sock, especially built for climbing. Capilene, wool or blends all are used.



Legs - poly or capilene long johns in various thicknesses. Salopettes or pile bibs. Mountain pants or a mountain suit. Bibs - or a one-piece suit are the best choice because they eliminate the waist hassle.

Torso - bib pile or insulated suits are the best choice. Poly or capilene t-neck tops. Pile or wool sweater. Down vest. Mountain anorak or parka.

Hats and Mitts - must be warm and windproof. A balaclava or facemask should be carried. Mitts also need waterproof shells.

Gaitors

Everything in the clothing system should have long zips or full side zips, so they can be easily removed or put on.

TRIP REPORTS

Finding Adventure in the Front Range

Ross Noffsinger



Feeling the urge to explore new country, bag a couple of peaks and do a marathon hike with a lot of elevation, I had my wife, Cindy, drop me off at the military rappelling grounds on Fort Rich (near the Moose Run golf course). The intent was to

hike up Snowhawk Valley; climb Temptation Peak; descend back into Snowhawk Valley; climb Tikishla Peak; descend into the north fork of Campbell Creek; climb 700 to 800 over the low point of the ridge behind Wolverine Peak; descend into the middle fork of Campbell Creek valley; hike out to the Upper Huffman trailhead and finally walk down Sultana street to our home.

My hiking companions would be Katmai and Taiga, my 17 and 20 month old, male and female Karelian Bear Dogs. We departed from the yellow gate for the Snowhawk Valley trail at 12:20pm. Except for some rather threatening looking clouds obscuring the summits of the 5000 footers, it was a nice warm July day. Since the trail starts at roughly 500 feet above sea level, you hike through the full spectrum of South Central Alaska vegetation, from thick forest to

alpine tundra. The trail is overgrown, but easy to follow. About an hour into the hike we passed the first cabin. A half hour later we encountered the first and only people we would see the entire day.

Near the second cabin, which sits near the base of Temptation, I fueled up with a bagel and the dogs had biscuits. Luckily the clouds temporarily cleared allowing me to scope out the most efficient route up the mountain. Even though this is the second tallest peak in the front range, the route up is obvious and easy.

The total elevation gain required to reach this 5383-foot summit is roughly 5100 feet (including the ups and downs). Luckily the weather remained clear the entire time we were on the summit. I say luckily because most of the summits of the other major peaks were obscured in clouds. I hydrated, fueled up, took pictures, signed the registrar, enjoyed the view and reluctantly departed down along the south ridge toward East Tanaina.

Approximately one mile down the ridge we encountered a group of 3 dall sheep. Since we were on a game trail, I felt reluctant to detour, and thus walked straight toward the sheep assuming they would just trot off. At this point, Katmai (my more independent and harder to control dog) was hunting ground squirrels several hundred feet below us on the east side of the ridge. Consequently, it was just Taiga and I. As we approached, a large ram with a full curl stepped onto the trail and held his ground. This made me think of an entry I had just read in the registrar on Temptation about a sheep blocking access to the summit. According to the entry, the sheep would not let the person (and his dog) summit. I wondered if this might be the same sheep. The animal appeared to be more concerned about Taiga who was standing at my side. Since we were very close, and since it appeared the ram wasn't going anywhere soon, I decided to snap a couple of pictures (something for my hunter friends to drool over). I then tossed a small rock at the ground in front of the ram. He trotted down the trail about 100 feet and stopped. Taiga and I continued down the game trail, and when we were within about 70 feet of the ram, he became visibly agitated and started to posture. Thinking how embarrassing (and not to mention painful) it would be to be rammed, I tossed a second rock at the ground near the ram. This time he trotted off the trail a sufficient distance to allow passage (although not far). By

this time it had started to rain in the form of sleet.

While descending the ridge toward Tanaina we heard the sound of a massive rock slide coming from the direction of the Tanaina ridge line but could see nothing. Just a little reminder of what a dynamic and consequently potentially dangerous place the mountains of Alaska are.

Walking along the lake toward Tikishla, I observed a few potential routes up the east and north faces through steep scree and rock. Given the wet conditions and the steep angle of the slope, I decided these routes would best be left for another day. Continuing further westward along the north side of Tikishla, I observed a potential route up the north face near its western edge. It was steep with moss covered rock. I knew that I could continue westward and go up Tikishla pass and then up the northwest ridge, but this other route looked much more interesting. Since it did not look too steep to down climb, I decided to give it a try. The moss clung firmly to the rock providing excellent traction for the dogs. With relief I discovered the route did go as I crested the summit ridge 1700 feet above the valley floor. The exhilarating scramble, which was definitely the highlight of the trip.

Due to the clouds, it was difficult to tell which direction to proceed to the summit. I made a guess and after traveling a couple hundred feet we were on the summit. It started to rain again. I signed the registrar and descended the south face into the north fork of Campbell Creek.

When we reached the valley floor, it was 10:00pm and decision time. I had two options:

1. cross the creek, climb 700 to 800 feet up and over the low point in the ridge behind Wolverine, descend to and cross the middle fork of Campbell Creek and finally work my way down to Upper Huffman, or
2. hike up the north fork of Campbell Creek past Long Lake and go over the pass to the middle fork.

Since it had stopped raining and since I still felt good (and the dogs still looked strong), I opted for the longer route up and over Williwaw Pass. Hiking up the North Fork Valley at this time of night is an experience hard to describe. However, anyone who has a love for the mountains and who has spent time alone in the back country needs no description. Even though I was a long

way from home and the hour was late, I felt no desire to hurry. I was content with the here and now. An experience that many people (who are always striving to get ahead) seem incapable of.

We crossed over Williwaw pass at around midnight. I had been hiking for 12 hours and had done about 7700 feet of elevation. To this point, it had been raining on and off and even though I had been wearing a rain jacket, I was fairly wet and my feet were soaked. Between the rain and darkness, I had trouble seeing. I chose to hike along the north side of the lakes and cross the middle fork on the downstream side at a wide area where you could cross without getting wet. However, in the darkness I could not locate the crossing. Since I was pretty much soaked, I decided to just plow across.

After about 2.5 hours, we arrived at the fork in the trail (Glen Alps, Prospect Heights, Middle Fork). It was a welcome relief to reach the bridge over Campbell Creek. Not only do the trail conditions approve dramatically, but it was also getting lighter. My feet, lower legs and knees had become so cold from the constant slogging through puddles, bog, wet grass and bushes that I had become clumsy.

In the end I got what I wanted: 8000 feet of elevation, 16 hours of hiking in spectacular Alaska back-country and two summits. I did not ask for the four-hour slog through darkness, rain, mud and cold, but it certainly added to the adventure and was an important experience. Not only did I learn about my gear, and my lack thereof, I learned about myself.

Answer to a Nagging Question

Tim Kelley



hat da hell is dat thang?! That was my thought about 20 years ago when I first hiked up Point Hope in the Kenai Mountains. Across the Porcupine Creek drainage on a 3394 foot point was this monument-like thing. I couldn't tell what it was from a distance.

When I got back to Hope I asked the grisly



proprietor of the town store about the tower-like thing up on the ridge. "What da hell is dat thang?!" I asked. He responded, "Oh I think it's got something to do with the gubmint missile defense system." I translated this to mean that the guy didn't have a clue what the thing was.

For the next couple of decades I would often look above Hope while driving south out of or back into town. If the weather was clear I could see the needle-like thing on the ridge. And then I'd say to myself, "What da hell is dat thang?!"

Finally this summer I figured it was time to check out the missile-like thing I've been wondering about for so long. Weather was pretty crummy for climbing, but it seemed broken up enough around Hope to warrant going. I recruited Bluto, my trusty lead dog, and drove down to Hope. As we drove into Hope I looked up on the ridge and saw the finger-like thing. I wondered aloud, "What da hell is dat thang?!"

Bluto and I scampered up the Point Hope trail. We had a strong wind on our butts and some showers and clouds. But several times the clouds parted and we could see the antenna-like thing watching over us.

Nearing the Point Hope summit Bluto and I engaged in our mountain ritual. The first to the summit gets first choice of snacks. So the last few hundred feet proved fast and furious. Hunkering down in the wind on top I realized again why Malamutes always pick Power Bars. Dog biscuits really taste like crap!

A quick descent to the Porcupine/ Johnson Creek pass and we bee-lined uphill to the mystery thing. When we got to it I was surprised, it looked a lot different that I imagined from a far. First off, it was big - 16 to 20 feet tall. It was green, round, made out of fiberglass and tapered to a domed point on top. There was also a door to it that was bolted shut. The whole unit was cabled down to huge I-bolts sunk in concrete.

A few of the bolts on the door were missing so I looked in side. It seemed to be empty inside. But more importantly, there were no alien eyeballs staring back at me. I had been fostering a fantasy that this might be an alien landing zone marker thing. So I looked but did not find a USGS stamp. You know: "Universal Spaceship Guidance System". You see these USGS makers in the mountains a lot.

An old communications tower, an abandoned aviation navigation transmitter, a ballistic missile decoy intended to fool the commies, a spaceship that Hope miners were building? Now that I was right at the thing I was still saying: "What da hell is dat thang?!"

Bucking the wind and rain, Bluto and I headed back towards Hope. On the way down we met a hiker that had turned around because of the deteriorating weather. He said that he was from Hope and hikes up the trail quite a bit. I told him that I had just come back from the silo-like thing over on the ridge. "You did!?" he exclaimed excitedly, "My friend can see that thing from his house. We've always wondered: What da hell is dat thang!?" I told him that I sure didn't know what it was. We postulated inconclusively for a few minutes about what it might be.

So, if anyone reading this knows the story being that monument-tower-needle-finger-antenna-missile-silo-pointy like thing on the ridge above Hope, I'd sure like to know. Until then, whenever I look across Turnagain Arm and see that thing above Hope my thought will continue to be: "What da hell is dat thang?!"

Byron

Matt Nedom



After being put off by weather and avalanche hazard delays earlier in the season, I led a climb up Byron Peak in the middle of July. We, Corby Hawkins, Charlie Sassara, Alan Miller, and I, had our glacier gear and decided we wanted to climb the glacier route instead of the ridge. Alan had described a cornice of at least twenty feet high along the ridgeline, which turned him around the week before. The Byron glacier, on the other hand, is a mass of crevassed ice hanging on the side of the mountain.

The four of us started hiking the dirt trail, which runs along the glacial stream. We stepped up onto fields of snow, which are avalanche debris runouts, lying along the floor of the valley. The snow continues up to the toe of the glacier. Immediately the glacier starts uphill, turning around a corner to the left. As we rounded the corner we looked up to see the glacier hanging



from the mountain, the peak 4000 some feet above us. The route was to go either up a gully, winding down the mountain on the left along the rock, or across a snow bridge formed as the glacier flows over a cliff, in the middle of the glacier. The right side of the glacier was an impenetrable jumble of ice. The bridge was separated from the gully by a rock face. Above and beyond the bridge, on the top of this cliff, a huge snowball "egg," larger than me, stood on its end, asking for a picture to be taken.

We put on our crampons then divided into two teams of two for a walking belay. I started climbing. I reached the steep stuff, poked it with my ax to check its security, then began front pointing with my crampons up this bridge. As I neared the top I saw fracture lines, but felt the bridge was secure. I walked over to stand by the egg for Corby to take my photo, telling the others what I saw.

I walked over closer toward the runout gully, along the edge of the cliff, to check it as a route up the rest of the glacier. All of a sudden a thunderous crack broke the quiet. "Avalanche!" was shouted over and over again. "Get down! Get down!" We were experiencing the thrill of a lifetime. A motor home chunk of ice broke loose from the rock face above and came crashing in kitchen chair sized ice blocks down the gully right next to us, almost close enough to spit on. You've never seen anyone run so fast while wearing crampons and a rope!

I stood at the edge for just a second to see what was happening, and along which path the blocks were falling, to make sure we would be out of the way. Kitchen chair sized blocks of ice and snowballs tumbled down the gully. The others kept yelling for me to get down as I ran back away from the runout path. Since Corby was below me moving the same way, the rope now wrapped around the base of this egg. I wanted to go further, but if I continued to pull, the rope would have sawed off the egg, which gravity would then pull down onto my friends.

I turned around and got up close and personal to a large block of ice standing as my guard between the falling ice and me. I watched as small snowballs wizzed nearby, over the top, while the big blocks tumbled harmlessly past, though it felt like standing on the edge of a highway.

Finally the ice stopped falling. As I walked back to see my buddies, I felt myself breathing heavily and my legs shaking. "That was close!" everyone agreed, and admitted to shaking legs. We were safe now where we were, not under any snow or ice hanging above us. We did see another block, the same size and hanging precariously right next to where the first was. It was not a threat to us, though we would keep our eyes open!

The day was beautiful, full of sunshine after a month of rain. We decided to continue the hike. We felt like we were in a maze, winding our way around the crevasses. Each was very deep. It was hard to imagine that the ice was so thick. Crossing some of them was a bit sketchy, but we were careful and stayed safe. Some we could step across, some we had to actually jump. On others we had to use a static belay as we crossed narrow snow bridges.

It was afternoon now, with one more uphill push to get to a plateau before the headwall at the top. We pointed out and discussed possible routes to the summit. The headwall was steep and broken. A chute on the left, partially hidden looked to be the best way. We continued the climb up to the final plateau where we saw this route to be actually a mess of broken, fallen blocks of snow.

We sat down around an ice table to have lunch and admire the mountain and the beauty around us. And we all had to relieve ourselves too. I had been partially afraid to piss earlier, as I didn't want any bad Karma to upset the mountain god! We heard more avalanches breaking across the valleys around us, of no concern to our location. Then another broke, coming down from the edge of the headwall, under the peak above us. It followed a well marked debris path. There were two distinct debris paths spread around showing us where not to travel.

Finally, after a few "summit" photos, we started back down. It was easier, of course, and the path was well defined from our boot tracks. The snow was balling up in the crampons on my feet, and on Corby's too, which made some of the walking tricky. I got into a walking pattern, striking each foot with the ice ax on a regular basis to knock off the snow. I only fell once, losing my balance, rolling off my foot, feeling like a clown on a giant ball.

When we got near the bottom, we stopped



above the gully and took off our crampons. We were still on dynamic, walking, belay as we glissaded (on our feet) down the hill, crossing that gully as quickly as possible.

We looked back at the mountain as we walked over to check out the ice blocks which now littered the snow field. After some final photos, we began the hike back to the car, with thoughts of beer on my mind.

Award Nominations

Nominations are now being accepted for two new MCA awards created by the Board earlier this spring.

The first award is known as the President's Award and is intended to recognize significant contributions of time and effort by club members toward an MCA project (or projects) or other club activities during the calendar year. All club members are eligible for the award including current Officers, Directors, and Committee chairs/members (except for the President).

Nominations are to be submitted in writing to the Awards Committee by the October general meeting and include the name(s) of nominee(s), a brief description of the contributions made by the individual(s) in the current calendar year that warrant consideration for the award. The Awards Committee will simply document all

nominees and submit their names to the current President. The President selects the final award recipient(s) and presents the award(s) at either the October or January general membership meeting. The award will consist of a \$50 gift certificate to Alaska Mountaineering and Hiking.

The second Award is known as the Vin Hoeman Award and is intended to be given to persons associated with the Mountaineering Club of Alaska (MCA), including current, former, and honorary members, who have made a significant contribution to the exploration, documentation, and promotion of hiking and climbing opportunities in Alaska's mountain ranges. The Vin Hoeman Award is the Mountaineering Club of Alaska's most prestigious award and was created to recognize those individuals who have demonstrated a long-term commitment to the exploration, documentation, and promotion of hiking and climbing opportunities in Alaska. The award will consist of having the awardees name permanently engraved on a dedicated plaque housed in the MCA Vin Hoeman Library and a separate award certificate for the recipient. Given the prestigious nature of the award, it will not necessarily be conferred every calendar year. Nominations are accepted continuously.

The Board recently established an ad hoc Awards Committee that is charged with collecting and reviewing nominations for club awards for recommendation to the Board. Nominations for either award should be submitted to Mountaineering Club of Alaska, Awards Committee, PO Box 102037, Anchorage, AK 99510.

For Sale

Tecnica Altitude Plus climbing boots, Mens size 11.5. Used twice, \$199. Scarpa Inverno liners, mens size 12, never used, \$45. North Face VE-24, with snow doors, new rain fly w/ vestibule., \$165 (rain fly alone is over \$200 retail).

Bill 677-3993

ADZE

Wanted

Old style MCA tee-shirt with the ice axe emblem. Used ok. M or L preferred.
333-5309



Help Needed

Bearded Billy "Goat" needs exercising on a lease, up steep slopes and craggy pinnacles during part of Aug and Sep. Anyone willing to accompany, please call. 333-5309 leave msg

Found

Bread basket left at MCA picnic, with yellow cloth napkin.
333-5309



2002 Photo Calendar

We're looking for *every* MCA member's favorite hiking and climbing photos for the **2002 MCA Calendar**. Packed with information on local peaks, club events, and the very best of *your* photos, the 2002 MCA Calendar will be better than ever!

So be sure to grab your camera as you head for the hills, because it's time for our **Photo Contest**.

Photo Contest Rules:

- .. Any current (2001) club member is eligible to enter.
- .. Photos should be hiking- or climbing-related.
- .. A club member may enter **one photo in each of the four categories:**

Hiking ~ on-the-trail, off-the-trail, ridge-running, stream-crossing, bushwhacking, or scree-scrambling travel

Climbing ~ your wildest action or most aesthetic scene while climbing on rock, ice, snow, or glacier

People ~ your half-crazed, half-dazed, or half-amazed friends, go ahead and *shoot* your fellow club members!

Scenery ~ your best photo of a choice campsite, stunning sunrise or sunset, or majestic mountain scene

- .. You may submit any size print (5x7 or 8x10 recommended), but **it must be received by the September meeting**. Either drop it off at a meeting or mail it to: MCA Photo Contest / PO Box 102037 / Anchorage AK 99510-2037
- .. All entries remain the property of the photographer; MCA is authorized to publish the photo for use in the calendar only.
After judging, you may pick up your photo entries at any meeting.
- .. Attach a note card to the back with the following information:

Your name, address, and telephone

Category and title of the photograph

Any interesting details about the photo that might be published in the calendar

(was it a club trip, local area, club members, when and where was it taken, etc.)

- .. Be prepared to provide a paragraph or two describing the photo if your picture is selected to appear in the calendar.

Judging Procedure:

- .. Photographers' names will be kept confidential throughout the judging process, we will cover up the information on the back and issue each photo a sticker with a judging number, the category, and the title that you provide.
- .. If necessary, the Club Officers and Directors will narrow down the entries to the top 10-15 photos in each category. This will only be done if necessary to make the final judging process possible within the general meeting time constraints. Our criteria will be a combination of photo quality, content, scenery, composition, humor, unique situations or events, adventure, being in the right place at the right time, and being just plain 'fun to look at' (not necessarily in that order).
- .. **Final judging will take place during the October meeting.** All members in attendance will be issued a ballot to select their top three choices from each category, plus one "Bonus" selection. Results will be announced in the November Scree. Winning photos will be published in the calendar, along with as many other entries as we can fit in.

Prizes:

The top photo from each main category will win its owner a **gift certificate from AMH** and a **free calendar**. The second- and third-place photos in each category will win **camping or climbing gear** and other prizes, to be presented at the November meeting.

Purchasing A Calendar:

The calendars will be available at the November or December meeting for \$18 each. A Discount Price of \$16 each is available for members who enter a photo in the contest. Please include \$2 extra if you want your calendar mailed.



Aug 01

Leader Qualifications

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

Approved: MCA Board, February 15, 2000

Trip Leader Responsibilities

1. The leader must get approval of the proposed trip from the H&C Committee prior to advertising the trip.
2. Per MCA by-laws, club trips must be advertised in a club publication. In other words, the MCA membership must be informed of the trip. The H&C committee must approve the club trip about 35 days before the trip so that the H&C chair can forward the approved trip list to the editor of the Scree.
3. Important: If a H&CC approved trip cannot be planned a month in advance, the organizer may announce the trip as a personal trip at the next club meeting when the MCA president asks for announcements. Anyone may advertise a personal trip at the general membership meeting, which is an important service the club offers to all members - to help bring hikers and climbers together. The value of a club sanctioned trip is it offers the membership a trip leader that has been approved by the H&CC as a qualified leader.
4. The leader is responsible for providing and maintaining the trip sign-up sheets at monthly meetings. Coordinate with the H&CC Chair if unable to make the monthly meeting prior to the trip.
5. The leader should describe their proposed trip at club meetings.
6. The leader should contact members that have signed up for the trip to discuss the details of the trip, including proposed route, required gear, hazards, and meeting arrangements.
7. The leader must leave a trip roster containing a brief description of the proposed route and the names and telephone numbers of participants with a responsible person that will be able to contact a H&C Committee

8. member (names and telephone numbers are on the sign-up sheet) in case of an emergency or delayed return.
8. The leader should brief trip members on the general rules for MCA sanctioned trips using the Trip Leader Checklist. If members already know each other and have been on previous trips, not much may need to be said. If new members are on the trip, use the checklist.
9. For safety and liability reasons, the leader must follow the general rules for MCA sanctioned trips as published in the MCA policies.
10. After the trip, the leader is encouraged to provide a trip report (over the phone or in writing) to the H&CC This is just "how did the trip go" and who participated. It also serves as a means to let the H&C Committee know the trip members returned safely.

Other documents trip leaders should consult:

1. MCA Club Sanctioned Trips policy, sections on: trip classifications, general rules, leader qualifications, and recommended gear).
2. Trip Leader Checklist

Approved: MCA Board, February 15, 2000



Mountaineering Club of Alaska

Officers

President	Bill Romberg	677-3993
Vice-President	Tom Choate	333-5309
Secretary	Jayne Mack	258-7571
Treasurer	Patty McPherson	336-2225

Board

Kirk Towner	344-5424
Dolly LeFever	243-7027
John Hess	348-7363
Tom McDermott	277-0774
Richard Baranow	694-1500

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

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

SCREE is a monthly publication of the Mountaineering Club of Alaska. Articles and notes submitted for publication and other communication related to the newsletter should be mailed to my address: 1106 W. 54th Ave., Anchorage, AK 99518, or e-mailed to willy@mcaak.org Articles should be received by August 31st to be included in the September 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. Your cooperation will be appreciated... Willy Hersman, Editor, 561-7900.

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

E-MAILING: willy_hersman

HIKING/CLIMBING CHAIRS: matt_nedom, 278-3648, richard_baranow, 694-1500

HUTS: mark_miraglia, 338-0705

WEB: www.mcaak.org (go here to change your address)

MAILING LIST SERVICE: mcaak@yahoogroups.com

Mountaineering Club of Alaska

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