

SCRIBE

August 2002 Volume 45 Issue 08

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August Meeting

Wednesday, August 21, 7:30 pm
First United Methodist Church
9th & G Streets
Next to the Phillips Building
(you may use marked parking after hours...)
Downtown Anchorage

Al Meiners, current superintendent of Chugach State Park will be the presenter. Al will discuss the issue of encroaching development that is threatening access to Chugach State Park.
(more on page two)

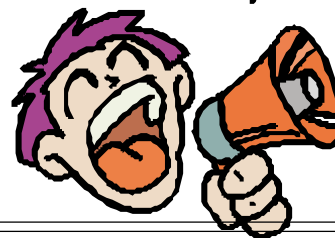


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AN IMPORTANT MESSAGE TO CLUB MEMBERS

The presenter for the August meeting will be Al Meiners, current superintendent of Chugach State Park. Al will discuss the issue of encroaching development that is threatening access to Chugach State Park, and will explain what steps are being taken to solve this problem (and, yes, he will show some slides). I think the issue of park access is important to every member of the mountaineering club, and I urge you to attend this month's meeting so you can learn more.



In recent years, access to Chugach State Park has been decreasing, due to the development of private



land adjoining the park. Since 1980, Anchorage's population has increased by 67 percent, from 174,000 in 1980 to 260,000 in 2000. Consequently, most of the land



available for development in the Anchorage bowl has already been developed, or is currently being built on right now. Where land adjoining the park is developed for residential use, access to the park is lost, because landowners do not allow park users to walk across their property or park in front of their homes. Several locations that formerly provided public access the park are now closed off. Examples include the Ram Valley trailhead on Mariah Road in Eagle River; trails going up to McHugh Peak at the end of Honey Bear Road in Bear Valley; and the trail going up to Near Point at the end of Basher Drive in Stuckagain Heights.



By the year 2020, the population of Anchorage is expected to grow to about 360,000 - an increase of 38% from the year 2000 - so this problem will get worse if nothing is done about it. In part, loss of access has occurred because the people who would have done something about it (i.e., us club members) were usually unaware that a site was threatened until after it was lost, and because up until now no one has mobilized the people and resources to act on this issue.

Please come to the August meeting so we can talk about this issue and discuss what can be done to solve it.

See you there,

Tom McDermott



Hiking and Climbing Schedule

August 6 Day of Departure: TUESDAY
 Time of Departure: 5:30 pm
 Class C
 Trip Description: McHugh Lake Evening Hike
 Leader Name: Deb
 Primary Phone: 345-3543
 Email Contact: dahabo@yahoo.com
 XTRA COMMENTS: Meet at McHugh trailhead, lower parking lot at 5:30pm for a hike to/toward McHugh Lake. Up to 11 miles and 3,000 ft elevation gain.

10 Day of Departure: SATURDAY
 Time of Departure: 9:00 a.m.
 Class B
 Trip Description: South Fork of Eagle River: Symphony Lake
 Leader Name: Jayme Mack
 Primary Phone: 694-1500
 Secondary Phone: 272-1811 work
 Email Contact: jaymack@alaska.net
 XTRA COMMENTS: Will meet at Jitters in Eagle River, 11 mile hike, elevation gain 740 feet, dogs allowed, 4-8 hours hiking, bring water and food and rain gear.

17 Day of Departure: SATURDAY
 Time of Departure: 9:00 a.m.
 Class C
 Trip Description: Hatcher Pass/Archangel Valley: Lower/Upper Reed Lakes
 Leader Name: Jayme Mack
 Primary Phone: 694-1500
 Secondary Phone: 272-1811 work
 Email Contact: jaymack@alaska.net
 XTRA COMMENTS: Will meet at Jitters in Eagle River, 9 miles roundtrip, elevation gain: 1,850, 5-7 hours hiking time, dogs allowed, bring food, water and proper clothing.

27 Day of Departure: TUESDAY
 Time of Departure: 5:30 pm
 Class C
 Trip Description: Windy Gap Evening Hike
 Leader Name: Deb
 Primary Phone: 345-3543
 Email Contact: dahabo@yahoo.com
 XTRA COMMENTS: Meet at Falls Creek Trailhead at 5:30pm for a hike to Windy Gap. About 8 miles, 4,000 ft elevation gain.

September 14 Day of Departure: SATURDAY
 Time of Departure: 9:00 a.m.
 Class D
 Trip Description: Hike to the south summit of Pioneer Peak and enjoy beautiful scenery. Approximately 12 miles and 6,300' elevation gain. Bring food, rain gear, and lots of water. Meet at the trailhead at 9:00 a.m.
 Leader Name: Amy Murphy
 Primary Phone: 338-3979
 Email Contact: hayduchesslives@yahoo.com

Climbing Notes

Jon Evenson reported that Steve Butkus climbed Longspur Peak (5401) solo in early July. He did not find evidence of a previous ascent, so he left a register.



Summit Register News by Steve Gruhn

Jon Evenson reported finding a damaged register on North Raven Peak (6650 +/- 50). Apparently someone shot the original ammunition canister and register. The resulting bullet hole in the container will likely result in water damage to the contents. The register should be salvaged and the container replaced and supplied with blank sheets of paper.

Bill Romberg reported finding a full register on Pioneer Peak (6398). The register should be salvaged and supplied with blank sheets of paper.

When I climbed Thunder Bird Peak (6575) on June 22nd, I found the register to be missing a pencil and to be full. It should be salvaged and supplied with paper and a pencil.

Heike Merkel reported that the Suicide Peak register need to be re-supplied. No word on which Suicide Peak she visited, though.

The Koktoya Peak (5148) register has been prepared and is awaiting replacement.

The MCA could use assistance in replacing and re-supplying these registers. I have materials for register replacement. If you intend to replace or re-supply a register, please contact me well in advance (home: 344-1219, work: 276-7475, e-mail (work): steven.gruhn@hartcrowser.com) to obtain the materials.



Trip and Trip Report Submissions:

Please submit your trips via the web:

<http://photoalaska.biz/scree>

A copy of your submission will be forwarded to Matt Nedom; Trips Coordinator. If he has any questions about your Club sponsored trip he will contact you. If the trip meets the Club's criteria, it will automatically be published in the forthcoming Scree and then to the MCA website.

Trip reports may be submitted via email in Word or text formats. *Please limit your trip reports to 2500 words or less and please spell check your document prior to submission.*

Book Reviewers Needed:

I need help in maintaining our commitment to The Mountaineer Books by doing a review monthly of books they have provided to our club at no charge.

Please visit

www.photoalaska.biz/bookreviews for more information.

Robert Baker SCREE EDITOR

1830 E. Parks Hwy. #600

Wasilla, AK 99654 (907) 357-2944



Partner(s) Wanted

Backpacking, 3 days to 2 weeks, from July to late August, moderate to advanced or strenuous levels. Trips are to remote or seldom visited areas of the Talkeetna Mts, Wrangell-St.Elias Park, and Brooks Range. You must be self-sufficient and in excellent shape; interest in natural history recommended. See www.redundancydept.com for photos of previous trips. Please leave voice mail message; I'm usually on an expedition.

Curvin Metzler voice mail 333-8766/563-5789

Partner(s) Wanted

I'd like to join a late season glacier/mountaineering trip in late July or August...I have proper equipment, training, attitude and no severe personal quirks that could drive a tent partner nuts. Admittedly, working in Denali, I have not met many members of the club but would like to do so soon.

Patrick Royer Email: pdroyer@acm.org

Climbing Right Mountain*

by Tom Choate

Far below, the silver shimmer

Leads round the bend of Crescent Lake;

The distant peaks a snowy glimmer;

Yonder river a golden snake.

The slope is steep, the breath is short,

The muscle strain a climbers pleasure.

Brown cliffs above, a crumbling fort,

Guarding summits: hidden treasure.

* promised to Deb

NOTICE TO PAST PHOTO CONTEST ENTRANTS

Please pick up your past photo contest entries ASAP. If they are not picked soon, they will be donated to the round-file.

Alan Hill - "Peril Peak from Pitchlers Perch"
K. Miller - "Mountaineering Moose"
Alan Hill - Mt. Hunter
Steven Frisch - "The Crossing", "Composition of Textures: water, grass, mountains, sky.", "Cooling Off", "Ice World"
J. Sonkiss - "In a lonely place"
David Hoffman - "Mountain House on Ruth Glacier"
Susan Mueller - "Ascension Reflection", "Beginning Mountaineering Class Microdot"
Lelinde Bourgeois - "The power and determination of a women"
Jay Rowe - Seward Highway
Shawn Lyons - "Looking down into autumn", "Prince Williams Sound Base Camp"
Ned Friedman - "Ol' Reliable, Ripple"
Mary Hayes - "Spring Walk above Eagle River"
Andre Kaeppele - "Heey man you gotta light?" "Shrouded Summit", "Frosty Fowler"
Shawn Lyons - "Coming down out of the storm", "The Neverending Trail", "Climax Colors",
Dana Agosti - "Chitstone Goat Trail"
Julie Sprott - "By the Lethe"
Kathy Zukor - "People Gear", "Bird Ridge"
Dan O'Haire - "Summit caldera of Mount Katmai"
Ted Embs - "North Saddle from South Suicide"
Josh Brekken - "Alpenglow Descent"
Bill Wakeland - "Sure beats Alaska in April"
Johnathan Rose - "Descending Carpathian"
Stan Aarsund - "Colorado River along Tonto trail in Grand Canyon"
Todd Pagel - "People"
Jennifer Campbell - "Do the Dew"
Greg Grebe - "Ptarmigan Peak"



Trip Reports

Perfect Day for Pioneer

By Bill Romberg

It was one of those rare days in southcentral Alaska when the morning breaks clear and cool, the mosquitoes are mysteriously absent, and the smell of summer is in the air. The goal for the day was to climb the true (north) summit of Pioneer Peak (6,398 ft) via the long ridge trail that leads to the south summit. The prospect of spending a sunny day on a high ridgeline in the Chugach with seven other MCA members would normally have been good enough. However, most of us had hiked the Pioneer Ridge Trail before, and it was the true summit of this prominent peak that we were wanting.

The fact that it was the day after the summer solstice meant that daylight was not going to be a limiting factor. Good weather, dry rock, and some confidence would be the primary things needed for an attempt of the exposed ridgeline leading from the south to the north summit. Eight of us started up the steep Pioneer Ridge trail around 9 a.m. for the long 5,000+ foot climb to the top of the ridge. Ahead of us by an hour were the speedy duo of Dave Hart and Karen Herzenberg who were also hoping to find the ridge leading to the north summit in good condition.



The morning clouds clung to the mountainsides along the Knik River thankfully shielding us from the morning sun that bakes this east-facing slope. As a result, the climb to the ridgeline was fairly pleasant, and by 12:30, most of us had arrived at the upper picnic table ready for a well-deserved break and a little lunch. The clouds soon lifted revealing the long ridgeline leading to the south summit and by 1:30 we were hiking along the ridge, reveling in the great views of the Knik Glacier and Mt. Marcus Baker to the east, as well as Goat Creek and Eklutna valleys to the west.

By 3 p.m. the speediest members of the group had made it to the south summit and were watching Dave and Karen slowly picking their way along the jumbled rock leading to the true summit. The rest of us soon joined them and we took turns scoping out the ridge to the north summit between fleeting clouds. It was calm, the rock was dry, and a snow-free route down to the col between the summits was available—perfect conditions to give the ridge to the true summit a try. We watched Dave and Karen reach the summit and yell back “one and a half hours” telling us how long the traverse to the north summit had taken them. After some discussion of the hazards and comfort levels with the route, Heike, Ryan, Joe and I opted to give it a try. The rest of the group remained on the south summit and then would head back with co-leader Tom McDermot.

The four of us scrambled down the loose rock and scree to the col approximately 400 feet below the summits. From here the ridge narrowed and the 3rd class climbing/scrambling began. The route up the ridge required good route-finding, but overall was fairly clear, generally following the ridge crest or west side of the ridge. The crux of the route was obvious from the s. summit—a steep 70' section of rock that would force us to traverse around to the east side of the ridge for a short bit. The base of this section is marked by a table-size rock that appears precariously balanced on top of the narrow ridge below a jumble of huge blocks just waiting for a

good earthquake to shake them free. Karen and Dave popped around the corner at this point—heading back from their successful climb to the top and noting that this was the most difficult section.

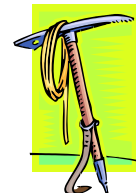
After a quick bandaging job on Karen's finger which had a nice little gash from a sharp rock, we crossed the surprisingly stable “balanced rock” and scrambled around the corner to the right (low 5th class moves) following Karen's “blood trail” up an obvious chute that lead back to the top of the ridge. From there we picked our way carefully up the rest of the ridge—mostly staying to the west side. There were a few short 5th class sections where a rope would have offered some additional security, but all of us were comfortable with the scrambling given the dry conditions, so the rope and pro stayed in my pack.

An hour and a half after leaving the south summit, the four of us topped out on the true summit and took in the fantastic 360 degree views of the surrounding terrain from our vantage point high above the Matanuska Valley.

The sun was still high in the sky so we took some time to snap a few photos and peruse the lengthy summit register that dated back to 1982. We debated over whether to bring the nearly full register down with us for preservation by MCA. However, lacking a suitable replacement for the canister and not wanting to deprive the next group of the opportunity to read the register, we decided to leave it in place for now and let a subsequent party bring up a new one.

Knowing that the return trip and hike out would take several hours, we were soon starting our descent. We slowly picked our way down the ridge, successfully down-climbing the few steep sections and making it back to the south summit around 7 p.m. From there we picked up the pace a bit, pushed on by the feeling of satisfaction that comes from accomplishing a difficult ascent (as well as the fact that was a long hike out).

The hike along the ridge and back down the trail proved to be nearly as rewarding as reaching the summit. The slowly setting sun lit up the cluster of 7,000+ peaks around Eklutna Glacier (Bold, Peril, The Mitre, etc.), not to mention Marcus Baker and its surrounding peaks to the east. As we began our descent down from the upper picnic table, the sun was doing the same on northwestern horizon, bathing the mountains in an orange hue that only became more spectacular as the evening wore on. At 10:30 p.m. (13.5 hours after starting up the trail) the last of us arrived at the parking lot, danced briefly with the now swarming mosquitoes as we changed footwear, and then quickly jumped into our vehicles. We drove back to Anchorage in a blazing solstice sunset and watched as a HUGE full moon rose through the alpenglow over the front range of the Chugach. It was a stunning end to a perfect day on Pioneer.



Matanuska Peak

by Amy Murphy

On May 25, 2002, the following ten people met for an all-day hike up Matanuska Peak (6,119'): Amy Murphy; Matt Nedom; Marina Telouchkina; Mark Lisee; Kristin Dahl; Anne Marie Bailey; Carol Lewis; Annette Iverson; Dev Gangadean; and Dev's friend Joe. We were fortunate enough to have warm, sunny weather and we only encountered a few small snowfields in the upper valley. The rest of the trail was dry and we hiked early enough in the season so that the trail wasn't overgrown with devil's club and cow parsnip. Last year on an MCA hike in late July, the devil's club and cow parsnip were quite thick and deep, and it was difficult to get through without getting attacked and scratched!

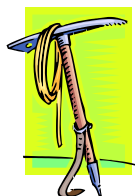
The first 1-1/2 to 2 miles of the trail is wide but steep and we stopped to shed layers fairly quick. After the steep section, the trail ends up following McRobert's Creek and ascends more gradually. As you're heading up, Lazy Mountain is visible to the north, along with the ridgeline that extends from Lazy Mountain to Matanuska Peak. About the same time you reach tree line, the trail and creek veer to the right and continue up a beautiful valley, surrounded by steep peaks. We stopped and ate a leisurely lunch at a picnic table, which is a little more than halfway to the summit.



After leaving the picnic table, the "fun" begins! The last 1,500' or so of elevation is gained by going up a very steep scree field. The closer you get to the summit, the bigger the rocks become. The temperatures were in the 70s and the sun really beat down on us as we hiked up through the rocks. Most of us liberally dosed up with sunscreen to avoid sunburn! The group got spread out after lunch, and Carol Lewis made it to the summit first, followed by Mark Lisee. Once again we basked in the sun and enjoyed the spectacular views while we waited for everybody to make it to the summit.

Since most of the group had brought ice axes or ski poles, we decided to glissade (butt slide) down the big snowfield that came off of the top of the peak. Dev scouted out the route, and we started sliding down about 200 feet from the summit. The snowfield was very steep at the top, but the snow was soft and slow and we didn't have any problems, other than attempting to avoid a stray rock sticking up out of the snow here and there! Marina's backpack decided to slide down without her, but she was able to catch up to it. We easily slid at least 1,000' and it was exhilarating! Anne Marie decided to walk down so we waited for her towards the bottom of the scree field she was on. Then, since we still had more soft snow to slide down and it wasn't really steep, we used Steve Gruhn's technique of forming a "human train/luge" to slide down the snow. Eight people sat down and hooked their legs around each other and we laughingly careened down the snowfield in that fashion with Dev in the lead.

After our slide we stopped at the picnic table again for a few minutes before continuing on down to our cars. This hike is described as being 11 miles roundtrip with about 5,600' elevation gain. We all agreed that it sure felt a lot longer than 11 miles! If anybody's interested in doing this hike later in the summer, give me a call as I'd love to go again!



Benign Peak

By Ross Noffsinger

June 21, 2002

Hans Neidig and I left the Eklutna Lake Trailhead at 10:30am under cloudy skies. Hans had awoken at 3am to watch the World Cup Futbol match between USA and Germany. Despite the USA loss, he remained in good spirits, but a little sleepy – thus our late start. Our goal was to climb Benign Peak (7,235 feet) located roughly 4.5 miles due south of the southern end of Lake Eklutna. Like many of its neighbors, Benign has spectacular relief, rising 6,000 feet off the West Fork of the Eklutna River.



Hopeful that better weather was on the way, we proceeded to bike 12.7 miles around the lake to the west fork trailhead. Our gear included crampons, ice axe, walking sticks, bivy sack, warm clothes, and food for 30 hours of traveling. Since the route we chose involved glacier travel, we also brought harnesses, a couple of ice screws and a rope.

Once at the West Fork Trailhead, we ditched our bikes and proceeded up river to a fording site Hans has used in the past. We chose to cross the river and hike up the east side of the canyon rather than use the fixed lines installed on the west side by Willy Hersman and Charlie Sassara. The west side route looked a little too steep and exposed. I was also concerned about rock fall from the cliff wall above the route.

Due to the amount of erosion from the huge rock walls on either side of the canyon, I would recommend proceeding expeditiously through this area, especially where the route takes you directly beneath the cliff walls. You may want to think twice about entering the canyon during a moderate to heavy rain. Geologically speaking, this place is in a rapid state of flux.

Fording the silt laden, fast flowing river was intimidating. Being the courageous back country traveler I am, I let Hans go first. Seeing that the water was only thigh deep, I proceeded after him. The crossing was uneventful; however, I was nearly swept off stance while crossing on the return. If the water were any deeper, Willy and Charlie's fixed route across the crumbling cliff wall would look pretty inviting.

If one wanted to avoid the river crossing (or the western rock ledge traverse), the glacier can be approached from the eastern side of the river. Starting from the Serenity Falls hut, there is a faint trail leading up the eastern side of the canyon. Due to bushwhacking and an annoying scree traverse, this route is fairly time consuming. Forging the river (if possible) saves a lot of time. Hans swears to this statement vehemently after an experience three years ago.

Once across the river, the route up the east side of the canyon to the glacier is a hike. A small exposed ice scramble is required to get on to the toe of the glacier where the ice quickly gains a few hundred feet of elevation, then levels off to a gentle grade.

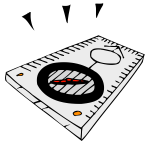
Our route would take us due south along the glacier for roughly a mile where we would exit the west side at 3,300 feet elevation. Since the traverse was entirely on ice (and not snow), we did not rope up. Getting off the glacier requires route finding through small crevasses. However, it was straight forward and required no protection.

Continued next page...



We ascended a scree slope, then a steep scree gully to a flat spot located at 4,400 feet on the northeast ridge of Bellicose Peak. From here the standard route up the southeast gully of Benign is visible. For us however, cloud cover was blocking the top 2,000 feet of the mountain. Not quite sure which gully to follow, we weighed our options and decided to take a nap on the soft vegetation.

With a half-hour of rest and an improved attitude, we descended a steep snow gully to the floor of a hanging valley labeled as Malignant Gully on the 2001 version of the Chugach State Park Map. It is my understanding that Malignant Gully is the route Charlie Sassara and Jon Mitchell climbed on August 23, 1987. The route, which follows a 60 degree gully 3,000 feet up the daunting west face of Benign, would have to be considered one of the hairiest climbs ever done in the Park (see the September and November 1987 editions of the Scree, at mcak.org). Since the route climbed by Charlie and Jon is on the west (opposite) side of the mountain, the map appears to be incorrect.



Our procrastination paid off when the clouds lifted just enough to confirm the correct gully. Rising 3,500 feet from the hanging valley to the summit ridge, the southeast gully is fairly steep and full of (new) loose scree of various size. Since the scree has a strong tendency to flow down hill when disturbed, we climbed snow when possible. I would recommend attempting this route in spring or early summer to minimize the amount of scree climbing. Luckily for us, roughly two thirds of the climbing was on snow.

As we entered the clouds, the crumbling rock towers bordering the gully and its numerous branches created an eerie presence as if we were on some gigantic mid-evil castle. At times we were concerned about taking a wrong branch; however, periodically we would encounter the tracks of a previous party. Assuming they had better visibility, we used their tracks to confirm our course.

Four hours after leaving the hanging valley, we were on the summit ridge. A few minutes of easy scrambling brought us to the summit. It was 11:30pm and we were socked-in with only a hundred feet of visibility. Periodically the clouds would open, allowing views of just the top few hundred feet of Rumble and Yukla and the blue sky above.

Hans replaced the register canister with a new one he had carried, and read a few of the entries. According to the register, Benign was named by Vin Hoeman and Art Davidson after their first ascent in 1965 revealed a relatively easy route up the southeast gully. Since then the peak has seen few ascents, with less than 20 recorded in the register. The mystery party whose tracks assisted us had signed in 5 days prior. They were Kathy Zukor and Sam Griffith. The next most recent entries were from the late 90s.



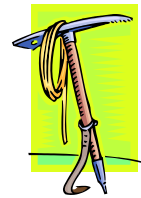
We hung out on the summit until 12am then began the 3,700 foot descent back to the hanging valley. What took 4 hours to climb only required an hour to descend, taking advantage of the extensive snow and scree glissading.

Under a light drizzle, we donned all our clothing and climbed into our bivy sacks to wait out the darkest hours of the night in the hanging valley. It was 1:30am. We rested comfortably for about the first hour. However by 3:30am, cold had defeated fatigue, and we had to reluctantly start moving.

The 900-foot climb out of the hanging valley quickly warmed our stiff bodies. We had a snack on top of the pass, then descended the scree gully back to the glacier. As we hiked down the glacier and through the canyon, the weather began to clear. By the time we had crossed the river and reached our bikes, most of the major peaks were visible.

The bike ride out in sunshine, under a brilliant blue sky, was spectacular. However, sore body parts detracted from the moment. We were back at the trailhead by 12:00pm. Our 25.5-hour journey had required 8,000 feet of elevation gain to summit the 7,235 foot peak. It is possible to reduce the elevation gain to 6,300 feet by accessing the hanging valley via the waterfall gully (known to ice climbers as Fears Tears) located just west of the nose of the glacier. This route requires scrambling through a very unstable looking conglomeration of dirt and rock, followed by an exposed ascent of a very steep grass and rock slope. Bill Romberg who climbed Benign via this route with Mark Miraglia and Dolly Lefever described it as "heinous".

It was a physically demanding yet rewarding climb. Our only regret was not having clear weather while on the summit to see the incredible view afforded by this peak.



TECHNICAL ICE CLIMBING CLASS

Place: Matanuska Glacier

Date: September 28 - 29 ,2002

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

Meeting: Wednesday, September 25, First United Methodist Church 9th and G 7:00 P.M. 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 at 248-8710. Participation will be limited this year by how many instructors there are. Leader meeting Wednesday, September 18th 6:15 P.M. just before the regularly scheduled club meeting...we will be discussing goals and safety issues.

Continued next page...



An equipment check will be done at the organization meeting on the 25th. 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 carabineers, and climbing boots.

The school begins at 9:00 A.M. on Saturday, September 28th, 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. 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 must be accompanied by a guardian who will be responsible for them.

Course Goals

- To learn useful and safe techniques for climbing ice in alpine and waterfall environments.
- To learn to use modern climbing tools in order to insure maximum safety and speed.
- To learn and practice all of the basic state of the art rope management techniques, with emphasis on skills most useful for winter ice climbing.
- To learn to belay a leader with mechanical devices and non-assisted or traditional technique.
- To learn to build safe anchor systems, regardless of terrain or conditions.

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 hurt.

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 over boots 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.

Carabineers - you must have two large locking types and several regular carabineers. 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 one six foot length sling and two 10 foot length slings of 6mm perlon for prussic 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 thickness's. 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.

Gaiters

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



New Policy: Awards Committee

Approved: February 13, 2002

MCA Awards Committee

Awards Committee Rules:

1. The Awards Committee will be comprised of 3 MCA members (an odd number being best for breaking ties) appointed by the Executive Committee.
2. Committee members must be MCA members in good standing and will have been a member of the club for minimum of 2 years (not necessarily consecutively).
3. Committee member terms will be for 3 years (staggered terms), with one new member appointed annually by the Board.
4. The most senior member of the committee will act as chairperson and serve as the primary contact for the Executive Committee.
5. Committee members will be responsible for:
 - a) collecting and reviewing all nominations for club awards annually.
 - b) developing and maintaining the specific criteria and process that the committee will use to review nominations for club awards within guidelines provided by the Executive Committee.
 - c) Selecting award recipients and submitting those names to the Board for confirmation
 - d) Acquiring award certificates and ensuring that the names award recipients are added to the appropriate plaque.

MCA Hoeman Award

In May, 2001, the Board of the Mountaineering Club of Alaska created a new award to honor Vin and Grace Hoeman—two of the club's most prolific climbers, who made significant contributions to the early exploration and documentation of hiking and climbing opportunities throughout Alaska and the Yukon during the 1960s. As defined by the Executive Committee, the **Hoeman Award** is:

"An award given to a person(s) associated with the Mountaineering Club of Alaska (MCA), including current, former, and honorary members, who has made a significant contribution to the exploration, documentation, and promotion of hiking and climbing opportunities in Alaska's mountain ranges. The Hoeman Award is the Mountaineering Club of Alaska's most prestigious award, and, as such, shall be bestowed only upon those who have demonstrated a long-term commitment to the exploration, documentation, and promotion of hiking and climbing opportunities in Alaska."

The Hoeman Award will consist of a permanent plaque housed in the MCA Vin Hoeman Library. A person(s) who has been selected to receive the award will have his or her name permanently engraved on the Hoeman Award plaque and will also receive a certificate suitable for framing that recognizes their achievement.

Hoeman Award Nomination Criteria:

1. Nominees should have some association with the MCA, through membership or a working relationship with the club.
2. Nominees cannot be currently holding elected office in the club.
3. Nominations for the Hoeman Award may be made at any time and shall be provided **in writing** to the MCA Awards Committee.
4. Written nominations must include:
 - a) the name of the candidate(s)
 - b) the name(s) of the person(s) nominating the candidate(s)

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

5. The Hoeman Award may be awarded posthumously to a qualified candidate.

President's Award

In May 2001, the Board of the Mountaineering Club of Alaska created a new award to recognize significant contributions of time and effort of a **current club member(s)** toward an MCA project(s) or other club activities during a calendar year.

President's Award Criteria:

1. Nominee must be a current club member in good standing.
2. Nominations are to be submitted in writing to the Awards Committee by September 30 and include:
 - a) The name of nominee.
 - b) A brief description of the contributions made by the individual in the current calendar year that warrant consideration for the award. They must have made an outstanding contribution that is in alignment with the purposes of the club.
3. The Awards Committee will simply collect all nominee packets and submit them to the current President, by October 1.
4. The President selects the final award recipient(s) subject to confirmation by a majority of the Executive Committee members present at a regularly scheduled Board meeting.
5. The President presents the award(s) at either the October or November general membership meeting, making all attempts to ensure that the recipient(s) are present at the meeting.
6. No more than 2 awards will be given annually.
7. The award will consist of a \$50 gift certificate to Alaska Mountaineering and Hiking.

The MCA Awards Committee is seeking nominations for the President's Award for calendar year 2001. The criteria for the award are:

.The MCA Awards Committee is seeking nominations for the President's Award for calendar year 2001. The criteria for the award are:

1. Nominee must be a current member in good standing.

2. Nominations are to be submitted in writing to the Awards Committee and should include:

Name of nominee

Brief description of contributions made by the individual in the Calendar year 2001 that warrant consideration for the award. They must have made an outstanding contribution that is in alignment with the purposes of the club.

Contact Mark Miraglia at 338-0705 or mark_miraglia@hotmail.com



ENLARGE YOUR PHOTOS



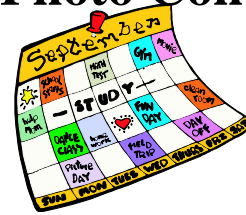
For the Mountaineering Club of Alaska's 2003 Photo Calendar

We're looking for *every* MCA member's favorite hiking and climbing photos for the **2003 MCA Calendar**. Packed with information on local peaks, club events, and the very best of *your* photos, the 2003 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 (2002) 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 **free calendar**.



Alaska Mountain and Wilderness Huts Association
wants you and needs you!!
WHY?

Because: We are all in the woods together!



- We all want wild wilderness, pristine peaks, peace and quiet, and friends to share it with!
- We all want folks that pick up their trash, leave no trace, and respect the nature we use.
- We all want people that have a stake in the future of the Alaskan Adventure for their kids....and "their" kids!

So become a member, volunteer, be on the board, donate money (any amount), and help make the reality of a Hut to Hut system in Alaska come true!



Membership Form
Alaska Mountain and Wilderness Huts Association
3039 Alder Circle, Anchorage Alaska 99508

Please join us! Your annual membership is critical for building the Association...and the huts!

\$20 _____ \$30 _____ \$50 _____ \$75 _____ \$100 _____ My Corporation is interested in sponsoring a hut.

NEW MEMBER _____ RENEWING MEMBER _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: Zip Code: -

Phone Number: (_____) _____ - _____ Email: _____

Hut interests (please circle): hut design, board member, education, outdoor work, advisor, planning
Please make checks payable to Alaska Huts Association - Thank YOU!

Mountaineering Club of Alaska

Officers

President	Bill Romberg	677-3993
Vice-President	Tom McDermott	277-0774
Secretary	Jayne Mack	258-7571
Treasurer	Steve Gruhn	344-1219

Board

John Hess	348-7363
Karen Herzenberg	223-0351
Dave Hart	227-9584
Stuart Grenier	337-5127
Sean Bolender	274-4457

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. Trips should be submitted via <http://photoalaska.biz/scree>. Articles and notes submitted for publication and other communication related to the newsletter should be mailed to my address: 1830 E. Parks Hwy. #600, Wasilla, AK 99654, or e-mailed to scree@photoalaska.biz. Articles should be received by August 31st to be included in the September issue. Sorry, no exceptions.

Paid ads may be submitted to the attention of the Vice-President at the club address and should be "camera ready" and pre-paid. Your cooperation will be appreciated... Robert Baker, Editor, 357-2946.

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

MAILING LIST/DATABASE ENTRY: don smith
HIKING/CLIMBING CHAIR: matt nedom, 278-3648
HUTS: mark miraglia, 338-0705
WEB: www.mcak.org (go here to change your address)
MAILING LIST SERVICE: mcak@yahoogroups.com