

SEPTEMBER 2000 *A Publication of the Mountaineering Club of Alaska* Volume 43 Issue 09
Box 102037, Anchorage, Alaska 99510

SEPTEMBER MEETING

Wednesday

September 20, 7:30 pm

Pioneer Schoolhouse, 3rd & Eagle Streets
Downtown Anchorage

**Program: Chris Riggio will have slides of his
PACIFIC CREST TRAIL hike.**

HIKING AND CLIMBING SCHEDULE

Sep 17 Bird Peak

Western Chugach. 4000 feet elev. gain, no trail.
Class D. The destination may change to some
where in the Talkeetnas (ask Tom).
Leader: Tom Choate 333-5309

Sep 23 Eagle River Traverse

Join us on a scenic 15-mile, 5000+-elevation stroll
along the ridgeline overlooking Eagle River valley
to the north. Magnificent and Significant may be
ascended. Good physical condition and the ability
to hike all day. No technical gear (ice ax only if we
get substantial snow by then); bring raingear,
gaitors, headlamp, food/water; a good set of
adjustable ski poles would be of assistance. Those
who only want to hike as far as Mt. Magnificent
(half-way) will be allowed to descend with a co-
leader (Trish) to awaiting cars below. Car shuttling
required. We will be hiking directly to trip leaders
home at mile 12 from mile 2 and celebrating with
spaghetti feed! Class D. Unlimited participation
allowed.

Leaders: Richard Baranow 694-1500, Trish
Meissner 694-1814, Anne Gore 258-7397

Sep 24 McHugh Peak

Western Chugach. Gain a little more elevation by
starting from sea level on this fun, not so technical
trip up McHugh peak. For added excitement try
the short rock scramble to the summit. You can go
straight up, but the crack is easier! Contact the
trip leader with questions and gear requirements.
Sign up at the September meeting. Class D.
Leader: Steve Parry 248-8710

Oct 8 Triangle Peak

Western Chugach. Explore the Fall Beauty of the
South Fork of Eagle River on this full day trek into
one of the more pristine and accessible valleys just
outside of Anchorage. Ascend an easy 5495 peak
allowing for spectacular vistas in every
direction...weather permitting! 16 miles round trip.
Good physical condition required. Bring good
raingear, warm clothes, headlamp, food and water.
Fresh snow will likely be encountered. Class D.
Limited to 12 participants.
Leaders: Richard Baranow 694-1500, David Peters
696-8070

Oct 21 Blueberry Hill

Western Chugach. Explore the edge of the Twenty-mile drainage from sea level while taking in spectacular vistas of Turnagain Arm and the surrounding Chugach and Kenai mountains. Participants will meet at Carrs Huffman to carpool. Riders are expected to chip in for gas. Class D. Call trip leaders for details. Limited to 12 participants.
Leaders: Cory and Elena Hinds 248-6606

Oct 21-22 Mantina Point

Western Chugach. Accompany us on this rare gem of a climb in the Eagle River valley up the formidable SW face of Mantina Point, 6850 (False Kiliak). We will hike into the valley via the Old Iditarod Trail to mile 5 behind the Eagle River Nature Center, ascend the SW face and drop down the S face into the Icicle drainage to spend the evening. The following morning we will descend out of this drainage and then hike back. Light weight alpine ascent with minimal bivy gear required. Participants must be in great physical condition and proficient in exposed alpine climbing/scrambling. Sign up in rope teams of two. Elevation gain 6200, distance 16 miles (8 miles Day One; 8 miles Day Two). Class E/Fifth Class. Limited to 6 participants. Call leader for details.
Leader: Richard Baranow 694-1500

TECHNICAL ICE CLIMBING CLASS

place: Matanuska Glacier
date: September 30- October 1

fee: \$30.00 covers access to glacier, camping and club equipment replacement

meeting: Wednesday, September 27, Pioneer Schoolhouse 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 Richard Baranow at 694-1500. Participation will be limited this year by how many instructors there are. Leader meeting Wednesday, September 20th 6:00 P.M. just before

the regularly scheduled club meeting...we will be discussing goals and safety issues.

An equipment check will be done at the organization meeting on the 27th. 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 30th, 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

Gates of the Arctic- Reed River Traverse to Noatak River

by Don Hansen



aturday July 22nd six of us that included Jim and Julie Sprott, Wiley and Zac Bland, Ann Jurewicz, and I flew or drove to Fairbanks, flew to Bettles on Wright Air and chartered with Brooks Range Aviation to Akurekvik Pass-Lake near Reed

River. The flight took only 45 minutes from Bettles to the pass with a tail wind. The weather was cloudy with patches of sun at the lake. We landed there about 2 pm and decided to start hiking to the Reed river where we seen gravel bars along the river when we flew over it. The bugs weren't bad at the lake but they got pretty thick when we arrived at the river and setup camp on a gravel bar on the wet side of this clear stream. Most of the group put on their head nets. The following morning started off with the usual rain showers with intermittent clearing, which encouraged us to break camp and start up river. The river meanders at the lower elevation with lots of alder brush on both sides of the river. We stay on the west-left side hoping to cut off some of the bends in the river on our trek upstream. We ended up bush waking through wet alders

with temporary clearings on tundra-rock benches along the river. The alders got really thick when we navigated across tributaries coming into the Reed. After several hours of slowing going through the brush we found a good patch of tundra lichen and flat ground to set up camp in the woods. The next day we crossed the river in hope of avoiding some of the brush because fewer streams came into the river from the east-right side. This helped some and we made good time in the afternoon by following a moose trail on a bench just above the river. But, we did our daily share of bush wacking when the trail lead us down to the river and disappeared in the brush. We found another nice lichen carpet in the woods to camp in near to a clear water stream flowing into the river.

Maynard Mountain - Climbing Above the Tunnel

by Tim Kelley



The opening of the Bear Valley to Whittier tunnel to vehicle traffic is also the opening of easy access to some great climbs in the Whittier area. These climbs have been accessible for a long time by train. But the convenience of access by your own car or truck is a bonus.

One peak in particular that the tunnel should open more access to and generate more interest in is Maynard Mountain. This is the 4050 foot high mountain that the tunnel goes beneath. When you think about it, there aren't too many places in North America where you drive through a mountain first, and then set off to climb it!

On August 19th I decided to do just this. At 11 AM. I parked by the Portage Pass trailhead near Whittier and headed up to the pass. Here you encounter a somewhat difficult part of the climb, finding a route up through the cliffs to the first bench at the 1400 foot level. From the pass I bushwhacked north up to the base of a cliff band. I then headed northeast along the base of the cliffs until I found a slope that lead up past the first cliff. I then made a zig-zag route between cliff outcroppings until I hit tundra and shortly thereafter the bench. Going was slow in this

section due to some steep bushwhacking and gobs of ripe salmonberries! I don't know how many pounds of these almost golf ball size treats I gobbled down. For some of this route I followed bear trails. The bears definitely had homed in on this berry bonanza zone.

On a rock knoll on the first bench to the south of the bench lake I found a 4 foot tall cairn. This is apparently a survey cairn. It can be seen from Whittier and there is a U.S. Coast and Geological Survey marker from 1964 embedded in the rock next to it. I found a couple of cairns to the southwest of this big cairn. They indicate to me that a route from Divide Lake to this bench had been used in the past. This access would likely be less steep than my route, but I figure that it's a lot brushier.

I traveled west of the large cairn and took a rock and tundra ramp to the next bench at 1800 feet. From this ramp there are awesome views of Bard Peak, Shakespeare Glacier, Carpathian and Portage Glacier. Once on the 2nd bench I ran into a snowfield that took me to the lake on this bench. The effluent of this small tarn flows through a rock fault and begins its rapid descent to the tunnel portal. At this point you are almost directly over the tunnel. From this lake there is a great vista of the entire Passage Canal area.

From the second bench tarn I headed northwest on snow fields and some easily scrambled rock to the south ridge of Maynard at the 3000 foot level. The point that you reach the ridgetop is southwest of the 3250 foot ridge knoll in Section 16. You will know that you are at the point I'm describing if you can see a weather station to the west on Maynard's main ridge.

The clouds had moved in on me by the time I got to the top of the 3250 foot knoll. This is always a challenge, visibility going down when it's time to travel on a glacier! By dead reckoning, and groping, I followed the main snow crest of the impressive glacier that drapes the west side of Maynard. The glacier crest travel took me west and then north to where I got back on the rock of the ridge that leads to the summit.

Still in the clouds I thought I had reached the summit a couple of times. But by continuing north and still gaining net elevation I kept from getting stumped. Eventually I found a cairn. For a moment I thought I was on top. By now the clouds were dissipating a bit and it looked like a still higher point to the north. Sure enough there



Mt. Curtis, a Paddle Climb

by Stuart Grenier

was a taller summit ahead. To verify this was the top I kept going a ways. It didn't take long to realize that I was on top of the steep north face of Maynard. Another confirmation was that I could now hear the falls below that drained the north col.

I found no cairn on the main summit, and no register on either summit. So I left a register bottle in a cairn on the north side of the highest block on the north summit. I was a bit surprised that there wasn't a cairn on the true summit. But when I got back to town I read Vin's Scree report which shed light on the "misplaced" cairn. Vin and Grace Hoeman, along with Bill Babcock, climbed Maynard Mountain's northwest ridge on December 8, 1968. Because this was a winter climb the true summit was probably snow covered. The light color of the lichen free rocks on the true summit indicates that it is rare that this point is without snow cover. So Vin and partners probably went to the true summit and then on the descent placed a cairn at the first prominent location where rocks weren't buried. This is just a theory though. Because there was no register in the original cairn I can't be sure that it was the Hoeman cairn or not.

On the way down the summit ridge a rain and snow shower moved in. But the good side of this event was that the cloud layer that covered the ridge had dissipated enough so that I could now see what I had been climbing by Braille.

I got down by 4:30 PM. 3 hours up, 2 1/2 down. With an early start I think most peak-bagger types in decent shape and with good route finding skills could do this peak in a day without running out of light. I think late July until the mid September would probably be the best times for this route. No matter when you attempt this climb you should keep an eye on the weather. The exposed ridge or east side of Maynard Mountain would be a very bad place to be if nasty Prince William Sound weather came hammering in hard with high winds and heavy rains. And this type of weather is not uncommon to the Whittier area. So pick a clear day and check out this unique local mountain.



When I first mentioned the idea of paddle climbing I was asked what a paddle climb was. I said it is when you use sea kayaks or rafts or anything else you can paddle to access the mountains. It is a very beautiful idea, especially if you love the sea as much as the mountains. Despite ads in the Knik Kayakers newsletter, the *Scree*, and at REI, I got only one partner. Tom Miller, a guy I met at the MCA meetings.

We slipped our double kayak into Passage Canal with high hopes of being able to reach the peaks between Barry Arm and College Fjord and make it back for work. We had one week. We left May 18th in the usual Whittier rain. It took us 13 hours to reach the foot of Mt. Curtis for a three-night camp. This is across from Harrison Lagoon. The sea is quite a distraction. We couldn't use the summit as an excuse to rush past such beautiful country. At every camp we hunted fiddle heads. Berries, escargot, and small crabs found their way into almost every pot. Prince William Sound was turning out to be a culinary experience. Wildlife was also great. Sea lions, whales, and otters, including one we approached within five feet before it awoke and disappeared with a splash.

Our first day at the foot of Mt. Curtis was spent practicing crevasse rescue. It was odd not being able to find a cottonwood to throw a rope over, instead we strung a line between two trees and hung a rope from it. We also explored the valley that runs between Curtis and Mt. Emerson. Hip boots would have been very helpful because alders and swamps forced us to travel up a creek in order to access the valley.

The next day was our ascent day. With glacier gear, crampons, snowshoes, avalanche gear, and a marine radio we started up through the forest to Point 1811. The brush was surprisingly light. From there we snowshoed up and then kicked steps on a heavily corniced ridge to Point 2935 where the slope became gentle and the ridge exposed. We continued on to the point where the ridge turns west to the summit at about 3600 feet. Only 500 feet from the summit, the clouds dropped and the snowing increased.



We couldn't see anything. We sat for lunch, and eventually turned around, following our tracks down. I had no problem with the decision, because I was impressed with the area, and knew I'd be back. For the next two days, as we fished and paddled back to Whittier, we never saw the summit of Mt. Curtis. But we did catch a 2.5-foot fish, which was great when fried and breaded.

The problem with doing paddle climbing is the short window of opportunity for the climb relative to the time spent paddling. It took two or three days to reach the mountain and the same amount getting back. So, in a one-week trip, that leaves just one or two days. Nevertheless it was a great trip. I was glad to see that a double kayak could easily carry all the equipment and food. If packed correctly, maybe a three-week paddle climb could be considered.

ADZE



Technical Ice Boot Demo

This year at the MCA's annual ice climbing weekend at the Matanuska Glacier, Tecnica and AMH are hosting a boot demo for participants who wish to try Tecnica's specialized single ice boot. The "Altitude Plus" is an accurate technical climbing boot made of composite materials with performance comparable to La Sportiva's K3 except a lot dryer. Here is the deal at the mandatory meeting on Wednesday the 27th Charlie Sassara will have the boots available for you to size. If you want to try the boots, sign up to use them for either Saturday or Sunday. This is a first-come, first-serve deal. About 30 pairs will be available for your abuse over the weekend.

Slide Show

In conjunction with the boot demo, Tecnica is bringing our friend and certified "hard man", Jack Tackle, to show us his latest exploits of extreme alpinism. The slide show will be held at Grant Hall at Alaska Pacific University on Thursday the 28th at 7:30 pm. As many of you may know, Jack has climbed many of the hardest routes ever completed in Alaska over the last 20 years. This will be a great opportunity to meet Jack and see the dark side of modern hard alpine climbing.

Found

Found a 35mm camera lens in the Eklutna Cabin the first weekend of July. If it belongs to you call Mark. Mark 338-0705

Wanted

One energetic person to oversee the fabrication and installation of a new outhouse at the Scandinavian Hut. Mark: 338-0705

Conference

7th Annual Wilderness Risk Management Conference. September 21-23. Held in Anchorage at the Marriott Downtown, hosted by UAA and sponsored by the Wilderness Risk Managers Committee. Keynote speaker will be astronaut, Dr. Shannon Lucid, veteran of six space flights. The conference activities include:

- Wilderness First Responder Recertification by the Wilderness Medicine Institute
- Instructor training by Outward Bound
- Sea Kayak Rescue by NOLS
- Glacier Travel and Crevasse Rescue by NOLS
- Ice climbing, and backpacking by UAA

Conference topics include everything from Legal Liability to Safety Audits to Risk Assessment. There will be discussions about managing risks in many areas of outdoor activities, working with the media, analyzing accidents, medical emergencies, etc., etc. Registration \$275 by August 15, or \$375 at the door. Call UAA: 786-4068

The Leader's Corner

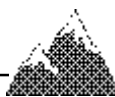
Leader Orientation Course October 18, 6:30

For those leaders who have not yet attended the required course. This will be the last Leader Orientation Course in 2000. MCA bylaws and policies regarding minimum qualifications for trip leaders and procedures for leading club-sanctioned trips will be covered, as well as tips and suggestions for leading safe and fun club outings. Training courses and trip leader packets will be distributed.

List of CPR First Aid Trainers

All these providers offer courses too numerous to list. Give them a call!

1. American Red Cross (277-1538). Offers from basic CPR to a BLS, and First Aid, \$47.00, \$31.00 for renewal. Once per quarter offers a nine hour Remote Alaskan First Aid Course, concentrating on wilderness emergencies for \$55.00 (depends on demand).
2. Aurora North Emergency Services Academy (264-2090) BLS/CPR \$45.00, Basic First Aid \$30.00 and CPR for \$25.00.
3. Respond Systems (344-0302) Adult CPR/First Aid \$50.00.
4. Safety Training in the Northland (333-2666)
5. Emergency Medical Training (346-2088)



BOARD MEETINGS

(Barnes & Noble)

August 15

The following members attended the meeting: Richard Baranow, Patty McPherson, Tom Choate, Kirk Towner, Bill Romberg, Cory Hinds, Gary Runa, Steve Parry, and Mark Miraglia. The following was discussed:

T-shirts

T-Shirts are in. Prices set to recover cost only (\$10, \$15, and \$20). Shirts will be available for purchase at future general meetings.

ByLaws

Officers signed updated bylaws. The update was to make training trips official club-sponsored trips.

Trails

The club will apply for a State of Alaska, Recreational Trails Grant. Cory will request an application and have a draft request for the September board meeting. Candidate trails are the Gold Mint Trail in the Talkeetna Mountains, and the trail along the north shore of Eagle Lake in the South Fork of Eagle River.

Elections

As the Nominating Committee, Richard will call club members to line up future MCA board members and officers.

Ice Climbing Class

- Student : instructor ratio will be 5:1.
- Instructor sign-up will begin at the August meeting, and the list will also be kept at AMH.
- Mandatory instructor meeting at 6pm before the September general meeting.
- The mandatory shake-down meeting for all students and instructors is Thursday, September 28 at 7:00pm at the Pioneer Schoolhouse.
- Bill/Mark will talk to AMRG to see about getting a rescue person on call (in addition to Nick Parker). There will be a litter there.
- All instructors and students need to be MCA members.
- Bill will type up the guidelines: anchor set-ups, belays, check of tie-ins and anchors, inspection of ropes, protocol for walking around on the glacier, etc.
- Instructors will not pay the fee, but must be available on both days (and fit to teach on the second day).

The instructor list will be finalized by the September meeting. Total student participation will be based on number of instructors.

Equipment

The board decided to purchase 600 feet of 10.5 mm rope, and ten (10) new helmets. Richard will check prices and call board members.

Risk Management

The board voted unanimously to send Bill to a 3-day National Risk Management Seminar. This will be to understand how other organizations handle risk. The membership will vote on spending the ~ \$275 during the August meeting.

Training

Steve Parry will present a list of proposed training courses for the next board meeting.

Eklutna Cabin

MCA received an \$11,000 grant to continue work on the Eklutna Cabin. The project managers were able to get 75% up front which will allow work to proceed.

Members of the board expressed concern about a proposed shuttle system back to the new Eklutna Cabin.

Respectfully Submitted,
Cory Hinds

MCA Web Page Tips

Downloading Screens

The MCA web page is located at <http://mcak.org>. All MCA members are entered in the club database in order to generate mailing labels. You do not need to be a member to access the site, but you do need to be a current member to download Screens. Last time I covered how to get a password, which you'll also need. To download:

1. Click on the Scree icon, or the link to 'Scree downloads.'
2. Find and click the Download icon.
3. Enter your name as as it normally appears on your Scree label, and your password, then click 'Get List of Screens.'
4. At this time Screens are on-linegoing back through 1995.
5. You can request as many at once as you like, then click the submit.
6. The proram will return one link for each issue. The format is pdf, so you may need to also download and install Acrobat Reader (click the link for that).

Eventually all the Screens back to 1958 will be available. Scanning and converting them to pdf takes time.

Good luck.

webmaster@mcak.org



WEB CHAT



thedailycamera.com:

Kidnapped climbers recall dramatic escape from rebels.

American climbers held hostage for six days by Islamic rebels escaped by pushing a guard off a cliff and making a harrowing 18-mile trek to freedom.

"It is so hard to think of that now, but we were afraid we would not survive," Beth Rodden, 20, of Davis, said at a news conference at the Rocknasium, where she had learned to climb when a child. Rodden returned to California with fellow climber Tommy Caldwell of Estes Park on Tuesday evening, four days after fleeing Uzbeki rebels in Kyrgyzstan, a former Soviet republic. The other climbers were John Dickey, 25, and Jason Smith, 22.

The foursome went to Kyrgyzstan on an expedition sponsored by The North Face. Three rebel soldiers began shooting as the climbers plotted climbing routes on the steep walls of the Kara-su Valley on Aug. 12. They were taken hostage and guarded by two men. The rebel forces, hoping to establish an Islamic state in the border region, were stepping up fighting efforts against government troops. In the first hours of captivity, the climbers heard their captors execute a fifth hostage, a government soldier.

"They buried us under rocks, put brush on us, basically hid us from helicopters during the day and sometimes we moved at night," Caldwell said. The hostages were forced to lay still up to 17 hours a day in "teeth-chattering cold," Caldwell said. They survived on half-portions of energy bars from their camp and slabs of butter until the walkie-talkies the guards took from them ran out of batteries. When one guard went back to the climbers' camp to get more, the climbers pushed the other armed guard off a cliff and fled, making an 18-mile trek to a military post and dodging bullets at the end.

audrey cooper

nps.gov/hawaii volcanoes:

On September 6th, Kirk Newman, 50, sustained second degree burns to his legs when he fell into a steam vent near park headquarters. Newman was traveling off-trail in a signed area when he broke through the crust over an active steam vent and fell in to his waist. He was able to pull himself out and walk to the visitor center for help. Newman was taken by ambulance to a hospital in Hilo. The ambient air temperature at the vent site was measured at approximately 204 degrees Fahrenheit.

paul ducasse



MCA Trip Classifications

The classifications below do not take into account individual trip hazards such as river crossings, scree slopes, snow fields, bears, etc. Trip leaders are required to inform the trip participants of any such hazards either verbally, on the sign-up sheet, or in the trip description. Leader approval is required for participation on all trips.

NON-TECHNICAL: Following are a few standards used to classify non-technical trips. The classification is made in terms of hiking distance and altitude gain. Many trips are not on established trails.

CLASS A: Easy hikes with a maximum distance of 8 miles for day trips or 4 miles per day for overnight trips. Altitude gain up to 1200 feet.

CLASS B: Trips involving a maximum distance of up to 12 miles for a day trip or 6 miles per day for an overnight trip. Altitude gain of 1200 to 2500 feet.

CLASS C: Trips up to 15 miles for a day hike or 8 miles per day for an overnight trip. Altitude gain up to 3500 feet. Scree, steep grass or other rough terrain problems may be encountered.

CLASS D: Hikes and climbs with an altitude gain of over 3500 feet or a distance of greater than 15 miles for a day-hike or greater than 8 miles a day for an overnight trip. Peaks in this classification may require minimal climbing skills.

CLASS E: Hazardous climbing conditions or stream-crossing conditions may be encountered. A basic mountaineering course may be required.

TECHNICAL: Technical trips are open to all qualified climbers. However, the registration on any particular trip must be restricted to a safe and manageable number of climbers. Registration is made directly with the leader, who determines the qualifications needed for the trip.

GLACIER TRAVEL: Trips requiring roped travel over glaciers. Knowledge of crevasse rescue, and ice axe and crampon skills are required. Basic understanding of ice and snow anchors also required.

FIFTH CLASS: Trips which involve fifth class climbing. A Basic Mountaineering course or equivalent is required. Knowledge of belay and rappel techniques and placing anchors is required. Climbing difficulty varies widely with each trip.

TRIP PARTICIPANTS have the obligation to acquaint themselves with the nature of the trip and to verify that it is within their capability and experience. Anyone wishing to participate in any trip above CLASS A must have completed one or more trips of the next lower classification, or the equivalent.

Approved: MCA Board, February 15, 2000

General Rules for MCA Sanctioned Trips

1. Proper equipment is on the reverse side of this list.
2. No dogs. (Among the reasons are bear problems.)
3. The trip leader can require special equipment and refuse participation to any person that is ill-prepared (e.g. inappropriate clothing/gear).
4. The leader's suggestions are to be followed. Do not go off alone, return or rush ahead without his (her) permission, and don't ford a stream before the leader assesses the situation. Remember, this is a club trip and the leader must know where all participants are. Anyone separating from the group without the leader's approval is no longer considered a participant the MCA Sanctioned trip.
5. The trip leader has the authority to split the group (fast and slow), dependent upon current conditions. However, he/she must appoint a qualified co-leader to lead the second group using the guidelines specified in the current Trip Leader Responsibilities.
6. Trip participants who, in the leader's opinion, put themselves or other members of the group in danger by disregarding the leader's suggestions, shall be subject to sanction by the club. Sanctions may include, but are not limited to, reprimand at general meeting, exclusion from future trips, termination of annual membership, or lifetime exclusion from the club.
7. You must sign up on a trip roster (club meetings) or contact the leader, and you must have signed the club waiver to be on a club trip.
8. If you find you cannot participate after signing up on the roster, please let the leader know, both for transportation and gear-planning and so someone else can go. If you are the leader, help find a replacement.
9. Total number of people on club trips:
Minimum: 4 (for safety reasons)
Maximum: Leader option, depends upon the trail and campsite conditions, but generally limited to 12 in trail-less areas or State/National Parks
10. Firearms are not encouraged, and please let the leader know if you want to carry one - it will be leader's option. Aerosol bear repellent is preferred.

Approved: MCA Board, February 15, 2000

Equipment

Summer

Rain gear that works	Mosquito repellent
Wind gear	Whistle
Wool or fleece pants	Large plastic bag
Shorts	Lighter, matches
Light long johns	Map, compass
Wool shirt	Aerosol bear repellent (if desired)
Jacket	Moleskin/Spenco 2nd skin
Baseball cap	Ace bandage
Gloves	Surgical tape
Extra socks	Aspirin
Wool or pile hat	Gauze
Hiking boots	Anti-bacterial ointment
Stream-crossing footwear	4" x 4" pads, Band-Aids
Sunscreen	Wire



Vice grips or pliers	If snow on glacier:
Utility cord	Picket
Sewing kit	Skis or snowshoes
Tent	
Sleeping pad and bag	<u>Winter</u>
Backpack cover	Wind gear
Cook pot	Wool/fleece pants, shift
Stove (fires not allowed)	Long johns
Fuel bottle	Down jacket
Walking stick or ice axe	Wool/fleece hat
Water bottles (not canteens)	Face mask
FOOD	Mittens
	Double boots
<u>Additional for Glaciers</u>	Avalanche beacon
Ice axe	Shovel
Gaitors	Lighter
Climbing boots	Headlamp
Slings, carabiners	First aid kit
Rappel device	Repair kit
Rope	Tent (or snow shelters)
Wands	Sleeping bag and pad
Mittens	Large cook pot
Crampons	Stove
Seat Harness	Windscreen for stove
Ice screw(s)	Fuel bottle
Pulleys	Thermos
Prussiks/ascenders	Gaitors
Glacier glasses/cream	Skis or snowshoes

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 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, Inc.

Membership Application

The Mountaineering Club of Alaska (MCA) was formed in 1958 to promote the enjoyment of hiking and climbing in Alaska and the exploration of its mountains. We welcome anyone who wishes to become a member.

Participate and Learn The MCA conducts scheduled hikes and climbs led by experienced club members, technical mountaineering and climbing courses, and other instruction throughout the year. The club maintains eight mountain huts in the nearby Chugach and Talkeetna Mountains. The MCA/Vin Hoeman Library, located upstairs in Alaska Mountaineering and Hiking on Spenard Road, contains hundreds of books, periodicals, bound volumes of Scree, and a 'peak file' with information on local climbs. The club also loans climbing gear to members, including ice axes, helmets, crampons, snowshoes and avalanche beacons.

Stay Informed The MCA publishes a monthly newsletter, Scree, and sends it to all members. The Scree contains the minutes of general meetings, announcements of upcoming events, the trip schedule and trip reports written by club members. A monthly meeting and presentation is held on the third Wednesday of each month at 7:30 P.M. in the basement of the Pioneer Schoolhouse (corner of 3rd and Eagle Streets, downtown Anchorage). Special events or changes to the meeting will be noted in *Scree*.

- **Complete both parts of this form** if you intend to participate in club-sponsored trips, or visit an MCA hut.
- Please make checks payable to Mountaineering Club of Alaska.
- Dues are \$10.00 for an individual or \$15.00 for a family (one Scree per family).
- Membership is for one calendar year, through the 31st of December. Memberships paid after October 1st are good through the following year.
- If applying by mail, please include a self-addressed envelope for your membership card which is required to participate on club trips and training. Or you may pick it up at any monthly meeting.

Our address is: MCA
Box 102037
Anchorage, Ak 99510

NEW	<input type="checkbox"/>	DATE	<input type="text"/>
RENEWAL	<input type="checkbox"/>	NAME	<input type="text"/>
INDIVIDUAL(\$10)	<input type="checkbox"/>	FAMILY	<input type="text"/>
FAMILY(\$15)	<input type="checkbox"/>	MEMBERS	
MAILING ADDRESS FOR SCREE			
STREET or PO BOX	<input type="text"/>		
CITY/STATE/ZIP	<input type="text"/>		
TELEPHONE	<input type="text"/>		
Join a committee?	<input type="checkbox"/>	Hiking & Climbing, Parks, Equipment, Training, Library, Other	
Lead a trip?	<input type="checkbox"/>	Location: _____	Date _____
COMMENTS	_____		

Paid: \$10 \$15 on Date: ____/____/____
 Cash or Check Number: _____

Membership Card Issued for Year: _____.
Address added to Mailing List

RELEASE OF LIABILITY — READ CAREFULLY

I, _____ (print name), am aware that mountaineering sports (including hiking; backpacking; rock, snow, and ice climbing; mountaineering; skiing; and ski mountaineering) are hazardous activities. I wish to participate and/or receive instruction in these activities with the Mountaineering Club of Alaska, Inc. (“MCA”) I recognize that these activities involve numerous risks, which include, by way of example and not limitation, falling while hiking, climbing, skiing or crossing rivers or glaciers; being struck by falling rock, ice or snow; avalanches; lightning; fire; hypothermia; frostbite; defective or malfunctioning equipment; and attack by insects or animals. I further recognize that the remoteness of the activities may preclude prompt medical care. I further recognize that risk of injury or death may be caused or enhanced by mistakes or negligence on the part of either my fellow participants or MCA officers, directors, guides, instructors, or trip leaders. I nevertheless agree to accept any and all risks of injury, death, or property damage that may occur in connection with any MCA activity, including use of MCA furnished equipment and use of MCA backcountry huts.

_____ (initial that you have read this paragraph)

GIVING UP MY LEGAL RIGHTS

By signing this Agreement, I agree to give up for myself and for my heirs all legal rights I may have against the MCA or my fellow participants in MCA activities. **I give up these legal rights regardless of whether the injury, death, or property damage results from mistakes or negligence on the part of either my fellow participants or the MCA.** (As used in this agreement, MCA means the Mountaineering Club of Alaska, Inc., and all of its officers, directors, guides, instructors and trip leaders.) I understand this agreement shall remain in effect until such time as I provide signed written notice of its revocation to the MCA.

_____ (initial that you have read this paragraph)

MY PROMISE NOT TO SUE

I agree that I will not sue, or otherwise make any claim against, the MCA or my fellow participants in MCA activities for injury, death, or property damage which occurs in the course of my participation or instruction in mountaineering sports.

_____ (initial that you have read this paragraph)

MY RELEASE OF LIABILITY

I also agree to release and discharge the MCA and my fellow participants in MCA activities from all actions, claims, or demands, both for myself and for my heirs, dependents, and/or personal representative, for injury, death, or property damage occurring in the course of my participation or instruction in mountaineering sports.

_____ (initial that you have read this paragraph)

MY PROMISE TO INDEMNIFY

I agree to pay all expenses, including attorney’s fees and court costs, that the MCA may incur as a consequence of any legal action arising out of injury, death, or property damage suffered by me, or suffered by someone else as a result of my conduct.

_____ (initial that you have read this paragraph)

MY CONSENT TO MEDICAL TREATMENT

I consent to any hospital care or medical or surgical diagnosis or treatment which may be necessary as a result of my participation in activities with the MCA. I also understand and agree that I am solely responsible for all applicable charges for such medical treatment, including evacuation and/or rescue cost.

_____ (initial that you have read this paragraph)

I HAVE CAREFULLY READ THIS AGREEMENT AND FULLY UNDERSTAND ITS CONTENTS. I AM AWARE THAT THIS IS A BINDING, LEGAL AGREEMENT BETWEEN ME AND THE MCA AND I SIGN IT OF MY OWN FREE WILL.

Dated: _____ Signature: _____

Signature of Parent or Guardian (if under 19): _____

Mountaineering Club of Alaska

Officers

President Richard Baranow 694-1500
Vice-President Tom Choate 333-5309
Secretary Cory Hinds 277-2412
Treasurer Patty McPherson 563-4806

Board

Kirk Towner 344-5424
Shawn O'Donnell 333-9176
Dolly Lefever 243-7027
Wendy Sanem 694-6867
Bill Romberg 677-3993

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 the club application found on the previous page 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 September 29th to be included in the October 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.

MAILING: richard baranow, bill romberg
HIKING/CLIMBING CHAIRS: matt nedom, 278-3648, paul templeton, 688-2551
Web Page: <http://www.mcaak.org> (go here to change your address)
Hot Line: 566-4MCA (kristen schultz, 694-5788 to make updates)



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Mountaineering Club of Alaska
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Anchorage, Alaska 99510

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