



SEPTEMBER 2003 A Publication of the Mountaineering Club of Alaska Vol 46 Issue 09

Box 102037, Anchorage, Alaska 99510

**SEPTEMBER MEETING**

**Wednesday**

**September 17th , 7:30 pm**

**First United Methodist Church**

**9th & G Streets**

Next to the Phillips Building

(you may use marked parking after hours...)

**Downtown Anchorage**

**Program: TBA** (We're counting on YOU! Contact Karen to show your show?)

**ANNUAL**  
**MCA ICE CLIMBING WEEKEND**

**September 27-28** at Matanuska Glacier

This will be an instructional weekend focusing on ice climbing movement, crampon techniques and rope management skills. All abilities are welcome.

**MANDATORY MEETING September 24th at the Church**

Instructors meet at 6:15pm Participants meet at 7pm

*Bring the boots and crampons you plan to use*

Instruction is free but you will be required to pay camping fees.

Camping is available Friday and Saturday (\$45/person/weekend) at **Glacier Park Resort**.

For more information contact: Jayme Mack @ 694-1500 or Steve Parry @ 248-8710.

## HIKING AND CLIMBING SCHEDULE

**September 16th** Tuesday Eve

**Peak 3** behind Flat Top  
Meet at 5:45pm at Upper Canyon Trailhead  
Elevation gain - 1700 ft 2.5 miles Class C  
Estimated hiking time - 2.5-3 hours  
Leader: Jeff Soauve 263-7941 or rockdoc@ak.net

**September 25 -** Thursday Eve;

**Hiland Road up Harp Mountain & Ridge**  
Meet at 5:30 pm at the end of Hiland Road  
Elevation gain - 3,000 ft. 6 miles Class - C  
Estimated hiking time - 3.5 hr  
Leaders: Amy Murphy 338-3979  
haydutchess@yahoo.com and  
Deb Luper 345-3543 or dahabo@yahoo.com  
Contact leader at least 24-hours before hike for  
information and/or sign up.

## HUT MAINTENANCE TRIPS

**Sept. 18-21**—Stu Grenier is leading a work party to **Rosie's Roost** (Eklutna Traverse) to perform some maintenance on the Hut. The group will be accessing the Hut from the Girdwood side via the Milk Glacier to the East Fork of the Eagle. Anyone interested should call Stu at 337-5127 as soon as possible.

**October 10-13**—A work party is tentatively scheduled to **work out of the Serenity Hut** over the weekend. Brushing the trail, splitting and stacking firewood, removing fixed lines, and human waste system at **Pichler's** and **Hans' Huts** will be attended to. The limit for this work party trip is 8-12 people. Only a very small, fast, and select group will be making the run on Pichler's and Hans' Huts if the weather is accommodating. Please contact Hans Neidig via email ([hansn@mtaonline.net](mailto:hansn@mtaonline.net)) if you are interested in assisting on this trip.

## ADZE

**FOR SALE** - Kitchatna 3ply Goretex **BIBS & JACKET**, Men's M, Good Condition \$150 ea.  
Chogolisa Polarguard 3D **PARKA**, Men's L, with detachable hood, Excellent Condition, \$250  
Mountainsmith Expedition Series Elite **PACK**, 6900 CI, Very Good Condition, \$175  
Mark 244-0682

**FOUND**-In Chickenshit Gully on Bashful - an REI mountain axe very long and heavy. "Ard" scratched on adze.  
Amsl or John 336-2675

## TRIP REPORTS

### Das Pioneer - Part III

The abrupt burst of a wide-open jet engine sucks my attention upwards. "Avalanche! Avalanche! Avalanche!" I scream as a white wave thunders toward us.

Ringo and I plaster our bodies against the gully wall, like lizards on a tree. The snow torrent roars by us, just feet from our sandwiched bodies.

Seconds seem like minutes as we wonder about George and John who are out of sight down the gully. As the roar tapers to hiss, I begin yelling again.

"We're OK," comes from below. Thank God! "But John's pack is gone". Glancing down next to my feet, my Whippet pole is also gone, a sacrifice to the snow tsunami.

Our sense of urgency to exit this north gully on Pioneer now heightened; I put Ringo back on belay. We comment that slightly different timing probably would have led to the demise of Ringo, same as the real John. He descends into a narrower section of gully to place another belay station. I strain my hearing and vision for any more jet sounds and errant waves.

Perhaps abandoning the climb earlier would have been prudent as attempts to exit the gully were difficult. Ringo tried to lead up a steep pitch in the gully on wet and icy rock he described as 'crap held together by moss'. Down-climbing is never a pleasant experience. I tried a sidewall lead but also aborted and down-climbed until reaching a section where a slide on rock would be likely. Instead, I leapt back into the wet snow-filled gully. I utilized this technique one more time when the snow failed on another gully exodus route. Perhaps there is something practical to the movie Vertical Limit.

Ringo, with me tailing, found a sketchy route out of the gully that simply accomplished separating the group. During the process of reuniting with the group, the natural avalanche occurred.

After belaying and rappelling the 'Fab Four' are reunited. We briefly swap stories, but don't sing, then urgently down-climb the now-seeming extensive gully. George does an excellent job descending considering he has no crampons as they were swept away.

Out of the gully and onto leveler slopes, we retrieve our gear that is 'garage-saled' over a half mile distance. We discuss in hindsight that there were signs of snow instability, such as fairly recent activity. Two of us that have tried this route before decide to wait until next winter to try again. We are most thankful to be walking away from this climb.

May 24, 2003

Names have been changed to protect the innocent, and the guilty.

By Paul Mc, but not really, nor am I the Walrus.

# ENLARGE YOUR PHOTOS

## For the Mountaineering Club of Alaska's 2004 Photo Calendar

We're looking for *every* MCA member's favorite hiking and climbing photos for the **2004 MCA Calendar**. Packed with information on local peaks, club events, and the very best of *your* photos, the **2004** 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 (**2003**) club member is eligible to enter.
- .. Photos should be hiking- or climbing-related **and** be somewhere in Alaska.
- .. Only horizontal (landscape orientation) photos will be accepted. Save your portrait-oriented photos for a future calendar.
- .. A club member may enter **ONE** photo in each of the four categories:

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**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**

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- .. 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:

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Your name, address, and telephone

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Category and title of the photograph

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

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

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- .. 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.



# Mountaineering Club of Alaska

## *Officers*

President	Jayme Mack	694-1500
Vice-President	Karen Herzenberg	223-0351
Secretary	Sean Bolender	274-4457
Treasurer	Steve Gruhn	344-1219

## *Board*

Stuart Grenier	337-5127
Dave Hart	227-9584
Richard Baranow	694-1500
Matt Nedom	278-3648
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 a club waiver and mail it with a self-addressed, stamped envelope. If you fail to receive the newsletter, or have questions about your membership, contact the club treasurer. The post office does not forward the newsletter.

SCREE is a monthly publication of the Mountaineering Club of Alaska. Articles and notes submitted for publication and other communication related to the newsletter should be mailed to Scree Editor Box 102037 Anchorage, AK 99510, or e-mailed to [mtndamsel@alaska.net](mailto:mtndamsel@alaska.net). Articles should be received by October 6th to be included in the October 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... Amsl Apflauer, Editor.

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: richard baranow, 694-1500, matt nedom, 278-3648,

HUTS: hans neidig, 357-2026 or [hansn@mtaonline.net](mailto:hansn@mtaonline.net)

EQUIPMENT CHAIR: carl battreal, 258-0075 or [carlbattreal@yahoo.com](mailto:carlbattreal@yahoo.com)

WEB: [www.mcak.org](http://www.mcak.org) (go here to change your address)

MAILING LIST SERVICE: [mcak@yahoogroups.com](mailto:mcak@yahoogroups.com)

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