



September 2005

A Publication of the Mountaineering Club of Alaska  
Box 102037, Anchorage, Alaska 99510

Volume 48 Issue 9

**Monthly Meeting**  
**Wednesday, September 21st @ 7:30 PM**

**First United Methodist Church**  
**9th & G Streets**  
**Downtown Anchorage**  
Next to the Phillips Building (you may use reserved parking after hours)

**Program: Clint Helander will give a presentation on climbs in the  
Cascade, Chugach and Olympic Mountains.**

**'Handle your tools without mittens.' – Ben Franklin**

## **Trip reports In This Issue**

**Arrigetch Peaks**

**Kelly's Knob**

**Meathouse**

## **Special report**

**Helibus tours on Denali**

## **Hiking and Climbing Schedule**

August 30 or 31, Tuesday

Peak 3245. Hike up a well worn track up and over the Dome, then west of Knoya and Kamchee. Round trip is about 9 miles. A gain of 2000ft, a loss of 1000, then a gain of 1200ft. Class B Trip will either be 30 or 31 August.

Contact Leader, Allison Sayer, for more details.  
334.9288, or [hineini2000@yahoo.com](mailto:hineini2000@yahoo.com)

September 01 - 05

Paddle climb sweat lodge. This will involve some alder work to get to some rarely climbed 4-5000 footers. Class C Climbs. Kayaks or canoe access only. Bring grub and beverages to share. We are looking at about a seven mile paddle to base camp. Call Stu for details at 337-5127 or [oinkmenow@hotmail.com](mailto:oinkmenow@hotmail.com) and if you cannot make all five days come anyhow.

September 02 - 05

Talkeetna huts traverse. From Reed Lakes parking lot to trailhead near Sutton. Spend nights at Bomber, Mint and Dnigi Huts. Daily mileages for the 4-day trip: 10, 3, 6, 13. Will need to spot a vehicle at trip-end. Some glacier travel, but very minor. No rope needed, but crampons suggested. Class D. Elevation gains require good physical condition. Trip limit: 6 people. Early start Friday, late ending on Monday, Labor Day. Contact Willy Hersman, 265-6405

September 10

Harp trip - Over Harp to Eagle River Over Look then out Hanging Valley. Class D, 4000 feet, approximately 10 miles 10-12 hours. BYOB cook

out/potluck at leader's house after. 8 am Start - max 6 unless there is a co-leader. Ray Nabinger 694-5099.

September 17, Saturday

Gordon Lyon and Highland Mountain hike. Class A. An afternoon trip. Kids and dogs welcomed. Highland Mountain is the most conspicuous mountain looking south from downtown Eagle River. Kids and friendly dogs okay. Leader: Stu Grenier Contact: 337-5127 or oinkmenow@hotmail.com

September 17, Saturday

One way hike from Upper Canyon Road to McHugh Creek via Rabbit Lake and McHugh Peak. Rare MCA hike with a net elevation loss and good weather! Class C 13 miles. 1300' gain from Rabbit Lake to McHugh Peak. Weather permitting, barbecue to follow at McHugh. Leader: Allison Sayer 334-9288

September 24, Saturday

Ship Creek Hill, Class B. A full day trip. Big kids and leashed dogs okay. Leader: Stu Grenier Contact: 337-5127 or oinkmenow@hotmail.com

September 29, Thursday

Class B, 10-mile, after-work hike to Rabbit Lake. If there is enough daylight we will go all the way to the lake, but we will turn around whenever necessary to return to the trailhead before dark. Bring food, water and appropriate gear for the weather conditions. We will meet to carpool, or you can meet us at the trailhead. Call leader for details. Trip Leader: Amy Murphy 338-3979 or e-mail: hayduchesslives@yahoo.com.

October 01, Saturday

This is an all-day, 11-mile, Class C hike to Vista Peak near Black Tail Rocks in the Eagle River area. If trip participants feel like it, we can also hike to the summit of Black Tail Rocks and/or Roundtop Peaks. Bring food, water, smiles and appropriate gear for whatever weather conditions are in existence. ALL MCA members are welcome if they are physically able to do the hike. Contact trip leader for details: Amy Murphy @ 338-3979 or e-mail: hayduchesslives@yahoo.com

## Training

September 24 – 25

Annual ICE Climbing Festival, beginners to advanced lead climbers (the latter might want to help instruct). Details and sign up at the

September General Meeting, for info call Steve Parry 248-8710.

## Trip Reports

### Arrigetch Peaks: July 16<sup>th</sup> to July 30<sup>th</sup> By Don Hansen



rush, brush and more brush. I warned my 3 partners on this trip Jim Scherr, Wendy and Burt Beardsley that there would be lots of brush to encounter on this trip and we were not disappointed. With climate warming in the Alaskan Arctic the amount of brush at higher elevations has increased over the past 10 years or more and this is most evident in the western Brooks Range. When we got to Bettles the Park Service instructed us to avoid camping at Circle Lake and along the lower parts of Arrigetch creek due to black bear problems with stealing food. These areas were officially closed to camping. When we got dropped off at Circle Lake along the Alatna River the main access place for the Arrigetch Peaks we headed straight up the ridge from the lake to avoid bear problems. We had a late start at about 12PM bush whacking up the ridge. When Wendy found water half way up the ridge we setup a bivouac camp on the ridge and just beat the thunderstorm before setting up our tents. The following morning we got above the brush line after bush whacking straight up the ridge for about an hour. What a relief to get out of the brush, but we still had a long way to ascend the ridge and drop down to the pond and pass between Arrigetch and hot springs creeks. The weather was calm at the pass with reflections in the pond. We saw no big animals on the ridge but just sheep droppings and caribou tracks in the pass.

The following morning we broke camp in the rain and headed for the Arrigetch creek drainage crossing over one of drainages that flow into the creek we tried to stay above the brush but ran into thick alders that were growing even on the steeper slopes of the ridge leading above the forks in Arrigetch creek in the upper valley. We got tired of bush whacking across these slopes that was slow going and so we followed a moose trail down to Arrigetch creek and the trail along the creek. I was soaked from head to foot from the wet alders. We followed the trail and found a good camp site about 200 yards from the forks in Arrigetch creek. Burt, Wendy and Jim spent the next four days hiking up

drainages and valleys of upper Arrigetch creek. I went on two of these trips and spent two alternate days resting my right knee. I went on the ten hour hike up the main valley with its views of granite spires, rock walls and glaciers and the hike up the ridge above camp with great views of all the Arrigetch valleys. We had sunny hot weather during our days in the Arrigetch valley and for the rest of the trip.



**Burt Beardsley Photo**

While I was in camp resting my knee the day after the ten hour hike up the main valley three National Guard hikers with light weight gear came through our camp. They started at Anaktuvuk Pass and were re-supplied every three to four days by caches flown in by helicopter. They were the only people we saw in the Arrigetch valley. On Saturday July 23<sup>rd</sup> we packed up and broke camp after 5 days exploring Arrigetch Valley. My three friends were very impressed by the beauty of the valley and its many granite spires and rock walls. They took lots of pictures and were reluctant to leave. To avoid bush whacking and steep hilling we back tracked down the Arrigetch creek trail just past the 2<sup>nd</sup> drainage flowing into Arrigetch creek and headed up hill with some bush whacking to reach the upper ridge that leads to the pass to hot springs creek. We camped at the pond just below the pass again. The next day my three partners hiked up the mountain across the pond from camp while I rested my knee. I had hiked up that mountain on the 1988 and on the 1994 trips to The Arrigetch. The following day broke camp at the pass and went through the pass following down a ridge that overlooked hot springs creek and the granite spires on the other side of this drainage. We spent about an hour enjoying the spectacular although smoky

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views of this valley. These spires are nearly as impressive as the Arrigetch spires and granite walls. We followed the ridge down to the tree and brush line that lead to a good game trail that lead us all the way to the creek. We camped on a gravel flood plain next to the creek.



**Wendy Beardsley Photo**

Next morning we crossed the creek and started our bush whack down the creek. We meet a family camped about a quarter mile downstream from our camp who hiked up from the Alatna River and were planning to float down the river. After about 5 hours of beating brush along the creek we setup camp on a small sandy beach along creek with good camp sites right on the water. From there we hiked up through the brush and forest to a pass between "Takahula Mountain" and the southern most of three knobs southwest of the creek. This route wasn't too brushy and we camped just below the pass along a small stream with good camp sites on a forest tundra hill over looking the mountain. The next day we beat brush along the Takahula River for a few miles and ascended a bench on the other side of the mountain that leads us to Takahula Lake. We camped on the south side of the Lake where there was a sandy beach shoreline and great views of the Takahula Mountain and mountains across the Alatna. Brooks Range Aviation pick us up on Friday evening and we spent the night camped in Bettles so that we wouldn't miss the Wright Air flight to Fairbanks the following day. I would like to thank again my trip partners Burt and Wendy Beardsley, and Jim Scherr. Their experience and friendship made the trip so enjoyable.



## **We Went up a Mountain and Came down a Bump: The Saga of the Intrepid Exploration of Kelly's Knob**

**By Steve Gruhn**



For several years I had enjoyed the varied terrain, vegetation, and natural splendor presented by the Winner Creek drainage in the Western Chugach Mountains. I grew to love the mountains in that area and sought to climb all seven of the true peaks in that drainage. A true peak is one that has (or might have) at least 500 feet of rise above the lowest saddle connecting it to a higher peak.

One of the peaks in my sights was Kelly's Knob. Kelly's Knob is a little-known spot at the head of Winner Creek and northeast of Berry Pass. It was named by Tom Choate after Luther Kelly, an early explorer of a route from Prince William Sound to Cook Inlet by way of the Twentymile River, Winner Creek, Crow Creek, Raven Creek, and the Eagle River. On the 1:25,000 Seward (D-6) NE, Alaska U.S. Geological Survey map there are two enclosed contours shown atop Kelly's Knob. The northernmost of these two enclosed contours has a spot elevation of 871 meters (2858 feet). Winner Pass, the saddle connecting Kelly's Knob to Mystery Mountain to the northwest, is shown to have an elevation of at least 720 meters (2362 feet). Some careful map work indicated that only if the southern enclosed contour were higher than the 871-meter spot elevation, would Kelly's Knob have sufficient rise above the saddle to make it a true peak.

So, on September 18, 2004, with this thought in my mind, I set off from the Alyeska Prince Hotel with Tom Dolan to check it out. During my travels up the Winner Creek drainage earlier that summer, I had noticed that the U.S. Forest Service had brushed and flagged a new trail from the old trapper's cabin to the stream that flowed from the Winner Creek Glacier. We made quick time up the established trail and then up the newly brushed route to that stream. Here we found that the USFS had been busy in the prior two months. The route had been flagged and partially brushed all the way to Berry Pass. We made quick work of the route as it traveled through stands of tall trees, thick alders, devil's club, and cow parsnip. The new route is located on the slopes south of the valley floor. Periodically, there were views of peaks such as

True Summit, Berg Peak, Highbush Peak, Lingon Mountain, Nagoon Mountain, and A1. I had climbed all of these previously and pointed out the routes to Tom. He was captivated by their beauty and intrigued by the challenges that they posed. Before we had even reached the halfway point of our journey, he was already vowing to return. At times the route crossed some steeper terrain, so it might not be suitable for winter travel. At one point I slipped and fell, landing on a sharp tree stump that had been cut to make the trail. My thigh began to hurt pretty badly, so Tom offered me some painkillers, which I downed reluctantly, but gratefully.

At Berry Pass, the route passed above timberline and afforded views of the Twentymile River Valley. Here there were numerous small streams and ponds. We continued up toward Kelly's Knob, ascending numerous rocky false summits. Finally, we stood atop the highest point in the area and were greeted by a wooden marker apparently abandoned by a heliskiing tour operator. This highest point was in the northernmost of the two enclosed contours on the map, meaning that Kelly's Knob could not possibly have a 500-foot rise above Winner Pass. There were only six true peaks in the Winner Creek drainage and Kelly's Knob wasn't one of them. This was fast becoming a pretty anticlimactic end to our hike.

Tom and I descended to Winner Pass and sidehilled up the rocky slope to the ridge between Sunnyside Peak and A1. Here I found more heliskiing trash, including a hat and more landing markers. Tom and I walked out the Snow Cat route from the top of Sunnyside Peak to the Winner Creek Gorge Trail. Here we turned upstream and followed the Winner Creek Gorge trail back to the Alyeska Prince Hotel in the encroaching darkness. We arrived as the last bit of twilight faded just over an hour after the sun set.

It had been an enjoyable fall hike, despite my throbbing leg and despite climbing a bump instead of a true peak. Sometimes it is just neat to explore new terrain and to see someone's eyes light up when exposed for the first time to familiar country that I have begun to take for granted.

## Riding the Meat Wagon, Muldoon to Paradise Haven

By Stu Grenier



One of the hikes that I did at least twice in my younger days was from Muldoon to Paradise Haven by way of Ship Creek, Moraine Pass, Camp Creek, and then out to Paradise Haven which is currently called the Eagle River Nature Center. A few years back I got it into my head that I wanted to do this traverse again, sometimes in the fall, and that I wanted to share the experience with someone, rather than hog it to myself. This “goal” put me in line for some interesting experiences.

Getting across the Fort Richardson's Davis Range which lies between Muldoon and Chugach State Park is always a walk down memory lane for me though many of the trails that were commonly used when I was a kid have become alder choked. To access this area legally you should call 384-0296 and get a RAP (Recreational Access Permit). With this permit you can access the USARTRACK Check-in/check-out system which is the system in use to keep people out of areas where troops are training. Unexploded ordinance does exist out there as well as in Ship Creek Valley. It is a good idea that you not handle anything you may find out there, as my next door neighbor found out when an explosive he picked up detonated, lodging shrapnel into his skull and blowing his watch off back in the 1960's.

Since I live at the north end of Muldoon Road it is easiest for me to take the Oil Well Road to the Ship Creek Dam and head up the Snowhawk Valley Trail or the more interesting but bushy route to Cochise Lake which now has been made even easier due to new road construction in the area. To access this route turn at Bunker Hill off of the Bulldog Trail “Tank Trail” and then go straight to the right of the hill until you find the Urban Warfare Center facility. On the south side of this clearing is an old road that leads to a road coming in from the left. Go straight on this road and it will take you to Cochise Lake. From the lake there is an old overgrown trail that leads up past shot up cars, to the ridge leading to Snowhawk Point (pt. 3245). It is easier to find this route when descending because the trail is clearer above bush line. You should skirt left of Snowhawk Point before dropping down to the Snowhawk Valley Trail to avoid alders.



Using Snowhawk Valley to access upper Ship Creek makes sense for a number of reasons, especially before freeze up. The Ship Creek Valley Trail which comes off the Five Mile Trail that parallels Arctic Valley Rd. is often a mud hole and worth avoiding. Snowhawk Valley offers the Upper Snowhawk Cabin for those with ties to the D.O.D. (Department of Defense). And if you follow the ridge behind the Cabin there is a sheep trail on the left side that leads to a pass that in the logbooks is called Snowship Pass. This pass is located between Pt. 4691 and Tenaina Peak. This pass connects Snowhawk Valley with Ship Creek South Fork and has a sheep trail that descends into the first cirque and then climbs a second ridge to the cirque with a tarn shaped like a pickle or a whale depending on water level. Cross this cirque and descend right of the ridge following the drainage exiting it and you can find an alder free route to the Ship Creek Valley Trail. This is a nifty way to access upper Ship Creek from Muldoon though for most people using the Basher Trailhead and going over the Dome and then Cottonwood Pass to Snowhawk is easier and puts you at much less chance of encountering troops in training though you still officially need clearance from the Army for this route.

After I tie up with the Ship Creek Valley Trail I head back down it to the old 25 Mile House Ruins which was also known as the Ship Creek Road House. There was more than one roadhouse up Ship Creek. The other one was called the Eight Mile House and its location has been lost. The 25 Mile House is marked on the Anchorage and Vicinity Map. All that remains is the shape of a small cabin with a rusted stove and assorted junk. The roof collapsed back in the 1960's. It was called the 25

Mile House because it was 25 Miles from Anchorage. Before the railroad showed up the Ship Creek Valley Trail was the "Old" Mail Trail. Folks in the MCA and others make an effort to clear this trail for the annual ski between Arctic and Indian. It is one of the oldest traditions in the MCA.

To locate the ruins go with somebody who knows where to look or watch for where the creek that exits the cirque below Snowship Pass meets the South Fork of Ship Creek. There are still some sawed off stumps in the area. The ruins are upstream from the confluence of these two creeks and about 50 yards off of the South Fork. The metal detector folks have already been there so don't bother.

From there I cross the South Fork and head on over to the North Fork of Ship Creek. The South Fork is small enough to be easy to cross but the North Fork is big enough to be a problem when high. In the past couple of year there has been a log about half a mile above the confluence of the two forks which required a good deal of courage to cross while standing. It is pretty high up and getting pack dogs across just adds to the challenge. You can never count on a log crossing being there at any given time. This crossing can be the crux of the traverse. There is no trail on the south side of the North Fork but the North side has a trail of sorts. If you cannot cross it may be best to head out Indian over Indian Creek Pass.

The second night is often spent within sight of Bird Pass, which leads to Bird Valley and that trail network. It is also a convenient escape route for folks who decide to bail on going to Eagle River. From this area Ship Creek opens up and the alders and pucker brush start to give way to grass. The route up to Moraine Pass has one steep area with loose rock that requires a bit of caution. I usually cross what is left of Ship Creek and climb the lowest face to avoid more rock fall risk. Once up the steep part it is a long boulder field to some usually snow filled gullies that lead to Moraine Pass. The area near Grizzly Bear Lake and the Camp Creek side of Moraine Pass have both produced human triggered avalanches. Considering how few people make it out this way I suggest this pass should be avoided when conditions warrant it.

Camp Creek is a breeze all the way down to Alder line. There is an easy to see animal supper highway on the left as the muskeg runs into the

alders. You need to hit this trail or you have problems. Going right has produced at least one account of pure agony for a couple of sheep hunters, so go left and hold that trail. Though the trail is beat deeply into the side of the face by centuries of moose traffic it would be suicide if avalanche condition existed. Unfortunately this trail becomes hard to follow in the deep grass it leads to and then you have a serious alder field to deal with and a cliff above Camp and Raven Creek. I suggest you fill your water bottles before entering this alder field. People who have been through it more than once have lost the trail and have terrible things to say about it. All I can say is that there is a trail that if you loose you can count on spending half a day crawling under and through alders. Dick Griffith says he will never attempt this trail again even though he has hit the trail right on before. There have been efforts to mark this trail over the years but certain factions pull all the tape down as soon as it goes up. CSP does not want a formal trail in this area.

The trail leads down to Raven Creek and the bridge built about three decades ago by the 813 Eng. Bn. Us Army Reserve with Support of the AK National Guard. This bridge is on its last legs and about to be washed down river due to the eroding bank. Cross this bridge and you tie into the Crow Pass Trail. Once this bridge is gone you will have a good-sized silt river to deal with. The third night of the traverse is usually spent in this area.

Now that I have clarified the route here are some of the accounts of attempts to do this in the fall. Rascal, my wolf dog has been my one constant partner. He carries his cookies and a bit more. He is quite a character who loves to do traverses.



My good friend Christian Wilkins joined me for my first recent attempt but the promise of Bird Pass

and a one day hike back home to his new wife made it a Muldoon to Bird traverse. Next John Maltas tried to make it with us in mid October. He wore koflach and I wore La Sportiva Makalus. The first two days John's koflach seemed like real over kill and then it snowed and got cold and my La Sportiva Makalus got wet and froze right onto my feet. Though John had blisters I envied those koflach when I could not take my boots off on the second night. I lost feeling in my toes and decided to just jump into the sleeping bag with my boots on. With Rascal curled up on top of my feet after a few hours I could unlace the boots and get them off. It snowed about six inches that night. This time I was the one champing at the bit to head for Bird.

The next morning I put the boots into the sleeping bag to thaw them out so I could get them on. After we started up the trail to the crossing area to cross Ship Creek so we could get to Bird Pass I found that I had to keep moving or I would loose feeling in my toes. Grizz had used the trail over the night and helped break it. When we came to the creek to cross it, it was not a pretty sight. It was half frozen. Six feet on either side had thick ice and the middle was thin ice or open water. It was at least two feet deep and looked really dangerous, like one of us was going for a swim with the good chance of ending up under some down stream ice.

We found a spot and John led the way across. He smashed the ice in the middle. He made it across in good order. Then it was my turn. I was using neoprene socks, the kind divers use that they sell at dive shops and elected to use these to cross with while I carried my boots around my neck with the strings tied together. It took forever to get the frozen boots off my feet.

After crossing I found a place to sit down and then found to my horror that my boots had frozen shut! I looked at rascal enviously as he just shook the water off. I thought about it for a second and then covered my feet with a sweater and John broke out the stove. After about twenty minutes the stove softened the boots enough so I could get them on. We kept moving constantly until we dropped down into the snow free Bird Valley.

My last trip over this traverse was with Ron Ramsey. We went in late September and I wore extra-toughs. The trip went perfect without a hitch. Near Bird Pass, as Ron and I set up camp, Rascal alerted up valley. I got the binoculars out and

spotted something very large moving our way. At first I wasn't sure what it was but then it became clear. A hunter had made a kill and had a massive pack on as he was trying to get the meat out. Rascal and I did an intercept and I shared some of my quality eats for some of his very heavy meat. The opportunity to trade with successful hunters in the fall is something I often thought of but only on this date actually took advantage of. When these guys are a day and a half from the trailhead and carrying huge packs, a cold beer can easily get five pounds of grade A meat. On this occasion I think it was Costco dried mangos that did the trick. Anyhow Rascal and I ended up with the goods and set up shop away from our camp to cook the stuff. I am sure Ron wanted some too but it took a while to get the fire going and it got dark and he was in his tent and I didn't want to carry the stuff to camp. In short Ron can get some next time.

So about cooking mutton over the open fire with minimal gear. I thought I would try hotdog style and did just that but my fire was very small and not really hot enough. By accident I figured out that if you cut the meat up into small squares and drop it into the coals in about 20 minutes it starts to smell really good. Because it isn't wood it does not turn orange so you can spot it easily in the fire. I took a sharp stick and poked it and knocked it against a rock and ate it. It was really good. Well worth some dried mangos. I call this cooking method cave man style because it is so simple. Next time I'll have more spices.

Ron, Rascal, and I completed the traverse in four days. That is how you ride the meat wagon from Muldoon to Paradise Haven.

Just a few observations about Paradise Haven, or Eagle River Visitor Center, or now they call it the Eagle River Nature Center. Most of the time when I am there the place is closed. Back in the good old days when the place was a functioning bar and grill it was open and you could enjoy that view with a burger and a beer, though I was too young for the beer back then. It seems to me that the place would be open a lot more and we wouldn't have to pay five dollars to park if they opened the place up as a non-smoking bar and grill. They could still continue the education theme and they could educate a lot more people because they would be open more. Locked up dark buildings don't educate anyone. Let's eat.



## Special Report

### Extreme Helibus Tours

The landing or touchdown (now disputed) of a French helicopter on Mt Everest in May has encouraged some tour companies to plan more adventurous offerings. Extreme Helibus tours LLC is at the forefront with a schedule of Denali summit landings. Jacqué Lafleur of Extreme Helibus says that summits will be offered as an option on the Anchorage to Fairbanks train tours and should not add more than 8 hours to the travel time.



Photo shot on location by Stephen Sramek.

A preliminary brochure promises '...the chance to see Glaciers, Avalanches and hardy souls engaging in 'Mountaineering'. 'Mountaineers' spend literally weeks getting to the top tied to ropes and moving slowly like monks in some long procession'. The first season promises to be a bit rough until the construction of planned summit restrooms and a small gift shop for 2007.

## Letters to the Editor

### Phytophotodermatitis

Thanks to Greg Braigel for leading the hut maintenance trip in August. We had a great crew, and I was proud to be part of the team. Although I had a bad experience with the development of phytophotodermatitis (what a mouthful!), everyone was supportive and helpful and I would like to personally extend my thanks and appreciation to

Greg, John, Ray, Martin, and Allison. Thanks to you all. "You honor me"!

Carlene Van Tol

*More on phytophotodermatitis to come. Tune in next month. Ed.*

## MCA Board Meeting Minutes August 10, 2005 7:30 p.m.,

This month the board held their meeting at the Snow Goose Restaurant in Anchorage.

Topics discussed included:

- ? We need a new meeting place. Possible new locations were submitted and we should come up with a solution next month. (Snow Goose, Annette's or someone's house, Nobles Diner?)
- ? Our treasurer is leaving. Steve Gruhn offered to take over the duties of treasurer until we can elect a new treasurer.
- ? The annual MCA ice climbing festival (finding instructors and help planning). (Steve G will ask Burell Nickelson to help)
- ? Getting a computer to replaced the current server, and buying Adobe PageMaker (Sean and Willy).
- ? Records committee (Carlene will contact volunteers and get info from Matt and Greg)
- ? Timely membership posting (Steve G. will get info from Joe)
- ? Rock school report.



**MCA Membership Meeting**  
**August 17, 2005**  
**7:30 p.m.**

7:30 – Meeting called to order by president, Steve Parry

New folks introductions.

**Treasurer's report**

\$6634.07 in savings, \$14,631.40 in checking, \$1000 CD in North Rim bank. Joe is moving on Friday; Steve Gruhn will cover as treasurer until a new one is elected.

Committee reports

Hiking and Climbing -- See the front sheet of Scree for upcoming trips. We have a list of club leaders with their info; please check over the sheet Matt Nedom has and correct/update the information shown.

Huts – Hans not present. Greg reports the hut maintenance trip to Rosie's Roost went well and thanked those who went for taking time off to help improve club huts. Also, be sure to get back to Hans with any info you see on hut needs. Greg was at the Bomber hut a couple of weeks ago and noticed the window trim could use some paint; had he known, he could have painted while visiting the hut.

Parks – The Parks and Rec in Eagle River is still negotiating with land owners re access to Baldy (access has been blocked by land owners). The Chugach State Park Inventory (which lists access points to the park) will be incorporated into plans by developers, per the requirement made by the platting board. (Chugach state park and other parks inside of

Anchorage.) New subdivisions should provide access by adopting the CSP inventory and putting in language that they address access when plotting new land. Cory reports there is a vacancy on the plotting board for the municipality of Anchorage. This would be a great way to get our voice heard in the planning process.

Training – Steve reports the “first annual” (there was one class back in the 50s) rock school was a success with about 15 students attending both the indoor and outdoor sessions. The weather cooperated and everyone enjoyed themselves, even though we had some bees and bears.

Awards – Bill Romberg reports it is not too late to nominate for Vin Hoeman award, but do so quickly. Don Hansen agreed to serve on the committee.

Library – No report.

Calendar – Eric is in his busy season but it still working on it.

**New Business**

Our annual ice festival will be held September 24 and 25 at the Matanuska Glacier. We need instructors! Please contact Steve Parry if you are willing to help out. A sign-up sheet is available for both potential instructors and potential students.

**Slide show presentation**

Steve Parry, on climbing Mt. Orizaba, the highest volcano in North America.

## 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 nontechnical 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 available from the trip leader.
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

**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 only, falling while hiking, climbing, skiing or crossing rivers or glaciers; failure of a belay; being struck by climbing equipment or 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 all risks of injury, death, or property damage that may occur in connection with any MCA activity, including use of MCA furnished equipment and 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 and my fellow participants in MCA activities (except to the extent that insurance coverage for any claim is provided by an automobile insurance policy or related excess insurance policies). **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. Any lawsuit relating to MCA activities or this release shall only be filed in the Superior Court for the State of Alaska, Third Judicial District., Anchorage, Alaska. The provisions of this release are severable and if any part of this release is found unenforceable, the remaining provisions shall remain in full force and effect.

\_\_\_\_\_ (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 or my fellow participants in MCA activities may incur as a consequence of any legal action arising out of injury, death, or property damage suffered by me.

\_\_\_\_\_ (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 CONTENT. I AM AWARE THAT THIS IS A BINDING, LEGAL AGREEMENT BETWEEN ME AND THE MCA.**

Dated: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_



# Mountaineering Club of Alaska

President	Steve Parry	248-8710	Board member	Eric Teela	240-9693
Vice-President	Steve Gruhn	344-1219	Board member	Annette Iverson	222-0581
Secretary	Carlene Van Tol	748-5270	Board member	Sean Bolender	333-0213
Treasurer	Joe Kluberton	301-4039	Board member	Randy Howell	346-4608
			Board member	Jayne Mack	245-3251

Annual membership dues: Single \$15, Family \$20 (one Scree to a 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 will not forward the newsletter.

The '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 emailed to [Scree@yahoogroups.com](mailto:Scree@yahoogroups.com) or submitted on the web at [MCAK.org](http://MCAK.org) or mailed to Scree Editor Box 102037 Anchorage Alaska 99510. Articles should be received by September 21 (the club meeting) to be in the September Issue.

Paid Ads may be submitted to the attention of the Vice-President at the club address and should be 'camera ready' and pre-paid.

Missing your MCA membership card? Stop by our monthly meeting to pick it up or send a self-addressed stamped envelope and we'll mail it to you.

Mailing list/database entry: Greg Bragiel - 569-3008  
Hiking Committee: Matt Nedom - 278-3648, Carlene Van Tol – 748-5270  
Climbing Committee: Richard Baranow - 694-1500, Randy Howell – 346-4608  
Huts: Hans Neidig 355-3244  
Calendar: Stuart Grenier 337-5127  
Scree Editor: John Recktenwald 770-1636  
Web: [MCAK.org](http://MCAK.org) (change your address here)  
Mailing list service: [MCAK@yahoogroups.com](mailto:MCAK@yahoogroups.com)