

the **SCREE**

Mountaineering Club of Alaska

September 2008

Volume 51 Number 9



50th Anniversary Party

Sunday September 14

Alpenglow Lodge at Arctic Valley

10 AM to 10 PM

(no monthly meeting in September)

**Give it the tribute of a pause and stare
~ Herman Melville**

**Eagle Peak
Ram Valley
Mt. Gilpatrick
ICE FESTIVAL
Mt. Rachel Carson POM**

The Mountaineering Club of Alaska

"To maintain, promote and perpetuate the association of persons who are interested in promoting, sponsoring, improving, stimulating and contributing to the exercise of skill and safety in the Art and Science of Mountaineering"

We are not having our regular monthly meeting in September. We will be having our 50th Anniversary Party on September 14 at Alpenglow Lodge at Arctic Valley, Time: 10 am – 10 pm. More information is in this issue.

Contact information is provided on the back page or visit us on the web at www.mcak.org.

Cover photo: Kate Yenik passing icebergs while crossing Spencer Lake after a weekend climbing and exploring near Spencer Glacier. Photo by Greg Encelewski.

Article Submission: Articles and photos are best submitted on the web at MCAK.org. You can also attach a word processing document to an email. Due to formatting problems please do not submit material in the body of an email. We prefer articles that are under 1,000 words. To get on the cover, a photo should convey the feeling of mountaineering and show human endeavor.

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Sept. 20 – Bird Ridge Overlook

Bird Ridge Overlook is a challenging Class D, 13-mile long hike with 5,500' of elevation gain and outstanding scenery. The trip involves some fun ridge walking with lots of elevation gain and loss. Bring appropriate gear for the weather conditions, good cheer, lots of water and enough food to get you through a long day. To sign up for the trip, contact Amy Murphy at 338-3979 or via e-mail: hayduchesslives@yahoo.com.

Saturday, Sept. 27: Ram Valley Hike to Raina Peak

This is a Class D hike up scenic Ram Valley to Raina Peak for people who don't attend the Ice Climbing Festival. Bring appropriate gear for the weather, water and food. To sign up for the trip, contact Amy Murphy at 338-3979 or via e-mail: hayduchesslives@yahoo.com

~December 5-16 (flexible dates), 12 days - Mexico

Volcano Climbing. Pico de Orizaba (18,400'), Ixta (17,100'), Nevado de Toluca (15,300'), Sierra Negra (15,200'), La Malinche (14,600'). A moderately paced, non-expeditionary sample of high altitude day-trip climbing. Competent ice axe arrest and crampon skills are required. Roped travel required on Orizaba only. Class D and Basic Mountaineering skills. Local outfitter will be hired to provide all transport, lodging, food, and local guide at cost. ~\$1000 per person covers all in-country costs. Airfare/Alaska Airlines miles to Mexico City excluded. Limit 5 team members. \$500 non-refundable deposit holds your spot. Leader Dave Hart 244-1722 or david.hart@pxd.com

Calendar

It's that time of year. Bring your high resolution pictures to the MCA 50th Anniversary Party. Stu Grenier is collecting shots for possible inclusion in the annual MCA Calendar. The calendar is in the vertical format this year. (Many covers of the Scree are cropped from horizontal pictures since that is mostly what we get, so have a critical look at your horizontal pictures for possibilities – Ed.)

Eagle Peak

by Marcin Ksok



Photo by Greg Encelewski

When you approach Eagle Peak from south fork of Eagle River on a clear day you are in for a magical experience, rounding the corner midway through the lake all of a sudden you find yourself facing an enormous pyramid. It steeply rises above the lake, enticing you with its aesthetic beauty and at the same time warning you with its formidable looking slopes. It has a few secrets: an easy winter approach over the frozen lake, wonderful gully leading to the summit on its hidden side and it happens to be in the guidebook.

Sometime in March Greg and I took advantage of all of the above and found ourselves camping at the bottom of the south gully at around 4500 feet. That night we found out the hard way that regular gasoline is not as efficient as white gas; therefore I was faced with a dilemma-dry ramen for dinner or soak it in lukewarm water? I should have chosen the first option. Luckily we had enough water to attempt the peak next day and hopefully make it to the creek. After cold oatmeal for breakfast we started making our way up the gully on the well consolidated snow. Talking to other people it seems like this route is a lot easier in the winter, snow covering both loose and slippery rock. We had one more great advantage which was wonderful weather, lack of any wind, clear skies and warm temperatures. We continued right to bypass steeper ground, then traversed left and reached the upper gully, encountering some windblown, icy snow. I put on crampons and started kicking in the steps for Greg who, to save weight, left his at home. I was quite impressed with his ability to make it

up the steep, frozen snow. We found the ridge covered in a windblown slab which in spots started to sluff off under our weight. I wondered if the ridge was corniced, but could not get a vantage point to find out, therefore we decided to stay below the crest, having to deal with the loose slab. I tried to cut through the crust instead of staying on top of the unstable terrain, which resulted in the slab above me starting to slide down, threatening to take us with it. When I was getting ready to turn around Greg made a bold move, going above me, just below the crest of the ridge over sliding snow. I followed and after negotiating a small step we reached the summit. It was well before noon, the view was spectacular, clear weather allowed us to take in the whole panorama around the mountain, for me a rare experience in the Chugach. Cautiously we proceeded back down, the ridge got even more unstable, snow did not inspire confidence, but holding my breath I safely made it to the gully. Now it was just a matter of retracing our steps and a fast glissade before we were heading back towards Eagle Lake. Unfortunately Greg suffered an annoying obstacle in a broken climbing skin, having to ski out on only one, which he performed quite graciously and beat me to the trailhead.

Even counting the minor mishaps, the trip turned out great, mostly due to favorable weather and conditions. I highly recommend Eagle for its close proximity to town and unsurpassed beauty and emphasize once again the benefits of a winter or spring approach.

MCA 50th Anniversary

**Party: September 14, Alpenglow Lodge, mile seven Arctic Valley Road
Time: 10 am – 10 pm**

Events:

long hike (10AM), short hike (2PM), ice ax throwing contest, knot tying event, king of the hill race, oldest gear contest, gear swap, recognition of founding and past members, BBQ and potluck, historic slide show, calendar photo viewing. If you have ideas or want to help out contact: seanblolender@yahoo.com.

MCA 50th anniversary logo long-sleeved zip fleece shirts for sale. Colors available are red, navy, and grey. Sizes available are XS-2XL. Inside is fleecy; the exterior is smooth. The shirts are \$45 and to be paid at time of ordering.



Ice Climbing Festival 2008

The Ice climbing Festival 2008 is here. Interested in learning to ice climb or want to improve your current ice climbing skills? Come sign-up for a weekend of ice climbing instruction and fun. All ability levels are welcome must be 16 years of age or older. MCA membership is required and new members are welcome. Cost is \$50 before 9/24 (membership and equipment not included).

Mandatory Participant Meeting: Wednesday, September 24th at 7pm.

All Participants must attend this meeting. Late registration will also be available, \$60 (MCA membership not included). Please bring your climbing boots, crampons and harness to the meeting for inspection. Meeting starts promptly at 7pm at The First United Methodist Church (on the corner of 9th Avenue and "G" Street).

MCA Ice Climbing Festival: 6pm Friday, September 26th - 5pm Sunday, September 28th.

Registration is available on-line at: www.mcak.org (if your membership is current) or by mail until 9/22.

For more info contact: mca_icefest@yahoo.com or Jayme Dixon at 907-382-0212.

The registration form is also included on the next two pages.

MCA ICE FESTIVAL REGISTRATION AND QUESTIONNAIRE

Directions: Please answer all applicable questions and submit with money to the Ice Festival Coordinator. Mailing info on pg. 2

1. Have you attended a previous MCA Ice Climbing Festival?

Yes No

If so, what experience level? (please circle one)

Novice Beginner Advanced Beginner Intermediate Advanced

2. Do you have previous experience with: (*circle all that apply*)

- a. Walking in crampons
- b. Belaying/belay commands
- c. Ice climbing (*if you circle this option please answer questions 2a & 2b*)
- d. Rock climbing

2a. If you have ice climbing experience, how many times have you been?

- a. 1-3 times
- b. 4-6 times
- c. 7-9 times
- d. 10 or more times

2b. If you have ice climbing experience, do you have experience leading? Please explain (i.e. climb names, rating and dates).

3. Please list one goal that you have for this weekend.

4. Special Requests:

Instructors: _____

Want to be paired with friends: _____

Contact information:

Name: _____

Home Phone: _____

Cell Phone: _____

Email: _____

Emergency Contact:

Name: _____

Phone: _____

Relationship: _____

PLEASE SUBMIT REGISTRATION AND MONIES TO:

**** MCA Membership is required to participate. Must be postmarked by 9/22***

(please include a check or money order for \$50, all monies should be made out to MCA)

MCA ICE FEST COORDINATOR
830 BRINY CIRCLE
ANCHORAGE, ALASKA 99515

Ram Valley

by Amy Murphy

Bombardment Pass



On August 16, 2008, Donna Klecka and I decided it was time to spend the day exploring Ram Valley again. The valley is a beautiful, secluded area that provides access to various peaks, like Raina, Peeking, Cumulus and Significant. Or, you can hike over Bombardment Pass and drop down into the Peters Creek valley and hike out the Peters Creek trail. Donna and I wanted to hike up Bombardment Pass to view the descent into the Peters Creek area to scout out conditions for a future backpack trip. The day started out great with sunshine breaking through the clouds and we enjoyed sunshine for several hours.

Donna heading up Ram Valley



Overall the trail into Ram Valley has a gradual ascent, until you get to the foot of Ram Glacier, where you have a somewhat steep but short climb. After you hike to the top of the glacier, the ascent becomes gradual again as you make your way to the end of the valley. Looking over the glacier, it's hard to believe there is actually "ice" underneath all the rocks and gravel, as it just looks like a huge, massive, lifeless boulder field.

Exposed Ice



We hiked up some snow on the left-hand side of the glacier for a while, as it was much easier and faster than walking on the unstable rocks on top of the glacier. It was surprising to see how much snow was still up there in some of the couloirs coming down from the high ridgelines and peaks. In one area we hiked up a short

section of steep snow to get some fresh water and enjoyed a fun, standing glissade; in the middle of August. Amazing! (I climbed Matanuska Peak on July 6 and luckily we got to glissade part of the way down. Usually the snow has long been melted by that time.)

Eventually we climbed up onto the glacier and hiked on the rocks towards the center of the glacier to see what was out there. We discovered some interesting sinkholes and hidden tarns and heard lots of rock fall, indicating the glacier was definitely active. This increased our awareness of potential danger and we skirted some places where we didn't feel comfortable crossing. We also saw areas where erosion and glacier movement had exposed tall sections of ice that dropped off into the tarns. Cool!

We got pretty close to Bombardment Pass before we stopped to eat lunch and ponder the best route up. However, at this point we couldn't deny any longer the fact that clouds and thick fog had been moving in behind and around us, obscuring visibility. We also realized we would probably need ice axes to safely ascend and descend the pass, which we didn't have. Then it started

hailing on us, so we donned rain gear and ate some lunch and contemplated our options while watching the fascinating shifting of the clouds roiling all around us. We decided the conditions wouldn't be safe to continue up to the top of the pass, especially with no ice ax, plus we wouldn't be able to see anything, so we turned around and headed back down.

We hiked down the snow on the side of the glacier and made good time. As we descended, the hail turned into rain and then finally quit, after less than an hour. By the time we got to the foot of the glacier, the sun started shining again, making for a nice end to the day.

As many of you are aware, unfortunately there are trailhead access issues at Ram Valley, which is probably why few people hike up here. We were confronted by one angry homeowner who threatened to call the cops on us and have our car towed. However, another homeowner was friendly and talked to us about the trail and different access points. It would be great to finally have the trailhead access clearly resolved so you don't have to worry about confrontations with angry homeowners.

Gilpatrick Mountain (4995), Kenai Mountains

by Steve Gruhn

On Saturday, July 12, I joined a group led by Jennifer DuFord on a hike up the Summit Creek Trail in the Kenai Mountains. There were 11 of us in all. Most of the group planned to hike through Summit Creek Pass, through East Creek Pass, and then through Devils Pass, ending at the Devils Creek Trailhead where we had staged cars. Tom Dolan, Leslie Robbins, Charlie Sink, and I, however, had plans to leave the rest of the group at Summit Creek Pass and do some peak bagging. This summer has certainly been a poor one in terms of weather, but we found a small pocket of nice weather that day, which made for a great trip.

The hike to Summit Creek Pass was enjoyable and scenic. The trail was in good shape and the alpine breezes were warm.

Departing from the rest of the group at the pass, we four quickly climbed the talus slope to the south. A couple dall sheep ewes rested in the hanging valley to the west. Alpine lakes twinkled at us from cirques in every direction. Soon we were on the summit of Northwest Gilpatrick Mountain, where we found a cairn but no register. Tom Choate and Deb Luper visited this summit in 2006 (see July 2007 *Scree*). As Tom Choate reported, this 4800-foot peak is noticeably higher than Point 4824 to the southeast. I estimate the elevation as 4862 feet, midway between 4824 and 4900 feet.

From the summit of Northwest Gilpatrick Mountain, the four of us continued south along the ridge toward the col west of Point 4824, following several more ewes. At that point we dropped down a snow slope on the southwest side of the ridge, walking and glissading to the pass between Devils Creek and Slate Creek. At the pass we lounged and snacked, but soon we were ascending the talus slope to the south. In short order we stood atop Point 4990, what the map had us believe was the south summit of Gilpatrick Mountain. But while taking photographs from that location, it was obvious that a peak a half mile west was higher. So, off we went: four little pilgrims on a mission to get to the top. We followed the west ridge, staying on the south side a few feet below the ridge crest. Just below the summit I saw a rusted can. Obviously this peak had been climbed many years ago. There was a cairn on the summit, but again no register. From this vantage, it remained obvious that we were higher than Point 4990 to the east. Splitting the difference between 4990 and 5000 feet, one could estimate the summit elevation at 4995 feet, but it appeared noticeably higher, almost as if either the elevation 4990 had been misplaced on the map or a contour line had been omitted from our summit.

We turned to descend, but within a few feet of the summit, I slipped and sliced my left hand on a sharp

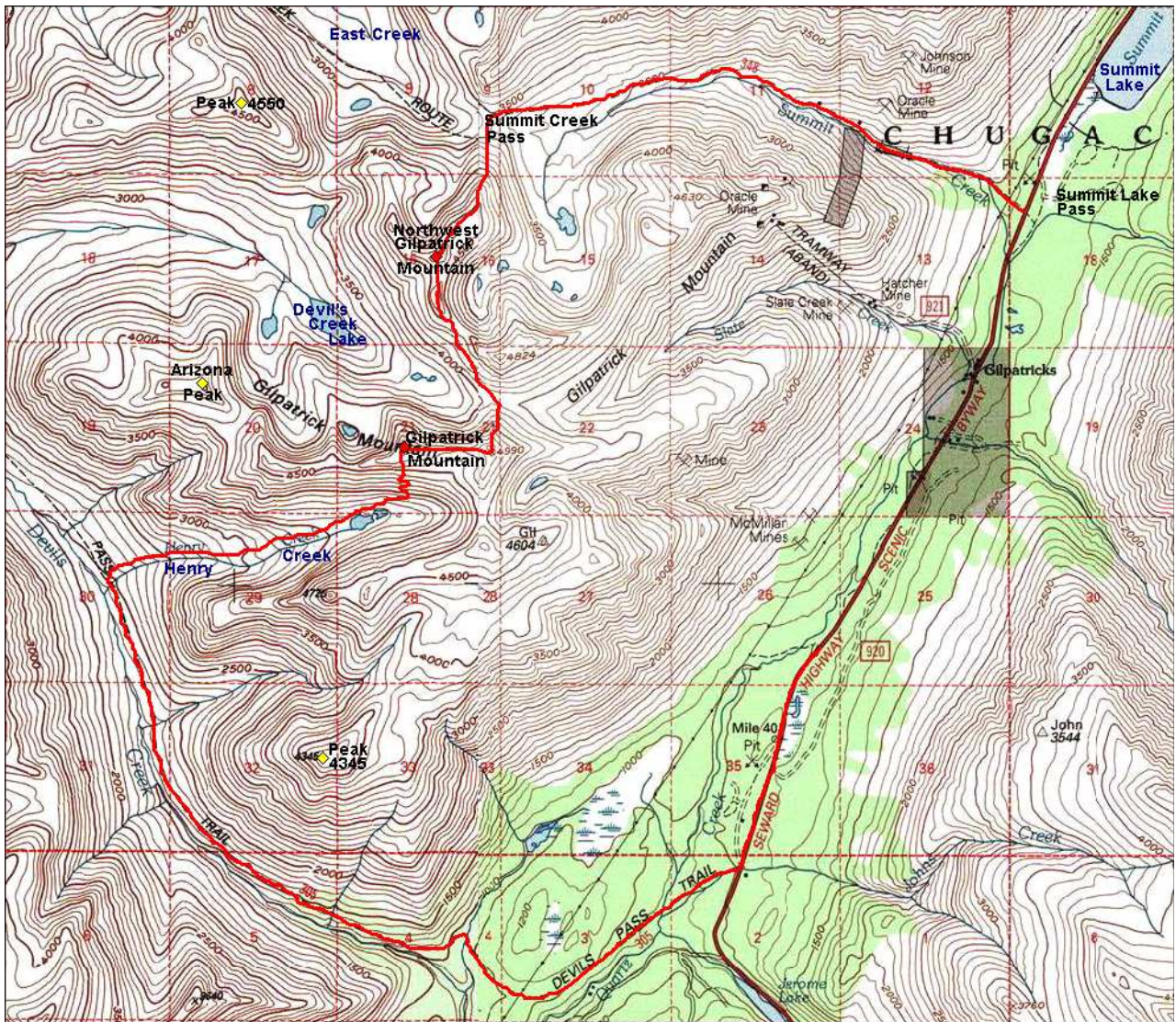
rock. Now wanting to avoid using my hands, I opted to descend to the valley floor of the Henry Creek drainage. It was a steep and rocky descent, but I eventually made it to the snow-covered valley floor. I hollered to the other three so that they could see I wouldn't be joining them on their attempt to climb Arizona Peak (4550), but with the breeze, I wasn't sure that they could hear me.

I made good time on the firm snow. Periodically I stopped and hooted to get the attention of the other three. I saw fresh black bear tracks and scat on the snow. The sun hadn't yet softened the snow around either the tracks or the scat, so I knew that there was a bear really close by. I hooted and hollered louder and more frequently, startling some nearby mountain goats. Eventually I reached the end of the snow and began hiking down the alpine meadows, connecting clearings through the alder and hemlock to reach the Devils Creek Trail.

I hooted and hollered at the Henry Creek crossing for about 15 minutes, but eventually I figured that the creek was drowning out my voice and I decided to try to catch

up with the rest of the group so that I wouldn't have to hitchhike back to my car at the Summit Creek Trailhead. I speed hiked down the trail, but arrived at the trailhead about a half hour after the other party had signed in the register. They were already gone, so I started the trudge north along the Seward Highway. After hitchhiking for a mile or so, I caught a ride back to the Summit Creek Trailhead. I drove to the Devils Creek Trailhead to drop off Charlie's shoes in Tom's pickup. Tom, Charlie, and Leslie hadn't yet arrived, so I wrote them a note and headed home. In a few minutes the skies opened up and the summer of 2008 resumed. We had made great use of the short weather window.

Epilogue: On July 28 Richard Baranow reportedly climbed Northwest Gilpatrick Mountain via the Summit Creek Trail. He then climbed Point 4990, but in the fog didn't notice Gilpatrick Mountain's highest summit to the west. His exit was over Peak 4345 south-southwest of Gilpatrick Mountain to the Devils Creek Trail. Pester Richard to provide the details in a trip report for the Scree.



Map created with TOPO!® ©2003 National Geographic (www.nationalgeographic.com/topo)

Peak of the Month: Mount Rachel Carson

by Steve Gruhn

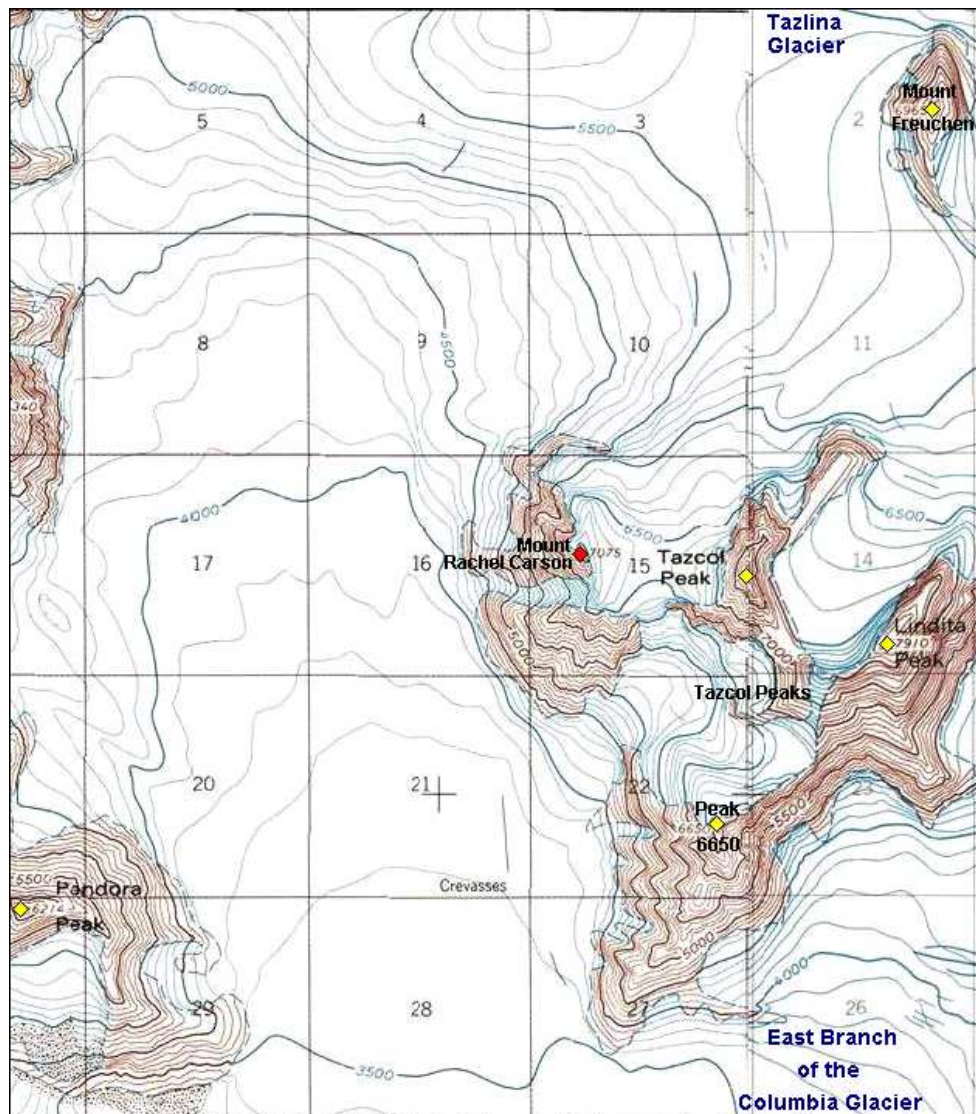
Mountain Range: Chugach Mountains
Borough: Unorganized Borough
Drainage: East Branch of the Columbia Glacier
Latitude/Longitude: 61° 20' 54" North, 146° 38' 59" West
Elevation: 7075 feet
Prominence: 525 feet from Tazcol Peak (7850)
Adjacent Peak: Tazcol Peak
Distinctness: 525 feet from Tazcol Peak
USGS Map: Valdez (B-8)
First Recorded Ascent: June 25, 1971, by Russell Batt, Gary James, Charles Marchand, and Lawrence Nielsen
Route of First Recorded Ascent: Northeast face
Access Point: Upper Tazlina Glacier

From 1950 to 1977, glaciologist Larry Nielsen led several scientific expeditions to study glaciers in Alaska and, in the process, named many mountains, often with similar themes in a given area. These trips usually had a mountaineering component and his 1971 foray to the Tazlina Glacier and the East Branch of the Columbia Glacier was no exception. In line with the theme of nearby mountains named after prominent scientists, Nielsen named Mount Rachel Carson after the well-known marine biologist, environmentalist, and author of *Silent Spring*, a treatise on the effects of pesticide pollution.

On June 19 and 20, 1971, Mike Stone flew Nielsen and his party from the Tazlina Glacier Lodge at Mile 156 of the Glenn Highway to the upper Tazlina Glacier, where base camp was established. On June 22 the party climbed the west face and southwest ridge of Tazlina Tower (8325) northwest of Mount Rachel Carson. On June 24, the party established a second camp west of Diplodocus Mountain (6820) and north of Mount Rachel Carson. On June 25 the party set out on snowshoes to climb Lindita Peak (7910), but high winds caused them to settle for a consolation prize. Gary James led the party up Mount Rachel Carson via the northeast face. The following day Russ Batt led the party in a second attempt of Lindita Peak. However, a couple small avalanches caused the group to again abort the climb and settle for a consolation prize. The second consolation prize was Mount Freuchen (6965), where the four built a cairn and placed a

register in a peanut can. Nielsen reported that throughout their mid-June to early July expedition, the party encountered both poor snow conditions and the region's notoriously bad weather, which limited climbing. Despite these adversities, the group did manage to climb Scilina Peak (7240) and made an unsuccessful attempt on Mount Valkyrie (8050), both northwest of Mount Rachel Carson in the Tazlina Glacier drainage.

A brief report of the 1971 expedition appeared on page 108 of the 1972 *American Alpine Journal*. A brief account of Nielsen's 1974 climb of Mount Rachel Carson appeared on page 120 of the 1975 *AAJ*. Additional information on the Mount Rachel Carson climbs, including photographs, maps, and journals, is available online from the GeoData Center of the Geophysical Institute at the University of Alaska – Fairbanks ([http://gdfp.gi.alaska.edu/CGI-Exe/ImageFolio31/imageFolio.cgi?direct=Lawrence Nielsen/Album8](http://gdfp.gi.alaska.edu/CGI-Exe/ImageFolio31/imageFolio.cgi?direct=Lawrence%20Nielsen/Album8)).



Adze

For Rent

IRIDIUM 9505A Satellite Phone for rent. \$50 per week plus \$2/minute

Dave, 244-1722, david.hart@pxd.com

Board and General meeting Minutes, May 21, 2008

Board Meeting

Attendance:

Travis Taylor, Jayme Dixon, Annette Iverson, Don Hansen, Sean Bolender, Bridget Paule, Tom Devine.

I. Call to Order 5:45 pm

II. 50th Anniversary Planning

Date: We need to check again on the availability of the Alpenglow Lodge on Sunday, September 21st.

Outdoor activities: longer hike starting at 10:30; shorter hike/berry picking at 2 pm; orienteering/scavenger hunt; King of the Hill race to the top; ice axe throwing contest (distance, accuracy prizes).

Contests: races, trivia, name that peak, oldest gear fashion show, knot tying.

Recognition: longest active member present; past presidents, board members; earliest/founding members.

Other: open mic for storytelling; historical slide show...

Food and Beverages: MCA cannot supply alcohol, but members can bring their own, a la ice fest. Bridget will check on use of big grill; board provide cookout supplies, members potluck the rest.

Total anniversary budget of \$3000.

Shirts: Tom brought a sample of a red, fleece zip-neck shirt and the anniversary logo. We'll order 12 to model at meetings/events this summer and take pre-orders for a second order. Shirts are about \$33 each incl. logo embroidery; by Alaska Textiles.

Annette would like to review old Screes and offer trips resurrected from days of old.

General Meeting

I. Call to order 7:35

- II. Welcome two new members.
- III. Treasurer's Report—To date we have \$5166.11 in revenue, \$3197.21 in expenses; total assets of \$28729.86.
- IV. Hiking and Climbing Trips—please see the website for the most current listings.
- V. Huts Update—a new loo is being constructed for the Mint hut, hopeful installation in July. There will be more hut maintenance to do this summer, keep an eye out for volunteer opportunities.
- VI. Geographic Names—The Alaska Geographic Names board sent a notice of an official spelling correction for a mountain: from "Thibodeaux" to "Thibedeau" at the request of the family. Any comments on this can be submitted to jo.antonson@alaska.gov before June 16, 2008.
- VII. 50th Anniversary party announcement—hopefully to be held on Sept. 21st at Alpenglow. Stay tuned for more info and please submit any ideas to the Board. Also let us know if you'd like to volunteer.
- VIII. There will be a survey regarding changing the meeting time; keep your eyes out for that; we will accept written or email comments only, until the end of August.
- IX. Announcements:
 - Stu is accepting vertical photos for the 2009 calendar.
 - We still have some long-sleeve t-shirts for sale for \$28.
 - Thanks for our volunteers and their excellent work; Yukiko and Randy on memberships, John Recktenwald on the Scree,
- X. Slide Presentation—Brian McCullogh from Talkeetna, on Classic Climbs in the Alaska Range.

Submitted July 6, 2008
Bridget Paule, Secretary

Board Meeting Minutes July 1, 2008

Attendance:

Annette Iverson, Sean Bolender, Bridget Paule, Tom Devine, Steve Parry.

I. Call to Order 6:30 pm

II. Library/Gear Storage: Sean will be coordinating with Jamie at the Alaska Backpacker's Inn to set a timeline to begin constructing a space for our gear and library. This

will occur in late fall, after the September anniversary celebration.

III. Picnic Planning: July 16th, Valley of the Moon Park. Board provides burgers, dogs, buns and condiments; estimate 30-50 people; include veggie options.

Bridget: food etc., lemonade mix, ice, water, sample shirts.

Annette: Utensils, napkins & cups, etc.

Travis: Tablecloths (about 6), grill, stuff to accept shirt pre-orders & money

Steve P: Grill

Tom: Large drink cooler, shirt pre-order form

IV. 50th Anniversary Planning

When/where: Alpenglow Lodge on Sunday, September 14th. **Important** - This event will be held *instead* of the normal September general membership meeting. Sean will speak to Jayme about coordinating ice festival sign up/gear check.

Shirts: Tom brought the first samples for modeling by the Board. He will devise a pre-order form to have on hand at all subsequent meetings. Bridget has the extra shirts and will bring to meetings for board members to pick up and as samples for members to see.

Advertising: Bridget and Annette will put together a first draft flyer to have at MCA meetings by next week (July 10th). We'll put out a Scree & listserve call for a graphic designer/ad person to help with flyers and announcements aimed at the general public and focused audiences that will run beginning mid-August.

Events: Bridget will summarize the brainstormed ideas and email to the board to determine a final slate of activities.

V. Steve Parry – Chugach access: Steve will be drafting a letter for board review that we may send to the State Park regarding access to the park, as per Steve's petition. General board support to advocate for open access to public lands.

VI. Next Board Meeting: Proposed for Tues., Aug. 5th at AMH to go through old photos, Scree issues in preparation for Sept. event. Sean will coordinate with Jayme to finalize date and time.

Note: No June Board meeting or minutes from general meeting.

Submitted July 6, 2008
Bridget Paule, Secretary

MOUNTAINEERING CLUB OF ALASKA

MEETING TIME PREFERENCE SURVEY

The Mountaineering Club of Alaska is conducting a survey of its members concerning the starting time of our monthly meetings. Your input is requested.

Currently, the Mountaineering Club of Alaska conducts our monthly meetings, the third Wednesday of each month at 7:30 p.m. at the First United Methodist Church at 725 West Ninth Avenue (corner of Ninth & G Streets, downtown Anchorage).

The Mountaineering Club of Alaska is conducting a survey. We are accepting written comments and votes. Please vote on the following meeting time preference. (1 vote per active membership) The MCA Board will review all written comments and votes. Thank you for your input.

(Please check one)

6:30 pm

7pm

7:30 pm (Current Time)

No Preference; (Please explain why below.)

Membership Name:

_____ *Last, First*

Additional Comments:

Ballots may be submitted:

In person: at the next monthly meeting.

By Mail: **P.O. Box 102037, Anchorage, Alaska 99510-2037**

Online: www.mcak.org

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: _____

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

Mountaineering Club of Alaska

President Sean Bolender 830-5102
Vice-President Annette Iverson 222-0581
Secretary Bridget Paule 230-9903
Treasurer Travis Taylor 382-4823

Board member Don Hansen 243-7184
Board member Andy Rembert 688-3230
Board member Jayme Dixon 382-0212
Board member Steve Parry 248-8710
Board member Tom Devine 529-0618

Annual membership dues: Single \$15, Family \$20

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, notes and letters submitted for publication in the newsletter should be submitted on the web at www.mcak.org or e-mailed to the Scree Editor. Articles should be received by the monthly club meeting (third Wednesday of the month) to be in the next month's Scree.

Paid ads may be submitted to the attention of the Vice-President at the club address and should be in electronic format 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: Yukiko Hayano and Randy Plant - 243-1438
Hiking and Climbing Committee: Randy Howell - 346-4608, Jayme Dixon - 382-0212
Huts: Greg Bragiel - 569-3008
Calendar: Stuart Grenier - 337-5127
Scree Editor: John Recktenwald - 346-2589
Web: www.mcak.org (change your address here)
Mailing list service: MCAK@yahoogroups.com

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