


the **SCREE**

Mountaineering Club of Alaska

October 2007

Volume 50 Number 10

A man in a light-colored jacket and dark pants is sitting on a dark, jagged rock peak. He is looking towards the right. In the background, there is a large, white glacier with blue ice patches, set against a backdrop of dark, snow-dusted mountains under a cloudy sky.

Whether you think you can or think you can't,
you're right.

Henry Ford

**Boisterous
Mystery Peak
Harding Ice field
POM – Dragon's Head**

Monthly Meeting

Wed, October 17th @ 7:30

**Program: Neacola Traverse, Chugach
Crusher and other Ski Mountaineering
tours with Joe Stock**

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"

Join us for our club meetings the 3rd Wednesday of the month at the First United Methodist Church, 9th and G Streets next to the Philips Building (you may use marked parking after hours)

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

Cover photo: Tom Dolan on Boisterous peak with Troublesome peak in the background. Ross Noffsinger photo.

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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October 27 Vista Peak

Join Andy Rembert on a hike up an Eagle River classic. Vista Peak sits just behind Blacktail rocks. Contact the trip Leader:
Andyrembert@yahoo.com

November 3, Wolverine Peak

A relatively easy climb up a Front Range Peak that grants beautiful views to those who summit. Ice axe, crampons and helmet, Sean Bolender is the trip leader
seanbolender@yahoo.com

November 22-25, Bomber Traverse

Yeah, now we're talking. 4 day trip through the Talkeetna Mountains. Up to 10 miles on skis each day with a full pack. Visit the Mint, Bomber and snowbird huts. Sean Bolender is the trip leader.
seanbolender@yahoo.com

November 23 – 25, Ski touring and Telemarking

Class B. Powder Hut, Lane Hut or Snowhawk Valley. Ski touring and Telemarking. >12 miles roundtrip. We will go where the snow is. Leader Greg Brgiel 569-3008. Snowshoers welcome.

December 1, Ice climbing

Join one of our MCA leaders on this Saturday adventure to one of the local Ice climbs. Climbing harness, helmet and belay device. Contact Sean Bolender for more info:
seanbolender@yahoo.com

December 8, More ice climbing

Yee haw, more ice climbing as above.
seanbolender@yahoo.com

December 29 – January 1, Lost Lake, Clemens Cabin

Ski Touring and Telemarking ~12 miles round trip. Class B Leader Greg Brgiel 569-3008, Snowshoers welcome.

January 19-20, Powder time

Let's find some of that January powder that everyone talks about. Maybe Girdwood's Winner creek or Hatcher Pass. Randonee or Tele gear, avalanche gear (and know how to use it). A limited number of beginners will be allowed to join the crew.
Contact: seanbolender@yahoo.com

Boisterous Peak, Northeast Ridge

by Ross Noffsinger



Jennifer Campbell and Annette Iverson passing under the northeast ridge of Boisterous
Willy Hersman climbed the glacier in the 1991 ascent

July 20 – It's a sunny evening as Lisa Ferber, Tom Dolan, Steve Gruhn, and I bike around Eklutna Lake to the Bold Valley trail. I comment to Lisa on how good it feels to get out and she concurs. By 11 p.m. we have made our way into Bold Valley and are camped at 3000 feet where the creek emerges from the moraine. The red flies are horrendous.

Sometime after midnight I hear voices. Annette Iverson and Jennifer Campbell have joined us.

By 7 a.m. we are moving up valley, each veiled in a swarm of red flies. The occasional coughing signifies a fly inhalation.

Reaching Hunter Creek Pass (at 4850 feet), we are finally relieved from our fly burden. A thin shroud of cloud around Bold Peak is breaking and the sky is a glorious blue.

To reach Boisterous Peak we do a southeast-traversing descent some 1700 feet into the valley northeast of Bold Peak. Near the valley floor I hear Steve call out, "Bear," then, "Watch out, Ross: Bear." In disbelief I backtrack 30 feet to join Steve, Lisa, Jen, and Annette. Roughly 40 yards away is a mature brown bear facing our direction. He rises on his hind legs to get a better look. We loosely

group together, waive arms, and make noise to make him aware of our presence. Assuming our shear number to be intimidating, I expect him to run off, but he doesn't. Instead, he drops to all fours, turns sideways and, with mouth agape, stands and breathes heavily in obvious agitation. We hold our distance and keep talking to him.



He again rises to check us out, and then drops. He clearly does not want to leave (apparently he owns the place). Just when I am on the verge of suggesting we slowly back off, he starts to trot away. Then Steve yells,

“Hey, bear” in a booming voice. The bear immediately stops, swings around, and rises to face us. Instinctively I tell Steve to be quiet – except not so nicely. The bear drops and finally runs off. As adrenaline flows through my body, I can’t help but think, “What if there were only one or two of us?” Tom, who was traversing above, had the perfect vantage point for the whole spectacle.

Crossing the valley floor, I start to feel the heat. Sometimes it can be too sunny. We break in the heather and fill our water bottles in preparation for the 3600 feet of mountain above us.

The ascent to 5200 feet is straightforward hiking. From here the northeast ridge takes shape with the remaining 1700 feet going all Class 3 and 4 – lots of Class 4. As we ascend I find the route finding challenging and fun. Tom, Lisa, and I are in the lead when we encounter the first obstacle at roughly 5500 feet. Tom, who is really enjoying the steep rocky terrain, attempts a direct route but backs off when it becomes apparent that a committing piece of Class 5 rock stands above him. Lisa investigates climber’s left, sending down a shower of rocks. I take cover under a ledge as they pass overhead. Steve, Jen, and Annette all scramble for cover for they lie in the fall line below. Once Lisa reaches a stable stance, I join her and discover a traverse with a rather airy drop around the left side of the obstacle. Steve, while scrambling up to join us discovers a rappel sling. Hmmm, maybe we have underestimated the route. We later discover that Kneely Taylor had left the rappel sling after the first ascent in 1991.

Lisa Ferber on the ridge



The scramble to 6300 feet goes without incident. Perched on a gendarme, apprehension sets in as I scope out the route. All options are steep and exposed, but most disconcerting are the poor nature of the rock

and the fact that we have no rope. Tom arrives, surveys the situation and picks the most obvious line consisting of a crumbling traverse over the top of a rotten snow tongue, then a 15-foot Class 5 climb up the next gendarme. Looking at the exposure and rotten rock, I really don’t want to follow. On the gendarme Tom discovers a cairn, investigates further, returns, and says, “It’s good.” Lisa carefully picks her way across the traverse, up the gendarme and joins Tom. Common sense (or is it survival instinct) tells me the risk is not worth it, but, not wanting to miss out, I head across anyway. The climbing is not difficult, except for one section of the traverse that passes over a very delicate conglomeration of dirt and rock pitched at 50 degrees with no solid footholds or handholds.

Just past the cairn an exposed climbing traverse is required to get around the next gendarme. We then face roughly 40 feet of 50-degree rock with a fall line that goes 1500 feet down the north face of the peak. As I watch Tom cross a rotten snow-and-ice tongue and slowly pick his way up the rock, the adrenaline is flowing for the second time today. Once past this section the ridge relents, granting easy access to the summit.

Tom locates the summit register left by the first ascent party consisting of Willy Hersman, Jim Saylor, Dolly Lefever, Kneely Taylor, and Greg Dubois in 1991 (see September 1991 Scree). Willy climbed the glacier while the rest climbed the same route as we did. Since 1991 there are only three other entries: Sam “Solo Sam” Griffiths via the west ridge, Wendy Sanem and Bethan Gilmartin via the southwest face, and Richard Baranow and Joe Grither also via the southwest face. The southwest face is probably the most straightforward and direct ascent route; however it has its own challenges.

Lisa, Tom, and I hang out for a half hour waiting for the others, but no one shows, so we head down. We find Steve midway through the crux at the base of the final rock section. Jen and Annette have wisely chosen to stop and wait on the gendarme at 6300 feet, just below the crux.

I hang behind and wait for Steve to summit and return prior to downclimbing the crux. As is usually the case, the downclimb is not as bad as anticipated. Using crampons, ice axes, and whippets surely helped in this assessment. We join the others and formulate a descent plan. To deal with rockfall we opt for a coordinated descent in teams of two. The ridge has enough twists and turns to keep each group out of the fall

line. I team with Jen who is dealing with her first major experience on steep, crumbly, exposed terrain and together we carefully pick our way down 1000 feet to easy ground.

It's after 9 p.m. when we reach the base of the ridge. Even though I know we will be caught by the darkness, I am happy to have summited and relieved to be off the route and that no one was hurt.

The 1700-foot slog to Hunter Creek Pass goes slowly. We reach the pass at midnight in darkness, fog, and drizzle. Annette somehow locates a sheep trail leading into Bold Valley, which we follow until it disappears, at which point we descend to the valley floor. Wandering over vegetated moraine through thick fog and drizzle, I become paranoid that someone will hyperextend a knee or sprain an ankle and suggest we sit for a few hours until it is light enough to see our way. Steve and Lisa agree, while Tom, Annette, and Jen choose to press on. Steve climbs into his bivy sack and I climb into my pack. Lisa is wearing a rain shell. I am comfortable for a while, but the pack is not long enough to cover all of the

important parts. After an hour or so, Lisa is getting cold; so she and I start moving while Steve chooses to stay behind, cozy (by comparison) in his bivy sack. After walking perhaps five minutes, we hear voices. It is Tom, Annette, and Jen. They ask us how long it took to reach them and we report five minutes. They don't believe us. Apparently they wandered around for a bit. Walking downhill through thick fog and navigating by altimeter, we walk into camp at 4:20 a.m. After waiting 50 minutes Steve has followed us and has found the trail. He arrives at camp five minutes after the rest of us. Jen and Annette climb into their dry tent while Lisa, Tom, Steve, and I hike back to our bikes.

It's 6:20 a.m. when I reach my car. Feeling the contentedness that comes with the end of a good adventure, I fight to stay awake on the drive home.



Life's a Mystery

by Wayne Todd

What sport is this?



As we stage a vehicle at the Twenty Mile pullout, a drysuit-clad man is making an emergency call to rescue his girlfriend who is stranded up Twenty Mile.

Whilst climbing Mystery peak, one member of our party sees fresh boots tracks. As we further ascend, others in our party verify tracks in a snow patch. We saw a buff dude hiking out from Berry Pass the night before so we assume he was the one.

We find an apple core by the false summit, not even brown yet. Reading the register on the true summit, we are surprised to find no recent entries. The register is located only thirty easy-walking yards from the false summit. From the register, we learn the 'Mystery' was a late nineteen eighties ascent party not knowing if it had been climbed before and if so, by whom.

What are these?



On our way to Pipit Peak, I diverge from the others who are hiking over a ridge bump. My shortcut traverse of a snowfield (west side) is out of laziness, complacency and altruism (steps on the way out for everyone to avoid hiking over the bump once again). My heart races as my legs dangle with just my outstretched arms keeping me from dropping further into a crevasse. I roll down-slope out of the hole, stand, and view not only the snow bridged crevasse I broke through, but numerous visible crevasses. *How did I not see the crevasse field I walked into?* Hurriedly I retrace my steps and join the others hiking over the bump.

Being such a sunny and hot day, I agree that snow packed in our climbing helmets is an excellent method to stay cool. (Definitely a better cooling method than dangling in a crevasse).

The two paddlers decide not to float out the Twenty Mile. *Why do the insects fly at our eyes and noses around Berry Pass?*

How does she do that?



A few days after this trip, an infrequent email exchange with Willy Hersman reveals that he and Willem Vanveldhuisen were the people on Mystery. Further emails divulge that our party (Ross Noffsinger, David Stychrba, Carrie Wang and myself) submitted only two hours after them, also from the south side, yet we never saw each other and the visibility was excellent.

Talking to a buddy (another Wayne) who hiked to Berry Pass that weekend, he remembered passing a tent we described as ours.

After another weekend trip in that area and talking to another buddy (Larry), we were trailing him over Kellys Knob and out Winner Creek by no more than an hour, again without any contact. He also revealed I signed the Mystery register as 8/11/95, not 8/11/07 (presumably from reading Jim Sayers entry of 8/11/95).

Floating Portage Creek, the inexpensive watercraft that was planned for the Twenty Mile float gets a 3" tear in the inflatable bottom within a minute of entering the water. *Does anyone have a packraft for sale?*

Mil-spec raft and Carbon fiber paddle



Mystery mountain was probably first climbed by Tom Choate and party, the Mystery namers.

'Mysteries' solved yet mysteries remain.

Dave and Ross, 'You realize we are missing Oprah'



Harding Icefield June 19-23, 2007

by Lisa Ferber



Laura Mack on Peak 5912
Lisa Ferber photo

"Have you ever done this before?" asked an overweight male tourist with a southern accent. "Glaciers are dangerous!"

"Does it look like we just went to REI and bought all this gear and drove down here?" Laura mumbled to me as we organized our respective yard sale piles around my subie. We were apparently quite a site and received several similar questions from dubious tourists before we were finally ready. One of them eyed us up and asked for ductape so he could fix his wife's glasses. As usual, one of the hardest parts of the trip was getting out of the parking lot.

First, you have to get out of the Parking lot



Finally Lt. Laura Mack and I were ready to begin the Solstice Harding Icefield trip we had been scheming for a couple of months! With ridiculously heavy packs including supplies for a week, skis, and a sled strapped on, we headed up the Exit Glacier trail under gloriously sunny skies. Our original plan had been to fly into Green Lake near the Tustumena Glacier and traverse across the Icefield until we reached the Exit Glacier trail, similar to Stu's trip in the '80s. But with a favorable forecast of just three days and the fact that our group size hadn't increased beyond two, we decided to go conservatively. I had been on the Harding a couple of summers ago to climb a peak across the Lowell Glacier from the Exit trail, so I felt comfy getting on/off the glacier there. So we set off with a primary mission of "having fun!" and a vague plan of circumnavigating the Icefield.

Up, up, up. Finally about 2/3 of the way to the cabin, we were able to put on our skis and start skinning. After a few issues with bindings, we made it to the cabin, cooked dinner and then the continued to the edge of the Lowell Glacier where we called it a night. The next day we skied about 10 miles, in complete wonderment of the Icefield and all the peaks and frying in the sun. We set up camp below peak 5912' (between the Bear and Skee glaciers) just as a squall we had been watching came upon us. Dinner conversation led to a decision to change our plan--to base camp and go up peaks instead of dragging the sled around in a big circle.



Laura takes a break

Solstice day! We awoke to sunny skies, a bit of haze, and a distinct smell of a forest fire (burning near Nikiski). We headed up towards 5912,' sussed it out, and decided to head up the west side. After making it over a couple of bergschrunds, it was just kicking steps in the steep snow to the top. What a gorgeous summit view—overlooking Resurrection Bay and the whole Icefield! Back at our camp that evening, we crashed early, excited to head up more peaks in the coming days.

Unfortunately we awoke to complete white-out. We took our time packing our gear and started retracing our steps back towards the Exit. We'd GPS'd a spot in front of THE coolest peak on the Icefield on our way in, and our fingers were crossed that the fog would clear and let us head up. Occasionally a sucker hole would pass over, and at times it seemed that we might actually get lucky.

Peak 5910, route up the front center



At some point while skiing in the bowl of milk, I remembered the number for the NWS weather line. I asked Laura if it was worth \$2 to her to call the line on our sat phone?! Sure enough, we busted out the phone and heard the dreary forecast. But, the sucker holes were still passing over often enough that we refused to give up hope. We set up camp at our GPS point and hit the hay early, hoping for the best.

The cold deluge and wind started in the night, and around 4 a.m. we started packing up camp. Driving through used car lots in search of my elusive Civic was starting to sound pretty good at this point. As Laura, who left for Iraq just a week after our Harding trip, wrote:

“Lisa and I dragged ‘the beast’ (aka the sled) off the remaining portions of the ice field. As we neared the trail, we began to re-enter civilization. When you are out there, it seems like everything else disappears, you and your partner are out there amongst the vastness that is Harding Icefield. Once we got back on the trail and started heading back to the car, conversation began to return to, “God I can’t wait to put my sandals back on!” Once back in the parking lot, the quite solace returned to the hustle and bustle of modern life. I think that’s what makes mountaineering so special.

If you’re heading to the Harding for a trip—we hope you have good weather! The National Geographic Kenai Fjords map is great. The flying service Laura called in Seward was about \$150 per person to drop off at Green Lake, and Steve mentioned that other services in Kenai/Soldotna might be even better. You certainly can’t beat the scenery-to-price ratio for a trip...just the cost of gas to Seward and sat phone rental if you want to call NOAA.

Peak of the Month: Dragon's Head

by Steve Gruhn

Mountain Range: Alaska Range

Borough: Matanuska-Susitna Borough

Drainage: Pika Glacier

Latitude/Longitude: 62° 44' 27" North, 151° 11' 44" West

Elevation: 7250 ± 50 feet

Prominence: 500 feet from The Dragon's Spine (7490)

Adjacent Peaks: The Dragon's Spine and The Scimitar (7150 ± 50)

Distinctness: 500 feet from The Dragon's Spine

USGS Map: Talkeetna (C-3)

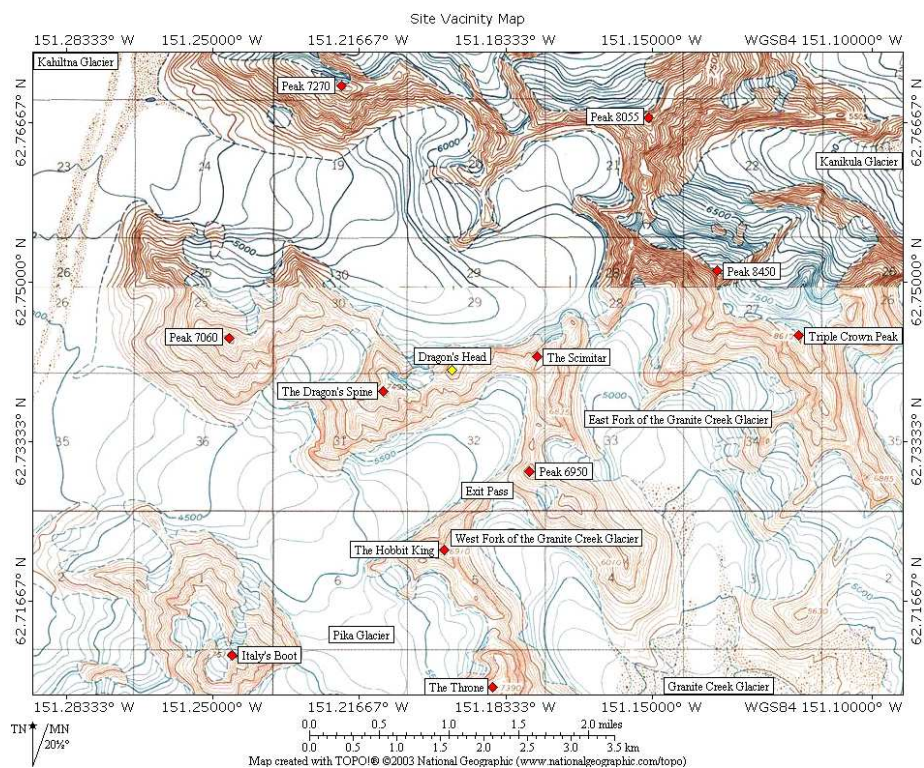
First Recorded Ascent: July 14, 1980, by Dan Hansen and Holm Neuman

Route of First Recorded Ascent: Couloir on southwest side to west ridge

Access Point: Pika Glacier at about 5250 feet

Dragon's Head evidently was named based upon its location adjacent to The Dragon's Spine, a name that Brian Okonek published in the 1978 American Alpine Journal. The earliest record that I could find of the name "Dragon's Head" appeared in the 2001 AAJ.

Having been tentbound for much of the previous week, Hansen and Neuman attempted to climb Dragon's Head on July 9, 1980, but were turned back at about 6500 feet by weather. At 10 p.m. on July 13, the two retraced their route from their camp at about 5250 feet on the Pika Glacier to the base of a steep couloir on the southwest side of the peak. They climbed this couloir to the ridge at 6800 feet and then traveled west along the ridge, which turned out to be a series of large cornices and snow running along a line of partially exposed rock. Along the ridge the two battled 80-degree snow faces, employed a fluke to descend a corniced overhang, and had the pleasure of extracting Hansen from a moat between rock and firm snow before finally reaching the summit after midnight. They began their descent at 2:45 a.m. on July 14 amid increasing avalanche concerns. The account of their climb appears on pages 159 and 160 of the 1981 AAJ.



Board Meeting Minutes

MCA Minutes
Board Meeting
September 5th, 2007

1. Attendance: Sean Bolender, Annette Iverson, Bridget Paule, Don Hansen, Steve Parry, Sarah Ellen Hutchison.

2. Old Business:

Meekins Grant — The Board unanimously voted to suspend the current version of the Meekins Grant. The original grant was made as a one-time award of \$200 from Mike Meekins and was never intended to be an ongoing program. However, it is important that the Club maintain opportunities to help promising young climbers,

such as lending our name to a climber's fundraising effort.

3. New Business:

State Huts Leases—The ten-year lease from the State Department of Natural Resources, negotiated in 1997, has come up for renewal this year. The Club is currently working through the renewal process, which includes giving public notice this month, a thirty day comment period, and payment for the leases of the five huts we currently manage on State land. The leases cost about \$125 per hut per year, coming to about \$6000. The new leases will be good for another ten years. Sean Bolender and Greg Bragiel are the Club representatives working with the State.

Winter Mountaineering class — Steve Parry is again organizing this class, one of the main training events the Club sponsors. Adding another lead instructor to the course would enable the club to boost enrollment from 40 participants to almost 80. This would double the revenue from this program as well as make training available to more members. If a volunteer can't commit to the full five-week course, many instructors are needed for each individual session to maintain the 5:1 student to instructor ratio.

Revenue—The club is doing well, with around \$20,000 in total funds. Some of this will be used to cover the hut lease renewal payments and to complete repairs and maintenance on our huts. There was discussion on various savings strategies for the future and potential current uses with the point made that with this healthy bank account, raising membership dues and/or training event fees is not currently necessary. The way to increase revenue is to increase membership, through improved offerings: educational presentations, many great trips, quality training, and more frequent trip leader training. Advertising the fact that we do trips might increase public knowledge and help the club grow. Starting this month, Annette will publicize not only our General Membership meeting presentation, but the fact that the meeting is the doorway to our trips and training.

Winter Trip Leaders —**The beginning of the winter trip schedule has been posted on the website. Now we just need Trip Leaders. Discussion centered on the need for more frequent and regular Trip Leader training. We will present participants in these trainings with the list of upcoming trips, with the expectation that they will lead one of these or one of their own after becoming qualified. Also, the Board needs help from the chairs of the Hiking and Climbing committee to recruit qualified, competent leaders for our trips.**

50th Anniversary Year—2008 will be the 50th anniversary of the MCA. The board discussed preliminary ideas for events, such as live music at certain meetings, special

awards events, some general meetings held on local peaks, the July potluck held in Hatchers Pass, and a club camp out.

New Volunteer Opening—Annette reminded the board that Mary Beth has resigned from her role as the refreshment provider at the general meetings. We will be looking for someone to fill her shoes at the next meeting. The position comes with a small budget and involves providing good snacks and collecting donations.

Next Meeting — Tentative date: Wednesday, October 3rd, 6:00 pm at the Snowgoose.

Submitted 9/5/2007
Bridget Paule, Secretary

Adze

For Sale
Sleeping bag, REI Downtime, Dryloft, 25 below, size long (but not that long), like new
Sam 337-1435

Partners wanted
Looking for climbing/ski partners who live or play in the Hatchers Pass/ Talkeetna Mtns area. I live 20 min. from Hatchers, just off of Fishhook Road. I do Randonee, but Tele partner would be good crossing training. Also experienced in Rock, Ice and limited Mixed Climbing, but it has been a while doing any serious lines. Looking to do Rock Climbing in Full-on Conditions or trying some Dry-Tooling as well as classic Waterfall Ice. Spent last couple of years re-stocking gear bag so looking to "bloody" the new equipment. New climbers who have some rope handling experience welcomed as I just did first year as volunteer instructor for basic course and would be willing to help you along as I re-build my skills (and body).
Rob Kaye, kads@mindspring.com, 745-4779

For Sale
I have 3 pair of rock climbing shoes for sale. 1 pair – five-ten Mojave (lace style) size US 8.5 EU 41.5, \$50, never worn; 1 pair La Sportiva Cobra (slipper style) size US 8.5 EU 41, never worn, \$40; 1 pair La Sportiva Cobra (slipper style) size US 8.5, EU 41, worn 5 times bouldering and are in perfect shape, \$35. Prices are firm.
Sean Lowther, 696-8512,
messierobject100@yahoo.com

For Sale
Koflach Degree boots size wmn 6-6.5. I bought them used in good condition. Too big for my wife so I have to sell them. Dmitry,
Ostrovsky_sb@yahoo.com

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

Mountaineering Club of Alaska

President	Sean Bolender	333-0213	Board member	Steve Gruhn	344-1219
Vice-President	Annette Iverson	222-0581	Board member	Don Hansen	243-7184
Secretary	Bridget Paule	230-9903	Board member	Randy Howell	346-4608
Treasurer	Travis Taylor	382-4823	Board member	Andy Rembert	688-3230
			Board member	Sara Ellen Hutchison	382-7097

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 '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: Yukiko Hayano and Randy Plant 243-1438
Hiking and Climbing Committee: Randy Howell – 346-4608, Jayme Dixon – 382-0212
Huts: Greg Bragiel - 569-3008
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