

*"To climb steep hills requires  
a slow pace at first."*

-- William Shakespeare

# the SCREE

## Mountaineering Club of Alaska

October 2011

Volume 54 Number 10



### Monthly Meeting:

Wednesday, October 19  
6:30 p.m.

### **Club Elections**

Program: Climbing in the  
Chugach Mountains,  
by Charlie Sink

### Contents:

Burkett Needle - East Arête  
"Repeat Offender"

Matanuska Matterhorn  
Pinnacles and Frontier Peak

Realizing Banister Dreams

Annual Kenai Mountains Weekend

Eklutna Traverse and  
Pichler's Perch Access Hazard

Peak of the Month – Mount Ryan



# The Mountaineering Club of Alaska

[www.mtnclubak.org](http://www.mtnclubak.org)

*"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 third Wednesday of the month at the BP Energy Center, 900 East Benson Boulevard, Anchorage, Alaska  
[www.akpeac.org/conference/BPEC\\_map\\_06-04-03.pdf](http://www.akpeac.org/conference/BPEC_map_06-04-03.pdf)

**Cover Photo: Dave Burdick starting up the summit tower on Burkett Needle. Photo by John Friehe.**

## Article Submission:

Text and photography submissions for the *Scree* can be sent as attachments to [mcascree@gmail.com](mailto:mcascree@gmail.com). Articles should be submitted by the 25<sup>th</sup> of the month to appear in the following month's *Scree*. Do not submit material in the body of the email. We prefer articles that are under 1,000 words. If you have a blog, website, video or photo links, send us the link. Cover photo selections are based on portraits of human endeavor in the outdoors.

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## On-line? – click me



For best viewing of the *Scree* on a monitor using Adobe Reader, click on 'View' and 'Full Screen.'

## Hiking and Climbing Schedule

December 23, 2011: Annual MCA Winter Solstice Flattop Sleepout. This unofficial, leaderless trip is a club tradition.

## Trip-Leader Training

November 9 at 5:30 p.m.  
Kaladi Brothers Coffee House, 621 West 6th Avenue, Anchorage.

Thinking about being a trip leader for the MCA? Are you already a trip leader, but feel like you need a refresher? Come hear what it is all about. It should take less than an hour and a half. If you would like to do this, but the time is inconvenient, please let Vicky Lytle know and we will try to schedule another time. Sign up at the Meetup website, or contact Vicky at [victoria.lytle@gmail.com](mailto:victoria.lytle@gmail.com).

## MCA Calendar

It's almost time again for the annual MCA Calendar contest. The calendar orientation is VERTICAL this year and Stu Grenier needs hard copies of the photos by the start of the October 19 meeting. We are still looking for a layout specialist to help with the project. The categories are climbing, hiking, scenery, and people. 8"x10" or 8"x12" photos are preferred. We will need a digital image if your picture is selected. Photos need to have been taken in or around Alaska. Contact Stu at [oinkmenow@hotmail.com](mailto:oinkmenow@hotmail.com) with questions.

## Get Involved with the MCA

Would you like to give back to the club or do you have some projects or special talents or interests you would like to pursue? Do you want to gain experience serving on a non-profit board? Consider running for election as an officer or board member of the MCA.

Elections will be held at the October 19 meeting. All officers and two-three director positions are up for a vote. We will take nominations up to, and including at the October meeting. Officer positions are for one year, board members are for two years.

Even if you don't want to run, come to the meeting to learn what the candidates will do to help your club. Each candidate will speak for a few minutes about their goals while on the board. Below are some examples of activities and projects that you might consider, although you should not feel limited by this list, bring your own ideas to share.

- Establish / determine / publish access to trailheads
- Build a hut
- Organize some expeditions for club members
- Start a program for kids
- Grant writing in support of projects and programs
- Build a functional on-line database of beta/routes/photos for peaks and trips
- Projects like setting up the club's "Meetup Group"
- Regular programs/activities such as Dean's "Base Camp"

Board members who are running for another term should also discuss what they have accomplished in their last term as a board member.

Elections will be held after the candidates have spoken and answered questions from the members. Contact any of the board members if you want to know more about what is involved.

**At this time, the board consists of: President:** Tim Silvers; **Vice President:** Jayme Mack; **Treasurer:** Randy Plant; **Secretary:** Brian Aho; **Directors:** Vicky Lytle, John Recktenwald, Jim Sellers, Mark Smith, and Wayne Todd.

### **Nominations at the September 21 meeting were:**

President: Tim Silvers

Vice President: Galen Flint and Jayme Mack

Secretary: Mark Smith

Treasurer: Randy Plant

Board Members: Galen Flint, Brian Aho, Greg Encelewski.

Additional nominations will be taken up until the time of the elections.  
Thanks for considering running!

## Peak Register Committee

Several peaks in Chugach State Park are currently in need of summit registers. If you are planning on climbing any of these peaks, it would be appreciated if you would contact Ben Radakovich at (208) 816-1789, or send an email to [peakregisters@mtclubak.org](mailto:peakregisters@mtclubak.org). The MCA can provide you with a register to place on the summit. If you find registers with wet or damaged materials, please recover them so they can be archived by the MCA and so we can take note that the peak will need a new register. Also, if you climb a peak that does not have a register, you can contact the MCA so we can send a register up there with some future climber. Below is a list of peaks that currently could use registers.

Mount Eklutna

Hurdygurdy Mountain

Ptarmigan Peak

Mile High Peak

Flaketop Peak

Penguin Peak

Vista Peak

Indianhouse Mountain

## Paid Ads in SCREE

**Approved: MCA Board, Dec. 3, 1987; Revised July, 2002; Revised August 2011**

1. Paid ads are limited to a maximum of one page and should not appear on the first or second page nor on the back page of the newsletter.
2. All ads must be "camera ready" and conform to a format devised by the editor.
3. All ads submitted must conform to the guidelines expressed in the club's purpose as stated in the by-laws. Any ad found to be of questionable content by the editor should be sent to the Board for approval prior to publishing.
4. The advertisement rates shall be established by the SCREE editor and approved by the Board via a majority vote. The advertisement rates will be revised at the request of the SCREE editor as needed. Current rates are \$60 for a full page, \$40 for a half page, \$30 for a third of a page and \$25 for a quarter page space.
5. Members may advertise for free any items of gear for sale, solicitations for climbing partners, etc. These ads must be of a personal nature not for commercial activities. They must also be relevant to the mountaineering club and its activities, and will be placed in the ADZE section in the SCREE and official website.
6. Questions about advertisements should be directed to the SCREE editor (see back page of SCREE for contact information.).
7. Payment for ads should be made payable to:

Mountaineering Club of Alaska

P.O. Box 243561

Anchorage, AK 99524-3561



The east arête "Repeat Offender" (IV, 5.9, M5, AI3) of Burkett Needle.  
Photo: Dave Burdick.

## Burdick Needle - East Arête "Repeat Offender" (First Ascent)

By John Friehe and Dave Burdick

On September 9th, 2011, Dave Burdick, Zac West and John Friehe flew to the Burkett Glacier in the heart of Southeast Alaska's Stikine Icecap. A rare two-day weather window had appeared in between the record storms and rainfall that had been hammering the area all summer long. Our intentions on Mount Burkett were soon abandoned after observing how active and broken the hanging glacier on the approach was in its fall state. Instead we turned our attentions to the unclimbed east arête of Burkett Needle, a 2,300-foot alpine tower immediately west of Mount Burkett.

The following day our team ascended a rock rib to access the icefall below the Needle's southeast face. The glacier was quite broken and required climbing into moats and up a short serac to reach the gully that leads to the base of the east arête. Deteriorating weather caused us to bivouac at the col and attempt the climb the next day.

On September 11th, we ascended steep snow and low 5th-class rock up the lower aspects of the east arête to a prominent gendarme. A short wall led up and over the gendarme to exposed rock and mixed climbing along, and right of, the ridge crest to the false summit. A short rappel brought us to the summit tower where our route joined the 1964 Kor-Davis north ridge. Three mixed snow and rock pitches lead to the summit. We rappelled and downclimbed the northeast face to descend.

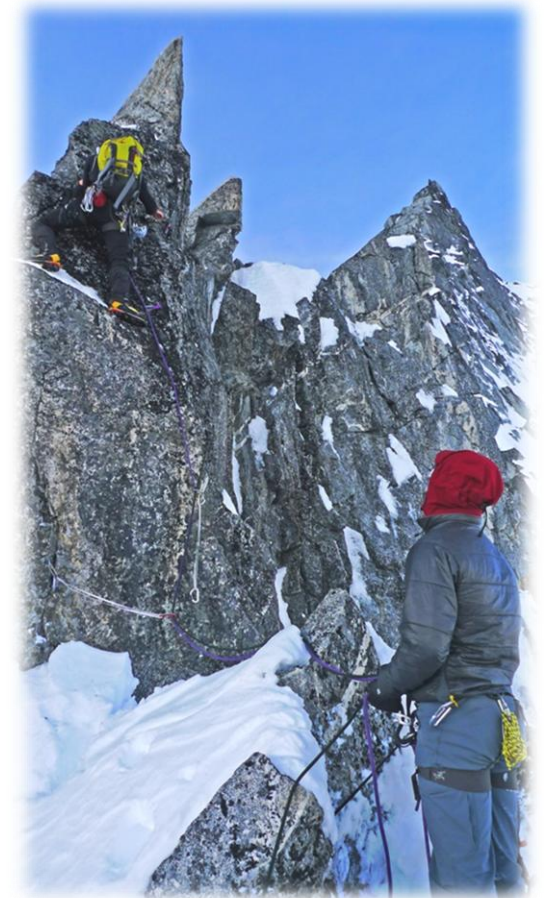
The east arête "Repeat Offender" (IV, 5.9, M5, AI3) represents the sixth ascent of the peak. Many thanks to the Copp-Dash Inspire Award and the Mazama Expedition Committee for supporting our trip, Dieter Klose for support and allowing us to climb while the icecap was "closed for the season," and to our pilot Wally from TEMSCO Helicopters.

Link to more photos:

[http://cascadeclimbers.com/forum/ubbthreads.php/topicid/1034497/1/TR\\_Burdick\\_Needle\\_East\\_Arete\\_R](http://cascadeclimbers.com/forum/ubbthreads.php/topicid/1034497/1/TR_Burdick_Needle_East_Arete_R)

Dave Burdick climbing a crux section on the first gendarme, John Friehe on the belay.

Photo: Zac West.







Andy Martone (foreground) and Steve Gruhn high above Jim Lake and the Knik River Valley

## Matanuska Matterhorn Pinnacles and Frontier Peak

**(2011 Mystery Mountain Almost Repeats 1988 Trip)**

by Tom Choate

In mid-July, after substantial rain, Sharman Haley and I brought our mountain bikes to the

Jim Lake parking spot to do a reccy (reconnaissance) of the four-wheeler trail going to Jim Creek and beyond. Mud and deep pools blocked that route, so we checked out the left fork, which soon also proved unrideable. A 20-minute push uphill led to the end at a creek, where a steep foot trail led up the ridge, getting hard to follow amongst many moose trails 1,200 feet higher.

This reasonable access (hunters?) to the ridge running west from the point between Matanuska and Frontier Peaks meant that this year's "Mystery Mountain" trip would be similar to the one done in 1988 (see September 1988 *Scree*). There are three pinnacles on this ridge, one has a spectacular cliff and point that seen from Palmer, looks like the Matterhorn. With only two days to the advertised date, only Steve Gruhn, Jennifer DuFord, and Andy Martone accompanied "Grampa Goat" Saturday at 9 a.m. as we started up this route. It was sunny and warm as we moved steadily up the trail to the "shelf" where several trails split left, but because of overgrown cow parsnip (to which many folk are allergic) from here on, long sleeves and pants legs were needed. I only lost the route twice, thanks to the reccy, as trails came and went through and around alder patches. About 10:25 we took our first break at the highest spot used by hunters, almost 2,000 feet above the lakes below. Timberline begins to appear just above here, but alder and willow patches persist for another thousand feet up, nearly to the base of the cliffs that descend from the pinnacles. To reach the easier ridgeline to the east, we made a series of long traverses to the right, across steep tundra and small gullies where Steve zoomed ahead and Jennifer enjoyed her shorts. Later, climbing in talus and scrambling along faint sheep trails going right, I resumed my lead.

The final wide gully led to the ridge with spectacular cliffs and views to Matanuska Peak and Palmer 5,000 feet below.

A strong, cold wind was blowing here, so I bundled up and hid while the others worked their way toward me. Going westward to climb the "Matterhorn" (as done in 1988) was obviously out of the question, but following sheep trails eastward wasn't. Passing by the others sheltering from the wind, I said I was going to the top of the eastern pinnacle (at the divide), but Steve misunderstood and named an altitude that turned out to be the western point of Frontier. A quarter mile along the upper sheep route I reached the divide with fine views down Wolverine Creek. A short scramble to the top revealed it to be the highest point (except for Matanuska Peak) in the 100 degrees to the north and west until well into the Talkeetna Mountains. I yodeled, but the wind carried it away with no echo. Later I would regret that the others had not heard me.

I got cold waiting in the wind and headed back, ready to go home since the sky was pitch black by Anchorage and headed our way. Most of the way back to where I last saw them I spotted Jennifer and Andy on a sheep trail well below and headed east. I chased after them and caught up where they sheltered on the Wolverine Creek side of the divide. I was alarmed to hear that Steve had headed far southeast toward Frontier Peak, thinking he was following me. It was 3 p.m. and these two were heading home.

I was in no mood to push my old, tired body farther after climbing six hours and 5,000 feet, but leaving Steve alone with a storm coming was a poor choice for a trip leader. Thus began a long chase, down to the low point, then up,

around pinnacles, and across a long loose talus slope that dropped a thousand feet to the Wolverine Creek cirque. An hour later as I was descending to the narrow pass at the base of the Frontier Peak cliffs, I spotted a human coming down out of the cloud. Steve had turned back at the rock climbing a third of the way up. It was late, but we were nearly there, so we descended on a sheep trail around the steep southwest face. This reached a gully with snow and water where we refilled bottles and rested. Some sheep had gone up the rocky ledges above, so I checked out the route, which led to steep talus above. I suggested that Steve work his way back to the pass while I scrambled up toward the summit. Each slope and gully to the south led up to cliffs, except for one that reached a pass and scrambling on pinnacles. Reaching the top of one in cloud, I descended down the south face and up yet another gully with scrambling to another pinnacle that seemed higher. I couldn't see 30 feet and it was drizzling, so I rapidly slid and traversed the talus and scree back to above the pass. Hollering to Steve, I guessed wrong about the best route down, so he had to wait freezing for another 10 minutes while I crept down wet cliffs.

We stayed on the ridge to near the summit of Point 5538, over the spur ridge, and into the wind on the way around pinnacles on the main ridge. Looking back to the rapidly clouding summit, I couldn't tell which summit pinnacles I had been on. It never reminded me of where I was 23 years earlier. Fifty mile-per-hour gusts and horizontal sleet nearly pushed me over cliffs to the east in narrow places. We were both wet and cold as we climbed back up toward the Matterhorn ridge, pushing to gain a little heat. Sometimes I glimpsed Steve ahead in the rocks, but I was out of gas after not

stopping for over two hours, and had to let him go while I huddled where I had left the smart ones four hours earlier and refueled.

It worked. Soon I was moving up and along the sheep trail to the ridge top where I had to brace with both poles to be sure gusts wouldn't send me over the edge. But on the way down a bit of scree sliding and fast traversing was possible thanks to diminishing wind speed. Soon I could look down to where Steve was traversing and in a half hour we joined up on the slippery wet tundra. Now it was a matter of getting on the

correct ridge and finding the best combination of moose trails down the way we had come up. Remarkably we made it down the 4000 feet in three hours, arriving shortly after 11 p.m. with light to spare. Jennifer and Andy were not so fortunate, arriving only two hours before us, according to a nearby camper.

Now who would be so dumb as to be out 14 hours climbing up over 7,000 feet (and the same down) at my age? No wonder I couldn't get up Sunday and was sore all week; it's no mystery.



**Eastern pinnacles and ridge to Frontier Peak (to right)**





Tim Silvers ascending Mount Rainier. Photo by David Lynch.

## Realizing Banister Dreams

by David Lynch

I grew up in Albert Lea, Minnesota, in a house on Grace Street. When I was 11 years old my mother had my three sisters and I write down “life goals” and we put the papers inside a banister on the steps to our upstairs. My folks moved up to Minneapolis after we kids were grown and gone, but a few years after my Dad passed away, my Mom moved back. The house in which we grew up has since been leveled to make room for a parking lot for the hospital, so my Mom enjoys the Albert Lea life in a different part of town now. Of course she retrieved those letters from the banister before they sold the house and moved out.

I’m 48 years old now and I still get teased about some of the goals the 11-year-old “me” put to paper that day. Looking back, I have no regrets – I’ve accomplished many of those goals, came close in some, failed miserably in others. Looking forward, I am utterly optimistic. I still have time to show that 11-year-old what I’m made of.

I laugh when I think how little I knew what “climb a big mountain” even meant. Growing up in the flat Midwest I had no idea what climbing was all about. This was back when there were no indoor climbing gyms. Climbing had not exploded into popularity yet and I wouldn’t even tie into a rope for another 15 years.

In my twenties and thirties, I rock climbed in the summer months up at Taylors Falls and Blue Mounds State Park in Minnesota, Devils Lake in Wisconsin, and after a trip to the Needles and Black Hills area in South Dakota, I had a letter printed in *Rock and Ice* magazine.

Nearly five years ago my wife and I moved up to Alaska and my climbing life took off. I joined the Mountaineering Club of Alaska and took a month-long Basic Mountaineering Course. More importantly, I met a bunch of great people and developed some great climbing relationships. Since moving to Alaska I’ve taken up ice climbing and enjoyed rock-

climbing trips to Yosemite, Joshua Tree, and Arizona’s Cochise Stronghold. I’ve also had the incredible experience of spending 10 days in Little Switzerland in the Alaska Range climbing alpine rock routes.

But the “Big Mountain” climb still eluded me. That all changed on a Friday in July 2011 when I was fortunate enough to summit Mount Rainier with my friend Tim Silvers. The summit was amazing, but even more so was the actual climb. Even more amazing was the journey getting to the point in my life where I had the knowledge, and the experience, and the patience to make it happen. No instructors, no guides, just two guys on a rope making their way up a glacier or two. Or three.

Tim Silvers will give a presentation on our climb at the November monthly meeting, so I don’t want to give up too much. Just thought I’d share a slice of my life and a couple pictures.



David Lynch ascending Mount Rainier. Photo by Tim Silvers.



Tom Choate leads the way up from Summit Lake.

## Annual Kenai Mountains Weekend

### Peaks Less Traveled – Summit Lake Area June 11, 2011

By Tom Choate  
(with additions by Steve Gruhn)

When I arrived Friday evening, I found the advance party already in the walk-in section of the Tenderfoot Creek Campground, holding extra spaces for others. Soon seven tents were set out and fellowship was developing around the stoves and campfire. Promptly at 9:30 a.m. Saturday, as promised, a motley group set off up the road to the old ski area. Here the

walkers began a climb up the established trail just as a carload of morning arrivals drove up, passing on greetings and good luck wishes. Higher, beyond a microwave tower and building, multiple trails forged different routes up the ridge. Choosing two on the left, we wove in and out among small hemlocks until both trails faded out. We regrouped and soon reached a cleared survey line, which led right to a nice overlook for a break. Underway again, the brush was left behind as we hiked along the tundra and the first snowbanks that poked the ridge ahead.

Now the group began to separate, with Steve Gruhn forging ahead, while Shane Docherty, Yulia Pechersky, Marie K., and I attempted to keep up. Bruce Kittredge ably led Marianne Spur and Manny Lewis at a more moderate pace. Higher up, the front five took a break on a knob with a fine view of the lake below and of peaks across the valley beyond (Colorado Creek peaks). Teasing insults were shouted at the trailing three below as snacks disappeared into hungry bodies.

From here the snow became more regular, steeper, and small outcroppings required choosing sides of the ridge. Steve and I kicked steps, which improved the route, but several folks wished they had brought ski poles to improve balance. As the ridge narrowed, the last tower of Point 4790 loomed steeply ahead. Steve traversed right to a gully where rotten snow around rocks made him flounder. I found better snow somewhat lower and set a trail for Yulia that switched back to the ridge crest above the steep section. I shouted to the other two that the difficulties were over for the rest of the climb, but they had talked themselves into a fear-induced turn-back mood. So much for my earlier advice *not to judge any route or peak until they had actually laid hands on it,*

which I use in each climbing course I teach to older scouts, to encourage an “I can do this” attitude instead of its opposite.

The top was cold and windy, so after a quick snack we descended to the pass and climbed steadily southward up the easy ridge to the summit of Peak 5050 (I told the group earlier that we had a 50-50 chance of summiting). Steve had a burning desire to continue to a group of “49-er” peaks to the southeast despite deteriorating weather so we split up (see his note below). I wanted to take a new route down on the ragged ridge along the south side of the Tenderfoot Creek valley we had skirted as we went from Point 4790 to Peak 5050. A tiny sheep trail allowed Yulia and I to avoid any problems in the rocks, so we were walking along a small cornice and then tundra quite quickly. Near the end of the ridge, I led down left, soon finding the large snowfield that feeds a snow gully leading to the lake. The soft afternoon snow produced surface sloughs regularly, so I had to wait for some to stop before continuing. Yulia elected to walk past the steep section and start glissading lower down, while I had many fun wet-pants slides. Unfortunately, the way along the lakeside to camp was tedious as no trail was found, so we went around and through alder patches.

#### Steve writes:

After unsuccessfully searching the cairn on Peak 5050 for a register that might have been left by an earlier party (Kathy Still reported that Paul Lindemuth and Eric Opland had reached this summit in 2001), I hemmed and hawed about whether to proceed south and east to a three 4900-foot points west of Mills Creek. The winds were pretty strong, the clouds were scudding across the higher peaks, and the temperature was dropping. But I wanted to



explore the route and try for a possible ascent of Inspector Peak (5220) to the south. We tried to determine which of the three 4,900-foot summits was the highest. From Peak 5050 it looked like the third one was the highest. I decided to try it.

I descended to the 4,400-foot saddle and easily hiked up Peak 4920. There was no cairn. It was obvious that the middle of the three 4900-foot peaks was lower than Peak 4920, but I couldn't readily determine whether the southernmost point was higher than Peak 4920. So, I pulled out my half-filled water bottle and used it as a level. The elevations of the two summits were quite similar, but it appeared that Peak 4920 was higher than the southernmost of the three points. This bit of knowledge was enough for the lazy man in me to win out and dissuade me from continuing farther along the ridge toward Inspector Peak, which was hidden in the clouds.

So, I turned around and descended to the saddle once again and retraced my steps back to Peak 5050. Tom's and Yulia's tracks led me down the west ridge. I followed their tracks to the top of the steep avalanche chute east of Summit Lake. The snow was sloppy enough and thin enough that I didn't want to glissade, but it was obvious that Tom had. I followed his track down below a narrow spot in the chute and from there glissaded in his track to the deposition area. Leaving the snow, I walked northeasterly several yards from the lakeshore in meadows, alders, and willows – mostly alders and willows.

Eventually, I stumbled into the Tenderfoot Creek Campground and met Bruce and the rest of the gang. Within five minutes of my arrival Tom and Yulia arrived. The brush had

been so thick that we hadn't seen each other during our bushwhack.

After grabbing a bite to eat I headed back to Anchorage; the rest of the crew spent the night in the campground and planned additional adventures the next day.



The two ridges of Peak 5050 surround upper Tenderfoot Creek

#### Tom continues:

**SUNDAY:** Despite a pleasant campfire party, a group of seven was ready to go at the planned 9:30 a.m., despite having to pack up camp to avoid extra fees. Cars were moved a half mile to near the lodge and the hike began just across the highway and small bridge. I had done this trip a few years earlier, but missed the route for a hundred yards as the small mining road now goes northeast along the powerline as it starts. There were plenty of tracks along the road indicating activity at the gold claims above, but we turned off at a ford

and didn't see any mining equipment. Climbing steeply up the streambank on a moose trail, we soon entered multiple alder patches. Thanks to the trail, it took little time to reach open, flower-filled grassland, where we wound our way upward in patchy sun. We missed the best route, but soon reached a wide gully leading up onto the high ridge. There were dozens of kinds of wildflowers blooming all around, and I couldn't decide whether to go around identifying and photographing them or to take a snack break like the sensible folks.

It was steep and slow going as we trudged up the gully, and a cold wind had us hiding from it at the 3,000-foot outlook where we reached the ridge. Great views all around as more snacks vanished while the group re-formed. Off up the ridge, went a determined Marie, leading the way to be sure she made it this day, with the old goat and others trying to keep up. Only Bruce and Marianne remained at the first overlook, so Manny, Shane, and Marie celebrated with Yulia and me atop the first point (4325 feet) on the Colorado Creek ridge. The cold wind and threatening sky caused us to abandon plans to continue to the 4,550-foot points farther along the ridge.

Back in the steep gully leading down, I found a snowpatch for a glissade, and Manny topped this with a grassy glide with full gainer at the end that should have scored 9 out of 10. At the bottom all reassembled in flowerland for the pleasant hike down, finding the same passages through the alders taken on the way up. All members reached the highway early enough to beat most of the traffic to Anchorage. Marianne's photos provide beautiful coverage of this trip on the Anchorage Adventurers and Facebook websites.

Photos courtesy of Bruce Kittredge.

# Eklutna Traverse and Pichler's Perch Access Hazard

By Wayne L. Todd

The Eklutna Glacier is rapidly melting and retreating up the canyon. Glacier access is no longer an easy walk up with crampons. Current inherent hazards are deep crevasses, deep undercut bergschrunds, moulins, steep ice, churning water, and mud on top of steep ice. The lower route is changing every year. Within two years the ice bridge over the river in the canyon will probably be gone, which will create additional hazards and require more route finding.

Climbers should be prepared with steel crampons, two ice tools (or ice tool with sharp snow axe), a rope for climbing, belaying and/or rappelling and the hardware to do such (ice screws, V-thread material, belay device, harness, helmet, etc.). Snow might fill in some of the smaller hazards, but might just cover the larger ones.

Overall the Eklutna Glacier is thinning, which is creating more crevasses, especially below 4,000 feet. Roped travel on the snow-covered glacier is highly advised.



Views of the Eklutna Glacier, taken a few days apart (in different locations)



Carrie Wang ascending the receding Eklutna Glacier





# Peak of the Month: Mount Ryan

By Steve Gruhn

Mountain Range: Yukon-Tanana Highlands  
 Borough: Fairbanks-North Star Borough  
 Drainages: Frozenfoot Creek and Pool Creek  
 Latitude/Longitude: 65° 14' 35" North, 146° 14' 59" West  
 Elevation: 3555 feet  
 Prominence: 605 feet from Peak 3590 in the McManus Creek and Pool Creek drainages  
 Adjacent Peaks: Peak 3455 in the Harrington Fork of Birch Creek, McManus Creek, and Pool Creek drainages; Rosebud Summit (3640); Peak 3138 in the Cassiar Creek, Modoc Creek, and Smith Creek drainages; and Peak 2971 in the Frozenfoot Creek drainage  
 Distinctness: 605 feet from Peak 3455  
 USGS Map: Circle (A-5)  
 First Recorded Ascent: Unknown  
 Access Point: Circle-Fairbanks Historic Trail

Mount Ryan was named by prospectors; the name was first reported by the USGS in 1903. The name appeared on the 1904 "Reconnaissance Map of Fairbanks and Birch Creek Districts, Alaska" that was prepared by Alfred Hulse Brooks and published in 1905 as Plate XIII of USGS Bulletin No. 251, "The Gold Placers of the Fortymile, Birch Creek, and Fairbanks Regions, Alaska," by Louis Marcus Prindle.

On the 1904 Reconnaissance Map, Mount Ryan was depicted about 3 miles south of the Fairbanks and Circle City Trail. In reality, this trail had both a winter route and a summer route. The winter route followed the frozen streams and the summer route connected the treeless ridges. This trail is now known as the Circle-Fairbanks Historic Trail. Mount Ryan is 1.5 miles east of the summer route. Access to both routes can be gained at Twelvemile Summit about a dozen miles northeast of Mount Ryan.

The date of the first ascent is unknown, but a summit bench mark was shown on the 1952 Circle (A-5), Alaska, quadrangle. A 50-mile-plus ridge-running route leads from the Steese Highway at Twelvemile Summit over Mount Ryan to Fairbanks Creek.



# Mountaineering Club of Alaska

President	Tim Silvers	250-3374	Board member	Wayne Todd	522-6354
Vice-President	Jayme Mack	382-0212	Board member	Mark Smith	868-3155
Secretary	Brian Aho	223-4758	Board member	Vicky Lytle	351-8246
Treasurer	Randy Plant	243-1438	Board member	John Recktenwald	346-2589
			Board member	Jim Sellers	360-2560

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

Dues can be paid at any meeting or mailed to the Treasurer at the MCA address at right. 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 Membership Committee at [membership@mtclubak.org](mailto:membership@mtclubak.org).

The 'Scree' is a monthly publication of the Mountaineering Club of Alaska. Articles, notes and letters submitted for publication in the newsletter should be emailed to [MCAScree@gmail.com](mailto:MCAScree@gmail.com). Articles should be submitted by the 25<sup>th</sup> of the month to appear in the following 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. Ads can be emailed to [vicepresident@mtclubak.org](mailto:vicepresident@mtclubak.org).

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

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