

the SCREE

Mountaineering Club

of Alaska

OCTOBER 2022

Volume 65, Number 10



**"We should be less afraid
to be afraid."**

- Emily Harrington

**General Meeting Wednesday,
October 5, 2022, from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m.
at the B.P. Energy Center.**

**Hear from the 2023 MCA calendar
winners!**

Contents

Peak 6220, Clearwater Mountains

Vertigo Peak, Western Chugach Mountains

Long Peak, Wrangell Mountains

Peak of the Month: Cass Peak, Eastern Chugach Mountains



"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."

This issue brought to you by: Editor—Abbey Collins assisted by Dawn Munroe

Cover Photo

Steve Gruhn (right) leads Stephanie Ohms and Shadrach Stitz down the trail toward Alpine Creek Lodge with a picturesque lake in the Alpine Creek drainage forming the backdrop.
Photo by Shane Ohms

GENERAL MEETING

Wednesday, October 5, 2022, from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at the B.P. Energy Center.

Hear from the MCA Calendar winners!

Article Submission: Text and photography submissions for *the Scree* can be sent as attachments to mcascree@gmail.com. Articles should be submitted by the 11th of each month to appear in the next issue of *the Scree*. Do not submit material in the body of the email. Do not submit photos embedded in the text file. Send the photo files separately. Send high resolution file photos separately, including captions for each photo. 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. Please submit at least one vertically-oriented photo for consideration for the cover. Please don't forget to submit photo captions.

Secret Mission

Looking for some folks available on a weekend sometime in the next month, weather dependent. We'll be clearing a trail which doesn't exist. Be prepared for cold weather and some strenuous hiking. Tents might not be necessary, depending on how you feel about very large rocks.

Contact Gerrit Verbeek, 903-513-4286 or gerrit.r.verbeek@gmail.com

2023 Calendars

Calendars are currently headed for the printer and should be available soon. Look for them at your favorite Anchorage outdoor gear store. Thanks to Lexi Trainer, Heather Johnson, and all the photographers who contributed!

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For the MCA Membership Application and Liability Waiver, visit <http://www.mtnclubak.org/index.cfm?useaction=members.form>.



Check Facebook for last-minute trips and activities. Or, schedule one that you want to organize.



Announcements

Replacement Geographic Names for Derogatory Names

On September 8 the U.S. Department of the Interior announced 643 new geographic names throughout the country to replace existing geographic names that contained the word “squaw,” which had been officially deemed derogatory. Those replacement names include 26 names for geographic features in Alaska.

The 26 replacement names for features in Alaska include Hiilaang Ts’uujuus Mountain in the Manhattan Lake and Sakie Bay drainages on Dall Island and Jëjezhuu Tr’injàa Mountain in the Funnel Creek and Harrington Creek drainages of the Ogilvie Mountains.

The replacement names also include the following names that had been proposed by the MCA’s Geographic Names Committee: Aeolian Crossing and Aeolian Crossing Slough in the Tanana River east of the Aeolian Hills; Antipope Creek east of Pope Creek Dome in the Brooks Range; Cen Creek east of the Cen benchmark atop Peak 3851 in the Harrison Creek drainage of the Tanana Hills; Glacier River Rapids in the North Fork of the Koyukuk River downstream of its confluence with the Glacier River in the Endicott Mountains of the Brooks Range; and White Creek in the Victoria Creek drainage of the Tanana Hills in the White Mountains National Recreation Area.

The MCA’s Geographic Names Committee had also endorsed the new replacement name of Water Lily Lake in the Caribou Creek drainage of the Talkeetna Mountains.

In addition, the replacement names include Crystal Creek, Crystal Lake, and McLellan Peak to replace Little Squaw Creek, Little Squaw Lake, and Little Squaw Peak, respectively; Boulder Lake; and McLellan Creek all in the Lake Creek drainage northeast of Chandalar Lake in the Brooks Range; and Puntilla Creek in the Happy River drainage of the Alaska Range’s Hidden Mountains. The new McLellan Peak, the new McLellan Creek, and the new Puntilla Creek are each within five miles of existing geographic features with identical names, inviting future confusion.

Additional replacement names include Aeolian Crossing Point on the northeast side of the Tanana River east of the Aeolian Hills; Amau Creek in the Nushagak River drainage west of Dillingham; Hnilges Creek in the Caribou Creek drainage of the Talkeetna Mountains; Jëjezhuu Tr’injàa Gulch in the Kal Creek drainage of the Mertie Mountains; Kacuuq Bay in Prince William Sound south of the Central Chugach Mountains; Kayáashkeiditaan Creek northwest of Whale Passage on Prince of Wales Island; Kuy’aa Creek in the Kuskulana River drainage of the Wrangell Mountains; Lush Creek in the Ray Mountains; Sea Gull Creek west of the Kvichak River in the Lake and Peninsula Borough; Ts’akae Creek in the Tiekkel River drainage of the Central Chugach Mountains; and Tsemi Ts’ese’ to replace Squaw Island at the confluence of the Chitstone River and the Nizina River in Wrangell-Saint Elias National Park.

Steve Gruhn

Huts: An MCA Hero,

Many individuals do a lot of silent volunteering for the MCA: Officers and board of directors, committee chairs/ volunteers, hut renovation workers and many people that help in the background.

Here is another MCA hero to brag about: On Tuesday, August 30, our president, Gerrit Verbeek, did a rescue trip to the Mint Hut. Gerrit hiked in an empty poo barrel and installed it in the toilet (in danger of overflowing.)

Helo operations to the Mint and Bomber huts have been delayed this summer. Gerrit did some ‘out of the box’ thinking to solve the toilet concern.

MANY THANKS from all of us, Gerrit... You are an MCA hero!!

Greg Bragiel- MCA Huts chairman



Announcements

Upcoming Elections

The October 5th General Meeting will include votes on new Officers and Directors to join the MCA Board for a two-year term. If you would like more information or to express interest in running, feel free to contact a current Board member.

High turnout is critical

We will take nominations for candidates for 2 officer positions and 3 director positions. You may nominate yourself or another person, although they must accept the nomination in order to run. Anyone who is currently serving may also run for re-election for another 2-year term. If they wish, candidates may make a short speech about their priorities and motivation for joining the Board before voting. The current positions up for election are:

Vice-President – Nathan Pooler

Secretary – Curtis Townsend

Director – Coleman Ahrens

Director – Brendan Lee

Director – Josh Pickle

MCA Board Roles

Vice-President:

- (a) To assume the duties of the President in the absence of the President, or at the request of the President.
- (b) All other-duties as assigned by the Executive Committee.
- (c) Provide programs and entertainment at club meetings and other club social activities.

Secretary:

- (a) To record the minutes of all regular and executive meetings.
- (b) To maintain complete business and historical records of the organization.
- (c) To initiate and answer correspondence as directed by the President.
- (d) All other duties as assigned by the Executive Committee.
- (e) To arrange for a meeting place for all regular meetings and the annual meeting.

Directors:

- (a) To act as an advisor to the Executive Committee concerning matters of policy.
- (b) All other duties as assigned by the Executive Committee.

Peak 6220, Clearwater Mountains

Text by Steve Gruhn, photos by Shane Ohms, unless otherwise indicated



Steve Gruhn (right) leads Stephanie Ohms and an exuberant Shadrach Stitz down the trail toward Alpine Creek Lodge.

On August 9, 2014, Dave Hart and I hiked from the Denali Highway, up Alpine Creek, and descended into the Windy Creek drainage of the Clearwater Mountains in the Hayes Range of the Alaska Range. During that trip we could see the Windy Creek Trail on the north side of Windy Creek some three miles to the north, but we knew neither its route nor where it connected to the Denali Highway.

That afternoon Dave and I separately climbed a 6,100-foot peak west of the pass between the two drainages (see the December 2014 Scree). At the time we called it Peak 6150, but a 2016 map has since revealed that the summit elevation is between 6,100 and 6,160 feet, so I'm now calling it Peak 6130. From the summit we saw a higher peak to the west. I immediately became interested in climbing that 6,200-foot peak.

On August 18, 2019, Dave, his son Tate Hart, and I headed up Alpine Creek and then Raft Creek to attempt that 6,200-foot peak. The map indicated that there were three possible summits, each separated by about a quarter to a third of a mile from the next. The western peak was shown with an elevation of 6,220 feet, but the other two summits were shown merely as being between 6,200 and 6,300 feet. We gained the pass west

of Peak 6130 and headed westward to the eastern of the three 6,200-foot summits. Dave and I reached the eastern 6,200-foot summit, only to find that it wasn't the highest. We couldn't be certain, but from our vantage it looked like Peak 6220 was the highest of the three summits. But we left the other two summits unvisited so that we could return to Tate. Instead of being sated, the desire to visit the highest of the three summits had only grown.

At the crack of noon on Saturday, August 20, Shane Ohms drove his truck up the Windy Creek Trail in the Clearwater Mountains and deposited his cousin Stephanie Ohms, Shadrach Stitz, and me at an elevation of about 3,400 feet. Although I had seen the Windy Creek Trail from above, I hadn't seen this portion of it, so I was looking forward to exploring the area, as well as attempting Peak 6220. Shane's dad, Doug Ohms, had come along so that he could drive the truck to Alpine Creek Lodge, thus allowing Shane to join us for a traverse from the Windy Creek drainage to the Alpine Creek drainage.

All-terrain vehicle trails and caribou trails led us up an unnamed tributary of Windy Creek. We stayed on the west side of the stream and travel was nearly brush free and pretty easy until

about 4,300 feet. At that point a rock glacier filled the valley and our pace slowed considerably as we navigated over the teetering rocks (and as the other three waited for me to catch up to them).

Above the rock glacier we made our way past a small pond that still contained ice from the past winter. Rounding a corner, we saw a scree slope that ascended into the clouds. The scree was comprised of cobbles and boulders, though, not pebbles. We had faith that this was the route to the summit of Peak 6220, so up we went. And then the skies honored our collective faith by baptizing us with showers, which made the lichen-covered rocks rather slippery.

It took a while, particularly for me and my aching right knee, to reach the 6,040-foot saddle on the ridge. While waiting, Shane found a fossil of a leaf in the scree, which was rather surprising because the rocks didn't look to me to be sedimentary in origin. But I'm not a geologist, so I should be accustomed to being wrong about such things.

At the ridge crest above the scree slope, we turned to the right (northwest). After a short bit of scrambling on the rain-slickened rocks around a couple gendarmes, we were on the summit and enjoying views of ... the inside of a Ping-Pong ball. There was no indication of a prior ascent. Shane pulled out his phone and found an Earthmate map that indicated we were higher than the middle 6,200-foot peak. That was good enough for us, so we retraced our steps to the saddle.

A rather prominent caribou trail led southwest from the saddle, so we followed it down and out of the clouds to the valley floor of a northern tributary of Raft Creek. Soaked, but headed downhill on the home stretch, we picked up our pace. We crossed the tributary twice, following caribou trails, and then dropped steeply into Raft Creek, crossed it, and angled up the ridge on the other side. On the broad ridge, Shane spotted a pair of brown bears on the west side of Raft Creek – close enough to be of interest, but far enough to be of no concern. We crossed the broad slope and found a trail high above Alpine Creek. That vantage gave us great views of the lower lake in the Alpine Creek drainage to the northeast.

We followed the trail to the Alpine Creek Lodge and Shane's waiting truck. The traverse behind us, into the truck we piled, happy to be out of the rain and even more happy to have had a great pilgrimage experience climbing a new peak in the Clearwater Mountains.



Steve Gruhn leads Shadrach Stitz and Stephanie Ohms up the valley to the base of Peak 6220.



Shadrach Stitz and an interesting tor on the approach to the base of Peak 6220.



Stephanie Ohms (left) and Shadrach Stitz above a pond near the top of the rock glacier.



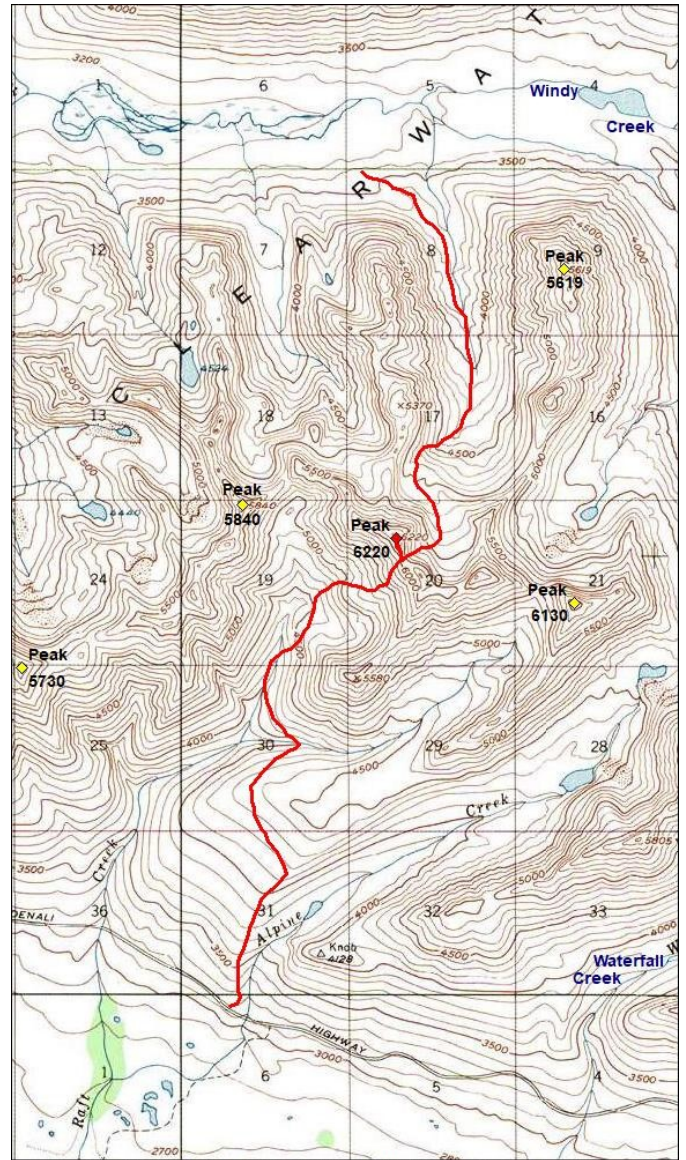
Shane Ohms at the saddle on the ridge.
Photo by Shadrach Stitz



From left: Steve Gruhn, Stephanie Ohms, Shadrach Stitz, and Shane Ohms begin their ascent of the rock glacier.



Shadrach Stitz (foreground) leads Stephanie Ohms and Steve Gruhn up the south ridge of Peak 6220.



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



From left: Shadrach Stitz, Steve Gruhn, Stephanie Ohms, and Shane Ohms at the Windy Creek Trail at the start of their traverse. Peak 5619 is in the background above Stitz.

Photo by Doug Ohms

Vertigo Peak (5,775 feet), Western Chugach Mountains

Text and photos by Abbey Collins



Vertigo Peak from the pass above Blue Eyed Lake.

Summer 2022 was rainy and full of COVID. So, when the sun came out and sickness subsided in early September, Andrew Holman and I quickly packed our bags and headed to the Eagle River Nature Center.

We hoped to climb Compass Butte, but after several days of heavy rain we decided to approach crossing the Eagle River with extra caution. I took two steps into the water at the crossing near Icicle Creek, felt it hit my waist, and walked right back out. On to plan B!

Plan B, Vertigo Peak, meant we needed to hike several more miles and many more feet of elevation gain on the Crow Pass Trail, but that still seemed like a more pleasant option than the river crossing. The sun was high in the blue sky as we marched into a beautiful fall day. We felt strong and happy, content to be out in the mountains we'd spent too little time in the few months prior.

Shortly before our turnoff at Twin Falls I heard a branch snap in the woods, looked up and locked eyes with a bear. It didn't bother me, though – not until it began making noises I'd never heard a bear make. It whined and shouted, as if attacking something or being attacked. Eventually the noises grew fainter and

then disappeared altogether. We carried on, slightly bear-a-noid, but not discouraged.

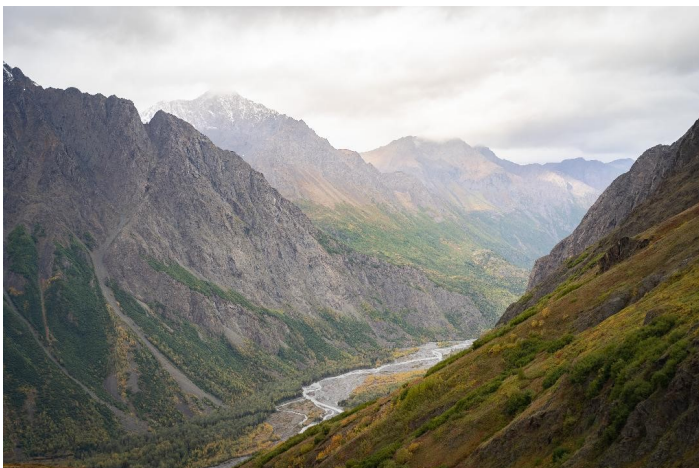
The Twin Falls trail was just as steep and energy sapping as ever, though the peak brush of summer had begun to wilt. Cotton from late season fireweed drifted through the breeze, sticking to our faces as we trudged uphill.

We hiked up into the valley, past Mount Yukla to the left, to about 5,200 feet. Fall colors blanketing the tundra distracted from the pain of this ascent; getting to Blue Eyed Lake is always a humbling experience. It took us nine hours from the trailhead to get to the pass above the lake, but with poor weather on the way the next day we still wanted to get to the top of Vertigo before crawling into our tent to sleep.

Instead of descending to the lake, we side-hilled to Vertigo's northwest ridge, saving ourselves a bit of gain. The ridge is never more than 3rd class, but with some decent exposure and fresh snow, it took thoughtful movement and route finding to make our way to the top. Crampons made the ascent more secure and allowed us to utilize a snowfield to get to and from the summit. The sun set just as we summited, and low clouds blocked the views of many of the surrounding peaks. We

turned around shortly after we arrived, and descended back to Blue Eyed Lake.

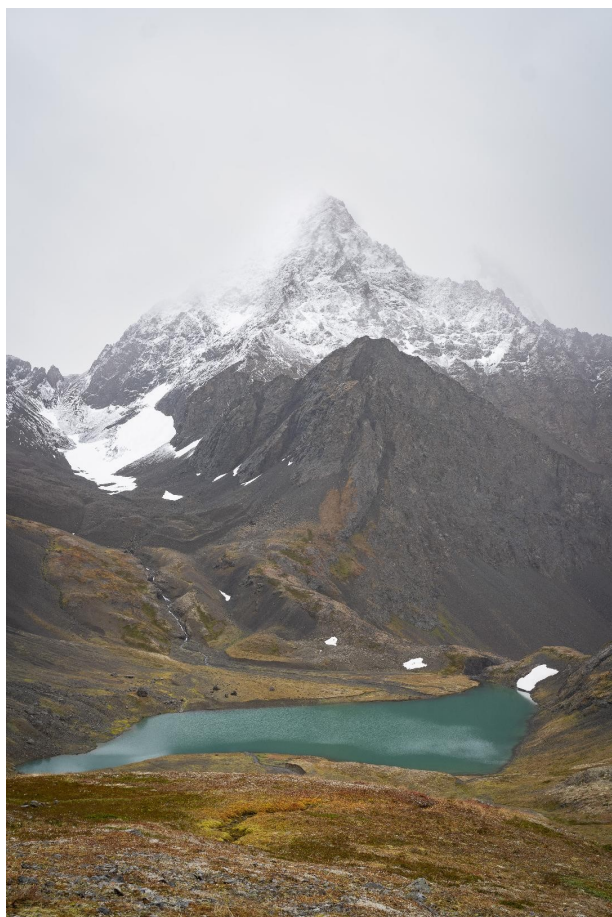
Our only plan for Sunday was to return to the car, so we let ourselves sleep in and eat a hot breakfast in the rain before heading out. There's something about the steep descent back to the Crow Pass Trail, followed by 8-9 miles of flat walking that always destroys my feet. By the end of the day I'd decided I'd probably never hike again (ha!).



The Crow Pass Trail from the Twin Falls trail descent.



Andrew Holman hikes toward the pass that will allow passage to Blue Eyed Lake.



Devil's Mistress looms over Blue Eyed Lake.



Andrew Holman descends Vertigo Peak toward Blue Eyed Lake.

Long Peak (5,770 feet), Wrangell Mountains

Text and photos by Josef Chmielowski



*Nathan Chmielowski relaxing on the summit of Long Peak.
Mount Wrangell and ice cap in the background.*

On June 30, 2022, my family and I flew from the Gulkana Airport to the Wrangell plateau. This is a broad, flat area situated between the Long Glacier on the east and the Cheshnina River Valley on the west. It is alpine tundra and makes for great hiking and treks all the while marveling at the expansive views of the 14,000-foot Mt. Wrangell and associated ice cap.

We used Copper Valley Air Services for the flight to and from the tundra airstrip (61.80199, -144.10083). It is not a gravel airstrip, but a couple of faint wheel marks on the ground that require specialized tundra tires to land. We had to make three Cessna flights to carry the four of us (me, my wife Jessie and two teenage boys, Henry and Nathan). This was because the landing spot was at 4,300 feet, there was no wind to help the pilot and it was 80 degrees, which meant less dense air.

We hiked to the east about three quarters of a mile from the airstrip and established a luxurious basecamp overlooking the Long Glacier. Our Taj

Mahal bug tent was extremely valuable for cooking because the mosquitoes were out in force. Our first and second days were spent walking along the 1,500-foot cliffs above the Long Glacier.



Joe Chmielowski on Mount Wrangell Icecap on July 3, 2022.

We also headed northwest to look into the Cheshnina River valley and view the Cheshnina Falls, which are massive, but only visible from about a mile away. They are fed via the Cheshnina Glacier, which is one of many glacier tongues creeping down the flanks of Mt. Wrangell from the giant summit ice cap.

On July 3 we hiked up and onto the ice cap about 1 mile east of the Cheshnina Glacier and in this particular spot there were few crevasses. Without proper climbing gear we did not progress far and instead were content to marvel at the views of Mt. Blackburn, other gnarly peaks on the Blackburn ridge-line, the Copper River Basin and Mount Marcus Baker in the far distant Chugach. The only bug-free spot we encountered was on the glacier proper, and when we started our descent, the mosquitoes were waiting for us at the moraine. Round trip stats from our camp to the glacier were 11.5 miles and 1,500 feet of vertical gain.

Despite being tired, the next morning at 9:00 a.m. on July 4, my son Nathan and I decided to climb Long Peak which is 5,770 feet in altitude. We headed south from camp and stayed close to the Long Glacier cliffs. This was for views, but also the walking tended to be easier, as the tundra was very spongy and sapped a lot of leg strength (especially from the day before). As we descended from our 4500-foot camp to about 4,000 feet, we started encountering more and more brush, which quickly became waist, chest and over-the-head high. What could have been a rough bushwhack turned out easy as we followed natural breaks in the vegetation – probably due to caribou trails or what might be drainage paths on the volcanic plateau.

We headed up the northeast ridge line, which was steep and coated in wildflowers and dwarf willow. We had to summit a small point labeled 4710 because the cliffs on the Long Glacier side would not allow us to avoid it on our route. We descended just over 300 feet to the saddle and resumed our up-climb, which was steep but straightforward. We had no scrambling, good footing and occasional sheep trails to follow. We summited at about 1:30 p.m. and enjoyed outstanding views of Wrangell, Blackburn and Mount Drum; we could just see the summit of Mount Sanford.



Nathan looking at the Long Glacier on one of our many walks around camp and the plateau.

There was a USGS marker on top set in 1951 following an initial USGS ascent the same year. According to mountaineering trivia master Steve Gruhn, these were the first and last recorded ascents of Long Peak (discounting a 1959 USGS helicopter ascent) until Nathan and I hiked it. It's certainly possible someone else did it between then and now, but Steve is not aware of any other ascents.

Our descent followed a different path, as we wanted to utilize some snow in the gullies to the east, closer to the Long Glacier. We were able to make good time coming down to the saddle,



View of Mount Blackburn looking from the Wrangell Plateau across the Long Glacier Valley.

then reascend Point 4710 and follow our route back to the base of the ridge line. Because it was a blazing hot 80 degrees, we went for a much-needed swim in a small pond, which had hundreds of tadpoles and large frogs. I'm not sure why frogs live at 3,700 feet, but the water was very warm and there were no predators like birds, so it must be a good place for them. Nathan and I caught a few for fun and returned them to the clear pond.

We got back to camp about 7:00 p.m. very hot and tired. Round trip stats were 12.5 miles and 3,500 feet vertical gain. That doesn't sound too bad, but as mentioned, the spongy tundra really saps the leg strength and the hot weather added to the

fatigue on top of our previous day's hike. We enjoyed a proper meal with Jessie and Henry who had spent the day hiking to a big lake, swimming and catching frogs!

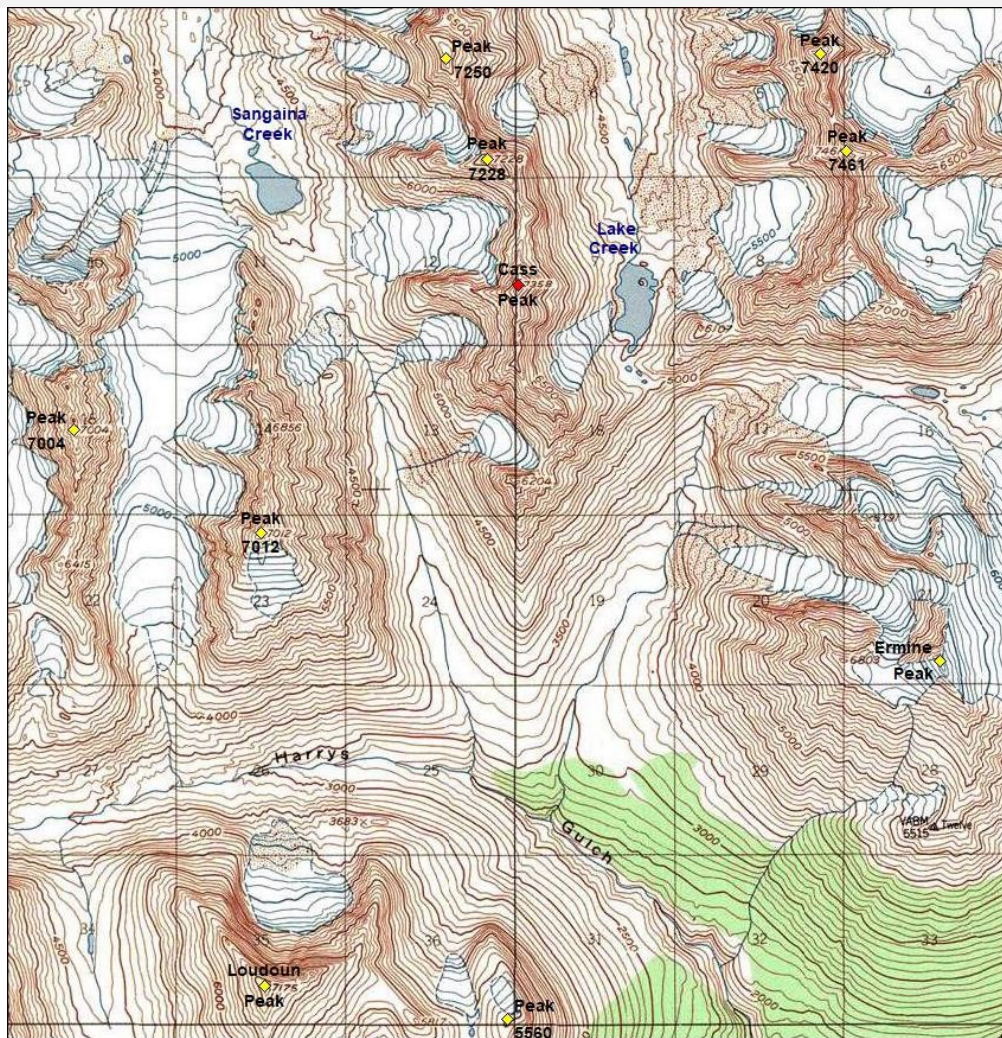
I can highly recommend the Wrangell plateau as a great place for camping and hiking. If I go back, I would like to climb Peak 6710, which is about 2 miles northwest of the Cheshnina Falls. The actual climb looks very straightforward, but the crux would be crossing the creek between the Cheshnina Glacier and the falls. It looks doable but could get very swollen towards the evening on the return trip back to camp. Also, on another hike I would want to cross the Cheshnina River and head west to another plateau for further exploration. So many options.



Summit selfie on Long Peak of Joe and son Nathan.

Peak of the Month: Cass Peak (7,358 feet), Eastern Chugach Mountains

Text by Steve Gruhn



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

Mountain Range: Eastern Chugach Mountains

Borough: Unorganized Borough

Drainages: Lake Creek and Klu River

Latitude/Longitude: 61° 6' 0" North, 143° 53' 37" West

Elevation: 7358 feet

Adjacent Peaks: Peak 7228 in the Lake Creek and Sangaina Creek drainages, Peak 7461 in the Lake Creek and Klu River

drainages, and Peak 7012 in the North Fork of the Bremner River drainage

Distinctness: 598 feet from Peak 7228

Prominence: 2288 feet from Peak 7461

USGS Maps: 1:63,360: McCarthy (A-8), 1:25,000: McCarthy A-8 SW

First Recorded Ascent: This peak might be unclimbed.

Cass Peak is the highest and most topographically prominent point on the ridge between Lake Creek and Sangaina Creek in the Eastern Chugach Mountains. It is the 103rd-most prominent peak in the Chugach Mountains and the 45th-most prominent peak in the Eastern Chugach Mountains.

The name of the peak first appeared on bivouac.com and was derived from the name of Fort Cass, which was located in present-day Charleston, Tennessee.

On September 1, 1834, in support of the implementation of the Indian Removal Act of 1830, Company F of the 4th U.S. Infantry established Camp Cass near the southwest bank of the Hiwassee River, northeast of present-day Chattanooga. The camp, named after Lewis Cass, the U.S. Secretary of War in Andrew Jackson's administration, later became known as Fort Cass.

Secretary Cass was instrumental in the implementation of

Jackson’s Indian removal policy, which resulted in the forced displacement of tens of thousands of Native Americans from east of the Mississippi River to present-day Oklahoma, known as the Trail of Tears.

After stints as the U.S. Ambassador to France, as a U.S. Senator from Michigan, as the Democratic Party’s Presidential nominee in 1848, and as a Presidential candidate again in 1852, Cass served as the U.S. Secretary of State in James Buchanan’s administration.

Places and features in 20 states and the District of Columbia have been named for Cass. Among the other geographic features named in honor of Cass are Michigan’s Cass Cliff, Cass Lake, and Cass River; Minnesota’s Cass Lake; and 6864-foot Mount Lewis Cass (a.k.a. Boundary Peak 47) in the North Fork of the Bradfield River and Jekill River drainages of Alaska’s and British Columbia’s Coast Mountains.

I don’t know of any ascents of Cass Peak; yours could be the first.

The information for this column came from bivouac.com (<https://bivouac.com/MtnPg.asp?MtnId=36054>), from the “Fort Cass” exhibit panel prepared for the Hiwassee River Heritage Center by Middle Tennessee State University’s Center for Historic Preservation (<https://www.mtsuhistpres.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/04/Hiwassee-River-Heritage-Center-Phase-II-Exhibit-Final-Panels-merged-compressed.pdf>), from Edwin Orin Wood’s and William Vernon Smith’s 1916 History of Genesee County, Michigan, and from the State Department’s Office of the Historian’s “Biographies of the Secretaries of State: Lewis Cass (1782-1866).”



7,530-foot Mount Rumble in Chugach State Park, from Peters Creek Trail.

Photo by Frank Baker

Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

August 31, 2022, 7:00-8:00 p.m. via Zoom

Roll Call

Gerrit Verbeek (President) - Present
Nathan Pooler (Vice-President) - Absent
Curtis Townsend (Secretary) - Present
Katherine Cooper (Treasurer) - Absent
Coleman Ahrens (Director) – Present
Brendan Lee (Director) - Absent
Josh Pickle (Director) - Absent
Heather Johnson (Director) - Present
Andy Kubic (Director) - Present
Peter Taylor (Director) - Absent
Mike Meyers (Past President) - Absent

Board Votes/Decisions

- The Board voted to renew a Zoom subscription to keep the option of hosting online meetings.
- About a month ago, a member reported a commercial group of 10 with out-of-state guides staying at the Mint Hut, leaving no room for others. A letter is to be written to this organization informing them that the Talkeetna huts cannot be used for profit by any group, and requesting a contribution to hut maintenance.
- The Board voted to schedule our January 2023 general meeting on January 11 at the BP Energy Center. The center is closed for maintenance the first week of January when we typically would have a general meeting.
- The Board voted No on a side mission to assess the Dnigi Hut. Concerns included added expense, and the complexity of the helicopter mission already planned. [Note: after this board meeting Brad Nelson provided additional information including a lower cost than the Board expected, and the board reversed their decision with an email vote to approve up to \$300 for a side trip to the Dnigi Hut]

Board Discussion

- Some members have recently asked about the Mentorship program. It is currently not active due to lack of volunteers.
- The Huts team (Brad Nelson, Dave Staeheli, Stan Olsen, Greg Bragiel, and others) have planned a helicopter mission to service the Bomber Hut and Mint Hut. Brad has asked the Board to consider adding an expense for a side trip to the Dnigi Hut to assess the water damage to the western wall, which has been reported since 2013.

Time and location of next meeting

- General Meeting - Wednesday October 5, 2022. Board elections, and calendar photographers will present.
- Next Board Meeting on September 28, 2022, via Zoom

Mountaineering Club of Alaska

President	Gerrit Verbeek	president@mtnclubak.org	Director 1 (term expires in 2022)	Coleman Ahrens	board@mtnclubak.org
Vice-President	Nathan Pooler	vicepresident@mtnclubak.org	Director 2 (term expires in 2022)	Brendan Lee	board@mtnclubak.org
Secretary	Curtis Townsend	secretary@mtnclubak.org	Director 3 (term expires in 2022)	Josh Pickle	board@mtnclubak.org
Treasurer	Katherine Cooper	treasurer@mtnclubak.org	Director 4 (term expires in 2023)	Heather Johnson	board@mtnclubak.org
			Director 5 (term expires in 2023)	Andy Kubic	board@mtnclubak.org
			Director 6 (term expires in 2023)	Peter Taylor	board@mtnclubak.org

Annual membership dues: Basic (“Dirtbag”) \$20, Single \$30, Family \$40

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 Membership Committee at membership@mtnclubak.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. Material should be submitted by the 11th of the month to appear 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. Ads can be emailed to vicepresident@mtnclubak.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.

Mailing list/database entry: Katherine Cooper — 209-253-8489 — membership@mtnclubak.org

Hiking and Climbing Committee: Vacant—training@mtnclubak.org

Mentorship: Katherine Cooper and Lila Hobbs—mentorship@mtnclubak.org

Huts: Greg Bragiel—350-5146 or huts@mtnclubak.org

Calendar: Lexi Trainer

Librarian: Gwen Higgins—library@mtnclubak.org

Scree Editor: Abbey Collins — MCAScree@gmail.com assisted by Dawn Munroe (350-5121 or dawn.talbott@yahoo.com)

Web: www.mtnclubak.org

Find MCAK listserv at <https://groups.io/g/MCAK>.

*From left: Steve Gruhn, Stephanie Ohms, and Shadrach Stitz heading up the valley to the base of Peak 6220 in the Clearwater Mountains.
Photo by Shane Ohms*

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