

SCREE

NOVEMBER 1993

A Publication of the Mountaineering Club of Alaska, Inc.

Volume 36 Issue 11

Box 102037, Anchorage, Alaska 99510

NOVEMBER MEETING

Wednesday

November 17, 7:30

Pioneer Schoolhouse, 3rd & Eagle Streets
Downtown Anchorage

Slide Show: A winter ascent of *Mt. Everest* will be shown by Lionel Fairweather.

Hocman's words in 1968 after he, his wife Grace and Art Davidson descended this valley following the first ascent of West Kiliak. The world class alder jungle in this valley forced these legendary Chugach climbers to spend an unplanned bivouac here as their brush bashing dragged on into darkness.

On July 10th I spent the

good part of a day trying to find a way through this maze of undergrowth and slime covered cliffs. At the end of the day the valley of Icicle Creek had won. I hobbled away humbled, but I felt I had scouted a route up this valley that would play out. Of course, if I disclosed the secret of passage through Yukla Valley, the legend of this sinister gorge would be tarnished. And we can't have that!

Why venture into the evil hell-thickets of Yukla Valley? Because of Peak 6850, the highest unclimbed peak of the Western Chugach. A peak shunned for the crime of being slightly below 7000 feet! There was no mention in past *Scree*s of this peak being climbed and, above all, Willy Hersman knew of no one that had summited this peak.

On July 17th Bill Spencer, Steve Bull and I forged into the valley. It was a clear hot day, but we kept cool under a canopy of devil's club leaves and alder branches. Occasional clearings were loaded with berries. Bill counted nine different varieties. The berries were also relished by black bears, of which we encountered three.

Eventually we broke free from the vegetation's grasp and approached the crux of the climb. We had to find a route 1500 feet up to the cirque below our destination peak. Bill spotted a steep gully that we opted for. Besides some rock climbing through a waterfall, the route played out well. We reached the cirque and scrambled westward up to the summit. There are three high points on the

HIKING AND CLIMBING SCHEDULE

- Nov 21 Hidden Peak
Class B. Chugach State Park, near The Wedge. Skis or snowshoes.
Leader: Dave Hart 243-0975
- Dec 18 Ice Climbing Practice
Location depends on conditions. Class: Fifth Class.
Leader: Dave Hart 243-0975

TRIP REPORTS

Peak 6850
Western Chugach Mountains
Southwest of West Kiliak

by Tim Kelley

(Anchorage A-6, T 13N, R 2E, Section 18)

"Yukla Valley is a terror." These were Vin



summit, the middle being the highest. From the summit there is an almost 3000 foot sheer drop to the Kiliak Glacier.

On top we found no sign of previous ascents. We built a cairn and left a register. We proposed Nantina Point for the name of this peak. Though the peak has enough vertical to be a true peak, it is still a high point on West Kiliak's southwest ridge. Like the name Kiliak, Nantina means bogeyman or evil spirit, in Dena'ina Athabascan.

With this ascent, Big Timber Peak would become the highest unclimbed Western Chugach peak. The highest - for one week. Willy Hersman and crew would make the summit of Big Timber the next weekend.

While descending we were humbled by the view of the northwest face of Yukla Peak. I don't believe this face of Yukla has ever been climbed. With almost 4000 feet of extremely steep Chugach rock, it would be quite the challenge. If anyone's interested ... I'll watch!

Peak 4470
Western Chugach Mountains
Twentymile River Drainage

by Tim Kelley

(Seward D-6, T 10N, R 3E, Section 22)

Behind Mt Alyeska and to the west of the Twentymile River are several feisty little peaks. I say 'feisty' because despite their modest elevation, their proximity to the coast gives them some bigger-mountain characteristics.

This part of the Western Chugach receives around 120 inches of precipitation a year. In contrast, the northeast part of the Western Chugach, near Palmer, receives about 20 inches a year. This extra precipitation results in deeper, longer-lasting snowpacks and cornices plus more alpine glaciation. Combine this with soggy vegetation choked approaches and steep crumblelite ridges and you've got some classic Chugach scrambles.

The most inaccessible and 'feistiest' of these peaks is Peak 4470, which borders the Twentymile River 4-5 air miles northeast of Blueberry Hill. This peak can, with luck and daring, be approached by water.

On August 01 Bill Spencer and I began our climb of this peak from the Twentymile River (Section 14). We bushwhacked upwards alongside the stream that drains the glacier on the northeast side of the mountain. We climbed the ridge bordering the east side of the glacier encountering one pitch that was quite steep and rotten. At the head of the

glacier we traversed southwest and then scrambled a series of gullies to the summit.

The summit looked untouched and we left a cairn and register. As this peak is what the veteran MCAers would call an independent peak (1000 vertical drop off all ridges) the 360 degree views were impressive. We descended the same route that we used to ascend 'Feisty Mountain.'

Peak 6250
Talkeetna Mountains
Northeast of Nelteni

by Tim Kelley

(Anchorage D-6, T 21N, R 2E, Section 15)

In late August of 1992, Bill Spencer and I attempted to climb this peak near the upper reaches of the Kashwitna River. Our attempt ended on the ridge to Ozone Peak when we realized we were running out of time and reasonable weather. The next week another MCA attempt on this peak would also be thwarted by weather.

On August 7, 1993 Bill Spencer, Greg Jacobson and I hiked to the Bomber Hut, lightened our loads and left at 2:45 p.m. for our second attempt of this peak. Our route took us to the high col between the peaks Nelteni and Ozone. Near the top of Ozone we paused before descending to a glacier that would lead us to the base of the mountain. Fleeting glimpses of the peak through the clouds revealed a north and south summit Both were very close in height, the question remained - which one was higher? To make things exciting, the north summit was a tower of granite.

From the base of the mountain we scrambled over a jumble of large, unsettled granite blocks to a steep gully. The gully brought us to the base of a small unmapped glacier clinging to the side of the peak. From here the north peak looked higher than the south peak.

After obtaining the summit ridge, Greg led a route up the north summit's granite tower. We huddled on top awaiting a break in the clouds to size up the south summit. In a few minutes we realized we were not on the true summit yet, the south summit was higher by 20 to 50 feet.

We rappelled off the north summit and picked our way across the ridge separating the two high points. Scrambling up a narrow ridge we reached the higher south summit The top showed no signs of previous ascents. We enjoyed the stunning panorama of peaks circling the Kashwitna River headwaters.



In the spring of this year a man that many knew, respected, and now deeply missed, had died near this mountain. We proposed the name Mt. Besh for this peak in memory of the late Tom Besh. We are aware that Willy Hersman had proposed naming this peak 'Tsili', Athabascan for 'lightning', upon its first ascent. This is a fine name for a Talkeetnan peak and there are others in the area that are worthy of this name. We'd be happy to team up with Willy and crew to choose and climb a 'Tsili' in the future.

After 13 hours of hard hiking and climbing for the day we arrived back at the Bomber Hut under a crimson sunset.

Peak 5495
Western Chugach Mountains
East Fork Eklutna River Drainage

by Tim Kelley

(Anchorage B-6, T 14N, R 3E, Section 27)

South Central Alaska was getting blasted by high winds on September 6, 1993 so Tim Miller and I looked for a peak to climb with a protected route. We found this in Peak 5495 on the east side of the East Fork Eklutna River surprise the wind seemed to be blowing less on top of this peak than it was in Anchorage.

Miscellaneous - Should anyone be planning to climb Eagle Peak, you might want to bring along a new register bottle. The current register poly-bottle had been exposed to the elements resulting in it cracking and filling with water and a hatch of bugs.

A Brief Visit to the Peters Creek Drainage

by Roy Smith

Not a single solitary soul was seen along this trail, from the beginning to the end of our four day trip. Pleasantly, I was surprised and also quite grateful to be invited by Jim Saylor and Bertrand Poinsonnet to accompany them on this trip.

The first day, Tuesday, July 27th, was spent hiking the entire length of the Peters Creek trail. It begins at the official Chugach State Park trailhead sign, following a road and passing through approximately three gates, the last of which put us on an actual trail. It's used a lot by horses. Almost half way up the trail, a side trip can be made to an

old log cabin, complete with sod roof, pot belly stove, and bunks. This structure protruding halfway out of a dirt mound, needs some serious repairs and a little common courtesy by visitors if it is to survive a few more winters.

The trail thins right down to a moose trail, like most Alaskan trails. Before we knew it we were either navigating around bogs, or moats near Mt. Rumble, while at the same time thrashing through willows, or stream walking up Peters Creek.

The next morning found us moving camp from a gravel bar, upstream to a prominent knob which divides two forks of the creek. It's a beautiful spot, with roaring cascades and large waterfalls. There are also some remnants of former mining activity, done earlier in the century.

We climbed southeast of Rumble Pass to the top of a small glacial ice patch. From there we scree-climbed to the top of a ridge and scrambled it, having to do the last of it with a running belay. All the way to the summit we were reaching and clambering over classic Chugach Crud, which crumbled under foot and in hand, sending rock slides on either side, dust plumes skyward, left over from Mt. Spurr's ash. It stung the eyes as sweat dripped from our brows. It was a typical summer of '93 day, hot and dry. A register was found, having been placed there by Jim's friend Steve Johnson during the first ascent two Julys prior to us. We were the second to sign it. He left this peak, 6885, unnamed. We nicknamed it 'Crumble.'

On our descent Jim and I watched with awe, Bertrand waltzing up the scree slopes of Rumble as if he had the winged feet of Mercury. Back at camp we wagered on when he would make it back. We were both off. He was seen one hour early of schedule, loping along the slopes around 20:30. The evening, along with the next, was spent surrounded by Dall sheep on both valley slopes.

Next morning, July 29th, Jim kicked us out of camp and watched us disappear onto the Raisin Glacier. For a small glacier, it has some very large crevasses, one of which was fondly remembered after Bertrand probed a snow bridge (large enough for a school bus to park on) just three times and "swoosh" it was gone, lost somewhere in Hades. We never heard it hit bottom. We roped up, then navigated to a bergschrund, which went at a 50° angle up Icicle Peak. After six hours of zigzagging around crevasses, step-kicking, scrambling up a gendarme, three belays (one of which took a screw placement and some cramponing) and more scree climbing, we reached the 7000+ summit.

The register was signed by only seven parties, the first ascent having been made from the south by Jim, Karen Cafmeyer, John Cafmeyer, and Sylvia Lane. Bertrand and I were the first to climb the north face. Three hours later



we were back at camp.

Next day was spent walking out, always hating to leave, but always glad to take a hot shower and sleep in a soft bed.

Camp Robber 5855

by James Larabee

On the weekend of September 11 and 12, Jonathan Rose and I decided to climb Camp Robber Peak. Camp Robber lies in the Crow Pass region, just northeast of Crow Peak, and is identified by name on the Seward 1:250,000 map.

At the foot of Camp Robber is the Clear Glacier. Since neither of us had prior knowledge of the route we decided to take glacier gear with us. The clouds were low and gloomy as we traveled through Crow Pass and then descended about 1000 feet down Raven Creek valley. Then we hung a sharp left into Clear Creek valley and began ascending our way to the Clear Glacier.

As we approached the snout of the glacier it began to blow hard and pour. To us, this was a good reason to begin looking for a campsite, but one was extremely hard to find in the boulder strewn moraine. We decided to bypass the glacier altogether, choosing instead to climb into a small valley leading to a pass just to the north of the peak. There we found two grassy benches at 4300 feet, that allowed for a good campsite. We chose a spot, set up camp, and wallowed in wetness for the rest of the night.

The blowing rain turned to sleet and continued into the next morning. At 11:00 A.M. we decided to give it up and go home. But once the tent was down and packed the rain stopped and the ceiling lifted a little.

"Let's just go up and check out the pass," Jonty suggested.

We climbed steadily for an hour until we reached the pass. Though visibility was still poor at least it wasn't raining and the summit was only 500 feet higher. We pointed ourselves in the general direction of the summit and climbed. At the top of a long, mostly even ridge we were on the summit. The clouds were less dense and afforded us a little bit of a view that no doubt would've been fantastic on a blue sky day.

Camp Robber could make a fun winter climb if the snowpack is stable. Of course much of the route falls within notorious avalanche terrain, i.e. the trail to Crow Pass. Should you choose to climb this peak via this route you can save yourself some weight and leave the glacier gear behind.

Fern Mine Burns to the Ground

by Dave Hart

On Sunday October 3 at 7:00 P.M. the Fern Mine, located at the head of Archangel Valley at Hatcher Pass, burned to the ground. MCA-ers Josh Sonkiss, Mikki Hand and I spent the weekend skiing the Lane Glacier, climbing Didilkama Peak and hauling four bags of trash out from the Lane Cabin. We started skiing back to our truck about 6:30 Sunday evening. As we neared the back side of the Monolith rock formation, we could see a plume of black smoke rising from the valley below. As the trail contoured around to the left of the Monolith, the view down the valley opened up. The source of the smoke was no longer a mystery. The roof of the Mine building was on fire! It was obvious that there was nothing to be done about it, except hope that no one was inside. We took a few pictures of the fire spreading to engulf the entire roof as we continued down the trail to get a closer look. We spent about 45 minutes next to the mine watching its walls collapse one by one. It was very surreal with the flames highlighting the Monolith at sunset. Finally, about 8:00 P.M. we headed for town and called the Troopers from the Motherlode.

English Rock

by Julia Moore and Mike Miller

"Bloody Hell, this VS is hard. Are we off route? No, I guess not by the looks of the smooth polished rock edges!" English rock is different from our Hatcher Pass or highway climbing. First, the grades are totally different, and even with a cross reference guide, we got lost among the vocabulary. Second, the classic routes have been done by so many folks that the holds are rounded and polished as smooth as glass. Even with our new rubber soles, routes done over 100 years ago are still as desperate as they must have been then with hob-nailed boots. Third, in England, *everyone* climbs! No matter the age, the sex or the ability, everyone climbs, it seems. It *really* boosted our spirits to see older folks leading routes that looked desperate for us even now.

We started in the northern part of the Lake District in northwest England. We rented a car in Kendall and quickly got a forced lesson in driving the very narrow, winding, and steep roads through the countryside. The old timers must have had a penchant for rocks, for everywhere they built beautifully constructed, symmetric rock walls, right on the side of what was then a carriage lane. Now these lanes have become major roads with many hundred-fold the amount of traffic they were originally designed for.

Parking right on the road is OK, as far as we could tell, and sheep have the right-of-way.

We camped in a farmer's yard that he had turned into a campground. The next day we hiked through the beautiful trees with autumn leaves falling around us, and up into their high country. We started on one of the climbs in the guide book, "100 Classic Climbs." "Bloody hard this is, mate!" A rough start finished us on a two-pitch classic, meeting another pair of climbers on top of the rock. They were in the area for the annual Alpine club meeting. They made it absolutely clear that it was the "Alpine Club," not the English Alpine Club, such as is named the American Alpine Club. We walked back to the village with them and to their climbers' hut, in which others were getting ready for the meeting, donning coats and ties — very formal compared to our polypro and pile at our American Alpine Club chapter meeting last week. We declined the invitation to join their meeting as it was in another town, about 40 minutes away, over a narrow, winding, steep mountain road with symmetric walls on each side, and cars parked at random.

We did some more climbs over the next several days. Camping was always a treat; we never knew where we would wind up the next night. We hit the pubs for pints of bitter and shepherds' pie. All the mountain pubs had a rich pictorial history of climbing in that region. They are very proud of what they have and have done. We finally set our sights on the rock pinnacle that bears the historic significance of being the first rock to have been climbed for sport, beginning the age of modern rock climbing as a sport. Nape's Needle was first climbed by Haskett Smith, solo and in hob-nailed boots in the 1880's. He just soloed up, no rope, and downclimbed. I looked at the starting, leaning, polished crack, gathered up some more pro, and started the struggle. At about 45 feet up, I stuffed three friends in a horizontal crack under the summit block. This was the last protection possible to the top, 55 feet above the base. The first move on the summit block was a gnarly mantel onto a rounded, polished shelf, about 4 inches wide. A move around the corner of the block, another stretchy move up, and I gingerly stepped onto the flat top, about 3' x 4', and absolutely nothing to tie in to, no crack, no bolt, nothing. After about 10 minutes of mind-boggling rope tricks, I called to Julia to come on up — I had nothing in (maybe I could fall off the back side of the pinnacle if Julia fell?). Once Julia got up to the three friends, she tied off, and we placed the rope to where I could downclimb with a rope running over the top of the pinnacle. Julia then went to the top. What a thrill, and what an achievement for ol' Haskett!

One more pint of local bitter, and the next day we headed off to Snowdonia in Wales: lots of rock, and lots of climbers. It is amazingly easy to get around and to find out where to go climbing. Everyone wants to help and every-

where there is someone that knows something about climbing.

But, right here in our own backyard, at Hatcher Pass, lies as much potential as all of the Lake District — and as yet just barely tapped. Maybe in another hundred years, our kin will be sitting in the pub, built on the site of the old Fern Mine, swelling the local brew, and talking about us old timers.



ADZE



Wanted:

Ice Climbing Partners
Call Alok at 265-6946, days.

For Sale:

Plastic Lowa Climbing Boots
Size 9 1/2 \$200
Contact Willy at 373-4734

Wanted:

Technical Ice Axes
I saw several at the MCA swap
and should have bought them.
Please call John O. 279-5927

For Sale:

Plastic Scarpa Inverno Boots
Size 11 \$200
Too big for me, worn less than 1
month.
Titanium Ice Screws
New \$12
Dave 243-0975 263-4361 work

MINUTES

OCTOBER MEETING

October 21, 1993. Joel Babb called the meeting to order, and had new members introduce themselves.

TREASURER'S REPORT.

Total \$7758

COMMITTEE REPORTS.

Huts.

Supplies will be flown in to the Mint Hut and to Bock's Den by volunteers from the National Guard as their schedule permits, sometime this winter.

OLD BUSINESS.

MCA photo album is available for MCA trip photos.

NEW BUSINESS.

Elections.

- President (by acclamation) - Dave Hart
- Vice President (by acclamation) - Jonathan Rose
- Treasurer (by acclamation) - Chris Ernst
- Secretary (by acclamation) - Roy Smith

Board nominations (3 positions open this time since past president will not be present):

- Mike Miller - elected for two-year term
- Dave Pahlke - elected for two-year term
- Tim Kelley - elected for one-year term
- Eric Teela

ANNOUNCEMENTS.

Dave Hart reported that the Fern Mine burned to the ground.

Scott Bailey reminded members that the South Side of Denali EIS still has two weeks for review at the National Park Service headquarters. Public comment still welcome.

Respectfully Submitted,
Julia Moore



The Spirit of ANWR

In Memoriam for
Roger Dowding

He died instantly, in a blinding snowstorm, at 6800 feet near the headwaters of the Sheenjek River. His Cessna 185 hit a mountain he probably didn't see until the last second of his life. But the spirit of Roger Dowding lives on.

The Fairbanks News Miner obituary of September 14 stated that he died "in the heart of the Brooks Range." Hell, Roger was the heart of the Brooks Range, especially the vast Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, or ANWR. He flew out of Fort Yukon and knew every spot where he could land between there and Barter Island, on the Beaufort Sea. We in the Mountaineering Club of Alaska had learned to depend on him. He was one of us - a jaunty, laid back guy, dressed in shorts. He'd take time to visit with us, and share our freeze-dried food between flights. His home in Fort Yukon was ours, whether or not he was home.

His airline, Yukon Air, was born prematurely when the outfit he flew for went bankrupt, leaving a party of us from the MCA stranded on the East Fork of the Chandalar. Roger had earlier flown us in to a makeshift strip he had created on the Sheenjek River when our planned destination, a bar near Ambresvajun Lake, was covered with ice. He was then working for Arctic Circle Airlines, which had flown us all the way from Fairbanks. When he picked us up on the Chandalar he was self-employed, as Yukon Air, and had arranged flights all the way to Fairbanks for us.

Flying has been characterized as 90% boredom, and 10% sheer terror! But not when you flew with Roger. One night several years after the Chandalar pick-up, another group from the MCA was camped on the Sheenjek, to be picked up the next day. Roger came booming over at about 50 feet around 9 or 10 P.M., and then landed - said he was hauling a couple of hikers up north, and would pick up any three of us who wanted to go in that night on his return. So Pam, Linda and I packed our gear, and sure enough, he was back in a couple of hours.

While loading up the plane he had to improvise a seat for me on a pack - one seat had been removed to allow space for backpacks. He took off his own jacket to fashion a cushion - a gesture of the kind he was known for. We got airborne about midnight - remember, this was the arctic where it's not very dark in July - and that flight proved to be the most memorable I have ever made!

He had fitted all three of us with headsets, and was piping in classical music from state of the art sound equipment. Purring along sometimes under wispy clouds, sometimes in them, sometimes above them, never far above the Sheenjek River, we were mesmerized. No words were exchanged. We sat transfixed by both the Brooks Range panorama gliding by and the magical music. A spiritual experience we will treasure forever.

Thank you, Roger - I will never forget you, or that night above the Sheenjek.

Bill Wakeland

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 non-technical 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 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 is 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 by MCA Board, March 1987

General Rules for MCA Sanctioned Trips

- Proper equipment follows this list.
- No dogs. (Among the reasons are bear problems.)
- 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 in the MCA Sanctioned Trip.
- 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.
- When carpools are arranged, please plan to pay the driver your share without his (her) asking you. Generally \$5 - short trips, \$10 or more for longer.
- 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.
- 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 trailless areas or State and National Parks
- 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.

Formulated January 1987 by Hiking and Climbing Committee

EQUIPMENT

Summer

Raingear that works	Lighter, matches	Sleeping bag
Windgear	Map, compass	Backpack cover
Wool or fleece pants	Aerosol bear repellent (if desired)	Cook pot
Shorts	Moleskin/Spenco 2nd skin	Stove (fires not allowed)
Light polypro or wool longjohns	Ace bandage	Fuel bottle
Wool shirt	Surgical tape	Walking stick or ice axe
Jacket	Aspirin	Water bottles (not canteens)
Baseball cap	Gauze	<u>Additional for Winter</u>
Gloves	Anti-bacterial ointment	Ice axe
Extra socks	4" x 4" pads, band-aids	Gaitors
Wool or pile hat	Wire	Climbing /ski boots
Hiking boots	Vice grips or pliers	Shovel
Stream-crossing footwear	Utility cord	Mittens
Sunscreen	Sewing kit	Crampons (?)
Mosquito repellent	Tent (or prearranged sharing)	Skis or snowshoes
Whistle	Sleeping pad	Avalanche beacon
Large plastic bag		Face mask



Leader Qualifications

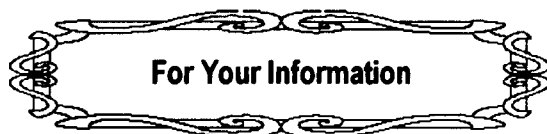
1. Must be a member of the MCA.
2. Must have approval of the Hiking and Climbing Committee (A simple majority.)
3. Must have participated in trips of the same or higher classification than the one being led, showing competence in the opinion of the leaders of those trips; or equivalent experience acceptable to the Hiking and Climbing Committee.

Approved by MCA Board, March 1987

Leader Guidelines

1. Follow the general rules for MCA Sanctioned Trips.
2. Must have a sign-up sheet with all participants' names on it and turn it in to the Hiking and Climbing Committee at the end of the trip.
3. Select a meeting time and place disclosed only to those persons on the sign-up sheet, unless call-ins are acceptable to the leader.
4. Must verify that each participant has signed a valid waiver and that it is on file.
5. Can require special equipment and refuse participation to any person that is ill-equipped (including clothing).
6. Has the authority to split the group (fast and slow), but must select a co-leader to help.
7. Must report any injuries to the MCA President.
8. Must report any personnel problems to the Hiking and Climbing Committee.

Approved by the MCA Board, March 1987



The Mountaineering Club of Alaska offers:

- Free gear checkout:
 - Located at Alaska Mountaineering and Hiking in Spenard.
 - Ice axes
 - Helmets
 - Crampons
 - Snowshoes
 - Avalanche beacons

- A library of mountaineering literature:

→ Also at AMH.

- Am Alpine Journals
- Alaskan Adventures
- Rare and not so rare books
- Novels you can check out
- Periodicals
- Guidebooks
- Old Screens
- Newspaper clippings

- Mountain Huts:

→ Built and maintained by the club.

- Pichler's Perch - Eklutna Glacier
- Hans' Hut - Whiteout Glacier
- Rosie's Roost - Eagle Glacier
- Mint Hut - Mint Glacier
- Bomber Hut - Bomber Glacier
- Scandinavian Peaks Hut - Mat Glacier
- Bock's Den - Mat Glacier

- Training:

→ As time and volunteers permit, the club offers classes in:

- Ice climbing (every September)
- Snow shelters (usually in late winter)
- Rock climbing (summer)
- Avalanche awareness (winter)
- Crevasse rescue/ glacier travel (spring)
- Basic mountaineering (fall or winter)



New Release Form

The MCA release form has changed. All members wishing to participate on trips, classes or check out club gear must sign a waiver every year. Your membership card is proof that you have signed a waiver. Carry it with you to the trailhead to show the trip leader. If you do not wish to sign, that's cool. You'll still get a newsletter and be a member, you just won't be allowed to go on trips or sign out gear.



RELEASE OF LIABILITY -- READ CAREFULLY

_____ (print name), am aware that mountaineering sports (including hiking; backpacking; rock, snow, and ice climbing; mountaineering; skiing; and ski mountaineering) are hazardous activities. I wish to participate and/or receive instruction in these activities with the Mountaineering Club of Alaska, Inc. ("MCA") I recognize that these activities involve numerous risks, which include, by way of example and not limitation, falling while hiking, climbing, skiing or crossing rivers or glaciers; being struck by falling rock, ice or snow; avalanches; lightning; fire; hypothermia; frostbite; defective or malfunctioning equipment; and attack by insects or animals. I further recognize that the remoteness of the activities may preclude prompt medical care. I further recognize that risk of injury or death may be caused or enhanced by mistakes or negligence on the part of either my fellow participants or MCA officers, directors, guides, instructors, or trip leaders. I nevertheless agree to accept any and all risks of injury, death, or property damage that may occur in connection with any MCA activity, including use of MCA furnished equipment and use of MCA backcountry huts.

_____ (initial that you have read this paragraph)

GIVING UP MY LEGAL RIGHTS

By signing this Agreement, I agree to give up for myself and for my heirs all legal rights I may have against the MCA or my fellow participants in MCA activities. I give up these legal rights regardless of whether the injury, death, or property damage results from mistakes or negligence on the part of either my fellow participants or the MCA. (As used in this agreement, MCA means the Mountaineering Club of Alaska, Inc., and all of its officers, directors, guides, instructors and trip leaders.) I understand this agreement shall remain in effect until such time as I provide signed written notice of its revocation to the MCA.

_____ (initial that you have read this paragraph)

MY PROMISE NOT TO SUE

I agree that I will not sue, or otherwise make any claim against, the MCA or my fellow participants in MCA activities for injury, death, or property damage which occurs in the course of my participation or instruction in mountaineering sports.

_____ (initial that you have read this paragraph)

MY RELEASE OF LIABILITY

I also agree to release and discharge the MCA and my fellow participants in MCA activities from all actions, claims, or demands, both for myself and for my heirs, dependents, and/or personal representative, for injury, death, or property damage occurring in the course of my participation or instruction in mountaineering sports.

_____ (initial that you have read this paragraph)

MY PROMISE TO INDEMNIFY

I agree to pay all expenses, including attorney's fees and court costs, that the MCA may incur as a consequence of any legal action arising out of injury, death, or property damage suffered by me, or suffered by someone else as a result of my conduct.

MY CONSENT TO MEDICAL TREATMENT

I consent to any hospital care or medical or surgical diagnosis or treatment which may be necessary as a result of my participation in activities with the MCA. I also understand and agree that I am solely responsible for all applicable charges for such medical treatment, including evacuation and/or rescue cost.

_____ (initial that you have read this paragraph)

I HAVE CAREFULLY READ THIS AGREEMENT AND FULLY UNDERSTAND ITS CONTENTS. I AM AWARE THAT THIS IS A BINDING, LEGAL AGREEMENT BETWEEN ME AND THE MCA AND I SIGN IT OF MY OWN FREE WILL.

Dated: _____ Signature: _____

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

MOUNTAINEERING CLUB OF ALASKA

OFFICERS

President	Dave Hart	243-0975 h 263-4361 w
Vice-President	Jonathan Rose	278-3189
Secretary	Roy Smith	562-0822
Treasurer	Chris Ernst	258-3333

BOARD

Mindy Baum	338-6396
Bernie Kazmierczak	562-6734
Mike Miller	243-6521
Dave Pahlke	243-5234
Tim Kelley	248-4033

Annual membership dues: Single \$10.00 Family \$15.00

Dues can be paid at any meeting or mailed to the treasurer at the MCA address. Please sign and mail the club waiver found on the reverse side of this page and include it and a self-addressed, stamped envelope to receive your card.

SCREE is a monthly publication of the Mountaineering Club of Alaska. Articles and notes submitted for publication and other communication related to the newsletter should be mailed to my address at 3051 Elderberry Dr., Wasilla, Alaska 99654. Articles should be received by the 25th of the month for the following month's issue.

Paid ads may be submitted to the attention of the Vice-President at the club address and should be "camera-ready" and pre-paid. Your cooperation will be appreciated. Willy Hersman, Editor, 373-4734.

DUPLICATION: Mark Findlay

MAILING: J. Rose, L. Stanton, B. Kazmierczak

Mountaineering Club of Alaska
Box 102037
Anchorage, Alaska 99510