



NOVEMBER 1996

A Publication of the Mountaineering Club of Alaska

Volume 39 Issue II

Box 102037, Anchorage, Alaska 99510

### NOVEMBER MEETING

Wednesday

November 20, 7:30

Pioneer Schoolhouse, 3rd & Eagle Streets  
Downtown Anchorage

Special Presentation: Avalanche Hazard  
Evaluation by Avalanche Expert,  
*Doug Fesler*

### HIKING AND CLIMBING SCHEDULE

#### Nov 10 Ram Valley Climb

Non-technical winter route. Maybe Mt. Raina, Mt. Significant or others, depending on snow and weather conditions. Ice axe required. Snowshoes and/or crampons may be needed. Class D.

Leaders: Peter Clifford 564-5688  
Dennis Morford 522-1179

#### Jan 9-29 Hawaiian Hikes

Classes A, B & C. Several hikes on Kauai and Hawaii (big island). We will be flying to Kauai on Thursday, January 9 and returning from Hawaii on January 29. MCA members may join us for any or all of the activities. Hikes range from a few hours to a few days in length.

On Kauai, we plan to backpack the Na Pali coast, hike along Milolii Ridge, explore areas in and around Waimea Canyon and climb Nonou Mt.

On Hawaii, we plan to climb Mauna Kea, backpack from Waipio Valley with its 1000-foot waterfall, to Waimanu, hike to the Green Sands Beach, see what the volcano is doing, explore the Puna coast, and check out some thermal pools and lava tube caves.

Leader: Curvin Metzler 333-8766

### TRIP REPORTS

#### Gates of the Arctic Ascents 1996

by Tom Choate



It wasn't midnight, but it was about 5:00 P.M. and raining intermittently when we dragged our unfit bodies to the top of the pass between the Clear River and Marshall Lake at the base of Mt. Doonerak. I set my pack down and made a tent out of

my poncho to shelter from the wind and rain while I waited for the other two and debated if I could muster up the strength and weather luck to climb midnight mountain, a scant thousand feet higher. Scott perspired his way past, declaring he'd find a campsite down near the lake; but Alok stopped, just as the rain stopped, and our decision was automatic.

It's amazing how well the legs work when that 50 lb. pack is removed! Loose scree and buffeting ridge winds had no effect: in 35 minutes we were atop the low summit, looking down at the mostly frozen Marshall Lake. It was the 24th of June and we were the second party of the season: tracks of a small NOLS party led us onward. Ten more minutes of scrambling led to the high summit and a cairn. I produced a small bottle and began a note to leave, while Alok admired all the peaks to the SE from whence we came, including the distinctive shape of Chimney Mt., near our fly-in point.

Soon we were back at the packs and then plunged down the snow-filled gully for a mile before stumbling down the gravel bed to camp. What a grand valley, with cliffs rising thousands of feet into the clouds .. on both sides! I felt guilty about using a tent site that showed no sign of human use, but there were no other good places!

The next morning was partly cloudy as we dug out the small amount of climbing gear we brought and headed down valley to access Mt. Doonerak. Several gullies climb through the cliffs of the south face, and the right hand ridge seemed to end in a vertical face; yet Scott had been told that a small ledge bypassed the cliffs and that we should indeed climb the side valley to the pass and ascend the south ridge.

Traversing the tundra was fun, and I kept being distracted by endless new and lovely wildflowers, but the scree got tedious even though I chose a more stable stream bed route. The weather was deteriorating as we reached the ridge, so break time was very short among the windy slabs. Higher up there was a polished 30' slab with circular formations in it that looked like giant fossil algae colonies, but we didn't stop. Ahead the cliffs rose into the clouds with only a hint of an escape ledge, but the scrambling remained reasonable, and only at one short, ice-filled chimney did we consider pulling out our short rope. We traversed the little ledge left around a rib, and the first gully came into view, but it was barred by a couple of slippery-looking short cliffs. Yet here too a route bypassed these with somewhat exposed zigzagging on ledges trending back to the right.

Just as we completed the last steep section and the slope was easing toward the summit it began to rain. I was ahead searching for the best route, and while waiting for the others it changed to snow. I was getting cold, so I decided to hurry to the top, and once certain of the route, return for them. Forty feet of almost running brought me to where I could see the top, but something was wrong: I became aware of a squeaky, squealing sound and a strange smell that brought old fears out of my subconscious: STATIC! Just to be sure, I removed my hat and what little hair I have stood straight up in the falling snow. I hadn't heard any thunder yet today, but we were on the highest summit for many miles, so I tagged the cairn and ran back to warn the others. They too rushed for the top, reported strange sensations, and quickly rejoined me in the effort to find a safe way to scramble down the now-wet slabs.

Tedious but uneventful would describe the thousand feet of descent, out of the slabs, snow, and clouds, and down the ridge to the pass. Now at last we could rest and enjoy the view before plunging down the scree and snow. Foot glissading was great fun until I put one foot through over a stream and continued the glissade on my face!

Two down, one to go. Everything looked incredibly steep and loose on the south side of the valley, but the map indicated that one gully by the outlet of the lake had reasonable contours that might lead us to the ridge. So at 11:00 A.M. on the 26th we had traversed the rough lakeside talus and were enjoying the waterfalls and canyon view below the outlet. Above lay the most reasonable route to Hanging Glacier Mt.

It was a long crawl up the talus and outcrops on the divide between the two forks of the gully. The plan was to traverse the large ledges that led around a cliff blocking the northwest gully fork. But the weather was good and I talked the others into following me on the steeper continuation of the central rib. Soon it looked overhung and they waited while I pioneered rotten 5.5 on the crest and found a way through the steepest part. Scott didn't appreciate Alok dropping an important handhold down toward him, and still remarks on the "crazy pedestal move." Shortly after this we stood on the main ridge, enjoying great views of Mt. Boreal to the south and Mt. Doonerak dominating our canyon whose cliffs were outlined by the blue-green flash from the lake outlet far below.

At first following the ridge was easy, with sheep beds at intervals, but approaching the east summit the cliffs got steep. Thus we descended 400



feet on the south and side hilled up and down for a mile, until Alok was ready to turn back. But a glimpse of the main summit kept us traversing the talus till we reached the "last" gully and started up. One at a time to reduce the rockfall danger, we climbed 500 feet to the summit ridge. Here it was easy on the north side and it took only minutes to reach the false, and soon the true summit. No cairn, no signs of people... could it be unclimbed even with a name on the map? A register was placed in a cairn and photos taken all around to capture the lovely scene.

During the interminable side hill back it began raining so hard a mile ahead that the sky turned totally black. But in the foreground a small peak was lit with golden evening sun and a great rainbow nearby made the scene far more beautiful than ominous. We were thoroughly wet by the time we had glissaded the steep snow, bypassed a hundred foot cliff and descended another thousand feet of scree to the lake. Yet we didn't dare hurry around the lake, thanks to giant boulders covered with greasy yellow lichens. On the final mile up valley to camp we noticed that the puddles were inside our boots.

The evening was not to be a quiet savoring of our likely first ascent, however, for no sooner were the dry clothes on and the dinner started, than we were interrupted by Scott screaming "bear!.. bear!" The one person most worried about grizzlies had been surprised at the stream, away from his shotgun and bear spray (which were keeping dry in his tent). Fortunately, it was a wild bear who began running away at the first yell. He stood and looked back at the three apparitions in the rain, apparently wondering "what the....".

"I can hear the plane," Scott said enthusiastically. He had been waiting over two hours, but I had only recently turned up at the short airstrip under the cliffs of the Gates. In his usual highly prepared fashion he had brought a radio which I now used to tell the pilot the wind conditions.

The grateful pilot directly set up for landing, bouncing around in the gusty wind, maneuvering to hit the tiny 30x60-foot landing zone on the gravel bar. The helio courier made a marvelous STOL landing, stopping within 200 feet, and some shaky passengers emerged, Kris was virtually crying from the stress relief and Alok's two friends looked glad to be on the ground (I found out later it was Jeff's first ride in a single engine plane).

The weather was good, so we decided all six of us should try the big one, Mt. Boreal, going up the valley to the south and then up to the south cirque where we hoped to find a camp. The next day we had

our usual late start, but moved rapidly along the easy main river bars to near the side valley. From here we lost an hour negotiating the brush and another hour in the canyons of the side stream, and I was beginning to worry as we began at last to fight the steep brushy slope leading up toward Boreal. The brush was usually taller than little Kris, and both of the city boys were showing signs of inadequate training for the rugged Alaska bush.

Finally we topped the ridge and traversed into the Boreal valley. Obviously we would need to camp at the first available place. Three widely scattered tent sites of dubious quality were found, but nobody wanted to go on to the flatter places up valley, where the great wall of Boreal abruptly rose.

The first day of July was destined to be a long one. It took only an hour for the six of us to climb the boulders and small meadows into the cirque under Boreal with its small pond behind ancient moraines. Scott, Kris and I were in the first group and we chose to start up the middle of the face, where there were the most little vegetated ledges. As we climbed up I could admire the ever changing flowers: mountain avens, anemonies and saxifrages in white, Potentilla, daisies, and Geum in yellow, forget-me-not, Arnica, and vetch in blue and purple.

About a thousand feet up the patches of plants gave out and we began scrambling over talus, moving right into a gully which breached the cliffs guarding the upper slopes. When I saw the ledges that led around the steep cascade I breathed a sigh of relief, but unfortunately Kris was psyched out and it took two of us giving full time encouragement to get her to use her natural ability to scramble through. Meanwhile, the other three were on a different route and we could hear Alok performing a similar duty as they worked their way up to us.

Above this hourglass neck the gully widened and, except for loose rock, was easy clear to the summit ridge. Four gendarmes blocked the way to the summit, but each one had ledges bypassing them on the south about 75 feet lower, and Scott cairned the route for the others as we traversed.

The summit was wide enough for all of us, and amazingly had no cairn or sign of human visitation. As we built a cairn and placed a register bottle we wondered: could such a famous and high peak be a first ascent? It seemed unlikely. The others arrived, revealing another amazing discovery as Tom crawled to the cairn: not only was this his first big ascent, but he did it with severe vertigo. This great positive attitude had gotten us all on top, where the grand

view showed only Doonerak, two valleys north, seeming higher than us.

The way down was tedious, with each uncertain person having his own guide: Scott with Kris, Alok with Jeff, and I took Tom, who crab-walked down the thousands of feet with indomitable good spirits. Camp never seemed so welcoming!

July 2nd was our going-out day but while some slept in and others packed, I decided to make a hurried ascent of Boreal's little brother, a peak rising some 600 feet out of the SE ridge. I followed the ridge up from camp and was doing well until I ran into cliffs on the sharpest bump that couldn't be bypassed without dropping way down into a gorge on the SE. Thirty minutes of careful route finding led me to a barely safe 5.4 crux just before breaking out onto the easy tundra and scree above. A fine sheep trail bypassed the last ridge bump, and by noon I was scrambling the last talus in hot sunshine.

Again no cairn or sign (other than sheep), so after building one I called it "Gates Peak" since it was so much a part of the true Gates of the Arctic. Descending the scree to the Boreal cirque, I bypassed the ridge problem and was back by 2:00 at camp, in time for a quick pack-up to leave with the others at 2:30 for base camp down on the Koyukuk. Here the ascents were duly celebrated with scotch around a campfire.

Well, that was the 4th and 5th ascents, but the 6th didn't take place until the other three had flown out and Scott, Kris and I had completed three hard days of backpacking toward Ernie Pass on our way to Anaktuvuk Pass. The 7th of July was to be a day off, and the weather was good when I left camp about 10:00 A.M. The others were resting and planning a hike, but I wanted to check out the nearest peak, Al's Mt.

It had rained every afternoon for three days and the bushes were wet, but they sparkled in the sunlight and pink bistorts decorated the tundra. Soon it was steep going alongside a small stream cascading out of a small bowl beneath the S. ridge, but upon reaching the source meadow it turned out to be at the peak of flowering. I stopped to write down the multitudes of blossoms, for there were too many to remember: spring beauty and river beauty, gentian and geranium, cushion pink and white *Diapensia* cushions. I found it hard to leave, but soon attacked the steep talus to the ridge, and then followed the tundra staircase upward, with more stops to admire such things as arctic poppy and purple mountain saxifrage.

The smaller western peak had lovely banded cliffs, with soft red zones where sheep has made beds. I surprised five of them here, and on the way to the main peak there were 11 and then 20 more. The latter looked amazed as my camera whirred and clicked, rewinding the film after the last picture. Again there was no cairn or signs, and again I built one and left a register bottle. Surely the sheep hunters climbed here before it was a park ... it's a pleasant walk-up. There was rain over Alipak Mt. so I very reluctantly left this lovely peak and its friendly sheep and flowers, and hurried down to camp.

## MINUTES

### OCTOBER MEETING

There were more than a dozen visitors, and total attendance was more than 70.

#### TREASURY REPORT

Money Market:	3951.58
Checking:	3092.34
Petty cash:	<u>50.00</u>
Total in treasury:	\$7093.92

#### COMMITTEE REPORTS

##### *Hiking & Climbing*

**Mark Fouts** reported on the trips offered by the H&CC during the past year (see report). He also announced that there will be a combined committee meeting on November 12 to report on the hikes, climbs and training trips offered by the club during the past year. The meeting/dinner is also intend to recognize the club's appreciation for the trip leaders' efforts.

##### *Huts*

Chairperson **Mark Miraglia** reported his committee has made many of the planned repairs to the huts and that the huts are in good shape. He also requested members visiting huts to record the model number of the stoves and lanterns (other than the Dnigi, Mint and Bomber).

##### *History*

All 38 years of Screes have been reviewed and a draft database of Scree data should be completed by November.

#### OLD BUSINESS

None.

#### NEW BUSINESS

##### **Elections**

The following officers and directors were elected by acclamation:

President - Mark Miraglia  
Vice President - Wayne Todd  
Secretary - Cory Hinds  
Treasurer - Kirk Towner

Board - Dave Storkel and Tom Choate for two-year terms Wendy Sanem for a one-year term, filling the vacancy created when Wayne Todd accepted the Vice President position. Tom Choate was nominated in absentia by Mark Miraglia. Tom was contacted after the meeting and agreed to serve. Thanks Tom and to all the members who have agreed to lead the club into its 39th year.

Willy Hersman provided order forms for bulk freeze dried food orders. The forms will be available at the November club meeting and are due at the December 18 meeting.

#### ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mark Flanum announced the draft guidebook should be available this winter.

The slide show, as advertised, was a trek and climb into the tallest mountains of the world. Great show.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Mark Fouts

### Hiking and Climbing Committee Annual Report

The H&C Committee's goal for the summer of 1996 (April through September) was to offer a trip every weekend, with a minimum of half this goal. With a target of 22 trips (11 minimum), the H&CC actually offered 22 trips. All the trips were safe and other than trips that experienced bad weather, the trips were successful. I would like to thank the committee and especially the trip leaders that made it happen.

November 1995 - October 1996

Hiking & Climbing Schedule

Number of Trips Offered: 24

Number of Trips Realized: 19

Number of Trips Canceled: 5

Members signed-up for trips: 92

Members that attended: 78 (or 85% that signed-up)

Average number of members on a trip: about 5

Number of hikes: 13

Number of community service: 2

Number of climbs: 9

Peaks climbed: 8

Members summited: 51

Peaks climbed: Flattop, Middle Glacier Peak, Williwaw, Temptation Peak, East Taniana, Lynx, Avalanche and Homicide

1. XC Hut to Hut Colorado Rockies, 10/31-11/4. Leaders: Charlotte Clarke, Scott Bailey. Five went, great trip.
2. Flattop Winter Solstice, 12/16. James Larabee. Six went up and spent the night.

3. March-for-Park Friendship Pass, 4/20. Leaders: Diane Sallee. No one signed up, canceled
4. Grand Canyon Hike, 4/20-5/5. Leader: Bill Wakeland. Six attended, good trek.
5. Turnagain Trail Hike, 5/4. Leader: Curvin Metzler. Canceled, no one signed up.
6. Gull Rock Hike, 5/5. Leader: Curvin Metzler. Four attended, good hike.
7. Gold Mint Trail, 5/11-12. Leader: Willy Hersman. Only one signed up - leader canceled.
8. Byron Peak, 5/19. Leader: Wayne Todd. Climbed Middle Glacier Peak instead, four in party, all summited.
9. Bomber Hut Hike, 5/25-27. Leader: James Larabee. Six went, too much snow, so turned back at lower Reed Lake.
10. Moose Creek Hut, 5/25-27. Leader: Bill Romberg, three went, good trip.
11. Trails Day, Class A, 6/1. Leader: Scott Bailey. Eight signed up, none showed, so canceled.
12. Mt. Williwaw, 6/15. Leader: Dave Hart. Five went, great trip, summited.
13. Temptation Peak, 6/22-23. Leader: Dennis Morford. Six signed up, six went, great trip, climbed East Taniana too.
14. Flattop Summer Solstice, 6/22. No leader. Attendance unknown.
15. Resurrection Trail, 6/22-23. Leader: Kathy-Jo Stevens. Seven signed up, two no-shows, one dropped, great trip.
16. Hike to Life Lake, 7/6-7. Leader: Julia Moore. One showed, great day.
17. Homicide Peak, 7/14. Leader: Peter Clifford. Only one member signed-up, trip canceled.
18. Kefugi Ridge, 7/19-21. Leader: Kathy-Jo Stevens. Four went, great trip.
19. Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, 7/20-8/3. Leader: Don Hansen. Six plus waiting list, five went, great trip.
20. Lynx Peak, 7/27-28. Leader: Mark Flanum. Three signed up, five went and summited.
21. Talkeetna Hut & Glacier Traverse, 8/9-13. Leader: Willy Hersman. Six signed up, six went, great trip.
22. Bird Peak, 8/16-18. Leader: Scott Bailey. Seven signed up, three went, trip cut short due to bad weather and brush.
23. Avalanche and Homicide Peaks, 8/24. Leader: Mark Miraglia. Five went, four summited both, one summited one, good trip.
24. Pioneer Peak Trail, 9/14. Leader: Neil O'Donnell. Four signed-up and went, good uphill hike.

### Training Committee Annual Report

The training events continue to attract more club members than any other club activity. The classes held this past year were highly successful. Special thanks to all the instructors for making it possible.



## November 1995 - October 1996 - Training Schedule

Number of Trips Offered: 6

Number of Trips Realized: 4

Number of Trips Canceled: 2

Members attended: 140

Average number of members on a trip: 35

1. Ice Climbing Instruction Day, 1/21. Leader: Dave Hart. 16 students, 6 instructors attended, class well received.
2. Ice Axe Training & Avalanche Beacon Practice, 3/23. Leaders: Bill Romberg & James Larabee. Nine attended.
3. Outdoor Leadership Class, 3/26,28,30. Leader: James Larabee. Canceled, not enough members signed up.
4. Map & Compass Class, 4/27. Leaders: Brain Carey, Steve Gruhn. Canceled by leaders.
5. Glacier Travel/Rescue Class, 5/4-5. Leader: James Larabee. 30 attended, good class.
6. Ice Climbing School, 9/28. Leader: Nick Parker. 59 students, 20 instructors - very successful.

## Vin Hoeman Library Update

During the past several months, I took on the task of re-organizing the club's *periodical* holdings in the Vin Hoeman Library at AMH. The task consisted of re-ordering, labeling, and re-shelving those periodicals which are relevant to the MCA. Numerous boxes of magazines had been donated to the library and were taking up considerable space in our limited area, so it was time to go through them and keep what was needed to complete the club's holdings. I am happy to report that this task has been completed and to submit the following report with some recommendations. The inventory should be complete, however, I admit that I was unable to keep track of specific issues that may have been checked out by club members during the inventory period. If you find that I have reported an issue missing, but have it in your possession, please let me know and I will update the inventory accordingly.

After discussions with club president, James Larabee, it was decided that only certain periodicals would be retained in the MCA library on account of limited space. The following lists explain what will be retained as well as current holdings with missing issues noted. Some duplicates of current climbing magazines issues will be retained and stored on-site in the event that particular issues disappear in coming years. However, the majority of the remaining materials will be given away or recycled. Anyone who wishes to obtain any of

these items may contact me. Duplicate issues will also be made available at future club meetings for the taking. If anyone knows of another organization/library that may want these items have them contact James Larabee, club president.

Thanks to all club members who provided personal copies of these periodicals in order to complete the club's holdings.

In order to prevent duplication and allow for future storage of such materials, please notify the club before donating any future items to the MCA library. Please do not leave items in the library without notifying the club librarian.

### Periodicals that will be retained in MCA library

#### SCREE

American Alpine Journal/AAJ Index\*

Climbing

Mountain

Rock & Ice

Decisions on Geographic Names

Summit

Off-Belay

Appalachia

Mountain Gazette

Issues of other climbing magazines that contain articles on Alaska peaks.

\*(Accidents in N. American Mountaineering and AAJ news will be kept, but not maintained)

### Periodicals that will not be retained in library\*

Duplicate issues of the above periodicals —(except AAJ)\*\*

The Mountaineer

Backpacker

Canoe & Kayak

Sea Kayaking

Canoe

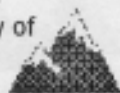
Trail and Timberline—(Colorado Mountain Club)

American Alpine News

The Mountain World

Dozen books on chess playing

2 grocery bags of old gear catalogues



Library Issues that need club guidance

1) In the interest of maintaining the numerous periodicals in an orderly fashion, I ask that club members returning magazines **take the few minutes necessary to return the magazine to the correct box and the correct chronological order.** Nothing is more frustrating when trying to locate a particular issue than coming across a stack of magazines that are all out of order. This may be asking too much (noting the previous state of the stacks), so I will also place a box near the library desk labeled **"Return Magazines Here"** for those who do not have the time to return them to their proper location on the shelves. I will periodically return them to the shelves and ask that other club members volunteer to do the same if they are in the library and have the time.

2) I suggest that some of the older/rarer/valuable items (books, not magazines) be stored in a locking glass cabinet and made available club members and researchers only upon request. In particular, the Vin Hoeman files and cards probably need to be protected better than they are—a locking file cabinet with the key made available to club members upon request.

3) Does the club want to subscribe to some of the current climbing periodicals—Climbing/Rock & Ice, etc. or do we want to obtain them via donations from members? (My vote is for having them donated, but it would mean that the most current issues would probably not be available until subsequent months/years. The club should take up this issue at a subsequent meeting.

4) Does the club wish to retain copies of any magazine that includes a description of a climb(s) of an Alaskan peak? If so, the club needs to develop a system for organizing and storing such items in the library. Otherwise, these items just pile up and it becomes impossible to find information efficiently. A vertical file system organized alphabetically by peak name would probably suffice, but this may be too cumbersome to maintain. Does the club have any policies related to library?

CURRENT PERIODICAL HOLDINGS  
MCA VIN HOEMAN LIBRARY

Title	Library collection and status
American Alpine Journal	1939 -*
AAJ Index	Vol. 1 1929-76, Vol. 2

Appalachia	1936 -1988
Climbing	1970 - missing: #98, 121, 122, 127, 129,131,139,
Summit	1955-1987-complete, missing 1988+
Mountain	1973 - missing: #93, 94, 117, 118, 122, 123, 125-128, 130- 133, 135-136, 138- 142, 144, 146+
Off-Belay	1972 - 81 missing: #6, 9-14,16, 19, 25
Rock & Ice	May 1985 - missing: 1-7, 10-15, 19, 26, 41, 46, 48, 50, 51, 60, 62
Mountain Gazette	1976 -1978
Scree	complete bound set
Decisions on Geographic Names	1967-1990

\*The following American Alpine Journal issues are currently missing from the MCA library. If you have one of these issues checked out or own of any of the missing magazines outlined above and would like to donate them to the club, please contact an MCA officer.

AAJ Missing Issues

Volume	Missing Issue(s)	Year
No. 1	All	ca 1937
No. 2	All	ca 1938
No. 3	#1	1941
No. 8	#1, #2	1953
No. 9	#2, #3	1954
No. 14	#3	1964-65
No. 16	#2, #3?	1968-69
No. 21	#2, #3?	1977-78
No. 33	All	1993

Submitted by Bill Romberg

AZDE

For Sale  
Kodak Carousel Projector  
(M4200); like new; \$150  
Call Wayne, 522-6354

For Sale  
Fabiano Double Ski Boots  
Mens 6 1/2; nearly new; \$150  
Call Max, 373-4734



## Freeze-Dry Order

Order forms will once again be available at the next meeting for Mountain House items. Order a case of any item and save 40-50% or more off retail. Fill out the form, make out a check to the MCA and bring both to the meeting (November or December). I will send it off and hopefully be ready to distribute stuff by the January meeting. Prices are on the form. Please try to do all transactions at the meetings. Thanks.

Willy Hersman



## Climbs for Short Days

Editor

We're loosing 6 minutes a day of light now, and even after we turn the corner, it will still seem dismal for peak-bagging. If you aren't into ice-climbing and skiing is not your passion or the snow is too crusty, you can still make a go of local climbs. You may have to start in the dark, and end in the dark, but a full moon can often be enough to light the way. Don't get too intense on making the summit, winter climbing in Alaska often means you run out of time. I have published a list of suggestions before, begun by Vin Hoeman years ago.

### On the Kenai:

Pastoral Peak (4173) past Turnagain, above Bertha Cr.  
Mooswa Peak (5020) near Manitoba Mt.  
Frenchy Peak (5079) above Frenchy Cr. (where else)  
Sunrise Peak (4650) near Hope

### Along the Arm:

Pyramid Peak (3378) w of the hwy before Turnagain P  
Explorer Peak (3550) above Explorer G., near Portage  
Railroad Peak (4250) near Skookum, above RR tracks  
Blueberry Hill (4490) above Twentymile River  
Penguin Peak (4305) near Bird  
Bird Cr Ridge (4650) sometimes even snow-free

### Behind Anchorage:

North Suicide (5065) The Ramp (5240)  
South Suicide (5005) The Wedge (4660)  
McHugh Peak (4301) Wolvering Peak (4455)  
Flattop (3575) Tikishla Peak (5150)  
O'Malley Peak (5150) Temptation Peak (5350)  
Rendezvous Pk (4050) Mt. Gordon Lyon (4150)

### Eagle River:

Harp Mt. (5001) Blacktail Rocks (4446)  
Highland Peak (3650) Roundtop (4755)  
Mt. Significant (5485) Vista Peak (5070)  
Mt. Magnificent (4285) Raina Peak (6795)

### Glenn Hwy:

Mt. Eklutna (4110) try the direct gully from Mirror Lake  
Peak 5450 (Eklutna Lake) fairly safe for avalanches  
Lazy Mt. (3720) for days you overslept  
Bodenburg Butte (881) you really overslept  
Gunsight Mt. (6441) a ski-up  
Kings Mt. (5809) easy to cross the river now

### Hatcher Pass:

Government Pk (4781) be aware of avalanches  
Bald Mt.(4550) follow ridges from the pass  
Arkose Peak( 5350) along Arkose Ridge  
Idaho Peak (5050) ridges are the safest

I left out longer climbs and ones more notorious for avalanches. No matter what you choose, be alert to unsafe snow conditions, even when you aren't even on snow, such as ice-climbs below gully systems.





Mountaineering Club of Alaska

*Officers*

**President**            **Mark Miraglia** 338-0705  
**Vice-President**    **Wayne Todd** 522-6354  
**Secretary**           **Cory Hinds** 522-5879  
**Treasurer**           **Kirk Towner** 388-7058

*Board*

**Aze Azegami** 266-9249  
**Wendy Sanem** 345-1500  
**Dave Storkel** 746-0510  
**Tom Choate** 333-5309  
**James Larabee** 522-3854

**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. Computer diskettes are encouraged; they save typing time.

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

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