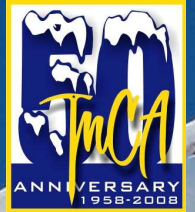


# the SCREE

## Mountaineering Club of Alaska

November 2008  
Volume 51 Number 11



My friends are my estate.  
~ *Emily Dickinson*

Monthly Meeting  
Wed. November 19 @ 7:30 PM  
Dave Johnston with some winter  
mountaineering adventures

Mount Wickersham  
Frenchy Peak  
Mount Toggenberger POM  
Learnard Glacier  
Outhouse from Space

# The Mountaineering Club of Alaska

*"To maintain, promote and perpetuate the association of persons who are interested in promoting, sponsoring, improving, stimulating and contributing to the exercise of skill and safety in the Art and Science of Mountaineering"*

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

Contact information is provided on the back page or visit us on the web at [www.mcak.org](http://www.mcak.org).

**Cover photo:** Cory Hinds and Carrie Wang on Mount Wickersham. Photo by Wayne Todd.

**Article Submission:** Articles and photos are best submitted on the web at [MCAK.org](http://MCAK.org). You can also attach a word processing document to an email. Due to formatting problems please do not submit material in the body of an email. We prefer articles that are under 1,000 words. To get on the cover, a photo should convey the feeling of mountaineering and show human endeavor.

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**Adze and Meeting Minutes**

## Hiking and Climbing Schedule

November 8 – Bird Creek Hike or Snowshoe

Depending on conditions, this will be a 3 or 4 hours Class B hike or snowshoe up Bird Creek Valley. Bring lunch, water and appropriate gear for the current snow and weather conditions. No dogs allowed. To sign up, contact Amy Murphy at 338-3979 or [hayduchesslives@yahoo.com](mailto:hayduchesslives@yahoo.com).

November 13 – Full Moon Hike up Mt. Baldy

Class B hike/snowshoe to celebrate the full moon! We may hike farther along the ridge toward Blacktail Rocks before heading back to the cars. Bring snacks and appropriate gear for the current snow and weather conditions. Meet at the Mount Baldy parking lot at 6:30 p.m. No dogs allowed. Leader Amy Murphy at 338-3979 or e-mail: [hayduchesslives@yahoo.com](mailto:hayduchesslives@yahoo.com).

November 20 – After-work, Far North Bicentennial Park

Depending on snow conditions, this will be a Class A after work hike, snowshoe or ski trip lasting about two hours. Bring headlamp, snacks, water and appropriate gear for the current snow conditions. Meet at the North Bivouac Trailhead at 6:00 p.m. No dogs allowed. To sign up, contact Amy Murphy at 338-3979 or e-mail [hayduchesslives@yahoo.com](mailto:hayduchesslives@yahoo.com).

November 28 – 30, Lane Hut and Snowbird Glacier

Tour and explore the Northern Pass to the Snowbird Glacier. Class B, 12+ miles round trip, Leader: Greg Bragiel, sign up at the Nov. 19<sup>th</sup> meeting or email [unknownhiker@alaska.net](mailto:unknownhiker@alaska.net).

December 5-16 (flexible dates), 12 days - Mexico

Volcano Climbing. Pico de Orizaba (18,400'), Ixta (17,100'), Nevado de Toluca (15,300'), Sierra Negra (15,200'), La Malinche (14,600'). A moderately paced, non-expeditionary sample of high-altitude day-trip climbing. Competent ice-axe arrest and crampon skills are required. Roped travel required on Orizaba only. Class D and Basic Mountaineering skills. Local outfitter will be hired to provide all transport, lodging, food, and local guide at cost. ~\$1000 per person covers all in-country costs. Airfare/Alaska Airlines miles to Mexico City excluded. Limit 5 team members. \$500 non-refundable deposit holds your spot. Leader: Dave Hart 244-1722 or [david.hart@pxd.com](mailto:david.hart@pxd.com)

December 13 – Annual Williwaw Lakes Ski and Christmas tree Decorating Trip

Ski or snowshoe toward Williwaw Lakes, decorating a tree with Christmas decorations along the way. Bring holiday wear, snacks and appropriate gear for the current snow and weather conditions and a non-fragile ornament for the tree. If you don't have an ornament, I have ornaments from previous years' trips. I always retrieve the ornaments after New Year's Eve. Meet at the Glen Alps parking lot at 10:15 a.m. Leader: Amy Murphy at 338-3979 or e-mail: [hayduchesslives@yahoo.com](mailto:hayduchesslives@yahoo.com).

# Mt. Wickersham

by Cory Hinds and Wayne Todd



We decided to stay a couple extra days after the Ice Fest and climb Mt. Wickersham. Wayne Todd, Carrie Wang, Richard Barranow, two dogs, and me. What route? The north face is too steep, too much snow. The east side approach up the Matanuska Glacier would take too long; it's a day to Bocks' Den. Didn't Willy climb it? What way did he go? After some calls, map work, and consultation with Tom Choate, we decided on the Glacier Creek approach and up the south side. Tom told us that this was the first ascent route used by Grace Hoeman.

Sunday afternoon, Sept. 28, 5 pm. After a nice two days of ice climbing at the Matanuska Glacier, the weather was holding, so we retooled and headed up Glacier Creek. The first order of business was crossing the Matanuska River. We had brought hip waders to stash on the other side of the river, but followed Richard's advice to go with the tennis shoes to be used for multiple crossings of Glacier Creek. This was a good choice - and a cold choice. We left our cars parked at the toe of the glacier and walked down the hill and out to the river. The water was mid-thigh; the other three crossings up Glacier Creek were lower, but just as cold. Our shoelaces were freezing up when we stopped to wring out socks; best to just keep on moving.

After crossing the river we made a beeline for the low hills at the mouth of Glacier Creek. Easy walking brought us to an open clearing at the foot of the low hill where we picked up a Cat track. The track went straight up the hill, then turned left to follow the west ridge. When the track

turned left, we picked up a game trail heading over toward Glacier Creek. Immediately we were at a steep bank overlooking a beaver pond. We took the game trail down and crossed the beaver dam, with more wet feet (see, I told you: keep the tennis shoes on). After crossing the dam it was a straight shot to Glacier Creek.

Walking up the gravel bars on the creek was pleasant, and there is a rough 4-wheeler road to follow. After hiking about 3 or 4 miles, it was getting dark and we found a flat spot with plenty of wood nearby. Ten minutes

later Richard had a nice fire going and we were warming up and drying out. It was a perfectly clear night and the stars came out and soon the Milky Way split the sky.

Next morning we were up at 7 am with a glorious bluebird day, about 15° F and perfectly clear. We had another fire in the morning to get going. We left camp at 8:30 am and hiked another half mile or so, and then headed up hill on the left side of a drainage, following the occasional game trail. The brush was minimal and we stayed in trees and utilized the game trails. We followed a very good game trail up the ridge. We reveled in the views and the day, and ate plump blueberries too (and a few cranberries and crowberries). Richard and Cory opted to continue in tennis shoes till we hit snow. When the hill rolled over into the upper valley the upper part of Mount Wickersham came into view and we stripped off some clothes.

The upper valley is 3 or 4 miles of easy walking, first over alpine vegetation, then up the moraine. A black bear ran across the slopes ahead of us, no doubt disappointed to have his berry feed cut short. We snacked in the sun, enjoying the day and the company till the sun went behind a sub-peak and we cooled off. Richard and I changed out the tennis shoes for winter boots shortly after the snow line and we headed up.

Just after attaining the western moraine pile, we entered the snow land and the sun again. Endless snow synapses twinkled as we hiked. Peak 5915 slowly moved by our right and descended. Another break ensued in the sunshine, warmth and snow brightness.



We crested the first rib on the south side and headed up, seeing what appeared to be an easy linkage through the rocks. We ascended the spur ridge ¼ mile before traversing right, toward a snow gully all the while photographing and reveling. We headed up a short steep gully then up and right until encountering the true west ridge with maximum exposure to the north and short steep rock/gendarmes blocking our progress.

Soon we found ourselves at the base of a series of short rock steps with no easy way through. Did Grace solo this, we pondered as we broke out the climbing gear? A short tricky corner was soon overcome, but our pace slowed as we all came up on the rope. Surely it would be a walk-up now. Wayne scouted uphill and around the north side: nope. Wayne scouted downhill: nope. Another short section of roped climbing needed at 7,200 feet! The rascal Wickersham was making us work for it. More time slipped by as we all climbed roped up that second step. The weather was still sunny and warm, but it was clouding to the south and we saw a sundog.

Now, surely, we would find the easy way up. But no! Wayne pushed up into insecure piles of fractured rock at steep angles at 7,400 feet. It looked dangerous; it was getting late. I decided to look around the corner to the right (east). Yup, that was it: an exposed traverse right (east) below the final bit of fractured rock was the key; the east side was the walk-up.

We were all on the summit at 5 pm. Mount Wickersham has a 1-person-at-a-time summit, with plenty of exposure. The last logged summit was in 2005, by Keith Ross and partner, up the east side from Bock's Den. We all took turns getting the photos we wanted. Needless to say, the views were magnificent.

Now how to get down? Given the technical climbing we had just done, we decided to try the walk-off exit off the

east side and out the other valley south of the 5,915 foot. sub-peak and back to Glacier Creek. Surely this will be faster, we reasoned, "We'll just walk right on out to the river." Well, we finally reached the tents at 10:30 pm that evening after quite an extended exit out that valley. We made good time down the upper valley, but then it became apparent that we would need to stay high (~4,000-foot contour) for many miles to avoid the brush. Richard led the way using his good mountain instincts and the last shred of light to negotiate the final drop into the woods.

We kept the bear noise high as we made our way down through the woods. There was some continued excitement down on the river with a set of unknown animal eyes shining back at us from the adjacent brush. "Oh, that must be Richard's dogs..." "Um, Richard's dogs are both right behind you. Just keep on walking..." Miraculously, through all the bushwhacking and banging around, we all came out unscathed without blood or turned ankle. There were some tired but happy campers who found their tents and enjoyed another fire that night.

Tuesday morning we awoke to snow, but an easy trip out Glacier Creek and soon we were back at the parking lot. Carlene, thanks for the notes on our windshields! The final obstacle was the upper section of the final hill, where our 2-wheel drive vehicle lost traction. Richard ended pulling us up with one of his dog chains. As we were enjoying burgers at the Long Rifle, gandering at the news headlines of "Bailout Bill Bombs: US, Global Markets Plunge," we discuss what is truly important in life, I think we know!



# Frenchy and His Three Brothers Frenchy Peak (5079), Peak 4851, Peak 4515, and Peak 4450 in the Kenai Mountains

by Steve Gruhn



Photos by Kathy Still

I'd wanted to climb Frenchy Peak for a while. It drew my attention with its status as the highest peak in the Kenai Mountains west of the Seward Highway and north of the Sterling Highway. I had tried to climb it via Peak 4851 to the north (in the Caribou Creek, Donaldson Creek, and Palmer Creek drainages) with Shelley and Anika Biss in August, but we ran out of time. That failed attempt made me want to climb Peak 4851, too.

On Saturday, September 20, Kathy Still and I drove up Palmer Creek Road in the Kenai Mountains above Hope and parked about a half mile south of Coeur d' Alene Creek Campground. Driving through Turnagain Pass, we could see blue sky above the fog and we hoped we'd have a good day. I figured the weather would be stable. We biked about 3.5 miles to the southernmost bridge over Palmer Creek, stashed our bikes, and started hiking up the hill to the west. Clouds were visible to the east, but there was no wind and we enjoyed the fall colors.

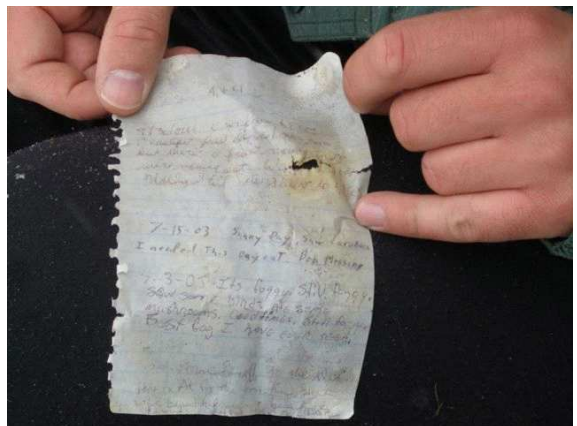
It had rained the previous night and there was a dusting of fresh snow up high. Walking through the wet grass quickly soaked us, but after startling a couple willow ptarmigan, watching an eagle soar overhead, and nibbling on a few blueberries we were soon at a 4000-foot point on the ridge admiring the western views of Willow Creek and the peaks west of Resurrection Creek. A dusting of snow greeted us once we got above about 3700 feet and we could see the clouds stacking up on the peaks on the east side of Palmer Creek. We took a

5

quick break at the ridge crest and I discovered that after filling my water bottle that morning I had left it at home. Kathy graciously offered me a sip from hers, but because our planned route was mostly on ridges we were both very aware that we'd have to ration her water supply.

We walked south along the ridge until we reached Peak 4450 above Palmer Creek and Willow Creek. There was no cairn or register and we didn't leave one. We didn't tarry long and continued hiking to Peak 4515 overlooking Caribou Creek. We stopped for a bit to evaluate whether the 4500-foot point to the west was higher than we were, but because I could see lower peaks beyond Point 4500, I reasoned that we must be higher. This peak didn't have a cairn or register, either and, again, we didn't leave either one. We followed a game trail south and east along the ridge overlooking Palmer Creek and came across fresh tracks in the snow from

caribou, a coyote, and what we guessed was an ermine. By that point the clouds had swept over the peaks to our east and engulfed us. Snow fell lightly around us. So much for the stable weather. We followed the ermine tracks, which led us eastward along the ridge into the oncoming storm. Soon we were in a full-on blizzard. We reached the summit of Peak 4851 above Donaldson Creek and saw the ermine tracks had continued along the ridge to the north. We found a register that Wayne Todd and Kathy had left on September 30, 2001. It was too wet to sign, but Kathy took a photograph of it to document the history.



We continued south as the storm built – the most variable form of “stable” I've ever witnessed. I had to put on safety glasses to prevent the wind-driven snow from hurting my eyes. We reached the saddle between Peak

4851 and Frenchy Peak (5079) and what we could see of the ridge to the summit (which wasn't much) didn't look encouraging. We contemplated dropping into the Donaldson Creek drainage and ascending the snow-covered northeast ridge of Frenchy Peak, which looked better than the rocky north ridge before us, but the drop into the drainage and the realization that we'd have to climb back up weren't all that inviting. We both recalled that Tom Choate's philosophy was to not turn back due to terrain difficulties until we couldn't go any further. So, we kept putting one foot in front of another, not knowing whether the ridge would let us ascend or not. We came across a place where large animals (sheep? goats?) had recently bedded down and melted the snow. We didn't see any animals in the storm, but we must have startled them. At one tricky point I led us out on the west face of the ridge, unable to tell whether it was a good idea or not, but after exploring for a bit, I found that it would go.



At about 4500 feet, there was a large, northeast-facing snowfield. Kathy led us out on the snow, which consisted of about 4 inches of fresh snow atop snow from the previous winter that hadn't melted during our non-summer of 2008. She kicked steps right up to the summit and I tried to follow in my running shoes. I kept slipping and had to rely on my whippet quite a bit, but eventually I reached the summit. We didn't bother looking for a cairn or register in the snow. It was now about 5:30 p.m. and we didn't take a break because we knew darkness would soon be upon us.



On the descent we ventured further out into the snow and plunge-stepped down until we reached our tracks at 4500 feet. They had already blown in. We retraced our steps to the saddle, but wanting to avoid a second climb of Peak 4851, we decided to contour around to a 3800-foot saddle northeast of the peak. After sidehilling a while, we were met with a pretty substantial east-facing gully that caused us to hike uphill to get around it. Since we had to hike up anyway, we decided to climb Point 4650 northeast of Peak 4851 and descend the west ridge rather than continue to the saddle as we had originally planned. During brief breaks in the snowstorm, I could see a pocket glacier to the west. This glacier, complete with blue ice and crevasses, does not appear on the Seward (D-7) USGS map.

The fresh snow made the descent a little troubling because we couldn't see our footing. We wanted to make it off the steep sections to about 4200 feet, where I knew there was a trail before dark. We alternated leads as we both initially led the other to places where we didn't want to be, but after following several ramps on the north side of the ridge, we were able to cross three snowfields and reach the trail as the light turned flat. But now on easier terrain, we made quick work of the hike down to the mouth of the Palmer Creek Lakes where we filled up with water. We had both been quite thirsty up to that point because of my mistake of leaving my water bottle at home. Sated, we hiked down the trail to Palmer Creek Road and the bikes 1/2 mile north of the parking lot.

We mounted up and biked in the dark down the valley. I barely had to pedal, but the real trick was to dodge the numerous puddles and water holes while hollering to let the wildlife know that we were coming.

On the drive back to Anchorage, we noticed that fresh snow was sticking to the shoulder of the Seward Highway east of Canyon Creek. Evidently, the non-summer of 2008 had come to an end. The calendar would make it official two days later. Although our summer wasn't much, this trip was a good way to close it out.



# Peak of the Month: Mount Toggenburger

by Steve Gruhn

Mountain Range: Saint Elias Mountains; Chilkat Range

Borough: Haines Borough

Drainage: Davidson Glacier

Latitude/Longitude: 59° 6' 43" North, 135° 40' 5" West

Elevation: 6841 feet

Prominence: 1391 feet from Mount Tajis (7451)

Adjacent Peaks: Mount Clarence Mattson (6550), Mount Tajis, and Peak 5481 near the Davidson Glacier

Distinctness: 991 feet from Mount Clarence Mattson

USGS Map: Skagway (A-2)

First Recorded Ascent: There are no records of an ascent; this peak might be unclimbed.

Access Point: Davidson Glacier

In June 1966 Dr. Lawrence Nielsen led a group of glaciological researchers on an exploration and mountaineering trip of the Takhinsha Mountains west of Mount Toggenburger. This was the first mountaineering trip into the area and Nielsen and David Chappellear subsequently named several features, including Mount Toggenburger, which he named after Dr. Robert Toggenburger, a chemist who enjoyed climbing and skiing, and the region in Switzerland where his family originated. The party viewed Mount Toggenburger from the west and photographed it from the air, but made no attempts to climb it.

Although I don't know of any successful ascents of Mount Toggenburger, two attempts were made in late June 1988 from a camp at about 5500 feet on the Davidson Glacier west of the peak. On June 27 George Barnett, Linda Bolte, Gil Dewart, Ed Kerwin, Marty Mushkin, Larry Nielsen, Walt Price, and Chuck Warren attempted to climb the west end of the north face. Both Nielsen and Dewart had been on the 1966 Takhinsha Mountains expedition and had been captivated by the steep, symmetrical peak. High on the north face, however, they found the snow unstable and the rock badly shattered and, therefore, abandoned the attempt. Three days later Barnett and Bolte used fixed lines that had been left after the previous attempt and attained the west ridge. They moved toward the lower western summit, but deteriorating weather late in the day forced them to retreat and retrieve the fixed lines, leaving the summit untouched.

Nielsen's account of the 1988 attempts to climb Mount Toggenburger appeared on page 141 of the 1989 *American Alpine Journal*. Nielsen's and Chappellear's account of their 1966 trip to the Takhinsha Mountains, including the naming of Mount Toggenburger and a photograph of the peak, appeared on page 285 of the December 1966 *Appalachia*.

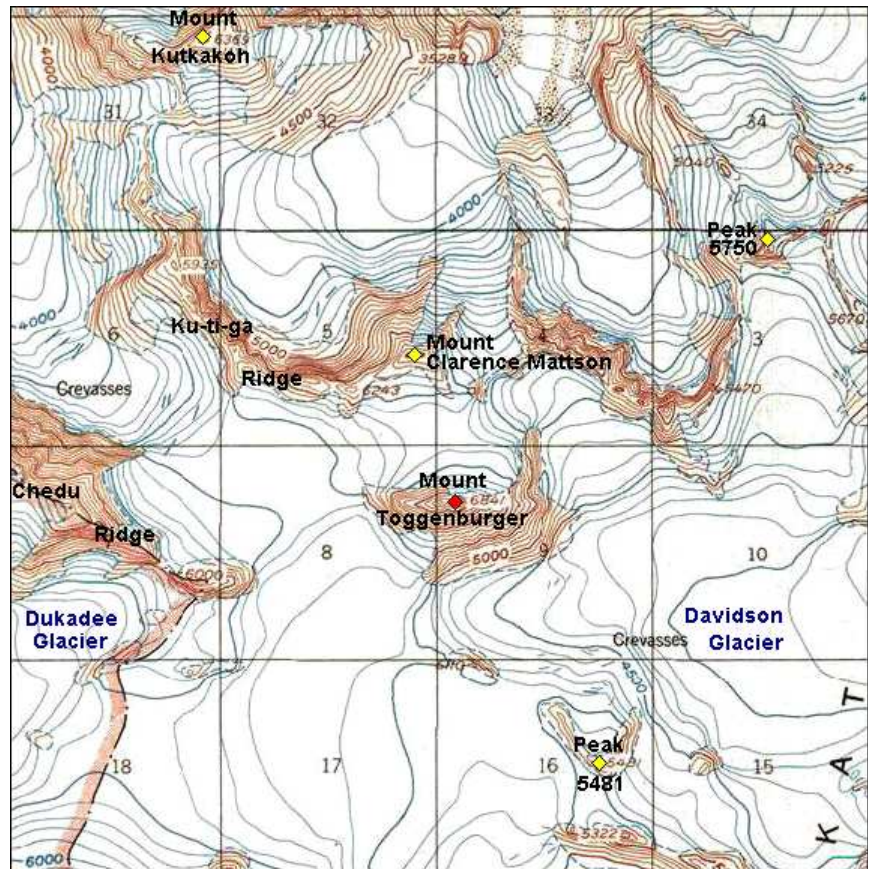


West Ridge

## Additional photos:

[http://gdftp.gi.alaska.edu/CGI-Exe/ImageFolio31/imageFolio.cgi?action=view&link=Lawrence\\_Nielsen/Album10&image=LN\\_2083.jpg&img=120&tt=](http://gdftp.gi.alaska.edu/CGI-Exe/ImageFolio31/imageFolio.cgi?action=view&link=Lawrence_Nielsen/Album10&image=LN_2083.jpg&img=120&tt=)

[http://gdftp.gi.alaska.edu/CGI-Exe/ImageFolio31/imageFolio.cgi?action=view&link=Lawrence\\_Nielsen/Album10&image=LN\\_2044.jpg&img=180&tt=](http://gdftp.gi.alaska.edu/CGI-Exe/ImageFolio31/imageFolio.cgi?action=view&link=Lawrence_Nielsen/Album10&image=LN_2044.jpg&img=180&tt=)



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

# Learnard Glacier

by Tim Kelley



1914 NOAA Photo Library, Image theb1386

Historical mountain picture-teering. What's that? It's a pastime I adopted a couple of years ago to provide yet another excuse to ramble in the outdoors of Alaska. The idea is to find locations where old mountain pictures were taken, and then re-take the picture. Of course, not just any old mountain picture will do. I only get interested in the ones that pose a challenge to get to the location where the original photographer visited.

In past issues of Scree I have submitted "then and now" photo pairs for locations on Knight Island and on Portage Shoulder. This time I'm sharing a re-creation of a photo taken in 1914 by the R. P. Strough survey crew. It's a picture of the Learnard Glacier, which is to the north of



2008 Tim Kelley Photo

the Anton Anderson Tunnel entrance on the Whittier side of Maynard Mountain.

I tried recreating this shot in 2007. I got to the "Slide" benchmark on the north side of Shakespeare Shoulder. There was a 1914 benchmark there and I figured I had found the location. But when I got home I realized the photos did not line up that well after all. So this year I found the "Snow" benchmark. It didn't seem like the shot was taken from this exact spot. I hiked a few hundred yards north to where it seemed more likely the shot was taken - to re-create the survey crew photo that was taken 94 years earlier.



# Outhouse from Space?

by Tom Choate

It was like a Darth Vader space apparition, that large shiny black thing descending from the sky. If it wasn't for the loud chop – chop – chop of the helicopter blades higher up, and the familiar red Mint Hut nearby I could have believed my imagination.

At long last, after years and years of planning and designing, the new "forever-built" extra-stout aluminum outhouse had finally arrived at the Mint. The master planner and organizer, Greg Bragiel was watching as it was gently lowered with one end on a rock so it could

easily be stood up and wiggled into place. Even with our team of 5 it would have been extremely difficult to move the 600 pound monster more than a few feet.

After an hour of final assembly and moving rocks to the side flanges (to help the outhouse withstand wind and winter snow) our two ambitious day trippers left. Greg Encelewski and Martin Ksok had biked in as far as the beaver ponds and arrived at the hut at exactly the right moment. Greg Bragiel, Dwight Iverson and I completed the digging around the doors at the outhouse rear and



filling in around the stones to finish the job. We did some redoing of the front step, spent the night, and hiked out the next day (Sept. 14) in improving weather.



This toilet is supposed to do some composting of wastes and was painted black to help keep it warmer. But it is in a cold location at over 4000 feet altitude so will need a lot of help and cooperation to get decomposition. Please bring bits of dry vegetation and ashes to put into the waste as you use this outhouse. And may the force be with you when you meet Darth Vader in residence just a little west of the Mint Hut.



Outhouse 'Chairman' Greg and Dwight

## Letter to the Editor

### Gilpatrick Mountain(s), Comments and Corrections

In the September *Scree* Steve Gruhn noted several of the discrepancies between our experiences on the ground and the topographic map of the mountain(s). Readers should note that there are **two** Gilpatrick Mountains (please refer to the map in the *Scree*)

North Gilpatrick Mountain has 3 summits. The highest of which is the northwest at about 4850 feet. The middle with triangulation point 4824 and the northeast points (triangulation point 4630 and another of about 4650 feet) complete this mountain. It has a prominence of 800 feet from the pass to the south peak.

South Gilpatrick Mountain has about 900 feet of relief from that same pass and has some four summits. Its middle is the true peak, especially considering the map uncertainties. I didn't explore that far, so as Steve noted, There is a peak (point?) with a triangulation point claiming 4990 feet. elevation, but my water bottle

leveling from North Gilpatrick Mountain suggests it is only a hundred feet higher, i.e. about 4950 feet. Steve suggested that triangulation point 4990 should be on the summit a half mile due west, and I agree, because when I climbed it the level sighting suggested it was about 20 feet higher. There is another point on this mountain about 1 ½ miles west-northwest of about 4550 feet (or slightly less by leveling). It is possible that it qualifies as a separate peak since the pass to the main peak is about 4050 feet. This westerly point is NOT Arizona Peak, which is also about 4550 feet. Arizona Peak is two miles north in Section 8 and has 900 feet. of prominence from North Gilpatrick Mountain. There is a point of some 4850 feet (west of triangulation point Gil) a half mile south on South Gilpatrick Mountain. Two miles to the south, on the edge of Devils Creek is Peak 4345. The pass to South Gilpatrick Mountain is about 3850 feet. and so it may be marginally a peak. Richard Baranow may have the first recorded ascent of this one

**Tom Choate**



## Adze

### Partners Wanted for April Trek in Nepal

I am looking for people interested in joining me for a month-long trek in Nepal in April, hiking around Manaslu Peak, the 8th-highest mountain in the world. This trek is highly strenuous and requires excellent physical condition and preferably some mountaineering experience. A friendly personality and group compatibility are also required. The trail is not developed for tourism so we will sleep in tents and cooks will prepare our meals. The 25-day trek costs approximately \$2,300. Roundtrip airfare to Kathmandu, a few meals and personal items are not included. For more information contact Amy Murphy at 338-3979 or e-mail: hayduchesslives@yahoo.com.

### For Rent

IRIDIUM 9505A Satellite Phone for rent. \$50 per week plus \$2/minute.  
Dave, 244-1722, [david.hart@pxd.com](mailto:david.hart@pxd.com)

### For Sale

Ortovox avalanche beacon \$50.  
Denise Saigh, 907-338-2238

### Notice

Wilderness First Responder course held near the Eagle River Nature Center the week of November 8-16, 2008:  
Nov 8-10, 8 a.m. to 8 p.m.  
Nov 11-13, 6 p.m. to 10 p.m.  
Nov 14-16, 8 a.m. to 7 p.m.

People must attend all sessions and pass a final exam if they would like to receive the cert. The WFR certification is through the Wilderness Medical Associates. It is valid for three years and includes a three-year certification in CPR.

The cost of the course is \$500. If two people enroll together, the cost is \$475 each.  
Deb Ajango at [debajango@att.net](mailto:debajango@att.net)

## October 15 Member Meeting Minutes

1. Visitors and new member introductions
2. Five new membership received
3. Hiking/Climbing report:
  - Trail clearing trip successful at the East Fork of the Eklutna River
  - Sat. Oct. 18 Ross Noffsinger and Dave Hart will lead a trail clearing trip up the Icicle Creek drainage; looking for volunteers.
  - Mexico Trip in Dec. climb volcanos by Dave Hart; looking for participants.
4. Huts report:
  - The toilet at the Mint Hut was installed in Sept. It is aluminum.
5. Sign-ups for Mountaineering Class will take place in Dec. or Jan.
6. Ice Fest 2008 at Mat. Glacier was successful. 110 or so students.
7. Announcements:
  - Stu Grenier will lead an overnight trail-clearing trip in Ship Creek in Dec.; looking for participants
  - Stu Grenier is looking for people interested in helping to build his Willow cabin

- No program this meeting but next month it will be given by Dave Johnston.
  - Annette Iverson has 3/4 metal-edged, fish-scaled, 180-cm Madshus skis for sale; \$130.
  - Chugach State Park may conduct a chain-saw training workshop in future which MCA members could participate in - stay tuned.
8. Officer and Board Elections:
    - Due to low meeting attendance nominations were taken but elections were not held. Elections will take place at the November meeting. The following were nominated:  
Treasurer: Travis Taylor  
Secretary: Anmei Goldsmith  
Board: Tim Harper  
Board: Mark Kimerer
- Additionally, the following are considering President, V.P., and Secretary nominations: Richard Baranow, Wayne Todd, Ross Noffsinger.

November program:  
Dave Johnston, longtime mountaineer, of Talkeetna, will share some of his winter mountaineering adventures.

## MCA Trip Classifications

The classifications below do not take into account individual trip hazards such as river crossings, scree slopes, snow fields, bears, etc. Trip leaders are required to inform the trip participants of any such hazards either verbally, on the sign-up sheet, or in the trip description. Leader approval is required for participation on all trips. **NON-TECHNICAL:** Following are a few standards used to classify nontechnical trips. The classification is made in terms of hiking distance and altitude gain. Many trips are not on established trails.

**CLASS A:** Easy hikes with a maximum distance of 8 miles for day trips or 4 miles per day for overnight trips. Altitude gain up to 1200 feet.

**CLASS B:** Trips involving a maximum distance of up to 12 miles for a day trip or 6 miles per day for an overnight trip. Altitude gain of 1200 to 2500 feet.

**CLASS C:** Trips up to 15 miles for a day hike or 8 miles per day for an overnight trip. Altitude gain up to 3500 feet. Scree, steep grass or other rough terrain problems may be encountered.

**CLASS D:** Hikes and climbs with an altitude gain of over 3500 feet or a distance of greater than 15 miles for a day-hike or greater than 8 miles a day for an overnight trip. Peaks in this classification may require minimal climbing skills.

**CLASS E:** Hazardous climbing conditions or stream-crossing conditions may be encountered. A basic mountaineering course may be required.

**TECHNICAL:** Technical trips are open to all qualified climbers. However, the registration on any particular trip must be restricted to a safe and manageable number of climbers. Registration is made directly with the leader, who determines the qualifications needed for the trip.

**GLACIER TRAVEL:** Trips requiring roped travel over glaciers. Knowledge of crevasse rescue, and ice axe and crampon skills are required. Basic understanding of ice and snow anchors also required.

**FIFTH CLASS:** Trips which involve fifth class climbing. A Basic Mountaineering course or equivalent is required. Knowledge of belay and rappel techniques and placing anchors is required. Climbing difficulty varies widely with each trip.

**TRIP PARTICIPANTS** have the obligation to acquaint themselves with the nature of the trip and to verify that it is within their capability and experience. Anyone wishing to participate in any trip above CLASS A must have completed one or more trips of the next lower classification, or the equivalent.

Approved: MCA Board, February 15, 2000

## General Rules for MCA Sanctioned Trips

1. Proper equipment is available from the trip leader.
2. No dogs. (Among the reasons are bear problems).
3. The trip leader can require special equipment and refuse participation to any person that is ill-prepared (e.g. inappropriate clothing/gear).
4. The leader's suggestions are to be followed. Do not go off alone, return or rush ahead without his (her) permission, and don't ford a stream before the leader assesses the situation. Remember, this is a club trip and the leader must know where all participants are. Anyone separating from the group without the leader's approval is no longer considered a participant the MCA Sanctioned trip.
5. The trip leader has the authority to split the group (fast and slow), dependent upon current conditions. However, he/she must appoint a qualified co-leader to lead the second group using the guidelines specified in the current Trip Leader Responsibilities.
6. Trip participants who, in the leader's opinion, put themselves or other members of the group in danger by disregarding the leader's suggestions, shall be subject to sanction by the club. Sanctions may include, but are not limited to, reprimand at general meeting, exclusion from future trips, termination of annual membership, or lifetime exclusion from the club.
7. You must sign up on a trip roster (club meetings) or contact the leader, and you must have signed the club waiver to be on a club trip.
8. If you find you cannot participate after signing up on the roster, please let the leader know, both for transportation and gear-planning and so someone else can go. If you are the leader, help find a replacement.
9. Total number of people on club trips:  
Minimum: 4 (for safety reasons)  
Maximum: Leader option, depends upon the trail and campsite conditions, but generally limited to 12 in trail-less areas or State/ National Parks
10. Firearms are not encouraged, and please let the leader know if you want to carry one - it will be leader's option. Aerosol bear repellent is preferred.

Approved: MCA Board, February 15, 2000

# Mountaineering Club of Alaska

President	Sean Bolender	830-5102	Board member	Don Hansen	243-7184
Vice-President	Annette Iverson	222-0581	Board member	Andy Rembert	688-3230
Secretary	Bridget Paule	230-9903	Board member	Jayne Dixon	382-0212
Treasurer	Travis Taylor	382-4823	Board member	Steve Parry	248-8710
			Board member	Tom Devine	529-0618

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

Dues can be paid at any meeting or mailed to the Treasurer at the MCA address below. If you want a membership card, please fill out a club waiver and mail it with a self-addressed, stamped envelope. If you fail to receive the newsletter or have questions about your membership, contact the club Treasurer. The Post Office will not forward the newsletter.

The 'Scree' is a monthly publication of the Mountaineering Club of Alaska. Articles, notes and letters submitted for publication in the newsletter should be submitted on the web at [www.mcak.org](http://www.mcak.org) or e-mailed to the Scree Editor. Articles should be received by the monthly club meeting (third Wednesday of the month) to be in the next month's Scree.

Paid ads may be submitted to the attention of the Vice-President at the club address and should be in electronic format and pre-paid.

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

Mailing list/database entry: Yukiko Hayano and Randy Plant - 243-1438  
Hiking and Climbing Committee: Randy Howell - 346-4608, Jayme Dixon - 382-0212  
Huts: Greg Bragiel - 569-3008  
Calendar: Stuart Grenier - 337-5127  
Scree Editor: John Recktenwald - 346-2589  
Web: [www.mcak.org](http://www.mcak.org) (change your address here)  
Mailing list service: [MCAK@yahoogroups.com](mailto:MCAK@yahoogroups.com)

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