

the SCREE

Mountaineering Club of Alaska

November 2009

Volume 52 Number 11



Better do a good deed near at home
than go far away to burn incense.
~ Amelia Earhart

Monthly Meeting
Wed. November 18 @ 6:30 PM
Program: Roman Dial presents a
"how to" on packrafting

Bock's Den
Cane & Red Sheep Creek Drainages
Eklutna Traverse Hut Maintenance
Bold Journey
POM, Mount Curtis

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 third Wednesday of the month. The July meeting is the annual picnic, which will be held at the Bayshore Clubhouse. See below for details.

Contact information is provided on the back page or visit us on the web at www.mcak.org.

Cover Photo: Brian Aho on the job at Pichler's Perch. Photo by Greg Bragiel.

Article Submission: Articles and photos can be sent to johnrecktenwald@gmail.com. Due to formatting problems please do not submit material in the body of an email, instead, attach a word processing document to the email. We prefer articles that are under 1,000 words. You can also submit an article on the web at MCAK.org. To get on the cover, a photo should convey the feeling of mountaineering and show human endeavor.

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Hiking and Climbing Schedule

Nov. 11 – Evening Hike or Ski Trip

This is a Class A hike, snowshoe, or ski trip, depending on the snow conditions. Hopefully we can ski! Bring a headlamp and whatever gear is appropriate for the weather and snow conditions. Plan on being out 1-1/2 to 2 hours. Meet at the North Bivouac trailhead on the Campbell Airstrip Road at 6:00 p.m. For more info contact trip leader Amy Murphy, 338-3979 or e-mail: hayduchesslives@yahoo.com.

Nov. 14 – Hike to Roundtop via Ptarmigan Valley Trail

This is a Class C hike or snowshoe trip to Roundtop Peak via the Ptarmigan Valley trail, depending on the snow conditions. If participants want, we could arrange a shuttle and do a traverse from Mt. Baldy over to Roundtop and hike out the Ptarmigan Valley

trail. Dress warmly and in layers and bring whatever gear is appropriate for the weather and snow conditions. To sign up or get more information, contact trip leader Amy Murphy, 338-3979 or e-mail: hayduchesslives@yahoo.com.

November 27-29, 2009 - Ski tour

Grant Lake, or Lane Hut, or Powder Hut, or wherever the snow is good. Distance: 6 to 12 miles RT (depends on location). Elevation gain-300 to 2000' (location dependent). Hazards: avalanche, rockfall. Participants should be able to ski trails while carrying a pack.

Leader: Greg Bragiel

Email Unknownhiker@alaska.net or sign up at November 18 meeting

MCA 2010 Calendar

Over 100 pictures were submitted to the photo competition for the 2010 MCA calendar. Competition was pretty tough and over 40 people voted. The Calendar Committee hopes to have the 2010 calendar for sale at the November MCA meeting. The price is expected to be \$12 this year. You can expect to see the calendar for sale at AMH and the Alaska Rock Gym soon after the general meeting. Contact Stu ASAP at oinkmenow@hotmail.com or 907-337-5127 if you would like more than one calendar. We want to gauge the right number to print. Thanks to everyone for submitting photos. Come to the November general meeting to collect your photos. You may want to bring something in which to carry them. – Stu Grenier

Bock's Den

(No Longer a Bear's Den)

by Greg Bragiel

Friday October 23 - The phone rings just as we pull into the driveway at the Wolfe Lake Airstrip. "Hello, Wayne, this is Larry at Pollux Aviation. Sorry, but it is too windy to fly you today." After calling Stan Olsen and Larry Oliver to abort the mission we go into the hangar to say hello anyway. Cool...eight or nine R44 helicopters, an R22, and a Huey. We hear the story about the Huey "...This one was not in Vietnam..." What does that mean? Larry tells about how all the Hueys that served in Vietnam were summarily dumped into the ocean on the way back. But why? Well, the manufacturer and the government had an agreement: No used Hueys for sale after the war is over. That seems like our typical government efficiency! "OK, boys, the weather forecast looks better for tomorrow. See you in the morning." (*In the evacuation of Vietnam, a lot of helicopters were ditched to make room for incoming flights. However, most Hueys went to the Philippines and Guam and then on to Texas; many are still flying. Ed.*)

Saturday October 24 - Stan Olsen, Marcin Ksok, and Travis Taylor are heading north on the Glenn Highway as we finish loading the helo and lift off at 9:40 AM from Wolfe Field in Palmer. It's a mostly clear day with a slight breeze out of the north. Our pilot Tommy is a 30-something guy, a skier. We chat along the way to our destination. He points out places, buildings, and features that are virtually unknown from the road. "Wow, I was not aware there are so many people living back here, there, everywhere." Wayne comments about his desire to "...live in this area some day." As we fly over Glacier Park Campsite 9 ¾, we see Stan's white pickup pulling up, right on time, 10:30. We fly south, up the Matanuska Glacier. Bock's Den is our destination. "Dang, lots of brush here." I said. We see the glint of the roof and circle looking for a landing zone. "I'll have to set you down there, fellas." Tommy points to a clear area about ¼ mile from the hut. "Ya sure, that's way better than the trudge from the landing strip for fixed wing." We load the sling with our gear and Tommy drops it next to the hut. Nice!!

My thoughts drift back four years, when Sean Bolender was president of the MCA. I had looked into the possibility of having a heavy-lift helicopter move Bock's Den, en masse, to the Powell Glacier. "Sure, sir, we have an aircraft that can lift a 7000-pound building and move it about 15 miles over to the Powell Glacier. OK, that's about two hours of helo time, add the time getting



there and back, add in fuel... about \$50-\$60,000.00." I was flabbergasted, but managed to say "...OK then, thanks for the estimate. I will let the MCA board know..." My jaw dropped and hit the floor. Are you kidding?? Sean's plan to relocate the hut was dropped from our radar screen. It's way cheaper to build a new one.

Back on the ground Wayne and I make our way through the brush to the hut. The first impression is still stuck in my head. The bear must have enjoyed his forays here. We observe bent metal siding along most exposed edges, broken glass scattered everywhere, a **LARGE** hole in the front where the bear exited, windows boarded up with nails pointing outward. That definitely would hurt a bear paw or it might just make him mad!! Reminds me of a bear story. How does a bear get into a hut?? **Any way he wants.** How does a bear get out of a hut? **Any way he wants!!!**

The inside of the hut is trashed - splintered wood, more broken glass, shredded Tyvek, pieces of foam, screws, nails, tools, papers, photos, etc. The floor is covered. I find a remnant of the old hut log. The last entry was August 2005. One prior to that was in September 2004 by Willy Hersman and Keith Ross.... "I think Bock's Den gets more bear visits than human visits..." I pick up things that can be salvaged. The stove looks good. "Wayne, I don't think this place is worth saving." He agrees. I start hammering on the inside. The helo makes three more trips to drop the rest of the crew and gear off. Within three hours, Bock's den is down, flat. We spend the rest of the day stacking metal for slinging, picking up hundreds of pieces of metal, screws, glass, paper, wood and anything else that was part of Bock's. We wander the trails leading to the hut clearing picking up more trash the bears have attempted to haul away. Looking out over the bank and the 250-foot drop to the glacier, I exclaim, "... It's some work to get up here, eh?" Wayne responds, "...Ya, it's too bad the hut was built here. It

was not used much. It was supposed to be near the airstrip, closer to Mount Wickersham.” Wayne points northward. We finish burning the wood as darkness descends. It’s nice to have a fire. We telephone Tommy and ask for a 10:30 AM pickup in the morning.

Sunday October 25 - We awake to overcast skies. Snow starts to fall. The ceiling is dropping. We telephone Pollux. Tommy says he “...will see you shortly.” We continue to clean up and ready ourselves for pickup. Tommy appears on time. Three sling loads are hauled out to Campsite 9 ¾ and then the passengers. Wayne’s brother, Edd, waits with trailer to haul away materials. As Wayne and I depart the site we comment about how long nature might take to reclaim the site. Ten years? Maybe; alders grow fast.



Cane & Red Sheep Creek Drainages

Arctic National Wildlife Refuge

by Don J. Hansen, Trip Leader

July 18th to August 1, 2009

The three of us - Jim Szender, Ann Marie Bailey and I - drove to Fairbanks on Saturday, the 18th of July, and picked up our charter Sunday, July 19th, with Yukon Air in Fairbanks. Our pilot Kirk Sweetsir was in Fairbanks so he flew us directly to the Cane Creek Airstrip from Fairbanks and dropped our second week food cache at Red Sheep Airstrip. It was a sunny and hot day in the eastern Brooks Range. After setting up camp near the Cane Creek Airstrip we went for a day hike up a ridge on the south side of Cane Creek valley. We were rewarded with great views up and down Cane Creek valley. After descending the ridge the hike across the valley back to camp was downright hot. We could have used a swimming hole, but the creek was too shallow.

gravel moraine valley. Cane Creek disappeared into the gravel as we backpacked up the valley. We became worried about finding water at our next campsite. But we located a flowing stream in drainage on the south side of Cane Creek and set up camp on a tundra bench not far from water.

The next day, July 21st, we went for a hike up the water drainage onto a knoll looking up narrow side drainages and impressive peaks. We hiked up one of the side drainages on the south side after lounging in the sun on the knoll and taking several photos.



Jim & Ann Marie, Ridge Summit

The next day, July 20th, was also hot and sunny as we packed up and headed up the valley and found rest stops in what little willow shade we could find in the



Ann Marie, Knoll Summit

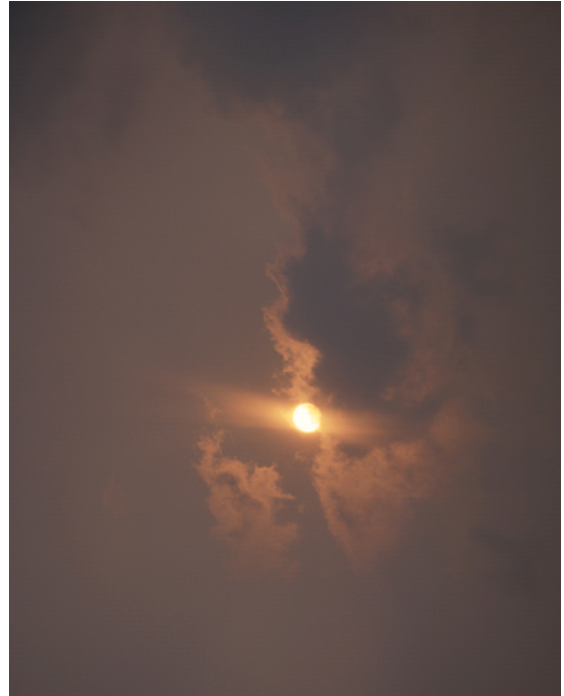
Ann Marie found a pair of sheep horns and posed with them on her head, a MCA "tradition." The next morning, July 22nd, we packed up and headed back down Cane Creek and set up camp at our site near the airstrip under dark clouds and the threat of rain. Jim realized that he had left his light-weight rain tarp that we used at our cook site back at the upper Cane Creek camp. After dinner Jim and Ann Marie hiked back up the valley to retrieve it. They were successful in finding it at the old cook site and got back to camp around 11 PM, an extra effort from the two younger members of our group.

On Thursday, July 23rd, after a late-morning start we broke camp and headed down Cane Creek about 2 miles to a pass that leads over the ridge between Cane Creek and Red Sheep Creek. The climb to the pass wasn't too steep for carrying backpacks and the drainage down the other side had a well-used game trail that had been used by caribou, sheep, bears, and other animals. We followed their trail down the pass to Red Sheep Creek.

It started raining when we located a campsite on a tundra bench with spring water above the creek. That evening we hiked over to a pond just above the creek as dark clouds moved down the valley. Friday morning, July 24th, we backpacked under sunny skies down Red Sheep valley past aufeis on the creek. We went about 7 miles down the valley to where we located an airstrip that we expected to find our food cache. We looked up and down the airstrip and around the area, but found no food cache! The weather looked bad, so we setup camp on a bench in the woods above the East Fork of the Chandalar River. We did not have coordinates for the airstrip, but figured there must be another airstrip farther down the valley. The next day, July 25th, we backpacked farther down the valley and found the other airstrip, and our food cache. **What a relief!** We were running out of food. We went through our bear canisters and set up camp in the willows near the airstrip. There was a large patch of aufeis on the creek next to the airstrip where we got cold water. From our campsite we could hear loud cracking and groaning of the melting aufeis as if it were a glacier.

Sunday, July 26th, we packed up and headed back to Cane Creek to explore the lower part of the drainage southeast of the airstrip along Cane Creek. We traveled high on the bench between the two drainages and ran into swamps, brush and large boulders on our traverse with full packs. It was a long day when we set up camp along lower Cane Creek. The next day, July 27th, under smoky skies we rested at camp, bathed in the creek, and did laundry. That evening Jim, with assistance from Ann Marie, hoisted a food cache up a spruce tree. They were successful after breaking the top off the tree. I enjoyed the entertainment. The next day, July 28th, the smoke from the Interior fires came pouring in and shrouded the valley in smoke as the mountains disappeared. The smoke made any hikes up in the mountains futile and

the smoke burned our eyes. But the smoke did give photo opportunities otherwise not available to capture images of the orange sun peeking through the clouds.



After an uncomfortable night of breathing smoke, we packed up and headed back to Red Sheep Creek and the airstrip on July 29th. This time we traveled lower on the bench above the East Fork of the Chandalar River through tundra and sparse spruce forest, avoiding the boulders, brush, and swamps. Just before getting back to the airstrip, we met a photographer and pilot guide. The photographer was hired by the USF&WS to photograph scenery in the refuge. The photographer was having difficulty getting pictures because of all the smoke. We set up camp in willows a little farther away from the airstrip to avoid being near their camp. The next two days before our pickup on August 1st, the smoke continued to shroud the mountains. We went fishing for graylings in the East Fork of the Chandalar River. I had a few artificial flies and some fishing line in my repair kit and Jim crafted a rod out of a willow stick. We found a good hole along the near shore branch of the river. We took turns fly fishing and caught six good-sized graylings. We cleaned the fish and brought them over to the aufeis gravel patch, brought firewood from our camp area and set up a fireplace. Ann Marie had some aluminum foil that we wrapped the fish in and we baked them over hot coals on the fire. We invited the photographer and guide over for a grayling dinner that everyone enjoyed.

On August 1st we broke camp under overcast skies that turned to rain as we sat under Jim's tarp waiting for our air pickup with Yukon Air. Kirk Sweetsir, our pilot, flew us to Fort Yukon through the smoke and rain. We flew back to Fairbanks with Warbelow's Air Ventures.

A Bold Journey

Remembering a Friend

by Frank E. Baker

On the afternoon of September 19, a chilling wind swept over the ridge just below the summit of 7,522-foot Bold Peak in the Chugach Mountains. It felt more like winter than autumn as I caught my breath and reached into my pack for a container that held my friend Dave Gahm's ashes.

Dave died a year ago of natural causes during a canoe trip on the Kenai Peninsula. He was only 51, and my best friend. He loved the outdoors more than anyone I know, and could out-climb and out-hike just about anyone I've ever known. On our many trips over the last 10 years, he usually slowed his pace for me. If he did get ahead, he always waited patiently for me to catch up.

We met in the summer of 1988 on a Boy Scout hike up Bird Ridge. Most of the adult leaders and members of the troop wanted to quit at about 3,000 feet, but Dave wanted to go higher. So did I. That became our mantra over the next 10 years of tromping around in Alaska's back country: "let's go higher, and farther."

He was so at ease in the wild that if you took his picture, he almost looked like part of the scenery. It didn't bother him in the least to camp right in the middle of bear country—with grizzlies visible on the slopes above. He carried a keen sense of humor as effortlessly as a 50-pound pack. After a sleepless night fretting over the bears, I asked how he was able to sleep so well. "I knew you would be staying awake all night watching," he laughed.

On a long hike from Crow Pass to the South Fork of the Eagle River a couple of years ago, we got caught in a torrential downpour. In minutes Dave had us sheltered with his tarp and ski-pole hiking stick. He started his stove and we quickly had hot soup. No matter what the situation, he remained unshaken.

I was perhaps a better route finder than Dave. But I always marveled at his ability to down-climb steep terrain, almost as if he had splayed hooves like the alpine denizens, Dall sheep.

He deeply appreciated being outdoors, wherever our journeys took us. I once made a navigational error that put us on a ridge that was off our route. We looked over and saw a wolverine playfully sliding on his back in the snow. "That was well worth going out of our way," he remarked.



Dave Gahm in the Valley of the West Fork of Hunter Creek

At some point in our lives, most of us will lose a dear friend. The pain is real and lasting. We might sometimes curse the fact our human brain is wired with such a sharp memory...that our recollections are so vivid. But it is that memory that keeps our friends and loved ones close to us forever.

I think of Dave all the time, and in some way I feel he is with me on every outdoor excursion. When I search for answers to a problem or challenge, I now look at them the way he looked: long, patiently, with a circumspective eye.



Dave Gahm's Ashes on Bold Peak

Dave's very existence on this earth was a blessing to his family, friends, and work associates. We are very

fortunate, deeply richer, for the brief time we had him in our lives.

At his family's request, I carried some of his ashes high onto Bold Peak in Chugach State Park. I said a short prayer and let the wind carry them over new snow on the mountain's south ridge, with Eklutna Lake far below. I couldn't stay long—there were only a few hours of

daylight remaining. I don't think he would have minded that I didn't get him all the way to the top. My best excuse would be that I didn't have any of his high-energy smoked salmon, which got me there four years ago.

Dave might have smiled and said wryly, "That's a pretty good excuse."



Eklutna Traverse Huts Maintenance 2009

by Greg Bragiel

June 18 - Brian Aho and I arrive in style at Pichler's Perch in a bright red R44 helo. Our pilot, Andy, from Alpine Air, touches down around mid-day on June 19th just as a group from Prescott College Wilderness Leadership School is departing. Pichler's Perch is located about 5 miles south of the Serenity Falls Hut at the end of Eklutna Lake. On foot this is a long day of travel. Getting to the huts by helo makes the work so much more pleasant. During my first few years of hut maintenance, getting to and from one of the Eklutna Traverse huts took at least one, if not two days. That left little time to do the work. Today we are fresh and ready to work.

We off-load the helo and reload it with as much as the pilot is willing to take. Fuel cans, sleds, old stoves, a weather station, old paint, rubbish, junk, and human-waste barrel are among the articles we send out. Our mission at Pichler's Perch is to do a general cleanup, paint, and install a new sign that lets visitors know the hut belongs to the MCA and users are expected to be members. We get to work immediately. Brian and I coordinate our efforts inside and out. We spend Friday scraping on the outside of the hut and give it a fresh coat of safety red. This makes it highly visible from the glacier. Windows, cracks, and small openings are caulked and the north side gets a fresh coat of safety red. We start cleaning, moving and sorting stuff. It's amazing how much stuff accumulates over the years!

We continue on Saturday with more cleaning and preparation, and then get the first floor walls painted bright white. Beautiful, clean, and bright!! It's snowing occasionally today, but not hard. The floor is readied for painting. We relax, talk about the Eklutna Traverse route, and admire the beauty of the area.

On Sunday we finish organizing the place and paint the floor a tan color. I check the metal repair that was done in April while my group was on the Eklutna Traverse. It is holding nicely. A roll of sheet metal is left for future repairs. Our Alpine Air pilot arrives to pick us up about 4 PM. We are off to Hans' Hut to drop supplies, install the



exterior sign, pick up trash, and secure an empty poop barrel to the outside of the hut. I collect some of the accumulated sleds and tie them onto the outside of the helo.



The last stop today is Rosie's Roost, where we drop more supplies, install the exterior sign, and pick up more trash and a large bag of crushed fuel cans. There is no more room on the helo for the rest of the sleds that have accumulated here. I count a dozen here and a half

dozen remaining at Hans' Hut. We land in Girdwood about 8 PM and load the back of the truck. I laugh at the site--It looks like a garbage scow!



On the way back to Anchorage, Brian and I talk about how individuals rationalize leaving their unwanted junk at the huts; not only sleds, but bottles, cans, containers of all sorts, hundreds of wands, a cot, etc. etc. "...Ya sure I can leave this here....someone will use it...." Those of you who venture to our huts will likely agree that this is typical of most places in the world. I contend that those who leave their junk are simply tired of toting it!

I continue to appreciate all the hard work and effort that went in to building the Eklutna Traverse huts. I am amazed at how well they have held up over the last 40+ years. They are subjected to some EXTREME conditions!

Later in the summer of 2009, the MCA received a nice letter from the Prescott College group. Nice to know our efforts are appreciated.



Peak of the Month: Mount Curtis

by Steve Gruhn

Mountain Range: Chugach Mountains
Borough: Unorganized Borough
Drainage: Barry Arm
Latitude/Longitude: 61° 4' 30" North, 148° 5' 45" West
Elevation: 4052 feet
Prominence: 802 feet from Mount Coville (4570)
Adjacent Peak: Mount Coville
Distinctness: 802 feet from Mount Coville
USGS Map: Anchorage (A-3)
First Recorded Ascent: August 26, 2001, by Tom Choate, Stu Grenier, and Tom Miller
Route of First Recorded Ascent: South ridge to the east ridge to the south face
Access Point: Whittier (or Barry Arm)

In 1910 geologist and geographer Lawrence Martin named a peak above Barry Arm in honor of Edward Sheriff Curtis, the photographer for the Harriman Alaska expedition that explored the region in 1899.

Stu Grenier and Tom Miller attempted a paddle climb of Mount Curtis in May 2000, but were turned back 500 feet short of the summit by clouds and snow.

Their interests piqued, they vowed to return. Some 15 months later, on August 23, 2001, Tom Choate joined them and the three began their three-day paddle from Whittier back to the same campsite along Barry Arm that Stu and Tom Miller had used for their prior attempt.

The next morning the weather again turned sour. However, they were not to be deterred by wind-driven

Sam Pepper on the Ridge to Mt. Curtis, 2005



Photo by John McCormick

Jenny Magee with Mount Curtis on the right



Photo by John McCormick

Jenny, Sam, Sean, John in 2005

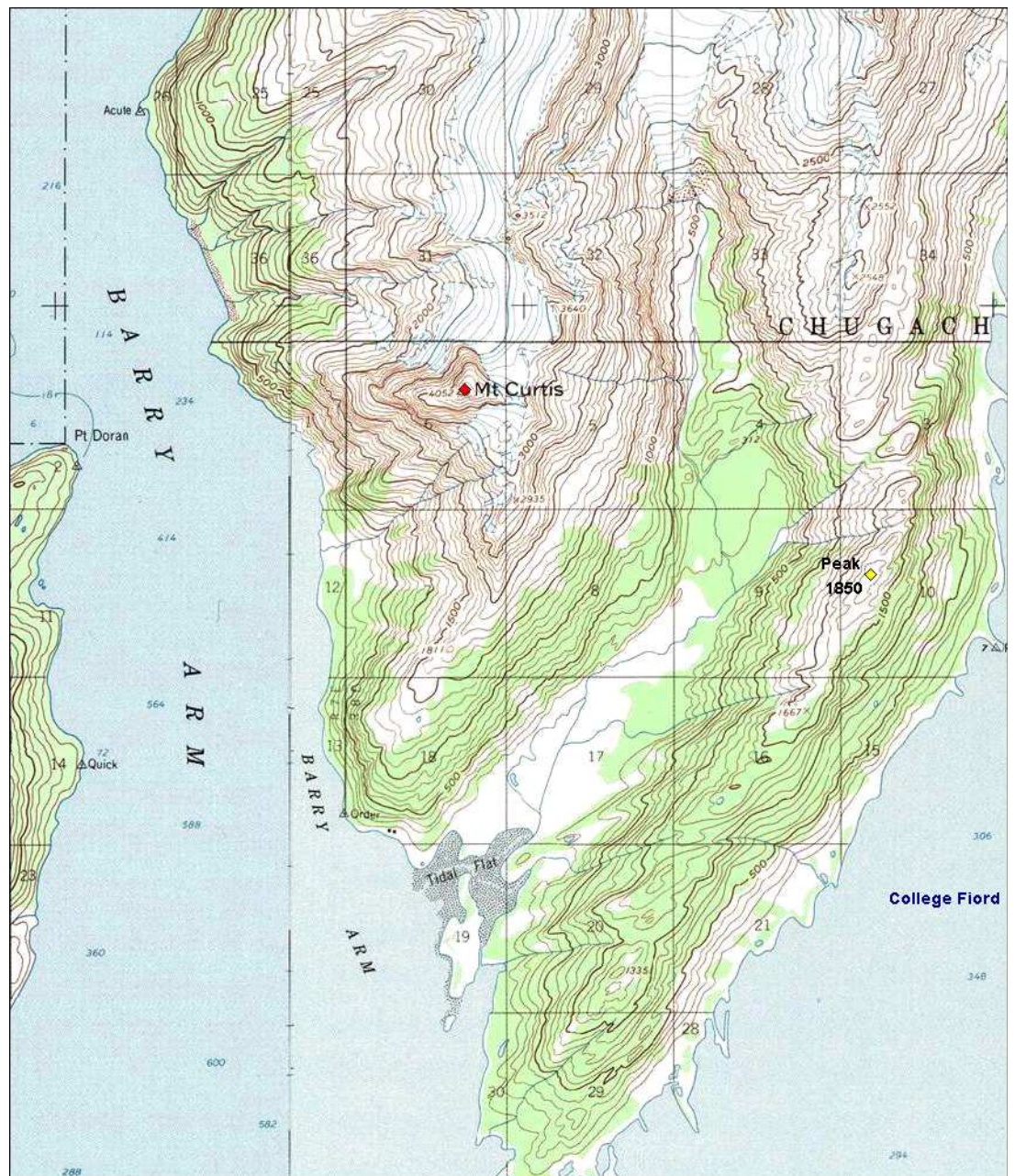


Photo by Jenny Magee

rain because they knew that the cornice-covered ridge that Stu and Tom Miller had met previously would not greet them this time. The hiked up the south ridge through light brush to timberline at around 1200 feet and continued on to Points 1811 and 2935. At about 3600 feet the ridge turned westward and shortly thereafter became knife-edged. Tom Choate led the party across a couple hundred yards of snow on the south face and then returned to the summit ridge for an easy scramble to the summit. The group built a cairn, left a register, and returned the same way they had ascended.

Nearly four years later, in early May 2005, Sean Bolender, Jenny Magee, John McCormick, and Sam Pepper retraced the first ascent party's route, reached the summit, and found the summit register. Their ascent took them 6 hours and 45 minutes from their camp at sea level.

Stu's trip reports appeared in the September 2000 *Scree* and the April 2002 *Scree*. Jenny's trip report and photographs appeared in the June 2005 *Scree*.



Map created with TOPO1©©2003 National Geographic (www.nationalgeographic.com/topo)

Adze

For Sale

Salomon Super Mountain Expert Boot, Size US 11, EU 45. Too small for me. 1 season of use, great condition. Paid ~\$300 at AMH, a couple years ago; make me an offer. "Salomon boots -- the classic mountaineering companion. Thanks to their crampon compatibility, full foot wrapping rand and high tech climbing chassis. 200g

Thinsulate(R) insulation designed for high activity levels traps warm air. Heavy-duty lugged Contagrip(TM) outsole packs some serious bite for rugged peaks. Gusseted tongue Suede and synthetic uppers Height: 6, Weight: 4 lb. 6 oz. pr."

Dave Hart, davidhart@pxd.com – 244-17225

Minutes

MCA General Meeting at First United Methodist Church September 16, 2009 6:30 pm

Eight new members

Trips

- ice climbing festival coming up
- basic mountaineering school in February 2010

Huts

- big thank you to all volunteers

Parks

- no report

Geographic Names

- no report

Trails

- Hatcher Pass Management Plan
- Chugach State Park Trail Management Draft Plan opportunity for public comment

Nominations for Elections

- President (Wayne Todd)
- Vice President (Ross Noffsinger)
- Treasurer (Tim Silvers)
- Secretary (Anmei Goldsmith)
- Board 1 (Travis Taylor)
- Board 2 (Steve Gruhn)

Other Positions

- Gear Coordinator, Troy Rhodes
- Snack Coordinator, David Lynch

Thank you letter received from Prescott College students for use of huts

Submit horizontal photographs to Stu Grenier

Adjourn

MCA Board Meeting at Snow Goose Restaurant October 7, 2009 6:12 pm

In attendance: Wayne Todd, Ross Noffsinger, Anmei Goldsmith, Mark Kimerer

OLD BIZ

- Working on a design for a wearable volunteer incentive item
- Brochures and cards delivered to AMH, rock gym, REI
- Board meeting to be held every two months or thereabouts
- Dues increase issue tabled for now
- Wayne Todd is housing the original hut logs
- Ice climbing festival – about 125 participants – no injuries
- Suggestions for next ice festival
- Website is up again

NEW BIZ

- Winter Wildlands Alliance based in Wyoming – Forrest McCarthy
- MCA can join this group for lobbying/advocacy services
- Chugach trail plan – hiking trails v. biking trails
- General meeting snack situation – budget for snacks, David Lynch is new snack coordinator
- Suggestions for new website – access, features, design
- Wayne Todd to go to Bock's Den Oct 23-24
- Tony Lutes back in touch with Alaska Backpacker's Inn re: library
- Reimbursement of safety classes for leaders
- Gear is now housed at Troy Rhodes' shop

Adjourn

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 Wayne Todd 522-6354
Vice-President Ross Noffsinger 336-2233
Secretary Brian Aho 223-4758
Treasurer Tim Silvers 382-4823

Board member Jayme Dixon 382-0212
Board member Travis Taylor 382-4823
Board member Mark Kimerer 360-5935
Board member Mark Smith 868-3155
Board member Tony Lutes 242-3559

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 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: Jayme Dixon - 382-0212, Richard Baranow - 694-1500
Huts: Greg Bragiel - 569-3008
Calendar: Stuart Grenier - 337-5127
Scree Editor: John Recktenwald - 346-2589
Web: www.mcak.org (change your address here)
Mailing list service: MCAK@yahoogroups.com

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