

the SCREE

Mountaineering Club of Alaska

November 2014

Volume 57 Number 11



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Monthly meeting: 6:30 p.m., Tuesday, November 18

Program: Joe Stock presents "Climbing in the Alps."

It's not the mountain we conquer, but ourselves.

-Sir Edmund Hillary

The Mountaineering Club of Alaska

www.mtnclubak.org

"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 meeting at 6:30 p.m. on Tuesday, November 18, at the BP Energy Center, 1014 Energy Court, Anchorage, Alaska.

<http://www.alaskageology.org/graphics/meetingmap.gif>

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Cover Photo

Carrie Wang scrambles up the ridge line to Toilsome Peak.
Photo by Wayne Todd.

Article Submission: Text and photography submissions for *the Scree* can be sent as attachments to mcascre@gmail.com. Articles should be submitted by the 24th of each month to appear in the next issue of *the Scree*. Do not submit material in the body of the email. Do not submit photos embedded in the text file. Send the photo files separately. We prefer articles that are under 1,000 words. If you have a blog, website, video, or photo links, send us the link. Cover photo selections are based on portraits of human endeavor in the outdoors. Please submit at least one vertically oriented photo for consideration for the cover. Please submit captions with photos.

Monthly Meeting: Tuesday, November 18, at 6:30 p.m.

Program: Joe Stock presents "Climbing in the Alps."

2015 MCA Calendars will be for sale!

Proposed Bylaw Change: The MCA Board proposes to increase the Single Membership from \$15 to \$20 and to increase the Family Membership from \$20 to \$25. The MCA Board recommends the proposed amendment to the bylaws to help support the renovation and maintenance of the MCA huts while maintaining adequate reserves. The proposed amendment was introduced at the October annual meeting and will be put to a vote of the membership at the November monthly meeting.

Climbing Notes

Sam Zmolek reported that over the Labor Day weekend he climbed Peak 2678 in the Shaishnikof Lake, Erskine Bay, and Uniktali Bay drainages of Unalaska Island, dubbing it Machine Gun Mountain after finding some .50-caliber slugs. On the same trip he also climbed Peak 2643 in the Shaishnikof Lake, Erskine Bay, and Portage Bay drainages, calling it Pumpnickel Peak. He reported finding no evidence of previous ascents for either peak. On September 23 he climbed Peak 2245 in the Shaishnikof Lake and Portage Bay drainages and, finding the remains of a small foundation on the summit, called it Sentinel Peak.

On September 27 Steve Gruhn and Ben Still climbed Peak 4650 in the Gulch Creek drainage of the Kenai Mountains. Later that same day the two climbed Peak 4430 in the Granite Creek and Gulch Creek drainages and found a cairn on the summit.

Wayne Todd reported that on September 29, Matt Hickey, Cory Hinds, and he climbed Peak 7430 in the Glacier Creek and Gravel Creek drainages of the Chugach Mountains.

Ben Still reported that on October 3 he climbed Slaughter Ridge in the Kenai Mountains to the highest, western summit. There he found a carin and noted that the summit was higher than the 3216-foot Juneau bench mark a mile to the east.

We look forward to detailed reports of these climbs in an upcoming issue of *the Scree*.

Hiking and Climbing Schedule

- ⇒ **Ship Lake Pass and The Ramp.** November 8. Class C. We will ski, or maybe hike, the Powerline Trail almost 7 miles up to Ship Lake Pass. Depending on time and conditions, we might ascend The Ramp (5240 feet). Bring backcountry skis along with boots. Contact trip leader Matt Nedom at 278-3648.
- ⇒ **Ship Creek Maintenance Weekend.** December 20-21. Join Stu Grenier and Greg Bragiel for the annual MCA Ship Creek trail clearing. We will work the northern five miles of the Arctic Valley to Indian Trail. Sign on at the November meeting.

Volunteer Needed

The MCA will be needing an Assistant Scree Editor starting in April 2015 with the May 2015 *Scree*. The position requires the use of Microsoft Publisher (or similar) software and requires approximately six hours per month. If interested, contact Steve Gruhn at scgruhn@gmail.com.

Online? Click me!



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

Randolph Peak

Text and photos by Ben Still



Mike Miller high on Randolph Peak.

Mike Miller and I left Douglas Harbor at a little after five in the morning on July 2nd, 2014. Our plan for the day was to climb Randolph Peak, at 4250 feet the highest point on the Glass Peninsula of Admiralty Island, with a prominence of 4200 feet. Intermittent rain pelted the glass windshield of the 18-foot Lund as we cruised south along Stephens Passage. The clouds were high and the weather looked to be improving. Two giant brown bears lumbered down the beach as we cruised by in the skiff. This was our biggest worry – bears – as Admiralty Island boasts the densest population of brown bears in North America.

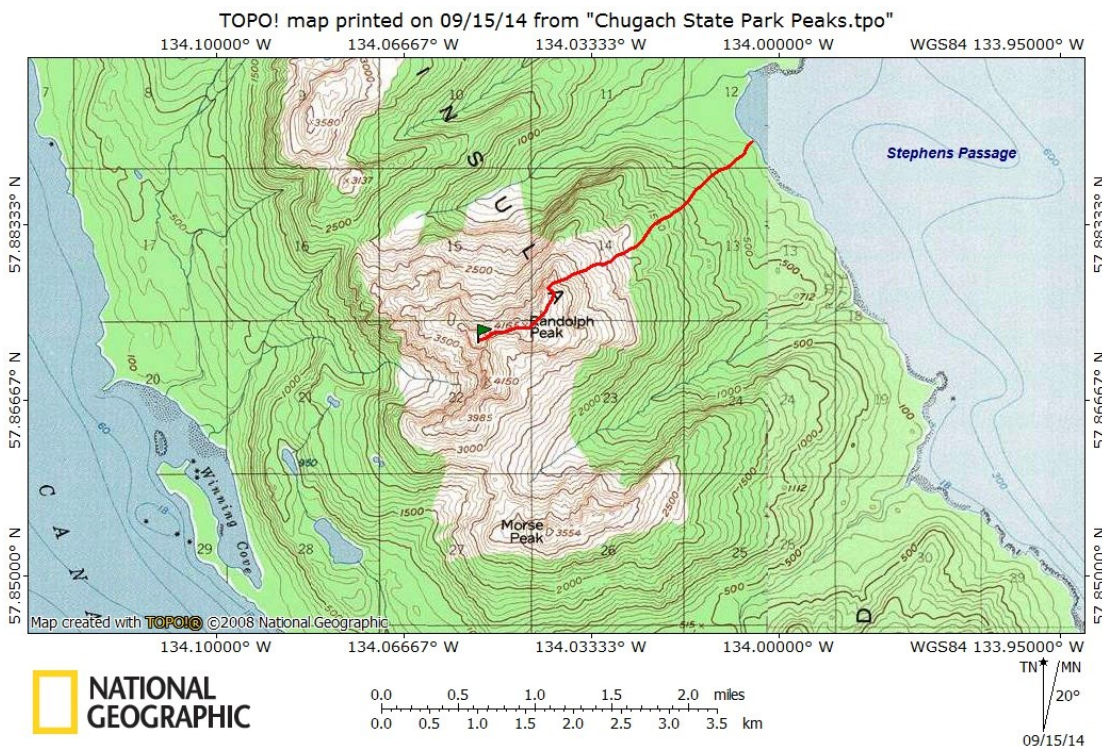
After anchoring the skiff in a semi-protected area along Stephens Passage, we crashed into the woods at 7:40 a.m. Old-growth Sitka spruce, western hemlock, and yellow cedar towered above the thick bramble of brush. We followed occasional game trails with lots of bear sign, but the trails always began traversing – and we were on our way uphill. We linked up some intermittent meadows with beautiful blooming bog laurel and shooting stars.

Wandering through subalpine meadows at 1800 feet, we found the mellow slopes below changed into steep slabs of rock above. A series of ledges with occasional rock moves led up to a thin line of snow that transected the cliffs above and led to the summit ridge. We cramponed up the snow line while admiring the amazing vistas of more and more mountains in all directions. The summit ridge was broad and rocky with steep drops to the north. We clamored over the false summit, Point 4165, and continued down toward the saddle as the ridge narrowed.

Near the saddle we realized getting to the true summit might be a challenge and the rope and rack we left in the boat might have come in handy. The ridge became a knife blade with a vertical drop to the north for hundreds of feet and a steep, slick slab to the south with a couple of slick heather ledges here and there. We down-climbed a 15-foot chimney to a nice steep heather ledge and followed the narrowing ledge back to the ridge crest. There we traversed around a gendarme and made several exposed moves up a 10-foot, near-vertical cliff to regain the

ridge. The crest of the ridge was our handhold for 30 feet as we traversed some very exposed slab; this was the crux of the route. Fun climbing, but the rope would have been really handy. Forty-degree heather slopes led up to the final summit mound. We were on top at 12:30 p.m. and higher than the other 4200-foot spire to the south. Mike's GPS read 4271 feet.

Looking to the west we were able to see Kootznoowoo Peak (4842), which we had climbed last summer, among other rugged, high peaks of Admiralty Island. To the east we saw Mount Sumdum and a sea of mountains that we had barely begun to explore. To the north we saw many familiar peaks of the Juneau area. The south was darkened by rain and thick clouds, which were approaching. We enjoyed a brief stay at the summit, snapping photos and pondering future adventures, but knew we needed to reverse the exposed climbing before the rain hit.



Mike cramponed up for the steep heather climbing and kept them on until the ridge-crest hand traverse, which was easier without. We reversed all the moves without incident and breathed a sigh of relief, knowing the difficult climbing was done. We were able to reverse our path back down through the brush without incident, stepping onto the beach as rain began to



Mike Miller and the initial chimney to get around the gendarme.

fall at 4 p.m. The rain intensity increased substantially and southerly winds started to pick up. The seas began to build and we quickly encountered 3-foot seas building. We were moving with the waves, but the rain was falling so hard we could barely see in front of us. After passing Grand Island the wind died down and the seas calmed, but the rain continued pounding down. We had to stand above the windshield, squinting into the wind and rain, to make out anything. We found the narrow entrance to Gastineau Channel and cruised into Douglas Harbor. Another awesome adventure in the Juneau area barely squeezed in between summer rainstorms.

First Ascent of Peak 11430

By Lucas Haaland

We woke at 2:00 a.m. on July 18, 2014. With water bottles filled and bags packed the night before, two three-man rope teams, led by Scott Hamilton Peters and myself of Saint Elias Alpine Guides, and four climbers/clients (Michael Stewart, Matt Kearns, Masahito Sammyo, and Jim Wiedemer) set off north on the Klutlan Glacier for a 30-minute approach to the base of Peak 11430 from camp. The crisp snow of the unclimbed peak's northwest aspect had beckoned us from the moment Jay Claus of Ultima Thule Outfitters dropped us on the Klutlan Glacier 18 hours prior and we watched the route remain in the shade until 11:30 a.m. The quick approach led us to the garbage chute of the north side of the peak. We replaced our snowshoes with crampons and one ski pole with a mountaineering axe and began to climb. The hard avalanche debris allowed for great kick steps up the lower angled bottom of the climb. The debris also provided a clean path across the bergschrund. We used snow pickets for protection on the first five pitches, some hammered straight down in the avalanche debris, but as we climbed higher, into looser snow, we set the pickets in T-trenches.



Looking down the southwest ridge of Peak 11430 to the Klutlan Glacier as Michael Stewart, Masahito Sammyo, Lucas Haaland, and Jim Wiedemer ascend. Mount Bona is in the background. Photo by Scott Hamilton Peters.

The two teams reconvened for a gear swap at Pitch 5, where some solid alpine ice near a rock outcropping made for a solid anchor. Scott led up the gradually increasing slope, now approximately 55 degrees, making use of two tools at times.

More T-trenches, a few screws, and one piton tied us all to the mountain. Finding solid rock out there was worth taking a moment for a smile and laugh, as getting the “ping” sound is rare in these mountains. The teams continued up the pinch for three more pitches that led to a bench for another gear swap. The next two pitches saw us climbing 60-degree hard snow, protected by screws in beautiful alpine ice under eight inches of snow. Approaching the summit ridge, we swam through unconsolidated snow for the last 60 feet that reminded us how lucky we had been with bomber snow for the first 11 pitches.

As we belayed in to the south side of Peak 11430's southwest ridge, Mount Jordan swept into view. We ran along the ridge line for 1,500 feet, getting great picket placement in the ridge's windswept cornices. The full group gathered together below the 60-degree face before climbing the once-again bomber snow to the summit. After 3,000 feet of climbing, we reached the summit intact at 4:30 p.m., 13 hours after we'd set off that morning.

After a few pictures and some hot summit tea, we began to descend,

lowering one guide down to build an anchor for clients, lowering the clients, and the remaining guide cleaning and down-climbing each pitch. Each lower was over 70-degree snow, anchored into the alpine ice below, with the exception of one rappel over a chossy cliff band that broke loose with every touch



View to the north from the summit of Peak 11430. Photo by Matt Kearns.

of the crampon (turning those below into ostriches, burying their heads as each new person passed over it). Scott cleaned three of the lowers, rappelling off V-threads until the ice became marginal and it became clear that down-climbing was the better option. The terrain eased up and the sun hid behind the Saint Elias Mountains, though the long days of Alaska sun held strong on this July morning, blanketing the surrounding mountains in a soft blue that should only be reserved for the gods. Stunning.

As the sun made its quiet refuge behind the surrounding peaks, the temperature dropped with the grade of the slope. A long stretch of unprotected down-climb remained, as the wind crust on this 30-degree slope was on top of loose snow. The axes and crampons got great purchase in the wind crust, but did not allow for any protection. However, one client had significant trouble with the terrain and Scott short-rope-d him the last 1,500 feet

down the mountain, arresting the client's falls with little more than his crampons, the marginal ice axe placement available, and a lot of right-arm might. I led the other team down the avalanche run-out back to the snowshoes.

It was 7 o'clock of the morning of July 19 when my team switched from crampons back to snowshoes. The half-hour glacier walk led them to much needed water. The 28-hour trip had drained the last bit of everyone's water reserves five hours prior to returning to base camp. The second team returned to camp three hours later (after a quick nap on ice axes), and received a hearty welcome and hot drinks. We were blessed with over 24 hours of blue skies and great snow conditions. The first ascent of Peak 11430 was complete.

Following that ascent, Scott and three of the clients (Michael,

Matt, and Masahito) went on to climb Mount Pandora (12110 feet) before a storm came in and trapped all six of us at camp, stretching the 12-day trip into two weeks. When the storm cleared, Paul Claus of Ultima Thule Outfitters picked us up for the flight back to McCarthy with incredible views of Mount Bona, Mount Logan, Mount Saint Elias, and Mount Blackburn.



Clockwise from lower right: Michael Stewart, Matt Kearns, Masahito Sammyo, Jim Wiedemer, and Lucas Haaland on the southwest ridge of Peak 11430. Photo by Scott Hamilton Peters.

Ruth Glacier Expedition Funhogs Anonymous

Text by Dan Koepke; photos by Shred



Base camp with Mount Johnson (left), Mount Wake (center), and Mount Bradley (right).

On June 2, 2013, Sheldon Air Service's David Lee deposited Klara, Shred, and me on the Ruth Glacier due east of Mount Dickey.

We settled in during the first days of whiteout weather before the weather turned severely clear and enjoyed the company of legendary neighbors Alex Honnold, Renan Ozturk, Freddie Wilkinson, Gerhard Fiegl and Alex Blümel. Gerry and Alex Blümel had just put up "Beauty and the Beast" on The Gargoyle [Ed. note: see the March 2014 Scree]. The Great Gorge makes anyone feel small, and we were amateurs among climbing giants. Freddie spoke passionately about Bradford Washburn's connection to The Great Gorge as we chatted about the awesome history echoing around us. In the 1956 *American Alpine Journal*, available in the MCA's Vin Hoeman Library, [Ed. note: Dan Koepke graciously stores many of the periodicals and journals, including the AAJs, of the MCA's Vin Hoeman Library at his home.] Washburn's article about his first ascent of Mount Dickey [Ed. note: see page 47 of the 1956 AAJ], with photos of The Great Gorge, planted the initial idea which grew to our team's expedition.

Mount Dickey via 747 Pass and West Face

We toured from base camp to 747 Pass, enjoying yawny-dawny views. We left our skis just before the West Face's ridge route steepened. Then, at the shoulder, the ascent flattened with shorter steep sections and more exposure. A small cloud obscured the summit's magnificent panorama just enough to remind us that we were on this side of paradise.

We toasted summiting and safely returning to base camp as we saw Freddie, Alex Honnold, and Renan descending below 747 Pass after summiting via the Southeast Face's 1974 Route [Ed. note: see page 17 of the 1975 AAJ]. Summiting Mount Dickey was a proud success for our team, but more than anything it just felt like a humble dream come true.

Mount Barrille via the Japanese Couloir

The air felt too warm when we left base camp. At the base of the runnel, the debris pile's basketball-sized rocks justified our neighbors' "bowling alley" description. Less than halfway up we agreed to stop before committing further: avalanche danger was high, and both self-arrests and protection would be futile in such warm, slushy snow. Hearing a thunderous crack and rumble



Klara descending the Japanese Couloir's runnel on Mount Barrille.

directly above us as Klara down-climbed on belay, Shred and I braced for a slide that never came down the runnel. We all felt relieved to hop out of the runnel back on the glacier. The conditions made any attempt at this route excessively risky. We have never second-guessed backing off.

The Mooses Tooth's West Summit and touring north through The Gateway

Treading steps anywhere along the historically-challenging West Ridge route to the West summit would be delightful, but none of it would be easy. We toured from base camp for a better view of the route up the icefall a little farther north of where we initially considered trying to cross the crevasse field. Then, as Klara picked her way around crevasses and over snow bridges in poor light before dawn, I said, "You do not *have* to keep going." Knowing the best strategy for crevasse-rescue was to do everything possible to stay out of crevasses in the first place, we backed off and returned to base camp. We discussed a second attempt, but never came to a consensus for a plan. Too

conservative for the risks presented by that route in those conditions, ultimately we were willing to err on the side of caution in order to live and hog fun another day. We knew Shred's birthday in the Mountain House would be epic as long as we made it there. We packed up base camp to tour north up The Great Gorge, past The Mooses Tooth, and toward Don Sheldon's Mountain House.

We toured over footprints from the Austrians' camp and later to their camp down the Moose's Back. I was surprised to see footprints crossing the crevassed area a little south of where we backed off a few days before. I realized that our view of the route up the icefall days before was both prudent and costly. I often thought about following those footprints up toward The Mooses Tooth as we spent days looking at them at our open bivouac in the Gateway, where alpenglow colored the Don Sheldon Amphitheater – one night like a cherry atop Denali. I fell asleep each night with one eye on Denali, contentedly relishing our mellow adventure and dreaming of future fun.

Don Sheldon's Mountain House before returning to Talkeetna

From Shred's jubilant birthday celebration until the bittersweet end, we felt fun much more than frustration or regret.

We lapped Telemark Hill for hours in our underwear on June 15th before David picked us up with two flight-seers incessantly speaking about aliens who live on the dark side of the moon. I felt like I always do after sojourning to the mountains: born to be wild. While checking in with the National Park Service in Talkeetna, a ranger mentioned a successful second ascent of the "Tooth Traverse," which Freddie and Renan first completed in May 2012 [Ed. note: see page 45 of the 2013 AAJ]. I smiled because suddenly it all made sense. Summits are always optional and when you return to Talkeetna, celebrating at the Fairview is mandatory. Crossing the Austrians' paths again, we toasted their success just before the band played "Born to be Wild" at the Funhogs' request.



Dan Koepke (left), Klara, and The Mooses Tooth from the summit of Mount Dickey.

Falling Water Creek to Peters Creek: Epic Western Chugach Ridge Walking

Text and photos by Mathew Brunton



Barron (left) and Charas on the summit of Bee's Heaven Peak. Pleasant Mountain (center) and Korohusk Peak (left) are on the skyline in the background.

First, the drainage above Eagle River known as "Falling Water Creek" is definitely a misnomer this season. "Trickling Water Creek" was probably more appropriate for last season, but this summer it's completely dry – a result of a frustratingly thin snowpack in the Western Chugach this season. Besides negatively affecting my ski season, this should be noted for water planning purposes.

Jessica Tran, two dogs, and I headed up Falling Water Creek from the utility-private property easement at about 3 p.m. Sunday, June 22, 2014. We ascended the most prominent gully from the Falling Water valley to Col 3980 just southeast of Peak 5320, ascended northwest to the summit of Peak 5320 (No. 73 on the list of 120 Chugach State Park [CSP] summits), dropped east from Peak 5320 and ascended the ~4600-foot peak to the east, then descended the east ridge of that peak, eventually dropping into the north Peeking drainage, tanked up on good water (first spot since the car), then traversed and descended the northeast side of Peeking Mountain toward Peters Creek to

a wide, shallow section of the creek just upstream of confluence with the drainage coming from Bee's Heaven Peak and Thunder Bird Peak.

We then headed northeast up the path of least resistance (brush and steepness) toward the west ridge of Bee's Heaven. We stopped to camp at the base of this ridge in a primo spot (flat and fine-grained gravel close to the creek, the north sides of Peeking and Pleasant Mountain framed perfectly by the valley walls, and with plenty of dry wood for a small fire to keep the bugs and chill at bay while we enjoyed a sublime evening in the hills) at about 11 p.m.

The next morning we ascended the west ridge to the summit of Bee's Heaven (No. 41 of 120 CSP summits), descended the east ridge and glissaded into the north cirque of Bee's Heaven, ascended a classic Chugach sheep trail to the west to a pass on the ridge between Bee's Heaven and Thunder Bird (all of this to avoid the exposed, seemingly Class-4 north ridge of Bee's

Heaven), then made the long ridge walk to the north then west to the summit of Thunder Bird (No. 34 of 120 CSP summits). Getting to the summit of Thunder Bird was pretty straightforward and easy ridge walking with a bit of scrambling (approaching Class 3) and route-finding (to find a dog-friendly way) to the summit.

The epic Western Chugach ridge walking had begun, and we were just getting started. From the top of Thunder Bird we took the ridge to Point 5760, to Point 5360, to Peak 5538 (No. 55 of 120 CSP summits), to Point 5430, to Point 4925, to Point 5130, to Point 5255, and finally to Peak 5505 (No. 59 of 120 CSP summits). Alaska's finest trail builders (Dall sheep) provided great paths along the way. I had



Jess Tran traversing a sheep trail near Point 5130 en route to Peak 5505. Mount Rumble, The Shroud, and Benign Peak (right to left) form the backdrop.

originally planned to do the trip solo and as an overnight, following the ridge all the way to Bear Mountain. But, considering the company, extra weight I was carrying to allow for my partner (human) to keep up, and the 12 hours of peakbagging and ridge walking the day had already entailed, we decided to descend to the headwaters of

Four Mile Creek just north of Peak 5505 to camp. This was another great camping spot: soft and flat tundra, great water nearby, and a secluded open alpine valley all to ourselves.

The next day we descended the valley via easy tundra walking



Mat Brunton and Barron on the summit of Bee's Heaven Peak. The Shroud is above Mat's raised hand.

and then found the rough Four Mile Creek Trail with a bit of bushwhacking, finishing the trip with an easy walk back to the car at the Peters Creek Trailhead. This trip was probably the best and most extended ridge walk I've done. I highly recommend it, or a similar variation. However, if you're not into carrying the extra weight of water, careful planning is required to make sure you'll have what you need once you leave the drainage southwest of Thunder Bird Peak for the summit of Bee's Heaven. We didn't find any liquid water until Point 5430, and it was just a trickle coming from a lingering patch of snow. The next good water source wasn't until the headwaters of Four Mile Creek.

**Hat Trick Mountain (6085), Peak 6440, Worrisome Peak (5690), Toilsome Peak (5250),
and Peak 6325: Traditional Style
July 3-6, 2014**

Text by Wayne L. Todd with Carrie Wang



Carrie Wang looks northward during the morning exodus from Camp 2 on the Troublesome Glacier. Photo by Wayne Todd.

I fall hard on my right hip. Hhhssssssss, damn it, punctured bear spray. I pinkie hook it out of my pants pocket. That's a pound less I'll be hiking with (the can gets contained in a Ziploc). We're biking around Eklutna Lake, but between an infrequently used, overloaded, top-heavy BOB trailer and a washed-out trail, we're breaking a new time record – longest that is. The bicycle wreck does not help the demeanor. Carrie Wang is fairing a little better with panniers and a pack.

Soon, though, we're stepping out the East Fork Trail and noting the cut-offs for Bold Peak (Stivers' Gully), Bashful Peak, and Benevolent and Baneful Peaks. The horsetails and wildflowers are in full plumage, the bugs are tolerable, and the day is partly sunny. Three critters suddenly startle, but the black bear bolts away.

We manage a mini-bushwhack after deviating from the main trail just shy of the mound top. From there it's the standard brush avoidance, with potpourri of blooming alpine flowers, ascent to the animal trail at 3500 feet. A bear forages below as we traverse to the Baleful Creek Valley. This trip I wisely take GPS points along the way. Numerous goats work the opposing hillside below the large poles (does anyone know what these human placed artifacts are?). A larger bear occupies our

destination area, but moves nicely along as we enter the valley. Ptarmigan bolt to the air underfoot; I'm adrenalized again.

A site of level heather with nearby stream becomes our overnight spot (close to a previous visit's campsite). Sitting in the soft alpine tundra, absorbing warm sun with a full belly and bare feet, with light glistening off the nearby gently flowing stream (emanating soothing water sounds), bright flower clusters amidst the greenery, backlit white plant tufts slowly floating left to the one-third moon pulling up the blue sky, nearby peaks radiating sunlight, two goats sauntering by with kids, still-dry Trango boots airing to my right and Lumix camera resting on my left, the bike ingress seems worlds away.

We're out before 6 a.m. under blue skies, but are shaded until cresting the ridge south of Brittle Peak, (noting ascent ski tracks), where we are hit with full morning summer sunshine. The glacier looks great up here for traveling, though a boot test concludes it's snowshoe time (by an existing cairn). Roped up, we head for the "obvious" pass for Peak 6440. Later, looking down hundreds of feet of steep earth onto the lower glacier (still looking travel friendly!), we re-route east to the proper pass and a more palatable descent.



Wayne Todd wearing sun protection en route to Hat Trick Mountain. Peak 6440 is in the background. Photo by Carrie Wang.

so spoiled we are. We sign the register recently deposited by Richard Baranow.

En route to Peak 6440, two ravens fly north; hmmm, how obvious are two black sacks in the middle of a glacier? Above the rocky section, we deviate up from our snow trail, intersecting the west ridge. From the pass earlier this day, we'd commented it sure didn't look like 1,000 feet to the summit. Trudging up the steep talus and scree, we now believe.

The views are good from the north end, but I think the south end is higher; so to someone's chagrin, we continue. I think the south end views are better, especially toward Hat Trick (and read 6 feet higher on the GPS), plus the mildly moldy register is here, including the original 1992 Jim Saylor and Willy Hersman entry [*Ed. note: see the August 1992 Scree*].

We drop onto steep snow for a fast and fun descent back to our undisturbed sacks. Re-packed, refueled, and snowshod, we canter north downglacier. It seems odd to be moving briskly and pleasantly with snowshoes on. Passing by Worrisome Peak (5690), we analyze for climbing routes. Our new tent site is spartanly scenic, rock, snow, and blue sky, but softened by evening rays. A few mosquitoes (mozzies) circle; what the heck do they live on? Though camped on snow, we have rock mounds to sit, cook, and dry on.

Out at 6 a.m., travelling east-northeast for the Worrisome Peak/Toilsome Peak (5250) split under another bluebird day with camp packed and stashed (go forecasters!). A leg punching through the snow, even with snowshoes on, is a gentle reminder that this is a glacier. Ascending the bowl north of Worrisome Peak, I note short, thin, black lines in the snow squiggling – ice worms! The northwest ridge of Worrisome Peak looks good, so we opt for that first. We pull out axes for one short section below the summit.

Below Peak 6440, we ditch non-essential gear into sacks before crossing to Hat Trick Mountain (6085). Traversing high on snow, we then get to down-climb a short rocky section next to a waterfall. Back on the glacier, it's hot and I'm already donning the Capricorn head-scarf (under helmet), but realize boot traveling is practical. Wet snow scooping with mouth melting becomes standard procedure. Ascending Hat Trick, views open up to Inner Lake George, and more mountains, but also of broken-up and receding glaciers. We think many local glaciers have melted down a hundred feet or more since being mapped.

Topping out, a glorious peaceful summit day in the Chugach Mountains awaits,



Carrie Wang ascending Hat Trick Mountain with Peak 6440, the Knik Glacier, and Inner Lake George providing the backdrop. Photo by Wayne Todd.

Two hours after camp we're soaking morning summit rays with views of the Knik and Colony Glaciers, and oodles of peaks. Carrie rationalizes her southwest ridge idea for Peak 6325 across the valley. A register is left in the cairn. We traverse sans snowshoes north around the ridge blocking Toilsome Peak. Looking back, one probably could travel directly over this ridge. Approaching Toilsome Peak, white figures moving east across the glacier suddenly retreat west to the rock, except one – mountain goats!

The snow-free southeast ridge is a pleasant change for the feet. After a short, quasi-steep section, we embrace more mountain and glacier summit views, and now, Inner Lake George. A worthy rest, including sock and boot drying (psychologically anyway), ensues and acknowledgement of how crevassed and broken up the Troublesome Glacier is below (below 4000 feet would be quite difficult for human travel).

We're impressed by their perch, but feel guilty seeing three goats hanging out (waiting) on a spire to the northwest. A Gatorade register and dude is left in the cairn. Back on snow we beeline for "camp." At the base of a steep snow section, I break through to hip level, but roll forward unharmed, lucky, as the crevasse was just wide enough to break a leg. A couple hours later we have camp and all on our backs and are now crossing northwest over the Troublesome Glacier.

Gaining earth again with green moss and pockets of colorful alpine flowers is rejuvenating, along with leaving the "don't step on the rope; don't step on the rope." A stream leads to an

alpine-snow-edged pond, then to mostly barren rock. The tenacious infrequent alpine plants are inspiring.

With too much sun from my wide and thin shirt, the Capricorn now protects my neck and a washcloth is worn on my head (ear protection). At over 5500 feet, we leave packs (rarely done and usually regretted) on the ridge for the "easy" one mile northeast hike to Peak 6325. After the first mellow ridge bump, I cradle an egg rock amongst protective rocks. With good nearby views of Baleful Peak, I wonder if anyone is climbing there this weekend. Slowly forming high clouds begin filtering the sun. Descending the next bump, the ridge quickly steepens on both sides, cliff steep.

Suddenly we want our helmets, axes, and rope, and there's talk of turning around. The rock option to the right (east) is formidable but there's six feet of snow clinging to the left (west) face. By working between the snow and rock, with steps here and there on the snow and a few mini-gendarme switchbacks, we make our way down to gentler slopes. Ascending again, a minor scrambling section slows us briefly. As our easy walk goes long, we slurp flowing water directly from wet rocks. Mini-yellow-flower oases punctuate the mostly barren slopes. Our summit stay is brief, but we still visually absorb the Hunters Peak ridgeline, glacier bowls below us flowing to the Troublesome Glacier, the peaks climbed this morning, and the deeper Chugach. We also note weather moving in from the east. A register with dudette is left for the cairn. I am so psyched that we were able to climb all the planned peaks in good weather and now just need to make the exit valley with visibility. I realize



Carrie Wang tends the stove at Camp 2 on the Troublesome Glacier, back dropped by Peak 5200 and Peak 5690. Knik Glacier is in the distance. Photo by Wayne Todd.

my partner, after years of tutelage, has become an equal in the mountains, albeit with different strengths and weaknesses.

Walking the ridgeline toward Brittle Peak, we find a viable descent route at the new survey marker and "OFINCH" rocks (another mystery). We drop west on hard steep talus and rock into the exit valley (no longer having concerns regarding overall exit). The adjacent snow looks preferable to the rock underfoot, and we're surrounded by glacier, so we rope up and plunge down (this glacier tongue also reaches to Brittle and looks much less crevassed than the north tongue). Angling left we avoid the obvious dips, depressions, and crevasses and with the consistent snow, stay on it well after necessary. Off snow, we encounter a small goat herd. Passing by a magical spot of clear alpine pond with undulating stream and a parallel cascading stream, bursting with green moss and alpine flowers, camping is tempting, but we continue to our first night's site, concluding another 13-plus-hour day. We're relaxed after body rinses and dinner, until seeing the nonchalant, not-too-distant black bear disappear into brush (we still have one bear spray). (We don't see him again.) Weather is wavering. The mozzies and red flies are prolific enough that we retreat into the mini-tent.

An early morning pee reveals poor visibility. Later, dit, dit, dit on the tent segues to sprinkles, then rain. Peering out the tent reveals clouds to the deck with 50-yard visibility (dang, the forecasters are still correct after four days). After a cold breakfast and precipitation respite, we break camp. The stream crossings are more robust, but our exit route finds itself naturally underfoot and only a few GPS points are needed to attain the animal highway. We actually get wet, even with rain gear, from brush bordering the trail. The trail seems less used compared to two years ago. Discussion ensues as to where to drop for the mound, but we manage nicely (two poles help for the wet foliage descent). After grass crossings, we're soon on the good mound/East Fork Trail and mentally relish some home and dry activities, like eating real food. It's drier at the bike stash, so we gratefully ditch rain gear and put on dry socks and shoes. Due to our ingress experience, we take the all-road route



Carrie Wang crossing Baleful Creek. Photo by Wayne Todd.

out. After the seemingly never-to-stop-ascending Mile-7 section, the lakeside route is probably preferable. The bikes and change of pace are much appreciated, though. The all-terrain vehicle drivers encountered are quite courteous. We improve our ingress time by only 10 minutes; I think we are tired.

For additional photos of this trip, visit <http://www.wacadventures.net/WaCadventures/hat-trick.html>.



South Baleful Peak backdrops camp as Carrie Wang checks the map. Photo by Wayne Todd.

Four Mile Creek Ridge Hike: A Lesson in Perseverance

Text by Frank E. Baker

Hiking east on the ridge past Mount Eklutna (4065 feet) above Peters Creek, Pete Panarese and I had our first glimpse of our entire route – a 17-mile circumnavigation of the entire Four Mile Creek drainage. On most hikes a person only sees single parts of the trip at a time; but here it was laid out before us – and needless to say – was quite intimidating.

With the promise of clear skies on Sunday, July 27, we started at the Peters Creek Trailhead early, about 6:30 a.m., to give ourselves lots of daylight time. Based on a similar trip I took about 20 years earlier, I estimated it would take us about 12 hours. Pete thought it would take 14 hours. We were both wrong.

Our plan was to turn off (left) of the main Peters Creek Trail about Mile 1-1/2, climb Mount Eklutna, traverse east on the ridge over to what I call “Flag Mountain” (4009 feet), then follow the connecting ridge due south to Peak 5505, at the very end of Four Mile Creek Valley. From there we would follow the western ridge of Four Mile Creek Valley (that parallels Peters Creek) and head due north – back to the main Peters Creek Trail at Mile 4.

(In a trip report, veteran Alaska hiker Shawn Lyons noted the hike takes about 12 to 14 hours. But he’s Shawn Lyons.)

Blue sky prevailed, but as we moved east past Mount Eklutna, we noticed clouds building in the southeast. The 7000-foot-plus Chugach giants to the south: Bold, Bashful, and Baleful Peaks, were obscured by clouds.

“There’s a big low-pressure system in the Gulf and a big high-pressure system to the west,” noted Pete. “I wondered which one will win?”

About six hours into the hike, past Flag Mountain and headed due south, it was apparent the low-pressure system was dominating, at least in this area. We stopped to don rain gear. Slow but steady, we kept moving south as clouds began encroaching. From a distance, the long ridges appeared relatively flat, but it’s deceptive. Luckily, we found some nice sheep trails traversing around some of the higher humps.

Sparse wildlife: Peering down into the side valleys and endless grassy slopes toward Thunder Bird Creek, we were surprised and somewhat disappointed that we didn’t spot any moose, bear, or other wildlife.

About nine hours into the hike at the southern end of Four Mile Creek Valley, as we crossed west toward Peak 5505, we came upon a rock ptarmigan with a brood of four chicks. A few minutes later an eagle glided silently over our heads.

“Those ptarmigan best hide,” I said to Pete.

In two locations up high we found relatively fresh moose droppings. We agreed that since there is no browse for them up so high, they were simply crossing over to reach another valley.

Summitting Peak 5505 was not difficult, and we spent a few moments on top adding our names to the register and taking photos. Clouds obscured most of our view to the south, and we wished for the nice blue sky out to the north over Knik Arm.

The return trip along the western ridge, overlooking Peters Creek, took longer than we anticipated. Unlike the gentle ridge on the eastern side, this one was quite rocky and broken up, as if it were geologically faulted. Traversing around all of the slab rocks and cliffs added time to our return hike. But on the upside, clouds began lifting and we confidently removed rain gear.

Brush bash: At the end of many nice hikes in Alaska, what awaits us is nature’s payback, the part of the trip we call bushwhacking. We followed the ridge due south as it dropped down toward where



Frank Baker approaching Peak 5505. Photo by Pete Panarese.

Four Mile Creek crosses the Peters Creek Trail. Thrashing through high grass, we came upon a fresh bear dig, apparently a search for a delectable parka squirrel. We quickly revitalized our shouting and warnings that we’re in the area. Both Pete and I carried pepper spray and made a lot of noise when passing through areas that might contain bears. Consequently, we’ve seldom seen them – only from a distance.

On the descent at about 2500 feet, blueberries were thick and ripening. It appeared that they have recovered after the

moth infestation a few years ago that decimated many bushes and trees.

During the last hours of the hike, with no winds, small brown flies attacked us mercilessly, completely ambivalent to 100-percent DEET.

Good navigating on Pete’s part kept us away from the brush and into high grass on most of the descent, and we came out right on the money at Four Mile Creek – with the Peters Creek Trail right on the other side. It was 10:30 p.m.

Hiking along an established trail felt like a godsend, and we arrived back at the truck about midnight, making it a 17-1/2-hour day. We could have completed the circuit faster, but we are staunch advocates of pacing and taking our time.

I think it’s taken both of us quite a few years to develop the patience and perseverance for such long hikes. We always carry plenty of food and extra gear in case we’re caught out overnight. And we’re both comfortable with the philosophy: “What’s the hurry?”

To contact Frank via email, use frankedwardbaker@gmail.com.

As Daylight Ebbs, Hiking Safety is Paramount

Text and photo by Frank E. Baker

During this transition from summer to autumn and then winter, the rapidly diminishing daylight can sneak up on us. As we lose more than 35 minutes of daylight per week, it's not uncommon to find ourselves scurrying and stumbling along the trail in an attempt to beat the darkness.

On my hikes and climbs over the years, I've only been caught by darkness a few times. None of them were any fun. Although it doesn't really get dark in Alaska like it does closer to the equator, seeing details in rugged terrain can become a nightmare that can lead to dangerous situations.

I was reminded of that during a September 7th climb up the Pioneer Ridge Trail, which begins at Mile 3.5 of Knik River Road. I got a late start, about noon, and was well aware that it was getting dark about 9 p.m., even though I carried a headlamp. (By the time this is published, it might be getting dark at 5 p.m.) On September 7th there would be a full moon, but clouds were rapidly coming in from the south.

Because of limited daylight, I chose to go only to the ridge at 5,200 feet, rather than Pioneer Peak's 6,398-foot summit. I've made that trip five times and these days I estimate it would take me about 14 hours. For me, Pioneer Peak is a June or July trip.

On the way up the 4.5-mile trail, about half of which was incredibly muddy and slippery, I came across two hikers with two big dogs. The dogs were both carrying saddle bags. One hiker was much faster than the other and expressed the fact he wanted to make the summit. They split up at about 2,500 feet on the trail and the two dogs followed the faster hiker.

I reached the 5,200-foot ridge at 5 p.m. and enjoyed the views, mainly off to the east. There was very little wind and a few local convection clouds dashed over the slopes, sometimes obscuring Pioneer Peak. The Chugach Mountain's massive river of ice, the Knik Glacier, was sprawled out before like a white carpet. Towering over the glacier, about mid-point, was 10,610-foot Mount Goode.

I generally set a turnaround time, and on this day it was 5:30 p.m. With the trail extremely slippery, I knew it was going to take at least three and a half hours for me to get off the mountain. Before leaving I spotted a few people heading down, dressed in shorts with very small packs. I'd seen them on the ascent and knew they were fast movers, or what I call "dashers." But even so, they seemed to be traveling rather light for this time of the year.

On the descent, at about 4,500 feet, I came across the slower-moving hiker of the duo I'd talked to earlier. He was waiting for his friend to come off the summit with his two dogs. He was in short sleeves, had no water, no food, and no jacket. It was 6 p.m. – three hours until dark.

I gave him some water and suggested that he should be heading down, given that his partner was faster and would probably overtake him.

"He's got my two dogs," he replied. "I'll wait for him here."

With binoculars I scanned the ridge leading up to the peak, and couldn't spot his friend. Once more I suggested that he begin going down, but he was adamant about waiting.

The muddy, slippery descent was a nightmare. I wished I'd brought my Kahtoola spikes. A friend who lives in Kauai, noted for its heavy rainfalls, has boots with built-in spikes for just that purpose – mud. All the way down I kept stopping, listening, in hopes that the pair was behind me. Negotiating the slippery, tree-rooted trail was bad enough in daylight. I couldn't imagine doing it in the dark!

I arrived at my truck at almost exactly 9 p.m. as darkness fell, tired but not the worse for wear. I copied down a description of the car and license plate number. The following morning I called the Matanuska-Susitna

Borough, gave them the information and asked if they'd check out the trailhead parking lot and see if the vehicle was still there.

I never heard anything from the Borough or in the news, so I assume they both made it off the mountain with the two dogs.

At this time of the year I always carry a headlamp on longer hikes, and I make many calculations on how long a trip is going to take. I generally carry a space blanket, matches for a fire and enough clothing, including a warm hat, to sit out the night and wait for daylight, if necessary.

Thrashing around in the dark, especially on a poor trail or no trail at all, is not a good idea at any time of the year. I do hope those two guys are safe, and if they're reading this, it would be great to hear from them.

To contact Frank via email, use frankedwardbaker@gmail.com.



The Knik Glacier from the Pioneer Ridge Trail. A scene on the glacier was included in the 1991 motion picture "Star Trek VI: The Undiscovered Country."

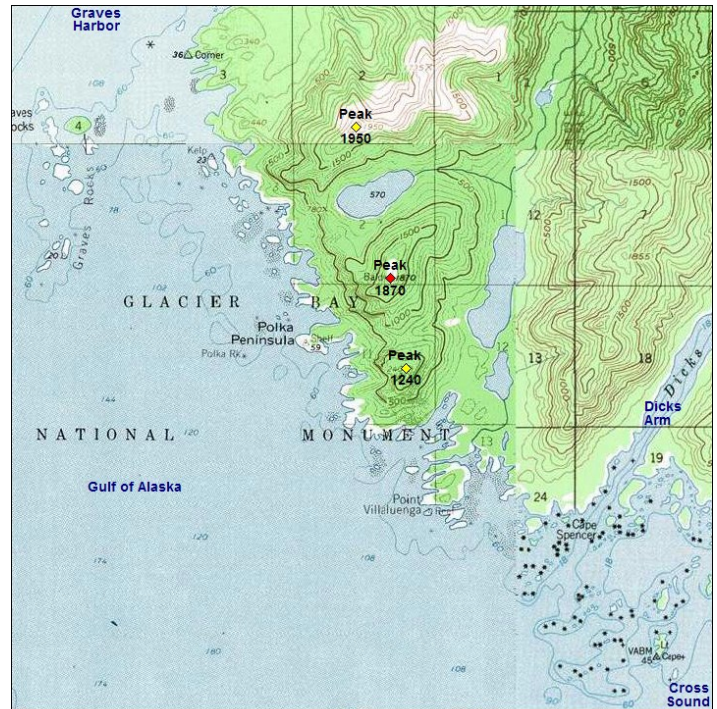
Peak of the Month: Peak 1870

By Steve Gruhn

Mountain Range: Saint Elias Mountains; Fairweather Range
Borough: Unorganized Borough
Drainage: Gulf of Alaska
Latitude/Longitude: 58° 14' 8" North, 136° 41' 35" West
Elevation: 1870 feet
Prominence: 1090 feet from Peak 1950 in the Murphy Cove drainage
Adjacent Peaks: Peak 1240 in the Gulf of Alaska drainage and Peak 1950
Distinctness: 1090 feet from Peak 1950
USGS Map: Mount Fairweather (A-3)
First Recorded Ascent: 1925 by Alfred Modesto Sobieralski and a U.S. Coast and a Geodetic Survey party
Route of First Recorded Ascent: South ridge
Access Point: Unnamed cove two miles northwest of Cape Spencer Light

On February 25, 1925, President Calvin Coolidge created Glacier Bay National Monument (now Glacier Bay National Park and Preserve) under the Antiquities Act. In the ensuing field season, the U.S. Coast & Geodetic Survey (USC&GS) sent several parties on survey expeditions throughout southeastern Alaska and along the southern coast of the Alaska Peninsula. While the purpose of the survey expeditions was not directly related to the establishment of Glacier Bay National Monument, the party led by Lieutenant Alfred M. Sobieralski did spend much of the season establishing survey stations – including one atop Peak 1870 – within the newly created monument.

In 1925 Sobieralski was the commanding officer of the USC&GS ship *Surveyor*. Other members of the *Surveyor's* crew included Lieutenant H.A. Cotton, Ensign A.F. Jankowski, Ensign Leonard C. Johnson, Ensign Emil H. Kirsch, Lieutenant A.P. Ratti, Lieutenant Junior Grade Elliott B. Roberts, and William M. "Bill" Scaife. The *Surveyor* carried the party to an unnamed cove within Glacier

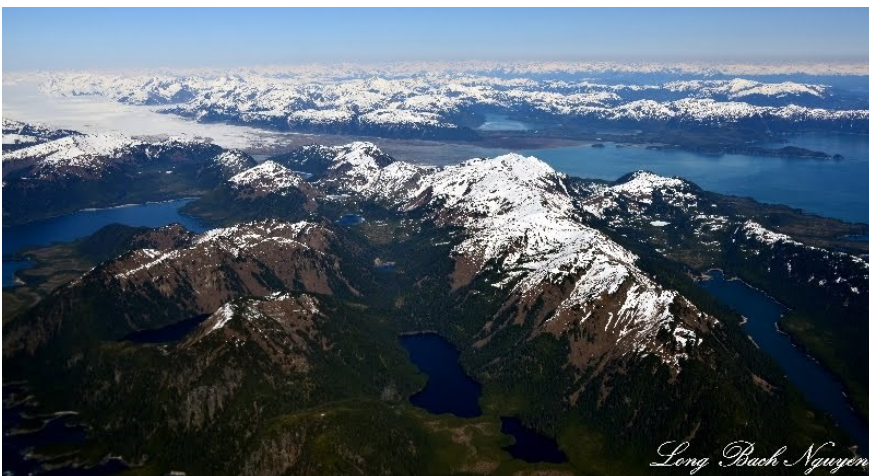


Bay National Monument two miles northwest of Cape Spencer Light. From the head of the cove, the USC&GS party set out to establish a survey station atop Peak 1870, the southernmost summit on the second ridge west of Dicks Arm that was bare of trees. From the head of the cove, the party headed to the east and northeast of the timbered Peak 1240, which is northwest of the unnamed cove, and began to climb its northeast shoulder. After hiking to a quarter mile northeast of the summit of Peak 1240, the party crossed the pass to the north of that peak and ascended the south ridge of Peak 1870 to its summit. The hike from the cove reportedly took the survey party two and a half to three hours. On the summit of Peak 1870, the survey party set a triangulation station disk labeled "Baldy" in a boulder.

In 1970 the USC&GS was reorganized to become the National Geodetic Survey (NGS). Later that year a NGS party led by James Wintermyre, the commander of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration ship *Davidson*, made the second recorded visit to the summit of Peak 1870.

I don't know of a third ascent of Peak 1870.

The information for this article was obtained from the NGS website, <http://www.ngs.noaa.gov/cgi-bin/datasheet.pr1> and from my correspondence with Albert E. "Skip" Theberge, Jr. The photo was obtained from <http://longbachnguyen.com/> and used with permission.



Aerial photograph of the Brady Glacier (upper left), Taylor Bay (center right), and Dicks Arm (lower right), viewing to the north-northeast. Peak 1870 is the peak in the left foreground with a bit of snow on its slopes. Table Mountain is the snow-clad peak in the center. Photo by Long Bach Nguyen.

MOUNTAINEERING CLUB OF ALASKA

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

The Mountaineering Club of Alaska (MCA) was formed in 1958 to promote the enjoyment of hiking and climbing in Alaska and the exploration of its mountains. We welcome all who wish to become members.

Participate and Learn: The MCA conducts scheduled hikes and climbs led by experienced club members, technical mountaineering and climbing courses, and other instruction throughout the year. The club maintains seven mountain huts in the nearby Chugach and Talkeetna mountains. The MCA's Vin Hoeman Library contains hundreds of books, numerous periodicals, bound volumes of the **SCREE**, and a 'Peak File' with information on local climbs. The club has climbing gear for trips and training, including ice axes, helmets, crampons, snowshoes, and avalanche beacons.

Stay Informed: The MCA publishes a monthly newsletter, **SCREE**, and emails it to all members. The **SCREE** contains announcements of upcoming events, the hiking and climbing trip schedule, and trip reports written by club members.

Monthly meetings: The third Tuesday of each month at 6:30 p.m. at the BP Energy Center at 1014 Energy Court (in Midtown Anchorage just south of the main BP building). Special events or changes to the meeting will be noted in the **SCREE** and on our website at: www.mtnclubak.org.

- **Complete both pages of this form. Write neatly!** To participate in club-sponsored trips, **EVERY MEMBER** must read and complete the Release of Liability Agreement on the back of this application.
- Please make checks payable to **Mountaineering Club of Alaska, Inc.**
- Mailed **SCREE** subscriptions are \$15 additional per year & are non-refundable. (1 **SCREE**/ family).
- Annual membership is through the 31st of December.
- Memberships paid after November 1st are good through December 31 of the following year.
- If applying by mail, please include a self-addressed, **stamped** envelope for your membership card.
OR you may pick it up at the next monthly meeting.
Our address is: **PO BOX 243561, Anchorage, AK 99524-3561**
- **Note: Mailed applications may take up to 6 weeks to process.** Thank you for your patience.
- **To join right now, sign up online at www.mtnclubak.org**

New		Date	
Renewal		Name	
1 YR. Individual \$15		Family Members	
1 YR. Family \$20			
2 YR. Individual \$30			
2 YR. Family \$40			
How do you want your SCREE delivered? (check one or both)			
Electronic (free)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Email delivery	
Paper (add \$15/YR.)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Postal Service (not available outside the United States)	
Street or PO Box			
City/State/Zip			
Telephone			
Email Address			

_____ I am interested in joining a committee (Circle which ones: Programs, Hiking & Climbing, Huts, Geographic Names, Peak Registers, Parks Advisory, Equipment, Awards, Membership, Training, or ad hoc committees).

_____ I am interested in leading a trip.

Do not write below this line: _____

Pd: \$15 \$20 \$30 \$40 \$15 for paper **SCREE** \$30 for 2 years of paper **SCREE**
on Date: ___/___/___, Cash or Check Number: _____

Membership Card Issued for Yr: _____
Address Added to Mailing List

Revised 1/10/11

SIGN AND INITIAL THIS RELEASE OF LIABILITY— READ IT CAREFULLY

I _____ (print name) am aware that mountaineering and wilderness activities (including hiking; backpacking; rock, snow, and ice climbing; mountaineering; skiing; ski mountaineering; rafting and packrafting, kayaking, and use of remote backcountry huts) are hazardous activities. I wish to participate and/or receive instruction in these activities with the Mountaineering Club of Alaska, Inc. ("MCA"). I recognize these activities involve numerous risks, which include, by way of example only, falling while hiking, climbing, skiing or crossing rivers or glaciers; falling into a crevasse or over a cliff; drowning; failure of a belay; being struck by climbing equipment or falling rock, ice or snow; avalanches; lightning; fire; hypothermia; frostbite; defective or malfunctioning equipment; and attack by insects or animals. I further recognize that the remoteness of the activities may preclude prompt medical care or rescue. I also recognize that risk of **injury or death** may be caused or enhanced by **mistakes, negligence or reckless conduct** on the part of either my fellow participants; MCA officers, directors, instructors, or trip leaders; and the State of Alaska and its employees regarding MCA backcountry huts. I nevertheless agree to accept all risks of **injury, death, or property damage** that may occur in connection with any MCA activity, including use of MCA furnished equipment and MCA backcountry huts. **(As used in this agreement, MCA includes its officers, directors, instructors and trip leaders.)**

_____ (initial that you have read this paragraph)

GIVING UP MY LEGAL RIGHTS I agree to give up for myself and for my heirs all legal rights I may have against the MCA; my fellow participants in MCA activities (except to the extent that insurance coverage is provided by automobile insurance policies) and the State of Alaska and its employees regarding MCA backcountry huts. **I give up these legal rights regardless of whether the injury, death, or property damage results from mistakes, negligence or reckless conduct of others.** I understand this agreement shall remain in effect until I provide a signed, dated, written notice of its revocation to the MCA.

_____ (initial that you have read this paragraph)

MY PROMISE NOT TO SUE I will not sue or otherwise make a claim against the MCA; my fellow participants in MCA activities (except as noted above for automobile accidents); and the State of Alaska and its employees regarding use of MCA backcountry huts, for **injury, death, or property damage** which occurs in the course of my participation or instruction in mountaineering and wilderness activities. Any lawsuit relating to MCA activities or this release shall only be filed in Anchorage, Alaska. The provisions of this release are severable and if any part is found unenforceable, the remaining provisions shall remain in effect.

_____ (initial that you have read this paragraph)

MY RELEASE OF LIABILITY I agree to release and discharge the MCA; my fellow participants in MCA activities; and the State of Alaska and its employees regarding use of MCA backcountry huts, from all actions, claims, or demands, both for myself and for my heirs, dependents, and/or personal representative, for **injury, death, or property damage** occurring in the course of my participation or instruction in mountaineering and wilderness activities.

_____ (initial that you have read this paragraph)

MY PROMISE TO INDEMNIFY I will pay all expenses, including attorney fees and court costs, that the MCA; my fellow participants in MCA activities; and the State of Alaska and its employees may incur as a consequence of any legal action arising out of **injury, death, or property damage** suffered by me in connection with any MCA activity or the use of any MCA backcountry hut.

_____ (initial that you have read this paragraph)

MY CONSENT TO MEDICAL TREATMENT I consent to any hospital or medical care that may be necessary as a result of my participation in MCA activities. I understand and agree that I am solely responsible for all charges for such medical treatment, including evacuation and/or rescue costs.

_____ (initial that you have read this paragraph)

I HAVE CAREFULLY READ THIS AGREEMENT, UNDERSTAND ITS CONTENT, AND RECOGNIZE IT IS A BINDING LEGAL AGREEMENT

Dated: _____ Signature: _____

Signature of Parent or Guardian (if under 18): _____

Revised 2/19/09

Mountaineering Club of Alaska

President	Cory Hinds	229-6809	Board member (term expires in 2015)	Rachad Rayess	617-309-6566
Vice-President	Galen Flint	650-207-0810	Board member (term expires in 2015)	Joshua Clark	887-1888
Secretary	Elizabeth Bennett	830-9656	Board member (term expires in 2016)	Jayne Mack	382-0212
Treasurer	Aaron Gallagher	250-9555	Board member (term expires in 2016)	Carlene Van Tol	748-5270
Past President	Greg Encelewski	360-0274			

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 Membership Committee at membership@mtclubak.org.

The Scree is a monthly publication of the Mountaineering Club of Alaska. Articles, notes, and letters submitted for publication in the newsletter should be emailed to MCAScree@gmail.com. Articles should be submitted by the 24th of the month to appear in the next month's *Scree*.

Paid ads may be submitted to the attention of the Vice-President at the club address and should be in electronic format and pre-paid. Ads can be emailed to vicepresident@mtclubak.org.

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

Mailing list/database entry: Stacy Pritts - membership@mtclubak.org

Hiking and Climbing Committee: Vicky Lytle - hcc@mtclubak.org

Huts: Greg Bragiel - 569-3008 or huts@mtclubak.org

Calendar: Stuart Grenier - 337-5127 or stugrenier@gmail.com

Scree Editor: MCAScree@gmail.com Steve Gruhn (344-1219) assisted by Elizabeth Ellis (elizabeth.anne.russo@gmail.com)

Web: www.mtclubak.org

Find MCAK listserv at <https://groups.yahoo.com/neo/groups/MCAK/info>.

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