

# the SCREE

## Mountaineering Club of Alaska

December 2019

Volume 62, Number 12



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Peak of the Month: Mount Carpe



"Let us keep Christmas  
beautiful without a  
thought of greed."

– Ann Garnett Schultz

**DECEMBER MEETING:** Thursday, December 12, at 6:30  
p.m. at Matanuska Brewing at 11901 Old Glenn  
Highway in Eagle River.

Come one, come all! The December general meeting  
will be a Christmas Party.

**"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."**

This issue brought to you by: **Editor**—Steve Gruhn **assisted by** Dawn Munroe

## Cover Photo

Greg Encelewski on the southeast ridge of Esbay Peak.

Photo by Marcin Ksok

## DECEMBER MEETING

Thursday, December 12, at 6:30 p.m. at Matanuska Brewing Company at 11901 Old Glenn Highway in Eagle River.

<https://www.google.com/maps/place/Matanuska+Brewing+Co.+Eagle+River/@61.3280001,-149.5686503,15z/data=!4m5!3m4!1s0x0:0x751205498706cabcl8m2!3d61.3280001!4d-149.5686503>

Come one, come all! The December general meeting will be a Christmas Party held at Matanuska Brewing in Eagle River.

The MCA is paying for pizza to feast upon this holiday season. Please feel free to wear your ugliest sweater, Santa outfit, or whatever festive clothing you would like.

An 18% gratuity will be added to all orders/tabs (new rules for the events held at Matanuska Brewing).

## Choate's Chuckle - Tom Choate

**Q:** A rock climber got to the top of a route and searched all around. He finally found a stone and threw it far away. Why?

*Answer: on page 23.*

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## Hut Needs and Notes

If you are headed to one of the MCA huts, please consult the Hut Inventory and Needs on the website (<http://www.mtnclubak.org/index.cfm/Huts/Hut-Inventory-and-Needs>) or Greg Bragiel, MCA Huts Committee Chairman, at either [huts@mtnclubak.org](mailto:huts@mtnclubak.org) or (907) 350-5146 to see what needs to be taken to the huts or repaired. All huts have tools and materials so that anyone can make basic repairs. Hutmeisters are needed for each hut: If you have a favorite hut and would like to take the lead on checking on the hut and organizing maintenance, the MCA would greatly appreciate your help!

**Article Submission:** Text and photography submissions for *the Scree* can be sent as attachments to [mcascree@gmail.com](mailto:mcascree@gmail.com). Articles should be submitted by the 11th 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. Send high resolution file photos separately, including captions for each photo. 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 don't forget to submit photo captions.

For the MCA Membership Application and Liability Waiver, visit <http://www.mtnclubak.org/index.cfm?useaction=members.form>.

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Online? Click me!



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

## Announcements

### Trips

**December 7-8:** Glacier-travel and crevasse-skills training course. Two-day course. We currently have room for nine students, but that may increase depending on venue and volunteer instructors. Please contact [training@mtnclubak.org](mailto:training@mtnclubak.org) to sign up for this event as a student or instructor, or to indicate interest in future training courses. More details to be announced.

**December 21:** Flattop Mountain Sleepout. No leader.

**February 21-29, 2020:** MCA Winter Mountaineering School

A comprehensive training program for individuals who are accomplished backpackers who wish to START learning mountaineering skills.

Course of instruction: Trip planning, food preparation, leadership, winter travel, gear selection/preparation, navigation, leave no trace, snow travel, snow anchors, running belay, rope handling, communication, terminology, knots, gear essentials, route finding, glacier travel, crevasse rescue, belaying, avalanche recognition, avalanche rescue, staying warm, nutrition/hydration, winter camping, snow shelters, wilderness medicine, rappelling, ice climbing, winter survival, stream crossing, confidence building, and more. NO course fee; however, students share trip expenses. Certificate of Participation issued when student fulfills course requirements. Lead Instructor: Greg Bragiel.

**The Mint Hut will be closed for training February 21-28. If you plan to be in the area, bring a tent and plan to camp outside.**

### Hutmeister

Are you interested in getting more involved with MCA? If you have a favorite hut and would like to take the lead on checking in on that hut, keeping track of its inventory and needs, and organizing maintenance efforts, the MCA would love your help! The MCA is seeking "Hutmeisters" for seven of its huts: Pichler's Perch, Hans' Hut, Rosie's Roost, Bomber Hut, Dnigi Hut, Seth Holden Hut, and the Scandinavian Peaks Hut. The Mint Hut is the only hut that already has a Hutmeister. To learn more about this volunteer opportunity, please contact Greg Bragiel at [huts@mtnclubak.org](mailto:huts@mtnclubak.org) or (907) 350-5146.

### Mentorship Program

Interested in furthering your skills? The MCA has a volunteer-driven Mentorship Program that connects beginner and intermediate folks seeking technical experience in specific mountaineering disciplines with mentors who help you gain and work on new skills.

If you would like to become a mentee or mentor, please email [mentorship@mtnclubak.org](mailto:mentorship@mtnclubak.org).

### Library

The MCA is looking for a volunteer to run the MCA's Vin Hoeman Library. Also the MCA would like to thank Charlotte Foley for volunteering four years to serve as the MCA's librarian.

### Calendar and Stickers

MCA calendars and stickers available at Alaska Mountaineering and Hiking and Hoarding Marmot. Soon to be at SkiAK, Black Diamond, and REI.

### Award Nominations

The MCA's Awards Committee is seeking nominations for the Hoeman Award, the Presidents Award, and Honorary MCA Memberships.

The Hoeman Award is the MCA's highest award and recognizes those individuals who have demonstrated a long-term commitment to the exploration, documentation, and promotion of hiking and climbing opportunities in Alaska. Nominees should have some association with the MCA, but may not currently hold elected office in the club.

The Presidents Award recognizes a current MCA member who has made significant contributions of time and effort toward an MCA project or other club activities during a calendar year. Nominees must be current MCA members. The current President may not be nominated for the Presidents Award.

Honorary Memberships recognize individuals who have made outstanding contributions to the MCA and its purposes. Nominees need not be MCA members, but must be living and may not currently hold elected office in the club.

Nominations must be in writing and must include the name of the person nominating the candidate, a description of the contributions the candidate has made, and the names and contact information of other persons who might provide more information to the Awards Committee regarding the candidate's contributions.

Nominations may be submitted to the MCA's Awards Committee at P.O. Box 243561, Anchorage, Alaska 99524-3561 or to Tom Meacham, Awards Committee Chairman, at [tmeacham@gci.net](mailto:tmeacham@gci.net).

For additional information, please visit

<http://www.mtnclubak.org/index.cfm/About-Us/Awards> and review the MCA's Awards Committee policies at [http://www.mtnclubak.org/layouts/layout\\_mca/files/documents/misc/MCA%20Policies.pdf](http://www.mtnclubak.org/layouts/layout_mca/files/documents/misc/MCA%20Policies.pdf)

## Sunyata Peak (6773 feet), Central Chugach Mountains

Text and photos by Mat Brunton



*Looking back at the summit of Sunyata Peak while hiking back to the drop-in.*

*The fool in his ignorance, disdainful Mahamudra,  
Knows nothing but struggle in the flood of Samsara  
Have compassion for those who suffer constant anxiety!  
Sick of unrelenting pain and desiring release, adhere to a master,  
For when his blessing touches your heart, the mind is liberated.*

- Tilopa

*The Kingdom of God is spread out upon the Earth, but people do  
not see it.*

- Jesus

*There is absolute truth in anarchism and it is to be seen in its attitude to the sovereignty of the state and to every form of state absolutism. ... The religious truth of anarchism consists in this, that power over man is bound up with sin and evil, that a state of perfection is a state where there is no power of man over man, that is to say, anarchy. The Kingdom of God is freedom and the absence of such power ... the Kingdom of God is anarchy.*

- Nikolai Berdyaev

*The whole economic system of Capitalism is an offshoot of a devouring and overwhelming lust ... The autonomy of economics has ended in its dominating the whole life of human societies: the worship of Mammon has become the determining force of the age. And the worst of it is that this undisguised "mammonism" is regarded as a very good thing, an attainment to the knowledge of truth and a release from illusions. Economic materialism formulates this to perfection when it brands the whole spiritual life of man as a deception and a dream.*

- Nikolai Berdyaev

We, as a species of the Earth (one member of its community of life), need to get back to a more natural state. That natural state is ruled by ecology, not economy. We are animals, too. We are not at the pinnacle of the hierarchy of existence. We are merely one strand in the incomprehensibly complex web of life.

Such are the teachings of Randoism. Delivered to Randoists on the precipitous wilderness mountain tops of Alaska (in the spirit of Moses receiving the ten commandments on top of Mount Sinai). It's the self-dissolving power of these wild places, unmolested by man (minus the despicable trash left behind by carbon gluttonous heli-skiers on Thompson Pass), that facilitate an understanding of Sunyata (after which the prominent peak this trip report is about is named).

I've found the Central Chugach Mountains in the Thompson Pass corridor so personally powerful because of their nature. They are WILD, and generally see very few human visitors outside the heli-ski and snowmachine season. I do find it quite sad that the sanctity of this sanctuary, easily accessible via non-motorized means by those with a level of fitness that any healthy human should possess, is so disturbed by motorized users for a few months of the year. That motorized molestation hinders the development of much more sustainable non-motorized tourism and recreation, which our great state so desperately needs for its future economy.

The reality is that, without developing a more sustainable economy in the near future, this whole state (which is entirely beholden to the oil and extractive industries) will turn into a collection of ghost towns. After all, the only other big thing we have going is the war industry. That also is, obviously, unsustainable. Yes, we

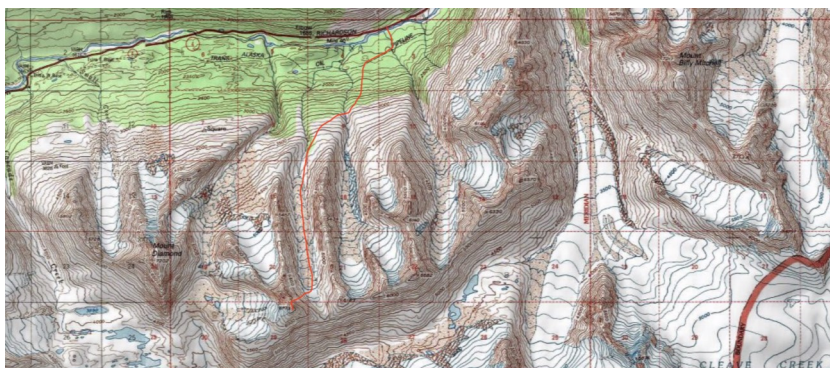
have tourism – but that tourism comes with a big carbon footprint and there doesn't seem to be much current interest in making that tourism more eco-friendly (i.e. promoting non-motorized recreation and tourism as opposed to very carbon gluttonous and wasteful motorized recreation and tourism – or even just making those high-impact forms of tourism less impactful and wasteful).

Another important reason for promoting non-motorized recreation, as opposed to motorized recreation, is for the health of our citizenry and the wondrous ecosystems that make our state unique – that make it THE “Great Land.” As the U.S. will soon join the rest of the developed world in providing healthcare to all citizens as a universal and basic human right, we need to develop a culture of wellness. A culture of wellness doesn't include high impact and grossly unsustainable forms of recreation.

Having reconned a Sunyata Peak ascent from a distance when I climbed and skied Total Crud and Purple Nurple weeks earlier [*Ed note: see the June 2019 Scree*], I originally had a different (simpler and more straightforward) idea for accessing the summit: climb the couloir and scramble the north ridge. However, the north ridge turned out to be fifth class (and I was solo and without climbing gear besides a tool and crampons).

Skirting around the back side (westerly aspects), seemed like a hassle and the snow was cooking in the sun. That said, I opted to poke around on the north face (accessed just below the couloir top-out on the ridge through a narrow and steep choke) to see if I could find a reasonable (to a Randoist) line up. I did, although it took a couple tries, some perseverance, and was quite puckering (even to a Randoist).

Linking up very steep and exposed fluted spines led me to the ridge just below the summit. I had to crawl into a snow lip below a large exposed rock to take the edge off for a few minutes, but I couldn't stand up due to overhanging rock. At first I tried going climber's right from under that rocky perch, but got shut down due to rotten snow over rock that was just too exposed. I crawled back into the perch, and attempted to go left. That went relatively cleanly, although wickedly exposed and steep. That put me on the ridge a short distance north from the summit. It was easy Class 2 to 3 to the small summit pinnacle from there.



*Above: Looking at Sunyata Peak's north ridge from the mouth of the Iguanabacks valley.*

*Below: At the base of the couloir that accesses Sunyata's Peak upper north face.*



*Below: Midway up the Iguanabacks valley.*



To view additional photos and a short video with epic views, visit <https://anchorageavalanchecenter.org/trip-reports/central-chugach/sunyata-peak/>

## Three Pigs (6850 feet), Central Chugach Mountains

Text and photos by Mat Brunton



*Northeast aspect of Three Pigs.*

Three Pigs is a prominent (more than 2,000 feet of topographic prominence) peak at the northwest corner (where the Tsina and Tiekel valleys meet) of the Thompson Pass/Richardson Highway corridor in the Central Chugach Mountains. Over an epic window of high pressure from April 13 to 16, 2019, I climbed and skied from both summits of Three Pigs' north face (in addition to climbing and skiing Sunyata Peak, Hershey's Kiss (a.k.a. Repeater Peak, and Berlin Wall). Conditions were nearly perfect and while the helicopter from Rendezvous Lodge came out later in the day after I had skied from the east summit, they were respectful (as opposed to other adverse heli experiences as detailed in the June 2019 *Scree* and on page 14 of this issue). Given that respectfulness, I can't say their presence wasn't welcome, being that far out in the backcountry skiing big and committing lines solo.

I climbed and skied from the east summit of Three Pigs first. It's hard to tell which summit is the highest, so I had to be sure to tag them both. I tagged the west summit on a second lap up the north face, as there are plenty of lines to choose from on the big face. After skiing my first run from the east summit, the Rendezvous heli showed up. While the valley was virgin before I got there, a couple large heli groups tracked it up quickly. Initially they skied lesser peaks and smaller lines in the area, eventually working

up to Three Pigs itself (although not from the summit). I could see their tracks from the lower shoulder. While I could appreciate their presence, as I was out solo, it was a shame to see that much powder harvested so quickly in what was still a relatively reasonably accessible area for non-motorized users (and easily accessible by non-commercial motorized users on sleds).

To view a short video with lots of eye candy, visit <https://anchorageavalanchecenter.org/trip-reports/central-chugach/three-pigs-aka-42-mile-peak/>.



*East and west summit lines on the northeast aspect of Three Pigs.*

## Peakbagging with a Gun Part 2: Naked Island

Text and photos by Lee Helzer

The Admiral (Jon Cannon), Chief Mate (Paul Koning), Josh Allely, and I left Whittier early in the afternoon on Friday, September 27, 2019. None of us had been to Naked Island, but satellite imagery offered a few possible anchorages and campsites that looked ideal for hunting and peakbagging. The most promising site was in a small unnamed bay on the northwest side of the island that The Admiral affectionately named Ballsack Bay. The seas were forgiving, which allowed us to arrive at the small bay in good time.

The Chief Mate offered to drop me off on the south side of Peak 950 on his firewood scouting trip. I grabbed the essentials and we were off. The beach south of Peak 950 was rocky, but reasonable. A small, but heavily vegetated, cliff guarded the south flank of the peak. I was able to find small deer-sized passages up and around. Beyond the cliff was standard Prince William Sound bush and the ever-present vanishing deer trails. After around 45 minutes of bush-whacking, I reached the top, where my GPS read 985 feet. The sun was getting low in the sky, so I headed toward where I hoped the crew had set up camp.

High on the descent I spooked a deer that had already bed down. I hastily chambered a round, but by the time I looked back up, the deer had vanished leaving only faint sounds of rustling underbrush off in the distance. *"Who was I kidding?"* I thought, even if I did see it, I didn't have a shot with this much underbrush. I unchambered the round, slung my rifle back over my shoulder and continued my descent. The underbrush slowly opened to a wonderful chain of meadows I was able to link all the way back to the beach where I was greeted by a trio of merry men, crackling cedar fire, and a delicious 10-year Tawny Port. My GPS showed the two-hour outing was right about two miles with almost exactly 1,000 vertical feet of gain.

The next morning The Admiral begrudgingly left his cozy V-berth and took the dinghy to shore to join us for a lazy breakfast. We decided on a shotgun approach where we would all hunt/hike solo from different parts of the island. I readied my pack and realized I was in for an unplanned ultra-light hike. I had forgotten my water bottle and all my food back in Whittier. Luckily, I still had a healthy stockpile of beer, so I packed a handful.

The Admiral effortlessly beached the boat in McPherson Bay to the northwest of the 1215-foot Naked Island highpoint on a fan-



*Safe anchorage in Ballsack Bay at sunset.*

tastic high-angle beach of racketball-sized stones. I jumped off, pushed the boat off the shore and headed out. Deer trails led me through several meadows and moderate underbrush. I gained the highpoint of the island in a little over an hour.

Just a few hundred yards east of the summit was a mega communications establishment. I spent the next 30 minutes strolling through the grounds of several communication towers, helipads, dozens of large propane tanks, solar arrays, and even a seismic station. Yes, I jumped up and down on the ground next to it for grins. I couldn't believe how much equipment had been amassed on an otherwise untouched and remote island.

Again, high on the descent I spooked another deer with nearly the same result as before. *"I'm not very good at this hunting thing,"* I thought and continued my descent across the isthmus where I noticed evidence of a previous hunting camp.

It was past lunchtime when I crested the small saddle above Cabin Bay and Peak 650. The meadows allowed for easy walking, so I decided to crack open a can of "lunch." No sooner did I take a few healthy swigs, than I caught a glimpse of a deer on the other side of the meadow. I quickly found a depression for my lunch, chambered a round and shouldered my rifle with just enough time to see the deer dissolve into the bushes. I thought about pursuing, but opted to head toward Peak 650. *"At least I know I can bag that one,"* I thought.

I dropped my pack for the out and back to Peak 650. The abundance of meadows made for easy walking. I was surprised to see two very large ships anchored in Outside Bay. The drone of their motors kept me aware of their presence even when trees obscured them from my view. The summit of Peak 650 appeared to be a bedroom for the local deer family. I returned to my pack via the same route.

A wise trip planner should always check the vast *Scree* archives for route beta. I wish I had read the June 2016 *Scree* "Peak of the Month: Peak 1080." If I had, I would have known the path of least resistance was from the southeast, not the southwest. I brute-forced my way through the dense underbrush and steep mossy slopes. I was happy I took the Chief Mate's advice on taping the end of my rifle barrel because I slipped and fell several times working my way up. A micro-meadow at the summit offered well-deserved reprieve from the bushwhacking. I didn't stay long because I knew I still had a couple more hours of bushwhacking back to camp.

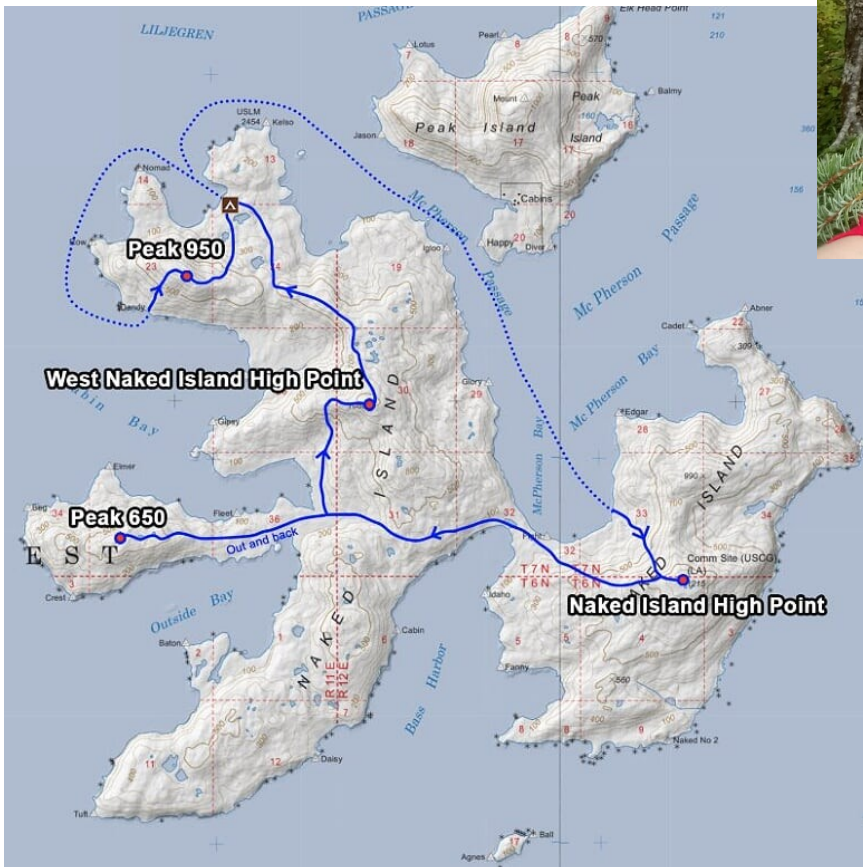
I was exhausted, hungry, and thirsty by the time I reached camp just after dark. As it turned out, subsisting on beer wasn't the best strategy for a 10-hour, 14-mile, 3,700-foot vertical gain bushwhack. The Admiral offered his mac and cheese leftovers as an appetizer while I boiled water for my Mountain House meal. We cheered the Chief Mate's successful harvest and planned our morning departure to avoid the forecasted gale warning.



*Lee Helzer in front of the generator power for the mega communications site near the Naked Island highpoint.*



*Lee Helzer takes a selfie at the true Naked Island highpoint.*





## Grand Piano Traverse: Peak 8110, Delta Range

Text and photos by Shane Ohms

June 21<sup>st</sup> – 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2019

You'd be hard-pressed to find a mountain I'm not interested in climbing. Who doesn't want to climb them all, right? But our weekends are numbered, and that means I have an insistent need to adventure every chance I get – even when I have no friends available to do the adventuring with. When I find myself going into a weekend solo, I use it as a time to do my inglorious, beta-less, and “low-success odds” objectives. Reason being: I probably couldn't convince anyone to join me on them anyway. At the time, Grand Piano fit into the beta-less and “low-success odds” categories.

Grand Piano is the name I gave to the higher peak east of Icefall Peak in the Delta Range. That mountain had piqued my interest because it was the highest point south of the Canwell and Gakona Glaciers and attained a notable 2000-foot prominence. I called it Grand Piano because, similar to Organ Mountain in the Western Chugach Mountains, it had a long, ½-mile ridge that maintained a pretty-level elevation, giving it a piano look. [Ed. note: *This peak is known as Constellation Peak on bivouac.com.*] A week after completing this climb, I bought the [Delta Range: A Mountaineering Playground](#) book by Stan Justice and found three sentences of beta on this peak! I learned that the western point of the long ridge (the point I bivied at) is called Peak 8100 and the eastern point I traversed to (and had previously been calling Grand Piano), is actually Peak 8110. From that book, it appeared that first ascents (or at least the first and only recorded ascents I've come across) for both Peak 8100 and Peak 8110 came from the year 2010. First, Sam Herried, Andy Sterns, and Jeff Benowitz climbed Peak 8100 via the southwest face (the route I had planned on using, but abandoned once seeing its condition in person). On that trip they must have seen that the eastern point was higher, because in that same year Sam and Jeff would return to climb Peak 8110 from its eastern ridge.

In my writing of this *Scree* article, Steve Gruhn and I uprooted three more juicy climbing accounts of this mountain. Apparently Peak 8100 and Peak 8110 have a substantial, though discreet, climbing history. In July 2011 Andy Sterns returned with Rob Wing to traverse the ridge

from Peak 8100 to Peak 8110, just like how I did it - the Grand Piano Traverse! Additionally, it turned out that Doug Buchanan and Earl

Redman climbed Peak 8100 via the south-southwest ridge on January 1, 1976. On page 24 of this issue is a picture that shows the Grand Piano Traverse cornices Buchanan and Redman observed on that day. The cornices on the ridge back then were so much more gnarly and intimidating than what I encountered on my climb over 40 years later! Herried, Benowitz, and Sterns also climbed the southwest face of Peak 8100 in 2009 and Benowitz reported having climbed Peak 8100 by at least two other routes. There are proba-

ably more successful climbs of Peak 8110 cataloged in the private and useachable memories of mountaineers, but even by those numbers; this is not a popular peak. Entering into this weekend, however, I had none of this knowledge. I'd be going in blind to the mountain's successful routes and under the belief that there was a decent chance of Peak 8110 being unclimbed.

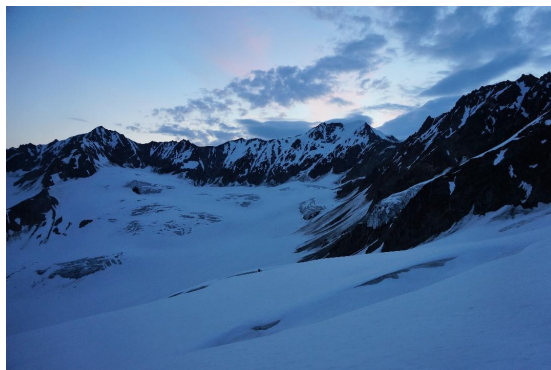
The trip began simply enough; at 8:30 p.m. on Friday, I had parked at the end of the Gulkana Glacier road, then crossed the suspension bridge, and then approached the College Glacier on a gentle slope between 4500 and 5000 feet on the north side of College Creek. That slope came to an end, and I descended 300 to 400 feet of crappily pavement scree to get onto the College Glacier. I crossed to a moraine, followed it for a half mile, then crossed to the other side and traversed underneath Peak 8100's south ridge to the base of

the southwest face that I intended to climb. At about 6300 feet, the crevasses I'd seen on Google Earth became visible below the snow. I kept them at distance and at 1:30 a.m. and 6600 feet I was bivouing at the base of the snow line on the southwest face of Peak 8100 that I had originally planned on using to access the ridge. I had seen it from farther back, but elected to continue in hopes of finding a work-around, a break in the snow line where the ice underneath had broken off and exposed some clean, featureless rock. It

was dim lighting, but even then I knew there would be no work-arounds.



*Shane Ohms pointing back to his route from atop Grand Piano.*



*View of the College Glacier from Shane Ohms' bivy site.*



*Part of the Grand Piano Traverse*



*Southeast face and south ridge of Peak 8100.*

I unfolded my pad into my bivy sack, donned all my layers, wrapped myself in a down quilt, hopped in the bivy sack, and began boiling water and making Mountain House. It was quite a chilly bivy. Sleep was attempted, but not achieved. The glacier was low-angle, but it was enough that my bivy sack wanted to take me on a sled ride down into a crevasse. To solve this, I planted my ice axe uphill and connected myself with a sling under the armpit. I lost circulation in my left arm a few times. It started to rain and I was on the verge of making the call to pack up and dash for to the car (the weather forecast was supposed to be clear, so I hadn't packed a rain coat), but after a half hour it stopped. The rain wasn't the only thing above 32 degrees that night; there was a loud noise on the mountain behind me. I looked up to see that another section of ice had broken free of the snow line, adding fresh debris to the run-out and enlarging the section of bare rock underneath. I had already written off that route, but seeing that happen made me cross it off twice. It might have flown back in 2010, but not this weekend. At 6 a.m., I arose from the bivy and resolved to try one more thing before giving up; after all, I'd invested some decent legwork getting back to that point.

I would gain Peak 8100's south ridge (as close to the peak as I could) and scout for alternatives on the other side. Upon topping the ridge, I couldn't derive any concrete rejections from Peak 8100's southeast face. *"So you're saying there's a chance!"* The snow was super saturated and I traversed in a zigzag fashion up and over, up and over. The runnel channels I was required to cross were steep, deep, and plentiful. I had to get in and out of one runnel at a point where it had cut a 5-foot deep gorge into the snow. Dry boots would be impossible to maintain and I was glad to have brought two extra pairs of socks (which I would end up exchanging a total of six times throughout the trip). At 9:30 a.m., I topped out on the ridge and soon found myself wandering onto Peak 8100. The views to the north were great, but because the ridge was heavily corniced, I dared not peek down the steeper north side. There were some melted out rocks on Peak 8100 and after removing some, I had successfully fixed a flat perch for myself on which to rest. From 10 a.m. until 2 p.m. I attempted to acquire the sleep I had not received previously on the College Glacier. It was warmer

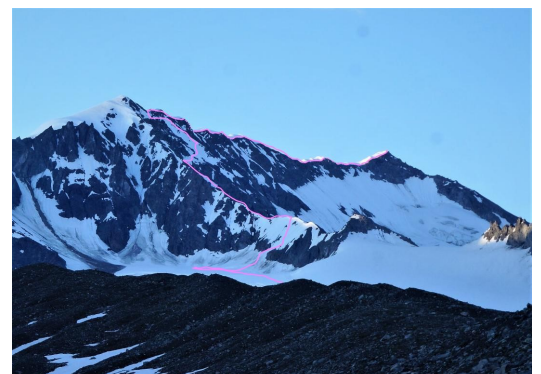
than it had been at night, but again it rained – this time for an hour. I can't say I fell asleep, but I was successful at recouping some mental energy that would be needed for the traverse ahead.

I stashed the majority of my gear and set off on the Grand Piano Traverse. It was the prime time of year to be doing the traverse

because the rocks (the actual ridge) had melted out and were visible. That allowed me to keep the ridge within hopping distance on my right while I walked on snow keeping the cornice (or at least the majority of it) at bay on my left. There was one short section of 55 degrees perched over a nasty fall, but the majority of the ridge was just slow, careful walking. At 3:40 p.m., I summited Peak 8110. My boots were wet and my feet only stayed warm as long as I moved them, so over the course of just 20 minutes, I ate an apple, took my pictures, and departed the summit. The Grand Piano Traverse was uneventful on the way back to my bivy site on the rocks of Peak 8100.

The day had been warm and I decided to bivy on Peak 8100 from 5 p.m. until 9 p.m. so that the mountain could have time to cool off. While resting there, I'd hear rock/snow slides going off every 20 minutes somewhere in the distance. Only once or twice could I visually pinpoint the slides. None occurred in the vicinity of my route. Eventually an hour had passed without hearing any slides, so at 9:30 p.m., I began the descent. The snow was still super saturated, but it was stable. I reversed my route almost step for step until I'd made it back across the College Glacier and was going back up the lovely pavement scree at 12:30 a.m. I made one last bivy on the gentle slope north of College Creek. I was finally able to get some decent sleep there, and I took full advantage of it, sleeping in until nearly noon. I had a blissful hike back to the car and reached it at 3:30 p.m.

From my beta-less Google Earth research I had pegged the success odds of this climb at 10%. Not only did the route go, but it was a fun and epic climb (even though I technically spent more time bivying than actually climbing)!)



*Route of the Grand Piano Traverse.*

## Schist Mountain (6301 feet), Hayes Range

Text and photos by Shane Ohms

July 27<sup>th</sup>-28<sup>th</sup>, 2019

Sophie Tidler and I had newly acquired packrafts that we were both eager to put on the water. The weather was looking less than ideal for mountaineering in most places, but it looked good enough for a float down in Healy. Sophie's friend and co-worker, Leigh Clark, had packrafted the Carlo Creek loop once before and sold us on the trip idea. On Friday we slept at a pullout near Panorama Mountain and on the following morning we staged vehicles and headed up Carlo Creek. At first, the trail seemed to be going up the ridge to the west of Carlo Creek, but then it sidehilled, then dropped down to the creek, and crossed to the east side at a large beaver dam. Shredded tufts of a sheep hide and a friendly ptarmigan were encountered. Eventually the creek took a 90-degree turn to the east for 2.5 miles and then a 90-degree turn back to face south.

This last stretch up to 5150-foot Pinche Pass would have been nice if it were still a snowfield, but at the end of July, it was a field of quite large rocks. Up at the pass, it began to rain an almost misty ocean type of rain and the wind picked up. As soon as we were all at the pass, we began to descend down the back. The descent might also have been easier a month earlier in a snow boot pack, but with wet rocks and large packs it was a bit more of a challenge. I traversed until I hit scree and walked down on the rolling rocks (red line). Sophie and Leigh downclimbed (yellow line). At the bottom we discovered an unanticipated nuisance – black scum. The usually crunchy growth that covered all the rocks in the valley floor was now wet, intensifying the slipperiness of the rocks. As a result, it took a bit more care to make it over to the raised valley southwest of Peak 6301, Schist Mountain. Leigh went down to pitch the tent and relax on a green patch while Sophie and I picked away at the rock pile that was Schist Mountain's west face. At the summit we found three surveying markers labeling the mountain, an overturned surveying stand, and various other surveying paraphernalia. It occurred to me that 95 years ago I could have been paid to climb that mountain and survey the surrounding mountains. I guess I was born a century too late. Anyhow, the descent basically matched our ascent route. Back at camp, food was enjoyed next to a spring's comforting gurgle. Sleep came easily.

The next morning we made our way down to Schist Creek, crossing above a cabin. We walked a ways farther on a four-wheeler trail and eventually abandoned it, taking steep moose trails down to the Nenana River. Inflating the packrafts was simple, but it defi-



*The south side of Pinche Pass.*

nately helped to have Leigh, the veteran packrafter, giving us pointers. Two hours of easy floating later, and we were at the bridge where the second vehicle was staged. It was a great, easy weekend of cross-country travel. The only improvement to the trip would have been going earlier in the year when snowpack covered the rocks on both sides of the pass (or at least the north side).

*Upper Carlo Creek*



*Camp at the gurgling spring.*



## Esbay Peak (4025±25 feet), Western Chugach Mountains

Text and photos by Marcin Ksok



*Greg Encelewski on the summit of Esbay Peak.*

A bushwhack of all bushwhacks, Esbay Peak's sole redeeming quality is the five-mile bicycle (or all-terrain vehicle for the motorized crowd) approach; that's where it ends. The muddy, but brushless, logging road in Bird Valley ends at a gate, where we stash our vehicles and begin hiking. A good trail takes us to the ford of Bird Creek, where we diverge and try to follow the east bank of the waterway. Heavy growth immediately blocks the progress and we move away from the bank and find intermittent flagging, which we follow as best as we can and eventually lose in the tangle of fallen spruce, alders, and devil's club. Bushwhacking aficionados would rejoice in this environment. As we approach the creek draining Bird Glacier [Ed. note: Quartz Creek] things thicken and we battle for every foot of ground gained. The heavy vegetation



*Greg Encelewski's and Marcin Ksok's route led under the foliage and between the branches.*

aids in crossing, as we could get on the other side using low branches and dead-fall. The opposite bank offers relief, almost a game trail? On the southern flanks of Esbay, we turn uphill and find an acceptable passage between branches and under the foliage. Linking some grass slopes, we emerge above vegetation and gain the ridge, and in short order we reach the high point. Knowing what is ahead, we turn back reluctantly and imagine finding an easier way down. Of course such a notion is foolish, we miss the flagging, overshoot the ford site, and come out bruised, scratched, and worn down. We recommend this adventure to no one whatsoever and surely not in vegetation season. Of course if you really have to get to the top of this mountain and there is no talking you out of it, then proceed with heaps of patience and body armor.

## Sheep Mountain West (6209 feet), Sheep Mountain Range

Text and photo by Dan Glatz



*Views of the Central Chugach Mountains from the summit of Sheep Mountain West.*

One March day I found myself bored and driving north on the Glenn Highway, looking for something to climb. I found myself parked at a pullout by Gypsum Creek eyeing route options up Sheep Mountain West. Without skis, I threw on the snowshoes and followed a packed trail that began at the highway. As I approached some cabins, I soon realized why there was a packed trail, but having passed zero “No Trespassing” signs and seeing no human life, I decided to press on. After the cabins, my nice packed trail disappeared and I was left post-holing in crusty snow.

I accessed a ridge that ran to the northwest and appeared to go all the way to the summit unobstructed. Once I hit 3500 feet, the ridge was mostly clear of snow, which was a major relief. Travel sped up and the views got better with every step. Around 5500 feet an unforeseen gendarme forced me off the ridge. I dropped around to the south and traversed rotten snow bands and scree slopes before eventually regaining the ridge around 5900 feet. From there it was a quick walk to the summit on the only supportive snow that I came across the whole day.

## Hershey's Kiss (a.k.a. Repeater Peak) (6415 feet), Central Chugach Mountains

Text and photos by Mat Brunton



*Looking at the line on Hershey's Kiss from the Worthington Glacier parking lot.*

Peak 6415 is one of the prominent peaks in the Worthington Glacier area of the Thompson Pass/Richardson Highway corridor of the Central Chugach Mountains. It seems to be most often referred to as “Hershey’s Kiss,” given the resemblance (albeit white, instead of milk-chocolate colored) to the candy. It’s also known as Repeater Peak, as it has a radio repeater near the summit (which was actually kind of trippy, given that on approaching the summit (on April 15, 2019) I heard a conversation between multiple individuals, but knew this peak was seldom climbed and even more seldom skied).

I reconnoitered a climbing and skiing line on the north face of Hershey’s Kiss while on the Girls Mountain and Acapulco mission (see the August 2019 *Scree*) weeks earlier. It seemed like it would be intense, and it definitely lived up to my expectation: steep from the base, only to get STEEPER and more exposed near the top. It required weaving through rock banks around the upper 2/3 to 3/4 of the north face, and I’m not sure whether this section fills in enough to be skiable every season. The 2018-'19 season was fat up high, and it went. The deep snowpack in the alpine, and having skied in the area just about every month since October (watching the glaciers fill in), made me feel comfortable with the solo glacier travel on good-visibility days. Even with boot-top-deep soft snow, the steepness was very exciting – and would be harrowing if firmer. Crampons and an ice tool were essential, and that tool was getting

plunged deeply and firmly for the entire upper third of the north face.

It’s worth noting that, by far, the biggest hazard faced on that trip was the Alaska Snowboard Guides helicopter. They buzzed me flying a group to the Acapulco shoulder. Shortly thereafter they were back with another load of clients, which they dropped right above me on the shoulder of Hershey’s Kiss’ east ridge. They had no excuses for not seeing me, as they checked me out when dropping the group on Acapulco and also hovered around me before landing above me. As I was traverse skinning across an approximately-50-degree slope through heli track slough from the prior day, and they were landing directly above me and I was getting rotor-washed, I figured they were going to just say “f--k it” and ski the clean slopes adjacent to their tracks from the day before – dropping in right on top of me. I’m not sure if that was their plan or not. Fortunately they skied a more easterly line off the shoulder on the east ridge. Either way, I made sure to let them know my discontent by screaming “F--K YOU” and flipping them off. I was also prepared to assault the lead guide that would have endangered my life. For more thoughts on the Wild West heli scene at Thompson Pass, see the June 2019 *Scree*. In regard to the ever encroaching carbon gluttony of heli-skiing in other regions of Alaska (like the very popular Hatcher Pass area that is in the most densely populated region of the state), and the State of Alaska Department of Natural Resources absurd favoring of grossly

unsustainable motorized recreation over more sustainable and healthy non-motorized recreation, visit <https://anchorageavalanchecenter.org/culture/helis-hatcher-pass-profitteering/>.

Adding to the intensity of the line, fog passed through as I was climbing the north face.

From the summit ridge, I got a great view of the Sapphire Peak ridge that Taylor Brown and I had traversed the entirety of in September 2018 when it was in alpine rock climbing form (see the January 2019 *Scree*).

This being day three of a four-day ski-peakbagging bender (I had already done Sunyata Peak and Three Pigs, and would do Berlin Wall the next day) I was a bit tired, but had enough in me for another run. I skinned up to the ridge between 27 Mile Peak (Point 5450 about a mile east of Sapphire Peak between the Twentyseven Mile Glacier and the Worthington Glacier) and Sapphire, summited a couple bumps, and descended back down lovely north-facing spring powder.

To view a short video of the trip, visit <https://anchorageavalanchecenter.org/trip-reports/central-chugach/hersheys-kiss-aka-repeater-peak/>.



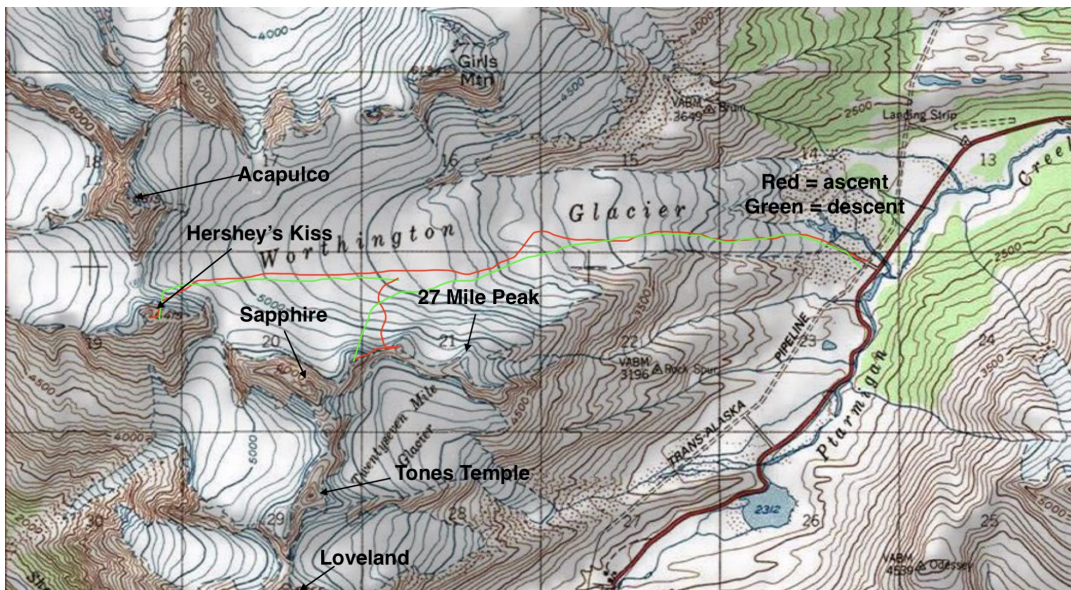
*Adding to the intensity of the line, fog passed through as Mat Brunton was climbing the north face.*



*Approaching the east ridge of Hershey's Kiss.*



*Approaching the east ridge of Hershey's Kiss.*



## Wrangell Mountain and Nutzotin Mountain Climbs, July 2019

Text and photos by Danny Kost



*Point 7864 from the east along the east fork of Cooper Creek in 2007; Point 7864 is on the right of the photo, Notch Creek and the unnamed glacier at its headwaters.*

On July 7<sup>th</sup>, I drove out to Nabesna for a flight to the Nutzotin Mountains. I had planned on returning to a cluster of peaks near Cooper Pass I had seen years earlier while hiking the Cooper Pass route from Nabesna to Chisana. Kirk Ellis was going to fly me in and our flight was delayed until late in the day due to the heat and smoke from wildfires burning near the Canadian border. The smoke was pretty intense and visibility was probably a half mile and less at times. Finally around 8 p.m. or so, we loaded up the plane and flew into a small landing site near 5400 feet along the west fork of Cooper Creek near the pass where it starts to drop down to flow toward the Nabesna River. As we flew in, Kirk noted that the Nabesna River was running as high as he'd ever seen it. It was flowing through the trees and covered the whole valley. It was extremely high, as were all of the smaller streams flowing down out of the mountains. As we flew in, we discussed options to skirt the streams to get back down to the Nabesna River off some of the ridges. Finally, I decided my plans to hike and packraft back out were ill advised, and we agreed Kirk would pick me back up instead. As we circled to land I noted that all of the nearby streams were flooding and blocked my access to a number of the higher peaks I'd planned to climb. We were having an unprecedented summer of hot, dry weather, and wildfires were

burning everywhere.

On July 8<sup>th</sup>, it was extremely smoky, but I wanted to reconnoiter to see my options for climbing. I climbed southwest from my high camp at 5400 feet, which sat along the west fork of Cooper Creek near the pass before it dropped down toward the Nabesna River to the north. I followed rocky debris fields before accessing loose scree to ascend a ridge trending south-southwest. Most of the climbing was steep, loose scree, but never technical. As I approached the 7500-foot level, I traversed a narrow ridge before reaching the summit of Point 7800+. My altimeter read 7864 feet (North 62 degrees 14.9430 minutes, West 142 degrees 33.2419 minutes). The smoke blocked visibility beyond a mile or so, but I could see a possible

route west along the ridgeline to access several other, higher peaks. I did notice the surrounding glacier streams and Cooper Creek were flooding and cut off my access to most of the high peaks. I retraced my route back to high camp. It was so dry and hot this past summer that the tundra was dried out and even the wet tussock was dried out. I had a tough time finding any clear water to drink. I only found one tiny stream coming out of a rock glacier about a half mile west from camp. Even it only ran for a couple hundred yards before disappearing again.

On July 9<sup>th</sup> it was still extremely smoky. But I left the same camp and hiked southeast and then east around a ridgeline that splits the two Cooper Creek drainages to access the east fork of Cooper Creek, which flowed into and out of Blue Lake. As I came around this ridgeline, there was one small stream of water that was big enough to fill water bottles. Other than that, it was dry. I also looked south to check out Notch Creek and it was flooding, so I was cut off from that direction to access the higher peaks I had planned on climbing. At 5000 feet I started climbing east up slopes toward a rock glacier that flowed west off the ridgeline between Peak 7750 and Point 7660. Point 7660 lay on the ridgeline between Cooper Creek and upper Star Creek just east of



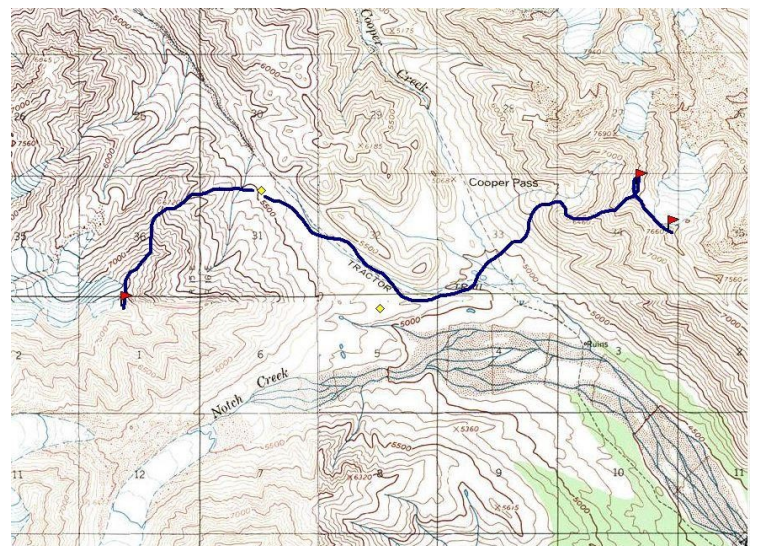
Cooper Pass. I ascended the rock glacier to around 6000 feet where I turned south to access a ridge trending eastward toward a sub-peak about a half mile north of Point 7660. At the base of the ridge I found a splash of water trickling out of the rocks, so I scooped out the rocks and mud to create a small pool. I was hoping it would fill while I climbed, and I could refill my water on the way down. That steep gendarmed ridge looked like the best access to the upper ridge between Point 7660 and Peak 7750. The climbing was loose rock and scree with steep rock towers. The ridge narrowed as I ascended and the exposure had me worried with the loose sharp rock. It was a lot of scrambling and traversing with a few 5th-class moves on crumbly rock. While traversing around one group of rock towers, I found a Dall sheep leg – probably from a winter kill due to a fall or avalanche. The last few hundred feet I decided to go up a steep scree chute to break out on the upper ridge. With the thick smoke I got turned around and headed north along the upper ridge to two 7600-foot summits that lay between Point 7660 and Peak 7750. I took a rest to let the smoke clear and saw Point 7660 was to my south. Looking north, I noticed there was a steep rock tower along the ridge to the north toward Peak 7750, so I opted to climb Point 7660 a little over a half mile to the south and east. Non-technical ridge climbing brought me to the summit where my altimeter read 7651 feet (North 62 degrees 15.4772 minutes, West 142 degrees 24.7381 minutes). After a rest, I reversed my route. Back near the rock glacier, the pool I had scooped up was full of clear, cold water and I enjoyed refilling my water bottles before tackling the long walk back to camp. As I skirted the ridgeline that divided the two Cooper Creek forks, I jumped a grizzly which was disconcerting, knowing that I had a neighbor in the valley.

I decided to rest on July 10<sup>th</sup>, as climbing in the heat and smoke was tiring, and I was worried about the exertion in the thick smoke. I had picked out a route on a couple higher peaks to the west and it would be an extremely long day, so I wanted to be well rested. I also hoped maybe the wind would shift and blow out the smoke. July 10<sup>th</sup> was still smoky all day, and I was lucky enough to see a group of Dall sheep traverse the valley to get from one ridge to the next. I also got a visit from a couple of caribou that came right through camp. Later in the day the wind shifted and the smoke cleared a little. Things were looking good. However, just before midnight I heard thunder to the southeast toward Chisana. When I looked out, I could see a lightning storm coming. Since I was up high in open country, that was disconcerting to say the least. As the storm neared, the thunder was deafening and I had nowhere to hide. After riding that out for a couple hours, the storm dissipated. Then around 2:30 a.m., I heard what sounded like running footsteps. When I looked out, I saw my grizzly friend about 50 yards away running southeast.

Around 4:30 a.m., I decided to get up for my climb. As I was packing up, I heard thunder again off to the northwest, this time coming from Nabesna. Because the wind had shifted, there was also smoke now blowing in from Nabesna. There must have been a fire burning that direction. I was nervous about being exposed on the route I had planned to climb. I would be on a ridgeline above 7000 feet for more than five miles each direction – probably for 10 hours or more. After contemplating for a few hours, I decided to go ahead and fly out sooner than I had planned. With lightning storms now building every day, and smoke from a new fire as well as being cut off from most of the higher peaks, I figured I'd get out. I had done a couple climbs on Point 7660 and Point 7800+ (7864 feet) that might or might not have been first ascents, and I was OK with not being able to climb some of the higher peaks as planned. I finally got a message through my Garmin to Kirk and he had time to pick me up later in the day on the 11<sup>th</sup>. I found out that three new fires were burning in the Copper River Valley, and I drove through a number of thunderstorms as well.



*Point 7864 from Danny Kost's 5400-foot camp on west fork of Cooper Creek 2019; the summit is in the far back, just left of center; Danny Kost's ascent route went up the drainage on right then left up and over the center peak and along the ridge.*



# Peak of the Month: Mount Carpe

Text by Steve Gruhn

**Mountain Range:** Alaska Range; Carpe Ridge

**Borough:** Denali Borough

**Adjacent Pass:** Waggoner's Col

**Latitude/Longitude:** 63° 9' 9" North, 150° 51' 33" West

**Elevation:** 12550 feet

**Adjacent Peaks:** Mount Koven (12210 feet) and Mount Tatum (11140 feet)

**Distinctness:** 1800 feet from Mount Koven

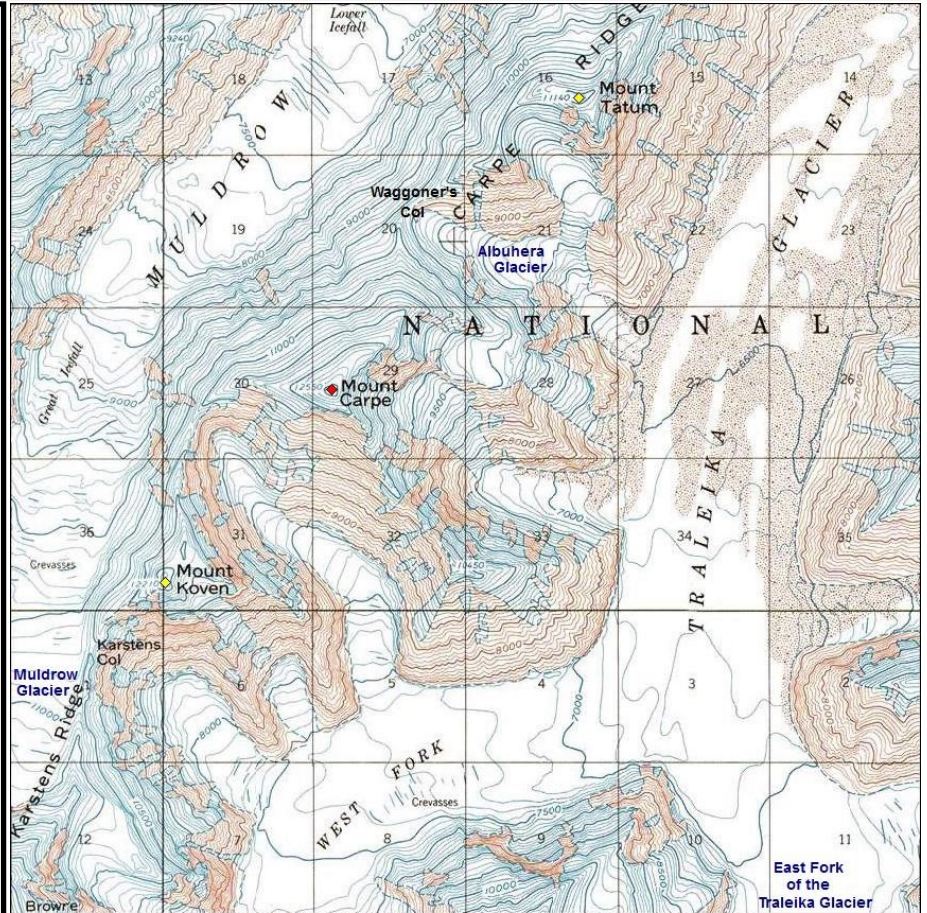
**Prominence:** 1800 feet from Denali (20310 feet)

**USGS Maps:** 1:63,360: Mt. McKinley (A-2); 1:25,000: Denali A-2 NW

**First Recorded Ascent:** August 17, 1965, by John H. Bousman, William Bousman, Earl Hamilton, William May, and Hallam Murray

**Route of First Recorded Ascent:** East buttress to the northeast ridge

**Access Point:** Wonder Lake



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

In 1925 Allen Carpé and five other men made the first ascent of Mount Logan (19540 feet). Carpé followed that ascent with the first ascents of Mount Bona (16550 feet) in 1930 and Mount Fairweather (15300 feet) in 1931 and upon his return was considered one of North America's finest mountaineers.

On April 25, 1932, Joe Crosson flew Carpé and Theodore G. Koven to the Muldrow Glacier to start an attempt to climb Denali (known at the time as Mount McKinley). On May 3 they were seen at 11000 feet on the Muldrow Glacier. On May 11 Alfred Damon Lindley, Harry J. Liek, Grant Harold Pearson, and Erling Strom found Carpé's and Koven's unoccupied tent and a diary with its last entry from May 9. Later that day they found



*View of Mount Carpe (below center) and the North Peak of Denali (upper right) from the Denali National Park road.  
Photo by Brian Okonek (used with permission)*

Koven's body and, later still, an open crevasse with signs around it indicating that it was the scene of a disaster. With this evidence, it became clear that one of North America's most accomplished mountaineers had perished.

On January 25, 1933, Horace Marden Albright, Director of the National Park Service, submitted a request to the U.S. Geographic Board (now known as the U.S. Board on Geographic Names) to name the ridge between the Muldrow Glacier and what was then known as the East Fork of the Muldrow Glacier (now known as the Traleika Glacier) in honor of Carpé. However, his request omitted the accent over the "e" in Carpé's surname. On March 1, 1933, the Geographic Board approved the request and the name Carpe



*Oblique aerial view of Mount Carpe (at center left) and the Muldrow Glacier. Mount Tatum is at lower left. The obvious crescent-shaped pass on the near side of Mount Carpe is Waggoner's Col. The west (right) ridge of Mount Carpe leads to Mount Koven and Karstens Ridge.*

*Photo by Brian Okonek (used with permission)*



*North aspect of Mount Carpe from the Muldrow Glacier in 2013.*

*Photo by Mark Westman (used with permission)*

Ridge became official.

On February 21, 1945, Henry Bradford Washburn, Jr., by then himself one of North America's most accomplished mountaineers, submitted a proposal to the U.S. Board on Geographic Names to name the 12550-foot highest peak on Carpe Ridge as Mount Carpé. Washburn's proposal noted that the peak was about two miles east of the suspected site of Carpé's death. The proposal was modified by the BGN staff, who reasoned that the already-official name of the ridge didn't have an accent, so the proposal for the summit shouldn't have one either. On July 23, 1947, the BGN approved the modified proposal and the name Mount Carpe (without the accent) became official.

The earliest known attempt to climb Mount Carpe began on May 26, 1956, when Warwick M.M. Deacock, John Donald Kinloch, E. James E. "Jimmy" Mills, and Derek Pritchard were flown via helicopter from Lake Minchumina to the confluence of the Traleika and Muldrow Glaciers. The team headed up the Traleika Glacier and then up a Y-shaped tributary glacier that they had named the Albuhera Glacier in honor of Deacock's Middlesex Regiment in the British Army. Albuhera was the principal battle honor for the Middlesex Regiment. By June 8 the team had reached the saddle between Mount Carpe and Mount Tatum, which Mills named Waggoner's Col in honor of his Waggoner's Corps of the British Army and from which they hoped to ascend both peaks. On June 9 the team reached the summit of Mount Tatum and returned to their camp at the col in a snowstorm. After waiting out the weather for a day and a half, a lack of food cut short their attempt on Mount Carpe and prompted their retreat to the Traleika Glacier. On July 7 the team was flown by

helicopter in two flights from the 4000-foot level of Cache Creek to Wonder Lake and then by floatplane from Wonder Lake to Lake Minchumina.

On August 2, 1965, William "Bill" May set out from Wonder Lake on foot, accompanying horse packer Berle Eli Mercer, his son, Mercer's son's friend, Virginia Hill "Ginny" Wood, and Wayne Merry, who ferried supplies to Oastler Pass. The team had hired a pilot to air drop supplies to them, but found that Mount McKinley National Park had recently implemented a new policy that prohibited air-dropping supplies on the north side of Denali. They were fortunate to have found Mercer on short notice just before the start of hunting season beyond the park boundaries. The following day John H. Bousman, William "Bill" Bousman, Earl Hamilton, and Hallam Murray set out across the McKinley River in hopes of reaching May, who would be at Oastler Pass that evening. The morning of August 4, May climbed Oastler Mountain (6415 feet) and that evening the five-man team was reunited at Oastler Pass. They moved camp to 6500 feet at the confluence of the Albuhera Glacier and the Traleika Glacier and from that camp they climbed Mount Tatum on August 14 and then camped at 8100 feet on the Albuhera Glacier. On August 16 the team set out for the north buttress of the northeast face of Mount Carpe, but were turned back by three feet of unconsolidated fresh snow at 10200 feet – snow that settled several inches around them with each step.

At 7:30 a.m. on August 17, 1965, the Bousman brothers, Hamilton, May, and Murray set out for the windblown east buttress of Mount Carpe's northeast face. By 5:45 p.m., the five had made the first ascent of Mount Carpe on an exceptionally clear day after having plowed through two feet of powder all the way above 11500 feet. In elbow-deep snow they plunge-stepped down the north buttress to Waggoner's Col in short order. Later

that evening they reached their camp at the 8100-foot level of the Albuhera Glacier.

On August 18 the team returned to their camp on the Muldrow Glacier and on the 19th they set up camp at 5500 feet on the Brooks Glacier. On the 20th they moved camp to the 7800-foot level of a Brooks Glacier tributary on the south side of Mount Deception (11826 feet), which they climbed on August 21. On August 22 the team moved camp to the 8200-foot level of a Brooks Glacier tributary east of East Pyramid Peak (11250 feet), which they climbed on August 26. The Bousman brothers and Murray climbed Mount Brooks (11940 feet) the next day. On August 28 the party re-occupied their campsite at the 5500-foot level of the Brooks Glacier and the following day moved camp to about the 2800-foot level near Cache Creek. On August 30 the team returned to Wonder Lake and the park road.

On May 19, 2006, Paul Roderick of Talkeetna Air Taxi flew Victor Afanasiev, Valery Bagov, and Oleg Banar from Talkeetna to the Don Sheldon Amphitheater. After establishing a base camp, the team set out on May 21 to a point on the ridge west of Traleika Col, and descended the East Fork of the Traleika Glacier to the West Fork of the Traleika Glacier. At 5:20 a.m. on May 28, the trio left camp near the 7300-foot level of the West Fork of the Traleika Glacier, climbed the south face of Mount Carpe in 9.5 hours, thereby making the second reported ascent of the peak, and camped 150 feet below the summit. Banar reported the ascent as having some snow on the lower part, then a large belt of shale, above which lay 600 meters of 40-degree ice, which he described as technical work. The team traversed the ridge over Mount Koven, ascended the Harper Glacier, reaching the summit of Denali on June 2. They retraced their route on the descent, re-ascending Mount Koven on June 5 and reaching the summit of Mount Carpe via the west ridge on June 6 for the third known ascent of the peak. They returned to their base camp in the Don Sheldon Amphitheater at 11:40 p.m. on June 10. Roderick flew the team to Talkeetna on June 11.

I don't know of a fourth ascent of Mount Carpe.

The information for this column came from the tributes to Carpe by William Sargent Ladd, II, Howard Palmer, and Henry Baldwin de Villiers Schwab on pages 507 through 514 of the 1932 *American Alpine Journal*; from Secretary of the Geographic Board John J. Cameron's letter to Albright, dated March 1, 1933; from Lindley's report titled "Mt. McKinley, South and North Peaks, 1932," which appeared on pages 36 through 44 of the 1933 AAJ; from Edward Pierrepont Beckwith's report titled "The Mt. McKinley Cosmic Ray Expedition, 1932," which appeared on pages 45 through 68 of the 1933 AAJ; from the BGN Case Study for Mount Carpe; from Mills' report titled "The Parachute Brigade Alaska Expedition, 1956," which appeared on pages 121 through 132 of the 1957 *Alpine*

*Journal*; from Mills' report titled "Traleika Glacier area, Mount McKinley Range," which appeared on pages 153 through 155 of the 1957 AAJ; from Mills' book Airborne to the Mountains; from John Bousman's trip report titled "Boston-Brooks-Traleika Expedition 1965," which appeared in the January 1966 *Scree*; from John Bousman's report titled "Boston Brooks-Traleika Expedition, Alaska Range," which appeared on pages 120 and 121 of the 1966 AAJ; from Banar's diary, as summarized at [http://shparo.com/Cook/cook\\_news.htm](http://shparo.com/Cook/cook_news.htm) and at [http://shparo.com/Cook/cook\\_map.htm](http://shparo.com/Cook/cook_map.htm); from pages 124 and 125 of the Summer-Fall 2007 *Appalachia*; from Joe Reichert's report on page 162 of the 2007 AAJ; from John Bousman's books An Alaskan Apprenticeship: Learning to Climb in a Hard Land and The Alaskan Years: Still a Hard Land; from my conversations with John Bousman; and from my correspondence with Bill Bousman, Murray, and May.



*South face and southeast ridge of Mount Carpe in the distance with Mount Koven in the foreground, as viewed from Browne Tower on Karstens Ridge. Behind and just to the right of Mount Carpe's summit is the summit of Mount Tatum.*

*Photo by John Skirving (used with permission)*



*South aspect of Mount Carpe in the distance with Mount Koven in the foreground, as viewed from Karstens Ridge in 2013.*

*Photo by Mark Westman (used with permission)*

# Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

October 30, 2019 at 6:00 p.m., UAA 105A CPISB

## Roll Call

Mike Meyers (President) - Present  
Gerrit Verbeek (Vice-President) - Present  
Jordan Haffener (Secretary) - Present  
Katherine Cooper (Treasurer) - Present  
Tom Meacham (Director) - Present  
Jonathan Rupp Strong (Director) - Present  
Lila Hobbs (Director) - Present  
Andy Kubic (Director) - Present  
Heather Johnson (Director) - Present  
Nathan Pooler (Director) - Present  
Visitors: David Montgomery (Huts Committee)

**Scribe:** Jordan Haffener

## Committee Reports

### President (Mike Meyers)

- Mike will be taking the first aid/CPR course to lead trips. Funds still available for those interested in leading trips.
- Training – still looking for Anchorage-based trip-leading people.
- December meeting with Kurt Hensel about yearly park pass for MCA trips and events.
- T-shirts – will look at creating club shirts and providing them to volunteers/etc.
  - Lila – idea to provide design crowdsourcing from the club – voting similar to MCA calendar could make for a fun event.
  - More discussion required on club apparel type and material.

### Vice President (Gerrit Verbeek)

- November speaker – Ross Noffsinger
- Christmas party – December 12 at Matanuska Brewing in Eagle River – presentation idea to be determined.
- Information dissemination channels:
  - Listserv is buggy.
  - Yahoo group doesn't have a comprehensive list of members – not using it consistently.
  - Will focus on keeping mcak.org and facebook group up-to-date.
- East Fork Eklutna trail clearing a success. Need to continue MCA presence to maintain good relationship/standing with Chugach State Park.

### Secretary (Jordan Haffener)

- MCA general meeting reservations are up to date.
- New board meeting location – plan to revert to BP Energy Center. Alternate option is REI.
  - November board meeting – November 20, 2019 (unanimously approved during board meeting).
  - December board meeting – December 18, 2019 (unanimously approved during board meeting).
    - ◆ Heather has offered up her house for these two meetings because the BP Energy Center is booked during those dates.

### Treasurer (Katherine Cooper)

- Discussed IceFest final numbers
- Christmas party budget discussed – general agreement to increase budget slightly to account for increased attendance after changing to Matanuska Brewing (\$300 to \$500).
  - Because Matanuska Brewing not charging reservation fee, board is planning to use the location reservation budget on pizza like last year. People will still pay for their own drinks.
  - Discussed option of purchasing Costco cards to maximize budgeted spend.
    - ◆ Need to confirm Matanuska Brewing's willingness for us to use these.
  - Andy brought up idea of scheduling a formal activity before party to incentivize attendance – idea like run up Mount Baldy beforehand.
- Dues collected are substantially over projections for 2019 budget (\$15,500).
- Substantially underspent on budget, due in part to lack of hut spending.
- Next year's budget has been adjusted to reflect this expected continued elevation in dues collection and assume increased in hut spending vs. 2019. Katherine has sent the draft budget to board members for review. Plan to include budget information/voting announcement in December *Scree*.

### Liability Committee (Tom Meacham)

- By-Laws revision – Tom to review changes.
- Tom sent the liability waiver to Chugach State Park and a few questions and requests for clarification
  1. Pointing out loophole preventing us from having the general public from filling out a liability waiver when using the huts.
    - ◆ Need to discuss this with Kurt Hensel.
  2. Do we have the power to prevent commercial operators from using our huts?

- ◆ Requesting that the Department of Natural Resources requires commercial operators and clients to pay MCA membership in order to use the huts.
3. Tom, Gerrit, and Mike will meet with Kurt Hensel to discuss this plus MCA park pass.

#### Parks Advisory (Tom Meacham and Ralph Baldwin)

- Tom provided an update on meetings around opening and approving the black bear hunt in the upper McHugh Creek drainage.
  - Appeal has been filed to fight the approval and Tom will keep us posted .

#### Trips Committee (Needs chair)

- We don't have a Trips or Training Committee currently due to lack of people. Voting and decisions will be pushed to executive board.
- Discussed ways to boost the amount of trips and creation of recurring trip ideas
  - Board to start brainstorming trip ideas.
  - Choosing ideal locations where large volumes of people won't cause environmental impacts. Ideas include Rabbit Lake, Powerline Pass, backside of Eklutna Lake
  - These are ideally one-to-two-day events (Friday night/ Saturday events)
    - ◆ Winter – Flattop winter campout
    - ◆ Fall – Ice Fest
    - ◆ Spring – Serenity Falls Hut in February – Gerrit to book hut.
    - ◆ Summer – location/activity TBD
      - \* May – weekend immediately following May general meeting (May 8-10). Activity TBD
      - \* June – TBD
      - \* July – TBD

#### Training Committee (Gerrit Verbeek)

- Crevasse-rescue class is highly requested.
  - RIG has facilities on Spenard Road that could work for all the rope-work things – Andy knows more about this and whom to contact.
  - Looking for training leaders .

#### Scree (Steve Gruhn, Dawn Munroe)

- Reminder that monthly submission deadline by the 11th of each month.

#### Huts Committee (Jonathan Rupp Strong, Greg Bragiell, Cory Hinds, Vicky Lytle)

- 2020 – Dnigi Hut inspection to be done to determine needs of hut.
- 2020 – Scheduled for Rosie's Roost reskin. Plan and materials are currently being worked up

Scree—December 2019

- Mint Hut sign for outhouse is done and waiting for someone to take out there.
- Ten-year master plan – working draft currently. The board agreed completing this plan is important to provide vision and a plan we can follow.
  - 2020:
    - ◆ Reskin Rosie's Roost (MCA funded) – Stan Olsen to lead. Planned for June/July.
    - ◆ Mint Hut work (grant funded) – Dave Staeheli to lead. Planned for September.
  - 2024:
    - ◆ Fix Bomber Hut's entry and windows (grant funded)
    - New Hut – currently planned for 10 years out. Committee discussed desire to push plan forward to 2021.
    - ◆ The board discussed priorities on if we want to push forward new hut timing.
      - \* General agreement that we don't want to stifle excitement about hut development, but the board is not OK with pushing the plan to 2021.
    - Concern that there is a lot of work to be completed in one summer. Worry that we will have to return grants for work not completed .

#### Awards Committee (Tom Meacham, Charlie Sink, Max Neale)

- Nomination notice has been sent. Waiting for nominations to come in and be reviewed.
- Max has replaced Steve Gruhn on the Awards Committee .

#### Communications Committee (Lila Hobbs)

- Website has been upgraded as much as we can without spending a significant amount of money.

#### Calendar Committee (Mike Meyers, Lila Hobbs, Vicky Ho, Andrew Holman)

- Calendars will be ready for the November meeting.

#### Mentorship (Lila Hobbs, Katherine Cooper)

- Google forms available for interested mentors or mentees.
- People are looking for mentees.
- Discussed options like a discussion board to show people a live list of available mentors/mentees.
  - We have a meetup group that we pay for with a ton of members in it that could serve this purpose.
  - We have almost too many outlets. Need a consistent outlet/discussion board.

#### Library (Charolette Foley)

- Reminder that library is at Hoarding Marmot.

#### **Date and Location of next Board Meeting**

- November 20, 2019, 6:00 p.m. at UAA CPISB 105A.

## Proposed 2020 Budget

REVENUE		Budget 2020	Budget Change	Actual 2019	Approved 2019	Actual 2018
Membership Dues	received during calendar year	\$16,000.00	\$2,680	\$15,607.99	\$13,320.00	\$11,985.00
Scree subscriptions		\$180	\$0	\$225.00	\$180	\$225.00
Training	<i>BMS, ice climbing, rock climbing, other</i>	\$5,500	\$100	\$5,086.00	\$5,400	\$4,760.00
Photo Calendar		\$3,000	\$700	\$2,423.00	\$2,300	\$2,901.00
MCA Products: T-Shirts, Patches, Etc.		\$400	\$200	\$710.00	\$200	\$95.00
Interest on Accounts		\$100	(\$4)	\$0.00	\$104	\$96.00
Other - Donations, etc	<i>Donations, check reimbursements</i>	\$500	\$500	\$455.00	\$0	\$10,140.00
<b>TOTAL REVENUE</b>		<b>\$25,680</b>	<b>\$4,176</b>	<b>\$24,507</b>	<b>\$21,504</b>	<b>\$30,201.00</b>
<b>EXPENSE</b>						
Training	<i>campsite, access fees, instructors, trip leaders</i>	\$4,500	(\$1,245)	\$3,701.67	\$5,745	\$3,914
Scree	<i>postage, mailing, printing</i>	\$2,000	\$200	\$1,239.95	\$1,800	\$2,164
General Meeting	<i>rent, refreshments, entertainment</i>	\$1,800	\$336	\$42.63	\$1,464	\$1,091
Administrative	<i>supplies, PO box, web site, ads, travel, misc.</i>	\$1,000	(\$30)	\$578.64	\$1,030	\$514
Hut Construction & Maint.	<i>materials, supplies, hut equipment, lease fees</i>	\$20,000	\$7,210	\$3,176.09	\$12,790	\$30,002
Insurance	<i>reincorporation fees, insurance</i>	\$110	\$0	\$100.00	\$110	\$104
Club Equipment	<i>climbing gear, misc equipment, storage</i>	\$800	\$91	\$480.24	\$709	\$452
Library	<i>new books, periodicals, storage</i>	\$150	(\$262)	\$0.00	\$412	\$259
Other:	<i>miscellaneous expenses</i>					
Photo Calendar		\$1,800	(\$28)	\$1,530.00	\$1,828	\$0
MCA Products: T-Shirts, Patches, Etc.		\$500	\$500	\$300.00	\$0	\$0
Other - Awards		\$500	\$395	\$0.00	\$105	\$102
Other -		\$0	\$0	\$0.00	\$0	\$981
<b>TOTAL EXPENSE</b>		<b>\$33,160</b>	<b>\$7,167</b>	<b>\$11,149</b>	<b>\$25,993</b>	<b>\$39,584</b>
<b>DUE TO (FROM) RESERVE</b>		<b>(\$7,480)</b>		<b>\$13,358</b>	<b>(\$4,489)</b>	<b>(\$9,383)</b>

## General Meeting Minutes

November 6, 2019, 6:30 p.m. at the BP Energy Center

- Proposed budget announced that it will be in the December *Scree*.
- Jordan Haffener – check that currently scheduled January 8th meeting has been reserved at the BP Energy Center.
- Huts – announcement of Rosie's Roost re-skin and Bomber/Mint Huts repairs for 2020.
  - Greg Bragiel – call for volunteers to help in Huts Committee and hut work.
- MCA shirts – who is interested and for what kind of shirt?
  - Interested – decent amount of interested people
  - Type – no interest for cheap T-shirts. Want something that can be worn while getting after it.
- Andy Kubic – announced plan for a hut "race" in May. Call for volunteers to help plan the event.
- Dave Hart – Chugach State Park Citizens Advisory Board
  - Openings available on board.
  - Looking for volunteers to help in future trail work on Bold Overlook Trail next year.

**Choate's Chuckle** - Tom Choate

**A:** The route guide said to sling a rock.

## Mountaineering Club of Alaska

President	Mike Meyers	<a href="mailto:mcmeayers24@msn.com">mcmeayers24@msn.com</a>	Director 1 (term expires in 2020)	Jonathan Rupp Strong	202-6484
Vice-President	Gerrit Verbeek	903-512-4286	Director 2 (term expires in 2020)	Lila Hobbs	229-3754
Secretary	Jordan Haffener	<a href="mailto:Jordan.haffener@gmail.com">Jordan.haffener@gmail.com</a>	Director 3 (term expires in 2021)	Tom Meacham	346-1077
Treasurer	Katherine Cooper	209-253-8489	Director 4 (term expires in 2021)	Heather Johnson	<a href="mailto:hjohnson@mdausa.org">hjohnson@mdausa.org</a>
			Director 5 (term expires in 2021)	Andy Kubic	<a href="mailto:andy.kubic@gmail.com">andy.kubic@gmail.com</a>
			Director 6 (term expires in 2021)	Nathan Pooler	<a href="mailto:Nathan.lee.pooler@gmail.com">Nathan.lee.pooler@gmail.com</a>

Annual membership dues: Single \$20, Family \$30

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](mailto: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](mailto:MCAScree@gmail.com). Material should be submitted by the 11th 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](mailto: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: Katherine Cooper—209-253-8489 - [membership@mtclubak.org](mailto:membership@mtclubak.org)

Hiking and Climbing Committee: Hans Schlegel—[hans.schlegel@live.com](mailto:hans.schlegel@live.com) or [hcc@mtclubak.org](mailto:hcc@mtclubak.org)

Mentorship: Katherine Cooper and Lila Hobbs—[mentorship@mtclubak.org](mailto:mentorship@mtclubak.org)

Huts: Greg Bragiel—350-5146 or [huts@mtclubak.org](mailto:huts@mtclubak.org)

Calendar: Vicky Ho—512-470-8640 or [hovcky@gmail.com](mailto:hovcky@gmail.com)

Librarian: Charlotte Foley—603-493-7146 or [library@mtclubak.org](mailto:library@mtclubak.org)

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

*The late Doug Buchanan on the summit ridge of Point 8100  
looking toward Peak 8110 (Grand Piano) on January 1, 1976.  
Photo by Earl Redman*

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