

the SCREE

Mountaineering Club of Alaska

DECEMBER 2022

Volume 65, Number 12



**"It doesn't have to be
fun to be fun."**

- Mark Twight

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**General Meeting Friday,
December 16, 2022, from
7:00 to 11:00 p.m. at
Pizza Man in Eagle River.
MCA 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—Abbey Collins assisted by Dawn Munroe

Cover Photo

Renee Ernster at the Tonsina Benchmark east of Peak 5052 in the Chugach Mountains.
Photo by Dave Hart

GENERAL MEETING

Friday, December 16, 2022, from 7:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m. at [Pizza Man restaurant](#), 16410 Brooks Loop #1, Eagle River

MCA Christmas Party

The MCA Christmas Party is back! So, grab those holiday sweaters and join us for pizza and a good time. The Christmas Party will serve in place of the December General Membership Meeting. (There will be no meeting December 7.)

There will also be a limited number of calendars for sale at \$14 a piece. Cash and check only.

Article Submission: Text and photography submissions for *the Scree* can be sent as attachments to 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.

Trips

January 21-22, 2023 MCA Arctic to Indian trail maintenance. Brushing/ clearing first five miles of trail starting at Arctic valley trailhead. Overnight camping trip OR day trip. Trip leader Greg Bragiel, email: unknownhiker@alaska.net

Eklutna Traverse April 10-17, 2023 (corrected dates) Glacier travel. Must have appropriate experience with glacier travel and attended Avy 1 training. 8 participants maximum. Trip leader Greg Bragiel unknownhiker@alaska.net.

Geographic Name Changes

At its November 10 meeting, the Domestic Names Committee of the U.S. Board on Geographic Names approved the names Little McLellan Peak and West McLellan Creek to amend the existing names McLellan Peak and McLellan Creek. These features are in the Boulder Lake (formerly Squaw Lake) drainage at the head of Lake Creek east of the Teedriinjik River (formerly North Fork of the Chandalar River) in the Brooks Range. The existing names had become official on September 8 when the BGN approved them as replacement names for Little Squaw Peak and Squaw Creek, respectively, in response to Secretary of the Interior Deb Haaland's determination that the word "squaw" is derogatory. The September replacement names, however, were identical to the existing names of nearby features. The BGN has a long-standing policy that states that duplicate names in close proximity are undesirable, thus prompting the November 10 approval of the amendments to the September replacement names.

Steve Gruhn

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



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



Announcements

Glacier Travel, Classroom Primer

Joe Stock Christmas Special

Hello Mountaineering Club of Alaska! Have you been daydreaming about skiing the Eklutna Traverse but don't know where to start? Joe Stock has joined forces with the MCA to offer you a Christmas Special. We are accepting 24 well-prepared students to participate in an evening workshop series. Please review the requirements and session dates prior to signing up.

If you are unable to enroll in the workshop but would like to learn about the basics on your own, Joe Stock has made his publication available to you here: <https://tinyurl.com/mvk8ze7h>

Glacier Travel Classroom Primer

Taught by Joe Stock, AMGA/IFMGA Mountain Guide, this workshop is a classroom primer for glacier travel as applied to ski mountaineering.

Tickets are available here:

[Glacier Travel Classroom Primer Tickets, Multiple Dates | Eventbrite](#)

This event is open to **members** of the **Mountaineering Club of Alaska** on a first-come first-served basis. We have limited spots, so please only take a ticket if you are able to attend both sessions and have the minimum required gear to attend. (Note: ticket will say Dec 6 but this is for both occurrences listed below).

Minimum Requirements

Refer to the full list of Crevasse Rescue Gear here: <https://tinyurl.com/mvk8ze7h>

1. Harness
2. Belay device
3. 10 meters (33 feet) of 5 mm accessory cord
4. 4 locking carabiners
5. 4 non-locking carabiners

More information about Joe Stock can be found on his website: <https://www.stockalpine.com/glacier-travel-course>

Session 1: Gear and Roping Up

- Date: Dec 6, 6:00 pm - 8:00 pm
- Venue: BP Energy Center (1014 Energy Ct, Anchorage, AK 99508) in the Spruce/Willow room
- Description: Bring your gear to set up harnesses. We will cut and burn cord and stretch out ropes outside in the parking lot after an initial discussion.

Session 2: Rescue Basics

- Date: Dec 20, 6:00 pm - 8:00 pm
- Venue: RIG Training Facility (6601 Arctic Blvd, Anchorage, AK 99518)
- Description: Prussiking and haul demos.

Isthmus Icefield, Kenai Mountains

Text and photos by Chelsea Grimstad



Camp on Snow Glacier.

In mid-April 2021, a fortuitous combination of weather and days off aligned for Gerrit Verbeek and I to attempt a trip we'd had our eye on for a while. Inspired by Mike Records' 2017 blog post detailing his ski trip across the Isthmus Icefield, we decided this was the ideal opportunity to go for it. Whereas Mike's group chose to traverse the full distance from Moose Pass to Whittier via Grant Lake, linking a glaciated route from the Snow Glacier to the Whittier Glacier, we opted to exit via the Burns Glacier and ski to our dropped car at the Portage visitor's center.

The trip also afforded a head-to-head comparison of two ski setups which we had discussed endlessly and never agreed upon: Nordic skis vs. alpine touring (AT) gear? With the painful memory of a long, sunny day in AT boots during a recent Bomber Traverse-in-a-day attempt seared into my mind (and onto my feet), I was quick to choose the Nordic setup and was willing to settle for the consequences: mainly, hair-raising downhills. With speed, quick travel and happy feet in mind, I opted for my BC 90 Nordic skis equipped with light kicker skins. Gerrit, however, opted for secure descents and bomber climbing ability on his full AT setup. Our fates were sealed as we packed all of these things into a kind friend's aged Subaru for the drop-off point in Moose Pass on a Monday night, having left Palmer around 6:30 p.m. after work.

After a restful sleep tucked in the mostly-dry leaf-strewn beds

formed by melted-out spruce tree snow wells, we ascended a trail to Grant Lake which I had fortuitously stumbled upon during a family trip in the area years before, now covered in a thick layer of breakable crust snow. This made the descent to Grant Lake harrowing on the skinny skis, and Gerrit triumphantly sped past me as I performed one of my many "Nordic skier walks of shame" to avoid a crash on the crusty snow. It seemed too early in the trip to careen into something and break a ski (although honestly, there's no good time to break a ski). Once on the glittering lake surface, however, the Nordic skis came into their own, making quick work of the gloriously flat 6 miles in morning sun. This was followed by several hours of tricky route finding along a creek which plunged merrily under wafer-thin snow bridges, through steep gorges, and many other places where we could not follow, leaving us to clamber over rolling terrain of spruce forest with a dense floor of impenetrably icy snow. Despite the merits or detractors to their use, an unexpected series of flagging tape markers occasionally bolstered our hopes as we struggled to find a way through the difficult terrain. Eventually we rejoined the creek, which was fully snow covered as we ascended the valley to its origin at a small alpine tarn which was so graciously situated as to warrant vows of a promised return trip someday, despite the 'shwhack. Leaving this lake behind, we climbed a mellow pass to finally catch our first sight of the promised land: an uninterrupted vista of snow-covered ice and

stunning peaks. We felt like lottery winners as we surveyed our domain while eating dinner overlooking our first glacier terrain. Dropping several hundred feet onto the Snow Glacier (accompanied by only a modicum of swearing on my part), we turned north and enjoyed an hour of smooth sailing up-glacier before setting up our first camp. While digging in our 'mid tent, katabatic winds picked up and promised a chilly night, so we bolstered the tent edges with snow blocks and hunkered down to enjoy hot miso soup and surprise beers which Gerrit had schlepped the whole way in his giant pack.



Wolverine tracks on Snow Glacier.

After a cold night, we were keen to get moving the next day and began moving up-glacier; I spent the first hour in nearly all my layers due to the chill of the headwind as we approached what I internally named "six mile pass" (because we watched it for six miles on our long, slow approach). On the map, this marked our brief tenure on the head of the Trail Glacier before rolling over a second pass to the Spencer Glacier. Through this section, multiple features confounded our 1997 USGS topo base maps, such as the stunning but slightly treacherous wind scoops. At the top of one pass, we had to backtrack to traverse around a 50 foot wall of sculpted snow which bisected the pass and forced us against an abutting wall of rock on one side of the pass. Mapped contour lines were also not to be trusted: at one point, my GPS indicated that we were a full 400 feet lower than the contour line of the map indicated, likely representing recession in the 25 years since the map was drawn.

Travel across these glaciers was dictated by wind, snack breaks, and Gerrit's many pleas for "boot breaks" to allow his feet a reprieve from the plastic ovens of his AT boots. As we traveled, distances shrank and expanded, and we were left with plenty of time to contemplate the pleasing tapestry of patchy clouds moving across the expansive canvas of snow and rock all around us. We passed wolverine tracks, elusive ski tracks, and many, many snow-machine tracks, which we grudg-



Gerrit Verbeek perfecting his "weird skier's tan" above Blackstone Bay.

ingly learned to follow as they often indicated the best way through the wind-sculpted passes. Gerrit whooped in joy as we flew down the long descent of the Spencer Glacier, his AT skis affording an effortless series of gliding turns on the steeper rollovers while I created cautious reverse skin tracks down the slopes on my long, skinny skis. In the heat of the afternoon, we enjoyed Crystal Light lemonade mix snow slushies, and discovered that my beekeeping pastime is

not entirely anathema to ski adventures, as a small bar of beeswax heated in the hand was a perfect anti-glop therapy for wet skins in the glare of an afternoon sun.

Our final pass afforded a stunning view of Prince William Sound as we descended toward our evening campsite at the top of the Burns Glacier, poised for a morning exit before the weather changed. A steep rollover descent to the Burns left me booting down while Gerrit again crowed the merits of his skis and I cursed my mediocre skillset and choice of gear. The next morning, we broke camp under an increasingly clouded sky and began the biggest unknown of the trip: would the Burns go? As we descended, surrounded by steep cliffs with stunning ice still clinging to them, I noted skate ski tracks in the hard-packed snow: one, then two, then a whole gaggle of them. My people! This gave confidence in the exit, and we both enjoyed dropping down the mellow Burns Glacier onto Portage Lake. As we skied past Portage Pass, chased now by rapidly-descending clouds, we could smell the sea breeze of Whitter on the other side. Twenty minutes later, a wet snow

was pushing us across the lake to the car, and, later, long-awaited Thai food ("the best Thai food south of Fairbanks") in Anchorage. In the end, the scorecard was roughly even: I ended the 43-mile trip with unscathed feet and a happy six-mile skate across Portage Lake, while Gerrit marked his slow progress on full skins reminiscing of powder turns above the Spencer Glacier in the sun, anticipating an ice-cold Crystal Light slushy.

Peak 5930 and Peak 6045, Talkeetna Mountains

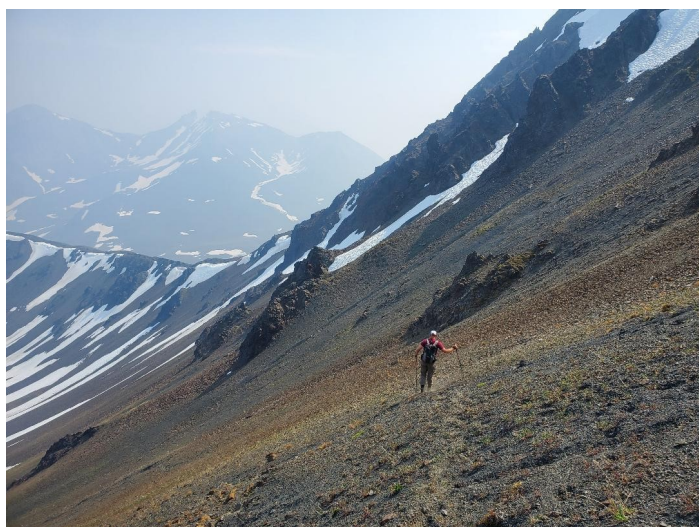
Text and photos by Kaleb Notte, unless otherwise indicated



Dave Hart scrambling Peak 5930 with Peak 6045 in the background.

Dave Hart and I accessed these mountains by crossing Ahtna Native land off the Denali Highway, which requires an inexpensive hiking and camping permit from the Ahtna Native Corporation website. There is a four wheeler trail just east of Edmonds Creek that brings you to alpine terrain. There is virtually zero bushwhacking on the route. Dave Hart and I stayed left of the creek all the way to our camp about one mile east of Edmonds Lake. After we dropped camp, we ascended the northeast ridge of Peak 5930. Loose scree on the way up to the ridge made travel slow on the way up but fast going down. The ridge was easy cruising, and the final summit block of Peak 5930 was a third-class scramble.

On the second day we woke up to heavy smoke, but we decided since we are already out there we might as well go for our second objective. We gained a ridge and followed game trails to a 5,200 foot pass where we dropped 800 feet to the valley. We lugged a rope and climbing gear up the southwest face of 6045 because, from the approach, the high point of the peak seemed to be a massive pinnacle. We gained the ridge and climbed what seemed to be the high point. After measuring with a clinometer, we were able to verify the pinnacle is a bit shorter, making this route class two.



Dave Hart following game trails from the pass on our descent back to camp.



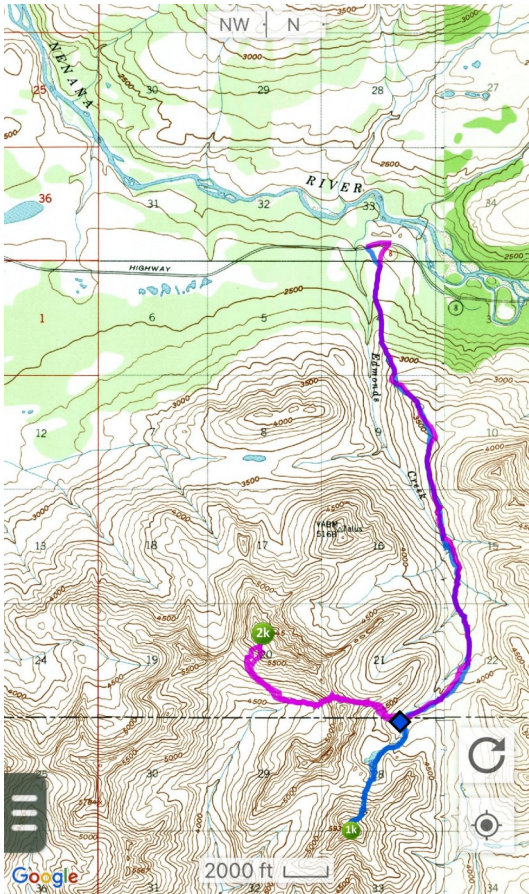
Looking southeast from summit of Peak 6045.

Peak 5930 from camp.



Morning views.

Peak 6045.



Route map.



Kaleb Notte heading down a scree field on Peak 5930 as smoke rolls in.
Photo by Dave Hart

Tonsina Ridge Traverse, Chugach Mountains

Text by Renee Ernster



Dave Hart stops for a rest high on a ridge on day 4, looking northeast to the Tonsina River on right and Copper River in the distance.

Photo by Renee Ernster

In July 2021 Dave Hart and I flew to the Chugach Mountains and got dropped off for a four-day, one-way, west-to-east, Tonsina Ridge traverse hike. The day before we shuttled a car and all-terrain vehicle from Valdez to Mile 74 of the Richardson Highway, and bike shuttled our ATV five miles north along the Alyeska Pipeline access road to the base of our exit from Tonsina Benchmark. We placed the four-wheeler north of the bridge parking to shorten our return by a few miles on the pipeline road. See the purple line for the exit by four-wheeler. It would have been a long day just on that section!

It was surreal to be standing on a mountain in less than an hour of leaving Valdez. I felt like we were on a poster for the Sound of Music, until a menacing rain squall came after us within 20 minutes of landing! We started scrambling to get the tent assembled, and just as the wall of rain hit us, we dove into our tiny shelter. We only had to wait it out for maybe 20 minutes, then packed up for an evening hike to summit Peak 4935.

The next day was a pleasant ridge hike before descending into some beautiful valleys. We crossed by a small lake before our final push to a ridge to camp for the night. I love my lake baths; I'm not terribly clean afterward, but they are quite refreshing! On our way up to the ridge, we saw a huge brown animal cruising along a game trail to the lake that I just bathed in 30

minutes earlier. It could have been a moose. Probably a bear. I'm still trying not to think about it. The next day was another pleasant ridge hike with a final push to Peak 5500 [*Ed. note: This peak is called Vice Peak on bivouac.com.*]. We were treated to some amazing views of the glacier lakes below while we sipped on the Arizona green teas that Dave magnanimously carries for me. We then followed the long ridge line down to the valley floor through one of the more unpleasant bushwhacks I've had the displeasure to experience. I took another lake bath before we started back up the next valley to search for some flat ground to lay our heads for the night.



Looking southwest from our second camp at 4400' to P5340 and four other peaks we climbed earlier that day.

Photo by Dave Hart

The final day was another beautiful walk along ridges, drops into green valleys, and rest stops of tea and snacks. We pushed a bit faster that morning as the weather outlook that afternoon was not good. We got to our final goal of the Tonsina Benchmark at 4,863 feet and looked around at the remains of an old communications tower before the final challenge of connecting with the ATV that we left in the woods. When we were about halfway down, we heard loud clacks of lightning strikes on the mountain above. That could have been absolutely terrifying if we were only an hour slower that day. We happily found the ATV and enjoyed a well-earned, if not a bit of a wet ride back to the car. The next stop was a heavenly plate of Drunken Noodles at Auntie Yum Yum's in Valdez to complete the adventure.



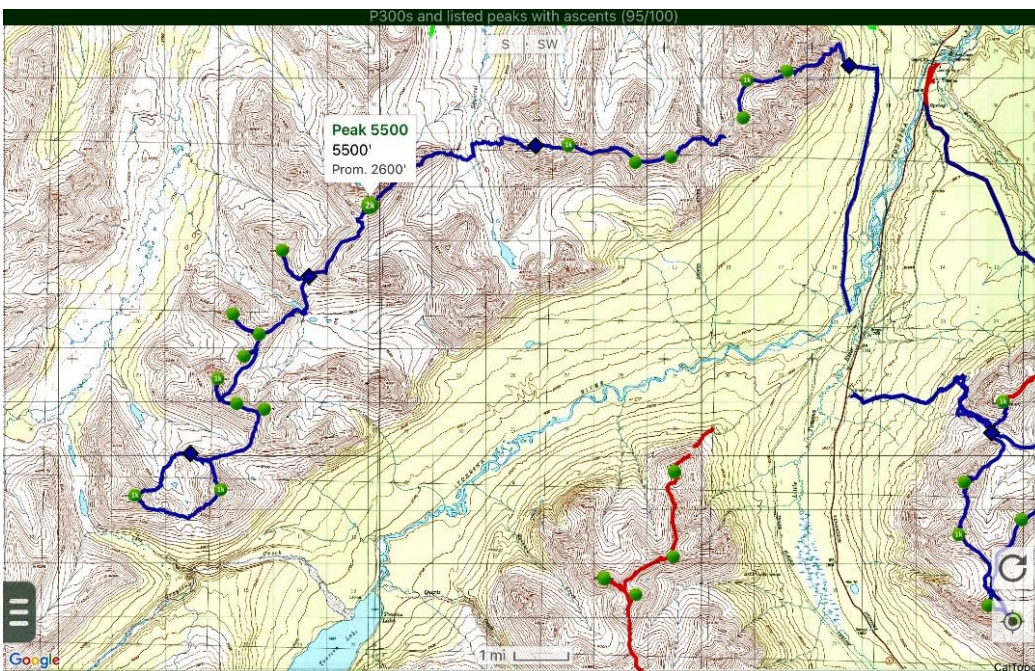
*Renee's feet picture can be amended after her text to include "Turquoise colors of Tonsina Lake below."
Photo by Renee Ernster*



*Renee descending through alders and looking back to the northwest side of P4935 on our first evening.
Photo by Dave Hart*



*Renee ascending south ridge of P5340 looking south to P5043 and Tonsina Lake in the distance.
Photo by Dave Hart*

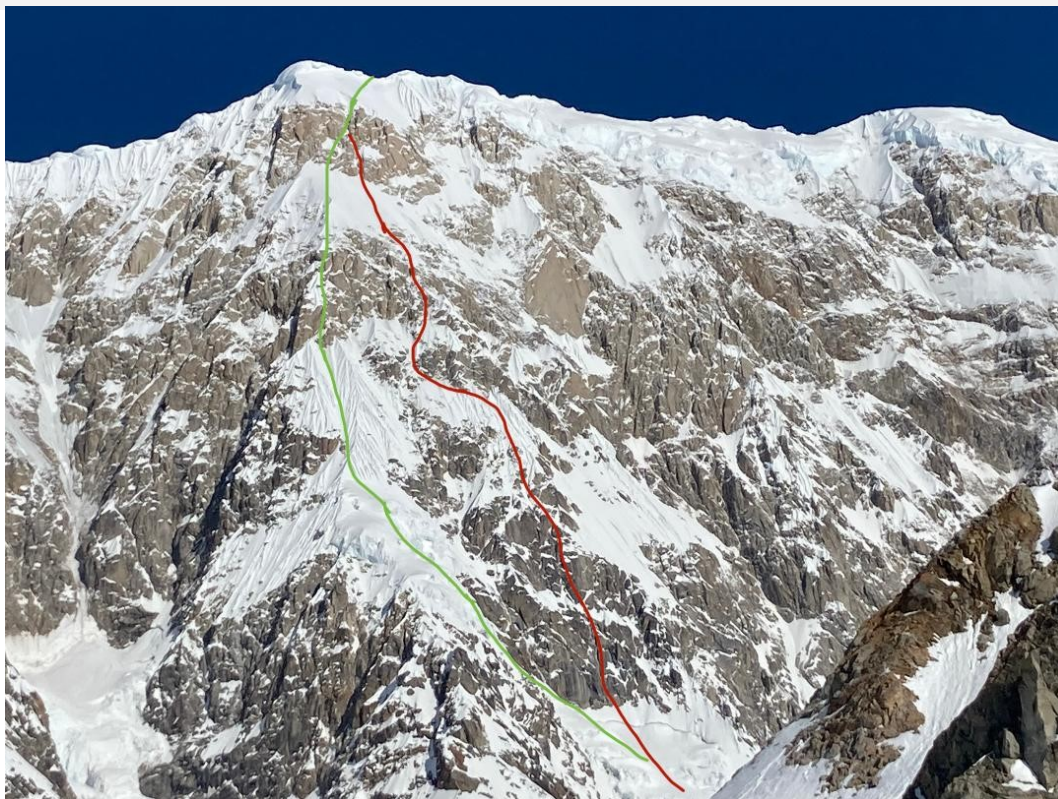


Dave Hart's blue track map from the trip, including a couple peaks Renee didn't visit. Note a small gap in the track when the GPS shut off on the east end of the ridge. Also, our three camps are marked with blue diamonds on the ridge, with the end of the ATV trail marked as the 4th diamond at the base of the eastern ridge.

We did 16 summits along the way including 1 P2K, 5 P1K, 4 P500 and 6 P300 peaks. Our route was 35 miles long and 14,000' elevation gain.

Isis Face (15,400 feet), Alaska Range

Text and photos by Sam Hennessey



The massive bulk of Denali hides many secrets. Each ridgeline spilling down from its summit holds countless facets and folds, each with enough relief to dwarf most mountains in the range, but easily forgotten against the high one lurking behind. The Isis Face is one such hidden gem. Invisible from the popular climbing destinations in the range, it rises 7,000 feet from the head of the West Fork of the Ruth Glacier, topping out at 15,400 feet along the South Buttress. It's remoteness, especially on descent, has led to a sparse history of ascents, starting with Jack Tackle and Dave Stutzman in 1982. The second ascent was more than two decades later, and involved storms, frostbite, and a major crevasse fall on the descent. Two more climbs in 2008, one by Mark Westman and Eamonn Walsh, and the other by the Giri Giri Boys [*Ed. note: Fumitaka Ichimura, Yusuke Sato, and Katsutaka Yokoyama*] on their historic enchainment into the Slovak Direct, round out the history of ascents.

Sometime in the mid-2010s, Jared Vilhaur and Seth Timpano let me in on a secret. To the right of the original line was a beautiful unclimbed chimney system that offered a more difficult and direct way to access the upper half of the Isis. In 2016, Seth and I, along with Willis Brown, flew into the West Fork of the Ruth intending to climb this line, but unsettled weather kept us on

smaller objectives. From Reality Peak, we stared over at the Isis, imagining an independent line snaking up the right side of the face. In 2017, the weather barely allowed us to get off the glacier, and in subsequent seasons, we moved on to other objectives.

However, 2021 was different. We arrived in Alaska in mid-April, and the forecast showed nothing but sun for the next two weeks. Other obligations kept Michael Gardner and I from climbing, until a scant 48 hours remained of this incredible window. We figured, however, that conditions could hardly be better for a speedy ascent. The complicated descent worried us, and we decided to bring skis along, for improved speed and safety.

Paul Roderick of Talkeetna Air Taxi dropped us off at the base of Peak 11301 in the West Fork at 8 a.m. on April 27. Thanks to the weeks of warm and sunny weather, a thick melt freeze crust coated the glacier, allowing us to cruise the three mile approach in a little over an hour. The first part of the face is a convoluted and cracked up pocket glacier, threatened by several seracs. Our intuition about the conditions proved correct, thankfully, and we were rewarded with easy travel up to the

beginning of the technical pitches.

The ice pitches started out easy enough, but after several rope lengths of WI3, the climbing got a bit more engaging. We now felt the downside of so much hot weather, as what we were hoping to be good ice turned out to be a rotten mess. The rock, however, was of high quality, which allowed us to stem widely around the ice, and make progress through what turned out to be the crux of the route – two pitches of M6 and WI5. A few more pitches of steep but more moderate ice led to the end of the chimney system, and the beginning of the route finding. We wove our way across wild snow flutings, and simul-climbed moderate mixed bands up to the base of the final rock band.

The scarcity of previous ascents had left many questions in our minds about the original route, but we assumed that we would rejoin it at that point. However, it got dark at this point (it was still April, after all), and the weakness we were aiming for turned out to contain several pitches of steep ice in a narrow chimney, which was quite challenging with the skis on our back! Eventually, however, the terrain turned more moderate, and we found a piton that assured us we were on the right track. As it turns out, the original line climbed more moderate ramps to our left. We pulled over the cornice onto flat ground after midnight, meeting a stiff breeze. We were happy to have brought a tent, and we piled in, massaging cold toes back to life, making hot soup, and finally spooning under our single sleeping bag for a few hours of rest before the sun arrived.

The descent turned out to be easier than expected, especially with the aid of skis. Aside from one icy section that required many rappels, we moved quickly. This section should not be taken lightly by future parties, however – many hanging seracs and unstable crevasses make the descent down from Margaret Pass to the East Fork of the Kahiltna Glacier very hazardous! Luck was on our side this time, and we arrived back in Kahiltna Basecamp only five hours after leaving camp, feeling like we were in the Bahamas after our frigid bivy! We called the route Anubis (V M6 WI5) as a compliment to the original Isis. It is a testament to the scale of terrain that the central Alaska Range still has real adventure to be found after so many decades of exploration. I'm certain that future climbers will find similar routes hidden in plain sight throughout the range.



Some of the harder climbing on the route up the Isis Face.

Peak of the Month: Little Singatook (3653 feet), Kigluaik Mountains

Text by Steve Gruhn, photos by Ian McRae

Mountain Range: Kigluaik Mountains

Borough: Unorganized Borough

Drainages: Eldorado Creek and Martha Creek

Latitude/Longitude: 64° 55' 3" North, 166° 4' 45" West

Elevation: 3653 feet

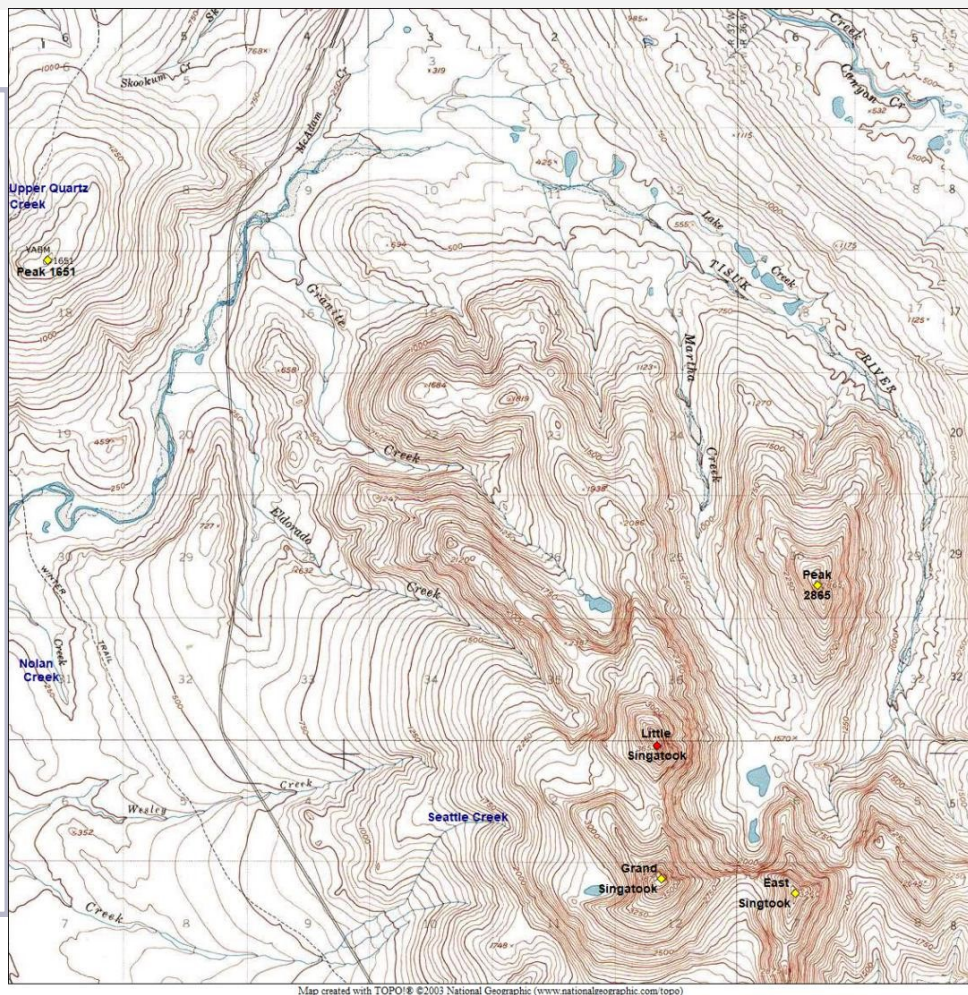
Adjacent Peaks: Grand Singatook (3870 feet) and Peak 2865 in the Martha Creek drainage

Distinctness: 828 feet from Grand Singatook

Prominence: 828 feet from Grand Singatook

USGS Maps: 1:63,360: Nome (D-3), 1:25,000: Nome D-3 NE

First Recorded Ascent: 1949 by a U.S. Army Map Service party



The Inupiat of the Seward Peninsula and King Island used two adjacent mountains at the western edge of the Kigluaik Mountains as landmarks for navigation as well as for weather forecasting. A cloud cap on the two peaks would commonly be correlated with a strong wind the following day as storms moved inland from the Bering Sea. Together these mountains were called *Singatook*, *Singatuk*, or *Synitoo*.

While conducting survey work on the Seward Peninsula in 1949, the U.S. Army Map Service landed a helicopter atop the northern peak of Singatook and cemented a survey disk stamped "Tisuk AMS 1949" on a rock ledge at the summit overlooking the headwaters of the Tisuk River.

In 1966 L.G. Madland made the distinction that Singatook was actually two separate peaks. He called the higher southern summit Grand Singatook and the lower northern peak Little Singatook.

On October 27, 2012, Ian McRae parked his truck on the shoulder of the Nome-Teller Highway at about Mile 41.7 and headed northeast on foot, ascending the broad ridge north of Seattle Creek. At about 2400 feet he departed the northwest ridge of Grand Singatook and headed east across the plateau that led to Little Singatook. From the plateau he ascended the steep, Class 2, west-southwest aspect of Little Singatook to the snow- and rime-covered tors atop its summit. The summit tor, though, required both McRae and his dog to solve a Class 4/5 mantel problem before standing atop the summit. The total hike had provided about 3,000 feet of elevation gain in just over 3 miles of travel.

The Nome-Teller Highway opened in 1965, thereby making more feasible ascents of Little Singatook without aircraft support. Given its proximity to the Nome-Teller Highway, Little Singatook might well have seen other, undocumented, ascents since 1965.

The information for this column came from William A. Oquilluk's "People of Kauwerak," which was published posthumously in 1973; from a transcription of 1949 U.S. Army Map Service field notes available at <https://www.geocaching.com/mark/details.aspx?PID=UW3867>; from Anne Sutton's and Sue Steinacher's 2012 "Alaska's Nome Area Wildlife Viewing Guide;" from McRae's October 31, 2012, "Kigsblog" post titled "Pk. 3653, 'Little Singatook';" from the Alaska Department of Natural Resources' 2017 "Historic Roads of Alaska;" and from my correspondence with McRae.



Northeast aspect of Little Singatook, showing from left: Canyon Creek (foreground), Peak 3420 (foreground), East Singatook (3260 feet) peeking out from behind Peak 3420, Grand Singatook, Little Singatook, and Peak 2865, as viewed from the summit of Peak 3875 in June 2015.



Southeast aspects of Grand Singatook (left) and Little Singatook, as viewed from the south ridge of East Singatook (3260 feet) in September 2017.

Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

October 26, 2022, 7:00-8:00 p.m. at King Street Brewing and via Zoom

Roll Call

Gerrit Verbeek (President) – present
Yelena Prusakova (Vice President) – present
Donell Irwin (Secretary) – present
Katherine Cooper (Treasurer) – present
Tom McIntyre (Director) – present
Andrew Holman (Director) – present
Matt Nedom (Director) – present
Heather Johnson (Director) – present
Andy Kubic (Director) – absent
Peter Taylor (Director) – absent with apologies

Scribed by: Donell Irwin

Updates

- Brian Miskill is confirmed for January 11th meeting, 15 min presentation
- September Helicopter mission update:
- Brad Nelson reported that the Bomber windows were installed, and the Mint Hut full barrels were flown out. There was no time to visit the Dnigi Hut or fly in empty barrels to the Mint. The barrel currently in use has about one year of capacity.

Mint Hut commercial use:

The board contacted an organization about a commercial group filling up the Mint Hut, which is a prohibited use under our lease. They responded that they were unaware and would avoid using our huts, and made a \$100 donation to the MCA.

Website Update:

Added a 'Chugach 120' list back under

<https://www.mtnclubak.org/members-peakbagging>

Board Discussion

- All board - Introductions of new and existing board members. Many members expressed wanting to focus on training, trips, member engagement, education, and engaging volunteers or paid guides.
- Yelena - Proposed plan for next year involving fundraising with the launch of streamable recordings of speakers. Fundraising would be used on speakers and ensuring trips and training.
- Yelena - Speaker Arlene Blum would like to come to Anchorage from March 26 - April 1 and partner with the MCA

for a fundraiser at Bear Tooth. Discussion of how to accommodate her travel plans.

- The MCA is a 501(c)(7) and limited by what fraction of total funding can come from non-members. For fundraising, encouraging individuals to become members is preferable to one-time charges or donations. Katherine update 10/27: no more than 35% of income from non-members; no more than 15% from non-members using our services or goods.
- Can we create a \$5 content access only membership tier? Yes, but it would need a general membership vote.
- Yelena - Alaska Airlines has a grant program which the MCA could qualify for.
- Can we make a way for members to check on planned hut traffic, while still understanding no one can reserve huts? Tabled for more discussion.
- Discussed also the legal rights around hut use (Glacier vs. Talkeetna)

Board Votes

- Voted to approve a fundraising event planned for Giving Tuesday, Nov. 29, to fund speakers and trips/training in 2023
- Voted to have further discussion of possible ways to let people notify each other if they intend to fill up MCA huts

Action Items

- **All Board** - spread word about the Wednesday meeting (possible options are Alaska Avalanche School, APU Outdoor Studies, Ski community, AMH, Facebook group)
- **Gerrit, Donell, Yelena, Heather, Matt** - Arrive at BPEC 20 minutes early on 11/2 to help with setup
- **Andrew** - Video 11/2 general meeting
- **Gerrit** - contact BPEC and learn about audio setup. Update website to show restrictions on commercial use of huts
- **Yelena** - Solicit Facebook group for Giving Tuesday, reach out to Bear Tooth. Inquire about Macbook.

Agenda items for next meeting

Next board meeting will focus on huts, and strategies to increase membership activity (some ideas given already include offering membership for volunteer hours, grant writing and new structure). We will continue to brainstorm ideas for the club to encourage involvement, and have ongoing conversation.

Time and location of next meeting

Next board meeting will be 2 hours in a quieter location

Mountaineering Club of Alaska 2023 PROPOSED BUDGET

2023 PROPOSED BUDGET

		Current for 2023	Proposed for 2023
REVENUE			
Membership Dues	<i>received during calendar year</i>	\$0.00	\$14,500.00
Scree subscriptions		\$0.00	\$0
Training	<i>BMS, ice climbing, rock climbing,</i>	\$0.00	\$2,500
Photo Calendar		\$0.00	\$3,000
MCA Products: T-			\$400
Interest on Accounts		\$0.00	\$100
Events			
Grants			
Other - Donations,	Donations, check reimbursements	\$0.00	\$500
TOTAL REVENUE		\$0.00	\$21,000
EXPENSE			
Training	<i>campsite, access fees, instructors,</i>	\$0.00	\$3,500
Scree	<i>postage, mailing, printing</i>	\$0.00	\$2,000
General Meeting	<i>rent, refreshments, entertainment</i>	\$0.00	\$400
Administrative	<i>supplies, PO box, web site, ads,</i>	\$0.00	\$4,500
Hut Construction &	<i>materials, supplies, hut equip-</i>	\$0.00	\$8,400
Insurance	<i>reincorporation fees, insurance</i>	\$0.00	\$110
Club Equipment	<i>climbing gear, misc equipment,</i>	\$0.00	\$600
Library	<i>new books, periodicals, storage</i>	\$0.00	\$75
Other:	<i>miscellaneous expenses</i>		
	Photo Calendar	\$0.00	\$1,800
	MCA Products: T-Shirts, Patch-	\$0.00	\$200
	Other - Awards	\$0.00	\$350
	Other -	\$0.00	\$0
TOTAL EXPENSE		\$0.00	\$21,935
DUE TO (FROM) RESERVE		\$0.00	(\$935)

CASH BALANCE - All

Beginning Balance -		\$57,355.03
Increase (decrease)		\$0.00
Current Balance for		\$57,355.03
	Checking - Credit Union 1	\$34,383.07
	Money Mkt and CDs - Credit	\$10,719.01
	Savings - Credit Union 1 (.7%)	\$11,005.84
	18-month CD - in trust for hut	\$1,182.11
	Petty Cash	\$65.00

Mountaineering Club of Alaska

President	Gerrit Verbeek	president@mtnclubak.org	Director 1 (term expires in 2023)	Heather Johnson	board@mtnclubak.org
Vice-President	Yelena Prusakova	vicepresident@mtnclubak.org	Director 2 (term expires in 2023)	Andy Kubic	board@mtnclubak.org
Secretary	Donell Irwin	secretary@mtnclubak.org	Director 3 (term expires in 2023)	Peter Taylor	board@mtnclubak.org
Treasurer	Katherine Cooper	treasurer@mtnclubak.org	Director 4 (term expires in 2024)	Andrew Holman	board@mtnclubak.org
			Director 5 (term expires in 2024)	Matt Nedom	board@mtnclubak.org
			Director 6 (term expires in 2024)	Tom McIntyre	board@mtnclubak.org

Annual membership dues: Basic (“Dirtbag”) \$20, Single \$30, Family \$40

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@mtnclubak.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. 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@mtnclubak.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@mtnclubak.org

Hiking and Climbing Committee: Vacant—training@mtnclubak.org

Mentorship: Katherine Cooper and Lila Hobbs—mentorship@mtnclubak.org

Huts: Greg Bragiel—350-5146 or huts@mtnclubak.org

Calendar: Lexi Trainer

Librarian: Gwen Higgins—library@mtnclubak.org

Scree Editor: Abbey Collins — MCAScree@gmail.com assisted by Dawn Munroe (350-5121 or dawn.talbott@yahoo.com)

Web: www.mtnclubak.org

Find MCAK listserv at <https://groups.io/g/MCAK>.

Dave Hart taking a break during the Tonsina Traverse. The weather during the trip varied between bright and sunny to downpours and lightning.

Photo by Renee Ernster

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