

the SCREE

Mountaineering Club of Alaska

NOVEMBER 2023

Volume 66, Number 10



“Climbing is one of the few sports in which the arena (the cliffs, the mountains and their specific routes) acquire a notoriety that outpopulates, outshines and outlives the actual athletes.”
— Jonathan Waterman

November Meeting

Thursday, November 2, 2023

6:00-8:00 p.m. at the BP Energy Center

Presentation to be announced

Contents:

Thiel Peak (5910 feet), Coast Mountains

Cannonball Creek peaks, Kenai Mountains

Peak 3620, Neacola Mountains

“The Technicolour Superdream” on Mount Huntington (12240 feet), Alaska Range

“Junk in the Trunk” on Elephant’s Tooth (4805 feet) and other climbs, Arrigetch Peaks

Sheepshead (5321 feet), Central Chugach Mountains

“Wild Goose Chase” on Peak 11301 (aka Mount Kudlich), Alaska Range

Scorpion Glacier Climbs, Cathedral Spires, Kichatna Mountains, Alaska Range

Peak of the Month: Knob Hill (1910 feet), Baranof Island

"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."

Cover Photo

Ethan Berkeland scoping the upper Arrigetch Valley with a fresh coat of snow and ice. Photo by Tristan O'Donoghue.

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*. Please send high resolution photo files separately from the main text file, including the captions for each photo. We prefer articles 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.

NOVEMBER MEETING

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Presentation: To be announced

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For the MCA Membership Application and Liability Waiver, visit <https://www.mtnclubak.org/membership>



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



Announcements

Proposals to Make Longstanding Geographic Names Official and for a Geographic Name Change

On behalf of the Alaska Historical Commission, the Alaska Office of History and Archaeology has requested comments from the MCA's Geographic Names Committee regarding proposals to make official two longstanding geographic names that are in common local use and to change another longstanding name on the grounds that the existing name contains a racial slur.

The first is an updated proposal to make official the name Mount Elliott for the 4710-foot summit west-northwest of Williwaw Pass in the Western Chugach Mountains. The peak is within Chugach State Park. The proposed name has been in local use since at least 1966, when Vin Hoeman's article titled "The Western Chugach Range, Alaska," was published on pages 98 through 104 of the 1966 *American Alpine Journal*, and commemorates Technical Sergeant Robert "Bob" Elliott Jr. of the U.S. Air Force, who had climbed Denali in 1958 and was killed in a May 1960 airplane crash at 17,000 feet on Denali while serving as a spotter during the John Day rescue operation. The MCA's Geographic Names Committee responded to OHA's previous request for comment on the proposed name on April 15, 2022; the Committee's response stated that the Committee could not endorse the proposal due to its longstanding policy of not endorsing proposals to name geographic features after people, whether living or dead.



Mount Elliott:
61.11786,
-149.54652

The second proposal is to make official the name Nanvarpak for a lake at an elevation of 165 feet in the Wood River Mountains. The Negukthlik River flows through this lake in the Togiak National Wildlife Refuge about a dozen miles northeast of Togiak. The name is a Yup'ik name that means "large lake" and has reportedly been in local use for centuries.



Nanvarpak:
59.10134,
-160.18997

The third proposal is to change the existing name of a stream in the Aleutian Range that flows into Chignik Bay from Dago Frank Creek to Frank Creek. The existing name has been in documented use since 1923 and commemorates Frank Sanguinetti, a commercial fisherman of Italian heritage, who lived near the stream north of Chignik Lagoon. Alaska Marine Pilots supports the proposed name change; the Chignik Bay Tribal Council does not.



Dago Frank Creek:
56.34024,
-158.63098

For additional information or to submit comments before October 25, contact Steve Gruhn at geographicnames@mtnclubak.org.

New Location for the Vin Hoeman Library

The MCA's Vin Hoeman Library has moved from The Hoarding Marmot to its temporary location at Gerrit Verbeek's home near Dowling Road and the New Seward Highway. Contact Gerrit at gerrit.r.verbeek@gmail.com to make visitation arrangements.

Nuggets in the Scree

Shane Ohms emailed to say that on September 24 Kris Voronin and he climbed the west ridge of Peak 5255 in the Jenny Creek drainage of the Alaska Range. They found no evidence of a previous ascent of this summit in Denali National Park, nor did they leave any trace of their presence on the summit. However, Shane reported losing a Go-Pro camera east of the Savage River somewhere between 3500 and 4300 feet on the southwest buttress of the west ridge. If found, I'm sure he'd appreciate its return.

We look forward to reading a detailed trip report of this ascent in an upcoming issue of *the Scree*.

Steve Gruhn



Peak 5255:
63.64367,
-149.17852

Thiel Peak (5910 feet), Coast Mountains

Text and photos by Matt Callahan

58.69693,
-134.75884



Thiel Peak (left) and the first scrambling sub-peak (right).

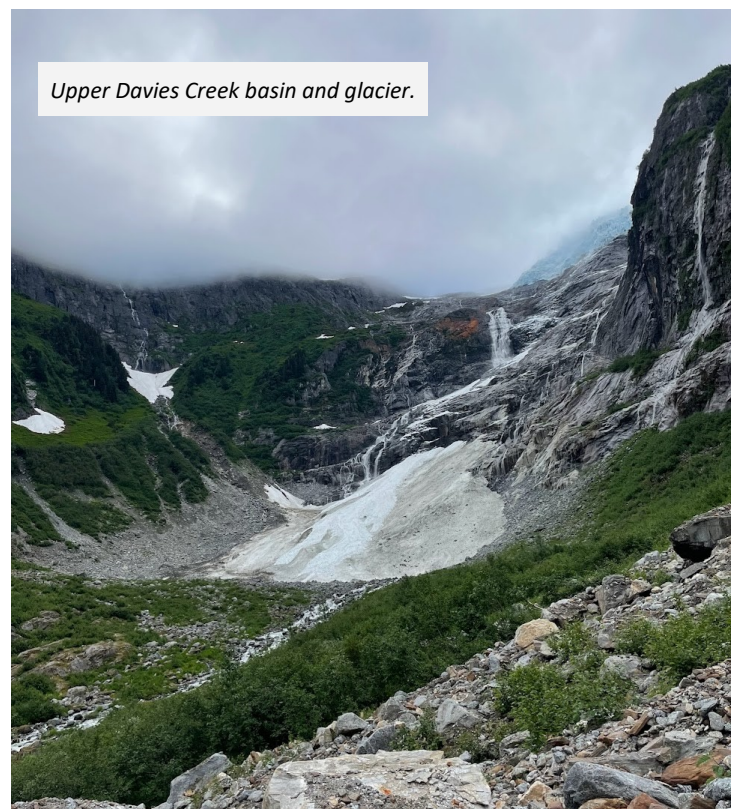
I sometimes leave my car keys in my refrigerator. That way it is harder to forget perishable food on mountain days with early morning starts. July 3, 2023, was not one of those days and I left without the pizza that was supposed to provide most of my calories. I was attempting Thiel Peak, a 5910-foot mountain accessible from the north end of the Juneau road system. This was one of the last peaks I figured that I could do in a day car-to-car from the road, and it also was probably a first ascent. It's too remote for most people and not inspiring enough for climbers, overshadowed by neighboring Horn Spire (6750 feet) and Shark's Tooth (5750 feet). I started out the Davies Creek Trail at five a.m. with four bars and an energy gel.

After a couple of miles, near a large meadow where the semblance of a trail ends, I heard what sounded like distant all-terrain vehicles. *Is someone else out here?* The trail had seen more traffic than in past years, but this was still a very infrequently traveled valley and I was skeptical that anyone else would be romping around this early. Instead of investigating I kept pushing on as I had a long way to go. Days later, I found out that a wildlife biology graduate student had set up motion-activated game cameras and speakers to study animal reactions to man-made noises. I wondered if the bears looked as puzzled as I.

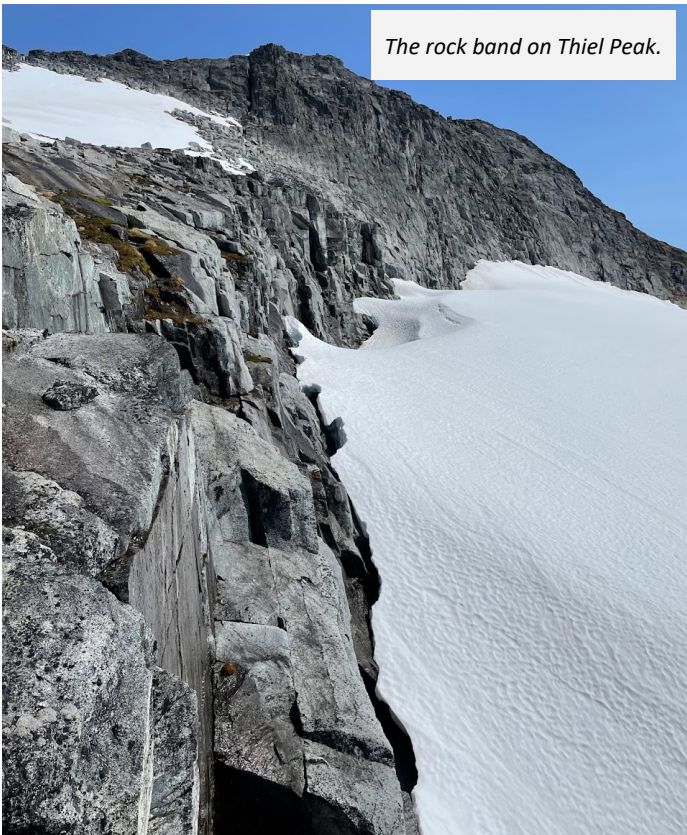
Most who venture to the end of Davies Creek Valley do so in winter for ice climbing, and the leafless brush is still formidable. I hadn't been here in summer in five years and had conveniently forgotten how much more heinous the devil's club is in full bloom. For probably a solid mile, a pinecone could fall out of a tree and hit at least three devil's club leaves on the way down. The layered leaves made it impossible to see my feet. Balance beaming along fallen logs provided the only, albeit dangerous,

reprieve from the spines. Everything was wet. When I slipped, I would close my eyes to not scratch my eyeballs. I reminded myself that I love the outdoors.

I needed to cross the creek in the upper basin to get to Thiel Peak. By now alders have replaced the devil's club/spruce forest and there are no large logs to cross. In winter, crossing is a simple matter of rock-hopping or even just walking across the frozen creek and I had thought nothing of this step when planning. To my dismay the creek was raging and I couldn't find any safe passage. I worked my way up along the creek edge, through the alders, finding nothing until I got to the lower Da-



Upper Davies Creek basin and glacier.



The rock band on Thiel Peak.

vies Glacier. This part of the glacier is really just the snow debris pile from the upper glacier calving, it is well in the firing zone from seracs above and I did not want to be there. I crossed just below the snow, then scurried back down toward the intended route as quickly as I could.

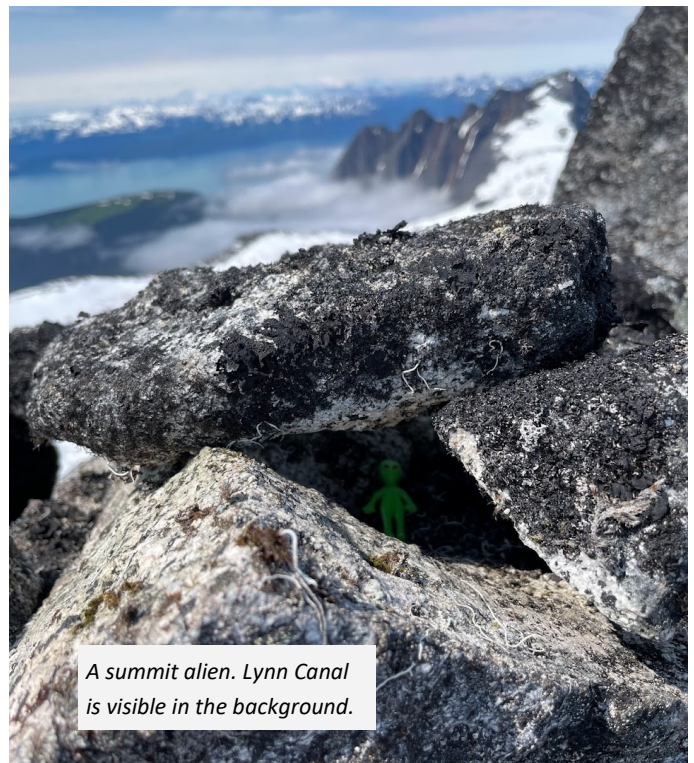
I finally began ascending, still through dense brush, but soon came to the crest of a forested moraine that dropped back down 200 feet! Surprise. After that I found, and lost, and found, and lost game trails to timberline. Whew! Now the fun part. Clouds obscured the mountains the whole morning. I was fairly confident that this was only a marine layer and would burn off, but soon I would need good visibility to route-find along the scrambly ridge to the summit. I kept marching up to the saddle between Dean Peak (5883 feet) and Thiel Peak in the mist, but just below the ridge I found myself surrounded by blue sky with a sea of broken clouds below me and jagged peaks jutting above like fantasy islands. This is what I had come for.

The first crux section of the ridge was an intimidating-looking 4th-Class scramble to a sub-peak that looked worse than it was. Then I traversed under the next sub-peak, where the rock changed from beautiful granite to abysmal-looking choss. A friend had gotten shut down scrambling at that spot while attempting Thiel Peak four years earlier. From photographs of the peak, I was confident that I could traverse low, but there was one rock band to overcome. An easy 20-foot 4th-Class down-climb overcame this for me, but it was the crux of the route a

month later when two other friends repeated the peak. Another 20 feet of snow had melted in the hot summer month and they had to rappel this rock band and lead back out on the return.

From there I could see the true summit and a short snow slog and 3rd-Class scramble later I was sitting on top. The summit block itself was an undercut diving board above a massive cliff. I crawled out onto it and then ate my last bar from a safer perch. The mercifully shorter north summit looked even wilder, a microphone-shaped block the size of a short bus would have required carrying a rope and rack all the way up here. In lieu of a summit register, I left a little green plastic alien that a friend's teenage son had randomly given me. No significance leaving it here, just continuing the randomness. He was stoked to hear that his alien now has a mountaintop home.

The ridge descent was mostly faster. I was able to glissade a lot of the snow. I tried to find a better way around that first sub-peak scramble and ended up mousing my way through a more exposed and committing path than on the way up. Oops. I skipped the moraine, found a lower creek crossing, and ate my gel as I gloved up for the devil's club slog. It was drier, so objectively less bad, I suppose, but it felt every bit as arduous in my depleted state. Once back at the car I zipped home, refueled with a big 3rd-of-July barbecue dinner, and stayed up past midnight to watch the fireworks with the family. The stats were a time of 14:01; 22 miles; and 7,700 feet of elevation gain, but they don't do it justice.

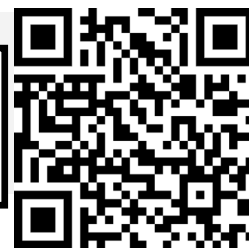


A summit alien. Lynn Canal is visible in the background.

Cannonball Creek Loop: Peaks 3820^, 4180, 4330, 4000^, and 3920^, Kenai Mountains

Text by Wayne L. Todd

Peak 4000:
60.74844,
-149.75719



The long cast of early-morning shadows.
Photo by Carrie Wang.

the Bushwhack Scale, but the little brown in-your-eyes flies are highly annoying.

When this travel is not really fun anymore, we stumble upon a rather good trail, the CPBP, amidst a grove of trees. *We'll have it easy-peasy now*, I think. As soon as we exit the trees, however, the alders, willows, and highbush cranberry (also known as Guelder-rose) put up some resistance as nature reclaims the trail. These are mostly in patches, so overall, the trail is still significantly better than being off trail, until the fields of grass, where the once-tall grass is now laid over. These large sections require trail finding by foot-to-trail hardness contact, as there's no visual. The grass wraps legs and feet, sapping energy and good forward progress, and causes us to lose the trail a few times. GPS is truly a wonderful thing, though.

A cute watermelon-size spined creature stops ambling and holds his ground as we pass (some call this a quill pig). When we're almost clear of the grass, our air gets extra clean by an hour-long rain shower. A last stand of hemlocks offers some excellent camping options, but we want to get as far as possible. Just slightly higher, Cannonball Pass is void of a water source, so we camp a bit lower on the flank of Point 3820.

Our alpine benched campsite is quite peaceful, quiet except for just faint water flow, with lovely views down-valley of our not so easy ingress (5 miles in five hours), but Carrie spies a grazing brown bear well above us. We decide it should forage elsewhere so a period of yelling and hitting poles together ensues. Unfortunately, the bear hadn't seen us initially, but is now quite curious. It continually descends our direction and just when I'm getting concerned (i.e., maybe it's time to stop taking pictures and also whack poles together [carbon-fiber poles are not good noisemakers]), it lopes off to one side. With limited views that way, we follow to make sure he's not lurking close by. We never see him again.

These summer camping trips seem to get fewer as time goes by, which is truly a shame. Admittedly, sustained poor weather, and being out of state is a factor for this year. After a standard freeze-dried (SFD) dinner, we're in the tent by 8 for a planned early-morning start with high hopes as the skies have

When a trail shows on GAIA it has to be viable, right? That trail, Cannonball Pass Boot Path (CPBP), leads to a set of peaks I haven't hiked so surely that's an easy outing. (A friend warned me that CPBP was likely overgrown, as hunters no longer use that area).

After a straightforward seven-mile bike ride up the Resurrection Trail (albeit rather muddy and quite slick in places), with light overnight packs, a mid-September morning finds Carrie Wang and me slightly north of the Caribou Creek Cabin. We can bike a mile farther for the "other" Cannonball Creek start, but the river looks a bit sporty for crossing, so we opt for the river-free ingress.

We should spend a bit longer searching for the trail start, but the forested terrain doesn't look that bad, so we head cross country, gently angling upward around the corner for Cannonball Creek Valley. The resistance is only about 4 out of 10 on

cleared up nicely. A calm night with no tent flapping, coupled with gentle brook white noise and no bear worries, leads to a restful night.

A crisp, clear morning embraces us with a serious frosting in and on the tent. After a SFD breakfast, and rigorous tent fly whipping, we're out at 8 a.m., with chilly hands and damp, chilly feet. Minutes later, we cross into the direct-sun zone, a glorious feeling, despite minimal warmth. Soon we're on Point 3820, with clean views of snowcapped peaks all around, especially of two larger neighbors to the south, next on the agenda. A winterish-feeling wind keeps us layered up, and appreciating long underwear.

An easy arc in just a smidgeon of snow and we're next on Peak 4180, with more Kenai Mountains views, but that stiff, chilly breeze still ensues. The route and gain are easy, but after our previous day's not-so-easy ingress, we're not super spunky. A slight backtrack and we're* next setting boot steps up Peak 4330 in a foot of near ideal snow. *We being Carrie and me doing quality control. For being just a couple hundred feet higher, the wind is serious on Peak 4330, with spindrift part of the view, which lends to a rather brief summit stay.

At White Creek Pass, we take a food break, out of snow and wind. I ditch my long underwear, perhaps a bit prematurely, and realize I lost a glove. Heading into the sun, we hike along the Point 3862 – Point 3920 ridgeline, which is warm on the calm, sunny south side, but quite nippy on the shaded, windy north side. A nearby super-bright red bearberry clutch and alpine lake draw attention.

The gradual pleasant hike up Peak 4000^ seems bigger than life with our fatigued legs. A shortish stroll to Point 3920^, and we're getting to egress route decision time. We've mostly decided against following this ridge down to the northwest, as that still would lead to five miles of off-trail hiking. The ideal plan is to descend directly toward the Resurrection Trail for an easy hike back to the bikes. The only caveat is that Resurrection



*A quill pig in fall foliage.
Photo by Wayne Todd.*

Creek comes first. Just below Point 3920, we spy whitewater on Resurrection Creek and note the steeper gradient there, so we opt for a descent following the fall line to the southeast, not as direct, but leading to a flatter gradient.

The descent goes rather well, avoiding most alders, utilizing tree cover and brush interfaces/borders. And there are none of the pesky brown flies. There is apprehension as we approach Resurrection Creek, as water sounds tend to amplify. Just above a hard-right turn on the creek, we finally see the actual creek. It looks very crossable. Yes! After a knee-deep and not-that-cold of crossing, we hike up a few benches to the highway of a trail.

Unlike our previous day's ingress where we saw a dozen folks, we see no one on our five-and-a-half-mile hike to the bikes. I realize on this section hike that I've never hiked the entire Resurrection Trail, plenty of bike and ski trips, though. Hiking does lend to a more intimate experience of the surroundings, and I see dozens of fungi and moss scenes worthy of photos, but we're concerned about exiting before dark. The cabins are occu-



Carrie Wang on Peak 4180. Photo by Wayne Todd.



Carrie Wang views the descent options. Photo by Wayne Todd.

ried, judging by wood smoke. At a field, a donkey is tied up outside a tent with smoke wafting from a stack, not a typical scene.

The bikes are a wonderful sight to me, and soon we're bumping along at a good clip, except for the still-muddy sections. The cooler temperatures with movement wind are ideal for feeling a

slight breeze through a headband, under a helmet. We roll into the trailhead 12 hours after starting our hike, adequate light still about. A burger and fries in Hope would have been so perfect, but understandably, they're closed at 9 p.m. on a weeknight in September.

Stats:

7-mile bike ride in with 800 feet of elevation gain on ingress, 200 feet on egress.

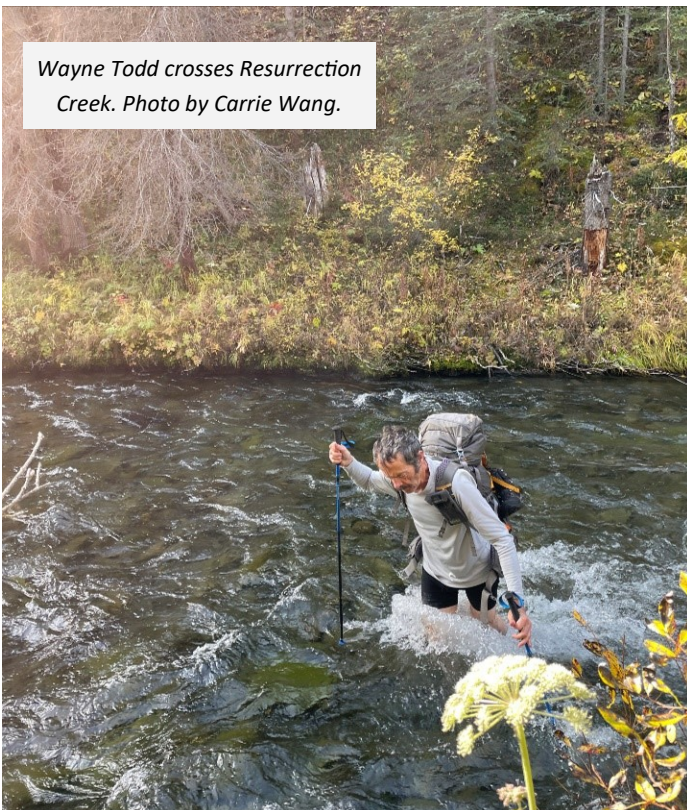
5 miles with 2000 feet of elevation gain to Cannonball Pass.

14+ miles exit over the five summits, including hike to the bikes, 3,100 feet of elevation gain (felt like double that).

^Point 3820 likely has just a 440-foot prominence. Peak 4000 is definitely a peak, with about 740 feet of prominence and is higher than Point 3920. My InReach recorded an elevation of 4058 feet on it. It's shown as being between 4000 and 4040 feet on the Seward C-8 NE map. Point 3920 likely has just a 340-foot prominence.

If you hike up the CPBP, take some loppers and a handsaw. Would be best to hike it before the grass lies over.

I contacted the Seward Ranger District about possible official trail maintenance on the CPBP, but was informed that because it's a social trail, they will not maintain any such trails.



Wayne Todd crosses Resurrection Creek. Photo by Carrie Wang.

Peak 3620, Neacola Mountains

Text and photos by Josh Mulkey

5 June 2022

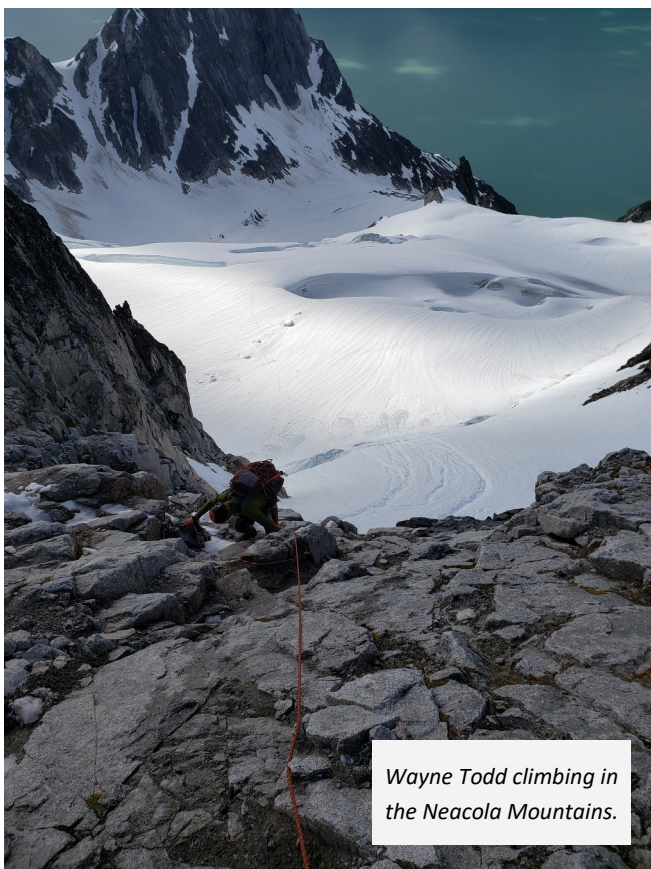


61.17575, -152.57321

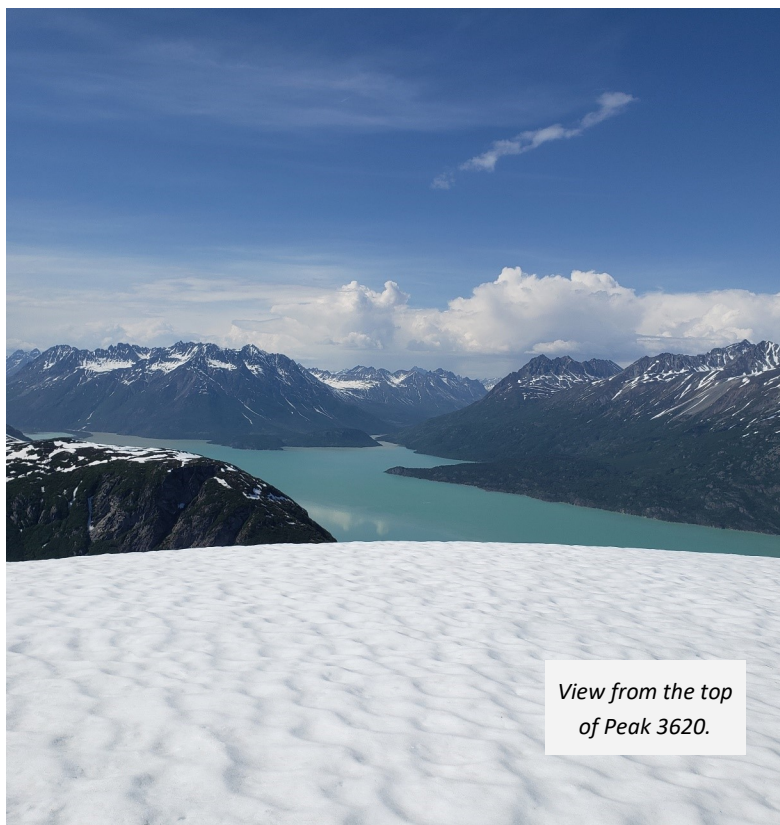
In the summer of 2022, I fortuitously spotted and landed on a beach on the southcentral shore of Ch'akajabena Lake. This landing area put resplendent Peak 3620 within reach. The hike was a mild bushwhack on the lower section, leading to mildly unpleasant post-holing on the upper snowfields. In all, the arduous ascent took less than two hours and I had the luxury of making the return trip under a glorified tent (speed wing). While the mighty 3620 is not much of an objective, the Neacola Mountains are beautiful. In the subsequent weeks, I returned to the area with partners to attempt slightly more ambitious objectives, although each time we were turned around by unfavorable snow conditions. Unfortunately, the landing area is ephemeral; each return trip in 2022 provided diminishing usable landing/take-off space and an inversely proportional level of stress around the take-off roll.



View of Peak 3620 from the beach.



Wayne Todd climbing in the Neacola Mountains.



View from the top of Peak 3620.

“The Technicolour Superdream” (1,300 meters, M6+ Wi5+ A2) on Mount Huntington (12240 feet), Alaska Range

Text, photo, and topo by Zac Colbran
April 19-21st, 2023

62.96787,
-150.89925



Like all good adventures, this one started over a few beers and a photo. It didn't take much convincing on Dane Steadman's part after he showed Grant Stewart and me a photo he had snapped the year before of a potential new line on the storied west face of Mount Huntington. Seven hundred meters of discontinuous ice snaking its way up corner systems from the lowest point on a buttress, culminating in an improbable looking traverse before intersecting with the Colton-Leach route. The potential line had everything that gets alpinists excited: a short 15-minute approach from the Tokositna Glacier base camp, a good ratio of technical climbing to snow slogging, and bomber-looking granite mixed climbing. Something we Canadian alpinists aren't used to.

Choc Quinn once said that alpine climbing is all about timing and hormones. A day after Paul Roderick dropped us off on “the Tok,” we woke up to a splitter bluebird day with forecasted stable weather for four more. The timing couldn't have been more perfect, and we were ready to rage.

On April 19, a day after landing, we set off early. We had scoped out the first two pitches the previous day. Dane quickly reclinced them bringing us up to a snow ledge. The next pitch, along this ledge, looked like an easy snow traverse for 50 meters. However, loose snow on downward sloping, exposed slab through a bulging corner proved to be a heady and slow endeavor. Dane hacked away snow mushrooms and slowly stomped in a path while searching for any gear to protect us on second. The remaining 40 meters of the traverse were thankfully easy snow, which brought us into the main corner and gully systems. A couple beautiful pitches of thin, sometimes run-out alpine ice to grade 4 brought Dane to one of the crux sections of the route. Two options presented themselves: a thin, detached hanging curtain of water ice to our right, or a snow-choked, mushroom-topped corner system to our left. Dane chose the latter, spending time cleaning the snow, hoping for ice in the back of the corner, but finding none. A few peckers, a couple hard moves, and we could hear Dane's pick sink



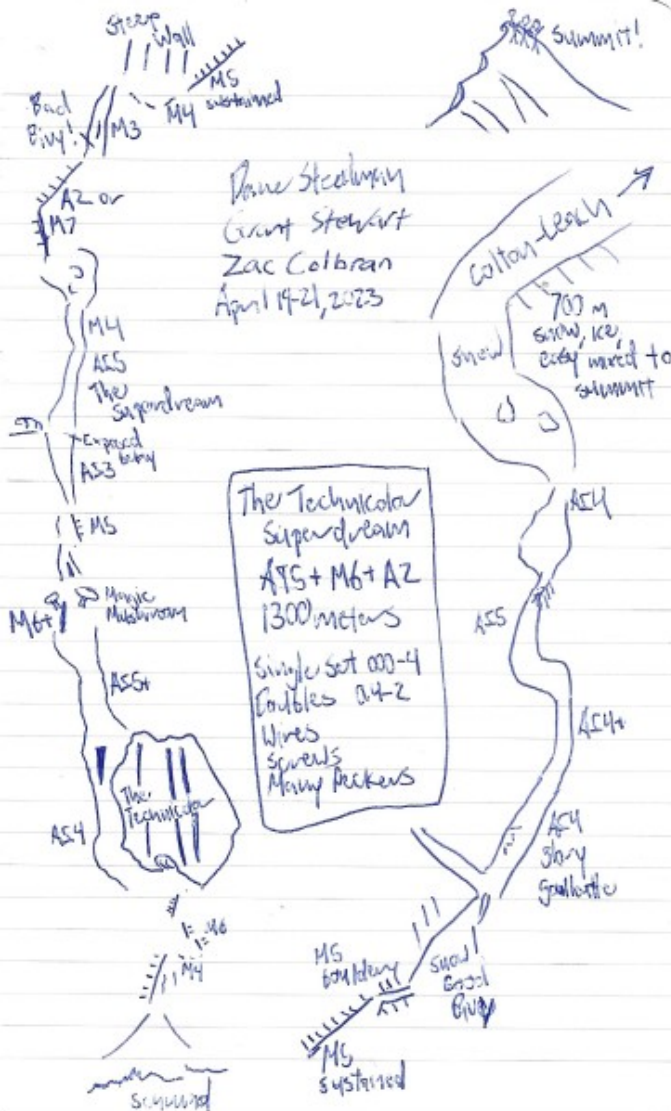
into solid ice as he pulled himself over onto easier terrain. The pitch ended with some thin ice and insecure dry-tooling at a nice ledge for a belay.

My lead block was next. I got lucky and was looking at a beautiful strip of ice we called the "Superdream Ice Hose." This feature could easily be seen from camp, and we had spent a lot of time staring at it through the binoculars wondering if it was snow, névé, or ice. We felt like we had won the lottery, as these pitches turned out to be beautiful, water-ice-quality alpine ice. The ice hose started with thin ice and snice about half a meter wide with bomber rock protection in the corner on my right. It was easy climbing compared to the previous couple hundred meters; however, finding a sheltered belay at the end of our 60-meter ropes proved difficult, as the only belay to be had was in the ice hose itself. Apologetically, I brought Dane and Grant up to me where they constructed a wall out of backpacks to shelter them-

selves from falling ice as I led the next pitch. The ice of the next pitch became fat, steep and widened to about a body length. I led slowly and carefully, trying not to knock ice down on my partners. I found this more stressful than any of the climbing on the whole route. The steepest 20 meters of the pitch had spindrift-sculpted ice that looked like rock tufas straight out of Kalymnos. It was truly the Superdream pitch, with one foot stemmed into the ice tufa, and one into the other side of the concavity of the hose. The pitch ended with a short step of mixed climbing and desiccated ice bringing me to a beautiful belay right at the extent of the ropes. Two pitches and 120 meters of some of the best alpine ice we could dream of. Sixty meters of easy mixed climbing brought us to the base of a right-leaning crack system.

It was warm and the sun was on us, causing the ice screws in the belay to start melting out. Luckily, a couple handy peckers and some marginal rock gear kept us secure. This leaning corner

Annotated topo for "The Technicolour Superdream."



system was one of the question marks of the route. We had stared at it through binoculars from base camp, wondering if it would be too hard to free climb or too blank to aid. Grant took this next pitch. Dancing across an initial slab for 3 meters took him to the base of the slanting corner. Grant's skill in aid climbing was impressive, as Dane and I watched him rig up an aid system and start plugging gear, stepping up high and getting in more bomber gear at will. Pulling over a bulge, he was able to see the remainder of the pitch. Excitedly, he exclaimed that the crack in the corner continued. An hour later Grant was at a belay, and it was our turn to follow with the heavy seconding packs. I told Dane to leave the peckers and take the gear that was easy to remove so that he could climb the pitch free on second, while I cleaned the iron. Dane, being a stronger climber than I, had a better chance of freeing the pitch. Dane freed the pitch on second, at an estimated M7.

This was the start of the traverse pitches and we thought we had spied a good spot to bivy at the far end of the traverse, still a few pitches away. However, the shadows on the glacier below were starting to lengthen and we knew that if we went for it, there was a good chance we wouldn't make it to the ledge. We discussed possible bivy sites, eventually deciding to hack a butt ledge out of the slope we were standing on. We couldn't lie down, but at least we could sit out the cold, dark hours of the Alaskan night. With one inflatable mattress on our butt ledge, we all settled in, sitting upright next to each other, feet dangling over the ledge. Dane boiled water while Grant and I sorted gear and tried to get things as organized as possible. It was clear and cold, but luckily it was windless.

Morning eventually came and it was still Grant's lead block. We were looking forward to getting moving in the dim chill of the early morning. Grant led three pitches, traversing rightward. The first pitch led up easy snow and ice for about 50 meters to a

good belay. Grant's second pitch that morning was phenomenal climbing. An initial down-climb for a couple meters brought him to snowy edges to dance across before getting a peek around a corner. Following this was a beautiful crack system that took perfect pick torques and gear with slabby feet that required careful front-pointing. The crack rose up and rightward for 40 meters, ending in a beautiful belay. Half a rope length of snowy traversing brought us to a short, steep, off-width crack that rolled over into an *au cheval* finish, and a perfect bivy spot if needed.

Once again it was Dane's block to lead. Continuing for 60 meters up past a major gully, he followed thinly iced dihedrals into the main right-trending goulotte above. A few more surprisingly steep and technical pitches of glorious goulotte climbing brought us to a snow slope that intersects with the Colton-Leach. After a brew stop, we simul-climbed easy ice and mixed terrain up the Colton-Leach and through the summit icefields to arrive exhausted, on the upper ridge of Huntington.

As darkness fell we found a perfect tent platform chopped in the summit ridge. One more stunning bivy had us waking up to a perfect, windless, and clear morning. We traced the ridge on wind-blasted squeaky snow to arrive at the summit on April 21. With a final look out over the central Alaska Range, we turned and made quick work of the descent down the West Face Couloir to celebrate with pizzas and whiskey back at camp.

Gear: Doubles of cams to #2, 1 each #3 and #4, 10 screws, and 6-8 peckers of all sizes.

The team: Dane Steadman is an American alpinist who is from Pheonix, Arizona, but, wisely, now resides in Cody, Wyoming. Dane works as a climbing guide. Zac Colbran and Grant Stewart both live in Calgary, Alberta, Canada. Stewart works as a fire-fighter when he's not injured, while Colbran stares at a computer all day as a geologist.

Mount Marcus Baker, at 13176 feet, the highest peak in the Chugach Mountains. Its first ascent was on June 19, 1938, by Norman Bright, Peter Gabriel, Norman Dyhrenfurth, and Bradford Washburn. Telephoto taken from Mount Eklutna September 26, 2023, by Frank E. Baker.



Mount Marcus
Baker:
61.43695,
-147.75243

Sheepshead (5321 feet), Central Chugach Mountains

Text and photo by Taylor Brown



61.18911,
-146.39125

*Sheepshead (5321 feet).
The left skyline ridge is
the northeast ridge.*



A few years ago I spent the summer working on a gold mine up Mineral Creek, just outside of Valdez, and would gaze up beyond the steep alder jungle and cascading waterfalls at the jagged, glaciated peaks above. The one peak that really stood out to me was Peak 5278, sometimes referred to as Sheepshead. [Ed. note: *The 5278-foot elevation was reported on the 1960 Valdez (A-7) USGS map; the 1983 Valdez A-7 NE USGS map reported the elevation as 1622 meters, which converts to 5321 feet.*] This peak is visible from downtown Valdez and rises 5,000 feet up from the valley floor and forms a perfect pyramidal summit composed of greywacke rock.

This past summer I had heard a rumor that someone had spent days cutting a trail through the brush up into the Brevier Glacier basin. The next weather window in late July, I quested out to investigate this potential trail.

I easily found the rudimentary trail and it quickly brought me to the alpine. The northeast ridge of Sheepshead was the most striking feature in all of the cirque and I rambled over alpine tundra to the toe of the glacier. I gained the still snow-covered

glacier and climbed up moderate snow to the ridge proper. The ridge was intimidating with many gendarmes protruding through the corniced ridge. The numerous sections of detached cornices forced me to climb 5th-Class terrain around and up and over the gendarmes. I really wished I had a rope and a partner. From the summit there were excellent views of Prince William Sound, the high Chugach Mountains, and a very impressive view of Mount Shouplina (8510 feet).

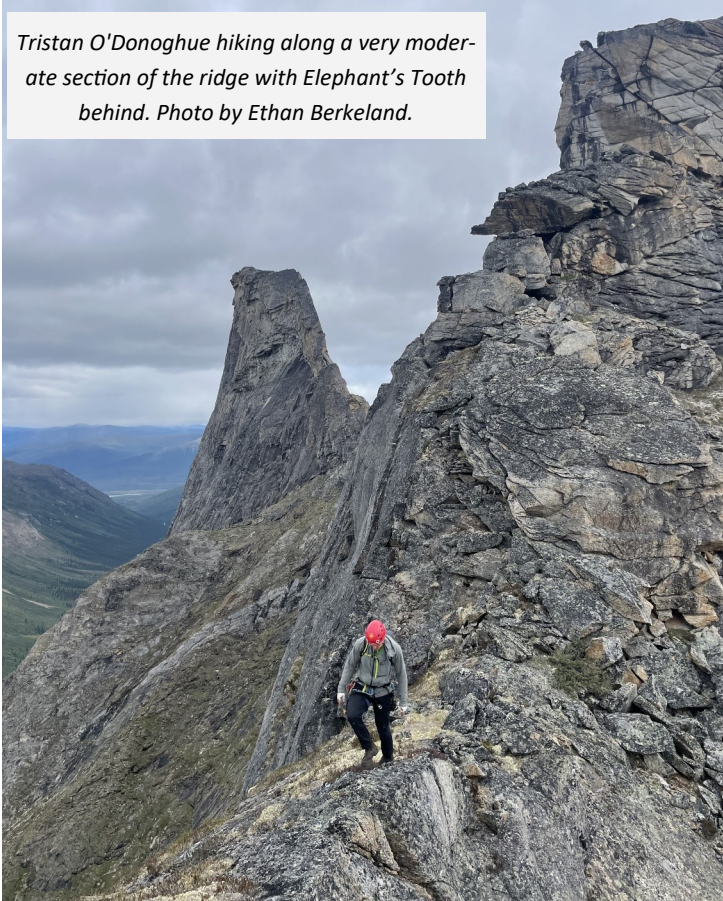
A few weeks later this peak saw another ascent and the ridge was much more manageable and tamer without the cornices. The only other ascent of the peak that I've heard of is by Aaron Brown via its north face when he skied it on February 29, 2012, and he also published the ski route in his Valdez ski guidebook "Chuting Valdez."

“Junk in the Trunk” on Elephant’s Tooth (4805 feet) and other climbs, Arrigetch Peaks

Text by Ethan Berkeland



Tristan O'Donoghue hiking along a very moderate section of the ridge with Elephant's Tooth behind. Photo by Ethan Berkeland.



Elephant's Tooth:
67.42801, -154.10939

face of Elephant’s Tooth. During the three days of hauling loads, we came to realize that our rations were somewhat meager, and we began to cut calories, a trend that would continue for the entirety of our trip.

While hauling our last load, we encountered our first real rain of the trip, which continued, intermittently, for about a week. Our first morning at base camp, we awoke to find our objectives at the head of the valley covered in a thick blanket of snow. Our desire to climb, much like our desire to gorge ourselves on snacks, was at odds with the reality of our situation. To distract ourselves from the lack of food at camp and abundance of snow on the walls, we did our best to stay busy. We went on many small hikes, read, bouldered and even made it one pitch up the north face of Elephant’s Tooth before rappelling in torrential rain.

Finally, on July 24th, 10 days after we had landed, we got a window of good weather, which allowed Tristan and me to climb the north face of Elephant’s Tooth in six splendid pitches. Our route was a variation of the Stucki-Nestler line (see the 2012 *American Alpine Journal*) and included three new pitches of climbing, the best of which followed a fingers-to-thin-hands splitter crack for 40 meters of sustained, wonderfully protected climbing. We topped out, named the variation “Junk in the Trunk” (5.11a) and then scrambled down the east ridge back to our camp, comfortably avoiding any rappels.

After four more days of rain, another short weather window materialized. Shifting gears toward objectives that were not shrouded in snow, we settled on attempting a traverse of the ridge between the Arrigetch and Aquarius Creek valleys. On July 28th, we soloed up the east ridge of Elephant’s Tooth to begin our traverse. We then made three rappels on the southwest face and continued scrambling along the ridge, roping up when necessary. We quickly realized, however, that our rappel materials were in short supply and began repurposing any and all rappel anchors we found along the ridge for ourselves.

We climbed numerous pitches in the 5.6 to 5.8 range and did a lot of fourth-to-low-fifth-class soloing and down-climbing. The technical difficulties along the ridge culminated while surmounting the latter of two short towers. This tower alone was a quality three-pitch climb with two pitches of 5.9 to a final 5.11b overhanging splitter dihedral pitch. A 4-inch crack dominated the first 30 feet of the pitch, but as we lacked a #4 cam, creative gear placements were required to gain the upper portion where it narrowed to well-protected ringlocks. After this crux, we continued soloing, rappelling, and occasionally roping

In 2022, I was working in the central Brooks Range in the small towns of Wiseman and Coldfoot for the majority of the summer. Geographically, I was well positioned to launch on an expedition to the Arrigetch Peaks. However, all of the food and gear preparation would have to be done by my partner, Tristan O’Donoghue, back in Fairbanks. I felt guilty for not contributing to the laborious task of planning and packing for our nearly-three-week trip, but Tristan graciously took on this burden.

On July 13th, Tristan and I convened at the Prospect Creek Airport along the Dalton Highway where Brooks Range Aviation would pick us up. We packed and repacked our bags late into the night under the midnight sun and were soon whisked away to Bettles in the morning. After weigh-ins and a voluntary National Park Service orientation, we were on our way to the Arrigetch.

The flight teased us with a few distant glimpses of the highest granite peaks and then a sudden descent into the Alatna River valley. Landing at Circle Lake was very anticlimactic; our haul bag and aid rack looked wildly out of place sitting in a swamp with no viable rock climbing in sight. Given our large loads, we were forced to double-haul up into the valley. We each carried about 140 pounds of gear into the upper Arrigetch Creek valley where we established a luxurious basecamp beneath the north

up for several individual pitches and simul-climbing blocks. Further climbing on the ridge included a stellar and unlikely near-vertical 5.5 pitch and a vertigo-inducing “gangplank” pitch with 1,000 feet of exposure dropping off on either side of the ridge.

We eventually reached an obvious notch above the head of both the Aquarius and Arrigetch valleys. From here, we rappelled and down-climbed into the Arrigetch valley, concluding the “Aquarius Traverse” (5.11b). In total, we roped up for eight pitches/simul-climbing blocks, made 14 rappels and traversed a total of 3.5 miles of ridgeline in a 22-hour camp-to-camp push. It was undoubtedly the experience that Tristan and I had come to the Arrigetch for: true adventure in an inexplicably beautiful place.

The next day, we awoke in the afternoon and did our best to rest and recover before our final day of climbing in the valley. Foraging for blueberries and cranberries allowed us to stretch our pancake batter further, which the following day fueled us up into the head of the Arrigetch valley, where we repeated the “Virga Dihedral” on the east buttress of Xanadu Peak (see the 2019 AAJ). We established a single-pitch 5.10a splitter just to the left of “Virga Dihedral,” which we simply referred to as “Virga Crack.” It was the nicest day of our trip without a cloud in the sky. Admittedly, we were too exhausted to take full advantage of the beautiful weather and ideas of new routes taunted us as we prepared to hike out of the valley.

We double-hauled all of our gear to the Alatna River the next day and soon we were on our way down the serene waterway in great weather. Over two days we enjoyed a float during which we avoided paddling as much as possible, opting to give our bodies rest and sunbathe on the slow-moving river. On August 3rd, we were picked up at Takahula Lake, concluding 19 days in the fabled Arrigetch Peaks.



Ethan Berkeland leading the splitter crux of “Junk in the Trunk” on the north face of Elephant’s Tooth. Photo by Tristan O’Donoghue.

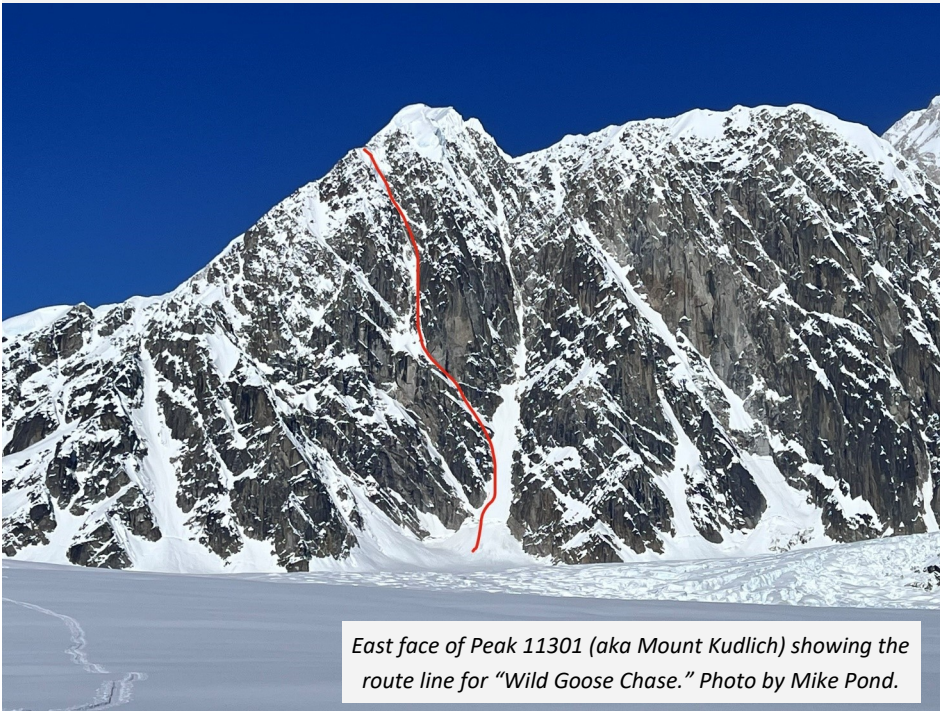


Ethan Berkeland pausing along the Aquarius Traverse, the majority of the ridge traverse can be seen in the background. Photo by Tristan O’Donoghue.

New Route: “Wild Goose Chase” on Peak 11301 (aka Mount Kudlich) on the Ruth Glacier, Alaska Range

Text by Mike Pond
April 16-18, 2022

63.00246,
-150.87664



East face of Peak 11301 (aka Mount Kudlich) showing the route line for “Wild Goose Chase.” Photo by Mike Pond.

“If I were not already flying to Anchorage to guide ... I would be buying a plane ticket now 100%.” When a long-time Alaska climber and good buddy writes a text like that, you pay attention. I refreshed several different weather models, thinking it was a website glitch – every single day was sunny smiley faces with zero wind for the entire long-term forecast. With a forecast like this and an endorsement like that, it was hard to say no.

I frenetically texted a few friends I had on standby who said they were interested in climbing in Alaska in April. My good buddy and favorite ski partner, Zach Dugan, was psyched. He was just getting into alpine climbing after spending his first season ice climbing last winter in Montana. He’s also the fittest person I know. We preemptively agreed I would take the hard leads and he would carry the heavier pack. That’ll do.

He was in as long as his sister, who was past her due date and entering pre-labor, had her baby – should be tomorrow. I started packing. After three days, she still hadn’t popped the kid out, no end in sight. Zach talked with her and got the green light. We bought our tickets. He’d see her in a week after things settled down. Weather like this doesn’t stick around forever.

After sitting in my fair share of tents enduring storms, I wanted

to try a different strategy this season – to wait for good weather and *then* book the ticket. I had read stories about smash-and-grab alpinism – brief trips built around good forecasts and a quick turnaround. We saw the forecast on a Thursday and by Monday we were flying to Anchorage. It worked – we experienced no wind or even clouds for our entire trip, and climbing conditions were quite favorable.

After much last-minute deliberation about where to go with snowy early season conditions, we decided to go to Peak 11301 (aka Mount Kudlich), whose sunny east face we hoped would see a strong melt-freeze cycle. It delivered.

After warming up on the bottom 3000 feet of the south ridge, which gave us a good preview of the descent route, we set out for an unclimbed line on the east face. Two Brits, James Clapham and Gavin Pike, had climbed the main couloir splitting the face in 2009. They climbed at night to minimize overhead hazard, dubbing their line “Night of the Raging Goose” [Ed. note: See pages 117 through 119 of the 2010 *American Alpine Journal* and pages 319 and 320 of the 2010-2011 *Alpine Journal*].

We took a page from their book and started climbing at 6 p.m. With a windless, cloudless night and a full moon, our travel went smoothly, more reminiscent of fully-lit Alaska night climbing found later in the season.

We stashed our skis at the base of the Raging Goose couloir, climbing a few hundred feet up it before splitting off left. The start of the couloir had a snow runnel tunnel that was three feet deep and perfect névé. I must admit that it was hard to depart a feature with such dreamy conditions.

Generally deep, but tolerable, snow led us up a halfpipe tunnel of snow. It was some work, to be sure. We mostly simul-climbed up gradually improving snow until the first crux – a WI3+ ice step to an exciting M4 mixed step. First crux complete. I clicked in a Mini Traxion and started a long simul-climbing block, which ended beneath the crux ice pitch.

Along the way, Zach and I passed a few signs of previous travel – a slung block and a nut down low, then a two-nut anchor right beneath the crux ice pitch. We had a brief philosophical discussion – would it change the quality or character of our experience if this line had been previously climbed? What's it matter, anyway?

I believe the gear was rappel anchors from Mark Allen and Philippe Wheelock's attempt on this line in 2009, the same week the Brits climbed the "Night of the Raging Goose." Mark is a bit of a mentor to me, and the most hospitable guy I've met. In 2009 we became fast friends in Ouray, Colorado, and have climbed a handful of times together since. It was particularly symbolic to later find out it was his gear (I think).

When Mark and Philippe retreated, the ice pitch was "60 feet of vertical cool whip." Perhaps going in April instead of May was better timing on such a sun-affected face. Fortunately, I only had to deal with a few body lengths of garbage ice. After a few up-down near-bails, I mustered the courage to keep leading above a nest of worthless ice screws and found ... névé! Thanking our lucky climbing stars, I pulled over, whooped, and put Zach on belay on a bomber ice anchor. This whole time he was also getting pummeled by early-morning spindrift. I guess that snowy ledge was created somehow. Crux complete. A short ice hose led to a little more snow climbing to a good break. We basked in the early morning sun, eating, drinking, and scoping out the upper section of the route.

The final climbing seems representative of so much alpine climbing – difficult but not hard. Grovelly, hard work that wouldn't garner any impressive numbers. But, boy, did it burn some calories and keep it full-value to the end. Such climbing included your garden-variety snow and ice, aiding up a steep serac, faceted snow tunneling over ice on a fluting, and a long traverse, which miraculously allowed us to avoid tunneling through the upper cornice. With the last of the lingering evening alpenglow,



Scree—November 2023



Zach Dugan in the early morning light, low down on "Wild Goose Chase." Photo by Mike Pond.

we topped out the route about 28 hours after starting.

We rappelled through the night, descending the south ridge to our skis and our base camp on the Ruth Glacier, arriving 39 hours after leaving – by far the longest either of us had spent on a climb. Or continuously awake at any time for that matter.

We ate, drank, and slept for the rest of the day. We pulled our sleds back to the Sheldon Mountain House the following morning, one week after arriving. I sipped whiskey and ate the rest of our chips and basked in the sun while Zach split-boarded a hot lap behind the airstrip, unable to leave without grabbing at least *one lap* of Alaskan pow. I guess the temptation finally got to him, a fanatic split-boarder. And hey, he did pretty dang good for his first real alpine climb!

Even though we saw no one during our time on the Ruth Glacier, I felt like we were not alone on this peak. Maybe I'm too used to being in the city these days. Perhaps the spirit of the mountain looked over our team and let us pass. Or did the spirits of past climbers and the legends of old join in on our little adventure? Who's to say? Maybe it was that I just didn't sleep for two days and was dehydrated and running up a hefty calorie deficit. But that ineffable feeling has lingered in the past weeks since our ascent on Peak 11301.

Chuckling at all the possible goose puns during our climb, we kept the name on-theme – "Wild Goose Chase" – 4,000 feet V WI 5R M4 A0. East face of Peak 11301 (aka Mount Kudlich). Mike Pond and Zach Dugan, April 16-18, 2022.

Left: Mike Pond leading underneath the upper serac band. Photo by Zach Dugan.

Scorpion Glacier Climbs, Cathedral Spires, Kichatna Mountains

Text and photos by Joe Stock

Point 6475:
62.39403,
-152.56606



James Kesterson, Glenn Wilson, and Paul Muscat near the summit of Point 6475 (measured).

In late May 2023 James Kesterson, Glenn Wilson, Paul Muscat, and I base-camped and climbed in the Kichatna Mountains. We've been going on trips in Alaska, Canada, and South America for 25 years. Now we may enjoy each other's company more than the climbing!

The Kichatnas are a western sub-range of the Alaska Range in Denali National Park. The area is famous for the Kichatna Spires (Cathedral Spires on the USGS map), which include the most difficult summits in North America. Paul Roderick flew us over an hour from Talkeetna to a 5000-foot base camp on the Scorpion Glacier, a scorpion-shaped glacier that drains northeast into the West Fork of the Yentna River in the middle of nowhere. Hiking out would have taken us a while.

As we flew in, Paul pointed out many peaks in the area that he'd climbed and skied in the past. We chose the area for what appeared to be many glaciated summits without technical climbing. The area felt remote, no planes, roads, cabins or signs of any humans. Each morning we left camp and climbed whatever looked to be the most fun and significant. Our preferred kind of trip.

Glenn Wilson in the Kichatna Mountains.



Below: Joe Stock, Paul Muscat, Glenn Wilson, Paul Roderick, James Kesterson, and Conrad Anker (along for the ride).



We climbed:

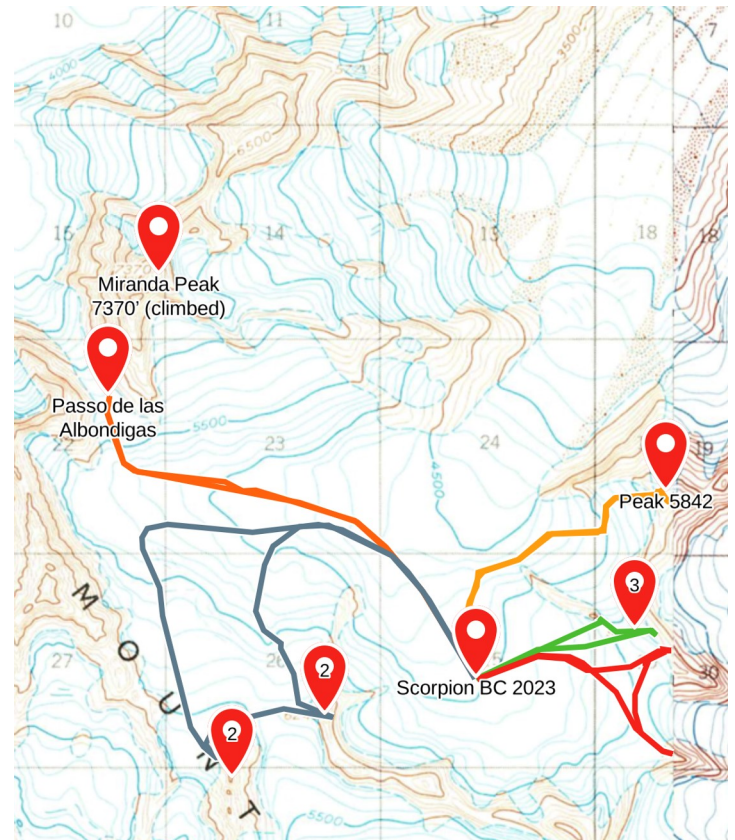
- Point 5488 (measured);
- Point 5784 (measured at 5812 feet);
- Point 6245 (measured at 6291 feet);
- Point 6475 (measured, but 300 feet horizontally across from the true summit);
- Point 5842; and
- Passo de las Albondigas, 5775 feet, south-southwest of Miranda Peak (7370 feet).

On our fifth day we noticed the weather coming in and tried to get a ride out, but found ourselves at the bottom of the busy Talkeetna Air Taxi list. Low clouds, snow and rain covered our camp and Paul Roderick couldn't reach us. He got within a mile of us on one attempt, but was blocked by clouds. So, we enjoyed another five days of eating, sleeping, reading, and digging. A rare treat to enjoy the simple life with no internet, cell, or house to work on.

Right: Map of climbing objectives in this trip report.



Above: Camp below Point 6245 (on map), Kichatna Mountains.



Peak of the Month: Knob Hill

Text by Steve Gruhn

Mountain Range: Baranof Island

Borough: City and Borough of Sitka

Drainage: Maksoutof Lake and Port Banks

Latitude/Longitude: 56° 31' 38" North, 134° 56' 32" West



Elevation: 1910 feet (±10 feet)

Adjacent Peaks: Peak 1942 in the Plotnikof Lake drainage; Peak 1062 in the Maksoutof River, Close Bay, and Still Harbor drainages; and Peak 4054 in the Plotnikof Lake and Rezanof Lake drainages

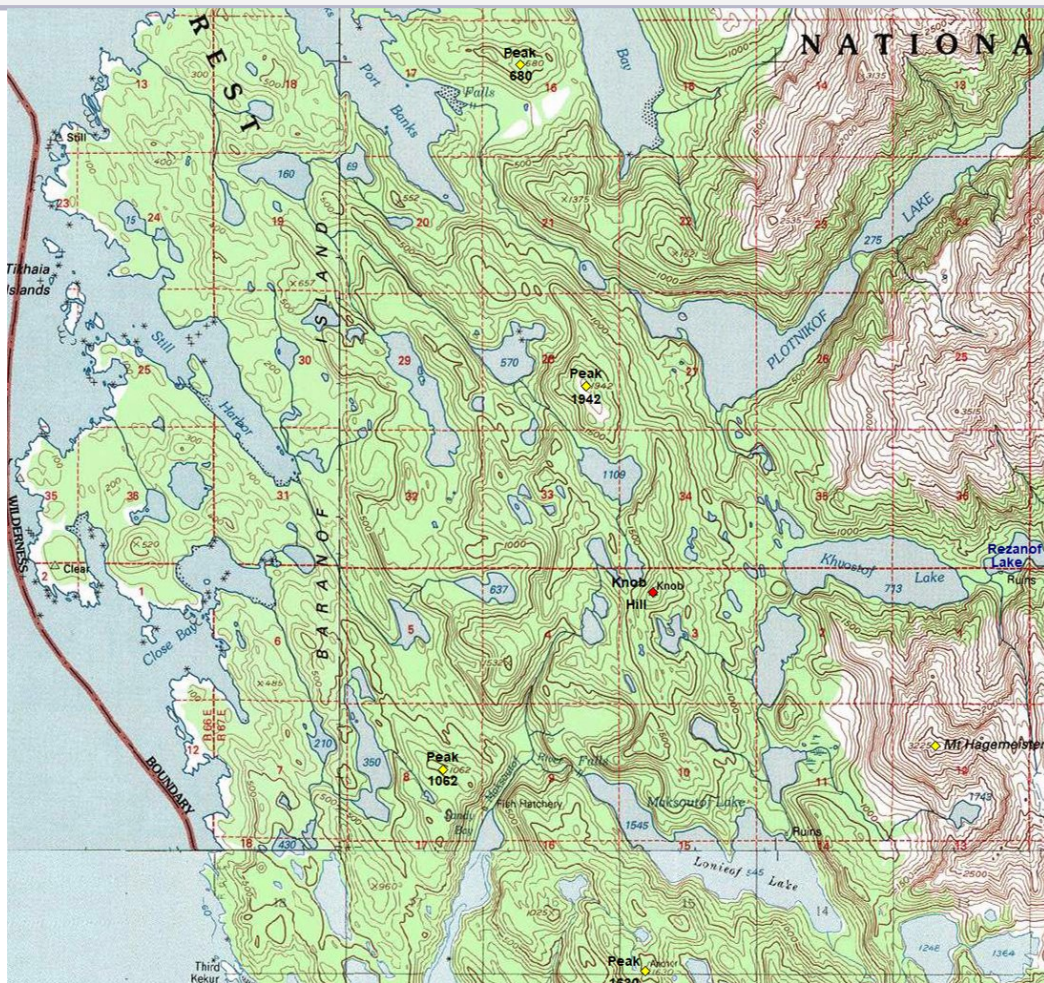
Distinctness: 670 feet from Peak 1942

Prominence: 670 feet from Peak 1942

USGS Maps: 1:63,360: Port Alexander (C-3), 1:25,000: Port Alexander C-3 SW

First Recorded Ascent: 1924 by Alfred M. Sobieralski and a U.S. Coast and Geodetic Survey party

Access Point: Sandy Bay



On September 10, 1907, President Theodore Roosevelt established the Tongass National Forest by executive order. The new national forest included the majority of Baranof Island.

In 1924 Lieutenant Alfred M. Sobieralski was the commanding officer of the USC&GS ship *Surveyor*. As part of a survey of the west coast of Baranof Island, Sobieralski led a USC&GS crew that identified a grassy, dome-shaped summit north-northeast of the north arm of Sandy Bay. Sobieralski and the rest of the survey crew decided that the summit would be suitable for placement of a triangulation station and dubbed the summit Knob Hill. The USC&GS crew set out from the head of the north arm of Sandy Bay to pack to Knob Hill.

At the highest point of Knob Hill, a little north of the center of its rounded top, the USC&GS survey crew cemented a standard USC&GS bronze disk into the top of a 2-½-inch-diameter, 2-½-

foot-long iron pipe. The pipe was driven into the ground so that the disk could be used as a triangulation station. The disk was stamped “Knob 1924.”

On December 2, 1980, President Jimmy Carter signed into law the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act, which, in part, designated Knob Hill and a portion of the surrounding Tongass National Forest as the South Baranof Wilderness, thereby preserving the unique natural qualities of the area.

I don't know of a second ascent of Knob Hill.

The information for this column came from transcribed USC&GS field notes available at https://www.ngs.noaa.gov/cgi-bin/ds_mark.prl?PidBox=TT9797 and from my correspondence with Albert E. “Skip” Theberge, Jr.

Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

September 27, 2023, 6:30-8:00 p.m. at 2425 Hialeah Drive, Anchorage

Roll Call

Gerrit Verbeek (President) – Present
Rebecca Marks (Vice President) – Present
Donell Irwin (Secretary) – Present
Peter Taylor (Treasurer) – Present
Tom McIntyre (Director) – Absent

Andrew Holman (Director) – Present
Matt Nedom (Director) – Present
Heather Johnson (Director) – Present
Andy Kubic (Director) – Absent
Scott Parmelee (Director) - Present

Guests in attendance – Cory Hinds and Joshua Wilson

Scribed by: Donell Irwin

Announcements

The Mat-Su Trails and Parks Foundation's Board of Directors has approved the MCA's Mint Hut grant application!

Huge thank you to Cory Hinds, Stan Olsen, Dave Staeheli, and Brad Nelson for working with Mat-Su Trails and Parks Foundation for the grant.

Thank you to Steve Gruhn and Christina Bonsell for taking over *the Scree*!

Welcome and thank you to Josh Wilson who has volunteered for the position as Webmaster.

Financial report

Department of Natural Resources licenses were paid, and there was an unexpected rise in the price. We will need to anticipate this for next year.

General Membership

There have been a lot of members renewing and joining due to the recent Ice Fest.

Huts

Great news! \$60,000 Mat-Su Trails and Parks Foundation has approved a grant application for the expansion of the Mint Hut.

\$20,000 will be matched by the MCA. Plans are currently being made to order windows and items with a long lead time, and plan to start construction next summer.

Still looking for waste-disposal options.

Trips\Training

Ice Fest was successful. Thank you to all who volunteered and helped!

Heather, Andy, and Gerrit will be stepping down from the board, but all of them would like to stick around to volunteer for future trips and training.

Discussed several possibilities for future trips and training, including a possible crevasse-rescue trip, and possibly booking the Serenity Falls Cabin for February.

Looking into options for meeting places (Alaska Rock Gym possible option for yoga room and meeting room; Rigging International Group facility is another option).

Five presenters are scheduled for the October meeting.

Speaker\Outreach

Kathy Still would like to speak on skiing near Turnagain Pass.

Kneely Taylor is a possible future speaker.

Joe Stock reached out with interest in doing a presentation on avalanche safety and book promotion.

Advertising

Club calendar will be \$15 at the October meeting, and \$20 at Alaska Mountaineering & Hiking and hopefully The Hoarding Marmot afterward.

General Discussion

Reviewed duties involved with the Webmaster position, and welcomed Josh Wilson into this position.

Discussed the structure of the upcoming October meeting.

Discussed taking major steps upward over the next year, including looking into paid administrative position, responding to emails, managing volunteers, etc.

Board Votes

Yes, to approve Josh Wilson as Webmaster

Yes, to accept the MCA's Mat-Su Trails and Parks Foundation Mint Hut Grant and move forward with it. The Grant Agreement was signed by Gerrit Verbeek (President).

Action Items

Gerrit will pass on info to Josh and Scott for the website (editing privileges for Scott).

Rebecca will pick up calendars for meeting.

Gerrit will bring thank-you cards to the October meeting

Peter will look into options for liability insurance.

Time and Location of next Meetings

General Membership Meetings

Location: BP Energy Center, Birch Room

Time: 6-8 p.m.

Thursday, October 5, 2023

Thursday, November 2, 2023

Wednesday, January 10, 2024

Wednesday, February 7, 2024

Wednesday, March 6, 2024

Wednesday, April 3, 2024

Upcoming Board meetings are held on the last Wednesday of every month.

Location: To be determined

Time: 6:30-8:30 p.m.

October 25, 2023

November 29, 2023

General Meeting Minutes

October 5, 2023, 6:00-8:00 p.m., B.P. Energy Center

Approximately 75 people attended this meeting.

Welcome newcomers!

Eleven newcomers introduced themselves. Meg, Tory, Reiley, Dominic, Jack, Cris, Erin, Lisa, Josh, Julian, and Hannah.

Announcements

- Rebecca announced calendars for sale for \$15 at this meeting, and \$20 at Alaska Mountaineering & Hiking and The Hoarding Marmot moving forward.
- Cory Hinds announced the Mat-Su Trails and Parks Foundation's Board of Directors has approved the MCA's Mint Hut grant application! Huge thank you to Cory Hinds, Stan Olsen, Dave Staeheli, and Brad Nelson for working with Mat-Su Trails and Parks Foundation for the grant. Cards were in the back of the room to sign.
- Tom Choate's birthday announcement. He's a 45-year member! He encouraged more volunteers! Happy Birthday, Tom!
- Ice Fest was a big success. Thank you so much to all the volunteers who helped, and a very special thank you to Jayme Mack Fuller for her 23 years of service with Ice Fest!

Orders of Business

Vote – Authorizing the board to investigate a paid position and open conversations with grantmaking organizations. Unanimous vote YES to approve.

Elections for President, Treasurer, and Three Director Positions

Gerrit Verbeek stepped down as President and Andy Kubic and Heather Johnson stepped down as Directors. Huge thank you for all their years of service!

President – Gerrit Verbeek nominated Peter Taylor, who accepted the nomination and was voted into the President position.

Treasurer – No nominees, no vote. Two individuals stepped forward after the meeting and expressed interest. This position is still pending.

Directors - Five people nominated for the director positions. Scott Parmelee (nominated by Gerrit Verbeek), Reux Stearns (self-nominated), Lane Christenson (nominated by Craig Christenson), Lang Van Dommelen (self-nominated) and G Platte (self-nominated). Majority of membership votes went to elect Reux Stearns, Lang Van Dommelen, and G Platte. Scott Parmelee will remain in his position as Huts Committee Chairman and liaison between huts and board.

Guest Speakers – Calendar photo winners presented.

Jon Winiasz presented on behalf of Rachel Minick on the Pika Glacier for the month of April. Eric Parsons presented his photo of the Ruth Gorge for the month of September. Craig Christenson presented on Denali's 16 Ridge descent photo for the month of May.

Upcoming Events

- October 25, 2023 – Board meeting, location to be determined.
- November 2, 2023 – November General Membership meeting will be held on the first Thursday of this month at the BP Energy Center.

Mountaineering Club of Alaska

President Peter Taylor president@mtclubak.org
Vice-President Rebecca Marks vicepresident@mtclubak.org
Secretary Donell Irwin secretary@mtclubak.org
Treasurer Vacant treasurer@mtclubak.org

Director 1 (term expires in 2025) Reux Stearns board@mtclubak.org
Director 2 (term expires in 2025) Lang Van Dommelen board@mtclubak.org
Director 3 (term expires in 2025) G Platte board@mtclubak.org
Director 4 (term expires in 2024) Andrew Holman board@mtclubak.org
Director 5 (term expires in 2024) Matt Nedom board@mtclubak.org
Director 6 (term expires in 2024) Tom McIntyre board@mtclubak.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@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. Material should be submitted by the 11th of the month to appear in the next month's *Scree*. Captions should accompany all submitted photos.

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

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

Mailing list/database entry: Peter Taylor—membership@mtclubak.org
Hiking and Climbing Committee: Vacant—training@mtclubak.org
Huts: Scott Parmelee or huts@mtclubak.org
Calendar: Lexi Trainer
Librarian: Gwen Higgins—library@mtclubak.org
Scree Editors: Steve Gruhn and Christina Bonsell— MCAScree@gmail.com
Web: www.mtclubak.org
Find MCAK listserv at <https://groups.io/g/MCAK>.

Ethan Berkeland stemming up perfect granite in golden light on the eastern flanks of Xanadu Peak. Photo by Tristan O'Donoghue

Mountaineering Club of Alaska
Box 243561
Anchorage, AK 99524-3561