

the SCREE

Mountaineering Club of Alaska

DECEMBER 2023

Volume 66, Number 11



**“The only Zen you can
find on the tops of
mountains is the Zen
you bring up there.”
— Robert M. Pirsig**

**December Meeting
Thursday, December 14, 2023
6:00-8:00 p.m.
Onsite Brewing Company
3211 Denali Street, Anchorage
MCA Holiday Party**

Contents:

Peak 2875, Kodiak Island

Peak 4364, Amphitheater Mountains

Poem: “Glacier Time”

Mount Ararat (16854 feet) and Mount Kaçkar (12917 feet), Turkey

Peak of the Month: Spiral Mountain (4272 feet), Kenai Mountains



"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

Larry Hartig stands at about 5800 feet on the Raisin Glacier below an icefall on the south side of the glacier, July 1986. Photo by Jim Sayler. See *Letters from the Editor*, page 3.

DECEMBER MEETING

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MCA Holiday Party

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Announcements

Scheduled Trips:

Flattop Solstice Sleepout

December 22, 2023. No leader.



Flattop Mountain:
61.08922, -149.67030

Eklutna Traverse

April 15-21, 2024

Ski traverse. Glacier-travel experience required. Eight participants maximum. ~ 30 miles, ~ 9000 feet elevation gain.



Eklutna Traverse (actual location is between the Eagle Glacier and the Whiteout Glacier):
61.14025, -148.94786

Trip leader: Greg Bragiel,
Unknownhiker@alaska.net

Nuggets in the Scree

Shane Ohms emailed to report that on October 13 Doug Hartman and he had ascended an ice climb south of the Jack River in the Talkeetna Mountains that they called "Reveille." The next day they climbed Peak 6313 in the Middle Fork of the Chulitna River and Jack River drainages via its northeast face and north ridge. On the evening of the 14th, they returned to their starting point on Jack River Canyon Road.

Wayne Todd emailed to report that on October 22, Dan Glatz, Brendan Lee, Lena Lee, Theresa Pipek, and he had made a one-day ascent of Peak 4344 in the Bydarky Creek and Martin Creek drainages of the Kenai Mountains via its south face and southeast ridge after following Bydarky Creek up from the Resurrection River Trail. They started and ended their trip at the Resurrection River Trailhead off Herman Leirer Road (commonly called Exit Glacier Road).

We look forward to reading detailed trip reports of each of these climbs in upcoming issues of *the Scree*.

Steve Gruhn



Peak 6313:
63.31712,
-148.83937



Peak 4344:
60.21534,
-149.54115

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.



Letters from the Editor

Western Chugach Mountains Cold Case Solved after 37 Years

Longtime MCA members will note that on occasion authors of *Scree* articles have drawn readers into conversations in an effort to seek opinions, debate ethics, find route information, or re-solve mountaineering riddles.

Astute readers of *the Scree* might recall Greg Higgins's trip report in the August 1986 issue, "Mt. Kiliak (East Summit (7100+))." In that report Higgins recounted finding a set of tracks from a couple climbers as he climbed to the summit of East Kiliak Peak on July 10, 1986, while Ted Laska dozed below. In his article, Higgins posed a question: "No trace of the visitors was found on the top – does anyone out there know who they belonged to?" Until recently that question stared silently from the goldenrod page, unanswered. And consequently, Willy Hersman's "Willy's Index of Peaks in *Scree*" credited Higgins with the first ascent of East Kiliak Peak.

On April 26 Gerrit Verbeek and I sat down with Jim Sayler to pepper him with questions in an effort to mine his vast knowledge of the Western Chugach Mountains for interesting tidbits of local mountaineering history. Nearly 37 years after Higgins's query was published, Sayler revealed that Larry Hartig and he had made those footprints during a trip from July 2 through July 6, 1986. That long Independence Day weekend Hartig and Sayler had attempted East Kiliak Peak, but turned back 300 or 400 feet short of the summit because they left their crampons back at their campsite. The following day Hartig and Sayler returned with crampons and made the first ascents of

both East Kiliak Peak and Point 6825 a third of a mile to the north. They did not erect a cairn or leave a register on either summit, though. Instead, they immortalized the event by taking summit photos while posing as members of ZZ Top – something of a mountaineering fandango.

And now a Western Chugach Mountains cold case has finally been solved.

Steve Gruhn

Interesting Icefall on South Side of the Raisin Glacier in 1986

In addition to the early July 1986 slide of Larry Hartig on the summit of East Kiliak Peak, Jim Sayler provided a second slide, which Gerrit Verbeek also scanned, taken on the same trip (see cover photo). The second image depicted an interesting icefall that cascaded down to the Raisin Glacier from the south. Sayler wanted to know if that ice formation had succumbed to climate change or whether it remains, silently tumbling down from the ridge to join the Raisin Glacier at about 5800 feet. So, might any of you dear readers have a recent photo of the south side of the Raisin Glacier that you'd be willing to share in a future issue of *the Scree*? Or, if photos aren't available, perhaps you might share some recollections of the presence or absence of that jumbling mass of ice? Please submit responses to mcascre@gmail.com by December 11 for inclusion in the January *Scree*.

Steve Gruhn



East Kiliak Peak:
61.21377, -149.12222



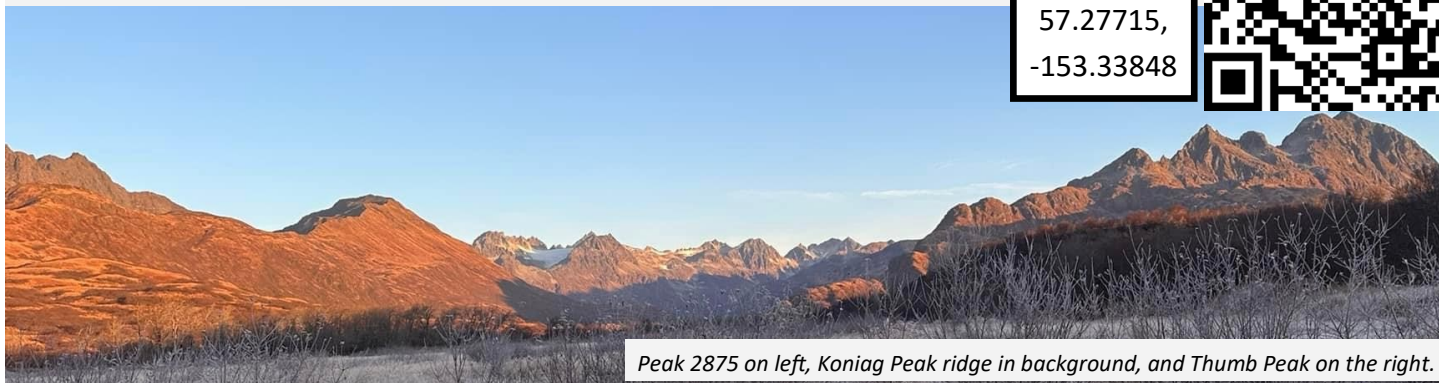
Larry Hartig strikes a ZZ Top pose atop East Kiliak Peak in early July 1986. The summit of Mount Yukla peeks out from between the two rock formations. Photo by Jim Sayler.

Peak 2875, Kodiak Island

Text and photos by Derik Egger



57.27715,
-153.33848



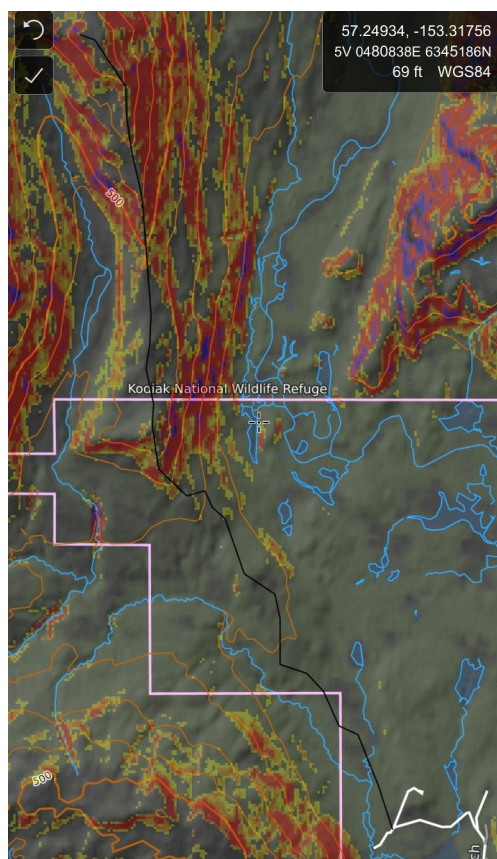
Peak 2875 on left, Koniag Peak ridge in background, and Thumb Peak on the right.

After two months off and enjoying hiking all over Southcentral, I started my next work project in Old Harbor on Kodiak Island. After a few weeks of endless sunshine on the island, surrounded by peaks I knew nothing about, I got an itch to spend my one day off every other week exploring. My first summit in the area was Peak 1980 directly over the first portion of the town and the harbor itself. I then spent four weeks without a day off starting at Peak 2875 and the jagged peaks around it, and talking to our local hires about trails and access points, building up my desire to go. When I finally got a day off, I borrowed a 4-wheeler from a resident and rode down to the water treatment plant. Right before the plant a 4-wheeler trail breaks off to the right side of the road. I took this trail, crossing a minor creek that reeked of salmon and had lots of scats around, and then going through fields of tall grass, close to 6 feet high and fully capable of hiding a bear from sight, as I know from firsthand experience on an earlier date.

Taking every left, the trail gradually started to climb up the south ridge of Peak 2875, there are a few sections of braided trail where smaller wheelers would need to pick and choose which fork to take, but larger wheelers could handle either side of any braid. No sections required technical riding, thankfully, as I'm not much of a wheeler guy. Two miles traveled and 700 feet of elevation later, the all-terrain vehicle trail reached a small bump, from there it dropped down and west, which wasn't where I wanted to go, so I parked the wheeler off the side of the trail and started hiking. Still mostly grass, but much shorter, only just waist high. Lots of minor ups and downs, game trails all over, but due to the easy brush, I just went straight up each bump. There were lots of bears visible below, fishing for salmon along Big Creek, but I never saw any signs until I got over 2000 feet, where I ran into tundra and berries. However, I saw lots of deer, goats, and ptarmigan, along with a single fox. I never ran across any water along the hiking portion of my trip, so I was glad I had packed plenty. Sticking on top of the ridge to let me keep an eye on both sides of the ridge, I eventually left tundra walking and got into loose rock around 2400 feet elevation. Three miles after I left the 4-wheeler, I arrived at the summit, dropped my pack, set up my field chair, started to meander around beyond the summit, and had lunch. The goats I had run across were below me at the low point on the ridge between

2875 and Peak 3510, paying me no mind. After my lunch was all gone, I headed back the way I came, making for 4 miles round trip on the wheeler and just over 6 miles on foot. Peaks aren't as big down here, but even below 4000 feet the terrain is still heavily glaciated, so it's still quite the view.

For future trips, apparently "summer" here is September and October, with lots of lodges offering fishing charters and hunting drop offs; the snow doesn't hit the area until much later than on the mainland. At the time of this writing [*Ed. note: November 5*], it's snowing in Anchorage; but here on Kodiak Island, it's 32°, sunny, and no snow even on the island's highpoint, Koniag Peak.



Above: Approximate route, in black. Yellow to purple shading indicates slope angle. Blue lines indicate streams and water bodies.

Peak 4364, Amphitheater Mountains

Text and photos by Renee Ernster

63.2315,
-145.73425



While driving to the Black Rapids music festival south of Fort Greely in July, I spied a beautiful ridge west of the Richardson Highway with a 1,000-foot prominence peak (P1K) at the top. Upon closer inspection, I noticed there was a trail along the ridge that should be an easy peak for me to solo. Heading southbound after the music festival, I carefully watched for the turnout to the pipeline access on my right. I found a large gravel parking area with a few other RVs parked for the holiday weekend. I unloaded my bike and readied for an easy ascent up the ridge. My little dog Orca was happy to get out for another adventure.

After the push-a-bike up the steep and crumbly pipeline road, I had to navigate around a small swampy section to reach this glorious ridge trail.

Orca was beginning to discover the presence of ground squirrels. She stuck fairly close on the ascent, but as she became

intoxicated by the chase, she ranged much farther away from me on the descent.

I ended up only riding to the steep part of the ridge. I do wish I would have persevered and pushed to the top as there was still a half mile hike along the ridge and it would have been a glorious ride!

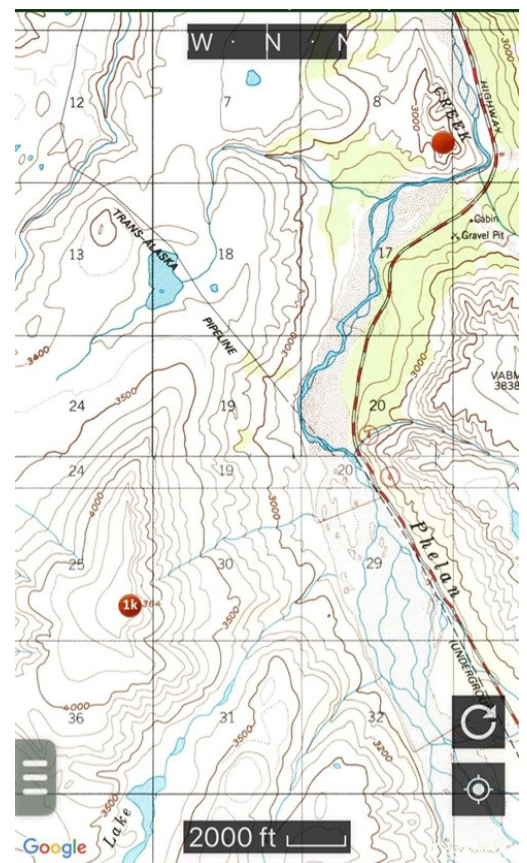
It was a beautiful day on the summit. There was a small cairn at the top.

I was so glad I spied this fun little peak. This would be an easy summit with an all-terrain vehicle. I definitely will return to this area for more exploration.



Biking the north ridge trail to Peak 4364.

Below: Location of Peak 4364, indicated by "1k."



Glacier Time

By Frank E. Baker
March 11, 2023

Bike tires roll closer and closer
to the glacial expanse,
sharp, blue teeth remnants
of an age gone by;
in defiance of a warming planet,
grinding out of the mountains,
standing boldly in the valley
it created.

I imagine a camera
positioned high overhead,
recording the glacier's advances and retreats
over the millennia.
For a mercurially small instant
in the endless hours of footage
would be a flash
of humanity;
a vague trace of the goings and comings of
bikers, skiers, snowmachiners,
boats, airplanes, helicopters, cars.

Moving silently, reverently through these blue bergs,
messengers from another time,
I feel like a time traveler
in an ancient world.

There is no camera in the sky.
I am the lens.
I roll away
and the glacier recedes in my vision.

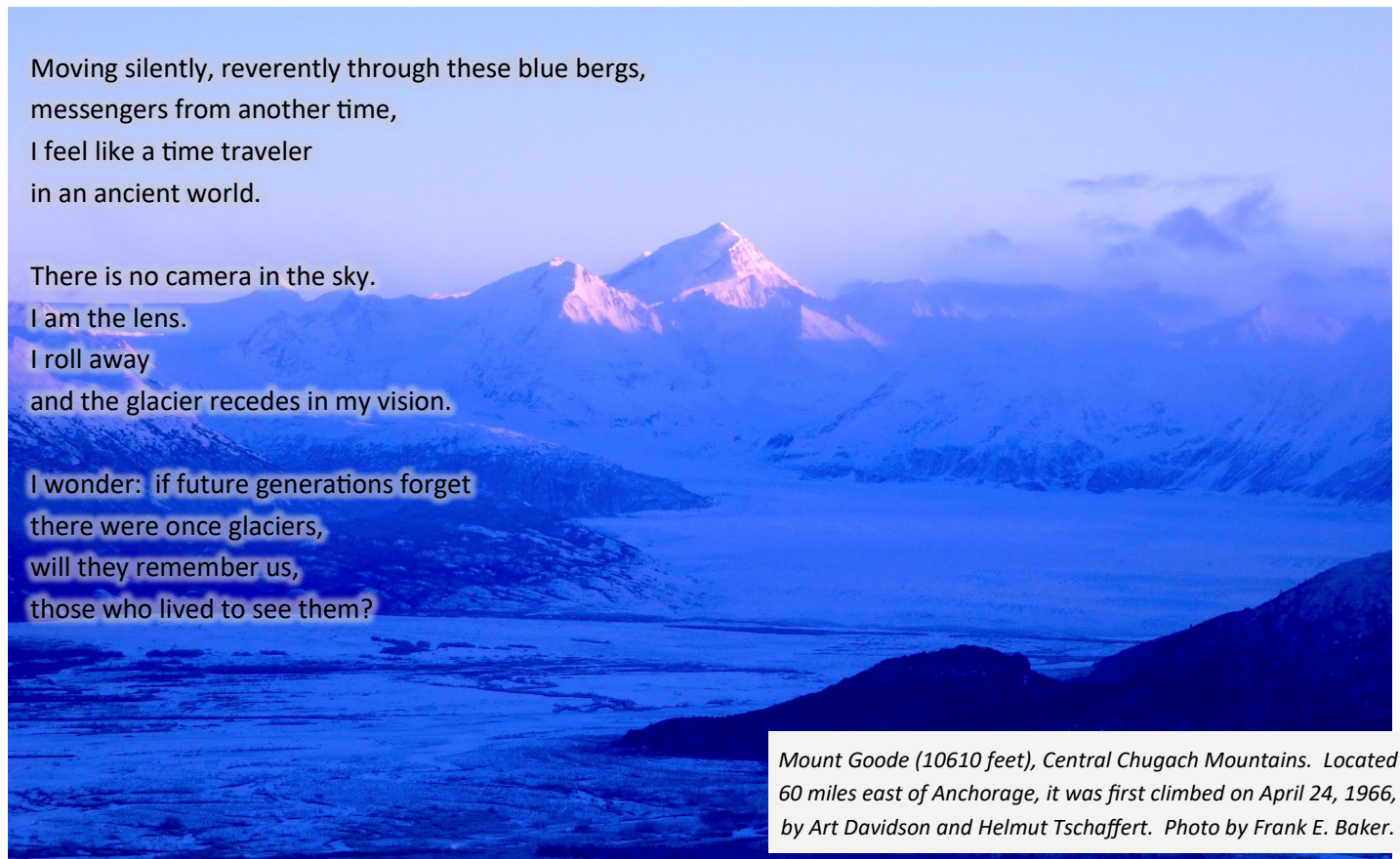
I wonder: if future generations forget
there were once glaciers,
will they remember us,
those who lived to see them?



Mount Goode:
61.32612,
-147.98543



Knik Glacier:
61.41345,
-148.57137



Mount Goode (10610 feet), Central Chugach Mountains. Located 60 miles east of Anchorage, it was first climbed on April 24, 1966, by Art Davidson and Helmut Tschaffert. Photo by Frank E. Baker.

Mount Ararat (16854 feet) and Mount Kaçkar (12917 feet), Turkey

Text and photos by Frank Lahr



Mount Ararat:

39.7019,

44.2983



Greg Lebo, Frank Lahr, Wayne Todd, and their guide Ali (left to right) on Mount Kaçkar. Photo courtesy of Frank Lahr.

For my fifth trip to Turkey, over the past 30 or so years, I wanted to finally climb Mount Ararat. It is the highest point in Turkey, located in eastern Turkey about 10 miles from the border with Iran. The major planning for this one-month trip to Turkey was for Mount Ararat (16854 feet), but I also wanted to check out the Kaçkar Mountains in northeastern Turkey, just south of the Black Sea. Mount Kaçkar is the high point of the Kaçkar Mountains at 12917 feet. To trek up Mount Ararat, you are required to hire a Turkish guide service and have a government-issued permit. I also wanted to spend a couple more weeks in the country exploring some other areas. So, I did not want to carry camping gear such as a tent and cooking equipment with me if it wasn't needed on Mount Ararat, as all that gear was provided by the guide service. Therefore, I found a guide service to handle logistics to climb Mount Kaçkar, too. Shortly after I started planning for an August 2023 trip, I also found two Alaskan friends to join me in Turkey. Wayne Todd and Greg Lebo were excited to make their first trips to Turkey. We all agreed to trekking on Mount Ararat and Mount Kaçkar. Neither peak is a technical climb on the standard routes. Besides the obvious elevation difference between the peaks, another main difference is the amount of people on each mountain. There were many groups of trekkers heading up

Mount Ararat, but we only saw three or four small groups on Mount Kaçkar. We also found a significant amount of trash visible all along the route up Mount Ararat. Refreshingly, not much trash at all is found on the route up Mount Kaçkar.

After our long flights to Istanbul, we stayed there for two nights, then caught a flight out to the eastern Turkish city of Van to meet up with the tour operator for Mount Ararat. Although I've been to Turkey many times over the years I hadn't been this far east before. Van is a busy, but pleasant, city that sits next to beautiful Lake Van and is called "the Istanbul of the east" by some Turkish people. After completing an acclimatization hike on nearby Mount Artos (11660 feet), we took a day off and visited some local sights. The next day we started up Mount Ararat after a dusty drive up past the village of Çevirme near the city of Doğubayazıt. We put on our daypacks and started hiking at about 7000 feet elevation. The weather was sunny and hot and somewhat of a challenge for this Alaskan, as I was used to cooler and wetter summer weather. There were a total of six trekkers in our group, but we were also somewhat connected to a larger group of Czechs. With all of us packed into a couple shuttle buses and dining tents, it was inevitable that some illness could spread easily through the group. We three Alaskans eventually all developed

some respiratory problems. I was fortunate to not develop it until after completing Mount Ararat but Greg was sick on the climb up Mount Ararat and showed great resilience in reaching the summit! With a pandemic not too far in the rear-view mirror Greg, Wayne, and I all wore facemasks at one time or another to at least try to keep the spread of germs within our group to a minimum.

Mount Ararat is located in a national park area. There are two main camps on Mount Ararat – the first at 10500 feet and the second at 13700 feet. From the second camp trekkers head out at 1 or 2 a.m. for the summit and generally summit at about 6 or 7 a.m. for a beautiful sunrise view from the summit. There are horses and dogs at both these camps. I'm thankful for the horses as they carry most of your gear to Camps 1 and 2, leaving you with only having to carry a daypack. Not so thankful for the dogs, though! There were maybe 10 to 20 in Camp 1. They are roaming free and a visitor may figure that the dogs are working with the horses. Yet my understanding is that these dogs are loose pets belonging to somebody somewhere. Docile and quiet during the sunny and hot day, many of these dogs perk up at night and take over the camp as they howl, bark and settle arguments between themselves! Most everybody in the camp has to endure the nightly noise and commotion of the dogs. Fortunately, we spent only three nights in the camps.

Despite the hot days lower on the mountain, we did have excellent weather on summit day and we were all able to summit and take in the views from there. One can even see the triangular shadow of Mount Ararat on the high plains to the west as the sun rises. Looking east you can see Iran and north of there you are looking toward Armenia.

The packed snow on the summit extended down about 500 feet at this time of year. We were able to gain the summit without wearing crampons, but we did put them on to descend to the dry trail. We descended to Camp 2 from the summit and spent a few hours there before breaking down our tents and returning to Camp 1 for the night.

The first recorded ascent of Mount Ararat was in 1829 and soon after that was the last volcanic eruption in 1840. The main trail up and down is easy to follow. Many people do not recognize the name Mount Ararat until you mention "Noah's Ark." Unsuccessful searches for this ship have been made since 300 A.D. (Wikipedia). However, a

fellow traveler informed us of where he believed he recently saw the remains of this famous ship some distance from the mountain, but we did not have time to go look for it. Back to the camp dogs – if a functioning ship of any kind had appeared while we were in one of the camps on Mount Ararat, I would have coaxed and pushed all the camp dogs (except for the puppies) onto it and bid them farewell.

After finishing Mount Ararat, we three Alaskans boarded a regular long-distance bus to make our way to the city of Erzurum, which is located a bit south of the Kaçkar Mountains. The city sits at about 6000 feet and is another pleasant place to visit. The local Turkish people have always been very friendly and accommodating during all my trips (two bicycling trips and two with more conventional transportation) to Turkey. When our Mount Kaçkar tour operator called me on my cellphone, I realized that it was not the tour operator I had arranged our tour with! No problem, though, in Turkey there is a small community of trekking/mountaineering tour operators and our guide explained that they do work together in this way. In this case, we were fortunate to get a very able and likeable guide for our Mount Kaçkar trek. For this trek we were a group of three Alaskans and a Turkish couple from Istanbul, plus our Turkish guide Ali. The Kaçkar Mountains are the central region of the Pontic Alps. The north side faces the Black Sea and is much wetter than the south side, which is where we started our trek. After a long shuttle into the mountains from Erzurum, we stopped at a mountain lodge in the small village of Yaylalar. The next day we shuttled up to the even smaller village of Olgunlar, which is where our trail started at about 7000 feet. It is a



pleasant valley hike up to the Dilberdüzü base camp at 9500 feet, passing through a “yayla” (summer pasture for raising animals), which appeared to have mostly abandoned old cabins. There was a “blue moon” this night with clear skies. I was up at 12:30 a.m., looking at the surrounding mountains lit up brightly by the moon. We set off for the summit at about 4 a.m., but the moon had set by then. Our track was not difficult to follow, even in the darkness. When looking at the final route to the summit it appeared somewhat daunting, due to foreshortening*, but as we neared it, we did find a reasonable way with only one steep cliff to negotiate. In contrast to the Mount Ararat crowds, when we reached the (snowless) summit of Mount Kaçkar, there was only one small group of people already there.

As on Mount Ararat, we had sunny and pleasant weather this day, too. Due to some smog, we could not see the Black Sea from the summit, but I believe on a clear day one can “see the sea” 25 miles to the north. After hiking back down to our base camp, it was evident that the two female dogs we had gotten to know in camp had somehow been replaced by one larger male dog. He was wearing an anti-wolf collar consisting of long metal spikes, so someone in our group named him “Spike,” of course. Spike took a shine to Wayne and tagged along wherever Wayne went, even trying to share a tent with him. Spike followed us down the valley back to the beginning of the trail. From there he even followed us down the road to Yaylalar village, despite all our group riding in a van.

There are many other mountainous areas to explore in Turkey. Other than mountains, we also explored the Cappadocia region, the city of Trabzon on the Black Sea and the ancient city of Ani on the Armenian border.

If Mount Ararat is on your list, keep in mind that it has been closed to access in the recent past, so planning well in advance is advisable.

*Thanks to Wayne for informing me that there is a term for the variation in a perceived slope as you approach it or leave it.

Right: Wayne Todd and Frank Lahr on Mount Kaçkar. Photo by Greg Lebo.



Wayne Todd and Frank Lahr on Mount Ararat summit. Photo by Frank Lahr.



Peak of the Month: Spiral Mountain

Text by Steve Gruhn; photos by Dano Michaud

Mountain Range: Kenai Mountains

Borough: Kenai Peninsula Borough

Drainages: Bear Glacier and Blackstone Creek

Latitude/Longitude: 60° 7' 43" North, 149° 36' 55" West



Elevation: 1302 meters (4272 feet)

Adjacent Peaks: Peak 5510 in the Bear Glacier and Exit Glacier drainages and Lowell Peak (1346 meters, 4416 feet). The 2017 *Seward A-8 SE* map indicates that between Spiral Mountain and Peak 5510 there is the possibility of a 4620-foot summit having 500 feet of prominence, sufficient to be considered a true peak; however, both the 1950 *Seward (A-8)* map and the 2020 Alaska Department of Natural Resources online topographic map indicate that the prominence of that summit is less than 500 feet.

Distinctness: 1417 feet from Peak 5510 (or possibly the 4620-foot summit)

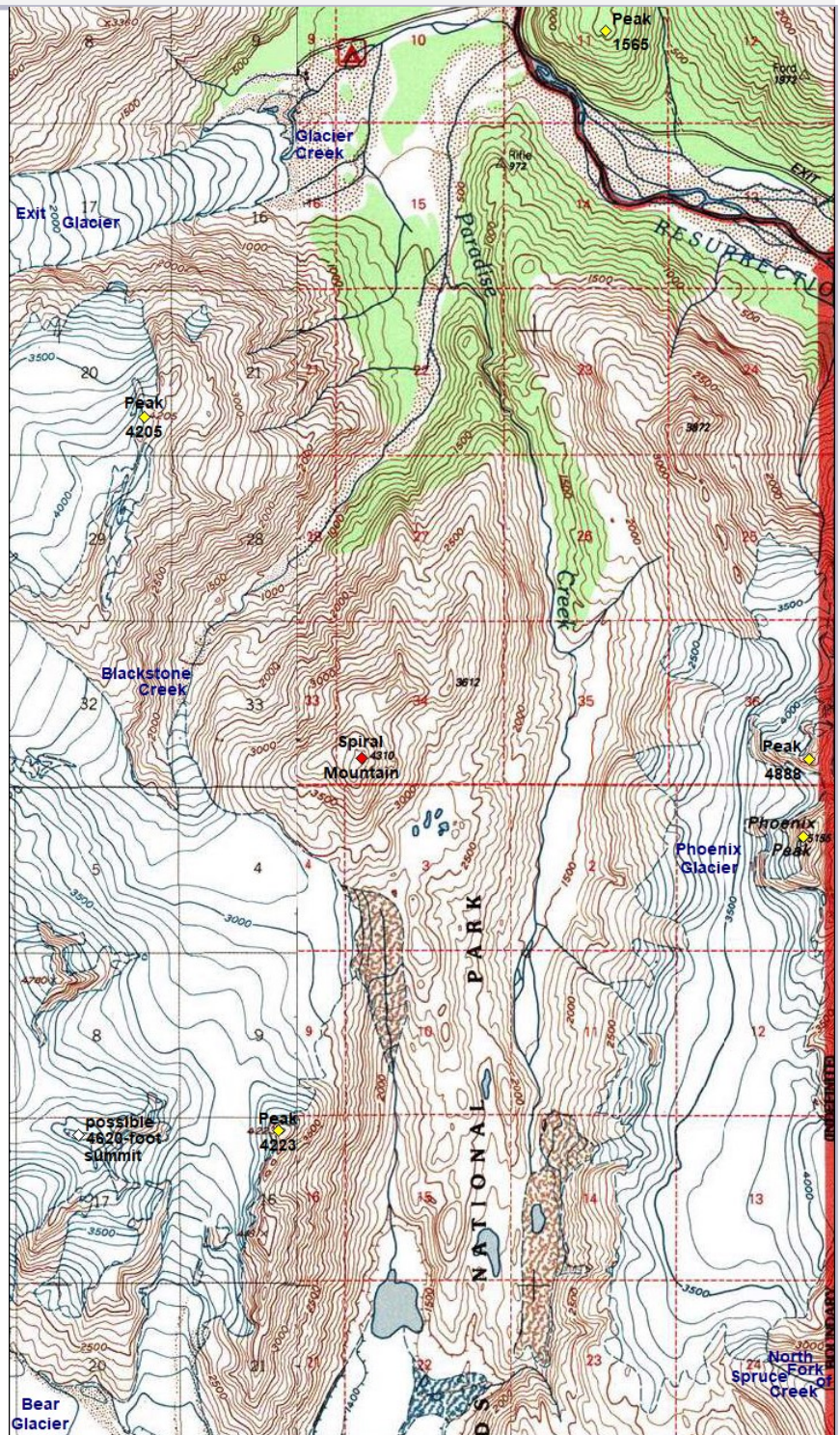
Prominence: 1417 feet from Peak 5510 (or possibly the 4620-foot summit)

USGS Maps: 1:63,360: *Seward (A-7)*; 1:25,000: *Seward A-7 NW*

First Recorded Ascent: June 3, 2000, by Harold Faust and George Peck

Route of First Recorded Ascent: West ridge

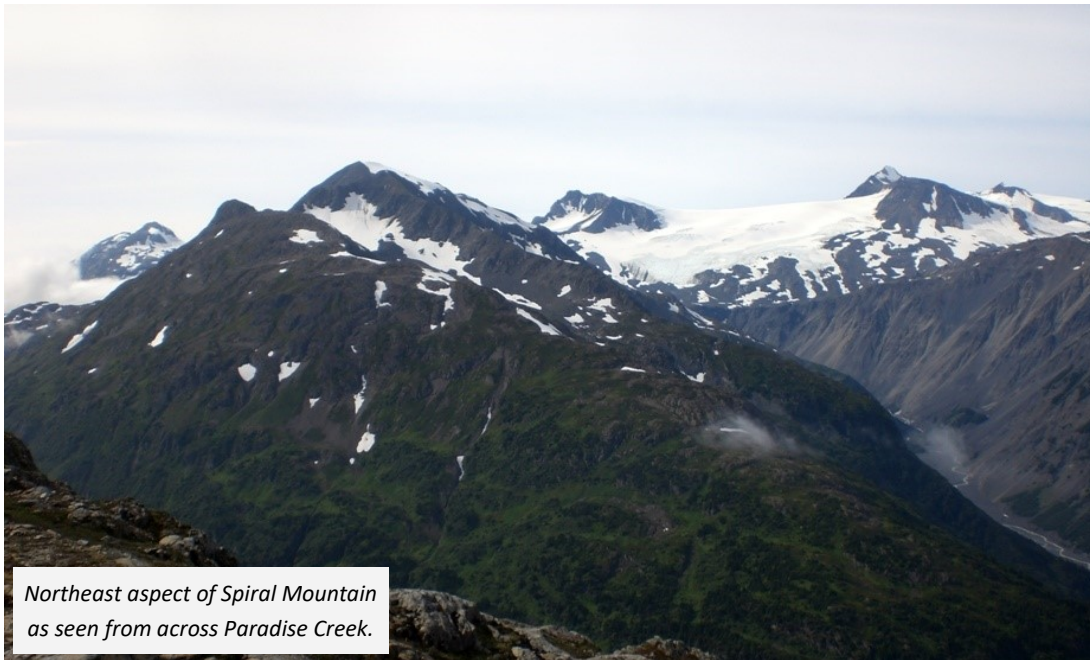
Access Point: Exit Glacier Campground



On June 3, 2000, Harold Faust and George Peck set out from the Exit Glacier Campground in Kenai Fjords National Park on a day trip to climb the peak southeast of Blackstone Creek and west of Paradise Creek. The pair crossed Glacier Creek, headed up Paradise Creek, and then followed Blackstone Creek upstream to the southwest. About 2-½ miles upstream from the mouth of Blackstone Creek the two turned south and headed up a broad gully and gradually gained the ridge to the

west of that gully. They followed this ridge southward and then southeastward, and finally northeastward to reach the summit. The duo named the peak Spiral Mountain to commemorate the counter-clockwise spiraling route of their ascent. The name remains unofficial.

Faust and Peck then descended northward on the ridge, following it to about 3600 feet, where, continuing north, they departed from the ridge and descended a gully to Blackstone



Northeast aspect of Spiral Mountain as seen from across Paradise Creek.

Creek. The two then retraced their route to the Exit Glacier Campground.

On August 24, 2010, Faust, Dano Michaud, and Tom Swann set out from the Caines Head State Recreation Site Trailhead with plans of climbing several peaks, including Spiral Mountain. Over the next two days, the trio climbed Dos Peaks (981 meters, 3218 feet), Bench Mark Peak (970.8 meters, 3185 feet), Mount Kenny Baker (1082 meters, 3550 feet), Lowell Peak, and Phoenix Peak (1581 meters, 5187 feet). But after setting up their second camp, Swann convinced the others to forgo Spiral Mountain, opting for an exit with fewer stream crossings and less elevation gain. But their goal of an ascent of Spiral Mountain wouldn't have to wait for more than a year.

On August 10, 2011, Faust, Michaud, Peck, and Swann started out on a three-day trip from the Exit Glacier Campground parking lot, crossed Glacier Creek, and headed up Paradise Creek before following Blackstone Creek upstream to the southwest. About a mile upstream from the mouth of Blackstone Creek, the party turned south and ascended the same snow-filled gully that Faust and Peck had descended in 2000. This gully has since come to be called the "Peck Direct." They reached the ridge overlooking Paradise Creek at an elevation of about 3440 feet. The four followed the ridge westward, and then southward to reach the summit of Spiral Mountain. The team then glissaded down to a notch on the north ridge, descended to the east, and then

headed south a couple miles to put in their first camp at about 2100 feet near a tarn. On the second day the party moved about 5-½ miles to the south and camped east of Cerebrum Creek at about 500 feet. The third day, the team climbed Bench Mark Peak, descended to the north, and then scrambled up the west ridge of Foundary Peak (930 meters, 3051 feet). The party descended the northeast ridge to Lowell Point.

I don't know of a third ascent of Spiral Mountain.

The information for this column came from Michaud's trip report titled "Tonsina to Red Line," which appeared in the March 2011 *Scree*; from Michaud's trip report titled "Spinal Tap!", which appeared in the April 2012 *Scree*; and from my correspondence with Faust, Michaud, and Swann.



Harold Faust, George Peck, and Tom Swann ascend the northeast ridge of Spiral Mountain.

Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

October 25, 2023, 6:30-8:30 p.m. at 2425 Hialeah Drive, Anchorage

Roll Call

Peter Taylor (President) – Present

Rebecca Marks (Vice President) – Present

Donell Irwin (Secretary) – Present

Dominick Curtiss (Treasurer) – Present

Tom McIntyre (Director) – Absent

Andrew Holman (Director) – Present

Matt Nedom (Director) – Present

G Platt (Director) – Present

Reux Stearns (Director) – Absent

Lang Van Dommelen (Director) - Absent

Guests in attendance:

Lane Christenson, Annie Shane, Gerrit Verbeek, Scott Parmelee

Scribe: Donell

New Business

- Dominick Curtiss has volunteered and been approved by the board to take the role of Treasurer.
- Board created a new volunteer position called Membership Secretary, this position will help to lighten the Treasurer workload with duties such as verifying the membership list and getting membership cards organized for those who want them. Annie Shane was selected for this position. Thank you, Annie!
- Welcomed Lane Christenson to board meetings as a regular non-voting attendee.
- Discussed that we will need to propose the budget at the general meeting for vote in January.
- Discussed board roles and meeting attendance.
- Discussed YouTube-generated donations, and how to thank donors and channel owner.
- Reviewed the board meeting cycle.
- Discussed Christmas party arrangements.
- Discussed that the paid administrative position was approved to begin pursuing. Peter has drafted a job description. We will discuss the draft job description at the next board meeting.

Finance Report

- Grant check for \$48,000 came though, it has been suggested we deposit this in a separate account along with several recent donations that have come in from YouTube to support the huts.
- 2024 budget proposal needs to be published in *the Scree*. Publication deadline of November 11th.

Huts Report

- Eklutna traverse waste management is still an effort in progress; any suggestions are welcome.

General Meetings Report

- December – No general meeting; Christmas party will be held at Onsite Brewing Company on Thursday, December 14th, from 6 to 8 p.m.
- Some speakers have volunteered to speak at future membership meetings, and we are still looking for more.

Trips/Training

- Discussed possible crevasse-rescue training, and possibly booking the Serenity Falls Cabin for a weekend in February. Brainstormed ideas for future trips and training such as skiing, snow caves, Denali training, and hut supply trips.
- Looking into options for meeting places (Alaska Rock Gym [ARG] possible option for yoga room and meeting room; Rigging International Group [RIG] facility is another option).

Votes

- Voted yes to appoint Dominick Curtiss to the position of Treasurer.

- Voted yes to create a new volunteer position Membership Secretary.
- Voted yes to appoint Annie Shane to the position of Membership Secretary.

Action Items

- Peter – Look into liability insurance, circulate draft job description for the paid position.
- Rebecca – Christmas party planning; RIG crevasse rescue; send email to board confirming speaker schedule.
- Scott – Submit huts budget.
- Donell – Put together a list of board-meeting attendees for meeting emails, share Google drive to board members, get samples and patches from storage locker, send email to Andy Kubic about ARG.
- Gerrit – Send drafted thank you email to Scott.
- G – Look into Serenity Falls Cabin reservation.
- Discussed reaching out to Josh Wilson to help fix email issues.

Future Agenda Items

- Library
- Paid position / draft job description
- Budget proposal

Time and Location of next Meeting

Board Meeting

Wednesday, November 29, 6-8 p.m., location to be determined

Christmas Party

Thursday, December 14, 6-8 p.m., Onsite Brewing Company

General Membership Meetings

Location BP Energy Center, Birch Room, Times: 6-8 p.m.

Wednesday, January 10, 2024

Wednesday, February 7, 2024

Wednesday, March 6, 2024

Wednesday, April 3, 2024

Notes on the Proposed 2024 Budget

The proposed 2024 budget is drafted as business as usual, but includes recognition of Mint-Hut-expansion costs and associated grant income.

Hut-maintenance costs have been prepared by the Huts Committee and recognize the current realities of servicing and maintaining our hut network.

Scree costs recognize current printing costs. *Scree* subscriptions are at zero, pending further investigation of accounting for this minor income stream.

Membership income has been conservatively projected, due to dues-to-date for 2023 coming in lower than projected. Further analysis could see changes in this income line.

Training income and expenses are subject to further adjustment as we await analysis of IceFest financials and plans for 2024.

Proposed 2024 Budget

| | Proposed 2024 Budget | 2023 through 11/12/23 | 2023 Budget | 2022 Actual | 2021 Actual | 2020 Actual | 2019 Actual |
|--------------------------------------|-------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| Income | | | | | | | |
| Donations | \$1,500 | \$4 | \$1,500 | \$7,103 | \$17,200 | \$7,175 | \$455 |
| Events | \$1,200 | \$2,673 | \$1,200 | | | | |
| Interest Income | \$120 | \$206 | \$204 | \$350 | \$0 | \$196 | \$0 |
| Membership dues | \$18,000 | \$15,436 | \$20,004 | \$18,979 | \$15,019 | \$16,581 | \$15,608 |
| MCA products | \$300 | | \$300 | \$0 | \$0 | \$706 | \$710 |
| Photo calendar | \$3,000 | \$587 | \$3,000 | \$3,336 | \$1,419 | \$2,820 | \$2,423 |
| Scree subscriptions | \$0 | \$0 | \$504 | \$0 | \$0 | \$270 | \$225 |
| Training income | \$3,000 | \$3,777 | \$3,000 | \$2,625 | \$3,239 | \$0 | \$5,086 |
| Total Income | \$27,120 | \$22,684 | \$29,412 | \$32,394 | \$36,877 | \$27,748 | \$24,507 |
| Less Cost of Sales | | | | | | | |
| MCA Products expense | \$300 | \$0 | \$300 | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 | \$300 |
| Photo calendar expense | \$2,500 | \$2,064 | \$2,004 | \$2,090 | \$74 | \$1,275 | \$1,530 |
| Total Cost of Sales | \$2,800 | \$2,064 | \$2,304 | \$2,090 | \$74 | \$1,275 | \$1,830 |
| Gross Profit | \$24,320 | \$20,620 | \$27,108 | \$30,304 | \$36,803 | \$26,473 | \$22,677 |
| Less Operating Expenses | | | | | | | |
| Administrative | \$2,500 | \$1,587 | \$2,496 | \$1,302 | \$1,197 | \$684 | \$579 |
| Awards | \$350 | \$0 | \$348 | \$0 | \$149 | \$0 | \$0 |
| Club equipment | \$650 | \$552 | \$648 | \$662 | \$519 | \$561 | \$480 |
| Event expense | \$600 | \$1,760 | | | | | |
| General Meeting | \$2,900 | \$299 | \$3,504 | \$100 | \$481 | \$941 | \$43 |
| Hut maintenance | \$7,550 | \$3,246 | \$3,000 | \$13,209 | \$23,384 | \$19,704 | \$3,176 |
| Insurance | \$1,200 | \$0 | \$1,116 | \$0 | \$30 | \$0 | \$100 |
| Library | \$100 | \$0 | \$72 | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 |
| Scree | \$3,780 | \$1,719 | \$2,496 | \$2,768 | \$1,877 | \$1,988 | \$1,240 |
| Training expenses | \$5,000 | \$2,688 | \$5,004 | \$2,152 | \$2,606 | \$80 | \$3,702 |
| Total Operating Expenses | \$24,630 | \$11,851 | \$18,684 | \$20,192 | \$30,242 | \$23,958 | \$9,319 |
| Total Expenses | \$24,630 | \$11,851 | \$18,684 | \$20,192 | \$30,242 | \$23,958 | \$9,319 |
| Net Surplus/Deficit | -\$310 | | \$8,424 | \$10,111 | \$6,560 | \$2,514 | \$13,358 |
| Reserve | | | | | | | |
| Bank accounts 11/11/23 | \$78,956 | | | | | | |
| Grant pledged 2023 | \$60,000 | | | | | | |
| Capital expenditure | | | | | | | |
| Mint hut expansion | -\$80,000 | | | | | | |
| Net Surplus/Deficit from operations | -\$310 | | | | | | |
| Budgeted Net reserve 12/31/24 | \$58,646 | | | | | | |

General Membership Meeting Minutes

November 2, 2023, 6:00-8:00 p.m. at the B.P. Energy Center, Anchorage, AK

Approximately 70 people attended this meeting.

Welcome newcomers! Thirteen newcomers introduced themselves. Welcome!

Announcements

- Peter Taylor – Treasurer position has been filled by Dominick Curtiss.
- A new volunteer role has been created called Membership Secretary and filled by volunteer Annie Shane.
- Lane Christenson was welcomed as a non-voting board member and volunteer.
- Scott Parmelee will continue to run the Huts Committee and be a board liaison.
- Gerrit Verbeek is staying on the board.
- Jaime Bronga is handling email inquiries for the club.
- Anyone is welcome to come to the board meetings.
- We want to publish a budget proposal in *the Scree* in November.
- Reminder: Membership voted to approve looking into a paid position; however, we currently have a lot of volunteer enthusiasm!
- Mint Hut grant was approved.
- Outdoor Boys made a YouTube video that has brought in several donations.
- Greg Bragiel is organizing an Eklutna traverse trip for April. Also, talk to Greg if you are interested in a private ski trip on December 3rd.
- The Serenity Falls Cabin is tentatively being reserved for the club the first weekend in February.
- A crevasse rescue course is in the works.
- Andrew Holman, thank you for recording the events and putting them on YouTube!
- Gerrit Verbeek, thank you all you have done and continue to do for the club!
- Heather Johnson – Calendars are available at Alaska Mountaineering & Hiking and at The Hoarding Marmot; they are \$20. They will also be available at Backcountry Bike & Ski in Palmer.
- Rebecca Marks – Holiday party will be on Thursday, December 14th, from 6 to 8 p.m. at Onsite Brewing Company. (No general membership meeting in December.)

Guest Speakers

Paxson Woelber and Allie Heaslet spoke on wild ice skating.

Mountaineering Club of Alaska

President Peter Taylor president@mtclubak.org
Vice-President Rebecca Marks vicepresident@mtclubak.org
Secretary Donell Irwin secretary@mtclubak.org
Treasurer Dominick Curtiss 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—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>.

Orca the dog on Peak 4364, Amphitheater Mountains, Alaska Range. Photo by Renee Ernster.

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