

**"Challenges are what make life interesting and overcoming them is what makes life meaningful."**

**— Joshua J. Marine**

# the **SCREE**

**Mountaineering Club  
of Alaska**

**July 2018**

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**Monthly meeting: Adjourned for the summer.**

**"To maintain, promote, and perpetuate the association of persons who are interested in promoting, sponsoring, improving, stimulating, and contributing to the exercise of skill and safety in the Art and Science of Mountaineering."**

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

## Cover Photo

Carrie Wang climbing the upper ridge of Peak 3766.

Photo by Wayne Todd

## JULY MEETING

Monthly meeting: Adjourned for the summer.

## Hiking and Climbing Schedule

**July 13-21** MCA Summer Mountaineering Instructional Trip. Training/ learning goals: Trip organization, leadership, meal planning, navigation, route-finding, Snow travel, running belay, snow anchors, knots, 10 essentials, Terminology, Glacier travel, Ice Climbing, Belaying, Crevasse rescue, Wilderness medicine, Bouldering, Rock climbing, Rappelling and more while traveling the Bomber Traverse. Leader: Greg Bragiel: [huts@mtnclubak.org](mailto:huts@mtnclubak.org), 350-5146 Deadline to sign on for this trip April 17.

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

## Choate's Chuckle - Tom Choate

**Q:** In trad climbing, pitons and bolts needed the same thing that alcoholics want. What's that?

*Answer: on page 21.*

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## Announcements

MCA Hut Closures for summer 2018

Mint Hut will be closed for maintenance July 13, 14, and 15, 2018.

Bomber Hut will be closed for maintenance July 16, 17, and 18, 2018.

Plan to sleep outside the hut if you are in the area. Greg Bragiel - MCA huts chair

[Backcountry.com](http://Backcountry.com) 15% purchases will only be given to members (working on details now).

Working on more discounts that will be for club members as well. Let's not forget the AMH discounts, speakers through the year, and of course the amazing huts. Small price to pay for a great club!

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

Online? Click me!



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

## Lake Benchmark Mountain (5050 feet), Endicott Mountains, Brooks Range

Text and photos by Lupe Lunde and SPHP

*August 19, 2017, Day 20 of Lupe's 2017 Dingo Vacation to the Yukon and Alaska!*

*Start - 11:32 a.m., 42° Fahrenheit at a large parking area on the west side of the Dalton Highway just south of the bridge over the Atigun River.*

The morning fog was gone. Low clouds still covered much of the sky, but patches of blue let sunshine through in spots. This was it! Lupe's chance for an attempt on Lake Benchmark Mountain (5050 feet) had arrived! The mountain sat along the north edge of Alaska's fabled Brooks Range. If the sky kept clearing this afternoon, the American Dingo would have a spectacular view of the North Slope from the summit. Full of enthusiasm, Lupe and her slow-plodding human porter (SPHP) set out heading north across the bridge over the Atigun River.

North of the river, Lupe turned east on an access road leading to the trans-Alaska pipeline service road. Soon she was having a riot exploring nearby tundra while SPHP followed the service road north. A beautiful, high rounded ridge was east of the pipeline. That ridge was the way to Lake Benchmark Mountain, only a few miles north-northeast from here. After going 0.5 mile north along the pipeline, Lupe and SPHP turned northeast and began climbing the beautiful ridge.

The lower and upper slopes were spongy, boggy, and full of tussocks. Only the steepest part of the ridge was relatively



*Lake Benchmark Mountain (left) on August 23, 2017. Photo looks northeast.*

dry. Lupe followed the edge of a long ravine containing a small stream. Views of Galbraith Lake and the Atigun River back to the west and south became increasingly impressive.

Lupe continued far beyond the end of the stream. The slope of the ridge was gradually diminishing, but Lupe never reached any definite crest. She was wandering up an enormous slope that kept going higher.



*Crossing the Atigun River. Photo looks east.*



*After a good beginning climb, Lupe has a great view of the Atigun River valley. Photo looks south.*

A big hill was ahead at the far north end of the ridge. SPHP believed that hill was either part of Lake Benchmark Mountain or would lead to it, but wanted to get a view of the territory east of there in order to confirm that opinion. Lupe traveled northeast for what seemed like a long way, but before she got high enough, clouds and fog suddenly blew in out of the west. The Carolina Dog wasn't going to be able to see anything to the east now. She gave up on that idea, and headed straight for the big hill at the north end of the ridge.

Fog completely took over. The hill Lupe was heading for disappeared. So

did everything else except immediately surrounding terrain. SPHP used occasional large, isolated boulders to help keep Looper aimed in the right direction, sighting along them to the next boulder the Carolina Dog should head for.

Lupe reached the base of the hill, and began to climb more steeply. She went up a series of rocky ramps and benches. This was much firmer ground, free of the bogs and tussocks present lower down on the big ridge. SPHP had a far easier time here, despite the greater angle of ascent.

Partway up the hill, Lupe came to a level area where there was more vegetation again. By now a cold rain had started in. Suddenly

Loop wasn't having as much fun as before. SPHP started becoming concerned about what little could be seen. A substantial cliff dropped into a gray abyss along the northeast side of the level area. According to the topographic map, it shouldn't have been there. To the northwest, the hill went still higher, but nothing at all could be seen to the east except more fog.

That cliff was bothersome. It couldn't be reconciled with the topo map, if Lupe was actually on her way up Lake Benchmark Mountain. SPHP was beginning to suspect maybe Lupe was too far

west.

Might as well check out the rest of this hill. Lupe climbed north-west. Eventually, she could see a ridge above shaped vaguely like



*Going up the foggy ramps.*

what Lake Benchmark Mountain's summit ought to look like, but hardly any detail could be seen through the fog. How much higher was it? SPHP guessed maybe 500 or 600 vertical feet. The rain, which had slackened up, now returned as snow. The snow wasn't sticking yet, but added to SPHP's growing sense of uneasiness. Lupe wasn't uneasy. She was wet, cold, and miserable.

Wandering around alone up on mountains on the north side of the Brooks Range in rain and snow with almost no visibility? Maybe this was getting just a little too stupid. SPHP asked Loopster if she wanted to go back to the G6? The American Dingo gave her most ecstatic, enthusiastic response possible. A bitter

defeat, but there seemed to be no sensible alternative. Lupe and SPHP started back down.

Lupe hadn't lost much elevation yet when suddenly a break appeared in the clouds. The snow ended. Galbraith Lake was in sight! Out came the topo map for comparison with the lake to try to get reoriented again. SPHP quickly became convinced Lupe



*Lupe relaxes near Coronary Apsoo No. 4 (center). Photo looks northeast.*

wasn't on Lake Benchmark Mountain at all. She was somewhere on the upper south slopes of Peak 4750! She was indeed a mile too far west, as SPHP had begun to suspect a while back. SPHP was pondering the implications of that discovery when the sky cleared off to the northwest, too. Lupe could now clearly see several high points over that way. Another review of the topo map convinced SPHP that Peak 4750 was really the next peak over to the west-northwest. In that case, Lupe actually was somewhere on Lake Benchmark Mountain.

The views disappeared again as another batch of clouds plunged the hill Lupe was on back into fog. A heavy mist began. Still, the brief break in the weather had been encouraging. Maybe conditions were going to improve? The hasty decision to return to the G6 was rescinded. Lupe and SPHP set off back up whatever hill or mountain this was.

The climb to the top wasn't nearly as far as the fog had made it seem. After gaining only 200 to 250 feet of elevation, Lupe was approaching a line of boulders on what appeared to be part of a summit ridge. Loop scrambled up a gap between boulders. A survey pin could be seen only 20 feet away to the east! Hopes soared that maybe Lupe had just stumbled upon Lake Benchmark?

No, there wasn't a benchmark, just a survey pin. Lupe and SPHP searched the tops of the highest boulders along the ridge-line. Nothing. The top of the survey pin was clearly stamped "Coronary Apsoo No. 4." Clear all right. Clear as mud. Meant absolutely nothing to SPHP. Might as well have been Chinese.

Apparently Coronary Apsoo No. 4 meant "Go to the obviously higher point so close by that you can even see it through the fog, dummy!" Nothing else really sprang to mind. So after drawing a blank by this first survey pin, Lupe and SPHP headed northeast on a short easy ridge walk to a noticeably higher point nearby. This next high point appeared to be the top of the mountain. The summit area wasn't huge, but was plenty big enough to wander around a bit. No survey benchmark could be found up here, either, only another survey pin stamped with an equally cryptic message.

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*Loop on a strip of vegetation with a typical rock wall providing separation from the next higher band beyond it. Photo looks northeast.*

Lupe lost 200 feet of elevation. The snow quit again. Already it wasn't as foggy as higher up. Maybe Loo- per should angle southeast hoping to catch a glimpse of Lake Benchmark Mountain? Seemed like a reasonable course of action.



*Lake Benchmark.*

Lupe must be at the top of either Lake Benchmark Mountain or Peak 4750, but which was it? The Carolina Dog stood glumly in the mist while SPHP tried to work it out.

After further exploration, SPHP had an answer. Lupe was at the top of Peak 4750. She had climbed the wrong mountain! The heavy mist turned to snow. Sheesh! Better head down.

Lupe lost 200 feet of elevation. The snow quit again. Already it wasn't as foggy as higher up. Maybe Loo- per should angle southeast hoping

to catch a glimpse of Lake Benchmark Mountain? Seemed like a reasonable course of action. Going down the ramps and benches, Lupe started to discern the faint foggy outline of some big hill off to the east. Lake Benchmark Mountain? Seemed like it had to be. The Carolina Dog reached the fairly level area she had been to on the way up Peak 4750. She headed east near the cliff. Yes! No mistake. Lake Benchmark Mountain was in view!

Wow, there was still a pretty big elevation drop between here and there! At least it wasn't as foggy out as earlier. The really good news was that what could be seen of Lake Benchmark Mountain looked climbable. Just a really big, fairly steep hill, but no worse than that.

Now or never! By the time Loo- per had worked her way down Peak 4750's long southeast ridge to a wide boggy flats leading to Lake Benchmark Mountain, she had lost 600 feet of elevation. She would have to regain it all plus another 200 feet to reach Lake Benchmark's summit.

The climb began. The lower slope was easy. As things became steeper, lanes of vegetation leading up



*All I can say is, thank heavens it's not stamped Coronary Apsoo No. 5! Loop next to the Lake Benchmark (lower right).*

*Photo looks west.*

otherwise scree covered slopes helped. Lupe eventually reached areas of nothing but scree.

By the time the slope of the mountain moderated, Lupe was pretty high. She was back into fog, and it was snowing. The snow was starting to stick. A series of wide, relatively level areas covered with vegetation ran roughly east-west in long, broad strips. These strips were separated by minor slopes or ridges, which presented walls of rock or lines of boulders in some areas, although it was always possible to go around them. Lupe followed each of these vegetated bands some distance east before turning north and climbing up to the next one. The climbs were short and never difficult.

Eventually, Lupe was faced with a more formidable, longer wall of rock. Was that the summit ridge? It certainly seemed possible. The Carolina Dog traveled east below the wall of rock until she reached a place where it was possible to scramble up. Nope. Not the summit. Off to the northeast was an even higher rounded hill. Lupe went right to it and was soon on top. Poking around a collection of rocks at the high point revealed nothing. Then suddenly, there it was! Lower down, a little farther east, some sort of survey marker was sticking up from a loosely assembled modest cairn. Was it true? Was that it? Oh, yeah! This was it! Lupe had found the really, truly, genuine Lake Benchmark. Celebration time!

Although finding the Lake Benchmark was both cause for joy and undeniable proof that Lupe was actually on the right mountain this time around, the survey benchmark was not quite at the top of the mountain. The topo map showed an elevation of 4928 feet here. However, it also showed a small area within a 5000-foot contour not too far away to the east. If Lupe wanted to claim a peakbagging success, she needed to go find the true summit.

After all this miserable weather and first climbing the wrong peak, Lupe most certainly did want to claim a peakbagging success on Lake Benchmark Mountain—whether she could see anything or not! So after congratulations and a brief celebration at the actual Lake Benchmark, Lupe and SPHP headed east in light rain along a level ridge looking for the summit. Joy turned to dismay. Loop hadn't gone far, when up ahead, ghostly rock formations appeared in the fog. They looked potentially unclimbable for the American Dingo.

SPHP's fears were unjustified. Lupe reached the summit area to find massive boulders and a wall of rock, but open lanes existed providing her an easy scramble to the top. And just like that, Lupe was there, perched at the undeniable summit of Lake Benchmark Mountain (5050 feet)!

The summit was a knob of rock perhaps 20 feet long and 5 feet wide. The south side of the knob was a solid rock wall — 6 to 8

feet high — next to a level patch of tundra. To the north, the knob dropped sharply away toward a chasm of indeterminable depth. Of course, standing up there in light rain and fog, Lupe could see none of the glorious view of the North Slope that she had come so far to see, and would have had on a clear day. Lake Benchmark Mountain, the northernmost mountain Lupe had ever climbed, was a peakbagging success, but a complete scenic fail.

With no views, there wasn't much point in hanging around. A mere 10 minutes after arriving, Lupe and SPHP began the descent. By the ghostly rocks, Loop paused for a final look back.

The rocky apparitions vanished from sight almost as soon as Lupe left them. She would never see them again. In rain and fog, Lupe trudged along sopping wet at SPHP's heels. Finally, something caught her interest. The Carolina Dog was off like a shot. Despite the rain, she ran great distances. Loop was having fun again! She ran and sniffed the rest of the way.

At last, Lupe was far enough down to get below the clouds. Galbraith Lake came back into view. The Dalton Highway and trans-Alaska pipeline were down there, too.

Wouldn't be long now before Looper was warm and dry, snoozing snugly beneath her blankie with a full belly. Lupe never would get to see that glorious view of the North Slope from Lake Benchmark Mountain, but she had been up there. She had stood at the very top of a mountain at the north edge of the Brooks Range in northern Alaska. Not many dingoes can say that! (End 7:29 p.m.)

*Revised and condensed from an upcoming post at <http://www.adventuresoflupe.com/>, publishing on July 28, 2018.*



*Approaching the north end of the Brooks Range on August 18, 2017. Peak 4750 is the high point at the right end of the distant ridge on the right. Lake Benchmark Mountain is off the right edge of this photo. The Atigun River is on the left. Photo looks north.*

# Forgotten Peak (5894 feet), Coast Mountains

Text and photos by Matt Callahan



*Dylan Miller at camp.*

*Summary: Dylan Miller and I made the first ascent of Peak 5894 north of Juneau on October 1st, 2017. After bushwhacking to timberline, negotiating a small glacier and some scrambling on granite blocks, we camped at 5000 feet. The next morning we traversed over the previously-climbed 5750-foot sub-peak and a couple of rappels and pitches up to 5.8 got us to the main summit. We reversed our ascent and approach route that afternoon.*

Peak 5894 rises out of temperate jungle into bowls of alpine heather with glaciated flanks and culminates in steep granite pinnacles. It separates the Davies and Cowee valleys north of Juneau and is clearly visible from the lab where I work and from Dylan's Tee Harbor house. A 5750-foot sub-peak has been climbed, but previous parties had not followed the ¼-mile alpine ridge to the true summit. Dylan Miller and I hiked out Davies Creek on September 30 and bushwhacked through some-

times steep trees to the bowl between Peak 5894 and Peak 4897 (known as Malted Milk Ball Spire). A marine layer of clouds kept route-finding interesting. We crossed an ablation-ice glacier, which was nerve-wracking with my approach shoes, dull crampons, and mountaineering axe, and set up camp at 5750 feet on the west ridge. We scrambled up to Point 5750 and did some cragging around camp as the clouds dissolved at dusk. The next day we retraced our steps to 5750, but then dropped onto the ridge to the summit. Mostly 4th-Class scrambling led to a rappel at a notch and a low 5th-Class pitch involving frozen mud to regain the ridge. A couple hundred yards later a 5.8 pitch gained another sub-peak and another rappel brought us within striking distance of the main summit. We traversed ledge systems on the south side of the ridge, below an impressive totem-pole pillar, scampered across a loose gully

held together with frozen mud, and scrambled up solid granite to the main summit. To descend we reversed the ridge with two rappels and two pitches of 5.6-ish climbing. We reversed our approach route that afternoon and reached our car just before dark.

We dubbed it Forgotten Peak because it's really obvious and no one had climbed it before.



*Dylan Miller leads the crux of the route.*



*Looking back to Point 5750 from the east.*



## Peak 3766 (1148 meters), Chugach Mountains

Text by Wayne L. Todd

March 19, 2017



*Looking east from Peak 3766 toward the Twentymile River Valley.*

*Photo by Wayne Todd*

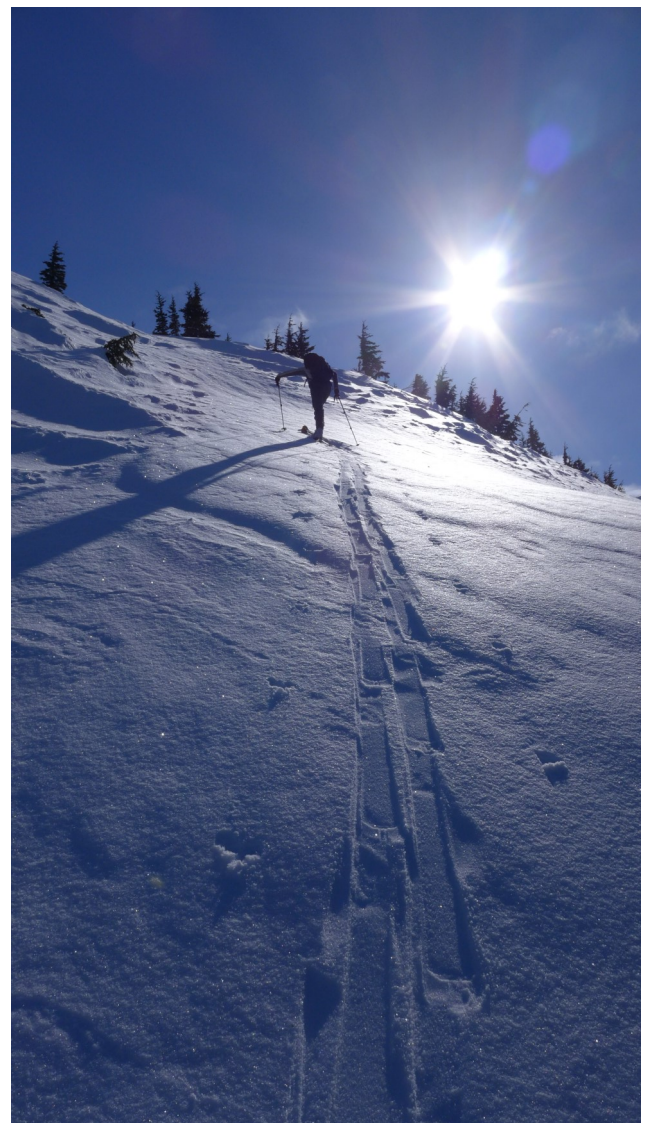
On a nippy mid-March morning, Cima Pillsbury, Carrie Wang, and I set out in mountain shade from the Twentymile train depot. For the few miles of flats that we are to cover, Carrie has the ultimate set-up of wide-scaled skis. I have a compromise of kicker skins and Cima has the classic full skins.

The familiar, and snowy, Chugach Mountains are already sunlit to our left. The not-so-familiar Chugach is still shaded to our right. We're all sprouting frosty faces, and my standard snoticicles, by the time we get some of the glorious sunshine. We've skied out and in this valley numerous times, so are familiar with the route, though we still follow snowmachine tracks. So little snow is on the ground, the effort for on or off trail is similar.

The tracks end in brush and we need to veer right anyway, so after one low creek crossing, we're headed for the west base of Peak 3766 (1148 meters) [*Ed. note: the summit elevation of this peak is shown as 3720 feet on the 1952 Seward (D-5) quadrangle, but as 1148 meters (3766 feet) on the 1984 Seward D-5 SW metric map*], and more shade. Analyzing a set of lynx tracks with a drag mark alongside, we decide it was a lynx dragging a hare.

We know the initial slopes are quite steep, as Carrie and I ventured here once before on foot and then snowshoes, only to turn around up higher where the traveling was easier. After locating an easier start zone in the forest, we begin a series of many short switchbacks (snowshoes would be more practical here). Where the angle increases even more and the switchbacks are ludicrously short, we opt for boot hiking, which is much more practical, and faster. At upper trees, we re-ski in tree-sliced sunshine.

We break into open country; full snow-reflected sunshine with views of the western Kenai Mountains. Trail-breaking is a mod-



*Skinning up the flank of Peak 3766.*

*Photo by Wayne Todd*

est six inches of powder with sporadic hard patches, more frequent as we ascend. A lone goat is glimpsed up ahead.

On the plateau, we find the goat tracks and now see him/her traveling up the narrow ridge toward the top. Cima opts to stop at the plateau for a sun-loaded spring nap. Carrie and I leave skis there, as it's doubtful we'd ski the narrow ridge section. Soon I'm using the goat tracks for steps, a first for me. The ridge mellows and broadens as we lose sight of the plateau, but we now have the striking backside views of Begich Peak (4623 feet [1409 meters]) and Boggs Peak (4518 feet [1377 meters]) (both dang steep). The windswept top is easy walking, even in ski boots. The goat has vaporized.

From on top, we also have views of much of the Western Chugach Mountains (or are we still in the Western Chugach?) and of close-by peaks still needing to be climbed. I find no obvious cairn, so make a quick and crude one. We don't loiter as it's already after 4 p.m. and we appreciate traveling while it's light.

We're soon back with Cima, de-skinned, and off for fun, mostly-firm, above-tree skiing. In the lightly-treed zone, the powder is great, so we zig and zag around our up-track. Too soon we're back to tree-canopy-affected snow and steep slopes, so wisely boot-hike down our up track (only plunging in occasionally?).

By the flats the sun has already hidden for the day, but there's still plenty of civil twilight to get us back to the car.

Ten hours, 14 miles, 4100 feet of elevation gain.



*Skinning up with Turnagain Arm and Twentymile River backdrop.  
Photo by Wayne Todd*



*Cima Pillsbury and Carrie Wang skiing across the lower ridge.  
Photo by Wayne Todd*



*Wayne Todd with Twentymile River view; Kinnikinnick Mountain is the prominent peak.  
Photo by Carrie Wang*



*Carrie Wang and Cima Pillsbury booting and post-holing on the descent.  
Photo by Wayne Todd*

# Mount Russell (11670 feet), South Ridge, Alaska Range

Text by Freddie Wilkinson; photos by Dana Drummond



*The upper 2000 feet of Mount Russell showing the huge rime formations along the south ridge and east face.*

Dana “Maddog” Drummond and I

knew we were in for a good time when Paul Roderick admitted this was his first time landing on the East Fork of the Dall Glacier. Six miles up valley from our basecamp lay the East Face of Mount Russell – an impressive mountain turret first climbed by Charlie Townsend and Dave Auble in 1989 (*see pages 21 through 27 of the 1990 American Alpine Journal [AAJ]*). Maddog’s and my intentions were comparatively modest. Over the past decade, Russell’s *voie normale*, the north ridge, had become increasingly broken up and blocked by several problematic crevasses. To the best of our knowledge, the mountain hadn’t been summited in the last five years. We hoped to find a new and moderate line to reach Russell’s elusive summit, and to make good on my promise to Maddog that we wouldn’t get in over our heads, we brought along a bare selection of hardware including a half-dozen ice screws, a carabiner of nuts, and three pitons.

We left our basecamp at 4900 feet early on April 7 for what we called the south face, a triangular feature bounded by two tributary spurs that rose to form the south ridge of the mountain. A line of steep snowfields led to the left-hand spur. Perfect granite gendarmes and hero ridge scrambling followed. Ten hours after leaving basecamp, we arrived at a snowfield a few hundred feet below the apex of the face and decided that was our best chance to dig a snow cave. After another three hours of aggressive chopping and man-labor, we had carved a 10-foot torpedo tube capable of housing us head-to-toe.

The next morning we left most of our kit and set off for the summit. The weather seemed iffy, but held enough promise of clearing to lure us on. Mellow ridge climbing led to a short corniced traverse before the ridge met with the final summit slopes of the mountain. This last section of the ascent yielded other-

worldly – yet technically easy – climbing as we navigated “Russell’s Cheeks,” a distinctive series of rime formations to arrive on the summit. We were rewarded with about five seconds of the lovely view looking north to Mount Foraker before the storm enveloped us for good. We carefully reversed the route to our cozy snow cave, where we elected to spend a fun-filled 36 hours snuggled together before returning to our basecamp at a leisurely pace.

The lighthearted spontaneity of our little adventure belies an incredible stroke of luck. I have no doubts that Maddog and I stumbled onto one of the best technical moderates in the entire Alaska Range. That route could and should have been done a half century ago. It’s every bit as classy as the West Ridge of Mount Hunter, the French Ridge on Mount Huntington, or the Cassin Ridge on Denali.

Note: Although the first ascent of Mount Russell, accomplished in 1962 by a German and American team (*see pages 390 through 395 of the 1963 AAJ*), has often been described as having followed the south ridge, that is misleading. The party began their ascent on the Chedotlothna Glacier to the north of the mountain and followed a glacial route around its western flank to reach the col (“Bavarian Col”) on the main range divide between Russell and Peak 9803, southwest of the summit. From there, they ascended a 600-foot “steep ice ramp” on the west face to reach the south ridge. Both Maddog and I can only surmise that they gained the south ridge just before or after the steepest section of corniced ridge we negotiated, approximately 1,500 feet below the summit. Given the overall length of the route and the fact that we followed the south ridge from its side of the divide, we feel okay calling ours the first ascent of the South Ridge. A better descriptor for the 1963 line might be the west face.



*Freddie Wilkinson descending Mount Russell after the storm.*

*Summary: First ascent of the south ridge of Mount Russell (5,000 feet, Alaska Grade 4), April 7 – April 10, 2017.*

[Link 1: <http://publications.americanalpineclub.org/articles/12199002100/Mount-Russells-East-Face>]

[Link 2 : <http://publications.americanalpineclub.org/articles/12196339000/The-First-Ascent-of-Mount-Russell>]

## Bench Peak (5575 feet), Kenai Mountains

Text by Zack Fields and Josh Gray; photos by Josh Gray



*On the summit of Bench Peak.*

Bench Peak's distance from a trailhead and inconvenient summer access mean it's not a particularly common climbing destination. However, winter often delivers a more-feasible, ski-based approach route, and it is a fine cure for peak fever. Bench Peak is alluring because of its remoteness and its dominance of the skyline over the Johnson Creek Summit area.

Bench Peak must receive significantly more precipitation than the ridgelines just to the west, because glaciers nearly surround its summit. Two of these, to the north and northeast, are access routes for climbers. Most trip reports suggest ascending the northeast glacier, then following the narrow ridgeline northwest to Bench Peak's summit. For ski mountaineers traveling on a stable snowpack, the glacier that flows northward right off of Bench Peak's summit is a faster, shorter route that avoids any exposure or tedious ridgeline navigation. The hazards are simple: an avalanche would wash you over seracs and, most likely, cliff bands.

Avalanches on the glacier may seem like the least of your concerns compared to the approach to the peak. It begins from the Johnson Pass Trailhead, and follows the winter snowmachine route south to the area where the summer trail crosses Center Creek and then Bench Creek. It is possible, and quite scenic, to follow Center Creek upstream when it has frozen solid and snowed on top. However, the faster route – assuming a healthy snowpack – is to follow the summer trail south for about  $\frac{3}{4}$  of a mile and look for snowmachine tracks that leave the summer trail and head steeply uphill, to the east.

After passing through a short narrow meadow, this route links increasingly wide meadows as it approaches the confluence of Center Creek and Divide Creek. The snowmachine trail goes up and down, up and down, over the toe of ridges that descend from Bench Peak. Once you arrive at the confluence of Center Creek

and Divide Creek, cross Divide and then head up its northern bank. One of the potential hazards of the trip is crossing these south-facing slopes above the deeply incised Divide Creek gorge below. The other side of the creek looks even worse; at least there are some undulations on the north side of the creek to allow you to manage avalanche terrain somewhat. After about a mile of traversing above a massive terrain trap, the valley opens up and is well above timberline. Another mile of easy climbing brings you to the base of Bench Peak's north glacier.

The steepest part of the ascent up the north glacier is at the start, climbing up a couple linked bowls to get on the more mellow part of the glacier. These bowls are definitely in avalanche terrain, and you have to cross a convexity at the top of them that seems like one logical point to trigger an avalanche if one was going to occur. Above that, it is a straightforward skin up to the summit.

The climb from right below the glacier to the summit is about 2,600 feet, and might not take much more than an hour and a half. Once on top, it's a quick descent down the glacier. On the return, the greatest hazard is crossing the south-facing slopes above Divide Creek again, this time after more hours of potential solar warming. Beyond that, it's a long slog back to the Johnson Pass Trailhead, probably in winter's darkness.



*Zack Fields descending Bench Peak's north glacier.*

## Bidarka Peak (3835 feet), Western Chugach Mountains

Text and photos by Marcin Ksok



The following trip involved a couple of mistakes. The first one was to venture up Indian Valley in August. The growth was quite impressive up there, as I found out. But I needed a peak to summit, not too far, not too difficult; therefore, I ventured through the grasses up the Indian Valley Trail. The miles did go quickly, despite sweat and insects, and shortly before the pass I made my second mistake and decided on starting up early and cutting off some distance. The west ridge of Bidarka Peak wasn't far and soon I was fully committed, fighting through head-tall grasses while trying to gain steeper ground on the lower slopes. The salvation I imagined did not materialize, as the slope proved slippery, and I was grateful for dwarf spruce for support. Eventually grass gave way to rocks and upon reaching the ridge I realized that the top was farther than I speculated. At least from then on the traveling was enjoyable. The ridge formed a semicircle curving to the north, hugging a kettle lake at the base of some actually steep walls spilling from the west side of the peak. As I walked the ridge, toward the summit, things got interestingly steeper; there might be two summits, so I tiptoed to the farthest one also. For the descent I took the ridge all the way down to some old structure at its base (weather station?) and made my way to the trail proper. It was all downhill then, six miles or so of good walking, still overgrown, but in retrospect, quite pleasant.

*Above: Marcin Ksok's route follows grass to grass slopes to the ridge.*

*Right: Marcin Ksok on the summit of Bidarka Peak.*



## Mount Eklutna (4065 feet) and Flag Mountain (4009 feet), Western Chugach Mountains

Text and photos by Marcin Ksok



*Kate Yenik on the ridgeline.*

I have witnessed an interesting phenomenon. The numbers of participants of a particular trip are inversely proportional to its difficulties and miseries. During this outing Greg Encelewski and I found ourselves in company of two more individuals. Kate Yenik and Rob Litsenberger joined us on a glorious day for a pleasant stroll up the two easily attainable summits. Personally I was now on a quest to visit places I had overlooked over the years. I am baffled by the number of times I ventured up Flattop Mountain, Peaks Two and Three, among the rest of the blinded public and never opted for such great alternatives as Mount Eklutna, for example. Well, there we were, strolling up the Peters Creek Trail and taking a left at the intersection toward the peak proper. Weather was glorious, views amazing. We started gaining elevation and however hard Greg and I tried to pull on our reins, we just couldn't slow down and pass up on the uphill exercise. Kate and Rob paid no attention to our folly and enjoyed the hike and social time. After reaching the ridge and turning right, the summit came in short order. We waited, regrouped, and continued on down the ridge to Peak 4009 [*Ed. note: This peak was called Flag Mountain by Frank Baker in the August 2014 Scree*]. Eklutna Lake came into view in all its splendor; so did the high peaks surrounding it. From Peak 4009 we pondered the ridgeline ahead, which could take us all the way

Scree—July 2018

to Thunder Bird Peak, but this was not that kind of a trip. We also passed up an optional descent to Four Mile Creek, as the amount of involved bushwhacking was not known to anyone. Instead we retraced our path back down the ridge and the south slopes of Mount Eklutna. If you are heading for one of those popular destinations don't forget about the lesser-known trips you could take instead. Mount Eklutna is one of them.



*Kate Yenik on Mount Eklutna.*

# "The Alaskan Monster" and "The Stump Rider,"

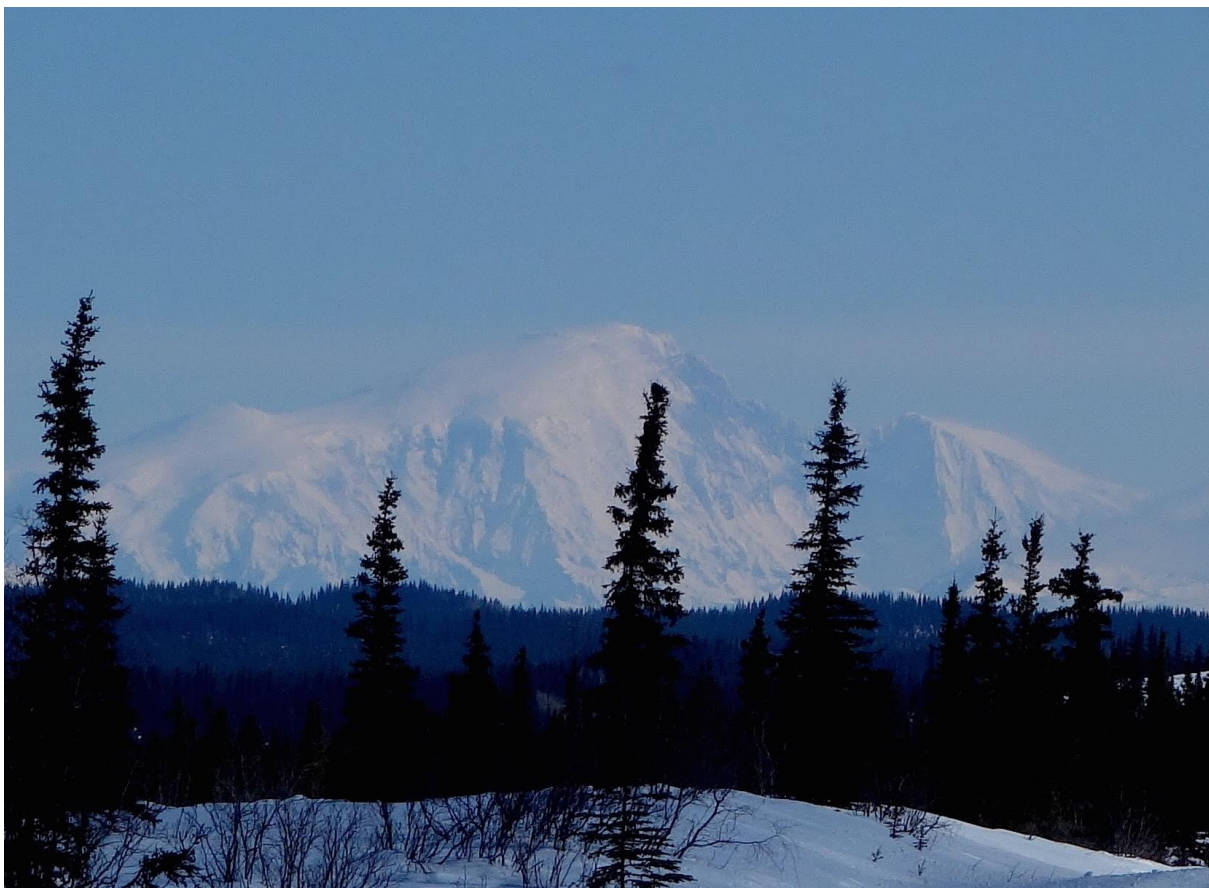
## New Rock Routes, Ruth Gorge, Alaska Range

Text by Freddie Wilkinson

Two months after making the first ascent of the south ridge of Mount Russell with Dana Drummond, I returned to Talkeetna. Despite being accompanied by the all-star team of Alex Honnold and Renan Ozturk, conditions and motivations didn't align for a big adventure. Instead, we made two minor first ascents on the sunny side of The Great Gorge.

On June 17, Alex and I climbed a circa 1,000-foot line on the buttress immediately north of The Stump. That route began with a 5.11 fist crack through a roof, followed by an impressive 400-foot 5.10 off-width (thanks, Alex!) before relenting to easily

simul-climbable terrain. We called it "The Alaskan Monster" (1,000 feet, 5.11). On June 20, Renan, Alex, and I climbed a probable new line on the southeastern aspect of The Stump. From the start of "Goldfinger," we hiked east toward The Eye Tooth for 15 or 20 minutes to reach the start of the route. It had a few okay pitches, but the rock paled in comparison to the nearby "Goldfinger" (McNamara-Puryear, 2004 [*Ed. note: see page 187 of the 2005 American Alpine Journal for Joe Puryear's report of his ascent of "Goldfinger" with Chris McNamara.*]). We named our route "The Stump Rider" (1,500 feet, 5.11).

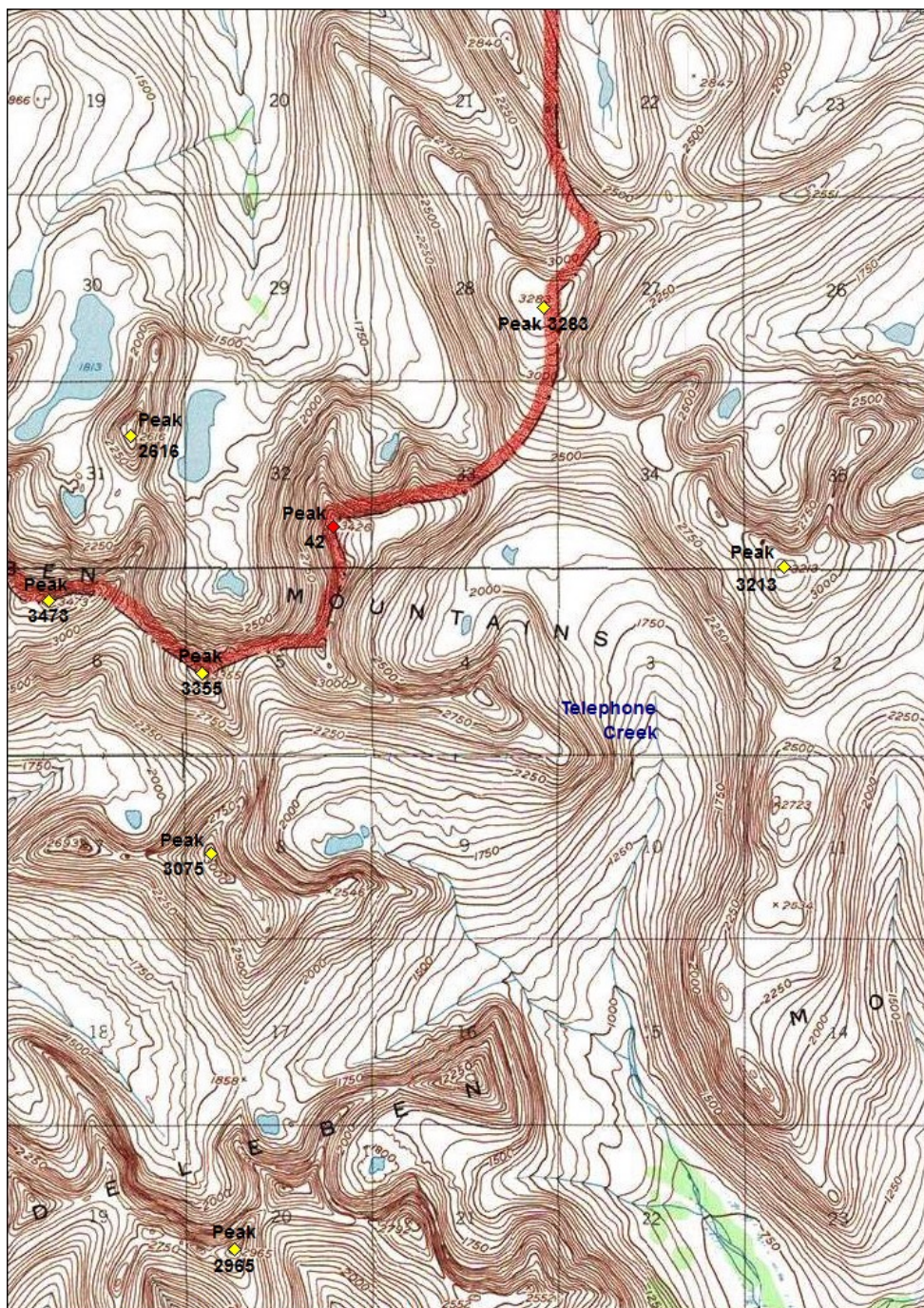


*Mount Sanford, 16237 feet, viewed from Lake Louise Road at Mile 159 of the Glenn Highway. Mount Sanford is a shield volcano in the Wrangell Volcanic Field, in eastern Alaska near the Copper River. It is the third highest volcano in the United States behind Mount Bona and Mount Blackburn. The mountain was named in 1885 by Lieutenant Henry T. Allen of the U.S. Army after the Sanford family (Allen was a descendant of Reuben Sanford). Mount Sanford was first climbed on July 21, 1938, by noted mountaineers Terris Moore and Bradford Washburn, via the still-standard North Ramp route up the Sheep Glacier [*Ed. note: see Terris Moore's article titled "Mt. Sanford: An Alaskan Ski Climb," which appeared on pages 265 through 273 of the 1939 American Alpine Journal*].*

*Photo by Frank E. Baker*

# Peak of the Month: Peak 42

Text by Steve Gruhn



## Mountain Range:

Bendeleben Mountains

## Borough:

Unorganized Borough

## Drainages:

Telephone Creek and Koyuk River

## Latitude/Longitude:

65° 16' 5" North, 162° 48' 18" West

## Elevation:

3426 feet

## Adjacent Peaks:

Peak 3355 in the Lava Creek, Telephone Creek, and Koyuk River drainages and Peak 3283 in the Koyuk River drainage.

## Prominence:

651 feet from Peak 3473 in the Lava Creek and Koyuk River drainages

## Distinctness:

651 feet from Peak 3355

## USGS Map:

1:63,360: Bendeleben (B-2); 1:25,000: Bendeleben B-2 SW

## First Recorded Ascent:

This peak might be unclimbed.

In 1943 a U.S. Coast and Geodetic Survey party conducted a survey of the Bendeleben Mountains of the eastern Seward Peninsula. The survey team identified a high peak near the juncture of the Bendeleben Mountains and the Darby Mountains and labeled it as Peak 42 in their field notes. Although the survey party did not visit Peak 42, the team measured bearings from other survey stations to its summit in order to accurately determine their locations.

Peak 42 is on the southeastern boundary of Bering Land Bridge National Preserve and is the second-highest peak in the preserve. I don't know of any ascents of Peak 42; it might be unclimbed.

The information for this column came from USCGS field notes available at <https://www.geocaching.com/mark/details.aspx?PID=UW4042>.



# Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

April 9, 2018

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## Roll Call

Ralph Baldwin (Director) - Present  
Jennifer DuFord (Director) - Present  
Max Neale (Director) - Present  
Jen Aschoff (Secretary) - Present  
Charlie Sink (President) - Present  
Tom Meacham (Director) - Present  
Marcin Ksok (Director) - Present  
Mike Meyers (Vice President) – Present  
Visitors: Cory Hinds, Gerrit Verbeek, Dave Hart

## Scribe

Jen Aschoff

## President's Report

Charlie discussed the use of public use of MCA huts. Essentially we are required to open them to the general public regardless of whether they are members or not.

## Committee Reports

### Vice President (Mike Meyers)

Film festival was a net loss of \$500 with low participation.  
Not sure why.

Conrad Anker film was a success

### Treasurer (Mark Smith)

Mark has a final budget into *the Scree* and the membership will vote.

### Secretary (Jen Aschoff)

Nothing to report.

### Huts (Cory Hinds)

Cory Hinds - plans underway to build the Holden Hut. Need transport of materials at pad in Eklutna to Gold Mint (fork-lift to load truck if possible) before June 26th.

Hikers going on June 26<sup>th</sup> and materials fly on the 27<sup>th</sup>.

Ralph said someone should probably stay overnight at the Gold Mint lot to make sure that the materials are not damaged or stolen.

### Training (Max Neale)

Mike is teaching a class in crevasse rescue April 15th with pre-meeting classroom session on the 12th.

No upcoming meeting.

Max is interested in organizing rock-climbing training.

### Mentorship (Vacant)

Nathan Hebda stepped down from this program in February and a replacement is needed.

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

Superintendent position for Chugach State Park is being advertised. More information to come.

Ralph is talking to Hatcher Pass Snow Riders Club to try to resolve conflict with snowmachiners in the backcountry

### Hiking, Skiing, and Climbing (Jen Aschoff and Mike Meyers)

Marcin will organize a rock-climbing event via meetup this spring.

Crevasse rescue course at the Matanuska Glacier (Rusty Meyer and Mike Meyers)

Need more events for spring and the fall of 2018.

### Library (Charlotte Foley)

Nothing to report

### Scree (Dave Hart)

Dave Hart mentioned that *the Scree* was late this month and this could be improved by getting some help with layout. Steve Gruhn has been a huge help.

### Other

Ralph talked to the American Alpine Club (Nat Matthews) about liability issues. Ralph handed out a comprehensive set of notes from his conversation and these are available on the Google Docs for the Board to review

-Tracy Knutson (Homer, AK) is an attorney with deep experience in preparing waivers for outdoor recreation organizations

-From a conversation with the chief financial officer and Director of Operations for the AAC, they use four kinds of waivers: adult climbing, adult non-climbing, minor climbing, and minor non-climbing waivers.

-No alcohol at events served by AAC, but served by local vendors

-Meetup solution depends on how closely linked MCA is linked to meetup. As it stands now, we are directly linked to MeetUp.com, Alaska Mountaineers, because we advertise it on our MCA website.

-We should review overall broad spectrum of risk management.

-Marcin mentioned that the MCA members that lead trips have no real protection from litigation.

-A way forward: ultimate goal is to have a broad spectrum of trips and employ the best practices for liability. We need a committee to find more information on how to solve

the liability issue, then contact risk management professionals.

-Tom recalled two MCA incidents involving fatalities.

### **Time and location of next meeting**

Membership Meeting - 6:30 p.m., April 17 at the BP Energy Center

Board Meeting - 6 p.m., May 14 at the BP Energy Center

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## **Board of Directors Meeting Minutes**

### **May 7, 2018**

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#### **Roll Call**

Ralph Baldwin (Director) - Present

Jennifer DuFord (Director) -

Max Neale (Director) -

Jen Aschoff (Secretary) -

Charlie Sink (President) - Present

Tom Meacham (Director) - Present

Marcin Ksok (Director) - Present

Mike Meyers (Vice President) – Present

Visitors:

#### **Scribe**

Charlie Sink

#### **President's Report**

Hut Budget Forecast -- is complete and ready for presentation.

#### **Committee Reports**

##### Vice President (Mike Meyers)

- Rusty Meyer to present Big Trip Training.
- Would like to know when or if we could buy shirts in time for the Ice Festival.

◇ Maybe ask Alaska Huts organization or similar 501(c)(3) to ask them to sell the shirts/clothing for us. Maybe share the take. (Mark's suggestion)

◇ Or ask a contribution for the huts instated of taking a share.

- Would like to work on revising the calendar picture-selection process--

◇ Suggest going digital.

◇ Change format of pre-selection of the photos.

◇ Perhaps have only the board members vote — however, this seems to be a function the membership likes to do.

◇ Suggest to include Stu Grenier in this proposed work group. Suggested work group would begin later this year.

- Need to work on providing trips and posting of the trips.

◇ Mark and Marcin are posting on Facebook and conducting weekly outings.

- Suggest Summer Picnic occur at Knik River Lodge off the end of Knik River Road. Travis McAlpine, the Manager, has invited the MCA to hold an event there for free.

◇ Suggest a Friday in late July or August.

- ◇ Will ask Jennifer DuFord to see if she would like to arrange the event.
- ◇ Need to advertize for the picnic and to arrange payment for a meal – possibly use general meeting funds.
- Still would like to work on auto-renewal membership – Mike to talk to Tim Silvers and others.
- Suggest maybe polling or surveying the membership about a yearly feedback regarding Strategic Planning efforts.

Treasurer (Mark Smith)

- Taxes – the club has never before filed a Form 900T for non-exempt income.
- Non-exempt income for Fiscal Year 2017 will be less than \$1,000 and not taxable.
- There is a 15% tax on non-exempt income.
- Non-exempt income includes events such as calendar sales (estimated at 85% to club members), Film Festival 2017 (90%), then may have a tax on the Conrad Anker film.
- After checking with the Nordic Ski Association, they offered to do MCA’s audit for \$8,000 and \$4,000 for a review; in other words, they don’t want to be bothered with such a small audit.
- Ask for increase in Helicopter Holden Hut lift – we obtained actual weights for materials that we had to give to the helicopter company; see budget explanation on the right:
- Resolution to name Tom Meacham as MCA Registered Agent for Alaska Department of Commerce. Marcin moved, Ralph seconded, all favored the motion with no opposed.
- Will also need to develop and sign a letter to our donation contributors and what we spent these funds on.

<b>Huts Budget Fiscal Year 2018</b>		<b>Totals</b>
Holden Hut construction	\$ 13,030.00	
Other hut maintenance	\$ 1,500.00	
Hut Leases and Taxes	\$ 2,680.00	
Hut budget		<b>\$ 17,210.00</b>
Helicopter budget from Holden Hut construction	\$ 9,000.00	
Helicopter quote based on actual weights of materials	\$ 14,818.00	
Rounded up	\$ 15,000.00	
Asking for increase to cover helicopter cost		\$ 6,000.00
Total Holden Hut construction after increase		<b>\$ 23,210.00</b>
Holden Hut construction budget		\$ 44,789.00
Helicopter cost increase	\$ 6,000.00	
Holden Hut construction budget after increase		<b>\$ 50,789.00</b>
<b>Hut Donations</b>		
Family	\$(20,250.00)	
Grant	\$(16,500.00)	
Other donations	\$ (1,390.00)	
Subtotal Hut Budget increase – Donations		<b>\$12,649.00</b>
Hut contingency amount that may be used	\$2,000	
<b>Changes to Fiscal Year 2018 Budget</b>		<b>\$51,973</b>
Film Festival	\$ (1,250.00)	
Helicopter change	\$ (6,000.00)	
Bear Tooth Conrad Anker	\$ 4,800.00	
Donations Fiscal Year 2018 to date	\$ 1,390.00	
Net change		\$ 1,060.00
Ask members to increase Fiscal Year 2018 budget to:		<b>\$ 53,033.00</b>

Secretary (Jen Aschoff)

Nothing to report.

Huts (Marcin)

Need cost increase for helicopter budget by \$6,000.00; see above budget.

Training (Max Neale)

Nothing to report.

Mentorship (Vacant)

Parks Advisory (Tom Meacham and Ralph Baldwin)

Tom reported that State of Alaska Department of Transportation is planning on developing a rock quarry at Rainbow along the Seward Highway. It is reported to be a three-sided quarry that will be 100 feet higher than the Bird Creek quarry site.

DOT may try to get around Chugach State Park's requirement for "fair market value" for rock that would be obtained from proposed Rainbow quarry and therefore not pay a "true value" price.

There have been public hearings, including one attended by Cory Hinds that got one rock-climbing area to not be included in the quarry design.

Hiking, Skiing, and Climbing (Jen Aschoff and Mike Meyers)

Marcin will organize a rock-climbing event via meetup this spring – reported that it rained on them last week. But will continue his weekly effort

Need more events for spring and the fall of 2018.

Library (Charlotte Foley)

Nothing to report

Scree (Dave Hart)

May 2018 Scree is in the process of development.

Scree Discussion: Mark and Mike

There is a Scree hardcopy mailing list of approximately 45:  
Sent to:

Loussac Library and Homer Library, American Alpine Club, Mazamas, AMH, Talkeetna Ranger Station, Alpine Air, and others.

Actual cost of a printed Scree is \$45.00 per year and currently charge \$40.00, although some have grandfathered in at a cheaper price (?) and some are honorary members.

Cost to print Screes per year = \$2,500.00.

Recommended raise price to \$45.00 per year. Mike proposed, Marcin seconded, Tom abstained as honorary member; all voted yes.

Other

**Liability Issues**

No update from Waivers and Liability Committee.

Ralph, in an email, has found some costs for general and liability insurance; see below:

The broker used was Don Pachner with Pachner and Associates. Pachner and Associates, LLC, P.O. Box 140, Keene, NY 12942-0140. Local phone is 518-576-2100. Toll free: 888-582-4884

Costs:

General Liability \$8,550

Professional Liability \$3,950

Workers' Compensation \$7,300

Directors and Officers \$675

Auto/Snowmobile Liability \$450

Tom said he would provide Executive Committee a risk memo/white paper by end of summer 2018.

Will look at officers and directors protection and not general liability.

A comment was made by Tom that 501(c)(7) organizations that officers and directors would generally not be held liable, except for gross negligence, for injury occurrences, but that the funds of the organization could be.

Need to obtain signed waivers for cabin use

There is a difficulty to get the general public to sign the waivers because they are not required to be MCA members.

Tom said we would need to get an amendment to State law for non-profit to provide services to the State and public and not be charged for liability, if avoid normal negligence, but not gross negligence. It would require a legislative fix, he said.

Mark suggested that we amend the lease to post that kind of sign for liability release.

Mark suggested to talk further with different sporting organizations such as the Alaska Rock Gym (I think we already did).

## Strategic Plan

Ralph, Max, and Jonella Larson-White of Ququngaq

Cost of four hours + one hour of preparation + two hours post work for

Seven hours at \$110 per hour = \$770.00

Parking fee = \$8.00

Foraker Membership fee = \$100.00

Pizza Supper = \$102.00

Total = \$980.00

Budget = \$1,000.00

Balance = \$20.00

Jonella sent nice cover letter for six-page strategic plan; actual plan is one and half pages.

Max, Ralph, Marcin, and Mike to review strategic plan to update and edit and will later give us a report.

Ralph recommend a strategic plan task force be developed. Now includes Max and Ralph.

Look at what could be accomplished in one to five years for two to three goals.

Make recommendation for job descriptions and guidelines for different board members.

Mike recommended a commitment from committee members to be on it for a period. Tom and Mike to look into this type of commitment.

### Mount Mary and Santa Ana Peak Naming Suggestions for Kenai Peninsula Peaks East of Seward

Harold Faust and Dano Michaud from Seward made a presentation to propose two new mountain names for two mountains located east of Seward. The suggested new name for a peak located at 60 degrees, 6 minutes, 58 seconds North, 149 degrees, 13 minutes, 44 seconds West is "Mount Mary" at 4883 feet. The geographically named

peak Mount Eva was named after an early homesteader named Eva Lowell. Her daughter's name was used to name Mount Alice, the prominent peak east of Seward seen at the head of Resurrection Bay. The second daughter, Mary Lowell, is the suggested name, Mary, for this so-far-unnamed peak. Greg Higgins claimed the first ascent in 1986 in the Scree with a woman named Kathy Fiack. The Domestic Geographic Name Proposal is number 9369.

The second peak, proposed Santa Ana Peak, is located at 60 degrees, 5 minutes, 3 seconds North; 149 degrees, 12 minutes, 3 seconds West at 4754 feet is about 2.5 miles south-southeast of "Mount Mary." The Domestic Geographic Name Proposal is number 8922. This proposed name follows the name of the first steamship to bring the first pioneers for habitation of Resurrection Bay and beyond that arrived August 1903 whose master was Captain Cain.

Ralph suggested we propose support and to write a letter to the U.S. Board on Geographic Names. Tom Meacham seconded and recommended the letter be sent to MCA's Secretary. It was also suggested we take this decision of support to the club. Present board members signed a petition to name these peaks with MCA's President abstaining because of a conflict of interest. It was also suggested to ask Steve Gruhn of the club's Geographic Names Committee to assist in this matter.

## New Business

### Announcements

### Board Comments

### Time and location of next meeting

Membership Meeting - adjourned for the summer

Board Meeting - 6 p.m., June 11 at the BP Energy Center

**Choate's Chuckle** - Tom Choate

A: To be hammered.

# Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

June 11, 2018

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## Roll Call

Charlie Sink (President) - Present  
Mike Meyers (Vice-President) - Absent  
Jen Aschoff (Secretary) - Absent  
Mark Smith (Treasurer) - Present  
Ralph Baldwin (Director) - Present  
Jennifer DuFord (Director) - Present  
Max Neale (Director) - Present  
Tom Meacham (Director) - Absent  
Marcin Ksok (Director) - Absent  
Visitors: None

## Scribe

Ralph Baldwin. Meeting called to order at 5:20 p.m.

## President's Report

Summer work -- Strategic Plan and Holden Hut construction

## Committee Reports

### Vice President (Mike Meyers)

Nothing to report.

### Treasurer (Mark Smith)

No change from last month's report.

### Secretary (Jen Aschoff)

Nothing to report.

### Huts (Marcin)

Ralph reports that the Holden Hut airlift of materials is on schedule with transportation of materials to Gold Mint Parking Lot near Hatcher Pass scheduled for the morning of Monday, June 25, and the airlift scheduled for Tuesday, June 26.

Charlie will add to MCA Google Docs, the Powerpoint presentation he made at the May general meeting regarding hut expenses as analyzed over a multi-year period.

### Training (Max Neale)

Max has lined up a two-day rock-climbing event for July 6 and 7 to be held at Hatcher Pass. At this point, there are 4

instructors and a class of 10 students. Max will have all participants sign an event-specific waiver and he will double check the Policy Manual for guidelines.

### Mentorship (Alexandra Janczewska)

There is no board member directly associated with this position. But, at the last General Meeting, Alexandra Janczewska stepped forward and is organizing mentors and mentees for a summer program of mentorship.

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

Ralph reports that an additional fee will be instituted at Hatcher Pass this summer. Visitors who wish to drive to the upper parking lot at the Visitor's Center for the Independence Mine Historical Park will have to pay \$3.00 per person. All are free to walk the last section from the Independence Bowl Parking Lot to the Visitor's Center. A volunteer will be collecting fees at the gate.

### Hiking, Skiing, and Climbing (Jen Aschoff and Mike Meyers)

No report

Mark Smith reports that he has organized Meetup events for Peak A Week for the past three weeks, but the turnout has been very low. Only three people each for two of the events.

### Library (Charlotte Foley)

Nothing to report

### Scree (Dave Hart)

The June *Scree* will be late, possibly a joint June-July issue. Dave Hart is unable to publish it due to other commitments and Steve Gruhn will fill in as editor.

Mark Smith reports that the fee for a hardcopy subscription to the *Scree* now is \$45 per year as per previous board decision. This covers the printing/postage costs.

Mark will request that the Mountaineers send us their news magazine as a subscription in return for the hardcopy *Scree* we send them.

### Liability and Waivers Committee

This committee consists of Tom, Ralph, and Charlie. Tom is the chairperson.

The board requests a report from this committee by the end

of the summer. Ralph will contact Tom regarding this.

## Old Business

### Geographic Naming Request

At the last board meeting, Harold Faust and Dano Michaud from Seward made a presentation to propose new names for two mountains located east of Seward: Mount Mary and Santa Ana Peak. The board voted to write a letter of support. Charlie will contact Steve Gruhn regarding this letter. See minutes of May 7, 2018, meeting for more detail.

### Strategic Plan

The MCA has not yet been invoiced by the Foraker Group for the strategic planning session held earlier this spring. Ralph will contact them regarding the invoice.

The bulk of this meeting was spent discussing and revising the draft strategic plan which the Strategic Plan Task Force (Max, chairperson, Ralph, Tom, and Mike) had reviewed and revised.

The Strategic Plan was adopted unanimously by the board quorum present with the following motion (Max proposed the motion, Jennifer seconded): "To adopt the amended strategic plan as written with additions and corrections and to add a measurements section. The plan will be sent out to the full board for final approval."

A copy of the plan with additions and corrections and measurement section will be added to the MCA google docs by Max and Ralph.

## New Business

### MCA Summer Picnic

Jennifer will organize and Summer Picnic will be held at the Bayshore Clubhouse, 3131 Amber Bay Loop in Anchorage on Wednesday, June 20, from 6 to 9:30 p.m.

Mike Meyers might possibly organize a second picnic gathering at the Knik River Lodge for Saturday, June 30.

### General Meeting Schedule - 2018/2019

Mike has been working with the BP Energy Center and was NOT able to reserve the third Tuesday for each month. The following is the schedule: September 11 (Tuesday), October 22 (Monday), November 20 (Tuesday), January 15 (Tuesday), February 11 (Monday), March 11 (Monday), April 8 (Monday), and May 21 (Tuesday). The large Birch Room is reserved from 6:30 to 9:00 p.m. The December meeting has traditionally been a Christmas dinner held at the Pioneer School House.

## Announcements

### Board Comments

#### Time and location of next meeting

There is discussion regarding reconvening the board for a regular meeting in either August or September (No July meeting, for sure). No definite time or location decided. The BP Energy Center closed early this evening at 7:00 p.m. We accomplished as much business as possible.

Meeting adjourned at 6:55 p.m.



*Mountains from right to left: Benign Peak, The Watchman, and The Mitre. Taken June 26, 2018.  
Photo by Frank E. Baker*

## Mountaineering Club of Alaska

President	Charlie Sink	258-8770	Board member (term expires in 2018)	Ralph Baldwin	232-0897
Vice-President	Mike Meyers	<a href="mailto:mcmeyer24@msn.com">mcmeyer24@msn.com</a>	Board member (term expires in 2018)	Jennifer DuFord	227-6995
Secretary	Jen Aschoff	<a href="mailto:jlaschoff@gmail.com">jlaschoff@gmail.com</a>	Board member (term expires in 2018)	Marcin Ksok	928-380-2995
Treasurer	Mark Smith	717-9501	Board member (term expires in 2019)	Max Neale	207-712-1355
			Board member (term expires in 2019)	Tom Meacham	346-1077

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

Dues can be paid at any meeting or mailed to the Treasurer at the MCA address below. If you want a membership card, please fill out a club waiver and mail it with a self-addressed, stamped envelope. If you fail to receive the newsletter or have questions about your membership, contact the Club Membership Committee at [membership@mtnclubak.org](mailto:membership@mtnclubak.org).

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

Paid ads may be submitted to the attention of the Vice-President at the club address and should be in electronic format and pre-paid. Ads can be emailed to [vicepresident@mtnclubak.org](mailto:vicepresident@mtnclubak.org).

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

Mailing list/database entry: Mark Smith —717-9501 - [membership@mtnclubak.org](mailto:membership@mtnclubak.org)

Hiking and Climbing Committee: Mike Meyers—[mcmeyer24@msn.com](mailto:mcmeyer24@msn.com), Jen Aschoff—[jlaschoff@gmail.com](mailto:jlaschoff@gmail.com) or [hcc@mtnclubak.org](mailto:hcc@mtnclubak.org)

Huts: Greg Bragiel—569-3008 or [huts@mtnclubak.org](mailto:huts@mtnclubak.org)

Calendar: Stuart Grenier—337-5127 or [stugrenier@gmail.com](mailto:stugrenier@gmail.com)

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

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

*Having a riot on the trans-Alaska pipeline service road, Lupe would soon leave it to climb the ridge on the right. Photo looks north.*

*Photo by Lupe Lunde and SPHP*

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