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Huts Update

Alaska Mountain
and Wilderness
Huts Association



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- Roger Shaw
- Ray Berger
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We're on the
Web!

See us at:

alaskahuts.org

Ted Stevens Appropriates Money for Huts

In January, a check in the amount of \$350,000 was received by the Alaska Huts Association. We were able to directly deposit this money and are hoping that most of the money will be used for the construction of huts. As winter has turned to spring, there has been a flurry of activity with the Forest Service. There has been more collaborative work between the Forest Service and our Board of Directors. The work with the Forest Service is still preliminary to any Forest Service decision.

The Forest Service rightfully needs to feel comfortable with financial feasibility, and the agency has a mandate to ensure that the proposed location is in the public interest. With concern about reopening the Paradise Valley Trail expressed in a petition from Moose Pass and Seward, we are reexamining the viability of other possibilities such as Mills Creek (near lower Summit Lake), Grandview, the high country west of Lost Lake, and the Resurrection Pass Trail, all on the eastern Kenai Peninsula, and Winner Creek to Twentymile River near Girdwood. This effort will ensure that no opportunity is overlooked.

Alaska Huts has an Executive Director

In February, the Board of Directors hired its long-standing President, John Wolfe, as executive director of the Alaska Huts Association. John was born into huts and trails, living on his family homestead in the back of Eagle River Valley. As a child, his family built two hike-in cabins, and his mom, Helen Nienhueser, wrote the trail guide "55 Ways to the Wilderness in Southcentral Alaska". John has recently co-authored the 5th edition of the book. John and some like-minded people decided to start a non-profit organization, and the Alaska Huts was born.

John's experiences with huts in New Zealand and New England, and his tea house trekking in Nepal, have inspired our mission which is to include Alaska's back country in a world-wide tradition of places in which hikers and skiers can travel from hut to hut.

As Always, Thanks!

Welcome! We are eternally grateful for all who have become new members or renewed memberships since January of 2004. We especially want to thank efforts of the following people:

- ❖ Thank you to Alaska Senator Ted Stevens and staff for working to support the future of huts in Alaska.
- ❖ Thank you to Roy Corral for his presentation at our Annual Membership Meeting in January. His slide show of Alaska's gathering places affirmed that our state is truly one of the last great places.
- ❖ Thank you to the expertise of these individuals: Gunnar Knapp and Steve Colt, University of Alaska Ph.D economists; Alan Mitchell, director of economic analysis; Agnew:Beck Consulting; and members of our board who are working with the Forest Service to address financial issues resulting from the submission of our feasibility study.
- ❖ Thank you to Amy Dalton for her years of service on our Board of Directors
- ❖ Thank you to the Nordic Ski Association of Anchorage for providing space in their Nordic Skier for our membership form.
- ❖ Thanks again to Land Design North for providing space for our monthly board meetings.

Our Mission:

Include Alaska's back country in a world-wide tradition of places in which hikers and skiers can travel hut to hut, and provide warm comfortable huts in inspiring settings to foster camaraderie and promote wilderness education and stewardship.

**Alaska Mountain and
Wilderness Huts Association, Inc.
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Possible Reconnaissance to Occur This Summer

In preparing for the NEPA process, we are going to do some reconnaissance of alternative sites that have surfaced since working with the Forest Service on the Paradise Valley route. These include Mills Creek, Center Creek, a possible hike to Grandview and the Resurrection River High trail.

We are considering going into these areas the third week in June and again the third week in August. If you are interested please call, Kevin Lynch at 243-1951.

If you happen to head into these areas and would like to give us information and impressions of the areas as they pertain to viable hut-to-hut sites please pass this information along to Kevin Lynch 243-1951.

National Trails Day

Field work on trail projects is being planned for Saturday, June 5th. At the Campbell Creek Science Center there will be improvements on the MOA Far North Bicentennial Park and the BLM Campbell Tract. Registration is 8:30 a.m. to 9:00 a.m. Field work begins on trail projects at 9:00 a.m. and continues until 12:00 p.m. Bring work boots, rain gear, gloves, and a rake or shovel if you have one. FREE pizza and Educational Demos for Volunteers!

Or

Help with maintenance along the Iditarod National Historic Trail in Girdwood. If you are interested in assisting with this trail project, meet at Glacier City Hall in Girdwood at 9:00 a.m. on June 5. Bring a lunch, water, appropriate trail gear for work and anything else you would take on a day hike. For additional details, contact: Adam McClory or Alison Rein at the Glacier Ranger District (783-2422) or Dwaine Schuldt (783-1333) with the Girdwood Trails Committee.

Trail Building School (see the enclosed flyer)

In June, the Alaska Trails is sponsoring free trail-building slide shows and all-day field classes. The slide shows and field classes will be held in Fairbanks, Anchorage and Palmer.

The Alaska Huts has many members who have stated an interest in outdoor/trail work. This could prove to be an interesting exposure to skills needed for trail work. Register and receive more information @ www.Alaska-trails.org

2004

Calendar of Events

June 5
National Trails Day

Possible reconnaissance trips to view alternative routes:

Memorial Day Weekend

The 3rd week in June

The 3rd week in August

For additional information about these events or additional items, check our website or contact Kevin Lynch at 243-1951.

Thank you for your on-going support.
