



# 31<sup>st</sup> Annual Alaska Mountain Wilderness Ski Classic 2018

**\* Galbraith – Anaktuvuk – Wiseman Route**

***Event Coordinator: Dave Cramer (907) 291-2339***

## **Participant Guidelines**

1. The start is Sunday, April 1, 2018 at 11:00 AM, Galbraith Lake, Alaska, Mile 278 Dalton Highway.
2. A mandatory check-in will be required at the half way point of the routes, located at the National Park Service Office in the community of Anaktuvuk Pass.
3. The finish deadline is midnight on Sunday April 8, 2018 at the Alaska's Arctic Getaway Bed & Breakfast, Wiseman, Alaska.
4. Minimum age is 18. The event coordinator reserves the right to deem any applicant unqualified.
5. Maximum number of participants is 25. No applications will be accepted after 25 participants have registered.
6. The entry fee is \$300 per participant. There is no reduced entry fee designated for students or for other groups of any kind. The \*\$300 entry fee is non-refundable unless the applicant withdraws by Friday, March 23, 2018.
7. Application deadline is Friday, March 23, 2018.
8. The plan is to rendezvous on Saturday, March 31, 2018 at the Arctic Getaway Bed & Breakfast located in Wiseman, Mile 189 of the Dalton Highway. The Arctic Getaway B & B has a restroom/shower facility available and ample floor space for sleeping bags, etc. Anyone wishing to overnight at the Arctic Getaway B & B on Saturday, March 31, 2018 must contact Dave Cramer at (907) 291-2339 prior to Wednesday, March 28, 2018. Participants will then travel on Sunday, April 1, 2018 via van from Wiseman to Galbraith Lake for the event start. The aforementioned facilities, food and transportation are covered by the event registration fee. Alternate lodging options are listed at the end of this document
9. Any participant who turns back or drops out should notify other participants if possible, and should call Teresa ([TeresaAtSummit@aol.com](mailto:TeresaAtSummit@aol.com)), Heather ([heathergscs2@aol.com](mailto:heathergscs2@aol.com)) or Estelle ([summitctok@aol.com](mailto:summitctok@aol.com)) at (907) 291-2339 or the Arctic Getaway B & B ([arcticgetaway@gmail.com](mailto:arcticgetaway@gmail.com)) at (907) 678-4456; if there is no answer, leave a message. Any participant not finished by midnight on Sunday, April 8, 2018, or who fails to call after dropping out, will be considered overdue.

10. Rescues cannot and will not be promised or offered. We will contact the emergency number supplied by the participant and the Alaska State Troopers. This will be the extent of Wilderness Classic's involvement in any search/rescue effort.

A word about BCNN style boots and bindings. Overflow is often encountered and can freeze the boots into the bindings. Skiers using that BCNNN/BCSN gear may want to carry a small thermos of hot water so that they can melt the ice and release the binding. The boot toe bars are prone to tear out and/or breaking. Once the toe rips out, it is very difficult to reliably strap the boot to a ski. For more guidance on boots and bindings, go to Luc Mehl's ski touring equipment guide at <http://thingstolucat.com/ski-touring-equipment-guide>.

11. Participants are responsible for any expenses incurred for rescues or attempted rescues in their behalf. The Alaskan Alpine Club Mountain Rescue Expense Fund has been suspended at this time due to lack of funding.
12. No cash awards will be given; however, all participants will be issued a 2018 commemorative event garment, the cost of which is covered by the event registration fee. \*The cost of the garment will be deducted from the event fees for anyone dropping out after Wednesday, February 28, 2018. However, the adjusted refund and the garment will be mailed to the participant.
13. Participants are encouraged to travel in groups of two or more for purposes of safety as well as fun (see item 18).
14. Each participant should be independent in terms of gear and food; however, participants may share food and gear with each other. Participants may NOT share gear or food with non-participants.
15. All travel must be self-propelled, without benefit of motorized vehicles, wheels, pack animals or pull animals.
16. All travel must be self-contained. Everything needed must be carried from start to finish without benefit of pre-planned caches, air drops or aid stations. Littering or purposefully dropping gear or food is grounds for disqualification.
17. Participants are not permitted to carry or use any locator/tracking device that is limited to one way communication. Any locator/tracking or other communication devices utilized must have two way communication capabilities. The use of the Delorme /Garmin In Reach GPS communicator devices is allowed. However, anyone doing so must read the Andrew Skurka blog concerning the S.O.S. functional design flaw at <https://andrewskurka.com/2017/garmin-responds-faulty-sos-lock-button-inreach-se-explorer/>. Also anyone using such a device must input the following email addresses: [SCSDAC@aol.com](mailto:SCSDAC@aol.com), [ecramerscs@aol.com](mailto:ecramerscs@aol.com), [TeresaAtSummit@aol.com](mailto:TeresaAtSummit@aol.com), [heathergscs2@aol.com](mailto:heathergscs2@aol.com), [summitctok@aol.com](mailto:summitctok@aol.com).
18. Participants select their own route. It is important that the route is described on the application form. At least one other individual should be notified if a participant decides to change his or her route. There will be no organized trail sweep.
19. All of the main routes require a steep ascents and descents. Participants should bring at least 10 point crampons and consider the following items:
- ice axe
  - ice creepers
  - crampons
  - 100 ft. 9 mm – 11 mm climbing rope
  - rescue pulley
  - ascenders

- snow shovel
- carabiners: 2 locking gate, 4 standard gate
- ice screw - 1 each
- 24" picket - 1 each
- Harness and belay device

20. Except for the road in and out of Anaktuvuk and the Nolan to Wiseman Road, all roads are out of bounds. Travel on out of bound roads or trails is grounds for disqualification.

### **Recommendations:**

- ◆ This event starts and finishes above the Arctic Circle – be prepared for Arctic conditions.
- ◆ If new, talk to those who have done this event before.
- ◆ Expect 60 mph winds, avalanche country, open water, -55°F/+40°F, deep snow, no snow, ice, breakable crust, overflow, slop, and storms.
- ◆ Waterproof your gear, especially if you use a sled.
- ◆ Take food and fuel for a minimum of 10 days. In past events, fuel needs have often been underestimated.
- ◆ Consider metal edged skis - there can be a lot of overflow.
- ◆ USGS topographical maps: Wiseman Quad B1, Wiseman Quad D2 and Phillip Smith Mountains Quad B5, 1:250,000. (Also recommended for reference: Chandalar Lake Quad A1 shows the area near Oolah Pass. Chandalar Lake Quad C6 shows the highway adjacent to Wiseman.)
- ◆ Consider taking: stove, fuel, pot, ski-skins, tent, repair kit, multi-purpose tool i.e. Leatherman, sunglasses, sun screen, extra skis and poles, sleeping bag good to -40°F, sleeping pad, sled and/or pack, compass and maps, ELT, flares, saw and satellite phone.

### **Route Descriptions:**

\* **Route #1 - Itkillik/Peregrine Pass Route** (*solo travel permitted*)

Stage #1 - To reach Wiseman from Galbraith Lake, travel due west from Galbraith Lake to Itkillik Lake, head southwest, up the Itkillik River to the lake at the base of Snowwheel Mountain. Cross the lake and follow the north fork of the Koyukuk to Peregrine Pass. Ascend the pass and descend to the headwaters of Grizzly Creek. Follow Grizzly Creek to its confluence with Ernie Creek, turn right at Ernie Creek and ascend Ernie Pass to the headwaters of the Anaktuvuk River. Descend the Anaktuvuk River to the town of Anaktuvuk Pass and sign in at the National Park Service Office Check Point.

Stage #2 - Once signed in, depart Anaktuvuk Pass at the confluence of the John River and Inukpagruk Creek (also known as Giant Creek), ascend the Inukpagruk

to its headwaters and descend to the headwaters of the Tinayguk River. Descend the Tinayguk to its confluence with the north fork of the Koyukuk (just below Eroded Mountain). Follow the Koyukuk to Delay Pass (opposite Ipnek Creek), ascend Delay Pass and follow the tractor trail and the Glacier River to Glacier Pass and on to Nolan. From Nolan, follow the Nolan road to Wiseman and the finish at Alaska's Arctic Getaway Bed & Breakfast.

\* **Route #2 - Nanushuk River Route - Option A**

Stage # 1, Option A - To reach Wiseman from Galbraith Lake, travel due west to Nanushuk Lake. Cross the river and continue west to Shainin Lake. Depart Shainin Lake to the southwest to Tulugak Lake and the Anaktuvuk River. Ascend the Anaktuvuk River to the town of Anaktuvuk Pass and sign in at the National Park Service Office Check Point.

Stage # 2, Option A - Once signed in, depart Anaktuvuk at the confluence of the John River and Inukpagruk Creek (also known as Giant Creek), ascend the Inukpagruk to its headwaters and descend to the headwaters of the Tinayguk River. Descend the Tinayguk to its confluence with the north fork of the Koyukuk (just below Eroded Mountain). Follow the Koyukuk to Delay Pass (opposite Ipnek Creek), ascend Delay Pass and follow the tractor trail and the Glacier River to Glacier Pass and on to Nolan. From Nolan, follow the Nolan road to Wiseman and the finish at Alaska's Arctic Getaway Bed & Breakfast.

\* **Route #2 Nanushuk River Route - Option B**

Stage # 1, Option B - To reach Wiseman from Nanushuk Lake, ascend the Nanushuk River to its headwaters below Alapah Mountain and ascend the pass to Greyline Creek. Descend Greyline to the Anaktuvuk River, descend the Anaktuvuk River to the town of Anaktuvuk Pass and sign in at the National Park Service Office Check Point.

Stage # 2, Option B - Once signed in, depart Anaktuvuk at the confluence of the John River and Inukpagruk Creek (also known as Giant Creek), ascend the Inukpagruk to its headwaters and descend to the headwaters of the Tinayguk River. Descend the Tinayguk to its confluence with the north fork of the Koyukuk (just below Eroded Mountain). Follow the Koyukuk to Delay Pass (opposite Ipnek Creek), ascend Delay Pass and follow the tractor trail and the Glacier River to Glacier Pass and on to Nolan. From Nolan, follow the Nolan road to Wiseman and the finish at Alaska's Arctic Getaway Bed & Breakfast.

Note: This route, which has not been done before, ascends through some steep walled areas near Alapah Mountain and Limestack Mountain that could be avalanche prone.

**Additional Information:**

**Bailouts**

If a bailout is necessary, notify Teresa ([TeresaAtSummit@aol.com](mailto:TeresaAtSummit@aol.com)), Heather ([heathergscs2@aol.com](mailto:heathergscs2@aol.com)) or Estelle ([summitctok@aol.com](mailto:summitctok@aol.com)) at **291-2339** (collect calls will be accepted at this number as long as someone is there to take the call, Iridium Satellite Phone at 8816-3166-1270, or the **Arctic Getaway B & B** ([arcticgetaway@gmail.com](mailto:arcticgetaway@gmail.com)) at

**(907) 678-4456.** No transport/pickups from the bailout location can be guaranteed. Refer to the Bailout Maps for more information.

There are no phones or inhabited shelters at *Galbraith Lake*. Anyone bailing out must either return to *Galbraith Lake* and/or the *Dalton Highway* and make their way to the *Chandalar DOT Camp* located 22 miles south at milepost 239.5. Closer participants should make their way to the community of *Anaktuvuk Pass*.

Airplane pickups can be arranged from any of the three locations. Contact **Coyote Air Service** at **(907) 479-5995** for pickup from bailout location with drop off in *Wiseman*, *Coldfoot* or *Fairbanks*. Contact **Wright Air Service** at **(907) 474-0502** for daily scheduled service from *Anaktuvuk* to *Fairbanks* and/or *Flag Stop* service from *Coldfoot* to *Fairbanks* upon request. Contact **Warbelow's Air** at **(907) 474-0518** for scheduled service twice a day from *Anaktuvuk* and *Coldfoot* to *Fairbanks* and/or charter service available from *Galbraith* or *Wiseman* to *Fairbanks* upon request.

### Vehicles

- At the Start

There is adequate parking space at the Arctic Getaway Bed & Breakfast where vehicles may be left for the event duration at no charge. While no official security is provided, the area is not visible from the highway and is a safe location. Transportation from *Wiseman* to the starting point at *Galbraith Lake* will be provided for all participants and their gear by the event coordinator. This transportation cost is covered by the event entry fee.

### Lodging/Food

- At the Start

One night's lodging and shower will be provided for all participants at the Arctic Getaway Bed & Breakfast with ample floor space for sleeping bags, etc. Anyone wishing to overnight at the Arctic Getaway B & B on Saturday, March 31, 2018 must contact Dave Cramer at (907) 291-2339 prior to Wednesday, March 28, 2018. Food and beverages will be supplied by AMWC Ski Classic. Full cooking facilities are available for use by the participants, who cook their own meals and serve themselves. One night's lodging at the Arctic Getaway B & B, shower, food and beverage costs are covered by the event registration fee.

Alternate lodging, at the participants own expense, may be available at *Coldfoot Camp* located at mile 175 of the *Dalton Highway*. Contact the facility directly at (907) 678-3400 or (907) 474-3500 to make reservations.

- At the Finish:

One night's lodging and shower will be provided for all participants at the Arctic Getaway Bed & Breakfast. Food and beverages will be supplied by AMW Ski Classic. Full cooking facilities are available for use by the participants, who cook their own meals and serve themselves. The one night's lodging, shower, food and beverage costs are covered by the event registration fee.

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