



**33rd Annual
Alaska Mountain Wilderness Ski Classic
2020**

***McCarthy – Nabesna – Log Cabin Wilderness Lodge Route**

Event Coordinator: Dave Cramer (907) 291-2339

Participant Guidelines

1. The start is Sunday, March 15, 2020 at 10:00 AM, in front of Ma Johnson's Hotel in McCarthy, Alaska.
2. The finish is at mile 96 of the Old Tok Cutoff at the Log Cabin Wilderness Lodge. Summit Consulting Services' Office is located at mile 83.5 of the new Tok Cutoff Highway at Bartell Creek Bridge.
3. Finish deadline is midnight on Wednesday, March 25, 2020.
4. Minimum age is 18. The event coordinator reserves the right to deem any applicant unqualified.
5. Maximum number of participants is 30. No applications will be accepted after 30 participants have registered.
6. The entry fee is \$350 per participant. There is no reduced entry fee designated for students or for other groups of any kind. A *partial* refund will be issued for anyone dropping out before Friday, February 28, 2020. (See Item # 11) below. The full entry fee is non-refundable if the applicant withdraws after Friday, March 6, 2020.
7. Application deadline is Friday, February 28, 2020. **Registration, Release and Entry Fee** must be received in order to secure a registration spot.
8. There are a couple of options for traveling to the event start in McCarthy:

Option # 1 is to rendezvous on Friday, March 13, 2020 at Summit Consulting Services, Inc. at Mile 83.5 of the Tok Cutoff. SCS has a restroom/shower facility available and ample floor space for sleeping bags, etc. Anyone wishing to overnight at Summit Consulting on Friday, March 13, 2020 must indicate so on the registration form and confirm with Estelle Christman or Dave Cramer at (907) 291-2339 prior to Monday, March 9, 2020. Participants will then travel in groups on Saturday, March 14, 2020 to McCarthy for the event start. Transportation can be provided for up to 26 participants and their gear from Summit Consulting to McCarthy.

One night lodging, food and beverages will be provided at the St. Elias Alpine Guide's Power House Building in McCarthy.

(The aforementioned facilities, food and transportation are covered by the event registration fee.)

Option # 2 is to rendezvous with the AMWSC Group in Glennallen on Saturday, March 14th by or before 11:45 AM to car pool to McCarthy and must indicate so on the registration form.

Option # 3 is to travel to Glennallen, and take the bus to the Summit Office at mile 83.5 on the Tok Cutoff on Friday, March 13th, 2020. The bus runs 10:00 AM to 12:30PM M-W-F Glennallen to Tok. Prior arrangements with the bus company are required to confirm the Summit drop off location. (See page 7, "♦ **Vehicles**" for more info).

Option # 4 is to travel directly to McCarthy and rendezvous on Saturday, March 14, 2020 for the event start.

(Those choosing **option #'s 2, 3 or 4**, will be responsible for obtaining and paying for a place to park in Glennallen and McCarthy and for arranging transportation back to their vehicle from the finish or bailout location).

Any participant who turns back or drops out should notify other event participants if possible, and should email Teresa (TeresaAtSummit@aol.com), Heather (heathergscs2@aol.com) or Estelle (summitctok@aol.com) or call (907) 291-2339; if there is no answer, leave a message. Any participant not finished by midnight on Wednesday, March 25, 2020 or who fails to call or email after dropping out will be considered overdue.

9. 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.
10. 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.

A word about BCNN style boots and bindings. Overflow is often encountered and can freeze the boots into the bindings. Skiers using that BCNN/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. No cash awards will be given; however, all participants will be issued a 2020 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 before Friday, February 28, 2020. However, the adjusted refund and the garment will be mailed to the participant.
12. Participants are encouraged to travel in groups of two or more for purposes of safety as well as fun (see item 19).
13. Each participant should be independent in terms of gear and food; however, participants may share food and gear with each other. Participants may NOT accept from or share gear or food with non-participants.

14. All travel must be self-propelled, without benefit of motorized vehicles, wheels, pack animals or pull animals.
15. 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.
16. 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 inReach 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/2020/garmin-responds-faulty-sos-lock-button-inreach-se-explorer/>. Also anyone using such a device must input the following email addresses into the emergency contact list for distress signals: scsdac@aol.com, ecamerscs@aol.com, TeresaAtSummit@aol.com, heathergscs2@aol.com, and summitctok@aol.com.
17. 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.
18. Participants who elect Glacier Route #2 or #3 must travel in 3 person rope teams. Those who elect Route #4, #5 or #6 must travel in 2 person rope teams. All those who elect a Glacier Route must carry the following gear:

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|--------------------------------------|---|
| • ice axe | • snow shovel |
| • crampons | • carabiners: 2 locking gate, 4 standard gate |
| • 100 ft. 9 mm – 11 mm climbing rope | • ice screw - 1 each |
| • rescue pulley | • 24" picket - 1 each |
| • ascenders | • Harness and belay device |

In addition, overflow is often encountered and can freeze NNN style boots to the skis. Skiers using NNN gear may want to carry a small thermos of hot water for melting ice to release bindings. Skiers with 3-pin bindings typically do not have this problem.

19. All portions of the state highway system are out of bounds except: the McCarthy River Road, which may be traveled only at the start of the event to get from the Power House Building to the Nizina River or to Kennicott, and the portion of the Old Tok Cutoff listed in the route information at the finish to get to the Log Cabin Wilderness Lodge.

Recommendations:

- ◆ 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 rain or snow 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 is usually a lot of ice and/or overflow.
- ◆ USGS topographical maps: Nabesna and McCarthy, 1:250,000

- ◆ Consider taking: stove, fuel, 1 quart 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, pad, sled and/or pack, compass and maps, ELT, flares, saw and satellite phone.

Route Options:

All Routes begin in front of Ma Johnson's Hotel in downtown McCarthy, Alaska.

Route Option #1A McCarthy-Nizina-Skolai-Skolai Pass- Solo Pass-Chisana-Cooper Pass- Platinum Pass-Noyes Pass -Little Tok 179.88 (or 180.48) Miles - No Glacier Travel.

Solo Travel is permitted.

To reach the Log Cabin Wilderness Lodge from McCarthy, follow the McCarthy Road Southeast to the Nizina River. Ascend the Nizina to its confluence with Skolai Creek. Ski past the creek mouth and climb onto the plateau above the creek. Follow the 3600-3800 foot contour line past the Golden Horn to the Frederika Creek confluence. Continue to ascend Skolai Creek to Skolai Pass. Descend the Russell Moraine to the White River. Follow White River to its confluence with Lime Creek. Ascend the bluff to the left and follow Solo Pass to Geohonda Creek and the town of Chisana. Turn left at the Forest Service Cabin and cross the Chisana River to the horse trail. Follow the horse trail to Cross Creek, thence to Notch Creek. Ascend Notch Creek to Cooper Pass. Descend Cooper Pass to the Nabesna River, cross the Nabesna and ascend Platinum Creek to Platinum Pass. Descend Platinum Pass to the Noyes Moraine and follow the moraine to Noyes Pass. Ascend Noyes Pass. Descend into the headwaters of the Little Tok. Descend the Little Tok to ½ mile below its confluence with Buck Creek. Bear to the right and ascend to the Little Tok cat trail. Follow the cat trail to the "Old" Tok Cutoff. Turn right and follow the old road to the Log Cabin Wilderness Lodge (approx. 4 miles).

Route Option # 1B McCarthy-Nizina-Frederika-Upper Skolai-Skolai Pass-Solo Pass-Chisana-Cooper Pass-Platinum Pass-Noyes Pass-Little Tok 185.12 (or 185.72) miles.

Solo Travel is permitted.

This route is the same as the 1A Route described above, but offers the option of bypassing the Lower Skolai portion of the route. To bypass the Lower Skolai, leave the Nizina Moraine at Tin Plate Hill and ascend the slope to the plateau. Cross the plateau and descend the Frederika to its confluence with Skolai Creek. Ascend Skolai Creek to Skolai Pass and follow the Skolai # 1A route to reach the Log Cabin Wilderness Lodge.

Route Option # 1C McCarthy-Nizina-Doubtful Creek-Chitistone Pass-Skolai Pass-Solo Pass-Chisana-Cooper Pass-Platinum Pass-Noyes Pass-Little Tok Unnamed Creek 187.37 (or 187.97), Doubtful Creek 184.88 (or 185.48) miles.

Solo Travel is permitted, but a 2-Person Team is recommended. The slopes above the goat trail are high angle and should be considered avalanche prone.

This route is the same as the 1A route described above, but offers the option of bypassing the Upper & Lower Skolai portions of the 1A route. To bypass the Skolai, leave the Nizina at the unnamed creek approx 3 miles below the Nizina's confluence with Doubtful Creek or at Doubtful Creek itself. Ascend to the plateau above the headwaters and traverse left above Haxon Creek & beyond Chitistone Gorge. Descend

to the goat trail & thence to Chitistone Pass. Descend to Skolai Pass & follow the Skolai 1A route to reach the Log Cabin Wilderness Lodge.

Route Option # 2 McCarthy-Nizina-Regal-Nabesna-Platinum Pass-Noyes Pass - Little Tok "Right Hand" 156.61 miles, "Left Hand" 165.56 miles.

Solo Travel is NOT permitted- A 3-Person Rope Team is mandatory

To reach the Log Cabin Wilderness Lodge from McCarthy, follow the McCarthy Road Southeast to the Nizina River. Ascend the Nizina to its confluence with Skolai Creek. Turn left at Tin Plate Hill, cross the Nizina and ascend the Regal. (There are 2 potential routes over the top of Regal and onto the Nabesna: The right hand route is heavily crevassed at the top and at the descent onto the Nabesna down to the 7,500' level. The left hand option has less crevassing but is 11,900' at its high point. The left hand route high point is 10,500'.) Descend the Nabesna Glacier/River to Platinum Creek. Ascend Platinum Creek to Platinum Pass. Descend Platinum Pass to the Noyes Moraine. Follow the moraine to Noyes Pass, ascend Noyes Pass and descend into the headwaters of the Little Tok River. Descend the Little Tok to ½ mile below its confluence with Buck Creek. Bear to the right and ascend to the Little Tok cat trail. Follow the cat trail to the "Old" Tok Cutoff. Turn right and follow the old road to the Log Cabin Wilderness Lodge (approx. 4 miles).

Mountaineering gear and extensive mountaineering experience is mandatory

Route Option # 3 McCarthy-Nizina-Rohn-Nabesna-Platinum Pass-Noyes Pass - Little Tok 157.38 miles.

Solo Travel is NOT permitted- A 3-Person Rope Team is mandatory

To reach the Log Cabin Wilderness Lodge from McCarthy, follow the McCarthy Road Southeast to the Nizina River. Ascend the Nizina to its confluence with Skolai Creek. Bear to the left at Tin Plate Hill and ascend the Nizina and to the Rohn. Ascend the Rohn to its confluence with the Nabesna Glacier. (The route high point is 9,500' and is moderately to heavily crevassed at the top.) Descend the Nabesna Glacier/River to Platinum Creek. Ascend Platinum Creek to Platinum Pass. Descend Platinum Pass to the Noyes Moraine. Follow the moraine to Noyes Pass; ascend Noyes Pass and descend into the headwaters of the Little Tok River. Descend the Little Tok to ½ mile below its confluence with Buck Creek. Bear to the right and ascend to the Little Tok cat trail. Follow the cat trail to the "Old" Tok Cutoff. Turn right and follow the old road to the Log Cabin Wilderness Lodge (approx. 4 miles).

Mountaineering gear and extensive mountaineering experience is mandatory

Route Option # 4A McCarthy-Nizina-Rohn-Whiskey Hill-Chisana-Washe Creek-Cooper Pass-Platinum Pass-Noyes Pass -Little Tok 164.60 (or 165.20) miles.

Solo Travel is NOT permitted- A 2-Person Rope Team is mandatory

To reach the Log Cabin Wilderness Lodge from McCarthy, follow the McCarthy Road Southeast to the Nizina River. Ascend the Nizina to its confluence with Skolai Creek. Bear left at Tin Plate Hill and ascend the Nizina to the Rohn. Ascend the Rohn to Whiskey Hill and ascend it to Chisana Pass. Descend Chisana Pass to the Jump Off Ice

Fall. Hug the mountain side on the right and turn up the left fork of the Chisana. Ascend the Lateral Moraine, ¼ mile, and then ski to the left at a diagonal to a point just above the Park Preserve boundary line. Follow the rock face downhill and descend the Chisana to the Chisana Bluffs. Ascend the bluff opposite the Washe Creek head waters. Descend Washe Creek to Cross Creek. Follow Cross Creek to Notch Creek and ascend Notch Creek to Cooper Pass. Descend Cooper Pass to the Nabesna River. Cross the Nabesna to Platinum Creek. Ascend Platinum Creek to Platinum Pass. Descend Platinum Pass to the Noyes Moraine. Follow the moraine to Noyes Pass. Ascend Noyes Pass and descend into the headwaters of the Little Tok River. Descend the Little Tok to ½ mile below its confluence with Buck Creek. Bear to the right and ascend to the Little Tok cat trail. Follow the cat trail to the "Old" Tok Cutoff. Turn right and follow the old road to the Log Cabin Wilderness Lodge (approx. 4 miles).

Route Option # 4B McCarthy-Nizina-Rohn-Shelter Valley-Chisana-Washe Creek-Cooper Pass-Platinum Pass-Noyes Pass -Little Tok 159.03 (or 159.63) miles.

Solo Travel is NOT permitted- A 2-Person Rope Team is mandatory

To reach the Log Cabin Wilderness Lodge from McCarthy, follow the McCarthy Road Southeast to the Nizina River. Ascend the Nizina to its confluence with the Rohn. Ascend the Rohn to the Shelter Valley Glacier. Ascend to its confluence with the right fork of the Chisana. Descend the Chisana to the Chisana Bluffs. Ascend the bluff opposite the Washe Creek headwaters. Descend Washe Creek to Cross Creek. Follow Cross Creek to Notch Creek and ascend Notch Creek to Cooper Pass. Descend Cooper Pass to the Nabesna River. Cross the Nabesna to Platinum Creek. Ascend Platinum Creek to Platinum Pass. Descend Platinum Pass to the Noyes Moraine. Follow the moraine to Noyes Pass, ascend Noyes Pass and descend into the headwaters of the Little Tok River. Descend the Little Tok to ½ mile below its confluence with Buck Creek. Bear to the right and ascend to the Little Tok cat trail. Follow the cat trail to the "Old" Tok Cutoff. Turn right and follow the old road to the Log Cabin Wilderness Lodge (approx. 4 miles).

Route Option # 5 McCarthy-Nizina-Rohn-Whiskey Hill- Presidents Chair-Nabesna-Platinum Pass-Noyes Pass -Little Tok 157.25 miles,"Bypass"154.75 miles.

Solo Travel is NOT permitted- A 2-Person Rope Team is mandatory, 3-Person Rope Team is recommended

To reach the Log Cabin Wilderness Lodge from McCarthy, follow the McCarthy Road Southeast to the Nizina River. Ascend the Nizina to its confluence with the Rohn. Ascend the Rohn to Whiskey Hill, follow Whiskey Hill to the approach to the Presidents Chair and ascend to the Presidents Chair Saddle. (The high point is 8,500' and the route is moderately to heavily crevassed.) Descend the Presidents Chair Glacier to its confluence with the Nabesna River and thence to Platinum Creek. Ascend Platinum Creek to Platinum Pass. Descend Platinum Pass to the Noyes Moraine. Follow the moraine to Noyes Pass, ascend Noyes Pass and descend into the headwaters of the Little Tok River. Descend the Little Tok to ½ mile below its confluence with Buck Creek. Bear to the right and ascend to the Little Tok cat trail. Follow the cat trail to the "Old" Tok Cutoff. Turn right and follow the old road to the Log Cabin Wilderness Lodge (approx. 4 miles).

To bypass the Presidents Chair, ascend Whiskey Hill to Chisana Pass. Cross the pass to the left and ascend to the head of the Presidents Chair Feeder Glacier. Descend to

the Nabesna and thence to Platinum Creek and the Log Cabin Wilderness Lodge as described above.

Route Option # 6 McCarthy-Kennicott- Nabesna-Platinum Pass-Noyes Pass -Little Tok 128.18 miles

Solo Travel is NOT permitted- A 2-Person Rope Team is mandatory

The slope before the tabletop pass is very steep. However, the other side is a gentle slope. At minimum of 50m rope will be required.

To reach the Log Cabin Wilderness Lodge from McCarthy travel north from the starting line towards the Historic Kennicott Mine. Continue on the trail past Kennicott. Cross the Root Glacier and continue on to reach the "Kennicott Highway," Pass Donoho Peak on the medial moraine toward Packsaddle Island and cut over to the lateral moraine once passing the Gates Glacier. Stay on the right hand side of the Kennicott, hugging the rock bands to gain the upper section of glacier above Packsaddle Island. Continue to the small, tabletop-like pass and descend onto the Nabesna Glacier. Follow the right fork of the Nabesna Glacier past Ice Fields Plateau to the Nabesna River. Follow the Nabesna River to Gillam Lake. Descend the Nabesna Glacier/River to Platinum Creek. Ascend Platinum Creek to Platinum Pass. Descend Platinum Pass to the Noyes Moraine. Follow the moraine to Noyes Pass, ascend Noyes Pass and descend into the headwaters of the Little Tok River. Descend the Little Tok to ½ mile below its confluence with Buck Creek. Bear to the right and ascend to the Little Tok cat trail. Follow the cat trail to the "Old" Tok Cutoff. Turn right and follow the old road to the Log Cabin Wilderness Lodge (approx. 4 miles)

Bailouts and Transportation Logistics:

♦ **Bailouts**

If a bailout is necessary, notify Teresa, Estelle, or Heather at 291-2339. (Collect calls will be accepted at this number as long as someone is available to answer the phone.) No transport/pickups from the bailout location will be provided.

There are 2 bailout points along the route.

The first is at the town of Chisana. The transportation and lodging options are described below.

The second is at Devils Mountain Lodge, located at the end of the Nabesna Road. There is no road transportation available, but phone and lodging options are described below.

♦ **Vehicles**

• **At the Start**

There is ample parking space at Summit Consulting Services and at the Log Cabin Wilderness Lodge 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 main highway and is a safe location. One night's lodging will be provided for all participants at the SEAG Power House Building. Food and beverages will be supplied by AMWSC. However, food preparation is the responsibility of the participants and event organizers. The Power House has limited bed space, but ample floor space for sleeping. The water is self-hauled from the river and an outhouse is available for the participants. The lodging, food, and beverage costs are covered by the event registration fee. Please refer to the options listed in Item # 8 regarding traveling to the start in McCarthy.

- At the Finish

At least one, and maybe two, vehicles will be staged at the Log Cabin Wilderness Lodge. However, all participants are ultimately individually responsible for the cost and arrangement of return transportation from the finish line (or bailout location) to the location of their parked personal vehicles. One night's lodging and shower will be provided for all participants at the Log Cabin Wilderness Lodge. Prepared meals will be provided by the Lodge; however, food and beverages will be supplied by AMWSC. The lodging, shower, food and beverage costs are covered by the event registration fee.

- ♦ **Bus, Air Taxi, Air Charter and Lodging Services**

- Bus: Anchorage/Glennallen to Mentasta/Tok

Interior Alaska Bus Line (800-770-6652) <http://interioralaskabusline.com/> has scheduled service on Monday, Wednesday and Friday between Anchorage, Glennallen, Mentasta and Tok. Depart Anchorage at 5:00 AM, arrive Glennallen at 10:00 AM, arrive Mentasta Road at 12:15 and arrive Tok at 1:15 PM. Anchorage to Glennallen is \$70.00; Anchorage to the Mentasta Road is \$115; Glennallen to Tok or Glennallen to Mentasta Road is \$60.00. Arrangements can also be made to drop passengers directly at our location (Mile 83.5 Tok Cutoff) with prior coordination.

- Air: Chisana to Tok

Tok Air Service of Tok, Alaska (322-2903) or email zknaebel@gmail.com has wheel/ski 185 and Super Cub's with.. A 185 charter is \$900.00 with no charge for stand-by time (unless excessive). They can be available for charters in the Chisana area and can land in other locations as necessary Rates to other locations are dependent on location of extraction and number of passengers.

40-Mile Air of Tok, Alaska (883-5191) has scheduled round trip flights from Tok to Chisana on Tuesdays and Thursdays, departing Chisana at 10:30 AM. One way fare is \$105/person and baggage is \$.35/lb for anything over 30 pounds. A Cessna 185 charter is \$970.00 for up to 500 lbs or 2 passengers.* Standby time in Chisana is offered at \$120/hour as well after the first 15 minutes. All flights depart from and arrive at the "Oat Field" in Chisana. Tok is 46 highway miles north of Summit Consulting.

- Lodging in Chisana

There are no known lodging or support services available in Chisana this year.

- Air: McCarthy to Gulkana/Glennallen

Copper Valley Air in Gulkana, Alaska (822-4200) has scheduled flights every Monday and Thursday, departing Gulkana at 10:00 AM with arrival in McCarthy at approximately 11:00 AM. One way fare is \$110/person, for a maximum of 2 passengers* per flight. Allowable baggage/gear is 40# per person. A Cessna 172 will carry up to 3 passengers and their gear* and is available for \$750 from McCarthy to Glennallen. Gulkana is approximately 93 highway miles south of Summit Consulting.

- Phone & Lodging in Nabesna is not available at the time of publication; however, someone may be around if any skiers need phone support.

Wrangell Mountains Wilderness Lodge (Phone: 907-308-4043) is open during the winter months' and has overnight lodging facilities, meals, and a phone available for calls. Wrangell Mountains Wilderness Lodge is located at Mile 28 on the Nabesna Road.

- Air Charter from Glennallen to Summit Consulting/Dave Cramer's House:

Harley McMahan (822-3441) has a one passenger plane available for charter at \$240/hour. The charter will carry one (1) passenger and +/- 200 lbs. of gear. Long items, like skis, must be strapped to outside of the plane.

*Runway conditions may impact scheduled and charter flight services. Maximum passenger loads are approximate and may vary depending on individual passenger weights, baggage/gear weights, and other weight-and-balance considerations. Space availability on scheduled flights is on a first-come / first-served basis.

[END]