



WRANGELL-St. ELIAS MOUNTAIN RANGE ROUTE DESCRIPTIONS

Alaska Mountain Wilderness Ski Classic

McCarthy – Nabesna – Log Cabin Wilderness Lodge

Event Coordinator: Dave Cramer (907) 291-2339

Minimum age is 18. The event coordinator reserves the right to deem any applicant unqualified.

Participants are encouraged to travel in groups of two or more for purposes of safety as well as fun.

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.

All travel must be self-propelled, without benefit of motorized vehicles, wheels, pack animals or pull animals.

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.

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.

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.

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:

- ice axe
- 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

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.

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)