



**36th Annual
Alaska Mountain Wilderness Ski Classic ~ 2024
Gates Route**

Galbraith – Anaktuvuk – Wiseman
Event Coordinator: Dave Cramer (907) 291-2339

EVENT INFORMATION

Participant Guidelines:

1. The start is Sunday, March 31, 2024 at 11:00 AM, at Galbraith Lake, Mile 278 Dalton Highway.
2. A mandatory check-in is required at the half way point of the routes, located at the National Park Service Office in Anaktuvuk Pass.
3. The finish deadline is Wednesday April 10, 2024 at midnight, at Arctic Getaway B&B in Wiseman.
4. Minimum age is 18; the event coordinator reserves the right to deem any applicant unqualified.
5. Maximum # participants: 25. No applications will be accepted after 25 people have registered.
6. Entry fee is \$350 per participant. There is no reduced fee for students or other groups of any kind. The entry fee is non-refundable unless the applicant withdraws by Tuesday March 12, 2024.
7. Application deadline is Friday, March 1, 2024. The **Registration Form** and **Release Form** – both completed and signed – and the **\$350 Entry Fee** *must be received* by the application deadline.
8. For cancellations, there will be **no refunds after Tuesday, March 12, 2024**. Cancellations made by 3/12/24 are entitled to a refund of the entry fee *minus the cost of the event garment*. The garment and the adjusted refund will be issued to any registrant who cancels by 3/12/24.
9. The plan is to rendezvous on Saturday, March 30, 2024 at the Arctic Getaway B&B in Wiseman at 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 this location **Saturday, March 30, 2024** must contact Dave Cramer at (907) 291-2339 **prior to Wednesday, March 27, 2024**. Participants will then travel on Sunday, March 31, 2024 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.
10. Any participant who turns back or drops out should notify other participants if possible, and should call Summit Consulting at (907) 291-2339 or the Arctic Getaway B & B at (907) 678-4456; if there is no answer, leave a message. Any participant not finished by midnight on Wednesday, April 10, 2024 or who fails to call after dropping out, will be considered overdue.
11. 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 the 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 to 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 webpage at <http://thingstolucat.com/ski-touring-equipment-guide>.

12. 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.
13. No cash awards are provided; however, all participants will be issued a 2024 commemorative event garment, the cost of which is covered by the event registration fee.
14. Participants are encouraged to travel in groups of two or more (up to 10) for purposes of safety as well as fun (also see item 18).
15. 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 gear, food or assistance from non-participants.
16. All travel must be self-propelled, without benefit of motorized vehicles, wheels, pack animals or pull animals.
17. All travel must be self-contained. Everything 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.
18. 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.
19. Participants select their own route (see Route Descriptions on pages 3-4 and attached maps). **Important:** describe your selected route on the application form. At least one other person should be notified if a participant decides to change their route. There will be no organized trail sweep.
20. All of the main routes require steep ascents and descents. Participants should bring at least 10-point crampons and also consider the following items:
 - ice axe
 - crampons
 - 100 ft. 9 mm – 11 mm climbing rope
 - rescue pulley
 - carabiners: 2 locking gate, 4 standard gate
 - harness and belay device
 - snow shovel
 - ascenders
 - ice screw - 1 each
 - 24" picket - 1 each
21. Except for the road in and out of Anaktuvuk Pass and the Nolan to Wiseman Road, all roads are out of bounds.

Recommendations:

- ◆ This event starts and finishes above the Arctic Circle – be prepared for arctic conditions.
- ◆ If you are new to the Classic, 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. Fuel needs are often 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 (e.g. 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** (*Solo Travel is 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 Snowheel 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 Arctic Getaway B&B.

- ◆ **Route #2 Nanushuk River - Option A - CANCELED**
This route is no longer available:

This change has been necessitated by Arctic Slope Regional Corporation's denial of access to the portion of this route that traverses their land starting at Nanushuk Lake and continuing to the Anaktuvuk River.

♦ **Route #2 Nanushuk River - 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 community 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 Arctic Getaway B&B.

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, **call Summit Consulting at (907) 291-2339** (collect calls will be accepted at this number as long as someone is there to take the call) or the **Arctic Getaway B&B at (907) 678-4456**. No transport/pickups from the bailout location can be guaranteed.

There are no phones or inhabited shelters at *Galbraith Lake*. Anyone bailing out must either return to *Galbraith Lake* or the *Dalton Highway* and make their way to the *Chandalar DOT Camp* located 22 miles south at milepost 239.5, or *Pump Station #4* located 8 miles north of Galbraith at milepost 269. 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 transport from your bailout location to *Wiseman, Coldfoot or Fairbanks*.
- Contact **Wright Air Service at (907) 474-0502** for daily scheduled service from *Anaktuvuk* to *Fairbanks* or for flagstop service upon request from *Coldfoot* to *Fairbanks*.
- Contact **Warbelow's Air Ventures at (907) 474-0518** for charter service upon request from *Anaktuvuk, Coldfoot, Galbraith or Wiseman* to *Fairbanks*.

Vehicles

There is adequate parking space at the Arctic Getaway B&B in Wiseman 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 registration fee.

Lodging/Food

- At the Start

One night's lodging and shower will be provided for all participants at the Arctic Getaway B&B with ample floor space for sleeping bags, etc. Anyone wishing to overnight at this location on Saturday, March 30, 2024 must contact Dave Cramer at (907) 291-2339 **prior to Wednesday, March 27, 2024**. Food and beverages will be provided. Full cooking facilities are available for use by the participants, who cook their own meals and serve themselves. The lodging at Arctic Getaway B&B, shower, food and beverage costs are covered by the event registration fee.

Alternate lodging, at the participant's own expense, may be available at Coldfoot Camp located at milepost 175 of the Dalton Highway. Contact the facility directly at (907) 678-3500 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 B&B. Food and beverages will be provided. Full cooking facilities are available for use by the participants, who cook their own meals and serve themselves. The lodging, shower, food and beverage costs are covered by the event registration fee.

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