

Mount Blackadar (2035 meters, 6750 feet; 59° 51' N, 137° 54' W) on the east side of the Alsek River. The base of the climb was reached after a week in kayaks and rafts down the Alsek. The range viewed from 1000 feet on the river is impressive, above which peaks such as Kennedy and Hubbard rise 14,000 feet. Major glaciers, including the Lowell, Tweedsmuir and Alsek terminate in the river, calving off large blocks of glacial ice which are washed downstream. Mount Blackadar was named for Dr. Walt Blackadar who solo first ran the treacherous rapids of one of the world's most famous stretches of whitewater, Turnback Canyon. This is located where the Tweedsmuir Glacier squeezes the Alsek River against the walls of Mount Blackadar. Dr. Blackadar was drowned in an Idaho kayaking accident in 1978. The ascent started from the confluence of Dyke Creek and the Alsek River and followed the north ridge. The first 2500 feet were through an impressive jungle of devil's club and stinging nettle. We reached the first snowfields at 4500 feet, although hanging glaciers on the impressive north face descend to within 100 feet of the Alsek. Kathy Daly and Darcy Dixon accompanied us to the snow. The ridge route was mixed snow and loose rock, with great exposure but mostly of 5.3 difficulty and some 5.4. After we reached the second col on the northwest ridge, we climbed a gradual incline between two glaciers that dropped off to the north and south. The final pitch was 5.4 on loose rock. We climbed the northern of the several summits. On a boulder a few meters from the summit, Bob Blackadar left an ice axe inscribed with Mount Blackadar in memory of his father.

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Northern Boundary Ranges

The Tusk, West Ridge. The view of the Florence Range from the abandoned lodge at Ben-My-Chree on Tagish Lake is dominated by a sharp pointed peak with twin summits known locally as the Tusk. The summit of the Tusk is easily attained by a steep talus slope on its southeast flank. The west ridge, however, had not been attempted before Ed Weyrembeck and I climbed it on July 24. Although we roped up for two short pitches, most of our route is exciting 3rd and 4th class scrambling on an exposed knife-edge arête (II, 5.7). The north face of the Tusk is split by a deep cleft which strongly resembles the Super-Couloir on Fitzroy. The buttresses on either side of this couloir would both provide grade 4 or 5 big-wall routes, but the metamorphosed volcanic rock is of dubious quality.

WALTER VETINUM

Canadian Coast Range

Climbs and Traverses in the Mount Waddington Area, Canadian Coast Range. In the 4½ days from July 26 thru 30, Peter Croft, Greg Foweraker, and I completed the first traverse of the culmination of the Coast Mountains, the

Photo by Don Serl

Northern aspect of Waddington Range, showing the Traverse. Breadth of view is 10 kilometers. Left to right: Serra I to V, Asperity, Tiedemann, Combatant, Waddington.



Waddington Range. Starting from a helicopter drop-off in Fury Gap at about nine P.M. (c. 2500 meters) we ascended the long northwest ridge to about 3200 meters before bivying. The next day we climbed the main summit (4019 meters) via the Angel Glacier and the regular route on the summit tower in 12 hours return. Superb snow conditions and dry, ice-free rock sped progress. Our second morning saw us down into "Combatant Col", then up snow slopes on the west face of Combatant to its north summit, where a long bout of sunning and eating delayed us. A quick trip to the main summit (3756 meters) was followed by an even quicker descent into "Chaos Col" below the west face of Mount Tiedemann. A couple of hours on easy snow and superb rock (one belayed pitch) saw us on top (3848 meters) just as the sun blinked out in the west. We found our third bivy on a reasonably comfortable prow of rock a surprisingly complicated two hours further along the ridge, just before it starts to drop to the Asperity Col. Three hours on the morning of the 29th sufficed to gain the top of Asperity (3716 meters; again just one roped pitch), and two more hours saw us down the somewhat dangerous east face. After a couple of hours of recuperation in "Radiant Col", we found a pleasant route up the extreme right side of the north face of Serra V, to make the second ascent 21 years after Dick Culbert and Glenn Woodworth (4 pitches, 5.7 or 5.8). Four long, technical, dangerous rappels eventually landed us in the Serra IV-V notch, *very* glad to be on "terra firma" once again. A fine bivy site was constructed against the walls of Serra IV, and after a comfortable night the final day saw us climbing Serra IV (the highest Serra at about 3660 meters), Serra III, Serra II (at last sans packs, which were left at the II-III col), and finally Serra I from the upper Tollot Glacier. A finishing dusk-into-dark slog down through the slop to the Plummer Hut completed the trip, about 15 kilometers from the start. It should be mentioned that this was by no means the only activity in the Range. Just two days prior to our reaching the IV-V notch, Mike Down and John Howe had gained the same point via the imposing "IV-V" couloir on its far side. A wolverine ravaged their camp on the Radiant while they did the route! Peter Croft joined two Washingtonians, Greg Collum and Dan Cauthorn, to complete a second 4-day traverse on the south side of the Tiedemann, the much-discussed "Arabesque" traverse. Meanwhile, Barb Clemes, Tami Knight, Ian Campbell, and Rudy Brugger climbed the long northwest ridge of "the Don" on Mount Munday. Waddington itself also saw at least three further ascents, including the first repeat of the Kiwi route on the north face.

DON SERL, *Alpine Club of Canada*

Grenelle-Spearman Traverse. Greg Collum and I helicoptered to the Plummer Hut near Mount Waddington on the last day of a record-breaking heat wave in the Coast Mountains. All too soon we were trapped in the hut, reading novels and drinking tea. Sharing the hut with us was Peter Croft who had just traversed the entire chain of peaks from Waddington to the Tellot Glacier with Don Serl and Greg Foweraker. The three of us began scheming and soon we were com-