

McKinley this season, 104 (44%) reached the summit. These lower-than-normal success rates are the result of severe wind storms that extended for several weeks during the height of the season.

Twenty-seven climbers attempted solo ascents on Mount McKinley, with 11 of those successfully reaching the summit. There was one unsuccessful solo attempt made on Mount Foraker.

Mountain or Route	Expeditions	Climbers	Success (%)
<b>MOUNT MCKINLEY</b>			
Cassin	11	30	47
East Buttress	1	3	0
Messner Couloir	4	8	25
Muldraw Glacier	3	20	60
Muldraw Glacier Traverse	3	7	29
Northwest Buttress	1	4	100
South Buttress	5	15	13
South Face	1	7	57
West Buttress	245	943	42
West Buttress Traverse	6	33	73
West Rib	22	72	38
West Rib Buttress	1	1	100
West Rib Cut-off	1	2	100
Wickersham Wall	1	3	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>305</b>	<b>1148</b>	<b>43</b>
<b>FORAKER</b>			
Northwest Ridge	1	2	0
Southeast Ridge	2	8	1
Sultana	8	26	35
<b>Total</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>26</b>

The current death total for Mount McKinley is 87.

J.D. SWED, *South District Ranger*

*Alaska Range Traverse.* Kevin Armstrong, John Burcham, Jeffrey Ottmers, and Doug Woody began the first continuous foot traverse\* of the Alaska Range just south of Tok, Alaska on May 20. They were prepared for an arduous 76-day journey along the spine of the Alaska Range across rivers, swamps, glaciers, and countless mountain passes through some of the most remote and untouched climbing areas in the world. On August 17, exactly 90 days, 27 mountain passes, 29 rivers, and 13 major glaciers later, the team slogged through a swamp to finish the trek on the north shore of Lake Clark, 620 miles from Tok.

The team traveled on foot and by pack raft past innumerable isolated peaks, only some of which have been climbed. They trekked through remote glacial passes between the Black Rapids and Susitna Glaciers, hiked across the entirety of Denali National Park, and floated by the mighty granite towers of the Kichatnas. Wildlife was abundant, but only one grizzly actually charged the group.

No one had ever completed a foot traverse of the entire Alaska Range. Traversing the Range



Doug Woody, Muldrow Glacier, Day 45, Alaska Range Traverse.  
John Burcham

for parts of the journey, Bill Hatcher, made a mountain bike traverse of the Alaska Range, starting near the Alaska/Canada border and finishing at Lake Clark. Their journey started some 100 miles further southeast than the hikers' start; they finished their traverse almost twice as fast. (*Rock and Ice* 78)

*Mount Prindle, Southeast Buttress, The Fleecing of America.* As Eric Sloan and I drove north from Fairbanks the July rain got worse—a relief for me. The mere thought of humping an aid rack into Mount Prindle made my legs quiver. Unfortunately, by the time we got to the “trail-head” it had stopped raining, I had no excuses and the peak loomed large. The four-hour hike in felt like ten, but was far mellower than I was dreading. We ended up climbing six pitches total to the top of the main wall of the southeast buttress of Prindle. The route, *The Fleecing of America*, started in the back left side of the keyhole area and went in three days (we fixed, rappelled, and jugged) at 5.8 A2++.

with a small team of close friends, using only minimal outside support and minimum impact travel techniques, is a step away from crowds, access fees, and plane flights. It is not simply climbing as a sport; it is mountaineering, pack rafting, and trekking with a great reverence for the ecosystem and the solitude. It is a tribute to the wilderness that makes up some of the most inaccessible country in North America.

DOUG WOODY, *unaffiliated*

\*In 1981, Scott Woolums, George Beilstein, Steve Eck and Larry Copen skied across the Alaska Range from Mentasta Lake to the Kichatna Mountains—some 350 or 400 miles—in 45 days. See *AAJ* 1982, pp. 137-138.

*Alaska Range Traverse.* It was reported that Paul Adkins, Roman Dial, Carl Tobin and,

JEFF APPLE BENOWITZ, *unaffiliated*