

Mount Kennedy, Northwest Face, A Pair of Jacks. In May, Jack Tackle and Jack Roberts climbed the northwest face of Mount Kennedy, applying mixed climbing techniques they had honed at winter crags in Montana and Colorado to link together a line on this awesome and intimidating face. A full account of their climb appears earlier in this journal.

St. Elias Mountains, Various Ascents. On April 9, our pilot, Paul Claus of Ultima Thule Outfitters, landed us in the remote mountain wilderness of the Canadian St. Elias Range to fend for ourselves for a few weeks. Bill Hartlieb, Ron Gregg, Carl Skoog, and I established three camps on the upper Anderson Glacier—one at our landing site (8,500'), another in a large basin made up of Mounts Strickland, Wood, Macaulay, and Slaggard (10,400'), and a high camp between Macaulay and Slaggard (13,500'). On April 13, we climbed the south slope of Macaulay from our high camp and skied from its icy summit. On the following day we skied to and from the summit of Southeast Macaulay (which we call Mount Maylon) via the easy northwest slope. This appears to be a first ascent of this peak, which provides a commanding view of Mounts Lucania and Steele as well as the sea of peaks to the southeast. After one day of cloudy and windy weather spent in the tent, we took the opportunity to climb Mount Slaggard via its east ridge. A day of powder skiing on the lower flanks of Slaggard topped off the adventure.

The previous year, Brian Sato, Cricket Griesman, Bill Hartlieb and I climbed four peaks rising from the Brabazon Glacier, just to the northwest. During that trip, also in May, we also encountered outstanding weather and climbed a new route on the southeast ridge of Solomon Peak, the north ridge of Mount Strickland, and skied North and South Gemini Peaks at the west end of the cirque. It is worth noting that the altitudes of many of the above peaks are approximately 300 to 800 feet higher than stated on the maps of the area. Our altimeter readings confirmed what Paul Claus has been telling us about the Wrangell-Saint Elias mountains for several years.

KAJ BUNE, *unaffiliated*

Kluane National Park Reserve Icefield Mountaineering Statistics, 1996. During the spring and summer of 1996 there were 45 mountaineering expeditions, comprising 161 persons, that ventured into the Saint Elias Mountains of Kluane National Park. The weather was typical of the Saint Elias area: unpredictable. Some groups hit it lucky and had only one storm day on their entire Logan trip, while others waited out long periods of snow and wind. One group waited nearly as long at Base Camp to fly out of the Icefields as they did to climb the East Ridge of Mount Logan.

As is the norm, most climbers attempted Mount Logan (68%, or 109 persons), with 43% (70 persons) attempting the King Trench route, and 21% (34 persons) on the East Ridge route. Mount Logan was attempted 27 times with Mount Steele and the Hubbard/Kennedy Massif being next in line with three attempts each. Of those groups who summited on Mount Logan this year it took an average of 22 days for the East Ridge route and 23 days for the King Trench route.

A heavy snowfall in early June made extreme avalanche hazard throughout the area. This resulted in two avalanche-related fatalities and a couple of close calls. A Czech climbing team lost one of their members on the East Ridge of Mount Logan and a Mexican team lost a member on the Southwest Ridge of Mount Saint Elias (U.S.).

Parks Canada Wardens did a climb/patrol of the King Trench route on Mount Logan this year. The objectives were to monitor the use of this route and record user impressions, garbage, human waste, natural hazards and to familiarize and train search and rescue personnel. The patrol was

able to contact 14 of the 17 climbing groups on this route this year. Some garbage, old caches, fixed line, and old wands were found. Human waste was found to accumulate at both the King Col and Base Camp areas. Although the route was relatively busy, the climbers contacted did not feel there was too much use. Wardens observed that most of the climbers on this route travel unroped over much of its length, and a number of close calls were noted, particularly in traveling over dangerous crevassed areas between King Col and the 5,200-meter level. One climbing group was charged and convicted for failing to register and pay climbing fees prior to entering Kluane National Park. Persons interested in organizing an expedition into the Saint Elias Mountains of Kluane are required to contact Kluane National Park Reserve at Box 5495, Haines Junction, Yukon, Y0B 1L0 to obtain a registration package.

RICK STALEY, *Senior Park Warden*

Northern Selkirks, Various Ascents. In August, 1995, Steve Sheriff and I gained a high point beneath Mount Sorcerer by following logging roads through clearcuts above Bachelor Creek. We then bushwhacked directly toward the peak for a kilometer or two, crossing several large gullies and rock ribs to gain the lower tongue of the northeast glacier. We ascended the glacier to the base of the northeast face, then climbed the face on moderate snow and some ice to the summit cornice and ridge, which we followed without gaining much additional height for a few hundred meters to the true summit. We later discovered that a similar line had probably been followed by Canadian climbers the previous summer, but had not been reported. This route is a moderate one, but ease of access will probably make it the standard route on this classic Selkirk peak.

A few days later, Sheriff and I climbed the true north face of Mount Iconoclast. We bushwhacked up Benedict Creek and then ascended moraine, cliffs, and meadows for about six hours to a bivy beneath the north face. The following morning, we simul-climbed and belayed several pitches of ice followed by lower-angle firn directly up the face to the summit ridge, and from there walked a short distance to the top. It is an excellent climb, but a difficult approach.

In July, 1996, Sheriff, Mike Kehoe, Guy Pinjuv, and I climbed the northwest ridge of Mount Remilliard. From a camp on a small alp about a kilometer from the north face, we followed a complex line over the Remilliard Glacier and up snow and ice gullies to the rock ridge. Several pitches of excellent diorite with climbing up to 5.9 took us to the summit. We descended by the Remilliard Icefield and crossed the Remilliard Glacier again to return to camp.

GRAY THOMPSON

BOUNDARY RANGE

Coast Mountains, Traverse of the Taku-Whiting Divide. Jan Palaty, Steve Sheffield, Dave Williams and I spent four weeks traversing the Taku-Whiting Divide on skis in April and May. From Juneau we took a floatplane to the confluence of the Taku and Wright Rivers, several miles inland from the mouth of the Taku River. We skied alongside the Wright River to the lake at the base of the Wright Glacier. The lake was partially unfrozen but we were able to outflank it along the south shore. Once we gained the Wright Glacier travel was fairly straightforward with only minor crevassed sections to circumvent.

We reached our first and only food cache on the third day of the trip. This was located about 10 miles above the snout of the Wright Glacier. From a base at the food cache we climbed the following peaks west of the Wright Glacier: Peak 6882* via the east face and south ridge, Peak 6134 via the north side, Peak 6443 via the southwest side. We also attempted Mount Fremont