

50° névé slopes to take us all the way to Englishman's Col, safety, and a brew of tea (we were utterly parched). They did not.

The couloir turned a corner and above us loomed a chockstone wedged across the gully with a curtain of rotten ice dripping past the overhang created by the chockstone. This was the sting in the tail. A drip of real ice about a foot wide and three inches thick coming down from under the left side of the chockstone, and desperate stemming, thin axe-picking, a solid #1 Camelot, and good sticks above the overhang, made the pitch possible.

The last few hundred meters of the route were not as easy as we would have liked (especially considering our screaming calf-muscles), but eventually we made it to the Englishman's Col, *Shaken, Not Stirred* (the route name, in keeping with our booze tradition), for a much-needed rest and brew of tea. We lacked the courage to brave the corniced ridges to the main summit of the Moose's Tooth, but instead did one more hard pitch (sugar snow over a steep slab) above the Col and plodded the rest of the way to the West Summit of the Tooth. We descended the West Ridge overnight.

GREG CROUCH

#### KICHATNA SPIRES

*Middle Triple, Ride the Lightning.* From June 27 to August 4, Jay Smith, Kitty Calhoun, Steve Gerberding and Dan Osman climbed a new route, *Ride the Lightning* (VI 5.10 A4 WI3, 4,000 feet) on the west face of Middle Triple Peak in the Kichatnas. A full account of their climb appears earlier in this journal.

#### CHUGACH RANGE

*Mount Zeke, Northwest Arête.* In early April, local Natanuska Glacier pilot Billy Stevenson and I flew an aerial recon for Nova Adventure Company, scoping mountain and glacier routes for guiding. After looking at peaks in five major drainages, we flew over Monument Glacier, which is surrounded by some of the most rugged peaks in the range. As we passed over the glacier, I noticed the largest (unnamed) mountain on the southeast corner of the glacier. It had a spectacular 400-meter-plus ice face high on its north face. I had Billy leave me on the glacier five minutes later with my survival gear. Karen Hilton flew in later that afternoon with the rest of our gear. After several days of unstable weather, we got a break long enough to make a one-day attempt of the face.

After moving camp to above a small icefall below the northwest ridge proper, we bivied for a couple of hours. Early the next morning we ascended a 350-meter couloir that averaged 50-55° and led directly to the ridge. Traversing the 500 meters along the ridge to where it joined the face involved chest-deep sugar snow. Upon joining the face, the ridge and deep snow quickly faded out, becoming a steep S-shaped ice arête leading directly to the summit 500 meters above us. Soon we were frontpointing leads up the densest, hardest, most brittle 55-75° ice I had ever encountered. Six full 60-meter pitches on the face, which was so smooth as to not have a foot hold to rest on anywhere, found us on a small rock outcrop with calves flaming. Time was not with us at this point. We had three hours of good light and still had to get down the mountain. I set our time limit at an hour and a half and took off on lead. The ice steepened, and after two more pitches I had more than used up my allotment. I set the first rap anchor about a rope length from the summit ridge. I could see we were high above adjoining peak "Moe" and were very close to the summit. The sky to the west was black with incoming weather and the sun was gone. We rappled as quickly as possible and ran down the unsta-

ble snow of the ridge and couloir. After a couple days of storm, we skied off the glacier into Monument Creek with avalanches pouring down all around us. After two and a half days of Class V bushwhacking with heavy packs and skis, we crossed the Matanuska River on the last good ice bridge and hiked up to the Glenn Highway. We had crossed some ski tracks in the drainage; as it turned out, Willi Peabody and Mike Wood had been in a week earlier and made an ascent of Mt. Awesome (the major peak on the west side of the lower glacier) via a couloir on the south side with horrible snow conditions.

The peak we climbed (ca.8500') was unnamed. Sizing up a rare opportunity, I named it after my five-year-old son, who is growing up in this region of the world.

PAUL TURECKI

#### WRANGELL-ST. ELIAS MOUNTAINS

*Mt. Drum, Southwest Ridge.* On June 10, Paul Claus of Ultima Thule Outfitters flew Anchorage climbers Judith Terpstra and me from Glennallen to a 6,200-foot glacier at the base of the 12,008-foot Mt. Drum's southwest ridge (Alaska Grade II+). We established camps on the southwest ridge at 8,000 feet and 10,000 feet. We were turned back from our summit attempt due to poor weather at 11,200 feet. We descended the route to base camp and were picked up by Claus on June 14. Anchorage climbers Paul Barry and Dave Lucey succeeded on this climb, summiting in marginal weather on June 14 and flying out two days later.

DAVID HART, *Mountaineering Club of Alaska*

*Hanagita Peak, Possible First Ascent.* On September 1, Gary Green of McCarthy Air flew me into the Bremner mine airstrip some 30 miles southwest of McCarthy. That day and the next I hiked west over two passes to reach a camp at around 4,000 feet just northeast of Hanagita Peak. On the 3rd, I got a late start, so I decided to reconnoiter only the glacier that lies south of the main summit and flows east. The glacier was bare of snow to about 6,000 feet, then a light layer of snow covered the ice; the crevasses were still full of snow. At 6,700 feet I decided to keep on going and crossed the bergschrund to reach the broken rock. I climbed a pitch or so of 5th-class rock before scrambling the last few hundred vertical feet over scree and loose 4th-class rock to reach a col at 7,300 feet. I crossed over the col to the southwest side of the mountain, then crossed the bergschrund and headed up an ice face of up to 45°. The ice was covered with an inch or so of new snow and ran for about 1,000 feet before it brought me to easier snow slopes just below the summit. There were scattered clouds, but otherwise the panoramic views from the summit were rewarding, especially the 4,500 feet down toward camp to the northeast and on to the Klu River drainage. This may have been the first ascent of the peak.

DANNY W. KOST

*Wrangell Mountains, Various Ascents.* On April 3, Paul Claus of Ultima Thule Outfitters flew Anchorage climbers Paul Barry, Kirk Towner and me from Chitina to "Bona Basin" at 10,500 feet on the upper Klutlan Glacier.

From this base camp we were able to summit three peaks during the next week. We made the third ascent of Mt. Tressider (13,315') up its northern slopes (Alaska Grade I). (The 1969 AAJ details the first and second ascents.) We also completed the first ascent of Peak 12,610', approaching the col below its west ridge from the north (Alaska Grade II). Interestingly, its