



Mt. Fairweather. STUART LOCHNER

150-foot free rappel off the glacier, and crossing the slough with a raft which had been shredded by a grizzly bear. *Highland Fling* sailed back in to Port Townsend on June 8 after battling headwinds much of the way south.

STUART LOCHNER, *unaffiliated*

Kayak Ski Mountaineering in Glacier Bay. I left the Salmon River at Gustavus in a single kayak on May 12 with a full load of food, fuel, water, and ski mountaineering gear. My skis and ski poles were mounted on deck in a homemade waterproof bag. The light head winds and counterweight placed deep in the kayak produced a comfortable level of stability. I paddled mostly with the tide for 26 nautical miles to a small beach near Geikie Inlet. The next day I paddled the remaining 25.5 miles to Reid Inlet. On day four, the slow advance up Reid Glacier began. A mostly sedentary winter spent in Gustavus had shrunk my leg muscles, and progress hauling three weeks of food and gear was slow. On the sixth day a long hard pull under an unexpectedly hot sun brought me to the 2,600-foot plateau three miles east of the northeast spur of Mt. Bertha. On day eight I moved camp to 3,200 feet beneath a spur leading to what I perceived to be the Washburn route. Any attempt on that route was blocked by mushy snow and large moats. A few days of ski laps gave my legs a familiar resilience and I began to wonder what opportunities the Bertha-Crillion col might provide.

On day 12, I followed a low angle route, throwing an avalanche probe out front with each step. A route up toward the col at 6,500 feet looked feasible. I left at 5 a.m., taking food for one day, a liter of water, a stove and fuel, several layers of warm clothing, ice axe, alpine axe,

crampons, skis and climbing skins. I progressed northwest up a heavily crevassed slope toward the Bertha-Crillion col and picked up the first couloir to the right. The climbing was easy and quick to approximately 7,500 feet, where the slot topped out on a southeast-facing slope. A turn to the left over loose snow softened by the already high sun brought me to 8,000 feet on the southwest ridge above the B-C col.

Before too long I was on the plateau at 9,700 feet adjacent to the Washburn route. Nearly a mile of dead reckoning was needed to reach the hidden summit knob. Eleven hours of climbing, a switch back to crampons and a quick 600-foot gain brought me to the 10,204-foot summit. After a quick lunch and switch to skis I began skiing down, then switched back to crampons, then skied across the plateau and carved slow survival turns down portions of the headwalls adjacent to the southwest ridge. I got off course and bivied only a few hundred feet above my tent for a few hours until cooler temperatures and brighter skies allowed for a safe descent.

The skies cleared once again the following day and July Fourth Peak proved to be a beautiful ski tour. The descent back to the head of Reid Inlet was uneventful, though travel and navigation was more difficult due to considerably less snow cover. The nearly three weeks my kayak spent resting on the snow near the beach was not kind to it. It had apparently attracted much attention, as evidenced by muddy bear tracks in the snow and a crack resembling a tooth bite on the hull. A quick duct tape repair and I was headed for Gustavus with a stop at Margerie Glacier to check out future routes in the Fairweather Range.

MIKE DZIOLBAK, *unaffiliated*

CANADA

Kluane National Park Reserve

Mountaineering Summary and Statistics, 1997. Last year year saw 38 expeditions comprising 137 people within the icefields of Kluane, a slight drop in numbers from the last few years. (The maximum number of climbers in a single season was 186 in 1992.)

There were 22 expeditions and 74 people on Mount Logan this year, representing 54 percent of the people in the icefields. The *King Trench* route, on the west side of the mountain, saw 12 expeditions and 49 people; the East Ridge had eight expeditions and 22 people. Two groups and three people attempted routes adjacent to the *Hummingbird Ridge*. Of interest to climbers this year was the appearance of a large crevasse bisecting the *King Trench* route at 5100 meters. This obstacle, not evident during the 1996 season, slowed the progress of each expedition. A very thin bridge early in the season was gone by late season, forcing later groups to explore alternative routes that detoured widely from the preferred ascent route. It will be interesting to see what effect this crevasse has on climbers in 1998.

Other mountains that were attempted included Mount Kennedy, Mount Hubbard, Pinnacle Peak, Mount Slaggard, Mount St. Elias, Mount Steele and Mount Walsh. In commemoration of the 100-year anniversary of the first ascent of Mount St. Elias, several attempts were made on the Canadian side. Poor conditions turned all back.

Few groups managed to reach the summits they were aiming for. On average, 60 percent of expeditions successfully get at least part of their team on the summit. In 1997, only 30 percent of all groups in the icefields seemed to have succeeded.

There were no serious accidents in 1997 and no search-and-rescue operations were required.

Anyone interested in climbing within Kluane should contact: Mountaineering Warden, Kluane National Park Reserve, Box 5495, Haines Junction, Yukon, Canada Y0B 1L0 and ask for a registration package.

ANDREW LAWRENCE, *Park Warden*