

*Hut Tower, Southeast Face, Boy's World.* From June 12-13, Bob Semborski and I climbed a new route on Hut Tower in 30 hours round-trip from base camp. To the best of our knowledge, this is the fourth line on the formation and has the same approach as for the South Ridge. From our base camp directly between Mount Barille and the Moose's Tooth, we started down-glacier at 12:30 a.m. on the 12th. By 6 a.m., we had reached the col between Hut Tower and the unnamed formation to the south (P. 5,700'?). This section involved a prominent couloir of steep snow that gained about 1,300 feet of elevation. At the col, we rested and waited for warmer temperatures. Our original intention was to climb the South Ridge, but we decided that easier terrain lay around to the right (east).

The climb ascends from left to right through mostly moderate terrain, overcoming short sections of difficulty separated by longer, easier sections. Routefinding was fairly straightforward, even though the route zig-zags a fair bit due to tremendous looseness and wetness. We were convinced that this was virgin terrain because of the level of vegetation, loose rock and the complete absence of any apparent traffic. The climbing difficulty never exceeded 5.9 with the most memorable pitches being the second and seventh. The second pitch involved a stem around a huge loose flake followed by a squeeze chimney. The seventh pitch was an eight-foot-wide chimney capped by an enormous chockstone that created a five-foot roof. This section was exceptionally wet and loose, and reminds me of the roof pitch of *Syke's Sickle* on Spearhead in Rocky Mountain National Park, only choked with ice. Two more pitches brought us to the summit, where the view of Broken Tooth was breathtaking.

The descent was via seven double-rope rappels back down to the col, requiring tension traversing from right to left. Except for the ropes getting stuck on the second-to-last rappel, the entire experience went remarkably epic-free. Rock fall was a constant hazard, but fortunately no one got hit. We walked (no, stumbled) into camp at 6 a.m. on the 13th and slept for two days. Out of respect for those hardmen who have gone before, we named this route *Boy's World* (a much more difficult route called *Men's World* lies around the opposite side of the formation).

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*Peak 10,070' (a.k.a. The Bear's Tooth), East Face, The Useless Emotion.* In May, Jim Bridwell, Brian McCray, Brian Jonas, Glenn Dunmire and Terry Christensen established a new route on the east face of Peak 10,070' (a.k.a. The Bear's Tooth). *The Useless Emotion* (VII 5.9 WI4 A4, ca. 4,700') was established over two weeks in May, with the route being fixed to the top of the rock pillar before the headwall above was climbed capsule-style. It was McCray's first alpine climb; he led more than half the climb. A full account of their adventure can be found earlier in this journal.

*Moose's Tooth, Ham and Eggs, Second Ascent and Trade Routification.* A picture of the 3,000-foot south face of the Moose's Tooth in a recent *Climbing* magazine article about the Ruth Gorge caught my attention. There was a narrow steep couloir on the right side of the face that led straight up to the summit ridge below the true (east) summit. A note explained it was the *Ham and Eggs* route (Davies-Krakauer-Zinsser, 1975). In May, my partner, Harry Hunt from Anchorage, and I decided to attempt it. We flew to the Ruth Gorge with Talkeetna Air Taxi on May 8 in unsettled weather, but the 9th dawned clear and beautiful. Within several hours, we packed and were making the five- or six-hour approach through the icefall to the plateau below the south face of the Tooth. By mid-afternoon, we caught up with a pair of climbers from Seattle/Fairbanks who were also gunning for *Ham and Eggs*. The next day the

weather was unsettled, and the other climbers said they didn't have enough food to wait out the weather, so we could attempt the route first.

We started up around 7 a.m. on the 11th. The climbing was straightforward, and very fun. It consisted mostly of 50- to 55-degree snow interspersed with several WI3 steps and one mixed WI4-ish crux. We simulclimbed the snow sections and belayed all steep pitches. There were roughly 17 60-meter pitches to the col. We made it to the summit ridge around 9 p.m. and made the true east summit at 11:57 p.m. After heading down, we took a couple of hours' break near the top of the couloir in a strange, hoar-frosted natural cave. We started rappelling down the couloir around 4:30 a.m. By 9:30 a.m., we were back at the tent. We note the approach route from the Ruth Glacier to the plateau below the Tooth can entirely avoid the icefall if one takes the very avalanche-prone gully to the right (south) side of the icefall. This should not be attempted if the snow is not frozen.

Subsequent to our ascent were numerous (reportedly as many as ten) additional ascents in May and June. Among them were Kelly Cordes and Scott Decapio, Dan Gambino and Pete Tapley, the Fairbanks/Seattle pair (Dale Remsburg and friend Kristy), Mike Davis and a partner, Hunter, from Truckee, and Dave Hart and Brad Gessner. Hart and Gessner managed to forego the Ruth-to-the-Tooth icefall because TAT flew them onto the plateau at the base of the Tooth. Also, Joe Reichert and Rob Hancock repeated the original West Ridge route to the East Summit and descended via the newly-established rap route in the *Ham and Eggs* couloir. For the record, Carl Tobin and Brian Teale attempted *Ham and Eggs* back in 1984, got quite high on the route but turned around short of the top of the couloir. In my opinion, *Ham and Eggs* is deserving of its new-found "insta-classic" status. It's a fun, challenging, sustained route to one of the major summits in the Alaska Range without an inordinate amount of danger, in the right conditions.

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Overview of the south face of the Moose's Tooth. The east (true) summit is the rightmost of the four rocky summits. *Ham and Eggs* takes the couloir to its left. Shaken Not Stirred climbs up between the first and second summits from the left. Peak 10,070' (a.k.a. the Bear's Tooth) is the snowy peak on the far right. PETER HAEUSSLER