

facing corner and was fed by the summit snowfields. The wall here faces southeast, and catches a lot of radiation. It was in many ways similar to the system Carpenter, Twilight, and I climbed on Mt. Bradley in March, 1998, but this time we were there at the end of summer, right after the ice had formed. The guess about timing paid off in excellent ice conditions for nearly all of the climb. In fact, only one pitch required that we use our extensive rock rack; most of the time we relied on our six ice screws. The first day we climbed nine pitches to a bivouac underneath a "sub-formed" icicle, which the next morning I aided around via a blocky, discontinuous crack system (A3). Mahoney took over and led a couple of difficult, but excellent, ice pitches that took us to the top of the corner system we were following. At this juncture, I reassumed the lead for what I considered one of the cruxes: climbing on the route's only truly bad rock (5.8 R) for 40 feet to a tension traverse to gain the next ice system. To end the second day, we climbed two pitches off the line of ascent to a large snow ledge (dubbed the "Aurora Theater Bivy" for the spectacular display of northern lights) and the view of the lights of the village of Talkeetna out in the distance. The third day we rapped back to the route, left two packs and headed to the summit. The corner system we followed finished with two pitches of steep snow (meltwater feeder slopes) and topped out right on the main summit of the Moose's Tooth, which we gained at 1:45 p.m. We completed 16 200-foot rappels (mostly V-threads) to get back to the snow gully, which we downclimbed, reaching our skis five hours after leaving the summit.

As yet, the route has not named itself, so we are simply calling it the Southeast Face.

STEVE HOUSE*

*Recipient of an AAC Lyman Spitzer Climbing Grant

The Eye Tooth, West Face, The Dream in the Spirit of Mugs, Second Ascent, Previously Unreported. On June 25, 1998, Zack Smith and I made the second ascent of *The Dream in the Spirit of Mugs* on the Eye Tooth in the Ruth Gorge. Our first attempt ended about halfway up when a wet, then cold, storm forced us to bail. We had to chop our stuck ropes and make 80-foot raps. We returned three days later and climbed quickly to our high point, then continued and finished the route. We did stop a couple of hundred feet from the true summit due to snow slopes and ridges (we only had rock shoes), but all the technical climbing was finished. The route went all free, the crux going at 5.10c. The rock was some of the best that we had seen in the Ruth: lots of cracks and excellent pro. It went in 23 long pitches, not one under 55 meters and most at 60 meters. We rapped the route using Andi Orgler's rap anchors. The route took about 18 hours camp-to-camp.

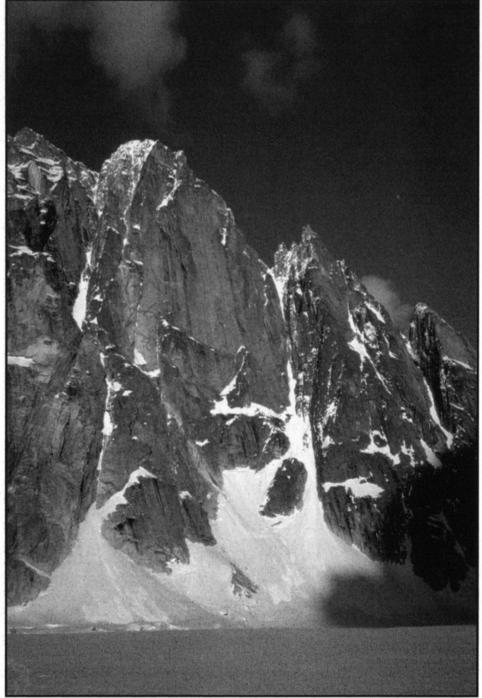
AARON MARTIN

Ruth Gorge, Various Ascents, and The Trailer Park, New Route. Thanks to a Mugs Stump Award grant, Scott DeCapio and I were dropped by Talkeetna Air Taxi on May 10 at our new home below Mt. Dickey in the Ruth Gorge. Despite much base camp laziness, we made numerous attempts (as defined by at least carrying our gear to the base of nine different climbs and actually getting off the ground on many before cowering away) and managed three ascents (one new) during our four-week sojourn.

The first ascent was an easy, fun Bugaboosque rock route on Hut Tower, a relatively small peak on the lower east side of the lower gorge. A 1,000-foot easy snow couloir led to

the 800-foot South Ridge route, which went at about 5.8, but was mostly easier, with snowy rock to gain the summit. We rappelled from fixed stations.

Serious thought and soul-searching followed Seth Shaw's death (see below), before we decided to stay and climb. On May 27, we climbed a 3,200-foot new mixed line on a relatively unknown peak called "London Tower" (Peak 7,500'; square 29 Talkeetna D-2 map) in the lower east side of the Ruth Gorge. The route ascends a rocky couloir on the west face, left (north) of the summit and the 1990 Neswadba-Arch rock route. Of course, the groveling proved considerably harder than it looked from the glacier. In the conditions we found, the five crux pitches felt like one WI6, two M6, and two M6+. Some were without protection, but most were fairly short and appeared to have soft-snow landing zones. Many pitches of moderate, fun mixed climbing, often with good gear, and a snow slog in the middle rounded out the route. We mostly simulclimbed, taking 12 hours 'schrund to summit. After an awesome hour on top relaxing, we found an



London Tower. The Trailer Park (Cordes-DeCapio, 2000) takes the leftmost of the two couloirs. KELLY CORDES

easy downclimb off the backside (east) to the Coffee Glacier. An easy walk southwest led around and up to the col south of Hut Tower (where the south ridge of Hut Tower begins, mentioned above). We butt-slid back to our skis, arriving in camp 18 hours after leaving. With thoughts of our friends, rest-day antics, and the appearance of our camp, we named it *The Trailer Park*. Like our existence in the Ruth, the climb proved a bit surly at times.

From midnight until 4 a.m. on a day in early June, we repeated the 1996 French route *Wake Up*, a 3,100-foot snow/ice climb to a subsidiary peak (Pt. 8,130') on the shoulder of Mt. Wake (near the Wake-Bradley col). Zack Smith and Aaron Martin had also climbed the route a few days earlier, between attempts at a new route on Dickey's south face. The route gave us the willies, felt spooky, and proved more dangerous than we had anticipated or wanted. We simulclimbed the route in two pitches, finding mostly easy climbing with a few tricky sections up to about WI4. The bad vibes continued on the descent, as I blew the bergschrund jump and was launched down slope, ass over tea kettle. Scott, a baseball player in his pre-climbing-bum days, saved the day by fielding me and making a tackle. Fortunately, I only tumbled 50 or 60 feet. The Ruth had grown weary of our foolishness, so Paul Roderick picked us up later that day and delivered us to the bustling metropolis of Talkeetna.

KELLY CORDES

Mt. Bradley, South Face. In July, Blair Williams and Michael Schaefer climbed a new route