

line, we decided to give it a whirl. The line is just to the right of the obvious pillar in the middle of the south face. It follows mixed ground interspersed with steep snow, traversing slightly eastward to meet the southeast ridge at about three-fourths of the height of the face.

We weren't off to the best start. On May 15 Dakota caught me on a hip belay at 4 a.m. as I tried to tiptoe across the bergschrund. Skirting the bergschrund to the left using a finger crack brought us to the base of steep snow/névé. At the top of the wide couloir we moved right through four pitches of 70-degree mixed climbing to the crux pitch, a loose 5.9 corner with bad gear placements. This was followed by easier ground, with just a few hard sections and a few pitches traversing on thin, slushy-snow-covered slabs. After about 20 pitches we hit the ridge. To our dismay we found that this side of the summit cone also had windslab protecting it. We decided to let it bar our way and started down the face. Many rappels, a few stuck, and some downclimbing deposited us back on the West Fork of the Ruth Glacier. Our roundtrip time was 19 hours. Pictures we have since seen suggest that the face usually has much more snow.

BEN HOYT

*Moose's Tooth, Direct East Pillar (a.k.a. The Beast).* On the 5,000-foot east face of the Moose's Tooth, site of the historic The Dance of the Woo Li Masters (Jim Bridwell and Mugs Stump, 1981), Bridwell and Spencer Pfingsten established the Direct East Pillar, a.k.a. The Beast (VII A5 5.10b WI4+ M6). The route, which took 29 days of effort in 2000 and 30 in 2001, is essentially a direct start to the 1981 route, joining it halfway, via the rock pillar to its left. Rotten rock was common. The key pitch, the 18th or 19th of the 44, involved 70-degree rock covered with unconsolidated snow, with no protection for 200 feet. This pitch, which forced the team to retreat in 2000, linked the new line to the 1981 route. Bridwell says it is the most difficult route he's ever climbed.

PERSONAL COMMUNICATION WITH BRIDWELL, AND CLIMBING, AND ROCK AND ICE

*Cathedral Mountains, various first ascents.* From June 28 to July 18 British climbers Lindsay Griffin, Geoff Hornby, Dave Wallis, and I visited the Cathedral Mountains, a small offshoot of peaks to the west of Mt. Russell. Heart Mountain is the main peak named on maps. The peaks are bordered by Cathedral Creek to the west, and it must be wondered if these were the original Cathedral Spires (the name now given to the Kichatna Spires). From a gravel airstrip and hunting lodge established by Clark Engle in the 1960s, a track led approximately five miles to an old trespass mine by the edge of Boulder Creek, about two miles north of the snout of the range's main glacier. The mine site was used as a base by our team.

We made 18 probable new routes, including 15 probable first ascents of peaks. However, hunters and prospectors have been active in the area, and Heart Mountain has been named, so it is possible some of the peaks had seen unrecorded ascents. Names are provisional and altitudes very approximate. From the trespass mine (ca 3,300 feet), Heart Mountain and Point 6,765', farther along the ridge to the southeast, were climbed via the col between them. We climbed Point 6,765' twice. The second time we continued south on the ridge, over three crumbling rocky summits, Points 6,700', another 6,700', and 7,000', to reach Point 7,236'. We traversed Point 7,236' by ascending the north ridge and descending the south ridge to a col. From this col we traversed Point 7,400' from north to south. In a 14-hour push we climbed the north-

west gully of Heart Mountain and traversed the ridge, first southeast, then south, for approximately three miles to Point 7,880', taking in eight summits. We climbed Point 6,805', which overlooks the Purkypile Mine to the north, from a snow basin to the east. From a glacier camp at 6,200 feet, about two miles up the main Boulder Glacier, we climbed Points 7,900' and 7,600' on the south bank of the glacier. We named Point 7,600' Mount Alyssa. The highest mountain of the region and the only one known to have had an ascent, Point 8,500', was climbed via a southeast-facing gully. We descended the line of the original ascent, the northwest ridge, to a col connecting the head of Cathedral Glacier with a high glacier basin on the north side of the mountain. From here Point 7,825' and two other peaks, 7,800' and 7,700', were gained by traversing a snow-and-rock ridge west. Despite a height of 7,825 feet assigned to the most northerly of these three peaks, the middle one appeared to be the highest. We reversed the ridge and followed it to its eastern end and the summit of Point 7,900'. A snow gully allowed a descent to the high glacier basin, which was crossed and the camp on Boulder Glacier gained. These peaks were climbed in an eight-hour push. The 1,000-foot south-facing rock pillar below the summit of Point 8,500' was climbed and the snow-and-rock ridge above followed to the summit for the third ascent of the peak. During much of the trip clouds developed in the afternoon and led to light rain or snow, which sometimes became heavy. Temperatures were far from extreme, usually hovering close to freezing. This meant good snow conditions never really occurred.

BRIAN DAVISON, *United Kingdom*

*Mt. Red Beard, West Ridge.* In early May Jamal Lee-Elkin and I, unable to fly into the Hayes Range because of uncooperative weather, flew into the Yentna Glacier south of Mt. Foraker. The Yentna is a relatively unvisited area, probably because the peaks, ranging from 8,000 feet to 13,000 feet, are much smaller than their neighbors around the Kahiltna. We opted for the Yentna on the advice of Paul Roderick, the owner of Talkeetna Air Taxi, who has occasionally flown parties into the glacier.

After an attempt on a nice peak directly above our base camp at about 4,000 feet (aborted due to foul weather), we packed light and headed out for another attractive peak just south of base camp. The route followed a long west ridge, with a subsidiary summit at about 6,000 feet, a rock ridge with several large gendarmes, and final shoulder and summit ridge above the gendarmes—the entire ridge was about 4,000 feet long. Conditions were difficult, with deep snow and much post-holing before we reached the rock ridge. We bivied just below the ridge in a snow cave, believing further bivy sites would be few and far between, as turned out to be the case. The next morning we followed the ridge, with one 5.8 move and a spectacular, airy traverse around the largest gendarme, protection on the snow traverse being afforded by perfect granite flakes. Communication, on the other hand, was less than perfect, Jamal being on one side of the gendarme and I on the other. Above the gendarme the climbing was straightforward, though the weather was hot. The rarely-had views of Foraker and the Revelations from the summit were impressive.

Jamal named the peak Mt. Red Beard, in honor of his friend and climbing partner Ned Greene, who had a large red beard. Ned was the caretaker of the Harvard Cabin on Mt. Washington; he died last winter when an ice dam exploded and swept him 800 feet down Damnation Gully. Mt. Red Beard is nine miles east (91 degrees, to be precise) of Mt. Russell, the