

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

most frequent Yentna climbing destination. Its elevation is approximately 8,600 feet, and it is located in square seven of the Talkeetna D-4 map.

JIM LARUE, AAC

*Glacier 1 (Fake Peak Glacier) Peaks.* From June 1-22 British climbers Mike Fletcher, Richard Leech, Oliver Shergold , and I visited the unfrequented Glacier 1 (a.k.a. Fake Peak Glacier). In the prevailing fine weather we made seven ascents, five of which we believe to be of new routes. Glacier 1 rises gently east from Glacier Point at the southern end of the Ruth Gorge and is famous for a diminutive rock spike on its southern rim known as Fake Peak. This 1,675-meter point's fame derives from its identification as the site of Dr. Frederick Cook's photo of him posed triumphantly on what he declared to be Mt. McKinley.

After Dr. Cook, the next recorded visit to Glacier 1 took place in 1977. Local climber Brian Okenek, approaching from the Ruth, made the first crossing of the col at its head and descended the Coffee Glacier on the far side. In recent years, though, several parties have been diverted to the glacier to make ascents of Fake Peak for its history, and one or two ski descents of an easy glaciated peak, Sholes (1,890m), were made by parties organized by Paul Roderick. The first technical climb from the glacier basin was made in 2000, when Geoff Hornby (U.K.) and Mike Smith (U.S.) made the first ascent of Tassles (2,090m) via the aesthetic west couloir. In March 2001 a guided party from the Alaska Mountaineering School climbed Fake Peak by its northeast ridge.

Flown in by Talkeetna Air Taxi director Paul Roderick, the 2001 British party established base camp just below Cook's Col and the site of his "upper world" panorama. The two most attractive peaks on the eastern rim of the glacier, Glisen and Lee (both ca 1,920m), were our main objectives. After a repeat of the easy southeast face of Sholes and a reconnaissance to the col south of Lee, we made the first ascent of Lee on June 5. Fletcher and I climbed the straightforward 45-degree, 550-meter west-northwest couloir, which led directly to the summit, while Leech and Shergold opted for the steeper north face via the northwest couloir. All arrived on the summit within minutes of each other and descended the west-northwest couloir.

On June 9-10, while Fletcher and Leech made a ski trip to the Ruth Amphitheater, Shergold and I climbed Glisen in a 28-hour round trip from base camp. Leaving camp at 4:00 a.m. we first followed a deep avalanche runnel in a 50-55-degree subsidiary couloir on the west face, with a loose mixed exit onto the south ridge. After a couple of wet granite pitches we gained access to a traverse line onto the middle of the west face. There a succession of interesting mixed pitches, interrupted by the usual almost-bottomless Alaskan snow, led over a rock tower to the summit crest. This proved broad and relatively cornice-free, and we reached the summit at about 5:00 p.m., after 13 roped pitches above the head of the initial couloir. On the descent (downclimbing and rappelling) we discovered a ledge system, hidden from below, by which we could have avoided the crux section. We regained the top of the couloir at 11:00 p.m. The walls of the couloir were plastered with potentially dangerous snow formations, one of which collapsed and swept the lower gully shortly before we arrived. We waited for colder conditions, but a thin cloud cover hindered a freeze, and our packet of biscuits and liter of water each were running thin (we had anticipated being out for six to eight hours). Shergold and I therefore rappelled the steep mixed pitch into the upper couloir at 2 a.m. and started a roped descent. We were back at camp by 8:00 a.m. on the 10th. Glisen is a fine summit, and we feel