

ing for a few pitches we were caught in a total whiteout, with high winds and blowing snow. This continued until we reached base camp. After an hour or so in camp, the clouds lifted again. We'll have to return to finish the last 400 feet to the summit. I believe the ascents we did make were all firsts.

DANNY KOST, AAC

*Peak 9,200'+.* In mid-June Paul Claus landed Bill Chapman and me on the western end of the Nabesna Glacier at around 7,400 feet. We came to climb the peaks on the ridgeline between the Kluvesna and Nabesna glaciers. We climbed at night due to snow conditions. On the first night, June 17, we attempted the east face of a 10,000+-foot peak above camp. We climbed steepening snow and ice to around 10,000 feet, where we set up a belay beneath an overhanging serac. This serac was constantly spitting out spindrift. We started up steep ground around the serac, but it was apparent that we were moving too slowly. We needed to be off the face before the sun hit it at 7 a.m. The face was sliding frequently during the day, so we turned around. Little did I know that, because of weather, this was to be our best night of climbing. On the night of June 18 we ascended Peak 9,200'+ about a mile south of camp. We skied up to around 9,000 feet southeast of the summit. From here we went over Peak 9,155' and followed the ridge to the summit of Peak 9,200'. A steep traversing pitch brought us under the summit block, and a short, steep snow pitch to the summit's narrow ridge. We alternated standing on the summit. The climbing was marginal, due to warm temperatures and rain.

On the night of the 19th we attempted another 10,000+-foot peak about four miles northwest of camp. We skied to a saddle at 8,400 feet, about a mile from the peak. Here we sat waiting for the weather to break, but it only got worse. The weather was again bad on the 20th. On the 21st we skied around to attempt the peak again. We reached a saddle on the north ridge at 9,040 feet. Here the wind and snow pinned us down for a couple of hours. As it subsided we decided to attempt the ridge. However, the loss of time, as well as deep snow on the ridge, forced a retreat from around 10,000 feet. Our pickup was scheduled for the following day, but the wind shifted to the north. Fires were burning in the interior, the glacier had smoke down to the ground, and we were only able to talk with our pilot by radio as he flew over. Luckily, the winds shifted, and we were picked up late in the evening. I believe the ascent we made was a first.

DANNY KOST, AAC

*Peak 9,072' and Peak 8,778', corrections.* On page 218 of the 2001 AAJ first ascents of Peaks 9,072', 8,625', and 8,778' were reported. In 1995 Alaskans Danny Kost and Harry Hunt reached about 10,000 feet in an unreported attempt on the then-unclimbed northeast ridge of Mt. Natazhat. In the process they climbed Peaks 9,072' and 8,778', which lie on this ridge and must be summited to continue to Natazhat. The 1997 AAJ (p. 189) reported a successful ascent of Natazhat's northeast ridge, in April 1996, by Hunt and fellow Alaskans Paul Barry, David Hart, and Dave Lucey. They also climbed Peaks 9,072' and 8,778'. Burch and Taylor's routes (2001 AAJ) on these peaks were probably new but not first ascents of the peaks, and thus their naming of Peak 9,072' may be inappropriate. Their climb of Peak 8,625', however, was likely a first ascent.