

alpenglow to bring us congratulatory beers. On the 10th, with six days left, three of us (Lance had frostbite) made a plan with Paul for a pickup to the east. We crossed an easy pass east of University via a straight and narrow glacier. After setting up camp at 7,000 feet on the main Barnard, we skied several 10,000-foot peaks. Incidentally, Paul, having flown very near the summits of the peaks in this area with an accurate altimeter, thinks that actual elevations are higher than those listed on maps. He believes that University Peak is almost 15,000 feet high, rather than the accepted 14,470 feet.

LORNE GLICK

University Peak, south face skiing. Shortly after the above ascent and ski descent, on April 18, Brad Barlage and Dave Hanning climbed high on the south face and descended on skis. Barlage turned around about 1,000 feet from the summit and skied the face from 13,780 feet. Hanning reached about 14,300 feet. After nearly disastrous attempts to ski from higher, he down-climbed to the ledge from which Barlage started and skied from there. Hanning writes, "However, the face itself still has not seen a summit. This jewel will shine brightly among the many in the University Range of the Wrangell-St. Elias Mountains until someone comes to claim her." The team skied many chutes in the area as well, and ski-toured in the western Wrangells.

On May 13 the husband-and-wife team of John Chilton and Lisa Korthals also climbed high on this face and skied down. Photographer Blake Jorgensen and Chris Korthals, Lisa's brother, who served as a safety guide for Blake, were also on the trip but did not ski the face. Chilton and Lisa Korthals reached a high point of about 13,500 feet. Writes Chilton, "It seems both the previous descent parties climbed and skied the climber's left side of the face. Being two weeks later in the year, with the sun packing more punch everyday, we felt there were more threatening objective hazards on the left side and elected to tackle the face from the climber's right side. During our descent slides scoured the left side three times. I read my inclinometer eight times that day, and every time it was between 48 and 52 degrees, for over 7,000 vertical feet." Both parties experienced frigid nighttime temperatures but observed considerable solar warming of the snow during the day.

BASED ON REPORTS FROM JOHN CHILTON, BRAD BARLAGE*, AAC, AND DAVE HANNING*, AAC
*RECIPIENTS OF AN AAC/HELLY HANSEN ADVENTURE GRANT

Baldwin Glacier: Peaks 10,460', 9,450', 10,142', 9,100'. On June 14 Marcus Collins, Phil Fortier, Greg Mueller, and I flew in to the upper Baldwin Glacier with Ultima Thule Outfitters pilot Paul Claus. With our base camp located at 8,000 feet, we climbed several nearby peaks. We made the first ascent of Peak 10,460' by its glaciated west face. The route consisted mostly of 40- to 45-degree snow and bare ice, with a short and notably steeper section of ice around mid-face. After this ascent, we skied across the glacial valley to the west and climbed Peak 9,450' by its south ridge. The most aesthetic mountain of the area is Peak 10,142', of which we made the second ascent by the unclimbed west face. The west face contains a glacial tongue that flows steeply down the edge of a cirque from the summit. The route began with several pitches of moderate ice, followed by long slopes of frozen snow (40- to 50-degrees) interspersed with short bare sections. After summiting we began an unknown descent down the south ridge, where we linked steep snowfields between the cliffs along the ridge. We also skied up Peak 9,100'

via its west side. The final summit ridge consisted of traversing a cornice and scrambling on a loose rock spire. In addition we climbed an unnumbered peak immediately south of Peak 10,460' via a seven-pitch ice climb on its north face. The route, on almost entirely bare 50- to 60-degree ice, led from mid-face to a breach in the cornices about 300 feet below the summit. A short section of 40- to 60-degree snow led to the double corniced top of the peak. We had very good weather for most of the trip, but this created soft snow and some faces never froze. Our team flew out to the Chitina airstrip on July 3.

DAVID BURDICK, AAC

ALASKA COAST MOUNTAINS

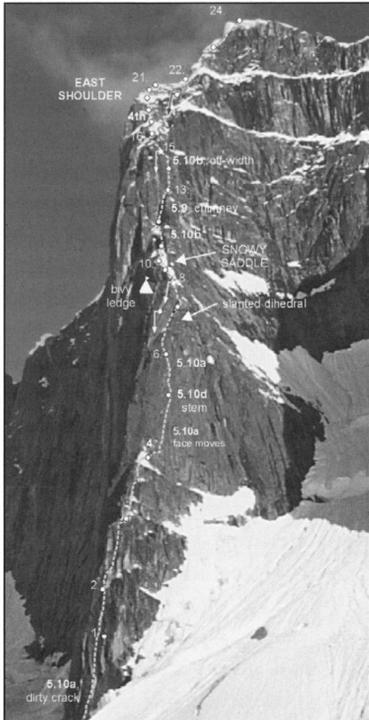
Mendenhall Towers, Rain, Heavy at Times; Rabbit Ears, Who Needs Cable? Over a 10-day period from June 18 to 27 Ryszard Pawlowski (Poland), Dave Sorric, and I put up a new route on the north face of the Mendenhall Towers (6,980') in the Juneau Icefield. The route follows the prominent arête on the north side of the highest tower for 2,500 vertical feet. This was the third attempt in as many years by Sorric and myself, the previous two having been stifled by bad weather, the usual crux of climbs in southeast Alaska. As in the previous years, once the awaited weather window arrived, Northstar Trekking helicopters flew us from Juneau to the north side of Mendenhall Towers.

After fixing four pitches we spent three days waiting out the weather. We then climbed another two pitches and secured the haulbag at our fourth pitch, as it started to rain again. We retreated to the ground. After we spent two more days in the tent, the weather improved, and we made our way to a prominent saddle about one-third of the way up the arête, where we bivied. After a 6 a.m. start we reached the summit around 9:30 p.m. and finally returned to the bivy site at 6 a.m., 24 hours after leaving. After a short rest we descended to the glacier.

We named the route *Rain, Heavy at Times* in memory of the dismal forecast we constantly heard on our previous two attempts. We rated it V 5.10d, with snow and ice to 60 degrees. The route involved 24 pitches and 14 rappels. We used a 70-meter rope, which future teams should take into consideration, especially when following our rappel anchors.

The rare good weather also allowed Dave Sorric and I to put up a new line on the north face of Rabbit Ears, west of Mendenhall Towers. The route ascends the north face to the left of the prominent dihedral that was first climbed by John Svenson and others. In keeping with the Rabbit Ears theme, we called the route *Who Needs Cable?* It involved eight pitches up to 5.10b.

JACEK MASELKO, *Polanz*



Mendenhall Towers, *Rain, Heavy At Times* shown. *Jacek Maselko*