

The rappel line is well to the right of pitches 1-6 and to the left of pitches 17-20 and 26-29. The team used 350m of fixed ropes, which they removed during the descent.

On the lower third of the route they found rappel stations from an unknown attempt that joined their route from the left (probably via a big chimney), at a snowfield on the 9th pitch, and continued to the 13th pitch. The anchors had slings that looked no older than three years and pitons made in Austria.

After descent by rappel, the team had only a dozen pitons remaining, so they abandoned plans for other climbs and left the mountains earlier than originally planned. They left for Talkeetna on June 23. The name of the route, *You Can't Fly*, reflects the words they heard too often as they tried to depart from Europe, from Talkeetna, and returning home.

*You Can't Fly* is the first big-wall route established by climbers from Poland in North America (though later in the year Poles established slightly harder routes on Mt. Thor on Baffin Island and on El Capitan.) (These are covered elsewhere in this journal – Ed.) (*Based on written reports by team members and talks with G.Skorek and J.Golab*)

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*Ruth Gorge, ascents and attempts.* The popularity of the Ruth Gorge continued, with many routes seeing ascents. The oft-attempted Cobra Pillar (VI 5.10+ A3, Donini–Tackle, 1991) on Mt. Barrill finally was repeated in June, by two parties. Canadians Jean-Pierre Ouellet and Stefane Perron made the second ascent, after fixing four ropes, in a 37-hour tent-to-tent push. Poles Maciej Ciesielski and Jakub Radziejowski, with American Zack Martin, made the third ascent soon after. Their ascent took exactly 36 hours (including a short break to rest and eat), and they reported mostly free climbing up to UIAA VII/VII+ and two pitches of aid, up to C2.

The Polish pair also repeated Game Boy (400m, UIAA VII+, Neswadba–Orgler–Wutscher, 1995) on the Stump Pillar (left pillar of the Wisdom Wall) and the Orgler–Jochler route on Hut Tower (800m, VI+/VII- RP1987) (“RP” means redpoint style). Radziejowski writes of the Orgler–Jochler, “The best rock of the routes we climbed in the Ruth, but still far from perfect.”

The Poles were also one of several parties to repeat *The Dream in the Spirit of Mugs* (V 5.10, Bonapace-Haas-Orgler, 1994) on the Eye Tooth. They report that Zack Martin climbing with a partner ahead of the Poles, led a new pitch just before the headwall, the direct lower corner (about UIAA VII). The Poles report this pitch to be the hardest of the route. (*Ed. note: Zack Martin, a young, ambitious climber, died in a car accident on Thanksgiving.*)

On the immense walls of Mt. Dickey, Mark Synnott and Kevin Thaw made an impressive attempt at a new route between the Roberts-Rowell-Ward route (5,250', VI 5.9 A3, 1974) and the Italian route (5,250', VI 5.11 A4, Bagattoli-Borgonovo-Defrancesco-De Dona-Leoni-Manica-Zampiccoli, 1991). They climbed about 25 pitches, all free, up to 5.11-, in 11 hours, before bailing in bad weather. Synnott estimates their high point to be four or five pitches from the shale band, and reports that their attempted line contains “600-800' of the worst choss I've ever encountered.”

*Ruth Gorge, Moose's Tooth, correction.* The 2000 AAJ (pp. 212-3) reported that, in attempting the second ascent of the now classic and frequently climbed *Ham and Eggs*, Brian Teale and Carl Tobin retreated short of the couloir top. In fact Teale climbed the upper half of the couloir alone (Tobin was having difficulty because of a previous injury) but retreated from the summit ridge.