

Canada

ST. ELIAS RANGE

Various ascents and attempts. In May 2002 Tim Connelly and I guided an American Alpine Institute group in the St. Elias Range. Paul Claus of Ultima Thule flew us to an unnamed glacier cirque south of the Goat Creek Glacier and north of the Bagley Ice-field. With near-perfect weather for nine days, we ascended five peaks, all possible first ascents. We began by climbing Peak 8,861' via the east ridge, and a neighboring peak just to the east. We found ice and snow up to 50° on both climbs. Peaks 7,900' and 8,435' turned out to be interesting climbs up west ridges, with short ice steps and some 4th-class mixed terrain. Tim led the highlight climb of the area, the northeast face of Peak 8,412', with three pitches of ice up to 60°, ending at the intersection of three distinct ridges. My team repeated this ascent the next day. The climbing potential in the St. Elias is still vast, and entails an expedition to a truly remote wilderness.

In June 2002 Dan Shutteroff and I guided a different AAI group into the St. Elias Range. This time Paul Claus flew us into onto a section of glacier at the confluence of the Baldwin and Frasier glaciers. We made the second ascent of the west face of Point 10,142' and attempted its still unclimbed north face, finding six pitches of unconsolidated snow and ice up to 80°. A ridge, which looked to be mixed snow and ice and low-5th-class rock, continued for another 1,000 feet or so. We made the second ascent of Peak 9,450' by a new route up the pyramid-shaped east face, finding snow slopes up to 55° and a spectacular summit. Climbing the north ridge of Peak 9,970' (a new route and, I believe, the second ascent of the peak), we found 40-50° snow-and-ice slopes, with a 15' vertical section of ice. We also climbed Point 8,184' and a peak just to the northeast of it, beyond a prominent col, where we found 40° degree snow slopes and brilliant views of Mt. Vancouver and Mt. St. Elias. Both these peaks were climbed via south and south-west slopes.

JAY HACK, *Mugatu Alpine Club*



KLUANE NATIONAL PARK RESERVE

Kluane National Park Reserve, mountaineering summary and statistics. During 2003 in Kluane National Park Reserve, 140 persons participated in 42 mountaineering expeditions. This accounted for 2,279 person-days in the Icefields of Kluane. This is somewhat higher use than in the previous year.

The weather this year was, as usual, unpredictable. Early in the climbing season a huge high-pressure system made for excellent traveling, and climbers fortunate enough to be in the St. Elias Ranges had successful trips. Unfortunately, during the main climbing period the weather was stormy and snow conditions poor, thus accounting for the low success rate on the major peaks, particularly Mt. Logan. On the King Trench route, only two out of 18 expeditions made

the summit. With low snow last winter and an advancing icefall high on the route, difficult routefinding conditions existed. Many open crevasses have made this route more difficult over the past few years.

As usual most expeditions went to Mt. Logan. Twenty-nine attempted Logan—eight via the King Trench route, nine the East Ridge, one the Catenary, and one the Southeast Face. Only six expeditions reached one of the main summits. One success was a traverse of the mountain from the East Ridge to the King Trench.

Other mountains that saw climbing expeditions included King Peak (2), Queen Mary (3), Vancouver (2), Foresta (1), Kennedy (2), Hubbard (1), Walsh (1), Wood (1), and Steel/Lucania (1). In addition a research team was on Mt. Logan, and there were four ski-touring expeditions, including one that circumskied the Mt. Logan massif. The St. Elias Ranges offer excellent ski touring, and it was good to see more people taking advantage of this activity.

There were no major search and rescue operations. A few climbing teams self-evacuated or looked after injured or sick members of their team—thus the advantage of building self-reliance into one's climbing plans.

Anyone interested in mountaineering or ski-touring in Kluane National Park Reserve should contact Mountaineering Warden, Kluane National Park Reserve, Box 5495, Haines Jct, Yukon, Y0B 1L0; call 867-634-7279; fax 867-634-7277; or email kluane_info@pc.gc.ca. Ask for a "mountaineer's package." Alternatively, visit the parks website at www.parksCanada.gc.ca/kluane. Application forms and assumption-of-risk forms can be downloaded from this site.

RICK STALEY, *Mountaineering Warden, Kluane National Park Reserve*

Good Neighbor Peak, southeast ridge and clarification, and traverse to Mt. Vancouver. See the Alaska section of Climbs & Expeditions for this report.

Latus Pass Arm, various ascents and attempts. There are four main tributaries on the south side of Kaskawulsh Glacier: South Arm, Stairway, Cascade, and, farthest from Slims River, the Latus Pass Arm. In July we made a short visit to the Latus Pass Arm, to evaluate its potential as a site for an Alpine Club of Canada Centennial Camp in 2006.

As ski-touring terrain, the Latus Pass Arm is well-known because it provides an excellent route from the upper Hubbard/upper Kaska-wulsh iceshed, via the Latus Pass, to the upper Lowell Glacier and the country lying beyond to the south and east. However, as a mountaineering area it has received little

