

summer due to forest fires and locked forestry gates. However, before access control tightened down, Shaun Neufeld, Drew Brayshaw, and Dwayne Barg managed to sneak in and establish The Proof Is in the Pudding (D III 5.10c) on the south face of Ibex Peak. This route is amazingly clean and solid for an alpine climb and is highly recommended.

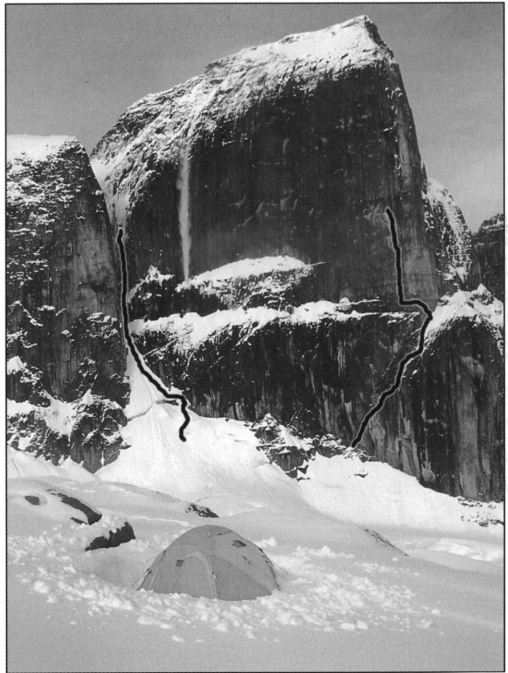
The late fall and winter of 2003-2004 saw several protracted spells of cold weather and produced the best ice for several years. Details will be published in the long-awaited second edition of *West Coast Ice*, which should be out in time for the 2004-2005 winter season.

DREW BRAYSHAW, *Canada*, AAC

*Greyskull Valley.* The Greyskull Valley Expedition included Laura Schmonsees, Trevor Deighton, Andy Rich, and myself. The expedition spent 23 days in June in the Coast Range on the border of British Columbia and Alaska. On June 8 we flew in from Skagway, Alaska, via helicopter to the unexplored valley and established a base camp on a rocky outcrop surrounded by unnamed glaciers and granite peaks. The valley is located about seven miles southwest of Mt. Foster.

The overall weather was extremely unsettled—only three days were without precipitation. We free-climbed and aided 1,000 feet up the north-northeast face of the main tower (Castle Greyskull), before being driven back by storms, lack of continuous crack systems, and friable rock.

On June 28 Andy and I attempted a long alpine route on the same tower, to the east of the aid route. Warm temperatures and slush stopped us after several hard (WI5) pitches. That same evening Laura and Trevor made a 4th class ascent of a peak (“Sweetness”) to the northeast of base camp. Rock climbing in the valley was limited by poor rock quality and bad weather, but alpine routes earlier in the year might have better results.



2003 attempts on Castle Greyskull. Alas, the vertical white line is just a spindrift avalanche. *David Anderson*

DAVE ANDERSON, AAC

*Princess Mountain, Northeast Buttress.* Fred Beckey planned our gathering, and we flew into the Monarch Icefield in early August. Matt Perkins, David Parker, Bill Pilling, Fred, and I set up a camp below the west face of Monarch Mountain. The following morning we set off, without Fred, to explore a possible direct east-to-west route toward Princess Mountain. Matt had seen a photo of a buttress that appeared unclimbed and worth investigating. Fred was nursing a rib