

Thunder Mountain (10,920'), south face: (1) Barlow-Hornby (1993). (2) Maxim (Huisman-Isaac, 2004) (no summit). (3) Ring of Fire (Cordes-DeCapiro, 2001). (4) Dream Sacrifice (Hall-Lewis-Ramsden, 1997) (no summit; ascent to summit by Johnson-Leggett-Su, 2004). (5a) Bragg-Donini initial attempt, to junction with line 5 (2000). (5) Subsequent attempt (Bragg-Donini, 2000). (6) Deadbeat (Cordes-DeCapiro, 2001). (6a) The Bums Lost variation (Johnson-Leggett-Su, 2004) (no summit). (7) Walk of the Schnitzelkings (Duepper-Traxler, 1999) (no summit). (8) Paikea's Journey (Johnson-Piggott, 2004) (no summit). *Kelly Cordes*

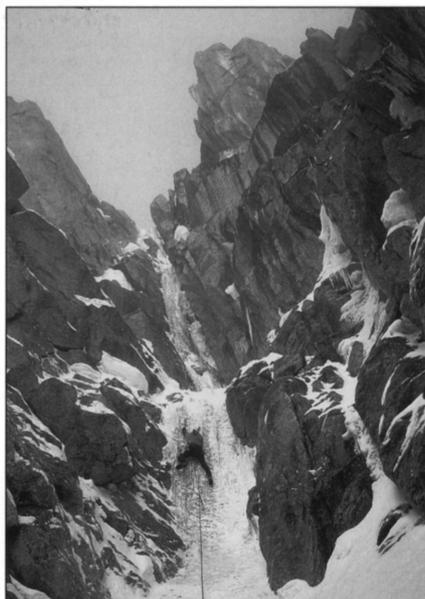
Maxim (ED1 M4 WI5) begins as a steep snow couloir that gradually pinches to fun ice and mixed climbing. The first crux negotiated steep ice, slightly overhanging at one point, around the left side of a truck-size chockstone. The last couple of pitches involved a two-foot wide, spotty thin-ice runnel leading to a prominent notch on the gendarmed summit ridge. Unseen from the glacier, this tight, shoulder-width goulotte provided the best climbing of the trip. We stopped here, instead of continuing along the corniced ridge to the summit. Incidentally, this gully had been rappelled after the first ascent of Dream Sacrifice.

SEAN ISAAC, *Canada*

*Thunder Mountain, The Bums Lost variation, and Dream Sacrifice, repeat to summit.* On May 15 Roy Leggett, Steve Su, and I began our first climbing trip to Alaska. Roy and I each received a fellowship grant from the AAC. We set our sights on Thunder Mountain and Mt. Huntington, both on the Tokositna glacier. We were greeted in Talkeetna by poor flying conditions and waited four days before flying to base camp. The weather was fickle, but we left the next day to climb Deadbeat (M6 WI5, Cordes-DeCapiro, 2001). We headed out at 11 p.m. in questionable weather, hoping to get the route done before the weather turned. Steep snow and a few steep ice pitches led to a fork in the couloir, where Deadbeat hung a left (not the big lower fork where Walk of the Schnitzelkings goes right, but a less-distinct branch much farther up). Not knowing this, we climbed the right branch (more straight-up, versus Deadbeat's trend left) via a continuous ice

passage that was consistently steep, mostly WI4. An interesting ice pitch led to a beautiful 75-degree ice slab, followed by a snow ridge/arête. More moderate mixed climbing and steep snow led to the ridge, where we stopped. Our variation, The Bums Lost, added 800' of new, fun climbing. We rapped the route and were back at base camp 24 hours after leaving.

Several days later we headed up Dream Sacrifice (ED2 Scottish 6, Hall-Lewis-Ramsden 1997). The first technical ice pitch was rotted out, and we bypassed it by climbing steep mixed ground to its left. Fortunately, Steve was psyched on the pitch, and Roy and I could breathe sighs of relief. A long section of moderate ice led to a steep ice vein up high. At the base of the ice we found fixed gear from Malcom Daly's 1999 accident. Steve commented about the fixed gear unaware of the accident. Roy and I figured it was best that he not know about the dramatic rescue and sent him off on lead. We climbed through the ice vein (WI5+ M6) in three pitches and then



Andy Johnson on the upper pitches of Dream Sacrifice, Thunder Mountain. This is near where Malcom Daly fell. Roy Leggett

found easy ground, where we rested and slept for two hours. Enjoyable snow slogging and ridge traversing brought us to the summit cornice of Thunder Mountain in deteriorating conditions. [This is the first ascent of Dream Sacrifice to continue to the summit—Ed.] On the way down, as clouds drifted in, we saw the phenomena of Brocken Specter. We also got fine views of Mts. Hunter, Foraker, and Providence before the weather closed in. In a whiteout we made it to the top of our rappels on The Bums Lost and were back in camp 31 hours after starting.

ANDY JOHNSON, AAC

*Thunder Mountain, Paikea's Journey, and Mt. Providence, Divine Providence.* Jeremy "Jay" Piggott of New Zealand and I based ourselves and friends on the southwest fork of the Tokositna Glacier during the last two weeks of May. We completed alpine-style first ascents on Thunder Mountain and Mt. Providence.

The route on Thunder Mountain's southeast face ascends a 1,000m couloir that was previously unexplored. It is to the east of all established lines, approached via the left side of the large couloir between Thunder and Providence. [This route is visible in the *AAJ* 2001, p. 205, photo. It begins above the horizontal sun-shadow line in the broad, glacial couloir on the right side and angles up left through the obvious weakness—Ed.] It sports 600m of 50°-65° snow, capped by 400m of steeper ice and mixed terrain. A corniced col in Thunder's gendarmed and extremely corniced eastern summit ridge marked the end of the route. The climbing included a beautiful one-meter-wide ice runnel, a great mixed pitch, and a vertical water-ice groove pouring from granite walls. We climbed Paikea's Journey (IV+ WI5 M5) in 17 hours round trip from base camp, including a four-hour wait at a rappel station for rockfall hazard to decrease.