days in early July. Another tragic event involved the perplexing disappearance of two highly skilled Japanese climbers. Tracks in the snow indicate that Tatsuro Yamada and Yuto Inoue had completed an entire traverse of the Kahiltna Peaks, west to east, and continued directly up the prow of the Cassin Ridge. Their tracks vanished at 19,200' and, despite an exhaustive aerial search, no decisive evidence materialized. After their disappearance the Cassin Ridge was climbed by a record-breaking nine expeditions, but no more clues were found.

Bengt Bern and Jan Vinterek were selected for the 2008 Denali Pro Award for demonstrating the highest standards for safety, self-sufficiency, assisting fellow mountaineers, and clean climbing. Revered South District Ranger Daryl Miller retired after 18 years of working in the Denali mountaineering program.

Quick Statistics—Mt. McKinley and Mt. Foraker:

Mt. McKinley: Average trip length: 16.9 days. Busiest summit day: May 30, with 91 summits. Average age: 37. Women constituted 9% of all climbers.

Fifty-one nations were represented on Mt. McKinley and Mt. Foraker, including U.S. (692 climbers), Canada (72), U.K. (69), Germany (47), and Spain (42).

McKinley was attempted by 1,272 climbers, with 59% reaching the summit; 1,123 attempted the West Buttress, with 58% summiting. Sixteen climbers attempted Mt. Foraker, with only one summiting.

The complete Mountaineering Summary can be found at www.nps.gov/dena/planyourvisit/summaryreports.htm

Summarized from the DENALI NATIONAL PARK & PRESERVE ANNUAL MOUNTAINEERING SUMMARY

Denali, Isis Face and Slovak Route, enchainment. After warming-up with a difficult new route on the northeast face of the Bear Tooth (report below) and a rapid free attempt of Mt. Hunter's Moonflower Buttress (retreat above the Bibler Come Again Exit, at the base of the fourth ice band), from May 11-18 Japanese "Giri-Giri Boys" Katsutaka Yokoyama, Yusuke Sato, and Fumitaka Ichimura made a historic enchainment on Denali. They began their awesome effort by climbing the 7,200' Isis Face on the south buttress. They descended the Ramp Route into the East Fork of the Kahiltna and, without re-supply, climbed the 9,000' Slovak Direct, perhaps the most difficult route on Denali. After summiting, they descended the West Buttress. See Yokoyama's feature article earlier in this *Journal.*

Kahiltna Peaks, traverse. Japanese climbers Tatsuro Yamada and Yuto Inoue traversed the Kahiltna Peaks from west to east, then continued high on the Cassin Ridge in attempting a massive enchainment. Although specifics will never be known, clues from extensive aerial searches indicate that they reached 19,000' or higher on the Cassin before disappearing. The pair was part of an ambitious crew of Japanese climbers called the "Giri-Giri Boys," who have climbed many impressive new routes in the Alaska Range and elsewhere in the past several years, as covered in recent *AAJ*s, including *AAJ 2008*'s feature article by Yamada on the Ruth Gorge.

Bat's Ears, first ascent. Paul Roderick of TAT landed Maxime Turgeon, Freddie Wilkinson, and I on the eastern edge of the upper Yentna Glacier, right at the edge of the wilderness boundary and about four miles from where we made our base camp. In this same area the previous year, Freddie and I climbed the Fin Wall with Peter Doucette, and we were back with Max to try another new route on a nearby unclimbed peak we had started calling the Bat's Ears (Peak