of Arctic Rage (VI WI6+R A2, Gilmore-Mahoney, 2004). I was initially inspired to check out the area by Paul Roderick's spectacular photo of the east face of Moose's Tooth in *Alpinist* magazine, issue #4.

Setting off on May 3 in good weather, we found excellent conditions, enabling fast progress up the initial easy ground, before the line narrowed to a series of steeper pitches on snow-ice. By midday the weather had deteriorated, and we suffered a constant bombardment of spindrift for nearly two hours, with Matt almost suffocating at one point. This eventually eased, allowing us to continue.

Above, the gully reared into an overhanging amphitheatre with spooky snow mushrooms hanging all around. Some cunning routefinding by Matt, followed by a hard pitch of mixed and aid climbing, saw me at the lip of a roof. After an eternity psyching up, I eventually committed to the thin ice curtain above and somehow avoided a big lob into space.

The difficulties continued above, with Matt pulling off a very hard, serious lead that thankfully brought us to a small snow patch out left for a bivy. Tired after an 18-hour day, we brewed up for a couple of hours and sat in our sleeping bags for a bit before continuing.

The morning greeted us with okay weather and the crux of the route: a sustained, overhanging pitch up less-than-perfect rock, which Matt dispatched in good style. After three more pitches we gained the upper snow slopes of the north ridge and stashed most of our kit before continuing on. We were stopped ca 100m below the summit by a menacing serac. Happy with our efforts, we started the long descent and made it back to our skis by 1 a.m. after another 18-hour day.

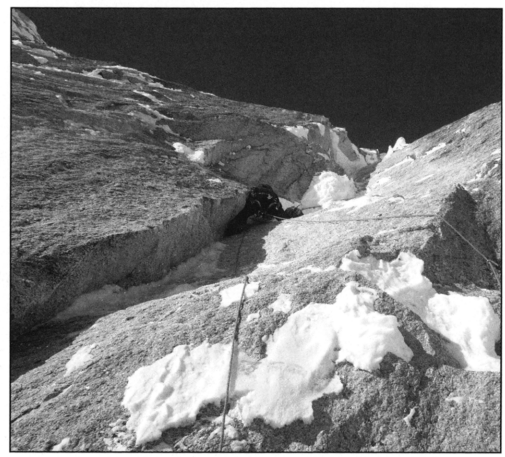
JON BRACEY, *U.K.*

Bear Tooth, Climbing Is Believing. Yusuke Sato, Fumitaka Ichimura, and I flew in to the Buckskin Glacier on April 7. Our aim was the east face of the Bear Tooth, on which we had been driven back in 2006. However, we found the face drier than two years ago and abandoned the route. Instead we decided on an obvious corner in the center of the northeast face. Although climbers had attempted the line, we knew it to be still unclimbed.

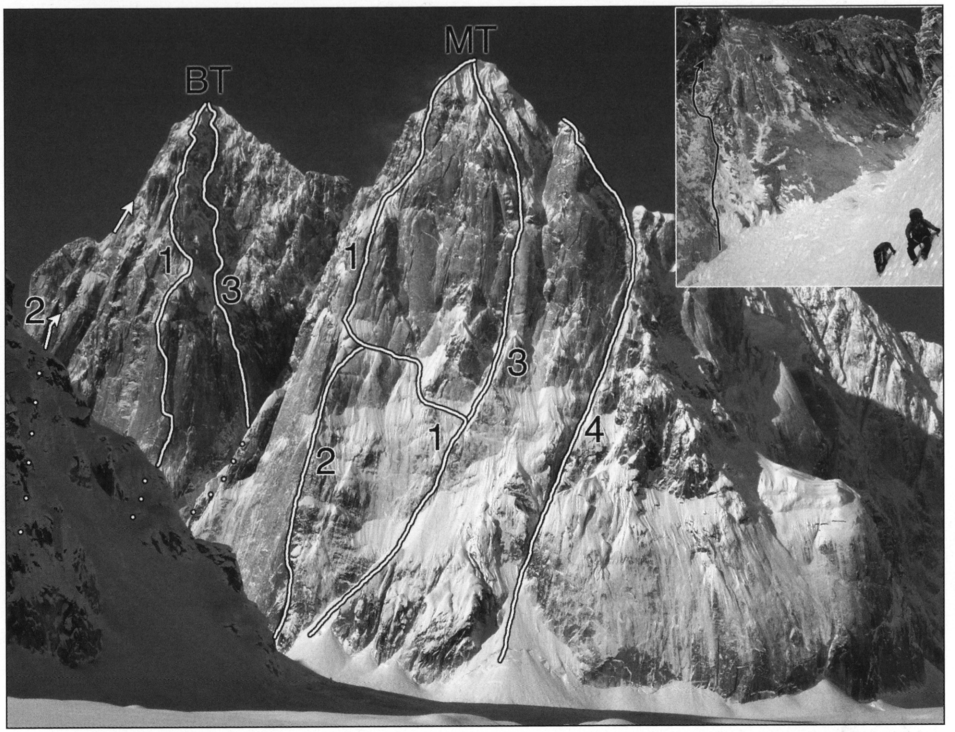
On April 13 we climbed the east gully and two more pitches on the northeast face before being defeated by sudden snowfall. It continued for three days.

We resumed climbing on April 18, continuing with delicate climbing up thin ice/snow in a steep dihedral (AI5R). The crux in the lower section overhung partially and required some aid (M6+R A1+). We bivouacked on the obvious snowfield.

The next day we ascended the upper portion of the face, also steep, though solid rock and stable ice allowed good progress. The crux in the upper portion was the 10th pitch. We overcame it with delicate hooking and run-out climbing (M7R). Above we encountered many



Yusuke Sato leading the crux 10th pitch of Climbing Is Believing. *Katsutaka Yokoyama*



The Bear Tooth (left) and Moose's Tooth from the northeast. BT: (1) Useless Emotion (Bridwell-Christensen-Dunmire-Jonas-McCray, 1999). (2) You Can't Fly (Fluder-Golab-Piecuch-Skorek, 2002). (3) Climbing Is Believing (Ichimura-Sato-Yokoyama, 2008). MT: (1) Dance of the Woo Li Masters (Bridwell-Stump, 1981). (2) The Beast (Bridwell-Pfingsten, 2001). (3) Arctic Rage (Gilmore-Mahoney, 2004). (4) There's a Moose Loose Aboot This Hoose (Bracey-Helliker, 2008). Not visible: House of the Rising Sun (Billmeier-Shlosar-Vilhauer, 2007) on the southeast face of BT, and the Southeast Face route (Gilmore-House-Mahoney, 2000) on the MT (starts in same gully as (3) on BT). *Katsutaka Yokoyama.* Inset: Approaching (3) on the BT. *Yusuke Sato*

colorful pitches with verglas, corners, and icicles. A big cornice barred the final section. We found our way through its left-hand flank on the 16th pitch and a right-slanting crack on the 17th (5.10a), emerging on the final snow face that brought us to the summit.

After bivouacking below the summit, the next day we descended via the col between the Moose's Tooth and the Bear Tooth, then down the east gully. Our route, which we christened Climbing Is Believing (1,250m, Alaska Grade 6, ED4 5.10a AI5 M7R A1+), is obvious and requires colorful techniques. I will soon try again for the unfinished adventure, the east face of Bear Tooth.

KATSUTAKA YOKOYAMA, *Japan (translated by Tsunemichi Ikeda)*

Coffee Spire, first ascent, Greater Reward. On June 13 Paul Roderick, of Talkeetna Air Taxi, landed Cody Arnold and me, both of Anchorage, at 5,600' on the northwest fork of the Coffee Glacier, a.k.a. Middle Coffee Glacier, just east of the Ruth Gorge. Our initial objective was the second ascent of the Southwest Ridge of Broken Tooth, but a rotten rock step turned us back late on the first day. We turned our attention to a 1,700' unclimbed rock spire on the north side of the glacier. A huge sloping dihedral, which looked wide and wet, splits the lower face; a prominent block