

More first ascents on the eastern Barnard Glacier. *Dave Hart*

us on May 17. Several more unclimbed peaks in this area beckon, including the challenging Peaks 11,610' and 11,050', the striking Peak 10,455', and walkup Peak 10,385'.

DAVE HART, AAC and Mountaineering Club of Alaska

*Good Neighbor Peak, Southwest Spur, first alpine-style ascent.* In the spring, Simon Yates and I did what we thought was the first ascent of the massive Southwest Spur of the South Summit of Mt. Vancouver (Good Neighbor Peak, 15,700') on the Alaska-Yukon border. The line is clearly visible in a Bradford Washburn photo published in the 1994 *AAJ*, p. 88—the prominent ridge left of the South Spur climbed by Diedrich and Pilling in 1993. We flew in from Haines and were dropped



Good Neighbor Peak, with the Southwest Spur on the skyline, and the South Spur (Diedrich-Pilling, 1993) the next spur to the right, in the center of the photo. *Paul Schweizer*

in a high glacial cirque on the Alaskan side, directly below the start of the route. We began climbing at dawn on April 29, soloing the 1,000' headwall at the back of the cirque to reach a col and get established on the ridge. Then we followed the line of least resistance—generally left of the ridge crest. We had perfect weather, and it took five days to reach the summit, with hidden ice runnels and surreal gargoyles near the top. The perfect weather broke during the descent, and we were stormbound on a high col, nearly out of food, on day 6. Day 7 dawned clear, and we continued down the east ridge to a side spur, which entailed a series of unpleasant rappels and a lengthy detour. We finally arrived back in base camp at 10:30 p.m. on day 7.

A subsequently unearthed Japanese article revealed that our route was the ridge climbed by a large Japanese expedition in 1968, starting from the Canadian side. They climbed the ridge expedition-style with a 10-member team, using fixed ropes and camps. Three of their team died in the process, and only two reached the summit, after 13 days on the mountain. So

185 of the 1997 *AAJ*; they called it “Wetterhorn.”) and Peak 12,850' in 1994 (Claus solo).

On May 12 Jeannie, Wayne, Carrie, and I flew to a new base camp three miles south at 8,500' on the upper Tittmann Glacier, a spot where Paul Claus had not previously landed. We reached 11,000' on the southwest ridge of unclimbed Peak 11,610', before weather turned us back. Storms continued until Paul returned for

we actually did the second ascent, but first alpine-style, with a new start from the Alaskan side.

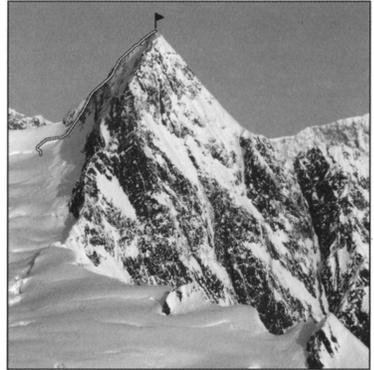
It's an excellent route, very long and committing. Done alpine-style, we reckon it warrants an alpine grade of ED, with climbing up to Scottish grade V ice and VI mixed, and an 8,000' vertical height gain.

PAUL SCHWEIZER, *Alpine Club*

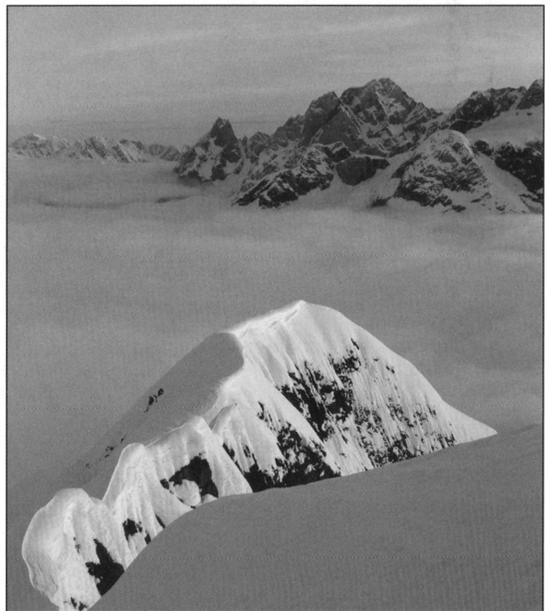
## FAIRWEATHER RANGE

*Mt. Bertha, Northwest Ridge; Fifty Years of Alaskan Statehood, South Face.* The Johns Hopkins Glacier is one of the major glaciers of the west arm of Glacier Bay, southeast Alaska, and is surrounded by major summits of the Fairweather Range, from Mt. Quincy Adams in the north to Mt. Crillon in the south. Thanks to the local knowledge and enthusiasm of our ski-plane pilot, Paul Swanstrom, in April Guy McKinnon and I became the first climbing party to access this glacier. The price was an inconvenient 2,000' descent, from the landing site on the west shoulder of Mt. Abbe to the 2,000' contour on the south arm of the glacier. A number of earlier parties had been thwarted by the broken tidewater area and, from the south and east, by crevasse-strewn cols. The only previous climbs even overlooking the Hopkins Glacier appear to be those in the Mt. Abbe group by the 1977 Wickwire party. (The 1991 Gove-Pilling ascent of Mt. Abbe was on the north side, accessed from the inlet via a side glacier and overlooking Hopkins Inlet.)

Our aerial reconnaissance showed problems with icefalls and seracs on the approach and descent from our original objective, the long-coveted north ridge of Mt. Crillon. Instead, we took advantage of the stable forecast to tackle the unclimbed northwest ridge of Mt. Bertha (10,200'). Bradford Washburn's 1940 party was the first to climb Mt. Bertha, and the mountain had since received three more ascents, all from the Brady Glacier to the east. Four



The first ascent line on Peak 8,599' ("Fifty Years of Alaskan Statehood"). *Paul Knott*



The remote Mt. Abbe massif, with Peak 7,260' (presumably unclimbed) the obvious spire on the left, as seen from the Northwest Ridge of Mt. Bertha. *Paul Knott*