

Mt. Bradley, variation. On May 2, John Friehe and I climbed a new variation on the southeast face of Mt. Bradley, connecting the first third of Season of the Sun (Ichimura-Sato-Yamada, 2007) with the upper section of the East Buttress (Jochler-Orgler, 1987). The line departs from Season of the Sun just before that route heads left into the upper corner system, and continues up and right through 500' of previously unclimbed snow and mixed terrain (M6) to gain the East Buttress at roughly two-thirds height. On the upper East Buttress we found winter-like conditions (M5 C2); 12 hours after leaving the glacier we reached the summit.

DYLAN JOHNSON, AAC

Eye Tooth, new climbing to junction with Talkeetna Standard. During the last two weeks of April, Tim Dittmann, Dave Ahrens, and I attempted a new route on the west face of the Eye Tooth. We started up the obvious cleft between the Orgler route (Dream in the Spirit of Mugs, Bonapace-Haas-Orgler, 1994) and the Talkeetna Standard (Hollenbaugh-House, 2003). After the initial snow slopes, we roped up at the base of a chimney system cutting through the first rock band. This chimney was two pitches. The first: high-quality “frozen white stuff.” The second: committing, low-quality “frozen white stuff” that proved as nerve-racking for the belayers as for the leader. We simul-climbed the middle snowfield to the base of a second chimney system, which had been a big question mark from the Ruth Glacier. Upon arrival at the chimney we were psyched to find perfect, narrow, steep ice—an amazing pitch. Two more pitches of great, rolling ice in this shoulder-width chimney brought us to the southwest ridge and the intersection of the Talkeetna Standard, where we spent almost two hours creating a bivy platform.

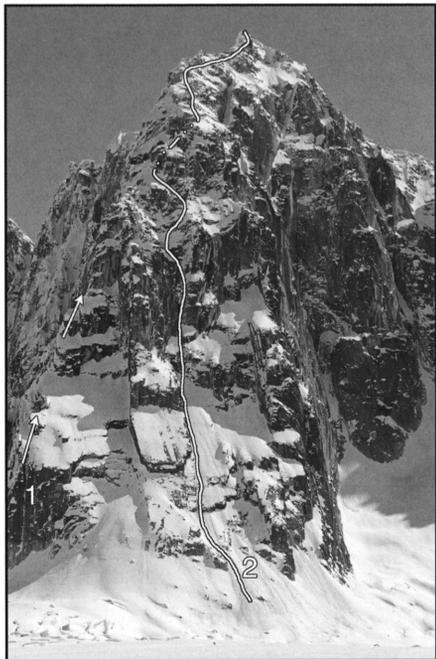


Tim Dittmann in the perfect ice hose on the Eye Tooth.
Jared Vilhauer

After a cozy night in our I-Tent, we continued up the ridge, climbing snow-covered rock for three pitches to the base of a giant rock wall. Here, we wandered the base of the wall looking for any weakness that would keep the Talkeetna Standard's 5.9 rating. Not having rock shoes or sufficient aid gear, we turned around. After many raps, some of which were from gear left by Hollenbaugh and House, we landed back on the glacier.

Being close to the Gorge landing strip, this route could become fairly popular. Those willing to hang it out in the first chimney system will be rewarded with great climbing in the second, and hopefully a summit.

JARED VILHAUER, AAC



The west face of Peak 7,400': (1) Bibler-Klewin (approximate line; 1989). (2) Optimist (Amano-Masumoto-Nagato, 2010), which likely shares the upper ridge with (1). *Giri-Giri boys*

Peak 7,400', *Optimist*; Mt. Church, *My Friends Forever*. Giri-Giri Boys Kazuaki Amano (leader), Ryo Masumoto, and Takaai Nagato established two new routes in the Ruth Gorge. On April 18–19 they climbed the Optimist (950m, 22 pitches, AK Grade 4, 5.9R M6), on the west face of Peak 7,400'. On April 25–26 on the north face of Mt. Church they established My Friends Forever (1,100m, 17 pitches, AK Grade 4, AI4+ M6R), named for their friends Tatsuro Yamada and Yuto Inoue, who died on Denali two years earlier.

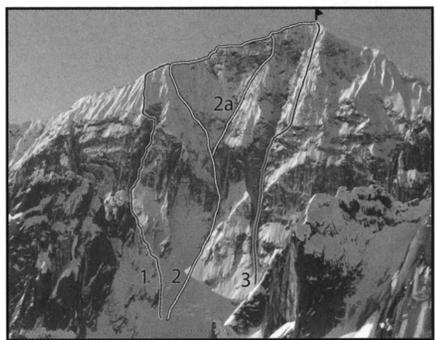
HIROSHI HAGIWARA, *Rock & Snow magazine, Japan, based on communication with AMANO*

CHUGACH MOUNTAINS

Various new routes. On March 13, Ben Trocki and I climbed a new line on the east face of Awful Peak (the 8,170' peak that borders the west side of the unnamed glacier below the north face of Awesome Peak). We never came up with a name, so I've started calling it 13 Above the Night (1,500', IV M5 WI5). We climbed up to the hanging glacier that feeds the ice, then descended a snow couloir to the north. We didn't go to the summit.

Kevin Ditzler and I climbed a new line, Darkness Falls (2,500', VI M6 WI6 A2++), on the north side of Nantina Point in mid-February. It is the only route on that side of the mountain. After summiting we descended to the col between Nantina Point and Kiliak, then down the snow gully back to the Kiliak Glacier. The climb took 68 hours round trip from a high camp.

Kevin Ditzler and I climbed a new line—almost—on the west side of Benign Peak in December. It's the obvious couloir to the climber's left of Malignant Gully. We climbed 10 long (70m) pitches then rappelled from near the top. I don't care



The north face of Mt. Church: (1) For Whom the Bell Tolls (Bracey-Helliker, 2009). (2) Amazing Grace (Clapham-Pike, 2009). (2a) My Friends Forever (Amano-Masumoto-Nagato, 2010). (3) Memorial Gate (Ichimura-Sato-Yamada, 2007). *Jon Bracey*