

2200 feet of 40° to 55° snow and ice before increasingly bad weather and a 250-foot rock section caused us to retreat. We had to descend the route dodging avalanches as the fresh snow plastered the face. The storm continued for several days before we were able to return to Base Camp. Base Camp greeted us with beautiful weather and fine climbing conditions. We were able to climb P 7230 by a fantastic snow and ice route up the north face to the north ridge. The weather continued to be inspiring so we skied ten miles to explore the northwest side of Neacola, for a potential route up the face. This side of the mountain appeared just as imposing as the other. It was not until we skied several miles down the glacier that we discovered a 2000-foot couloir that offered access to the summit ridge. It contained 300 feet of blue ice and looked beautiful. As the final days of the expedition ticked by, Peri and I climbed a mixed route up the 2900-foot west face of P 6959. The actual highlight of this climb was the 1000-foot descent down an old avalanche runnel. We spent the next four days experiencing the worst weather of the trip. There were very high winds that lifted the tent off the ground with us in it. But on June 5 pilot Cliff Hudson picked us off the glacier.

MICHAEL WITZ, *Sea-Level Mountaineering*

*Shot Tower, Northwest Face and Other Peaks, Arrigetch.* Mike Biarzi, Savvy Saunders, Roman Dial and I were landed at Circle Lake on July 18. We had no airdrop. Base Camp was in the Aiyagomahala valley, south of the Arrigetch valley. We next had to wait out a week of rain. Biarzi and I made the second ascent of Shot Tower by a new route, the northwest face and descended the west ridge. Climbing continuously, we took 36 hours. (NCCS V, F9, A3+) Saunders and Dial on July 31 climbed the Shot Tower by the west ridge. I made the first ascent of "Scorpio," one of a series of spires south of Independence Pass and west of the "Pyramid." It is the third spire counting from south to north. NCCS III, F7. Biarzi and Dial made a new route up Badile, the southwest buttress (NCCS III, F10, A3), following a single 700-foot crack from the base to the summit overhangs. Saunders and I made a variation of the original east face route on Badile. We were picked up at Takahula Lake on August 17. We had 13 days of bad weather out of 30. We found an amazing amount of humans and trash. Trails have already formed in the extremely delicate tundra. Trekking companies are intolerably exploiting this area, bringing in as many as twelve people at a time. We urge those who go to the Arrigetch to go in small groups and be aware of their impact, keeping it to a minimum. Firearms are totally unnecessary if food is properly stored and cooked. The Arrigetch is a wild paradise and it is the duty of every person who ventures into the area to keep it so.

DIETER KLOSE, *Alaskan Alpine Club*