

views of the Gulf of Alaska, the Bering Glacier and our first sight of the summit ridge of Steller and the icefall guarding its western flank. The following day, we retraced our steps and camped at 8550 feet. Our third climbing day found us heading along the northwest ridge, using pickets to protect the steep climb to P 10,096. Beyond the peak, the ridge broadened, allowing access to the upper glacier west of and below the summit ridge. The next day, we repeated the climb up the ridge, crossed a tricky schrund and dug in a high camp on the upper glacier at 9650 feet. A rest day was followed by four days of snow, wind and zero visibility. Finally, at noon on May 27, the sky cleared and we reconnoitered the crux of the climb, the steep snow-and-ice west face. Later, at camp, our dinner was interrupted by the roar of an avalanche sweeping the face below the summit ridge, 100 yards south of our route. Early the next morning, we gingerly retraced our steps. Rising above a schrund, the 500-foot face gradually steepened from 45° to nearly 60°. Protecting with pickets, deadmen and a screw, we gained the airy crest of the summit ridge and climbed to the summit at 8:30 A.M. on May 28. We planned for our descent the next day but awoke to falling snow. At midnight it cleared. The descent was marked by one crevasse fall, thigh-deep snow on the arête and a rappel over the changed schrund at its base.

ROBERT WESSON

*P 6520, Lake Clark National Park, 1991.* During a three-week stay in Lake Clark National Park, on August 7, 1991 I climbed P 6520 by the east ridge. The rock was very loose near the top. The peak lies about two miles east of the northeast corner of Two Lakes. Bad weather and high water at river crossings prevented other ascents.

DANIEL BLODGETT, M.D.

*Mount Hajdukovich, Delta Mountains, Alaska Range.* Almost 22 years to the day of the first ascent, twin parties converged on the top of Mount Hajdukovich to achieve the second ascent of the north summit and the first of the slightly higher south peak (2926 meters, 9600 feet). We started on March 14 by flying out of Sawmill Creek east of Delta for a ski landing near the peak. However, weather separated the group into two climbing teams. The northern party of Stan and Carol Justice, Tad Fullerton and Franz Mueter began their ski approach from the woods at 2000 feet on the Little Gerstle River. The southern party of Ken Leary (married to a Hajdukovich descendant), the author and Hank, a 70-pound Siberian husky, started from 5500 feet on the Gerstle Glacier. We skied with sleds down a little icefall to the glacier confluence at 4000 feet. We cached skis and sled before heading east up a snow ramp paralleling the unnamed glacier that drains the south basin of Hajdukovich. We camped at 6580 feet alongside an icefall that avalanched the following morning. That day, March 16, we hurriedly curved through the basin's crevassed ice-steps, cramponed up a rocky snow slope to the 8200-foot col and traversed over a steep dome to climb the south

ridge onto the main summit. In extremely rare perfect weather, we had climbed a new route on the peak in five hours from camp. But already there, to our amazement, were Justice and his party, who had just ascended from camp at 6000 feet on the north side to repeat the first-ascent route to the north summit and had then traversed over the top of the impressive east face to make the main summit's first ascent. That party descended its ascent route. We others retraced our steps, keeping Hank on the rope as "middleman." His special canine harness saved him twice in crevasse falls. By late on March 18, we had descended back to the Gerstle Glacier and skied 25 miles out its valley to the nine-trestle Gerstle River Bridge of the Richardson Highway, meeting all kinds of skiing conditions. Justice's group remained on the mountain on March 17 to climb a 40° snow-and-ice rib on the north face of Hajdukovich's north peak. We were privileged to make these new climbs in the memory of a multi-talented native of Montenegro who had come into the country as a guide, trapper and pioneer more than 80 years ago. A Yugoslav flag unfurled on the summit went to the Hajdukovich family still in Fairbanks.

PHILIP S. MARSHALL

*Bona and Churchill, Wrangell-St. Elias Mountains.* A considerable number of people have been climbing in the Bona-Churchill group. Dave Custer believes that a total of 22 climbers in five separate parties attempted Bona in May and June, of whom some 15 reached the summit. In early June, Custer's group, consisting of John Arnason, Suzanne Lorenz, Tamar More, John Rhodes, Frank Ziegler and himself, was landed by plane on the Kutlan Glacier at 10,000 feet and camped at 12,000 and 14,500 feet. Despite doubtful weather, they climbed Bona, Churchill and the prominent bump southeast of Churchill, often called Churchill's Chin.

*Ice Climbing above Nabesna, Wrangell Mountains.* On April 2, Harry Hunt and I drove to the town of Nabesna, north of the Wrangell Mountains, to climb several frozen waterfalls we had scouted in January when we had snowshoed up canyons to check out possible routes. We had discovered several Grade III, IV and V climbs, but the weather on the earlier trip was too cold for ice climbing (−25° to −35° F). In April, the days were longer and the temperatures warmer (0° to −7° at night and up to 25° in the daytime). The canyons we climbed in did not get any sun. All the climbs were on hard, boilerplate ice, sometimes brittle and hollow. We arranged to stay in a log cabin in Nabesna, with a wood stove. We walked down a hard-packed snowmobile trail to the east side of White Mountain to look at three climbs. Our main objective was a two-tiered waterfall up in a narrow canyon a short hike from the cabin. It was about 200 feet high. The lower curtain was a 100-foot pitch of Grade III or IV ice depending on the line taken. This brought us to the crux: a 65-foot section of vertical ice with a couple of ledges 30 feet up. At the top of the last steep step were 40 feet of