

Aiguille des Pèlerins, North Face. On April 21 and 22, Briton Andy Parkin and I climbed a new route on the north face of the Aiguille des Pèlerins (3318 meters, 10,887 feet). We climbed directly to the Col des Pèlerins and began about halfway between the Rébuffat route and Michel Piola's "Nostrodamus." We finally climbed it on the third attempt. The first was in November, 1989, when we ran out of daylight and were surprised at how difficult it was. The second was on April 11, 1992, when basically the same thing happened although we were two pitches higher. We finally accepted the idea that we would have to bivouac. We climbed 14 hours on the first day and slept at the top of the 8th pitch on one of the two "good" ledges that the route offers. We climbed on a 60-meter rope since the 5th and 6th pitches required at least 55 meters to reach reasonable belays. We climbed 12 hours on the second day. The first six belays are fixed and we left only one piton on the rest of the route. Technical data: 500 meters; fourteen 60-meter pitches: 90° ice, 5.9, A3. Pitch 1: 65° ice with one short vertical passage; Pitch 2: 60° ice; Pitch 3: 45° snow, then 70° ice; Pitch 4: 90° ice, 5.9, A2; Pitch 5: 90° ice, 5.9, A2 (harder than Pitch 4); Pitch 6: A2, 70° ice, 5.8 (a long, dangerous, loose pitch); Pitch 7: 60°-70° ice, 5.6; Pitch 8: 70° ice, then 5.7; Pitch 9: 80° ice, 5.9 (difficult protection); Pitch 10: 75°-85° ice (this pitch joins Rébuffat route for 20 meters); Pitch 11: A3 (loose; a 25-meter pitch); Pitch 12: A2, 5.9, 60° ice; Pitch 13: A.2, 5.7, 60° ice; Pitch 14: 45°-65° ice. 5.5 (big, loose blocks; very dangerous for both leader and belayer). This route is more difficult than the one we did on Les Droites, though half as long.

MARC FRANCIS TWIGHT

100th Anniversary of the Planinska zveza Slovenije. The American Alpine Club congratulates the Planinska zveza Slovenije (the Slovene Alpine Club) on the 100th Anniversary of its founding. Slovene mountaineering has a long history. The first ascent of their highest mountain, Triglav, took place in 1776, eight years before that of Mont Blanc. Slovene climbers are among the world leaders at this time. They have achieved notable climbs in recent years, such as the first complete ascent of the west ridge of Everest, the north face of Kumbhakarna, the south face of Lhotse, the southwest face of Kangchenjunga, Menlungtse and many others. They have continued to serve the whole mountaineering community with the Aleš Kunaver Mountaineering School in Manang, Nepal, which instructs Nepalese and others in climbing techniques. May they continue to prosper and have a brilliant future!

AFRICA

Mount Kenya, Diamond Buttress, 1991. A probable new route on the 500-meter-high rocky south face of Batian, the highest summit of Mount Kenya, was climbed on December 19, 1991 by Bulgarians Ivan Maslarov and Nikolai