

*McKinley, South Face.* Mark Leffler and I made the second ascent of the route on the western side of the south face which was first climbed solo by Czech Miroslav Šmíd on May 17, 1991. [See *AAJ*, 1992 page 119 and photo on page 120.] The six pitches of mixed rock and ice lead to easier ice and snow ramps above. The route offers a bit more challenge for those wanting a variation from the ice-and-snow routes.

ROBERT SCHNEIDER

*McKinley, Southwest Face Traverse and Other Routes.* Not liking snow conditions for a snowboard/ski descent, Dirk Collins and I opted for a traverse which took us from our camp at 14,300 feet on the West Buttress over the West Rib at 16,500 feet across the southwest face to a big couloir leading to the Cassin Ridge, which we followed to reach the summit of Denali. We descended the West Buttress to complete our climb in 17 hours. The difficulties were few because the snow was in great shape. We used a 100-foot rope on the crevassed section of the southwest face and climbed unroped the rest, which was snow and ice up to 60° with a few mixed sections in between. In still perfect weather, I joined Mark Wilford for a route up the southeast face to the West Buttress Direct route. The route was of the highest quality with excellent golden granite. The snow and ice were not more than 55°; we had one 5.8 rock pitch. We simul-climbed the 2000-foot mixed route. A couple of days later, Jeff Applebee and I climbed a mixed route to the right of the "Rescue Gully." Other than one section of very loose rock, it was a good route which tops out on the 17,000-foot camp on the West Buttress. With the weather holding, Applebee and I dropped down onto the Peters Glacier via Kahiltna Pass. We were away early from camp on the Peters Glacier, starting up the 1991 Collins-Powers-Walter route. The bergschrund at 9000 feet was difficult to cross and for a few hundred feet we were hit by spindrift avalanches. The 2000 feet of 55° ice were a real calf pumper. After 24 hours, we reached a bivouac site, from which the next morning we traversed to the right and made that variant to reach our camp at 14,300 feet.

STEPHEN KOCH

*McKinley, Rapid Multiple Ascents.* After 11 days of acclimatization, Brad Johnson left the 17,200-foot camp on May 19 and climbed round-trip to the north summit and back in 3 hours 40 minutes. The next day, he and companions climbed to the south summit. They descended to 14,200 feet and had a rest day. On May 23, Johnson soloed from there to the south peak in five hours, climbed the north peak and was back in ten hours, covering 11 miles and gaining 8000 feet. This was possibly the second ascent of both summits from 14,200 feet in one day, the first having been Andy Lapkass in 1985.

*McKinley climbed by Boy Scouts.* Boy Scouts from Post 286 of the Western Alaska Scout Council in Anchorage undertook over a period of two years to

PLATE 36

*Photo (5872) by Bradford Washburn*

**Ridge of No Return on MOUNT  
McKINLEY.**



prepare themselves for an ascent of McKinley, learning what skills would be needed. On June 5, scouts Jim Dahle, Collin Greenfield, Jason Geitzenauer, Dale Griffin, Paul Newman, scout leaders Dave Dittman, Lanse Larsen, fathers Clyde Dahle, Wes Newman and guides John Blasko and Stacy Taniguchi were landed on the Kahiltina Glacier. They worked their way up the West Buttress route. On June 22, they set out for the summit. Suffering from the altitude, Wes Newman and Geitzenauer turned back at 19,000 feet, but the others made it to the summit, the first officially organized Boy Scout group to do so.

*Huntington and McKinley, Ridge of No Return.* Four young Frenchmen, Xavier Cret, Robin Molinatti, Pierre Rizzardo and Paul Robach, climbed the Terray route on Mount Huntington in the spring of 1993 in a three-day ascent. They then turned to the Ridge of No Return, which had been climbed only by Renato Casarotto in 1984 solo, who spent 12 days on the long, heavily corniced ridge. After the bottom rock buttress, a precarious section of knife-edged ridge is defended by instable cornices, where the French climbers took several falls through them. They took only three days to reach the top of the South Buttress at about 15,000 feet, which had also been Casarotto's high point. This is a vertical rise of about 6500 feet in three miles.

*Huntington, West Face.* Michael Kennedy and I achieved what may be the fastest airplane-to-airplane ascent of Huntington. On May 15, we landed on the Tokositna Glacier. The next morning in fine weather, we headed up the impressive couloir which splits the west face and diagonals into the Harvard route. This has been referred to as the Nettle-Quirk route, climbed by Dave Nettle and Jim Quirk in 1987, but a letter from John Jeffery to *Climbing* of August/September, 1993 attributes it to John Claymore and partner in 1978. Anyhow, we found the route to be an alpine ice classic, steep enough to be exciting but not too horrifying, and with virtually no hazards. On May 16, we bivouacked in sleeping bags on an exposed eyrie at the junction of the Harvard route and then hit the cornices of the French ridge and the summit at noon on the 17th. We rappelled most of the way down, but the warm weather had turned the lower slopes into waterfalls and rock chutes, and so we took shelter till the morning of the 18th before descending to camp. We flew out on May 19. Two Southern lads had also unsuccessfully tried the route ahead of us and their anchors helped our descent. A week later, Steve Maseoli and Michael Dmitri landed at our campsite, hoping to climb the route, but a hopelessly misplaced bear arrived, drove them from camp and devoured their food. The climbers radioed a pilot, who picked them up. The bear was last seen disappearing up the slopes leading to the French ridge!

GREG CHILD

*Hunter, New Start of Lowe-Kennedy Route.* In late May, Paul Teare and I made a second attempt at a new route on the north buttress of Hunter from the