

Plumb Spire, North Triple Peak, Trinity Spire and Whiteout Spire, Kichatna Spires. Calvin Hebert and I flew to the Tatina Glacier on June 7 and stayed through July 2. The typical unsettled weather forced us to abandon our plans for a new Grade VI rock climb on the south face of Mount Nevermore. Instead, we elected to pursue smaller, less committing projects. We climbed a new rock route on Plumb Spire, "The Forbidden Wall," in the central crack system on the northwest face (V, 5.10d, 650 meters). Next we climbed the north couloir of North Triple (IV, 5.6, alpine-ice 4, 800 meters). We then climbed a new rock route on Trinity Spire, the right-facing corner system, just right of the center of the southeast face, "The Hersey Tooth," (V, 5.11b, 500 meters). Lastly, I soloed Whiteout Spire (III, alpine-ice 3) in typical whiteout conditions. I climbed the left edge of the Tatina Glacier to the moderate east-facing ice slope up to the knife-edged ridge. All summits were reached in whiteouts.

DOUGLAS BYERLY, *Unaffiliated*

Serenity Spire and Other Climbs, Kichatna Mountains. Jeff Hollenbaugh* and I were in the Kichatna Mountains from June 23 to July 15. We were landed on the Tatina Glacier, where we set up Base Camp. The day we arrived we climbed what we believe is a new route on the southeast face of Serenity Spire. It follows the leftmost (southernmost) of three obvious right-facing dihedrals. The climbing was mostly 5.9 and 5.10 on clean cracks. We used three points of aid on the second pitch. On July 30, after some days of bad weather, we started up the prominent buttress on the right of Mount Jeffers' west face, fixing five ropes before coming down. We were tent-bound for five days during a storm that dumped ten inches of snow. On July 7, after climbing 15 pitches, we were about $\frac{3}{4}$ of the way up the buttress. What had been dry before was now the main drainage for the snow on the upper half of the peak. The climbing was slowed by wet rock and we were soaked and hypothermic. As Jeff was jumaring our last pitch, the sheath of the rope severed on an edge and slid down, exposing four feet of the core. We retreated. On July 10, in perfect weather, we climbed Whiteout Spire, skiing to within a couple of hundred yards of the summit. On July 12, I made a solo ascent of North Triple Peak via the northwest couloir.

MICHAEL PENNINGS, *Unaffiliated*

P 7998, Thompson Ridge, Chugach Mountains. On April 8, Gary Green of McCarthy Air Taxi flew Harold Hunt and me to the western end of the Bagley Icefield region. We had hoped to climb one of the higher peaks, but the weather changed our plans. We were soon in a seven-day storm with several feet of new snow and gale winds. With only a couple of days left, we crossed the Bagley and Jeffries Glaciers to the base of P 7998, which rises some 4000 feet above the Jeffries to a pointy summit. This had been bypassed by climbers in the past

*Recipient of an AAC Climbing Fellowship Grant.

few years and had remained unclimbed. On April 17, we ascended the glacier on its southwest flank to the upper basin and west ridge, which we followed to the summit. The last pitch was steep mixed snow and rock.

DANNY KOST, *Unaffiliated*

Unclimbed Peaks in the Chigmit Mountains. On July 7, Cliff Hudson's son from Talkeetna flew Martin Göggelmann and me to the south side of Chakachamna Lake for a week's climbing. We set up Base Camp on a sandbank near the lake, amid bear tracks. The next day, we walked eight kilometers south up an unnamed glacier, the second glacier to the east of Shamrock Glacier. It flows nearly into the lake. Near its head, it is T-shaped. Across the lake stands Mount Spurr, which erupted three times in July 1992. Our high camp was on the glacier at 3000 feet. The weather continued warm and good. In the next days, we made three first ascents. Southeast of camp rose P 6300 (1920 meters) at the head of the glacier. We climbed the 700-meter-high, 45° northwest ice face to the base of the 200-meter-high summit pyramid, which we ascended up a small, steep ice gully. This began with a section of 90° ice which gave way to mixed 65° rotten rock and loose snow. Our second peak was P 6310 (1923 meters), above the western arm of the T. We climbed the east face to the north col between P 7230 and P 6310. The last 300 meters to the col were mixed climbing, ice of 60° and rock of UIAA II difficulty. From the col we ascended west to a 400-meter-high, 50° ice couloir. The 150-meter summit ridge was of very loose rock of UIAA IV difficulty. The last peak, P c. 5900 (c. 1799 meters), the smallest rock tower above the eastern arm of the T. We climbed the south side. The last 150 meters were very rotten rock of UIAA III to IV. A day later we returned to the lake and were flown out the next day. The rock is very bad and so it was not possible to make any difficult rock climb.

EDUARD BIRNBACHER, *Deutscher Alpenverein*

Wrangell/Saint Elias Climbs. Continuing with the ski-mountaineering trends on the great peaks (Bona, Churchill, Bear, Blackburn, Logan and Sanford), Ultima Thule Outfitters guided, flew and outfitted a multitude of expeditions. Highlights include a guided ascent of Blackburn's north ridge by David and Gretchen Staeheli with client Dave Gerstenberger, a new route on Blackburn's northeast face and a tandem free solo of Saint Elias' northwest buttress by Miroslav Šmid and Ruedi Homberger, telemark descents of Bear and Bona by Kaj Bune and Doug Barlow, a guided attempt on Saint Elias' south ridge led by me, a telemark descent of Logan's King Trench led by John Swanson, an ascent of Blackburn's southwest flank by Dave Custer and a solo of Churchill by Doug Rossillon. Most interesting were the Super Cub assisted ski adventures by Paul Claus, Siri Moss, Roger and Steve Marolt, Doug Perry and Bob Perlmutter. The group was successful on several first descents, the highest of which was from 14,000 feet on Bear. Paul Claus continued to explore