

Mountain or Route	Attempts		Summits	
	Expeditions	Climbers	Expeditions	Climbers
<b>FORAKER</b>				
Archangel Ridge	1	3	0	0
Infinite Spur	2	4	0	0
Sultana Ridge	4	10	2	5
Southeast Ridge	2	8	1	5
Total	9	25	3	10
<b>MOUNT HUNTER</b>				
MOUNT HUNTINGTON	13	33		
MOUNT DAN BEARD	3	7		
MOUNT SILVERTHORNE	1	6		
MOOSES TOOTH	2	3		
PEAK 11,300'	2	14		
	1	2		

Because registration is voluntary for peaks other than Mount McKinley and Mount Foraker, these numbers do not represent the total number of groups and climbers making attempts on these mountains.

J.D.SWED, *South District Ranger, Denali National Park and Preserve*

*Mount McKinley and Mount Foraker Massifs, First Winter Circumnavigation.* Daryl Miller and Mark Stasik crossed four remote passes, traveling over 350 miles on frozen rivers, forests, and muskeg. More than half of their 45-day trip were -25°F or colder. An account of their circumnavigation appears earlier in this journal.

*Mount McKinley, Northwest Face, First Born.* Steve House and Eli Helmuth climbed a new route on the Northwest Face (Father and Son's Wall) of McKinley. An account of their ascent appears earlier in this journal.

*Mount McKinley, Ski Descent of the Wickersham Wall.* Two French skiers, Jean-Noel Urban and Nicolas Bonhomme, made a ski descent down the Wickersham Wall of Mount McKinley (see AAJ, 1995, for first ski descent). They approached the Peters Glacier from the Kahiltna Glacier, hauling their gear in an eight-day walk. They then climbed the 4300-meter face via the Canadian (1963) Route in 13 days, seven of them tent-bound by severe snow storms (four days at Camp III and three days at Camp V). They experienced temperatures down to -35°. On July 2 they reached the top of the North Peak (5934 meters). They skied down to Camp V (5000 meters) in two hours. The next day they continued their descent of the wall. The snow



conditions were variable but generally tricky and dangerous. Most of the face was 50°; the average inclination of the whole route was 45°.

JÓZEF NYKA, *Editor, Tatarnik, Poland*

*Mount Foraker, Ski Descent of the Sultana Ridge.* On May 28, Julie Faure, Jim Hopkins, and I assembled at Kahiltna Base Camp to attempt to climb Mounts Foraker and Crosson and descend both on freeheel skis. Montecucco and Hopkins warmed up with an attempt of Mount Hunter's West Ridge. They were turned back by a heavy storm. Faure and I reached 18,000 feet and 16,000 feet, respectively, on separate West Buttress (Denali) acclimatizing expeditions. We climbed at night from our camp at the foot of Crosson's Southeast Ridge to avoid soft snow and clouds. Montecucco and I skied a supportable crust from 8,500 feet (our first cache) back to camp at 6,800 feet. May 31 we again climbed at night, moving camp to a flat spot on the ridge at 11,200 feet. A pair of 60° loose rock chimneys, ably led by Montecucco, were the crux of this section. Great views of Denali, Foraker, and Hunter made this a special camp.

On June 1 Hopkins, Montecucco, and I skied damp powder under blue skies down to retrieve our cache of food and fuel at 8,500 feet. Six inches of new snow fell overnight, and we didn't leave camp until 4 p.m. on June 2. The route went easily up and over Crosson, and we cached at a col just before Peak 12,472. Skiing from the 12,800-foot summit of Crosson was spectacular and powdery.

By June 9 we had negotiated the airy, crevassed, foggy, undulating three-mile-long access ridge. We established our high camp at 12,000 feet, at the foot of the Sultana Ridge. June 10 we departed for the summit at 10:30 p.m. when the whiteout finally cleared. It was breezy, but we found the climbing fast and easy. We cramponed up relatively crevasse-free 30° to 40° sastrugi slopes. At 16,000 feet we were suddenly enveloped by a lenticular cloud and winds rose to 50 to 100 mph. Hopkins had led nearly the whole way, and he turned around with Montecucco, who was feeling the altitude, at 16,800 feet — the summit plateau. Julie and I, following on a separate rope, continued to 17,100 feet. The actual summit was a quarter-mile away and 300 feet higher. We sacrificed it and began skiing from 17,000 feet in gusty, but slightly decreasing winds. Montecucco was not himself due to AMS, though he had previously been the strongest member of the team. The snow was carvable, but an incredible gust blasted him off his skis in mid-hop-turn at 16,000 feet. Gaining speed immediately after landing on his back, he slid 2,000 feet, bouncing 30 to 50 feet over seracs. He self-arrested with the ice hammer attached to his ski pole, one foot from where the glaciated ridge calves onto the massive north face.

Hopkins reached him within about 30 minutes. Montecucco was disoriented initially, but after accepting warm layers and fluids, he became alert.