



*Brad Grohusky on pitch 4 (A3) of an attempt on the west face of Mt. Huntington. ROD WILLARD*

After five days, during which we had climbed about half of the wall, we declared a rest day. A bit of sunning in t-shirts was quickly replaced by an afternoon storm and our efforts to keep the runway firmly packed. On June 20, another large low-pressure system, coupled with work commitments, forced an early exit for me. Luckily, John Lohuis had arrived in Talkeetna early and was able to fly in with Hudson that evening and make the partner exchange a simple one. The weather returned to its wettest, forcing Grohusky and Lohuis to spend more time in the tents than on the wall. Upward progress continued when possible, with the seam system opening up to allow some clean aid. A decision had to be made before the Tokositna Glacier became too crevassed to allow a plane landing: keep going and risk having to leave all of the fixed

line on the wall, or leave a clean route and return another day. From Brad's high point he could see easier ground ahead leading to the mixed section above. "I shed a tear realizing that the route goes, but that we were out of time," wrote Brad later. The pair stripped the route, waited out another storm and then cleaned out camp and winged it back to Talkeetna. Having learned many lessons and tasted the endless possibilities of the Alaska Range, we cannot wait to return.

ROD WILLARD

*Mt. Russell, North Ridge.* On March 2-7, Colby Coombs, Caitlin Palmer, Meg Perdue and I flew to Mt. Russell in the Alaska Range. Colby, Meg and I made the sixth ascent of Mt. Russell, the fourth ascent of the North Ridge, and the second ascent in winter; Meg is the first woman recorded to have summited Mt. Russell. It is a beautiful alpine route in a remote edge of the Alaska Range. The North Ridge route offers a safe and very aesthetic line to an awesome summit that is way off the beaten path, with many climbable peaks surrounding the upper Yentna glacier.

MIKE WOOD, *unaffiliated*