

Wrangell-St. Elias Range

Mt. Leeper, Ascent. On May 13, Art Weiner and I were flown into the upper Yahtse Glacier at around 4,700 feet by Paul Claus of Ultima Thule Outfitters. As we flew in, Paul mentioned that in 1993, he had landed in his Super Cub high in a bowl on the north side of Mt. Leeper (9,603'). But Art and I were here to try to be the first to climb this peak, which is only 15 miles or so from the Gulf of Alaska. The Yahtse Glacier flows southeast from Barkley Ridge and into Icy Bay, so this region is constantly threatened by storms and high winds and receives an unusually high amount of precipitation.

We immediately moved up the glacier to around 5,600 feet and set up our first camp under Leeper's north face. The next day we skied through the icefall and established high camp at around 6,700 feet on the northwest ridge. We were southeast of the rocky pyramid of Pt. 7072'. On May 15, we skied up the northwest ridge to around 9,100 feet, where we were forced to kick off our skis. A huge serac that splits the ridge and separates it from the summit forced us to the left. From here we kicked steps up the ridge and walked onto the summit in the early afternoon. Throughout our climb we were hit by increasing winds, which forced an abbreviated stay on the summit. We hurried down safely back to camp before a storm closed in behind us. Six of the next seven days were spent in the tent due to high winds, snow and whiteout conditions. We did get two brief stretches that allowed us to get back to our landing area and food cache, where we were picked up only one day later than scheduled on the 23rd. This may have been the first ascent of Mt. Leeper, but only time will tell.

DANNY W. KOST

Peak 8933', Ascent. On April 23, six of us (Mimi Bourquin, Paul Claus, Ruedi Homberger, Cristine Legnet, Reto Reutsch, and myself) flew from Ultima Thule Lodge to an unnamed glacier to the north and east of P8933' at around 6,700 feet. We skied down to around 6,200 feet at the base of the icefall, which flows north from the summit. We skied up through the icefall and reached the summit by early afternoon, enjoying the views from the summit during a break in the unusually stormy spring this part of Alaska had been experiencing. The others enjoyed the skiing down through the icefall while I slowly skied my way back to the bottom as best I could.

On the way back we stopped and skied up the northwest side of Table Mountain (8640'). This peak was first climbed in 1913 by a boundary survey party, which did a number of first ascents in the area and got high on Mt. St. Elias as well before weather turned them around.

DANNY W. KOST

Peak 10,522', Ascent. On May 29, Kelly Bay of Wrangell Mountain Air flew me into the upper Chisana Glacier at around 8,300 feet on the southeast side of this mountain. I was climbing alone since I had been unable to locate a climbing partner. In early April, I had been in this same area with Howard Mozen to attempt Peak 10,522' and others, but we were unsuccessful due to high winds and snow.

I immediately donned skis and headed up toward the 9,200-foot col due east of the summit. Here I kicked off the skis and donned crampons. I followed this eastern ridge, which was fairly easy until a couple of hundred feet from the summit, where a large serac was separating