

from the summit block. There was a large crevasse that skirted the whole summit block with an overhanging ice wall on the uphill side. I crossed the crevasse on the far right and stayed on the ridge crest around the serac wall. This offered some nice 40-60° climbing on snow and ice for 60 feet or so with 3,000 feet of exposure down the northeast face. Above this it was an easy walk to the summit. I first saw this peak from the summit of the Presidents Chair in 1993. Peak 10,522' resembles Mt. Deborah of the Alaska Range and I had referred to it as "Little Deborah" since that initial sighting. I believe this was the first ascent of the peak.

DANNY W. KOST

*Mt. Bona, St. Elias Mountains.* On May 27, Paul Claus flew AAC members Steve Malmberg, George Rodway, Dan Vogt, and I to 10,500 feet on the upper Klutlan Glacier, just south of the Bona-Churchill plateau, to attempt Mt. Bona (16,421'). Our original plan was to place two camps at 12,700 feet and 14,300 feet respectively. Due to one week of bad weather and six to eight feet of new snow, we began to run out of time and made the decision to place just one camp at 12,700 feet and go for the top in one long day. George Rodway remained in Base Camp nursing a gallbladder infection with painkillers and antibiotics. On June 1, the weather cleared up temporarily, and we began the move up to occupy Camp I. Lenticular clouds soon moved in and it snowed several feet the next day. Finally, June 3 dawned clear and calm and we climbed via the knife-edge summit ridge of Churchill's Chin (14,916'), reaching the summit of Mt. Bona at about 3 p.m. All three of us fell into hidden crevasses on the east summit ridge. We returned to Camp I and descended to Base Camp in a whiteout the next day. We were flown out on June 6. We encountered two other teams on the mountain, a party of three Germans and a two-person American team. Both parties bailed off the mountain early due to the horrendous weather.

DAVE PAISLEY

## CANADA

### ST. ELIAS RANGE

*Peak 11,700', Southwest Ridge.* After an injury in our party halted our attempt at the standard King Trench route on Mt. Logan, Morgan Lakey and I turned our frustrations to a pyramidal rock and snow peak five kilometers northwest of the standard Base Camp on the Quitino Sella Glacier. The top 100 meters of the peak is just visible over a ridge to the immediate west of Base Camp. With three days' food, we skied over to the south face and examined a series of interesting rock ridges and couloirs. The most inviting ran continuously from the foot to the summit on the southeast face but started avalanching when we arrived. We selected a long couloir that gained the southwest ridge about mid-way up, then waded, ploughed and scrambled up to the ridge. The southwest ridge was hard-packed snow with gently undulating cornices that made for excellent climbing. On June 8, after five-and-a-half hours from our camp at the foot of the mountain, Lakey and I topped out in a nearly total whiteout, which spoiled what should have been a tremendous view of Mt. Logan. The summit was recognized by key rocks we had noted from below and the fact that it was downhill in all directions. Upon return to the Logan Base Camp, discussions with Paul Claus, climber/pilot for Ultima Thule, indi-

cated that he may have climbed the same peak by possibly the same ridge a few years earlier. Although the maps suggest an elevation of about 11,700+ feet, the local pilots distrust the figures, believing it to be higher.

JEB SCHENCK, *unaffiliated*

*"Mt. Swanson," Northwest Face.* During the end of April and beginning of May, Jim Earl and I ventured to a little-explored area in the St. Elias Range referred to as the Fourth of July Cirque. This area is on the Hawkins Glacier at the base of the southwest and west faces of University Peak; to the north are the incredible south walls of the Thwaharpes Celeno and Ocpete peaks as well as a handful of unclimbed prizes.

On our second day in the area, we set our sights on the north face of "Little Ama Dablam," so named by Paul Claus, who made the first ascent of this 10,000-footer. After the first pitch of beautiful Alaskan ice (up to 85°), we began simul-climbing the middle 60° slopes. After approximately 600 feet of climbing, my crampon broke and we were forced to retreat and one-leg it back to camp.

This small mishap was the cause of great festering in our camp while, during blue-bird days, we waited for Paul to retrieve our spare pair of crampons from his house. This occurred eight days later. The weather had changed, and light snow held us in camp the entire time.

As soon as we were resupplied with fresh 'poons, we set our sights on another objective, "Mt. Swanson" (named in memory of our friend who perished in a helicopter accident in January, 1997). This 10,800-foot peak features a stunning 5,000-foot northeast face that



*The 5,000-foot northeast face of "Mt. Swanson" (10,800'), showing line of ascent. JIM EARL*