

drained into the Hawkins Glacier at our feet. Leaving at 4:30 a.m. on April 29, we skied to the base, then climbed up the initial 1,000-foot snow ramp and avalanche runnel to the route's short crux: 100 feet of mixed 5.8 (M4) and thin smears of ice. The crux deposited us onto the 2,000-foot, 70° snow gully that leads to a 140-foot ice gully with bullet-proof ice (60-85°), including some thin technical sections. A short traverse put us into deep snow on 60° ice. After much work and "chunnelling" for two more pitches, I was able to top out on the corniced east ridge, 600 feet away from and 200 feet below the summit, in deteriorating weather. I immediately down climbed back to Jim. After a short brew up of hot liquids, we descended our route through poor weather and heavy spindrift back to Base Camp, arriving at 6 a.m. on the 30th after 26 continuous hours of climbing.

The next two days passed easily, despite the weather. We were content to sleep and eat. Unfortunately, the weather remained poor for an additional five days, which cut short the bigger plan of exploring the flanks of University Peak. On May 6, Paul swooped in through a hole in the weather and returned us to civilization.

BRENDAN CUSICK

Mt. McArthur, South Face, Fred Said Butress. It was reported that in mid-June, Canadians Rick Clements, Chris Kettles, and Troy Jungen, under the watchful eye of Fred Beckey, spent three days climbing the *Fred Said Butress* on the last prominent unclimbed buttress on the south face of Mt. McArthur (14,243'). The three climbed snow and ice couloirs to the right of the buttress down low to avoid bad rock on the lower portion of the route; higher, they encountered good rock and exposed pitches as they followed the buttress directly to the summit. It was the sixth ascent of the mountain; all six have been made by new routes. (*Climbing* 180)

Kluane National Park Reserve

Mountaineering Summary and Statistics, 1998. This year there were 42 expeditions comprising 163 people within the icefields of Kluane. This is a slight increase in numbers from last year. The maximum number of climbers in a single season was 186 people in 1992.

There were 24 expeditions and 105 people on Mt. Logan this year, representing 64% of the people in the icefields. The King Trench route, on the west side of the mountain, saw 13 expeditions and 70 people; the East Ridge had 11 expeditions and 35 people. No significant attempts were made on other routes on Mt. Logan. Once again, large crevasses on the King Trench route above 15,000 feet created some route-finding challenges, but apparently not as troublesome as in 1997. A solo traverse was accomplished this year of Mt. Logan from the East Ridge to the King Trench by Martin Minarek, a tenacious Czech climber.

Other mountains that were attempted included Mt. Kennedy, Mt. Hubbard, Pinnacle Peak, Mt. Wood, McArthur Peak, Mt. Queen Mary, Mt. King George, Mt. Lucania, Mt. Macauley, Mt. Steele and Mt. Walsh. An interesting high-line traverse was accomplished from Mt. Wood to Mt. Steele, taking in Mt. Macauley, by a group of five in August (see below).

The weather during the first half of the season, from mid-April to early June, was rather bad. High winds and consistent precipitation aggravated most expeditions during this time. The usual period of clear, stable weather that settles into the Icefield ranges during the late spring was kept out by a series of low-pressure systems from the Gulf of Alaska. Many