



*A windy day at 4000 meters on the north ridge of Mt. Steele. DAVE HILDES*

Finally, we arrived at our main objective, the unclimbed north ridge of Mt. Steele (5073m). Except for one dangerous cornice at 3840 meters, the north ridge was just a snow slog. An extremely windy day forced us to stop early and camp in the shelter of a crevasse at 4220 meters. On August 13, we summited Mt. Steele in superb weather, having completed the first traverse from Mt. Wood to Mt. Steele. We called the traverse *Millar's High Life* (Alaskan Grade 6, WI3). After descending the southeast ridge of Steele, we flew out of the St. Elias to Kluane Lake on August 15.

According to Wallis (1992 *CAJ*, pp. 4-19), "Southeast Macauley" would have become the highest unclimbed peak in Canada once Atlantic Peak was climbed in 1995. However, according to Wallis (1998 *AAJ*, pp. 230-231), "South Slaggard" (4370m; GR 220786) was the highest unclimbed peak in Canada when he climbed it in July 1997. Various reliable sources have confirmed that our ascent of "Southeast Macauley" was the first. I invite Mr. Wallis to clarify this apparent discrepancy.

JEREMY FRIMER, *Varsity Outdoor Club (UBC)*

*Mts. Hubbard, Kennedy, South Kennedy, and Alverstone, Various Activity.* On June 22, Kurt Gloyer of Gulf Air Taxi flew Douglas Bonoff, Doug Zimmerman, and I to the 2580-meter level on the Cathedral Glacier in Kluane National Park from Yakutat. Two days were spent hauling loads to approximately 3300 meters. On June 26, we established a camp at 3880 meters on the Cathedral Glacier between Mt. Alverstone and Hubbard. On June 27, we attempted the east face of Alverstone but were unsuccessful due to poor snow conditions.

The next day, at 1:30 a.m., we departed camp for an ascent of Mt. Hubbard via the north face/icefall. Easy climbing led around seracs until we were able to gain the east shoulder at

4200 meters. We summited Hubbard (4505m) in cold, clear conditions at 5:30 a.m. That afternoon we descended to our 3300-meter camp for a day off.

The following day (June 29) we established a camp at 3450 meters on Mt. Kennedy. With favorable conditions, we decided to attempt the unclimbed South Kennedy (3656m) along its north ridge. Easy climbing led to a final steep pitch of snow. The summit of South Kennedy was very exposed and too small for one climber, let alone three. As a result, the final pitch was climbed and down climbed, thus allowing each of us to summit. On June 30, we climbed the west ridge (normal route) of Mt. Kennedy (4238m) in clear conditions.

Clear skies and a lack of new snow made early day travel easy. Late-day snow conditions deteriorated significantly, keeping us in camp as we observed the cascade of serac avalanches. Route-finding options on the Cathedral Glacier were limited. Establishing the camp at 3300 meters required several hauling systems for the sleds.

Conditions for our two-week stay on the Cathedral Glacier were exceptional. The weather was perfect. On July 2, we descended to 2580 meters and were able to contact Gulf Air for a July 3 pickup. The Fourth of July was spent in Yakutat celebrating. Doug Zimmerman placed seventh in the Bay to Breakers 10K race on the Fourth of July. Doug Bonoff and Bob walked the course.

ROBERT M. PLUCENIK

*Mt. Alverstone, West Face, Pugilist at Rest and The Wilford Couloir.* In May, Barry Blanchard and I set out to climb the west face of Mt. Alverstone. After flying in with Gulf Air to the Hubbard Glacier, we set up Base Camp. A few days later (approximately May 10), we started up Alverstone. The climbing turned out to be a little less technical than we'd hoped for. We established a bivy approximately 2,500 feet up the climb. The next day we followed a gully system up to the summit ridge, where we encountered a whiteout. We pushed a few hundred feet more along the summit ridge, then turned back in poor conditions. We had climbed the face, but had not continued to the summit.

A week later, we set out for a rock pillar on a ridge line that comes off the northwest side of Alverstone. The pillar looks somewhat like the Gervasutti Pillar in France. We started up the obvious main corner/buttness system and found excellent rock and mixed conditions. At mid-height, we bivied. The next day, we started with hard rock and mixed ground, then the terrain turned more mixed than ice. At the summit, weather conditions worsened and we descended in high winds to an open bivy at the base of the climb. We called the route *Pugilist at Rest* (5.10 A3 M5, 3,000').

A week later, we went back to this same formation, which we called "Point Blanchard," and climbed the couloir just to the left of our previous climb. This line was a bit easier but had excellent Grade V water ice in it. We managed this climb, the *Wilford Couloir* (5.9 M4 WI5, 2,700') in one push. Generally, the rock was good in this area.

MARK WILFORD, *unaffiliated*

*King Peak, Call of the Wild.* From June 18-19, Joe Josephson and Steve House made the first ascent of *Call of the Wild* (VI WI6, 7,500') on the southwest face of King Peak. A full account of their fast and light ascent appears earlier in this journal.