

second should definitely honk that deathblock.

I lost my watch with wedding ring attached somewhere on the third pitch. Maybe it will turn up one day. Ten pitches (some short) to the summit, an 80-foot rap to the notch, two pitches to summit plateau (some 5.7 on the first pitch). We'd rate the climb IV 5.10. Good pro, recommended. Harder variations are quite apparent. Descend east gullies to Granite Lake. Catch trout, eat dinner.

ANDY CARSON

MONTANA

Glacier National Park

Glacier National Park, Various Activity. The 1998-'99 ice climbing season was largely a feast of leftovers in Glacier National Park. Routes that had been on the table for years but were not as choice as the rest finally got devoured. Many of these routes were done early season and are included in last year's journal. Later in the season, I skied in to the southwest face of Cannon Mountain and soloed *A Walk in the Park*, a nice 900-foot WI3 just to the right of *Lost in a Crowd*. I returned to Cannon with Julie Vance to establish *Sunken Battleship*, a 350-foot slabby mixed line to the left of *Cannon Barrel*.

On the south side of Cannon Mountain lays the Hidden Creek drainage. Through a series of scouting missions, local climbers discovered a reasonable approach (only five hours) into this narrow valley. Just below the level of the lake, the canyon opens into a virtual cornucopia of water ice. Here, partnered with Blase Reardon and later with Jim Earl, I climbed a total of eight WI3s and 4s up to three pitches long. Due to the high density of routes and the relative lack of climbers in Hidden Creek, thinking of names for all of that ice seemed pointless. Suffice to say that there are still plenty of hidden morsels for the FA-starved ice climber.

KIRBY SPANGLER, *unaffiliated*

Mt. Edwards, Various Activity. On the left side of Mount Edwards' north face is a large triangular buttress. At mid-height, this buttress is dissected by a distinctive snowy ledge. From this ledge, water ice seems to ooze from deep within the mountain to form spindly 'sicles and thin curtains that descend the steep rock to the snow slopes 500 to 800 feet below.

In the winter of 1996-'97, Jim Earl, Kelly Cordes and Chris Trimble began the quest to reach this ledge. They climbed three pitches up the rightmost (and longest) line on the buttress but failed to attain the ledge. They named their incomplete route *Baby Semler* in honor of one of Glacier Park's finest. For three years, this was the extent of activity on the buttress.

With Y2K, fat ice and motivation returned. Earl and two others attempted a line just to the left of Baby Semler. Again they climbed three pitches but fell short of the elusive ledge. Sticking to the theme, Jim dubbed this line *Holy Moses* after another park ranger. Two days later, Jim was again making the four-hour slog to the bottom of the buttress, this time accompanied by me. We climbed two pitches up yet another line, but due to heavy snowfall and increasing avalanche danger, we opted to retreat. (We refrained from naming this incomplete route because we knew that another party had been attempting it as well.)

After that first trip up to the buttress, all of those almost-done routes were all that I could think about. With Jim gone to Ecuador for a month, I was left scrambling for a partner. I con-



Climbs of the Bureaucrat Buttress. Rule Book Roger (née Baby Semler) is on the right, Holy Moses in center. The big flow on the left remains unclimbed despite five attempts by various parties in the winter of 1999-2000. KIRBY SPANGLER

vinced my friend Blasé Reardon to join me. I was looking for the easiest way to reach that snow ledge, and I reckoned *Baby Semler* would be it. Three moderate pitches brought us to the route's previous high point. Here I followed a narrow snowy traverse 100 feet to the left. This brought me to a steep continuous curtain of ice. A few feet up, it was thick enough to install a hanging belay. One more pitch landed us on the snowy ledge that signified the end of the route. Finally, success on the buttress. We began referring to it as the "Bureaucrat Buttress," and changed the name *Baby Semler* to *Rule Book Roger* (IV W15). The reference remains the same.

Almost immediately I began seeking a partner to attempt *Holy Moses*. Two weeks and many logistical snafus later, I was back, this time with Ryan Hokanson and Mike Jobeck. Again we cruised the first three pitches. The fourth and final pitch remained hidden from view around a corner. From the ground it had looked rather difficult, so as I started the lead, I was anxious about what awaited me. As I worked out the moves, the pitch revealed itself section by section: sustained and technical, but not especially strenuous. At mid-pitch, a snow blob collapsed under my weight and sent me for a short ride. This was but a minor setback, and soon I found myself once again at that not-so-elusive-anymore ledge. *Holy Moses* (IV WI5+) was now whole.

I wish that could be the happy ending to the story of Bureaucrat Buttress, but soon enough Jim was back. There was still a line to be done, and he wanted it bad. I had a funny feeling that morning and was glad when Jim offered to lead the crux third pitch. As I belayed the first pitch, I began to relax. As the rope paid out, I prepared to climb. Glancing up to check Jim's progress, I saw a bright flash, accompanied by a loud thunk. Instantly I was on the ground and bleeding badly. I had taken a chunk to the face. The game was up. Poor Jim got turned back again.

KIRBY SPANDANGLER, *unaffiliated*

ALASKA

BROOKS RANGE

West Maiden, North Prow. On August 1-2, Lorna Corson, Randy Farris, Mike Menoloscino and I climbed a possible new route on the north side of the West Maiden. We began our climb by traversing left across the wide ledge that is a prominent feature on the lower right side of the face. We then climbed up from the ledge at a couple of small patches of snow and ice below the second major weakness on the face above. After talking with John Markel, I believe this is where their original Markel-Duggan North Buttress route heads straight up. Our route angled up and left for four pitches and led to a corner system near the actual prow of the buttress. These pitches were wet, exposed to rockfall and not entirely enjoyable. From this point on, though, the climbing and rock improved dramatically. We climbed on, or just to the west of, the crest of the actual prow for the next 16 long pitches. The climbing was rarely easier than 5.7 and never harder than 5.9 or easy 5.10. While most of the climbing involved good crack climbing, there were also several pitches of very runout face. The last pitch avoided a chimney by climbing a perfect one-inch crack through a roof with the whole route dropping away below. We called our climb *The Maiden Voyage* (V 5.9+ R). A true classic.

For descent, we had planned to rappel the gully to the east of the East Maiden. However, as we arrived at the summit at 2:15 a.m. in a gathering storm, we were forced to descend into the Ayagomahalla Valley and suffer through a rainy and foodless 15-mile bushwhack back to our camp in Arrigetch Creek's south fork. We climbed 20 60-meter pitches, used no pitons or bolts and left the route in the same pristine shape that we found it.

NORM LARSON

Arrigetch Peaks, Various Ascents. In early August, Stan Justice, Dean Justice, Ian McRae,