

a drag. We holed up the next day before descending through the Frozen Hurricane. We spent the next four days skiing and hiking out the Yanert Valley to the Parks Highway.

MIKE WOOD

#### CHUGACH MOUNTAINS

*Mt. Amulet, North Face.* Heading east on the Glenn Highway, there is a great clump of peaks to the south across the Matanuska River opposite the Victory Bible Camp. The Spectrum Glacier that Monument Creek flows from has been visited often in the past by climbers, and this year it saw an increase in ascents. In May, Josh Sonkiss soloed the north face of Amulet (8,290') to gain the summit. This new route was a beautiful line that has long been coveted by locals. In March, 2000, Matt Porter and Carl Oswald climbed the north face on snow with ice at the very top for the route's second ascent. This beautiful peak has been climbed for years via the east and south ridges and continues to offer great climbing opportunities.

MIKE WOOD

*Mt. Awesome, North Face.* Mt. Awesome (8,645'), an attractive peak on the west side of the Spectrum Glacier, saw an ascent in April. During the spring crust weeks, Matt Porter skied in to snag a solo ascent of the impressive north face. The route is reported to have snow climbing to 50° with some nice ice sections up to 70° for short sections.

MIKE WOOD

*The Ice Cream Cone, Southwest Face.* Known by local Matanuska Valley residents as The Ice Cream Cone (8,675') and by Anchorage locals as the Sky Buster, this peak was climbed in April by Carl Oswald, Chris Flowers and Matt Porter. Some tenacious scouting on a couple of different occasions led to a great climb on the southwest face on a super spring crust.

MIKE WOOD

*Peak 8,680', Ascent.* On August 26, Kelly Bay of Wrangell Mountain Air flew Mike Loso and me to the 4,500-foot level of the upper Bremner Glacier. We spent the 27th and 28th checking out peaks in the area for routes and moving camp five and a half miles to the west. On the 29th, Mike and I ascended Peak 8,680' as a warm-up climb. Our warm-up climb ended up being a full 13-hour day to ascend the icefall that flows west and then south from the summit. We first climbed up the lower icefall, only to be turned back by huge crevasses. So we down climbed, then climbed back up the left-hand edge of the icefall through the "moat" between the ice and rock. Some rock scrambling brought us to 6,000 feet, where we skied up and around the upper icefall on the left (north) side before circling back to reach the southwest ridge of the peak. Extremely sticky snow made this a torture ski across the upper snow slopes. A large bergschrund with a "hairy" snow bridge required some delicate tiptoeing before we reached the easier ridge beyond. A short steep pitch found me on a short, thin corniced ridge, where I proceeded to kick off the cornice and send Mike a small avalanche. After a short stay on the summit, we headed down and reached camp just before dark. Peak 8,680'

is the highest peak in the group of peaks bounded by the Bremner, Middle Fork Lobe and Fan glaciers. It may have been the first ascent.

Although we did move camp up to the base of a beautiful ridge of one of the larger peaks, three days of rain and snow ended our chances of doing any further climbing. When we reached the original landing site, it was covered in ten inches of new snow, and we spent five hours shoveling and packing a runway so that Kelly could land and pick us up the following morning. Luckily, it was clear that night, and our runway froze hard as a rock.

DANNY W. KOST

#### FAIRWEATHER RANGE

*Mount Fairweather from Glacier Bay.* On April 8, Mark Jefferson and I left Gustavus in two double kayaks with gear and supplies for an ascent of Mount Fairweather. We paddled 60 miles up Glacier Bay to its northwest terminus at Tarr Inlet. Tarr Inlet ends at the Grand Pacific, a tidewater glacier east of Fairweather. We switched to skis and sleds and skied up this glacier to the Grand Plateau Glacier and eventually climbed the mountain via the normal Northwest Ridge route on April 29. It was a 58-mile ski from Tarr Inlet to high camp on Fairweather. We intercepted the normal route approximately 42 miles from Tarr Inlet. We could have gained high camp by two other shorter routes, but each of these has a lot of objective hazard, though they would make an interesting future approach. We returned to our boats by the same route and paddled back to Gustavus after 35 days. We believe this was the first time anyone had climbed the mountain via an approach from Glacier Bay along the Grand Pacific Glacier.

MICHAEL P. DZIOBAK, *unaffiliated*

*Burkett Needle, Voyage of the Celestial Tramps.* From May 6-31, Sébastien Foissac and I put up a new route capsule-style on the southeast face of the Burkett Needle. Drop-off and pick-up by boat was made from Thomas Bay. We spent 41 days in the Coast Range, without any radio or assistance. The approach took us six days to ferry more than 200 kilos, first by foot (triple portage) and after with skis and two pulkas each. At first, we went to have a look at the northwest face of Devil's Thumb, but it was really out of condition. So we decided (and did not regret) to go to the Burkett Needle. A blizzard destroyed our tent on Baird Glacier while we were inside, and we had to dig a snowcave in a hurry. Our pulkas disappeared, taken away by the wind, despite the big stones we put on them. Nevertheless, we started the climb, living from then on in our portaledge. The climbing, mostly free, was sustained and committing. Moreover, we felt it was harder due to the snow and cold. After a 300-meter buttress, we followed a very aesthetic snow ridge to the bottom of a forbidding gendarme, from which we escaped via two long rappels. The junction was made later after having hauled our gear to the little col between the needle and the gendarme. We kept on hauling our stuff to the middle of the needle, traversing snow bands. We even did a tyrolean. We spent 14 nights in the Negresco Bivouac (named after a very famous five-star hotel in Nice). After a few days of excellent climbing, the weather, which was not very good at all, became really bad. We stayed several days "portaledge-bound" in a continual snowstorm. We had to evacuate the snow around the portaledge in order not to be buried. On May 29, the weather finally improved and we passed