

CHUGACH MOUNTAINS

Mt. Herman Buhl, New Route, Previously Unreported. Carl Oswald and his brother climbed a wicked new route up a sub-peak called "Mt. Herman Buhl" in the Chugach Mountains in November of 1997, with difficulties up to WI6 R. Further details are lacking.

EVAN PHILLIPS

Triangle Peak, The Prism, Previously Unreported. On October 13, 1997, Matt Porter and I hiked nine miles up the South Fork of Eagle River to the north face of Triangle Peak (5,450'). Our intended line was 1,000 feet of water ice culminating in a pillar halfway up the face. We started up 50-degree névé and made our first belay to the right of the bergschrund. Four interesting mixed pitches took us to the base of an amphitheater from which a 120-foot pillar flowed. After topping out on this WI4 pitch, we followed an exposed rib of snow and rock for another 1,500 feet to the summit ridge. On the summit, alpenglow illuminated the surrounding peaks, and ravens circled above our heads. We descended the back side, traversed around to our tracks, and slogged back to the car, arriving after 18 hours on the go. We named the route *The Prism* (IV 5.7 WI4).

EVAN PHILLIPS

Bellicose Peak, Freer's Cheers, New Route, Previously Unreported. In May, 1998, Carl Oswald and I headed into the Eklutna Valley with sights set on a new route up Bellicose Peak (7,640'). After biking 12 miles, we stashed our 'cycles and walked up the snout of the Eklutna Glacier. We headed up the drainage where a beautiful frozen waterfall, called Freer's Tears, after the late Catherine Freer, sits. After skirting steep rock buttresses, we gained a beautiful alpine valley nestled between Bellicose and its giant neighbor, Benign Peak. We bivied under a large boulder, surrounded by alpine flowers and crystal-clear brooks. We woke at 5 a.m. and were moving at 6. After following a pocket glacier, we headed for a steep couloir that snaked its way up the whole face. We climbed a short rock step and then followed the gully for another 300 feet to another, longer step. Carl led this 100-foot 5.8 R section with tools and crampons scratching. Two more pitches of WI3+ took us to more steep snow climbing up to 55 degrees. We exited the 2,500-face around 1 p.m. and followed the classic Northeast Ridge to the summit. Our route was the ninth recorded ascent of Bellicose since its first ascent in the early 1960s by the Bousman brothers, Tom and Bob. It was also the first route up the imposing northeast face.

We descended the shroud on the northwest side and skirted the mountain up through the Bellicose-Benign Col, arriving back in camp 14 hours after leaving. After a good night's rest, we bailed and cruised back out to our bikes and civilization. We named the route *Freer's Cheers* (IV 5.8 R WI3+) in honor of the great hardwoman.

EVAN PHILLIPS

Peak 8,530', North Face, First Ascent. In July, after bushwhacking up the drainage for a day and a half, Carl Oswald and Karen Hilton ascended the unclimbed north face of Peak 8,530' via 3,500 feet of alpine ice up to 70 degrees. After summiting, they did a dozen V-thread rappels to descend the route. They packrafted out Glacier Creek the next day and returned to



Icing Peak. The north ridge is the obvious ridge ten miles in the distance. EVAN PHILLIPS

their vehicle at the head of the Matanuska Glacier.

EVAN PHILLIPS

Icing Peak, North Ridge, Previously Unreported. On May 5, 1999, Carl Oswald and I began a ten-day trip up the Matanuska and Icing Glaciers to climb the unclimbed north ridge of Icing Peak (10,955'). After four days and 30 miles of glacier travel, we arrived at our base camp (5,000') on the upper Icing Glacier. In perfect weather, we set out at 2:30 a.m. on May 10. The climb began with a 500-foot, 45-degree couloir that deposited us on the apex of a perfectly symmetrical knife-edge ridge. We followed this for 1,200 feet until we were forced to climb through a bulging, hanging serac. We did running belays up the next 2,000 feet on mostly 50-degree snow. The final pitch was 75-degree ice with 4,000 feet of exposure. Views of Scandinavian Peaks and Marcus Baker were awesome. We carefully down climbed our route and were back in camp 13 hours after we left. It took four days to hike out via Mt. Sergeant Robinson (10,450') and Glacier Creek to the head of the Matanuska Glacier, where we had started ten days earlier. We traveled over 60 miles, climbing Icing Peak and circumnavigating all the peaks surrounding Mt. Wickersham. We graded the climb Alaska Grade 2/3.

EVAN PHILLIPS

The Gorge, Various Ice Climbs. In the Western Chugach Range, along the southeast edge of the massive Knik Glacier, lies a geological wonder known as The Gorge, a five-mile corridor lined by vertical glacial ice on one side and alpine walls on the other. Warm Pacific Chinook winds keep good flow on these walls, creating a spectacular area for waterfall ice. The gorge is about eight miles from any road, but a snow machine will allow for day climbing. The first climbs vis-