

# CLIMBS AND EXPEDITIONS

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## 2002

*Accounts from the various climbs and expeditions of the world are listed geographically from north to south and from west to east within the noted countries. We begin our coverage with the Contiguous United States and move to Alaska in order for the climbs in the Alaska's Wrangell Mountains to segue into the St. Elias climbs in Canada.*

*Unless noted otherwise, accounts cover activity in the 2001 calendar year (January 1-December 31). First-person accounts from winter 2001-2002 activity and shoulder-season areas (e.g., Patagonia) are included when possible. Winter climbers and those returning from the southern hemisphere can help us in future volumes by submitting accounts as soon as possible. We encourage climbers to submit accounts of other notable activity from the various Greater Ranges to help us maintain complete records.*

*For conversions of meters to feet, multiply by 3.28; for feet to meters, multiply by 0.30.*

## NORTH AMERICA

### CONTIGUOUS UNITED STATES

#### *Washington*

*Nooksack Tower, south face.* In July Ben Manfredi and I teamed up to try a beautiful new face in the Mt. Shuksan region. The face is the seldom-seen steep “back side”—the south face of Nooksack Tower. The route is directly above the East Nooksack Glacier. The face presents as much vertical relief as the north aspect of the Tower but is steeper.

We made camp on the shoulder that divides the Price Glacier from the Nooksack Cirque area. Downclimbing and one rappel took us to a small pocket glacier. A short couloir led down onto the edge of the East Nooksack Glacier. We ascended the glacier, climbing through icefalls of varying complexity. We started the climb on the right side of the south face. We front-pointed for a short distance up a couloir and then exited left onto a sloping belay ledge, where ice tools and crampons were exchanged for chalk bags and rock slippers. The first several pitches angled slightly left and up, passing a short overhanging bulge and eventually leading into a depression. Simulclimbing led up and left out of the large depression to the left-center portion of the south face. The rock we encountered was extremely poor and afforded limited protection opportunities. From the left half of the face we pushed directly up, eventually reaching a small tower. After a rappel, an easy section of fourth-class rock led to the summit. The route (V 5.10- snow/ice to 55 degrees) was done in 12 pitches with a 200-foot rope and some simulclimbing. We quickly

descended the standard north face route on the “front side” of the Tower and pulled into camp, drained after a 17-hour push, and enjoyed caramel candies from the local supermarket.

JENS KLUBBERUD

*Mt. Hardy, The Disappearing Staircase.* It was amazing that a feature as compelling as the northeast buttress of Mt. Hardy could have not been climbed by 2001. Perhaps it was its perceived isolation, since it is almost 10 miles from the road to its base via the Pacific Crest Trail. However, the summit is less than a mile from the North Cascades Highway, and a direct cross-country approach is mild by Cascades standards, due to its position east of the crest.

On August 19 Dan Aylward and I climbed the northeast buttress in a 21-hour round trip from the car, which we left at the Easy Pass trailhead. A thousand feet of moderate climbing along the edge of the prominent gully splitting the lower apron led to the steep upper headwall. The six upper pitches were, for the most part, directly up the buttress crest. The final two involved a traverse 40 feet to the right after a blank face forced us off the direct line. An additional 800 feet of moderate climbing on an elegant knife-edge ridge led directly to Mt. Hardy's 8,080-foot summit. The route was climbed hammerless. Aid was necessary for cleaning, but the second was able to follow the aid section free (IV 5.10c A1). Photographs and a topo are available at the website <http://www.saarch.com/forrest/hardyfull.htm>

FORREST MURPHY

*The Kloochman, Traverse; Goose Egg Mountain; The Talon.* The Kloochman is an enigmatic massif in the southern Washington Cascades. An old volcanic intrusion, the mile-long north-south-trending wedge has a main south summit, a prominent north summit, and three lower towers to the north. On May 9 Stoney Richards and I completed a traverse of the formation from the north (IV 5.9R/X, 26 pitches), climbing up and rappelling or downclimbing each tower, then descending from the south summit by the south ridge. While linking several old routes on the towers, we climbed 16 new pitches on Tower 1, Tower 3, and the north summit. Although the Kloochman is known for its extremely poor rock, many of the pitches had fair-to-good rock, although long runouts were the norm. The north summit provided the most enjoyable climbing and led to a spectacular knife-edge ridge, which took us to just below the main summit. One can un-rope and walk for over a quarter of a mile across the main summit area.

Also of note in the area is a new seven-pitch sport-and-trad odyssey, called Ride the Lightning, on the 800-foot south wall of Goose Egg Mountain. The small rock sliver named the Talon also has two new routes, the Direct South Face and the North Face, making four routes now to the summit of this elusive spire.

JOSEPH PURYEAR, AAC