

Mt. McKinley, Father and Sons Wall, Extraterrestrial Brothers; Mt. Hunter, Moonflower Buttress; Mini-Moonflower, Kiss Me Where the Sun Don't Shine. British climbers Kenton Cool and Ian Parnell established Extraterrestrial Brothers (Alaskan Grade 5/6, Scottish VII) in early June on Mt. McKinley's Father and Sons Wall, in a 46-hour round trip from the 14,200-foot camp on the West Buttress. In May they also established Kiss Me Where the Sun Don't Shine (Scottish VII) on the Mini-Moonflower, and repeated Mt. Hunter's Moonflower Buttress. A full account appears earlier in this journal.

Mt. Hunter, Wall of Shadows Variation; Mt. McKinley, Common Knowledge. British climbers Ben Gilmore and Kevin Mahoney made the second ascent, with a variant start, of Wall of Shadows (VI, WI6 mixed, 5.9 A2), the Child-Kennedy 1994 route on the north buttress of Mt. Hunter, from May 15-18 (descent May 19). The pair then joined with Bruce Miller to climb a new route (Common Knowledge, V WI6R) on Mt. McKinley's northwest face of the west buttress (a.k.a. Washburn Face) in a 26-hour round-trip push on June 2. A full account appears earlier in this journal.

Mt. McKinley, Light Traveler; Mt. Hunter, Moonflower Buttress; Mini-Moonflower, Luna. In mid-June American Stephen Koch and Slovenian Marko Prezelj established Light Traveler on Mt. McKinley's southwest face in a 51-hour round-trip from the 14,200-foot camp on the West Buttress. In May the pair established Luna on Mt. Hunter's Mini-Moonflower and in early June made an all-free ascent of Mt. Hunter's Moonflower Buttress. A full account appears earlier in this Journal.

Mt. Foraker, Infinite Spur, fast ascent. Steve House and I climbed the Infinite Spur on June 9 and 10. We carried little in the way of gear, because we are lazy and could not be bothered carrying tents and sleeping bags. This allowed and forced us to move at a steady pace. Our speed was the result of such a lightweight approach but not the goal. We carried an MSR XGK stove, 33 ounces of fuel (used half), 40 GUs each, eight packages of soup, some Halvah (sesame seed paste), map, compass, altimeter, GPS, radio, an 8.8-mm rope, six screws, five cams, stoppers, slings, biners, a tarp for emergency and wind shelter, and Polarguard parkas. We each carried a small daypack.

I led the first block, which was 10 pitches of rock to 5.6/5.7 and easy mixed climbing. Steve led the second block, mostly steep snow and moderate ice, with one short WI5 pitch. By simul-climbing we climbed the spur in six "pitches," though one "pitch" gained 900 vertical feet. We reached the end of the spur (at ca 15,000') after 13 hours of climbing. We spent 3 hours and 45 minutes at a flat spot drinking and eating. Then I led three more pitches on moderate ice. We continued roped for a while, then unroped below the east summit and climbed on to the top, stopping just before the summit for a hot drink. We summited at 8:15 a.m., 25 hours after starting.

We descended the Sultana Ridge, which took an additional 20 hours, including one more brew/hydration break, to return to Kahiltna base camp.

The route proved to be easier than we expected and involved much snow climbing, something I get bad allergies from. Nevertheless, we enjoyed the climb, mostly because of scenery beyond belief. The descent of the Sultana provided some of the prettiest views. Another pair started on the Spur the same day we did, but there were no other parties on the mountain, which made the experience richer and more special (even more so when compared to the

Denali cattle drives). However, our approach was rather unromantic, in that with our lack of equipment we could not spare the time to contemplate our surroundings. Our experience was thus not as textured or rich as it might have been. This was the price we paid for the ease with which we managed to climb.

ROLANDO GARIBOTTI, AAC, *Club Andino Bariloche*

Mt. Foraker, southeast ridge, winter ascent. On the morning of February 8 I departed base camp (6,550') on the southwest fork of the Kahiltna Glacier. I made Camp I at 6,400 feet below the base of the southeast ridge in the evening. My route began at the middle of the base of the southeast toe. I carried loads from 6,400 feet up the toe to 8,100 feet and made my first snow cave (Camp II) on February 18. I knew that even a few inches of new snow on the avalanche slopes ahead would prevent me from making the climb. I traversed quickly through this area between 8,800 feet and 9,250 feet, which is safe, with stable snow conditions. On February 23 I moved camp up to a snow cave at 9,780 feet (Camp III) on the southwest side of the ridge. The snow cave took four and a half hours to construct. Eleven days of continual storm kept me in the cave. I made Camp IV at 11,300 feet, between blue ice and cornices, on March 17. On March 21 I moved camp up to 13,200 feet (Camp V, snow cave). This highest camp was one hour from the base of the ridge, so on March 23 I broke trail to the base of the ridge to facilitate my summit attempt. On day 46, March 24, I attempted to reach the summit but stopped at 13,900 feet because of high wind. Four days of storm kept me in the snow shelter. On day 53, March 31, I departed high camp at 7:35 a.m., arrived on the summit at 2:34 p.m., and was back in high camp at 7:10 p.m. I stayed on the very peak for only seven minutes. The conditions were blizzard, strong northwest wind, and a temperature of -20° . On the summit day I covered approximately 4,200 feet, with knife edges, cornices, and a 30- to 40-degree slope on the final 3,000-foot climb. Crevasses were obvious, so I traveled without poles. On April 5 I departed high camp in the morning, after three days of storm. On day 66, April 13, I arrived in base camp in the afternoon.

MASATOSHI KURIAKI, *Japan*

Mt. Foraker, Infinite Spur variation. The sun is setting, and the cold is creeping down the Kahiltna. It is May 16, and Eamonn Walsh and I have just been spit out of the last plane of the day at Kahiltna base camp. We stare up at the Moonflower Buttress of Mt. Hunter, which stands front-row center in this arena. The Moonflower will be first, then the Infinite Spur on Foraker. But failure on the Moonflower quickly teaches us about moving efficiently in Alaska, so we take a day of rest, then begin our long journey up the Infinite Spur. We have planned for a 10-day round trip. We climb the Spur despite nasty storms, deep snow, being caught in avalanches, heavy packs, and cold. We free the route without hauling our 55-pound packs. We suffer like we never imagined possible. We fly out spending less than three days in base camp.

We did a new variation on the Infinite Spur by staying on the rib proper. It may have been a bit slower but proved to be the best climbing on the route. Above the icy rib the route is blocked by a rock buttress. On the first and second ascents the teams skirted the buttress to the right on snow slopes but then encountered loose 5.9 rock. Last year's third- and fourth-ascent teams avoided the bad rock by going left around the buttress but found snow and ice climbing