

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  $-20^{\circ}$ . 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

that was unaesthetic and slow. We went up a gully that splits the buttress and offers three really good pitches up to AI4. Subsequent ascents this year went our way as well.

Above the buttress previous and subsequent parties have gone left on snow slopes to reach the base of the dreaded Horizontal Ridge. We went straight up the rib and had four more pitches of primo mixed climbing up to M5. Recommended.

ROB OWENS, *Canada*

*Mt. Hunter, Moonflower Buttress, fast ascent.* From May 16 to 19 Doug Chabot and I climbed The Moonflower Buttress, to the summit, in a record "fast and heavy" 83-hour round trip. Our strategy included juggling difficult pitches and hauling, among other things, our garage-sale tent, which we couldn't set up on two of the three nights. We both agreed the route lived up to its reputation as The Nose of ice climbing.

BRUCE MILLER

*Mt. Hunter, Mini-Moonflower.* In May two new routes were established on Mt. Hunter's north buttress, which has become known as the Mini-Moonflower. This spur peak is actually a facet of the northeast ridge, and previous ascensionists (1999 AAJ, p. 252) have also called it the northeast buttress of Mt. Hunter. The pyramid-shaped subpeak is northeast of Hunter's north buttress, just past the large, obvious icefall. New routes were established in 2001 by Kenton Cool and Ian Parnell, and by Stephen Koch and Marko Prezlj. Accounts from each party appear earlier in this journal.



Paul Figg in a snowstorm during day 2 of The Prey, on the east face of Mt. Hunter. *Malcolm Bass*

*Mt. Hunter, east face, The Prey.* It all happened rather fast. Paul Figg and I arrived in Alaska on May 13, and two days later we were on the West Fork of the Tokositna, watching Paul Roderick's plane disappearing down-glacier. We were the second climbing party ever to land in the cirque under Mt. Hunter's east face, the first being Tackle and Donini en route to Diamond Arête. The cirque is a serious place, swept by avalanches and tight for landing. We did as Tackle advised, and, dispensing with any sort of base camp, landed, packed, and racked, intent on going