

## CHUGACH MOUNTAINS

*Mt. Sergeant Robinson, north face.* Cash Joyce and Carl Oswald, who has been extremely active in putting up routes in the western and northwestern Chugach over the last few years, did a 12-hour blitz of the previously unclimbed north face of Mt. Sergeant Robinson (10,450'). The route was about 4,500 feet long, mostly a straightforward snow-and-ice face with alpine ice as steep as 80 degrees. It is probably the fastest way up the mountain from the highway and a good alternative to the knify, long, and loose north ridge. While the hangers in the area might seem frightening from a distance, the route is mostly free of objective hazard. The 13-miles up Glacier Creek is far easier by snow machine or skis in winter than as a summertime trudge. The climb also typifies the potential of these mountains—big ice faces, terrifying rock quality, and relief on the scale of famous big routes in the Canadian Rockies.

EVAN PHILLIPS

*Cantata Peak, North Ridge.* On August 5 Ryan Campbell and I headed to the south fork of Eagle River, intent on checking out the unclimbed 4,000-foot north ridge of Cantata Peak (6,450'). After hiking six miles we gained a hanging valley above Eagle Lake and gained the ridge through swirling fog. The first half of the ridge was mostly tenuous fourth-class scrambling with one roped pitch (5.4). At 5,000 feet we donned rock shoes to climb a short 5.7 chimney/offwidth. We continued, simul-climbing, until the ridge became a terribly exposed knife-edge. A rappel off a gendarme and a beautiful 5.5 traverse on the crest of the ridge brought us to the chossy upper ridge. Five hundred feet of easy but exposed scrambling took us to the summit. We descended the popular west ridge and cruised back to the trailhead, arriving after 14 hours on the go. The climb was similar to the East Ridge of Edith Cavell, but with crappier rock and a shorter crux. We rate the route III/IV 5.7.

EVAN PHILLIPS

## ST. ELIAS MOUNTAINS

*Mt. Hobbs; Middle Peak.* In early April Ruedi Homberger, Reto Reusch, and a friend they call Gonzo made the first ascent of a 10,500-foot peak between Celeno Peak and Ultima Thule Peak. They accessed the peak from Canyon Creek Glacier and named it Mt. Hobbs, for an Ultima Thule Outfitters cat who has more than nine lives. They then attempted a peak they were calling Middle Peak, but were forced to retreat by avalanches. Charley Sassara and Carlos Buhler also attempted this peak but encountered similar hazards.

BASED ON INFORMATION FROM PAUL CLAUS AND RUEDI HOMBERGER, Switzerland

*University Peak, South Face; Barnard Glacier, ascents and ski descents.* On April 1 Paul Claus dropped Bob Kingsley, Lance McDonald, John Whedon, and me at 7,000 feet, below the south face of University Peak. We had come to the St. Elias Range to attempt the first ascent of this 7,200-foot face. As skiers we were also drawn to the fall line, unbroken from top to bottom. God's own ski shot! Paul had attempted the face several times and generously passed one of his