

climbed the West Ridge of Hunter in 21 hours round-trip from base camp (thanks to footsteps placed by John Varco and Sue Nott and another party), and doing the ice gully on the far left of the Mini-Moonflower in a leg-burning (“dog-tiring” in Steinbeck speak) day. This was our first trip to the Alaska Range and hopefully not our last.

KELLY FRANZ, *Canada*

RUTH GORGE

Ruth Gorge, route-line photographs. See Joseph Puryear’s comprehensive photo feature on the Ruth Gorge earlier in this *Journal*.

Mt. Bradley, Spice Factory, and other ascents. Quebec climbers Louis-Philippe Ménard and Maxime Turgeon established a remarkable new route up the 4,300-vertical-foot north face of Mt. Bradley. Their route, Spice Factory (5.10R M7 WI5), is the first on the true north face of Bradley and was climbed in a 55-hour round-trip push from May 20 to 22. While in the Ruth, they also climbed the classic Ham and Eggs route on the Moose’s Tooth and made the second ascents of The Escalator on Mt. Johnson and On the Frozen Roads of Our Incertitudes on London Bridge. See Turgeon’s feature article earlier in this *Journal*.

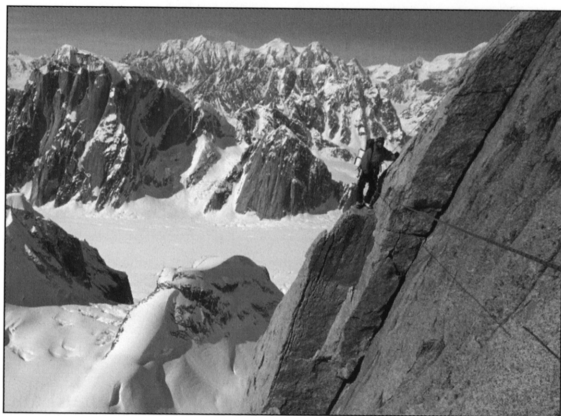
Moose’s Tooth, The Tooth Obsession to summit ridge. It was our fourth spring on the Root Canal Glacier. After climbing Ham and Eggs, we became obsessed with the idea of a new route on the magnificent south face of the Moose’s Tooth. However, most rock on the Moose’s Tooth, while looking as solid as Yosemite granite, is actually rotten and deteriorated. Often a cam can be easily pulled from a crack with a handful of rock crumbs and sand.

Nevertheless, we kept returning with high hopes. In April 2004, after climbing The White Russian, a new route on the Bear Tooth, we saw through our spotting scope a long dike of perfect granite going up the wall between Shaken, Not Stirred and Ham and Eggs. On April 27, 2004, Aleksey Shuruyev, Taras Mytropan, and I made the first attempt at the new route. The weather turned us away after only three pitches, but we were nevertheless excited, because we knew for sure that the dike was really there and it could be climbed. The next day was our last at base camp, but Aleksey and I scouted a few more pitches. This time we did five pitches, and went down with a strong resolution to come back and finish the route next year.

Our 2005 expedition started with Aleksey attempting the line with Dmitriy Shirokov. They did nine pitches but had to rappel down because they were not pre-



The Tooth Obsession on the Moose’s Tooth, from the Root Canal Glacier. The broken-looking couloir starting in the middle of the photo is the popular Ham and Eggs route. *Sergei Matusevich*



Katya Vorotnikova before the Tyrolean traverse, pitch 11, The Tooth Obsession. Sergei Matusevich

pared to spend a night on the wall in the Alaskan cold. It took them six hours to get down through white-out blizzard conditions.

After a six-day storm, we returned as a bigger team: Aleksey, Dmitriy, Katya Vorotnikova (all Russian), and I. At 4:30 a.m. on April 28 we left base camp, and after nine pitches of perfect rock climbing, at 8 p.m. we reached a nice snow ledge where we could sit through the night. On the next day we climbed up and to the right, and after three more traversing pitches and one big pendulum, we reached

a steep snow-and-ice couloir, which led us to a wet, ice-filled chimney, similar to the Ham and Eggs crux. The pitch after the chimney was much easier, and after finishing it, we found ourselves on the summit crest. We walked to the top of the Ham and Eggs couloir and at 9 p.m. started rappelling. It took us nine hours to complete 18 rappels (mostly on Munter hitches, since Aleksey and Katya managed to drop three of our four ATCs!).

The whole idea of the new route (The Tooth Obsession, 850m, V 5.10+ A0 WI4) belongs to Aleksey Shuruyev, who also led most of the pitches. Dmitriy Shirokov also led many pitches, including the crux at pitch eight.

Finally, at 6 a.m. we returned to our base camp, where Ilya Tatar (the youngest member of our team) met us with hot fries, steak, and wine to celebrate the success. At 9 a.m. Paul Roderick (owner of Talkeetna Air Taxi, the friendliest air service ever) came to bring us back to civilization.

SERGEI MATUSEVICH, *Kiev, Ukraine*

Pt. 6,400', Dream of Eggs, and other activity. In June, Dave Hoven, Joel Irby, and I flew to the Ruth Gorge to attempt Ham and Eggs on the Moose's Tooth. After spending numerous days in a snow cave, we attempted the route. We didn't place a screw and bailed halfway up. After descending from the Root Canal, we re-established our camp at the base of Mt. Dickey. We climbed the Japanese Couloir on Mt. Barrill, taking a mixed-pitch variation about two-thirds of the way up the couloir. We then set our sights on the peak directly south of the Stump/Wisdom Tooth, which guards the glacier leading up to the Eye Tooth. We climbed the north-facing couloir until it met the western ridgeline. The climbing was spectacular, steep snow and moderate ice interspersed with occasional mixed moves. We reached the summit after six hours and descended the route, Dream of Eggs (Alaska Grade 1). Thanks to the Ritt Kellogg Fund and TAT, the trip was awesome.

JOE FORRESTER, AAC