



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