

Mt. Marcus Baker (13,176') from the northwest, showing Sanctuary Ridge (Smith-Turner, 2005). The Knik Glacier route (Hoeman-Tschaffert, 1966) reaches the pre-summit plateau (solid line) from the southwest, then finishes left of SR up the summit pyramid. The Matanuska Glacier route (Bright-Dyhrenfurth-Gabriel-Washburn, 1938) approaches from the northeast, climbs over the ca 12,800' point on left, and roughly finishes along the left skyline. Gordon Smith

for a gentle line to the summit, but found the gentle ice slope broken by steps of up to 70°. One could probably ascend left and climb névé or ice no steeper than 40°.

We descended the route, reaching camp after a 17-hour round-trip. Our total time from Talkeetna, including a reconnaissance day on the northwest ridge, was less than four days, making this a quick, moderate route to the summit. In addition the climbing was enjoyable and safe from objective hazards.

GORDON SMITH AND ALASDAIR TURNER, *Seattle Mountain Rescue*

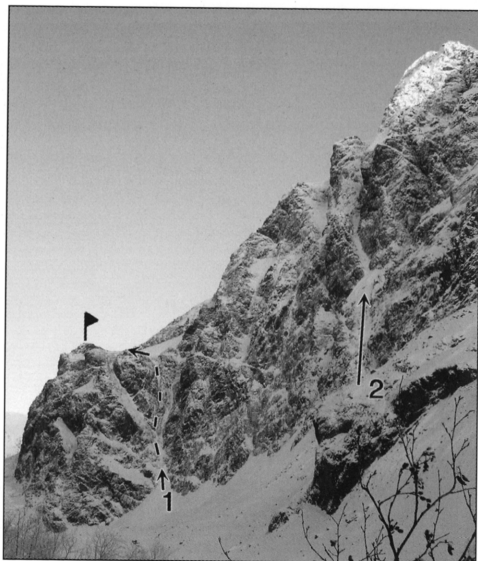
Pt. 6,000' of Mt. Yukla, The History of Things to Come, and The Positive Side of Negative Thinking. After many failed attempts, with several partners, I finally got up two new routes this winter, 2006, on the northwest face of Mount Yukla (7,535'). I approached both routes from Icicle Creek, and both top out on the 6,000' subpeak that's approximately 0.75 mile northeast of Yukla's summit.

From the toe of the Icicle Glacier there are three obvious ice/mixed lines on the far left side of the face that feed from a hanging glacier. In the last week of January, Josh Varney and I climbed a steep, narrow chimney that starts right above the toe of the glacier. We third-classed about 700' of steep snow and ice, to WI3, to where the three lines separate. From here a ramp system heads out left, a snow and ice couloir goes right, and a narrow chimney goes straight up. We climbed six pitches up the thin ice/mixed chimney, making one bivy. Once above the chimney we crossed the hanging glacier and traversed left to the summit of the 6,000' subpeak. We descended the Northeast Ridge route and headed down the glacier back to our high camp. We named the route *The History of Things to Come* (2,800', V M7 WI5 A1). The warmest it got on the route was -20°F.

In the third week of February I hiked back in alone (Josh had broken his arm snow machining). After a night at the boulder bivy, I hiked up the left side of the valley and crossed the glacier between the two major icefalls heading for the base of a large ice-filled couloir. The couloir consisted of 1,200' of excellent waterfall ice before reaching the base of the hanging glacier. I climbed up the left side of the hanging glacier and finished with a short, easy mixed pitch that topped out on the subpeak. I descended the Northeast Ridge route. It's one of the best routes I've done. I called it The Positive Side of Negative Thinking (1,800', IV WI4+).

In last year's *Journal* I reported the route that Dan Petrus and I did as being the northeast couloir and the second ascent. In fact, it faces northwest and was probably the third or fourth ascent. I also called Little Cub "Little Bear" by mistake.

JOHN KELLEY



Mt. Yukla's northwest face. (1) The History of Things to Come (Kelley-Varney, 2006) on Pt. 6,000'. (2) Northwest Couloir. Note that this angle seriously distorts the relative distances between the glacier, Pt. 6,000', and the main summit of Yukla (upper right, 7,535'). Josh Varney

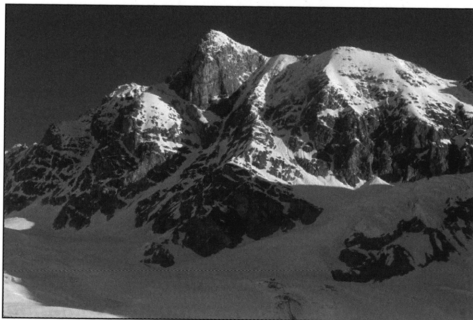
ALASKA WRANGELL MOUNTAINS

Peaks 10,320' and 9,110', possible first ascents.

On May 14 Cory Hinds, James Dietzmann, and I drove from Anchorage to Chitina to meet Kelly Bay of Wrangell Mountain Air. After being flown in, we hiked west along the Chitina Glacier to reach a camp at 2,600' near the Ram Glacier's terminal moraine. Two hard days later, we reached base camp at 5,650', near a western fork of the main glacier.

At 5:00 a.m. on May 19 we headed off for reconnaissance. We turned our attention to a 10,320' peak, on the north side of the glacier, with two nice lines on the south face. A thin couloir broke right of the summit and a broader snow ramp farther right led to a saddle about a mile east of the summit. We opted to try the snow ramp, since it might offer safer avalanche conditions because of rock outcrops.

The bottom of the 30-35° snow ramp was littered with avalanche debris, and we post-holed through the debris on snowshoes. A few hundred feet below the crest we donned cram-



Peak 10,320'. The route takes the skyline ridge, from right to left, to the summit. Danny Kost