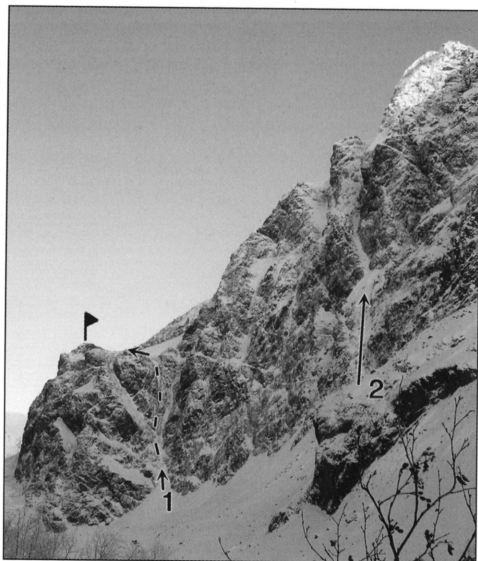


In the third week of February I hiked back in alone (Josh had broken his arm snow machining). After a night at the boulder bivy, I hiked up the left side of the valley and crossed the glacier between the two major icefalls heading for the base of a large ice-filled couloir. The couloir consisted of 1,200' 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

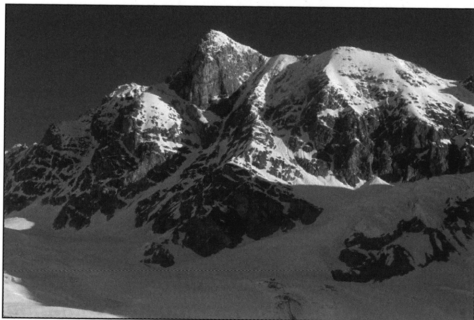
ALASKA WRANGELL MOUNTAINS

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

pons. The ridge was exposed, with a mixture of broken rock and knife-edge snow and the occasional cornice. There was a 30' tower of loose and broken rock midway along the ridge. Once over the tower, we traversed a corniced ridge to the base of the summit pyramid and belayed a couple of pitches. We crossed a narrow notch, broke through a small cornice, and continued up a short mixed section to a rock outcrop that afforded a belay. We unroped for the final slopes. Exposed traversing and another short mixed section led to the final icy traverse and, finally, we reached the summit and enjoyed awesome views. Mountains everywhere.

Before long we were back in camp looking back up at the summit—our recon turned out to be 15½ hours and over 5,000' of elevation gain.

The weather then turned and kept us in camp for a couple of days, and on May 22 we started down. We struggled back down the rock-covered glacier onto solid ground, and the next day finished the hike to Hubert's Landing and set up camp on the huge gravel plain near the airstrip.

From this camp, on May 24, Cory and James got a 3:00 a.m. start to try Pk. 9,110'. James turned around at 7,950', but Cory kept going and summited via the south-southwest ridge and face. Hubert's sits at around 2,150', so it was a 7,000' elevation gain from camp. On their descent, they surprised a large boar grizzly that had sprawled out across a tiny knoll to sleep the afternoon away. They said he looked up a couple times, but paid them no attention. They said he looked like a big dog stretched out snoozing the day away.

On May 25 Kelly was right on time to pick us up. He got us all on one flight, and we enjoyed sightseeing on our flight back to civilization. It is possible that our climbs of Peaks 10,320' and 9,110' were both first ascents of the peaks.

DANNY KOST, AAC

ALASKA SAINT ELIAS MOUNTAINS

Note: Climbs of Mts. Alverstone and Cook, border peaks between Alaska and the Yukon (Canada), are covered in the Canada section of this Journal.

ALASKA COAST MOUNTAINS

Mt. Boullard, Foster-Ricci. Mt. Boullard, a relatively benign-looking peak bordering both the Juneau Ice Field and the terminus of the Mendenhall Glacier to the east, rises abruptly from just above sea level to its 4,200' summit. Unusually good ice conditions in January proved just adequate enough for Nick Foster and me to get up a rarely formed line I have been looking at for several years. We started up the left of two promising ice formations on Boullard's southwest face. We began by simul-climbing for several hundred feet, with ice up to 80°. The steep ice eventually gave way to lower-angle snow, before steepening again. The middle of the route was characterized by brittle, rolling, and ever-thinning 60-80° ice covering compact and poor-quality rock. For lack of a belay, we were forced to simul-climb through the crux section, which, being generally off-vertical save the odd move here and there, was not particularly strenuous, yet insecure and hard to protect. The final 1,000' to the ridge consisted of perfect 50-70° styrofoam, with gear every so often among the rocks, which we quickly shot up in the