

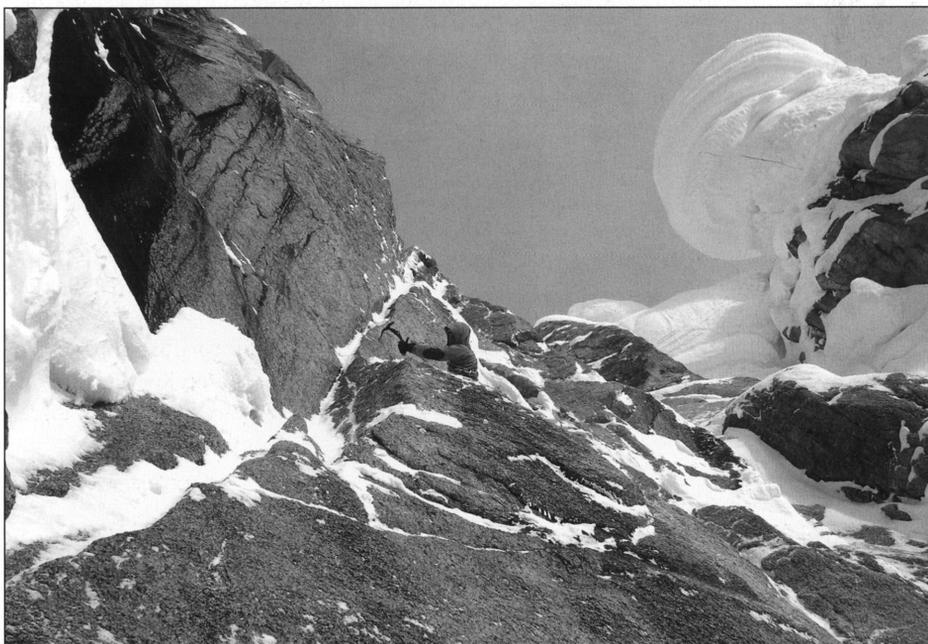
Ranger Station). Vertical ice led to an ice slot, then an interesting mixed shallow corner, and a small roof that I passed on the left. We then trended up and right, encountering wet chimneys devoid of ice, so instead we climbed rock steps, steep hanging snowfields, and a few memorable run-out traversing pitches. We gained the ridge and traversed right to the southeast face, where we intersected my tracks from two days before and followed them to the summit. We descended the Freezy Nuts couloir, which was already equipped with V-threads by previous parties. We returned to our base camp in the Ruth in just under 24 hours. The route earned its name after the pummeling we both received at belays and the chop we barely avoided when a large block came whizzing by from an unseen source.

On May 20 we headed for a steep hanging couloir on the east face of the Rooster Comb. We negotiated unconsolidated Peruvian snow flutings, climbed three excellent mixed pitches, up to M5, and three steep pitches of shoulder-width AI5+ ice to reach the final rock band. We then climbed 600' of snow-covered compact rock and steep snow before bailing. Our goal was the summit but we enjoyed some excellent pitches on our new bail.

Before leaving Talkeetna we checked the ranger station and believe both the route on London Tower and the terrain covered on the Rooster Comb to be new, although such an obvious feature on the latter may have been climbed in fatter conditions, leaving no sign of passage.

JAMES TURNER, *Ouray, CO, AAC*

*Moose's Tooth, There's a Moose Loose About This Hoose to north ridge.* Matt Helliker and I climbed a new route on the amazing east face of the Moose's Tooth, rising from the Buckskin Glacier. There's a Moose Loose About This Hoose (1,400m, ED 4, M8 A2 AI6) climbs the obvious big fault line, attempted by Christophe Dumarest and Aymeric Clouet in 2006, to the right



Matt Helliker on the loose, unprotected crux pitch, day two on the Moose's Tooth. *Jon Bracey*

of Arctic Rage (VI WI6+R A2, Gilmore-Mahoney, 2004). I was initially inspired to check out the area by Paul Roderick's spectacular photo of the east face of Moose's Tooth in *Alpinist* magazine, issue #4.

Setting off on May 3 in good weather, we found excellent conditions, enabling fast progress up the initial easy ground, before the line narrowed to a series of steeper pitches on snow-ice. By midday the weather had deteriorated, and we suffered a constant bombardment of spindrift for nearly two hours, with Matt almost suffocating at one point. This eventually eased, allowing us to continue.

Above, the gully reared into an overhanging amphitheatre with spooky snow mushrooms hanging all around. Some cunning routefinding by Matt, followed by a hard pitch of mixed and aid climbing, saw me at the lip of a roof. After an eternity psyching up, I eventually committed to the thin ice curtain above and somehow avoided a big lob into space.

The difficulties continued above, with Matt pulling off a very hard, serious lead that thankfully brought us to a small snow patch out left for a bivy. Tired after an 18-hour day, we brewed up for a couple of hours and sat in our sleeping bags for a bit before continuing.

The morning greeted us with okay weather and the crux of the route: a sustained, overhanging pitch up less-than-perfect rock, which Matt dispatched in good style. After three more pitches we gained the upper snow slopes of the north ridge and stashed most of our kit before continuing on. We were stopped ca 100m below the summit by a menacing serac. Happy with our efforts, we started the long descent and made it back to our skis by 1 a.m. after another 18-hour day.

JON BRACEY, U.K.

*Bear Tooth, Climbing Is Believing.* Yusuke Sato, Fumitaka Ichimura, and I flew in to the Buckskin Glacier on April 7. Our aim was the east face of the Bear Tooth, on which we had been driven back in 2006. However, we found the face drier than two years ago and abandoned the route. Instead we decided on an obvious corner in the center of the northeast face. Although climbers had attempted the line, we knew it to be still unclimbed.

On April 13 we climbed the east gully and two more pitches on the north-east face before being defeated by sudden snowfall. It continued for three days.

We resumed climbing on April 18, continuing with delicate climbing up thin ice/snow in a steep dihedral (AI5R). The crux in the lower section overhung partially and required some aid (M6+R A1+). We bivouacked on the obvious snowfield.

The next day we ascended the upper portion of the face, also steep, though solid rock and stable ice allowed good progress. The crux in the upper portion was the 10th pitch. We overcame it with delicate hooking and run-out climbing (M7R). Above we encountered many



Yusuke Sato leading the crux 10th pitch of *Climbing Is Believing*. Katsutaka Yokoyama