

free and extremely rapid attempt (with variations) on perhaps the hardest line on the North Buttress, the Wall of Shadows (Child-Kennedy, 1994). Carrying only fanny packs, they started with the logical, albeit easier, Gilmore-Mahoney (2001) variation, and made variations to the Enigma pitch, the Somewhere Else Wall, and also a thin ribbon pitch above. They rated their climbing 5.10- M6R WI5+, reached the Cornice Bivy in 29 hours (including a six-hour brew stop), and retreated from there.

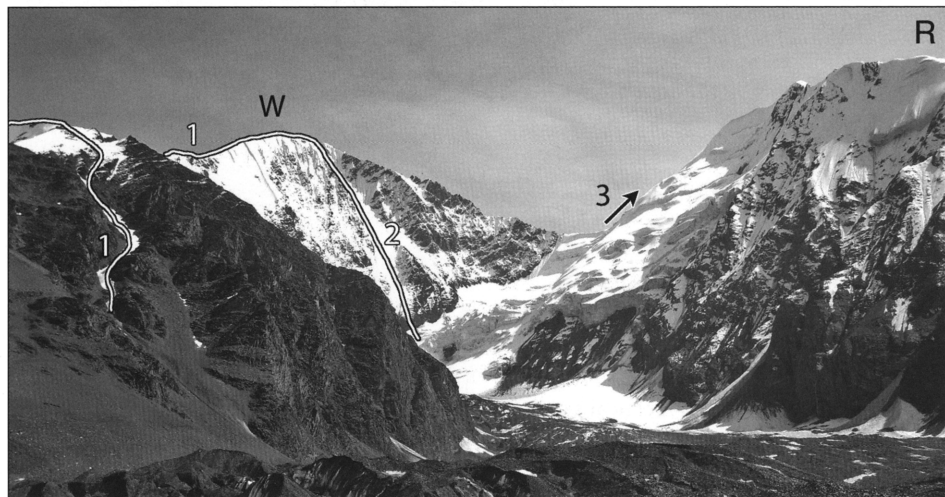
On May 25 Iku Mitoma, Hiroki Suzuki, and Kei Taniguchi (Japan) climbed a beautiful, albeit threatened, mixed line on the north-facing wall between the Mini-Mini Moonflower (or Micro Moonflower) and Kahiltna Queen, about two hours east of Kahiltna Base Camp. Wasabi Gully (M4x WI4+) climbs eight pitches and ends at the serac band.

In early July, Ryan Bougie and Marcus Waring made the first ski descent of Mt. Foraker's Archangel Ridge. Making a giant loop from the Kahiltna Glacier, the pair climbed Sultana Ridge, skied Archangel down to the wild, remote north side of the peak, then climbed back out via Mt. Crosson's northwest ridge and skied Crosson's southeast ridge back to base camp.

*Wedge Peak, west ridge attempt.* Rob Wing and I established a camp near the northwest face of Wedge Peak (10,239') on July 3, after hiking in via Glacier Creek and the Muldrow moraine. We attempted the unclimbed west ridge of Wedge but were turned around by the gravity of our situation after passing three of about a dozen rock towers. The granitic rock itself left something to be desired.

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*Thunder Mountain, Tangled Up in Blue; and other new routes.* Alaska veterans Jay Smith and Jack Tackle climbed four new routes in May, culminating in the prized first ascent of the 4,000' north face of Thunder Mountain, climbed in lightweight alpine style by a route they named



Wedge Peak: (1) North Ridge (FA unknown; descent route for (2)). (2) Northwest Face (Benowitz-McRae, 1996). The 2009 Wedge attempt was the ridge left of (3). Ragged Peak: (3) East Ridge (Benowitz-McRae, 1995). The top of the North Ridge (Bayer-Benson-Colby-Collins, 1988) of Ragged is barely visible on the right skyline. Jeff Apple Benowitz