

DENALI NATIONAL PARK

Denali National Park and Preserve, summary. In 2010, notable new routes and rapid repeats continued [see below], as did the inevitable rescues and tragedies. Thirty-five climbers were stricken with injuries or illnesses that required medical intervention by NPS rangers and volunteers, with cases ranging from climbing falls and altitude sickness to kidney stones and mental instability. Two climbers died in falls on Mt. McKinley (one each on the Cassin Ridge and West Buttress), and an avalanche in the Ruth Gorge killed two climbers.

Nancy Hansen, Felix Camire, and Doug Fulford were selected as the 2010 Mislow-Swanson Denali Pro Award winners for their assistance with a rescue and for helping a distressed solo climber.

Quick Statistics—Mt. McKinley and Mt. Foraker:

- Mt. McKinley: Average trip length: 17.5 days. Busiest summit day: June 20, with 54 summits. Average age: 38. Women constituted 12.3% of all climbers.
- The five most represented nations on Mt. McKinley were: U.S. (673 climbers), U.K. (62), Canada (52), Poland (39), and Russia (36).
- McKinley was attempted by 1,222 climbers, with 55% reaching the summit; 1,135 attempted the West Buttress, with 56% summiting. Nine climbers attempted Mt. Foraker, with five summiting.
- The complete Mountaineering Summary can be found at www.nps.gov/dena/planyourvisit/summaryreports.htm

Summarized from the DENALI NATIONAL PARK & PRESERVE ANNUAL MOUNTAINEERING SUMMARY



Mt. Foraker from the southeast: (1) Infinite Spur. (2) French Ridge. (3) Dracula. (4) False Dawn. (5) Southeast Ridge. (6) Viper Ridge (to junction with (5), no summit). Colin Haley

Mt. Foraker, Dracula. From June 13–15, Bjørn-Eivind Aartun and Colin Haley climbed Mt. Foraker by starting on False Dawn, then making the first ascent of a 3,000' mixed wall on the southeast face, and finishing via the French Ridge. Their climb, Dracula (AI4+ M6R A0), rises 10,400' from base to summit. They descended the Japanese Route, completing the round-trip in a sleepless 71-hour push. Beforehand, while acclimatizing on Denali, they simul-soloed the Cassin Ridge in 17 hours, coming close to the fastest known time for the route. See Aartun's feature article earlier in this *Journal*.