

a large corner. Once we reached the corner, the climbing eased to 5.10 on perfect buffed granite, and Tommy led three pitches to a large ledge. Corey and I followed with jumars. I was impressed with Corey, since this was his first time alpine climbing. He kept a positive attitude, did his share of the work, and had all of his camera gear.

I started leading off the large ledge at the top of pitch seven and found an easy ramp trending right. The climbing was loose and run-out 5.9, with limited anchors. Tommy and Corey followed by climbing, because the anchors were not strong enough to jumar from. After four easy pitches on the ramp, the wall got steep again and the rock improved. I led the crux of the route up 5.11+ edges, with no gear for 50' above the anchor. At the end of the pitch, I reached a small corner, where I was able to place gear. I led one more pitch of 5.10 to a large snowy ledge just below the summit. We regrouped and found easy climbing up a ridge to the summit, having climbed 15 pitches.

The views of the Arrigetch Peaks were unreal; the west face of Xanadu looked like Half Dome. We didn't want to leave all our gear rappelling, so we climbed a knife-edge ridge toward Xanadu. The ridge took us to the base of the west face of Xanadu, where we made three easy rappels. We hiked back to base camp in the evening light, after an awesome adventure Deep in the Alaskan Bush (5.11+ X M2).

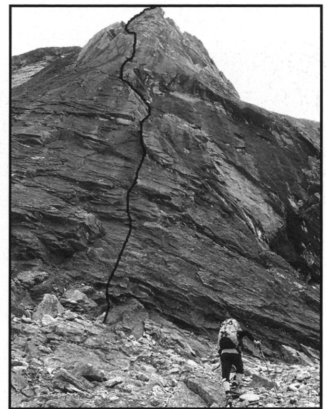
To see a short film on the expedition by Corey Rich, visit nikonusa.com and search on "Deep North."

HAYDEN KENNEDY, AAC

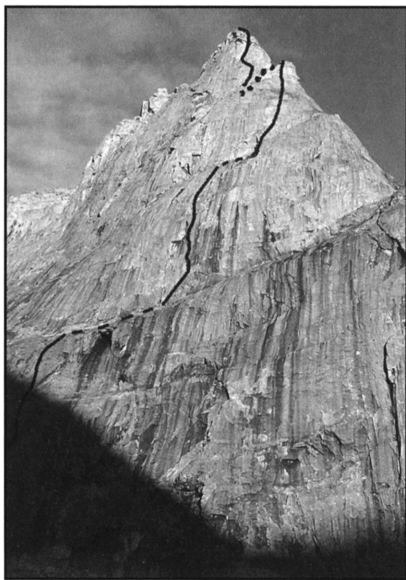


Tommy Caldwell leading low on Deep in the Alaskan Bush. Hayden Kennedy

Elephant's Tooth, north pillar; *Parabola*, south face, possible first ascents. Ten years ago I tried to climb in the Arrigetch but failed to do anything, because of rain. I returned in July 2010 with Claudia Nestler and food for 32 days. Nevertheless, we had only five days without rain, operating from a base camp on Arrigetch Creek, a few hours from the climbing. On the first dry day we repeated Parabola's east ridge and continued to Parabola's west peak (22 pitches, 6b), which would be a famous route were it in the Alps. We also repeated West Maiden's north ridge, during rain. A few days previously we had climbed a new direct line from the bottom toward the crest (five pitches, 6b A0), via steep cracks and slabs, but rain stopped play, and next time we chose the original line (6a), which near the top was like climbing a waterfall.



Line climbed by Nestler and Stucki on north pillar of Elephant's Tooth. Werner Stucki



Line climbed by Nestler and Stucki on south face of Parabola. Werner Stucki

We then made the possible first ascent of the north pillar of Elephant's Tooth. The rock was not always good, but at the top we had a nice view down to our camp and Arrigetch Creek. It took six hours to climb the eight pitches, with difficulties up to 6a/b. Five rappels, and one hour later we were in camp.

The weather was still good, so we decided to try the south face of Parabola, another possible first ascent. The initial cracks and corners proved interesting and strenuous, and the rock was fantastic on each of the 15 pitches, particularly on the last five up the headwall. The climb took 12 hours, with difficulties of 6b and seven m of A1. It was a dream come true; I'd wanted to try this face 10 years earlier. When our time was up, we walked back to Circle Lake, our original drop-off, where we were delivered a canoe and six more days' food. Over the next five days we paddled down to Helpmejack Lake, where we were picked up by a Cessna from Bettles Lodge.

WERNER STUCKI, Switzerland

Editor's note: It's likely several climbs in the Arrigetch are unreported, but two sources are useful for reference. In 2003 Nancy Pfeiffer and Jim Lawler compiled a summary of the mountaineering history of the Arrigetch Peaks. This 64 page report can be downloaded at: www.nps.gov/gaar/naturescience/upload/arrigetch_final_report_compressed.pdf. In the same year a summary report was compiled by Clint Cummins and can be viewed at: www.stanford.edu/~clint/arrig/index.htm. Thanks to Steve Gruhn for help with this report.

HAYES RANGE

Mt. Geist (3,269m/10,720'), northeast face, possible new route. The idea of going to the Hayes Range developed after we did some digging on the Internet and made a trip to the (British) Alpine Club

library. Scouring expedition reports, Chris Johnson, Neil Warren, and I were unable to find a report of an ascent of the west ridge of Mt. Hayes and decided it would be a great objective. It looked long, moderately difficult, committing, but possible. We were also aware that a party had been in the area the previous year, managing first ascents of the west face direct of Mt. Hayes and the northeast face of Mt. Balchen. There looked to be plenty of scope for other routes on both mountains, but information was hard to come by. From discussing our proposed lines with local gurus, we learned that Hayes' west ridge had



Runnel through mixed ground on Geist's northeast face. Guy Wilson