
TED WHALLEY

North America and Iceland 1992

With contributions from H Adams Carter and Doug Scott

Alaska

McKinley (6193m) The weather proved very severe and there were a larger than normal number of fatalities. One of these was Mugs Stump, one of America's foremost climbers, who had made some extremely difficult ascents with incredible modesty (eg the 2500m W face of Mount Tyree in Antarctica 1989). He met his death when tons of snow gave way on the edge of a crevasse, on the S buttress of Mount McKinley.

McKinley A Korean team led by Sun Oh climbed a new route on the S face, between the *American Direct* and the *Japanese Direct*.

Foraker (5303m) Tom Walter, Ritt Kellogg and Colby Coombs attempted the third ascent of the *Pink Panther* on the E face. High on the route they were overwhelmed by an avalanche and Walter and Kellogg were killed instantly. Coombs lay unconscious for hours before taking equipment from his dead friends' packs and, over a period of six days, descending alone to the McKinley Base Camp. As well as breaking an ankle he injured a shoulder and his neck.

Huntingdon Clay Wadman and Bruce Miller made a new route on the W face, to the left of Jay Smith's and Paul Teare's, which they rated as 5.10, A4. The ice was vertical in many places.

Mt Brooks Randy Waitman and friends made a new route on the W ridge.

Stellar Robert Wesson, Bob Jacobs and Gil Anderson climbed the N ridge having landed on the N glacier.

Canada

Proboscis (Cirque of the Unclimbables) Paul Piana and Todd Skinner (climbers) and Galen Rowell (cameraman) climbed a new and extraordinarily difficult new route to the left of the only other route on the face.

Mt Logan A joint expedition, using Global Positioning System equipment, measured the peak's height to be $5939\text{m} \pm 3\text{m}$. An Italian expedition led by Claudio Kerschbaumer tried a variation west of the *Humming Bird Ridge* between 14–23 May. They were rescued by helicopter at 4700m.

St Elias John Bauman, Dave McGivern and Leo Americus attempted a winter ascent of the *Abruzzi route* from 4–23 March. Heavy snowfall forced a retreat from 3350m.

Mt Kennedy Mike Fischesser, Bill Proudman, Diana McAdams, Joe Lackey and Nej Mulla attempted the E ridge from 28 April to 10 May. They failed because of bad weather and deep snow.

Northern Icefields Traverse David Williams, Betsy Fletcher, Peter Stone and Markus Kellerhals traversed the northern border of the St Elias Icefields from the Donjeck river to McArthur, Alaska (9 May to 14 June).

Mt Steele The same team climbed the E ridge.

Mt Manitoba Five members of a team led by Peter Aitchison reached the summit from the Prairie glacier.

Baffin Island

John Turk and Conrad Anker travelled to the San Ford Fiord in NE Baffin Island. The ice breakup was later than it had been for years and this complicated their approach. They travelled for three days on snow mobiles and spent four more dragging their kayaks over pack-ice and across open leads of water. Eventually they reached Yosemite-like grade V and VI granite walls, which rose vertically from the water to 1500m. They made two ascents and then raced against the winter, emerging at Clyde with some difficulty through ice and freezing sea-water on 13 August.

Iceland Rock

Doug Scott writes:

In the south of Iceland and to the east of Skaftafell there is, at Borgarhafnarfjall, a 120m basalt crag known as Fallastakkanof. It is only one hour above the main road and can be seen sticking up like giant organ pipes. The rock is mainly good, it dries quickly and is a good place to visit from the excellent campsite at Skaftafell, should bad weather be passing over the high mountains to the north.

Snaevarr Gudmundsson and I established two routes here, one in 1985 (5c, 5b) more or less straight up the middle, and the other at Easter 1992 (5c, 6a, 5b). This route starts up the cracks just right of the prominent detached pillars and left of our 1985 route. The third pitch is common to both routes. A usual rack of wires and Friends will suffice, but add an extra large Friend.