
H ADAMS CARTER

North America 1993

Alaska

Apparently not much of note was done on **Denali (Mt McKinley)** in 1993. Mark Leffler and Robert Schneider made the second ascent of the route pioneered in 1991, solo, by the late Miroslav Smíd on the western side of the S face (Smíd died in a fall in Yosemite in the autumn of 1993). Four young Frenchmen, Xavier Cret, Robin Molinatti, Pierre Rizzardo and Paul Robach, made the second ascent of the *Ridge of No Return*, which ends at 4575m on the S buttress. Renato Casarotto had taken 12 days to do the climb solo. The French climbed the vertical 2000m in only three days. Speed ascents seem to be fashionable. Brad Johnson climbed solo to the N summit and back from the 5250m camp in 3hrs 40min.

Michael Kennedy and Greg Child made a remarkably fast ascent of the W face of **Mt Huntingdon** by the difficult *Quirk-Nettle route*, flying in on 15 May and out on the 19th. A party that landed a week later, hoping also to climb the route, was chased from its camp by a 'hopelessly misplaced bear', who ate up all their food.

Nearby, the SE face of **Royal Tower** in Little Switzerland, was climbed by Peter Haeussler and Lloyd Miller.

A British Armed Services party made the second ascent of the long and quite difficult Archangel Ridge of **Foraker**. Paul Edwards and David Peel got to the summit on 26 April, but because of frostbite they had to be helicoptered out.

British climbers Geoff Hornby and David Barlow made the first ascent of **Pt 10,920 (2765m, 'Thunder Mountain')**, just south of McKinley.

The SW ridge of **Hunter**, which had previously been climbed only twice, was ascended by Hornby and Barlow, as well as Britons Neil Main and Chris Schiller and two American pairs.

The SE face of **East Kahiltna Peak** was climbed for the first time by Pat Callis and Terry Kennedy.

Excellent new routes were done in the spires of the **Kichatna Mountains**. Michael Pennings and Jeff Hollenbaugh made a new route on the SE face of **Serenity Spire** and other good climbs despite terrible weather. Doug Byerly and Calvin Herbert made new routes on **Plumb Spire**, **Trinity Spire** and **'Hersey Tooth'**.

Germans Martin Göggelmann and Eduard Birnbacher made some good new climbs in the **Chigmit Mountains**, despite rotten rock.

Danny Kost was again active, climbing **Pt 7998** on the Thompson ridge of the **Chugach Mountains** and the **President's Chair** and **Pt 10,004** in the **Wrangell Mountains**, all with Harold Hunt.

The W summit of **Blackburn (4964m)** was reached by the SSE buttress by Peter Green and Daniel Culver on 23 June. Kaj Bune and Doug Barlow climbed above the Klutlan glacier in early June and got to the summits of **Bear (4526m)** and **Bona (5005m)**.

Before his tragic death soloing in Yosemite, Czech Miroslav Smíd, with Swiss Ruedi Hohberger, made an eight-day variant on the *boundary route* on **St Elias (5488m)**. Mike Daniel and Paul Netzband climbed the *Carpé Ridge* on **Fairweather (4669m)**. Bill Pilling and Carl Dietrich traversed **Mt Vancouver** from south to north over the S summit (**Good Neighbour Peak, 4785m**) and the main summit (4812m) to the Seward glacier. On the descent Pilling had a crevasse fall, severely injuring one leg, but the pair descended more than 2000 vertical metres and then walked 35km to the point where they were picked up by plane.

Canada

Mt Logan was attempted by 40 people and 22 managed to reach either the main or the E summit. One person was killed and another injured in an avalanche on the *Early Bird Buttress*. A Canadian all-female party climbed the difficult E ridge to the E summit. They were Mary Clayton, Sylvia Forest, Leanne Alison and Andrea Petzold.

Germans Stefan Winter, Stefan Vorderhuber and Ludwig Stitzinger climbed **Mt Baird** by its SE ridge, reaching the summit on 10 May. Americans led by Greg Collum made a new route on the S face of **McArthur Peak**.

Britons Paul Knott, Ade Miller, Paul Mead and Rob Wilson first attempted the E ridge of **Augusta** and then completed the first British ascent and the fourth overall, climbing the first ascent route, the N ridge.

In the NW Territories, Italians Mario Manica, Paola Fanton, Giuseppe Bagattoli, Danny Zampiccoli and Fabio Leoni made a splendid new route on the N face of **Harrison Smith** in the Cirque of the Unclimbables in the **Logan Mountains**. They also ascended **Lotus Flower Tower**. Further south, Greg Child and Perry Beckham made a new route on the E buttress of **Slesse Mountain**, a long and very difficult rock climb.

In the Canadian Arctic, on the Cumberland peninsula of **Baffin Island**, John Barbella, Kurt Roy, Alan Bills, Steve Hopkins and Dave Oakley climbed **Mt Thor** by its S ridge. Doug Cairns and Dan Cousins climbed **Mt Bilbo** by the NW ridge and **Mt Sigurd** by the SE ridge.

Continental United States

It would be difficult to give a list of all the remarkable rock climbs which have been done in many of the regions in the 'Lower 48'. I shall give only a few of possibly the most notable.

From 17 July to 5 August, Nancy Feagin, Hans Florine, Christian

Santelices and Willie Benegas did 20 of the climbs in *50 Classic Climbs in North America* by Allen Steck and Steve Roper. This took them from **Yellowstone** to the **Southwest Desert**, to **Colorado** and finally to the **Wind River Range** of Wyoming. They estimate that they climbed over 60,000 feet in the 19 days, walked 137 miles and climbed 241 pitches.

In **Yosemite**, Lynn Hill has taken one of the most coveted prizes in American rock-climbing with her totally free ascent of *The Nose* on **El Capitan** (5.13b). After working the route with Simon Nadin she returned to complete the whole route, from the ground, with Brooke Sandahl.

Todd Skinner with various partners took 61 days to complete the first free climb of the *Direct NW Face* of **Half Dome**. Charlie Fowler, Will Oxx and Swiss Xavier Bongard did a hammerless ascent of *The Shield* on **El Capitan**. John Middendorf and Oxx did a new route on the same mountain between *Magic Mushroom* and *The Shield*. Fast ascents were made on **El Cap's Nose**. Nancy Feagin and Sue McDevitt climbed the route in 17 hours – the first female pair to make the climb in a single day. The mixed team of Lynn Hill and Hans Florine climbed the route in 8hrs 17min. Florine had previously completed the climb with Peter Crofts in only 4hrs 22min. In August Florine made the fastest solo yet reported for *The Nose*: 14hrs 11m.

There was much climbing in the desert country of the south-west. Between Christmas 1992 and 30 May 1993, Rob Slater climbed all 23 of the **Fisher Towers** and the four **Mystery Towers** listed in Eric Bjornstad's *Desert Rock*. Many of these were desperate second ascents on crumbling rock and vertical dirt.

The biggest news in the **Canyonlands** in 1993 was Keith Reynolds's and Walt Shipley's free ascent of **Standing Rock** (5.11c). The tower was first climbed in 1962 by Layton Kor, Huntley Ingalls and Steve Komito and is considered one of the all-time classic desert towers.

In **Zion National Park** John Middendorf, Brad Quinn and Bill Hatcher climbed a new route on **Isaac**, a 1800ft high wall. Middendorf and Oxx later made the ascent of a 900ft tower, **Birdbeak Spire**. Roger Briggs and Steve Levin were active on the Diamond of **Longs Peak** in Colorado, completing a new route with four 5.12 pitches; the rest were mostly 5.11.

In Wyoming, Alex Lowe and Steve Koch did a new route on the NE face of **Cloudveil Dome** in the **Tetons**. Middendorf and Steve Quinlan made a third new route on the N face of **Mt Hooker**. They completed this very difficult 1800ft route after a number of sorties spread over three years.

A large number of notable members of the American climbing fraternity died in 1993. The American Alpine Club has lost four of its Honorary Members: Terris Moore, Walter Wood, Richard Leonard and John Salathé. Brilliant younger climbers Mark Bebie and Steve Risse died in an avalanche near the Columbia Ice Field in Canada. Julie Culberson, a remarkable guide with a splendid climbing record, was also killed in an avalanche accident. Stan Sheppard died in a car accident in his beloved Bolivia, where he had achieved an outstanding climbing record.