

## Denali National Park and Preserve

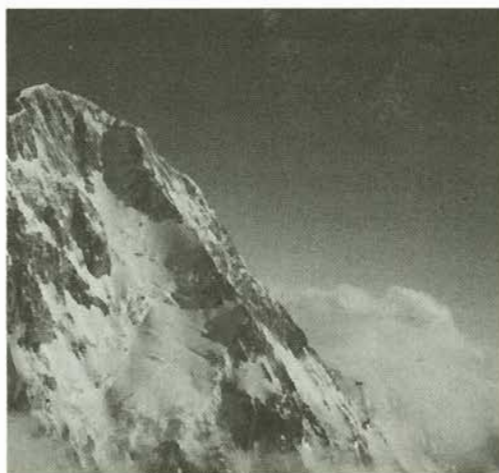
# 1998 Annual Mountaineering Summary



### In Like a Lamb and Out Like A Lion

A 100% success rate this past year for winter ascents of Mt. McKinley and only a 36% success rate during the peak climbing season? How can that be? Most weather forecasters will attribute these strange 1998 climbing season facts to the "El Nino" weather phenomenon. The three mountaineers who made it to the top of North America's highest peak in the dead of winter thanked El Nino's warmer winter temperatures for their successful summit, while the majority of McKinley's climbers cursed its unseasonably snowy and windy weather.

During the regular climbing season, this year from April to July, only 420 climbers reached the summit of Mt. McKinley. This represents the lowest success rate in the past ten years. For almost a century the average success rate has been about 50%. "Climbers faced some harsh conditions this spring and were forced to wait out many severe storms. McKinley is known for its horrendous weather and this year proved to be extremely challenging," said South District Ranger, J.D. Swed. "The low summit success rate was disappointing for climbers but we also had a fairly low



NPS Photo

The Cassin Ridge on Mt. McKinley.

number of fatalities this past season. For the most part, climbers were staying put during the inclement weather and not taking unnecessary risks."

One fact remains the same from year to year. It pays to be patient. The longer an expedition stayed on the mountain, the greater their chance for a successful summit bid. The average time spent on the mountain for all expeditions was 17 days. More importantly, the average length of stay on the mountain for a successful summit team was 21 days.

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#### WHAT'S UP?

*The annual mountaineering summary contains information on significant search and rescues in the Alaska Range, research and resource studies, notable ascents and new routes, and several articles on life at the top of North America. Our goal for this summary is to keep you informed on "what's up" in the past year and what you can expect in the year to come.*

*This summary is also available at our website at:*

[www.nps.gov/dena/mountain/summary98](http://www.nps.gov/dena/mountain/summary98)





## The Art of Mountaineering

Visitors to the Talkeetna Ranger Station enjoyed a special exhibit featuring the artwork of George Browne. Browne was an artist who painted 21 oils as he ascended the slopes of Mt. McKinley in 1947. History buffs will recall that Browne's father was the renowned climber, Belmore Browne.

Today's mountaineers are amazed that Browne produced such noteworthy art, as he climbed up one of McKinley's more difficult routes. Browne was not able to paint throughout the expedition. At the 11,000 foot-level his paints froze when temperatures dropped to -20 degrees Fahrenheit.

"Thanks to a generous donation from the Nagley family of Talkeetna, the Anchorage Museum Association purchased, mounted and framed these magnificent paintings," says J.D. Swed, South District Ranger. "Surprisingly, they were discovered by the family in the original expedition box George Browne had made for them."



**Brad Washburn Photo**  
George Browne paints on the slopes of Mt. McKinley.

*In 1998 the youngest climber on the summit was 12 years old*

## It's a Small World After All

The top five countries represented by McKinley-bound climbers:

USA	710 climbers
United Kingdom	63 climbers
Japan	53 climbers
Switzerland	46 climbers
Spain	40 climbers

For comparison here are the top five countries that were represented in 1997:

USA	687
Germany	54
Korea	44
England	42
Canada	29

## Search and Rescue Donation Fund

Our heartfelt thanks to those who donated to our Search and Rescue Fund this past year. The Jurgen Bruhm family donated \$4,500 dollars, the Downey family donated \$100 dollars and John Cloe reimbursed the NPS for the \$1,000 spent on



**Rangers and volunteers transport an injured climber off the mountain.**

his helicopter evacuation from the medical camp at 14,200 feet on McKinley.

These funds will be used to host a "Rigging for Rescue" seminar in 1999. Ten rangers will participate in this intensive 7-day course on rescue techniques and rope systems. Funds have also been used to send a ranger to the ParkMedic course and allowed the South District to buy specialized EMS equipment.

## An Angel with Rotor Wings



NPS Photo

**Kahiltna Peak towers over the National Park Service Base Camp located on the Kahiltna Glacier at 7,200 feet in elevation. Lama pilot Jim Hood transports injured patients to this Base Camp for transport off the mountain by the Air National Guard or fixed wing aircraft.**

The Lama was first utilized in Denali National Park in 1991 after it was discovered that the military was not available to provide the same level of assistance they had in the past. It was also discovered that the Lama would provide a cheaper and more versatile tool for management and rescue in the Alaska Range. The Lama has saved 63 lives since 1991.

Two British climbers were sincerely grateful for the expertise of Jim Hood. Jim is a contract pilot for the National Park Service who works for Evergreen Helicopters Incorporated. During an extensive search and rescue mission that eventually rescued eight climbers, the two men were short hauled from the 19,000-foot

level of Mount McKinley. This was the highest short haul rescue mission ever performed in the United States, and possibly in the world.

Pilot Jim Hood received the "1998 Trimbel Award" as the helicopter pilot of the year for his heroic efforts in rescuing the two British climbers. This is the second time Jim received this award and the first time that any pilot has ever received this award twice. Jim was first awarded this honor in 1991.

Short haul is a rescue technique where the rescuer, and/or patients, hang below a helicopter on a 100-foot rope. This technique is very effective when the helicopter is unable to land at the site of an accident. In this particular incident, the extreme high altitude prevented a rescuer from being flown to the scene.

Helicopter pilot, Jim Hood successfully dropped harnesses to the two climbers. The climbers then hooked into the short haul rope and had the ride of a lifetime as they were lifted from the 19,000-foot level to the 14,200-foot ranger camp. Rangers determined that this was the only method available to save the lives of the injured climbers.

Neither climber had any food or shelter with them and could not keep a stove lit in the severe wind.



*In 1998 the oldest climber on the summit was 71 years young*



## A Day in the Life

Have you ever wondered what Denali climbing rangers do while on patrol on the mountain? There is plenty to keep them busy even when they aren't actively involved in a search and rescue. Resource management duties occupy a large part of each day. Climber education, resource protection and on-going research are all part of each ranger's patrol activities.

To help our readers get a better glimpse of daily life on the mountain here are some typical journal entries from our climbing rangers.

**Ranger Kevin Moore:** Kevin has been a climbing ranger in Denali National Park since 1993. His mountain patrol is based out of the Ranger Camp at the 14,200 foot level on the West Buttress Route of Mt. McKinley. Kevin and his six volunteers spend three weeks at the camp during the mountaineering season.

### June 7th at the 14,200-foot RANGER CAMP:

*-Assisted a climber who stumbled into the ranger weatherport-- he came into 14k in the middle of the night from below without any equipment and couldn't find his group  
-Discussed with the doctor the pros and cons of evacuating a cameraman who has an impacted tooth and nearly overdosed on codeine  
-Collected weather observations and called the Ranger Station in Talkeetna. High temperature was 20 degrees, low was 10. Eight inches of new*



NPS Photo  
Colin Grissom, volunteer doctor, examines a climber at the medical camp at the 14,200 foot level on Mt. McKinley.

*snow. Wind direct SE 16-20 miles per hour and whiteout conditions.*

*-Investigated a foreign climber who is not registered (a violation of the current climbing regulations).*

*-Jake, Hounddog and I went to 16,200' to put a supply cache in. Collected and brought down garbage (20 lbs), contacted 30 climbers on the route.*

*-Maintained the toilets at 14k.*

*-Snow packed and repositioned the Helispot markers.*

*-Inventoried equipment at 14k (where are extra transceivers?)*

*-Monitored radio traffic at 20:00 hours.*

**Ranger Joe Reichert:** Joe started his ranger career in Denali in 1995. His patrol is responsible for the activities at Base Camp on the Kahiltna Glacier at 7,200 feet. Over 1,000 climbers will fly to Base Camp to start and end their expedition in just a few short months. It's a busy place!

### June 3rd at the 7,200-foot BASE CAMP:

*(Continued on page 5)*

*The average age of an American climber in 1998 was 34 years old*

## A Day in the Life

(Continued from page 4)



Rangers too often have to assist climbers suffering from frostbite wounds received when the flesh has been exposed to the cold. Unfortunately, this climber lost most of his fingers.

*-Called the ranger station with my morning weather observations: ten inches of new snow, High temperature*

*30 degrees, low 22, light SW winds 5-10mph.*

*-Checked the emergency fuel cache and shoveled out the helicopter landing pad. Lots of new snow last night.*

*-Helped basecamp Annie shovel and stomp down the runway.*

*-Took inventory of climbers attempting peaks other than McKinley and monitored conditions on those mountains.*

*-Spoke with 25 to 30 new arrivals in camp -- lots of questions about route conditions.*

*-Checked out the public latrines.*

*-Ski patrolled the heavily traveled routes out of basecamp.*

## The Forces of Nature

Like an avalanche, the weather on Mt. McKinley is powerful and uncompromising, transforming the environment at incredible speed. It determines the fate of climbers, the success of an adventure and the intensity of rescue incidents.

Weather in May was described as some of the worst ever experienced. Continuous winds gusting from 50-80 mph were relentless at the higher elevations. "It was grim," says Lead

Climbing Ranger Daryl Miller. "The wind made travel precarious and was indirectly, or directly, responsible for the fatal incidents that occurred this season." Even though 500 climbers were on the mountain in May, poor weather kept them from reaching the summit until the final days of the month.

In contrast, continuous high-pressure systems in the month of June offered many climbers the opportunity to stand on the top of Mt. McKinley. The number of days climbers stood atop McKinley jumped from only 6 in the month of May to 23 in June.

Only 80 climbers reported reaching the top of Mt. McKinley in May, while 316 stood on the summit in June.

*The average age of an international climber in 1998 was 35 years old.*

## Weather at the Edge of the World

Climbers who are familiar with the slopes of Mt. McKinley know the "Edge of the World" is located at the 14,200-foot level on the mountain. This rocky outcropping offers a tremendous, uninterrupted view of the southern side of the Alaska Range.

The "Edge of the World" is also a place of interest to scientists and meteorologists who attempt to track weather conditions near the top of North America. This past year the National Park Service installed a weather station at

this location to better forecast actual conditions on the mountain. Current weather data provides a greater margin of safety for summit-bound climbers.



**NPS Photo**  
Rangers installed a new weather station at the 14,200 foot level on McKinley this past year.

Designed to withstand the high winds and raw elements of the mountain environment, the weather station is solar powered and records weather information hourly. This

information can be retrieved immediately since the station is equipped with a cellular modem.

## Winter of Their Content

It was a winter mountaineering season of historical significance. Artur Testov and Vladimir Ananich became the first climbers to reach the summit of Mt. McKinley in the month of January. They reached the top on January 16, 1998. The two Russian climbers, along with teammate Alexandr Nikiforov, were fortunate to climb in some of the mildest winter weather conditions on record. Due to the unusual impact of the "El Nino" weather system, ambient temperatures at the lower elevations were similar to those in May and June.

Japanese soloist Masatoshi Kuriaki also took advantage of the unsea-

sonably mild temperatures and clear skies during his ascent in March. Kuriaki completed the third-ever successful winter solo ascent of Mount McKinley, when he reached the summit on March 8, 1998.

Both of these expeditions paid their dues the previous winter when the weather was far less accommodating (and far more typical!). In January of 1997, Testov and his partner spent two weeks on the mountain and endured brutal temperatures. A crevasse fall and loss of equipment forced Testov to turn back at the 12,200-foot level.

*(Continued on page 7)*

# Winter of Their Content

(Continued from page 6)



**NPS Photo**  
Climbing in the winter not only poses a challenge because of extreme weather but limited daylight is also a factor.

Likewise, on a previous solo attempt, Kuriaki had spent 40 days on Mt. McKinley in March of 1997. Kuriaki was kept off the summit by the severe cold and high winds inherent to the Alaska Range in winter.

What can a climber expect during a winter expedition on Mt. McKinley? Winter travel requires extensive logistical planning and keen problem solving. Since 1967, only 16 people have reached the mountain's summit during the winter. Six climbers have lost their lives *in the attempt*. Some of the world's best climbers have either disappeared or perished from literally being flash frozen.

Climbers can expect winter temperatures to drop to 50 degrees below zero or colder. Wind is always a factor with the jet stream enveloping the upper mountain - causing the windchill factor to go off the charts. Compounding the

effects of low temperatures, the winter sun travels so low on the horizon that it does not have the same ability to warm the skin as in the spring and summer. A winter climber experiences only four to five hours of actual daylight in January, a drastic contrast to the 18 hours or more of direct sunlight you can expect in the peak climbing month of June.

A winter expedition must be prepared for total self-sufficiency. During the spring and summer months when over 1,100 climbers attempt Mt. McKinley, an expedition can often rely on other climbers in the event of an emergency. The National Park Service does not have climbing rangers or emergency medical facilities available on the mountain in winter. Communication also becomes a problem since fewer airplanes travel over the Alaska Range in winter making overhead CB contact minimal.

Climbers work considerably harder in the winter. With no other climbers on the mountain, they continuously break new trail. Creating shelter is also more time and energy consuming. Snow shelters take an average of three to four hours to construct. They are absolutely necessary at the higher elevations because of the extreme winds generated by the winter jet stream. During the spring and summer climbers often claim "squatter's rights" to pre-existing snow caves and igloos. In the winter mountaineers must continually build their own new shelters. The Russian trio reportedly built no fewer than 17 snow caves during their 30-day winter expedition. A winter climber will also spend four to six hours per day cooking food and melting snow for water.

The average age of a guided climber in 1998 was 39 years old.

## A Tribute

**Mike Vanderbeek**  
**April 17, 1965 - May 24, 1998**

We tragically lost a friend this summer. Mike Vanderbeek, a National Park Service volunteer, suffered fatal injuries when he fell during a search and rescue incident on Mt. McKinley.

On May 24, 1998, Mike had been on patrol with another NPS volunteer on the popular West Buttress route at the 17,200-foot High Camp. During his descent at the 16,900-foot level, Mike witnessed a Canadian climber fall off the route towards the Peter's Glacier. Mike reported the incident to the 14,200-foot ranger camp and then attempted to reach the fallen climber. In his descent to aid the fallen climber, Mike himself lost his footing and fell.

Unfortunately, the Canadian climber was found deceased later that day by another rescue team. Mike was never found even after multiple days of air and ground searching.

Mike became the first Denali rescuer to die in the line of duty. He had previously served as a patrol volunteer for Denali National Park and Preserve and for Kenai Fjords National Park. He was employed as a climbing guide in his hometown of Talkeetna, Alaska, and also worked as an Outward Bound instructor directing the Alaska operations.

*"He will be remembered as a cherished friend, a remarkable climber and a passionate person with a zest for life."*



**Photo Courtesy of the Vanderbeek Family**  
**Mike Vanderbeek on one of his many climbs in Alaska.**

Mike was an accomplished climber, skilled outdoor enthusiast and a motivational instructor. He will be remembered as a cherished friend, a remarkable climber and a passionate person with a zest for life.

*The Vanderbeek family has set up a memorial fund. Donations can be made to:*

*The Mike Vanderbeek  
Alaska Outdoor Scholarship Fund  
National Bank of Alaska  
581 Parks Highway  
Wasilla, Alaska, 99645*



## Denali Pro Climber of the Year

Denali National Park and Preserve and Pigeon Mountain Industries of Lafayette Georgia have selected Adrian Nature as the 1998 Denali Pro Mountaineer of the year. "Adrian often acts as the 'mountain vigilante' and is effective in getting groups to comply with trash and human waste regulations," wrote Denali Park ranger Billy Shott in his nomination. Nature assisted with a variety of tasks at the 14,200-foot ranger camp and at the high camp at 17,200 feet on Mt. McKinley.

He also helped to install a new weather station on Mt. McKinley and assisted rangers in maintaining and constructing latrines at various mountain camps. Nature was also instrumental in several search and rescue missions, including one where he led a ground search for two missing NPS volunteers and a fallen Canadian climber.

"It is a great honor to be recognized out of all the good people on the mountain," said the 40-year old Nature. "The time I spend on Denali makes me a better person. I always try to be humble and show respect in the mountains." Nature has reached the summit of Mt. McKinley 11 times in the last 12 years.

Ninety-six lapel pins were awarded this season to recognize individuals who exhibited the highest standards in mountaineering for safety, self-sufficiency, resource protection and assistance to fellow climbers. Nature

was selected from among these recipients to receive the annual award, which was presented in Salt Lake City, Utah, in November, 1998.

- *The complete list of Denali Pro Pin Award recipients can be found on pages 14-15.*



**The Design for the 1999 Denali Pro Pin.**

*Adrian Nature, Denali Pro Climber of the Year for 1998, has made it to the summit of Mt. McKinley eleven times in the past twelve years.*



## Mountaineering Search and Rescue Summary

There were nine major mountaineering incidents in 1998 involving seventeen climbers. The National Park Service (NPS) expended \$181,163 for search and rescue activities. The military incurred an additional \$321,455 to assist the NPS in these incidents. The NPS staff, volunteers and helicopter operation saved eight lives this past season (lives saved are noted by an ↑ below in the description of the incident).



There were nine major mountaineering incidents in 1998.

**FATAL FALLS, WEST BUTTRESS:** On May 24, 1998, an unroped Canadian climber fell down the north slope of the West Buttress below Washburn's Thumb. A NPS volunteer reported the accident via radio to the 14,200-foot ranger camp after witnessing the fall. The reporting volunteer and his partner descended to assist the fallen climber. The two were descending unroped, in poor visibility, over steep terrain. Eight hundred feet into the descent, one of the volunteers fell. The partner anchored himself in with protective equipment and waited for assistance. Additional rescue personnel, who had been dispatched from 14,200-foot camp, arrived on scene. They assisted the climbing partner and continued the search for the Canadian climber and NPS volunteer.

At the base of the slope on the Peter's Glacier, the Canadian climber was located and confirmed deceased. Thorough ground and air searches were performed in the area for multiple days, but the NPS volunteer was never located. (See story on page 8.)

**FALL, WEST BUTTRESS:** On May 26, 1998, an Australian climber fell while descending the Rescue Gully near 17,000 feet. The climber slid 300 feet to the edge of a crevasse then fell 30 feet into it. His fall was stopped when he landed on a snow bridge. Expedition members, along with NPS volunteers, rescued the fallen climber from the crevasse and transported him to the medical tent at the 14,200-foot ranger station. He was treated for a pneumothorax and hypothermia. The climber was evacuated from 14,200-foot camp by the NPS Lama helicopter and transported to an Anchorage hospital by the Air National Guard.

**FATAL FALL, WEST BUTTRESS:** On June 6, 1998, while descending from the 17,200-foot camp on the West Buttress route, an American climbing guide unroped from his team to assist a client. The guide subsequently lost his footing and fell 1,100 vertical feet towards the Peters Glacier. A significant ground search was conducted in very bad weather over the next several days. On June 13th, the deceased guide was found and recovered with the use of the NPS contract Lama helicopter.

**ANGINA, WEST BUTTRESS:** On June 16, 1998, an American climber from a guided expedition reported severe chest pain. After his arrival at the 14,200-foot camp, he alerted the guide of his condition and was taken to the NPS ranger camp for medical assistance. The examining doctor determined the climber was experiencing angina and recommended evacuation to a hospital. The climber was evacuated to Talkeetna by the NPS Lama helicopter and then transported to a Palmer hospital by ambulance.

**HIGH ALTITUDE PULMONARY EDEMA, WEST BUTTRESS:** On June 18, 1998, a Japanese climber displayed symptoms of severe HAPE when he walked into the 14,200-foot ranger camp. An examination revealed a heart murmur and problems affecting the climber's lungs. The climber was evacuated by the NPS Lama and transported to an Anchorage hospital by the Air National Guard.

## Mountaineering Search and Rescue Summary

**HIGH ALTITUDE PULMONARY EDEMA, WEST BUTTRESS:** On June 18, 1998, the leader of a Spanish climbing team reported that a member in his expedition was ill. A NPS ranger proceeded to their camp where he found the climber experiencing severe HAPE. The Spanish climber was non-ambulatory and sledged to the medical tent at 14,200 feet where he was treated and evacuated by the NPS Lama helicopter. He was transferred to an Anchorage hospital via the Air National Guard.

**FALL, UPPER WEST RIB:** On June 18, 1998, two American climbers were injured in a 2,000-foot fall down the "Orient express" section of the West Rib route on Mt. McKinley. The climbers were descending roped together when they slipped on 45-degree ice at approximately 17,800 feet ending their fall at the 15,800-foot level. One of the climbers sustained a chest injury and the other was knocked unconscious. Two British climbers witnessed the fall and provided immediate assistance before a NPS rescue team from the 14,200-foot camp arrived at the scene. Both men were lowered down to the 14,200-foot ranger camp on rescue litters. The climber with head injuries remained unconscious throughout his evacuation by the NPS Lama helicopter on June 19.

When weather conditions cleared on June 21st, an Army Chinook helicopter evacuated the partner. The Air National Guard transported both climbers to Anchorage hospitals.

**MULTIPLE FALLS, UPPER WEST RIB:** On June 18th, 1998, eight British Military climbers were near the summit of Mt. McKinley when three members of the team fell 300 feet from the 19,300-foot level of the West Rib. One member sustained head injuries, while another injured his ankles. Two healthy partners remained at 19,000 feet to assist with the injured team members, while the other four members descended to get help.

On June 19, as the four healthy members descended, two other members fell 2,000 feet down the "Orient Express." These two climbers landed at the 15,800-foot level. One broke his leg in the fall and the other sustained only minor injuries. The ambulatory climber descended directly toward the 14,200-foot camp. He fell twice more and in the process, sustained frostbite to his fingers as he made his way out of crevasses. These two expedition members were rescued by NPS ground teams and transported to the 14,200-foot camp where they were evacuated by an Army Chinook helicopter on June 21st to an Anchorage hospital.

On June 22, the two remaining climbers from this expedition who required rescue were evacuated by shorthaul from 19,000 feet to the 14,200-foot camp with the NPS Lama helicopter. From the 14,200-foot camp, they were transported via helicopter and fixed wing aircraft to an Anchorage hospital.

**KNEE INJURY, GUNSIGHT PASS:** On August 16, 1998, a German climber activated a Personal Location Beacon (PLB) after sustaining a knee injury at the 5,000-foot level of the Peter's Glacier. The two climbers in the expedition were located and picked up by a contracted helicopter the following day, when weather conditions permitted.

## Total Climbers by Route

<b>Mt. McKinley</b>	<b>Attempts</b>	<b>Summits</b>
American Direct	2	2
Cassin Ridge	2	0
East Face	1	0
Muldrow Glacier	27	19
Muldrow Glacier Traverse	13	6
Orient Express	5	0
South Buttress	1	0
West Buttress	1027	366
West Buttress Traverse	40	3
West Rib	20	3
Upper West Rib	28	4
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,166</b>	<b>420</b>
<b>Mt. Foraker</b>	<b>Attempts</b>	<b>Summits</b>
Sultana	7	0
Talkeetna Ridge	2	0
Viper Ridge	2	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Mt. Hunter</b>	<b>Attempts*</b>	
Southwest Ridge	6	
West Ridge	11	
Moonflower	12	
Wall of Shadows	2	

*\*Climbers on Mt. Hunter are not required to register with the National Park Service; so, statistics are not complete.*

## New Routes and Notable Ascents

### **MOUNT BRADLEY:**

South Face, new route "The Gift That Keeps on Giving." American climbers Jon Carpenter, Steve House and Mark Twilight.



**NPS Photo**  
A climber ascends the Moose's Tooth.

### **MOUNT HUNTINGTON:**

American climbers, Brad Grohusky and Rod Willard put in a new line to the left of Colton Leach, 1,300 feet of wall climbing.

### **MOUNT MCKINLEY:** West Buttress Route

Winter Ascent: Russian climbers, Vladimir Ananich and Artur Testov, first January summit on record. The

two climbers reached the top on January 16th, 1998.

### **MOUNT MCKINLEY:** West Buttress Route

Winter Solo Ascent: Japanese climber, Masatoshi Kuriaki, reached the summit on March 8th, 1998. The fourth soloist to reach the summit in winter.

### **MOUNT MCKINLEY:** West Buttress Route

Youngest climber to Reach the Summit: Korean climber, Kim Young Sik, celebrated his 12th birthday two days before his summit on June 27, 1998.

### **MOUNT MCKINLEY:** West Buttress Route

Korean climber, Kim Hong Bin, first double amputee to summit. Bin had lost both hands to frostbite on a 1991 McKinley accident.

## Getting the Inside Scoop on Mt. McKinley

Over 1,000 climbers travel the popular West Buttress route on Mt. McKinley between April and July each climbing season. The National Park Service initiated a new program this year to count the number of nights spent at specific camps along this fourteen-mile route.

Climbers were asked to list where they camped and how long they stayed at each camp to determine the total number of user days. The NPS was interested in obtaining base line information on the amount and effect of human waste at the popular camps.

It is generally accepted that in one "user day" on the mountain equals one pound of waste.

The user day totals show the typical travel pattern for most expeditions. The average expedition will fly into the 7,200-foot Base Camp and make multiple carries of supplies before they reach the 14,200-foot camp. From the 14,200-foot camp, an expedition will wait approximately three days to acclimatize to the altitude before moving up to High Camp at 17,200-feet. They will have four to

*(Continued on page 16)*

*"Over 1,000 climbers travel the popular West Buttress Route on Mt. McKinley between April and July of each climbing season."*



## Denali Pro Pin Recipient List

***The following list shows  
all those who received  
Denali Pro Pins in 1998.  
Thanks to everyone for  
their good work both on  
and off the mountain:***

Doug Drury  
Jamie Redmond  
Janie Lasalle  
Jay Hudson  
Clare Schuster  
Don Bowers  
Jane Tranel  
Ryan Hokanson  
Kirby Spangler  
Mike Wood  
Tyson Bradley  
Willy Peabody  
John Elwell  
Dave Langrish  
Adrian Nature  
♦ Lynda Davis  
Brent Okita  
Shawn O'Fallon  
Kirby Senden  
Rodrigo Mujica  
♦ Jeff Warden  
♦ David Horne  
♦ Tom Holford  
♦ Colin Grissom  
Karen LaMay  
Jan Passek  
♦ Dave Irwin  
♦ Kendra Kurihara  
♦ Jim Fisher  
Annie Duquette  
Blaine Smith  
Tom Bennett  
Jeff Evans  
Karen Hilton  
Jim Williams  
Randy Cobb  
Steve Hanson  
Chris Berry  
Bryson Stephens  
Tim Mai  
Dr. Phil Spradling  
Victoria Tanner

Jostein Berntsen  
Joelle Larson  
♦ Scott Burch  
♦ Michael Ruth  
♦ Scott Reichard  
♦ Lois Remington  
♦ Jacob Hutchinson  
Sean Gaffney  
Sean Bagshaw  
Joe Owens  
Mike Whelan  
Jeff Humphry  
Brock Rowley  
♦ Pete Athans  
♦ Liz Green  
♦ Joel Geisendorfer  
♦ Scott Darsney  
Gordy Kito  
♦ John Schnider  
♦ Hanah Gosnel  
♦ Kendra Kurihara  
♦ Julie Vance  
Eli Helmuth  
Michael Conti  
Chris McGee  
Gerardo Rey  
Richard Stotts  
Sjur Klerberg  
Haavard Klerberg  
Kristen Thagaard  
Espen Fevang  
♦ Matt Szundy  
Mike Shain  
Pepe Chaverre Alaman  
Simon Elias  
Mark Bunker  
Mike Dollarhide  
Dr. Dudley Weider  
Michael Dong  
Dr. Dave Moon  
Chris Morris  
Wesley Bunch  
Les Lloyd  
Scott Woolums  
Todd Rutledge  
Doug Chabot  
Jeff Witherspoon  
Dan Corroon  
Paul Fitzpatrick  
James Fulton  
Scott Stamps  
Alfred Bothwell

*"My heart is tuned to  
the quietness that the  
stillness of nature  
inspires."*

*-Hazrat Inayat Khan*

Tim Stageberg  
Mark Daverin  
Jennifer Sullivan  
Tom Wutrich  
♦ Mark Elstad  
♦ Mike Vanderbeek  
♦ Tim Hurtado  
♦ Dean Giampietro

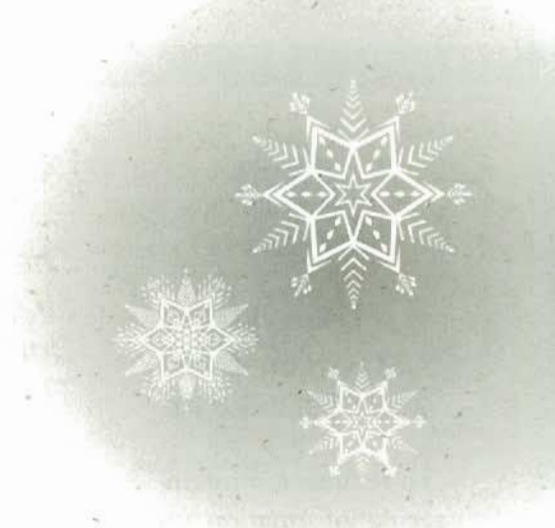
♦ Denotes recipient was one of our patrol volunteers.



NPS Photo

A line of climbers makes their way up the West Buttress on Mt. McKinley.

*"Nothing is so contagious as enthusiasm.....it is the genius of sincerity, and truth accomplishes no victories without it."*  
*-Bulwer-Lytton*



## Who's Who on the South District Staff:

South District Ranger

Administrative Assistant

Lead Mountaineering Ranger

Mountaineering Rangers

Helicopter Manager

Helicopter Pilots

Helicopter Mechanic

Lead Visitor Use Assistant

Fee Collectors

Interpretive Rangers

SCA

Public Information Officer/Editor

J.D. Swed

Miriam Valentine

Daryl R. Miller

Kevin Moore

Roger Robinson

Billy Shott

Eric Martin

Joe Reichert

Dave Kreutzer

Doug Drury

Jim Hood

Ray Touzeau

Punky Moore

Elaine Sutton

Meg Purdue

Maureen McLaughlin

Maureen Swed

Nancy Juergens

Mike Shain

Jane Tranel



# DENALI NATIONAL PARK AND PRESERVE

To request mountain-  
eering information and  
registration packets,  
please contact:

Talkeetna Ranger Station  
P.O. Box 588  
Talkeetna, Alaska 99676

Phone: 907-733-2231

Fax: 907-733-1465

Email: [www.nps.gov/dena](http://www.nps.gov/dena)

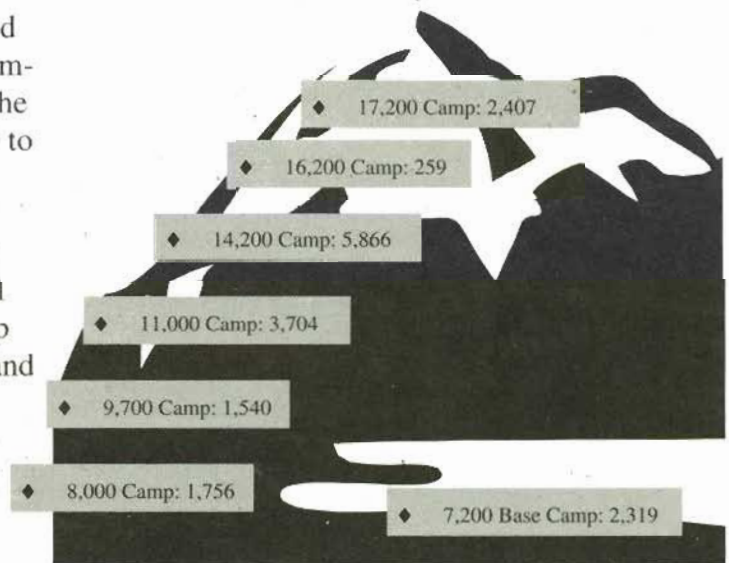
To Addressee

## Getting the Inside Scoop on McKinley

*(Continued from page 13)*

five days worth of food and fuel in anticipation of a summit bid from this point. The summit day is typically 10 to 12 hours in length.

On the descent, if weather permits, expeditions travel from the 17,200-foot camp to the 11,000-foot camp and pick up their gear cache. Snowshoes and skis are left at this location during the ascent due to ice and snow conditions. Expeditions may spend multiple days at the 7,200-foot camp waiting for favorable weather conditions for their flight off the glacier.



**The graphic above shows the total number of user days for each camp on McKinley's West Buttress Route. One user day equals one pound of waste.**