



## AAC Publications

---

### **Bear Glacier, many first ascents**

Alaska, Alaska Saint Elias Mountains

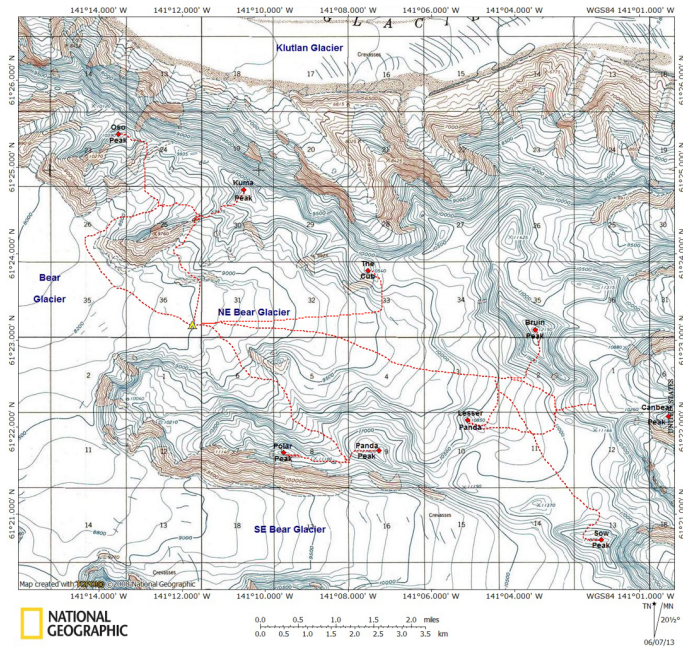
On May 19, our group of five—Greg Encelewski, Galen Flint, Hannah North, Ben Still, and I—flew to the Ultima Thule Lodge with pilot Paul Claus. The next morning Paul dropped us at a ca 8,500' base camp on the northeast fork of the Bear Glacier. This remote part of the Alaska Saint Elias Mountains is overshadowed by the larger peaks of Mt. Natazhat (13,435') 10 miles to the north, Mt. Bear (14,831') seven miles to the south, and Mt. Bona (16,550') 19 miles to the west. We could find no record of any previous climbs in this valley. This was my 31<sup>st</sup> expedition into the Wrangell-St. Elias Mountains and my 25<sup>th</sup> flying with Paul.

Over 10 days, our group summited eight peaks and attempted a ninth. All of these climbs were first known ascents, between AK Grade I and II in difficulty: The Cub (10,540'), southeast ridge; Panda Peak (11,425'), west ridge; Polar Peak (11,350'), east ridge; Bruin Peak (12,150'), southwest face; Lesser Panda (10,850'), east ridge; Sow Peak (11,875') north face; Oso Peak (10,390') east ridge; Kuma Peak (10,450'), southwest ridge; and Canbear Peak (10,750'), west ridge, attempt.

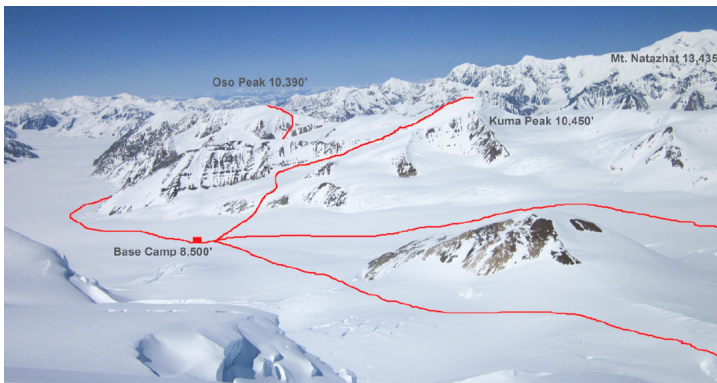
Highlights from the trip include 10 days of glorious sunshine, a group ski descent from the summit of Sow Peak, and beautiful powder skiing in the Polar-Panda bowl. [A detailed trip report with photos can be found in *Scree*, August 2013.]

Dave Hart

## Images



A map of the area showing peaks and routes completed.



A view of basecamp and some of the peaks climbed. See the PDF for more photos and information.

Article Details

Author	Dave Hart
Publication	AAJ
Volume	56
Issue	88
Page	162
Copyright Date	2014
Article Type	Climbs and expeditions