

Denali National Park and Preserve Annual Mountaineering Summary -



MY FINAL SEASON

If I had a dollar for each time a climber described their expedition as ‘cold’, I would be retiring a rich man — but this season the temperatures *were* quite cold; the NPS rangers treated 17 cases of frostbite, and those likely represent only half of the *actual* number of cases. Frostbite can result in a lifetime of pain, even though it is one of the most preventable injuries in the mountains with proper hydration, gear, and good judgment.

Our staff responded to 18 major incidents this year, including frostbite, altitude illness, trauma, and cardiac illness. In an unusual and tragic turn of events, two clients from separate guided groups experienced sudden fatal collapses within three days of one another in early July. James Nasti, age 51 of Naperville, Illinois, died on the very summit of Mt. McKinley. His remains were buried off the summit ridge; medical experts consider it probable that his death was cardiac-related. And just before returning high camp after a long summit day, Pungkas Tri Baruno, age 20, of Jakarta, Indonesia died of what later proved to be a pre-existing cardiac irregularity.

Another tragic event this season involved the perplexing disappearance of two highly skilled Japanese climbers. Tracks in the snow indicate that Tatsuro Yamada and Yuto Inoue had completed an entire traverse of the Kahiltna Peaks, west to east, and continued climbing directly up the prow of the Cassin Ridge. Their tracks vanished at 19,200 feet in an area beyond the route’s hard technical climbing. After an exhaustive aerial search, no decisive evidence materialized, and in my opinion, no persuasive theories have come to light to explain what happened. Ironically, after the disappearance of the two men, the Cassin Ridge was climbed by a record-breaking 9 additional expeditions, but no more clues were found.

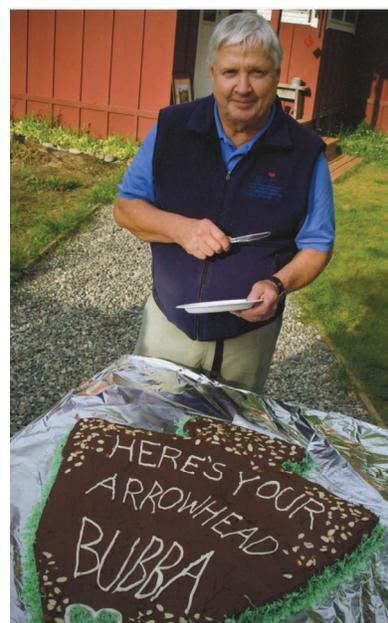
This climbing season was a particularly bittersweet one for me, as it represents my last season with the National Park Service. I retire on December 31, 2008 after 18 years of working in the Denali mountaineering program, a career stretch that incorporated some of the very best and the very worst moments of my life. We have lost numerous climbers over the years, including some close friends and fellow staff. On an emotional level, serving as a park liaison with the many grieving families has been one of the hardest jobs I have ever undertaken, though such work does have its rewards. I’ve met some truly exceptional people and developed lifelong friendships under these painful circumstances.

Although the mountain’s objective hazards will always remain the same, I believe that mountaineering in Denali National Park

has improved dramatically since my first expedition here in 1981. The park is certainly an environmentally cleaner place. Nowadays, climbers all over the world can access an incredible amount of web-based mountaineering information, and once here in town, the teams receive a far more comprehensive safety briefing than ever before. Together we have helped develop a more refined and professional search and rescue operation complete with annual ‘Rigging for Rescue’ courses, advanced medical training, and specialized aviation and shorthaul work. Our mountaineering staff and volunteers are equipped and trained to respond to incidents more safely and efficiently than ever before, highlighted this year by the dramatic raising and lowering of an injured Canadian climber on the Peters Glacier. Denali’s mountain rescue team is recognized as one of the best in the world thanks to the retention of competent staff and the support of park management and the climbing community at large.

I will miss being a part of this unique and specialized operation, but I look forward to starting a new chapter in my life with my wife and best friend, Judy. I owe a lot to my fellow park staff, guides, climbers, and pilots that I was so fortunate to work with over the years. I wish all the staff here the best and believe they have tremendous opportunity to further improve mountain operations in the future. Thanks for all the great years!

(South District Ranger Daryl Miller)



(Retiring So. District Ranger Daryl Miller; Photo: Karen Hilton)

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ROUTES CLIMBED

ROUTE	<u>ATTEMPTS</u>		<u>SUMMITS</u>		SUMMIT PERCENTAGE
	Teams	Climbers	Teams	Climbers	
MT. MCKINLEY					
Canadian	1	1	0	0	0%
Cassin Ridge	10	22	9	20	91
Denali Diamond	1	6	1	5	83
Isis Face	2	5	1	3	60
Messner Couloir	1	2	0	0	0
Muldrow Glacier	4	25	3	15	60
Muldrow Traverse	1	4	1	2	50
Orient Express	3	5	3	5	100
West Buttress	248	1,123	180	652	58
West Rib	15	42	8	24	57
Upper West Rib	12	37	10	29	78
TOTALS	298	1,272	216	755	59%
MT. FORAKER					
Sultana	6	16	1	1	6
TOTALS	6	16	1	1	6%

GLOBAL DISTRIBUTION

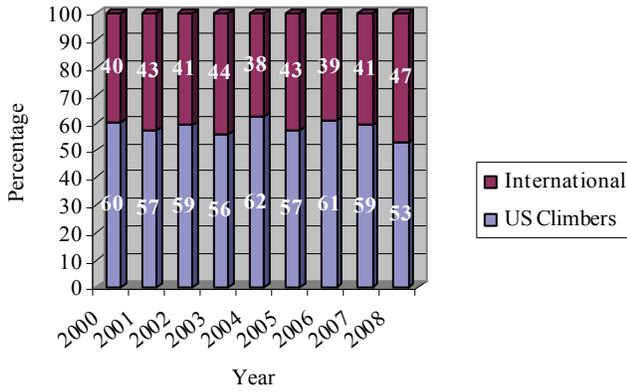
Climbers came from 51 different nations this season



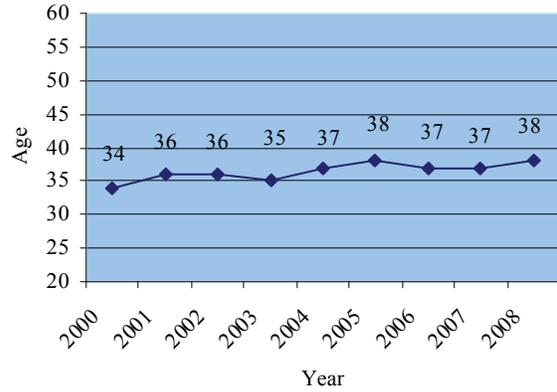
United States	692	Sweden	12	Mexico	3
Canada	72	Netherlands	11	Peru	3
United Kingdom	69	Ukraine	11	Belgium	2
Germany	47	Slovenia	10	Ecuador	2
Spain	42	Taiwan	8	Israel	2
Japan	27	China	5	Lithuania	2
Korea	22	Ireland	5	New Zealand	2
Norway	22	Serbia	5	Argentina	1
Switzerland	21	Brazil	4	Bahamas	1
Australia	19	Chile	4	Bosnia	1
Italy	19	Finland	4	Greece	1
Austria	18	Hong Kong	4	Mongolia	1
Poland	17	Slovakia	4	Nepal	1
Czech Republic	13	Croatia	3	Panama	1
Denmark	13	Indonesia	3	Philippines	1
Russia	13	Kazakhstan	3	Portugal	1
South Africa	12	Latvia	3	United Arab Emirates	1

STATISTICAL REVIEW 2000 to 2008

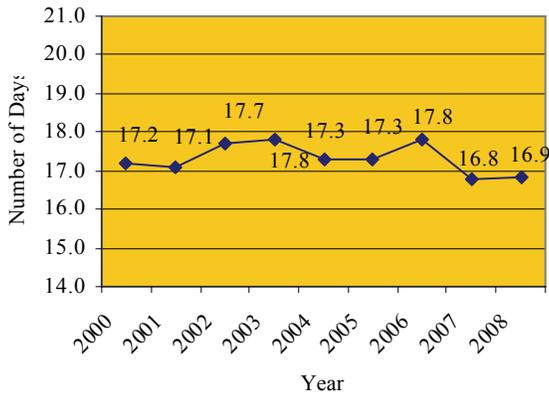
Foreign vs. Domestic Climbers



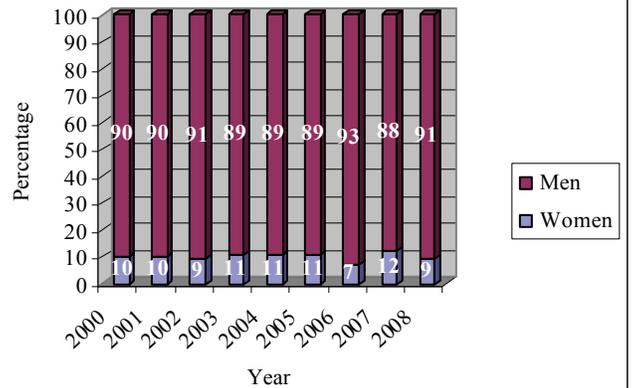
Average Age



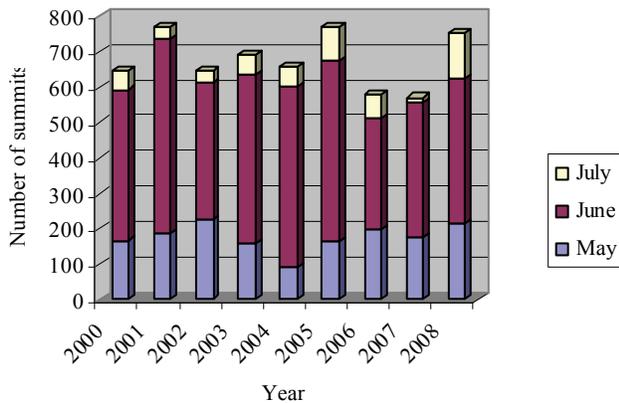
Average Expedition Length



Gender Breakdown



Summits by Month

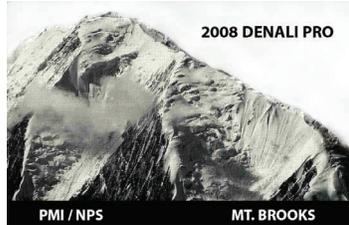


Busiest Summit Days

2000	June 3	71
2001	June 4	69
2002	June 13	56
2003	June 12	115
2004	June 4	71
2005	June 15	101
2006	May 29	50
2007	June 12	77
2008	May 30	91

DENALI PRO AWARD

Denali National Park and Preserve and Pigeon Mountain Industries (PMI) have selected Bengt Bern and Jan Vinterek as the 2008 Denali Pro Award winners. This year marks the tenth occasion that the NPS and PMI have teamed up to honor



mountaineers who have demonstrated the highest standards in the sport for safety, self-sufficiency, assisting fellow mountaineers, and clean climbing.

This year's recipients epitomize why the Denali Pro award program was created: to recognize mountaineers who spring into action to help climbers in desperate need, without being asked or directed. On June 16, Bern and Vinterek alerted the NPS via radio of a climber that they had encountered who was unable to descend to the 14,200-foot camp on his own. The climber's fatigued teammates were also in no condition to help get their partner back to camp. In light of the individual's condition, Bern and Vinterek began lowering the climber towards the 14,200-foot camp. After lowering the climber for several hundred feet on a makeshift litter, the pair informed the NPS rangers of his worsening condition and requested assistance. NPS rangers and volunteers responded from the 14,200-foot camp and rendezvoused with the party midway between the base of the fixed lines and the 14,200-foot camp, after Bern and Vinterek had completed the majority of the lowering. By this point, the climber was in a semi-conscious, hypothermic state and was thus taken to camp's medical tent, treated and stabilized, and later evacuated from the mountain. According to the NPS volunteer physician on patrol at the time, had it not been for the timely and selfless actions of Bern and Vinterek, the outcome would have been dire.

Year	Denali Pro Award Recipients
1998	Adrian Nature
1999	Michal Krissak
2000	John Mislow Andrew Swanson
2001	Adam Clark Dave Hahn Dave Hanning Matt Helliker
2002	Thomas Lammle
2003	Paul Roderick
2004	Neil McNab Andy Perkins
2005	Clark Fyans
2006	<i>Not Awarded</i>
2007	Robert Durnell Heidi Kloos
2008	Bengt Bern Jan Vinterek

ONLINE REGISTRATION AVAILABLE NOW!

Denali National Park and Preserve is pleased to offer online registration for mountaineers attempting climbs of Mt. McKinley or Mt. Foraker. The online registration and associated payment system is operated by Pay.Gov, a service of the United States Department of Treasury. Climbers wishing to register online should go to www.nps.gov/dena, and follow the Mountaineering Information link.

In this first phase of implementation, climbers who use a credit card to pay the \$25 mountaineering special use fee deposit will be able to submit the registration forms electronically using the Pay.Gov system. In the upcoming year, park staff intends to broaden this capability to include all registrants, including those opting to pay their deposit with money orders or electronic bank transfers.

Missy Smothers, the supervisor of fee collection operations at the Talkeetna Ranger Station, said the park is excited about the new online capability for several reasons. "From the climber perspective, submitting the electronic data and payment information will be much quicker, enable greater security, and provide immediate confirmation that we received the registration form. At our end, the electronic data collection will definitely improve efficiency and accuracy."

All climbers attempting Mt. McKinley or Mt. Foraker are required to pre-register with Denali National Park and Preserve at least 60 days in advance of a climb, a regulation implemented in 1995 with the intention of preventing climbing-related accidents and altitude illnesses. Payment of a \$200 mountaineering special use fee is also required, including the \$25 deposit.

FIRST ASCENTS AND NOTABLE CLIMBS

Perhaps Denali is just not large enough! The “link-up” game came to Mt. McKinley this season in impressive fashion with a Japanese team of three making the third ascent of the Isis Face and continuing on to the Slovak Direct in a single eight-day push. Katsutaka Yokoyama, Yusuke Sato and Fumitaka Ichimura were a part of the 5 member Japanese team called the Giri Giri Boys, which also included Tatsuro Yamada and Yuto Inoue. The group began their annual Alaska Range trip on the Buckskin Glacier. After waiting out poor weather, Yokoyama, Sato, and Ichimura climbed a difficult new route on the Northeast Face of the Bear’s Tooth from April 18 to 19. The following week the trio made a rapid ascent of the Moonflower to the top of the North Buttress on Mount Hunter. The entire 5 member group then acclimated by ascending to 18,000 feet on the West Buttress. During the second week of May the team split. The trio of Yokoyama, Sato and Ichimura made their historic ‘link-up’ from May 11 to 18, while Yamada and Inoue began their climb of the Cassin Ridge on Denali by linking the Kahiltna Peaks to the start of the Cassin, thereby climbing the entire feature from its beginning on the Kahiltna Glacier. Tracks support the theory that the two-man team successfully completed this dramatic traverse of the Kahiltna Peaks and reached an elevation of approximately 19,000-feet on the Cassin. Unfortunately Yamada and Inoue never returned from their climb.



(F. Ichimura, Y. Sato, K. Yokoyama; Photo: Giri Giri Boys)

Early in the season, on April 3 and 4, Jon Bracey and Matt Heliker added a new technical line on the East Face of the Moose’s Tooth, just right of “Arctic Rage”. The 1400 meter route climbs mixed terrain to a high point along the north ridge. Bracey later paired with Andy Houseman and made the second ascent in 23 years of the “French Couloir” on the North Buttress of Mt. Hunter over a four day stretch starting on May 8.

Further south at the head of the Yentna and Lacuna Glaciers,

Ben Gilmore, Maxime Turgeon, and Freddie Wilkinson completed the first ascent of the Bat’s Ears, an 11,044-foot unnamed peak. The April climb covered nearly 3,000 feet on the south face and was completed in 23 hours round trip from their base camp.

Moving even further south — almost as far south as one can go and still remain in the mountains of Denali National Park and Preserve — Zack Smith and Josh Wharton added a line to the summit of Kichatna Spire. From a camp on the Cul-de-sac Glacier they ascended a mixed route on the north side of the peak which joined the 1966 North Ridge route and continued to the summit.

Back in the Ruth in early May, a large team of young alpinists from France were active. Of the many climbs completed, the most significant routes were on Mount Dickey. François Delas, Titi Gentet, Seb Ratel, and Damien Tomasi completed the 1974 David Roberts, Galen Rowell, and Ed Ward route on the Southeast Face in four days (similar time to the first ascent party). A few days later Mathieu Détrie, Mathieu Maynadier, Seb Ibanez, and Patrick Pessi took six days to climb a new line on Mt. Dickey’s 5,250-foot Northeast Buttress.

A couple of shorter technical routes were also accomplished this season near popular base camps. One on ‘Point 7550’ between Mts. Dickey and Bradley; Norwegian climbers Eiliv Ruud and Nils Nielsen climbed an 800 meter line that they dubbed “Kuriositeten”.

The other notable route is situated up glacier from the ‘Kahiltna International Airstrip’ where Mark Westman and Eamonn Walsh climbed “Bacon and Eggs” on the next tower east of the Mini Moonflower. The eight pitches of climbing include some high quality 85 degree ice. This route may have had previous ascents that went unreported. *(Ranger Joe Reichert)*



(Limited room at the campground; Photo: Giri Giri Boys)

RESCUE SUMMARY - 2008

The search and rescue missions performed by Denali rangers in 2008 are summarized below. For more detailed information on these and other mountaineering missions performed in 2008, refer to [Accidents in North American Mountaineering-2009](#), published by the American Alpine Club.

Cardiac Event: A climber reported to an NPS ranger at the 7,200-foot camp on May 5 with chest pain that had persisted for over 24 hours. The patient had no cardiac history and after an examination by the ranger on scene, there was concern of a serious heart condition. The weather at camp was quickly deteriorating, so the decision was made to fly the patient immediately to Talkeetna via an air taxi. The patient was then ground transported to the nearest hospital for definitive medical care.

HAPE: On May 15, NPS rangers at the 14,200-foot camp observed a climber who appeared to be having difficulty descending solo from the 15,400-foot level. The rangers noted that the soloist required multiple prolonged rest stops while descending, and could not walk the remaining 200 meters of level ground into the lower camp without stopping twice to sit down and rest. Staff contacted the climber and while conducting a medical examination discovered the climber had a below average oxygen saturation. The patient was diagnosed as suffering from high altitude pulmonary edema (HAPE). After treatment with medication and oxygen, the patient was evacuated to Talkeetna the following day by the NPS Lama helicopter, and subsequently transported to an Anchorage hospital via fixed-wing aircraft.

Frostbite: A climber reported to NPS rangers at the 14,200-foot camp on May 16 with potentially frostbitten hands following a summit attempt that day. After a thorough examination, rangers found that the patient suffered from severe frostbite to both hands and feet. The patient's extremities were actively re-warmed and the patient was subsequently evacuated via the NPS Lama helicopter to Talkeetna. A fixed-wing air ambulance then transported the patient to Anchorage for advanced care.

Frostbite: A climber who had experienced symptoms of frostbite during a summit climb the previous day contacted NPS rangers at the 17,200-foot camp after the symptoms persisted overnight. Upon examination, it was determined that the climber indeed suffered from both deep and superficial frostbite to the toes of both feet. On May 19, two teams were dispatched to assist in the lowering of the patient from the high camp to the 14,200 foot camp. Following treatment, the patient was evacuated by the NPS Lama helicopter to Talkeetna and then transferred to ground ambulance for further hospital care.

Search: A two-person climbing team disappeared during their ascent of the Cassin Ridge. After failing to return to camp by May 23, their estimated check-out date, an air search was deployed once the weather cleared. Over the next four days, observers flew a total of 33 hours of helicopter and fixed-wing flight time in an aerial search effort. Over 3,000 high resolution photos of the search zone were captured. In light of the team's

limited supplies and the subzero temperatures ranges, search managers concluded that the missing climbers survival was outside the window of possibility. Active field search operations concluded on May 29th. Analysis of the enlarged and enhanced images failed to uncover any pertinent clues to the whereabouts of the missing climbers.

Frostbite: On June 26, NPS rangers heard a radio report that a climber at high camp had suffered frostbite to the fingers after trying to descend to the 14,200-foot camp during a wind storm. The climber denied NPS assistance and was successfully short-roped to the 14,200-foot camp by their partner. Once at the camp, the frostbitten fingers were re-warmed and dressed by an NPS medical volunteer. The patient was evacuated by the Lama helicopter to the Kahiltna Basecamp, and then transferred to a fixed wing aircraft for direct transport to an Anchorage hospital.

Avalanche: NPS staff in Talkeetna received a distress call on the evening of May 27 made from the landing strip on the Pika Glacier. The caller observed a large avalanche in an area where a two person team was known to be climbing. Only the run-out zone of the slide could be observed, but not the couloir from where the avalanche had released. NPS rangers immediately boarded the Lama helicopter to investigate. Shortly after taking flight, a report came in that the two climbers had been observed descending the route. As the rangers were only minutes away, they continued to the site and obtained visual confirmation that the two climbers were safely descending.

Back Injury: On May 31, a guide reported to NPS rangers at the 14,200-foot camp that a client had suffered a back injury and they requested assistance in evaluating the patient. Following a detailed assessment which found significant damage to the lower back, the client received pharmacotherapy and rest. After four days, there was no improvement and it was concluded that the patient was unable to walk down safely. The patient was evacuated to Talkeetna via the NPS Lama helicopter on June 4.

Climbing Fall: Talkeetna Ranger Station staff received a satellite phone call on June 3 from an injured and distressed solo climber. The West Buttress climber had been descending the ridge at 16,400-feet when a misstep resulted in an approximately 2,400-foot fall down onto the Peter's Glacier. The caller suffered multiple lacerations and injuries to his left eye, ankle, and knee. The weather was unflyable, so a large scale raising and lowering operation was conducted to rescue and transport the patient back to 14,200-foot camp. When weather cleared, the patient was evacuated to Talkeetna via the NPS Lama helicopter where he was transferred to a fixed wing air ambulance.

RESCUE SUMMARY, continued

Rescue: A couple hours after returning to high camp after a successful summit day on June 7, a climber became weak and ataxic. NPS ranger staff staged at high camp treated the patient overnight for altitude illness and cerebral edema. Despite some improvement, the climber remained weak and dizzy and was thus short-roped down to the 14,200-foot camp by two members of the ranger patrol. The patient's condition improved at the lower altitude camp.

False Alarm: On June 9, NPS rangers responded to a request for help relayed through a SPOT Messenger beacon, a personal locator device with the ability to notify friends and family of potential accidents while in remote areas. After searching and investigating, NPS rangers were able to locate the climber descending into the 14,200-foot camp. The climber was not in distress and was unaware of the triggered alarm. The SPOT device, which was hanging freely from a pack, may simply have been triggered by being accidentally bumped or hit while climbing.

Rescue: On June 16, three separate rope teams were caught off guard by rapid weather changes at the upper elevations of Denali. In whiteout conditions, the NPS ranger patrol and two guides staged at high camp spent a long night providing rescue and short-rope assistance to multiple storm victims suffering from disorientation, fatigue, altitude illness, minor frostbite, and a bergschrund fall. In the end, all made it back to high camp with only minor injuries and none of the teams required any further assistance to descend the following day.

Illness: An independent climbing team found a climber lying in the snow near the top of the fixed lines on June 16. After alerting the NPS rangers at the 14,200-foot camp via radio, the team commenced lowering the sick and non-ambulatory climber down the fixed lines. After lowering the patient several hundred feet, the assisting team re-contacted the rangers and informed them of the

patient's worsening condition and requested additional help. NPS rangers and volunteers responded and met the party midway between the base of the fixed lines and the 14,200-foot camp. Once back at camp, a volunteer physician assumed patient care and treated for hypothermia, dehydration, and extreme fatigue.

Frostbite: A guided client suffered severe frostbite on both hands and superficial frostbite to the face, in part due to the brief taking summit photos on June 26. The following morning, the team's guide informed the NPS ranger patrol at high camp of the client's condition, and that they had begun re-warming the frozen hands. The patrol's volunteer physician examined the hands, and it was determined that the patient be short-roped by NPS personnel down to the 14,200-foot camp for further treatment and helicopter evacuation.

Frostbite: NPS rangers on patrol at high camp made contact on June 29 with a climber suffering from serious frostbite to all ten fingers after gloves had been removed for less than 10 minutes during a summit attempt. On June 30, after a failed attempt to descend unaided to the lower camp at 14,200 feet, the impaired team requested the help of NPS staff. On the morning of July 1, the patient was prepared for transport by the patrol's volunteer physician and then short roped to the lower camp. The next morning, the NPS Lama helicopter flew the patient to Kahiltna Basecamp and subsequent transport to an Anchorage hospital.

Fatality: A client on a guided expedition suddenly collapsed and died shortly after attaining the summit of Mt. McKinley on July 4. Aggressive resuscitation efforts by two guides and an independent climber were unsuccessful. NPS rangers instructed the guides to cover and mark the deceased and to descend safely with their remaining clients. Due to the location of the deceased and the resources required for a retrieval expedition, it was determined that a body recovery was not feasible at that time. On July 6, upon request, two other guides heading to summit securely buried the deceased climber just off the summit plateau.

Fatality: On July 7, a client in a guided expedition on descent from the summit of Denali suddenly collapsed and died at 17,400 feet, just above high camp. The guides leading the expedition immediately tried to resuscitate their client, but were unsuccessful. After efforts to resuscitate the climber ceased, an attempt to transport the deceased back to the 17,200-foot camp was made. Due to deep snow, lack of a sled, and fatigue, the team was forced to temporarily bury the deceased in place. On July 10, a team made up of NPS staff and guides returned to the site of the incident and retrieved the remains of the deceased using the NPS Lama helicopter.



(NPS Volunteer Physician Skeet Glatterer treats a patient; Photo: Ian Shive)

Please stay tuned for the 2008 Medical Summary. These statistics should be available in January 2009. Thank you for your patience!

TRIPLE CROWN FOR DR. DOW

Dr. Jennifer Dow, the hard-working medical director for Denali's mountaineering program since 2000, received three prestigious honors this past year for her extensive volunteer efforts in the field of emergency medicine.



(Dr. Dow and former Denali mountaineering ranger Gordy Kito at the Hartzog Award ceremony in Washington DC; NPS Photo)

In November 2007, the Lieutenant Governor of Alaska presented Dr. Dow, an emergency room physician at Alaska Regional Hospital, with the "Memorial Longenbaugh Award", a statewide accolade created in honor of Dr. George Longenbaugh, a pioneer in Alaska emergency medicine. Two months later, the Alaska Region of the National Park Service named Dr. Dow as the regional Outstanding Volunteer Service Award winner. Award recipients from the seven NPS regions throughout the United States were then nominated for the coveted national prize, the George B. Hartzog, Jr. Award for Outstanding Volunteer Service. Dr. Dow received the highest honor in the Individual Volunteer category, flying out to Washington, D.C. on May 8, 2008 for a whirlwind ceremony.

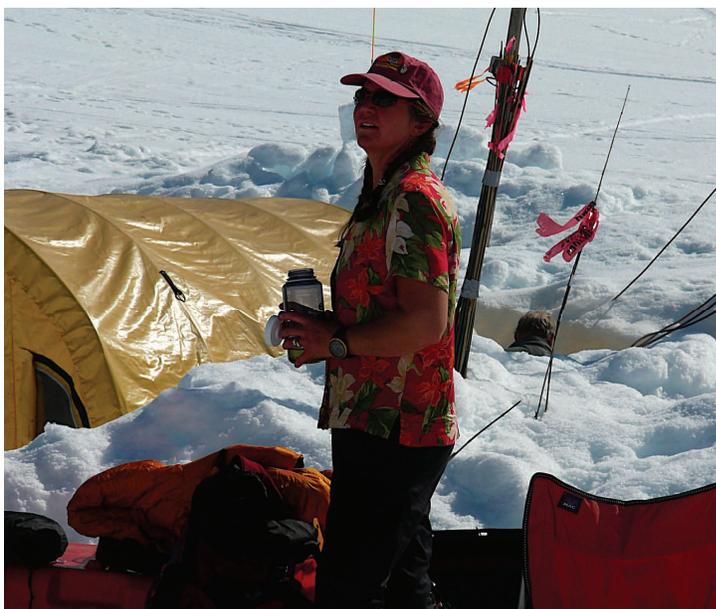
Dr. Dow has long been an indispensable asset to the National Park Service (NPS), simultaneously serving as volunteer medical director for three of Alaska's national parks. She began her NPS volunteer services in 2000 with Denali National Park and Preserve's mountaineering operations, and then expanded her medical oversight to include the emergency medical services (EMS) at Wrangell-St. Elias and Katmai National Parks in 2003 and 2004, respectively. Dr. Dow's personal devotion to the field of outdoor emergency medicine and to the mission of the National Park Service has helped save lives, optimize the medical care received by park visitors, and has significantly enhanced the medical skills and professional quality of NPS emergency response.

In Denali National Park and Preserve alone, Dr. Dow has logged over 1,600 hours of volunteer work since 2000, including:

- Field time on Denali mountaineering patrols including multi-week stints at the 7,200-foot Kahiltna Basecamp, the 14,200-foot ranger camp, and the 17,200-foot high camp.
- Providing medical guidance via telephone and radio during rescue emergencies;
- Conducting pre-season medical training;
- Revising the park's medical protocols and call-out procedures;
- Conducting debriefings of all medical incidents and providing constructive input for future employee development;
- Oversight of prescription pharmaceuticals dispensed by trained ranger staff to park visitors; and
- Participation in training exercises such as helicopter shorthaul, ice climbing, crevasse rescue, glacier travel and high-angle rope rescue.

According to South District Ranger Daryl Miller, "As an avid skier and high altitude mountaineer, few physicians in the world have the breadth of experience that Dr. Dow has in providing outdoor emergency medical care in extreme Alaskan conditions."

This 2008 season, Dr. Dow volunteered yet again on a 30-day mountaineering patrol, and we all hope she keeps coming back for more!



(Dr. Jenn Dow basking in the summer sun at the Kahiltna Basecamp, June 2008; NPS Photo)

DEPARTMENT OF INTERIOR VALOR AWARD



(Dave Bywater, Chris Harder, Interior Secretary Dirk Kempthorne, Renny Jackson, Steven Rickert, and John McConnell; NPS Photo)

In May 2008, Secretary of the Interior Dirk Kempthorne presented a Group Valor Award to five former and current climbing rangers from Grand Teton National Park for their heroic actions during a May 2004 rescue on Mt. McKinley. David Bywater, Christopher Harder, Reynold (Renny) Jackson, John McConnell, and Steven Rickert, were working on a temporary detail assignment at Denali National Park, cross-training in mountain search and rescue and assisting a short-staffed Denali rescue crew.

Two additional rescuers, independent British climbers Neil McNab and Andrew Perkins, were instrumental in the life-saving rescue and were honored with the Department of Interior Citizen's Award for Bravery. The awards were presented to McNab and Perkins in November 2008 in front of a packed house at the Kendal Mountain Festival in Kendal, England.

On May 20, 2004, these 7 individuals risked their lives to save a Korean climber who sustained severe head injuries in a fall at

18,200 feet on Mt. McKinley's West Buttress. Alerted by radio at the 14,200-foot camp, the rescue team immediately mobilized. They reached the 17,200-foot high camp in just over 3 hours, a remarkable demonstration of strength and stamina given the elevation, technical terrain, and whiteout conditions. The patient was found 800 feet below Denali Pass on the Harper Glacier. Semi-conscious and severely frostbitten, he was packaged in a sled and dragged back up to the Pass. The team then faced a series of time-consuming technical rope lowerings to the 17,200-foot camp in gale-force winds, arctic temperatures, and driving snow. The rescue team reached the temporary safety of the high camp shelter after 18 hours of grueling and dangerous work. Following a night of constant medical care at high camp, more bad weather the next day forced the team to complete an additional 3,000-foot technical rope lowering to the 14,200-foot camp, from where the patient was evacuated a day later.

Without this team's selfless efforts, there is no doubt the climber would have perished.



(Andy Perkins, Neil McNab, and award presenter Zoe Hart; Photo: Henry Iddon, Kendal Mountain Festival)

IN MEMORIAM



Volunteer and friend Tom Clausing died tragically in a midair helicopter collision on June 29, 2008 near Flagstaff, Arizona. Tom, a flight paramedic, was one of six victims who died in the crash. Tom's crew was treating and transporting a Grand Canyon National Park firefighter suffering from anaphylactic shock when the accident occurred.

(Tom Clausing; NPS Photo)

Just two weeks prior to the fatal crash, Tom had completed his second tour of duty as a Denali patrol volunteer. Tom had extensive climbing and search and rescue experience, having served as ranger and a park medic at Grand Canyon National Park for over 10 years. This season on Denali, Tom was a member of the technical ground rescue team that saved the life of a Canadian climber who fell 2,000 feet on the West Buttress.

Tom will be remembered for his amazing emergency medical skills, his quiet humor, and his adventurous spirit.

PERSONNEL

South District Staff—2008

South District Ranger	Daryl Miller
Lead Mountaineering Ranger	John Leonard
Mountaineering Rangers	Tucker Chenoweth
	Chris Erickson
	Brandon Latham
	John Loomis
	Evan Olson
	Joe Reichert
	Roger Robinson
	Mik Shain
	Kevin Wright
Helicopter Manager	Dave Kreutzer
Helicopter Pilots	Jim Hood
	Francisco Orlaineta
Helicopter Mechanic	Doug Green
Admin/Public Information	Maureen McLaughlin
Supervisory VUA	Missy Smothers
Visitor Use Assistants	Al Gallo
	Pam Robinson
	Laura Wright
South Denali Planner	Miriam Valentine
Education Specialist	Jenni Burr
Interpretive Ranger	Melissa Ostermick
Interpretive SCAs*	Jay Koeppel
	Ruth Ramsey
Janitor	Jack Fickel
Medical Directors	Jennifer Dow, M.D.
	Peter Hackett, M.D.

*Student Conservation Association Interns



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Mike Gauthier,
 Lead Mountaineering Ranger
 from
 Mt. Rainier National Park!
 'Gator' lent his leadership
 skills and support to Denali's
 South District staff for 5 weeks
 during the critical peak of the
 climbing season.

**Air National Guard
 Pararescuemen**

*Paul Nelson
 Rocco Pergola
 Brandon Stuemke*

Canadian Air Force

Gordon 'Jody' Hynes

**Kluane National
 Park and Reserve**

Scott Stuart

2008 Mountaineering Volunteers

<i>Todd Anthony</i>	<i>Jennifer Kobi</i>	<i>Ian Shive</i>
<i>Nick Armitage</i>	<i>Corrie Lane</i>	<i>Sven Skaiaa</i>
<i>Charles Arnold</i>	<i>Karen Loso</i>	<i>Zach Springer</i>
<i>Adrian Bender</i>	<i>Mike Loso</i>	<i>Buck Tilton</i>
<i>Darcy Chenoweth</i>	<i>Kristin Malone</i>	<i>Ralph Tingey</i>
<i>Tom Clausing</i>	<i>Damian Mast</i>	<i>Wayne Todd</i>
<i>Jennifer Dow, M.D.</i>	<i>Paul Marcolini</i>	<i>Carolynne Wang</i>
<i>Daniel Escalante</i>	<i>Martin Miller</i>	<i>Roanna Wick</i>
<i>John Evans</i>	<i>Weston Morrison</i>	<i>Sue Wolff</i>
<i>Milton 'Skeet' Glatterer, M.D.</i>	<i>Dottie Powers</i>	<i>Mary Beth Wright</i>
<i>Michelle Higgins</i>	<i>Brian Robison</i>	<i>Myron Wright</i>
<i>Chris Infante</i>	<i>Tom Schaefer</i>	