



Mountaineering History



Gulf of Alaska in the foreground, Dry Bay to the left and Mt. Fairweather, Mt. Salisbury and Lituya Mountain on the right.

NPS Photo

'Lovers of the sport of mountaineering will find no more glorious setting than the Alaskan Coast Range. Here are not merely climbs, up and down from a valley base; for those who seek these great summits will live and have their being upon the heights. From camps perched on high glaciers they will see the sun set in the placid Pacific, and will thrill with John Muir to the "strange unearthly splendor" of the dawn on the peaks of the Fairweather Mountains.' William S. Ladd *The Fairweather Mountains, AAJ, 1929*

Mount Fairweather – 15,325ft - *Successful Summits*

- 1931 June 8 – *South Ridge* - Allen Carpe and Terris Moore.
- 1958 June 27 – *Eastern South Ridge* - Paul Binkert, Fips Broda, Joe Hutton, and Walter Romanes (June 26) Paddy Sherman, David Blair, Dennis Moore, and Russell Yard (June 27) Canadian Centennial Expedition.
- 1968 July 12 - *West Ridge* - Loren Adkins, Walter Gove, Paul Meyhre, John Neal, and Kent Stokes.
- 1973 July 9 – Up the *East Ridge*, down the *South Ridge* – Dusan Jagersky, Greg Markov, and James Wickwire.
July 10 – *Southwest Ridge* - Henry Florshultz, Toby O'Brien, Peter Metcalf, and Lincoln Stoller.
- 1975 July 17 – *South Southwest Ridge* (Transverse Ridge) Keith Echelmeyer, Steven Gaskill, and Steven Ruhle.
July 20 – *Carpe Ridge*, Michael Berman, Darrell Brown, Chip Mehring, and Michael Ruckhaus.
- 1976 July 12 – *Carpe Ridge*, Harvard Mountaineering Club – David Coombs, John Z. Imbrie and George West.
- 1977 June 19 - *West Ridge* (upper part) via Grand Plateau Glacier – Walter Gove, Loren Adkins, Thomas Distler and George Fisher.
July 20 – *West Ridge* (upper part) via Grand Plateau Glacier – Allen Beattie, Duke Greshook, and Greg Wagner.
- 1981 May – *Carpe Ridge* - Donald Langlois, Jim Wilson, and Bill Staub
May 27 – *Carpe Ridge* - Gary Clark, Kim Grandfield, and Dave Lunn.
- 1982 June 23 - *Carpe Ridge* – Roe Mulder, Ton Hoeneveld, and Han Timmers.
July 27 – *West Ridge* – Dick Sletten, Warren Wilder, and John McDonald
- 1984 March 16 – *West Ridge* – Dave Pahlke, George Ferry, Richard Burton, Bruce Hickok, and Earl Redman
- 1986 July 6 – *Carpe Ridge* – Chris Bretherton, Tad Pfeffer, and Linda Sugiyama
July 25 – Fred Thiessen, Ellen Woodd, Robert Brusse, Gordon Frank, Eric White and Grant McCormack, Second Canadian ascent of Fairweather and by a mainly Canadian route. It was also the first ascent of Fairweather by a Canadian woman.
- 1990 *Carpe Ridge* – Michael Down, Jim and Kevin Haberl, and Alastair Foremans

- 1991 Kaj Bune, Doug Barlow, Mark Dale, and Silas Wild
- 1992 *West Ridge* - Betsy Fletcher, Craig Hollinger, Markus Kellerhals, Peter Stone, and David Williams
West Ridge – Conrad Baumgartner, Alan Massin, and Steve Bertollo
- 1993 May 19 – *Southeast ridge* – Scott Dinham, and Dan Evans
 May 21 – *Carpe Ridge* - Scot Alex McPherson, Adriano Petrachi, John Thompson, and Keith Carter
- 1994 May 11 – *West Ridge* - Patrick Flanagan, Dan Stevenson, and Paul Hodgdon
 June 11 – *Carpe Ridge* - Mike Daniel and Paul Netzband (Adam Rosenthal and Czech Stan Drdla were a part of the party but turned around due to acute mountain sickness).
- 1995 April 25 - *Southeast Ridge* - Joe Lackey, and Paul Kallmes
 May 25 – Col between west peak and Fairweather from the Grand Plateau Glacier – Dean James, Ian Berry, Andrew Allerton and Scott Darsney
 June 14 - *West Ridge* - Jack Bennett, Dan Bennett and Tom Bennett
- 1996 April 30 - summit and First Ski Descent - Dave Braun, Tyson Bradely, and Shannan Walsh
- 1997 *West Ridge* - According to the Annual Mountaineering Report for the 1997 Season – Five climbers made a successful ascent from May 4 to May 26 (Glacier Bay NP/P Annual Mountaineering Report)
- 1998 March 12 – Winter Ascent – *Carpe Ridge* - Nancy Juergens and Joe Reichert (Jeff Carter and Josephine Warden were a part of the party but did not summit)
 May 19 – *Southeast Ridge* - Scott Dinham and Dan Evans
- 2000 April 8 - Mark Jefferson and Michael Dziobak left Gustavus in two double kayaks with gear and supplies for an ascent of Mount Fairweather.
"We paddled 60 miles up Glacier Bay to its northwest terminus at Tarr Inlet. Tarr Inlet ends at the Grand Pacific, a tide-water glacier east of Fairweather. We switched to skis and sleds and skied up this glacier to the Grand Plateau Glacier and eventually climbed the mountain via the normal Northwest Ridge route on April 29. It was a 58-mile ski from Tarr Inlet to high camp on Fairweather. We intercepted the normal route approximately 42 miles from Tarr Inlet. We could have gained high camp by two other shorter routes, but each of these has a lot of objective hazard, though they would make an interesting future approach. We returned to our boats by the same route and paddled back to Gustavus after 35 days. We believe this was the first time anyone had climbed the mountain via an approach from Glacier Bay along the Grand Pacific Glacier."
- 2005 *Carpe Ridge* – Max Schillinger and Felipe Shillinger (Fly Drake Inc)





NPS Photo

Mt. Fairweather – *Summit Attempts*

1926 *West Ridge* - Allen Carpe and William S. Ladd – Weathered out. Landed at Sea Otter, got to over 9000ft

1970 June - Susumu Kosaka, Yoshikazu Sakai, Kunio Kanno, Shuji Fukamizu and Kenji Nishi - weather

1977 June – John H. Olson, Jerome Eberharter, Steve Doty, Gregg Foster, Reese Martin and Steve Pollock.

“Six climbers had hoped in June to do some difficult new routes in the Fairweather Range. After bad weather prevented the first airdrop attempt, which they would have supervised, they climbed to 6000ft below Mount Fairweather in four days, where they were to receive the drop. Nearly out of food on arrival, they waited another four days for the airdrop, eating only a square of chocolate eachday. Finally they struggled back down to the coast, foodless. They failed to attract the attention of a fishing boat and an airplane, but eventually a helicopter carrying geologists spotted them and called for a plane that flew them back to civilization. The food drop had apparently been made, but they have no idea where.”

1978 *Southeast Ridge* – Leonard Cook, Mark Fields, Rich Bloom and Chris Carpenter - weather

1991 *West Ridge* – Loren Adkins and Walter Gove

Carpe Ridge - Kaj Bune, Doug Barlow, Mark Dale, and Silas Wild

1992 *Carpe Ridge* - Joe Carriveal and Bill Mickel – weather

West Ridge – Tom Nickerson, Dave Baratt, Steve Wheeler and Vince Radice – Weather

1996 *Southeast Ridge* – Steven Griffin and Don Graber – bad weather (Glacier Bay NP/P Annual Mountaineering Report)

1997 South Face/Ridge – Tim Kelley and Seth Koch – Koch fell into a crevasse dislocating his shoulder and breaking his scapula.

Climbed between April 30 to May 2 (Glacier Bay NP/P Annual Mountaineering Report)

1998 *Carpe Ridge/South Ridge* – Justin Davis, Chris Hooyman (Glacier Bay NP/P Annual Mountaineering Report)

2003 May 4 – Alaska Mountain Guides, two guides/three clients flew into 10,000. They reached 13,800 and turned back due to an impassable crevasse. (Park Concessions records)

2004 May – *Carpe Ridge*, weathered out – Louis Sass, Bryn Clark, Katie Snell, and Victor Pusca (personal account)

2006 March 1-12 – AMG, one guide/two clients, flew into base at *Carpe Ridge*, spent 12 days waiting for weather. No climbing. (Park Concessions records)

May 1-12 – AMG, two guides/four clients, attempted the standard route via the *North Col*. Did not summit due to weather. (Park Concessions records)

2007 AMG spent 7 days in Haines waiting for weather – no climbing (Park Concessions records)

May – *East Ridge* - Flew into plateau on the north side around 9800ft. Good weather and reached 12,800ft only to find loose rock. Louis Sass, Bryn Clark, Liz Hardwick, and Roger Yim (personal account)



NPS Photo

Mount Quincy Adams – 13,650ft – *Successful Summits*

- 1962 May 23 Scott Arighi, Dave Bohn, Hansa Flachsmann, Arthur Maki, and Martin Mushkin
- 1973 July 2 –Up the complete *South Ridge* and down the *West Ridge*, Dusan Jagersky, Greg Markov, and James Wickwire
- 2007 May – *West Ridge* – Louis Sass, Bryn Clark, Liz Hardwick, and Roger Yim (personal account)

Mount Crillon – 12,728ft – *Successful Summits*

- 1934 July 19 – *South Face* – Harvard-Dartmouth Mount Crillon Expedition- Bradford Washburn, Adams Carter (Waldo Holcombe, Howard Kellogg, Edward Streeter, Henry Woods were support but did not summit)

“For the ascent of the mountain was by no means the sole objective. Richard Goldthwait, a young geologist, took ice-depth soundings on South Crillon Glacier, above the expedition’s base camp, determining that the glacier was 840 feet thick. It was the first time anyone has successfully measured the ice thickness of an Alaskan glacier. Members of the expedition also measured the speed of the glacier, discovering that it was moving at a rate of up to two inches per hour – and that movement was significantly faster on clear days than on rainy days.” Exploring the Unknown, Historic Diaries of Bradford Washburn’s Alaska/Yukon Expeditions. Bradford Washburn March 2001.

- 1972 June 9 *West Ridge* - Loren and Marsha Adkins, Richard Benedict, Jerry Buckley, Bruce Tickell
- 1978 July 20 *West Ridge* – Terry Cline, Dave Dahl, Bruce Tickell and Walter Vennum

Mount Crillon - *Attempts*

- 1933 Bradford Washburn attempt – turned back by weather
- 1988 April – *East Ridge* via Brady Glacier – Loren Adkins and Paul Barnes (personal phone interview)
- 1993 *North Ridge* - Dave Williamson, Jayson Faulkner and Kevin and Jim Haberl
- 1996 *Beach via La Perouse Glacier* – 6 climbers traversed the La Perouse Glacier between May 17 to May 29
- 1997 *La Perouse Glacier* – Bill Pilling and Carl Diedrich – extreme weather conditions between May 4 to May 25
- 1998 *North Ridge* – Bill Pilling and Carl Diedrich made three attempts between April 29 to May 15

Mount Root – 12,860ft - *Successful Summits*



NPS Photo

- 1978 June 13 – *South Face*, Loren Adkins, Thomas Distler, George Fisher, Walter Gove

Mount Watson – 12,500ft - *Successful Summits*

- 1974 June 18 – via *East Ridge*, Michael Allen, Walter Gove, Lawrence Dauelsberg, Alice and Donald Liska

Mount Salisbury – 12,170ft – *Successful Summits*



NPS Photo

1977 June 17 – *Northwest Face* - James Nelson, Steven Swenson, Jerome Eberharter, and Greg Thompson

Mount Salisbury South Peak - 11,970ft – *Successful Summits*

1979 June 20 via *Northwest Ridge* and *North Face* Peter Speer, Daniel Cauthorn, Ernest Jones, Benjamin Dobbin, and Michael Friedman

Lituya Mountain – 11,924ft – *Successful Summits*

1962 June 1 – FA - Scott Arighi, Dave Bohn, David Chappellear, Hans Flachsmann, Arthur Maki, Martin Mushkin, Lawrence Nielsen

1975 Diana Dailey, David Dailey and Jim Nelson

Lituya Mountain -*Summit Attempts*

1993 *Southwest Ridge* - John Thompson, Keith Carter, Urban Gebhard, Fritz Rodun and Gunter Zimmermann

Mount Wilbur – 10,820ft – *Successful Summits*

1975 May 23 - David Jones, Clark Gerhardt, Craig McKibben, and Gregory Markov

Mount Wilbur -*Summit Attempts*

1995 Joe Lucky and a party of four (Glacier Bay NP/P Annual Mountaineering Report)



NPS Photo

Mount La Perouse – 10,728ft – *Successful Summits*

1942 August 15 James Seitz, Karl Stauffer, Rowlands Tabor, Rolland Reid, Paul Brown and Ian Hendrickson

. . . We were members of a U.S. Geological Survey party investigating the geology of a layered gabbro body which makes up Mount La Perouse and Mount Crillon. One critical section of this gabbro body was exposed near the summit of Mount La Perouse, which meant that if we were to be thorough in our investigation we would have to climb the mountain.” (Seitz : “Ascent of Mount La Perouse,” A.A.J., 1953, 8:3,

1972 July 6 East Peak - via the Northeast Ridge and the North Face – Larry Nielson and Dusan Jagersky

1988 April Northwest Ridge Paul Barnes and Loren Adkins (personal phone interview)

Mount Sabine (P 10,400) *Successful Summits*

1975 July 22 - Northwest Ridge Steven Gaskill (solo)

1982 June 28 – Roe Mulder and Han Timmers.

1990 Southeast Spur – Alistair Foreman, Kevin and Jim Haberl



NPS Photo

Mount Orville – 10,272ft - *Successful Summits*

- 1995 April – “Patrick Simmons, Phil Kaufmann both of Seattle, WA, and Steve Carroll of South Hampton, NH, successfully made the summit (confirmed via radio). This is believed to be the first ascent. Tragedy struck on the descent. A storm struck shortly after they made the summit and a large amount of snow fell during the next 24 hours. At some point during the extremely steep descent the three roped together, fell. The fall was probably due to the avalanche conditions.” (AAJ page 189 taken from the *Glacier Bay and Wrangell-St. Elias National Parks and Preserve, Annual Mountaineering Report*, 1995 by Rick Mossman, *Yakutat District Ranger*)
- 2006 *South Ridge*

Attempts-

- 1991 *South Ridge* – Patrick Simmons, Phil Kaufman – rotten snow and technical difficulties
- June 16 - *Southeast Ridge* - Silas Wild and Sam Grubenhof – weather and technical complications

Mount Bertha – 10,204ft – *Successful Summits*



NPS Photo

- 1940 June 30 Bradford Washburn, Martha Washburn, Maynard Miller, Michl Feuersinger, Thomas Winship (Alva Morrison, Lee Wilson, and Lowell Thomas were a part of the party but did not summit)
- 1972 July 25 via the *West-Southwest Ridge* - Larry Nielson and Dusan Jagersky
- 1982 July 14 – *Northeast Ridge* - Kevin Haberl, Peter Mair, Bruce Blackwell and James Haberl
(supported from kayak through Reid Glacier)
- 1998 May 24 - Mike Dziobak solo – Kayaked from Bartlett Cove to Reid Glacier

Summit Attempts –

- 1980 Loren Adkins, Tom Distler and Paul Barnes (personal phone interview)
- 1996 April – *East Ridge* Col between Crillon and Bertha - Andy Ferguson, Scott Visher and Toby Wheeler
- June 1 - Tim Baldwin, “Chipotle” Charlie Kiblinger, Brad Hopp, Tim Kelley and Len Zanni

Mount Dagelet – 9,000ft – *Successful Summits*

1933 July 29 FA William S. Child, Charles Houston, H. Adams Carter (Child: "Crillon 1933," AAJ 1934 2:2. p. 154)

Attempts -

1988 Loren Adkins and Paul Barnes (personal phone interview)

Mount Abbe – 8,750ft – *Successful Summits*



NPS Photo

? June 11 – *Southeast Face*, James Wickwire and Dusan Jagersky

1991 July 14-17 Walter Gove and William Pilling (kayaked in)

Summit Attempts-

1988 July 12-17 Loren Adkins and Walter Gove

Mount Fairweather from the air.



NPS Photo

Unnamed Peaks -

- PEAK 11,100 via *Southeast Ridge* June 21, 1974 Donald and Alice Liska
- PEAK 8440 June 14, 1977 central rib of *Southeast Face* – Alan Givler, Dusan Jagersky, Steve Marts, James Wickwire
“A few minutes before midnight on June 14, 1977, Dusan Jagersky and Al Givler were tragically killed while descending from the summit of P 8440 in Alaska’s Fairweather range. The Fairweather range was Dusan’s greatest passion. In the past five years, he dominated the climbing in this magnificent area of ice mountains bordering the Pacific Ocean. Starting in 1972 with a brilliant ascent of the 7000-foot northeast face of La Perouse’s East Peak and a second ascent of Mount Bertha via a new route, he followed a year later with a 12r/2 day alpine-style traverse of Mount Fairweather and Quincy Adams. In 1975 he came back to make the first ascent of Peak 12,606. This past summer, he wanted to tackle an old nemesis, Mount Salisbury, or Mount Crillon, but had to settle for the smaller peaks of the Abbe group. On all these climbs, Dusan’s forte was leading the most difficult ice pitches with enormous relish and total competence.”
James Wickwire, *In Memoriam*, *AAJ* pp. 668-671, 1977
- PEAK 7200 June 8, 1977 – *East Face* - Dusan Jagersky
June 10, 1977 Alan Givler
- PEAK 6620 June 6, 1977 – *West Ridge* Alan Givler, Dusan Jagersky, James Wickwire
- PEAK 11,105 June 10, 1977 – *North Ridge* – Loren Adkins, Thomas Distler, George Fisher, Walter Gove
- PEAK 12,600 June 17, 1977 – *First Ascent of South Face* – Loren Adkins, Thomas Distler, George Fisher, Walter Gove
- PEAK 12606 Bill Sumner, Mike Health, Dusan Jagersky
- PEAK 12606 June 26, 1977 *New Route via South Ridge* Todd Bibler, Jerome Eberharter, James Nelson, Steven Swenson
- PEAK 9000ft+ June 9, 1990 Loren Adkins, Walter Gove
- PEAK 8880ft+ June 12, 1990 Loren Adkins, Walter Gove
- PEAK 12,300ft+ June 4, 1990 Walter Gove, William Pilling
- PEAK 8290 June 25, 2008 — Matt Farmer, Dawn Glanc, Kevin Mahoney and Bayard Russell, members of the inaugural Big Expedition for Cancer Research, arrived in Reid Inlet. Their effort to reach the summit of unclimbed, ended at the 7800-foot level, where rock and snow conditions became unsupported and unsafe to continue on.

History of names for the Fairweather Range:

Mount Abbe	Named in 1936 by W. O. Field and W. S. Cooper, American Geographical Society, for Cleveland Abbe, Jr., 1872-1934, physiographer and climatologist.
Mount Bertha	According to Bradford Washburn of the Museum of Science this feature was named for a prostitute in Skagway who knew members of the party that surveyed the area. Published in 1910 by USC&GS on Chart 8306.
Mount Cooper	Named for Dr. William Skinner Cooper (1884-1978), plant ecologist who performed several vegetation-glacier relationship studies in the Glacier Bay area and was chairman of the committee of scientists which initiated the proposal to establish Glacier Bay National Monument.
Mount Crillon	Named by La Perouse (1797, v. 2, p. 219) about July 2, 1786, for Gen. Louis des Balbes de Berton, Duke of Crillon, 1543-1615, "who distinguished himself at Lepanto and fought for Henri III and Henri IV" (Farquhar, 1959, p. 215).
Mount Dagelet	Named by W. H. Dall, USC&GS, in 1874 for Lepaute Dagelet, astronomer on La Perouses expedition of 1786. The name was published in the 1883 Coast Pilot (p. 202).
Mount Fairweather	Named in 1778 by Capt. Cook (1785, v.2, p.345), RN, presumably because of the good weather encountered at the time of his visit. The name has been variously translated. It was called "Mt. Beau-temps" by La Perouse (1786, atlas), "Mte. Buen-tiempo" by Galiano (1802, map 3), "Gor[a]-Khoroshypogody" on Russian Hydrog. Dept. Chart 1378 in 1847, and "G[ora] Fayerveder" by Capt. Tebenkov (1852, map 7), IRN. It was called "Schonwetterberg" by Constantin Grewink in 1850 and "Schonwetter Berg" by Justus Perthes in 1882. The Tlingit Indians' name for the mountain is reportedly "Tanaku".
Mount Klooch	Name published by members of the Harvard-Dartmouth Expedition, 1933-34 (Washburn and Goldthwait, 1936, map).
Lituya Mountain	Name published in Russian by Capt. Tebenkov (1852, map 8), IRN as "G(ora) L'tua " meaning "Lituya Mountain;" named for Lituya Bay. "Lituya is a compound word in the Tlingit language meaning "the lake within the point," and the place is so called from the almost enclosed water within the extended spit of Lituya Bay. On the maps of the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries it appears variously as Port Francaise, Altona, Alituya, Ltooa, as well as Lituya." (<i>Native Account of the Meeting Between La Perouse and the Tlingit</i> , by G.T. Emmons, p 294)
Mount Orville	Name proposed to NPS by Senator Ernest Gruening in 1961 to honor Orville Wright (1871-1948) who, with his brother Wilbur, invented the airplane, a form of transportation that contributed greatly to the development of Alaska.
Mount Quincy Adams	Named by Lawrence Martin, U.S. Dept. of State, in 1923 for John Quincy Adams (1767-1848), Secretary of State under President Monroe and President of the United States, who, in the former capacity, negotiated the first treaty between the United States and Russia, establishing what would later become a part of the boundary between the United States and Canada.
Mount Root	Named by USC&GS and published in 1908 on Chart 8000. The feature was named for Elihu Root, 1845-1937. Root was a member of the Alaska Boundary Tribunal and U.S. Secretary of War, 1899-1904, under Presidents McKinley and Roosevelt; Secretary of State, 1905-09, under President Roosevelt; and U.S. Senator from New York 1909-15. He was also a member of the Hague Tribunal.
Mount Salisbury	Named by W. O. Field, Jr., and W. S. Cooper in 1936 for Rollin D. Salisbury, 1858-1922, professor of geology at the Univ. of Chicago from 1892 until his death, and an eminent student of Pleistocene and Recent glaciers.
Mount Watson	Named in 1924 for David Thompson Watson, 1844-1916, lawyer, who was U.S. Counsel of the Alaska Boundary Tribunal in 1903. Watson was born in Pennsylvania and received his law degree from Harvard Univ. The name was published in 1928 on IBC Sheet 12 (1951 atlas).
Mount Wilbur	Named for Wilbur Wright (1867-1912), who, with his brother Orville, invented the airplane, the form of transportation that has contributed greatly to the development of Alaska.

References:

Websites:

American Alpine Club – www.americanalpineclub.org
Alaska Mountain Guides & Climbing School – www.alaskamountainguides.com
Hutchinson Center – Photo Journal - <http://hutchinsoncenter.smugmug.com/Other>
USGS Geographic Names Information System –
<http://geonames.usgs.gov/pls/gnispublic/f?p=117:1:4866713634550704541>

Books:

Alaska – A Climbing Guide
Michael Wood and Colby Coombs. Mountaineers Books 2001

Alaska Ascents: World Class Mountaineers tell Their Stories
Bill Sherwonit. Alaska Northwest Books 2007.

Exploring the Unknown: Historic Diaries of Bradford Washburn's Alaska/Yukon Expeditions by Bradford Washburn.
Epicenter Press March 2001.

Fifty Classic Climbs of North America
Steve Roper and Allen Steck

Personnel:

Paul Barnes
Jim Capra
Byrn Clark
Walter Gove
Drake Olson

National Parks:

Glacier Bay National Park and Preserve –
Dry Bay/Yakutat Office (907) 784-3295
Visitor Information Station, Bartlett Cove (907) 697-2627

Denali National Park and Preserve, Mountaineering Information
<http://www.nps.gov/dena/planyourvisit/mountaineering.htm>

Kluane National Park
http://www.pc.gc.ca/pn-np/yt/kluane/index_e.asp

All summits and attempts taken from the
American Alpine Journal unless otherwise noted.



Hauling loads across Reid Glacier (Courtesy FarmerPhoto)

The National Park Service is continuing to build this archive as an inclusive historical reference. We welcome any additional information. For questions or further information, contact the Visitor Information Station at (907) 697-2627.



Last updated
September 2009.