Denali First Ascents and Interesting Statistics (Revised 5/06)

- **First Ascent South Peak**: Stuck, Harper, Karstens, and Tatum; 6/7/13
- **First Ascent North Peak**: Anderson and Taylor; 4/3/10
- **First Solo Ascent**: Naomi Uemura; 1970, West Buttress
- **First Winter Solo Ascent**: Naomi Uemura; 2/84, West Buttress (died on the descent)
- **First Successful Winter Solo Ascent**: Vern Tejas; 3/88, West Buttress
- **First Circumnavigation**: Cook Expedition; 5/03 - 9/03
- **First Winter Circumnavigation**: Mark Stasik and Daryl Miller; 2/95 - 4/95
- **First Night On Top**: Meiji University Team, 4 members; 5/4/60
- **First Woman**: Barbara Washburn; 6/6/47
- **First Woman Solo**: Dr. Miri Ercolani; 7/21/82
- **Oldest Male**: Sadao Hoshiko, age 74 and 1 month (Date of Birth 05/21/31); 6/05
- **Youngest Male**: Galen Johnston, age 11 (Date of Birth 1/30/90); 6/17/01
- **Oldest Female**: Toshiko Uchida, age 70; (Date of Birth 4/12/31); 6/16/01
- **Youngest Female**: Merrick Johnston, age 12 (Date of Birth 1/18/83); 6/24/95
- **Oldest Husband & Wife Team**: Norm & Kip Smith, ages 64 & 62; 7/92
- **Greatest Summit Success Rate**: 27 Ascents in 27 Attempts by Ray Genet (guide)
- **Most Ascents**: Scott Woolums (guide), 31 ascents as of 6/10/01
- **First Male Native American**: Walter Harper; 1913
- **First Female Native American**: Betty Menard; 1971
- **First Dog Team Ascent**: Susan Butcher, Joe Reddington, Rob Stapleton, Ray Genet, Brian Okonek; 5/28/79

Fastest Ascents

- **West Buttress**: Chad Kellogg, 14 hours 22 minutes (from 7,200 ft. to 20,320 ft.); 06/17/2003
- **West Buttress**: Yamada Noboro, 5 1/2 hours (from 14,200 ft. to 20,320 ft.); 6/10/88
- **West Rib**: Alex Lowe, Marc Twight, Scott Backes, Colin Grissom, 5 hours (from 14,200 to 20,320); 6/95
- **West Buttress Traverse To Wonder Lake**: French Military Expedition - Sachetet, Mailly, Renard, 5 days; 6/84
- **Cassin Ridge**: Mugs Stump, 15 hours; 6/91
Physically-Challenged Ascents

- **First ascent by a full leg amputee:** Sarah Doherty; 5/85 (no artificial limb)
- **First ascent by a double hand amputee:** Kim Hong Bin; 5/31/98
- **Ascent by a party of 3 leg amputees:** Durieux, Arnaud, Buttay; 6/18/88 (using artificial limbs)
- **Ascent by a double leg amputee:** Ed Hommer; 6/3/99
- **First ascent with Muscular Dystrophy (CMT):** Michael Rilenge, 6/16/97
- **First blind ascent:** Joan Phelps; 5/30/93
- **First ascent by a climber with an organ transplant (kidney):** Roger Robinson, 6/97

Notable Descents

**Ski Descents - Firsts**

- Metz Party: Removed skis for West Buttress Ridge Crest - 1962
- Sudan: Messner Couloir: 19,500 feet to 7,000 feet - 1972
- Dawson and Party: Muldrow Glacier route - 1974
- Sylvester and Party: West Buttress/Muldrow Traverse - 1977
- Rhoades: XC (3 pins): Summit to 16,000 feet on Harpers Glacier - 1983
- Gerrard Perrot: Complete West Buttress via Rescue Gully (with one ski pole) - 1986
- Yoshimasa Wada: 19,000 ft to 17,200 ft next to the rocks, then Rescue Gully -1988
- Jim Zellers & Tom Burt: Snowboard descent on Orient Express from 19,500’-1991
- Adrian Popovici: West Buttress from Summit; Messner; Orient Express (All three descents in 1993)
- Adrian Nature (Popovici): Wickersham Wall, continuous and complete, in a single day - 1998

**Other Descents**

- **First Hang Glider Descent:** Wade, Kvalvic, Burns, and Hudson; 6/76
- **First Parapente Descent:** Vern Tejas; 6/89 (South Peak) Bertrand Doligez and Serge Tuaz; 5/89 (North Peak)
New Routes and First Ascents

**Muldrow Glacier via Karsten’s Ridge (Named after Harry Karstens of the 1913 first ascent group)**
- First Ascent of North Peak: Sourdough Expedition (Anderson, Taylor) - 1910
- Second Ascent of Ridge: Parker, Browne - 1912
- First Ascent of South Peak: Stuck, Karstens, Harper, Tatum - 1913
- Ascents of North & South Peak: Lindley, Leik, Strom, Pearson - 1932
- Karsten’s Ridge to Denali Pass: Washburn Expedition - 1947
  (see The Pioneer Climbs; Terris Moore)

**Pioneer Ridge  (Name refers to the early attempts by this ridge and Wickersham Wall)**
- First Ascent: Heiberg, Baur, Haumann, Fowler, Lyon - 1961 (see AAJ 1962)
- First Ascent of Entire Ridge from Gunsight Pass - Laver, Waitman, Cancroft, Maffeii - 1988 (see AAJ 1989)

**Wickersham Wall  (Named for Judge Wickersham who made an attempt on the wall in 1903)**
- Canadian Route (West Edge/Jeffrey Glacier Route to North Peak): Gmoser, Prinz, Schwartz - 6/13/63 (see AAJ 1964)
- Harvard Route (North and South Peaks): Abrons, Goetz, Roberts, Jensen, Graham, Carman, Millikan - 7/19/63 (see AAJ 1964)

**West Buttress**
- First Ascent: Washburn, Gale, Hackett, Ambler, Bishop, Buchtel, Griffiths - 1951 (see AAJ 1952)
- Winter Ascent: Genet, Davidson, Johnston - 03/01/67 (see AAJ 1968)
- Messner Couloir: Messner, Oelz - 6/76
- Thunder Ridge: First Ascent: Covington - 1982 (see AAJ 1983)
- From 14,200’ on West Buttress: Dennen - 1982 (see AAJ 1983)
- West Buttress Direct (North): Muetzel, Graff, Beidleman, Banks - 6/80
- West Buttress Direct (South): Hickox, Von Glinski - 5/82

**West Rib**
- First Ascent: Breitenbach, Buckingham, Corbet, Sinclair - 06/19/59
  (See AAJ 1960)
- Wickwire Variation: Bertulis, Patterson, Raymond, Schaller, Stewart, Wickwire - 06/25/72 (see AAJ 1973)
- Winter Ascent: Sassara, Frank - 03/83 (Frank died on descent)
- First Solo: Ruprecht Kammerlander - 1977

**West Rim**
- First Ascent: Ehmann, Morrow, 6/9/77
Cassin Ridge (Central rib of south face named for leader of first ascent team)
First Ascent: Cassin, Perego, Canali, Alippi, Zucchi, Arroldi - 7/16/61
First Winter Ascent: Mear, Young - 3/7/82
First Solo: Porter, 1976

American Direct
First Ascent: Eberl, Thompson, Laba, Seidman - 8/4/67
Haston-Scott Variation: Haston, Scott - 5/12/76
First Solo (Haston-Scott variation): Hesse - 5/19/82

Northwest Buttress
Southern Couloir Variation: Rehmer, Snyder - 1982 (see AAJ 1984)

South Buttress
1954 Route (via W Fork Ruth): Thayer (died on descent), Argus, Viereck, Wood (first traverse of McKinley) - 1954 (see AAJ 1955)
South Buttress Ramp: Kajiura, Nakamura, Nishumae - 1965 (see AAJ 1966 & 1976)
Southeast Spur (via NW Fork Ruth): Everett, Cochrane - 1962 (AAJ 1963)
Isis Face: Tackle, Stutzman (No Summit) - 1982
Ridge of No Return: Solo - Casarotto - 1984 (No Summit, to Pt. 15,000 feet)
Complete South Buttress (1994?) Mike Vanderbeek, ?

Traleika Glacier (Named for the Cook Inlet native name for Denali)
Attempt of W. Fork Traleika Glacier to 16,700’ - 1971
First Ascent Traleika Spur: Jacober, Johnson, Pettigrew, Ruth, Schmidt, Steward 05/25/72 (see AAJ 1973)

East Buttress
First Ascent: Read, Newcomb, Lev - 1963 (see Summit 8/65; AAJ 1964)