

Denali National Park and Preserve Annual Mountaineering Summary - 2009



TRIUMPH AND TRAGEDY

Although the Talkeetna Ranger Station staff is already deep in preparation for the 2010 climbing season, before we look too far ahead, I want to take a minute and reflect on the season just now behind us. We experienced some significant changes in 2009, most notable of which was the retirement of our long time friend and South District Ranger Daryl Miller. Even into retirement, Daryl continues to receive recognition for the ground-breaking work that he did here at Denali National Park. One such accolade was presented in June at Mt. Hood when he was inducted as one of only three lifetime members of the Mountain Rescue Association.

Over time, the mountaineering staff here in Talkeetna has often been witness to great triumphs and moving tragedies. In 2009, we again experienced both. Four deaths occurred on Mount McKinley, as well as other injuries and illnesses. Because of the close contact we have with many of the climbers that visit the park, the loss of life is something that hits very close to home to all of us here. Two of the fatalities this year hit especially close to home; two former recipients of the Denali Pro Award lost their lives while attempting to climb the West Rib. In honor of these two men, and to recognize who they were as people and as climbers, we have renamed the Denali Pro Award as the Mislow-Swanson / PMI Denali Pro Award. You can read more about the award and this year's recipients on page 7.

In my time here I can think of various stories of great personal triumph, but one of this year's achievements seemed even larger than most. On June 15, Lt. Colonel Marc Hoffmeister and Specialist David Shebib reached the summit of Denali despite the fact that each of them had suffered significant injuries while serving our country overseas. These two Wounded Warriors were part of a team led by Lt. Hoffmeister who spent almost three weeks mounting a successful expedition to the highest point of North America. In celebration of their teamwork and success, Spec. Shebib re-enlisted for another tour while standing on top of the pinnacle of North America. For the team's accomplishments, Lt. Col Hoffmeister was named the National Geographic Adventurer of the Year.

We are looking forward to another year in which people from around the world come and visit us here in Talkeetna and experience the wonders of Denali National Park and Preserve. Our hopes are that 2010 will bring more stories of triumph, and none of tragedy.

Hope to see you on the mountain...

- John Leonard, South District Ranger



Mountaineering rangers Mik Shain and Tucker Chenoweth field questions from the next generation of Alaska Range climbers. (NPS Photo)

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2009 STATISTICAL REVIEW

Route	Attempts		Summits		Summit Rate
	Teams	Climbers	Teams	Climbers	
MT. MCKINLEY					
Cassin Ridge	6	17	4	9	53%
Muldraw Glacier	2	14	0	0	0
Muldraw Traverse	2	6	2	6	100
Northwest Buttress	1	1	1	1	100
South Buttress	1	2	0	0	0
South Face	1	2	0	0	0
West Buttress	242	1,078	175	649	60
West Buttress Traverse	2	10	1	5	50
West Rib	6	19	3	9	47
Upper West Rib	5	12	2	3	25
TOTALS	268	1,161	188	682	59%
MT. FORAKER					
Archangel Ridge	1	2	0	0	0%
Infinite Spur	1	3	0	0	0
Sultana	4	10	3	8	80
TOTALS	6	15	3	8	53%

Average age of a Denali climber:
37.9 years






Average trip length:
16.4 days
Average trip length with summit:
16.9 days





Busiest Summit Days
June 7: 77
June 9: 71
May 25: 66
Summits By Month
April: 8
May: 170
June: 399
July: 99

Women constituted
12.4% of all climbers

GLOBAL REPRESENTATION

Top 5 Nations Represented on Denali

United States	698	
Poland	47	
Canada	44	
Japan	38	
United Kingdom	38	

Alaska	140	
Washington	88	
Colorado	78	
California	64	

A record number of Polish climbers attempted Denali in 2009. By coincidence, we also were pleased to offer the first Polish translation of our Denali Mountaineering Booklet.

Big thanks to Alicja, Jolanta, and Andrzej Gadós for their translation! Go to www.nps.gov/dena

Follow the Mountaineering Information link to the Mountaineering Booklet page.

FIRST ASCENTS AND NOTABLE CLIMBS

World class alpinism continues in Denali National Park with little fanfare. Seasoned veterans and relative newcomers continued to find high quality routes off of the popular venues. While it was a quiet year comparatively for new route activity, there were some notable accomplishments.

Longtime Alaska Range climbers Jack Tackle and Jay Smith made the most of their abilities during a two week visit in May. Showing Paul Roderick a new place to land on the Tokositna Glacier at 8,200 feet, just south of Mt. Huntington, the team made four new climbs from their camp. Rooster Comb provided them with a 16 hour round-trip warm up. They then ascended three new lines on the southern escarpment of Huntington before taking a shower break back in Talkeetna. Having a photographic memory aids in maintaining the motivation — following the rest and relaxation in town, the duo decided to go back into the north side of Thunder Mountain and attempt a line that Tackle had eyed 13 years ago while he and Doug Chabot climbed "The Sound of Freedom" on the south peak of Hunter. For more details on these climbs, go to: www.climbing.com/news/hotflashes/alaskan_vets_climb_superb_new_routes/

During the same stretch of favorable weather Jon Bracey and Matt Helliker were adding their own new routes in the range off of the Ruth Glacier. The pair from Great Britain was active on the north faces of Mt. Grosvenor and Mt. Church. They added a new technical line on each face using single push style. For the complete details, see www.climbing.com/news/hotflashes/brits_climb_two_new_routes_in_alaskas_ruth_gorge/

Newcomers to the Alaska range, Swiss brothers Samuel and Simon Anthamatten, made a probable first ascent of the butte to the right of Rattle and Hum on the west ridge of Mt. Hunter. (see photo at right) This formation had been previously attempted by two Americans in 1996. That climb ended tragically when a hanging glacier calved and killed both men. Details are sparse about this year's successful climb. The brothers report on their website: "Our climb leads through steep ice gullies up to a steep and knife snow ridge. (WI 4+, M4+, AI 5) The difficulties of the route are in the upper part following the snow ridge covered in huge mushrooms of snow and ice." It is assumed that they descended the West Ridge without going to the summit since the team had already made a speedy ascent of the Moonflower.

Among the 1,161 climbers attempting Denali this season were five United States war veterans who have suffered injuries while deployed in the ongoing conflicts overseas. It is always inspiring to witness climbers with disabilities pursu-

ing their mountaineering dreams. While recounting the expedition, one of their mountaineering guides commented, "These guys are a huge motivator for all War Veterans... they have proven that life after war can be a good thing, a challenge, but not life threatening." On a lighter note he went on to say "Most people are sleeping with their toothpaste and sun screen so it won't freeze; we were sleeping with a one million dollar prosthetic leg. The prosthetics get cold, which was a struggle up high. Keeping the stumps warm and protecting them from the conduction of the air temp." If you would like to read their complete expedition journal, "Operation Denali," you can find it here:

www.theveteranscoalition.org/operation_denali/index.htm

Over on Mt. Foraker, Canadians Marcus Waring and Ryan Bougie completed a ski descent of the seldom visited Archangel Ridge. The duo reportedly acclimated on Denali, and then climbed the entire Sultana Ridge in 3 days. From the summit they began their ski descent without delay. In six hours they descended 11,000 feet, then found themselves isolated on the remote north side of Foraker contemplating how to get home. Their pre-trip planning had defined two exit options; either down the Foraker Glacier and out to the Park Road or ascend the Archangel Ridge and back track to Kahiltna Base. While making their ski descent they observed a third escape option that seemed far more logical. After a solid rest on the glacier they crossed over the Foraker Glacier and were able to climb back up to Mount Crosson via its Northwest Ridge. For more details and photos:

www.doglotion.com/blog/archangel

(Report by NPS Ranger Joe Reichert)



(Mt. Hunter; Photo: Mike Gauthier)

RESCUE SUMMARY - 2009

The search and rescue missions performed by Denali rangers in 2009 are summarized below. For more detailed information on these and other mountaineering missions performed in 2009, refer to *Accidents in North American Mountaineering-2010*, published by the American Alpine Club.

(April 16) An airplane crashed on the Southeast Fork of the Kahiltna Glacier, with no injuries reported. The stranded individuals used a satellite phone to contact a local air taxi for pickup. NPS rangers documented the scene and took necessary hazardous spill precautions. On April 20, the pilot was able to recover the wreckage from the glacier using a contracted helicopter.

(May 7) A 61-year-old client on a guided expedition collapsed and died at 13,500 feet on Denali's West Buttress. Resuscitation efforts on scene by guides and NPS rangers were unsuccessful. Rangers buried the deceased at the incident location for later helicopter recovery once weather permitted. On May 13, his remains were recovered by helicopter and flown to Talkeetna.

(May 11) A climber fell approximately 60 feet while climbing the Ham and Eggs route on the Moose's Tooth, sustaining tibia/fibula fractures and other leg and foot injuries. Other independent climbers on the route organized his rescue and evacuation by air taxi.

(May 15) A guided client arrived at the 14,200-foot ranger camp experiencing signs and symptoms of High Altitude Pulmonary Edema (HAPE). After 24 hours under medical observation, he was determined unfit to descend to base camp and was evacuated via the NPS helicopter.

(May 21) A member of four-person expedition was reported overdue after splitting off from his teammates for a solo summit attempt of the West Buttress. Without prior notification of his partners, he had departed the 14,200-foot camp early on the morning on May 19 with no stove, shovel, or bivouac gear and with an unknown amount of food. Search operations were initiated on the morning of May 21 when it was determined that the soloist had failed to descend to the high camp at 17,200 feet. An aerial search ensued, totaling over 30 hours of fixed wing and helicopter flight time. Over 6,000 high resolution photographs were taken and analyzed for clues. In light of the climber's minimal supplies, sub-zero temperatures, and the high winds prevalent on the mountain during the search period, search managers concluded active search operations on May 26 with no pertinent clues found.

(May 26) A climber fell and dislocated his shoulder while descending from the 17,200-foot camp on the West Buttress

of Denali. NPS rangers lowered the injured patient from the base of the fixed lines to the 14,200-foot camp. After repeated attempts, camp medics were unable to reduce his shoulder. After a span of seven days of bad weather and extreme pain, the patient was finally evacuated on the eighth day by NPS helicopter and ultimately hospitalized.

(June 1) A climber was air evacuated from the 14,200-foot camp on Denali's West Buttress climbing route with a minor foot injury. NPS rangers made numerous attempts to help her descend under her own power but she aggressively refused all options except for air evacuation, placing rangers and others in a potentially hazardous situation. The climber received a citation for 'Interfering with Agency Function' which carries a maximum sentence of \$5,000 and 6 months of jail time.

(May 27): A guided client suddenly collapsed upon arrival at the 9,500-foot camp after experiencing extreme chest pain. He was initially roped down to 7,800-feet, at which point an NPS ranger patrol placed him into a litter and sled-d him to the 7,200-foot basecamp for treatment and evacuation.

(June 7) A guided client experienced chest pain after returning from the summit at the 17,200-foot camp on the West Buttress. The climber was lowered by NPS rangers and volunteers using several technical rope rescue techniques to the 14,200-foot camp where he was evacuated by helicopter.



Denali National Park contracted with Prism Helicopters for an A-Star B3 helicopter during the 2009 climbing season. (NPS Photo)

RESCUE SUMMARY - 2009, continued

(June 9) A three-member expedition fell approximately 300 feet while traversing a steep slope at 16,500 feet on the West Buttress. The three climbers were roped together, though they had not placed protection between them. A knee injury sustained by one of the climbers during the fall required a combination of short-rope technique and technical lowering to evacuate him to the 14,200-foot camp where he was evacuated by helicopter.

(June 11) Both members of a climbing team died of extensive injuries sustained in a fall near the Messner Couloir route of Mt. McKinley. The onset of the fall was not witnessed, though the two roped climbers were observed falling a distance of at least 1,500 feet to the point where the fall stopped. It is unknown what triggered the fall or whether the two were ascending or descending at the time of the accident.

(June 11) Two climbers attempting the Cassin Ridge of Denali requested a rescue via FRS radio when they ran out of food and water and had no working stoves. The NPS helicopter successfully dropped the climbers a re-supply of food, water, and a stove. The climbers were able to complete the route and safely descend the West Buttress.

(June 13) Upon examination by his guide, a client was determined to be extremely fatigued with very low oxygen saturations at the 17,200-foot camp on the West Buttress. The rangers at that camp initiated care and administered oxygen overnight. The following day the patient was short-roped down the ridge to the top of the fixed lines and lowered in a litter to 14,200-foot camp. After several days at that camp, he descended under his own power to the Kahiltna Basecamp with the rest of his group.

(June 17) A climber went off-route while descending the West Buttress and fell into a crevasse near the 8,500-foot elevation, suffering multiple fractured ribs. His three companions were able to extract him from the crevasse, and the expedition then continued to the 7,800-foot camp that evening. The following day, an NPS patrol met the team, provided medical aid to the injured climber, escorted them to basecamp, and then released the climber to his air taxi for transport off the mountain.

(June 25) A mountaineer triggered an avalanche while skiing below the mouth of the Rescue Gully at approximately 15,000 feet, in close proximity to the West Buttress route on Mt. McKinley. A rescue team from the 14,200-foot camp



NPS staff in pre-season Rigging for Rescue training (NPS Photo)

responded and conducted a 600 meter lowering operation down to the medical tent at 14,200 feet. The patient, who suffered a knee injury and minor lacerations, remained at the camp overnight for observation and was flown via park helicopter to basecamp the next morning to wait for the rest of her team to descend the West Buttress route.

(June 28) Both members of a climbing team fell while descending from Denali Pass, one of whom suffered bilateral lower leg injuries and was rendered non-ambulatory. A technical lowering was orchestrated by NPS rangers and volunteers to get the patient down to the 17,200-foot camp. The patient was further lowered down the Rescue Gully to the 14,200-foot camp and evacuated to Talkeetna via NPS helicopter the following morning.

(July 9) A client on a three-person rope team fell while descending the West Buttress. The guide, one of the three on the rope team, was able to arrest the fall and stop the team from sliding further, however he dislocated his left shoulder in the process. He was able to resume the descent to the 14,200-foot camp, where ranger medics were unsuccessful in reducing the dislocated shoulder. The injured guide was then evacuated to Talkeetna via the NPS helicopter for further medical care.

(July 12) Talkeetna Ranger Station staff assisted the Alaska State Troopers with a search for a missing swimmer in the Talkeetna and Susitna Rivers, located approximately one block away from the Talkeetna Ranger Station. The park's helicopter crew and several spotters conducted four search flights in the effort. The swimmer was not found.

REMAINS FOUND THROUGH PHOTOANALYSIS

On May 24, in the process of analyzing new high resolution images collected during the May search for a missing solo climber, rangers observed what appeared to be two partially buried figures connected by a rope in a steep rocky area west of the Cassin Ridge at 19,800 feet. On the afternoon following the photo discovery, the park helicopter was able to hover close enough to the site for a mountaineering ranger to confirm the presence of two frozen figures.

Based on their location, clothing, and rope color, rangers identified the bodies as those of 27-year-old Tatsuhiro Yamada and 24-year-old Yuto Inoue. Yamada and Inoue, both from the Tokyo, Japan area, were expected to return from a climb of the Cassin Ridge on May 22, 2008. During the 2008 Cassin search, NPS observers aerially searched the



General vicinity of findings (NPS Photo)

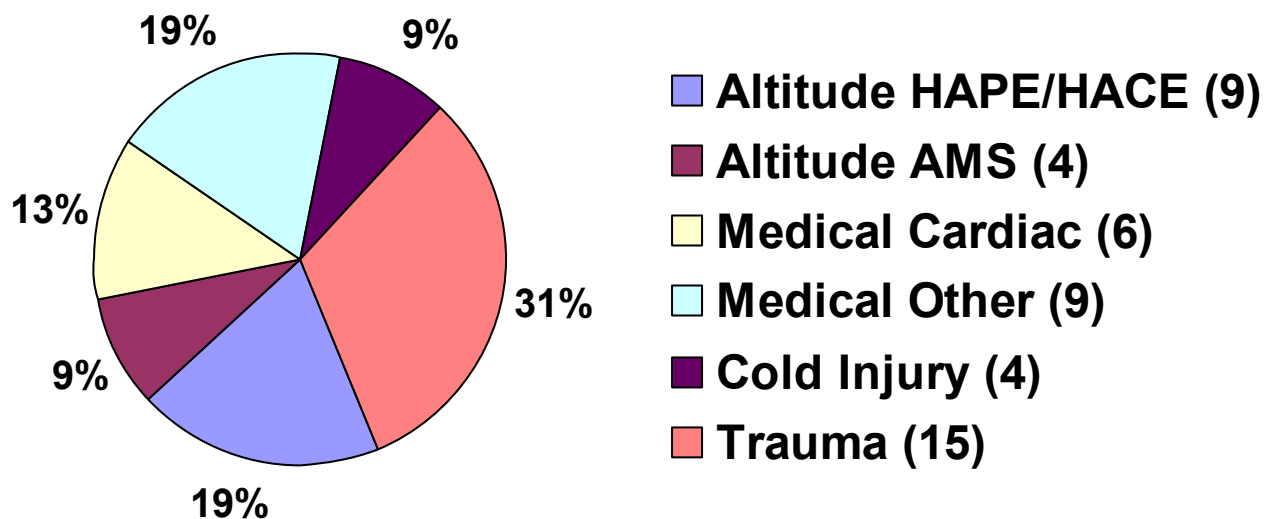
mountain for a total of 33 hours of flight time, collecting thousands of photos of the vast search zone. That effort was the first time Denali rangers used the photographic approach to search a land area. The cameras used were effective in locating tracks and general disturbances in open snow fields, however, finding definitive clues in rocky and shadowy terrain proved difficult. A more advanced camera and higher powered lens were used during the May 2009 search for Dr. Myers.

NPS managers determined that the bodies found on May 24 will not be recovered from their current location due to the extreme risk posed to a recovery team.

MEDICAL SUMMARY

In 2009, 47 climbers were stricken with injuries or illnesses that required medical intervention by the National Park ranger staff and volunteers. Trauma resulting from falls or

other accidents was by far the greatest concern followed by medical and altitude issues.



DENALI PRO AWARD

Two Colorado women were selected by Denali National Park and Preserve and Pigeon Mountain Industries (PMI) as the 2009 Denali Pro Award winners. Sarah Fritz of Eldorado Springs and Irena Overeem of Boulder initiated and led an independent technical rescue of an injured climber on the Moose's Tooth.

On May 11, while ascending the Ham and Eggs route of the Moose's Tooth, Sarah and Irena witnessed a fall directly below them. A climber from Washington had fallen 60 feet, fracturing his left leg and dislocating the left ankle. Realizing the party was in dire need of assistance, Sarah took the lead on organizing a rescue. During this time period, the wind picked up and spindrift began to pour down the couloir. In these inclement conditions, Sarah performed a rapid assessment of the injured climber and decided he could be lowered by a "buddy rappel". In doing so, Sarah strapped him to her back and with a belay provided by Irena and several other climbers on scene, she began slowly rappelling with down the very steep ice and rock couloir. It took four rappels totalling approximately 600 feet to reach the easier angle slopes at the bottom. Another group of climbers met the rescuers at the base of the couloir where they secured the patient in a sled and lower him down to the glacier airstrip. The climber's air taxi

2009 Denali Pro



flew in and picked up the injured climber later that day.

We would like to commend Sarah and Irena for their selfless act in rescuing this party. At no time did the rescuers request additional assistance other than the resources they had at hand. Without their expertise and rapid extraction, more complications could certainly have arisen.

Since 1998, 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. As mentioned in the introduction to the summary, starting in 2010

the Denali Pro Award will be re-named to honor two former recipients of the Award who lost their lives during a 2009 climb of the West Rib. To recognize the strong climbing ethics and personal achievements of John Mislow and Andrew Swanson, the Denali Pro Award will be known as the Mislow-Swanson / PMI Denali Pro Award. Denali National Park management thanks PMI for their continued support, as well as the friends and family of John Mislow and Andrew Swanson whose contributions will help sustain this valuable recognition program for many more years to come.

UP, UP, AND AWAY!



Dave Kreutzer (in purple) provides training on helicopter communication system (NPS Photo)

After 17 seasons serving as the helicopter manager for Denali National Park's mountaineering program, Dave Kreutzer is moving on! Dave is now putting his extensive skills to use for the southeast regional office of the Aviation Management Division (AMD) in Atlanta, Georgia. During his career at Denali, Dave put into place innumerable improvements that have kept the highest altitude short-haul operation in the world accident-free during over 1,000 hours of helicopter flight time. He was instrumental in designing a specialized bag that could transport a patient and attendant safely on a short-haul line at 50 knots; helped devise a "three-ring release" backup mechanism for the short-haul line that hooks beneath the helicopter; and he was the leading force in recommending the "God Ring" for rescuer hook-up to the short-haul rope.

While we are sad to say goodbye to such a good friend and a pivotal member of the Denali search and rescue team, we wish Dave great success in his new endeavors and hope to see him back up in Alaska someday soon.

EDUCATIONAL EXCHANGE

Denali National Park's mountaineering staff were excited to host volunteer mountaineering ranger PhuNuru Sherpa, a member of the Mt. Everest mountain climbing community, a guide with International Mountain Guides, and an instructor with the Khumbu Climbing School in Phortse Village, Nepal.

With sponsorship from the Alex Lowe Charitable Foundation, 29-year-old PhuNuru participated in an educational exchange program at both Denali and Mt. Rainier National Parks during the 2009 mountaineering season. At Denali, PhuNuru served on a 30-day high mountain ranger patrol, working and training with NPS ranger Brandon Latham and fellow patrol members to further develop his technical rope rescue skills and emergency medical response. In addition to enhancing his search and rescue leadership skills, PhuNuru learned resource management and 'clean climbing'



NPS Ranger Brandon Latham and PhuNuru Sherpa ; NPS Photo

techniques to put to use in a professional capacity back home in the Himalaya. PhuNuru's educational exchange continued when he headed south in July, joining the mountaineering ranger team at Mt. Rainier National Park and Preserve.

The Alex Lowe Charitable Foundation (ALCF) based in Bozeman, Montana founded the Khumbu Climbing School in 2004 with a mission to improve mountain safety for Nepali climbers and other high altitude workers by encouraging responsible climbing practices. During his off season with NPS,

Latham had the opportunity to work with the ALCF in February 2009 teaching technical rope rescue skills to the Nepali instructors at the Khumbu Climbing School in Phortse. Both PhuNuru and the Denali staff hope he can return for another Denali patrol in 2010, as well as participate in the Exit Strategies conference on human waste management. (*see below*)

EXIT STRATEGIES: Managing Human Waste in the Wild

Longtime mountaineering ranger Roger Robinson, developer of the Clean Mountain Can program on Denali, is serving as Conference Chairperson for "Exit Strategies: Managing Human Waste in the Wild". This international conference will be hosted by the American Alpine Club at their facility in Golden, Colorado on July 30 - 31, 2010. Speakers and attendees from all over the globe will share ideas and develop solutions to human waste management in all realms of backcountry terrain. Topics include composting, alpine waste systems, pack-out systems, solar drying, and cat-holing. Attendees will analyze case studies and strategize on how to anticipate and influence human behavior in the backcountry.

Event sponsors include the U.S. Public Health Service, National Park Service, Bureau of Land Management, Alpine Club of Canada, Leave No Trace, U.S. Forest Service, the Access Fund, and the American Alpine Club.

For more information on this conference, go to www.americanalpineclub.org/exitstrategies.

Attention land managers, planners, outdoor organizations, clubs and guide organizations!

**Exit Strategies:
Managing Human Waste in the Wild**
Presented by the American Alpine Club at the
American Mountaineering Center
Golden, Colorado
July 30 & 31, 2010

A select group of nonprofit and government agencies are teaming up to present the first international conference on remote human waste management to be hosted in the United States.

Experts will present topics including:

- Batch-bin and Moldering Composting
- Japanese alpine waste systems
- New Zealand and Canadian waste systems
- Multiple pack-out systems
- Solar drying
- Cat-holing analysis
- Case studies
- Public health issues
- Influencing human behavior
- Roundtables discussing practical solutions

Manufacturers of various remote waste systems will display products and answer questions.

"Bringing together experts from around the world to this conference will not only benefit the National Parks but will be a benefit to many agencies. Again, our program applauds and supports your efforts in putting this conference together."
-- CAPT John Leffel, REHS, MPH, Public Health Consultant, US Public Health Service

To maximize productivity, the conference will be limited to 100 attendees.
For complete conference information and registration, go to
www.americanalpineclub.org/exitstrategies.

Conference Sponsors:

12/18/2009 Artwork by Leighan Falley

IN MEMORIAM

John Evans

The National Park Service and the international climbing community lost a great friend and a highly respected mountaineer this year. Former Denali National Park mountaineering ranger John Evans, age 54, died on April 28, 2009 from injuries sustained in a fall in Snowdonia National Park near his winter home in North Wales. Evans was on a recreational climb with the Ogwen Valley mountain rescue team, a local organization he has been a member of since 1973, when he reportedly slipped and fell over 100 feet while descending in rocky terrain. He was airlifted to a hospital in nearby Bangor, Wales where he succumbed to internal and head injuries. John Evans enjoyed a longtime connection with the Alaskan military and mountaineering communities, beginning in 1986 to 1989 when he was stationed at Elmendorf Air Force Base as a rescue technician and paramedic with the U.S. Pararescue Squadron. Through the 1990's, Evans worked internationally as an instructor in survival skills, wilderness studies, and emergency medicine, including over a decade as a professional guide on Mt. McKinley with Genet Expeditions and Mountain Trip.



(John Evans, in a 2003 training exercise in the Tokosha Mountains, Denali National Park; NPS Photo)

From 2000 to 2007, Evans was employed as a mountaineering ranger with Denali National Park and Preserve, based in Talkeetna, Alaska. During his combined guiding and ranger careers, Evans participated in a total of 25 mountaineering expeditions on Mt. McKinley. John's extensive rescue skills, emergency medical expertise, and cooperative nature were highly valued at Denali National Park, and he occasionally extended his season by working as a park ranger stationed at the Toklat Road Camp.

After his final season with the NPS in 2007, Evans returned to the Alaska Range as a mountaineering instructor with Talkeetna-based Alaska Mountaineering School (AMS) in 2008. He was scheduled to return to Talkeetna on May 1, 2009 to work another season as an AMS instructor. Evans is survived by his partner Lynn, his son David, daughter Rhiannon, as well as his parents and two sisters. His loss will be deeply felt not only in the Alaska Range, but

throughout many mountaineering and rescue communities across the world.

Jay Hudson

Longtime member of the extended climbing community and Denali National Park partner Jay Hudson, owner and operator of Hudson Air Service in Talkeetna, lost his battle with pancreatic cancer on December 2, 2009.

Eldest son of legendary bush pilot Cliff Hudson, Jay was born in Talkeetna and had been flying the Alaska Range since he was a very young boy. Jay was deeply respected for his innate flying skills and impeccable safety record by climbers, park staff, and fellow pilots. Jay flew countless hours in support of park resource management missions and he served for decades as a key fixed wing pilot in Denali National Park's mountaineering search and rescue operations. Jay was the only individual ever awarded with a Denali Pro pin in every single climbing season since the recognition program began in 1998.



(Jay Hudson; Photo: Hudson Air Service)

The skies of the Alaska Range will not be the same without him, and park staff will miss him greatly.

2009 SOUTH DISTRICT STAFF



*Acting South District Ranger
Mountaineering Rangers*

John Leonard
Tucker Chenoweth
Chris Erickson
Coley Gentzel
Matt Hendrickson
Jennifer Johnston*
Brandon Latham
John Loomis
Joe Reichert
Roger Robinson
Mik Shain
Kevin Wright

* Denali LE Ranger based at park headquarters

*Helicopter Manager
Helicopter Pilot
Admin/Public Information
Supervisory VUA
Visitor Use Assistants*

*Chief of Planning
Education Specialist
Interpretive Ranger
Janitor
Medical Directors*

Dave Kreutzer
Bruce Andrews
Maureen McLaughlin
Missy Smothers
Ruth Ramsey
Pam Robinson
Laura Wright
Miriam Valentine
Bob Henry
Julie Williams
Jack Fickel
Jennifer Dow, M.D.
Peter Hackett, M.D.

Mountaineering Volunteers and Other Patrol Members

Peter Anderson
Charles 'Cody' Arnold
Dale Arvidson
Aric Baldwin
Jay Bristow
Mark Burcar
Christine Byl
Charles Ditolla
Jennifer Dow
Leighan Falley
Sara Aili Farquhar
Bryan Feinstein
Al Gallo
Mike Gibbs
Jonathan Gleason

Nicole Hendrickson
Sarah Histan
Blaine Horner
Douglas Krause
Corrie Lane
Meaghan Loughlin
Linda Loft
Paul Marcolini
Molly McKinley
Mariyam Medovaya
Mark Miller
Tom Murphy
Mike Neilson
Kurtis Patterson
C.H. Benjamin Powell

Jason Pozner
Robert Reinhart
Scott Ring
Jon Schleder
PhuNuru Sherpa
Scott Simpson
Ryan Skorecki
Skander Spies
Zach Springer
Lance Taysom
Kris Tranter
Gabe Travis
David Weber
Susan Wolff

**Air National Guard
Pararescuemen**

Erik Blom
Samuel Prescott

U.S. Army

Christopher Bushway
Nathan Chipman

**Grand Canyon National
Park**

Brandon Torres