



Mt. McKinley Expedition, Denali National Park, Alaska

June 25- July 13, 2013

With AMS/IMG, Greg Vernovage lead guide, Travis McAlpine support guide

Climbers: Chris McIntosh, Jorge Velarde, Richard Ashbaugh, Nathan Berry, Gary Ambrosino

Statistics: Altitude 20,320 ft. (6,194 m). Highest peak in North America. At some 18,000 ft. elevation from base to peak, it is considered the largest mountain in the world.

June 25, 2013. Landed on the glacier at 10 am. Base camp (6,900 ft)

Day 1. Moved to camp 1 at 7,800 ft. 5.5 miles

Day 2. Moved to camp 2 at 9,500 ft. 2.5 miles

Day 3. Moved to camp 3 at 11,000 ft. 1.5 miles

Day 4. Rest day

Day 5. Moved to camp 4 at 14,200 ft. 2.8 miles

Day 6. Rest day

Day 7. Cache to 16,200 and back to camp at 14,200 ft. 2 miles

Day 8. Rest day due to high winds at high camp

Day 9. Rest day. Bad weather

Day 10. Moved to high camp at 17,200 ft. 1.8 miles

Day 11. Rest day

Day 12. Summit bid. Departed camp at 5pm, arrived at Denali Pass (18,400 ft) and returned to high camp. 2.4 miles

Day 13. Summit day, July 8th. Departed high camp at 10am. Reached the summit at 8pm (20,320 ft). Returned to high camp at 1am. 5 miles

Day 14. Moved down to camp at 14,200. 1.8 miles

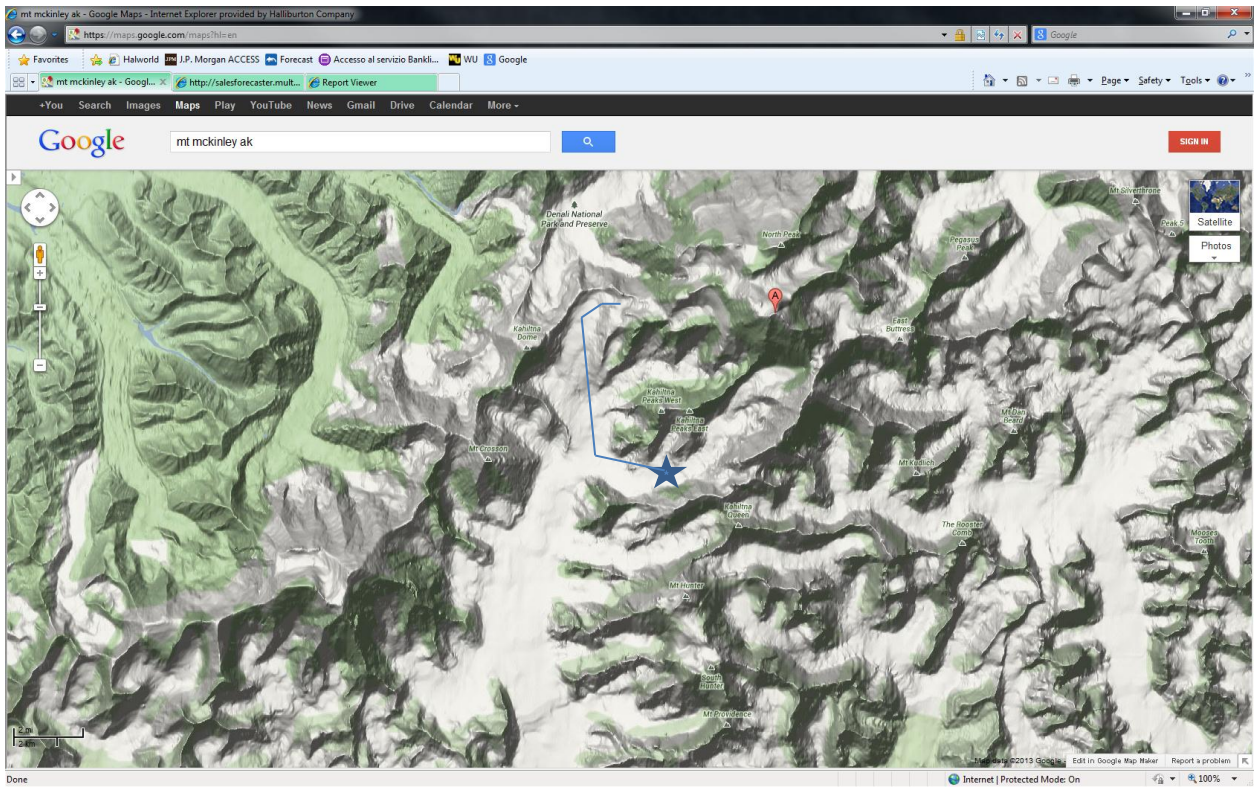
Day 15. Rest day due to snow storm

Day 16. Departed 14,200 at 2pm to move down to base camp at 6,900. Stopped for two hours (6-8pm) at 11,000 camp to eat and pick up our cache. Arrived at base camp at 4 am on Day 17, after 14 hours. 12.3 miles

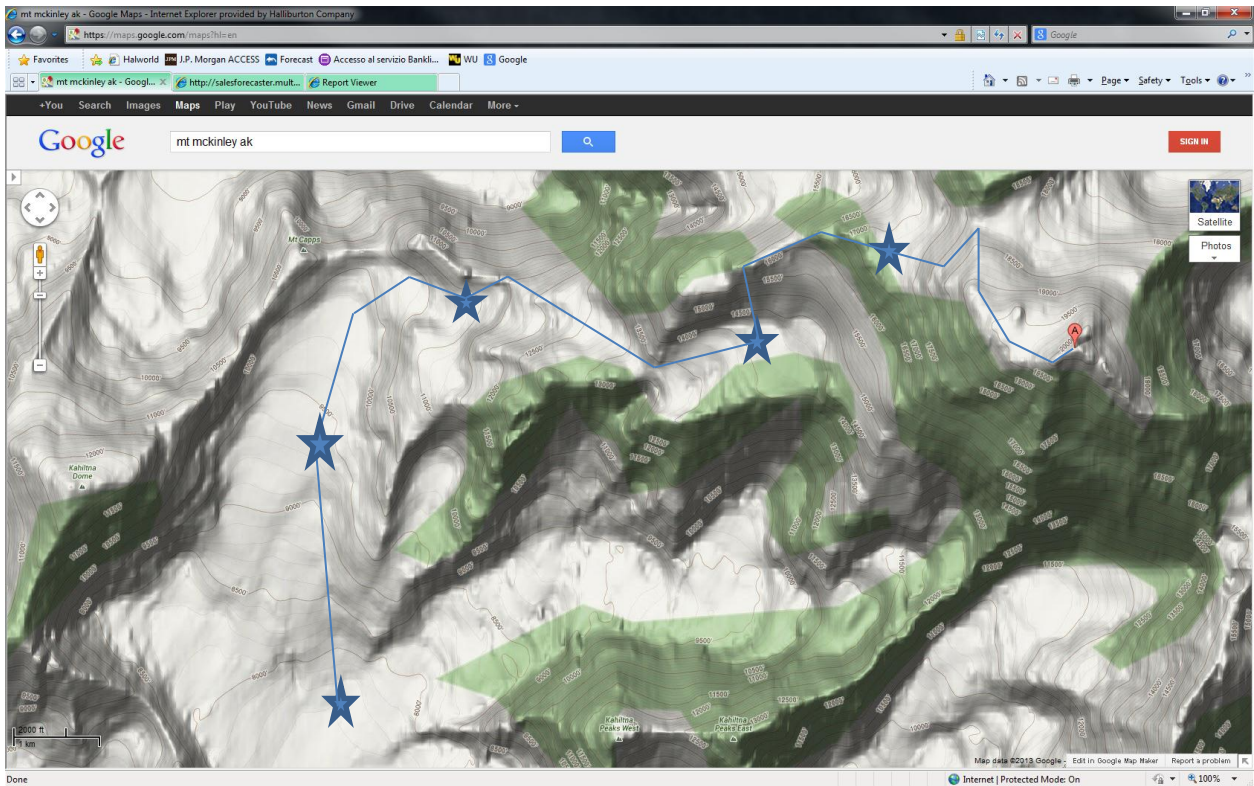
Day 17. June 13. Talkeetna Air Taxi flew us out of the glacier at 9am.

Total vertical elevation gained = 13, 420 ft (4,090 m)

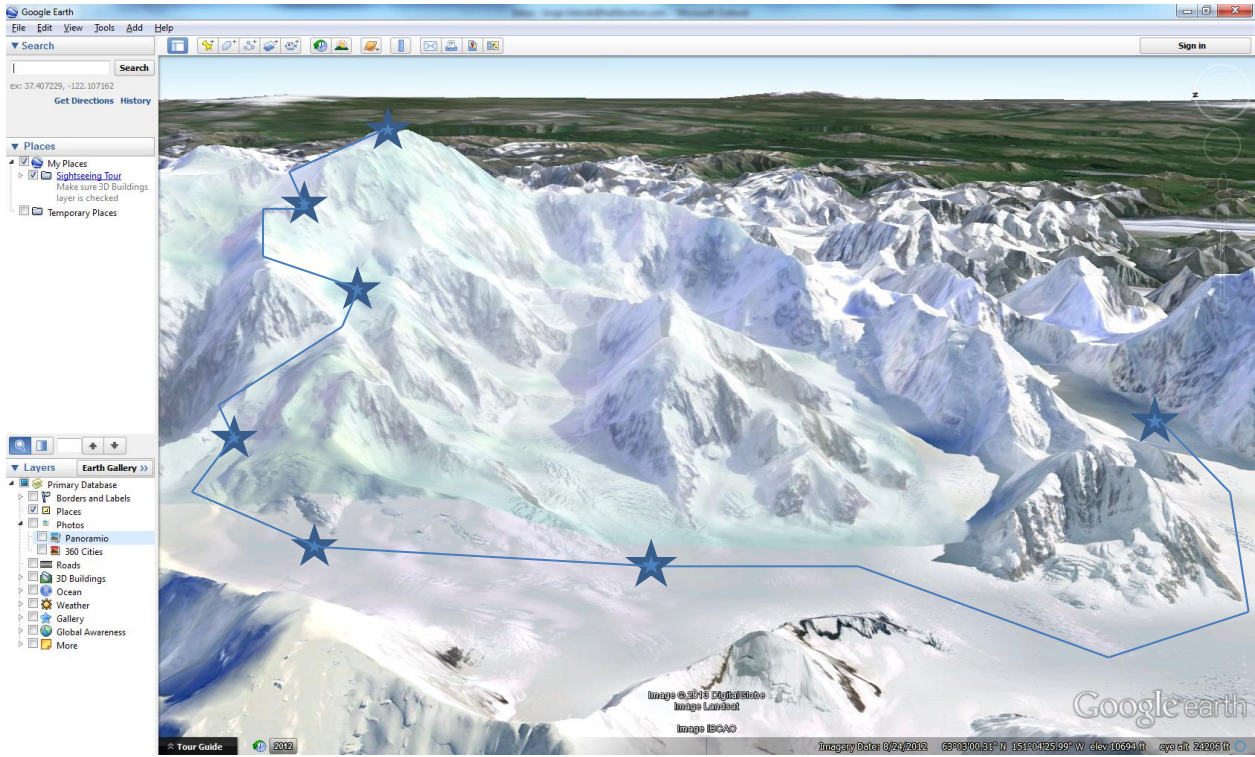
Total distance travelled = 37.6 miles (60.5 km)



Star marks base camp and the route to camp 3 at 11,000



Camp 1 (7,800), camp 2 (9,500), camp 3 (11,000), camp 4 (14,200), high camp (17,200) and summit (20,320)



The adventure begins



Mt. McKinley as we take off from Talkeetna airport, 70 miles away



Sad to see the glaciers disappearing



McKinley... looking more intimidating the closer we get



Inside the Alaska Range



Arriving at base camp, June 25, 2013



Traveling on the Kahiltna Glacier



“The High One”, as seen from camp 1 at 7,800. The summit is hidden from view



Looking down the Kahiltna Glacier from camp 2 at 9,500 ft



Climbing towards camp 3 at 11,000



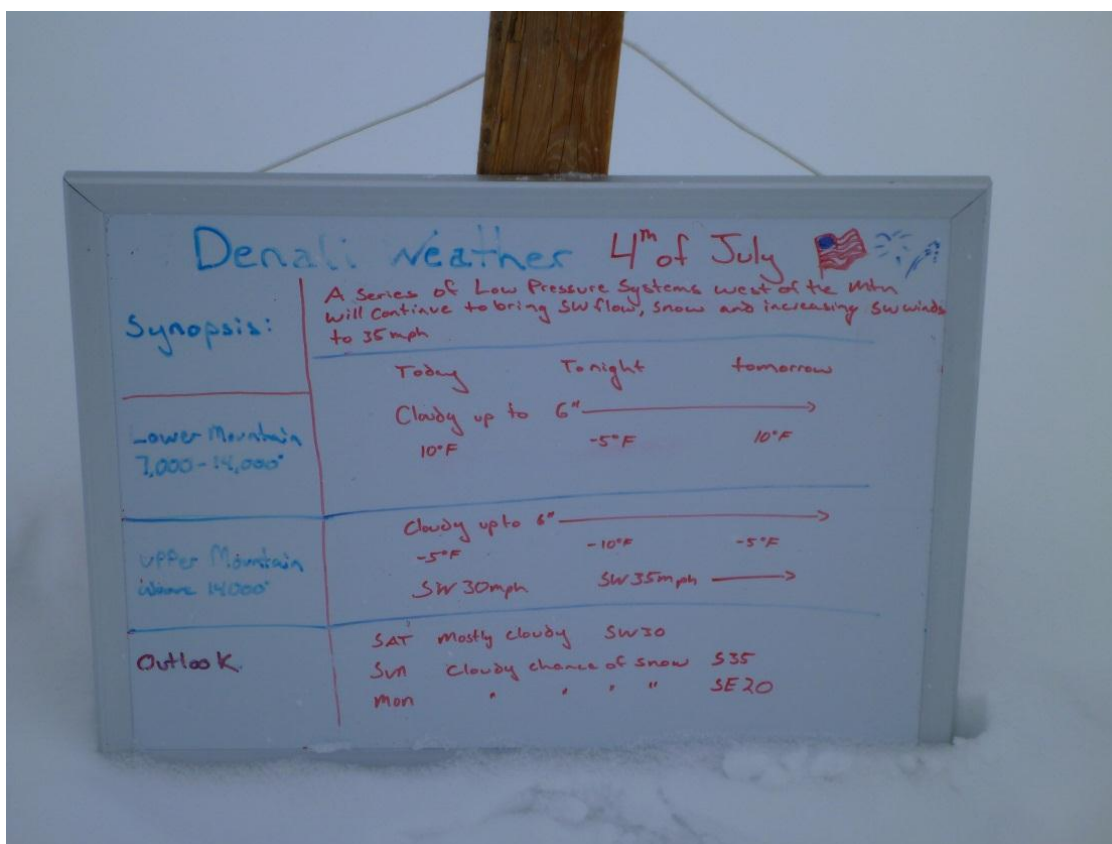
Everything is enormous



On the way to camp 4 at 14,200, going around the crevasse fields after Windy Corner



Rest day at 14,200 camp, overlooking Mt. Foraker (17,300 ft)



Forecast on July 4th as we prepare to move to camp at 17,200



The summit team, at 14,200 camp, ready to move to high camp



Foraker, as we are about to start the fixed lines



On the fixed lines at 15,500



The ridge towards high camp, showing the Headwall's fixed lines section on the left



Hunter and Foraker in the background, with 14,200 camp below, from the ridge towards high camp



Our cold camp at 17,200



A view of the Autobahn and Denali Pass, and the high winds in the upper mountain



Arriving at Denali Pass after the Autobahn on our failed summit bid, 7pm on July 7th



The highlight section of the climb: the summit ridge. 45 min to go! We are there!



Starting the summit ridge...with the Football Field and Archdeacons tower below



A most spectacular walk along the ridge



Arriving at the summit! No wind and blue skies



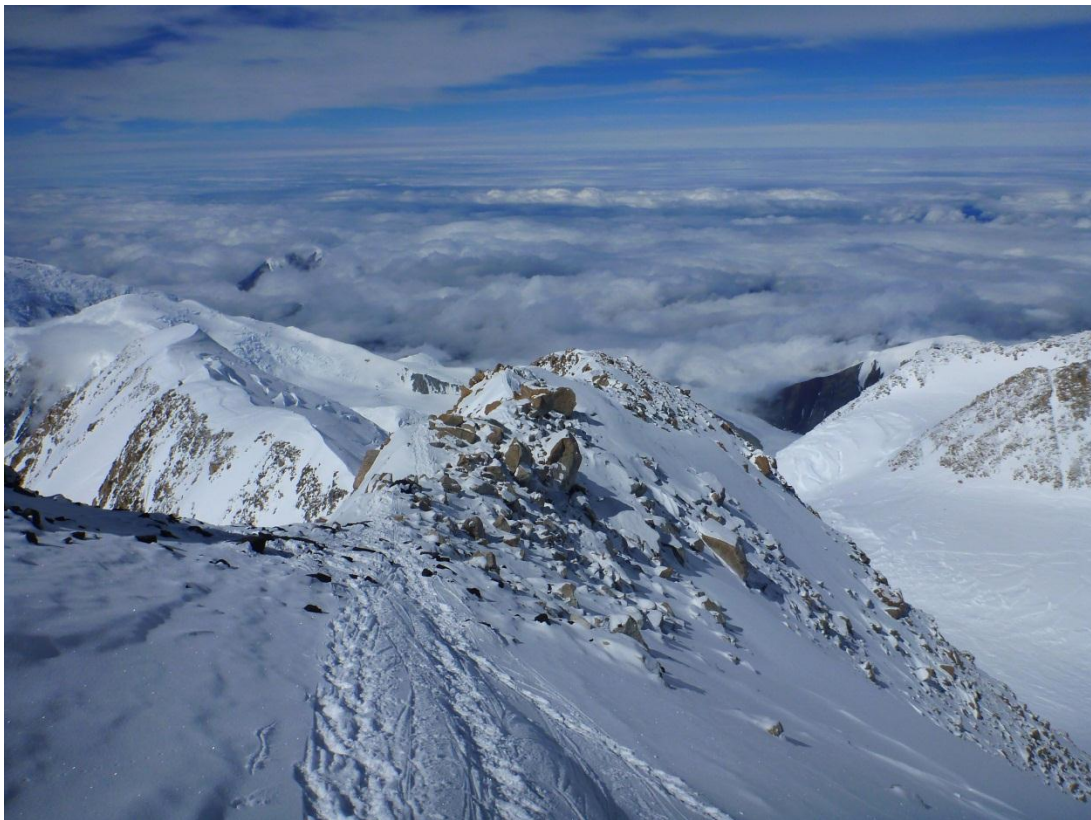
Finally, after 10 hours of climbing and 13 days on the mountain, July 8th, 8pm



Looking back at a section of the ridge, from the summit. Foraker in the background



On the way back towards high camp



The "catwalks" on the ridge towards 14,200



Descending Washburn's Thumb, on the ridge going down to 14,200



Camp at 14,200 after a snowstorm, the morning of our departure



On the glacier on our way down to base camp, with about 5 hours to go 😊



Team back at base camp after a most successful expedition. From the left: Gary Ambrosino, Travis McAlpine (guide), “Mac” McIntosh, Nathan Berry, Richard Ashbaugh, Greg Vernovage (lead guide), and Jorge Velarde



Leaving an amazingly beautiful place after an unforgettable experience with great, new friends

July 12, 2013