CAMBRIDGE, MA: On August 13th, 2005, lifelong Alaskan and local Anchorage climber Corey M. Rennell ‘07 and party of five explored, climbed, and named 4,555m Mt. Powell (41.25.2 N, 77.37.55 E) in honor and memory of longtime Eagle River role model Scott Powell who was killed in an electrical accident several days before the expedition departed.

Mt. Powell was the second mountain to be summated during the Harvard Mountaineering Club’s 80th Anniversary Expedition to the unexplored Borkoldoy mountain range in the demilitarized zone between Kyrgyzstan and Tibet in the northern Tian Shen. Rennell was one of the eight members of this first American expedition to this range and served as the Expedition Cinematographer. The first ascent will appear in the 2006 American Alpine Journal and was reported to the American Alpine Club and the International Mountaineering Federation for official recording.

Rennell first met Powell at Camp Gorsuch Boy Scout Camp when he was 11 years old where Powell became his close friend and role model guiding him through numerous merit badges and two World Scout Jamborees. Rennell worked as a Camp Counselor for Powell and later a Camp Commissioner through the course of several summers at Gorsuch. Before Rennell departed to attend college at Harvard, Powell led the ceremony that honored Rennell with his Eagle Scout Award.

In reference to naming the peak, Rennell remarked, “I’ll never be able to repay Scott for everything that he’s given me; I can only try to live each day in his image, leading a life of kindness and passion for all things living. Scott’s spirit belongs a lot higher than 15,000ft.”

Rennell hopes to present a plaque with a summit picture and a rock from the peak to the Powell family and the Western Alaska Council Boy Scouts of America when he returns to Anchorage in December. For more information, please visit the Expedition website at www.harvardmountaineering.org/borkoldoy. Rennell can be reached by e-mail at rennell@fas.harvard.edu. High-resolution print-quality photos may be downloaded at http://people.fas.harvard.edu/~fenno/borkoldoy/.

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ALASKA KLUB OF HARVARD UNIVERSITY
Mt. Powell as seen from Harvard Circus (Photo Credit: Corey Rennell)
Summit Photo: From left to right: Corey Rennell, Kelly Faughnan, George Brewster, Dave Krause, Adilet Imambekov. (Photo Credit: Corey Rennell)