

Freya, Southwest Buttress, Baffin Island, 1987. The first time I approached Windy Lake shelter in Auyuittuq National Park in the southeast corner of Baffin Island, it was late February. The temperature hovered around -25° F and wind was building. We had been traveling under severe conditions for several weeks and one of my dogs had already frozen to death. By the time we reached the cabin and I had staked the team in a ravine beyond, the wind was blowing so hard that I had to crawl across an exposed hummock back to the cabin where I was destined to spend a few days. When the storm died and the sun returned, we continued through the Weasel valley, past Thor, Asgard and the rest of the big walls. I promised myself to return, in the summer, with climbing gear. Three years later, in July, 1987, Gray Thompson and I were camped at Summit Lake, looking for an objective. Freya's dominant face stood just northeast of camp. Doug Scott had put up a route on its right side and so we decided to try the left, the southwest buttress. We third-classed several hundred feet on a low-angle apron and roped up when the angle steepened. The first 19 pitches were 5.6 and 5.7 and we moved quickly in the warm sunlight. Then Gray drew a 5.9 lead on steeper slabs with a few small roofs. By afternoon, we had negotiated fairly technical climbing toward a house-sized chock that was jammed inside a major dihedral system on the left side of the face. We worked right under the chock on mossy, wet 5.9, expecting to exit on a shoulder that would allow us to walk up the summit ridge. Instead, we found a headwall, broken by ledges, that went free for ten more pitches at 5.8 and 5.9 with about ten feet of aid. We finally reached the summit in the Arctic twilight at midnight. The descent was a long series of nasty rappels into a snowy, slabby gully system that started northwest of the summit. The total climbing time was 15 hours and we were away from camp for 30 hours.

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GREENLAND

Kronpriz Frederik Bjerge, East Greenland. This British expedition, led by Stan Wooley, successfully climbed and explored in the Kronpriz Frederik Bjerge, south of Kangerdlugssuaq Fjord. The other members were Dr. Ian Campbell, Ted Courtney, Rob Ferguson. Jim Lowther, Mike Parsons, John Richardson, Dave Wooley and I. The area appears to have been visited only once before by ground parties, namely by members of Lawrence Wager's expedition of 1935-6. (See *Geographical Journal*, Vol. XC, N^o 5 November 1936.) We were flown by ski plane on July 18, landing at $67^{\circ}57'N$, $34^{\circ}45'W$. The next day was spent climbing two small nunataks ($68^{\circ}00'N$, $34^{\circ}43'W$ and $67^{\circ}58'N$, $34^{\circ}42'W$) before splitting into two parties for a sledging and climbing journey of four weeks. Stan Wooley, Campbell, Courtney and Richardson took a line mostly close to the edge of the icecap and made the first ascents of the following peaks: small nunatak ($68^{\circ}03'N$, $34^{\circ}52'W$; c. 2050 meters); Panoramannunatak-