ice-breaker Kalebnikov about to attempt the first circumnavigation of Greenland. They were, however, doomed to be stranded in the pack ice of Nares Strait a few weeks later.

DENNIS SCHMITT, Sierra Club

MEXICO

*El Gran Trono Blanco.* Paul Piana has written a full article on the first free ascent of the Pan American Route on the Gran Trono Blanco which he made with his wife. This appears earlier in this *Journal.*

*El Gran Trono Blanco.* This winter, Jeff Hollenbaugh and I climbed the “Giraffe” route on El Gran Trono Blanco. This climb has been repeated very few times. This big wall is in an outrageously location with an exciting approach. We spent two nights on the 1500-foot face (VI, 5.10, A3+).

JOHN MIDDENDORF

GREENLAND

*South-North Traverse.* Reinhold Messner and his brother Dr. Hubert Messner completed a remarkable traverse of Greenland, which took them not only from the southern part of the island to the north but also across from the eastern to the western side. They started from Isertok Ammassalik at 65°40’N, 38°55’W and ended at Qaanaaq/Thule at 77°25’N, 69°25’W. Two Inuit Greenlanders accompanied them for two-and-a-half days with dog teams to get them up onto the inland ice. From then on, they were entirely on their own. They carried out this 2200-kilometer-long trip in the amazingly short time of only 35 days between April 23 and May 27 without motor support or pre-placed depots. They had temperatures down to −40° C and strong southeast and southwest winds. The wind aided them by letting them make fast progress, sailing over the snow with parawings. They averaged 60 kilometers per day and even covered 170 kilometers on one day.

*Gunnbjørnsfjeld Ascent and Altitudes.* In May, I guided Steve Fossett, Steve Elliot and Brian Ewart up Gunnbjørnsfjeld, thought to be the highest peak in Greenland and the Arctic, as well as two nearby peaks, the second and third highest. We carried GPS equipment all the way, leaving one in Base Camp on a timer and hauling the other to each of the summits. From all three, we got significant simultaneous data through six to nine satellites. On our last day, we took simultaneous readings from our two Base Camps. The Danish Place
Names Commission has used our data to establish exact heights: Gunnbjørnsfjeld = 3693 meters (12,116 feet); Qaqqaq Kershaw = 3682 meters (12,080 feet); “Cone” = 3669 meters (12,037 feet). The old unofficial name for Peak № 2 was “Dome.” We suggested to the Names Commission that it be named for Giles Kershaw. They have officially accepted Qaqqaq (Mount) Kershaw.

Laupers Bjerg. Iain Macdonald, Adam Hyne, Neil Smith and I left the UK on July 17. Making use of plane, helicopter and boat, we arrived at the head of Tasiilaq Fjord (66°06’) on the east coast of Greenland four days later. A seven-day ski-and-pulka journey led us to our main objective, the northeast face of Laupers Bjerg (2580 meters, 8465 feet). Our attempted new route on this face failed after 1500 meters of climbing, 300 meters from the summit, where a committing abseil to a col would have led to very technical mixed terrain. It had been straightforward to there mostly on ice with some mixed climbing. We looked for alternate routes on the north face, but all looked difficult. We went around to the southeast face, to André Roch’s original route. Hyne and I spent 36 hours on the mountain, with 700 meters of mostly straightforward rock with some difficult pitches, a 700-meter snow slope and then 300 meters of hard ice up to 75° to the summit. We reached the top at two A.M. on August 11, making the first British ascent and the fourth ever. On August 12, Macdonald and Smith climbed a 1800-meter point in the northeast corner of the Laupers Bjerg massif by a snow gully on the south side. Attempts to enter a virgin area in Schweizerland via the Franche Compté Gletscher failed due to receding, chaotic glaciers and time running out. We returned to the UK on September 5.

Douglas Cooper, North Wales, UK

Schweizerland, East Greenland. Our Catalan expedition was composed of Nuria Pares, Pep Bisquert, Miquel Autet, Angel Serra, Montse Riesco and me as leader. We left Kulusuk on August 3, ascended the Karale Glacier to the September 16th Glacier and went back to the sea by the Knud Rasmussen Glacier. After two days on moraine, we skied and pulled pulkas. We got to the September 16th Glacier by crossing the Slangen Pass. On August 13, we climbed a peak at the southeast junction of the September 16th and Knud Rasmussen Glaciers at 66°14’N, 36°08’W. We skied to the sea down the left side of the Knud Rasmussen Glacier, which was dangerous because of crevasses and a river running down its center.

Albert Baezells, Spain

Lemon Bjerge. Chris Bonington has written an article on exploring these mountains which appears earlier in this Journal.