

peaks in the Canadian Rockies, Tsar is now easily accessible via logging roads which follow Sullivan Creek from Kinbasket Lake. The approach from our vehicle to a high camp just below the ice took two hours. Ironically, Tsar now has one of the shortest approaches of the major Rockies peaks. Our line followed the easiest route up the ridge, occasionally diverging onto both the north and southeast faces (V, 5.9). We found ourselves in an intense lightning storm a few pitches from the top and watched strikes ignite four separate forest fires as darkness came on. Unable to cross over the top because of lightning strikes, we bivouacked on an exposed ridge and summited the next morning. We down-climbed the standard north ridge-face route, which is complicated and took most of the day to descend. It took us to the foot of the mountain far from our vehicle.

GRAY THOMPSON

North West Territories

Proboscis, Southeast Face, "Yukon Tears" Logan Mountains. In a three-day blitz in 1963, Layton Kor, Royal Robbins, Jim McCarthy and Dick McCracken climbed a route on the southeast face of Proboscis and issued in a new level by applying big-wall techniques to a remote alpine wall. In 1992, Todd Skinner, Paul Piana and Galen Rowell made their all-free ascent of the Great Canadian Knife (*AAJ*, 1993, pages 68-77.) On August 5, Scott Cosgrove, Kurt Smith and I completed the fourth ascent of the face and the second free line. We chose a crack line 200 feet right of the Knife. A 3-pitch dihedral with good protection led to three pitches of face climbing, the aid-climbing crux. The climb then joined a steep, knobby crack for seven pitches to a ledge. A 5.2 traverse led to the top of the Knife route, where I added a 5.10 variation up a seam left of the good crack. Three more pitches took us to an exposed knife-edged ridge. Seven pitches of low fifth-class boulder problems brought us to the summit register, a metal film canister, circa 1960, and perfectly preserved yellow paper. We spent 19 days working on the 24-pitch route, finding 7 pitches of 5.12, 2 of 5.11 and 4 of 5.10.

JEFF JACKSON, *Texas Mountain Guides*

Canadian Arctic

Asgard, North Face of North Tower, "Valkyrie." Chris Breemer and I put up a new line on the north face of the north tower of Asgard, which we completed on July 24 (VI, A4+; 14 pitches.) We had two days of good weather out of the fourteen we were on the wall, which was steep enough to avoid the falling ice. On July 9, we were helicoptered to the Turner Glacier and spent a couple of days hauling gear to the foot of the wall. We began the ascent on July 12, but were trapped in our portaledge for five days after climbing 350 feet. We



PLATE 49

Photo by Brad Jarrett

**Chris Breemer on Valkyrie,
ASGARD.**

climbed another 400 feet before being hit by a second storm, during which a rock ripped through the rainfly and grazed my forehead. We continued to climb in miserable weather until we had completed two-thirds of the climb. Then the weather cleared, allowing us to complete three pitches in a 30-hour push. Bad weather soon returned, turning the final pitch into a gushing water streak. The Swiss route down the other side of the peak was too dangerous because of avalanches to be used for the descent, so we went down the ascent route. We encountered some of the finest rock we have ever climbed on. It is extremely hard and its rough texture gave plenty of opportunities for hooking, but it also snapped drill bits like candy cane. Nearly all blank sections, as viewed from the ground, opened up with small, obscure features. Unfortunately, the rough texture also offered plenty of opportunity for rope damage. We had hoped to do Thor, but ropes were destroyed and we had to leave a lot of pins and stoppers on our descent of Asgard. That is for next year!

BRAD JARRETT*

Asgard, North Tower, West Face Attempt. On July 7, Swiss Jean-Michel Zwiack, Denis Burdet, Cédric Choffat and Pierre Robert began an attempt on the west face of Asgard. They tried a line between "Valkyrie" and "Hyperborea." They climbed ten pitches about halfway up the face in miserable weather before quitting on August 5. They climbed mostly on aid and left most of their fixed ropes.

Asgard, West Face of North Tower, "Hyperborea." A full article on this difficult climb made by Britons Caine and Pritchard, American Quinlan and Spaniard Tosas appears earlier in this *Journal*.

Friga Peak Attempt and Schwarzenbach Falls. Catalan Jordi Tosas attempted a big corner on Friga Peak above the Parade Glacier solo in June. After climbing 100 meters, he was driven back by storm. He put all his gear in a snow hole. When he returned to retrieve it twelve days later, he discovered it had been buried by avalanches. He did recover it in mid July. He made a remarkable solo climb on the 1600-foot-high Schwarzenbach Falls, which he ascended on the bigger left icefall. His climb of Asgard ("Hyperborea") is recorded earlier in a full article in this *Journal*.

Climbs in Auyuittuq National Park, Baffin Island. Matt Walsh and I spent a month in Auyuittuq National Park and except for the walk up the Weasel valley, we traveled on cross-country skis. We did a lot of ski touring because the weather was often poor, but the winds were not strong and the rock was good with short approaches to the climbs. We did three new routes, all free and

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