

*Menhir, Auyuittuq National Park, Baffin Island.* Though somewhat thwarted by bad weather, we managed to do a new route on Menhir, the prominent triangular peak directly behind the Thor Shelter. On August 10, we climbed a snow gully that leads to the ridge, which in fact is a rounded corner that separates the northeast and southeast faces. We climbed a large chockstone in the gully on the left, using a few moves of aid. After a rock pitch up a red-rock buttress, we were forced right into a series of iced-up corners and slabs, which form a continuous system most of the way up. We tried to trend left to what we hoped would be the ridge but were forced back right near the top when we hit the southeast face. Two more difficult pitches were followed by an easy walk to the very exposed summit. We made the climb in 12½ hours in crampons after the first pitch. (10 pitches on the upper face, 5.7, verglas to 60°.)

ROB DRISCOLL and BILL DURLER, *Alpine Club of Canada*

*Great Walls on Baffin Island.* Eugene Fisher has written an article illustrated with magnificent photographs of some of the incredible walls and faces on Baffin Island. This appears early in the *Journal*.

*Kayaking across Baffin Island.* Andy Bridge, Phil DeRieme, Hayden Glatte and John Weld were flown to a sandbar near the Barnes Icecap on Baffin Island on July 16. With their 35-pound kayaks each packed with 50 pounds of supplies, they set out for the coast down the McDonald River. They reached the seacoast at Ikpik Bay in four days, despite having to portage around some of the worst rapids. Next, they navigated among ice floes some twenty miles south to the mouth of an unnamed river. Upstream work was hard. First they made their way up rapids connecting two lakes. Poling or pulling the kayaks upstream next alternated with paddling. The crux was a canyon in the unnamed river, which involved a very difficult portage. Eventually after twelve days, they were back at the Barnes Icecap. The final leg of the journey was down the Clyde River where, among other hazards, they avoided a 70-foot waterfall. They were picked up by pre-arrangement at the head of Clyde Fiord by an Inuit guide with a powerboat, having kayaked some 300 miles. They were supported by W.L. Gore's Shipton-Tilman Grant and Malden Mills' Polartec Performance Challenge.

*Traverse of Marvin Peninsula, Ellesmere Island.* We succeeded in crossing the entire Marvin Peninsula from the British Empire Range to Ward Hunt Island, despite heavy snowstorms. From Base Camp on McClintock Sound, we spent two days working 12 miles up the unnamed glacier that lobes at tidewater on the eastern shore of the sound. We camped in a dry valley behind the prominent battleship butte. A slender, elegant glacial arm blocks the valley to the south. After ascending to the east up this arm, we left the ice at a tarn and climbed the rock buttress until we surmounted the icecap at 4000 feet in a

whiteout. When it suddenly cleared, six of us proceeded up the the north face of a splendid snow dome of 5500 feet. Our route led through mountains above the sound. We documented a layer of Holocene clam shells 100 meters above sea level, marking an extreme level of isostatic rebound. We reached Ootah Fjord through an unknown canyon of ice bridges, natural arches, gigantic chockstones and waterfalls. We continued north from Ootah after two days, breaking trail to Rainbow Lakes. We collected butterfly specimens and observed miniature caribou and muskoxen at the very northern edge of North America. Happily, there was no open water between us and the Ward Hunt Iceshelf. I was able to make a brief study of the ice rise or "beach glacier" phenomenon and concluded that these ice rises are not Pleistocene tongue remnants as was thought but rather contemporary products of microclimates and prevailing wind drift. After two days of snow-fog, we crossed one of the beach glaciers and the frozen lead, thus entering the world of the 3000-year-old iceshelf. We then crossed a succession of turquoise lakes by means of relays in a tiny inflatable boat, reaching Ward Hunt Island after two more days. Our members were Ruthmary Deuel, Heather Wilson, Les Wilson, Chris Curtis, Alexander Jolles, Joe Legalet, Bill Dunlop, Dave Endres, Ed Hartley and I.

DENNIS SCHMITT, *Sierra Club*

## MEXICO

*Picacho del Diablo, Pinnacle Ridge, Baja California.* From November 9 to 11, nine Prescott (Arizona) College students and two instructors ascended the Picacho del Diablo via Pinnacle Ridge. The students were Gemma Kemp-Garcia, Geoff Gardner, Julia Körting, Greg Miller, Jonathan Morgan, Kristine Preziosi, Joni Tinker, Erik Van Sinderen and John Van Voorhies and the instructors Joe St. Onge and I. The peak is the highest in Baja California, rising to 10,154 feet. The summit extends from San Pedro Martir for two miles along Pinnacle Ridge, with a series of seven major gendarmes and scrambling sections from the saddle below the Botella Azul and the main escarpment. The climbing is exposed 5.6 or harder on superb granite. Following the crest of the ridge involves traverses, rappels and numerous down-climbs. We completed the entire ridge in 2½ days with two planned bivouacs and two water caches. We encountered rime ice and deteriorating weather on the col between the south and north summits, from which we descended to our Base Camp at Campo Noche. Access is either a two-day, rigorous hike up the Cañón Diablo from the east to Campo Noche or across the top of the San Pedro Martir escarpment from the west through the national park to the Botella Azul.

ANGELA HAWSE

*El Toro, Central Pillar, "El Sendero Luminoso," El Potrero Chico, Nuevo León.* On March 30, Kurt Smith, Pete Peacock and I summited on the central