

*Mt. Scott, North Summit, Ascent, and Other Activity.* From December to January, an Australian party aboard the yacht *Tooluka* visited the Peninsula. All the climbers aboard attempted to make the probable first ascent of Mt. Zeppelin (1265m), southeast of Eckener Point. Starting from an ice landing in Graham Passage to the north, they camped at 500 meters but eventually retreated due to deep snow, poor visibility and heavy snowfall during the one and half days they were on the peak. Lucas Trihey, Chris Jewell and Keith Tuffley then made an ascent of an unnamed pyramid-shaped peak (1320m) above Neko Harbour in Andvoors Bay. After landing by inflatable boat, the group skied to half-height, then followed a 45-degree ridge over moderate ground with only a few crevasses posing any real difficulties, before reaching the summit in a whiteout and strong winds. Following this, the *Tooluka* party undertook a three-day ski traverse on Wiencke Island. From the northern tip of the island, they followed the eastern coast, over the Thunder Glacier to Port Lockroy, mostly in bad weather. This party also skied various slopes on Enterprise Island, Hovgaard Island and Doumer Island.

As a finale, *Tooluka* then visited the popular Mt. Scott (880m) above Lemaire Channel and made what was probably the first ascent of the north summit of this peak via a ridge on the west face. Trihey and Jewell climbed about 35 pitches straight out of the water in a 29-hour push to the summit. They encountered ten pitches of rock up to grade 5.7 and in Trihey's words, "mega-exposure, hideous, Andean-style, razor-edge ridge climbing, an awkward gendarme and excellent ice gullies." Ascent required abseils, which would have made retreat difficult. A fast descent was made in good conditions down the glacier to the north of the peak.

DAMIEN GILDEA

*Wiencke Island, Ascents.* On January 11, New Zealanders Mike Roberts, Lizzie Craddock, Richard Craddock, Amber Chisholm, Anton Woperis and Steve (last name unknown) started climbing from an anchorage near the Chilean base of Gonzales Videla. A long glacial traverse south and east took them to a col near Mt. Hoegh (890m). The whole party then ascended a smaller 805-meter peak to the southeast of Hoegh. Upon returning to the col, Richard Craddock, Steve, Woperis and Chisholm climbed Mt. Hoegh, while Lizzie Craddock and Roberts climbed another peak (730m) to the southeast. On January 13, the whole party made an ascent of Jabet Peak (545m) on Wiencke Island, a climb first done in May, 1948, by the Britons Pawson and Richards and climbed a number of times since.

January 17 saw the Craddocks, Woperis and Roberts make a probable new route on Janssen Peak (1085m) on Wiencke Island. This peak forms the southwestern end of the popular Sierra du Fief range in southwestern Wiencke Island. The climb involved 12 and a half pitches of 45- to 50-degree snow on the obvious and aesthetic east face. The party finished their trip with Steve, Woperis, Roberts and Chisholm making a ski-traverse of Doumer Island on January 18.

DAMIEN GILDEA

*Cape Renard Tower, Attempt, and Pt. 3,600', Ascent.* Our goal was to attempt the first ascent of the north face of Cape Renard Tower (747m) located on the west side of the Antarctic Peninsula. Cape Renard Tower has been climbed twice before, once by a Canadian team who climbed a mixed route to the lower east summit and in 1999 by a German team who climbed the west face to the main summit. We were aboard the yacht *Pelagic* (Latin: "of the sea"), a

vessel with a seven-ton steel-encased lead lifting keel built by Captain James "Skip" Novak for the purposes of sailing and mountaineering in this region. The team comprised Julian-Freeman Attwood, Skip Novak and myself. Jules and I had made a previous attempt on the Tower in 1996.

After an aborted attempt to land at the base of the Tower on February 19, we moved to the northeast to the one spot where the collapsing ice wall is breached by a tenable line of ascent. A long pitch up this enabled us to fix a rope for the next morning. We returned, then climbed back up the rope and hauled 20 loads up the wall on to the top of the seracs. We set up camp on the top. We then established a traverse across the glacier to the lip of the 200-foot ice cliff from where a narrow ledge system led across the rock face to join our original "direct start" from the cave site of 1996.

From the ledges, there followed two more days of steep and difficult rock climbing to reach the toe of the massive couloir that cleaves the face. We established fixed ropes on all this section so that we could both return to camp and re-ascend to our high point as soon as possible with the plan of establishing a camp high on the mountain. However, after various discussions, it was decided to make a single alpine-style attempt from above the fixed ropes.

After some bad weather, Skip and I climbed back to the toe of the couloir by 7 a.m. on our big day. We climbed this in about a dozen pitches and then followed the ramp line that cuts across the upper walls up rightward. As night fell, we prepared for a cold bivouac without sleeping bags. The first pitch the next morning proved to be an awkward grade V piece of ice. We were forced to continue up the ramp line for another two pitches. The climbing became increasingly difficult until we ended up faced with a blank wall leading into a blank corner that stopped us in our tracks. Our high point was three-quarters of the way up, at the end of the ramp across the headwall on the summit tower, two pitches short of the easier summit ground. It took 15 rappels to return to the top of the fixed ropes, then three more rappels back to the ledge line as darkness fell. A weary plod with heavy loads back across the glacier and we reached base camp by 11 p.m.

I also made a solo ascent via a new route (with Freeman-Attwood in support) of the highest point of the Wall Range on Wiencke Island. This is Point 3,600' (1097m) on the chart at a position of 64° 49.5' S, 63° 23.0' W. The route was a technically straightforward line up a broad couloir opposite Jabet Peak to the crest of the north ridge. I then hung a right for an hour's ascent along the crest via a series of rounded elephants' backsides to the summit. Along the way I experienced rough weather with high winds and poor visibility. Subsequent checks have revealed that this summit had in fact most likely been climbed at least once before by members of the well-known Italian climbing group Lecco Spiders in 1976. They had christened it Monte Italia (1097m). It appears they had traversed to it from the neighboring summit, which they had climbed using siege tactics under difficult weather conditions.

CARADOC ("CRAG") JONES, *Wales*

*Mt. Demaria, Ascent, and Other Activity.* In early February, a British party visited the Antarctic Peninsula aboard the yacht *Shantooti*. On February 23, Luke Milner and Roger Haworth made an ascent of Mt. Demaria (635m) with Vladislav Timofeyev and Pavel Silin, the latter two being Ukrainians from the Vernadsky base. This steep peak was first climbed in July, 1979, by a BAS group and has received a number of ascents since. On February 28, Richard and Roger Haworth then attempted the unnamed highest peak of the "Seven Sisters," a feature in the Sierra du Fief on Wiencke Island. Their attempt via the northwest ridge was