

It should be noted that not only had the route up the “headwall” changed considerably from the previous year—much more to the right, to avoid the seracs and crevassing in the center at the top—but that the old camp 2 site, nestled in next to a stable serac just above the corner of the upper Branscombe, had avalanche debris to within 20m of it, this having fallen from the lower cliffs on the south west face of Shinn and crossed the cwm.

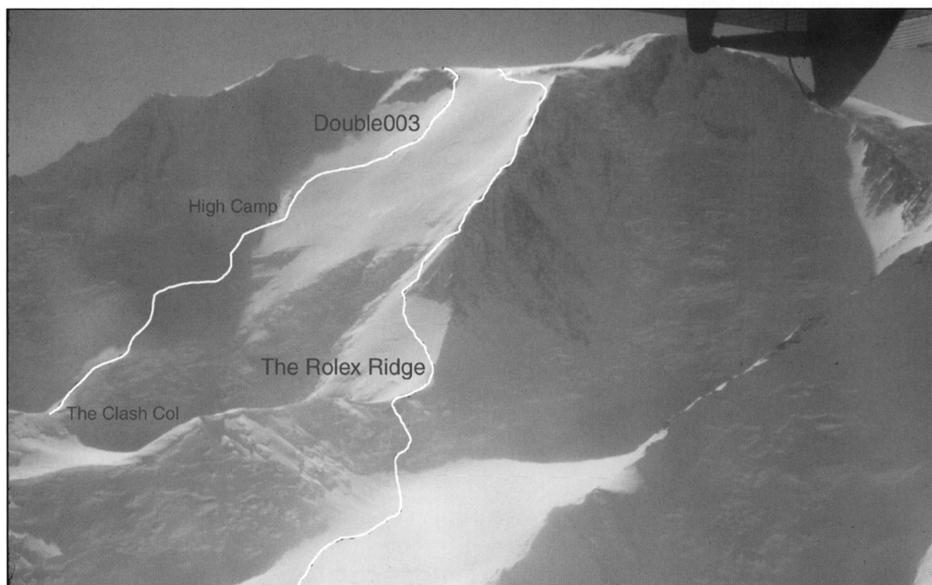
In early January, Robert Anderson guided four clients on a new route from the south-west. Anderson had visited this side of Vinson previously, when in November and December of 1992 he climbed two new routes up Vinson, one on the southwest face and another on the west-southwest ridge. The 2003 route was the first time that commercially guided clients had either attempted or completed a new route on any of the highest Sentinel peaks. (See report below.)

Around the same time, regular Sentinels visitor Conrad Anker was attempting another new route on the east side of the mountain, also with clients. Anker, with Chileans Misael Alvia, Andronico Luksic and Maximo Pacheco, was landed on the Dater Glacier. Though the team established a first camp, bad weather prevented any further progress and they were flown out in late January.

DAMIEN GILDEA, AAC, *Australia*

Mt. Vinson, southwest face, first ascent of Double003. In 1992 I'd completed the first solo ascent of a new route on a prominent ridge bordering the southwest face (The Rolex Ridge) and looked across at the huge unclimbed expanse of the mountain to the west of it. It took 10 years to organize the return and have a chance to climb it.

We departed Punta Arenas on 27 December, 2002, flying on Adventure Networks Ilushin 76 to Patriot Hills, and then continued another hour in the air in a Single Otter over to Vinson the following day. We landed five miles away from our hoped for drop off point due to deteriorating



The southwest face of Mt. Vinson. Robert Anderson

weather. We had skis, so spent that night and the following four days skiing though mixed weather up to the base of the peak. From this side of Vinson, four long ridges lead out, separated by five glaciers, only two of which have been explored.

At the head of the glacier along the base of the mountain (8,300') we reached a spectacular camp set on the col of a ridge suspended between two immense glaciers. In honor of the man who originally inspired our journey, Jim Clash, we named this the Clash Col.



At 9,500' on Vinson's southwest face just before midnight, Bob Guthrie, Peggy Foster, Intesar Haider, and Chris Heintz are climbing out of the ice fog lens en-route to the summit. Robert Anderson

The 7,000' face leading to the summit plateau didn't appear to have any camp sites, so we made our first attempt on the peak in a single non-stop effort, that attained the top of the face, but left us still a good distance from the summit. We retreated for an 18-hour nap in the eternal sunshine, ate the rest of our food, and then on the evening of four January we set out again, utilizing a small ice nubbin to place a tent and rest at a high camp for four hours before continuing on the next morning.

We reached the plateau in eight hours, and another seven hours of wandering across the immense expanse of the plateau and up the summit ridge led to the top at 1:30 a.m. on January 6.

The face itself offers a mix of snow, ice and the occasional rock band to climb through, at a gradient of 35° to 60°-plus degrees. With a rapid elevation gain, views south toward the Pole open up over the ice rapidly and the final stroll across the summit plateau, all at over 15,000', makes for a memorable experience, to put it mildly.

Amongst our team, Peggy Foster became the first Canadian woman to complete a new route on Vinson, Intesar Haider became the first person from Bangladesh to ascend Vinson, Chris Heintz became the youngest person to complete a new route to the top of Antarctica, Bob Guthrie ascended two years after recovery from a potentially life threatening case of cancer, and Robert Anderson completed his third new route to the summit.

ROBERT ANDERSON, AAC

ANTARCTIC PENINSULA

Summary of activities. Livingston Island is a rugged mountain massif, home to the highest point of the South Shetland Islands, off the northwestern tip of the Peninsula. It is also the location of a number of scientific research stations from different nations. On January 5th, Alex Simon i Casanovas, Jordi Sorribas i Cervantes, David Hita i Sanchez and Vicente Castro Sotos, personnel from the Spanish Juan Carlos I base, made the first ascent of Mt. Bowles, a rounded peak on eastern part of the island. Argentine sources put the altitude of Mt. Bowles at 914m, but the Spanish team's GPS recorded only 839m. Though the route was only of moderate difficulty, it