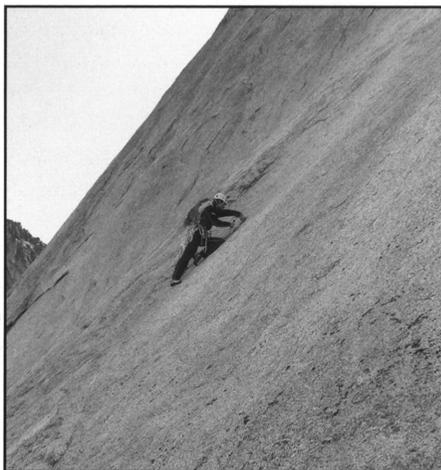


parties. Nalumasortoq, Right Pillar, Non C'e Due Senza Tre. We climbed this in a day, with the leader onsighting every pitch. The original topo appears to fake the last two pitches. Instead of climbing upward on terrain indicated as easy, you have to traverse right for two pitches to a wet and icy corner/offwidth, and then climb this in two unpleasant pitches. This finish doesn't remotely share the beauty of the rest of the route. Ulamertorssuaq, Moby Dick. We climbed and descended this with two bivouacs (both on the Black Man). Apart from the two pitches of IX+, which we climbed with rests, the route was led onsite. The belay at the top of pitch 27 comprises three bolts, but only two of them have hangers, and one of these needs a nut to be complete. There is no other possible placement, so bring a nut if you can. Ulamertorssuaq, War and Poetry. We climbed this with some rest points and one bivouac. Nalumasortoq, Left Pillar, Life is Beautiful. We climbed this with some rest points in one day. A little before our ascent the route had been repeated using aid by two Americans. Most of the climb is in perfect thin cracks, but unfortunately several loose flakes remain. Surprisingly, the overhang on the sixth pitch was not the crux as expected. This came higher on pitch 12.



On the initial slabs of Half Dome. *Martin Kloufar*

MARTIN KLONFAR, *Czech Republic*

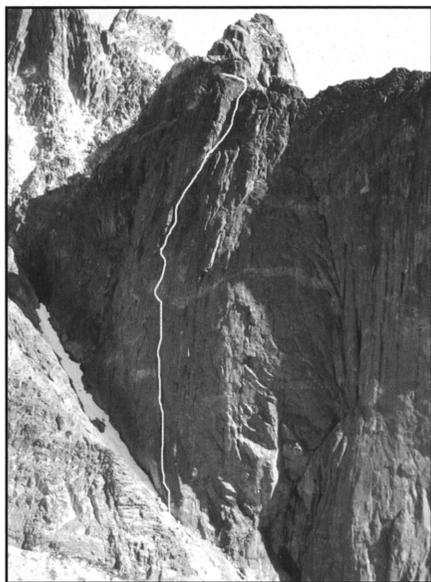
*Pamiagdhluk Island, Baroness, north face, Blue Whale; Camp Peak, South Face Direct.* As Sarah Garlick put it, "The dream was to gather a small team of friends and head somewhere unspoiled and far away... and to climb. I chose Greenland for a variety of reasons, but most of them came down to the simple allure of wildness. I knew I could find adventure there." For almost three weeks during late July and August, Dave Nettle, Jim Surette, Sarah, and I explored, climbed, and discovered.

We started our trip on Pamiagdhluk Island, reached after a three-and-a-half hour boat ride through the Torssukat Fjord from Nanortalik—the village where most climbing expeditions launch. We landed on a small beach below the prominent northwest face of the Baroness. Our primary goal was to climb the center of the wall: the large, mostly orange granite face, topped by dark gray corner and crack systems. In 2001 a group of Brits climbed four routes on the right side of this face. After quickly establishing camp, we carried climbing gear to a small meadow at the base of the wall and stared in awe of the project ahead. Our hopes dimmed slightly when we found most of the face running with water.

The next morning we gave the face a good attempt but found our proposed line would require much bolting and likely a substantial bit of aid climbing. This was not the style for which we were prepared. While exploring, Dave and I eyed a line on the sunny Campsite Hill (1,340m) opposite the Baroness. The following day, while Sarah and Jim searched for other potential lines on the Baroness, Dave and I linked corner and crack systems to make a new route: South Face Direct (450m, seven pitches, 5.10-). On the summit we had a great vantage of the Baroness. It was this perspective we needed, and we were able to piece together a possible line up the left side of the face leading to the highest point of the



Danika Gilbert admires rock walls on the far side of the Torssukatak Fjord from a hanging stance on Blue Whale. *Dave Nettle*

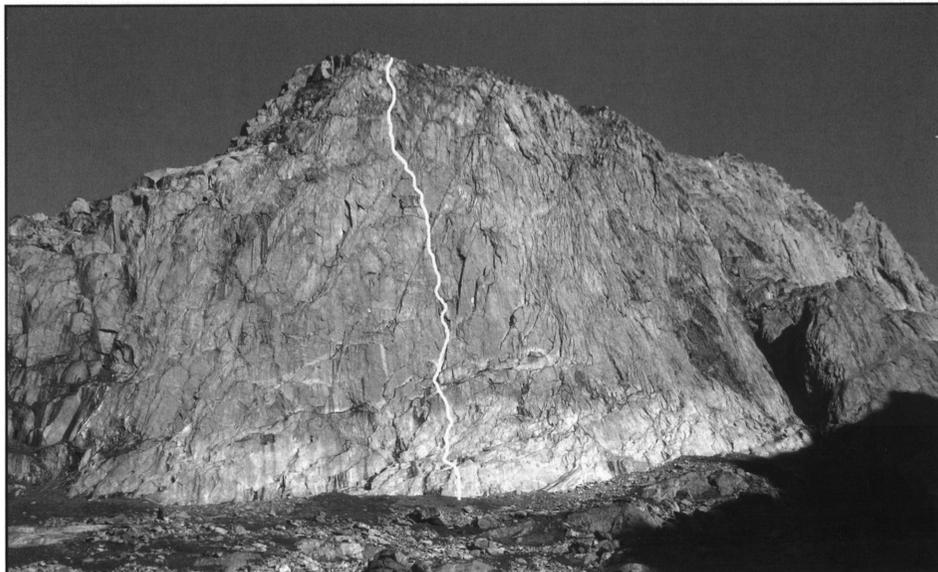


North face of Baroness, with 2010 American route Blue Whale. The rock summit immediately behind the top of this line belongs to another formation. *Dave Nettle*

Baroness massif. After an adventurous descent back to camp, we shared the news with Jim and Sarah.

The next morning we set off with renewed enthusiasm. Dave and I launched upward, establishing our route almost as far as two roof sections in an area we dubbed the “gray bands” due to intrusions that promised harder route finding and exciting climbing. The following day Jim and Sarah took over, finding a delicate way where crack systems petered out. Jim pulled around a corner on thin gear to find a hidden splitter finger crack and exclaimed “It’s gonna go!” After a few more great pitches, and with daylight waning, Sarah and Jim stopped one pitch shy of the ridge. Early the next day Dave and I set out eagerly and fired the line to the top, summiting the Baroness in a wind storm. We named our route Blue Whale (600m, V 5.11), after our trusty base camp tent that saw us through storms and bugs.

Satisfied with our ascents and eager for new terrain, we headed to Tasermiut Fjord. The 1,000m walls of Nalumasortoq, Ulamertorssuaq, and Ketil were a strong draw. Unfortunately stormy days

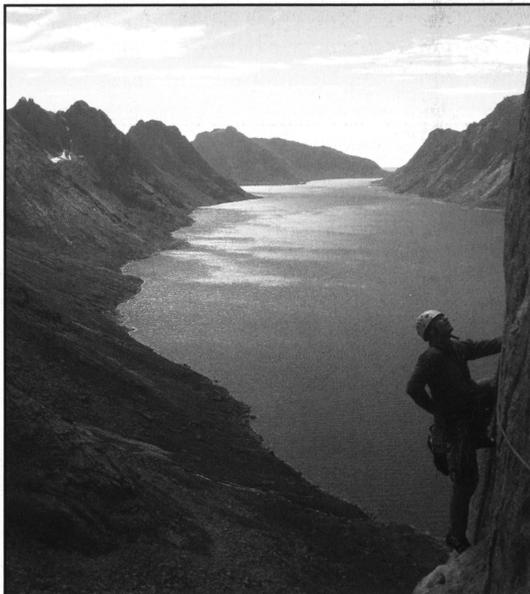


Campsite Hill, with 2010 American route South Face Direct. Descent was to the left. *Dave Nettle*

covered peak tops with snow, soaking the crack systems with meltwater for days. Our final week in Greenland was spent mostly reading and hanging out in our base camp tent. When the rain let up, the fog would roll in and re-soak the walls. However, on the last day we rallied for an ascent of Ketil Pyramid, a fine peak, but dwarfed by the surrounding walls. We climbed the South (Swiss) Pillar (5.10) in nine pitches, enjoying a beautiful summit day.

DANIKA GILBERT, AAC

*Torssukatak Fjord and Quvnerit Island, five new rock routes.* After climbing four major new routes on the West Coast (see report from Upernavik region), the Belgian-American team skippered by Bob Shepton climbed five new routes in the Cape Farewell region. They generally traversed their summits and descended via a different route. Their feat of climbing such an array of hard, free, big walls during one expedition has probably never previously been achieved in Greenland mountaineering. For details see Shepton's feature article in this Journal.



Dave Nettle on South Face Direct, Campsite Hill, with Torssukatak Fjord beyond. *Danika Gilbert*