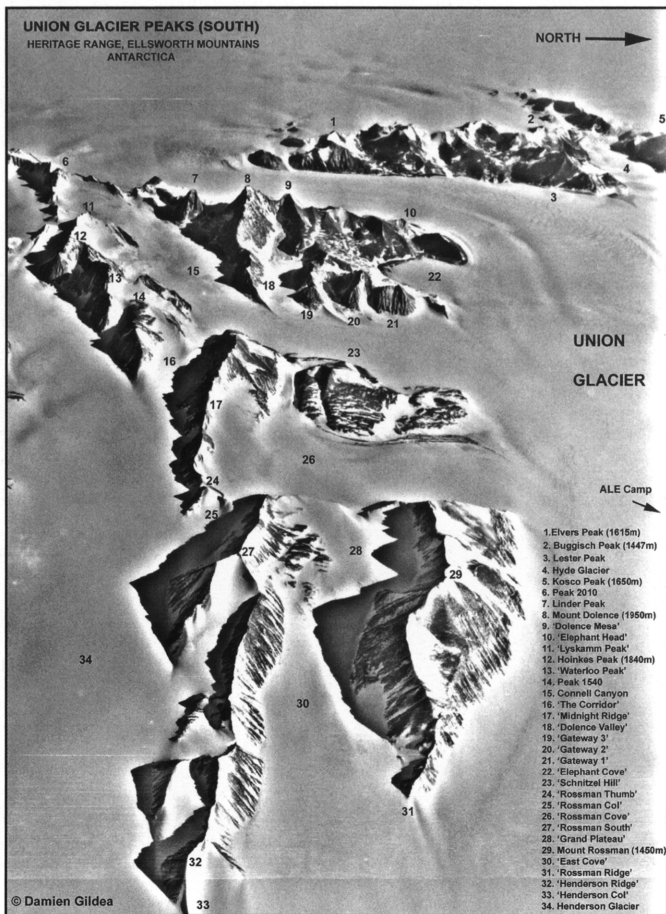


HERITAGE RANGE

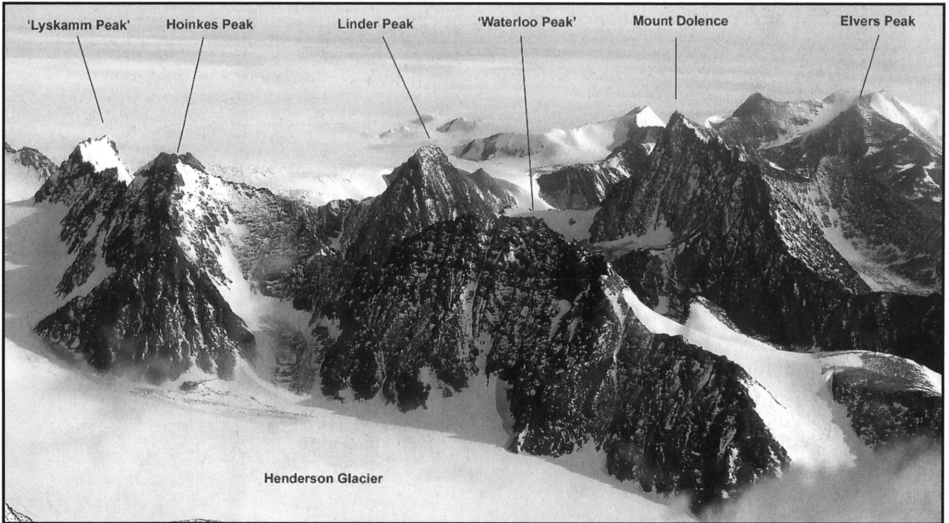
Union Glacier, various ascents. This was the first full season of operations at ALE's new camp on the south side of the Union Glacier. Situated in the southern Heritage Range, itself the southern section of the Ellsworth Mountains, the camp is much closer to a multitude of climbing objectives than the old camp at Patriot Hills, 60km further south. This section of the Heritage Range was first visited in the summer of 1962–63 by various U.S. personnel, exploring and surveying the entire Ellsworth Mountains. Very little mountaineering was done in these early years, but in subsequent seasons some minor ascents were made during the course of work. The area was visited again in the mid-1970s by a Norwegian geological expedition with USAP support, and it is believed that members probably climbed a number of peaks.

ALE undertook a lengthy process to establish the suitability of the Union Glacier's blue ice for large

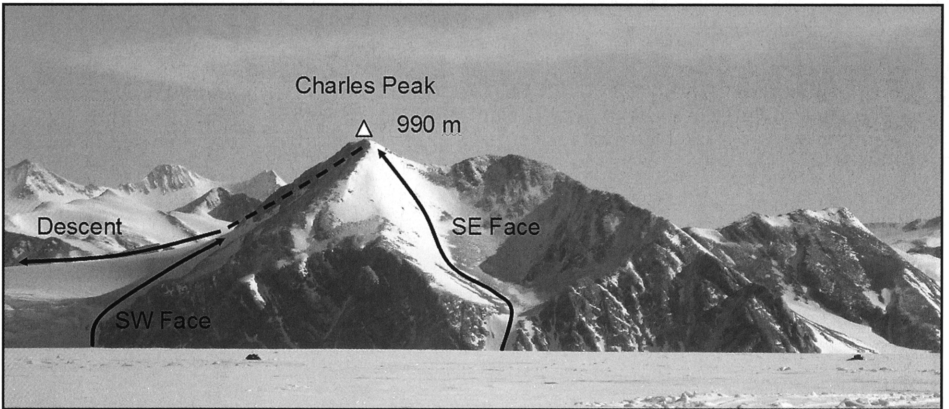
aircraft landing and ground operations. This required permissions and inspections from various governmental authorities. Some clients operated from the base in the 2009–10 season, but in the recent summer all clients and expeditions used the new facilities, which are reportedly a significant upgrade over the Patriot Hills camp, versions of which ran every summer from 1986–2010. At the new camp,



Peaks on the west and south sides of Union Glacier, as seen from the east. (1) Elvers Peak (1,615m). (2) Buggisch Peak (1,447m). (3) Lester Peak. (4) Hyde Glacier. (5) Kosco Peak (1,650m). (6) Peak 2010m. (7) Linder Peak. (8) Mount Dolence (1,950m). (9) Dolence Mesa. (10) Elephant Head. (11) Lyskamm Peak. (12) Hoinkes Peak (1,840m). (13) Waterloo Peak. (14) Peak 1540m. (15) Connell Canyon. (16) The Corridor. (17) Midnight Ridge. (18) Dolence Valley. (19) Gateway III. (20) Gateway II. (21) Gateway I. (22) Elephant Cove. (23) Schnitzel Hill. (24) Rossman Thumb. (25) Rossman Col. (26) Rossman Cove. (27) Rossman South. (28) Grand Plateau. (29) Mt. Rossman (1,450m). (30) East Cove. (31) Rossman Ridge. (32) Henderson Ridge. (33) Henderson Col. (34) Henderson Glacier. Many of these names are unofficial. *Supplied by Damien Gildea*



Looking west-northwest at the Hoinkes and Dolence groups. Peaks behind Elvers remain unnamed and unclimbed. *Damien Gildea*

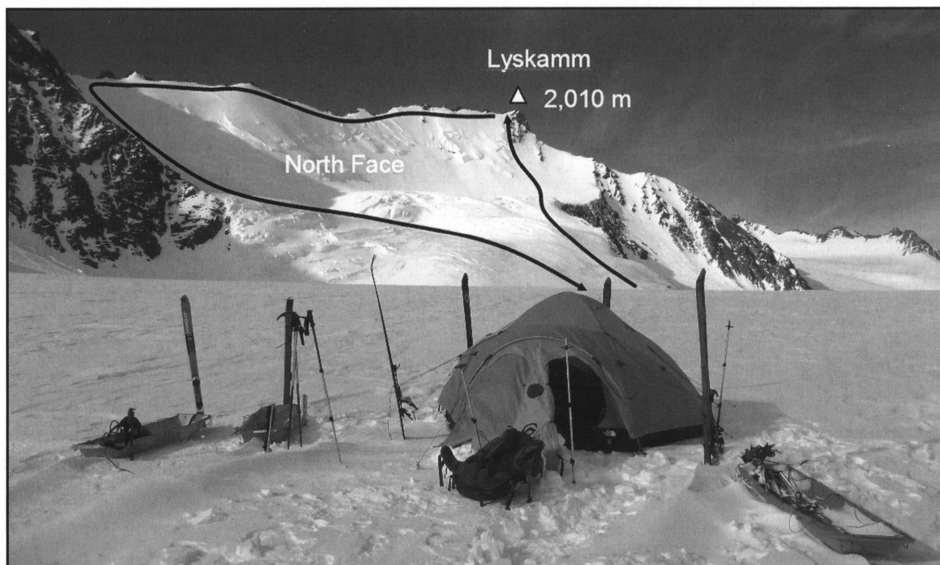


Charles Peak from the south. Southwest face was climbed on January 15, 2011 by Dufour and Manning following a 50° snow/ice line on the right side of the icefall. Southeast face was soloed on the 19th by Dana Coffield (50° snow). Neither route is necessarily new. *Dana Coffield*

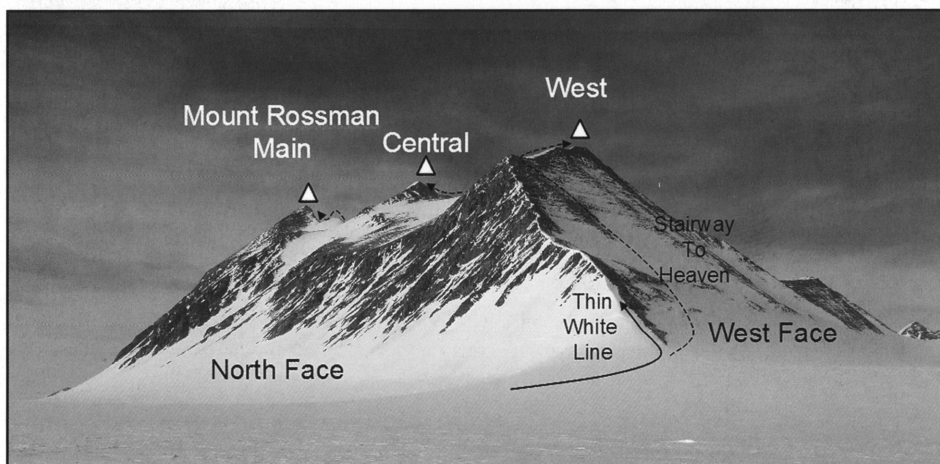
tracked vehicles are used more extensively for client transportation, including access to nearby peaks, thereby enabling enjoyable day climbs.

The peaks on the south side of the glacier had been visited by ALE guides and clients in the 2009–10 season, but last summer teams made more substantial climbs. The main feature is Mt. Dolence (1,950m), a large peak on the western side of Connell Canyon, a southern tributary of the Union Glacier. On January 7 the Swiss guide Kaus Tscherrig and client Markus Ineichen made its first ascent. In a 16-hour round trip from a drop-off point near the feature unofficially known as Elephant Head, this pair climbed a 1,200m mixed route on the rocky north face.

Just to the south of Dolence is a shorter but very impressive rocky spire, Linder Peak. Prolific British guide Victor Saunders and client Nick Wilkinson bagged the first ascent on January 11,



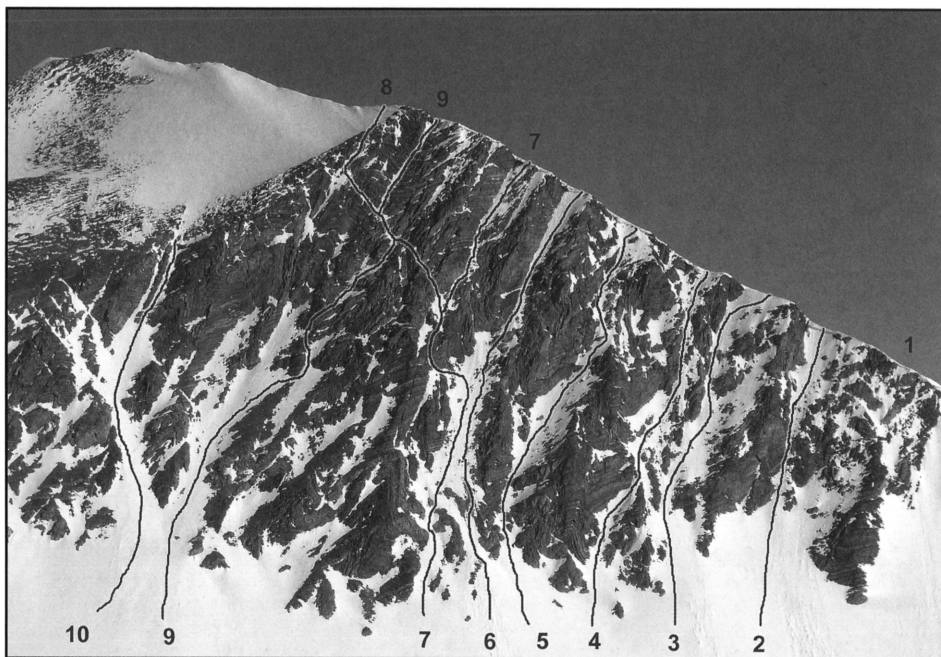
North face of Lyskamm with Hoinkes off picture to left. Dana Coffield and Jocelyn Dufour took the direct route to the summit to make the first ascent. Their descent route traversed the ridge left as marked. *Dana Coffield*



Mt. Rossman from northwest. Thin White Line (Dana Coffield-Jocelyn Dufour, January 14, 2011. They traversed all three peaks of Rossman). Stairway to Heaven (Browning-Chapman-Herschke-Jewell-Sahney-Snyder-Tejas, January 10, 2011). *Dana Coffield*

climbing easy but loose rock on the north ridge before passing through a steeper rock band and out onto the west face to reach the top (Tower of Winds, AD).

East across Connell Canyon lies a chain of summits, the highest being the unclimbed Hoinkes Peak (1,890m). Northeast of Hoinkes is a slightly lower summit of 1,850m that Saunders and Wilkinson climbed on the 14th via the north face (AD) in a round trip of nine hours from their tent, giving it the unofficial name Waterloo Peak. West of Hoinkes, jutting into the head of Connell Canyon, is an attractive snow face leading to a rocky summit. On the 17th, during a three-day round-trip from the ALE camp, Dana Coffield



Rossmann West from the north. All routes marked were climbed during January 2011, but some were not necessarily first ascents. (1) Thin White Line (Dana Coffield-Jocelyn Dufour, January 14). (2) Gratitude (PD, Caroline George-Dominic Jude-Richard Parks-Victor Saunders-Nick Wilkinson, January 21). (3) Route du Jour (PD, Caroline George-Gavin Melgaard-Victor Saunders-Nick Wilkinson, January 23). (4) White Spider (Morgan Bati-Jim Diani-Aaron Mainer-Paul Niel, January 19). (5) Swiss Couloir (Mark Ineichen-Klaus Tscherrig, January 18). (6) Let's Strike (Mark Ineichen-Klaus Tscherrig, January 13). (7) The Illusionist (AD, Dominic Jude-Victor Saunders-Nick Wilkinson, January 20). (8) Diagon Alley (AD, Caroline George-Victor Saunders-Nick Wilkinson, January 22). (9) Blind Faith (Lisa Amatangel-Aaron Mainer-Paul Niel, January 13). (10) The Triangle Route (PD, Dominic Jude-Victor Saunders-Nick Wilkinson, January 7). *Victor Saunders*

and Jocelyn Dufour made its first ascent via a direct route up the north face (snow and ice to 60°). The duo named it Lyskamm Peak after its more famous Swiss likeness. They descended by traversing the spectacular rocky ridge back east to below Hoinkes Peak, then going north down an intervening gully.

However, this season it was Mt. Rossman that received the most attention. Rossman is an elongated massif with three obvious summits, the eastern one being the highest. The north face of Rossman overlooks the new ALE camp and provides an accessible venue for short, moderate climbs. Due to weather and flight delays this season, an unusually large number of climbers were stuck in camp for some time. They generally made the most of the situation. Many ascents of Rossman were completed, including several new routes. Most of the lines were a combination of steep couloirs and slopes of snow and ice, though on occasions there were sections of moderate climbing on poor-quality rock. The western buttress of Rossman forms a triangular rock face less than an hour on foot from the camp. This aspect of the peak was particularly popular (see accompanying photodiagram); five different lines were climbed by the Saunders party alone.

Charles Peak (990m) is an obvious objective on the north side of the Union Glacier. It gives good views of the surrounding area, is easily accessed by vehicles from the ALE camp, and has an ALE VHF repeater unit on the summit. The smaller summit west of Charles was used as a USGS



North Face of Central Summit of Mt. Rossman. Marked routes were climbed during the 2010-11 season, but were not all necessarily first ascents. (1) Unnamed (Lisa Amatangel-Jim Diani-Aaron Mainer-Paul Niel, January 12). (2) Warm Up (Mark Ineichen-Klaus Tscherrig, December 30). (3) Rockafella (Philip Herschke-Vik Sahney, January 12). (4) Moonwalker (Philippe Herschke-Vik Sahney, January 17). (5) Ilyushin Fields (Kent Harvey-Jake Norton, January 23) Unmarked central couloir used for descent. *Victor Saunders*

survey station in the mid-1960s, and there is a good chance the main summit of Charles was reached in the 1960s and/or '70s. The peak received dozens of ascents this season, mostly via easy routes, though with some variations.

On the south side of the Union Glacier, west of Rossman, and north of Mt. Dolence at the mouth of Connell Canyon, three small summits, named the Gateway peaks, also received their first ascents this season. Gateway I (by the Lily Couloir, PD) and II (by the north ridge, F) were climbed on January 9 by Dominic Jude, Saunders, and Wilkinson in a five-hour round trip from the so-called Elephant Cove. On the 15th, Saunders and Wilkinson climbed Gateway III by the KFC Couloir at AD.

In behind the Rossman massif are a number of lower peaks that were visited in 2009-10, but last season one notable feature received its first ascent. On the 17th, American guide Caroline George, along with Jude, Saunders, and Wilkinson, made a 10-hour round trip from the Union Glacier camp to climb the east ridge of Midnight Peak at AD.

Early in the season a team from the UK-based Fuchs Foundation hauled sleds northeast across the Union Glacier toward the Nimbus Hills, where they planned to conduct scientific studies and ascend small peaks. On November 27, partway through this journey, they climbed the highest point of Buchanan Hills (ca 1,100m), and two days later a slightly lower peak. On December 1 they reported climbing a peak of 1,494m, and then reaching another summit, before continuing north through a pass west of Mt. Capley (1,830m) the next day. Poor weather, then high winds, kept them tent-bound for several days in the upper Flanagan Glacier.

Eventually they were able to cross back south via a high pass between Mt. Sporli and Ronald Ridge. The team encountered bad sastrugi on the lower Driscoll Glacier but climbed Charles Peak on December 13 before returning to the ALE camp next day.

DAMIEN GILDEA, *Australia*

MARIE BYRD LAND
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE RANGE

Mt. Sidley (4,285m). Nowadays, any climbing expedition to inland Antarctica, outside the Ellsworths, is significant. Mt. Sidley, highest peak in the Executive Committee Range, and highest volcano in Antarctica, was first climbed on January 11, 1990 by Bill Atkinson (NZ), who worked as field assistant for a team of vulcanologists studying the area. They also ascended nearby Mt. Wae-sche, mostly on snowmobiles. Atkinson climbed from a camp at 2,380m on the west side of Sidley, reaching, in poor visibility, what he ascertained to be the highest point on the crater rim.

In January 2011 an ALE team made the first non-government ascent. Mike Sharp and Scott Woolums, with Alex Abramov, Mario Trimeri, and Crina Popescu, flew from Union Glacier to the flat ice near Sidley, landing ca 16km from the summit. They then skied for seven hours and made camp on the mountain. The next day, January 24, all but Sharp climbed over sections of soft snow and blue ice to the crater rim. It turned out to be a 13-hour day, as the party continued around the rim, first crossing one top, which they thought was the highest, but later discovering another a few meters higher. They found the terrain quite unusual and ephemeral with snow features along the rim seemingly formed by the mountain's thermal activity and then sculpted by the wind. Popescu and Trimeri became the first climbers to attain what they have termed the Seven Volcanic Summits: the highest volcano on each continent.

DAMIEN GILDEA, *Australia*

ANTARCTIC PENINSULA

Overview. The first team to visit the Peninsula during the season comprised Sergy Baranov, Rissa Bullock Ivory, Kris Erickson, Kip Garre, Nikolay Veselovskiy, Doug Stoop and Ilyas Mukhtarov. Traveling aboard *Australis*, skippered by Roger Wallis, their first successes were the summits of both Delaite and Emma islands, which they climbed and skied. On the latter, an attractively steep, small island peak, their initial route was up the short, steep north face; but afterward, while skiing couloirs on the eastern flank, they saw that sea ice had come in, forcing the yacht to move. Though they were able to reach the boat by Zodiac, it is a reminder of one of the unique objective hazards of climbing in this region.

After spending three days skiing lines on and around the popular Jabet Peak, and being stopped from entering Lemaire Channel due to thick ice conditions, they headed back to Paradise Harbor and skied lines on the north side of Bryde Island, above Alvaro Cove. Later, they headed to Lemaire Island, where they climbed and skied Rojas Peak—at first down the east side, and then south, right down to the water. From here they moved to the western side of Wiencke Island, where they repeated the steep, north-facing line on Noble Peak (720m) skied once previously by Erickson. Noble Peak was first climbed in 1948, six months after Jabet, and has been visited a number of times since. On November 27 they were forced to abandon attempts at skiing on Lion Island, but this