

(and the first on a large sea cliff above the Arctic Circle on Greenland's west coast). These were climbed "just for interest," but while making a rappel descent, they placed two bolts to the left of the route.

Finally, on the 18th, Bianchi, Maggioni, and Rapisardi climbed Pic Nic (200m, 6a+) on the lower walls of a southeast-facing sea cliff at 72°45'16" N, 55°56'30" W on Umiasugssuk, an almost-island rising to 620m on the north coast of Qaersorsuaq. The north coast of this almost-island holds the 2010 route Brown Balls.

It is good that this area around Upernavik is at last beginning to realize

something of its potential. However, as the instigator of technical climbing on the west coast of Greenland, and especially in the Upernavik area, may I make an appeal that these pristine walls be climbed without recourse to bolts. Completely blank sections on big walls may provoke an exception, but several fine, technically hard lines have been climbed without use of bolts.

BOB SHEPTON, *Alpine Club, U.K.*



Michele Maggioni during an unsuccessful attempt on the Horn. *Michele Maggioni Collection*

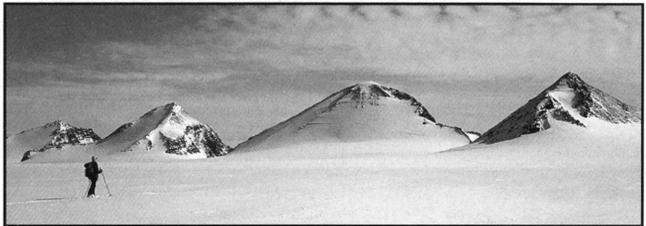
## EAST GREENLAND

*Saven Range, first ascents.* In May Geoff Bonney, Sandy Gregson, and I, veterans of many Greenland expeditions, were joined in the Saven Range by four younger U.K. climbers, Steve Allsopp, Vernon Needham, Steve Wilson, and Simon Yates. I had seen these beautiful, little-explored mountains, which stand just north of the huge glacier Rolige Brae from a distance of 25km during previous visits to Paul Stern Land farther south (*AAJ 2009* and *2011*). Saven means "the saw" in Danish, and the range was named by geologists for its appearance when seen from the south.

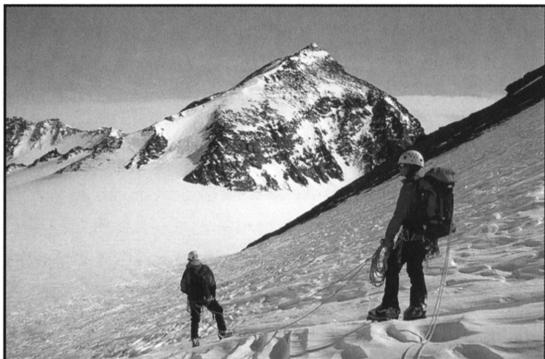
We flew to the area from Constable Pynt (Nerlerit Inaat) in a Norlandair Twin Otter skiplane, our regular pilot Ragnar Olafsson landing



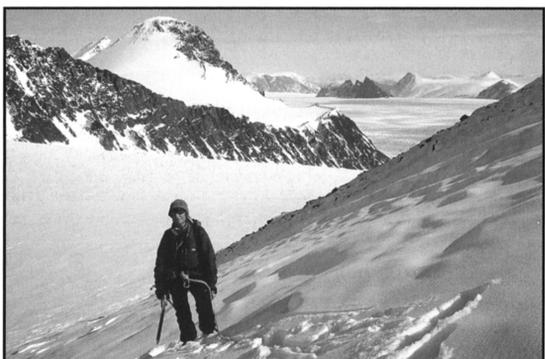
Peaks of Paul Stern Land from Saven Range, 25km to north. High peak left of center is unclimbed Arken ("The Ark," 2,348m). *Jim Gregson*



Part of Saven Range from Allheim Glacier to the north. From left to right: Peak Hymir, Peak Gymir, Breidablikk, and Ragnars Fjeld. *Jim Gregson*



Sandy Gregson and Geoff Bonney (below) on north flank of Breidablikk, with Peak Gyimir behind. *Jim Gregson*



Sandy Gregson on slopes of Peak Surt. View extends southeast past Breidablikk (left) and across Rolige Brae to spiky Jomfruen ("Virgin"). *Jim Gregson*

at ca 1,900m near the west end of the Alfheim (Elfworld) Glacier. The surface was icy and bumpy, with large sastrugi, and Ragnar was not at all happy with what had been his own choice. However, by the end of the trip there had been enough snowfall and spindrift to make everything pool-table smooth for the pick-up.

In cold winds blowing off the inland ice, we established our base, Camp Jetstream, at 70°42.139' N, 29°51.241' W, and used this site for the duration of our stay. Constructing a system of spindrift-deflecting walls proved necessary.

Working in two groups we made first ascents of 13 mountains, several of which we ascended and descended by more than one route. Climbs involved a variety of ridge lines, icy north faces, and some rock of variable quality. Most days gave stunning views, highlighting the difference between blue ice-clad north slopes and immense rocky south faces falling toward the massive crevassed zones of the Rolige Brae. In the distance we could see the Inland Ice, with isolated nunataks piercing its

surface, and the peaks of Paul Stern Land (many of which are unclimbed). The Alfheim Glacier was well snow-covered this year, meaning we could make ski approaches unroped. On the peaks we found plenty of bullet-hard ice, sometimes overlaid with powder, and on Hymir we chopped a rope after dispatching inconvenient loose blocks (though no humans were harmed during the making of this story). The Saven Range has more unclimbed summits in its eastern sector, but these were beyond easy skiing distance in the time available.

Summits reached were Dvalin Ridge ("Dwarf Turned to Stone," 1,995m, 70°42.349' N, 29°49.681' W); Peak Surt ("Black Giant," 2,140m, 70°40.590' N, 29°53.230' W), with three summits along its ridge); Ragnars Fjeld (2,070m, 70°40.902' N, 29°49.995' W); Valdis Topp (2,040m, 70°40.679' N, 29°49.582' W), the south summit of Ragnars Fjeld); Peak Gyimir ("Frost Giant," 2,174m, 70°40.381' N, 29°43.399' W); Breidablikk ("Broad Splendor," 2,225m, 70°40.287' N, 29°46.745' W); Peak Brokk ("Dwarf," 1,980m, 70°42.292' N, 29°46.904' W); Point Gimli ("Shelter from Fire," 1,862m, 70°42.288' N, 29°44.201' W); Peak Loki ("Evil Shapeshifter," 2,002m, 70°42.721' N, 29°43.612' W); Point Idavoll ("Field of Deeds," 1,982m, 70°41.886' N, 29°59.499' W); Peak Hymir ("Giant," 2,130m, 70°40.518' N, 29°40.486' W); Glitnir North ("Hall of Silver and Gold," 2,150m, 70°41.468' N, 29°37.366' W); and Glitnir South (2,150m, 70°41.264' N, 29°37.481' W), the two Glitnirs being traversed in one outing, via Simon's Big Ridge).

All peak names, mostly derived from Norse mythology, are unofficial. Coordinates are from GPS, while heights combine of GPS and altimeter readings.

By the end of our stay, we'd had half a meter of new snow, giving the peaks a wintry look and pushing up the avalanche risk. The Twin Otter arrived for our pick-up, and in the time it took to load the gear, the undercarriage had frozen to the glacier, and even full engine power would not budge it. The pilots deployed shovels but eventually had to resort to a large soft-faced mallet to "crack" the ski runners free. After a hurried refuel at Constable Pynt, we flew to Akureyri in north Iceland. Two days later we were in the air again and homeward bound to Britain when the Grimsvotn volcano blew its stack. We'd made a timely exit to close a successful expedition.

JIM GREGSON, *Alpine Club, U.K.*

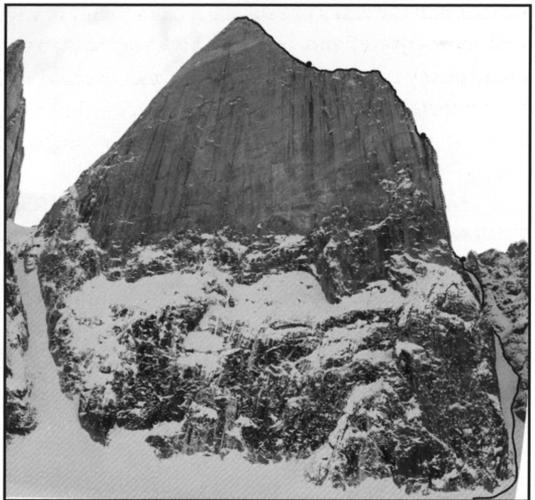


Renland's alpine peaks hold great potential. These lie on south side of Edward Bailey Glacier, west of Shark's Teeth Glacier. *Alexander Ruchkin*

*Renland, Shark's Tooth (1,555m), Dance on Tiptoes.* On April 16 Mikhail Mikhailov and I arrived at Constable Pynt in poor weather after a flight from Reykjavik. The same day we left by snowmobile for Avgo, a summer fishing lodge. It took eight cold hours through the twilight. After a night sleeping on the floor (our Inuit drivers had the bunks), I awoke feeling I'd overslept. It's the same every day at this time of year in Northeast Greenland, because it is nearly always daylight. At 9:30 a.m. we were on our way again, "sailing" the fjord toward Renland over fluffy snow. Only huge blue icebergs protruding above the surface violated the black and white colour scheme.

At 3 p.m., after traveling up the Skillebugt Inlet in the southeastern corner of Renland, we were off-loaded at the end of the Apusinikajik Glacier. We were still 12km from our goal, the Shark's Tooth, but the Inuits would not take their skidoos farther, fearing crevasses on the snow-covered glacier. In around 20 days, they informed us, the fjord could melt, and we would have to return by helicopter, at more than twice the expense of skidoos.

With a temperature of  $-20^{\circ}\text{C}$ , we quickly established base camp, cooked, and ate normally for the first time in two days, and then fell asleep, not forgetting to load our rifle and put it next to us



Main Shark's Tooth rises over 900m from glacier. Marked is Dance on Tiptoes with bivouac sites. *Alexander Ruchkin*