

buttress of Breidablik and southeast face of Menhir; Richard Weber, 4 Canadians, ski traverse of Penny Icecap.

TOM ELLIOT, *Chief Park Warden, Auyuittuq National Park Reserve*

*Thor, West Face Solo.* Japanese Yasushi Yamanoi set up camp at the foot of the west face of Mount Thor on May 22 but could not begin his solo attempt on the route until June 20 because of bad weather. He climbed for the next eight days. After completing about half of the route in the face, he traversed to the left and reached the summit by the north ridge on June 27. A full article with photographs appears in *Iwa To Yuki* of December, 1988.

*Killabuk, Solo, Weasel Valley, Baffin Island.* Italian climber Franco Perlotto made a solo ascent of the east face of Killabuk, a route first climbed by Doug Scott, Dennis Hennek and three others in 1971. The peak lies near the head of the Weasel Valley. He found the lower slopes comparatively easy but had steep or vertical sections of 5.8 and A2 near the top. He made the climb on August 14. As a warm-up, Perlotto climbed solo a new route on the west face of a tower that projects from Ulu Peak (5.9, A1).

*Asgard, Southern Edge, Baffin Island.* Fabio Leoni, Leonardi Luca, Fabrizio Defrancesco and I left Pangnirtung by motorsled for the Weasel Valley, which may be compared to the Yosemite but which has a different climate. We made Base Camp at Summit Lake. The frigid temperatures in the first days of May brought us very fine weather. Right away, we carried supplies to the bottom of the west face of Asgard, our objective. After a few days, the weather changed radically. After two weeks of miserable conditions, we decided to give up our climb of the face. With great difficulty, we retrieved the material from the face. With an improvement in the weather, we decided to try a new route on the southern edge of Asgard alpine-style. Since it never really got dark, we planned to climb without stopping until we got to the summit. We set out at 1:30 A.M. on May 22 and after having quickly climbed ten pitches on the rocky spur that leads to the southern edge of Asgard, we began the very difficult climbing of cracks and slabs on the main peak. At nine P.M., we were below the final overhanging wall with its cracks and dihedrals. At five o'clock on the morning of May 23, all four of us reached the summit of Asgard after 27½ hours of consecutive climbing.

MARIO MANICA, *Club Alpino Italiano*

*Menhir, Baffin Island.* In May, Egidio Bonapace, Maurizio Giarolli and I traveled up the fjord from Pangnirtung by ski-doo. High temperatures forced us to stop at Windy Lake because the river from that point onward was nearly completely melted. We moved our equipment up to the next cabin in front of the magnificence of Mount Thor on the other side of the valley. We were charmed by

another mountain above our cabin, which we believed was Mount Odin. The approach to our mountain was up rocky crags and then via a snow couloir to a pass. At seven A.M. on May 22, we began to climb the 2000-foot-high southwest ridge (5.8 or 5.9). The climbing was beautiful and the rock excellent. In mild temperatures, we could climb in rock shoes. At 10:30 P.M. we reached the summit. We bivouacked on the descent. A couple of days later in Pangnirtung at the National Park Office, we experienced a disappointment: the mountain we had climbed was not Mount Odin. The Ranger invited us to choose a name and we agreed on "Mount Menhir."

ERMANNIO SALVATERRA, *Club Alpino Italiano*

*Beluga Mountain and Rock Tower, Sam Ford Fiord, Baffin Island, 1987.* Christian Dalphin, Bernard Wietlisbach, Xaver Bongard and I flew from Montreal to Clyde River at 71°N. On June 18, 1987 at 10:30 P.M., we set out with Eskimos towing *kamatiks* (sledges) behind three snowmobiles toward Sam Ford Fiord. We had supplies for six weeks. We traveled in the night hours, although the sun was still up, in order to make use of the cooler temperatures. We were stuck a half dozen times in pressure ice. After eight fatiguing hours, we halted on a small island for the day. Finally on June 21, after 180 kilometers, we got to our goal with two snowmobiles. (One had been left behind with piston trouble.) The fog was so thick that we could not see the mountains. From photos taken by French on a ski traverse in 1985, we could locate Base Camp near Beluga Mountain on the western side of Sam Ford Fiord where Walker Arm enters the fiord. As the Eskimos left us, it began to snow heavily. The weather on June 23 was fantastic. Bongard and I broke trail for four hours to the south face of a 3500-foot rock tower which lies southeast of Beluga Mountain and north of Broad Peak. The whole wall had good crack systems in granite of the best quality. Each rope pair alternated fixing rope while the other pair rested until at the end of four days we had fixed nine pitches. On the fifth day we four all climbed together and two days and five pitches later finally stood on the summit (UIAA VIb, A3 + ). Some days later, in a 17-hour non-stop ascent, we climbed mostly free and in alpine-style the 700-meter-high north buttress of the same tower (VIb, A3). This climb took place at the end of two weeks of good weather. Dalphin and Wietlisbach on July 8 had to start for Clyde River, being due back for work in Geneva on July 20. The ice was no longer solid enough for snowmobiles and had many open leads, but there was too much ice for a boat. They set out, hoping the ice would hold them on Eglinton Fiord and Ayr Lake. We later learned that they had to paddle across one open lead on an ice floe. Bongard and I were to be picked up by boat on July 20. The weather was terrible, with no two good days in a row. We made a 25-kilometer reconnaissance to the Stewart Valley, where the French had reported Yosemite-like walls. We could only see the base of the walls rising in the mist. We rationed our food. On July 19, we started up 4500-foot Beluga Mountain and bivouacked after eight pitches. On the 20th, we climbed the remaining five pitches for another bivouac on the summit. The descent was nerve-racking because of loose blocks. The first