

*Mount Asgard, Bavarian Direct.* A group of five climbers (Christian Schlesener, Mani Reichelt, Toni Grad, Luck Guscetti and Markus Bruckbauer) opened a new line, *Bavarian Direct*, on the west face of Mount Asgard. The party reached the summit on August 21 after 12 days of climbing. The first 350 meters of the route negotiated a 70-degree ice field, followed by 650 meters of technical rock climbing up to A3. The route was of high quality on steep to overhanging granite.

*Auyuittuq National Park, Gauntlet Peak.* It was reported that the Italian team of Mario Manica, Danny Zampiccoli and Giorgio Nicolodi climbed a new route, *Momenti Magici* (475 meters, 5.11c A3+), on Gauntlet Peak in Auyuittuq National Park. The trio had intended to climb in the Sam Ford Fjord, but 15 days before leaving were forced to change their objectives as the logistical costs of travel to Sam Ford Fjord were prohibitively expensive. At the entrance to Auyuittuq National Park, and three hours from their base camp, Gauntlet Peak became their new objective, and they began climbing on May 29. They started in the very center of the pillar, following a logical line of dihedrals and cracks, and managed to free most of it at up to 5.11 c with some aid at A3+ before the weather took a turn for the worse. They descended, leaving most of their gear at the base of the pillar, and spent five days in base camp, then, sensing a turn for the better, left early on the morning of June 3. In eight hours they had climbed half the wall.

Over the next five pitches snow and ice complicated the ascent. At the end of the last pitch an overhanging cornice blocked the way to the summit. The climbers were forced to move to the edge of the pillar to attain the top, which they did on June 4. (*Lo Scarpone* 12)

## ELLESMERE ISLAND

*Ellesmere Island, Ski Tour and Various Ascents.* Flying from Resolute on the last day of June, Californians Les and Bev Wilson (leaders), Sergio Aragon, Gary Bard, Jane Koski, Ellen Lapham, Jeff Tarmy, and myself, joined by Alex Jolles of Switzerland, discovered the only clear patch of sky in the Canadian arctic approximately seven miles east of Barbeau Peak. With our landing site thusly dictated, we established our initial camp at 81° 55'N, 75° 42' W in unsettled weather. Our location fit with our overall goal of a two-week ski traverse over the Barbeau range, across the ice cap, and out to Tanquary Fjord.

Our first days were devoted to local ski touring and perfecting our load-hauling system, which split our supplies between packs and lightweight plastic sleds. We then placed a camp on a ridge three miles west of Barbeau at 81° 55'N, 75° 26'W at 6,600 feet. Our clear views of the ice cap north to the British Empire Range were short-lived, as we spent the next 30 hours holding down the tents, which bowed under the load of high winds. Abandoning the ridge, we traversed over a saddle immediately to the southwest of Barbeau Peak. The route appeared so easy that we mockingly named the feature "Killer Fang Pass." To our surprise and consternation, the descent of the opposite side down steep, icy slopes in high winds while maneuvering our laden sleds convinced us that this pass was more appropriately named than we had realized.

Our next camp at 81° 53'N, 75° 02'W afforded us views of the south side of the range and a base for mountaineering endeavors. On July 6, Sergio, Alex, Jane, Ellen, Jeff, and I climbed an eastern satellite of Barbeau at 81° 54' 39" N, 74° 58' 20" W at an elevation of 7,810 feet. We were unable to continue on to the main peak, as the winds precluded standing upright. We have been unable to find any record of any climbing or skiing activity on this side of the range. The peaks along the entire Whistler-Barbeau ridge appear more technically challenging from the