Antarctica, Overview of Mountaineering Objectives. In an article that appears earlier in this journal, Antarctic climbing chronologist Damien Gildea offers up an overview of mountaineering objectives that updates and complements the excellent article "Mountaineering in Antarctica" in the 1985 AAJ (pp. 142-153).

ANTARCTIC PENINSULA

Antarctic Peninsula, Various Activity. In January, 1999, an Australian expedition aboard the yacht Tiama accomplished some of the most notable climbing in the Antarctic Peninsula in a number of years. Kieran Lawton, Julie Styles, Geoff Moore, Robyn Cleland, Roland Eberhard and Chris Holly made the first ascent of Pilcher Peak, climbing the south ridge after skiing in with sledges to the glacier on the east side of the peak. They had been inspired by a fine photo by Gordon Wilsie that has appeared in a number of publications. However, the peak in this photo is not the true Pilcher Peak, but a sharp peak on a ridge leading up to the plateau that constitutes the spine of the peninsula. The real Pilcher Peak (as indicated on the map) stands out to the north of the plateau and was summited by all the group on January 16. The other smaller ridge peak was then christened "Wilsie's Peak" and was attempted by Styles and Lawton. They climbed for four days in poor visibility on the south ridge but were forced to turn back a mere 50 meters from the summit due to horrendous snow conditions. The party then skied back to Bialmont Cove where they made another three first ascents on peaks, including a rock spire, of altitudes up to ca.1800 meters. After leaving Bialmont Cove, the expedition visited Booth Island, where Styles, Lawton and Eberhard climbed a steep ice couloir on the southwestern side of the southernmost peak on the island—almost certainly a new route, though possibly not the first ascent of the peak.

Damien Gildea, Australia

Renard Tower, Hart am Wind. It was reported that Stefan Glowacz, Hoger Heuber, Kurt Albert, Jürgen Knappe, Hans Martin Götz and Gerhard Hiedorn established Hart am Wind (5.12c, 800m) on the Renard Tower. The 17-pitch was climbed over three days; anchors are bolted, while the rest of the climb relies on natural protection. Further details are lacking. (Rock and Ice 93)

DRONNING MAUD LAND

Rondespiret and Other Ascents. In the 1997 AAJ, p. 268, an account may be found of the Norwegian expedition that successfully made the first ascent of the 800-meter Rondespiret (The Ronde Spire, 2427m) via the northeast face (Norwegian Grade 6+ A3+, 21 pitches) from December 23, 1996-January 8, 1997, by Aslak Aastorp, Robert Caspersen, Håkon Stover and Ivar Tollefsen. Also climbed on the same trip were Grushaugen (1673m), on December 27, 1996, by Tina Jørgensen; Vetlehaugen (1363m), on December 30, by Vebjørn Sand; Krakken (1446m), on December 30, by Tina.
Jørgensen; Niesene (1390m), on January 1, 1997, by Tina Jørgensen; Shiraishi (1930m), on January 2, by Tina Jørgensen; Bautaen (Norwegian Grade 5 A3, four pitches, 1639m), on January 12, by Aslak Aastorp, Robert Caspersen, Tina Jørgensen, Håkon Staver, and Ivar Tollefsen; and Cap Gemini (6+ A2, three pitches, 1782m), by Aslak Aastorp, Robert Casperson, and Ivar Tollefsen, on January 14. We are now able to publish a photo that shows Rondespiret and other peaks in the area.

**E Ellsworth Mountains**

**Sentinel Range**

*Embree Glacier, First Exploration and Various Ascents.* Bob Elias, Kurt Cox and I flew from Punta Arenas to Patriot Hills on November 13, 1998. We were forced to wait for one week by bad weather before we could fly to our objective, the Embree Glacier, so in the meantime we climbed an ice face on Patriot Hills’ north face. This route was to the right of Patriot Hills’ much easier normal route, which we used for our descent. Ours was a fun 50° ice route; we did about ten pitches to the summit, from where we had a spectacular view of Mt. Simmons. Jim Donini soloed the route alongside us, finishing before we did. (It is uncertain whether this line had been climbed previously.)

Two days later my clients and I set out to climb Mt. Simmons (1590m), joined this time by Donini and Elizabeth Sodergren. My clients and I got about 150 meters from the top, but did not continue to the summit due to miserable cold weather and high winds. Jim and Elizabeth continued to the summit. The route was the most obvious and easiest line on Mt. Simmons’ northwest face.

On November 21, my client Robert Elias and I landed on the Embree Glacier at 78° 04’ 17” S, 86° 02’ 16” W, at an altitude of 2200 meters. We were, to the best of our knowledge, the first people to set foot on this glacier. We set up Base Camp on a beautiful windless day. We had spectacular views of the surrounding peaks, which according to our research were all unclimbed and mostly unnamed. The most spectacular peaks were Mt. Todd, Mt. Press, Mt. Bentley, and indisputably the tremendous north face of Mt. Anderson.

On November 22, we did our first exploratory climb in fierce winds and temperatures of -40°F. We climbed the peak immediately north of Mt. Hale (78° 04’ S 86° 9’ W) via the northeast ridge. We “named” the unnamed peak “Natalie Peak,” a beautiful 3400-meter summit (all names are tentative pending approval by the U.S. Board on Geographic Names). The climbing was moderate, involving mainly snow and ice climbing at the beginning and middle sections. The upper section was mixed climbing, and very challenging because of high winds and brutally cold temperatures.

On November 24, we climbed a second unclimbed peak north of Natalie Peak via its northeast ridge and named it “Kristen-Jule Peak” (ca. 3200m). It involved fun moderate mixed climbing with an interesting ridge. On November 26, we attempted to climb Mt. Little Todd, a sub-peak of the impressive Mt. Todd (3600m, 78° 03’ S 85° 56’ W), via the west ridge, finding great mixed climbing and several 60° ice pitches. We reached a...