

mixed climbing, generally following ridgelines. The final mountain in this valley is the largest and has the most scope for technical mixed climbing. The group took a line up the center of a rock band separating the lower snowfields from the summit snowfield. This initially involved an ice gully that led into a rock corner which, after a tricky lead, led onto more broken ground. A large gully was then followed onto the summit snowfield. This route was graded at PD+ III.

The final part of our mountaineering program was undertaken on the ski south for pick-up. It included the two most noteworthy of our first ascents at the southern boundary of Louise Boyd Land. These two mountains were the highest in the region by some way and provided some interesting ice routes, though the rock was again rather poor. We ascended the first directly up the south face via two gullies (they were numerous to choose from). One gully was straightforward, but the other narrowed in the middle to give some vertical ice for about ten meters. Once overcome, it was just steep snow to the summit. From this top, we descended the ridge southeast to the col and carried on to the summit of the second. The ridge is broken but relatively easy.

As well as first ascents, we put up two new routes (the 6th and 7th ascents) on the unclimbed northwest face of Petermann Bjerg, the highest mountain in the High Arctic. These routes were both ice routes up the 1000-meter face. The climbing was not particularly difficult, but the size of the face made the routes seem more daunting. One party went directly up the northwest face via the main gully (60°+ ice) in four hours, and the second party went up the ridge separating the northwest face from the northeast face, initially reaching the ridge via a 55-degree ice couloir. The ascent took four and a half hours.

All the climbing was carried out during the night when it was colder and the snow was in better condition.

ANDREW BOSTOCK, *United Kingdom*

Rignys Bjerg Mountains, Various Activity. Expedition members Brinley Mitchell, Peter McEwen and Ian MacDonald are part of a group of gay men who believe that the twin activities of sailing and climbing assist with building health and vitality. We had as our objective to establish physical and mental well-being through the dynamic of exploring a remote area of east Greenland while living under the threat of AIDS.

We led an expedition into the Rignys Bjerg Mountains from July 3-25. From Base Camp at 1600 meters, we made three first ascents. We climbed a 2000-meter peak (69° 18.120' N, 26° 46.257' W) by its south ridge (PD) in three hours; a 2320-meter peak (69° 18.120' N, 26° 46.257' W) by its northeast ridge (PD) in five hours; and a 2020-meter peak (69° 17.901' N, 26° 45.704' W) by its southwest ridge (PD, technical) in two and a half hours. We also carried out six two-day exploratory ski tours on a glacier at the edge of the ice-cap located at 69° 18.180' N, 26° 43.587' W. The mountains in the area were up to a height of 2500 meters. Most ascents were between 400-600 meters.

The condition of the rock was extremely friable and all ascents were on snow slopes and ridges. The greatest objective danger was rockfall and crevasse crossing. The weather was clear, sunny and calm with a maximum daytime temperature of between 20- to 30°C with about seven days of snow storms and Gale Force 8 winds (unsettled weather).

The equipment and provisions were shipped in on one Twin Otter flight. We withdrew all refuse from the field. One of our party developed pneumonia with pneumocystis carinii but made a full recovery three months after the end of the expedition. The area was reached from

Akureyri in Northern Iceland.

BRINLEY MITCHELL, *United Kingdom*

Rignys Bjerg Area, Various Activity. The Rignys Bjerg mountains lie some distance east of the Watkins Bjerge and Ejnar Mikkelsens Fjelde areas at approximately 69° 5' N, 26° 30' W. In late May, Nigel Edwards and three others were flown into the area. Due to a misunderstanding, their pilot set them down at the location used by British groups in 1998 rather than their intended, more easterly site. Despite this mix-up, the team made a total of ten first ascents in this mostly unexplored region before being picked up by the flight taking the Scott Umpleby/Jim Gregson group into the Watkins Bjerge (see account below).

JAMES GREGSON, *Alpine Club*

Lindbergh Fjelde, Various Activity. On July 25, Paul Walker of Tangent Expeditions International flew a team comprising Ralph Atkinson, James Berry, Luke Francis, David Howe, Phil and Anita Jones, Malcolm Minchin and Owain Turner into the Lindbergh Fjelde. At 69° N, 31° W, this area lies 60 kilometers northeast of the Lemon Mountains and a similar distance northwest of Gunnbjørns Fjeld. Apart from a visit to its southern edge by a British group in 1992, it had never been explored or climbed in. Walker's group reported some poor-quality rock but large numbers of very attractive snow and ice peaks. Over a period of 16 days, the team made 20 first ascents of mountains between 2600 and 3200 meters high; the weather was perfect throughout this time. The group was flown back out to Iceland on August 11.

JAMES GREGSON, *Alpine Club*

LEMON MOUNTAINS

Lemon Mountains, Various Activity. The Lemon Mountains are one of Greenland's geological freaks; their spiky peaks sit uncomfortably between the usual Greenland domes on either side. You can find them on the map at the northern end of Kangerdlugssuaq (68° 30' N, 32° W), a large fjord halfway between Ammassalik and Constable Pynt on the east Greenland coast.

Our group of eight "youngsters" (Rupert Gladstone, Rupert Finn, Dr. Sarah Walmsley, Andy Parker, Tim Harvey, Dan Haywood, Tom Chamberlain and I) spent four weeks climbing 18 routes (including 12 first ascents) on the Hedgehog Glacier, including several peaks opposite the Cathedral, the highest mountain in the region. The Lemons are only 2000 to 2500 meters in height, but from a base at 1100 meters we had climbs up to 1000 meters long. We were delighted to find sound rock and ice, and climbed routes from F- to TD+.

We reached the area by a ski-equipped Twin Otter directly from Iceland with an airdrop of supplies by a Piper Chieftain. As a group of eight, we made most efficient use of the planes, although the trip still cost £2000 a head. The expedition report can be found at www.wayupnorth.clara.co.uk

RICHARD PASH, *United Kingdom*

SCHWEIZERLAND

Schweizerland, Various Activity. From July 22-August 22, Britons Al Powell, Kenton Cool,