

snow cover to compose a climate change/glacier retreat modeling investigation and gathered samples for analysis of persistent organic pollutants (POPs) in the region. To conclude (and with the added luxury of hindsight) all I can say is that Wilfred Noyce's 1969 quote from *The World Atlas of Mountaineering* seems as true as ever: "Most of the glaciers are still untrod-den and the area offers a splendid field of new mountaineering possibilities to anyone willing to face the severe weather conditions which prevail."

ALUN HUBBARD, *Wales*

## ANTARCTICA

*Antarctica, Overview.* The 1999-2000 season was the busiest season ever for tourism in Antarctica. This popularity was reflected in the relatively high number of mountaineers active on the continent, particularly in the Peninsula area. Most yacht-based climbers reported generally good weather, and in the Sentinel Range the extremely poor weather of the previous season did not materialize, heralding a return to the traditionally high success rates on Vinson Massif and Mt. Shinn.

DAMIEN GILDEA

### ANTARCTIC PENINSULA

*First Ascents in the Behrendt Mountains and Bean Peaks, and Other Activity.* In December and January, the British Antarctic Survey (BAS) Field Assistant Phil Wickens again made a number of ascents with his party in the course of their geological work. They were working in the Orville Coast region, an area never visited by non-government climbers but which has seen some previous ascents in the Latady Mountains by American scientists (reported in this journal). This area is at the extreme southern end of the Peninsula, on the eastern side, which is not accessible by yacht.

The party started in the Behrendt Mountains in early December, where they summited five peaks, the highest being Mt. Hirman (1200m). They then moved to the Mt. Hassage area, summiting Mt. Hassage (1100m). Both these areas had previously been visited by scientists but no ascents have been recorded. The party then moved to the Bean Peaks in late December, where they climbed five peaks and nunataks, the highest being Carlson Peak (1289m). They also did some climbing on Cape Zumberge.

In mid-January, the group visited the Hauberg Mountains, where they climbed three peaks, the highest being Novocin Peak (1304m). This peak had been climbed by Americans Carrara and Kellog in November 1977, by the north ridge. Wickens' group also made an interesting traverse of a six-kilometer long ridge in the northern Hauberg Mountains, which contained many peaks, the highest at 1300 meters.

Finally, in early February, the group visited the Wilkins Mountains, where two peaks were climbed, and then the Latady Mountains, where three peaks were climbed, the highest of them being McLaughlin Peak (1700m).

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