overlying 20-30 cm of powder, which in turn lay on a firm base. When moving in boots or crampons, the top crust broke about 75 percent of the time, so glacier travel was made entirely on ski, using pulks to transport food, fuel, and equipment. Significant first ascent and new route potential remains in the Northern Lindberghs, particularly at the unexplored northern end of the nunataks.

JONATHAN WHITE, United Kingdom

NORTH PEARLY LAND

North Pearly Land, first ascents, a traverse of the peninsula, and confirmation of the world’s most northerly peak. Our nine-person Return To The Top Of The World Expedition landed at Frigg’s Fjord, then traversed the peninsula to the north, going up the Syd Glacier, across the Polkorridorren, and down the Nord Glacier. Along the way five climbers (John Jancik, Joe Sears, Vernon Tejas, Ken Zerbst, and I) made the second ascent of Helvetia Tinde on July 17 via a new route up the east ridge. The ca 1920m summit of Helvetia Tinde was first climbed in 1969 by the British Joint Services Expedition and is the highest peak in the most northerly mountain range on earth, only ca 750 km from the geographic North Pole. We carried the Joint Services British flag to the summit of the highest peak in the Roosevelt Range 32 years after they carried it there. The next day all nine team members (David Baker, Terri Baker, Jancik, Jim McCrain, Jim Schaefer, Sears, Tejas, Zerbst, and myself) made the first ascent of the highest unclimbed peak in the most northerly mountain range on earth.

Our aim, on reaching the north coast, had been to locate and climb the northernmost mountain on earth. During the next five days we recorded altitudes of summits, altitudes of saddles, and GPS readings for 14 peaks. On July 23 four team members (Sears, Tejas, Zerbst, and myself) crossed the sea ice at Sands Fjord to make first ascents of four peaks (Peaks 1, 2, 3, 4) on Cape Christian IV. The following day David Baker, Jancik, McCrain, and Schaefer made the second ascents of two peaks (Peaks 5 and 6) previously climbed by the 1997 Euro-American Expedition and claimed by them as the most northerly mountains on earth.

On July 25, Sears, Tejas, Zerbst, and I climbed Peak 5 with all but Zerbst continuing across Peak 6 and a small point called Peak 7 to make the first ascents of Peaks 8 and 9. The final peak of that day (Peak 9) was farther north than any other known summit. We continued east along the coast to Cape Morris Jesup, where we were to meet our airplane. There McCrain climbed a small hill and Tejas climbed four other summits to collect measurements. Upon our return to the United States, we submitted our data to several authorities and agencies in Denmark and the United States, asking help to determine what is a peak and what is a sub-peak. With all the peaks on both sides of Sands Fjord lying within the same minute of latitude, this decision led to much debate. The consensus was that Peak 6, at 83°, 36.427’ north, is the actual summit of the most northerly mountain.

Six members of this expedition had been together in North Pearly Land in 1996 as part of the American Top Of The World Expedition. During that expedition, we had walked across the sea ice to Kaffeklubben Island and then on to Oodaaq Island, considered the northernmost land on earth. In the spring of 2001 we compared readings with staff members at both GEUS and the Danish Polar Centre, and found discrepancies. On the flight to North Pearly Land in 2001 we were able to fly over these islands and determine that our 1996 island is a new island. It has
been confirmed by the Danish Polar Centre as the new most northerly land on earth. More information at www.2001topoftheworld.com.

STEVE GARDINER

NORTH GREENLAND

Warming Land exploration and first ascent. There is a picturesque valley in the extreme north of Greenland that is reminiscent of the Yosemite in California, with vertical walls topped by ice capped domes and mesas. It is intermittently intruded by glacial arms and is punctuated by a sublime chain of lakes. A 3,000-foot castle peak stands monolithically at its head. The triangular peninsula in which this valley resides is called Warming Land. Our National Geographic-sponsored expedition in July made the first crossing of this peninsula from Saint Georges Fjord to Hartz Sund and back again. A subtle divide in the central valley sheds to an eastern and a western river. A second western river feeds from a second picturesque mountain valley adjacent to Saint Georges Fjord. We began at the mouth of this second western river. It appeared uncrossable but for the natural bridges cut into the limestone bedrock. The expedition proceeded across a natural bridge and was on its way. The favor of fortune at that river was to repeat itself throughout.

The weather was fair and an easy route was found through a ridge of pyramids to the central western river. This river led us into the central valley. An advance base camp was established in three days at the eastern lake at the heart of the central valley. From here we set out down the canyons of the eastern river to Hartz Sund. A solo climber made the ascent of the monolith from the west side through a succession of walls, chimneys and shelves. He reached the summit as the first snow storm of the day began to clear. After two more snow storms and 22 hours of exploring all members were back at advance base camp. In good weather we returned to Saint Georges Fjord across the grain of the ridge country and over a fine, high pass at the margin of the western icefields. A maze of corridors through the miniature ice caps led to an ice-dammed lake and the headwaters of the second western river. We discovered another sequence of limestone tunnels in the upper regions of this river. One day down the river took the expedition back to the west coast. We departed from the same alluvial shelf along Saint Georges Fjord where we had arrived two weeks earlier. Personnel included National Geographic writer Gretel Ehrlich, National Geographic photographer David MacLean, CBS correspondent Bill Gasperini, ornithologist Betsy Fejikis, Dr. Miki Rifkin, Dr. Frank Landsberger, Patti Scott, Jeff Scott, Chuck Stielau, and myself as leader.

DENNIS SCHMITT