

2,000m face was still awaiting its first complete ascent.

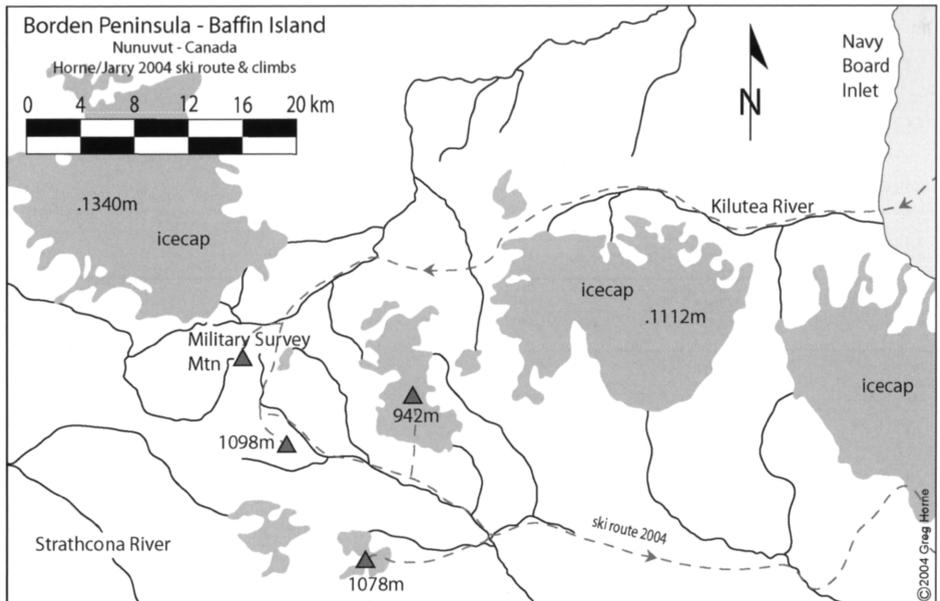
We flew from Kluane Lake onto the Dusty Glacier on May 4. The next day dawned cloudy, with the threat of storm, but we decided to approach the face “for a look.” A six-mile skin took us around onto the Kennedy Glacier, and the gods were with us, as the weather held off and the face was plastered. We spent the afternoon scoping the most obvious line on the face, the icy smears taken by the Jacks, which did, after all, deserve finishing.

Over the next three days we climbed the northwest face, finding excellent conditions. The bulk of the route was pure ice to Scottish 5, with several harder mixed pitches. We made a few variations on the Jacks line, one of which provided the mixed crux at hard Scottish 7. Where the Jacks were forced to descend the north spur, we continued directly through the second rock band on new ground, then straight to the summit via the upper icefield and north spur. The weather had held off until summit day, which was savagely cold and windy. We descended that night to sheltered ground on the Cathedral Glacier for our third (and first lying down) bivvy. As food ran out we spent a couple of nervous days waiting for our pickup, but nothing could dampen the elation of climbing this incredible face, all within a week of leaving the U.K.

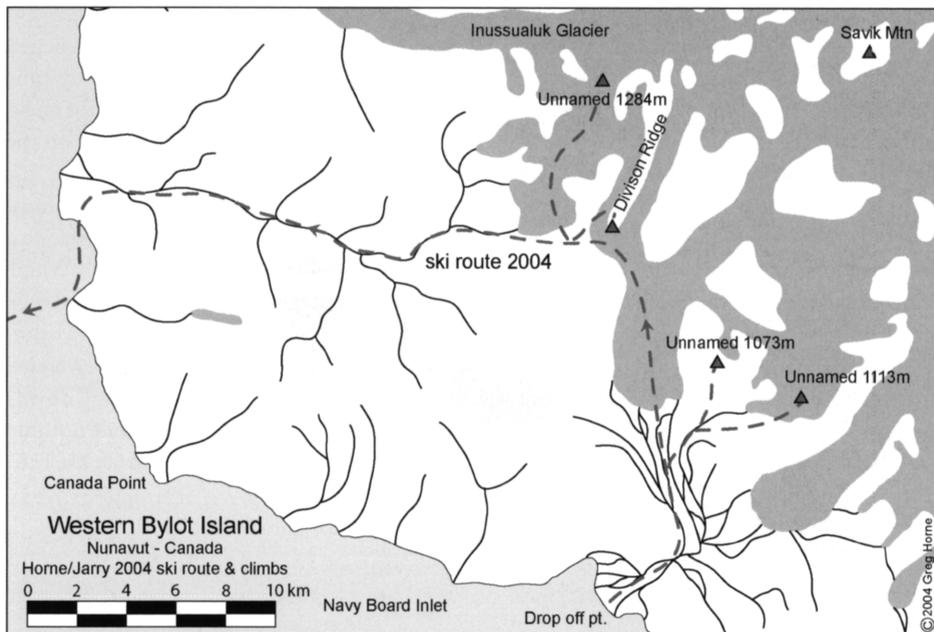
RICH CROSS, *United Kingdom*

## BAFFIN ISLAND

*Bylot and Baffin Islands, ascents and exploration.* In May, Louise Jarry and I made a 30-day exploratory ski tour of 300km, with eight peak ascents, from the village of Pond Inlet, Nunavut Territory. On May 1 we were taken by snowmobile on a 5-hour ride to the west coast of Bylot Island, 21km east-southeast of Canada Point. Wishing to avoid polar bears, we moved north,



The Borden skiing and climbing route. Greg Horne



The Bylot skiing and climbing route. Greg Horne

Date	Peak	Elevation	Route	UTM Grid Reference <sup>1</sup>
May 3	Unnamed	1,073m	S-SW slopes	E0530843 N8136610
May 5	Unnamed	1,113m	W shoulder, gully & icecap	E0533760 N8134729
May 7	"Division Ridge"	720m	NNE ridge	E0526198 N8142491
May 8	Unnamed	1,284m	SW glacier	E0525960 N8147288
May 17	MSM NE summit	1,073m <sup>2</sup>	NE glacier & N ridge	E0445070 N8120266
May 17	MSM SW summit	1,073m <sup>2</sup>	E ridge from NE pk	E0444820 N8120071
May 19	Unnamed	1,098m	NW slopes & N ridge	E0448783 N8113379
May 21	Unnamed Icecap	942m	S slopes & ridge	E0457662 N8116298
May 23	Unnamed	1,084m, 1,078 <sup>3</sup>	NE shoulder & E glacier	E0454616 N8105393

1 – Grid zone 17X, NAD 27

2 – Both summits read 1,105m by altimeter

3 – 1,078m is the spot elevation shown on 1:50,000 topo 48 D/3

All elevations and grid references are by a Garmin 12 GPS unit using the position averaging function.



Top, Borden: The view south from Peak 1,098m. Bottom, Bylot: The view of Tay Bay and Inussaluk Glacier from Peak 1,284m. *Greg Horne (2)*

inland, toward the toe of a 23km-long valley glacier flowing southwest from Savik Mountain. From a camp at 46m we ascended two peaks: a ski and scramble up Point 1,073m and a mainly ski ascent of Point 1,113m, which has an icecap summit.

We next skied up the valley glacier, then west up one of its tributaries to a 425m pass holding four lakes. We climbed the end of a long ridge that divides the tributary glaciers and climbed a tiny, 720m alpine summit by its north-northeast ridge. We called the long, narrow ridge Division Ridge because it separates two glaciers north as far as Point 1,357m. Next, in thick fog we skied from our lakes camp up the glacier to the northwest. It turned out to be one of those magical days when perseverance paid off. After several hours of whiteout navigation we broke through the cloud layer to blue skies and warm sun. We continued north up the glacier, skiing to the summit of a 1,284m ice-domed peak. There were impressive views down the Inussaluk Glacier and west to Tay Bay. Farther in the distance Baffin's Borden Peninsula was visible.

Leaving the mountains of Bylot was difficult, but we skied west from our lakes camp to Navy Board Inlet and crossed it (15km) to the mouth of the Kilutea River on Borden Peninsula. We saw five sets of bear tracks along this route. We followed the Kilutea upstream, bypassing a difficult headwall near its headwaters lake, and continued to the base of Military Survey Mountain (MSM) in five days of skiing. MSM is the only officially named peak in the northern interior of Borden Peninsula.

After more than a week of poor weather we were treated with improving views from MSM, neither summit of which had a cairn. In hindsight this seemed odd in the context of our next mountain climbed. Moving south we ski-ascended the next 1,000m peak, Peak 1,098m. On its summit we found a cairn, along with strips of bright fabric used for survey and air-photo work. Given that this peak is higher, has a cairn and survey fabric, and the labeled MSM has none of this, there may be map-labeling error.

Continuing southeast we detoured for a ski ascent of a 942m-high icecap peak 13km east-northeast of MSM. Our final ascent was of Point 1,078m, 17km southeast of MSM. This involved a pleasant ski across its east glacier. At approximately 832m we discovered what might be a human-built bivy rock wall, potentially prehistoric. Our plan had been to ski down the Mala River, but views of the lower Mala made us nervous. There might not have been enough snow left, so we traveled east, north of the Mala, through a series of side valleys and passes.

On our last night camping, May 29, it rained. Locals said spring arrived several weeks early. The next day we were picked up by snowmobile north of the mouth of the Mala River and returned to Pond Inlet. We thank The North Face Canada and Mountain Equipment Co-op, who generously supported this expedition.

GREG HORNE, *Alpine Club of Canada*

*Exploration and various descents.* The original premise of Brad Barlage's and my trip, from mid-April to mid-May, was to traverse from Pond Inlet, near the northern tip of Baffin Island, to Clyde River, 200 miles to the south. The idea was to use skis and traction kites to cover the large, open expanses of sea ice and link a series of fjords and passes through the heart of Baffin's Big Wall country. After an exploratory trip in 2002, we found the kiting and skiing to be so good that we were looking for bigger and better areas to experiment with.

Unfortunately, we got too much of what we were looking for. After a slow start, the kiting "improved" to the point that we were rocketing along at 30mph with loaded sleds. Much of Baffin's sea ice is smooth, but not all of it, including the patch of pressure ice that flipped one of our sleds into the air, scattered gear all over, and effectively put an end to our traversing dreams.



Brad Barlage searching for couloirs on Baffin Island after the kite skiing proved too much. *Andrew McLean*