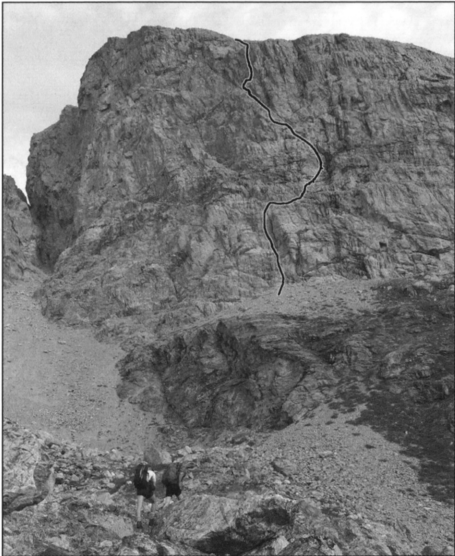


and we encountered just three other people. We didn't encounter any live polar bears, which are common to this region, but did find evidence of them having been shot. We thank the Winston Churchill Memorial Trust for its assistance.

OLLY SANDERS, U.K.

*Milne Land, probable first ascents.* Between May 8-16 David Cook and Simon Turner, guided by me, climbed seven peaks on Milne Land. We were taken to the island from Constable Point by Skidoo, across the sea ice of Scoresby Sund, but had to be helicoptered out because of melt. We established base camp 10km from the coast on the Charcot Glacier, east of the icecap. Subsequently, we placed an advanced base higher up the glacier. The peaks we climbed were generally straightforward ski ascents.



The south face of Hergenlitop at the western end of Milne Land, showing the line of Sleeping Giant (300m, British XS 5b). *Olly Sanders*

PEAK	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	ELEVATION
1	N70° 43' 22.5"	W26° 00' 30.2"	1,254m
2	N70° 42' 39.0"	W26° 08' 08.2"	1,607m
3	N70° 44' 59.7"	W26° 05' 12.5"	1,383m
4	N70° 44' 04.5"	W26° 12' 54.4"	1,606m
5	N70° 42' 44.9"	W26° 09' 31.3"	1,666m
6	N70° 43' 11.5"	W26° 10' 17.7"	1,667m
7	N70° 45' 52.1"	W26° 08' 35.2"	1,770m

PHIL POOLE, U.K.

*Editor's note:* This is the area visited by a *Tangent* expedition from May 13 to June 2, 2005. That expedition, led by Barry Roberts, made 20 first ascents, mostly on skis. Roberts also reached the snout of the Charcot by a seven-hour, 150km journey across sea ice from Constable Point but was flown out by Twin Otter. Poole was also guiding for *Tangent Expeditions*, but how his peaks relate to those climbed by Roberts is not known.

*Milne Land, first ascents.* During the summer of 2005 I led an exploratory trekking trip to the Arabetoppe region of southeast Milne Land. From July 22 to August 5, 2006 I was back, leading another trekking group to the western end of this large island, deep inside Scoresby Sund. We made a number of easy first ascents in the vicinity of N 70° 25', W 27° 49'. The trip involved

uncomfortable access by open boat through heavy pack ice for more than 200km. We also encountered musk ox and were involved in a narwhal hunt on the return journey

JIM GREGSON, *Alpine Club*

*West of Knud Rasmussen Land, first ascents.* A Brathay Exploration Group (U.K.) expedition, comprising Peter Clutton-Brock, Miles Doughty, Anna Griffith, Gavin Henderson, Thomas Moorcroft, Andrew and James Watson, and Paul Williams (leader), climbed five peaks in a previously unvisited area of East Greenland well inland from Knud Rasmussen Land. Peak altitudes ranged from 1,950m to 2,350m. Difficulties ranged from Alpine F to D; they ascended two peaks on skis. Because temperatures were as high as +19°C and on occasion never dipped below freezing at night, the snow pack never properly consolidated. The team had a secondary aim of lichen research, and sent samples collected from rocky outcrops to world authorities at the University of Copenhagen. The expedition was on the ice cap from July 17 to August 7, losing five days to bad weather.

LINDSAY GRIFFIN, *Mountain INFO Editor, CLIMB Magazine*

*Knud Rasmussen Land, Sortebrae Mountains, first ascents.* On May 27, 2006, a Twin Otter ski-plane transferred my group from Isafjordur in Iceland to N 69° 05.016', W 27° 38.879' on a tributary glacier feeding into the main Borggraven system. These glaciers lie east and northeast of the Ejnar Mikkelsens Fjeld and Borgtinderne massifs, ca 90km east of Gunnbjornsfjeld and the Watkins Bjerger.

On departure, the plane lifted out another British group, led by Rosie Goolden, which over the previous 20 days had made a number of ascents close to the fringe of the inland ice. My own group comprised Geoff Bonney, Julian Davey, Kate Keohane, Sandy Gregson (all U.K.), Bill Cunningham (U.S.), and I as leader. With a pick-up proposed for June 16, we had 20 days for exploration and climbing.

During the first four days we skied to a number of cols to spy out the terrain and also made two first ascents: Triangle Peak (2,340m, N 69° 07', W 27° 31') and Surprise Peak (2,405m, N 69° 04', W 27° 34'), the surprise being a deep crevasse hindering our passage to the gendarmed and corniced final crest.

On June 1 we transferred to a new campsite, downstream at the junction with a more easterly branch glacier. This promised access to other peaks, although it was obvious that dangerous icefalls, which we were unwilling to risk, protected some of the higher mountains. We skied up Devil's Dome (2,151m) to inspect approach routes, and in subsequent outings made first ascents of Stegosaurus 4 (2,285m, N 69° 03', W 27° 32'), Nipple (2,189m, N 69° 01', W 27° 33'), Snow Castle (ca 2,105m, N 69° 04', W 27° 32') and Stegosaurus 7 (The Fin, 2,276m, N 69° 03', W 27° 32'). These climbs were predominantly on snow and steep ice, with sections of narrow, exposed arête. All rock encountered was fairly rotten basalt.

We also turned around on a few other attempts because of poor snow or storms. (The weather was more fickle than on any of my previous 10 Arctic expeditions.) Meanwhile Julian and Kate explored on ski a little farther west. The area holds impressive unclimbed peaks, but there will be considerable risk involved in reaching some of the summits.

JIM GREGSON, *Alpine Club*