

33° 50'), Pk. 2,155m (N 68° 20', W 33° 42'), Pk. 2,501m (N 68° 19', W 33° 53'), Pk. 2,518m (N 68° 19', W 33° 52'), Pk. 2,260m (M 68° 20', W 33° 46'), Pk. 2,437m (N 68° 21', W 33° 48'), Pk. 2,401m (N 68° 15', W 34° 08'), and Pk. 2,277m (N 68° 08', W 33° 46').

We enjoyed excellent weather throughout the trip, but when we eventually met with the other group for the return flight to Iceland, we were stuck for two days in poor visibility, before the pilot could land.

Opportunities abound in this region, and to wake every day with clear skies and pleasant temperatures almost made us feel guilty. Alpinism involves suffering? The trip was pure pleasure.

STUART HOWARD, U.K.

*Schweizerland, Mt. Forel, Pepe e Isabel; Perfeknunatak, Al Tran-tran.* 4V X-trem is a project that involves climbing virgin or rarely visited mountains in extreme areas. The first phase took place from May 21-June 10, when a team from Madrid, Curro González, Vicente Holgado, Raúl Lora, and I, flew to Kulusuk and then took a 45-minute helicopter flight to the Bjorne Glacier. From there we traveled 6km in four hours to a campsite at 2,250m in the Mt. Forel region.

Forel (3,391m) stands on the northern edge of Schweizerland, where



Perfeknunatak in the Mt. Forel region showing the line of Al Tran-tran (V/3 F6a M4). It is not clear whether this peak had been climbed before the Spanish ascent, or has a different name. Gerard van den Berg



Mt. Forel (3,391m) showing the line of Pepe e Isabel (900m, V/3+ UIAA V+ 75°) on the southeast ridge. Gerard van den Berg

the coastal mountains meet the inland ice cap. It is the second highest peak in Greenland outside the Gunnbjornsfjeld region and may not have been climbed more than a dozen or so times. Despite temperatures estimated to be  $-40^{\circ}\text{C}$  on the summits, we climbed two routes that we believe to be new.

After walking three hours to a second camp below Forel, we climbed its southeast ridge. We named the 900m route (1,500m of climbing) *Pepe e Isabel*. The first half was primarily rock, with difficulties up to UIAA V+, and occasional sections of ice to  $75^{\circ}$ . Above, the route continued on snow and ice, through a serac barrier, to the summit cap. The ascent took 12 hours, and the overall grade of the ice/mixed terrain was V/3+. We descended, slowly, in 10 hours, by downclimbing and 11 rappels, from Abalakovs and rock anchors. We believe this to be the first Spanish ascent of Mt. Forel.

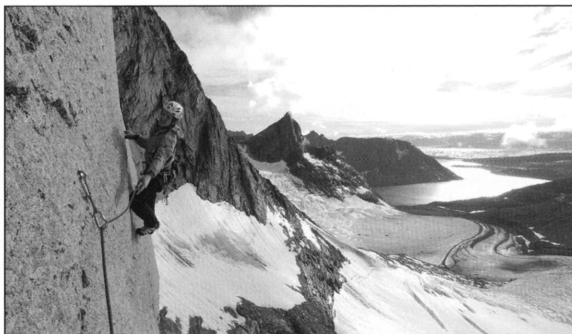
Curro and Raúl then climbed a peak called *Perfeknunatak*. We recorded a GPS measurement of 3,544m for the summit of Forel and 3,400m for *Perfeknunatak*. We are unclear as to whether the peak had been climbed previously. *Perfeknunatak* gave a harder though shorter climb, which Curro and Raúl christened *Al Tran-tran* (V/3 F6a M4). The ascent proved dangerous at the bottom, due to large quantities of snow. Higher, they crossed a steep, exposed arête, then snow ramps and several vertical rock walls. Including the descent by a relatively easy route, the climbers spent eight hours on the mountain.

GERARD VAN DEN BERG, *Spain*

*Schweizerland, Pk. 3,200m, first ascent.* An 11-member Indian expedition, led by former naval officer and Everest summitter Satyabrata Dam, arrived in Kulusuk on July 1. They were helicoptered, with two local ski guides, Leifur and Fritjon, reputedly amongst the most experienced in the region, to the Hans Glacier. Pulling sleds weighing 100kg, the team skied north to the Mt Forel area, where they climbed a 3,200m peak that the guides assured them was previously virgin. They named it *India Peak* and were able to reach the summit on ski. They then traveled farther north in a large loop before returning to the coast at the base of the Hans Glacier.

LINDSAY GRIFFIN, *Mountain INFO Editor, CLIMB Magazine*

*Schweizerland, Asta Nunaat.* The drill finally hums. "On belay," comes the shout from above. Our rain-soaked drill, chilled by the polar wind, has reached operating temperature again. However, by the time we reach the next hanging stance, the drill has refrozen. A fall at this point would have deadly consequences. A glance over the gaping emptiness at the glacier below, the fields of rubble that lead down to the fjord, and the fjord itself,



Roger Scháli during the first ascent of *Tartaruga* (18 pitches, 7b A2) on the rock spire of *Asta Nunaat*. The glacier in the picture appears to have no name. Its snout can be reached from the fjord via the village of *Tinitequilaq* on Greenland's east coast. *Roger Scháli collection*