

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°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° . 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.

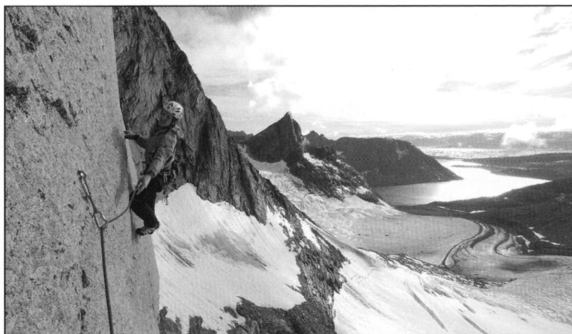
Curro and Raúl then climbed a peak called *Perfeknunatak*. We recorded a GPS measurement of 3,544m for the summit of Forel and 3,400m for *Perfeknunatak*. We are unclear as to whether the peak had been climbed previously. *Perfeknunatak* gave a harder though shorter climb, which Curro and Raúl christened *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*

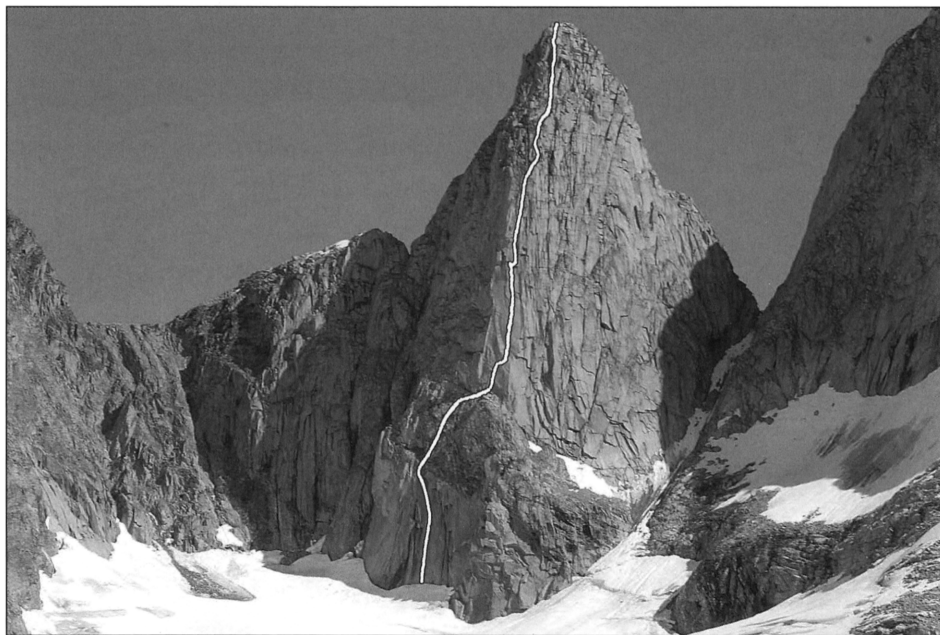
Schweizerland, Pk. 3,200m, first ascent. An 11-member Indian expedition, led by former naval officer and Everest summitter Satyabrata Dam, arrived in Kulusuk on July 1. They were helicoptered, with two local ski guides, Leifur and Fritjon, reputedly amongst the most experienced in the region, to the 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*



Asta Nunaat in Schweizerland showing the line of the first ascent, Tartaruga (18 pitches, 7b A2, Fichtner-Schäli-Hainz, 2006). Roger Schäli collection

covered in icebergs, is sobering. Our only means of transport back to civilization is by small, shaky fishing boat, and sometimes these cannot penetrate the fjord due to ice. In any case we are unable to make radio contact with them from here, and it would take days on foot to reach the nearest Inuit village.

Andi Fichtner, Christoph Hainz, and I flew to Kulusuk with Iceland Air and traveled four hours by boat to the village of Tinitequilaq. From there it took seven hours up an unnamed glacier to reach base camp. We had information from a friend in South Tyrol, who had married a local girl. From mid-July to mid-August we climbed a previously unnamed rock peak. Despite considerable bad weather with heavy rain, we completed a fine crack system up the compact west face. We have named the mountain Asta Nunaat and called our route Tartaruga (18 pitches, 7b A2).

ROGER SCHÄLI, *Switzerland*

Schweizerland, first ascents. In late June the Cambridge University East Greenland Expedition set off for Schweizerland. Our destination was an area of 20km by 40km situated to east of the Knud Rasmussen Glacier, just south of the Arctic Circle. Over five weeks James Dynes, Lachy Low, Steve Mounsey, and I aimed to put up new routes and make first ascents of peaks up to 1,600m. Several ski-touring parties had visited the area, but we found no evidence of climbing expeditions prior to ours.

The Danish Polar Center has recently changed its regulations, and a permit is no longer required to visit this area. We reached Kulusuk by scheduled flight, our unwillingness to pay excess baggage or freight costs resulting in each man wearing 15kg of gear on the plane, a strat-