

followed thin cracks through the steepest aspect of the face and continued to the very summit.

Two pitches of mixed climbing led to a big snow ledge under the main wall. From there aid climbing started, and after five or six days we fixed ropes all the way to a small ledge 300 vertical meters above the fjord. After 10 days the comfort of living on the fjord ended.

The first pitch above Camp 1 turned out to be the crux. We used peckers and heads in a thin crack, but in many places the face only allowed hooking. A great pendulum, the dihedral, and the ledge itself were hazards in case of a fall. The line offered many pitches of exquisite A2, only interrupted by A1 and A3 pitches in between. The rock was porous in places, because it was eroded by air and not by water. Many cracks were compact and shallow, which meant we often had to use a hammer.

The lower half of the wall was vertical and slabby, while the upper half overhung slightly. If a rock fell from the top of the route, it would free-fall for 12 seconds before hitting the big snow ledge—an observation of interest to BASE-jumpers visiting the fjord and, for us, a source of really exposed climbing.

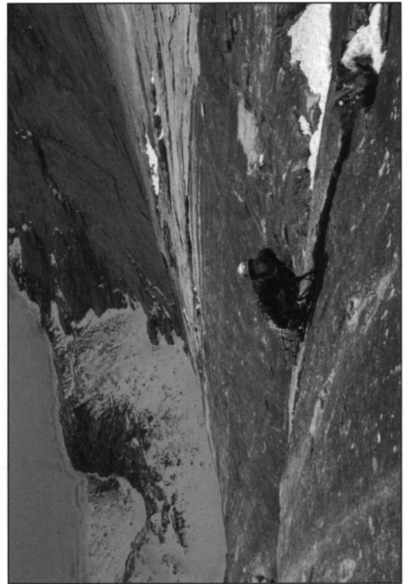
After 15 days and 1,000m of climbing we reached the summit of Kiguti. The line was challenging to the very last pitch, but we had a nice time on the wall. We brought food for 16 days and two barrels (150kg) of ice from an iceberg, which was sufficient for the climb.

The Norwegian Route has 23 pitches and is graded VI 5[Norwegian] A3+.

After time skiing and reading, we looked for other routes. Audun and Sigurd wanted to try a 400m aid line on the Fin, but they gave up after three days because of strong, cold winds. Ole and I did an alpine line on the right side of the Fin, with 700m of continuous crack and dihedral climbing on a beautiful pillar. We named the route Gud Har Ikkje Gløymt Oss, Han Gir Bare Faen [rough translation: God Hasn't Actually Forgotten Us, He Just Doesn't Give a Damn]. It comprises 12 long pitches (60+m) and is graded 5.10 A0.

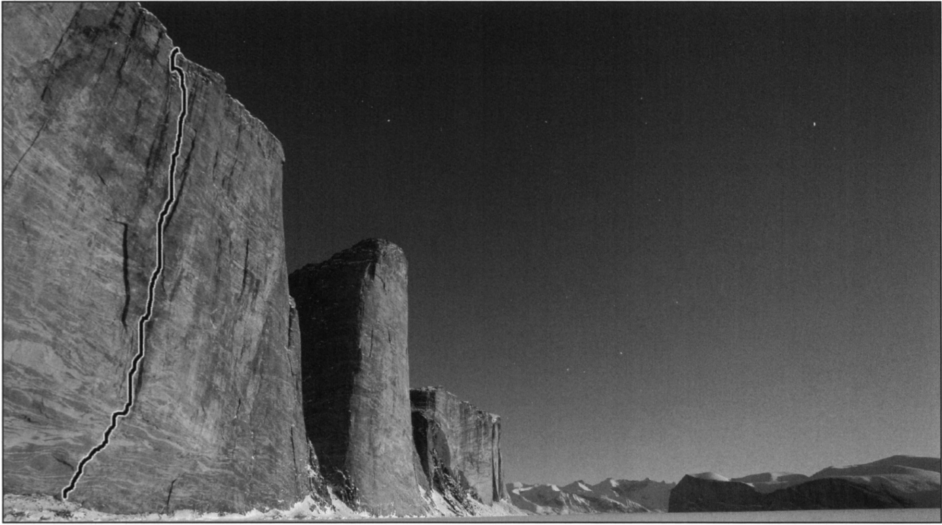
We had a great time on Baffin, enjoyed the spectacular walls, the harshness of nature, and got to know some great characters in the local communities.

LARS FLATØ NESSA, *Norway*



Lars Nessa at a belay on the Norwegian Route.
Lars Nessa collection.

The Wall of Clouds, Nassariit, and other shenanigans. From May 1 to June 18 Sam Beauguey, Martial Dumas, Jean-Yves Fredricksen, Yann Mimet, and David Ravanel (and later Jean-Noël Itzstein, for jumps) made their first visit to Baffin to climb, ski, paraglide, and BASE jump. The original aim of the climbers was to visit the Stewart Valley and try a new route on Great Sail Peak. However, their equipment arrived late, so they undertook an easier approach and traveled to Scott Island (Piliktua in Inuit) at the mouth of Clark (also referred to as Scott) Inlet. Farther west the inlet splits into two fjords—Clark and Gibbs—that run north and south of Sillem Island.



The Wall of Clouds, showing Nassariit. The next formation to the right is The Raven. *David Ravel*

After a reconnaissance of the walls on Scott Island, the French settled on a 650m face that in 1999 had been dubbed The Wall of Clouds, 1.5 km northwest of the Ship's Prow. Splitting into two groups, the French chose lines 150m right of Aularutiksanga (Sedeneyer-White, 1999) and spent six hours climbing the first 20m of their choices before deciding to concentrate on one. The left-hand line was technical and elegant, the one to the right loose and dangerous. Working in shifts, they began fixing the left-hand line. The first two pitches involved a lot of bat-hooking until reaching a decent crack. After four days they had only completed three pitches. Temperatures as low as -27°C caused problems for the belayer, who was sometimes immobile for up to eight hours. They decided the second should work from a portaledge with fly, where he was supplied with books. During days off from the wall, the climbers would sometimes plod up to a suitable summit and make a BASE jump or paraglider flight. After six days the high point was 350m above the ground. The team installed the first portaledge camp here, and all five members moved up with three ledges and 10 haul bags, for a continuous push to the summit. The climb took a left-facing dihedral and required difficult aid with beaks, copperheads, blades, and small camming devices. There was also the problem of expanding flakes and dangerous blocks. Leading one pitch, Fredricksen carefully tied off an 80 kg loose rock, perched above his head, and lowered it until his belayers could cut it loose for a seven-second flight to the fjord. After seven days on the wall and one more camp at 500m, they reached the summit and named their route Nassariit (650m, A4). Dumas, Fredricksen, and Ravel rappelled with the breakables, the other bags were tossed down, and Beauguey and Mimet got in a fine BASE jump.

For the final 15 days the group moved back to Sam Ford Fjord, but not before a BASE jump off the Ship's Prow, which the French found was barely 500m high, not the 650m previously reported. Some also BASE jumped the 700m wall of The Beak and then turned to the huge 1,300m high wall on Polar Sun Spire, flying out from the great north face. Team members also made repeat ski and snowboard descents of the Polar Star Couloir (1,100m) on Mt. Beluga (also skied by members of a six-person French-Swiss team the day before), first climbed and

skied in 2002 by Brad Barlage and Andrew McLean. While the others returned by conventional skidoo to Clyde River, Fredricksen returned by a solo, kite-assisted ski journey, covering the 160km of frozen water in less than two days.

LINDSAY GRIFFIN, *Mountain INFO*, www.climbmagazine.com, AAC

COAST MOUNTAINS

Coast Mountains, remote areas summary. [Note: In addition to mention in this summary, some of the routes have individual reports, below—Ed.] Summer 2007 never really set up on the coast, with only short intermittent periods of settled sunny weather, and mountaineering suffered. One group that did have a holiday full of innovative climbs were six Scots who based themselves just north of Mt. Geddes (3,227m) in the Frontier Group, 10km northwest of Mt. Waddington. Over a two week period they managed many new routes on both rock and ice, including two fine additions to the north face of Geddes.

Jay Burbee, Peter Hudson, Cam Shute, and Brock Wilson knocked off the long-talked-about second ascent of the beautiful, solid granite 350m southeast buttress of Mt. Queen Bess (3,298m), ticking the first free ascent in the process (about 5.10a).

The rest of the backcountry was quiet. I participated in two exploratory trips, which, while opening a bit of new territory, were modest technically. The first, with Markus Raschke, Peter Renz, and Mickey Schurr, explored remote, mostly untrod terrain in the far northwestern lobe of the Pantheon Range, 10km southwest of Klinaklini Lake, in unsettled weather. Jordan Peters and I also enjoyed a brief trip into the head of Beece Creek, east of Taseko Lake in the dry, sprawling south Chilcotin area. We climbed Mt. Vic (3,005m) from the west via the snowslopes of the upper northwest ridge, but an attempt on a new ice route on the superb, expansive north face of Beece Peak (ca 3,025m) had to be put off for another visit because of lack of time.

Paul Baker, Jesse Mason, and Jordan Peters climbed the 450m northwest buttress on Mt. Moe (2,664m), north of Wedgemount Lake in early September, finding decent rock at a 4th- to low 5th-class standard.

DON SERL, CANADA, ACC, AAC

Southwest British Columbia (southern Coast Mountains and Canadian Cascades). 2007 was lean for new routes in southwest B.C., continuing a trend of the last few years. In part this is attributable to a natural tailing off after the great burst of activity that followed the release of the *Alpine Select* guidebook in 2001, but this year's low level of new-routing can also be blamed on pernicious summer weather. By some accounts it rained every single weekend. Most new routes that were reported are from the drier inland portions of the range.

The season got off to a good start when Dave Basterchea, Jack Hannan, and Jon Johnston, from the Whistler-Pemberton area, snowmobiled up the Lillooet River logging roads from Pemberton on March 31 and, taking advantage of a stable spring snowpack, made the second ascent and first ski descent of Beautiful Nightmare (1200+m, IV 60°) on the north face of Plinth Peak, at the edge of the Lillooet Icefields. The spring season was then uneventful.

While summer was largely rained out on the coast, a large party from the British Columbia