

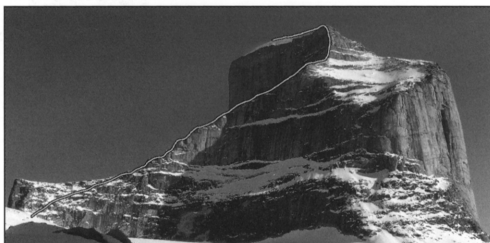
I tried Beluga again a few days later, going even lighter—no second rope, haulbag, or anything extra—but got shut down again by my toes.

I switched objectives to a new route on the north face of Broad Peak, a 1,400m rock and mixed giant. I knew I could do it if I brought all the big-wall gear, but I wanted to continue my light-and-fast strategy and try a continuous ascent. I took one 70m rope, my one-man tent, and

food and fuel for 48 hours. I spent 39 non-stop hours on the ascent, taking advantage of the 24-hour Arctic sunshine to keep going without a bivy. The line was beautiful—a few pitches of mixed to get onto a spur, then a difficult knife-edge arête that led to an easier hanging snow-field, the 400m crux headwall (5.10 A3), and a super-rad ice arête to the summit. It was one of my biggest climbs, set in the most beautiful area I have seen.

By the beginning of June it was time to go home, and my Inuit friend came to get me. But not before I got to see polar bears, seals, caribou, foxes, crazy big walls, super couloirs, virgin peaks, and so much more than words can describe.

DAVE TURNER, AAC



The new route on the north face of Broad Peak. Dave Turner

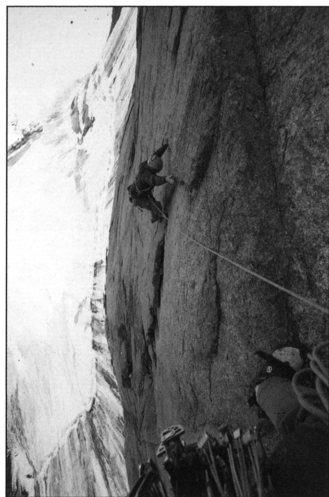
Mt. Asgard, South Tower, South Face; North Tower, East Face; and other activity. Chris Brazeau and I spent four weeks in Auyit-tuq National Park, climbing the granite walls and ridges of the Weasel Valley. We left home with inspiring photos, vague beta, and a lot of excitement. In the fishing village of Pangnirtung in early July, we met Belgian friends and hired a boat to take us to the trailhead at the end of the fjord. Our main goal was to climb beautiful Mt. Asgard, which requires a 42km approach. As the Weasel Valley is stacked with amazing mountains, the objectives along the way were plentiful and the views always mind-blowing.

Of our 28 days in the park, we spent seven climbing, 11 schlepping loads, and 10 resting. We did our routes in light, clean style, trying to find challenging, aesthetic lines. Our two most significant climbing achievements were:

Asgard's South Tower, South Face (600m, 5.12-). We thought we were on a new route until we found a bolt at the crux, on the second-to-last pitch. Not sure, but we probably climbed 50% new terrain and 50% the Italian Route. After 300m of 4th-classing, we continued with nine amazing 60m pitches of mostly 5.10, except for the 5.12- crux pitch. It was probably the first free ascent of the South Tower, taking 16 hours roundtrip from a camp alongside the Caribou Glacier.



The South Face route on Asgard's South Tower. Jon Walsh



Chris Brazeau on a repeat of Stories in Stone, Mt. Walle, Baffin Island.
Jon Walsh

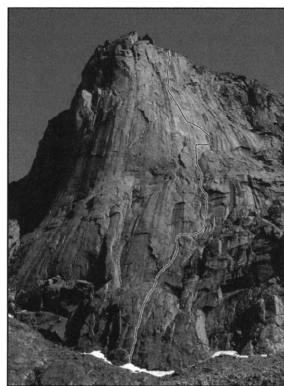
Asgard's North Tower, Northeast Face (800m, 5.11+ C1). Hard to say whether the first half had been climbed, but we climbed about 10 nice pitches, up to 5.11-, to the headwall. We then followed an obvious crack system, to the right of Line of Credit, that provided the highlight of the trip. Eight 60m pitches, six of which were 5.11 and often involved run-out, delicate face climbing that linked cracks, on some of the best quality stone we've ever touched. Wet rock forced us right near the top, and one body-length didn't go free due to wetness. Probably 5.12- free, but we onsighted the rest of the headwall. The Favresse brothers repeated the first two-thirds of the headwall, and drier conditions permitted a more direct finish. Camp-to-camp took us 22½ hours, with at least two hours of approaching.

We also repeated the Scott Route (5.11-) on Asgard's North Tower and the South Ridge (5.8) of Mt. Thor, both classics; the 600m South Ridge of Mt. Menhir (Salvaterra's route; perfect rock, of similar character to the Northeast Ridge of Bugaboo Spire), with 5.10 variations; and Stories in Stone (600m, 5.12- A0) on Mt. Walle, a sustained 16 pitches with bolted belays, one of the best routes either of us has climbed. It's a physical route, with chimneys and offwidths on an amazing red pillar; it required our biggest effort, taking 25 hours camp-to-camp.

On Mt. Tirokwa's west face we attempted a new route to the left of Chocolate Boomerang [see below], climbing about 400m out of 700m, before run-out face climbing shut us down. This could be a great route, but a couple of bolts seem necessary to pass an obvious white rock scar.

The expedition unfolded smoothly, we had a great time, and the weather was great. We climbed more than we anticipated, and the adventure was everything that we hoped it would be. Thanks to Arc'teryx for helping make this trip possible.

JON WALSH, *Canada*



Chocolate Boomerang, on Mt. Tirokwa. *Nicolas Favresse*

Mt. Tirokwa, Chocolate Boomerang; Mt. Odin, Le Bic Rouge de Odin; Mt. Asgard, South Tower, the Belgarian; North Tower, Whisky Gonzales. Over 45 days from early July through mid-August, Sean Villanueva, Stephane Hanssens, Olivier Favresse, and I had an awesome trip to Baffin Island. We hiked ca 600km, ferrying loads for only two weeks of climbing; it seems ridiculous, but the climbing and the place is so unique and amazing, and the potential for free-climbing and first ascents seems endless. All along the way to Mt. Asgard we found innumerable boulders, with perfect soft tundra landings, to keep us in shape.

Expert aid-climbing soloist Silvia Vidal, from Catalonia, traveled with us. She originally planned to solo a wall and then trek, but when she arrived at the base of her objective she didn't feel motivated, so we invited her to join us. We figured we