

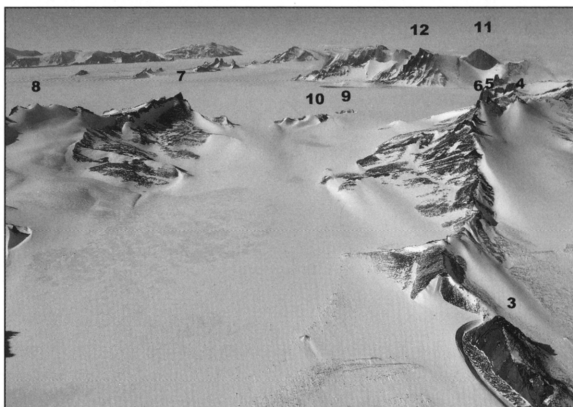
during what would be our last day on the island. While with a group of Swiss and Italians in 2006, Skip had bookmarked Ashley as a nice unclimbed summit, easily accessible from above Salisbury Plain. We camped ashore on the night of October 29, behind Start Point on the edge of the Plain. It was a filthy night for weather. We got up at 2 a.m. and by 4:00 were skiing up the Grace Glacier. We reached its headwall at 5:30, stashed skis, and climbed to the col. The back end of the range is a broad, undulating glacial slope, overlooking the outer part of King Haakon Bay. After many waits for visibility, we identified what we thought was the highest point, the second of four summits in a chain stretching more than 1.5 km to the southeast. We proceeded up easy slopes to a col between the first and second summits, from where 100m up a steep icy dome led to the second summit. We belayed the last pitch from ice screws.

I waited for a clearing to confirm that we were higher than the distant third or fourth summits, but Skip noted that the ridge behind us, leading to the first summit, rose worryingly for more than 100m until it disappeared in cloud. We descended to the col and climbed the ridge to the first and highest summit. Though spectacular, with vast drops to the north, the broad ridge gave straightforward climbing, and we moved together through hoar-frosted towers to a flat summit, where we took a GPS reading of S 54° 06.963', W 37°21.650', 1,136m. It was 1 p.m. [Ed. note: The southern side of the Mt. Ashley falls gradually down to King Haakon Bay, the starting point for the legendary traverse in May 1916 by Tom Crean, Ernest Shackleton, and Frank Worsley.]

Crag Jones, *Alpine Club*

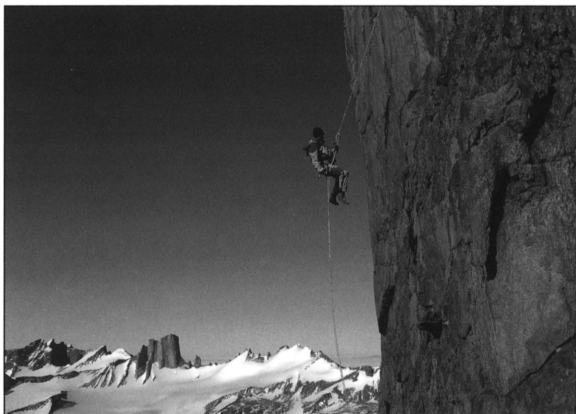
QUEEN MAUD LAND

Orvin Fjella, various ascents. The first Austrian expedition to Queen Maud Land comprised Karl Pichler, Paul Koller, and me. Our goal was to ski east from the well-known Ulvetanna Group in the Fenriskjefte to the Høltedahlfjella, Kurzeffjella, and Conradfjella. In November we flew from Cape Town to Novo Airbase and from there were lifted by Twin Otter to our starting point near Holtanna base camp. Our route, traversing some of the most spectacular rock and ice scenery in the world, was challenging. On the way we climbed 15 summits, of which 11 were first ascents.

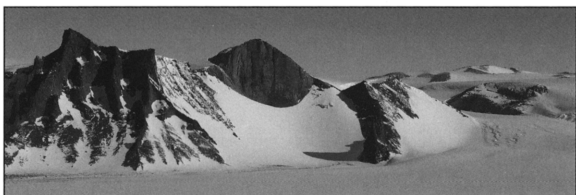


Part of Høltedahlfjella, showing peaks climbed and named by Austrian expedition. (3) Roteck. (4) Austrian Peak. (5) Tiroler Spitze. (6) Styria. (7) Alexey Turchin. (8) Kamelbuckel. (9) Galileo Nunatak. (10) Steinskar Nunatak. (11) Galileo. (12) Peak of Silent Solitude. Christoph Höhenreich

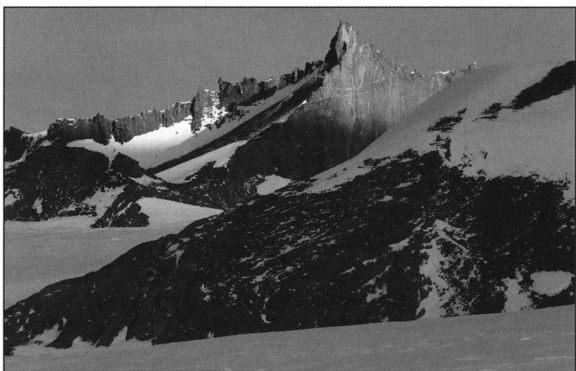
We repeated Tungespissen (2,277 m), Mundlauga (2,455 m), and Sandneshatten (2,208 m). The first two, relatively close to Ulvetanna, were first climbed in January 1994 by Norwegians (AAJ 1996), the last in 2006, again by Norwegians (AAJ 2007). Sandneshatten in the



Rappeling from Tiroler Spitze. Snowy humped peak behind is Kamelbuckel, while rock peaks to left belong to Vinten-Johannsenegga Massif. *Christoph Höbenreich*



Two peaks in Skorvestallen Massif, first climbed by Austrians in 2009: Peak of Silent Solitude (left) and Mount Galileo. *Christoph Höbenreich*



Peak Alexey Turchin was ascended via snow slope from left to right. Big wall awaits future parties. *Christoph Höbenreich*

11th polar expedition, many as a IFMGA qualified guide, and with new ideas I am inspired to return in the near future. If you are interested in taking part in an exploratory ski trip, please contact me at christoph.hoebenreich@aon.at

Conradfjella involved friction climbing on granite at UIAA II and III, though the final few meters to the summit were exposed and UIAA V. We used the rope for both ascent and descent.

Our most prominent first ascents and new named peaks were Tiroler Spitze (2,201m, S 71°52'15.8", E 8°55'00.6"); Austrian Peak (2,177m, S 71°52'27.9", E 8°54'50.6"); Peak Alexey Turchin (2,232m, S 71°51'19.8", E 9°00'12.7"); Kamelbuckel (Camel's Hump, 2,184m, S 71°50'28.1", E 9°00'01.5"); Mt. Galileo (2,528m, S 71°55'23.6", E 9°01'38.8"), and Peak of Silent Solitude (2,550m, S 71°54'59.2", E 9°03'28.1"). Tiroler Spitze involved real rock climbing up to UIAA IV; we had to remove our warm expedition outers and climb in inner thermal boots. Other summits were not difficult; some involved rock scrambles. We completed all ascents during November.

We had outstanding weather for our three weeks in the area, with brilliant blue skies and only one day when we were hit by a severe katabatic storm that produced winds in excess of 100km/hour. Daytime temperatures were between -15° and -20°C; the lowest we recorded at night was -36°C. However, the air is dry, and while skiing during daylight hours in strong sunshine we could be sweating at -15°C. This was my

CHRISTOPH HÖBENREICH, *Austria*