

Sweet Home Moravia on Lille Vagakallen. Lukas Marecek

was bad, old, empty fishermen's huts. Our rules and goals were simple: first ascents in light, fast, clean alpine-style, without portaledge, bolts, or other non-adventure gear.

For us Moskenesoya is the most amazing of Lofoten's islands and still has great climbing potential. There were around 18 routes before our arrival; we added three, and other huge lines are still waiting. We don't understand why all Norwegians only climb around Henningsvær, Kalle, and Svolvær.

We created our routes in harmony with Norwegian climbing ethics: no bolts. When seconding a pitch one of us was often heard to shout, "Hey, that was a fucking crazy run-out man!" The two new routes Goodbye High School (Norwegian 7-, 460m) on Pillaren, and Sound of Waves (6+, 450m) on Brandtva are really bold and scary, with lots of unprotected slab climbing. Our most serious route was Ticket to Greenland (6+ A0, 550m) on Hel-

vetestind, which has very steep, continuous climbing. Sweet Home Moravia (7- A2, 260m) on Lille Vagakallen is nice, with Chamonix-quality rock. We also put up Fish Restaurant (5+, 350m) on Djupfjord Buttress, and Hungry Eyes (6 A1, 420m) on Maslitinden.

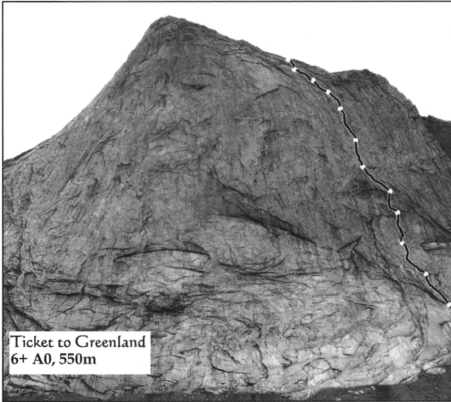
We won't disclose more information on the routes; you should go try them yourselves. We climbed six new lines but more importantly had a great time, with much climbing and fishing in one of the most wonderful places on earth. We say to the Norwegian community, "Thanks for your enormous kindness. You helped us on many occasions."

LUKAS MARECEK AND JIŘÍ SVIHÁLEK, *Czech Republic*

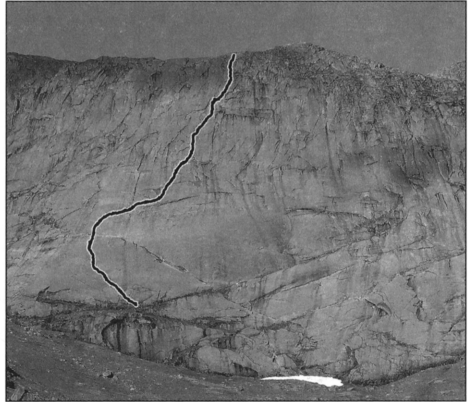
*Moskenesoya Island, Helvetestind, Thirst in the Clouds.* During the summer Alexey Orudzhhev, Alexander Shamakov, and Andrey Varvarkin from Russia made the first ascent of Thirst in the Clouds on the central section of the main face of Helvetestind, located in the southern part of the island. Their ascent completes a line attempted by Finn Jensen and Arild Meyer in 1984 or '85. The Norwegians bailed on their ninth pitch, a thin wet crack, after persisting August rain. Their high point matches the Russian's pitch 13. Arild returned the following year with Anne Fyhn but found the route too vegetated for a serious attempt. As far as they got Finn and Arild found the route neither difficult nor serious; the 14 bolts placed by the Russians must be questioned.

MARTEN BLIXT, *ALPINKLATRING, Norway*

*Lillemola Island, Man Hands.* Who wouldn't jump at the chance to establish a granite big-wall route on an uninhabited island, with crystal clear water in the inlet and a 100' approach to the base across a white sand beach? From June 25 to 28 Mike Brumbaugh, Andrew Burr, Brian Hep-



Ticket to Greenland on west face of Helvetestind (Hell's Wall). In 2009 Russian team also added a big wall route at F6a and A2+/A3 directly beneath the highest point in this photo. *Lukas Marecek*



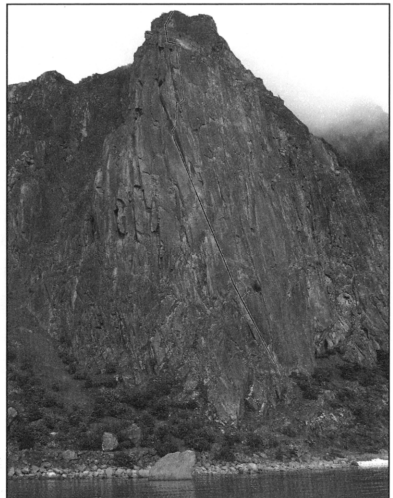
Sound of Waves on Brandtøva. *Lukas Marecek*

pnor, Ari Menitove, and I put up Man Hands (5.11+, 1,000') on an east-facing wall on Lillemolla (Litlmolla), one of the smaller Lofoten Islands.

We flew to Kiruna, in northern Sweden, via Stockholm, and drove west to Lofoten. We'd seen a picture of the wall in a guidebook and thought it would be a fun adventure. When we asked for the island with the big wall, locals knew what we meant. Although a team had previously established an aid route, there were no recorded free climbs. We hired a jet boat from Svolvær and with three days food and made base camp directly beneath our project. From camp to the base of the wall took less than five minutes, and we were climbing above the tent and white beach the whole time. Our island had one small cottage; some otherwise deserted islands have summer cottages that are used a weekend or two a year.

Man Hands was seven pitches long. Highlights were leaving beautiful dihedrals with finger and hand cracks, to face-climb over compact terrain toward the next crack system. If someone was to bring a drill and place a few bolts between non-connecting crack systems, this wall would provide many wonderful 1,000' routes that could then be climbed carrying only traditional gear. We rappelled the route from nut and sling anchors. It was one of those once-in-a-lifetime experiences, which Andrew summed up with, "After major unearthing of the first pitch and heavy cleaning of pitches two and three, we completed the climb ground up in one push under the ever-lit sky of an Arctic summer. From the jet boat ride, to the man-eating mosquitoes, to the hermit crab fights on the beach, I loved every minute of it".

ROB PIZEM, AAC



Man Hands on Lillemolla island. *Rob Pizem*