

**GINO WATKINS MEMORIAL FUND AND EDWARD WILSON FUND
PRELIMINARY REPORT FORM**

EXPEDITION LEADER:

EXPEDITION NAME:

EXPEDITION DATES:

Matthew L. Traver

Timmiarmiut, Greenland

August 1st – September 5th 2012

Please complete your *preliminary* expedition report (approximately 500 words).

Overview

The team was unable to reach their originally intended destination of Timmiarmiut, south of Tasiilaq, due to apparent unsafe sea/weather conditions. As an alternative we ventured 140km NE of Tasiilaq to an unvisited cirque in the Kangertittivatsiaq fjords. A team of four Americans who were intending to visit Skjoldungen also visited the cirque at the same time as our team and for the same reasons (their team consisted of Mike Libecki, Ethan Pringle, Angie Payne and Keith Ladzinski).

Outcome

The team completed three first ascents and attempted three new routes. An outline is provided below:

Route 1: ‘TBC’, Father Tower (proposed name by Mike Libecki), 1350m elevation, 14 pitches (800m) + simulclimbing, 5.9, August 16-17th 2012, Matt Bunn/Mike Royer.

Description - The route begins from the small glacier (700 m) that lies to the southeast of the summit. The glacier can be gained via its northern edge, although the path is notably dangerous--numerous large blocks shifted over just a few days. The bottom of the southeast face can be reached by navigating several crevasses along the steepening glacier. Begin climbing at a gray band, although there are numerous possibilities. A couple hundred meters of 4th class or low 5th class rock follow the heavily featured bottom of the face, which is more of a ramp-like feature that extends to the east ridge. The appearance of this area is dramatically different depending on the vantage. As the face steepens, the climbing is consistently in the 5.5 to 5.8 range, again with numerous options available. The climbing is mostly discontinuous, and belay ledges are plentiful. The route gains the east ridge at the elbow where it begins to steepen, above the large flake-like feature that creates a sharp divide in the ridge. A short pitch of easy climbing leads to better, more sustained climbing on cleaner rock. Four pitches of 5.8-5.9 climbing lead to the summit ridge. Traverse the ridge to the true summit.

Route 2: ‘Torturer’s Traverse’ consisting of TBC (1150m), Tantalus (1250m), Sisyphus (1200m) and Damocles (1250m), 3rd – 5th class (up to 5.4), August 20th – 22nd 2012, Matt Bunn/Mike Royer.

Description – Ascend the couloir at the back of the cirque, following the hanging glacier then the narrow, loose gully to reach a col at approximately 1000 m. From the col traverse east across the four peaks. Descend from Damocles back to the basecamp location.

Route 3: 'Assembling the Tupilak', Hidden Tower (proposal), 1400m elevation, snow & 9 pitches up to 5.10, August 28th 2012, Matt Bunn/Mike Royer.

Description - From the slabs, gain the relatively clean glacier, aiming for the couloir that extends toward the Hidden Tower. At the time of the ascent, the entrance to this couloir was heavily crevassed, requiring several snow-bridge crossings and descent into one of the larger crevasses. From inside the crevasse, it is possible to climb the slabs to gain a slope to the climbers right of the couloir. Avoiding another large crevasse, regain the snowy couloir, following it to the base of the southeast buttress. The snow steepens to approximately 70 degrees as it nears the face (approximate elevation 1050 m). After establishing a belay about 5 m above the snow, the route ascends directly up the face for several pitches, before gradually rounding to the southeast aspect of the buttress. The route primarily follows corners and cracks, with several small roofs and two squeeze chimneys. The climbing is remarkably sustained, continuously in the 5.8 to 5.10 range, and the rock quality was fantastic. The summit ridge is gained at the eastern edge

Route 4: Attempt on 'Siren Tower', 1400m elevation, retreat due to stonefall in gully, August 14-17th, Matt Traver/Steve Beckwith

Description - Approximately 4 days spent setting up the route for a big wall attempt. A retreat was made on the second initial day of climbing due to excessive threat from rock fall down the main gully and rock slides over a buttress. Ideal conditions for a second attempt would be early spring or even winter.

Route 5: Attempt on unnamed ridge, 1100m elevation, 1km length, D, retreat due to rotten rock, August 21st, Matt Traver/Steve Beckwith.

Description - The majority of the route was a mixture of choss scrambling, soloing and simul-climbing up to HS 4a. After 1km of climbing we turned around one pitch from a minor summit due to vertical blocks of choss.

Route 6: Attempt on The Squid, NE face of Father Tower, VS 4c, August 24th – 26th, retreat due to rotten rock/death blocks in roof, Matt Traver/Steve Beckwith.

Description - In order to get to the base of The Squid you need to first ascend approximately 250m in elevation through a combination of short pitches, scrambling, scree and choss. The line up the Squid should follow a very distinct, overhanging and diagonal offwidth/crack system for 250m to the summit of the feature. From there it would be possible to ascend slabs to the summit of Father Tower.

Signed:  _____

Date: 01/10/12

Please return this form within one *month after the completion of your expedition*, together with 1/2 photographs, to:

**The Secretary
Gino Watkins Memorial Fund Committee
Scott Polar Research Institute
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