

ADAMANT GROUP

The Adamant Group includes all those peaks at the head of Austerity, Adamant and Granite glaciers, which can be reached from their cirques. The group is bounded on the south by Silvertip Pass and Azimuth Notch, Adamant Glacier to the east and the Granite Glacier to the north. Stitt and Austerity creeks mark the eastern boundary of the group.

1:50,000 NTS map sheet Mount Sir Sandford, 82N/12 and Sullivan River, 82N/13.

Geology:

The Adamant Group is composed entirely of intrusive rocks of the Adamant Batholith. The batholith is formed of two eccentric cores of brown weathering hypersthene-augite monzonite surrounded by an envelope of dark grey, mafic-rich granodiorite. On the inner envelope, the mafic mineral is hornblende while hornblende and biotite are characteristic of the outer envelope. Numerous pegmatite dykes, many carrying tourmaline cut across the batholith. The rock provides exceptional opportunities for climbing. The rock is generally very solid and rock fall is minimal except in local areas of structural weakness most frequently associated with gullies and couloirs.

Access:

The most frequent access route to the Adamants has been by way of the Swan Creek trail to Fairy Meadow. The turn off for the Kinbasket Lake Forest Road is 47.5km west of Golden or 31.4km east of the Rogers Pass. From the Trans Canada Highway drive north 63.8km to the Swan Creek logging road (Mileage sign 111 from Golden). After a short distance up the logging road, take a spur road leading right (it is best to park at the road junction if you have only a 2 wheel drive vehicle). The spur road ends 4.7km from the turn off from the main Forest Road.

The Swan Creek trail was re-cut and flagged in the fall of 1998 and summer of 2000.

Occasionally parties have approached from the south as part of the Regional Traverse along Pyrite Ridge, traversing the Sir Sandford Group to reach the Adamants. It is also possible to access the group by driving to the end of the logging road up Gold River and gaining the upper Sir Sandford Glacier. Neither of these routes is recommended over the more straightforward route up Swan Creek.

Work is progressing on a new logging road up Stitt Creek, which in the near future, may, at least for a short period, shorten access to the western flanks of the Adamant Group. Parties considering this approach should first check with the Forest Service in Revelstoke.

Camping and bivouac sites:

Many of climbs in the Adamant Group can be made from either Fairy Meadow Hut on the north or from Great Cairn Hut on the south. Some parties attempting more technical routes may choose to establish a camp on either Austerity or Adamant Glacier. A camp on Adamant Meadows in the vicinity of two small lakes due south of Gibraltar Peak also offers a practical site for some climbs on the east side of the Adamants.

Recommended Routes:

There are many routes in the Adamant Group worthy of attention. Several routes definitely worth considering include:

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|--------------------------------------|-------------|
| ➤ The Horn, Southeast Face | II, 5.7 |
| ➤ Unnamed, Gibson-Rohn | IV, 5.10+ |
| ➤ Adamant Mountain, West Ridge | III, 5.0 |
| ➤ Adamant Mountain, North Ridge | IV, 5.7 |
| ➤ Adamant Mountain, South Ridge | IV, 5.7 |
| ➤ Austerity Mountain, South Buttress | IV, 5.7, A1 |
| ➤ Belvedere Peak, West Ridge | I, 4 |
| ➤ East Blackfriar Peak, South Ridge | III, 5.4 |
| ➤ Turret Peak, Northwest Ridge | III, 5.4 |
| ➤ Turret Peak, Southwest Buttress | V, 5.11, A3 |
| ➤ Turret Peak, East Ridge | III, 4 |

Unicorn Peak 3,020 m / 9,900'

Unicorn Peak forms the western wall of the Granite Glacier between Mount Colossal to the north and Ironman to the south. This peak has a very prominent southwest ridge.

First Ascent: Southeast Face, Southwest Ridge (I, 4th)
Sterling B. Hendricks, Donald Hubbard, Samuel Moore, Arnold Wexler
APP 26:194; CAJ 30:74

July 13, 1946

From Fairy Meadow ascend the Granite Glacier, weaving through crevasses to the Ironman-Unicorn col. Climb easy, loose rock to the notch between Unicorn and The Horn whence the easy southwest ridge is followed to the summit. Ascent: 4 hours.

Variation: Southeast Face (I-II, 5.3)
First ascent unknown. APP 30:56

Approach as for *Route 1*. Stay below a large, partially snow-covered slab near the base of the southeast face, which leads to the summit. Climb the slab via its northeast edge. This route is easy except for one strenuous move near the top.

Route 2: North Ridge (I, 4th)
Margie Ferris, William L. Putnam, Don Sprecker, L. Robbins Wallace July 1965 August 7, 1957
AAJ 15(40):158

From Fairy Meadow, cross the Granite Glacier below the icefall. Continue to the cleaver south of Colossal's east ridge and then traverse across to Unicol, the Unicorn-Colossal col. From the col ascend the easy north ridge to the summit. Ascent: 5 hours from Fairy Meadow. This was the descent route of the 1957 HMC party.

Route 3: Unicorn-Colossal Traverse (II, 5.1)
David Elliott, Fred Peitzsche, John O. Wheeler (GSC) August 1959
CAJ 44:71

From Fairy Meadow, climb the Unicorn by the southeast ridge and descend the north ridge to Unicol. Continue up the southwest face of Mount Colossal and then descend its east ridge. Eight hours round trip from Fairy Meadow.

Notes: The prominent SW ridge from the Austerity Glacier remains unclimbed and probably offers outstanding new route potential.(check with Larry Stanier, Rod McGown)

Mount Colossal 2,940 m / 9,640'

Mount Colossal is a massive granitic mountain west-southwest of Fairy Meadow and in full view of the Fairy Meadow cabin, map coordinates 361-344. To the south is Unicorn Peak.

First Ascent: East Ridge (II, 4th)
Benjamin G. Ferris, Andrew J. Kauffman, William L. Putnam, *H.S. Pinkham* July 12, 1948
AAJ 7(22):144; APP 27:164; 30:50

From the south edge of the upper basin of Enterprise Glacier, follow first the east ridge and then the south ridge of Mount Colossal to its summit. The snow on the east ridge is steep and inclined to be corniced, often in both directions. The rock along the south ridge is easy. Ascent: 4-5 hours from Fairy Meadow.

Route 2: Southeast Face, South Ridge (II, 4th)
David Bernays, William Hooker, Craig Merrihue July 23, 1953
APP 30:50; CAJ 37:46

From Fairy Meadow, cross the Granite Glacier either above or below the main icefall and reach the Unicol, the Colossal-Unicorn col. From the col, traverse under the difficult rock of the south buttress on snow until the foot of the snow slope on the southeast face is reached. Cross the bergschrund as high as possible. Move directly up on snow, gaining the summit ridge at the west edge of the slope and avoiding the cornice by staying near the rock of the south buttress. Continue north on easy snow and rock to the main summit. Ascent: 5-6 hours.

Descend the face, taking care for avalanche conditions and cliffs mid-slope which merit care if glissading. Descent: 2-3 hours.

Variation: Southeast Face Direct (II, AI 1)
Henry Florschutz, Eric Morris, Anders Ourom, Leif-Norman Patterson August 29, 1972
CAJ 56:68; p.c.

In late season the southeast face provides an interesting, short ice climb. Climb the face directly (3 leads of front pointing). There are several small transverse crevasses and potential for rock fall.

Route 3: Northeast Couloir (II, 4th)
Earlyn Deans, Robert Hall, Doug Kerr 1967

From the upper basin of Enterprise Glacier between Mount Colossal and Enterprise Peak, climb a snow gully up to the rock on the northeast slopes. Three or four pitches of easy rock lead to the northwest peak of Colossal.

Notes: *There appear to be no routes on the western flanks from Colossal Glacier, in particular the major west ridge on the southern flanks of the Colossal Glacier.*

The Horn 3,030 m / 9,950'

The Horn is the slightly higher (southeast) summit of the Unicorn. From Fairy Meadow, the Horn appears to the left of the Unicorn, but it is difficult to tell the two apart from the Ironman-Unicorn ridge. The Horn has a major west face.

First Ascent: East Ridge (I-II, 5.4)
Sterling B. Hendricks, Donald Hubbard, Samuel Moore, Arnold Wexler July 13, 1946
APP 26:194; CAJ 30:74

From the notch between the Horn and Unicorn, follow the east ridge or southeast face to the summit with modest 5th class climbing.

Route 2: Southeast Face (II, 5.7)
Brian Berry, Tim Storvick August 22, 1974
APP 30:56, FMHR, p.c.

Stay well out on the southeast face, avoiding the easier route, and climb the elegant, jam crack on solid rock. An interesting climb worth the effort.

Ironman 3,310 m / 10,850'

Ironman is a minor summit on the west ridge of Austerity Mountain, mislocated on the topographical map. A cliff blocks direct access to the north ridge from the Ironman-Unicorn col.

First Ascent: Northeast Face (I-II, 4th)
Alex C. Faberge, Sterling B. Hendricks, Donald Hubbard July 30, 1948
AAJ 7(23):264

From Fairy Meadow, follow the usual route via the upper Granite Glacier to the Ironman-Unicorn ridge. Cross the bergschrund to the rocks of Ironman and traverse southeast on ice. Snow, cracks and chimneys lead up the northeast face of Ironman to its summit. Ascent: 4-5 hours from Fairy Meadow.

{Anders Ourom – the “snow, cracks and chimneys” on the northeast face are much more difficult than class 4. The initial ice gully is full of large, loose blocks. Many parties will prefer the Ironman Bypass – shift to this peak? – also clarify whether the Ironman Bypass is the same as “East Ridge” below}

{The usual rappel from Ironman is steep and difficult and ropes have a habit of getting jammed on it}

Route 2: East Ridge (I-II, 4th)
Descended by the 1948 party July 30, 1948
AAJ 7(23):264

From the Ironman-Unicorn col, traverse out beneath the northeast rock buttress onto snow slopes (ice in late season) leading up to the Austerity-Ironman col. From the col, follow the easy east snow ridge back to the summit of Ironman. This approach is often easier than *Route 1*.

It is also possible to ascend the snow-ice slopes directly from the upper Granite Glacier to the Austerity-Ironman col, negotiating a bergschrund. Ascent: 4-5 hours from Fairy Meadow.

Route 3: Northwest Couloir (II-III, 5.6)
BC Mountaineering Club. July 15, 1973
CAJ 57:76, 79

From the ridge north of Ironman, traverse around to the large notch on the northwest face. Climb a dirty, icy crack leading up the face, 4 pitches with 1 pitch of 5.6.

South Face descent route:

Many parties camped on Austerity Glacier or the Unicorn Meadows will wish to descend the southwest flanks to return to base camp. From the Ironman Col, two pitches of 3rd class rock lead to the upper west reaches of Austerity Glacier.

Unnamed 3,200 m / 10,500'

A semi-independent summit forms the top of the southwest buttress or ridge of Ironman. A large gendarme bars easy access from the summit of Unnamed to Ironman itself. The ridge provides some of the best technical rock climbing in the area.

First Ascent: Southwest Ridge (IV-V, 5.7, A2)
Ray Hilborn, Robert Taylor, William Thompson
AAJ 19(48):164; CAJ 57:75

July 16-17, 1973

This superb buttress provides nearly 450m of very sustained mixed free and aid climbing on solid rock. Begin 60m above the lowest point of the buttress. Follow the right hand of two crack systems. There is a 25m vertical knife-blade crack in the third lead followed by hard free climbing to a small stance. A very awkward overhanging flared chimney is followed by one lead of moderate 5th class rock leads to a ledge 6 meters wide and 100m long. One more pitch reaches a ledge with an overhanging boulder (possible bivouac).

A vague crack system then leads over a small bulge. A bit of overhanging aid reaches a belay, followed by a moderate 5th class pitch leading to a lower angled section. A 4th class pitch goes to a flat area below a headwall. This wall is split by a single thin crack. Easy nailing for 20m leads to a broken area at the top of the south face. Easy climbing then leads to a slightly overhanging section, which is surmounted on aid. Easier climbing then reaches the base of a huge gendarme. The gendarme blocks access to Ironman proper, which was not reached by this route in 1973. Four singularly nasty rappels down a snow-ice gully avoid the gendarme and end at the glacier. Subsequent parties have varied the route as noted below.

Variation: Gibson-Rohn (IV, 5.10+)
Thomas Gibson, Robert Rohn
CAJ 65:82

August 1981

First free ascent. Avoid the dirty looking flakes and corners of the first two pitches by following beautiful face cracks around the corner to the right. The obvious right facing corner system, just left of the original route, can be climbed to the huge prominent ledge at mid-height. There is a tricky bit of face climbing just below the ledge (5.10).

Variation: Southwest Buttress- Left Dihedral (IV, 5.10+, A0)
Gustavo Brillembourg, Peter Cole
AAJ 26(58):192; CMBC:98

August, 1983

This route combines *Route 1* and its variation to form a very elegant line. Above the first two pitches of the original route, move left into a steep dihedral with a very thin crack in the corner. An overhang tops this dihedral. Pendulum left into the excellent 5.10 finger crack and follow it for two pitches, then traverse back into the standard route. The best approach is probably to climb this entire crack from the very foot of the buttress, starting about 10m left of the original route.

Route 2: South Face (IV, 5.11)
Gil McCormack, Tony Moats, Jim Novak
CAJ 70:79

August 1986

This very difficult route known as "Statton Cruz" starts in the center of the south face just left of a prominent black buttress in a left-facing dihedral. Eleven technical pitches lead to the summit of the buttress.

Follow a crack over an overhang and then out up and right, following the crack out of the dihedral (5.10). Go up and right, following left-facing flakes to a good belay (5.9). Go up a right-facing dihedral into a left-facing dihedral that leads to the top of the buttress (5.10). Starting on the right side of the buttress, lieback a right-facing corner onto the face, moving right to an obvious hand crack. Belay at a gray quartz band (5.10). Move out left and go up a right-facing dihedral into a chimney (5.10). The band of gray rock is rotten.

Move out right to a right-facing dihedral and go up to a belay just below a roof (5.9). Continue up to the roof and then out to the right. Traverse the face for about 10m to a small, right-facing dihedral. Follow this to a belay in the crack (5.9). Continue in the right-facing dihedral to a crack on the face; follow this crack, angling up and right to a large ledge (5.11, crux). Continue on a ramp, going up to a belay above an overhanging block (5.10). The difficulties relent for a distance. Scramble up a gully on the left to reach the main gully on the left

side below a smaller gully (class 4). Continue up the gully to flakes leading out left to the top. The last pitches are located just to the left of the huge gendarme.

Route 3: Northwest Face (II, 5.8, AI 4)
James Blench, Robert Orvig, Larry Stanier, Dave Stark
p.c.

May 1, 1994

This route is reported to offer exceptional climbing in winter conditions but may not be attractive as a summer route.

From a camp on the Austerity Glacier, approach up a large west-southwest facing slope to reach a large gully. The route follows a slabby gully descending from the notch between the top of the west buttress of Ironman and a large gendarme below the main summit of Ironman.

The 1st pitch is the crux, mixed 5.8 rock climbing and AI 4 ice on beautiful granite slabs for 40m. Three long, moderate pitches, mostly on snow follow the first pitch. The last pitch involves some tricky route finding through short corners and slabs to the summit ridge. Rappel the route. Ascent: 4 hours, descent 2 hours.

Austerity Mountain 3,350 m / 10,980'

Austerity is the high, northwestern summit of the Adamant-Austerity massif, rising between Ironman and Turret. Most topographic maps have the location misplaced, the correct map coordinates are 372-319. This granitic peak is heavily glaciated on all sides.

First Ascent: Northwest Ridge (III, 4th)
Frederic K. Butters, Edward W. D. Holway, Howard Palmer
APP 30:55, MES 266

July 20, 1911

From the Great Cairn Hut, ascend the east side of Silvertip Glacier and traverse the upper Neve to Silvertip Pass. Traverse northwest from Silvertip Pass to a notch on the west ridge of Belvedere and descend to the Austerity Glacier. Approach the west ridge of Austerity (southwest ridge of Ironman) over Austerity Glacier and pass around Ironman to the north to the upper tongue of Austerity Glacier.

Attain the ridge north of Ironman over solid ledges, usually with ice and loose stones. The first ascent party failed to traverse the northeast side of Ironman because of blue ice and thus they descended to the upper Granite Glacier and climbed the bergschrund and snow slopes to the Ironman-Austerity col.

The climbing on the northwest ridge is partly on snow and partly up cracks and chimneys; ice may make the final ridge very difficult. Ascent: 10 hours from the Great Cairn Hut in good conditions.

Variation: from Granite Glacier (II, 4th)
Alex C. Faberge, Sterling B. Hendricks, Donald Hubbard
AAJ 7(23):264, APP 30:55, CAJ 50:86

July 30, 1948

The original 1911 approach to Austerity from the south is rather roundabout and most climbers find the ledges leading from the northern Austerity Glacier to the Unicorn-Ironman col less than pleasant.

From Fairy Meadow, follow the usual route to the upper Granite Glacier. Climb to the summit of Ironman (see Ironman, northeast face) and descend its east ridge to the Austerity-Ironman col. From the col, continue along the northwest ridge to the summit as in the 1911 route. It is about 1 hour from Ironman to the summit. Ascent: 5-7 hours from Fairy Meadow.

Descent: A long, difficult rappel (a full 45m) leads from the northwest corner of the summit of Ironman down to the Ironman-Unicorn ridge. Most climbers will desire a prussik safety or other precaution.

Variation: Ironman Bypass (II, 4th)
Norman Brewster, Alex C. Faberge, Andrew J. Kauffman, David Michael
AAJ 8(24):56; APP 28:182, HMJ 14:49

July 18, 1950

When snow conditions are favorable, the Ironman bypass is the preferred route from the north. Follow the usual route from Fairy Meadow to the upper Granite Glacier. The bergschrund at the head of the glacier is crossed and the steep snow-ice slopes leading to the Ironman-Austerity col are climbed more or less directly, depending on conditions, which range from dangerous soft snow in early season to hard ice later on. If the bergschrund is problematic, it is possible to continue from the glacier toward the Ironman-Unicorn ridge and then traverse back, below the northeast face of Ironman, to reach the snow-ice slopes leading up to the col. From the col, follow the northwest ridge to the summit. Ascent: 5-7 hours.

The summit of Ironman may be visited on descent and a return down the steep snow ice slopes avoided by a difficult rappel from Ironman to the Ironman-Unicorn ridge.

Route 2: Southeast Ridge (II, 4th)
Sterling B. Hendricks, Donald Hubbard, Arnold Wexler
AAJ 7(23):265; APP 36:298

August 1, 1948

Straightforward and pleasant, but exposed rock connects the summits of Austerity with the Austerity-Turret col. The steep Turret Glacier (difficult schrunds) could perhaps be ascended to the col, but, thus far, the route has been used primarily in traverses between the summits of Turret and Austerity. It is 2-3 hours between summits.

Route 3: East Face, North Ridge (IV, 5.6)
Ken Andrasko, Robert Hall, Reed Markley, Edward Nester
AAJ 16(42):172; APP 36:623

July 24, 1967

From Fairy Meadow, follow the usual route onto the upper Granite Glacier. Ascend Turret Glacier (the tributary glacier descending from the Adamant-Turret-Austerity cirque). The usual route is on the west side, beneath the long northeast arm of Austerity's north ridge (Nester Ridge). When a point is reached above the debris from the upper icefall, turn northwest and cross the bergschrund on the east face. Five pitches of technical snow and ice climbing (masked crevasses) lead to a rock protrusion. A sixth snow pitch and then 2 pitches of mixed climbing (lichen covered rock, extremely slippery when wet) lead up and then right to the crest of the north ridge.

The upper north ridge is somewhat more difficult than it appears from a distance. Five or six pitches of mid level class 5 climbing lead to a ledge, just below the summit, on which it is possible to traverse right (west) to an ice gully which leads to the summit itself. Alternately, it is possible to continue directly up the crest above the ledge straight to the summit (5.7-5.8). Ascent: 10-14 hours from Fairy Meadow.

Route 4: Northwest Face (III, AI 2)
Henry Florschutz, Ric Morris, Anders Ourom, Leif-Norman Patterson
CAJ 56:68; p.c.

September 1-2, 1972

From Fairy Meadows follow the usual route to the upper Granite Glacier. Go up into the Austerity-Ironman basin and cross the bergschrund below the northwest face of Austerity. Nine pitches of 45-50 degree ice (snow in early season) lead to the summit. The climbing is fairly straightforward (some honey combed ice) until the steep escape gully at the top is reached. This can give difficult climbing on very tough water ice. Ascent: 8-10 hours from Fairy Meadow.

{Anders Ourom – 99 – seven 50m pitches. Six 45-50 degrees – half snow-half ice in 99 – in a dry/warm summer would be mostly ice. One 65+ degree escape gully pitch}.

Route 5: South Buttress (IV, 5.7, A1)
Robert Kirby, Richard Miller
AAJ 19(48):164; CAJ 57:75

July 18-19, 1973

A fine moderate line, which is easy to protect with nuts and camming devices and which is comparatively free from falling rock.

The south buttress of Austerity Mountain is best climbed from a camp on the Austerity Glacier. The buttress is located on the right (east) side of Austerity's south face and joins the Austerity-Turret ridge about 100m east of Austerity's summit. From Austerity Glacier, climb about half-way up the snow-ice couloir between Austerity and Turret to where a snow chute comes in from the left (west). At this point, climb out onto the south buttress and follow it to the summit.

The buttress provides 8 pitches of excellent rock climbing up to 5.7, with 6m of A1, which could probably be free climbed. Interspersed are a few pitches of 4th class climbing on loose rock and several easy pitches on snow.

The first 2 rock pitches are easy. Three pitches of 5.6 and 5.7 then follow, zigzagging first left and then right up the buttress. One easier pitch leads to a horizontal break. Three rope pitches, up to 5.7, lead to a short, 6m aid pitch. Three more pitches, with one 5.7 move, reach the ridge crest. A long day from Great Cairn Hut with a possible bivouac on descent. There are frequent bivouac ledges along the route. Gear: good selection of nuts and camming devices to 3 ½ inches. The party traversed west to Ironman and descended rock and snow to the Austerity Glacier.

Route 6: North Ridge (Nester Ridge) (IV, 5.7, A1)
Julius Bede, Robert Hall
AAJ 22(53):561; CAJ 63:91

July 1979

This classic route provides interesting and challenging climbing on rock, snow and ice. It was named by the first ascent party in honor of Ed Nester, a fine mountaineer who climbed extensively in the Selkirks, and who died attempting the route in 1978 after previous attempts in 1968 and 1972. (*rappel anchor failure*)

As the great north ridge of Austerity descends toward Granite Glacier, it bifurcates, forming a wishbone with a northeast and a northwest arm. These two arms enclose a small glacier amphitheater.

From Fairy Meadow, follow the usual route to the upper Granite Glacier. Climb up into the amphitheater and then reach the crest of the northeast arm via a 40-55 degree ice gully. The gully requires about 8 pitches; protection is available from nuts placed on the enclosing rock walls. Once on the crest, climb around an exposed 5.4 corner on the right (west) side. A steep exposed pitch (the least attractive on the climb), studded with loose rock, snow, ice and dirt leads tenuously to a steeply rising, very exposed snow arete (2 pitches).

Above the snow, 4 pitches (difficulties to 5.5) lead up a broken wall to a sheer, 10m nose or step (crux). Traverse right (west) around the step (tremendous exposure), placing an aid sling on a small projecting horn. A high step and then a 5m descent on thin moves leads to the base of a chimney (5.7, A1). The chimney (5.5) leads back to the ridge crest. Another 10 or 12 pitches of easier climbing (up to 5.5) lead to the cairn where the east face route joins the north ridge. A final six pitches (up to 5.5-5.6) lead to the summit.

A very long day from Fairy Meadow with a probable bivouac on the descent.

Route 7: North Buttress (III, 5.10)
Thomas Gibson, Robert Rohn
CAJ 65:83

August 1981

The Nester Ridge follows the northeast arm of Austerity's lower wishbone shaped north ridge. This companion route ascends the parallel northwest arm.

From Fairy Meadow, follow the usual route to the upper Granite Glacier and then climb up to the toe of the buttress. The crux is the first pitch. From the ledge above the toe of the buttress, climb steep cracks in a gully or corner (5.10-). One more technical pitch leads to easier climbing at the second step. From that step, climb steep flakes and traverse left beneath a roof to the slabs above. Generally easy climbing continues up to the summit. While there is some interesting climbing, the first ascensionists did not rate the northwest buttress a classic. Ascent: 8-10 hours from Fairy Meadow.

Turret Peak 3,280 m / 10,750'

From the south, Turret's huge, monolithic wall looms above the Austerity Glacier. Turret's summit, rising between Austerity and Adamant, is not easily gained by any route and offers superb climbing in a spectacular setting.

First Ascent: Northwest Ridge (III, 5.4)
Sterling B. Hendricks, Donald Hubbard, Arnold Wexler
AAJ 7(23):265; APP 30:55, 36:298

August 1, 1948

From the summit of Austerity, descend its southeast ridge over straightforward and pleasant (but exposed) rock to the Austerity-Turret col. From the col follow the northwest ridge, a series of 6-7m steps, which provide nice climbing on firm rock. The first pitches are easy with the difficulties concentrated on the upper, steeper section. Several rappels are usually made in descending this route. Ascent: 2-3 hours from the summit of Austerity; 7-10 hours from Fairy Meadow.

The technical climbing may be bypassed by ice climbing just below the rock/ice interface.

Route 2: North Glacier, East Ridge (III, 4th)
George I. Bell, Moses Goddard, Graham Matthews, Mary Ann Matthews, David Michael, William L. Putnam, L. Robbins Wallace
AAJ 15(41):373; APP 36:299; 37:305, CAJ 50:61, 86

August 2, 1966

From Fairy Meadow, follow the usual route to the upper Granite Glacier. Ascend the Turret Glacier (the tributary glacier descending from the Adamant-Turret-Austerity cirque). Crevasses are often troublesome on the Adamant side and the easiest passage is usually on the west, beneath the long northeast arm of Austerity's north ridge (Nester Ridge). Continue up the glacier towards the Adamant-Turret col. The

upper bergschrund can be problematic, particularly in late season. Once above the schrund, steep snow ice leads to easier terrain and then the col.

From the col, the east ridge, an arch of moderately steep and exposed snow-ice leads to the summit. Ascent: 30 minutes from the col; 6-10 hours from Fairy Meadow.

Route 3: South Face (V-VI, 5.9, A3)
Mike Down, Scott Flavelle
CAJ 65:82; 66:34

July 25-27, 1981

The south face of Turret dominates the head of Austerity Cirque and is the largest and most monolithic wall in the Adamants. A full 600m of technical climbing leads from the glacier to the summit.

The Down-Flavelle route follows a continuously difficult system of cracks and flakes just right (east) of center. The first pitch goes free on broken, incut diorite followed by a series of expanding arches. There is nearly continuous artificial aid to the top, with the crux coming on the third pitch. The first ascent party made two bivouacs.

Route 4: Southwest Buttress (V, 5.11, A3)
Thomas Gibson, Robert Rohn
CAJ 65:82

August 1981

This elegant buttress, the east retaining wall of the prominent Austerity-Turret snow couloir, provides a serious but classic route of 15 long pitches. The buttress has two distinct halves. The more gently angled lower section starts with two steep pitches in cracks (5.9-5.10), followed by a stretch of generally moderate climbing, interrupted by one short, poorly protected bulge. This initial section leads to a broken area at midheight below a prominent pillar and the huge vertical headwall. The rotten pillar was climbed by its incredibly loose right side. The crux free pitch then follows, a steep finger tip crack, followed by an unprotected lieback and an unlikely undercling out on a huge, perched, and, near the end, wafer thin flake.

The next pitch involved 8m of aid (A3, rurs and knifeblades; the only aid on the climb), followed by a spectacular dangling hand traverse and an off-width crack to a hanging belay. An obvious corner system above this belay starts with a small roof and finishes on a large ledge. Two moderate pitches leading to the summit succeed a final difficult headwall with intermittent finger crack and face climbing.

The original party descended by rappelling (16 pitches) down the rocks along the side of the Austerity-Turret couloir.

Route 5: South Face - Left (VI, 5.10, A3)
Gil McCormick, Jim Novak
CAJ 70:79

August, 1986

Another highly technical route on the south face. At the base of the face are two huge systems of overhanging arches; one at the right (east) and the other at the left. The Down-Flavelle route passes just left of the right hand arches. This route (Lily of the Midnight Sun) passes through the right edge of the left hand overhangs and thereafter stays a bit left of the Down-Flavelle route until very near the summit.

The first pitch follows a crack just right of a prominent ledge-roof system (5.7). There were 17 pitches in all with 3 bivouacs, the first (hanging) above the overhangs; the second on a sloping ledge half way up and the third on a good ledge a short distance above the second. Gear included knifeblades, large angles, assorted smaller angles, Leepers, a hook, Friends and nuts.

Project: South Face (VI, 5.10, A4)
Greg Foweraker, Tim McCallister, Peder Ourom
p.c.

August 1998

This route is located on the left side of the wall where it is steepest, merging with the southwest buttress (*Route 4*) at the large tower at about 2/3 height. This climb is a full on wall climb, the crux pitch involved expanding corners, hooks, rurs etc. The rock quality is excellent.

Bivy ledges are found at the junction with *Route 4*. From the bivy ledges it is possible to traverse an easy ledge to the right that leads out into the middle of the face. From the right hand end of the ledge, a rappel route was established to the base of the wall.

Adamant Mountain 3,356 m / 11,009'

Adamant is the triple summited and highest massif in the group with east (lowest), central and west (highest) peaks. All the routes are demanding and committing.

First Ascent: South Couloir (III, 4th)
Edward W. D. Holway, Howard Palmer, *Rudolph Aemmer, Edward Feuz, Jr.*
APP 30:55, MES 336

June 26, 1912

Although the south couloir is the least technical route to the summit of Adamant, it is not recommended due to the obvious rockfall and avalanche hazards. The climb should be made early on a cold morning when loose rocks of the gully walls will be frozen in place. Note that the upper Adamant Glacier is becoming increasingly broken and crevassed and may be very difficult to ascend in some years as in 1997.

From the Great Cairn Hut, cross Azimuth Notch and ascend Adamant Glacier to the prominent snow couloir on the south face of Adamant. Crossing the bergschrund at the base of the couloir may be the crux of the climb. Follow the left (west) edge of the couloir, climb the neck of the couloir (dangerous) and then ledges. Gain the southwest ridge, which leads easily to both summits. Ascent: 10 hours from Great Cairn Hut.

Route 2: Northeast Ridge (III, 5.5)
Andrew J. Kauffman, David Michael
AAJ 8(25):58; APP 28:184; CAJ 34:33; HMJ 10:68

July 21, 1950

This route uses the Turret Glacier to bypass the difficult lower buttress of the north ridge of Adamant and then, after working up the west flank of the ridge, follows the upper crest to the summit

From Fairy Meadow, follow the usual route to the upper Granite Glacier and Turret Glacier. Ascend the Turret Glacier until below the Turret Icefall. Cross the bergschrund onto the west flank of the north ridge of Adamant at a point where a shallow groove or chimney (sometimes snowy or icy and then difficult) leads up to a big ledge (hidden from below). This ledge supports a large triangular patch of snow or snow-ice. Climb up the snow triangle to its apex. Zigzag up rock (outward sloping ledges, sometimes icy) to the diagonal gully and ledge system leading up to the crest of the ridge at the notch (cairn). Continue up the ridge. The first step appears difficult but is split by an awkward chimney (5.4-5.5); the next step is easier. Continue up over rock and then snow, the difficulty easing to the summit. Ascent: 5-7 hours from Fairy Meadow.

Variation: Hall Route (III, 5.5)
Mary Jane Cross, Robert Hall, Roy Preshaw
FMHR

August 7, 1977

Follow *Route 2* to the bergschrund below the large snow triangle. Cross the schrund slightly higher up and climb steeply for half a rope length (front pointing) to a belay at the base of a ramp that peters out. *Route 2* is then one ramp below. Climb another half rope length up toward the Adamant-Turret col until it is possible to enter a class 2-3 ramp going up and left. Continue to a corner (5.4) and then make 4 leads left across the face on a ramp system leading up to the crest of the north ridge. Continue on *Route 2* to the summit. Ascent: 5-7 hours from Fairy Meadow.

Route 3: East Ridge (III, 5.4)
Arnold Bloomer, Roger Fahy, Joan Firey, Joseph Firey, Kent Heathershaw, Frank de Saussure, George Whitmore
MTNR 56:63

August 1, 1962

From the upper Granite Glacier, climb up through crevasses to the Adamant-Stickle col. Gaining the col is usually not easy; the schrunds being complex and often difficult. From the col, follow the east ridge, which is generally straightforward but which involves several 5.4 rock steps and some steep snow and ice. Near the top, it is possible to climb down or rappel to the glacier north of the ridge and so avoid the final steep ascents. Since the highest summit of Adamant is at the extreme western end of the ridge, this is quite a long climb. Ascent: 10-12 hours from Fairy Meadow.

Variation: East Ridge (III-IV, 5.4)
Hamish Mutch, Gary Staples, Peter Tchir
CAJ 70:79

August 8, 1986

The rock in the lower section of the 300m south couloir leading to the Adamant-Stickle col is very loose and unstable, creating considerable potential for rockfall. Although the couloir appears to offer an attractive means of reaching the Adamant-Stickle col it is probably best avoided because of the objective hazards.

From Great Cairn Hut via Azimuth Notch and the Adamant Glacier to the foot of the gullies leading from the head of the glacier to the Adamant-Stickle col. Cross the bergschrund and then climb the rock and snow gullies leading up to the col itself. Start in the gully to the right and then traverse to the main gully. There are difficulties up to 5.4 in this section. The northern approach seems preferable. Ascent: 12-14 hours from Great Cairn Hut.

Route 4: West Ridge, Traverse (III, 5.0)
George I. Bell, Moses Goddard, Graham Matthews, Mary Ann Matthews, David Michael, William L. Putnam, L. Robbins Wallace
August 2, 1966
AAJ 15(41):373; APP 36:299; CAJ 50:61.

From Fairy Meadow, climb up Granite and Turret glaciers to the Adamant-Turret col. From the col, 30 minutes of steep but broken rock climbing leads up the west ridge to the summit. This is a fine snow and ice route up a glacier, which can be very difficult, thus times can vary considerably. Ascent: 6-10 hours from Fairy Meadow.

Route 5: Integral Northeast Ridge (IV, 5.7)
Gary Colliver, Robert Cuthbert, Chris Jones, Graham Thompson
August 27, 1970
AAJ 17(45):388; CAJ 54:75

The Northeast ridge (*Route 2*) goes up Turret Glacier and then follows the upper portion of the north ridge. The complete ridge is long and formidable.

From Fairy Meadow, ascend the upper Granite Glacier. A difficult bergschrund defends the rock buttress, which terminates the long north ridge. Cross the schrund and attack the buttress at its lowest point. After some 120m, go to the right of the true ridge and continue to the top of the buttress, so reaching the first snowfield (or ice slope, depending on conditions). This lower buttress contains the principal difficulties of the route. Four hours from the schrund to the top of the buttress.

Continue on the snow-ice until a gangway and 2 pitches in a crack system lead to a notch joining *Route 2*. Climb the easier upper section of the ridge to the summit. Ascent: 7-9 hours from the schrund. The 1970 party descended the north ridge, rappelling to the west at the top of the buttress onto the Turret Glacier.

Variation: North Ridge Snow Ramp (III, 5.6)
Barbara Bertch, Reg Bunyon
August, 1981
CMBC 113

From upper Granite Glacier, climb up Turret Glacier but keep to the left (Adamant side) rather than the usual way on the right. Before the icefall becomes difficult, ascend an obvious steep snow ramp which extends down from the upper end of the snowfield on the lower north ridge right of Turret Glacier. In years of light snow fall, the snow ramp may not be quite so obvious.

Near the end of the ramp, a short horizontal traverse leads to a ledge system on the right. From these ledges, go straight up several pitches of good rock (5.6), following a series of cracks and chimneys. These lead to the crest of the north ridge, which is gained at a notch (cairn and old rappel slings). Continue along the upper north ridge to the summit. Ascent: 8-10 hours from Fairy Meadow.

Route 6: North Ridge of East Summit (III-IV, 5.4)
Mark Field, Glen Gierke
July 28, 1973
AAJ 19(48):165, CAJ 57:77

This route ascends the snow ridge to the right (west) of the Stickle-Adamant col as viewed from Fairy Meadow. A difficult bergschrund often blocks easy access over snow to the lower crest of this ridge. The rock at the very base of the ridge may then be climbed. Follow the crest up and eventually join the east ridge (*Route 3*). Ascent: 10-12 hours from Fairy Meadow.

Route 7: South Ridge (III-IV, 5.7)
Ted Davis, Glen Gierke
July 31, 1973
AAJ 19(48):165, CAJ 57:77

A truly outstanding route on very solid rock and quartz monzonite chickenheads. Highly recommended.

The original party gained the Adamant-Blackfriar col directly from a camp on the Austerity Glacier. Otherwise, from Great Cairn Hut via Azimuth Notch and the Adamant Glacier to the Adamant-Blackfriar col. Follow the right side of the south ridge (the left side is harder) but stay well left (west) of the great south couloir (*Route 1*). Many pitches of enjoyable third, fourth and fifth class rock lead up toward the summit. At the snow ridge below the central summit, cut west along a ledge system to the west summit. Ascent: 11-14 hours from Great Cairn Hut.

The 1973 party continued from Adamant over Turret and Austerity to Ironman. One rappel from the summit of Ironman leads to the Ironman Col whence 3rd and 4th class ledges lead down to the Austerity Glacier.

Route 8: Northeast Glacier (III, 4th)
William L. Putnam, Andrew M. Tuthill

August, 1973

This is a fine snow and ice route, which puts a premium on judgement of conditions and routefinding. It is an expeditious route to the summit of Adamant and would make a fine start to a traverse of the massif.

From Fairy Meadow, reach the upper Granite Glacier and then climb up the large subsidiary glacier northeast of Adamant. Reach the base of the slot at the west margin of the great arching icefall. Keep west of the slot, going up through crevasses to near the lowest "escape" ledge leading out onto the north ridge. Work up through another slot to easier snow on the upper part of the glacier. A long ascending diagonal to the right (crevasses) leads to the summit. Ascent: 5-7 hours; descent: 3-4 hours.

The Stickle 3,150 m / 10,330'

The Stickle is a handsome, pointed spire composed of quartz monzonite rock between Pioneer Peak and the Adamant Massif.

First Ascent: Northeast Ridge (II, 5.0)
Peter Aspinwall, Graham Matthews, David Michael
APP 30:55; CAJ 37:49; IRBC:70

August 10, 1953

From Fairy Meadow, ascend the Granite Glacier, crossing the upper glacier to the base of steep snow slopes below Stickle. Proceed through crevasses, going towards Pioneer Peak, until a level area about halfway up to the Pioneer-Stickle col is reached. From this area, climb straight up to the col. Ascend rocks from the col, keeping on the north side and proceeding diagonally up to the northeast ridge which is followed easily to the summit. Ascent: 5-7 hours from Fairy Meadow.

The first ascent party descended the northwest face on rappel to the Stickle-Adamant col. They then continued down the steep snow and glacier north of the col. Rappel pickets are useful for descending this often difficult glacier arm. Descent: 2 ½ -4 hours to Fairy Meadow.

Route 2: South Face (IV, 5.9, A2)
Gustavo Brillembourg, Peter Cole
AAJ 26(58):192, CMBC 115

August 1983

From the south, the Stickle resembles a miniature Dru. From the head of the Adamant Glacier, climb 200m of 50⁰ ice to the bergschrund beneath the south face. Cross the schrund and follow easy mixed ice and rock to the base of the 300m wall between the west and southeast buttresses. Start the climb at the lower of two diagonal crack systems leading into the buttress.

A 55m long and poorly protected pitch follows a groove in a chimney system (5.8). Traverse right into a chimney system and climb the chimney (50m, 5.8, A1). Continue up the chimney past an overhang to a small ledge (45m, 5.9). Follow the chimney for a 3rd pitch for 30m past an overhang to the top of the buttress. Climb up the buttress to the base of the upper face. Follow a prominent, thin arching crack (RP's and small wired stoppers) to a hanging belay in a corner below an overhang (45m, A2). A crack leads past the overhang to a ledge (45m, 5.9, A1). Two 45m pitches up a good crack system leads to the summit (5.8)

Big (East) Blackfriar Peak 3,260 m / 10,700'

Palmer bestowed the name Blackfriar to the two prominent peaks at the head of Silvertip Glacier because they looked like hooded monks. The larger Blackfriar is about 15m higher than its brethren to the west. The Blackfriar peaks have formidable north faces that rise directly from the Austerity Glacier.

First Ascent: South Couloir (II, 4th)
Charles C. Hayworth, Sterling B. Hendricks, Donald Hubbard, Samuel Moore, Arnold Wexler
APP 26:198; 30:56; CAJ 30:77

July 21, 1946

From Great Cairn Hut, ascend Silvertip Glacier to its head below the south face of the Blackfriars. Climb up the prominent snow gully that descends from the notch between the two summits. The bergschrund at the base of the couloir is usually filled with avalanche debris early in the season. Conditions in the 45⁰ couloir should be judged carefully, as there is obvious danger from avalanches and falling rocks, particularly late in the day.

The couloir's steep snow often gives way to ice at the top, about 30m below the col. This ice may be avoided by climbing rocks on the left (west) side of the couloir. From the col, the easy rock of the short west ridge leads to the summit. Ascent: 6-7 hours from Great Cairn Hut.

This party descended the rock on the east side of the couloir to a snow slope on the southwest face in order to avoid dangerous soft snow in the couloir.

Route 2: East Face (II, 5.5)
Graham Matthews, David Michael
AAJ 10(30):128, APP 31:224

August 21, 1955

From Great Cairn Hut, cross Azimuth Notch and ascend the Adamant Glacier to the base of East Blackfriar. Climb up the east face with variations onto the northeast ridge. Almost the entire route is on sound rock with moderate exposure. Ascent: 8 hours return to Great Cairn Hut.

Route 3: Southwest Face (II, 4th)
Arnold Bloomer, Frank DeSaussure, Roger Fahey, Joan Firey, Joseph Firey, Kent Heathershaw
KK 29:23 MTNR 56:69

August 7, 1962

The south face was descended by the first ascent party. From Great Cairn Hut, ascend Silvertip Glacier to the base of the southwest face. Climb straight up the southwest face on good 4th class rock, emerging on the south ridge just below the summit.

Route 4: South Ridge (III, 5.4)
Leigh Andrews, Harriet Kruszyna, Robert Kruszyna
CAJ 52:74, IRBC 67

July 1968

The long south ridge of East Blackfriar Peak is a classic mixed route on snow and enjoyable rock. There are a lot of ups and downs on the ridge steps if climbed in its entirety so it may be best to join the ridge crest close to where it steepens.

From Great Cairn Hut, ascend the east side of the Silvertip Glacier until, at about 2,600m, it is possible to gain the horizontal section of the south ridge. Moderate scrambling along the jagged crest for about 1km leads to a steeper part of the ridge.

Just west of the crest, ascend a series of chimneys and then cracks in steep slabs to a wide chimney leading to the ridge crest. From the base of this chimney, cross a rib to the right into a steep groove which is climbed partially by a lieback. At the top of the groove, surmount a short, vertical wall. The crest is then followed easily, with one steep groove, to the summit. Ascent: 7-8 hours from Great Cairn Hut; 10-12 hours round trip, descending the route via rappel.

Route 5: Northeast Ridge (III, 5.8)
Yvon Chouinard, Doug Tompkins
AAJ 17(44):146

August 10, 1969

From Great Cairn Hut, traverse Azimuth Notch to the Adamant Glacier. Ascend the Adamant Glacier to its head and climb to the Adamant-Big Blackfriar col. The northeast ridge is then followed, keeping more or less to the crest, to the summit. Ascent: 8-10 hours from Great Cairn Hut.

Route 6: East (Beowulf) Buttress (III, 5.7)
Mark Fielding, Ellie Hawkins
p.c.

August 1976

From Adamant Glacier, climb onto the east buttress. Three class 5 pitches, the first on the left side of the buttress, the next two on the ridge itself leads to the top of the first steep area. Several pitches of class 3-4 end beneath a steepening headwall. Traverse left to the south ridge and follow it to the summit. Ascent: 4-5 hours.

Route 7: Northwest Couloir (Consternation Chute) (III, AI 2)
David Jaecks, Robert Kandiko
CAJ 63:91; *p.c.*

August 1, 1979

The long ice couloir leading up the northwest side of the Blackfriar Peaks to the col between the two summits is very prominent from Austerity Cirque. From a bivouac in the cirque, ascend the east head of the glacier, cross the bergschrund on avalanche debris and climb the initial 40⁰ snow apron to the base of the couloir.

Continue directly up the 450m ice couloir, which steepens to 50⁰ with one 60⁰ bulge, hugging the right wall to minimize the hazards of potential rockfall. There is often much hard black ice but also some troublesome hollow and flaky ice as well. A cornice may also block the exit from the couloir. Scramble easily up the west ridge from the col to the summit.

This route has potential objective hazards from rock and ice fall and conditions must be judged accordingly. Ascent: 4-5 hours from schrund to col. The first ascent party descended the south couloir.

Notes: Probably new route potential by completing the complete east buttress. There also appears to be steep buttress on the north face that joins the northeast ridge high on the shoulder below the summit.

Little (West) Blackfriar Peak 3,240 m / 10,630'

The smaller 'monk' at the head of the Silvertip Glacier. This stubby tower has no easy route to its summit.

First Ascent: Southwest Face, Gully (III, 5.7)
Graham Matthews, James McCarthy, David Michael August 4, 1953
APP 30:56; CAJ 37:48; HMJ 12:37

An excellent route of moderate difficulty on firm granite.

From Great Cairn Hut, traverse Belvedere Peak by its south and northeast ridges to the Belvedere-Blackfriar col. Follow a wide ledge left (north) across the west face of Blackfriar to a prominent gully above a large snow patch. Avoid the temptation to continue the traverse towards the north although it might look attractive. From the ledge, climb up the gully for 6 pitches, one pitch being particularly difficult, to the summit. Ascent: 9-10 hours from Great Cairn Hut, descent: 5-6 hours.

Route 2: Northwest Face (V, 5.8, A3)
Ted Davis, Philip Koch August 2-4, 1973
AAJ 19(48):164; CAJ 57:77

The northwest face of Little Blackfriar is split by an obvious crack system leading directly from the glacier to the summit. From a bivouac in the Austerity Cirque, climb the crack system, which appears from afar to be a beautiful line but which, on close contact is rather wet and dirty.

The system is climbed in about 17 pitches of mixed free and aid climbing on generally sound rock. Three pitches from the summit, a great "Y" offers a choice of route. The original party went left which involved pendulums, mud and ice; they recommend a look at the right fork of the "Y". On the first ascent, 2 bivouacs, 1 in hammocks was required.

Variation: Northwest Face (V, 5.11a, AI 2)
Craig Ellis, Brandon Thomas July 17-20, 1998
p.c.

Climb the northwest face to the right of the couloir. At the top, exit to the right of the summit overhang. 3 bivies, 17 pitches. Peder Ourom watched these guys. Apparently they cleaned the route and added bolt stations?

Notes: It might be worth while to investigate the NE ridge joining with Big Blackfriar for new route potential.

Belvedere Peak 2,970 m / 9,750'

Belvedere, located at the head of Silvertip Glacier and northeast of Silvertip Pass, provides an excellent viewpoint of the Adamant Group.

First Ascent: West Ridge (I, 4th)
Frederic K. Butters, Edward W. D. Holway, Howard Palmer June 20, 1911
APP 30:56, MES 237

From Great Cairn Hut, cross the creek and make an ascending traverse along the east side of the valley over rocky ledges and snow to reach the upper Silvertip Neve. Follow a rising traverse across the neve, crossing Silver Pass to the base of the west ridge. The ridge is climbed to the summit without difficulty. Ascent: 4 hours.

Route 2: South Ridge, West Ridge (I, 4th, A0)
Alex C. Faberge, Sterling B. Hendricks, Donald Hubbard, Alvin E. Petersen, Chris Scoredos, Arnold Wexler
AAJ 7(23):263 July 26, 1948

The original ascent party traversed Silvertip Mountain via the east and north ridges to reach Silvertip Pass and the base of the south ridge of Belvedere. Most parties will reach Silvertip Pass after traversing the upper Silvertip Neve from Great Cairn Hut. Scramble north along the curving south ridge, making one rappel from a minor summit. The west ridge is joined and followed to the summit. Ascent from Great Cairn: 4-5 hours.

Route 3: Northeast Ridge (I, 4th)
Graham Matthews, James McCarthy, David Michael
APP 30:56, CAJ 37:48

August 4, 1953

The corniced northeast ridge was descended on a traverse to Little Blackfriar. It is possible to reach the easy northwest ridge from the head of the Silvertip Glacier over steep snow slopes (sometimes corniced at the top). This approach is usually used only as an approach to the regular route on Little Blackfriar.

GOTHICS GROUP

The Gothics Group includes all of the peaks in a crescent shaped ring around the Gothics Glacier. This group is bordered by Palmer Creek to the south, the Adamant and Granite glaciers to the west and Swan Creek to the north. Almost all of the peaks can be easily reached from the Gothics Glacier.

1:50,000 NTS map sheets Mount Sir Sandford, 82N/12 and Sullivan River 82N/13.

Geology:

The Adamant Batholith extends eastward to encompass most of the peaks of the Gothics Group. The center of the group is comprised of quartz monzonite grading towards dark speckled hornblende granodiorite and hornblende-biotite granodiorite towards the edges of the batholith that provides exceptional opportunities for climbing. The rock is generally very solid and rock fall is minimal except in local areas of structural weakness most frequently associated with gullies and couloirs. On the southern and eastern flanks of the batholith the rock grades into grey, silvery brown and golden brown quartz-mica schist, gneiss, pegmatite and amphibolite that generally offers poorer quality rock. In the southeast extremity of the Gothics Group, notably around Mount Stockmer, the rock is mainly friable limestone and marble. The largest potassium feldspar crystals found to date in British Columbia (individual crystals weighing 20 kg) can be found in the contact between the granodiorite and the host rock on the northeast flanks of the Gothics Group.

Access:

The usual access to the Gothics Group is via Kinbasket Lake Forest Road to Swan Creek and thence by trail to Fairy Meadow. The turn off for the Kinbasket Lake Forest Road is 47.5km west of Golden or 31.4km east of the Rogers Pass on the Trans Canada Highway. Follow the Kinbasket Road north for 63.8km (Road sign 111 – from Golden) to the Swan Creek logging road. Follow this road, taking the first spur right to the trailhead. The trailhead is 4.7km from the Kinbasket Road; however the spur logging road is rapidly deteriorating and is usually only accessible by high clearance or 4 wheel drive vehicles.

The trail up Swan Creek to Fairy Meadow was re-cut and flagged in the fall of 1998 and spring of 2000. It is about 5 hours from the vehicles to the Fairy Meadow Hut with full packs.

Some parties have used the logging road up Smith Creek (5.5km south of Swan Creek) to access the Gothics Group. Take the branch on the north side of the creek and follow it up a series of switch backs until stopped by water bars and wash outs. From the end of the road, bushwhack north to the crest of the ridge and follow it around various rocky pinnacles that lead to the northeast shoulder of Outpost Peak. It is possible to contour around Outpost Peak to a trail that leads to Fairy Meadow Hut; however it is not easy to locate the beginning of the trail from this direction and in general this route has little to recommend it over the trail up Swan Creek.

Most climbing parties use Fairy Meadow Hut as a base for climbing. A high camp on the upper Gothics Glacier although colder and windier than camps in the alpine offers certain advantages. The Adamant Meadows, located near a prominent lake on a bench immediately south of Gibraltar at about 7,000' elevation also provides a convenient camp site for climbing in the Gothics Group.

- Am alternate camp site from Fairy Meadow is a small gravel spit between two arms of the small tarn (Troll Tarn) about 1km south of FMH (346-395) at approximately 7400 feet. About 15 minutes either way to Granite Glacier or approach to Friendship Col
- Provide more information on the access to Friendship Col, noting the alternative of Pioneer Pass (west side)

Recommended Routes:

Like the adjacent Adamant Group, there are many very fine routes worthy of attention from the discerning climber. A selection of such climbs might include:

- East Peak of the Gothics, Northwest Ridge II, 5.7
- Gibraltar, West Ridge II, 5.7
- Gibraltar, Southeast Buttress III, 5.9
- Pioneer Peak, Northeast Face III, AI 2
- Mount Quadrant, West Face III, 5.8
- Mount Quadrant, Southwest Ridge I, 5.1
- Sentinel Peak, East Ridge II, 5.6
- The Gargoyle, Spiral Route II, 5.0

To access Outpost Peak, Quadrant Spire and the basin northeast of Mount Quadrant, cross Swan Creek about 200m below Fairy Meadow Hut, looking for a trail marked by white painted dots on boulders and trees. This trail follows a rising traverse across the wooded slopes above Swan Creek to the large basin north and east of Mount Quadrant. The trail was re-cut in 1997.

Outpost Peak 2,720 m / 8,910'

A granitic summit northeast of Quadrant Mountain at map coordinates 419-353 on the long ridge separating Swan and Smith Creeks.

First Ascent: South Ridge (I, 3rd)
Margaret Ferris, Moses Goddard, Don Sprecker July 1965
AAJ 15(40):157; CAJ 49:140

From Fairy Meadow, cross the lower section of the long northwest ridge of Mount Quadrant to the northwestern cirque between Outpost and Quadrant. Ascend the prominent scree gully southwest of the summit ridge and climb along the south ridge to the summit. Round trip from Fairy Meadow - 8 hours.

Route 2: Northwest Ridge (I, 4th)
Graham Matthews, Mary Ann Matthews August 6, 1966
AAJ 15(41):375; APP 30:301

From Fairy Meadow, cross the lower section of the long northwest ridge of Mount Quadrant to reach the basin between Outpost and Quadrant. Follow the northwest ridge of Outpost Peak with minor variations onto the adjoining faces to the summit. The rope was used sparingly by the original party. Round trip: 8 hours.

Route 3: West Ridge (II, 5.6)
Glen Gierke, Phil Koch July 25, 1973
AAJ 19(48):165; CAJ 57:79

From the basin north of Quadrant, the west arete (adjacent to the west ridge; between *Routes 1 & 2*) is followed to the summit. Ascent: 5-6 hours from Fairy Meadow. *{Where is this route??}*

Notes: The connecting ridge between Outpost and Quadrant Spire has several large, vertical sided notches that make a traverse of the ridge rather difficult.

Quadrant Spire 2,730 m / 8,950'

This granite spire is located midway along the Quadrant-Outpost ridge overlooking the tongue of the Gothics Glacier where it descends precipitously into the valley of Smith Creek.

First Ascent: West Face (II, 5.3)
Robi Fierz, Jo Kato, Scipio Merler, Hans Gmoser July 26, 1966
AAJ 15(41):374; CAJ 50:34

Traverse the ridge north from the northeast summit of Mount Quadrant to Quadrant Spire (about 45 minutes). Climb to the summit via a 20m chimney on the west face. Ascent: 3 ½ to 4 ½ hours from Fairy Meadow.

Route 2: North Face (II, 5.7)
George I. Bell, David Michael August 6, 1966
AAJ 15(41):374, APP 36:300

From Fairy Meadow, reach the basin north of the peak and follow the north face directly to the summit. The granite is firm with ample protection. Ascent 5-6 hours from Fairy Meadow.

Route 3: Northwest Ridge (II, 5.7)

Robert Kandiko, Fred Rose
CAJ 63:91, p.c.

July 23, 1979

Approach from Fairy Meadow via the basin north of the peak. From the gully on the north side of the west face, ascend a squeeze chimney and then move left over down sloping slabs. A chimney then leads to the ridge crest, which is followed in two leads to the summit. Ascent: 5-6 hours from Fairy Meadow.

Route 4: Southeast Ridge (II, 5.6)

David P. Jones, Joie Seagram
personal notes

August 11, 1997

From Fairy Meadow Hut, follow the trail toward the basin north of Quadrant Spire, and ascend the lower alpine slopes of the northwest ridge of Outpost. Traverse the ridge until able to gain the depression between the east lateral moraine and the slopes of the northwest ridge, which usually contains snow until late season. Continue along the depression and work up steep meadow to the shoulder leading to a gully that provides access to the ridge crest east of Quadrant Spire.

Ascend the most prominent gully, taking care for loose rock around several large chockstones – one roped pitch leads to the crest. Once on the ridge crest, traverse up and across the base of the east ridge to the south side and the base of a prominent gendarme. Climb discontinuous cracks and flakes on the arete bounding the right side of a chossy gully / chimney (5.6). Step across the top of the chimney and belay in a small alcove. Climb a short crack and flakes using chicken heads and then more easily to the summit. Rappel and down climb the route. Ascent: 5 hours from Fairy Meadow Hut; 1 hour from the crest of the ridge.

Notes: The west face may offer potential for a good route; however lose fractured rock below the face.

Mount Quadrant 2,790 m / 9,150'

Mount Quadrant is a multi-summitted peak lying northeast of Echo Glacier with a prominent west face with numerous routes. The mountain has NE, NW, Central and S summits.

First Ascent: Southwest Ridge (I, 5.1)

Benjamin G. Ferris, Andrew J. Kauffman, William L. Putnam
APP 27:167, 30:54

July 14, 1948

From Fairy Meadow, cross Shoestring and Echo glaciers (now across moraine left by the receding glaciers) to the base of the southwest ridge of the south peak. Ascend towards the south peak staying on the left (west) side of the ridge, dropping slightly to a snow patch on the southeast face about 60m below the summit. (It is possible to climb the ridge directly, 5.3) Cross the snowpatch and go through a letterbox to a steep pitch that leads to a saddle between the south peak and a small pinnacle to the east. Proceed west along the summit ridge to the south peak. Recross the saddle, passing south of the pinnacles to the middle summit and thence to the northeast peak for a complete traverse. Ascent: 3 hours from Fairy Meadow to south peak summit. This route is easy to descend in 3-55m rappels and is more direct than *Route 2*.

Route 2: North Couloir (I, AI 1)

Benjamin G. Ferris, Andrew J. Kauffman, William L. Putnam
APP 27:167

July 14, 1948

This route has been frequently used to descend Quadrant; although relatively low angle, the couloir may be discontinuous snow and ice with the potential for rockfall in late season. From the NE peak, descend onto the snowfield enclosed within the peaks of Quadrant and glissade to the base. Traverse along snow and scree crossing the lower northwest ridge of Quadrant to reach the Shoestring Glacier and Fairy Meadow.

Since there is very little glacier left in the basin north of Quadrant, a better line of descent may be to descend the morainal basin towards the drainage outlet. A short distance below the rock and talus is a trail that leads easily to Swan Creek and Fairy Meadow Hut.

Route 3: Southeast Face, East Ridge (II, 5.3)

Roger Gregg, Dmitri Nabokov, Earle R. Whipple
APP 30:51, CAJ 37:46

July 1953

From the southwest ridge, traverse on broken ground across the southeast face, passing through a 4m deep V between two huge upended granite slabs.

At the end of the traverse, below the col between the middle and northeast summits, climb a sloping 4 meter inside corner with an overhang above it. Make an awkward retable onto a sloping slab on the right (5.3). Ascend to the col (above the north couloir used as the descent route) and follow the east ridge of the middle peak to its summit. Ascent: 5-6 hours from Fairy Meadow.

Route 4: Northwest Ridge (Rabbit Ears Arete, II, 5.1)
William L. Putnam, Don Sprecker, L. Robbins Wallace July 1965
AAJ 15(40):157, CAJ 49:140; 52:74

This pleasant and moderate route ascends the northwest ridge. The ridge appears forbidding. From Fairy Meadow cross the lower moraine of Shoestring Glacier and attain the base of the northwest ridge. Progress along the ridge is easy until a large gendarme {The Rabbit Ears} is reached, which is passed on the loose, wet but easy east side to reach a prominent notch - the "slingshot". Continue along the crest, passing the gendarmes on alternate sides, to the summit. Ascent: 5 hours from Fairy Meadow. The rock tends to be more fractured on the east side of the ridge crest.

Variation: The Rabbit Ears. Some parties climbing the northwest ridge may be tempted to climb the Rabbit Ears. The first Rabbit Ear is easy but the farther ear is quite difficult. Climb an overhanging crack directly from the smooth sloping slab between the ears.

Route 5: West Face (II, 5.3)
William L. Putnam, L. Robbins Wallace July 1967
AAJ 16(42):172

This route is on the west face of the south summit (not the highest point), to the right of the big inside corner on the left side of the face. Start just right of the large, left-facing inside corner and climb to a ledge that angles up and right. Climb up the ledge and then angle left up the face to the top of the inside corner. Go right again and climb a zigzag route to the south summit following the line of least resistance.

Route 6: South Face (Dirk's Dike II, 5.7)
Dirk Brinkham, Glen Gierke July 1973
AAJ 19(48):165

"Dirks Dike" is the short, obvious line on the south face of Quadrant's middle summit. It is one rope length east of an unsuccessful 5.9 climb on the west face.

Route 7: West Face (II, 5.8)
Ray Hilborn, Robert Taylor July 28, 1973
CAJ 57:77

Follow an obvious crack system for three leads up and right to third class ramps to the summit.

Route 8: West Face (II, 5.7, A1)
Mary Jane Cross, Robert Hall August 10, 1977
CAJ 61:101

Start about 15m to the right of the lowest point of the west face in a 5m wide chimney or depression.

- P1. Climb up 40m, belay on the right (5.5).
- P2. Climb 35m to a large, high block forming a cave (5.5).
- P3. Go up 15m on chicken heads and step left to a crack; do not trend right. Ascend the crack to a very small belay in a crack. 25m, 5.7.
- P4. One move up the crack to a piton and traverse 3m to a thin crack. Climb this crack for 11m and belay on top of a block (5.7, A1).
- P5. Traverse 45m to a broken crack system.
- P6. Climb easy rock for 15m to a hollow. Then traverse right to the southwest ridge and follow it to the summit.

Route 9: West Face (III, 5.7)
Glen Frese, David Jaecks July 23, 1979
CAJ 63:91

This route is on the triangular face on the west side of the south summit, as are *Routes 5 & 8*. It is on the left edge of the face, left of the above routes, just to the right of the gully that rises to the center-south col, 50m left of the prominent left facing dihedral.

- P1. Ascend a crack and gully system (5.4-5.5).
- P2. Follow a right dihedral on small holds and chicken heads (5.7).
- P3. Traverse right and climb a chimney-gully system.

- P4. Climb up ledges (class 4).
- P5. Continue up broken rock and ledge systems (class 4).
- P6. An interesting face lead (5.5).
- P7. Continue pitch 6, ending north of the south peak. There is some vegetation in flared cracks.

Route 10: West Face to North Summit (II, 5.8+)

David P. Jones, Joie Seagram

August 9, 1997

personal notes

This route (Stem-winder) follows the prominent, semi-continuous right-facing dihedral that leads to the crest of the NW ridge just north of the NW summit. The lower dihedral may be the same as in *Route 7*. This route offers fine climbing on firm rock.

Scramble up to the base of the dihedral.

- P1. Climb the dihedral/ chimney for 35m and belay in a small alcove (5.8).
- P2. Continue up the dihedral and chimney for 55m, 5.7.
- P3. Trend up and left over a field of chicken heads for 50m, 5.4.
- P4. Continue up left on grassy ramps for 50m to the base of the prominent right facing summit dihedral leading to the ridge crest, 5.4.
- P5. Jam or lieback the corner crack for 30m, 5.8+
- P6. Continue up the crack for 50m to the summit ridge, 5.7.

Continue 100m along the ridge crest to the NW summit and thence to the S summit. Ascent: 5 hours. Several large cams to 5 inches are useful. Descent via *Route 1*.

Notes: The left facing dihedral leading to the summit of the S peak with an overhanging alcove about half-way up may offer interesting new route potential.

Houdini Needles 2,700 m / 8,850'

The Needles are located just south of Mount Quadrant on the northern retaining wall of the Gothics Glacier.

First Ascent: North Slope (I, 3rd)

Benjamin G. Ferris, Andrew J. Kauffman, William L. Putnam

July 14, 1948

AAJ 7(23):144, APP 27:167, 30:54

From Fairy Meadow, ascend across Shoestring and Echo glaciers to the col between Mount Quadrant and Houdini Needles. Climb south to the Needles over fractured but firm rock. Ascent: 3 hours from Fairy Meadow. The highest point is easily reached from either east or west.

Route 2: South Slope (I, 3rd)

Benjamin G. Ferris, Andrew J. Kauffman, William L. Putnam

July 14, 1948

APP 27:167, 30:54

Descended by the party in *Route 1* en route to Mount Pythias.

Route 3: North Face (II, 5.3)

Brian Berry, Tim Storvick

August 14, 1974

FMHR, p.c.

Ascend the north face via a line just right of the big headwall. The rock is fine grained, frost fractured granodiorite that offers pleasant climbing on an otherwise easy peak. Descent via the west ridge to the Gothics Glacier.

Magog 2,600 m / 8,530'

Magog is on the west side of Echo Glacier as one climbs to Friendship Col from Fairy Meadow. It is the northeastern of two overhanging pinnacles shaped like a curved tooth.

First Ascent: Northwest Face (II, 5.6)

Peter Aspinwall, James McCarthy, David Michael, Earle R. Whipple

August 7, 1953

APP 30:54, CAJ 37:45

Start in the snow scoop below the side that does not overhang. Climb cracks and down sloping ledges to the right of the notch between Gog and Magog and traverse left into a hollow in the cliff with dirt and talus. Climb into a higher hollow below the notch. A short, steep (10m)

pitch leads to a large ledge above the notch. Traverse left on the ledge to the slabs below the tooth and climb easy rock to the top. Rappel (60m) from the ledge, over the overhanging side. Ascent: 3 ½ to 4 ½ hours from the snow scoop to the summit; 5-7 hours from Fairy Meadow.

Gog 2,600 m / 8,530'

Apocalyptic companion of Magog, Gog is the easier, southwestern summit.

First Ascent: South Ridge (I, 5.4)
Dorothy Swartz, Robert Swartz August 1, 1950
APP 30:54, Trail & Timberline 387:28

From the saddle between Gog and Damon, ascend the south ridge with slight variations for easier handholds on adjoining faces. Cross a large flake on the west face about 30m below the summit. The summit boulder is reached from the west face. The descent is made via two 30m rappels. Ascent: 2 hours from the snow.

Route 2: West Face (I, 5.4)
William L. Putnam, L. Robbins Wallace August 7, 1966
APP 36:302

From the notch between Gog and Magog, traverse around to the west face and ascend, working to the right. Ascent: 1 hour from the snow; 3 hours from Fairy Meadow.

Route 3: East Face (II, 5.5)
Reed Markley, Frank Zahan July 26, 1968
AAJ 16(43):414, APP 37:324

Start on the Friendship Col side 10m left of the Gog-Magog col. Work up and right to the base of an 8m, vertical jam chimney. Climb the chimney and proceed along the ridge to the summit. A 40m rappel takes one to the base of the climb. Ascent: 4-5 hours from Fairy Meadow.

Mount Pythias 2,790 m / 9,150'

Mount Pythias is a small peak east of Friendship Col, which is between Damon and Pythias (the col location is incorrectly marked on the map).

First Ascent: Southwest Slopes (I, 3rd)
Donald Hubbard, Samuel Moore July 17, 1946
APP 26:196, 30:53, CAJ 30:72

From Friendship Col, ascend over fractured but firm rocks. Ascent: 30 minutes from the col, 2 ½ hours from Fairy Meadow.

Route 2: East Slopes (I, 4) APP 30:53

Approaching from the Houdini Needles, the east face provides an easy climb.

Route 3: North Ridge (II, 5.5)
Roy A. Jones, Graham Matthews Jr., Kim Matthews, David Michael August 12, 1976
FMHR

The north ridge provides a pleasant rock climb. Follow the east edge of Echo Glacier and climb three prominent rock steps on the ridge. There are an interesting variety of rock problems with an easy exit from the top of each step. Above the third step, 4 rope lengths of easy scrambling lead to the summit ridge. Ascent: 4-6 hours from Fairy Meadow.

Mount Damon 2,790 m / 9,150'

Mount Damon is east of Mount Sentinel on the west side of Friendship Col. on the northern rim of the Gothics Glacier.

First Ascent: Southeast Slopes (I, 3rd)
Benjamin G. Ferris, Andrew J. Kauffman, William L. Putnam July 14, 1948
AAJ 7(23):149, APP 27:164, 30:53

From Friendship Col, ascend on fractured but firm rocks and snow to the summit. Ascent: 30 minutes from the col.

Route 2: West Ridge (I, 5.4)
Larry Brown, Harriet Kruszyna, Robert Kruszyna August 1968
FMHR

From the Sentinel-Damon col, follow the west ridge to the summit. The route is mostly glacier with one class 5 pitch. Ascent: 3-4 hours from Fairy Meadow.

Route 3: North Couloir (I, 5.3)
Bernard Gerlach, Ed Nester, Joan Nester, Donald M. Wallace July 15, 1972
CAJ 56:69

The north couloir is to the left of the summit when viewed from Fairy Meadow. Traverse on snow below and north of Gog and Magog to reach a minor couloir (fault) with loose rock, snow and ice on the north face of Damon. Enter the left (east) of two inside corners and ascend four rope lengths to the summit ridge. It is then an easy 30m walk west to the summit. Ascent: 3 hours from Fairy Meadow.

Route 4: North Buttress (I-II, 5.6)
David Lloyd, Wayne Saunders, George Wallerstein August 1981
CAJ 65:83

From the Gog-Damon col, climb two pitches up a shallow gully and exit left on loose rock near the top. A 5.6 pitch is followed by one more good lead, then exit left and gain the summit. Ascent: 4-5 hours from Fairy Meadow.

Sentinel Peak 3,030 m / 9,940'

Sentinel Peak is a prominent landmark south of Fairy Meadow forming the northwest retaining wall of the Gothics Glacier. When seen from Fairy Meadow, the peak has a long north-northwest ridge. The summit offers a surprisingly good viewpoint.

First Ascent: Southeast Slopes (II, 4th)
Charles C. Hayworth, Sterling B. Hendricks, Donald Hubbard, Samuel Moore, Arnold Wexler July 14, 1946
APP 26:195, 30:53, CAJ 30:75

From Friendship Col, traverse below the south face of Damon on the edge of the Gothics Glacier. The rock of the southeast face is very easy and leads directly to the summit. Ascent: 1 hour from Friendship Col.

Route 2: North Ridge (III, 5.5, A0)
Marco Einaudi, Hugh Tanton August 9, 1957
AAJ 11(32):98, HMJ 14:49

Reach the base of the ridge from Fairy Meadow. The crest of the ridge is continuously difficult and exposed with gendarmes and deep notches. The rock is solid and each of the three notches must be passed by rappel. Exit from the first notch by the snow and rock of the east face. At the second notch, use the west face after the rappel. The ascent is a long and involved route with glacier travel on the descent. Ascent: 8-10 hours from Fairy Meadow.

Variation: Northwest Gully (I, 5.0)
George I. Bell, Mary Ann Matthews, William L. Putnam, L. Robbins Wallace August 7, 1966
APP 36:301

From Fairy Meadows, ascend along the upper Granite Glacier along the west side of the north ridge. On reaching the steep slopes leading to Pioneer Pass, angle up onto the northwest face. The true north face is formidable and is bypassed by a rubble gully that leads out onto the upper north ridge. Ascent: 4 hours from Fairy Meadow.

{Anders Ourom - & party climbed Sentinel Peak from the west – Pioneer side. Class 2/3 – is this a new route?? Ascent of the west/southwest slopes. Not the actual ridge/buttress} rising from Pioneer Pass but just to its right (south). 30-40 minutes of class 2-3. Broken and blocky with some loose rock. August 9, 1999 – Margaret Hanson, Zoran Vasic, Brenda Lomax, Brian Kuchinka, Nana Zolbrod, Anders Ourom

Route 3: North Face (II, 5.4)
Peter Fox, Parker Williams (GSC) 1961

The north face rises directly above the glacier. The rock although not severe is unstable. Not recommended.

Route 4: North Couloir (II, 5.3)
Margaret Bland, Diane Edmunds, Geoff Edmunds, Ed Nester, Joan Nester, Al Ramanauskas July 11, 1972
AAJ 18(47):443, CAJ 56:68

The north couloir, visible from Fairy Meadow, is located right of the north face. Approach over the glacier and climb over the bergschrund at the base of the couloir. Climb a number of pitches of steep snow, ice and very loose rock to gain the north ridge. There is considerable rock fall and the route is not recommended. Ascent: 6-8 hours from Fairy Meadow.

Route 5: Northeast Ridge (II-III, 5.0)
Mark Field, Rex Holsapple, Chris Winship July 25, 1973
AAJ 19(48):165, CAJ 57:79

The northeast ridge begins to the left of Nester's route in the north couloir. The rock is of very poor quality and not recommended.

Route 6: North Gully (I, 5.0)
Dartmouth Mountaineering Club (check with Glen Gierke) July 1973

No details are available for the ascent of the snow gully left of the north face.

Route 7: East Ridge (II, 5.6, A0)
Lowell Putnam, Andrew M. Tuthill August 10, 1973
FMHR

Gain the east ridge from the Damon-Sentinel col that leads in 5 roped pitches to the summit. The major obstacle is a gendarme that is passed by going around to the left via a crack to reach a gap. From the gap, stay left and chimney up a crack. Depending on the specific route, steep, overhanging cracks may be encountered (probably 5.8+). The route has some loose rocks and flakes. Ascent: 6-8 hours from Fairy Meadow.

Route 8: East Ridge of Sentinelle (II, 5.4)
Mary-Jane Cross, Roy Preshaw August 9, 1977
CAJ 61:101

Sentinelle is a subsidiary summit on the north ridge of Sentinel, just before the difficult steps on the ridge. The east ridge (Shoofly Arete) is visible from Fairy Meadow. Gain the ridge from the glacier and follow it to the summit, staying close to the crest. Just below the summit is a large snowpatch. Ascent: 5-6 hours from Fairy Meadow.

Route 9: East Ridge of Sentinelle (II, 5.5)
Steven Burley, Simon Carr July 1978
FMHR

This variant of the East Ridge is called Double Rainbow. From the base of the ridge, scramble 150m to rust colored blocks on the left wall of the gully.

- P1. Follow the lowest of 3 cracks in the slabs for 40m (5.2).
- P2. Continue for 45m to the foot of the summit slabs (5.0).
- P3. Follow the left-hand crack system toward loose looking blocks on the left skyline. Continue up a groove on the right, then left on a slab just below a sloping ledge to a belay, 45m (5.5).
- P4. Traverse left 2 meters, then climb up to the right following parallel cracks for 5m. Step right and climb a grassy groove to a belay below a big rock - 30m (5.4).
- P5. Continue up to the right and then follow a horizontal crack left over blocks and ledges toward a gully on the ridge 45m (5.2).
- P6. Climb the gully and chimney to the ridge, 15m (5.2). Ascent: 5-6 hours from Fairy Meadow.

Pioneer Peak 3,290 m / 10,760'

Named by Palmer on the occasion of the first visit and ascent in the Gothics Group. Pioneer is the center of three major ridges radiating to the west, northeast and southeast, forming the apex, if not the highest summit, between the Granite, Gothics and Adamant glaciers.

First Ascent: Southeast Ridge (II, 4th)

Frederic K. Butters, Edward W. D. Holway, Howard Palmer
MES 214

July 21, 1910

From Thor Pass (Thor - Gargoyle), traverse upward under East Peak of the Gothics along snow to the Gothics (East peak - Pioneer) col at 3,190m. Follow the easy rock and snow of the southeast ridge to the summit. Trouble may be encountered crossing the bergschrund below Gothics Col. Ascent: 2 hours from Thor Pass.

Variation: via Friendship Col (I-II, 4th)
Benjamin G. Ferris, Andrew J. Kauffman, William L. Putnam
AAJ 7(23):147, APP 27:167, 30:53

July 16, 1948

From Fairy Meadow, follow the usual route to Friendship Col. Then go around the south ridge of Sentinel Peak and across the Gothics glacier to Gothics Col where the original route is joined and followed to the summit. The route from Great Cairn Hut is rather long and this variant is now the preferred route.

Variation: East Slopes (I-II, 4th)
Henry Francis, Graham Matthews, James McCarthy, John McLeod, Craig Merrihue, David Michael, Dmitri Nabokov
APP 30:53, CAJ 37:46

July 25, 1953

From either Friendship Col or Pioneer Pass, ascend the east snow slopes to the rock ridge of the summit cone, traversing the snow summit to the main rock summit. Ascent: 4 hours from Friendship Col; 3 hours from Pioneer Pass.

Route 2: Northeast Ridge (II, 5.2)
Moses B. Goddard, Mary Ann Matthews, William L. Putnam, L. Robbins Wallace
APP 36:297, CAJ 50:61

August 4, 1966

From Fairy Meadow, proceed via the Granite Glacier (occasionally troublesome crevasses) to the northwest side of the northeast ridge. Cross the echeloned bergschrund close to the rock staying as high as possible. Work back left and gain the ridge crest in two leads. Continue along the ridge to the summit. Ascent: 6-8 hours from Fairy Meadow; descent: 2 hours via Gothics Glacier and Friendship Col.

Variation: Complete Northeast Ridge (III, 5.3)
Steven Horvath, Pat Post
p.c.

August 3, 1978

This variation gains the ridge at its very base and follows the crest all the way to the summit. There are several 50 to 60 degree pitches of ice.

Variation: Northeast Rib (III, 5.8, A1)

Full details are lacking. Start from a notch at the top of the first steep "buttress-gendarme" on the spur. This notch is gained from the snow crown on the northwest. The west side of the spur gives 5.8, A1 climbing while the east side is unprotected 5.7 climbing.

Route 3: Elegance Arete (IV, 5.7, A1)
George I. Bell, David Michael
AAJ 15(41):374, APP 36:300, CAJ 50:61

August 4, 1966

Elegance Arete is the most westerly of the ribs on the northwest face. Approach the arete from Fairy Meadow via the Stickle fork of the Granite Glacier. Gain the rib via a 60m ice gully on the east side. Follow the crest of the rib with passages on the west side to the junction with the northeast ridge (*Route 2*) at about 3,230m. Ascent: 11 hours to the summit.

Route 4: Northeast Ice Slope (III, AI 2)
Gary Colliver, Chris Jones
AAJ 17(45):388; CAJ 54:75

August 31, 1970

From Fairy Meadow, approach via the Granite Glacier. Climb the ice slope just left (east) of the northeast summit via a steep snow and ice ramp (front pointing). Ascent: 5-7 hours from Fairy Meadow.

Route 5: Northeast Ice Gully (III, AI 2)
Mike Paine, Chris Winship
AAJ 19(48):165, CAJ 57:79

July 19, 1973

Approach via the Granite Glacier and ascend the narrow ice gully to the left of the Colliver-Jones route. The lower ice is 50-55 degrees increasing to near vertical at the top. Ascent: 6-8 hours from Fairy Meadow.

Route 6: Northwest Face (II-III, 4th)
David Johns, Tom Ohmart August 1978
FMHR

From Fairy Meadow, approach via the Stickle fork of the Granite Glacier to the base of the Stickle. Cross the bergschrund onto the northwest face of Pioneer and climb the snow or ice slopes (210m) to the notch between the summits. The first ascent party encountered mostly snow and one short bulge of 80 degree ice; in drier years the difficulties will be enhanced.

Montezuma's Finger 3,200 m / 10,500'

This spire is located on the connecting ridge between Pioneer Peak and the East Peak of the Gothics. From the col between the peaks the finger is barely more than 40m high while from the Adamant Glacier it presents a fine granite face almost 300m high.

First Ascent: Montezuma's Revenge (II, 5.8)
Cal Folsom, David P. Jones, Andrew M. Tuthill August 14, 1973
FMHR, *personal notes*

From Fairy Meadow, follow the usual glacier approach to Pioneer. From the Pioneer-Montezuma notch, climb a crack and chimney to a ledge. Traverse right to a crack and chimney system that leads to the summit. Gear: cams to 2 ½ inches.

Notes: The southwest face may offer interesting new route potential.

East Peak of the Gothics 3,280 m / 10,750'

Southeast of Pioneer Peak is a thin, blade like summit between the Adamant Glacier to the southwest and the head of the Gothics Glacier to the east.

First Ascent: Northwest Ridge (II, 5.5)
Benjamin G. Ferris, Andrew J. Kauffman, William L. Putnam July 16, 1948
AAJ 7(22):147, APP 27:167, HMJ 9:49

From Friendship Col, traverse the Gothics Glacier around the south face of Sentinel to the Pioneer-Gothics col. Ascend snow on the northeast slope keeping close to the ridge crest and climb two short rock pitches to a prominent rock step.

Traverse downward along the higher of two snow shelves above the Gothics Glacier for 10m (often verglas under snow) to the base of a crack/chimney. Ascend the crack to the crest of the ridge using care at the exit chockstone at the top of the crack. A second step just below the summit can be avoided by traversing out onto the west face. A deservedly popular climb. Ascent: 3-4 hours from Friendship Col. The route is usually descended, avoiding the crack by rappelling over the lower step.

Variation: West Bypass (II, 5.4)
Andrew J. Kauffman, John Rupley, Andrew M. Tuthill August 1973

At the first rock step, climb upward and to the right 10m to an overhanging traverse rather than traversing down on the snow shelf to reach the crack. Traverse 6m into a chimney that is then climbed directly to join the ridge crest above the crack on the regular route. This traverse is much harder when wet.

Variation: Second Step Direct (II, 5.8)
Brian Berry, David Shaw August 1977
p.c.

Rather than traversing out onto the west face at the second step, climb the crack and small overhang on the north ridge directly. Nice sustained climbing for one pitch before laying back into the class 4 leading to the summit.

Variation: The Mummery Face (II, 5.4)
Steven Horvath, Pat Post August 1, 1978

Instead of climbing the crack, climb the face approximately 1m to the right of the crack. This long pleasant lead goes to the ridge crest.

Route 2: Southeast Rib (II, 5.4)
George I. Bell, David Michael, William L. Putnam
AAJ 14(38): 201; APP 34:687

August 13, 1963

From Fairy Meadow via the W branch of Pioneer Pass to the southeast corner of the Gargoyle. Cross the bergschrund and ascend along steep snow to the Gargoyle-East Gothic col. Climb up the southeast rib, which is the south (left) edge of a prominent gully that is discontinuously connected to the summit snow. Five leads from the col to the crest of the south ridge. Expect wet rock in places. The original party placed numerous pitons with one direct aid step in the second lead.

Once on the crest, follow straightforward snow to the summit. Descend via *Route 1*. Round trip to Fairy Meadow 11-14 hours.

Route 3: South Face (IV, 5.10, A1)
Gustavo Brillembourg, Peter Cole
AAJ 26(58):192

August 1983

A demanding technical route that ascends just left of the large dihedral that dominates the center of the south face.

- P1-3. Avoid the lower, overhanging section by starting from the gully to the right of the East Peak and dangling up and left on moderate rock.
- P4. Ascend 50m up a steep, left facing corner to a ledge (A1).
- P5. Move right past a right facing corner and climb up just right of the corner past a ledge to the base of a prominent right facing dihedral (50m, 5.9).
- P6-7. Climb 90 meters up the prominent dihedral (5.7) to a conspicuous band of feldspar. This band is also prominently visible on the Gargoyle.
- P8. Climb the face to the bottom of an off-width crack that rises to the summit, 25m; 5.7.
- P9. Climb the off-width crack for 35m to the summit (5.10).

Route 4: Southwest Face (V, 5.9, A2)
Fred Beckey, Eric Bjornstad, Jan Schwartzburg
AAJ 27(59):217, CAJ 68:57

July 24-26, 1984

From Adamant Meadows, ascend the Adamant Glacier to the base of this impressive, 450m face. The southwest face is convex and when viewed from the glacier below, appears almost like a ridge. The route follows a skyline view from the south, ascending a rib on the face.

The first third of the route includes awkward grooves, slab problems, and a long, wet, off-width chimney which required some aid. Poorly secured snow gullies and unprotected slabs must sometimes be negotiated. The first bivouac was two pitches above the glacier snow gully, while the second was on the dike near the top.

Above the dike, a chimney leads to a very difficult wide-open stemming maneuver. On the final head wall, the route follows a steep crack system, first in an awkward groove (poorly protected), then in a slanting, off-width crack (wired nuts; strenuous) and finally up broken cracks and a headwall pull-up. The true summit is about 200m west.

The Gargoyle 3,150 m / 10,330'

The Gargoyle is misplaced on the topographic map. The Gargoyle is northwest of Thor Pass and 200m southeast of the East Peak of the Gothics. {See AAJ 14(38) 202 – G. I. Bell}

First Ascent: Spiral Route (II, 5.0)
Norman Brewster, Alex C. Faberge, Andrew J. Kauffman, Elizabeth Kauffman, David Michael July 28, 1950
AAJ 8(25):60; APP 28:179, 30:52, CAJ 34:165; HMJ 10:71

From Fairy Meadow through Friendship Col and across the Gothics Glacier towards Thor Pass. When approaching the pass, bear right and cross the south ridge of Gargoyle at any convenient point and continue onto a wide ledge on the west face. Traverse across the west face following the ledge to its end. Then climb a short friction pitch over a boulder to reach the prominent feldspar band (sharp edges & friable rock) which leads around to the northwest face of the peak. Ascend a series of ribs on steep but well broken granite to the summit. This route is a lot of fun. Ascent: 3-4 hours from Friendship Col.

Route 2: Northeast Ridge (II, 5.4)
Todd Craig, Larry Dolecki, Jim Gudjonson, Karl Klassen
p.c.

September 1, 1998

From the Gothics Glacier, descend into the bergschrund and then climb steep ice to the Gargoyle- East Peak col. One party climbed the ridge while a second party climbed a 'gully' (which offered poor climbing and is not recommended). The rock on the ridge crest is good. On the descent, the party made a short rappel (15m) and then downclimbed to the col, followed by 2 rappels down the ice face. Ascent: 45 minutes from the col. A small rack of nuts to 1 inch is useful.

Post Peak **3,060 m / 10,040'**

Mistakenly labeled as "The Gargoyle" on the topographic map, this peak is located 0.5km south of the East Peak of the Gothics at map coordinates 392-307.

First Ascent: *The first ascent and route are unknown.*

Notes: *Likely new route potential on the south ridge.*

Mount Thor **3,030 m / 9,940'**

Mount Thor is located at the south-southwest head of the Gothics Glacier forming the southeast buttress of Thor Pass, map coordinates, 402-305.

First Ascent: South Ridge (I, 4th)

Edward W. D. Holway (solo)

July 13, 1911

APP 26:196; 30:52

From Great Cairn Hut via Azimuth Notch and Adamant Glacier (or more conveniently from Adamant Meadows), ascend the straightforward south ridge to the summit.

Route 2: East Ridge (I, 4th)

Alex C. Faberge, Sterling B. Hendricks, Donald Hubbard, Arnold Wexler

July 28, 1948

AAJ 7(22):264

From Fairy Meadow via Friendship Col and Gothics Glacier, cross the bergschrund below the north face to gain the east ridge. Follow the ridge, staying a bit below the crest on the south side to avoid difficult sawteeth to the summit (the ridge can be climbed directly ~5.0). The ridge can also be reached from Adamant Meadows on the south side. Ascent: 4-5 hours from Fairy Meadow.

Route 3: Northwest Ridge (II, 5.7)

David P. Jones, Joie Seagram

August 5, 1997

personal notes

From Thor Pass, ascend snow until able to gain the rock. Follow the ridge on mixed 4th and easy 5th class rock over a series of small steps. Weave back and forth on either side of the ridge crest following the line of least resistance. A short step is descended by rappel before reaching the minor col at the base of the summit ridge.

Work up and left on the arete, traversing up and across the northeast face beneath the overhanging summit blocks of the ridge crest. The crux is a short crack and stemming problem just below the summit. Traverse the summit and descend the east ridge. Ascent: 4-5 hours from Thor Pass. Early in the season it may be more practical to cross the bergschrund on the north face to reach the col leading to the final northwest ridge. A fun climb on generally firm rock.

Notes: *The SW face may offer interesting rock climbing potential.*

The Toadstool **2,850 m / 9,350'**

Located immediately west of Gibraltar, the pillar like Toadstool overhangs on all four sides.

First Ascent: West Chimney (I-II, 5.0)

Peter D. Alden, Craig M. Merrihue, William L. Putnam

July 28, 1953

APP 30:52, CAJ 37:45

From Fairy Meadow via Friendship Col and the Gothics Glacier, traverse to the col west of the Toadstool. Begin at a cave and wet chimney that is often icy. At the top of the chimney, face south, climb out on chockstones and then onto the southwest face for the remainder of the ascent. Ascent: 1 hour from the snow; 4-5 hours from Fairy Meadow.

Route 2: East Face (II, 5.4)
Reinhard Berg, Wayne Smith
FMHR

August 1968

From the Gibraltar-Toadstool col, climb the major crack and gully system on the east face for two rope pitches. An enjoyable double crack is encountered, one slit for the hands, the other for the feet. Ascent: 5-6 hours from Fairy Meadow.

Variation: East Face (II, 5.7)
Janna Leslie, Rick Leslie, Joie Seagram
personal notes

July 27, 1997

Climb a discontinuous and broken crack as in *Route 2* to a ledge. Climb a short crack followed by a short section that is negotiated au cheval before tunneling beneath a block, taking care for loose rocks, to gain a large blocky ledge. Continue easily to the summit.

Notes: Likely new route potential on the south face / ridge. The north face is blank and overhanging.

Gibraltar Peak 2,940 m / 9,650'

Gibraltar is a thin wedge of a peak located between Mount Thor and Mount Fria on the southern retaining wall of the Gothics Glacier with a very steep eastern profile offering superb technical climbing in an alpine setting.

First Ascent: South Face, West Ridge (II, 5.7)
Graham Matthews, John M. McLeod, Dmitri Nabokov
APP 30:52, CAJ 37:45

July 28, 1953

From Friendship Col, cross the Gothics Glacier to the Gibraltar-Toadstool col. From the col, descend a class 4 gully to the south side, looking for a west facing chimney leading up behind a pillar. The start of the route's technical climbing is directly above the highest point of snow on the south side where a flaring chimney-crack leads up into the chimney behind the pillar.

The same point of departure may also be approached more readily via the Toadstool-Thor col. However, loose boulders on the moraines require care. In late season, when the snow is not as high, the start of the flaring chimney-crack will be quite hard (5.9). Early ascents used a shoulder stand or aid but the well-protected moves at the start will yield to a strenuous combination of jamming and chimney technique.

Continue up the chimney to a large ledge at the top of the pillar. 5.4 climbing then leads up onto the crest of the west ridge, which is a sharp knife-edge providing excellent and enjoyable climbing.

Go south around a gendarme (class 3-4) and then through a hole to the north face. More class 4 climbing and a 5.5 lieback then lead to a 5.5 jam crack that is followed by class 4 rock to the summit; all this is on or near the ridge. Ascent: 3-5 hours from the snow.

Descent options: from the bottom of the jam crack high on the ridge, a 45m rappel ends on the ledges on the south side. Just west of where the route gains the crest of the west ridge, a 50m rappel can be done down the north side. It is also possible to rappel 45m down to the top of the initial pillar and then another 45m down the south side of the pillar to the base.

Variation: West Ridge from Gothics Glacier (II, 5.6)
Gordon Antenbring, Peter Fox (GSC)
personal notes

August 1960

NOTE: in 1997 there was a major loose block 10m from the ridge crest that is difficult to climb around. This block threatens the lower pitches of the climb.

A less difficult approach to the excellent climbing on the upper west ridge. From the upper basin of Gothics Glacier on the north side of the peak, cross the bergschrund (often difficult) and climb up a vertical gully until it ends. Continue up over moderately difficult rock to the crest of the west ridge. Follow the upper west ridge to the summit as in *Route 1*. Several rappel pitons on this route mark a descent route.

Variation: Complete West Ridge (III, 5.6-5.7, A2)
Henry Florschutz, Ric Morris, Anders Ourom, Leif Norman Patterson
CAJ 56:68; p.c.

September 3, 1972

An elegant line along the entire west ridge. From the Gibraltar-Toadstool col, climb up easy class 5 rock to a large platform on the ridge crest. Descend the south side of the platform and go around the corner. From this point, medium class 5 climbing leads up a chimney to a small niche. Climb up a groove which has no crack; nuts may be used for aid. This leads back to the ridge crest, here broken and easier,

which is then followed to the base of a gendarme. Go around the north side of this tower and reach its top. Continue up the upper ridge as in *Route 1*.

Route 2: Southeast Buttress (III, 5.9)
Cal Folsom, David P. Jones
FMHR, *personal notes*

August 2, 1973

From the south edge of the Gothics Glacier, start on the northeast corner of the peak at the highest point of snow. The initial long lead ascends an easy gully or chimney (moss and loose rock). Two more pitches work up a ledge system (easy class 5) to gain the southeast corner. Step around the corner and climb the first obvious crack (5.8 hand crack) leading up the southeast corner. Belay at the top of this 25m crack, by a large hole under a chimney. The chimney (flared, off-width and strenuous 5.9) evolves into a jam crack. At the top of the crack, go left on a ledge under an overhang. Bypass an off-width crack and continue to a belay at a jam crack with chicken heads. Climb up this crack and go right around an overhanging block (5.7). Start up the crack that goes up on the left, leave it, and go around the right corner on a thin crack to a gully. At the top of the gully, the final pitch goes up a vertical face of some 6 meters in height, which is due east on Gibraltar. It is poorly protected (5.9). A large bucket hold on the right at the top makes possible the finishing moves.

Variation: Northeast Buttress to Southeast Buttress (III, 5.9)
Glen Frese, David Jaecks
CAJ 63:91, p.c.

July 31, 1979

Begin on the toe of the northeast buttress and traverse up and across to join the southeast buttress.

Notes: Probably new route potential on the south face as well as the northeast face. The northwest face tends to have more loose rock.

Mount Fria 2,970 m / 9,750'

Mount Fria is located on the south retaining wall of the Gothics Glacier between Gibraltar to the west and Mount Wotan to the east.

First Ascent: East Ridge (I, 4th)
John M. McLeod, Dmitri Nabokov, William L. Putnam
APP 30:52, CAJ 37:45

July 27, 1953

From the Gothics Glacier, climb the prominent east snow ridge. Near the summit bear south to avoid the cornice and follow easy rocks to the summit. Ascent: 3-5 hours from Fairy Meadow.

Route 2: Southwest Slopes (I, 4th)
John M. McLeod, Dmitri Nabokov, William L. Putnam
APP 30:52, CAJ 37:45

July 27, 1953

The original descent route via a snow couloir on the southwest side of Fria. Climb up the couloir to a small glacier on Fria's south flank. Continue over snow and easy, loose boulders to the summit. Ascent: 3 hours from Friendship Col.

Route 3: North Face (II, 4th)
Roy A. Jones, Graham Matthews Jr., Kim Matthews, David Michael
FMHR

August 8, 1976

Ascend a break in the slabs just west of the center of the north face. Broken rock leads to a chimney-gully in the steeper upper cliffs. The 1976 party was stormed off 10m from the ridge crest (incomplete ascent).

Notes: May be an opportunity for a new route on the west ridge from the Fria-Gibraltar col.

Mount Wotan (Sir Benjamin) 3,000 m / 9,850'

A jagged, double summit east of Mount Fria whose west summit is slightly (3m) higher.

East Summit

First Ascent: East Ridge (I, 4th)
Alex C. Faberge, Andrew J. Kauffman, David Michael
APP 28:186, 30:51; CAJ 34:165, HMJ 10:71

July 25, 1950

From Friendship Col cross the Gothics Glacier to the east end of the east ridge near Unnamed (Wotan). Proceed west along the ridge, staying on the south side to avoid the cornices overhanging the Gothics Neve. Continue to the rocks, passing around a gendarme and so gaining the summit. Ascent: 2-3 hours from Friendship Col.

West Summit

First Ascent: West Ridge (I-II, 4th)
Peter Alden, Graham Matthews, David K. Smith
APP 30:51; CAJ 37:46

July 25, 1953

From Fairy Meadow via Friendship Col, cross the Gothics Glacier staying east of the prominent snow ridge leading to Fria. Cross the bergschrund and climb up steep snow to the main west ridge, thence along the ridge to the summit. Ascent: 2-3 hours from Friendship Col.

Route 2: South Slopes (I, 4th)
Peter Alden, Graham Matthews, David K. Smith
APP 30:51; CAJ 37:46

July 25, 1953

Original descent route. Start up the east ridge of the east peak. Near the summit of the east peak, a ledge cuts across its south face. Follow this ledge west until it is possible to climb a snow couloir for about 50m to the summit of the west peak. Easier than the west ridge. Ascent: 4-6 hours from Fairy Meadow.

Route 3: Southwest Face (II, 5.6)
Brian Berry, Henry Padgett, Tim Storvick
FMHR, p.c.

August 7, 1976

From Adamant Meadows, ascend into the bowl below the southwest face. Work out right on the ledges to ascend steeply angled cracks and flakes up and right for three pitches to the ridge. Follow the ridge easily to the summit pitch, which is 5.0. This route, dubbed Flakes and Flowers, offers some athletic 5.6 moves which makes for a very enjoyable and thrilling climb.

Route 4: South (Notung) Buttress (II, 5.8)
Steven Horvath, Brad Kryski
p.c.

August 5, 1986

From Adamant Meadows, cross the Fria Glacier to the south buttress of the west peak. Notung Buttress forges its way up the edge of a triangular flake on the left side of the south face. The approach from the Meadows requires 2-3 hours.

Scramble up to a rubbly ledge at the foot of the buttress.

- P1. Climb to the left (west) of the buttress proper for 40m. There is some moss and protection is tricky and pitons are useful.
- P2. Continue for 30m on easy class 5 rock.
- P3. Climb a magnificent jam left trending crack with some overhangs both well-protected and steep 5.8.
- P4. A short lead (25m) reaches the boulder and scree field at the top of the buttress. Scramble to the summit. A few knife blades and chocks.

Ascent: 4-5 hours on the buttress; 6-8 hours from Adamant Meadows.

Mount Sir George 2,970 m / 9,750'

A nondescript summit approximately 0.8km southeast of Unnamed (Wotan) with map coordinates 438-309.

First Ascent: Northwest Ridge (II, 4th)
Jamie Fitzgerald, Kevin Mitchell, William L. Putnam
FMHR

August 16, 1973

From the Gothics Glacier, cross the retaining wall between Unnamed (Wotan) and Yggdrasil to reach and then climb the snow of the northwest ridge.

Notes: This summit is more easily approached from the Wotan-Unnamed (Wotan) col.

Wotan 3,000 m / 9,850'

A sharp summit along the south edge of the Gothics Glacier whose ridges curve southwest to Mount Wotan and north-northeast to Yggdrasil with map coordinates 431-314.

First Ascent: Southwest Ridge (I, 4th)
Benjamin G. Ferris, Andrew J. Kauffman, William L. Putnam, *Henry S. Pinkham* July 14, 1948
AAJ 7(23):144, APP 27:167; 30:51, HMJ 9:49

From Friendship Col, cross the Gothics Glacier and gain the snow slopes on the west side of the peak. Climb this slope to the southwest ridge. Proceed along the ridge, over easy, broken rock to the summit cone. To avoid overly fractured rocks, work around to the south and southeast slopes and follow them to the summit. Ascent: 2 hours from Friendship Col.

Route 2: East Face, Northeast Ridge (II, 4th)
David Bernays, David Michael & HMC Party July 24, 1953
APP 30:51

From the Gothics Glacier, circle the northeast side of the peak to reach the base of the east face. Start up the face just north of a prominent gully and work up to the crest of the northeast ridge. Follow the easy rocks of the ridge to the summit. Ascent: 4-5 hours from Friendship Col.

Route 3: West Face (II, 4th)
Graham Matthews, Dmitri Nabokov, James Newell July 27, 1953
APP 30:51

From the west side of the peak, ascend the snow slope toward the southwest ridge just as in *Route 1*. Rather than continuing all the way to the southwest ridge, proceed straight up the rock of the west face with no special difficulties, rejoining *Route 1* about 120m below the summit. Ascent: 3 hours from Friendship Col.

Yggdrasil Mountain 2,990 m / 9,800'

Yggdrasil was the great ash tree of Norse mythology. Although guarded by the Norns (demigoddesses who controlled the fates of gods and men), its roots were continually gnawed by a monster. This peak lies north-northeast of Wotan on the southeast rim of the Gothics Glacier.

First Ascent: South Ridge (II, 5.0)
William L. Putnam, Arthur H. Read July 28, 1953
PP 30:51, CAJ 37:46

From Friendship Col, cross the Gothics Glacier to the basin east of Wotan. Climb southeast up a tongue of snow onto very loose rocks with fractures slanting outwards. These rocks lead up to the col between two of the three pinnacles on the south ridge of Yggdrasil. A moderately difficult pitch up the southeast face of the middle pinnacle leads to its summit. An easy connecting ridge then extends to the main summit. Ascent: 3-5 hours from Friendship Col.

Route 2: Southeast Slopes (I, 4th)
William L. Putnam, Arthur H. Read July 28, 1953
APP 30:51

The original descent route. From Gothics Glacier, climb up easy snow on the southeast flank of the peak to the main summit. This is the easiest route and preferred line of descent. Ascent: 2-3 hours from Friendship Col.

Route 3: North Face (III, 4th)
Murray Foubister, Hamish Mutch, Roy Preshaw August 10, 1977
CAJ 61:101

From the Gothics Glacier, gain the foot of the north face. On this face, below and left of the summit is a hanging glacier. Gain the right hand side of this hanging glacier and take the upper slopes directly to the summit. Some ice pitches are just over 55 degrees, providing an interesting and worthwhile snow and ice route.

Notes: There may be new route potential on the northeast ridge.