

BMC Summary Report form

Name of expedition: Oxford West Greenland Expedition 2013

BMC ref: 13/20

Brief Resume: A team of British climbers (Tom Codrington, Jacob Cook, Peter Hill, Ian Faulkner) joined a pair of sailors (Clive Woodman, British, and Angela Lilienthal, German) on their yacht 'Cosmic Dancer' to seek out new Big Wall routes in W Greenland. Tom, Peter, Clive and Angela sailed from Montreal on 12/06/13, met Jacob and Ian in Aasiaat on 17/07/13 and climbed in the Uummannaq region until 17/08/13. They succeeded in climbing two new routes on the Horn of Upernivik Island and a major new route on each of Uummannaq NW peak, Ivnarssuaq Great Wall, Umanatsiaq Mountain and Nugssuaq as well as single-pitch climbs near Uummannaq, Ikerasak, St John's and St Pierre.

Name and details of leader: Tom Codrington, 07985950399, thomas.codrington@gmail.com, 214 Macmillan Way, London, SW17 6AW

Original objective: To seek out new technical rock routes in the Uummannaq and Upernavik regions, including the Horn of Upernivik Island and Qaersorsuaq, in mostly Alpine style reverting to capsule-style Big Walling where necessary.

Reasons for change: The Cosmic Dancer developed engine trouble while the climbers were on the Horn, making the journey to Upernavik unfeasible. Instead we explored new areas in the Uummannaq region. Every route bar one was climbed in clean Alpine style thanks to 24h daylight.

Access and Approach: The local population in Uummannaq are well used to navigating the fjord but visiting boats need to be mindful of icebergs, poor winds and poor anchorages. All journeys in Greenland take longer than expected.

Technical details of all routes attempted:

- Horn of Upernivik Island (1700m)
 - 'Choss, the Universe and Everything' E2/XS 5c 1200m 21-22/07/13. Tom Codrington & Peter Hill made the second ascent of the mountain in a single 42h Alpine push up a series of weaknesses before down-climbing and abseiling the route, meeting the line of 'Cosmic Rave' at half-height.
 - 'Cosmic Rave' E6 6b 1000m 21-25/07/13. Jacob Cook and Ian Faulkner followed George Ullrich & Matt Burdekin's 2010 super-direct attempt on the face, fixing lines to 300m before pushing to the top to claim the first ascent of the main face and the third ascent of the mountain in a 30h push and descending via Choss, the Universe and Everything. Their first attempt at a push was aborted after rockfall caused by Tom and Peter above. The team placed one bolt on the route.
- Uummannaq NW peak (1170m)
 - 'Islands in the Sky' E4 6a 810m. Ian and Tom climbed the lower tier of the peak Alpine-style before rain forced a retreat down a scree gully. Jacob, Tom and Peter

returned up the scree gully to extend the route up the headwall in a 20h push to make the second ascent of the peak, descending via one troublesome abseil and a series of scree gullies.

- Ivnarsuaq Great Wall (1270m)
 - 'The Incredible Orange' E3 5c 800m. Tom and Ian made the first ascent of this previously unknown face in a 72h Alpine push, bivying twice on poor ledges. The plumb-vertical Great Wall is actually a pillar connected to the mainland by an unstable bridge.
- Umanatsiaq Mountain (824m)
 - 'Flake or Death' XS 5b 200m. Peter and Jacob established the first climbing route on Umanatsiaq Mountain on very loose rock before descending an oft-climbed ridge. They were previously repelled on a more ambitious route after Jacob took a large fall, injuring his ankle.
- Nugssuaq (986m)
 - 'That Sinking Feeling' E5 5c 300m. Jacob, Ian and Peter made the first ascent of this previously unknown face in a 20h push. The striking knife-blade feature offered little gear and was connected to the mainland.
- Single-pitch climbs near Uummanaq:
 - 'Crumbs in the Bilges' E3 5c, 'Bilgefruit' HVS 5a, 'Strong Headwinds' E1 5b, 'You Make Your Own Luck' E3 5c.
- Single-pitch climbs near Ikerasak:
 - 'The Devil Wears Prada' VS 4c, 'The Devil Wears Rab' E3 6a, 'Raging Punters' S 4a, 'Touching the Floyd' VS 4c.
- One single-pitch climb in St John's, Canada, and two single-pitch climbs in St Pierre, France.

Comments on admin and logistics: Although minimal administration is required and no peak permits are necessary, all Greenlandic logistics take longer than expected. Procuring non-climbing supplies is straightforward even in remote settlements.

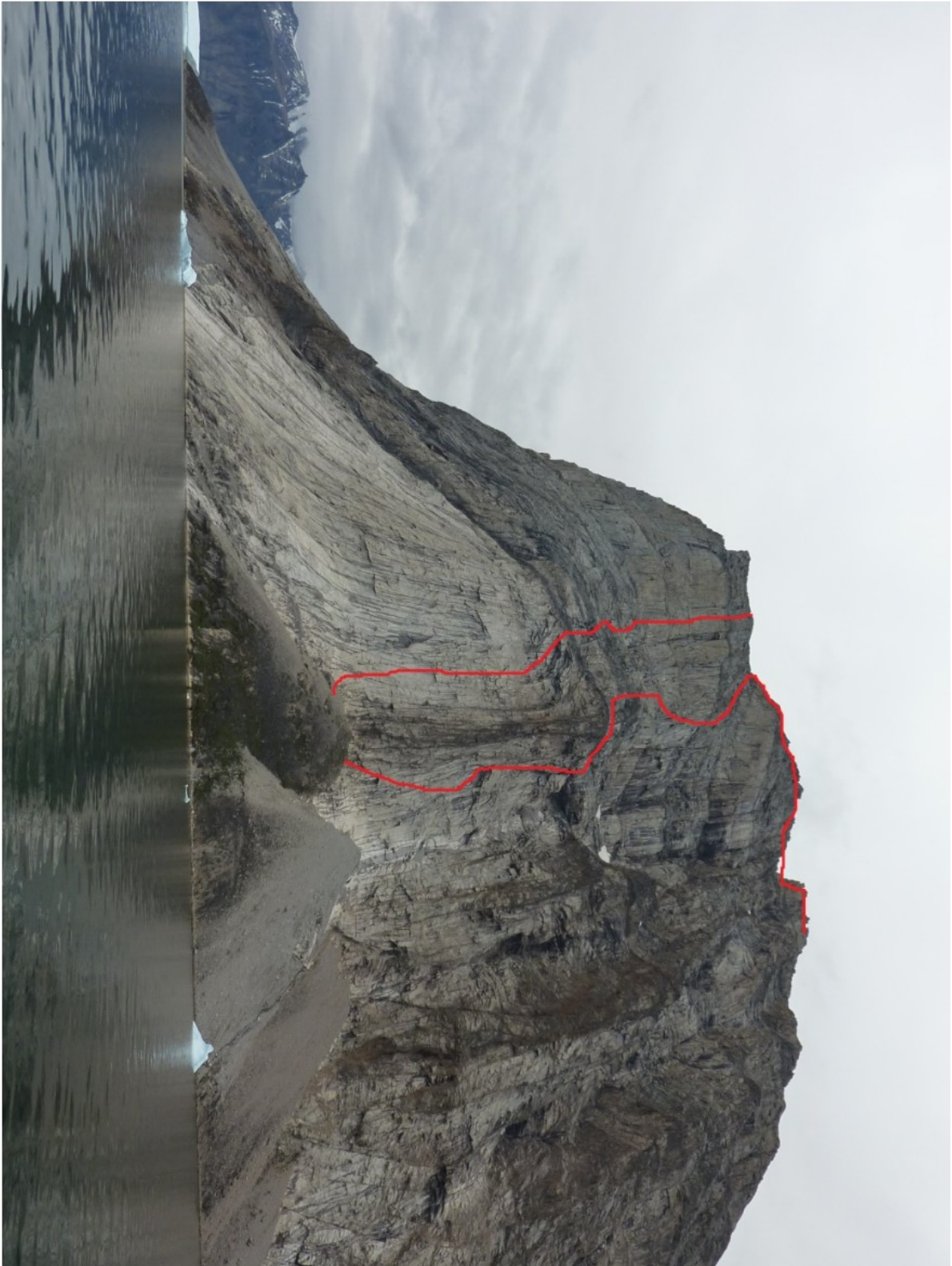
Weather and ground conditions: The Polar High can induce week-long spells of cloudless and calm weather, as occurred twice during our expedition. When it broke down, the weather became more Alpine in nature and often brought very strong winds. 24h daylight removed the need to carry bivy gear as the temperature and light was fairly constant, but increased the risk of teams becoming fatigued and strung-out. The risk of rockfall often made it unfeasible for more than one team to be climbing at the same time.

Details of any accidents of illnesses: Nothing beyond a few twisted/sprained ankles and knees.

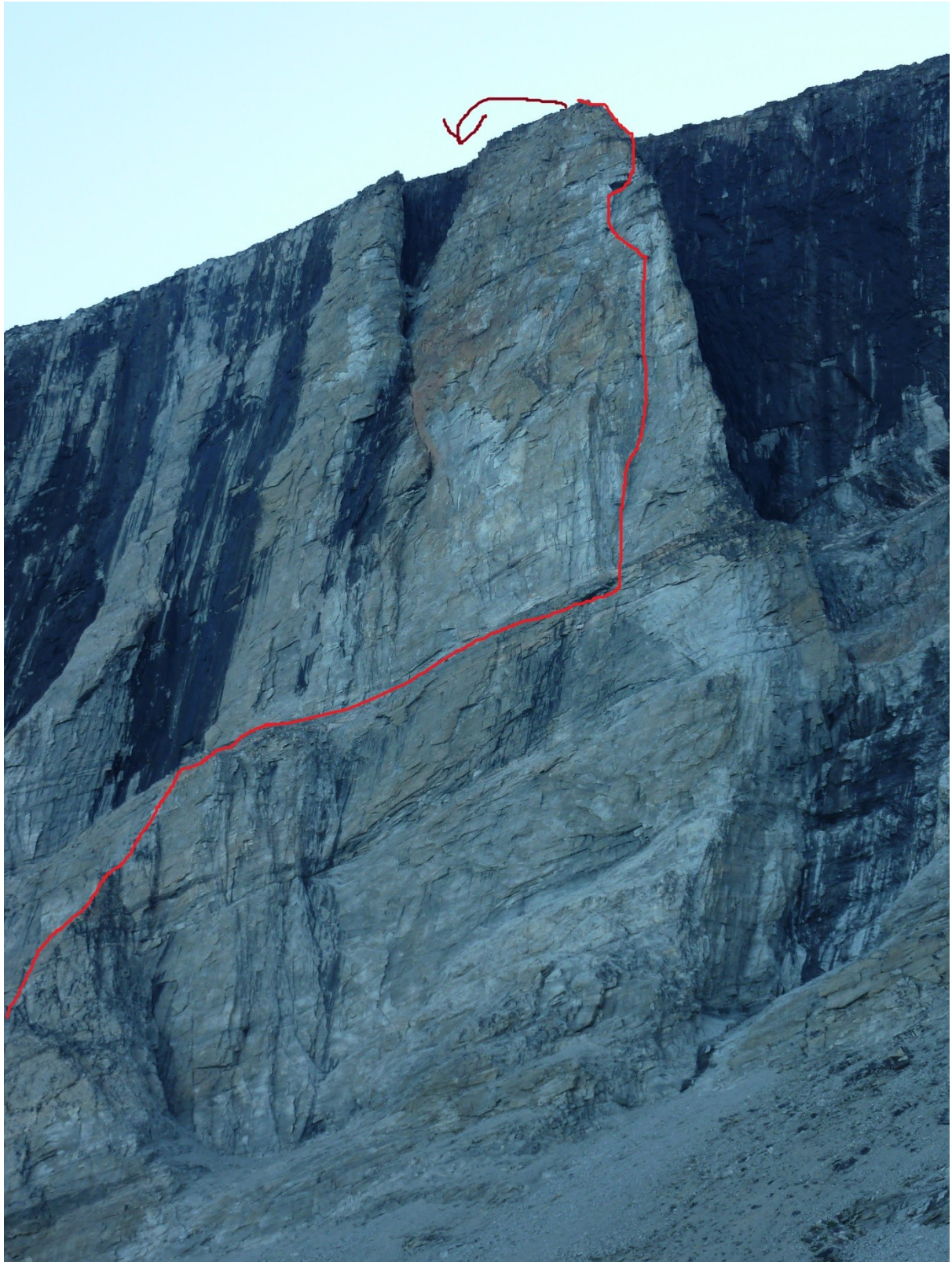
Other information: Waste was disposed of in large towns thanks to the Cosmic Dancer. Although all expeditions to the area so far have included a dedicated support vessel, the abundance of local small craft may make this unnecessary.

Signed: Thomas Codrington

Date: 29/08/13



View of the NE face of the Horn of Upernivik Island, with 'Cosmic Rave' (left) and 'Choss, the Universe and Everything' (right) marked in red



View of Nugssuaq with 'That Sinking Feeling' marked in red with descent in brown



View of E face of Umanatsiaq Mountain with 'Flake or Death' marked in red



View of NE face of Ivnarssuaq Great Wall with 'The Incredible Orange' marked in red with bivy spots as red dots



View of Uummannaq NW peak with 'Islands in the Sky' marked in red and descent in brown