

Angmagssalik Expedition 2022



Mountaineering in East Greenland

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Summary

The Angmagssalik Expedition took place between July and August 2022. The main objective was a 25km unclimbed ridge above west side of Ikasagtivaq fjord. After two days traversing the ridge on mostly dangerous rock the weather deteriorated and it was decided to abort the attempt. The second objective was to explore a superb cirque of peaks which lay on the opposite side of Ikasagtivaq fjord. The team managed to climb a 700m new rock climb on the west face of Niniartivaraq. Basecamp under the cirque was shared with other members of the Scottish Arctic Club who summited several peaks. The team consisted of 4 members. Mike Bauermeister, Noel Williams, Simon Tietjen and Will Rowland. Whilst the climbers attempted the ridge Noel journeyed through the glen below. He was also joined by two Scottish Arctic Club Members Simon Fraser and Fraser Melville. At Basecamp other club members were Hannah Mortlock, Bethany Carol and Tom Litchfield.



The Ridge

Starting from the south-eastern end of the ridge the boat dropped the team off on the eastern flank of the first named peak Qerqikajik. The first top was gained via steep broken ground. The top was similar to a Cairngorm summit, but the terrain soon became steep and interesting traversing towards the second peak. Approaching the steep second peak it soon became apparent that it was a no go. A huge colony of Herring Gulls populated the cliffs and had nest bound young. The decision was made to drop off the ridge to the east and traverse across to peak 3. The descent was very loose and the last step to reach the snow was abseiled. After regaining the ridge, the traverse continued to a bivi site below peak 7, 12 hours after leaving the boat.

Angry Gulls Guard Peak 2



Big Si In His Natural Environment



Big Si & Mike Enjoying Themselves On The Ridge



A large steep cliff lay between peak 7 and the main ridge below. A gully on the east provided another option to outflank difficult ground. The terrain varied between fairly decent granite and loose gneiss. A few steps were climbed at around alpine III. After 10hrs a great bivi spot was reached between peak 13 & 14. The weather had broken, it was decided to stop for the night and reassess in the morning.

Hiding From The Rain



After a wet night the weather showed no signs of clearing. The ridge was bad enough in the dry but manageable. In the wet it would be a different story. Much of the rock was extremely lichenous and particularly slippery in the wet. From the col a gully led down back down to the fjord. We regrouped with our support in the glen and walked out to the far end where the agreed collection point would be at Kuugarmiit. The ridge would have taken at least four days and not the 3 days expected. The loose nature of the rock meant extreme care had to be taken which slowed things considerably.

The Cirque & Niniartivaraq (The Big N)

Across the Ikasagtivaq fjord from the ridge lies the cirque of peaks. The majestic peaks have been explored by several parties but a great deal of exploring remains to be done. A superb basecamp above fjord gives quick access to the glacier and surrounding peaks.

The closest peak above basecamp is the rock tower of Niniartivaraq. The steep rock tower is an impressive feature, and it is easy to ignore the slabby west face. From a distance the west side appears to be largely broken however the rock is generally sound. From the centre of the wall Rowland and Teitjen climbed 13 pitches weaving across slabs and through overlaps until reaching a terrace and easier ground. A further 300m was climbed until an upper terrace was met and it was possible to break out up and left on to the west ridge. 700m HVS/VI.

Dr Boom Fuzz's Circus. 700m HVS/VI

