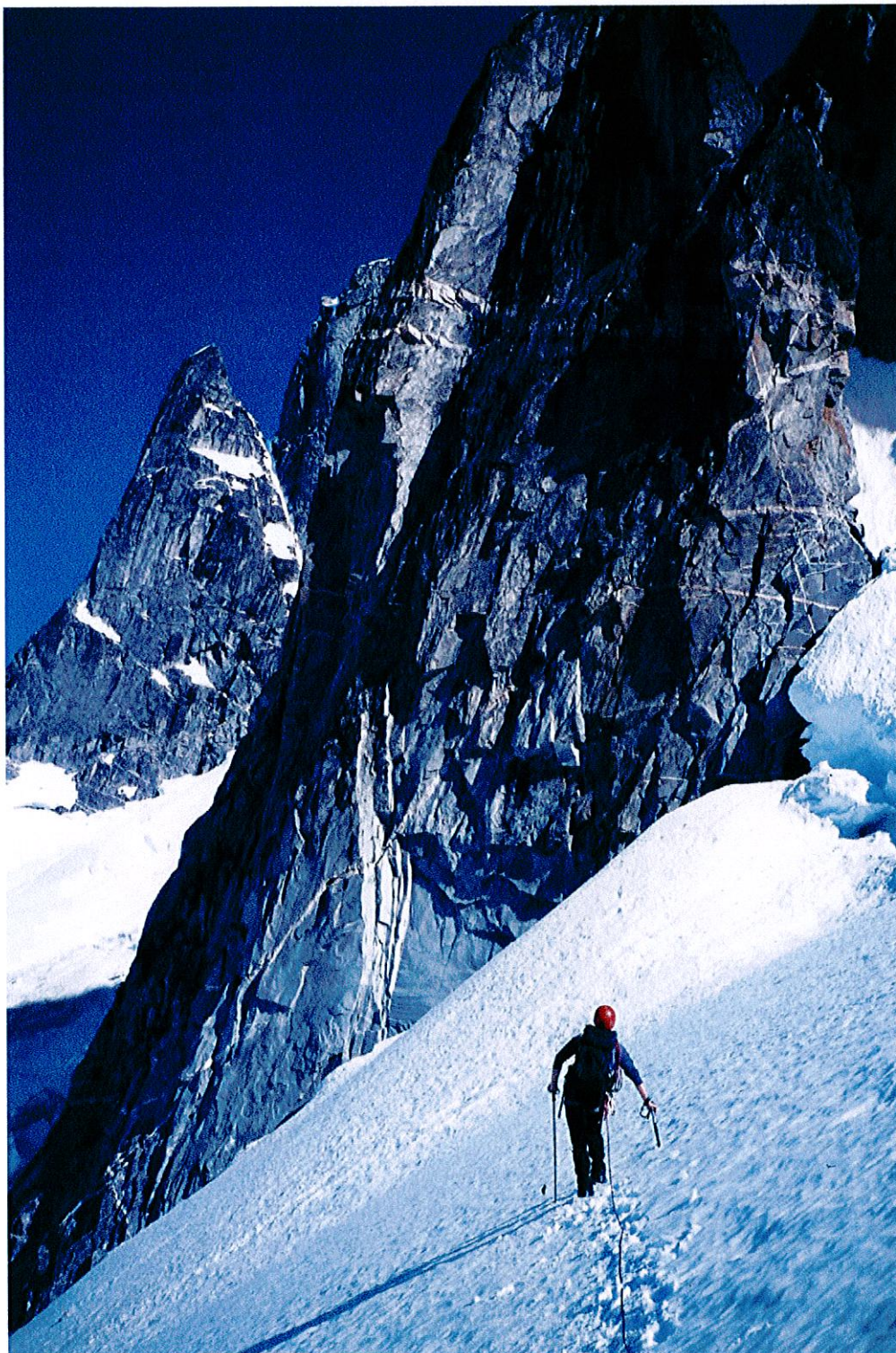


Scottish Pantheon Range Expedition 2005



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The compilers of this report and the members of the expedition agree that any or all of this report may be copied for the purposes of private research.

Cover: Mark Robson approaching the North-West Ridge of Mount Zeus. Athena Tower, with the fine North-West Pillar on the left skyline, lies behind and left.

1. Introduction

The aim of the expedition was to make the first ascent of the North-West Pillar of Mount Zeus, the 'Bonatti Pillar' of the Pantheon Range.

The Pantheon Range is located directly north of the Waddington Range, in the Canadian Coast Mountains of British Columbia. There are many rock towers and pinnacles in the Pantheons, but the area is often overlooked in favour of the better known peaks clustered around Mount Waddington and has seen only a handful of visits from technical climbers. The rock is a mix of solid granite and older metamorphic rock of variable quality and glaciation is less than in the Waddington Range. Mount Zeus (2959m) is the second highest peak in the group. It comprises solid granite and dominates the south-central Pantheon Range.

The North-West Pillar of Mount Zeus rises 600m to the summit of Athena Tower. It then drops 100m to a deep notch and rises a further 200m up a steep headwall to the summit ridge of Zeus. Athena Tower has been ascended once before in 1984 when Seattle climbers Bill Pilling and Greg Collum climbed the East Ridge. They abseiled their line of ascent and did not continue to the summit of Zeus. Mount Zeus itself was first climbed in 1966 and has been climbed several times via snow slopes on the south side of the peak.

We approached the mountains by flying to Vancouver, hiring a car and driving 800km north to the White Saddle Ranch near Tatla Lake which lies on the Williams Lake-Bela Colla road. From here we flew in by helicopter with Mike King, the long established helicopter pilot of the area, and landed on the Zeus-Pegasus col where we established our base camp. This approach is the established access method to the Waddington Range which lies 25km to the north.

Our attempt on the North-West Pillar of Athena Tower on the north side of the mountain ground to a halt at one-third height when we encountered an almost featureless 50m-high wall. With no cracks for aid or protection and the climbing at least British 6a or harder, we were forced to retreat.

Instead, we made the first ascent of the two kilometre-long North-West Ridge of Mount Zeus which gave an excellent alpine route (TD). In the process we made the first ascent of the west summit of Zeus and the first north-south traverse of the mountain. With the weather still good, we then crossed the Ragnarok glacier and made the second ascent of the superb North-West Ridge of Mount Fenris (AD).

2. The Team

Simon Richardson 44 yrs, British, Petroleum Engineer

Scotland: Approx 500 new routes up to Grade VIII and E4.

Alps: Approx 100 routes (25 ED1 or harder). Highlights include Walker and Croz Spurs, Colton-MacIntyre, East Face Grandes Jorasses, Freney and Brouillard Pillars etc. Several first ascents including South Pillar Freney Direct and SW Pillar Aig Sans Nom.

Expeditions to India, Nepal, Karakoram, Alaska, Patagonia, Peru and Canadian Coast Range. Highlights include first ascents of Agyasol and Chomochior (Kishtwar Himalaya), first alpine style ascent S Ridge Hunter (Alaska), Salathe Wall (Yosemite), Taulliraju (Peru) and first ascents of SE Ridge Asperity, S Pillar Tiedemann, W.Pillar Gilbert (Canadian Coast Range).

Mark Robson 35 yrs, British, GIS Consultant

Scotland: Climbing for more than 15 years with experience of Scottish winter routes up to grade VII and summer routes up to E4 (including first ascents, in both summer and winter).

Big Wall Climbing: Troll Wall in Norway, Desert Towers in USA and Jordan, and a one day ascent The Nose, El Capitan, Yosemite.

Alps: Many routes in French Alps, Dolomites and Picos de Europa including Route Major, Frendo Spur and the Bonnatti Pillar.

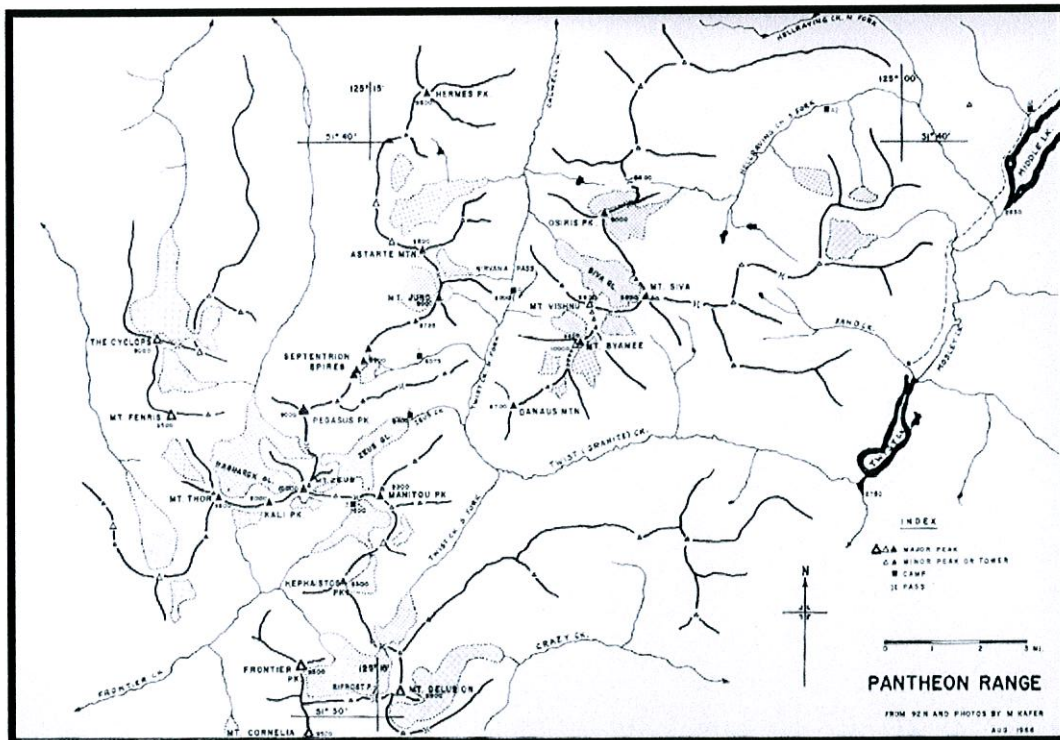
3. Gurus , Climbing Literature and Maps

There is no substitute for local knowledge in the mountains. We discussed our plans with Dave Hesleden and Chris Cartwright who have climbed in the Coast Range before. We also contacted Canadian Don Serl, the acknowledged Coast Range guru.

Simon Richardson had visited the Coast Range on three previous occasions. In August 2000 he visited the Pantheon Range and climbed a new route on the Septentrion Spires from where he gained a good view across to Zeus and the objective of this trip.

There is no guidebook to the Pantheon Range, but the majority of visits and ascents have been documented in the Canadian Alpine and American Alpine Journals. The Waddington Guide by Don Serl (Elaho Publishing 2003) gives useful information about climbing in the nearby Waddington Range and is an essential reference source. The Canadian mountaineering resource on www.bivouac.com contains a listing of all the peaks in the Pantheon Range and provided the base information for the peak listing in Section 6.

We used the 1:50,000 topographical map 92N/11 *Siva Glacier*.



4. The Climbing

4.1 Attempt on Athena Tower

Our attempt on the North-West Pillar of Athena Tower began with a short trudge up snow slopes followed by some moderate climbing over mixed terrain which soon gave access to the base of the NW Pillar proper. We here stopped to complete gearing up and to exchange plastic boots and crampons for our rock boots.



(Approaching the NW Pillar of Athena)

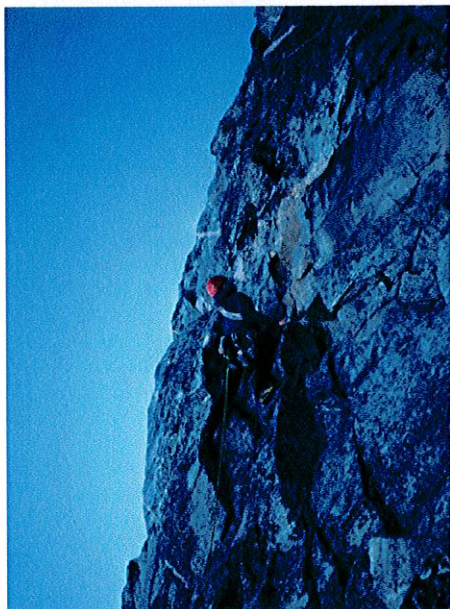
After stashing a sack containing the big boots, ice axes, etc we clambered over large blocks and scree to the base of a huge left facing corner system we'd spied through binoculars from our base camp on the Zeus Pegasus Col.

Much to our surprise, the cracks at the base of the corner already sported a rusty, but solidly placed peg. More puzzlingly, it was threaded with a sling (marked 'BC Climbing') - which was seemed to be more recent than the peg itself. I continued nonetheless, leading off up steep cracks and leaving Simon to wrestle with the haul sack.



(Simon seconding on the initial pitches)

(Mark setting off on the first pitch)



A couple of excellent long pitches up the corner system gave pleasant HVS climbing which eased slightly as we gained height, but our spirits continued to sink as we passed stances adorned with abseil tat which seemed to be of at least two different vintages. As the pillar kicked back in angle, Simon took to the lead, leaving me to shiver in the biting wind. Simon had taken care of our small haul bag so far, carrying it in rucksack mode and so it was now my turn to suffer the unpleasant experience of climbing with a deadweight pulling me each this way and that as I struggled upwards over short corners cracks & ledges.

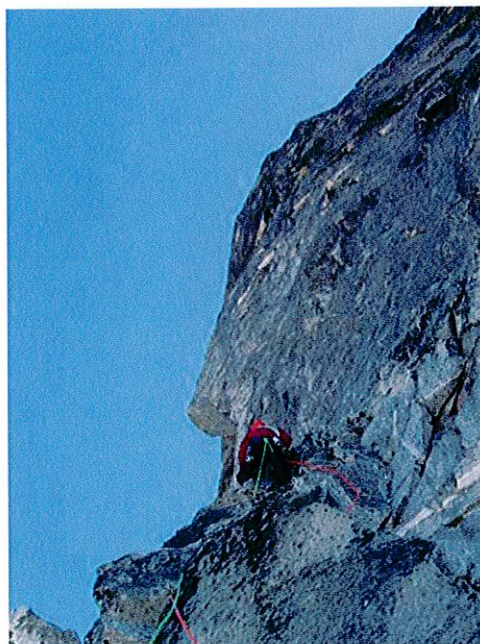
From this point on the crest of the pillar, the best line was not immediately apparent, but by working up and rightwards, we were soon able to gain a position from which we could look down onto the first of the two huge left to right slanting ramp systems which break the North-West Pillar of Athena into its three defined sections. Simon continued up over loose flakes, before grinding to a halt on a stance beneath an impending wall of granite, at least 50m high and with no

real features to aim for. Worse still, it was completely devoid of cracks for either protection or even direct aid.

After a brief discussion, Simon reversed the pitch and we broke out leftwards to explore the alternatives. An exposed traverse led around and on to the shady North Face where the cold wind really began to make its presence felt. Simon continued leftwards across dirty ground and broken ledges to gain a stance on loose giant flakes beneath a huge and very steep crack/ chimney system. The combination of wet cracks and large loose blocks above, coupled with the effects of the cold soon ruled this out as a viable option and we reluctantly traversed back to the crest of the pillar to assess our options.

(Simon nearing our highpoint)

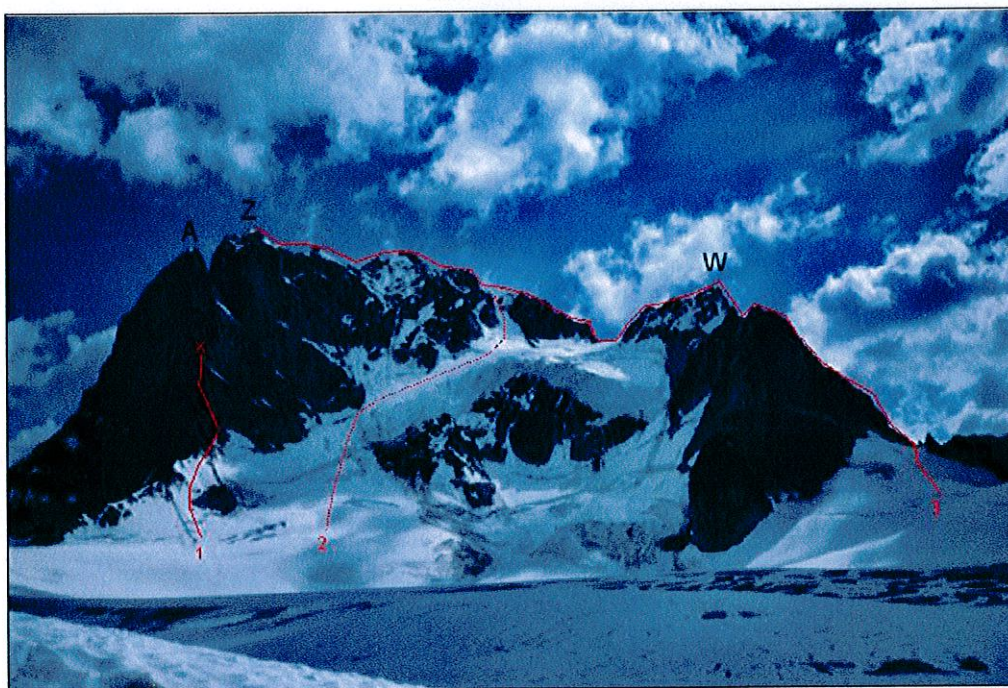
We decided to take a second look at the impending wall that Simon had reached earlier and this time we both climbed up to a good stance at its base. The climbing above looked to be at least 6a (British) in difficulty and with a complete lack of protection, the reasons for the abundance of abseil tat we'd passed earlier were only too obvious. We were reluctantly forced to accept defeat.



At this point Simon casually remarked that it was considered bad sportsmanship to sacrifice ones own ropes in the event of a retreat. This was a good point and one which clearly obliged me to focus on the haul line kindly leant to us by Tom Prentice. So, one sharp knife later and we were ready to commence our descent; backing up the materials left by Athena's previous suitors with our own rope (or rather with Tom's rope) as we went. Having reluctantly made the decision to retreat after so many months of planning and preparation, it was some small consolation that events passed smoothly and we were soon back down to our plastic boots. All that remained was a trudge down mushy snow and across the glacier to our camp.

4.2 North-West Ridge Mount Zeus

The North-West Ridge of Zeus stood out as an excellent objective from our base camp on the Zeus-Pegasus col. We had a good look at the line when we climbed the small peak of Zeus NW (2530m) on the first day of the expedition. This gave a pleasant scramble up the blocky SE Ridge to the small summit. There was no cairn on top, but we knew John Baldwin's ski mountaineering party climbed the mountain in 1998, and the peak has probably been climbed by other parties in the area too.



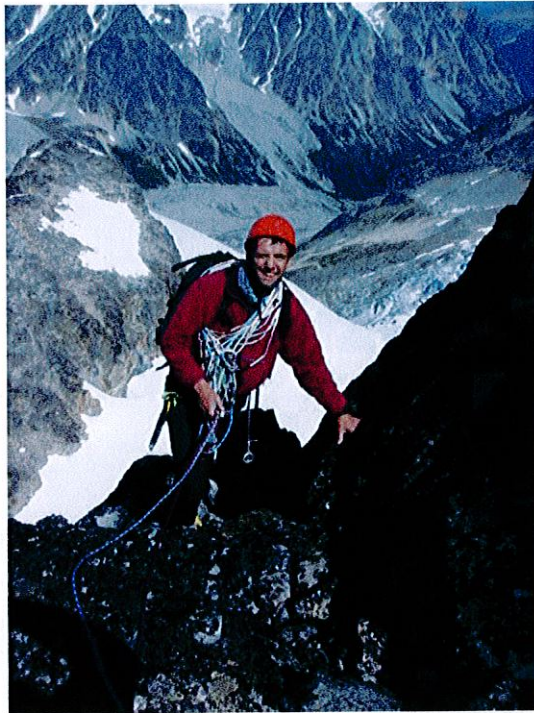
The North Face of Mount Zeus. 1. Attempt on Athena Tower. X marks highpoint. 2. North-West Face(Class 5), Firey, Knudson, Renz, Rose, deSaussure and Schurr Jul 1980. 3. North-West Ridge (TD), Robson, Richardson Aug 2005. A – Athena Tower, Z – Zeus Main Summit, W - Zeus West Summit.

From the summit of Zeus NW we had an excellent view of the North-West Ridge of Zeus. From the Zeus-Zeus NW col it rises as a steep and sharp rocky ridge for approximately 300m before becoming lesser angled and more mixed as it continues over the unclimbed West Summit of Zeus before dropping to a snowy col that gives access to the final main part of the mountain.

We left base camp early on the morning of 7th August, crossed the glacier and front-pointed up a short snow slope to the foot of the ridge. Mark took the lead and found his way up a series of pitches that were typically about British Very Severe in standard.

The route followed corners, interspersed by smoother slabs and near the top of the initial ridge there was a steep bottomless chimney that gave a couple of moves of HVS. Although the climbing was technically not too testing, the rock was very loose in places and everything was covered under a thick layer of black lichen that made finding holds difficult at times.

We swapped leads once we reached the narrow ridge leading up to the West Summit. The quality of the rock improved as we gained height, and the ridge became increasingly exposed. The crest was clear of snow and we were able to continue in our rock shoes although steep mixed icy faces fell away not too far below our feet. Behind us the view was opening out, and we could see over Mount Fenris to Mount Monarch standing majestically away to the north. When we reached the unclimbed West Summit we saw the Waddington group for the first time, gleaming white with fresh snow.



Time was pushing on so we didn't stop on our new summit and rapidly moved on. Fortunately, the character of the ridge changed abruptly at this point and widened to a perfect 2-metre wide gangway of perfectly flat rock that led over a series of sub-summits leading towards the snowy col. We down climbed from the last sub-summit to the flat snowy col and then took stock of the situation. It was now 5pm and we had only four hours daylight remaining. It was clear that we were not going to reach the summit that day, so the question was where should we bivouac? We had gone light without bivouac gear, so we decided to push and climb for as long as possible rather than have a prolonged night out.

The continuation ridge onto Zeus above the col was deceptively difficult. We had expected a pitch or two of moderate rock to lead up to the southern slopes of Zeus, but the ridge narrowed into a series of steep towers. Fortunately they were bathed in the setting sun and we climbed a series of absorbing pitches, some up to HVS, to reach the summit slopes of Zeus just as night fell. We bivouacked in a hollow of boulders approximately where the North-West Face route (Firey, Knudson, Renz, Rose, deSaussure and Schurr Jul 1980) reaches the summit slopes.

We talked, dozed, joked and shivered our way through the night, and were away at first light up boulder fields and snow. We arrived on the summit of Zeus at 6am on 8th August. It was a magical morning with the surrounding summits tinged by the red

of dawn and wisps of cloud passing around us as our tired eyes struggled to take in the beauty of the view.



But the summit was no place to linger and we knew we had a long descent ahead of us. We plunged down the southern slopes that narrowed into a hanging glacial valley below Kali Peak and eventually led down to the glacier leading up to the Zeus-Manitou col. We descended snow slopes, rapidly softening in the morning sun, to an abrupt cliff that dropped down to the Zeus glacier. After spending as long time scouting an appropriate abseil point, we eventually set up an anchor adjacent to a tumbling waterfall. Unfortunately our 60m ropes were not long enough to reach the Glacier below and there was a lack of belays in the water polished rock. Eventually we found a suitable anchor, the wet ropes pulled after a heart stopping hang up, and we continued down into the bowels of the glacier to avoid a crossing a particularly unstable bergschrund.

Below the glacier had been strafed by a huge rock fall that had continued for several hundred meters, and we only relaxed once we had reached the flat area of the Zeus glacier itself. Our experience descending from the Zeus-Manitou col was evidence of rapid glacial recession in the area – the first parties to visit the area in 1966 commented on the snow slopes to reach the col but no mention of the rock wall below.

From the Zeus glacier it was a long slog back up moraines to our base camp at the Zeus-Pegasus col. We arrived tired but happy late in the afternoon, and settled down to a well earned meal.

The two-kilometre long North-West Ridge of Zeus proved to be an excellent alpine adventure and a worthwhile addition to the area. In all, there were 24 pitches up to HVS with some scrambling, and we graded the route TD. As a bonus we also topped out on the unclimbed West Summit and were the first party to make a north-south traverse of the mountain.

4.3 North-West Ridge Mount Fenris

One of the more striking features visible when looking westwards from our camp on the Zeus-Pegasus col was the rocky summit of Mount Fenris (2859m). South of its summit, Fenris has a curious flat plateau giving it an unmistakable profile and, with the promise of the spell of good weather we had enjoyed so far holding out for a few days longer, on the 12th August we decided to head over to the other side of the Ragnarok Glacier for a closer look.

The descent to the Ragnarok Glacier which lies between Zeus/ Pegasus and Fenris proved to be pretty straightforward and we were fortunate to hit upon a gully which led us easily through the band of cliffs giving access to the east side of the glacier. After crossing Ragnarok, we continued up into the huge cirque between Fenris and The Cyclops (2752m) where we bivied for the night on an island of moraine.

The following morning we made our way out across the ice to the head of the cirque and then up blocky screes onto the North-West Ridge of Fenris. This superb ridge (AD, 5th Class) was first climbed in 1981 by De Saussure and Schurr and, in the intervening 24 years, had seen no further visits until our own.

For the most part, the ridge comprised easy 3rd class scrambling, interspaced with the odd icier section – one longer section of which necessitated crampons. Passing a few gendarmes required the occasional short abseil and, in one place, we were slowed for a time by a tricky balance move across a bad notch which demanded undue trust in a large and particularly hollow sounding flake. As we had found elsewhere in the range, in many places the rock was covered with a thick layer of black lichen, but as we approached the summit the rock became much cleaner and the final step in the ridgeline gave a few extremely pleasant pitches (around Diff, British grading).

As anticipated the views from the summit were superb and the descent down giant screes and then exposed snow slopes of the South Ridge presented no undue difficulties. We eventually arrived at a knoll above the Ragnarok Glacier in the earlier evening and had a relaxed bivouac before retracing our steps across the glacier and back to our base camp the following morning.

5. New Route Possibilities

The North-West Pillar of Athena Tower remains one of the finest new route options in the Pantheon Range. The blank section at one-third height could be tamed with bolts but this would be contrary to the ethic of the area and the wild nature of these magnificently wild mountains. One day it will be climbed, and our hope is it is climbed by talented rock climbers who meet the full challenge of the route. Elsewhere on Zeus, the left side of the north face has an intriguing couloir system that holds ice and would make a fine climb in spring or early summer.

Mount Fenris is an attractive mountain with good quality rock. The pinnaled north spur would make a good route although the ice slope to its right detracts from it a little and would make a fine spring climb in its own right. The West Ridge would make a fine climb and joins the South Ridge below the final steep section to the summit.

Mount Manitou has a fine pillar on its south side that appeared to comprise superb rock and would provide an excellent rock climb. It can be easily reached from the Zeus-Manitou col.

Although our base at the Zeus-Pegasus col gave us access to several glaciers and peaks, travel in the Pantheon Range is difficult due to the combination of deep valleys and receding glaciers. The unclimbed Peak 33-21 and Frontier Creek Spires (See Section 6) appeared tempting objectives, but would best be approached directly from the valleys beneath the peaks themselves.

As a general rule the quality of the granite is not as good as in the main Waddington Range. It is solid, but is more fine grained which leads to less well-defined features and more unstable blocks.

6. Mountains of the Pantheon Range

Peak 32-21 2679m

51°32.8' -125°21.5' 10U 336400 5713200.

Possibly unclimbed summit at the head of the unnamed creek dividing the westernmost Pantheons from the central group around Zeus. There are 3 separate 500m rock buttresses on the north face. The southwest slopes offer probably the easiest line of ascent. The connecting ridge to Mt Thor looks quite pinnaced and gendarmed. The Seattle party which climbed the Diana-Nemesis peaks in 1981 did not climb this peak.

Peak 36-25 2579m

51°36.4' -125°25.1' 10U 332500 5720000.

A rock peak 1km NE of Gilgamesh, in the southwestern Pantheon Range.

Peak 39-22 2586m

51°38.6' -125°22.3' 10U 335800 5724000.

3km N of Cyclops on the western N-S Pantheon Range axis.

Anubis 2675m

51°37.4' -125°18.9' 10U 339700 5721600.

First Ascent: Renz, de Saussure, Schurr 17 July 1980 via E Face. Class 3 except for shoulder on summit block. CAJ 1981. A smallish summit just over 1km E of Polyphymus, N of the toe of Ragnarok Gl. Anubis was an Egyptian god with the head of a dog.

Astarte 2959m

51°38.6' -125°14.0' 10U 345400 5723700.

First Ascent: 1966 BCMC parties: SE Ridge and NE ridges. The "big" summit immediately west of Nirvana Pass. The peak has a tremendous N wall of 700m - see cover photo on CAJ 1990, and CAJ'67 p6. Astarte is typical of the peaks on the divide W of Collwell Ck: reasonably gentle on S'ern and W'ern aspects, with extremely steep N faces. The weather is dry and the rock is granitic (but not superb), otherwise this ridge-system would be one of the greatest rock-climbing venues in the Coast Mountains. Note that the western and central Pantheon Ranges (wherein Astarte lies) are more highly connected to the Mount Waddington area by high alpine ridges, than they are to the higher Pantheon Range peaks to the east, to which they "connect" via Nirvana Pass.

1. South-East Ridge (Grade 3 rock). BCMC party, 20 Jul 1966. Gain plateau glacier under east face from Nirvana Pass. South-east Ridge is grade 3 rock and snow. Rock is unsound. Descent via south-west face and through southern col to the plateau glacier. Ref CAJ 1967. Repeated 1980 and 1991.
2. North-East Ridge (Grade 4 rock). BCMC party, 20 Jul 1966. From plateau glacier, easy gully lead col gave access to North-East Ridge. Fine exposure. Descent as above. Ref CAJ 1967. Repeated 1980 and 1991.

Byamee 2998m

51°36.7' -125°09.8' 10U 350200 5720000.

First Ascent: 29 June 1970 D. Boyd, E.&M. Kafer: W Face & S. Ridge, Southernmost of the three major eastern summits (Byamee, Vishnu, Siva) in the Pantheon Range, this summit has a steep northeast ice face and a row of rock pinnacles to the south.

1. *South-West Ridge. First ascent party. Grade 3-4. CAJ 1971. Repeated 1980.*
2. *North Peak reached by BCMC party Jul 1966. Main summit separated by deep notch of poor rock.*
3. *North-West (Witchdoctor) Ridge. M.Down, D.Serl, 27 July 1980. To North summit only.*

Cyclops 2752m

51°37.0' -125°21.2' 10U 337000 5721000.

First Ascent: 1964 Culbert, Woodsworth: E Ridge and S Face. An E-W trending ridge 2km W of Surt and 2km N of Fenris. Route climbed snowslopes to join East Ridge near 'cannonhole'. Several class 4 leads led to impassable bulge. Avoided by abseiling onto snow and climbing 300ft 50 deg snow to summit. CAJ 1965.

Danaus 2626m

51°35.8' -125°11.2' 10U 348500 5718400.

First Ascent: 1966 BCMC party via East Ridge (Grade 3 rock). Ref CAJ 1967. A rock summit 4km S of Nirvana Pass. The southern slopes rise 1400m from the junction of Twist Creek forks.

Diana 2639m

51°33.4' -125°22.4' 10U 335400 5714400.

First Ascent: 1981 Large party from Seattle via easy scramble up west ridge. CAJ 1982. This is a rugged summit of the 'Western' Pantheon Range (actually southwestern), 3 1/2 km WSW of Mt Thor and 1 km SE of the Furies. Diana is the name the Romans called the Greek Artemis. The name was applied by the first ascent party in 1981.

Fenris 2859m

51°35.7' -125°20.9' 10U 337300 5718600.

First Ascent: 1964 Culbert, Woodsworth: S Ridge. A rock summit on the W'ern Pantheon ridge 3km NW of Thor.

1. *South Ridge. First ascent party. An easy scramble. Repeated July 1981. CAJ 1965.*
2. *North-West Ridge. deSaussure and Schurr, 23 July 1981. Class 5. Long mixed ridge, two ice pitches to gain ridge, difficult third class on ridge except for two fifth class pitches to summit. CAJ 198. Repeated Aug 2005.*

Frontier Creek Spires 2580m

51°31.3' -125°24.1' 10U 333300 5710500.

All unclimbed. The highest of a group of about a dozen rock towers which form the north divide of Frontier Creek in the remote SW corner of the Pantheon Range lies at the extreme SE end of the 6km-long crest. All have dramatic rock buttresses and/or faces dropping down to the valley of the unnamed creek to their north. See CAJ 1982 p.42 for a photo. The group is located 8km south of Gilgamesh and 10 km WNW of Frontier Mountain on the SW corner of mapsheet 92 N/11.

The Furies 2587m

51°34.1' -125°23.1' 10U 334700 5715700.

First Ascent: 1981 Large party from Seattle. Several summits were climbed via snow gullies on the west and class 3 scrambling on loose rock with one class 5 pitch to the main summit. CAJ 1982. This peak is a group of summits in the center of the Western Pantheon Range (more correctly, SW'ern). Some, but not all of the summits were climbed by the first ascent party. They reported loose rock. Their camp was in the 2220m col to the NW. Better rock was found N of the col than south. The next peak

NW, 'Nemesis' [2645m S Pk; 2636m N Pk] was climbed via the E ridge. Further NW (4km from the col) lies Gilgamesh [2631m], which was climbed by the S face.

Gilgamesh 2631m

51°36.0' -125°26.0' 10U 331500 5719200.

First Ascent: 1981 Seattle party: S face. The prominent snow gully on south face was climbed with one class 5 pitch around a chokestone. CAJ 1982

Gilgamesh is a triple-summitted mountain located 6km W of Fenris Mountain and 5km E of Trophy Lake, the westernmost major summit in the Southwestern Pantheon Range. The name is not official but has been used by climbers for at least 20 years.

Hephaestus 2739m

51°32.8' -125°16.2' 10U 342600 5713000.

First Ascent: 1966 Cuthbert, Kafer, Kafer, Purdey: N Ridge to SE ridge Grade 4). Solid rock. Approach from Manitou-Zeus col by descending to upper snowfield of Frontier Creek. CAJ 1967 A fine granite peak at the very southern extremity of the Pantheon Range, 4km NE of Frontier Mtn in the Waddington Range.

Juno 2659m

51°37.7' -125°13.5' 10U 346000 5722000.

First Ascent: 1966 BCMC party. Ascent by South-West Ridge. Descended South-East Ridge. Ascent also made by North Ridge. Easy rock and snow. Ref CAJ 1967.

Repeated 1981. A moderate summit immediately SW of Nirvana Pass.

Kali 2817m

51°34.0' -125°18.0' 10U 340500 5715400

First ascent BCMC party, 1966. Interesting rock scrambling up South Face. CAJ 1967. Small peak between Thor and Zeus.

Mammon 2693m

51°38.2' -125°19.1' 10U 339500 5723100.

First Ascent: 25 July 1980 Renz, de Saussure, Schurr: SE Ridge. Class 3. CAJ 1982
A double-topped mountain on the W'ern Pantheon ridge, 7km N of Thor. The height was originally given as 2800m, but this (and the position) were incorrect attributions for 'Polyphyemus Mtn', 1km SW of the W summit of Mammon.

Manitou 2759m

51°34.2' -125°15.2' 10U 343800 5715600.

First Ascent: 1966 Cuthbert, Purdey: SW Face. A steep peak between Frontier Creek, Twist Creek, and Zeus Glacier. Good photo CAJ '67 p13 upper.

1. West Ridge. Kafer, Kafer: 1966 From Manitou-Zeus col, slabby then blocky rock ridge leads to elegant snow ridge and summit. CAJ 1967.

2. North-West Face. W.Pilling, G.Collum Aug 1984. III 5.6 From Zeus glacier climb low angle ice up lower reaches of glacier on north side of Manitou. Climb mixed face directly beneath prominent ice cliff (7 pitches of excellent mixed terrain to the left side of the serac wall). Continue up steep slopes to the summit. AAJ 1985, CAJ 1985.

3. Gitchee Goomee Butress (East Buttress). M.Landreville, C.Diedrich, July 1991. (III 5.6). Approach via glacier leading up from terminus of Zeus glacier. Short ice face leads to col beneath ridge. Bypassed blank looking start to ridge via rotten gully to left, then climb 6 pitches to top on solid rock. Descended to Manitou-Zeus col. CAJ 1992

Nemesis 2645m

51°34.8' -125°24.1' 10U 333600 5717000.

First Ascent: 1981 Large party from Seattle: E Ridge to N Ridge. This is the first major peak southeast of Gilgamesh in the Southwestern Pantheon Range. Climbed in 1981 by a large party from Seattle which was the first climbing group into the area. Photos CAJ'82 p40 (S Pk from N), and p42 (N face of N Pk).

1. *Nemesis South Peak (2650m). 1980 Seattle Party, July 1981. Class 5. The east ridge was climbed to the middle summit and then the connecting ridge to the south peak. The south peak was also climbed from the notch between the north peak and middle summit. CAJ 1982.*
2. *Nemesis North Peak (2640m). West Ridge. 1980 Seattle Party, July 1981. Class 5. The west ridge was climbed from the prominent snow col. CAJ 1982*
3. *Nemesis North Peak (2640m). South Ridge. 1980 Seattle Party, July 1981. Class 4. The south ridge was climbed from the notch between the peaks. CAJ 1982*

Osiris 2753m

51°39.1' -125°08.7' 10U 351600 5724400. First Ascent: 1966 BCMC party. Ref CAJ 1967. A moderate peak on the N side of Siva Glacier, lying 3km N of Mt Vishnu.

Pegasus 2805m

51°35.8' -125°17.1' 10U 341700 5718600.

First Ascent: 1964 Culbert, Woodsworth: S Ridge. A rock summit 2km N of Mt Zeus.

1. *South Ridge. First ascent party. A late afternoon ascent from Zeus-Pegasus col. 1500ft of class 3 rock, spiced up with several class 4 notches. Fast descent of west face return to col in half an hour. CAJ 1965*
2. *West Ridge, 1966: P.Plummer, B.Wortman, July 1966. (unlikely, probably NE Ridge). CAJ 1967*
3. *South-West Face and West Buttress. Firey, Knudson, Renz, Rose, deSaussure and Schurr 24 Jul 1980. Class 3. CAJ 1982*

Polyphyemus 2810m

51°37.3' -125°19.6' 10U 338800 5721500.

First Ascent: Firey, Knudson, Renz, Rose, de Saussure, Schurr, July 1980 via E Ridge. Class 3. CAJ 1981. A triangular rock peak 6km N of Thor, the highest summit NW of Ragnarok Glacier.

Septentrion Spires 2828m

51°36.8' -125°15.6' 10U 343500 5720400.

First Ascent: 24 July 1966 6 member BCMC party: NE Ridge. A group of serrated spires of the Pantheon Range, with granitic rock providing wonderful climbing. "Septentrion" is a complicated, archaic word which reportedly refers to one dwelling in a northern latitude. The name is surmised to refer to the fact that seen from the Waddington Range, the Septentrion Spires are prominent to the north. Photo CAJ'90 p85 upper.

1. *Highest Spire, North-east Ridge. First ascent party CAJ 1967*
2. *Two southern spires, via South-West Ridge. BCMC party 26 July 1966. CAJ 1967*
3. *Northern Spire via North-east ridge. Descended easier South-west Ridge. BCMC party 26 July 1966. CAJ 1967*

4. *Pirates of Pantheon*. M.Landreville, C.Diedrich, July 1991. (III 5.10) Climbs SE Buttress of main tower. Four hard pitches on excellent rock. CAJ 1992
5. *Prometheus Unbound*. Green, Richardson, Aug 2000. III 5.10. South Face of fifth tower. CAJ 2001

Siva 2879m

51°37.8' -125°07.4' 10U 353000 5722000.

First Ascent: 1966 BCMC party: NW ridge. The northern of the three 'Trimurtri Peaks' (Byamee, Vishnu, and Siva), Siva is a variant spelling of Shiva. There are huge 900m walls on the NE side of Siva. The Siva Glacier lies on the W. side. The south side of the mountain is a labyrinth of buttresses, but the rock is loose.

1. *North-West Ridge*. First ascent party. CAJ 1967. Repeated 1981. Ascended on ski April 1998. CAJ 1999
2. *North-East Face*. M.Landreville, C.Diedrich, July 1991. (IV 50 deg ice, class 5 rock). Route traverses from right to climb central ice sheet. Descent was down NW ridge and wide ice gully.

Surt 2797m

51°36.8' -125°20.0' 10U 338400 5720600.

First Ascent: 1980 Firey, Knudson, Renz, Rose, de Saussure, Schurr 18 July via S Face. Class 3. A wedge-shaped rock summit on the W'ern Pantheon ridge 5km N of Thor.

Thor 2919m

51°34.2' -125°19.6' 10U 338700 5715800.

First Ascent: 1966 BCMC party via East Ridge.

A broad, plateau-like rock peak of the south-central Pantheon Range, 3km west of Zeus, above Ragnarok Glacier. A long crest runs N from Thor to form the W'ern of the three main ridge-groups forming the major portion of the Pantheon Range. (The E'ern group consists of Byamee-Vishnu-Siva and peaks N along the crest E of Colwell Ck; the Central group consists of the peaks on the ridge from Pegasus N thru Astarte and Hermes, W of Colwell Ck.) The so-called 'Western Pantheons' (actually southwestern) lie N of Frontier Ck, and connect to Thor via its SW ridge.

Photo of NE face: CAJ'81 p68 upper.

1. *East Ridge*. First ascent party. From Zeus-Manitou col follow a series small glaciers on southern flank of Zeus for 1.5 miles to reach high sub peak on east ridge of Thor. Descend 300ft to wide plateau then steep snow to summit. CAJ 1967
2. *North-West Ridge*. Firey, Knudson, Renz, Rose, deSaussure and Schurr, 21 Jul 1980. Class 5. Gain ridge from Thor-Fenris col. Climb long ridge over several steps of solid rock, or bypass on SW side. On the final step leading to summit snow and boulder field, route was fifth class and rock loose. 17 hours return. CAJ 1981

Varuna 2759m

51°33.4' -125°15.2' 10U 343700 5714100.

First Ascent: 31 July 1980 M.Down, D.Fox, D.Serl via South West Ridge. Some loose rock. Class 5. Two other summits (2640m and 2600m) were reached the same day. CAJ 1982 A rock peak just south of Manitou Peak, at the head of Varuna Glacier. FA claimed incorrectly by BCMC party in 1991 as 'Nuia Peak' (see BC Mtneer'92 pp84-92; photo p88 bottom).

Vishnu 3008m

51°37.5' -125°09.1' 10U 351000 5721400.

First Ascent: 4 July 1970 D. Boyd, E.& M. Kafer. This impressive peak is found at the east end of the Pantheon Range. The north face is glaciated and the east, south, and west faces are steep rock. There are a few huge towers, almost separate peaks, on the south ridge, separated from each other by steep, narrow notches where dykes have eroded away. Previously mapped at 2960m, the new TRIM survey makes Vishnu the only 3000m peak in the Pantheon Range.

1. W ridge, Grade 4. First ascent party. CAJ 1971 pp66-67. Attempted by 1966 BCMC party but failed due to loose rock. Ref CAJ 1967.
2. South-West Buttress. Scott, Gabarrou, Sep 1990. CAJ 1991

Zeus 2982m

51°34.4' -125°17.2'

First Ascent: 1966 Jim Craig, Sig Werner, Judy Horgan: S Face, from Zeus-Manitou col. Originally considered the highest summit in the Pantheon Range but downgraded by the new TRIM surveys, the bulky Mount Zeus dominates the south-central Pantheon Range. Photos: CAJ'67 p13 lower; CAJ'81 p68 lower; BC Mtneer'91 p92.

1. South Face. First ascent party. From Zeus Glacier climb fairly steep glacial snow to the Manitou-Zeus Col. Pleasant heathery terraces, a snowfield, steep snow tongue, rock south-west ridge and boulder field lead to the summit. Ref CAJ 1967.
2. Zeus - Ski Ascent The peak can be ascended on skis via S slopes. In spring, climb steep snow from Zeus Glacier to Zeus-Manitou col. Drop SW to below 2200 m before climbing NW onto small pocket glacier leading to gentler SW slopes below the summit. CAJ 1999
3. North-West Face. Firey, Knudson, Renz, Rose, deSaussure and Schurr 16 Jul 1980. Class 5. The North-West Face of Zeus has a hanging glacier that can be reached from the Zeus-Pegasus col by a short but steep and crevassed glacier slope. Near the top of the hanging glacier, ascend a steep couloir that tops out on the summit snowfield 300ft south of summit. Descended by Zeus Chute party. CAJ 1981
4. Athena Tower, East Buttress. Pilling, Collum 21 Aug 1983. IV 5.8. From west end of Zeus-Pegasus col, traverse across loose ledges and cross a small glacier to gain shoulder below east buttress of tower. Climb blocks (5.4) to base of dihedral formed by right side of a conspicuous pillar. Climb the pillar with one 5.8 pitch and some scrambling then climb several moderate pitches diagonalling left across ledges and short walls. Turn a corner, ascend a left-facing dihedral with a clean hand-crack in it, then climb another pitch up steep solid blocks to a huge ledge. Continue along the ridge to the top. Descent by abseiling route of ascent. AAJ 1985, CAJ 1985.
5. Zeus Chute. Diedrich, Landreville, Aug 1991. III 45 deg. From Zeus-Pegasus col, traverse under Athena tower to east face of Zeus to below right-slanting couloir. Awkward schund on first ascent led to delightful moderate snow climbing under well frozen conditions.
6. North-West Ridge. Robson, Richardson, 7-8 Aug 2005. TD 5.9. Two kilometre-long ridge starting from col between Zeus and Zeus NW. 24 pitches and some scrambling.

Zeus NW 2530m

51°34.8' -125°18.0' 10U 340600 5716900

The small peak to the North-West of Zeus. Easily climbed by scrambling up blocky south-west ridge

7. Expedition Accounts

Income		Expenditure	
MCofS	1100	Travel	2196
MEF	525	Insurance	168
Personal Contributions	1599	Food and Stores	660
		Equipment	200
Total	£3224	Total	£3224

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