



Molar, Southwest Face, Stonecircle

Greenland, East Greenland, Schweizerland, Fox Jaw Cirque

In July and August, Robert Jasper made a "by fair means" solo expedition, sea kayaking to the Fox Jaw Cirque, where he put up a hard new free route on the Molar. He was accompanied by friend and photographer Frank Kretschmann as far as the last Inuit settlement at Kungmit, at which point Kretschmann went home and Jasper paddled alone in a folding kayak up Tasiilaq Fjord. He carried a four-week supply (90kg) of food and equipment. After 12 days of hard paddling and then ferrying equipment, Jasper established base camp below the "teeth" of the Fox Jaw.

After scoping the walls, Jasper decided to try the unclimbed pillar that forms the southwest edge of the Molar, left of the 2009 Italian route El Cavajo dell'angel (420m, 7b, Lanfranchi-Pedefferri). Reaching the rock via the lower section of the snow couloir separating the Molar from the smaller Milk Tooth to the west, Jasper climbed seven pitches in two days, returning to base camp each night due to unstable weather. He left three ropes in place and re-led the other pitches each day.

The climbing proved difficult, as there were no continuous crack lines. However, the rock was good, compact gneiss. Pitch grades were mostly 6a and 6b, with the exception of the sixth-pitch crux, which was 7c. On the third day of the climb, July 31, Jasper decided he should push for the summit despite poor weather. After overcoming a black roof on pitch eight (7b), all was going well until it began to rain 80m below the top. Fortunately the terrain was now easier. Climbing carefully through thick mist, he reached the summit and the clouds dropped away. "I was all alone, no person in sight as far as the eye could see," he said later. "It was like in heaven. Indescribably beautiful!"

Jasper rappelled the route, regaining his tent after an 18-hour day. After 30 days in the wild he returned to Kungmit, closing his personal "stone circle." He said the expedition had pushed him to the limits: "a huge adventure in a magnificent natural setting—an absolute jewel of my life."

Jasper roped-soloed Stonecircle (450m, 12 pitches plus scrambling, 7c) in redpoint style over three days, using a Silent Partner belay device. Equipment left in situ for a possible repeat ascent comprises four pitons, four nuts, two copperheads, one pecker, and 30 stainless-steel M8 bolts. This is the sixth known independent route to the summit of the Molar.

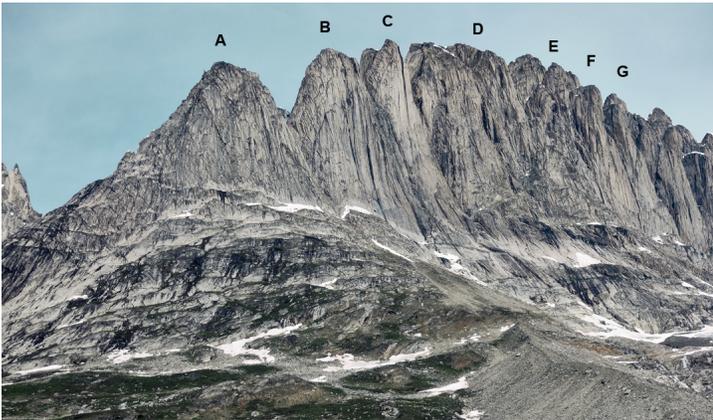
Kretschmann noted that Jasper managed his GoPro, traditional camera, drone, and solar station by himself, returning with stunning images, the likes of which Kretschmann has never seen from anyone alone on a wall.

– Daniela Jasper, Germany

Images



Lower Fox Jaw Cirque, showing the positions of known routes. Route lines are not available for many routes; the lines shown are approximate. (1) Doublemint Direct (III 5.8). (2) Qui nell'Universo (VI). (3) Tooth Fairy (III 5.8). (4) Days of Miracle and Wonder (E2 5c). (5) Long Distance Call (E3 5c). (6) Back Alley Dentistry (HXS, 5.10 X). (7) Southeast Buttress (III 5.9). (8) Stonecircle (7c). (9) El Cavajo dell'angel (7b). (10) Ingirumimusnocte (7b+). (11) Lovin' All the Right Places (5.10 A2+). (12) Le Privilege du Renard (7b). (13) Emozione Polare (VIII). (14) Beers in Paradise (5.10+ A0). (15) Tears in Paradise (5.11 A1). Not marked is Guten Zeiten, Schlechte Zeiten (5.8) in the middle of the south face of Milk Tooth.



The Fox Jaw spires from the southwest. (A) Milk Tooth. (B) Molar. (C) Incisor. (D) Cavity Ridge. (E) Fang. (F) Left Rabbit Ear. (G) Right Rabbit Ear.



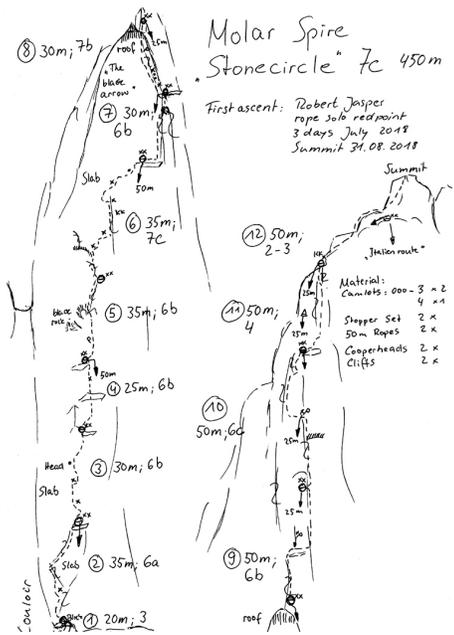
Robert Jasper on the crux pitch six (35m, 7c) of Stonecircle.



Robert Jasper on the crux pitch six (35m, 7c) of Stonecircle.



Robert Jasper on the summit of the Molar, after completing the first ascent of Stonecircle.



StoneCircleTopo



Robert Jasper on pitch seven of Stonecircle. All alone in the Fox Jaw Cirque, Jasper managed a GoPro, traditional camera, drone, and solar station by himself, returning with unique and impressive imagery from a solo climb.

Article Details

Author	Daniela Jasper
Publication	AAJ
Volume	61
Issue	93
Page	0
Copyright Date	2019
Article Type	Climbs and expeditions