



AAC Publications

Polar Sun Arm, MikrokozmiK Variations

Canada, Nunavut, Baffin Island, Kangiqtualuk Uququti

Looking down pitch nine of MikroKozmiK Variations (1,062m, VII M5 A4+) on Polar Sun Arm. Photo by Marek Raganowicz.

Marek Raganowicz completed a solo ascent on the north face of Polar Sun Arm, the huge buttress extending from Polar Sun Spire in Kangiqtualuk Uququti (formerly Sam Ford Fjord). The route began on an independent line to the left of Superbalance (VII M7+ A4), which Raganowicz established in May 2012 with Marcin Tomaszewski (AAJ 2013). After 15 pitches up to M5 and A4+, Raganowicz joined Superbalance for another 11 pitches, which led him to the top of the Arm.

Raganowicz spent seven days in early April fixing the lower section of the route before committing to the wall. On April 17, he started his push in bad weather (with temperatures as low as -30°C) and spent the next 35 days on the face. Raganowicz used two portaledge camps on the first 15 pitches, and after he joined Superbalance, another three camps were required to make it to the top of the Arm. Raganowicz ended his route there, while both Superbalance and the Norwegian Route (Bo-Hagen-Roisli-Wiik, 2000), to the left, continue up the headwall to the top of Polar Sun Spire.

The partial new route, MikroKozmiK Variations (1,062m, VII M5 A4+), had many technical challenges, including rotten rock and loose blocks. On the first 15 pitches, Raganowicz drilled only two belay bolts; all other belays used removable gear.

– Whitney Clark, AAJ, with information from Marek Raganowicz, Poland

Images



Polar Sun Arm is the huge buttress extending from Polar Sun Spire. The new route MikroKozmik Variations ascends the big wall on the right side of the Arm.



The line of MikroKozmik Variations on Polar Sun Arm. The route climbed 15 independent pitches and then joined Superbalance, which Marek Raganowicz and Marcin Tomaszewski established in 2012, for another 11 pitches to the top of the Arm.



A look at the hauling system Marek Raganowicz used during his solo ascent of the Polar Sun Arm.



Marek Raganowicz at the last belay during his climb of MikroKozmik Variations (1,062m, VII M5 A4+).



Looking down pitch nine of MikroKozmik Variations (1,062m, VII M5 A4+) on Polar Sun Arm.



Looking at camp on pitch 13 during the ascent of MikroKozmik Variations (1,062m, VII M5 A4+) on Polar Sun Arm.

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