



Dater Glacier, First Ascents and Ski Descents

Antarctica, Sentinel Range

On January 4, 2023, Penn Newhard, Todd Passey, Jon Styslinger, and I flew 150km north from the Antarctic Logistics & Expeditions (ALE) camp on the Union Glacier to the eastern side of the Sentinel Range. After evaluating the upper Ellen Glacier, we returned south and found a good landing site on the upper Dater Glacier, beneath the eastern side of the Vinson Massif. This area has only been visited a few times, most notably for the first ascent of the east face of Mt. Vinson (4,892m) in January 2001 (AAJ 2001), and during the Chilean north–south ski traverse of the Ellsworth Mountains during the 2002–03 season (AAJ 2003).

On January 5, we climbed to a summit southwest of the prominent, unclimbed Mt. Tuck (3,588m), on the ridge leading to Mt. Mohl (3,604m), which we named Big Chief Peak (ca 2,500m, 78.52230°S, 84.99163°W). To descend, we skied 40° south-facing slopes onto the Hough Glacier.

The next day we climbed a long snow ridge separating the Dater and Hansen glaciers to the top of an arcing summit that we named Verena Peak (ca 2,600m, 78.49271°S, 85.00869°W). We skied the east face to the Hansen Glacier before returning to the Dater via the col to the west of Mt. Tuck.

On the 8th we returned to the Hough Glacier by way of the pass between Mt. Tuck and Big Chief Peak, climbing the west ridge of a prominent snowcapped point above the Hough Glacier to the west of McPherson Peak. We named this Ohana Peak (ca 2,400m, 78.53167°S, 84.90355°W). We descended back to the Hough and returned to the Dater Glacier by a pass to the northwest of McPherson.

On the 9th we skied northwest across the Dater Glacier amphitheater to a prominent and heavily seraced peak on the long Zinsmeister Ridge, which separates the Dater and Hinkley glaciers and runs up to Schoening Peak (4,743m) in the Vinson Massif. The team climbed 40°–50° snow and followed the northeast ridge to the summit, which we called Bodhi Peak (ca 2,850m, 78.47890°S, 85.30163°W). We descended the same route, skiing down the northeast ridge before dropping onto the south face and back to the Dater Glacier.

With a low-pressure system approaching, we relocated south to the upper Driscoll Glacier in the Heritage Range, where we skied several lines on and surrounding Mt. Spolli (2,253m), including a rocky top to the south of Spolli's summit plateau we named Lucky Point (79.57189°S, 83.52811°W). We also completed a circumnavigation of Mt. Spolli.

— Linden Mallory, USA

Images



Skiers on the Dater Glacier with the eastern side of the Vinson Massif behind. The prominent high, flat plateau is the eastern edge of Hammer Col. The high, rounded summit right of centre is Marts Peak (4,551m). To the right of that is Schoening Peak (4,743m), with the very long and unclimbed Zinsmeister Ridge running east out of frame. The rocky pyramid at far left is the end of the northern ridge of Mt. Rutherford (4,477m).



Ascending the northeast ridge of Bodhi Peak with the Dater Glacier below and right. The rocky peak behind and the snowy peak in the distance on the right are both unnamed, unclimbed, and around 2,800 meters.

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