

the activity. A number of teams climbed Pik Kommunizma. Perhaps the most notable foreign ascent was of the 2500-meter-high south face of Pik Kommunizma by five Bulgarians between July 27 to August 2.

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*Pik Kommunizma, Pamirs.* With successes on the 7000-meter peaks in the Pamirs now becoming commonplace, I have only two reasons to report our experiences. The first is to emphasize how accommodating the Soviets have been in assisting foreign mountaineers. For example, we had helicopter drops of food and gear at two high locations on Pik Kommunizma. The second is to point out that one has plenty of company on the peaks: about 350 climbers from 19 nations in three different Base Camps. According to our Soviet hosts this year had the worst weather since 1968. Nevertheless, from our Base Camp, 43 out of 80 climbers achieved the summit of Pik Kommunizma. There was one fatality, a Colorado man from high-altitude pulmonary edema. Our party consisted of John Ellsworth, Terry Moore, Mike Renta and me. Arriving at the main Base Camp of Achik-Tash at 3750 meters, we did an afternoon climb of Pik Petrovsky (4820 meters, 15,814 feet). Two days later we flew by helicopter to the Fortambek Base Camp at 4000 meters, where we joined 76 other international climbers plus 15 Soviets. For conditioning, we made an overnight climb of White Rock Peak (5100 meters, 16,733 feet). Moore, Ellsworth and I continued on to the summit of Pik Umarov (5224 meters, 17,139 feet). Two days later, on July 21, we turned our attention to the Burevestnik Rib route of Pik Kommunizma. Following the Soviet style of acclimatization, we first climbed to Camp I at 5100 meters and the next day to Camp II at 6000 meters. On the 25th we left much of our gear and food and returned to Fortambek for rest. On July 28 we ascended to Camp II. During the night, Ellsworth developed stomach problems and had to withdraw. Renta, Moore and I continued across the 12-kilometer Pamir Ice Plateau to Camp III at 6100 meters. On July 31 we reached Camp V at 6900 meters and on August 1 set out for the summit of Pik Kommunizma, traversing over Dushanbe Peak (6900 meters, 22,638 feet) on the way. Moore and I reached the top but Renta was forced by exhaustion to turn back 60 meters short of the summit.

ROBERT ROCKWELL

*Piks Kommunizma, Korzhenovskoi and Lenin.* "Team Alaska" led by Gary Bocarde and Susan Havens consisted further of Keith Fleischman, Willie Hersman, Margarite Kaniniski, Al Pack, Pete Panarese, Mardie Prentke, Steve Taylor and me. On July 19 we were flown by helicopter from the Achik-Tash Camp at 3620 meters to the Moskvin Base Camp below Pik Kommunizma at 4500 meters. A week of storms prevented our planned acclimatization climbs. As the clouds lifted, on July 26 eight of us made the arduous carry over mixed ice, rock and snow to the lower Borodkin Ridge to Camp I at 5240 meters. The next day Bocarde, Havens, Pack, Panarese and I occupied Camp I. The next two days

were spent carrying loads over the top of 6270-meter Kirov Peak and dropping to Camp II at 5970 meters on the great ice plateau. Sadly, crossing Kirov, we passed the evacuation of American Steve Manfredo, then unconscious from high-altitude pulmonary edema. He would expire the next day after being carried to below 5000 meters by a Soviet rescue team. A rest day at Camp II preceded our move to Camp III at 6640 meters. Pack turned back at 6300 meters with possible symptoms of high-altitude cerebral edema. We climbed to crowded Camp IV at 7020 meters on the crest of Pik Dushanbe. On August 2 we climbed unroped to the summit of Pik Kommunizma (7483 meters, 24,550 feet) in clear, calm weather. Later that day five more Americans led by Eric Simonson stood atop the Soviet Union's highest peak. Since all the others had to leave, Bocarde, Havens and I made a rapid ascent of majestic Pik Korzhenevkoi (7105 meters, 23,310 feet). Well acclimatized from Kommunizma, we climbed from a valley at 4300 meters in successive days to 5430 and 6320 meters. The third day we were tentbound. Despite the whiteout, six Russians attempted the summit unroped. Two hours later, one of them was blown off a cornice, sustaining fatal injuries in a 300-meter fall. Luckily, the weather cleared on the second night. On August 9 we three ascended the remaining 700 meters along the airy Zatelan ridge to the summit. It was then back to Achik-Tash for an attempt on the last Pamir 7000er, Pik Lenin (7134 meters, 23,406 feet). The excellent weather continued as we left the alpine meadows at 3600 meters for camps at 4410, 5230 and 6420 meters on Lenin's normal route. On the summit day Bocarde was soon halted by a GI problem and descended with Havens. I climbed to the summit alone and met my partners that evening at 6120 meters. At our farewell party, my favorite encounter was with a Russian photographer on his 20th season in the Pamirs. He asked me if William Putnam was still president of the American Alpine Club and proudly displayed an aging parka given him in 1974 by young John Roskelley. It was with great pleasure that I found such American legacies alive and well in the Soviet Pamirs.

ANDREW L. EVANS

*Pik Kommunizma.* Our team was composed of Ken Bures, Al Bernsconi, Chuck Betcher, Dan Aguillar, Dave Grier, Al Chambard, Ken Asvitt, LaVerne Woods, Dan Holle, Tim Gage, Gunter Bergner, Burt Falk, Jim Scott, and me as leader. We ascended the mountain from the Fortambek Glacier. This route is highlighted by thousands of feet of Soviet fixed lines that become abraded by the end of the climbing season, and 12 kilometers of trekking at 20,000 feet across the Pamir Ice Plateau. On the plus side, the route is very interesting rock and ice climbing with less objective hazard and fewer climbers than the more popular route from the Moskvina Glacier. The Soviets also provide an airdrop on the plateau for teams that climb from the Fortambek side. We had poor weather for the first part of the trip which hindered our acclimatization schedule. When it cleared, we had to hustle to make the summit by the deadline imposed by the Soviets. The summit was reached in shirt-sleeves weather on August 2, our last possible day, by Holle, Bergner, Betcher, Chambard, and me.

ERIC SIMONSON