

## LAHUL, SPITI AND KINNAUR

*Dharamsura (White Sail Peak), Ascent.* A Japanese team led by Zennosuke Sakurazawa climbed Dharamsura (6445 m) by the east face on September 7. Summitters were Z. Sakurazawa, Yusuo Kurasawa, Tstuomu Aoki, Takashi Chiko, Masanobu Ouchi, Fatehchand and Pyarelal. The seven-member team approached the peak via the Tos Glacier. They operated in the area during August and September.

HARISH KAPADIA, *Editor, The Himalayan Journal*

*Dongrimo and Other Peaks In The Losar Valley, Various Ascents.* The twelve-member team of the Rock Climbing School, Calcutta, India, led by Rajani Rakshit attempted many peaks in the Losar valley of the western Spiti. On August 14, Satyajit Kar, Bijoy Chakraborty, Pinaki Bhusandas with Tashi Choppal climbed Lagborche (5950 m). Kar, Chakraborty and Choppal also climbed Fluted Peak (6139 m) on August 16. Jeeven Peak (5900 m) was also climbed on the same day by them. During the attempt on Dongrimo (6160 m), on August 22, Chakraborty fell down and sprained his ankle. Thus the team abandoned the attempt and returned home.

HARISH KAPADIA, *Editor, The Himalayan Journal*

## KULU HIMALAYA

*Parvati Valley, Various Ascents.* The expedition was a joint effort of the Himalayan Club, Mumbai, and The Mountaineers, Seattle. The primary aim of the expedition was to have a climbing holiday in a congenial mountain setting, to promote friendship and camaraderie between Indian and American climbers and to initiate the groundwork for future mountaineering adventures between the two nationalities. For this reason, the upper Parvati Valley of the Kulu Himalaya was chosen, with its abundance of peaks of modest height (the highest in the area being Peak 'A', 6248 meters) and varying levels of technical difficulty, with the added bonus of a delightful approach march with two sites of hot springs thrown in! The expedition climbed five peaks varying in height from 5360 to 5805 meters. Two of the climbs were first ascents. An attempt was also made on the technically challenging Pt. 6127m (South Parvati).

By September 22, all the climbers, the LO and Inder, one of the cooks, were ensconced comfortably at Advance Base Camp at 4650 meters, which was almost at the end of the left lateral moraine of Glacier IV, a grueling distance of 7.5 kilometers as shown on the excellent Survey of India map. From there, the team climbed the following: Pt. 5605m ("Snow Peak") (second ascent overall; first Indian and first American ascent), on September 23, via a line on the east face and the northwest ridge to the corniced summit (Karen Close, Howard Weaver, Jim Tweedie, Ajay Tambe and Shridhar Nivas); Pt. 5360m (Twin Peak) on September 24 and 25, via the elegant J-shaped east-northeast ridge. The classically alpine snow ridge that automatically draws the eye from Advance Base was later christened "The Birdwalk" as it had large prints of a bird's foot all the way to the summit. Leaving camp at 6 a.m., the climbers made their way across the lower part of the northwestern branch of the glacier on to the talus slopes, which gave access to the east-northeast ridge. The summit was reached at 11:45 a.m. Another party followed the same route the next day. (September 24: Don Goodman, Natala Goodman, Alope Surin, Si Lin Hu, Jaspal Chauhan; September 25: Jim Tweedie, Howard Weaver, Karen Close, Ajay Tambe). (This was the first ascent of the higher of the twin summits.) Pt. 5360m, on September 25 (Mike Burns and Steve Cox), by the northwest face to northwest ridge. Descent was made by the northeast

ridge. It was the first ascent and traverse of the peak. Their account of their climb stated that the route ascended around bergschrunds and through slide paths to the deep col (between Snow Peak and Pt. 5360m) at 5182 meters. The route "continued up from the col, taking the direct route up snow arêtes and passing over an eight-foot cornice on the summit slopes of the northwest face. . . [we] summited at 12 p.m. under clear but building skies. . . [and] descended the east-north east ridge. . . [via] steep snow and bergschrunds. . . back to the bivy. . ."

Pt 5805m ("Ridge Peak"), on September 25, by the northeast ridge was gained via the col between Ridge Peak and Pt 6127m ("South Parvati"), by Jim Tweedie, after six members had retreated from the same route on September 26. It was the second overall ascent of the peak and the first by the northeast ridge. Pt 6127m ("South Parvati") was attempted on September 29 by Karen Close and Ajay Tambe via a couloir on the right side of the south face that was climbed to gain access to the rock of the south face, but after a bivy at their high point of 5640 meters the climbers retreated due to unfavorable weather conditions. Pt. 5445m ("Hidden Peak") on October 1, was climbed by the southeast ridge (Jim Tweedie and Alope Surin). Base Camp was evacuated on October 7 and in three days the expedition was back in Manikaran, reaching New Delhi on October 11.

ALOPE SURIN, *The Himalayan Club*

*Kulu Eiger, North-Northeast Face.* Two days before departing for India, I received a fax from the Indian Mountaineering Foundation indicating that the Government of India had not granted clearance for our expedition to Kishtwar. After the numbness had worn off, we set about achieving the impossible in identifying and obtaining permission for an alternative objective and maintaining the impetus of the expedition.

I had ample opportunity to view the impressive peak of Kulu Eiger on an expedition to the Parvati Valley, Himachel Pradesh, in 1985, and we quickly firmed up on this as our alternative objective. At this stage we were uncertain as to whether it had already been climbed (subsequent research did not reveal any previous attempts on the peak). Sadly, as a result of this change, we no longer had the allocation of a Liaison Officer by the name of Miss Trupti Upadhyia!

A wet but picturesque walk in took us to a delightful campsite at an altitude of 3740 meters directly under the peak. By Himalayan standards, Kulu Eiger, at 5646 meters, is of modest height, yet its north face, towering a vertical 1900 meters above us, looked a serious enough challenge. Our first attempt, after fixing 300 meters of rope on the First Band the day before, faltered, in the face of deteriorating weather, at an altitude of 4690 meters. Our second attempt, a few days later, during a period of superb weather, proved successful. On September 21, Scott Muir, Graham Little and Jim Lowther stood on the summit in windless conditions, under a near cloudless sky. The round trip from Base Camp, which was largely climbed alpine style, involved three bivouacs. The overall grade of the route on the north face/northeast face was Alpine ED (E1, A1 and Scottish V) with nine pitches above the Central Icefield giving excellent Scottish-character winter climbing. We named our line *The Mask* after a small distinctive icefield high on the face. The summit team owes a debt of gratitude for the Base Camp support provided by John Finlay, Pasang Bodh and Prakash Bodh on what was a most harmonious and successful expedition.

GRAHAM E. LITTLE, *United Kingdom*