

a.m. on July 11. We were relying on information from the book *Himalaya Alpine-Style*; much of the information on the route in that book had been gleaned from Doug Scott's 1983 ascent. It should be noted that some of the structure of the face may have changed, as we found the face leading to the ridge extremely dangerous and at risk from collapsing seracs and wet snow slides. This forced us onto the ridge about two hours further west than the West Col, which accounts for the extra height on the last day. On the first two days, we actually climbed in the middle of the night.

ADRIAN BURGESS

Nanga Parbat, Various Activity. 1998 will be remembered by many for Nanga Parbat's (8125m) exceptional generosity. Of the six expeditions, that went after it, five—two Japanese, one Korean, one Australian, one Italian, one Spanish—(all expeditions this year attempted the Kinshofer Route) came back safely and successfully. Together with Rozi Ali, one of Pakistan's leading high-altitude porters, Andrew Lock reached the summit the same day the Korean, Park Young Seok, summited via the Kinshofer Route on July 21. Park has rushed up seven of the 14 8000ers in 13 months. He has only K2 and Broad Peak left in Pakistan. Of the two Japanese teams, the ascent by young Kitamura was the most difficult, as he was unescorted and broke his ribs in a fall during the descent. A politician, Senator Luis Fraga from Spain, made a solo climb to get away from some worries of public life. Beside him and myself, Fraga said there were probably two others in active politics who also happen to be mountaineers. What a foursome!

On July 20, an Italian couple, Nives Meroi and Romano Benet, were the second husband-and-wife team to summit Nanga Parbat, which they did in pretty bad weather conditions. The Italians were eight in number. Nives has climbed extensively with her husband in the Himalaya but without success on the 8000ers. Nanga Parbat was their first trophy. Among Pakistani climbers, a notable success was achieved by our well-known high porter, Rajab Shah, who summited Gasherbrum II on July 22, thus doing all the five 8000ers of the country.

Marred by the World Cup football and the nuclear blasts in India and Pakistan, 1998 was a bad year for tourism in general and mountaineering in particular. Most climbers and trekkers were shooed off by the over-cautious travel advisories of their governments. But those who ventured regardless had a nice time climbing and trekking. Tragically, a blot on the season and a great personal loss was the totally unnecessary murder of my friend Ned Gillette. Bereaved and herself injured in the attack, Ned's wife, Susie Patterson, displayed a courage and positive attitude that gave all of us heart. She was back in the mountains late last summer in Nepal, her love of nature, life and adventure undiminished.

NAZIR SABIR, *Pakistan*

Nanga Parbat, Ascent. Our summit day, July 21, saw a multi-national group from three different expeditions depart CIV at about 4 a.m. In one team were two Koreans, in the second were three Koreans and their high-altitude porter, Rosi Ali, and in the last group were Alan Hinkes and I. Rosi Ali and I shared the leads, alternating 50-meter pitches except where the route steepened or we moved into mixed ground, where I retained the lead. Disappointingly, no amount of cajoling, pleading or abuse was sufficient to motivate any of the other climbers to contribute. Very deep snow and a late afternoon blizzard contributed to Rosi's and my

exhaustion; however, at about 4 p.m., I reached the base of the summit buttress around 7800 meters and was able to make better time. I led for the next hour or so until about 50 meters below the summit, where Rosi Ali overtook me and led through to the summit. Rosi reached the summit about 5:45 p.m. and I at 5:50 p.m. It took until 6:20 p.m. for all the other climbers to reach the summit and at 6:30 p.m. I commenced the descent. During the descent, Hinkes and I led most of the way until we reached the vicinity of CIV, which we were unable to locate. We separated and whilst I was searching, Hinkes was joined by some of the Koreans and together they located the camp. They did not call to me and I was not aware that the camp had been found. Around 2 a.m., I gave up and settled in for a bivouac. With sufficient light at 5 a.m., I moved off and found the camp a couple of hundred meters away, with the larger Korean team and Hinkes ensconced within. The other two Koreans had also bivied out.

ANDREW LOCK

COMMONWEALTH OF INDEPENDENT STATES (C.I.S.)

CAUCASUS

Mt. Dalar, North Face, and Traverse. From August 9-13, a team led by V. Ivanov, together with I. Afanasiev, I. Bondarenko, and S. Egorin, all from the North Osetia Rescue Service Team, climbed M. Warburton's 1976 North Buttress route (6A) on the north face of Mt. Dalar (3979m), then continued to make a traverse along Dvoyniashka Peak (3843m) and the Zamok group (3930m). This route is the most difficult in the Uzuncol region: the north buttress of Dalar is a ca. 500-meter near-vertical rock pillar. To climb the route and then link it with the traverse of Dvoyniashka Peak and the Zamok group—rocky peaks and buttresses ca. one kilometer in length—was rather unusual.

VLADIMIR SHATAEV, *Russian Mountaineering Federation*

Chegem Valley, Ice Climbing Exploration. In February, an ice climbing expedition led by Alexander Kopylov made a reconnaissance of waterfall ice climbing possibilities in the Central Caucasus. It was the first time ice climbers had explored the Chegem Valley, which is one valley to the east from the popular and well-known Baksan Valley, which feeds into Mt. Elbrus from the south. Only a few icefalls were known about in the Caucasus, all in the Baksan Valley. Activity was concentrated on the Chegem waterfalls, a popular and well-known summertime venue. The rock face was discovered to have many routes in an area 200 meters long by 50 meters high. Only two other ice climbs in the Caucasus are known to exist of equal or greater length. The first ascent was made of the summertime waterfall Tyrniauz (90 meters of vertical ice), and Kopylov soloed a 50-meter route. An article and photos on the fruits of the exploration can be found at http://mountains.tos.ru/ice_foto.htm.

VLADIMIR SHATAEV, *Russian Mountaineering Federation*

Mt. Donguz-Orun, North Face, Descent by Ski and Snowboard. Mt. Donguz-Orun ("Mountain over the Lake of Pigs," 4468m), a spectacular massif southeast of Mt. Elbrus and with the Nakra-Tau (Cut Peak, 4431m) summit to the west, is covered with glaciers. The north face of Mt. Donguz-Orun is characterized by a unique glacier in the shape of an upside-down "7," the