

## KAZAKHSTAN

*Dzhungaria Ala-Tau, Various Ascents.* It was reported that British guide Nick Parks traveled to the rarely visited Dzhungaria (Dzhungarskiy) Ala-Tau, a range that straddles the Kazakhstan-Chinese border, in August with a group of school children. The team spent 15 days at or above Base Camp, in which time period they attempted 11 peaks, summing on nine. All were first ascents. From August 8 to 21, members of the group climbed the following: Violetta (3800m) via the northeast face to the southwest ridge (F+); Natallia (3900m) via the north face and west ridge (PD); Olly's Point (ca. 3400m) via the south flank and west ridge (PD); Jumbula (4200m) via the north face (F+); Spudnick 4000m via the east ridge (F) and west face (AD, 300m); the first summit northwest of Simonev Tien Shanski (4200m) via the southeast ridge (F+); Tara (3700m) via the west face. The team also attempted Simonev Tien Shanski via the northwest ridge, but retreated due to lack of time, and Chumsk (4400m) via the north buttress. Team members included Violetta Afuksenidi, Frances Cook, Adam, C.J. and Mark Edwards, Griff Freeman, Dominic Gill, Ollie Hickling, Miriam Manook, Nick Parks, Stas Petrovich, Dr. Barney Rosedale, James Torrance and John Turner. The team reports enormous scope for moderate climbs to the summits of virgin 4000-meter peaks. (*High Mountain Sports* 197)

## TIEN-SHAN

*Central Tien Shan, Overview.* The weather during the 1998 season in the Central Tien-Shan (Khan-Tengri/Pobeda region), typified by a lot of snow and storm, was extremely terrible. Peak Pobeda was climbed by only a few groups; one of them, from Japan, spent three days on the west summit plateau. One person from this group died before they were able to descend.

VLADIMIR SHATAEV, *Russian Mountaineering Federation*

*Development of the Anatoli Boukreev Memorial Fund, and Khan Tengri, Attempt.* Anatoli Boukreev was one of the great high-altitude climbers of modern times. His prolific career bridged the apex of Soviet mountaineering, its disintegration with the USSR's collapse, and the beginnings of its re-emergence in the latter part of this decade. It is fitting, then, that his passing has given the team that brought him to his potential, the Kazak Army Sports Club, some of the same opportunities that he experienced in its folds. After he died on Christmas Day, 1997, his American friend, Linda Wylie, began a plan to further his dreams of helping young Kazak mountaineers with their mountain apprenticeship. In August, some of Anatoli's closest friends created a non-profit organization to assist the Kazak Army Sports Club and create an exchange between that Club and climbers in the West.

In August, I joined Linda, Kevin Cooney and Alex Friedman (a representative of the National Outdoor Leadership School) in Almaty at the home of the Kazak Army Sports Club's coach, Rinat Khaibullin. Rinat had been part of the USSR national climbing team with Anatoli. In Almaty, we met with the heads of the National Sports Program, Messrs. Novicov and Illinski, to establish ties for the future exchange program that is now being conducted. Together with the young climbers of the Sports Club, and joined by Carlos Buhler, we traveled to Byancol and from there to the North Inylchek Glacier. Linda, Kevin, Alex and Carlos left after a brief stay, while Rinat, his team and I, joined by German climbing journalist Rollo Steffens and Alexander Ganovski and Susanne Kayatz, university students in Germany,

attempted Khan Tengri (6995 or 7010m; estimates vary). It was a tremendous opportunity to experience a style of mountaineering quite different from the Western approach, and a lot of fun as well. Andrei Molotov and I reached a group high point of ca. 6550 meters on the normal route from the north side before turning around in tempestuous weather.

The board of the Boukreev Memorial Fund has now paid to fly two young men from the Sports Club to the U.S. this summer. They will take part in a NOLS mountaineering course in Wyoming, on scholarship provided by NOLS (one impetus for this is cultural exchange, and to allow Kazak climbers to learn about environmental ethics in the wilderness). The Memorial Fund is also paying all expenses for one scholarship recipient, Stephan Graepel of Minnesota, to travel to Kazakhstan this summer and join Rinat and the Sports Club in climbing Khan Tengri and Pobeda. Jack Robbins, one of the board members, has been doing a series of fundraising slide shows in the Bay area, and other activities are planned.

It was an honor to climb in the memory of Anatoli Boukreev. The team is in the best of hands with Rinat, a kind and generous individual who has single-handedly insured the continuation of the Kazak Army Sports Club, and Anatoli's character is attested to by the commitment he continues to inspire in his many friends. Long may the Kazak Army Sports Club climb!

CHRISTIAN BECKWITH, *The Wayward Mountaineers*

*Khan Tengri, North Face, New Route.* There are 12 existing routes on Khan Tengri (7010m) that lead to the summit from the North Inylchek Glacier. Nine of these routes are on the north face. The giant buttress on the left is, between 6300 and 6400 meters, the steepest part of the face and was considered the last great problem. In August, a team of Russian mountaineers from Ekaterinburg (Alexander Mihailov, expedition leader and coach; Nicolai Zhilin, climbing leader; Yuri Yermachek, and Dmitri Pavlenko), joined by Sergei Borisov, Nicolai Shcabara, Vadim Popovich, Victor Shishmintsev and Alexander Korobkov at Base Camp, climbed this line. Team members had worked as guides on the Northern Inylchek Glacier from 1994-'97 and thus knew the mountain well.

Base Camp (4000m) was organized at the base of the north face on July 1. After some acclimatization climbs, the team members climbed the normal route to the summit. On August 9, Zhilin, Yermachek and Pavlenko began fixing 12 ropes on the lower part of the route from the first bergschrund (50-70°). On August 12, the team started out. The first bivy was at 5100 meters. The next day they climbed 50 meters of frozen waterfall and several complicated ice and rock sections to approach the base of a 200-meter vertical rocky "nose" that was one of the key sections of the climb. They bivied at 5500 meters at its base. From 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. the next day, Zhilin and Pavlenko fixed two 50-meter ropes, then returned to the second bivy. On August 15, they finished climbing that part of the route by 6 p.m., then arranged a more-or-less comfortable place for the fourth bivy (5700m). On August 16, they climbed several ice-covered rock walls before making the fifth bivy at 5900 meters. In the evening they fixed two more pitches. The steepness of the next part of the route increased from 50-55° to 65-70°. On August 17, they climbed about 200 vertical meters, using aid in some places, before bivying at 6100 meters. In the evening they worked on the route for an hour and a half. The next day they climbed the last meters of the buttress (the crux), which brought them to the eastern slopes of the summit at about 6300 meters. After that they moved along a snowy/icy ridge to the base of the steep belt of red rock, where they bivied at ca. 6400 meters. On August 19, they climbed the red rocks of the presummit in three very complicated