

linked in a full traverse of the head of the Greater Baskan Valley. The peak could also be climbed via an ice climb on the northeast face.

Sapper Ridge (3405m) comprises a series of peaks on a steep, rocky ridgeline above the Shumsky River. It was climbed by Batey and McCorriston on July 27 directly from the Little Baskan Camp via a col to the northeast. The ridgeline was a grade 3 scramble and fairly exposed; there is little opportunity to descend from the ridge once on it and the team had to backtrack to the col in order to get down.

Other ascents made included peaks Dzhambula, Spudnik (by two teams), Davidovich, and Violetta. Location maps giving latitude/longitude coordinates and UTM Grid positions for all peaks and camp sites can be found at our website.

STUART BATEY, *United Kingdom*

TIEN SHAN

Khan Tengri, North Face, Variation. From August 2-13, a team from Nizhniy Tagil comprising Vadim Popovich (leader), Yuri Ermachek, and Alexander Korobkov climbed the north face of Khan Tengri via a combination of various 6B routes: those of B. Studenin (1974), E. Myslovskiy (1974), and A. Pogorelov (1993). The resulting route is a direct line from the base of the face to the summit, with a small right turn near the rocky summit buttress. Two periods of bad weather during the climb forced the climbers to stop and wait for better conditions, one day at ca. 4950 meters at the start of the climb and another day at 6450 meters in the center of the north face.

VLADIMIR SHATAEV and VLADIMIR KOPYLOV, *Russian Mountaineering Federation*

Khan Tengri, North Face, Variation. We were a team of five: Denis Urubko (leader), Sergey Samoylov, Vasiliy Pivtsov, Alexandr Rudakov, and Damir Molgatchev. We started up the Myslovskiy route on August 2. The north face of Khan Tengri is 2800 meters high. The bottom part of the wall—that is, up to Camp VI at 6150 meters—is black rock. Where the rock changes to red (marble), we climbed a new variation to the summit. The Myslovskiy route goes to the right, while the Studenin route climbs to the left. We were interested in an unclimbed couloir that rises between them. This variation took two days; we reached the top on August 9. The weather was bad for the first two days and the final day of the climb. There was too much snow this year, and the route was in very bad condition. On the sixth day of the climb we celebrated Alex's birthday. Avalanches fell across the face during the entire time of our ascent.

DENIS URUBKO, *Kazakhstan*

KYRGYZSTAN

PAMIR

ZAAALAIKY RANGE

Zarya Vostoka, First Ascent and Traverse, and Chorku Peak, First Ascent. There is still a part



The eastern part of the Zaalaisky Range, showing the traverse of Zarya Vostoka. Korumdy lies to the right of Zarya Vostoka. In 2000, simultaneously with the A. Novik expedition, a British team with Russian guides attempted to climb Korumdy by its north rib. However, bad weather prevented the ascent. VIKTOR TIMOSHENKO

of the Pamir that remains practically terra incognita for mountaineers: the eastern part of Zaalaisky Range, which has several peaks over 6000 meters. The northern part of the range lies in Kyrgyzstan, while the southern part lies in Tadzhikistan. The range is the boundary between the two countries. It can be divided into three parts. The western part, dominated by the peaks Sat (5900m) and Surkhan-Gou (5627m), runs from the confluence of the Kyzylsu and Muksu rivers to the Ters-Agar Pass. This region lies between the Pamir-Alai and Northern Pamir mountains. The central part, in which lies Lenin Peak (7134m), is well known to western climbers; it runs from Ters-Agar Pass to Kyzyl-Art Pass. The eastern part of the Zaalaisky Range, home to Korumdy (6613m) and Zarya Vostoka (6349m), lies to the east of the Kyzyl-Art Pass. Thanks to a strict border zone in this region, no explorers had been allowed to travel around and climb the peaks. Recently the limitations have been abolished, and there appeared a good chance to be the first climbers to visit several summits in the region.

A Moscow team led by Alexander Novik and comprising Natalya Zotova, Leonid Fishkis, and Daniil Popov came to the Alay Valley on July 22 to begin an expedition in the area that would last until August 18. The expedition was planned to visit the main glaciers, cross difficult saddles, and make an ascent of Korumdy or Zarya Vostoka (Eastern Dawn Peak). Both peaks were considered unclimbed, though there were rumors of a first ascent of Korumdy by Soviet mountaineers in the 1930s. Upon reconnaissance, Zarya Vostoka, with its characteristic profile, edges, and snow slopes, seemed most attractive. Its graceful summit trapezoid can be seen distinctly from far away—and it still remained unclimbed. The team decided to attempt a traverse of the peak.

Weather conditions appeared to be severe this season, which added much difficulty to the

whole traverse. The ascent began from Nura Glacier via a snow and ice slope on August 4. The snowfall was very intense in August, so the slope was avalanche-prone. Its steepness varied from 30 to 45 degrees in the upper part. The team used ropes and crampons, gradually making its way up. It took two days to climb to the saddle (ca. 6000m) on the main ridge of the Zaalaisky Range (this saddle lies to the east of Zarya Vostoka). The altitude difference from Nura Glacier to the ridge was 1400 meters. In the clear morning, the summit looked no more than two kilometers away and 350 meters higher. The weather changed suddenly. In the two days that followed, the climbers were able to move only 150 meters higher along the ridge because of thick fog; visibility was less than two meters. The third day began the same way, but, since the team was running out of food, it was necessary to reach the summit. Luckily windows appeared in the clouds, which let the team see its way to the top. It was a great joy to make the first ascent of a fascinating peak. There should have been a wonderful panorama of the Pamir with its summits, endless glaciers, and Lake Karakul, but the clouds didn't permit a view.

It took one and a half days to get down to East Kyzilsy Glacier, completing the full traverse of Zarya Vostoka Peak. The steepness of the snow-and-ice descent route ranged from 30 to 40 degrees; some bits of rock were also encountered. The ca. six-kilometer traverse was completed on August 9. Later in the course of the expedition the team of climbers crossed several saddles and made another first ascent, this one of Chorku Peak (Tadzhik: Four Sides, 6283m), which is found west of Korumdy along the main ridge of the Zaalaisky Range.

ALEXANDER NOVIK and NATALYA ZOTOVA, Russia

UGAMSKIY RANGE

Kyzylbash Peak, Northeast face, New Route. On August 19-22, a team from Norilsk composed of Anatoly Paveliev (leader), together with Pavelieva Nelia, Sergey Kartsev, Nikolay Koltakov, Rimma Popova, and Natalia Raficova, established a new route on northeast face of Kyzylbash Peak (4200m), which lies in the Sayram-Su Valley in the Ugamskiy Range. The route took the left side of the 750-meter rock face, which has an average steepness of ca. 82 degrees in the central part. Two days were spent fixing the route prior to beginning. Summit day and return to base camp was made on August 22.

Vladimir Shataev and Vladimir Kopylov, Russian Mountaineering Federation

TERSKEY ALATAU

Kuilu Range, Exploration and Various Ascents. The Terskey Alatau Range extends along the southern shore of Lake Issyk Kul. During Soviet times it was one of the most popular climbing venues in the Tien Shan, having three mountaineering camps based in high valleys on its northern side.

Tucked away to the south of the Terskey Range and west of the Inilchek Valley/Central Tien Shan is the compact and distinct range known as Kuilu. Its highest peak, Constitution Peak (5281m), dominates the eastern part of the range and has several demanding routes on it as a result of a Soviet competition event. Several other peaks accessible from the same base camp were also climbed in the Soviet era. There were no records of any climbing in the west-