

Pakistan

Pakistan, peak fees. We are pleased to inform all clients, friends, the mountaineering community and adventure enthusiasts, particularly climbers, that the Government of Pakistan has decided to continue with the 50% concession in Royalty fee during 2005, thanks to the last minute meeting of The Alpine Club President, Mr. Nazir Sabir with the Federal Minister and Secretary, Ministry of Tourism on February 10, 2005. Initially this concession was given to all climbing expeditions during 2002/2004 in celebration of the Year of Mountains, Nanga Parbat, and K2 Golden Jubilee. Another incentive given for peaks anywhere in the Himalayan-Karakoram belt was a total elimination of the royalty, permit, and L.O. fee to climb peaks up to 6,500m; efforts are being made to raise the same concession to peaks up to 7,000m.

Mr. Nazir Sabir has been in the forefront of pushing for these and many more incentives to encourage foreign climbers into Pakistan during these past years, even before he took over the Alpine Club. We hope that many adventure seekers from all over the world will take full advantage of these incentives in the coming season and the years to follow.

MUSHIR ANWAR, *Nazir Sabir Expeditions, Pakistan*



HIMALAYA

NANGA PARBAT RANGE

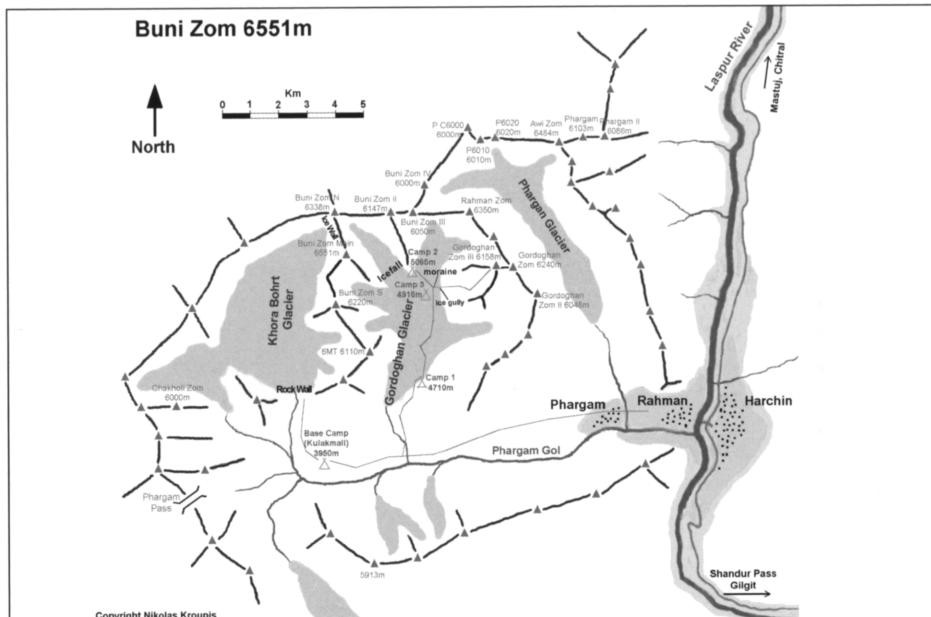
Nanga Parbat, Mazeno Ridge, Rupal Face attempt. Steve House (leader), Doug Chabot, Bruce Miller, and I traveled from the Charakusa Valley [see report later in this section] to Nanga Parbat (26,660 ft) base camp below the Rupal (south) Face arriving in base camp on August 9. On August 12-18 Chabot and I did the first ascent of the 6.2-mile-long Mazeno Ridge on Nanga Parbat to where the ridge ends at the Mazeno Col and intersects the Schell Route at 6,940m [see feature article earlier in this Journal for story and route-line photo]. This climb involved a day to get to an advanced base camp at 5,000m, a second day to climb to a bivouac at 6,200m on the long south ridge of the First Mazeno Peak and another three days to traverse the ridge to where it intersects the Schell Route at the Mazeno Col. Due to fatigue and deteriorating weather, Chabot and I then descended the Schell Route without going to the summit of Nanga Parbat. The intent was to return back up the Schell Route when the weather was better in order to complete the ascent of Nanga Parbat. But because of poor conditions on the descent of the Schell Route, we decided not to go back up that route to finish going to the summit.

On August 12-17, House and Miller attempted a bold new route on the Rupal Face between the Messner Route and the Polish Route [see another feature article earlier in this Journal for story and route line photo].

On August 22 Chabot, Miller, and I left base camp for home. House remained to attempt the Rupal Face again solo. But on August 27 House returned to Islamabad after initiating a solo attempt on the Rupal Face that did not get very high.

STEVE SWENSON, AAC

HINDU RAJ



Map of Buni Zom region courtesy of Nikolas Kroupis.

Gordoghan Zom III, Buni Zom Mountain. Nikolas Kroupis and I first went to the Buni Zom range in July 2002 without any knowledge of the terrain and the geography of the peaks. Two years later (May-June) our goal remained the same, to climb Buni Zom Main Peak (6,551m). This time the two of us, with two more Greek climbers, Panos Sakellaris and Babis Politis, headed for the mountain. We started with two days light trek from the last village (Phargam) following the Phargam gol, and established our base camp at Kulakmali (3,950m). Hoping to get over the 300-meter rock wall that leads to the Khorabot glacier, our plan was to cross the glacier and reach the summit via a 300-meter ice face to the north ridge.

Unfortunately our efforts were cut off by very demanding rock climbing of nearly 150 meters. Bad weather and water coming from melted snow, from above, made the climbing route wet and even more difficult. We decided to go back and reach the summit from Gordoghan Glacier passing over Buni Zom North peak, as a New Zealand team did on the first ascent in 1957. We trekked back half way to Phargam village and met the foot of Gordoghan Glacier. Sakellaris and Politis trekked back to Phargam village and left for Chitral.

With the help of three porters, Kroupis and I scaled up to 4,700m and set a camp.