



The northwest face of Tamadonog above the lower Takdung (a.k.a Nameless) Glacier with the line of the Polish route, Doomed to Miyar (1,000m, UIAA VIII-). Above the initial 500m wall shown, another 500m of easier terrain up a ridge above leads to the summit. *Michal Krol*

Marek Zoladek made an ascent of Masala Peak (ca 5,650m) via an 800m route of WI4. All our routes were climbed alpine style, without bolts.

gerous. On the 27th the weather finally improved, so we decided to go for the virgin summit immediately right of Lotus Peak (climbed by David Kaszlikowski and me in 2005). This summit was also attempted in 2005 by Massimo Marchegiani and Massimo Natalini, who completed a route, Million Indian Stars, to the top of a tower. To this tower they assigned an altitude of 5,650m, though it was obviously much lower.

Our route started up the west face to the right of the couloir used on the 2005 attempt. After a 250m ice/mixed gully, we negotiated a further 250m of relatively friable but easy rock. Above came the steep headwall forming the second half of the climb. Vertical cracks and chimneys led to a point three pitches below the summit, where the weather broke. We continued with some difficulty through snow and rain, but the conditions meant I was forced to climb the last pitch using aid. Our 900m route took 21 hours and led to the summit of what we have christened Geruda Peak (ca 5,640m). Difficulties were VII+ A0 50-60°.

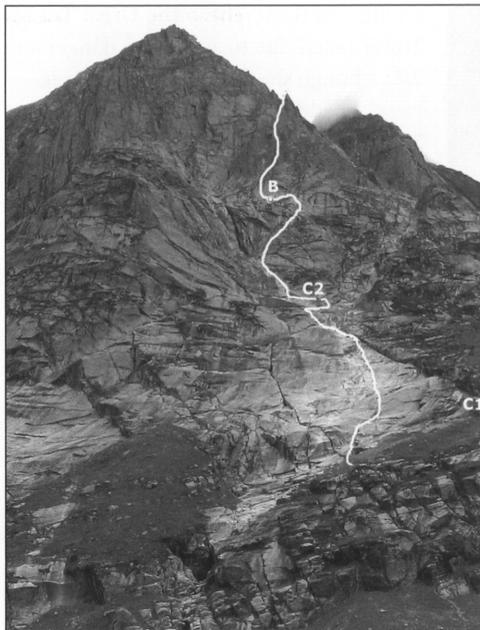
Our two friends Michal Apollo and

MICHAL KROL, Poland

## CHANDRA VALLEY

*Pt. 4,600m, Stressful Rain, attempt.* Gianni Cilia and I planned to visit the Miyar Valley to try the big west-facing wall of Three Peaks Mountain (the unclimbed 6,000+m peak at the head of the Dali Glacier), which I tried in 2003. However, flooding of the Miyar River damaged bridges in the valley, making it impossible to reach the normal base camp site. We changed plans and returned along the Chandra Valley, past the turn-off leading to the Rohtang Pass and on for a little way in the direction of Batal and the Kunzum La. This journey took six hours in an off-road vehicle.

On August 4, before reaching a point on the road lying due north of 6,221m Indrasan, we moved south and established a base camp. Here we located a steep rock wall leading to a tower with an altitude of ca 4,600m. On the 8th we set up an advanced base below the wall, but the



Pt. 4,600m (dubbed Ezio Bartolomei Tower) above the Chandra Valley, showing the line of Stressful Rain (1,450m of climbing, 6c, not to summit). C1 and C2 mark the camps, and B the bivouac where Roberto Iannilli spent a week entirely alone. *Roberto Iannilli*

weather turned bad and prevented climbing until the 11th, when we climbed 15 pitches (600m) up the face to a ledge and good bivouac site. On the 14th, after another spell of rain, we climbed another 11 pitches and left fixed rope before returning to the bivouac. At this point Gianni started to feel weak and unwell.

I stayed at the bivouac site alone, sitting out bad weather, until on the 22nd I was able to solo up to the ridge that would lead to the summit. However, I was eventually forced to retreat, unable to negotiate complex slabs. On the 25th I tried again, this time in a more direct line. After 1,450m of climbing from the foot of the wall, I reached the end of the major technical difficulties, where an easy rock ridge rose left for 200-300m to the summit. Typically, the weather was bad again, and as time was running out, I descended. After spending a week at the bivouac alone, I'd added another seven pitches (310m of climbing).

Although we didn't reach the summit, we have called the peak Ezio Bartolomei Tower and the unfinished route, Stressful Rain. Apart from one bolt, we used only traditional removable protection in our 33 pitches. There were two pitches of 6c and many between 5+ and 6b.

ROBERTO IANNILLI, *Italy*

## GANGOTRI

*Meru South, west face/northwest ridge to below summit, BASE jump of northeast face; Meru Central, second ascent, west face/southeast ridge.* May 23 saw the completion of a six-year project to climb to and perform a wingsuit BASE jump from the "highest-altitude cliff in the world," by my wife Heather Swan and I.

Combining alpinism and BASE jumping (BASE climbing or Paralpinism) goes back to 1990, when Jean-Marc Boivin leaped from the Grand Capucin in the Mt. Blanc Range, having made the second winter ascent of the route O Sole Mio, on the east face. In 1992 Nic Feteris and I set an altitude record for BASE jumping when we leaped from Great Trango Tower, after climbing the northwest ridge. In the last 10 years a new generation of hard climbers, like Dean Potter, Leo Houlding, Valery Rozov, and the Blanc-Gras brothers have extended their interaction with wilderness by combining climbing and BASE jumping.

Inspired to join me and challenge my world record, Heather spent six years learning to rock climb, mountaineer, skydive, BASE jump, wingsuit skydive and wingsuit BASE jump. In 2001 her