

is only 5 percent of the normal rate. No liaison officer will be required outside of the Baltoro region. The Alpine Club of Pakistan publishes a list of current royalties at www.alpineclub.org.pk/peak_royalties.php.

KARRAR HAIDRI, *Alpine Club of Pakistan*

HINDU RAJ



Karka (6,222m), on the left, and Quinto Peak (5,684m) from the north, looking across the upper Chiantar Glacier. *Tarcisio Bellò*



Four climbers made the first ascent of Peak 5,519m by the north face and east ridge (TD, left), and then descended by the west ridge. The mountain was named Somerset Ski Club Peak after the club donated 8,500 euros to help build an aqueduct in Ghotuli village. *Tarcisio Bellò*

Karka and six other peaks in and near the Chhantir Valley. For the fourth time in 11 years, Franco Brunello led an expedition of the Alpine Club (CAI) Section of Montecchio Maggiore to the Hindu Raj for exploratory mountaineering and trekking. In August they placed base camp at 3,980m, two hours northwest of the village of Daudo Chat, north of Ghotulti in the Chhantir Valley. In addition to Brunello, expedition members Mara Babolin, Tarcisio Bellò, Roberta Bocchese, Andrea Caprara, and Bruno Castagnarò ascended various unclimbed peaks.

Of the expedition's seven ascents, the most difficult was Karka (6,222m). Babolin, Bellò, Bocchese, and Castagnarò climbed this beautiful peak over three days (August 12–14) via ice slopes on the northeast side (ED+), accessed by crossing Amin Pass (5,050m). Bellò returned to make the solo first ascent of Quinto Peak (5,684m, ED-) from the same side of the pass.

The expedition also climbed and proposed names for Aga Khan Peak (5,678m, TD-),

Vicentini Peak (5,750m, AD+), the Red Pillar (4,500m, ED-), and Belvedere Peak (4,520m, PD, possibly climbed before). In addition, they climbed Peak 5,519m (TD) and subsequently auctioned the name to raise money for an aqueduct in Ghotulti. The Somerset Ski Club (Sci Club Somerset) in Turin donated 8,500 euros to name the mountain Somerset Ski Club Peak.

Over four expeditions, Brunello and his teammates have climbed more than 30 peaks in this area of the Hindu Raj; they also have completed a number of innovative treks across high passes. A list of these peaks and their coordinates, along with Brunello's maps and additional photos, is available at the AAJ website:

www.americanalpineclub.org/pages/page/47. The editors hope to prepare a comprehensive survey of the Italian exploration of this area for the 2009 edition of this *Journal*.

DOUGALD MACDONALD, *from reports by Franco Brunello and Tarcisio Bellò*

Chotar Zom (Dasbar Zom, 6,058m), south pillar; Nashran (5,200m), northeast ridge; Pois Chhish (4,400m). Our small French team—Eric Lantz, Didier Rognon, Arnaud Simard, and I, all from the BUC Alpin mountain club—spent July 22 to August 11 in the Dasbar Valley, south of Koyo Zom (6,871m). We explored the area and made three ascents.

Eric and Didier reached the summit of a 5,200m peak above the main valley via the northeast ridge. The climb followed an ice couloir with sections of 70° and ended with a snow ridge; they reached the summit after 800m of ascent. We named the peak Nashran, a combination of the names of our three Pakistani helpers. Nashran is a secondary summit of the beautiful Kachqiant (ca 6,000m), still unclimbed. The same pair later reached the summit of a small rock peak (4,400m) via a 700m



The impressive unclimbed southwest face of Karka (6,222m), at the head of the Chhantir Valley. In the foreground is Quinto Peak (5,684m) on the east side of Amin Pass (5,050m). *Tarcisio Bellò*



The French route up the south face of the peak they called Chotar Zom (6,058m GPS); they later came to believe this might be Dasbar Zom, climbed in 1968 from the north side by an Austrian team. The two climbers descended by the shadowed couloir just left of their ascent route, with ice up to 70°. *Florian Tolle*