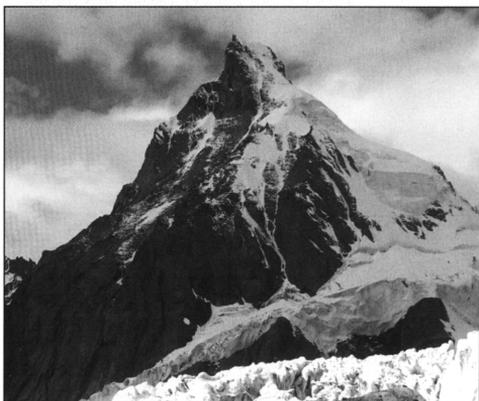


Muz-Tok (5,066m) lies at the head of the Jiptek Valley on the Kyrgyz-Tajikistan border. The southwest ridge, which forms the right skyline, has been climbed, but the north face is virgin. *Graham Zimmerman*



An unnamed and unclimbed peak of ca 5,000m, north of the Kyrgyz-Tajik border on the west side of the Schurovko-va Glacier. It lies just west of Pt. 4,050m on the Soviet Military Map, toward the head of the Jiptek Valley. *Graham Zimmerman*

PAMIR

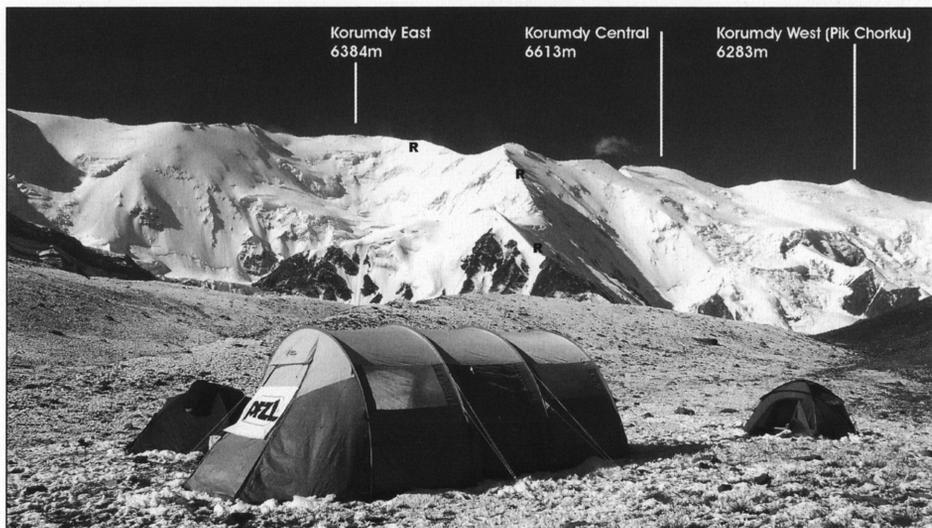
Zaalayskiy Range, Kurumdy East, north rib. Our team of 11 Czech and Slovak climbers approached the Eastern Zaalayskiy Range by six-wheel-drive from the settlement of Sary Tash, on the rough Osh-Kashgar road near the Tajik border. When we could drive no further, we spent two days carrying our 500 kg of equipment to a base camp at 4,050m on the moraines of the East Kyzylsu (Kyzilsy) Glacier, below the northern flanks of Kurumdy. No porters, no donkeys, just human power—it helped with acclimatization. After an initial snowfall, the weather improved over the next 10 days until another spell of bad weather hit the area. By that time we were on our way out. Fixing the initial section of Kurumdy East's north rib, we found the shattered crest had many dangerously loose blocks. Above, a section of snow-covered scree led to a

sloping gravel ledge. The next morning we began ice climbing. Seven pitches up to AI 4, with the odd mixed move took us to mellower ground. We simul-climbed 250m to the top of the spur. The headwall to the summit ridge ran with avalanches, so, despite the early hour, we stopped to bivouac. At 2 a.m. the snow had hardened sufficiently to be climbable and we simul-climbed 300–400 meters to steeper ground, where we pitched. A crevasse one pitch below the ridge proved one of the route's cruxes, capping a wonderful climb.

Arriving on the crest of the east ridge, we were greeted by the large storm clouds. Knowing from Paul that from this point the summit was one to two hours of easy walking, we decided to forgo it and head down. This proved to be a good decision, as the descent of the south face proved tricky, with downclimbing on poor, slabby rock, with no rappel anchors available. We made the bottom of the face just as snow began to fly. We named the route Stegosaurus Spur (1,400m, V 5.10 AI4 M4).

In the remaining 10 days weather thwarted further attempts. We left knowing that the Jiptik holds many excellent possibilities for technical first ascents, generally on steep ice. We give huge thanks to the New Zealand Alpine Club and the Mount Everest Foundation for their support, without which our trip would not have been possible.

GRAHAM ZIMMERMAN, AAC and NZAC



The northern flanks of the Kurumdy group, the highest peaks in the Zaalayskiy Range. The north rib of Kurumdy East, climbed by the Czech-Slovak expedition to make the first ascent of the mountain, is marked (R). The peak marked Kurumdy West (Chorku) is actually Kurumdy West (6,564m): Pik Chorku (6,283m) is off picture to the right. *Michal Kleslo*

flat area on the rib at 4,900m, where we placed Camp 1. (By the time we finished the route, the snow had melted to its underlying ice sheet, making the climbing much more serious.) Above Camp 1 the ridge was almost horizontal, snowy and narrow, until it reached the crux, a one-pitch, 80° wall of ice and frozen rubble covered with light powder. Above, a 150-meter section of ridge, made of the same material, continued to a large cornice that provided just enough room for Camp 2 (5,200m). All this section was fixed.

Above Camp 2 we climbed alpine style at UIAA III–IV on generally mixed ground, with only a few good protection points on each pitch. We dug a site for one tent, Camp 3, into a steep snow bank at 5,700m; this served the summit team for two nights. On August 2 at 3 p.m., after plowing through knee-deep snow, Jan Dolezal and Tomas Ehler reached the 6,384m summit of Kurumdy East, which according to Russian information sources was the highest unclimbed peak in the Pamir [Editor's Note: Kurumdy I, the highest summit in the range, at 6,613m, was first climbed in 1932 by Timashev and party].

MICHAL KLESLO, *Alpine Club* TATRAN HAVIROV, *Czech Republic*

Eastern Zaalayskiy Range, Pik Alexander Gybaev. On July 24, 2008, a group of climbers associated with the Moscow Aviation Institute made the first ascent of Pik 5,368m in the Eastern Zaalayskiy Range. This peak is the highest point of a sub-range branching north from Zarya Vostoka (6,349m, first ascent 2000, see *AAJ 2001*), and is situated between the Nura and East Kyzylsu (Kyzilsy) glaciers. From the summit there is a fine view, particularly toward the Alay Valley. Despite the feeling of visiting a relatively remote location, almost every night we could see a stream of lights in the Alay: trucks carrying goods from China and returning with scrap metal.

After acclimatizing on straightforward Pik 4,713m, situated above the true left bank of the East Kyzylsu, our team approached Pik 5,368m from the northwest, following the first left