

The upper southwest face of Hispar Sar (6,400m), with Rufus Duit's high point marked. *Rufus Duits*

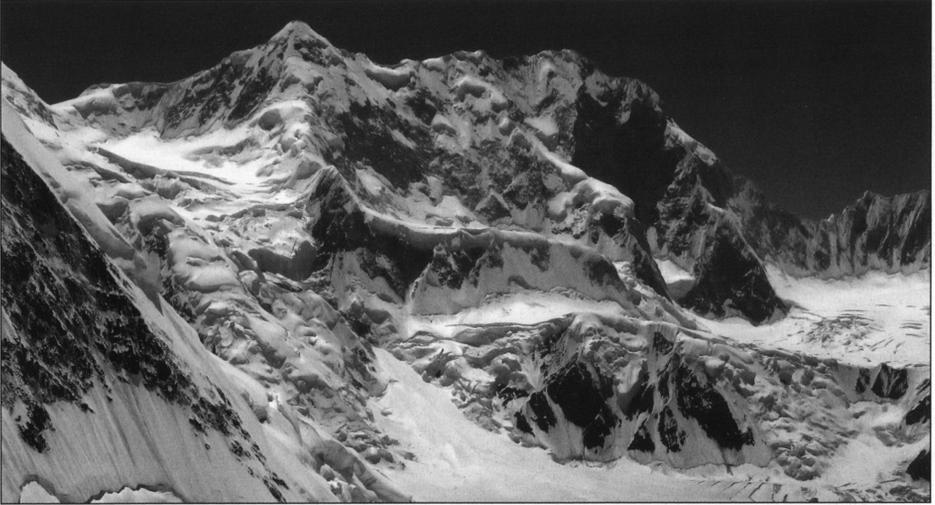
During the night of October 2 I left a bivouac beneath the mountain's southwest face. Above, an attractive couloir, climbed to within 300m of the summit by Andy Parkin and Simon Yates in 2004, wound up the face. It was cold, and the ice was in good condition. Climbing with a very light pack, my rope trailing beneath me, I passed by daybreak the spot where Yates and Parkin had traversed out of the couloir to the right. I carried on to the couloir's top, where, at 11:15 a.m., 50m or so beneath the south ridge and easy snow slopes leading to the summit, I reached unavoidable slabs covered in unconsolidated snow. I agonized over my decision, but, having reached the limit of commitment acceptable to me, I had to go down. My high point was perhaps 100m beneath the Parkin-Yates high point, and it had taken me 10 hours 15 minutes to climb the 900m couloir, at a grade of ED AI 4/5.

Fortunately, I had already climbed my virgin summit. Leaving my base camp at Jutmal on the morning of September 26, I took 5 hours 25 minutes to reach the summit of nearby point 5,684m. This summit lies just north of Jutmal and west of Hispar Sar, on the other side of the Yutmaru Glacier. It is connected to the prominent rock peak of Jutmal Chhok, which can be seen from the village of Hispar, by a sharp ridge. The straightforward ascent up the scree and snow slopes (to 60°) of the peak's southwest face went at AD- (500m). Having found no references for any attempt on this peak, I would like to name it Emily Peak. My porters agreed.

RUFUS DUIT'S, U.K.

*Disteghil Sar, attempt.* In June, Don Bowie, Peter Thompson, Ben Cheek, and I attempted the north ridge of Disteghil Sar (7,885m). Because of the badly convoluted nature of the Malangutti Glacier, this aspect of the world's 20th-highest mountain has only been reached once in three attempts, and that expedition ended in tragedy when three New Zealand climbers were lost. I had visited the neighboring Yazghil Glacier in 1999 and from the summit of a 6,247m peak had discovered an alternative route to the base of this side of Disteghil Sar. The 2008 plan involved crossing Peak 6,247m, then 8km of the upper glacier basin to the foot of the north ridge at 6,000m, and making an alpine-style bid on this steep, partly mixed objective.

The expedition arrived in Shimshal on June 8 and placed base camp beside the Yazghil Glacier on June 10. It was immediately clear that the lower Yazghil was significantly more



The north side of Disteghil Sar (7,885m, at right), Disteghil Sar East (ca 7,700m, left), and the upper Malangutti Glacier basin, from the summit of Peak 6,247m. *Bruce Normand*

broken than in 1999. A quick reconnaissance to the meadow of Parigoz, base camp in 1999, revealed that the glacier directly above it had disintegrated badly and was no longer passable. We found a separate drainage system and climbed compact earth, scree, a remnant glacier, and a soft snow slope to rejoin the 1999 route on the northeast ridge of Peak 6,247m at 5,700m. The last 500m of the ridge required multiple efforts by Bowie and me, using a number of strands of fixed rope to pass crevasses that were absent in 1999. I estimated the ridge would need 10m of compact snow and ice to restore it to its former condition.

On July 4 Bowie and I reached the summit of Peak 6,247m to find that the decay and destruction continued to the summit of Disteghil Sar. The next day we made a reconnaissance of the upper basin by descending 700m and 4km into it. Crevasse fields and serac avalanche tracks complicated the route to Disteghil Sar's north ridge, which itself had far more exposed rock than I had seen. With the backup plan of a snow route on the north side of Disteghil Sar East out of the question for similar reasons, the expedition was at a premature end. The four of us spent the night in our Camp 2 on Peak 6,247m and the next three days stripping the route and returning to base camp.

BRUCE NORMAND. *Switzerland*

*Solu Towers, attempt; Female Peak (Peak 5,290m), first ascent.* The objective of this expedition was to climb one of the Solu Towers (ca 6,000m), situated above Snow Lake in the glacial heart of the Karakoram. The expedition included six women between the ages of 22 and 30, members of a group selected and trained by the French Federation of Mountaineering and Climbing (FFME): Sara Bertholet, Marine Clarys, Fanny Devillaz, Fleur Fouque, Marion Poitevin, and Karine Ruby. This group was accompanied by two guides, Gaël Bouquet des Chaux and I.

Upon arriving in Skardu on September 8, we were surprised to see snow covering the mid-elevation summits that dominate the great plain of the Indus. It was abnormally cold for the season, and the weather was gray. From September 10-14, we climbed 60km along the Biafo