

## EASTERN GARHWAL

*Kalanka, northeast face and central spur, Bushido; history.* Kazuaki Amano, Fumitaka Ichimura, and Yusuke Sato made the first ascent since 1982 of 6,931m Kalanka. Their new 1,800m route, Bushido, started up the northeast face following a line attempted by Nick Bullock and Kenton Cool in 2007, before traversing right to the crest of the central spur, reaching the summit on September 22. An account by Yusuke Sato appears in the features section of this *Journal*. The central spur on the north face had become one of the most sought-after lines in the Garhwal. In 1977 a 14-member Czechoslovakian team led by Frantisek Grunt inspected the line before climbing the right side of the north face. From the top camp, Ladislav Jon and Josef Rakoncaj reached the summit via the upper section of the west ridge (1975 Japanese Route), making the second ascent of the mountain. Despite the use of fixed ropes, this route remains one of the most underrated achievements in the Himalaya. In 2001 Americans Carlos Buhler and Jack Roberts made an unsuccessful attempt on the elegant central (north) spur. Two years later another American team, Sue Nott and John Varco, climbed the lower part of the spur, then used a portaledge to fix ropes through the vertical to overhanging central barrier (M6), completing all the technical difficulties and bivouacking at 6,550m before being forced down by storm. Buhler returned in 2004 with Sandy Allan and John Lyall, but the attempt failed at around 6,000m. In 2007 Nick Bullock and Kenton Cool tried another tact, climbing the big snow and ice slopes of the northeast face left of the spur, only to be defeated on the crest of the east ridge at over 6,300m.

LINDSAY GRIFFIN, *Mountain INFO*

## SIKKIM

*West Sikkim, Jopuno, west ridge.*

After 12 days of unstable March weather in the Thangsing Valley and an unsuccessful attempt on the northwest ridge of Tichenkang (6,010m), Sarah DeMay, Sam Gardner, Josh Smith, and I turned to the aesthetic unclimbed west ridge of Jopuno, a 5,936m peak just south of Tichenkang. From our 4,200m base camp the ridge appeared to start with a short rocky section to gain the glaciated lower crest, which quickly turned into a steep, sharp snow ridge leading to broken yet



Jopuno (5,936m) with the ca 900m new route up the west ridge marked. The only previous known ascent of this peak was made in 2002 by the right skyline (south ridge). *Jason Halladay*

gorgeous golden granite. Above, the rock appeared black and loose before reaching the snow-capped summit. As best we could surmise, Jopuno had been climbed only once, in April 2002 via the south ridge, by Kunzang Bhutia and Sagar Rai (*AAJ 2008, p. 120*).

Leaving camp at 3:30 a.m. under a nearly full moon, we four moved quickly up snow-covered grass and talus to the base of the west ridge at 5,100m. We there broke into teams of two and began wandering up the lower glacier to the first major obstacle, a 12m WI3 pitch on the ridge's north side. This led to the upper glacier, where steep snow, followed by a well-defined