

pure alpine style, with no fixed ropes or porters. We took only two tents, three ice screws, two pitons, and 50m of 7mm static rope.

Leaving base camp on July 7, we walked up the Diamir Glacier and turned left up the Diama Glacier. We walked for two more hours along the base of the northwest wall and installed our first bivouac in a safe site at 5,300m, below the 900m couloir we planned to climb to reach easier slopes on the northwest buttress. This gully is between the French-Italian (Lafaille-Moro, 2003) and Czechoslovak (Belica-Just-Zatko-Zatko, 1978) routes, to the right, and the Diama Glacier route to the left (various attempts as high as 7,750m).

After crossing the bergschrund, we climbed 150m at 50° on the left side of the gully, followed by a 20m, 80° ice section. After about 700m of hard snow, we reached a 200m, 60°–65° section of blue ice, covered by 10cm of snow. Here we used our rope for the first time. We placed our second bivouac at 6,300m, 100m past the exit of the couloir.

Continuing up the northwest buttress, we had to fight deep snow and strong wind. On the third day we climbed a 50° slope left of a gigantic serac to reach the col between two huge pinnacles at 6,600m. We continued to the right of the second pinnacle on easier but crevassed ground. A long snow slope led to our third bivouac (6,900m), on a flat but windy plateau.

We had hoped to continue up the northwest buttress to 7,400m and then traverse right to the Bazhin Basin. Late in the morning, we encountered steep rock, and after some hours of scrambling and routefinding, we realized our best chance to reach Nanga Parbat's summit was to traverse at 7,250m to Camp 4 on the Kinshofer Route. After this exposed traverse across deep 50° snow, we reached a rock ledge from which we could see Nanga Parbat's summit pyramid for the first time. We quickly descended to Camp 4 (7,100m) on the Kinshofer Route, having explored 2,300m of new ground. However, our celebration was brief.

At around 9 p.m. we received a call from our liaison officer in base camp, telling us that Go Mi-sun from Korea was requesting help. Go was climbing with six other Koreans and one of our Austrian companions, Wolfgang Kölblinger. This group had reached the summit in bad weather and was trying to descend to Camp 4.

Three Pakistani porters started up with warm drinks, oxygen, and a rope. We (Göschl and Rousseau) followed them at 3:30 a.m. Just before sunrise we came across the Korean team, which declined our offer of help and continued down to Camp 4. [*Editor's note: Go Mi-sun died in a fall lower on the mountain before reaching base camp.*] They had not seen Wolfgang since they'd reached the summit together at about 7 p.m.

Fearing the worst, we rushed toward the top. After discovering Wolfgang's backpack and ice axe at 8,064m, we reached the summit at 11:30 a.m. on July 11. From tracks in the snow, we inferred that Wolfgang had fallen to his death in the direction of the Mummery Rib. Goger and Bachmair, two of our partners on the new route, reached the summit later that day. We were the last to descend Nanga Parbat that year. A helicopter could find no trace of our friend.

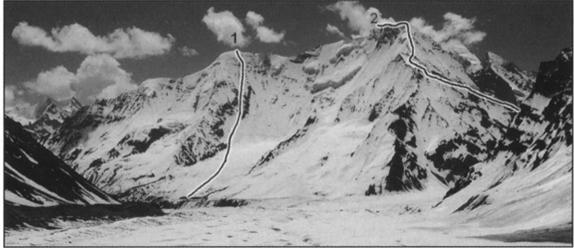
GERFRIED GÖSCHL, *Austrian Alpine Club*, AND LOUIS ROUSSEAU, *Canada*

Corrected history of Laila Peak/Toshain II and Heran Peak; Schlagintweit Peak (5,971m), first ascent; Mamu Choti (ca 5,730m), possible first ascent; attempts on Toshain I and Peak 6,324m. This story begins with an old, awkward mistake. In 1997 some friends and I climbed a beautiful 6,132m peak in the Rupal Valley and claimed the first ascent (AAJ 1998), calling it Laila Peak. In April 2009 an e-mail from Roger D. Mellem revealed that he had climbed the same

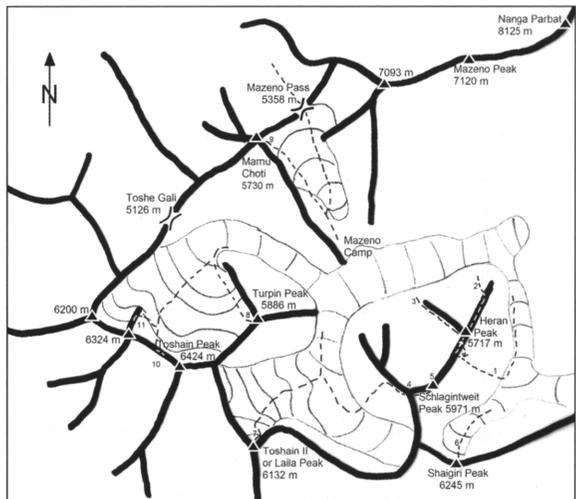
peak in 1974 with Willi Unsoeld and others (*AAJ* 1975, pp. 213-15). Although he had known this since 1998, he waited more than a decade to tell us because he didn't want to spoil our memories. What a nice gesture. We got the name Laila from locals. Unsoeld and friends called the peak Toshain II. Manfred Sturm, who did the second ascent in 1975, referred simply to Toshain. Since this is neither the first- nor second-highest peak in the group, perhaps Laila would be the best name.

Now that I had taken a fresh look at the old photos and maps, I was eager to visit the area again. We organized a team and traveled to the Rupal Valley in June. We camped on the right lateral moraine of the Toshain (Rupal) Glacier, at the so-called Mazeno Base Camp meadow (4,000m). For acclimatization, we attempted the 5,971m peak opposite base camp. Reinhold and Günther Messner had claimed the first ascent of that peak in 1970, climbing from the southeast, and called it Heran Peak. Locals call it Buldar Peak (Old Peak). Thomas Niederlein and I climbed the northwest ridge (PD) in three days. Since, to our knowledge, the peak was not virgin, we turned back where the northwest ridge meets the long, nearly horizontal summit ridge. But Robert Koschitzki followed our track the next day and continued to the mountain's highest point.

Back in Germany, Himalayan chronicler Wolfgang Heichel told us that neither the Messner brothers nor Sumio Tanaka and his Japanese team, who did the north pillar in 1990, had reached our summit. Nor had Mark Twight, who climbed northeast ridge in 1988. All of these climbs ended at the 5,717m east summit, or Heran Peak, 1.8km from the highest point. So it is likely that Koschitzki did the first ascent of the 5,971m peak on June 29, 2009. To unscramble the naming chaos, we suggest calling the higher summit Schlagintweit Peak, after the German scientist Adolph Schlagintweit, who visited the Rupal Valley in 1856.



(1) Heran Peak, 5,717m, with the north face line taken by Tanaka, et al, in 1990; Mark Twight soloed the northeast ridge (left skyline) in 1988. (2) Schlagintweit Peak, 5,971m, with the 2009 route on the west and northwest ridges. *Christian Walter*



Known routes southwest of Nanga Parbat: (1) Messner-Messner, 1970; (2) Twight, 1988; (3) Tanaka, et al, 1990; (4) West ridge to Point 5,930m, Walter-Niederlein, 2009; (5) West ridge, Koschitzki, 2009; (6) Blanchard-Doyle-Robinson, 1988; (7) Jarrell-Mellem-Omberg-Unsoeld, 1974; (8) Rosenthal, et al, 1964; (9) Walter, et al, 2009; (10) attempt by Walter, et al, 2009; (11) attempt, Koschitzki-Walter, 2009. *Christian Walter*

Koschitzki, Niederlein, and I, plus Annette Longo, Norbert Trommler, and Gernot Frank, ascended another peak by a straightforward route (PD-) on July 1. It is the highest point between Mazeno Pass and the so-called Toshain Pass. We measured an altitude of 5,730m by GPS and called it Mamu Choti.

Next we attempted the virgin 6,424m Toshain main peak. It took us three days to find a route through the seracs of Toshain Glacier. From a camp at 5,700m, we reached the foresummit, 150m below the highest point, at midmorning on July 7. However, high avalanche danger prevented us from proceeding.

The next day Robert and I attempted neighboring Peak 6,324m, the second highest of the Toshain group. We climbed the north ridge to 6,100m, where Robert was caught in a slab avalanche. I was able to belay him, but we turned back.

CHRISTIAN WALTER, *Alpinclub Sachsen, Germany*

BATURA MUZTAGH

Karim Sar (6,180m), first ascent. On June 5 Paul Hersey and I arrived in Islamabad to discover security at an all-time high. We drove north up the Karakoram Highway against an endless tide of refugees fleeing a Taliban invasion of the Swat Valley. Three days after reaching the relative safety of Gilgit, we were ensconced at base camp beside the Shilinbar Glacier, under the 2,600m



Karim Sar (6,180m) from the southeast, above the Shilinbar Glacier. Pat Deavoll climbed a hidden gully with Paul Hersey (both unroped) to reach high camp at 5,100m. From there, Deavoll continued alone to the summit. The peak to the right is Aikache Chhok (6,595m). *Pat Deavoll*