

Shiva. Central spur attempted by Russians separates east-northeast face, on left, from shorter north face seen almost in profile to right. *Andrey Muryshev*

*Shiva (6,142m), north face, attempt. In 2008, while climbing a new route on Mahindra in the Miyar Valley (AAJ 2009), we were captivated by a mysterious peak to the northwest. I later discovered it was Shiva, first climbed in 1988 by Junko Tabei. I explored the mountain on Google Earth and found that it had a huge north face, which I estimated to be ca*

1,800m. I could find no further photographs but went in September 2010 with fellow climbers Evgeny Korol and Alexander Kornilov and snowboarder Natalia Lapina to see and climb it. Only the seeing part of the plan was successful.

Climbing the north side of Shiva is problematic. It is divided into two parts by a central spur. On the lower section of the east-northeast face, huge hanging glaciers constantly discharge avalanches. Two fine ice couloirs rise almost to the summit, but accessing them is difficult, and due to poor weather during our stay, they were avalanching. The north face is only 50° and shorter, because it starts from an easily accessible ice terrace at ca 5,000m. However, even here a route will be dangerous due to a large serac barrier in the middle of the face. There are only three lines that can be considered objectively safe: the arêtes bounding the face to the left (east) and right (north) and the central (northeast) spur.

We tried the central line, starting at 5,000m. Although it looked simple at first, the 45-50° snow was wet, deep, and unstable. Evgeny spent an hour climbing one ropelength with no protection. We gained rock, only to find slabs under 10cm of wet snow. In good conditions it would have been a walk. We had provisions for five days but quickly realized we could not climb this terrain in that time. More importantly, we didn't have enough pegs for a rappel descent, and unprotected down-climbing was unthinkable. We retreated, leaving a stash of gear below the ridge.

For four days the weather was bad, and when we returned, we found our equipment had been buried by a huge ice avalanche. Our climbing was over. I was in fact relieved, as the whole experience had seemed too dangerous. I wonder if this ridge is justifiable, as the top is capped by an overhanging serac barrier that may prove insurmountable. From about September 20 to the 30th, the weather was good, but it was too late for us. We hope this information will help future parties climb this magnificent objective.

*ANDREY MURYSHEV, Russia*

*Miyar Valley, Dome Peak (5,650m), Lopez-Pfaff Direct; Point JAMES (4,965m), Southeast Ridge. At the end of August, after a three-day trek, Anna Pfaff and I established base camp in the Miyar, at the spot we had used for our 2008 visit, the grassy meadow below Castle Peak. Taking advantage*

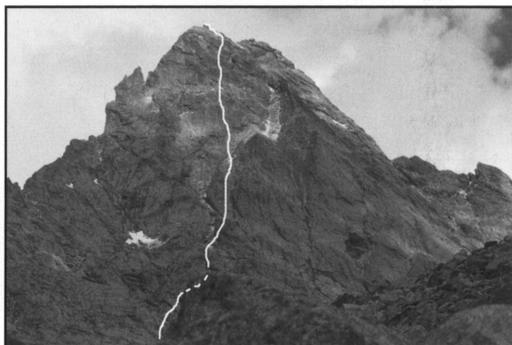
of an eight-day weather window we had enjoyed during the approach, we set off on September 1 for the southeast face of unnamed Peak 5,650m on the north side of the Chhudong Valley [immediately southwest of Veneto Peak and northeast of Premsingh Peak]. Accessing the face via steep talus and a dry gully proved the most dangerous part of the climb. Apart from a few loose sections, the climbing above was good and generally 5.8-5.9 until we reached three-quarters height, where we could either continue direct to the headwall or traverse right to a gully. We opted for the headwall. I led a steep 5.10 face, then Anna led two pitches of 5.10+, overcoming a loose section, before I continued up moderate 5.8 terrain to the summit, arriving in twilight. We slung the most prominent section of the summit with our cordalette, and then began the first of 14 rappels through the night. Along the way we lost one of our ropes, ran out of slings, and almost lost our bivouac gear, but eventually made it down in one piece. We named the route Lopez-Pfaff Direct (IV 5.10+, 800m), and the previously virgin summit, Dome Peak.

The weather then turned bad for 10 days, forcing us to play the waiting game. Carrying no communication technology, we could only assess the weather by looking at cloud and wind movement. However, it wasn't difficult to figure out that winter had arrived. With that in mind, we decided to retrieve our gear cache left on the Chhudong moraine.

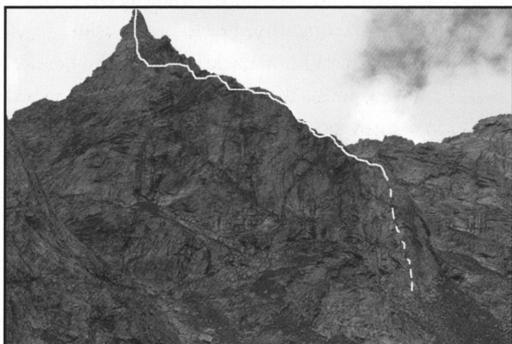
When we reached our gear, the weather began to improve, and we wondered whether we might snatch another route over the next couple of days. We stopped for the night, opting to try a fast ascent next day. The fine pyramid of Point JAMES was close at hand, and we thought the southeast ridge was unclimbed.

Next morning we awoke to a rain-storm. Fortunately, our tent was watertight, so we decided to stay another night, just in case. On the morning of the 11th we woke to perfect blue skies. Simul-climbing moderate terrain on an exciting ridge, we reached a point where it ended below a headwall. On a good ledge we changed into rock shoes and contemplated the weather. We were close to the top, so decided to go for it. I led a full 70m pitch up a 5.10 finger crack through exposed, solid rock, and then Anna took over the lead and reached a roof, which she bypassed by a rightward traverse that proved to be the crux of the entire route. I followed, to find her on a hanging belay just a couple of meters below the summit. To reach the top involved crossing an exposed overhang with no protection. My lead was only a few minutes but felt like hours. Soon we were both hugging each other on the very top, having completed the 600m Southeast Ridge at III 5.10c. There were no other climbers in this region at the time; in fact, we barely saw any trekkers.

CAMILO LOPEZ, *Colombia and US*



Lopez-Pfaff Direct on southeast face of Dome Peak. Camilo Lopez



Southeast ridge. Lopez-Pfaff route on Point JAMES. Other routes on peak lie on far side of ridge. Camilo Lopez