

Gerhard Schaar negotiating tower on Never-Ending Story.
Gerhard Schaar Collection

Ines, then climbed down, until we could safely make 30m rappels. Once into the snow gully, we made 60m rappels and after a moonlit descent of the glacier, arrived at the tent 18 hours after leaving. We named the route Never-Ending Story (1,100m, 5.8) and the summit Kurt Albert Peak, as a tribute to the recently deceased influential German climber and explorer of new territories.

After a day's rest we moved downvalley to below the gully leading to the start of the south ridge (Shangrila Ridge, Grmovsek-Grmovsek, 2007) on Korklum Gou (Window Peak). This is one of the most prominent lines in the area, involves 500m of scrambling followed by 600m (5.10b R), and leads to a unique summit: a 50m rock tower with a hole through it. Local legend has it that the spirit of a great lama lives in the hole, contemplating the beauty of creation. The spirit descends to the meadows once a year to eat momos and visit its horse (a rock that looks like a saddle).

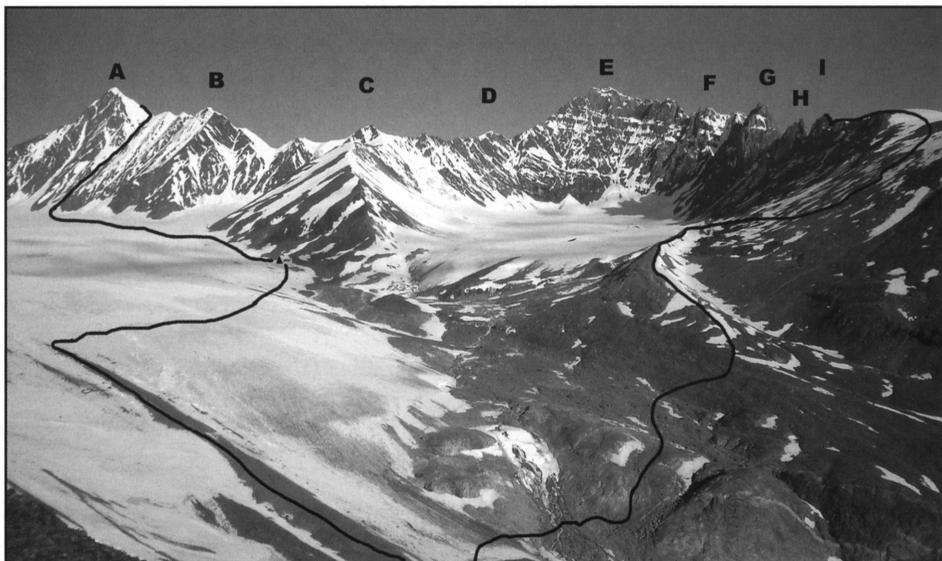
Beginning at 4 a.m., we repeated the Grmovseks' line (rather than taking the direct start of a 2006 Canadian attempt, which stopped short of the summit). We reached the forepeak at 1 p.m. and the summit a little after 3 p.m. We left prayer flags and began our rappel descent of the ridge. A snow storm hit us, and the rest of the way down proved a struggle. We left much gear and were lucky the rope didn't get stuck. I was thankful I'd carried a hammer and seven pitons. Rapping through small waterfalls and downclimbing slabs with no idea where they would lead, we regained our tent 20 hours after leaving.

We always set out for a personal adventure, not to make history, having the experience as a couple, hoping we will have something to tell our grandchildren. Like the glaciers of the Miyar, which at first seem static, we flow steadily and continuously through life.

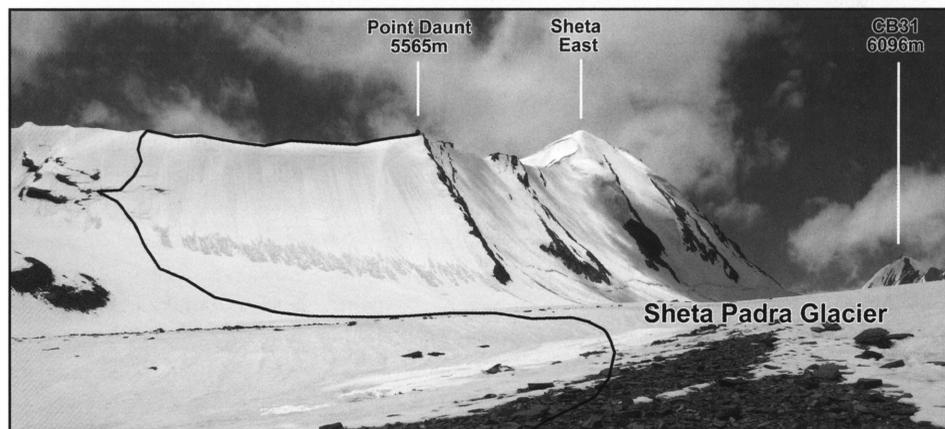
GERHARD SCHAAR, *Austria*

LAHAUL

Chandra Bhaga Group: Daund (5,565m); Hora East (ca 5,250m); Pagoda East East (ca 5,750m), east ridge; Tara Pahar (6,227m), east ridge attempt. Our six-member expedition from Greece originally wanted to attempt unclimbed CB33a. This would involve an approach along the Chandra River from Batal to access the Samudar Tapu Glacier, a route used by a number of previous expeditions. However, we had much difficulty crossing the main stream north of Dakka and farther on found we would have to cross the main Chandra River to access the lower glacier. This was impossible for our horses, and when local shepherds added that horses would not be able to move on the lower glacier, we changed our objective.



View west to northwest over Sheta Padra Glacier. (A) Tara Pahar (6,227m), with route of attempt marked. (B) Tara Pahar East. (C) Tara Pahar East East. (D) Minar South. (E) Minar (6,172m). (F) CB34 (5,913m). (G) Pagoda (ca 5,790m). (H) Pagoda East. (I) Pagoda East East, with route of ascent marked. *Christophoros Kouniakis*



Daunt from northeast with line of first ascent. *Nikolas Kroupis*

Instead Christophoros Kouniakis, Ioannis Kovanidis, Manolis Loudaros, Polychronis Sioulas, Dimitris Titopoulos, and I, with Sudipto Pal from India, attempted summits above an unnamed glacier that flows east from the Tara peaks. We named this glacier Sheta Padra (White Plateau). We made our base camp at 4,865m, three-and-a-half km east of the glacier, and explored the latter over the next few days, estimating it to be five km long, one-and-a-half broad, and with an altitude between 5,100m and 5,500m.

On July 10 Kovanidis and I left base camp, reached the glacier at 5,150m, and climbed 45° snow slopes on the left side to reach the ridge. From there we followed the crest west to a rocky point we named Daunt (Tooth). The same day Kouniakis and Titopoulos climbed a peak immediately southwest of base camp, naming it Hora East.

Early the following morning Kouniakis, Loudaros, and Titopoulos crossed the glacier and reached the ridge extending east from Pagoda (ca 5,790m, southeast of CB34). By following the crest west they planned to reach Pagoda East but stopped at a nearer summit they named Pagoda East East (Pagoda EE). The ridge ahead looked narrow, and as they were short on time, they turned around, reaching base after 12 hours' climbing. There had been no previous attempts on this peak from any side.

On the 12th Korvanidis and I tried to reach Tara Pahar [CB10, which had been climbed five times through 1984, first in 1955 by a British expedition]. At 5,325m we found many snow-covered crevasses, forcing us to turn back, cross the glacier much lower, and camp at 5,236m. We left this camp at midnight and climbed for two hours up the right side of the glacier to the southeast couloir of Tara Pahar. We climbed the 40-55° snow couloir to a col on the east ridge at 6,031m (800m, D). A huge serac overhung the south side of the crest above, so we tried to climb the north flank, but stopped at 6,088m due to deep snow and potential avalanche risk. We rappelled to the glacier and returned to base camp. Worsening weather prevented us trying more peaks, and we left base camp on July 19.

NIKOLAS KROUPIS, Greece



Ache seen from C Glacier. 2009 expedition climbed peak up broad north face/ridge on left. Supplied by Tamotsu Nakamura



Chemma from north. Kazuo Hoshi, Supplied by Tamotsu Nakamura

Ache and Chemma. The Tokai section of the Japanese Alpine Club (JAC Tokai) has made 11 expeditions to the Indian Himalaya since 1988, mainly in Ladakh, Lahaul, and Spiti, where they have climbed 15 summits over 6,000m. The 10th, in 2009, planned to attempt the well-known Karcha Parvat (6,271m), in Lahaul, but found the ridge completely snow-free, so they would have been unable to melt water at camps. Instead they turned to an unnamed 6,066m peak to the south, in the upper Karcha Nala, establishing Camp 1 on July 13 at 4,700m and Camp 2 four days later at 5,200m, on what they called the C Glacier. Four main glaciers rise south from the Karcha River; they have tentatively been designated, from east to west, A, B, C, and D. The headwaters of A Glacier include Peaks