

to a basin 500 feet lower. After crossing the basin on skis, we got to the first slopes of the south-southwest face. These are rather broken by a row of séracs and crevasses. The steep east-southeast ridge leads to the summit. After climbing the south peak, we kept on but the weather prevented the ascent. Narbaud became snow-blind. We descended to Base Camp on July 8. The final assault started on July 10. A summit attempt on July 14 failed, but we reached the top (8068 meters, 26,460 feet) at 1:30 P.M. on July 15. We used skis between the foot of the north face of the south peak and 25,100 feet and cross-country ski boots to the summit. The weather this year was particularly bad. Only eight of the first ten days were clear. After that we made use of short clearings.

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*Gasherbrum II.* A seven-man-and-a-woman Japanese expedition led by Hideo Sato climbed Gasherbrum II (8035 meters, 26,360 feet). They established Base Camp at 16,650 feet on June 17 and Camp I at 17,900 feet on the 21st. R. Watanabe fell ill with pulmonary edema on June 27, was carried to Concordia and evacuated by helicopter. Climbing resumed on July 7. Camps II, III and IV were established on the southwest ridge at 19,000, 20,850 and 24,500 feet on July 11, 23 and 28. On August 1 Sato, Masaaki Fukushima and Kenji Imada headed for the summit, which they reached after a bivouac at 24,215 feet at three P.M. on the 2nd. They were at the summit together with members of the Spanish expedition. An account is in *Iwa To Yuki* 87 on page 106.

*Gasherbrum II.* After leaving Bongla on July 1 with 60 Balti porters, we finally set up Base Camp at 16,900 feet on the South Gasherbrum Glacier on July 11. Camps I and II were on the same glacier at 18,500 and 19,675 feet, the latter at the foot of the southwest ridge of Gasherbrum II. We fixed rope on the 45° to 50° slopes of the ridge to reach Camp III at 21,325 feet. The route to Camp IV followed the ridge to a small 23,000-foot basin at the foot of the spur that leads to the summit pyramid. On August 2 at 2:30 P.M. Pere Aymerich and Enric Font, along with the Japanese Hideo Sato, Kenji Imada and Masaaki Fukushima, reached the summit (8035 meters, 26,360 feet) after a precarious bivouac at 24,450 feet. On August 3 Luis Gómez, Antonio Torá and I made a second attempt but a quick change of weather drove us back. Dr. Antoni Ricart also accompanied us.

CONRAD BLANCH, *Centre Excursionista de Catalunya, Spain*

*Gasherbrum IV Attempt.* Todd Bibler, Don Frederickson, Matt Kerns, Craig McKibben, Jim Nelson, Dr. Charles Scherz and I as leader began