

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.

MAURICE BARRARD, *Club Alpin Français*

*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

the trek to Base Camp from Bongla on June 12 and arrived there some days later. We spent 2½ weeks ferrying loads to Advanced Base Camp at 20,000 feet on the upper Gasherbrum Glacier. After a period of stormy weather, we attempted the south face, hoping to intersect the south ridge higher up. At 22,500 feet we encountered thin, loose snow over very loose rock. We abandoned the route and decided to attempt the east face or the original Italian route on the northeast ridge. After more bad weather, McKibben, Kerns, Nelson and I climbed the Italian icefall to the base of the east ridge. Bibler and Frederickson continued to the base of the northeast ridge, but gave it up because of deep snow and lack of supplies. Meanwhile Nelson and Kerns descended in deteriorating weather, leaving their food for McKibben and me. We remained at our 22,500-foot camp during a spell of bad weather. We made several attempts on the east face but had to retreat because of avalanches and bad weather. We returned to Base Camp after 34 days above to find that Jim had been evacuated due to a bowel obstruction. Porters had carried him to Base Camp. He was then evacuated to Skardu by helicopter and from there by plane to Islamabad, where he was operated on ten days after the onset of his illness. He has since made a complete recovery.

STEVEN J. SWENSON

*Baltoro Kangri on Skis.* Baltoro Kangri, formerly called the Golden Throne, has five distinct summits, the highest of which is 23,880 feet. It was climbed by Japanese in 1963 and 1976 from the Duke of Abruzzi Glacier via the prominent col to the east, Conway Col (20,669 feet). Our aim was to climb the mountain by the Japanese route and ski from the summit back to Advanced Base Camp. We were Dr. Peter Alston, Keith Geddes, Ian Gray, Phil Ham, Harry Rankin, Jess Stock and I as leader. We took 72 porters to Base Camp at 17,000 feet on the edge of the South Gasherbrum Glacier but used none above on our alpine-style ascent. Advanced Base was below Hidden Peak at the foot of slopes leading to Conway Saddle. We used snow caves higher. We were holed up for three days on the saddle in a blizzard. We found a route through the icefall above the saddle and made two more bivouac caves, the highest being at 22,500 feet. At two A.M. on June 6 we set off for the summit of Baltoro Kangri V (7260 meters, 23,819 feet), which we reached at two P.M. all except for Geddes, who had fallen ill on the ascent. Baltoro Kangri III, the highest summit, was avalanche prone and so was not climbed. Alston, Rankin and Stock skied from the summit to Advanced Base, which they reached at 9:30, the last two hours skiing in the dark. The others of us descended on foot, making another bivouac.

BRIAN HALL, *Alpine Climbing Group*