

*Mustagh Tower Attempt.* The Fantasy Ridge Mustagh Tower Expedition arrived at Base Camp at 14,000 feet on the Baltoro Glacier on August 8. The team included Lyle Dean, Steve Gall, Doug Snively and me. Dean replaced Peter Habeler, who had to cancel at the last moment because of a knee injury and pending operation. We had hoped to do a capsule-style ascent of the French route on the Mustagh Tower's east face, but too short a time schedule and illness turned our planned 21-day attempt into a last-minute alpine try by Gall and me, which failed below 21,000 feet when the weather turned bad and the porters arrived to take us back. We left Base Camp on August 31.

MICHAEL COVINGTON

*Baintha Brakk (Ogre), South Pillar Attempt.* From May 18 to 23 we made our approach to Base Camp at 15,750 feet on the Uzun Brakk Glacier. From May 24 to June 5 we carried loads and placed camps at 17,400 and 19,800 feet. We fixed 2500 feet of rope to secure carries. From June 6 to 9 all four of us made an attempt on the direct south pillar but climbed only four pitches before being driven down by the weather. One climbed while the other three jumared and hauled loads. From June 10 to 20 Michel Fauquet and Vincent Fine renewed the attempt. On June 15 they reached the top of the vertical pillar, having climbed 3000 feet of vertical rock in 24 rope-lengths of UIAA IV+ to VIb, A3 difficulty and two pendulums. They used no fixed rope and belayed primarily with nuts and Friends. All were hanging bivouacs. They were still 2000 feet from the summit with 1300 feet of snow slopes and 700 feet of rock. The weather went bad on the 16th and they waited in their bivouac tent. On the 17th they set out in three feet of new snow but were stopped at 23,300 feet, still 600 feet short of the summit. They descended the pillar in 24 rappels. Meanwhile Dominique Suchet and I ascended four unclimbed summits above the Uzun Brakk Glacier around Base Camp. Two lay west of the Uzun Brakk Glacier, P 5904 (19,370 feet) and the peak just southeast of it. P 5745 (18,848 feet) lies some four miles east on the ridge north of the Baintha Lukpar Glacier. The fourth peak is the second summit on the ridge southwest of Baintha Brakk II. P 5904 was of difficult mixed climbing. The others were of snow and ice.

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*Baintha Brakk II.* A Korean expedition led by Yon Sae-Pyo made the first ascent of Baintha Brakk II (6960 meters, 22,835 feet) by its northwest buttress. They established two camps on the glacier, one on the buttress and a snow cave bivouac higher. The route between Camps II and III was fixed with rope. You Han-Gyu and Kim Dug-Yong reached the summit on July 16. Tragically one of the expedition members was killed. A photograph of the route appears in *Bergsteiger*, March 1984.