

*Gasherbrum I (Hidden Peak) Attempt.* We were Dr. Dave Bong, Gary Le Moine, Richard Soaper and Ethan Van Matre, lead team, and Jonell Geller, Bill and Dana Isherwood and I, support team. We reached the 17,400-foot Gasherbrum Base Camp at the confluence of the Abruzzi and South Gasherbrum Glaciers on July 3 after eleven days with absolutely no porter problems, using the well known Baltoro approach. No porters carried beyond Base Camp. In the ensuing weeks we had established Camp I at the top of the first icefall by July 13 as the lead team worked higher on the route. Camp II, near the base of the west ridge of Gasherbrum I, was occupied on July 21 after unscheduled rest days due to bad weather. Camp III on the Gasherbrum La between Gasherbrums I and II was first reached on July 18 but not occupied until July 24. On July 27, after waiting out two days of bad weather in Camp III, the lead team made an alpine-style push for the Messner-Habeler high camp on the north ridge of Gasherbrum I, but after eight hours of battling thigh-deep snow over unstable, down-sloping slabby rock to 22,700 feet, they realized they were less than halfway to their goal. Insufficient food remained on the mountain to support a second attempt and so the route was cleaned and all members were back in Base by July 29. Looking back with 20/20 hindsight, I see three errors: (1) all members should have come back to Base after stocking Camp III before the alpine-style summit push, (2) all available food should have been loaded into the camps rather than only enough for one attempt, and (3) one can never be too careful about party selection.

ROBERT A. WILSON

*Gasherbrum II, Italian Women's Altitude Record.* Our expedition, for reasons of permissions, consisted of Gabriel Slovina Ubaldini, Valerio Bruschi, Enrico Mutti, my wife Goretta and me, but Goretta and I actually operated completely independently of the others. After arriving at Base Camp at 5100 meters on June 12, we reconnoitered to Gasherbrum La but were stopped there by bad weather. We were on the 1956 Austrian route. The weather cleared on July 5 and the next day we set out for Advance Base at 6000 meters. We continued from there alpine-style. On July 7 we bivouacked at 6500 meters, on the 8th at 6900 meters and on the 9th below the rocky final pyramid at 7400 meters. Strong winds kept us storm-bound all the next day and on July 11 we two reached the top at 4:30 P.M. My wife was not really a climber before and had worn crampons only on a couple of occasions. She had accompanied me to Base Camp on other expeditions, but now she is the first and only Italian woman to have climbed so high. The other members of our group attempted the same route. Gabriel Slovina Ubaldini reached the summit with porter Mohammed Ali an hour after us.

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