

*Pik Lenina and Pik Kommunizma Attempts.* In July, David Bregenzer, Richard Goodell, Tim Lemmuchi, Alan Ropp, Fred Ziel and I went to the Soviet Union, hoping to climb the Razdelny route of Pik Lenina and the Borodin route of Pik Kommunizma. After only a day in the comfortable Ashik-Tash Base Camp for Pik Lenina, we moved to Camp I and by the seventh day reached the high camp at 6400 meters. On our summit attempt, high winds and a radio report of an oncoming storm forced us to retreat, even though we were feeling good. We turned to Pik Kommunizma. A helicopter ride to the Moskvina Base Camp was an unforgettable experience for seeing magnificent scenery. On our second day we established Camp I at 5200 meters. While moving to Camp II, Ropp slipped on a snow slope while making the transition from one fixed line to the next. He fell 300 meters down a couloir and sustained multiple injuries, including head trauma. A coordinated rescue by the Soviets and our group got him down to the glacier, where he was stabilized and air-evacuated to a hospital at Osh. He remained in a coma there for two weeks before being transported to London for further medical treatment. The rest of us abandoned the climb and had to remain in the Soviet Union for a week and a half dealing with Soviet bureaucracy. Ropp is walking and talking and hopes to travel in the mountains again. He still needs rehabilitation treatment, but considering the accident, it is a miracle that he is still alive.

STACY TANIGUCHI

*Ak-Su, Pamir-Alay.* From June 28 to July 21, fifteen Yugoslavs from various parts of the country led by Lazar Popara of Vojvodina climbed in the Ak-Su area of the Turkestan Range, one of the most difficult climbing regions in the USSR. Wild and hard faces, altitudes between 3000 and 5000 meters and unstable weather are factors. We did the following three new routes on the big face of Ak-Su: Tolmin Couloir and Novo Sad Couloir, both on July 5 and Slovene Route on July 7, all three by Jože, Šerbec and me. Some of the climbers attempted the normal route on Ak-Su but were turned back by storm. Numerous other easier climbs were made.

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*Peaks in the Fanskiye Gory, Tajikistan.* Three Bulgarians, Nikolai Velikov, Kiril Rusev and K. Krumov climbed in August and September in the Fanskiye Gory, where they climbed four summits: Alaudin (4200 meters, 13,780 feet), Zamok (5070 meters, 16,634 feet), Mirali (5170 meters, 16,962 feet) and Chimatarga (5487 meters, 18,002 feet), the highest in the range. The most interesting was the new route on the west face of Zamok. The 1000-meter-high route took 1½ days (UIAA V). Using Friends and hexentrics, they climbed remarkably fast.

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