

with our hosts from Minsk, we arrived at Base Camp at 2800 meters in the Kara Su valley on July 1. After an easy acclimatization climb on Duchtar-Cha (3800 meters, 12,467 feet), we climbed the east buttress (5.10a) of Usan (4329 meters, 14,203 feet) on July 4. On July 8, we climbed the probably virgin, 1000-meter-high, east face of Kara Su Peak (5309 meters, 17,419 feet) in five hours. On the summit ridge lay soft snow on unfavorably layered rotten rock. The first 300 meters of the descent along the north ridge were also tricky. We next turned our attention to the fantastic granite spires. On July 11 and 12, we tried unsuccessfully to make the second ascent of the French route on the east face of P 3850 (12,631 feet) in the Ak Su valley, but we could not find the passage over the big roof halfway up the wall. After a period of rain, we turned to the east-southeast pillar (Kritsuk route, 1300-meters, 5.11, third ascent) of 1000 Years of Russian Christianity (4520 meters, 14,830 feet). On July 17, we bivouacked after 800 meters of mainly 5.7 with two pitches of 5.10c. The next day, the sustained most difficult section awaited us. We mastered 14 pitches before bivouacking. We reached the summit the next morning at 10:30 A.M. after six 5.8 pitches. The descent was long and difficult, with 15 diagonal abseils along the south ridge, followed by 600 meters of abseiling and down-climbing the couloir between our peak and P 4810. We arrived at Base Camp at 11:30 P.M. On July 22, we made what was probably the first one-day round-trip on Asan Peak (4204 meters, 13,793 feet), following the popular Alperin route on the southwest buttress (700 meters, 5.10b). On July 25, we completed the climb of Piramidalny (5509 meters, 18,075 feet) in 5½ hours from an intermediate camp at 4200 meters. Only one pitch under a sérac proved difficult. After bad weather, Smitter and I made the second ascent of the Dutch variant, "Slippery People" (5.10c), on the Yellow Wall. The next day, August 1, we joined van Hasselt and Lanters at the foot of the southwest buttress of the Fitz Roy-like peak, P 4810 (15,781 feet). They had already prepared the first two pitches. In a very long day we climbed to reach a good ledge, 20 meters from the summit in the last rays of the sun. Our 800-meter-high ascent was mainly of 5.7 to 5.9 difficulty with a few harder pitches up to 5.10d. The next day we enjoyed the view from the summit and made 30 rappels down the ascent route. The trip was very well organized by our Belorussian friends.

ROLAND BEKENDAM, *Koninklijke Nederlandse Alpen Vereniging*

*Peaks Twelve Kilometers West of Pik Pobedy, Tien Shan.* Our expedition was composed of Austrians Leo Baumgartner, leader, Dr. Andreas Paul, Gernot Madritsch, Hubert Engl, Heli Ortner, Netherlander Ton Biesemaan and Germans Tom Stöger and me. On September 15, we were flown by helicopter from Alma Ata in 2½ hours to the Khan Tengri Base Camp. From there, Stöger, Engl, Ortner and I were flown further to a glacial valley twelve kilometers to the west of Pik Pobedy, where we set up our Base Camp at 4000 meters on the Proletariatski Turist Glacier. We were the first climbers in the area. (The others stayed in the Khan Tengri area.) On the eastern side of our valley there were five

pinnacles shaped like shark's teeth. On September 16, Stöger and I climbed the First Shark's Tooth (c.5100 meters, c.16,733 feet) by its west face and north ridge. The rock was rotten and of UIAA II and III difficulty. The ice was up to 60°. The upper section, where we roped, had loose snow and cornices. Only one of us could stand on the summit at a time. On the 18th, Stöger and I climbed on its east face to a 5200-meter foresummit of what we called "Half Moon." This lies on the ridge between the Komsomolez and Proletariatski Turist Glaciers. The lower part was of UIAA III+ and 45° ice. We did not attempt the north ridge between the foresummit and the main peak as it was too dangerous because of deep snow, cornices and séracs. On both September 16 and 18, Engl and Ortner also attempted the same peak by its south ridge but they gave up because of bad conditions and technical difficulties.

EDI BIRNBACHER, *Deutscher Alpenverein*

### **CIS—Caucasus and Pamirs**

*Elbrus and Pik Korzhenevskoy.* On June 12 and 18, I climbed to the summits of Elbrus East (5621 meters, 18,442 feet) and Elbrus West (5642 meters, 18,510 feet) in the Caucasus. I was informed that I was the first American woman to ski from the summit of Elbrus East to Kara Bashi at 3700 meters. In the Pamirs, because of high avalanche danger on Pik Kommunizma, we turned to Pik Korzhenevskoy. Russians Evgeni Prilepa, Sergei Efimov and Sergei Arsentiev, German Karl Heinz and I climbed alpine-style, making three camps, and on July 25 reached the summit (7105 meters, 23,310 feet).

FRAN DISTEFANO, *Trek Around the World*

*Diklos-mta, Addala and Addala East, Dagestan, Caucasus.* This British-Ukrainian expedition climbed in the Snegovoy and Bogoski ranges in the remote western part of Dagestan in the Eastern Caucasus from August 11 to September 8. We made three first British ascents and two new routes. German Gottfried Merzbacher first climbed here exactly 100 years ago. After him and Hungarian Mór Déchy in 1897, there had been no further climbers from outside the Soviet block. Alpinists from Dagestan and other parts of the Soviet Union added to Merzbacher's nine routes, but the area had really seen little climbing. On August 19, Mike Doyle and I made a new route variant on Diklos-mta (4285 meters, 13,730 feet), a new couloir and a new direction of traverse. Most of the team opted for the established route on the east ridge. They were forced by white-out to turn back just below the summit. Doyle and I, having climbed a couloir to the south ridge, were committed to traversing the mountain via a long and highly dubious crenellated ridge of crumbling shale. On August 27 Doyle, Ewan French, Adam White and I, and Ukrainians Mikhail Bogomayov and Yuri Cherevko climbed the normal northwest ridge of Addala (4151 meters, 13,619 feet), mostly rock. The shale was mainly frozen for the climb but thawed, allowing a rapid sliding descent. Moving to the northeast side of Addala, we