

Sikkim Himalaya

Kirat Chuli (Tent Peak) Attempts. An Austrian expedition led by Kurt Elbl operated in Sikkim from April 24 to May 25. They attempted the southwest ridge of Kirat Chuli (7365 meters). The 12-member team reached 7153 meters on May 17. The high point was reached by one member, Dirnbock Roman. Bad weather prevented further movement. A 10-member German expedition led by Wolfram Schroter attempted the peak in September/October via the southwest ridge of Nepal Peak, reaching 7100 meters. The high point was reached on October 25 and 26 by three members.

HARISH KAPADIA, *Editor, The Himalayan Journal*

Siniolchu Ascent. A Japanese expedition led by Dr. Masafumi Katayama summited Siniolchu (6887 meters) on May 21 by the north ridge. Summitters were Masayuki, Chida and Takashi. This was a 12-member team that operated in the area from April 13 to June 5.

HARISH KAPADIA, *Editor, The Himalayan Journal*

Siniolchu Attempt. Josef Friedhuber led an Austrian expedition that attempted the north ridge of this beautiful peak on Zemu glacier. Due to heavy snow and persistent bad weather in September/ October they had to abandon the attempt.

HARISH KAPADIA, *Editor, The Himalayan Journal*

Kumaon and Garhwal Himalaya

Nanda Kot, South Face. A guided British expedition made the first ascent of the south face, approaching from the Pindari Glacier. The summit (6861 meters) was reached on October 2 by Richard Baskerville, Martin Moran, Andrew Nisbet, Jonathan Preston, and Brian Shackleton. This chisel-headed snow/ice face was first attempted by an Indo-British expedition that reached 6400 meters in 1987, and more recently by a Japanese team. The approach to the face crossed from the Pindari to Kafni Glacier basins by a col at 5350 meters, then skirted up the right side of a major icefall to establish a final camp on the upper Kafni plateau at 5950 meters. The 12-hour summit climb took the right edge of the 500-meter upper face at angles

between 48° and 60°. Thanks to a good cover of snow from a late and heavy monsoon, few crevasses and little ice were encountered. Conditions could be much harder in a dry season. The party descended in the center of the upper face, then took a diagonal line through a serac band back to camp. As climbed, the route rated D+ on the Alpine scale of difficulty due to the long remote approach and the steep finish. Objective dangers, though not entirely absent, were neither serious nor prolonged. The south face is probably safer and a more elegant route than the north flank by which previous ascents of the mountain had been made.

MARTIN MORAN, *Alpine Climbing Group*

Chaukhamba II, Chaukhamba I, and Unnamed Peak, First Ascents. An expedition mounted by the Nehru Institute of Mountaineering, Uttarkashi, and led by Col. M.P. Yadav succeeded in climbing to the summits of Chaukhamba I (7068 meters) via the southwest face and Chaukhamba II (7138 meters) via the northeast ridge on July 9. Peak 6736 was climbed on July 11 by the northeast ridge. All were first ascents. Summitters were Ranvir Singh Hav, Laxman Singh, Hav. Gurung and Jagmohan (on Chaukhamba II), Col. M.P. Yadav, Major V.S. Joshi, Ratan Singh and Sanjay Pun (on Chaukhamba I), and D. Norbu and C.B. Pun (on Unnamed Peak).

HARISH KAPADIA, *Editor, The Himalayan Journal*

Chaukhamba I Attempt. During September and October 1995, a British team consisting of Steve Adderley, Malcolm Bass, Julian Clamp, Paul Monico and Simon Yearsley attempted the first ascent of the northwest ridge of Chaukhamba (7138 meters) in the Garwhal Himalaya. We established Base Camp at Sujnderbarn (4600 meters) on September 14. From there it took us 10 days to establish ABC at the base of the Chaukhamba massif, some 24 kilometers up the Gangotri Glacier. Two HAPs were used for the first eight kilometers on the lower moraine. A late and heavy monsoon had left a large amount of snow on the glacier which assisted progress by covering many of the crevasses. ABC (5377 meters) was situated at the base of the icefall below Meade's Col (6053 meters). On September 27 Malcom Bass and Julian Clamp set off to place a tent and food supplies on Meade's Col, directly at the foot of the Northwest Ridge route. Routefinding through the complex icefall below the Col proved very difficult, taking seven hours to gain 200 meters of height. From there mixed ground led up to the bottom of the large serac that forms the base of Meade's Col. After 13 hours of climbing the Col was reached at midday, where the team sat out the poor snow