

*Lixin and Changste.* It was reported that a group of Italians climbed two 7000-meter peaks last spring. Claudio Bastrntaz reached the top of Lixin Peak (7113 meters) on May 13 while his partner, Dando Pignataro, stopped at around 7000 meters. On May 18, the two set out from Everest's Advanced Base Camp for the North Col. A little before the Col Pignataro decided to descend. Bastrentaz continued alone up the southeast ridge of Changste (7580 meters). (*High Mountain Sports* 158)

*Lobuche Kang II, First Ascent.* A Swiss party from Neuchatel established Base Camp at 5300 meters. Camp I was above the difficult 400-meter-high serac barrier at 5750 meters, Camp II was at 6300 meters on the col between Lobuche Kang I (7367 meters) and II (7072 meters). Heavy snow and dangerous crevasses complicated the route. The steep and not easy east ridge (55° ice) was fixed with 1000 meters of rope (800 meters in vertical rise). All members of the team were able to reach the virgin summit (7072 meters). Members of the team were: Heinz Hiigli (leader), Carole Milz (deputy leader), Christian Meillard, Andre Muller, Simon Perritaz, Thierry Bionda, Andre Geiser, Doris Liischer, Pierre Robert and Dominique Gouzi. Labuche Kang I was first climbed in 1987 by a joint Sino-Japanese expedition.

JÓZEF NYKA, *Editor, Tatarnik, Poland*

*Lhakpari, First Ski Descent.* An expedition guided by Andy Broom (Out There Trekking) reached the summit at 11 a.m., September 22, via the west ridge. All skiing was randonée except Philip Ponder, who made the trip on a telemark system with three-pin bindings, perhaps the highest anyone has skied up and down on them. Some of us used poles with self-arrest hand-grips. As the final summit ridge got steep, icy and exposed we removed our skis and went to the configuration of a self-arrest pole in one hand and an ice axe in the other.

CLEVE E. ARMSTRONG, O.D., *unaffiliated*

*Cho Oyu, Various Ascents in the Post-Monsoon.* Thirteen teams attempted Cho Oyu, and all were successful via the Standard Route from the west side in Tibet. Most of them were commercially organized. A total of 75 men and two women summited from September 11 to October 13. On that date, the famous, indestructible Ang Rita Sherpa, who is about 48 years old, became the first person to make four ascents of Cho Oyu. He is best known as the only person to have summited Everest nine times. He has been to the

tops of Dhaulagiri four times and Kangchenjunga once. Amongst the other men were the first South African to this summit and two Sherpas who summited twice this season. One of the women, Jan Arnold, was from New Zealand. One Cho Oyu candidate never reached basecamp. A New Zealand mountain guide, Guy Cotter, was a member of the same team as Arnold, and they flew from Kathmandu to Lhasa before going to climb. At his Lhasa hotel one evening he handed in a fax message for his family back home, waited while it was transmitted, and took it away with him to his room. Later that night he was arrested, taken away by the police for several days of intensive interrogation, forced to confess that he had committed a crime, and deported on a plane back to Nepal. He had been videotaped by the police throughout his time in their custody. His offense: in his fax he had said that he had heard a bomb explode and seen army vehicles speeding down the street.

ELIZABETH HAWLEY

*Shisha Pangma.* It was reported that five expeditions attempted Shisha Pangma this spring, all by the Standard Route. Only three men continued on to the main summit. Erhard Loretan summited in a solo climb that began at 5:30 a.m. on April 28 from a camp at 5800 meters. He reached the central summit at 11:30 the following morning and the Main Summit half an hour later. (*High Mountain Sports* 155)

*Shisha Pangma, Southwest Face, New Route.* The expedition was made up of Kim Bover, Ramon Estiu, Jordi Bosch "Barraca," Xavier Robiró, Carles Figueras, Josep Permañé and Iñaki Garijo. The route was climbed without prior preparation alpine-style by Josep Permañé and Carles Figueras on September 22 and 23. After we had established basecamp (5700 meters), we began to climb on September 22. We did not find any platform for the tent so we attached ourselves to the slopes, passing the night at 6800 meters. The following day we went up to the top side of the southeast ridge (approximately 7550 meters) where we put up a tent 50 meters below it. On September 24 we passed the seracs (approximately 7700 meters) and went up the slopes which led to the top. We could only advance slowly, opening a deep pathway in the snow. Surrounded by fog until 4 p.m. we arrived at what we believed was the top. But suddenly the fog disappeared and we understood that we were wrong — we were on the small top situated directly east of the main top. (We saw perfectly the exit of the English route near our feet and the ridge leading to the main summit some meters above us.) We decided not to arrive on the main top (excessive snow, fatigue, lateness