

the wall. The descent was made under very dangerous conditions. The wall is objectively very dangerous, with ice and stonefall, etc. Climbing to our high point was rated 5.10 A4 65/70°.

This was my second attempt. The first attempt was slightly more direct, but therefore more exposed to rockfall.

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**See accompanying photo of Amin Brakk in the opening pages of this journal.*

Makrong Chhish, East Ridge, Attempt. It was reported that Stephen Sustad and Simon Yates made two attempts on the east ridge of Makron Chhish in August. The first, from August 26-29 via the northeast face, was thwarted at 5400 meters by unclimbable snow; the second, which approached the ridge via the southeast flank on September 1-6, reached 6400 meters before being stopped by dangerous snow conditions and bad weather. (*High Mountain Sports* 171)

Chukutan Peak, First Ascent. It was reported that Spaniards J. Bañales, I. Peribañez, C. Reima, L. Tejada, M. Fernandez and J. Mugara had planned to attempt Spantik, but were forced to change objectives due to snow conditions. They climbed Chukutan Peak (6290 m) and another unnamed peak (6100 m). In both cases they reached the summit ridge but not the main summit due to complicated, and dangerous, ridge traverses up to them. (*Desnivel*)

Redakh Brakk, and Other Ascents. During the Haramosh II Expedition in 1995, we could not help noticing a prominent unknown mountain that dominated the view to the northeast looming up behind the ridge bounding the far end of the Sgari Byen Gang Glacier. Exact location was problematical. The Nushik La is the old pass linking the Kero Lungma and Hispar glaciers, and our mystery mountain appeared to be somewhere nearby. Subsequent study of maps and photos showed the peak to appear much closer to another pass, the Bolocho La. This location was confirmed on the ground during the 1996 trip.

The suspected location close to the Bolocho La meant that we had a choice of three approach glaciers: Kero Lungma, Bolocho, and East Makrong. We chose the Kero Lungma; it seemed to offer plenty of alternative objectives should our primary one prove too dangerous or inaccessible. In the event, our mountain was not readily accessible from the Kero Lungma, but we had a whole glacier-full of mountains to go at, and we had no record of any of them having been touched.

Dave Wilkinson and Colin Wells had all seen the mountain from the Haramosh trip, and fancied a go. Bill Church and Tony Park later joined the team.

Our mountain appeared to be under the magic 6000 meters limit, so Pakistani government permit, peak fee and liaison officer were not required. Our approach followed the south bank of the Kero Lungma Glacier. Base Camp was situated in a small ablation valley, easily reached from the glacier below, but well banked up with old snow. Above it rose a mountain of about 5000 meters (later named "Tsuntse Brakk"—"Small Peak," an unimaginative but descriptive name). We decided to try this peak as acclimatization and for a view. A short section 150 meters from the top gave a pitch of Scottish Grade 3, and proved quite awkward with only one ax and a ski-stick each. The view from the top was tremendous, but identification of our mystery mountain still proved uncertain.