

Spantik, Ascents. Frenchman Daniel Petraud climbed Spantik (7027m) twice, the first time on August 15 with three other climbers. He then went on to scale the peak another time, following the ridge all the way from base camp to top and back on August 18-19 in 16 hours. "We first went up the Normal Route (southwest) behind the ridge. Later I went up alone, starting on August 18 at 8 p.m. It took me ten hours to reach the top and the next day at noon I was back at Base Camp. The entire time involved was 16 hours. The ridge is much safer than the Normal Route." The expedition took 11 days in all from Base Camp to top and back. All the climbers except the leader were visiting Pakistan for the first time. The summitters were: Daniel Petraud (leader), Dr. Annie Delale (expedition doctor), Laurent Vivier and Patrick Variot. The expedition made Base Camp at 4380 metres, Camp I at 4830 meters, Camp II at 5550 meters, Camp III at 6300 meters. The expedition used 330 meters of fixed ropes.

ASEM MUSTAFA AWAN, *The Nation, Pakistan*

Bolocho I, Bolocho V, and Bolocho VI, First Ascents. The British team of Stuart Muir and Dave Wilkinson were reported to have made ascents of three virgin peaks south of the Hispar Glacier during July and August. They began with a 5240-meter peak they called Bolocho V, climbing it by its east ridge and encountering one pitch of Scottish III/4 (the rest was easy snow). They then started out for Bolocho I, a peak Wilkinson had seen in 1995 while climbing Haramosh II. They made it to a col (5300m) at the base of the north ridge, but a stretch of bad weather forced them back to base camp for five more days. When the weather cleared, they made it back to the col and proceeded up the 55° ridge (which was covered in up to a foot of fresh snow). They continued along the heavily corniced summit ridge, achieving the summit at 9 a.m. via a steep gully (Scottish IV/5) and easier ground to the top. They descended during the morning and evening, spent a day at high camp, and reached base camp on August 9.

On the 14th, the pair was joined by teammates Andy Forsyth and their base camp assistant, Fidali, on a climb of Bolocho VI (5200m) via snow and a 35° icy slope. (*High Mountain Sports* 183)

Ruwiduri Sar, Zarsanic I, First Ascents. It was reported that Annabelle Barker, Pru Cartwright, Margaret Clennett, Sally MacIntyre and Sue Willisroft visited the Shimshal Pass area in July, making ascents of Ruwiduri Sar (5500m) via the northeast ridge and Zarsanic I (5900m) via the southwest ridge, both from the same bivouac site at 5000 meters. They also attempted Mingli Sar but were turned back by a day of bad weather. All ascents were non-technical. (*High Mountain Sports* 183)

Malubiting West, Ascent. On July 29, Matthias Dischinger (28) from Lorrach, Germany, Roland Brandli (35) from Zurich, Switzerland, Ruedi Karrer (38) from Zurich, Switzerland, and Dieter Fünfshilling (25) as expedition leader, started the walk-in from Tisar together with 26 porters with the goal of climbing Malubiting West (7454m). On August 2 we reached base camp at 4300 meters along the Chogolungma Glacier. Malubiting and Spantik base camp are the same. On August 4 we established CI (ca.4800m) halfway between base camp and Polan La (5800m). On August 7, we reached CII at ca.5300 meters, just at the foot of Malubiting North. The heat was the biggest problem, turning the Chogolungma glacier into a labyrinth of lateral crevasses. The next day we tackled Polan La. After 9 a.m., the 350-meter "wall" below Polan La became dangerous.

On August 11, we started our summit attempt from base camp and, on August 15, slept at Polan La (CIII) for the first time. Over the next two days we fixed ca.230 meters of rope on



Malubiting East and Central from Camp I on Malubiting West. DIETER FUNFSCHILLING

the mixed ridge above Polan La. From CIII to the summit we climbed alpine style. CIV (6300m) is just one terrace above the Austrian camp. We used our one-meter skis for the first time to reach the beginning of the large plateau (CV, 6650m).

On August 19, we crossed the plateau and rested at 7100 meters, just below the pass between Malubiting West and Central. Matthias and Roland went for the summit on foot via the northeast ridge, while Ruedi and I returned within one hour to CV because of headaches and exhaustion. We basically followed the first ascent route of Horst Schindelbacher et al. From base camp to summit to base camp we enjoyed perfect weather

DIETER FUNFSCHILLING, *The Mostly Harmless Climbers' Club*

NANGA PARBAT RANGE

Laila Peak, First Ascent. Our German team of five made the first ascent of Laila Peak (5971m) in the Rupal Valley. (This peak should not be confused with the famous Laila Peak in Hushe Valley.) The peak is situated at the right end of the Rupal Valley and can be seen from Nanga Parbat Latoba base camp as a rounded white dome. But Laila Peak is more like a long wall rising up from a big but hardly accessible glacier plateau. The unseen south face is a very steep rock wall, while the north face is covered with ice. The icy north face looks very attractive but finding a good route to access the big plateau would seem to be the hardest part. The Rupal people told us about one former serious attempt to climb the peak.

We established base camp below Mazeno Camp at 3950 meters on July 2. First we tried to find a way through the crevasses directly to the smaller plateau which, we hoped, would allow access to the big plateau. We failed. Next we climbed up a beautiful ice ridge directly