

ridge of Spansar, and a couple of hundred feet lower than the main summit. He set off to explore the 17,500-foot spire for a later, roped ascent, but found an easy traverse ledge and decided to continue to the top in just a few hours.

While Peter and Conrad were preparing and resting up for Spansar, Galen decided to explore a possible route up the north arête of Naysar Brakk, an incredible dark granite spire shaped like the Luxor Pyramid between K7 Base Camp and Spansar on the north side of the Charakusa Glacier. He brought a rope and hardware for a safe self-belay and climbed a new 5.10b route up the 1,000-foot face to the left of the north arête, which we later learned had been climbed in 1988 by David Hamilton's British expedition using direct aid. At the time, Galen thought the summit to be unclimbed because he found no sign of passage above a rappel anchor 500 feet below the top, and the loose rocks on top had not been made into a cairn. An Italian party of Lecco Spiders camped below K7 said they knew of an attempt to climb a face route that failed well below the summit, where Galen's watch altimeter read only 16,500 feet. The report of Naysar's first ascent in the 1989 *AAJ* says that the spire, unnamed on maps, is 18,700 feet. Since our watches matched closely at other altitudes, but seemed low compared to maps, we would estimate that Naysar could be over 17,000 feet, but probably not over 18,000.

The day after Conrad and Peter's Spansar ascent, Galen teamed up with two Lecco Spiders, Villa Natale and Luca Maspes, to make the first ascent of Iqbal's Wall, a 1,100-foot dihedral of steep cracks up to 5.10d beneath the massive 6,000-foot granite wall of K7 (still off-limits to climbing because its other side borders a glacier linked to the ongoing Siachen Glacier war).

GALEN ROWELL

*Charakusa Valley, Various Ascents.* An Italian expedition comprising Maurizio Giordani, Luca "Rampikino" Maspes, Mattia Locatelli and Natale Villa were active in the Charakusa Valley in July, making a number of ascents, including the ascent mentioned above on Iqbal's Wall with Galen Rowell. A complete account of the Italians' expedition to the area appears in an article earlier in this journal.

*Brakk Zang, Ganyips.* From June 28 to July 5, Pep Masip and I put up a new route on the southeast face of a virgin mountain named Brakk Zang (4800m) in one of the secondary Hushe valleys of the Pakistan Karakoram. We called the route *Ganyips* (VI 6a A3, 540m), which is Catalan for a sort of dry fruit, like hazelnuts, almonds, peanuts. There is an offwidth on the third pitch. There are nine long pitches, one of them 75 meters. We spent nine days (eight bivies) on the wall, with some snowy days. We had fixed two pitches (110 meters) on June 25-26 before beginning.

There aren't any bolts on the new route, just pitons at some belays because we had to rap down the route. At first we thought we could descend by walking down the north side, but when we got the top we realized that it was too difficult.

SÍLVIA VIDAL, *Spain*

*Diran, Ascent.* Adrian Burgess and Rob Ziegler made the first American ascent of Diran (23,838') on July 10. The mountain was climbed in alpine-style over three days; we climbed the final 4,800 feet in eight hours to summit at midday. Base Camp was reached again at 10