



*The 900-meter north face of Korona, showing 1. The Col Route (two variants, both 4A). 2. F. Popov (5B, 1976). 3. I. Plotnikov (5B, 1995). 4. I. Smirnov (5B, 1962). 5. Mobile Route (Grekov-Puchinin-Ruchkin, 5B, 1999). 6. Solo Dream (Ruchkin, 5B, 1999). 7. K. Kaliugin (5B, 1982). 8. I. Plotnikov (5A, 1995). NIKOLAI CHTCHETCHNIKOV*

for the risk of spending a winter night on the wall.

ALEXANDER RUCHKIN, *Russia*

*Free Korea Peak, North Face Direct, Previously Unreported.* From February 23-27, 1997, Alexander Ruchkin and Andrey Puchinin established the North Face Direct route (6A A3 +, 900m) on the north face of Free Korea Peak (4740m). The route takes a direct line up a weakness in the wall between the Bezzubkin and Mishljaev routes, and then along on narrow 90-degree ice. It is interrupted by two rock sections in the center with vertical walls and roofs. There is a lot of ice, but on the rock there are few cracks for reliable protection. Bad weather delayed us under the beginning of a steep section for two days.

ALEXANDER RUCHKIN, *Russia*

*Free Korea, North Face, New Route.* The north face of Svobodnaya Korea (Free Korea Peak, 4740m) holds ice and mixed routes of more than a kilometer in length. Under the leadership of Michail Michailov, our team of four (including Andrey Puchinin, Alexander Gubaev and Vitaliy Akimov) decided to attempt the first ascent of a difficult route on Free Korea. We