



The west face of Kiukiurtliu, with the west summit of Europe's highest point, Mt. Elbrus (5642m), to the left. The Lukashvilly and Andreev routes take the center of the prominent headwall.

ELEXEY SOLOVIOV

with Igor Cheresku (leader of Shkhelda Emergency Rescue service), greeted the new millennium on the West Summit (5642m) of Elbrus in strong winds, heavy snowfall and temperatures below -30°C . The team made a video of the last millennium sunset as seen from the saddle of Elbrus (5300m) and the new millennium sunrise as seen from the East Summit (5621m). The video and digital images were transmitted from the saddle via special cellular phone and were broadcast by all the central TV channels of Russia.

VLADIMIR SHATAEV and VLADIMIR KOPYLOV, *Russian Mountaineering Federation*

Mt. Shkhelda, Second West Peak, North Face, New Route. In the beginning of January, I started my new project, "Open Caucasus," the goal of which is to promote an interest in the Caucasus region through a series of extreme first ascents from 2001 to 2003. Victor Bobok (Moscow) and I did the first ascent of the north face of Shkhelda's Second West Peak (4310m) in the Central Caucasus. This face had challenged climbers for many years. The main problems of the face are the dangerous icefalls that shoot through the lower and middle parts of potential routes. The upper part of this route is 17 pitches of ice and mixed climbing. It is 1700 meters from the foot to the summit. The first ascent took two and a half days.

YURI KOSHELENKO, *Russia*

Yarydag, New Route. Yarydag, located in the republic of Daghestan in the south of Russia, is part of a ten-kilometer by 15-kilometer plateau located on the border of Azerbaijan and Russia. It is about 250 kilometers from Makhachkala, the capital of Daghestan, and 80 kilometers from the Caspian Sea. The plateau is bordered on all sides by walls. The most important and complex walls are on the west and northwest aspects, where the walls range from