

was established at 2850 meters, an hour's walk from the wall. The ascent began on February 16. Camp I (3250m) was established on February 22 by the leading team of Dorro, Voronin, and Sogokon. In four days, the team climbed a further 75 meters. The weather was very bad, with snow, cold temperatures (-25°C), and wind. On February 26, Camp II (3370m) was established with the portaledge. At this point, the other team members ascended from ABC with the fuel, food, and equipment. Three hundred and sixty meters of rope were fixed to this point. The lower three ropes were thrown down to the base of the wall (the assistant, Sergey Smotrov, helped bring them to BC). From here, the climbing became easier. Camp III (3480m) was established on February 28 and 180 meters of rope were fixed up to the plateau. Everybody returned to Camp III that night. On February 29, the team climbed onto the plateau, then continued to the top. Base camp was reached at 10 p.m. the same day.

The weather was unstable during the entire ascent. The wall was raked by avalanches after storms. Skyhooks broke two times because of the cold. All team members worked on lead. Four falls were taken during the ascent; the longest was 20 meters. There were no serious injuries. All five team members slept in the portaledge (1.35 wide by 1.95 meters long—we had to crush).

The resulting route, Dorro-2000, on the left buttress of Yarydag's western face, took third place in the Russian mountaineering championship.

KONSTANTIN DORRO, *Daghestan, Russia*

*Yarydag, Northwest Face, New Route.* Shkhelda lies in the heart of the Caucasus; Yarydag (3925m) is the easternmost point. On the northwest face of Yarydag, Andrey Andreev, Alexei Krivitsky, Sergey Voronin, and I established the new route, *Northern Edge* (VI 5.10 A2+, 1200m), from February 25-March 2. The climb was done in the framework of the winter championship of Russia and the "Open Caucasus" project. The route was climbed mainly free, in bad weather. On the stormy morning of the last day, it was not easy to find the highest point on the huge summit plateau, even with the help of two friends who had come up to meet us and help us find the way down.

My main impressions were that, as a rock route, the climb was too long for winter. The practically constant wind, with gale-force gusts that tried to knock the leader off the wall several times, made the ropes stand upright like cobras captivated by the fakir's flute. Despite the cold, there was high rockfall danger when we were coming onto the summit plateau.

Andrey Andreev and I shared the leadership of the climb, Andrey organizing, I supervising the technical part. Alexei Krivitsky and I fixed the route for three days. During the last stage, Sergey Voronin joined us.

YURI KOSHELENKO, *Russia*

## KAZAKHSTAN

### DZHUNGARIAN ALATAU

*Dzhungarian Alatau, Various Ascents.* The team comprised Stuart Batey, Mick Jenkins, John Owens, Catherine Clare, Frank McCorrison, Alan Beeton, Allan Gransden, Carl Burks, Carl Morrish, John Wharry, Darren Weller, and Andrew Grubb. Between us, we were experienced mountaineers and novices, 11 military surveyors, and one medic. We were joined by Kazakh

climber Denis Alimpev for several ascents.

The main attractions of the mountains of the Dzhungarian Alatau were that they offer alpine-style climbing up to 4600 meters on relatively unexplored mountains, and yet are fairly accessible from Almaty, the capital of Kazakhstan, which has an international airport. As far as we could ascertain, the region had also only been visited by a Soviet team, who had climbed the highest peak in the region, Semeonov Tien-Shansky (4622m), some 30 years ago, and once by a Western team in 1998.\*

As military geographers, we carry out terrain analysis and geographic data collection as part of our jobs. Our scientific aims were to produce a Geographic Information System (GIS) Database and an interactive image map on CD and internet website. We used GPS to accurately position all our information, as well as digital cameras and video to update our website via Satellite Telephone ([www.apogee-expeditions.com](http://www.apogee-expeditions.com)).

We climbed the highest peak of the range, Semeonov Tien-Shansky (4622m), made seven first ascents (three over 4000m), and explored over 600 square kilometers of the range. First ascents were as follows: Peak Fougasse (4080m) was climbed by Owens, Wharry, Beeton, McCorrison, and Grubb via a dry glacier up to a bowl below the north face (PD, 30-35°) on July 12. Descent was via the same route. Pik Nangers (3330m) was climbed via the west face to a col on the main ridge above the Great Baskan Valley and then via the north ridge (a grade 2 scramble) to the top on July 13 by Batey, Grubb, Gransden, Jenkins, Clare, McCorrison, and Morrish. Burks, Grubb and Beeton climbed Pik Roy (3940m) as part of a rocky horseshoe from the glacier above the East Valley camp. A rocky ridge to the west was then climbed to the top and the horseshoe followed to the summit on July 15.

Peak Conandros (3587m), which dominates the Abay Glacier Valley to the west of the lake, was climbed by Batey, Jenkins, and Gransden on July 16 via the steep grass and rock slopes to a col on the northeast ridge, then traversed across under the north face to a point where the north ridge could be climbed to the top. The horseshoe was then followed around and down the northeast ridge and back to the col. The ascent ridge was a grade 2 scramble; however, the descent was trickier (grade 3).

On July 17, Owens, McCorrison, and Wharry climbed Pik Matthew (4450m). From the Abay Glacier camp, the route (D) followed the left-hand bank of the glacier, which was heavily crevassed, to a point just to the right of the rock rib. From here, a steep slope, initially at an average angle of about 45 to 50 degrees, was climbed for nearly 2,500 feet to the west ridge (the slope eased after about 600 feet). The ridge to the summit was relatively straightforward but loose, and a couple of gendarmes could be passed easily. Descent was by the same route, due to the rapidly deteriorating weather conditions. Alternative routes on the mountain are limited because it is on the Chinese border and because of the hanging glaciers on the north face. It could be approached from the col further to the west or climbed as part of the ridgeline from Peak Davidovitch.

From the col to the east, Pik Apogee (4511m) was climbed by Owens, McCorrison, Grubb, and Beeton on July 24 via the East Ridge (PD), which was a straightforward snow climb that took about one and a half hours from the summit of Pik Davidovitch. Alternative routes include the north ridge from Pik Shumsky, about four kilometers away; this could be

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\*Notes Vladimir Kopylov, Semeonov Tien-Shansky is the highest peak in the Kyrgyzsky Range (best known as the home of the Ala Archa National Park). Its actual altitude is 4875 meters, and it has seen numerous ascents. In the Dzhungarian Alatau, there is no mountain by the name of Semeonov Tien-Shansky. The highest peak of the Dzhungarian Alatau is Sakaldy Peak (4219m), with the only route on it given a Russian grade of 1B. The most difficult routes of this region are 2B to 3A with one route of 4B. Dzhambula (4355m) is officially located in the neighboring Zaaliyskiy Alatau. All the names given to the peaks by the British climbers appear to be provisional.

linked in a full traverse of the head of the Greater Baskan Valley. The peak could also be climbed via an ice climb on the northeast face.

Sapper Ridge (3405m) comprises a series of peaks on a steep, rocky ridgeline above the Shumsky River. It was climbed by Batey and McCorriston on July 27 directly from the Little Baskan Camp via a col to the northeast. The ridgeline was a grade 3 scramble and fairly exposed; there is little opportunity to descend from the ridge once on it and the team had to backtrack to the col in order to get down.

Other ascents made included peaks Dzhabbula, Spudnik (by two teams), Davidovich, and Violetta. Location maps giving latitude/longitude coordinates and UTM Grid positions for all peaks and camp sites can be found at our website.

STUART BATEY, *United Kingdom*

## TIEN SHAN

*Khan Tengri, North Face, Variation.* From August 2-13, a team from Nizhniy Tagil comprising Vadim Popovich (leader), Yuri Ermachek, and Alexander Korobkov climbed the north face of Khan Tengri via a combination of various 6B routes: those of B. Studenin (1974), E. Myslovskiy (1974), and A. Pogorelov (1993). The resulting route is a direct line from the base of the face to the summit, with a small right turn near the rocky summit buttress. Two periods of bad weather during the climb forced the climbers to stop and wait for better conditions, one day at ca. 4950 meters at the start of the climb and another day at 6450 meters in the center of the north face.

VLADIMIR SHATAEV and VLADIMIR KOPYLOV, *Russian Mountaineering Federation*

*Khan Tengri, North Face, Variation.* We were a team of five: Denis Urubko (leader), Sergey Samoylov, Vasiliy Pivtsov, Alexandr Rudakov, and Damir Molgatchev. We started up the Myslovskiy route on August 2. The north face of Khan Tengri is 2800 meters high. The bottom part of the wall—that is, up to Camp VI at 6150 meters—is black rock. Where the rock changes to red (marble), we climbed a new variation to the summit. The Myslovskiy route goes to the right, while the Studenin route climbs to the left. We were interested in an unclimbed couloir that rises between them. This variation took two days; we reached the top on August 9. The weather was bad for the first two days and the final day of the climb. There was too much snow this year, and the route was in very bad condition. On the sixth day of the climb we celebrated Alex's birthday. Avalanches fell across the face during the entire time of our ascent.

DENIS URUBKO, *Kazakhstan*

## KYRGYZSTAN

### PAMIR

### ZAALAIISKY RANGE

*Zarya Vostoka, First Ascent and Traverse, and Chorku Peak, First Ascent.* There is still a part