

glaciated Mai Dur Pass (5700m) into the Ghuzherav Mai Dur Valley. We found the pass corniced with a ten-meter vertical headwall on its east side.

We then ascended the Ghidims Valley. On June 23 and 24, we explored the glacier at the valley's head, ascended a ridge to 5800 meters, and saw a feasible route over the watershed into Sher Ilaq Valley. On June 26, we crossed Ghidims Pass South (5650m) in the middle of the snow-covered rock ridge that formed the watershed. The descent on the Sher Ilaq side paralleled a rock rib that descended from the ridge. We made two rappels to the base of the rib and crossed the bergschrund below, which was bridged by snow from winter avalanches. We traversed north across the glacial basin (the North Rost-e-Dur Glacier's southeast arm) to the base of a rock spur, where we crossed onto a moraine. We followed this moraine due east, then crossed to the glacier's north margin.

Being the first westerners to ever visit the Sher Ilaq Valley, we spent four days exploring, then returned to a high camp (5060m) on the watershed's eastern side on July 1.

We decided to try a different return route, and on July 2 we crossed the upper North Rost-e-Dur Glacier and headed toward a prominent rock rib in the middle of an arm of the upper glacier. We traversed the upper basin of this small arm, then ascended a snow-covered 40-degree slope to the unglaciated Ghidims Pass (5486m). The descent from the pass was a 45-degree slope of mixed scree and rock covered by fresh snowfall. At the base, we crossed a small unnamed glacier and followed its lateral moraine and outflow stream to the main Ghidims Valley. We returned to Shimshal via Boesam Pass (4875m), the standard route between the Ghuzherav and Shimshal valleys.

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## Hispar Muztagh

*Lupghar West II, Ascent.* It was reported that Nicolas Sieger led a four-member team on an attempt of Lupghar West II (7010m) in August. When time ran out, three of the team members left for home, but Sieger remained behind to continue efforts on the mountain. On August 21, he left Base Camp (4400m) at 7 a.m., reaching 5500 meters, where he bivouacked. The next day, encountering sustained difficulties with snow as steep as 70 degrees above 6000 meters, he continued to the summit, which he reached at 9 p.m. He descended through the night to reach BC at 7 a.m. He named the peak "La Rochelle" after his home town. (*High Mountain Sports* 221)

## Spantik-Sosbun Mountains

*Spantik, British Route, Second Ascent and Variation.* Mikhail Davy, Alexander Klenov, Marko Prezelj, Manu Guy, Manu Pellissier and Attila Ozsvath traveled to Spantik (7028m) in June. After climbing 25 pitches of the British route, Davy and Klenov reached the summit on July 18 via 28 new pitches up to 7a A3. On their second attempt, Guy, Ozsvath, Pellissier and Prezelj made the second ascent of the British route with a number of pitches of new climbing. A full account of the expedition appears earlier in this journal.

*Sekha Brakk, First Ascent.* It was reported that a British team consisting of Dave Wilkinson (leader), Ken Findlay, Paul Hudson and Karl Zientek made a probable first ascent of Sekha