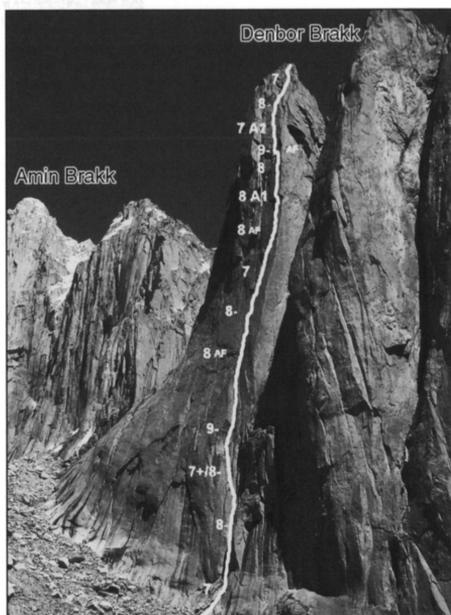


*Denbor Brakk (4,800m), southwest face, Bloody Mary.* In July, after a period of bad weather in the valley, Vasek Satava and Pavel Jonak packed their gear and found themselves at the southwest face of Denbor Brakk (Nangma Valley). They then attempted the unclimbed left pillar of the three on the southwest face. They had some trouble with the first pitches, which were full of vegetation. They aimed at a roof with a hand crack close to the headwall, which they reached after four days of climbing. The crack turned out to be an off width. They could use only one Camalot for protection, and the weather made it worse, so they thought a descent to basecamp was the best decision. Both climbers returned at last, reclimbed their ropes up the first 10 pitches and at the end of the second day had added another. They then climbed the remaining five pitches to the summit. They called the route *Bloody Mary*, 14 pitches, IX- A2.

JAN KREISINGER, *Czech Republic*



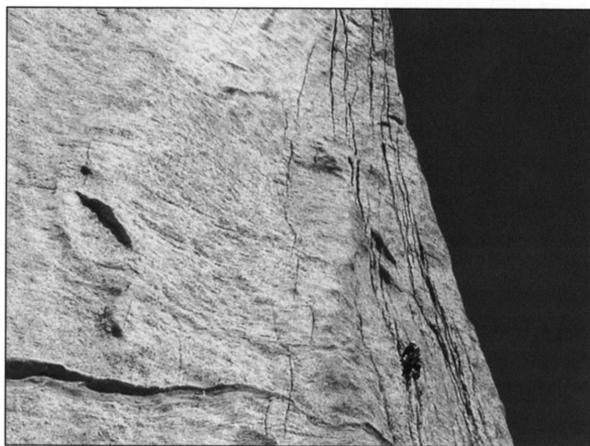
Denbor Brakk showing the new *Bloody Mary* route. The summit to the left is Nawaz Brakk. *Pavel Jonak*

*Changi Tower (5,800m), south face, Anké Asashe.* The expedition was completed by Nestor Ayerbe, Oscar Perez, and myself, all from Huesca, northern Spain. Our mountain club, Peña Guara, supported the expedition. On July 21 we arrived at the 4,200m base camp in bad weather. During the next days we looked for a new line on the south face. The clouds didn't help us very much. Finally we chose a line and started carrying the loads to the base, at 4,600m. The approach was only one hour from our base camp, up a pretty comfortable hill full of edelweiss and cows. On the 26th and 27th we had good weather and climbed five pitches going slightly left, 300 meters up to 5.11-. On the last pitch I found a bolt from an old attempt, possibly used for rappelling. But we didn't find any signs of passage before this, so possibly the attempt was to the left of our line. When I arrived at the end of the pitch I realized that we should rappel down to a gully to continue the route. Perhaps that was the cause of the old retreat. We rappelled 25 meters to the gully and established the Camp 1 at 4,900m. We rappelled down the gully and left fixed ropes up to Camp 1. Bad weather arrived and we had to stop for eight days. On August 6 we returned to the wall. We fixed five more pitches up to 5.10c and A2, and hauled everything in two days. August 8: at night it started snowing and we came down again, leaving our ropes fixed. After some days of bad weather, we went up again on the 11th, but when we arrived at Camp 1 it started snowing again. We knew that the wall has a gully where is possible to gain the col and the main tower, so we decided to carry everything to establish Camp 2 and at least do some work in this horrible weather. We walked up the gully for three hours and left all our bivy stuff at 5,250m.

On August 13 we jumared up the ropes and climbed three pitches. We expected to arrive at the gully that day, but a section of aid climbing (A3) slowed us very much, and we only



The south face of Changi Tower (5,800m), showing the Anké Asashe route. This joins the Basque route in the upper section on the headwall pillar (more Changi Tower routes in *AAJ* 1999 p. 395 and *AAJ* 2000 p. 347). *Cecilia Buil*



Splendid granite high on Anké Asashe, Changi Tower. *Cecilia Buil*

managed to arrive at a big ledge where we had to bivvy (5,300m). We were only carrying a tent as a bivvy equipment, and we only had bread, no water; we passed a cold and hungry night. The next day we traversed right on the big ledge looking for the more obvious way to arrive at the col. We found the line opened by some Spaniards in 1999 called Ludopatía (see *AAJ* 2000) and followed it for two pitches to the col. We arrived at Camp 2 very dehydrated and hungry. The next three

days we climbed and fixed ropes on the tower until the storm returned. It was technical climbing, with lots of aid and free up to 5.10+.

After eight more days of bad weather we decided to go up again despite the falling snow, just because we had to leave soon. We didn't know if we would finish the route or just remove the ropes. We slept at Camp 2 on August 25. At 3 a.m. we started climbing, arriving at the col at 4 a.m. (5,400m). We followed Ludopatía most of the time, although we did some variations. It was snowing; sometimes the clouds enveloped us, sometimes the wind dissolved them and

froze us. Nobody mentioned going down, so we continued up. The sloping ledges were covered in fresh snow and made even the easiest climbing scary. Then Oscar finished the route at the south summit in the middle of the storm. We didn't reach the main summit; it would have required 80 meters or so of easy snow walking [Editor's note: 80m of vertical height gain but some distance horizontally]. After eight rappels and some hours more between the clouds, we arrived at camp 2 at 9 p.m. We left one bolt and 5 pins in the entire route at the belays to rap-pel down the tower. Anké Asashe is 1,150 meters, 24 pitches, VI 5.11 A3.

CECILIA BUIL, PEÑA GUARA, *Spain*

*Roungkhanchan 1 (4,600m), north wall; Troubles, Cough and Fever.* During August, Marco Zebochin, Stefano Zaleri, and I (all members of GARS—part of Società Alpina delle Giulie, the local branch of Italian Alpine Club) climbed a new route on Roungkhanchan 1 (4,600m) north wall. This wall had never been climbed before; our route, Troubles, Cough and Fever, is the first on the wall. It is on good rock, 540 meters long (14 pitches) of grade 6b+ and some aid (A1). Recommended climbing gear: Two 60m ropes, 12 quick draws, cams, and pitons. The pitches are equipped with bolts, but cams and pitons are still required. The route is equipped for rappels, but it is possible to return to base camp by walking on easy terrain directly from the top. We used about 100 bolts (each belay stand is equipped with a minimum of two bolts).

To reach the cliff you have to travel from Skardu to Kande village by jeep. From there it is one day of walking up the Nangma Valley to the base camp on a beautiful and comfortable grass-covered clearing along the river. The wall is located on the right side of the valley (the same side as the Great Tower). To reach the cliff, follow the moraine (formed by the K6 glacier) on the right side and then walk to the base of the big dihedral of the Roungkhanchan 1.

This valley offers many possibilities for new routes even if the rock is not always perfect. During our stay we met other parties from Slovenia, Spain, Canada, and Italy that were successfully engaged in climbing new projects.



The line of Troubles, Cough and Fever on the north wall of Roungkhanchan I. *Dario Crosato*

DARIO CROSATO, *Società Alpina delle Giulie, Italy*