

Fortunately the snow abated but the slopes now gave cause for concern, as they were freshly loaded with powder snow. The bottom half of the face was down climbed with speed, and it was with relief that the two safely reached the base, 12 hours from starting their descent, at 7 p.m. An overall grade for the route, Edge of Darkness, was thought to be TD+/ED1 Scottish 1V, 1,600m.

NICK BULLOCK, *United Kingdom*

*Pasang Lhamu Chuli (Jasamba, Cho Aui) (7,351m), attempt.* A six-member Slovenian team led by Uros Samec went up a new line on this mountain just south of Cho Oyu. Although it is officially called Pasang Lhamu Chuli, it used to be known as Jasamba or Cho Aui, and has been successfully climbed twice from its west side. This autumn's group attacked it from the south, up the southeast face to the south ridge.

Their route presented technical difficulties in the mid-section of the face above a big snowfield; here they encountered rock and thin ice leading to a 60° couloir, which in turn led to the summit ridge. The first part of the ridge was also a problem: it was narrow, covered with snow, in one section badly corniced, and was 90° at its beginning. But three members, Rok Blagus, Samo-Matijja Kremelj and Samec climbed the face, pitched a camp there and two days later, on October 24, were on the summit.

ELIZABETH HAWLEY, *AAC Honorary Member, Nepal*

*Nangpai Gosum I new route; Dazampa Tse, first ascent.* In the middle of October Slovenian expedition made first ascent of Nangapi Gosum 1 (7,351m) or Pasang Lhamu Peak from the southeast (Nepal side) and also made first ascent of Dazampa Tse (6,295m).

Slovenian team (Urban Azman, Tadej Golob, Uros Samec, Samo Krmelj, Rok Blagus, doctor Zare Guzej and me Urban Golob as expedition leader) set up Base camp near Sumna glacier, one hour from traditional way of yak caravan from Tibet over Nangpa La to Namche Bazar. On the same place was also Base camp of American team in 2002 when the southeast side of the mountain was an objective. However, Americans found themselves in the crossfire during acclimatization near Nangpa La and went immediately home without really trying the mountain. On October 5, two days after reaching base camp, ABC (5,555m) was established at the foot of the southeast face. In the time of unpredictable weather a party of Uros Samec, Samo Krmelj and Rok Blagus acclimatized twice in the chosen route on southeast face because there are no easier mountains suitable for acclimatization in the neighborhood. On the first acclimatization they climbed to 6,100m, slept there and equipped rappels for more easy descent from summit push. On October 17 after period of bad weather (when I had to leave the Base Camp because of pneumonia and went home) they reached 6,400m, slept in the tent and go back to Base Camp next day. On the 22nd they went for summit push from Base Camp and next day they started from ABC at 1 a.m. One long day they needed to climb to the south ridge (6,650m) and rested there one day in the tent and look for the route on complicated ridge. On the 24th they started from their tent at 2 a.m. and reached the summit at 9 a.m. in high winds and very low temperatures. Almost immediately they turned back descended to tent and continued their

way down to ABC. They reached the foot of the southeast face at the evening making 19 rappels from the ridge. They named their ascent *Slovenian route VI*, 5 M, 1550 meters.

Meanwhile, on the 18th another party of Tadej Golob and Urban Azman climbed the southwest face of Dzasampa Tse (6,295m), south of Nangpai Gosum 1. They started from the south col at 6 a.m. and reached the top after almost seven hours of mostly unroped climbing on slopes of 55°-65° and one mixed pitch of 40 meters. They named the first ascent route as *Mali princ* and rated it at TD+, 5 M, 600m.

Until our expedition there was just two ascents of this highest peak of Nangpai Gosum group. First ascent was made by Japanese expedition in 1986 on northwest ridge starting from Tibet and in 1996 when an international expedition made the integral northwest ridge starting the climb on Nangpa La.

URBAN GOLOB, *Slovenia*

*Losar waterfall, one-day ascent.* In February Conrad Anker and I did what may be the first one-day ascent of the famous “Losar” waterfall across from Namche Bazar in the Khumbu. We bivouacked at the bottom of the valley and climbed the 2,400-foot waterfall in 16 hours round trip. After hearing stories from many parties that told of strong climbers having trouble on the descent, we opted to take 70-meter ropes and rappel. The plan worked perfectly. Most of the climb is less than vertical with a couple of burly vertical pitches at the end. We didn’t do any simul-climbing on the technical terrain, and I was pretty sick at the time; so it is reasonable for any solid team to go for a one-day ascent—provided they are efficient with installing V-threads to get down.

TOPHER DONAHUE, *AAC*

*Ama Dablam, crowds on normal route.* In the view of many, there were too many people on Ama Dablam (6,812m) last autumn. Some Ama Dablam teams were very small with just a member or two and perhaps one Sherpa. And not all of the 29 expeditions were on the mountain at the same time—they were spread out over a month—but they did bunch up at times. Two expeditions consisted of 30 and 31 members each; the larger one, led by American Dan Mazur, was assisted by nine Sherpas.

Mazur’s expedition sent a total of 38 people to the top over seven days. On a single day, October 24, which was just when a number of other parties were also summiting or trying to, this team put seven members and three Sherpas on the summit.

Henry Todd, the British leader of the second largest team, had 30 members and two Sherpas in his party. The members arrived at base camp and left the mountain at different times, and of his 19 successful members, plus two Sherpas—who went to the top three times—18 summited on six different days between October 26 and November 17. He said he tried to minimize the impact of his sizable group by, for example, not pitching tents that would be left empty much of the time while taking up space badly needed by other climbers, and by having his members summit in relatively small numbers each day. Furthermore, his team was based at a camp apart from others’ bases. Finally, when some of his members arrived at Ama Dablam, other expeditions had already moved off the mountain.

Nevertheless, there were complaints. At one bottleneck a German team’s leader and