

reached the same point, was stymied by the arrival of the heaviest snow in two weeks, despite an optimistic forecast.

With time running out, Oberson and I made a final attempt on August 4. We climbed the icefall by night and continued over snow and ice faces to a shoulder, at 6,000m, on the southwest ridge of the Black Tooth. We then climbed, through a snowstorm, up a broad snow slope to the right of the giant serac barrier on the south face. At ca. 6,300m, on the inclined snow terrace above the edge of the serac, avalanche conditions forced a retreat.

On the descent I led down a long snow slope directly to the upper Biange. While crossing a low-angle ice slab, Oberson slipped, pulled me off, and we went for a 100m skid. Although Oberson was unhurt, I sustained impressive facial scratches and a back injury, which was later diagnosed as two compressed vertebrae. Fortunately, I was able to descend unaided, which was convenient, as were too high for helicopter evacuation. I was later assisted through the icefall by Brown, Bernard, Akhbar, and assistant sirdar Mustafa, the last two also high-altitude porters.

The expedition concluded with an immediate walk-out, a bus to Islamabad, administrative wrap-up, and medical attention in Europe. The team members thank Wil and Alta Brown, Dima Geshkenbein, Monika Hronska, and Colin Monteath for their generous assistance.

BRUCE NORMAND, *Switzerland*

*Savoia Kangri, southeast face, attempt.* A seven member Japanese expedition led by Koichi Ezaki attempted unclimbed Savoia Kangri (a.k.a. Summa Ri, 7,263m), just west of K2. The peak had only been attempted twice. In 1982 a team of Czechoslovakians living in Switzerland reached 6,550m on the 1,800m southeast face above the Savoia Glacier, and in 1998 a British team climbed a bow-shaped couloir through the triangular rock buttress left of the Czech Route, then followed the right edge of the big south-facing ice slope above to gain the upper southeast ridge. They climbed the ridge to 7,000m, before retreating in deep unstable snow. The Japanese opted to attempt the British line.

They established base camp on the Baltoro below Angel Peak, at 5,100m, and an advanced base on the Savoia glacier, at 5,300m. On July 25 the team placed a temporary camp at the start of the bow-shaped snow couloir, and on August 7 situated Camp 1 high in the gully, at 6,100m. The same day members climbed another six pitches to 6,300m, close to the top of the couloir, but thereafter were unable to regain this high point.

TAMOTSU NAKAMURA AND THE JAPANESE ALPINE NEWS

*K2 - correction.* Iván Vallejo was part of the Spanish film crew from the “Al Filo de lo Imposible” TV series, as reported in *AAJ 2005*, p. 352. However, Vallejo is not Basque but Ecuadorian.

MARCELO SCANU, *Argentina*

*Broad Peak, southwest face.* At 11:30 a.m. on July 25 Sergey Samoilov and Denis Urubko from Kazakhstan stepped onto the summit of Broad Peak (8,047m) after a remarkable ascent of the previously unclimbed southwest face. The two climbed the 2,500m route alpine-style, in six days. On the lower part of the face they had to overcome two steep rock bands, the first at ca.

6,300m and the second above 6,550m. These gave difficulties up to F6b and A2, with an M5 finish. They avoided freshly laden snow slopes higher up by climbing rock ribs, which involved a section of M6+ at over 7,400m. Reaching the southeast ridge at 7,950m also involved tricky mixed terrain (M4+), and the pair then had to battle strong winds before traversing the summit and descending the Normal Route. The full story of this ascent, which was nominated for the Piolet d'Or, appears earlier in this *Journal*.

*Central Kharut Peak, attempt.* I led a commercially organized expedition for Adventure Peaks to attempt the unclimbed Central Kharut Peak (6,824m on the new Polish map). The mountain is believed to have been attempted only once before. A Japanese party climbed to the col between Central Kharut and the virgin Kharut Pyramid (6,402m on the Polish map), then reached a high point on the rocky shoulder of the ridge above. [The Kharut peaks lie immediately northeast of K2's Abruzzi Ridge. In 1974 Tatsuro Arioka's expedition, which was trying to climb Broad Peak North, reached the Sella Pass, from where two members, Hidenori Iwamoto and Isumi Kita, climbed a peak immediately to the northwest, the height of which they gave as 6,394m. This is most likely Central Kharut South, the rocky shoulder on the southwest ridge of Central Kharut, now assigned the height of 6,455m on the new Polish map—Ed.]

Our expedition planned to camp on the Sella Pass and first climb Kharut Pyramid, to aid our acclimatization, but conditions were not good. There was a considerable amount of snow left from the winter (no one summited neighboring K2), and unstable weather did not improve the situation. From base camp we could see that the snow slope leading to the col was covered with avalanche debris, while the glacier approach [up the West Kharut Glacier—Ed.] was seriously crevassed. A client and one of our high-altitude porters had to be extracted from slots. However, our main problem was time, or lack of it. We had experienced long delays in both Islamabad and Skardu due to administrative work at the Ministry, a holiday period when the Ministry was shut, and unexpected military briefings in Skardu. When we eventually arrived at the mountain, there was not enough time to make a serious attempt, and our high point was on the approach glacier. We had reliable weather reports at base camp, and when a good window was finally forecast, we made our escape over the Gondokoro La, rather than take the long trek out via the Baltoro. Adventure Peaks hopes to return in July-August 2006.

NICK CARTER, *United Kingdom*

## MASHERBRUM RANGE

### CHARAKUSA VALLEY

*Chogolisa Glacier: Pk. 5,500m, north face; Raven's Peak, south face; Capucin, south face; Pk. 6,000m, northwest face.* Charakusa Glacier: Iqbal's Wall, attempt. As in 2004, when we climbed above the Chogolisa Glacier, north of the Charakusa, completing four new routes (AAJ 2005, p. 354) our plan was to visit the Kondus and Saltoro valleys. However, the Pakistan government denied us a permit just two weeks before we were due to leave Italy for the mountains, so we returned to the Chogolisa and established base camp on the north side of the entrance to the Beusten Glacier below Raven's Peak.