

ridge above to the summit.

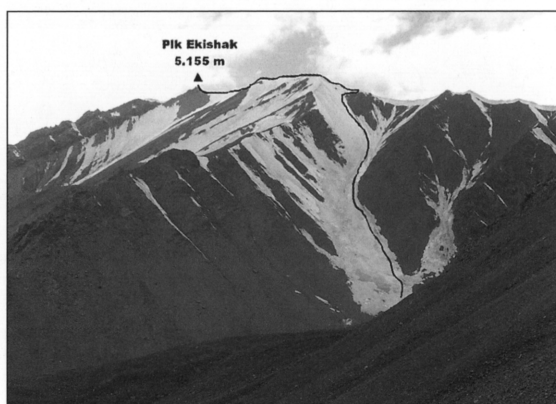
The Odessa Route is 1,700m long, with technical difficulties up to A4. Eight camps were required on the face. With the exception of a 30m section below Camp 4 (at the top of the first buttress), the first 20 pitches (as far as Camp 6, midway up the second pillar) were new. The remaining 22 pitches to the summit coincided with the Pershin and/or Troshchenko. The climbers left all pitons in place, and the ascent was awarded second place in the Alpinism category of the CIS championships.

PAUL KNOTT, *New Zealand*, and ANNA PIUNOVA, *www.mountain.ru, Russia*

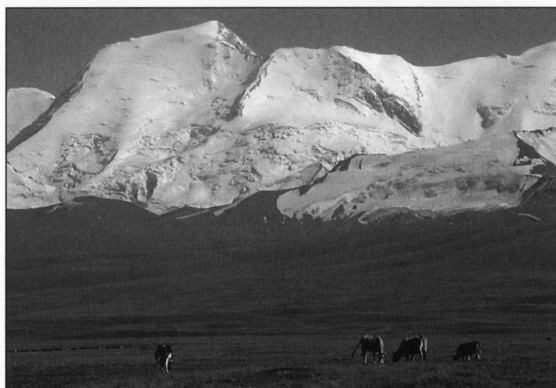
PAMIR

Zaalayskiy Range, Pik Ekishak, first ascent; Pik Molly, northwest ridge; Zarya Vostoka and Kurumdy West, attempts. Our Madteam/X-plore Expedition of Raúl Andrés, Olga Ariño, Irene Artuñedo, Enric Canosa, Albert Falcó, Daniel Guimaraens, Julio Masip David Oliveras, Jordi Sidera, David Taurà, Quim Valentí, and Gerard Van der Berg visited the eastern Zaalayskiy Khrebet, close to the borders with Tajikistan and China.

This is a rarely visited region of the Pamir, the northern flanks of which have been explored by only four or five expeditions to date. There were no other climbers in the range while we were there, and we found the solitude and vast potential for exploration amazing. However, we were not able to make major ascents, due to the poor weather and poor mountaineering conditions. Summer 2006 featured rain every afternoon and high temperatures (a minimum of -1°C at 4,200m). There was no frost at night, the snow was always soft, there were avalanches and rock-fall day and night, and the rock we encountered was of poor quality. We established base camp at 3,550m, an



Ekishak (5,155m) showing the route of the first ascent up the south-east couloir to northeast ridge (PD+). *David Taurà*



The north face of Zarya Vostoka (a.k.a. Eastern Sunrise Peak, 6,349m) in the Zaalayskiy Range of the eastern Pamir. The line of the first ascent by a four-person Kyrgyz team in 2000 follows a hidden ridge to gain the snow rib in the center of the lower face. It then climbs straight up the uniform snow face above to reach the summit ridge left of the highest point. The lower, flat-topped peak to the right contains two summits both marked as 5,998m. *David Taurà*



Pik Tarka (5,368m) on the east side of the Kurumdy Glacier. A Spanish expedition made an attempt on Pik 5,262m to the northeast of Tarka, climbing a 45° couloir on the west flank of its north ridge. They crossed a small top, which they named Aguja Eiger (4,812m), before reaching a high point of ca 5,000m. *David Taurà*



Climbing the easy couloir on the southeast face of Ekishak (5,155m) in the Zaalayskiy Range to make the first ascent. *David Taurà*

advanced base on the western bank of the Kurumdy Glacier at 3,950m, a second advanced base alongside the upper eastern bank of the glacier at 4,200m, and placed a high camp on the east side of Golova Orla (5,441m) at 4,650m. From this high camp we attempted the northeast ridge of Golova but failed short of the summit. A British-Russian team climbed this peak via the northwest ridge by in 2000.

Falcó and I did make the first ascent, on August 1, of an easy route to the summit of a 5,155m peak on the long ridge connecting Golova Orla and Shining Peak. We climbed a couloir on the southeast face, which in the last 200m steepened from 50–65°, to break through a cornice onto the northeast ridge at a 5,030m col. We continued up the crest on poor rock (II) to the summit. As the top was composed of two horns, we named the peak Ekishak (Kyrgyz for “two horns”) and our route Chocolate Ice (700m, PD+). Artuñedo and Oliveras repeated the route two days later.

From our first advanced base we climbed the east flank of Shining Peak (4,789m) at PD, a peak first climbed by the mixed north ridge by a British expedition in 1999. From our second advanced camp we climbed the northwest ridge of Pik Molly (4,748m), a peak also first climbed

by the 1999 British expedition via a rather dangerous snow face. Our 600m ridge (Dancing in the Moonlight) was AD, largely rocky (II/III), with some snow and ice ramps of 55°.

The highest peak in the ring of mountains immediately east of our advanced bases on the Kurumdy is Pik Tarka (5,368m). We attempted Pik 5,262m to its northeast, first by walking up a side glacier to ca 4,300m, then climbing an open couloir/snow slope of 45° on the west flank of the north ridge. Turning right at the top, we crossed a small point that we named Aguja Eiger (4,812m) and continued up the ridge above (60° maximum, mixed), until forced to retreat by bad weather at just over 5,000m.

We tried to climb Zarya Vostoka (a.k.a. Eastern Sunrise Peak, 6,349m,) via the north ridge-north face, the route of the first ascent in August 2000 by the Kyrgyz team of Leonid Fishkis, Aleksandr Novik, Daniil Popov, and Natalya Zotova. This team reached the crest of the ridge via a snow couloir on the west flank. We climbed to the left, on the west face of a point on the ridge we named Aguja Jularg (4,890m). Our route to this small summit we named Chiquita cuesta Chacho (410m, D 65° M3). We then continued up the ridge and onto the broad slopes of the north face of Zarya Vostoka, reaching a height of 5,400m before deep, unconsolidated snow forced us back.

The other big peak we tried was Kurumdy West (6,545m), from our high camp east of Golova Orla. We only reached a low col, having experienced dangerous rock fall. We retreated from 5,000m. The main summit of Kurumdy (6,613m) was climbed in 1932 from the south: the west peak is still unclimbed.

DAVID TAURA, *Spain*

WESTERN KOKSHAAL-TOO

Navlikin and Malitskovo glaciers, first ascents. At the start of September our ISM expedition made the now-familiar trip via Naryn to the Kokshaal-Too and established base camp at the delightful lake below the west side of the Navlikin Glacier. The team comprised Ulrik Andersen, Ben Box, James Bruton, Joanne da Silva, Greg Paul, Todd Siemers, Nick Wheatley, and guides Adrian Nelhams, Vladimir Komissarov, and I.

On our first full day all of us walked five hours up the glacier to reconnoiter objectives and acclimatize. After this the weather closed in, and it snowed heavily for 24 hours, putting 30cm of snow at base camp and considerably more at higher altitudes. Once the weather cleared, we made an exploratory trip to the Malitskovo Glacier immediately east, which revealed a cluster of excellent unclimbed peaks. After a "council of war," one team led by me attempted Pik 5,611m, the peak next to Pik Byeliy (a.k.a. Grand Poohbah, 5,697m) at the head of the Navlikin, while two other teams led by Nelhams and Komissarov attempted peaks around the Malitskovo.

It took two days for da Silva, Box, Bruton, and I to establish a camp at 4,650m below Pik 5,611m, but we were then pinned down for the next three days by evil weather. Most slopes were then even more heavily laden and avalanche-prone than before. We climbed to ca 4,850m but turned back when the depth of unstable snow reached the handles of trekking poles. At night wind gusts were like express trains, but we had a bombproof tent (Bruton's Hillenberg). On the plus side, da Silva taught us to play Bridge, which gave some in-tent entertainment. A tent fire also enlivened proceedings. Finally, there was a brief clearing, and we climbed a small