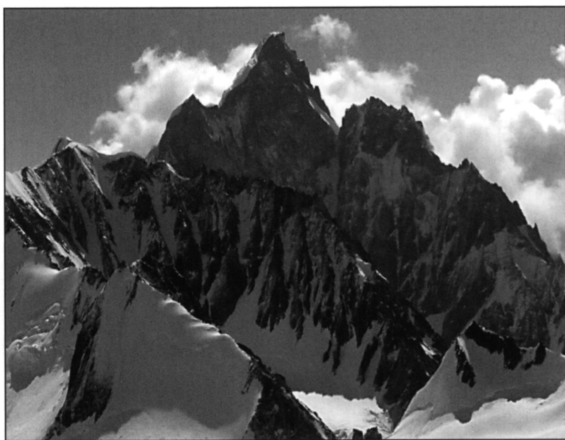


Vicentini Peak (5,750m, AD+), the Red Pillar (4,500m, ED-), and Belvedere Peak (4,520m, PD, possibly climbed before). In addition, they climbed Peak 5,519m (TD) and subsequently auctioned the name to raise money for an aqueduct in Ghotulti. The Somerset Ski Club (Sci Club Somerset) in Turin donated 8,500 euros to name the mountain Somerset Ski Club Peak.

Over four expeditions, Brunello and his teammates have climbed more than 30 peaks in this area of the Hindu Raj; they also have completed a number of innovative treks across high passes. A list of these peaks and their coordinates,

along with Brunello's maps and additional photos, is available at the AAJ website: www.americanalpineclub.org/pages/page/47. The editors hope to prepare a comprehensive survey of the Italian exploration of this area for the 2009 edition of this *Journal*.

DOUGALD MACDONALD, *from reports by Franco Brunello and Tarcisio Bellò*



The impressive unclimbed southwest face of Karka (6,222m), at the head of the Chhantir Valley. In the foreground is Quinto Peak (5,684m) on the east side of Amin Pass (5,050m). *Tarcisio Bellò*

Chotar Zom (Dasbar Zom, 6,058m), south pillar; Nashran (5,200m), northeast ridge; Pois Chhish (4,400m). Our small French team—Eric Lantz, Didier Rognon, Arnaud Simard, and I, all from the BUC Alpin mountain club—spent July 22 to August 11 in the Dasbar Valley, south of Koyo Zom (6,871m). We explored the area and made three ascents.

Eric and Didier reached the summit of a 5,200m peak above the main valley via the northeast ridge. The climb followed an ice couloir with sections of 70° and ended with a snow ridge; they reached the summit after 800m of ascent. We named the peak Nashran, a combination of the names of our three Pakistani helpers. Nashran is a secondary summit of the beautiful Kachqiant (ca 6,000m), still unclimbed. The same pair later reached the summit of a small rock peak (4,400m) via a 700m



The French route up the south face of the peak they called Chotar Zom (6,058m GPS); they later came to believe this might be Dasbar Zom, climbed in 1968 from the north side by an Austrian team. The two climbers descended by the shadowed couloir just left of their ascent route, with ice up to 70°. *Florian Tolle*



The gorgeous, unclimbed ca 6,000m pyramid of Kachqiant, west of Dhuli Chhish (6,518m). The photo is looking south from Chotar Zom. Florian Tolle

face route of 19 pitches up to 5.10. They called the peak Pois Chhish and the route Lady Chatterley.

Didier and I also climbed the south pillar of a peak we called Chotar Zom ("small mountain," as it is far from the biggest in the area). We recorded an altitude of 6,058m on the summit by GPS. Subsequent investigation indicates this peak might be Dasbar Zom, climbed in 1968 by Austrians from the other side. Our climb began at a camp at 4,800m. The technical part consisted of two successive couloirs through loose rock bands, with ice to 55° and mixed rock at 5.4. These led to the upper snow

slopes and a long, tiring plod to the top, which we reached at 4:30 p.m. To the north rose Koyo Zom, and all around we saw countless beautiful and technical climbs. Much of the descent took place during the night, with ice up to 70°, and we regained our bivouac at 11 p.m., having been on the go for 22 hours. We graded our route alpine D.

We went on this expedition, a first for all of us, to explore a seldom-visited area and to test our capacities on reasonable mountains while meeting great people. The mountains were not reasonable, but the adventure was great.

Editor's note: Florian Tolle has provided a map and photos of unclimbed peaks in this area. These may be found at the AAJ website: www.americanalpineclub.org/pages/page/47.

FLORIAN TOLLE, France

Buni Zom Main, attempt; Buni Zom South; 6MT, first ascent; 6MT West, attempt; Buli Zom, new route on north face and death. I had previously been to the Buni Zom range, northeast of Chitral in the western Hindu Raj, in 2002 and 2004. Our aim was Buni Zom Main (6,551m), but lack of information about the terrain and the route prevented us from reaching the peak's slopes. With the support of the Greek Climbing Federation, I organized an 11-member expedition to return in 2007; an independent climber, Nikiforos Stiakakis, also joined the expedition.

We set our base camp in the Kulakmali area (3,970m), a seven-hour trek west of Rahman village, in mid-July. [A map of this area may be found in *AAJ* 2005, p. 343—Ed.] Above base camp we climbed 100m of steep rock (V-) to gain access to the Khora Borht Glacier, west of the Buni Zom peaks; we put fixed ropes here to help us carry loads to higher camps.

We split into two teams of six, initially attempting the same objectives but one day apart. We set our first camp on the Khora Borht Glacier at 4,780m and a second camp at 5,430m, between Buni Zom's main and south peaks. On July 22 the first group returned to base camp and rested for two days.