



(1) The summit of Farol Central (ca 6,350m), likely first climbed by the south pillar, just out of view to the left (Hoehlen-Mitterer, 2005). (2) Maxime Turgeon (inset photo) soloed an ice gully to make the first ascent of Farol East (ca 6,350m), with one bivouac. (3) Unclimbed Farol Far East (ca 6,200m) was attempted by Raphael Slawinski and Steve Swenson via the prominent gully line right of the sharp peak, also in 2005. Maxime Turgeon

Haji Brakk, attempt on west face. From June 28 to July 17 the small Polish expedition of Jerzy Stefanski and I climbed in the Charakusa Valley. We acclimatized with a night at 5,000m and an ascent of Sulo Peak (ca 5,950m) by its southwest couloir, and then we had a week of bad weather. During this time we made plans to try the west face of Haji Brakk (ca 5,985m). Our proposed line was to the right of the Steve House route (2003, first ascent of the peak). It followed a mixed dihedral, then snow slopes to a small ridge, and then a 150–200m headwall. After four hours of approaching we made a bivy at the base of the wall. However, there was rain and snow-fall that night, and the next morning we went down to base camp all wet.

We got a forecast for good weather for several days, so we packed our gear and went back to the base of the wall. We decided to bivy higher than before, just below the dihedral. Unfortunately, we discovered that during repacking we had forgotten the gas. It meant defeat at the beginning, but in spite of this we decided to climb. About 3 a.m. we woke, ate a little, and had a cold drink. We quickly climbed the huge dihedral, where the rock was far from perfect and there was mixed climbing up to Scottish VI. The most problematic pitch was a chimney with a waterfall. Because of technical difficulties (about VI+/VII-), Jerzy led with rock shoes; I followed with two backpacks. We got very wet, but at 2 p.m. were on the snow slope. The weather was perfect—too perfect. The snow became heavy. We had to stop and bivy.

When we woke at 1 a.m., the snow was frozen. Above a 65° snow-ice slope, we reached an 80m mixed wall up to 85°. Climbing this was difficult (at least Scottish VI), with only psychological protection. The ice and snow became less safe minute by minute. After three hard

pitches, we reached the small ridge at midday. To reach the headwall we would have had to rap-
pel to a 60° snow couloir and climb it for two pitches. Because of bad snow, we first would have
had to bivy and wait for the freeze. Because we were dehydrated and out of food, and I was
afraid my wet toes were freezing, we decided to retreat. We rappelled to our last bivy, then started
downclimbing the couloir Steve House had climbed. It was risky because of stone falls and the
bad condition of the snow and ice. About 6 p.m. we reached our first bivy, and the next day we
went down to base camp. My toes were frostbitten, but fortunately I lost just nails. However, my
climbing in the valley was over.

After several days Jerzy soloed the south couloir of Beatrice (5,800m) in 4½ hours up and
down. At the end of the expedition he climbed a new route called the Ski Track on the 400m
Iqbal's Wall, with Nicolas Favresse and Sean Villanueva from Belgium. [See summary above.]
Without the Polish Climbing Association (PZA), this expedition wouldn't have taken place.

JAN KUCZERA, *Polish Climbing Association*

Jikji (6,235m). In July and August
a Korean expedition made the
possible first ascent of a 6,235m
peak they called Jikji, above the
South Charakusa Glacier. This
peak is connected to Drifika
(6,447m) by a long ridge extend-
ing to the south, and is just south
of Poro Peak (6,187m), which
was climbed in 1988 by a British
expedition. It is hidden by the
bulk of Poro from the Charakusa
Valley. The Koreans appear to
have climbed the long south
ridge of Jikji with three camps.
The name Jikji is from the oldest
book printed with metal type in
existence, made in 1377 in Korea.

DOUGALD MACDONALD



A Korean team made the probable first ascent of Jikji Peak (6,235m),
just south of Poro Peak (6,187m), by climbing the south ridge from the
South Charakusa Glacier. *Korean Jikji Expedition*

NANGMA VALLEY

Shingu Charpa, east face. While planning our expedition back home, I could not get over the
fact that it seemed prudent to plan 20 days for our new route on Shingu Charpa's east wall. But
looking at the photos, that's what my experience suggested. This wall is strongly defended not
by one crux but by a set of hard problems. Perhaps for that reason our predecessors did not
reach the top. They solved some problems but were not ready to solve the following ones. And
we do not blush to say that it was not easy for us either, psychologically or physically.

Mikhail Davy, Alexander Shabunin, and I spent 21 days on the climb, and another three days