

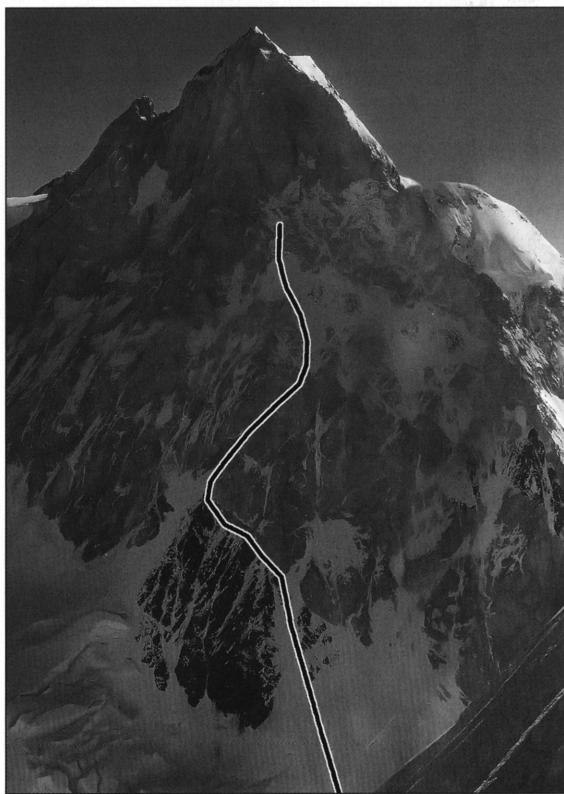
quite carefully along the southeast ridge. Pavle was carrying the rope inside his pack. Not long after we started the descent, at 10 a.m. on August 25, as Pavle approached the edge of a cornice, it gave way and he fell to his death. All of a sudden I was alone, with only the top fly of a tent, a gas canister but no stove, and a satellite phone. I phoned Grega Kresal, who was already recovering in Slovenia; he was one of the few people who could understand the position I was in. I knew I was too high to be picked up by helicopter; I would have to descend on my own at least to 5,500m.

It took me 15 hours over two days to descend to ca 5,400m. The first 400m were the hardest—harder than the climbing had been on the way up the northeast face. Meanwhile, I waited for news about a possible rescue. My hope was that a helicopter could at least drop a rope for the icefall at the bottom of the mountain. If nothing could be arranged, I would have tried to descend on my own, but it would have been very hazardous in the steep, heavily crevassed icefall. The phone battery died in the evening of August 26, and the weather was poor on the 26th and 27th, but I knew the forecast was good for the 28th, so I waited. Over two days I created two liters of fluids, mixing snow, isotonic drinks, and urine. I was doing what I needed to survive, but I also knew there were friends in Slovenia and Pakistan doing everything they could—dealing with permits, raising money, and arranging for Tomaz Humar, as well as some friends climbing in the Charakusa Valley, to fly to my base camp as quickly as possible. Humar was very determined and would not take no for an answer when people tried to get in the way of the rescue effort.

A chopper picked me up at 11 a.m. on August 28. I survived without major consequences: I lost 12kg and had some mild frostbite. The line I climbed in 17 hours with Pavle is named *Magic Lost* (1,800m, VI WI5 M5), after the loss of a great magician whose company it was my privilege to enjoy.

DEJAN MISKOVIC, *Slovenia*

*Skyang Kangri, west face attempt.* The first attempt on the west face of Skyang Kangri (7,545m) was made in 1980 by Michael Kennedy and Jeff Lowe, who reached ca 6,600m. In July 2008 a Russian expedition made a second attempt. The team included Alexander Kuharev (doctor), climbers Vladimir Arkhipov, Evgeniy Beliaev, Sergey Cherezov, Igor Loginov,



The line of the Russian attempt on the west face of Skyang Kangri (7,545m). The climbers reached 7,000m before descending because of illness and poor weather. Courtesy Nikolay Zakharov

and Alexander Mikhailitsin, and me as leader.

We reached K2 base camp on June 17 and placed advanced base camp at 5,500m on the upper Godwin-Austen Glacier on June 19. After climbing to Skyang La (ca 6,500m) for acclimatization, the five climbers started on the route on July 3. Over five days, they pushed the line to the beginning of the headwall at 7,000m. On the night of July 7 there was a strong snowstorm, and they spent the night struggling against snow piling up on the tent. In the morning, two climbers felt sick, presenting the first signs of pneumonia. The team decided to descend, and by twilight they reached the foot of Skyang Kangri.

The part of the route we completed was mixed climbing on marble slabs covered with snow and thin ice. Protection was very bad. The headwall appeared to be 300m-500m of steep, crumbling marble with poor ice.

NIKOLAY ZAKHAROV, *Russia*

*Broad Peak, west face; Gasherbrum I, southwest face.* Viktor Afanasiev and Valery Babanov completed an alpine-style new route on the central buttress of 8,047m Broad Peak's west face (3,000m, ED VI W15 M6 90°). They joined the west ridge route at Camp 3 (7,100m) after ca 2,000m of elevation gain and reached the summit July 17. The two then completed a new route on the southwest face of 8,068m Gasherbrum I (2,300m, ED VI W14 M6 80°) in alpine style. After cresting the southwest face, they joined the 1977 Yugoslavian Route (southwest ridge) at 7,600m and followed this to the top, reaching the summit August 1. Babanov describes these two impressive new routes in a feature article earlier in this *Journal*.



Valery Babanov at the first bivouac on the southwest face of Gasherbrum I. At the next bivy, Viktor Afanasiev was injured by rockfall inside the tent. *Viktor Afanasiev*

*Broad Peak, winter attempt.* Polish climbers Artur Hazjer and Robert Szymczak, along with Canadian Don Bowie and Pakistani climbers Qadrat Ali, Amin Ullah, Muhammad Ali, and Muhammad Taqi, attempted the first winter ascent of Broad Peak. This was the third winter in a row to see attempts on the 8,047m summit. Arriving at base camp on December 27, the team established Camp 3 (7,000m), but could not climb higher in the face of severe winds. They abandoned the attempt on February 25.

DOUGALD MACDONALD, *Climbing.com*

*Gasherbrum I, traverse.* Peter Hámor and Piotr Morawski from Poland did an alpine-style traverse from south to north of Gasherbrum I (8,068m, a.k.a. Hidden Peak) in 12 days, from June 16–27, 2008. They started on the Spanish route (1983) on the southwest face, reaching 6,600m on the second day after climbing a 1,200m ice face. In bad weather they spent four nights at this camp. Over the next two days, they continued up to join the American route (1958) on the