

southeast ridge. Here the weather deteriorated again, and they had to spend two nights. Finally, after one more bivouac and a total of 10 days of climbing, they reached the summit on June 25. They descended to the north.

The two men's initial plan had been to continue the traverse to Gasherbrums II and III, but because of lack of food and fuel they descended to base camp on June 27. After several days of rest, they set off July 3 for another attempt to traverse these peaks, this time from Gasherbrum III to Gasherbrum I. However, when the weather deteriorated, they opted to climb directly to the summit of Gasherbrum II (8,035m), which they reached on July 6.

VLADO LINEK, *SMU James*

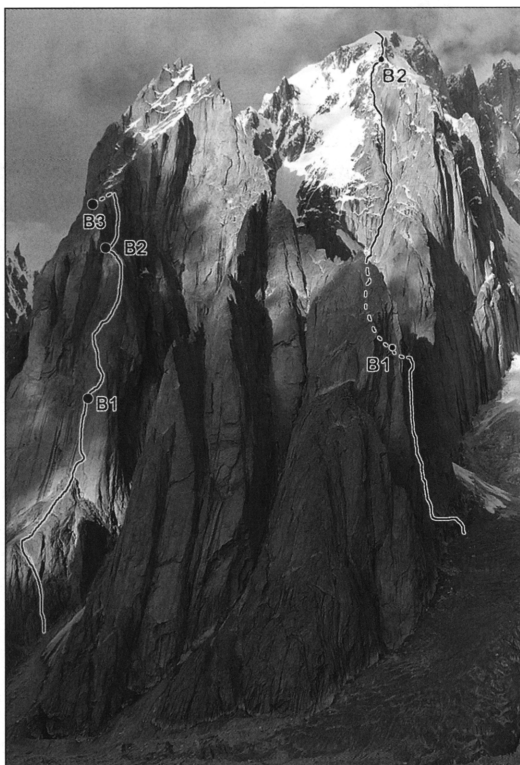
Gasherbrum IV, northwest ridge to north summit. The Spanish team of Alberto Iñurrategi, Ferrán Latorre, José Carlos Tamayo, Juan Vallejo, and Miguel Zabalza climbed the northwest ridge of 7,925m Gasherbrum IV (Child-Hargis-Macartney-Snape, 1986), reaching the northern summit, but not the highest point, on August 1. During the descent, Latorre was injured by a falling rock and had to be evacuated from base camp.

DOUGALD MACDONALD, *Climbing.com*

CHARAKUSA VALLEY

K7 West, second ascent; K7, Luna. In 2008 we six Slovenians traveled to the amazing Charakusa Valley above Hushe village with the goals of having as much fun as possible and climbing some good routes. We set up base camp on August 4 and began acclimatizing as soon as the weather allowed. Our first ascent was the British route on Naisa Brakk (5,200m), the easiest route on this spectacular pyramid. After a period of mostly bad weather, Luka Lindic, Rok Blagus, and I climbed Sulo Peak (ca 6,050m, according to GPS) via the southwest couloir. For acclimatization, we bivied just below the summit.

On August 20, after a few days of rest, Lindic, Blagus, and I started up the route on the southeast face of K7 West (6,858m) that was first climbed one year earlier by Marko Prezelj, Steve House, and Vince Anderson (2200m, ED 6c V). On the first day we climbed eight pitches of steep granite (around 6c) and found a comfortable bivouac on a snow plateau at 5,100m. The next day we climbed 1,300m of steep ice and



Left: The Slovenian line on the southwest peak of K7 West. The climbers reached ca 5,700m on the rock pillars of the south face. Right: The Anderson-House-Prezelj line from 2007 on K7 West (6,858m). A Slovenian trio made the second ascent in a four-day round trip. *Marko Prezelj*

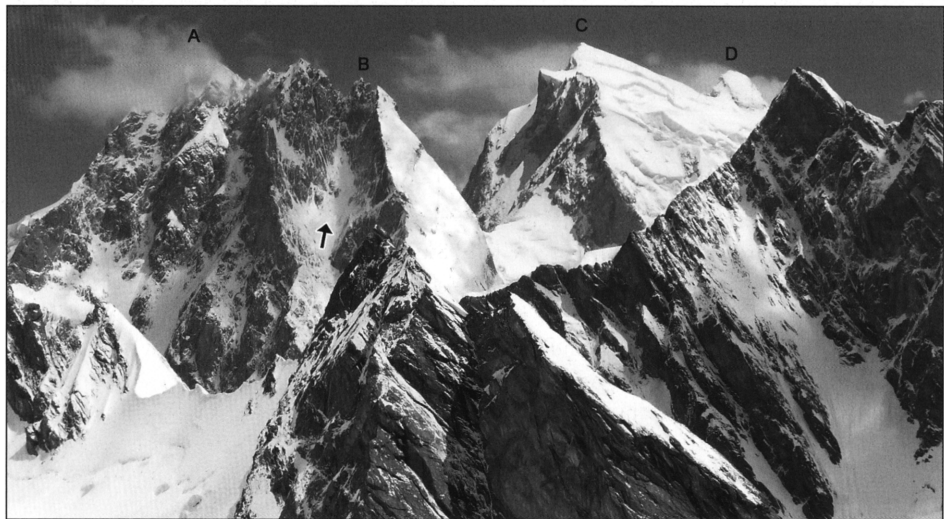
snow in mostly great condition; the only problem was finding a safe place for our small tent. The third day (August 22) we reached the summit in windy weather but with big smiles. It took a day of descending to reach base camp.

During the same period the other three climbers, Nejc Cesen, Rok Sisernik, and Miha Hrastelj, climbed a partial new route on the rock pillars of the south face of the K7 West massif. They named it Luna (1,400m, VII+/V A2). They had hoped to continue to the unclimbed subpeak (ca 6,200m) southwest of K7 West and had carried ice gear for the upper slopes, but they estimated the round trip and subsequent descent from their high point at ca 5,700m would require three more days. They had only one day of food, so they decided to descend. [*Editor's note: Their high point was some distance to the south and ca 300m lower than the top of the Belgian-Polish route of 2007 on the west-facing Badal Wall (AAJ 2008, pp. 80-87).*] The climb took three days, with an additional day (eight hours) for descent by rappel. All of the bivouacs were on narrow, uncomfortable ledges; a portaledge was not carried.

We had planned another two weeks of climbing, but two days after these ascents we received a message about the accident involving our friends Pavle Kozjek and Dejan Miskovic on Muztagh Tower, just 40km away. The next day Hrastelj, Sisernik, and I flew in army helicopters to help with the rescue, and our wonderful stay in K7 base camp was sadly over.

ALES CESEN, *Slovenia*

Kapura Peak, south summit (ca 6,200m), Wild Wings. In 1999 on the summit of Amin Brakk, after the first ascent of the west face, I looked over the vast mountain range stretching between K6 and Masherbrum and later sought the name of a mountain that had aroused my interest, reminding me of the north face of an overgrown Grandes Jorasses. It was Kapura Peak (6,544m), first climbed by an American-Slovenian expedition in 2004. It took nine long years



The west side of Kapura Peak, seen from high on the south side of Drifika. (A) Kapura Peak (6,544m), first climbed by an American-Slovenian team in 2004, via the southwest face and northwest ridge (left skyline). (B) South summit (ca 6,200m) of Kapura Peak; Jan Doudlebsky and Marek Holecek climbed the couloir and ridge to the south peak in a three-day round trip. (C) K6 West (7,040m). (D) K6 (7,281m). The long ridge in the foreground extends between Drifika and Amin Brakk. *Marek Holecek*