

crack to a ledge. From the ledge we traversed 210m across a 5.8 face, then climbed another 5.8 face pitch to the headwall. Of many options we chose the most direct line, climbing 280m of 5.8-5.9 face, with small cracks offering protection. We summited at 4 p.m., after climbing 800m. Although overall rock quality and placements were good, the climbing was often runout. Our descent took us down the west ridge, 3rd to 4th class, and we were back in base camp before sunset, naming our route Direttissima.

Since the weather was holding, we headed for Tamadonog, a beautiful peak at the entrance to the Takdung Valley. As we were well-acclimatized, we went light and fast without a high camp. Setting off from base camp at 4 a.m., we started up the toe of the northwest ridge at 6:30. We simul-climbed 500m of 5th class, with some 5.7 to 5.8 pitches. We then encountered a vertical wall and belayed two crux pitches of 5.9 face climbing. We unroped for the last 400m of 5.6-5.7 to the fore-summit, then traversed loose talus to the main summit, with occasional 5th class blocks. We reached the highest point at 5 p.m., having climbed 1,400m.

We descended the west face by one of several gullies. This turned out to be the actual crux of the day; with loose blocks it took way longer than anticipated. Rappelling and down-climbing into the dark, we reached the valley floor and hiked back to our base camp, arriving at 1 a.m. We named the route Long Life Ridge.

CAMILO LOPEZ, U.S.

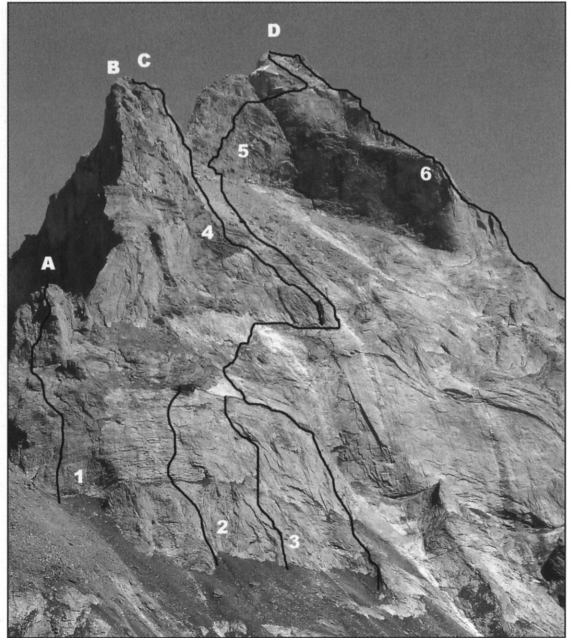
*Editor's Note: The northwest ridge, perhaps better described as the left edge of the large, broken west face, was climbed in 2004 by Spanish Alberto Urtasun and Patricia Viscarrets. They reached the crest by a corner system on the left flank. Their route, Shakti, covered 1,300m of climbing at V+ and A1; presumably they continued to the highest point of the mountain (reached by Poles Krol and Wojcik in 2006, who saw no trace of previous ascent). Long Life Ridge constitutes a variant start, involving several hundred meters of new climbing. Lopez and Pfaff also saw no evidence of previous passage and built a cairn on the summit.*

*Castle Peak, various first ascents.* During September Stefano Cacioppo, Cesare Giuliani, and I, members the Italian Alpine Club, put up four new routes on Castle Peak. Standing at the end of the long ridge forming the southern rim of the Chhudong Glacier, Castle Peak has four summits. In ascending order and from north to south these are David 62's Nose, Iris Peak, an unnamed summit, and the main summit. While a number of routes have been established on the southwest face, some ending at large terraces, I believed that until 2008 only David 62's Nose (ca 4,850m) and Iris Peak (ca 5,200m) had been reached—both by me in 2004.

On September 9, after bad weather stopped an attempt on the 5th, we climbed to the unnamed summit via a route we named Lost on a Dream Track. It had 1,600m of climbing, though only 650m were pitched (UIAA VI and VI+); we moved together on the rest (UIAA IV). Once on the summit we discovered someone had been there before. [Editor's note: this is likely Spanish climbers Ferran Rodriguez and Victor Sans, who in 2005 climbed Tinc Por on the north face. The route ends on this broad summit, 100m higher than and separate from Iris Peak. It is also possible that the Spanish Patricia Viscarret and Alberto Urtasun, who climbed "Iris Peak" in 2005 via the route Ananda, may have reached this summit instead.] Our idea was to name this summit after Stefano Zavka, a fellow Italian who disappeared in 2007 while descending K2. We still hope this is possible, even if we were not the first to climb it, as no previous party has openly assigned a name.

We fixed the first 400m of Lost on a Dream Track and left ropes for an attempt on the highest summit of Castle Peak. Returning on the 11th, we juggled the ropes and continued up right to bivouac at 4,900m. The next day we climbed to the high point, arriving at 2 p.m. and recording an altimeter reading of 5,470m. We would like to name this highest point Tivoli Peak (Tivoli being the section of the Italian Alpine Club of which Giuliani is a member). The route, Miguel's Race, has 2,200m of climbing, 1,200m of which we simul-climbed (UIAA III and IV) and the rest of which we belayed (UIAA VI and VI+, with a pitch of VII and another of VII+). Some of the hard pitches involved wide cracks, which were difficult to protect. Due to the complexity of the descent, we didn't get off the mountain until the 13th.

We then added two shorter routes to the southwest face, on the slabby terrain below Iris Peak and David 62's Nose, ending on the large grassy terraces. On the 16th we put up Placebo Effect (450m of climbing; UIAA VIII-) and on the following day Clandestine Route (450m; UIAA VI+). We tried a fifth route, but snowfall pinned us down for several days, and an avalanche destroyed our advanced base. The loss of equipment forced us to forego further climbing.



Castle Peak from the west with (A) David 62's Nose (ca 4,850m), (B) Iris Peak (ca 5,200m), (C) Stefano Zvaka Peak (ca 5,300m) and (D) Tivoli Peak (ca 5,470m: the highest point of Castle Peak). There are now 11 routes on this face, but only the 2007 and 2008 routes are marked: (1) Lufoo Lam (350m, UIAA VII+, Grmovsek-Grmovsek, 2007). (2) Clandestine Route (450m of climbing, UIAA VI+, Cacioppo-Giuliani-Iannilli, 2008). (3) Placebo Effect (450m of climbing, UIAA VIII-, Cacioppo-Giuliani-Iannilli, 2008). (4) Lost on a Dream Track (1,600m of climbing, UIAA VI+, Cacioppo-Giuliani-Iannilli, 2008). (5) Miguel's Race (2,200m of climbing, UIAA VII+, Cacioppo-Giuliani-Iannilli, 2008). (6) South Ridge-Who Fart? (1,100m, 5.10b, Kozlov-Savelyev, 2008). *Roberto Iannilli*

ROBERTO IANNILLI, *Italy*

*Toro Peak, southeast face; Castle Peak, south ridge.* It wasn't until the second half of September that Elena Dmitrenko, George Kozlov, and I arrived in India, too late in the year. We came with no set plans. At first we didn't even know where to go, but on reaching Manali, a beautiful village from which many expeditions start, we consulted a local guide and decided to go to the Miyar. We were looking for peaks below 6,000m with good rock, preferably unclimbed. At base camp we found several teams still in residence. However, the weather was poor, and half a meter of snow at base camp prevented us from climbing.

When the weather improved, George injured his leg. I couldn't sit in base camp, so I climbed Pt. JAMES, following the route first climbed by Australian women and repeated by