

the north-northeast face of the unnamed ca 4,800m summit between Piks Zuckerman and Carnovsky on the Ochre Walls. This route follows the initial big snow couloir of the 2001 DeCapio-Isaac route, Beefcake, and the 2004 Benson-Tresidder route, Fire and Ice, until they fork. It then climbs the ramps of Fire and Ice, but where Fire and Ice moves out right, it continues straight up steep ice to the ridge. The pair did not continue to the summit. This is the fifth route on the peak.

From the 24th to 26th Dave and Tom climbed the north ridge of Kyzyl Asker as far as the previously unclimbed north summit, which they estimate to be 5,500m. The amount of climbing was 2,000m, with a height gain of 1,400m. After a five-hour approach the previous day, they climbed 350m of 50° snow/ice, and then made a rightward traverse for 350m to reach open gullies leading up for 150m (55°) to a notch in the crest of the ridge. Here the main difficulties began, and they climbed at least 20 pitches to the summit. There were several bold leads, with technical difficulties up to UIAA VI, WI 3/4, and M6+/7. The overall grade was ED2/3, the crux being a very thin 10m-high crack in a granite wall—just wide enough to accept monopoints and picks.

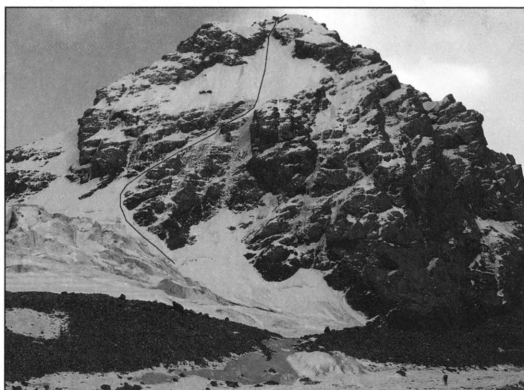
After three 18-hour days they reached the north summit in a massive storm, which subsequently caused frostnip. On the fourth day they decided to rappel straight down the (unseen) 1,000m west face. Using Abalakovs, they made 15 rappels in a gully onto a hanging ice field, under the most intense bombardment of spindrift and falling ice either had witnessed. After traversing across the top of a serac barrier, they made a further 10 rappels down another thin, steep ice gully to reach the glacier, and regained the tent that day. They named the north summit *Sculptura Chokursu* (Sculptures' Peak).

CARL REILLY and GRAEME SCHOFIELD, U.K.

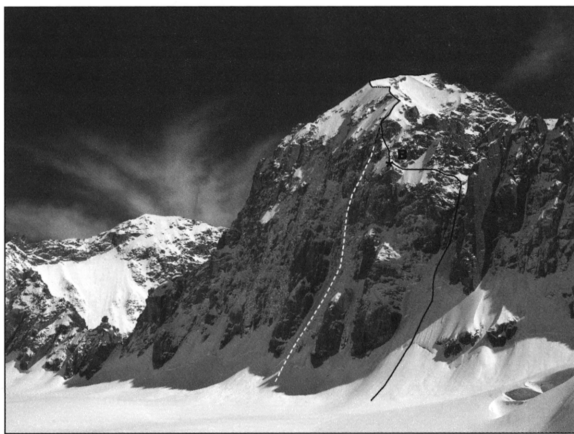
*Pik Plaza* (4,912m), northwest face, Z-K; *Pik Granitsa* (5,370m), north face, *Nordic Walking*. Inspired by impressive photographs of *Pik Granitsa*, provided by Paul Knott, who visited this area in 2005 (AAJ 2006), Michal Kasproicz, Wojtek Ryczer, and I attempted peaks around the head of the Fersmana Glacier in the central section of the Western Kokshaal-too. We were aware that with limited time and finances our chances of success were modest, but we took the risk in order to have an adventure.

On August 20th we reached the snout of the Kotur Glacier, which was

as far east as our driver would take us, and set up base camp. On the 23rd we reached the foot of the divide between the Fersmana and Sarychat Glaciers, where Michal twisted his ankle so badly that he was unable to walk. We established a temporary camp, and Wojtek and I spent the next few days ferrying loads from base. On the 30th we moved camp onto the Fersmana Glacier, and the following day Wojtek and I climbed the northwest face of *Pik Plaza* to its vir-



Z-K on northwest face of *Pik Plaza*. First ascent of this peak was made by Slovenians from the far side. *Wojtek Ryczer*



North face of Granitsa. Solid black line is Nordic Walking, white dashed line is rappel descent. Peak was named in 2005, when attempted by west ridge (right skyline). Name means "border." Rounded summit to left lies in China and is unclimbed. *Michał Kasprowicz*

gin north summit. [Editor's note: In 2008 two Slovenians made the first ascent of this peak, which lies on the east side of the glacier opposite Byieli, by the southwest couloir and west ridge. See *AAJ* 2009. The peak has two distinct tops: the Slovenians reached the south top, which is separated from the north by a deep col] Our new route, which we named Z-K, is 600m high, with snow and ice at 60°, two pitches of 70° hard ice on the rightward diagonal traverse, and an 80° gully. We descended our line by rappel, mostly from Abalakovs.

In order to meet our return transport at Kotur base camp, we had to leave the Fersmana no later than September 5. We decided to attempt Pik Granitsa immediately, planning the line by studying a photo on our camera's display. On September 2 we woke at 3 a.m. to heavy snowfall. However, by 6 a.m. the weather seemed perfect, so we hurried to the base of the climb and began the route at 11 a.m. As we had time for just one attempt, we opted for a line much farther right, which we felt offered greater chance of success. We climbed until dark, overcoming the two hardest pitches (AI5/5+), then after a memorably cold and windy bivouac without sleeping bags, continued up moderate ground (AI4 and M4, with a short section of M5) to reach the corniced ridge, which we followed to the summit. That second day snowfall was heavy, so we stayed on top just 15 minutes. We downclimbed the ridge and then rappelled directly to the glacier using Abalakovs. We regained the tent just before midnight on the 3rd and returned to Kotur base camp with Michał over the next two days.

This was the first ascent of Granitsa and we named our route Nordic Walking, as this activity seemed to be our main occupation during the expedition. The north face is 800m high, but our route was far longer due to its convoluted line. The Fersmana still offers ample opportunity for worthwhile first ascents. We thank the Polish Mountaineering Association (PZA) for financial support, and all the good people who helped with information on the area.

RAFAL "WALDORF" ZAJAK, PZA

*Sarychat Glacier, various ascents.* On August 11 and 12 Martin Jones, Edward Lemon, Jacob Wrathall, and I, from King's College London Alumni Mountaineering Club, achieved first ascents of five peaks on the western side of the Sarychat Glacier.

We arrived in the range July 26 but, due to circumstances, had to ferry equipment for nine days to reach our base camp at 3,520m on the west side the Sarychat valley, near the confluence of the Aytali and Sarychat rivers. Although this helped enormously with acclimatization, once we had explored the glacier, we were left with little time for climbing.