



Pik Karyshkyr from the west. Mustyr just off picture to right. Russell and Taylor climbed to col (C) from far side, then ascended ridge right (south) to pointed summit. Adam Russell

the “summit,” but then saw the ridge continuing to a slightly but definitely higher point (Pik 4,850m on the Russian map). Without adequate gear to bivouac, we made the tough decision and headed down—a time consuming, cold, and tiring affair, given our lightweight approach. We named the summit False Pik and graded our route on the west face AD.

We walked out the next day,

planning to look at a possible 300–600m rock route on the west face of Big Sister, but the weather closed in, and we were left to develop the limestone boulders at base camp instead.

Locals converged to celebrate our departure, determined to get us to hand over kit. Despite our friendly but firm refusal, we woke next morning to find that seven meters had been cut from the end of my rope. Photographs from the British expedition [see next report], gave evidence that it had been recycled into horse reins. We were supported by a Mountaineering Council of Scotland Bursary from Sport Scotland, and the Scottish Mountaineering Trust/Sang Award. They made this expedition possible.

ADAM RUSSELL, UK

*Torolok (4,870m), north face; Mur Samir (5,035m), north face, Diligent Epiphany; Free Tibet (4,700m); Pik Abu (4,495m).* After landing in Bishkek on August 19, Tom Nichols, James Moneyppenny, and I reached the Mustyr Valley on the 22nd, well after the Edinburgh University Expedition had left for home. We made base camp by our vehicle, just below the grass line. We first acclimatized by attempting a new line on Pik Kumay (4,830m) that followed a couloir onto the northwest ridge. Unfortunately, a deep gap in the crest, poor rock, and bad weather turned us back.

We then took five days’ food and established an advanced base on what we dubbed the John Charles Glacier, immediately east of the Mustyr Glacier. This flows down from the north face of Mur Samir, the 5,035m peak climbed by the Edinburgh University team. Our goal was the peak to its left, which we named Torolok after its similarity to the Tour Ronde in the Mont Blanc Massif (Torolok is the nearest Kyrgyz translation of “tour ronde”). The following day we climbed the peak via the north face at D (60°). It gave a superb climb on hard ice. We climbed eight or nine pitches from the rimaye to the summit ridge and then followed this to the chossy rocky top. We reversed the route in seven long rappels using Abalakov anchors.

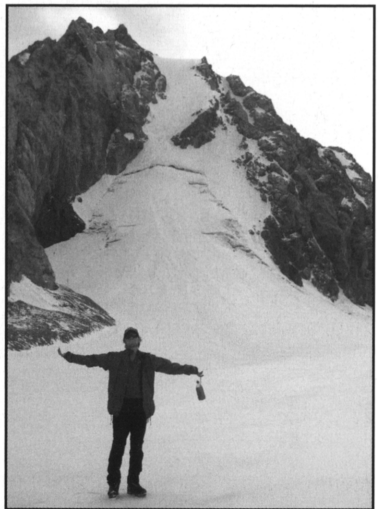
Two days later Nichols and Moneyppenny climbed Diligent Epiphany on the right side of the north face of Mur Samir, I returned to base camp unacclimatized and unwell. This route featured immaculate alpine ice filling a four-meter-wide couloir with a section of 85°, and was graded TD- [the face is 600–700m in height].

After a brief period of bad weather, and the slaughter of our sheep, we headed up again to

establish another advanced base, this time in the next glacier basin east of the John Charles Glacier. More bad weather kept us tentbound, but on a beautiful morning we quickly climbed two virgin peaks, Free Tibet (4,700m) and Pik Abu (4,495m); we graded both F. Views to the east were tantalizing, so we decided to explore there during our last few days. I remained at base camp with bad knees, while Nichols and Moneypenny made an abortive attempt on shapely Peak 4,788m, Nichols's bowels eventually getting the better of him.

We returned to Bishkek via Tash Rabat and then spent a few days sunning ourselves on the shores of Issyk-Kul before flying home. Our gratitude goes to the Mount Everest Foundation and British Mountaineering Council for their generous grants.

SAM LEACH, *UK*



The north face of Torolok. *Sam Leach*

#### AT BASHI RANGE

*Mustabbes and Kensu Valleys, various ascents.* Two International School of Mountaineering (ISM) expeditions, both led by me, visited the Tien Shan in 2010 with the aim of exploring the At Bashi Range, a 100km-long spine of alpine peaks up to 4,788m in height. I had twice previously visited this range (*AAJ* 2003 and *AAJ* 2008), which is very accessible from the north, being just two hours' drive from Naryn. At least three previous expeditions had approached from this side, where many valleys remain to be explored. This time both ISM teams approached from the south, necessitating an extra day's driving to get around the range, but opening up a wealth of new possibilities.



The east face of Kensu (right) rises above the Kensu Glacier. The route of ascent followed the left-hand skyline. *Paul Wellicombe*