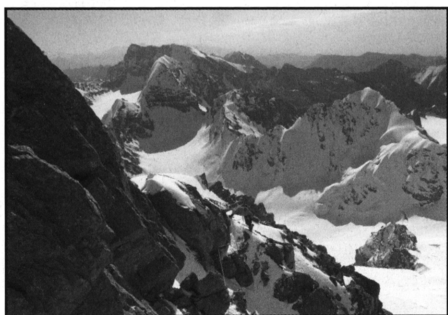


Pik Kathryn from northeast, with route of first ascent. *Kristoffer Szilas*



Jim Broomhead on upper ridge of Pik Alexandra. Behind is frontier ridge. In distance is broad-topped Pik 5,112m. Closer lie Pik 5,025m, Pik 4,801m and, nearest, snowy pyramid of Pik 4,881m. All unclimbed. *Kristoffer Szilas*

conditions (D, M4 and 70°). While we had found Chamonix-style granite on Alexandra, Lea was poor marble. On our way down the sun came out and started to warm the face. We soon found ourselves downclimbing a dangerous avalanche trap. We were hit several times, but luckily on steep ice slopes where we could place solid screws. We were not swept off the peak and made it safely down to base camp, reuniting with the rest of the team. Carsten and Simon had made the first ascent of Pik Kathryn, west of the Kichik Sauktor Glacier, via a line on the icy northeast face they named Russian Roulette (700m, AD,

60°). Sune, Jakob, and Anders climbed Pik Pernille, east of the Kichik Sauktor, from the south via Waiting for the Tide (700m, AD, 55°). Members also made unsuccessful attempts on two border peaks, 5,112m and 5,025m, at the head of the Kichik Sauktor.

We found late July to be too hot. Glacier surfaces failed to freeze, even at night, and we often sank up to our hips when breaking trail. This area, and in particular an attempt on Pik 5,318m, would probably be better in September or even October. Nevertheless, we managed four first ascents in a remote region of the world and had a real adventure. What more could you ask?

KRISTOFFER SZILAS, *Denmark*

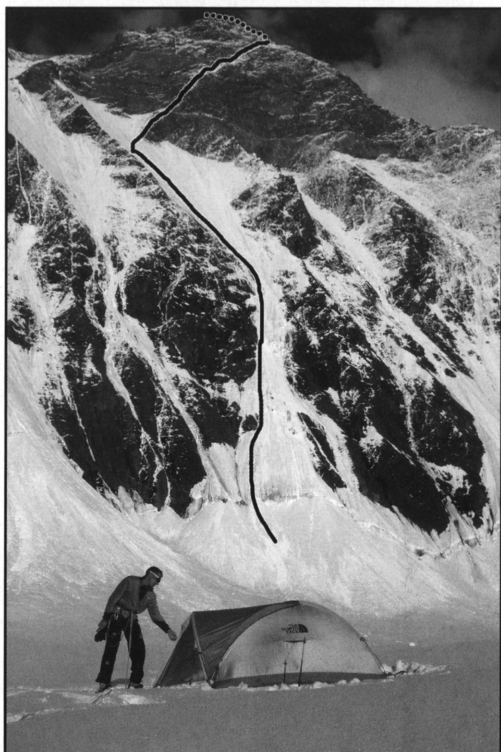
TENGRI TAG

Pik Prezhevskogo (6,240m), north face. Boris Dedeshko and I reached the North Inylchek Glacier on foot from Bayancol with all our gear. Our goal was the north face of Pik Prezhevskogo, which lies up a side branch of the main glacier. The peak was climbed twice in 1974 but never since, while the north face, a noted objective, had been attempted at least once. Using snowshoes it took 15 hours from the standard base camp to the foot of the 1,480m wall.

At 3 a.m. on July 23 we started up the face following the central couloir and climbed 21 pitches by the end of the day. Next morning was misty and, after climbing two more ice pitches, we reached the foot of the large triangular rocky headwall, where we started to work right, following a prominent mixed ramp through the triangle. The rock was shattered with only superficial cracks, but the day was warm, and we often climbed bare-handed. By the second night we had climbed a further five and a half pitches, with difficulties of 5b-6a and M4. There was no platform big enough to pitch the tent on, so we had to sit. Fortunately the night was warm.

We began the third day with the technical crux, directly above our bivouac site. We free-climbed for 15m to a large bulge and used aid for another 15m in a reasonable crack. Difficulties were 6b M5 A2. We then traversed right, at around M4, and by the day's end had completed six pitches when we spotted a good place to pitch the tent. Boris, seeing I was tired, excavated the site and collected ice for melting.

Next morning the weather was still fine. We climbed three pitches and exited the triangular headwall onto the ridge, where we left our packs and climbed 400m of easy snow to the summit, arriving at midday. There were clouds in the west but not the threatening sort. We descended west and reached a saddle, where we camped for the night. We then went down to the north and, unable to locate a possible ice couloir, made 14 rappels of 30m on rock. We reached our cached supply of food and fuel that evening and on the 27th regained the standard North Inylchek base camp.

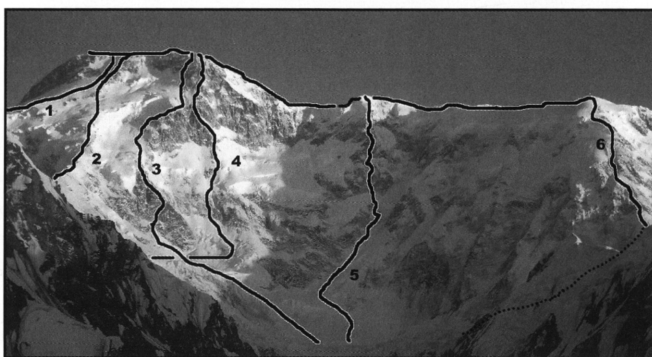


Kazakh route on north face of Pik Prezhevskogo. Denis Urubko Collection

DENIS URUBKO, *Kazakhstan, supplied by Anna Piunova, mountain.ru*

Pik Pobeda (7,439m), north face, Dollar Rod. After our ascent of Przhevskogo, the plan was for Boris Dedeshko and I to traverse over Khan Tengri (6,995m) to the South Inylchek Glacier, where Gennadiy Durov would be waiting for us. From there we would attempt a new line on the north face of Pik Pobeda. Gennadiy, a guide, was acclimatized, having already climbed Khan Tengri twice during the season and slept at 6,400m. For Boris and me 6,240m Przhevskogo was not enough.

Boris and I reached Camp 2 on Khan Tengri's normal route from the north. There Boris became ill, and he descended to



North face of Pik Pobeda from South Inylchek Glacier. (1) Northeast Face (5B, Zuravliov, 1990). (2) Original route (5B, Abalakov, 1956). (3) Dollar Route (5B, Smirnov, 1982). (4) Dollar Rod (6B). (5) Camel Buttress (6B, Gorelik-Sokolov, 2009). (6) Normal route (north spur to west ridge over 6,918m Pobeda West, 5B, Medzmariashvili, 1961). Denis Urubko