

As often happens numerous factors kept us from more climbing of significance, but we left the valley content with the climbing we had done.

On our way home we visited the village of Haldi, where Fida, Ghulam, and the crew from Blue Sky Treks and Tours live. Thanks to the generosity of the Burlington, Vermont, climbing community, which donated \$200 plus tons of school supplies, we delivered a full expedition duffel to the teachers and children of the village. We spent the afternoon visiting a schoolteacher who is working to develop a new primary school.

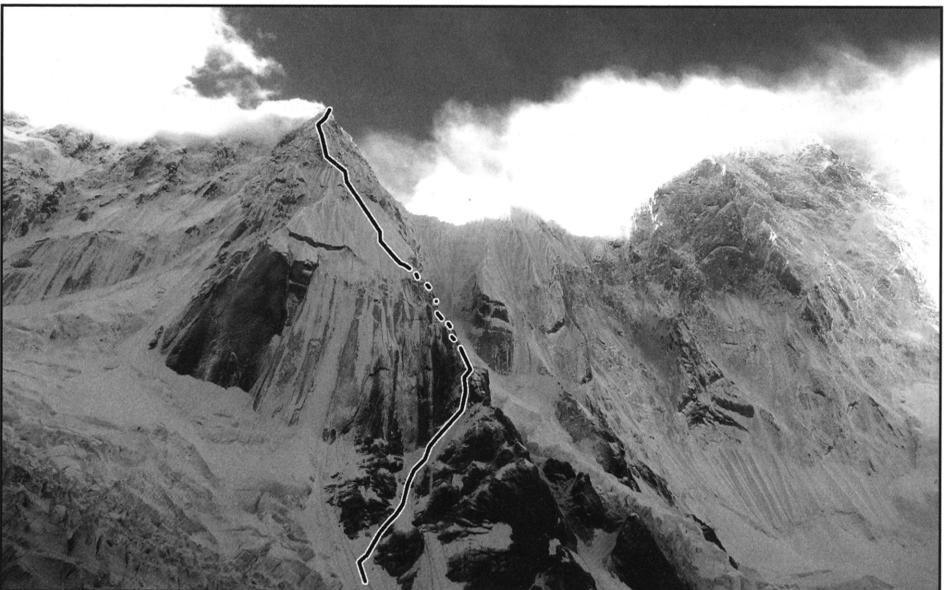
The difference between western views of Pakistan and my experiences amazes me. As Fida's son put it, "There are miscreants and dangerous areas in nearly every country." While this is true in Pakistan, the northern area of Baltistan has been a safe, welcoming place for thousands of climbers, and I imagine it will continue to be so.

We felt extremely honored to have the generous financial support of the Copp-Dash Inspire Award and the Gore Shipton-Tilman Grant. Thank you.

MATT McCORMICK, AAC

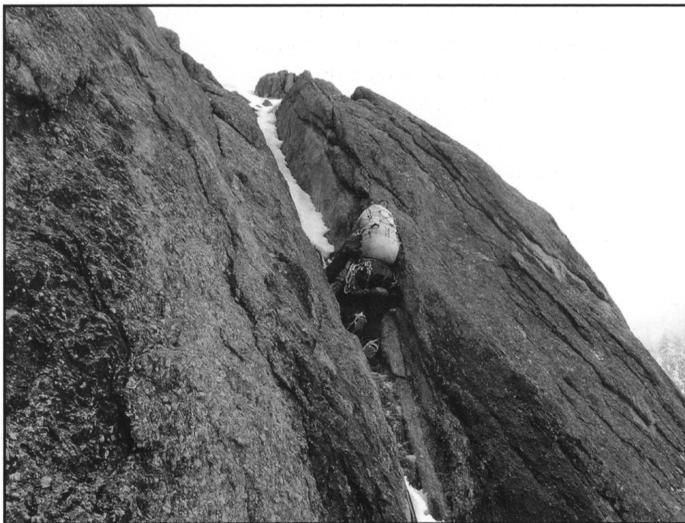
Charakusa Valley, Hassin (Hassan) Peak (ca 6,300m). The Charakusa Valley is an alpine-climbing candy store, offering steep rock routes and technical mixed faces on some of the most beautiful peaks in Pakistan. Kelly Cordes, Kyle Dempster, and I trekked into the Charakusa in mid-August. After acclimatizing on Naisa Brakk (5,200m) and Sulu Peak (6,000m), Kyle and I ventured toward unclimbed Hassin Peak. (Kelly was unwell.) During gear caching trips on the glacier, we scoped a nice-looking line that climbed a rock buttress on the right-hand skyline and then trended to the center of the face, where mixed steps led toward the summit.

After a few days of bad weather, Kyle and I decided it was time to give Hassin Peak a gentlemen's effort. After arriving at our gear cache on the glacier, soaked after hiking in rain, we



West buttress of Hassin Peak, with Dempster-Kennedy line. Part of K6 (7,282m) to right. Hayden Kennedy

dried out and started the climb. We soloed easy snow and ice to the start of the rock buttress, where we roped. Kyle led steep WI4 for a few pitches, until we reached a small ledge on the buttress. From the ledge we simul-climbed easy mixed terrain to the base of a steep crack system. I then led a few pitches of M5 on good rock, with good gear options. The buttress soon became steeper,



Kennedy on first ascent of Hassin Peak. Kyle Dempster

and we traversed right to find easier ice/mixed climbing that led back toward the center of the face at a large snowfield. We chopped a nice ledge on which to sleep, and hunkered down for the night.

In the morning we soloed steep snow until we reached mixed steps in the middle of the face. Kyle led interesting ice pitches through a three-hour storm that came out of nowhere. The weather cleared, and we had amazing views of the east face of K7 and the colossal massif of Masherbrum. In the evening light we chopped a less than ideal ledge and spent a cold, uncomfortable night just below the summit. For breakfast we had steep, unconsolidated snow, much better than coffee and eggs! Conditions were rather dangerous, and we triggered a few small slides. On cresting the steep snow, we found a huge overhanging serac blocking the summit. After some discussion we ventured around the right side of the serac. I led a very steep, wild WI6 pitch to the summit snow slopes.

On top we were greeted by the Norwegian Bikini team and Mojitos. After drinks and conversation, Kyle and I rappelled all the way to the glacier in one long push. Nothing but good times!

HAYDEN KENNEDY, AAC

Editor's note: Hassin Peak stands on the east rim of the Charakusa Glacier, north of K6. The west buttress was attempted in 2005 by Hans Mitterer (Germany), Raphael Slawinski (Canada), and Steve Swenson. They made one bivouac but retreated from 6,000m, when the summit snow slopes became too dangerous. This team spelled it Hassin, saying it was the local term for "beautiful peak" (AAJ 2006).

K6 Group, Changi Tower (ca 6,500m), northwest ridge, attempt. In July 2010 Andrzej Gluszek, Piotr Sztaba, and I, from Poland, visited the K6 group intending to make the first ascent of the prominent Changi Tower [Editor's note: This formation is not to be confused with the much lower rock towers on the north side of the Nangma Valley, often called Changi but correctly called the Changui Towers]. Changi Tower lies southeast of K6 (7,281m), on the watershed between the Lachit and K6 glaciers, close to the military arena of the Indo-Pakistan conflict. Our permit was issued at the last moment, and, although Changi Tower stands at the head of the Lachit Glacier, we were only allowed to approach from the neighboring Nangma Valley.