

difficult, though exposed to objective danger from séracs. After 2½ days of climbing we got to the summit of Shiwakte II on August 8. From the top it appeared that Shiwakte III is slightly higher and much more difficult. On the last two days, we climbed two easy 5300-meter peaks in the Chimghan range. On the return, Hari Beg insisted on going from Chat over the Ghijak Sawan to the roadhead at Kizil Tagh, an area forbidden for foreigners, but easier. We had no choice. Rubens and I returned alone over the Katatash to inform the liaison officer what had happened while the other four accompanied Hari Beg and the baggage. We all met up again in Kashgar, but we then had to mollify the police for having entered a forbidden area, albeit not of our own choosing.

GEOFFREY COHEN, *Scottish Mountaineering Club*

Chagragil. Chagragil (6725 meters, 22,064 feet) lies 37 kilometers northwest of Kongur. On September 1, Japanese leader Misao Hirano, Minoru Hachisu and Kenji Nakayama reached the top for the first ascent of the peak.

Syurenfen Attempt, Tien Shan. Our expedition, composed of Junichi Sinozaki, Yuji Kato, Masato Kameda, Susumi Takagishi, Toshikazu Yokosawa and me as leader, hoped to climb the southeast ridge of Syurenfen (6627 meters, 21,742 feet), which lies due west of Urumchi. The approach route along the Muzarut River was difficult because of much glacial meltwater, which delayed us for some days. From Base Camp to Camp III, we traveled on the moraines of the Karakume Glacier for 30 kilometers. We established Base Camp, Camps I, II, III, IV and V at 2500, 3100, 3500, 4050, 5250 and 5950 meters on July 20, 23, 27, 29, August 6 and 12. We had to evacuate two members with altitude sickness from Camp IV, which cost us time. The weather became bad as soon as we established Camp V with heavy snowfall and wind. On August 20, from Camp V we climbed 500 meters along a snow-and-rock ridge, traversed and ascended a 300-meter, 60° ice wall to reach the col between the main summit and an eastern foresummit at 6300. This was our high point.

KAZUO TOKUSHIMA, *Japanese Alpine Club*

USSR

Pik Pobedy Massif Traverse, Tien Shan. Continuing the training for the great Kangchenjunga traverse, planned for the spring of 1989, in August a Soviet team completed the whole traverse of the Pik Pobedy massif. The 26-member party was divided into two groups going a day apart. The traverse was made via Pik Vazha Pshavela (6918 meters, 22,798 feet), Pik Pobedy (7439 meters, 24,407 feet), Pik Pobedy East (7049 meters, 23,127 feet) and Military Surveyors Peak (Pik Voennye Topografi; 6873 meters, 22,550 feet). The 20-kilometer-long ridge, with altitudes from 6000 to 7439 meters, was climbed in a record time of seven days. Despite strong winds and heavy snowfalls, all 26 members

succeeded in completing the climb. Pik Pobedy, the northernmost 7000er, is also one of the most dangerous. Since 1955, 53 people have died on its slopes.

JÓZEF NYKA, *Editor, Tatarnik, Poland*

Chimbulak Area, Zailisky Ala Tau, Tien Shan. Steve Goodwin, Steve Lenartowicz, Eric Pirnie, Norman Rodd, my wife Moira Snadden and I attended the Soviet International Camp at Chimbulak in the late winter of 1988. The mountains of the Chimbulak area, the Zailisky Ala Tau, are well explored by the Soviets in the summer, and to a lesser extent in the winter. Interesting mountaineering routes of not too much technical difficulty lead to the majority of the summits. We climbed the following peaks, all members reaching all summits. From Chimbulak Base (2200 meters, 7218 feet): Chimbulak Peak (3450 meters, 11,319 feet) via south ridge on March 20, Shkolnik (3800 meters, 12,467 feet) via south face on March 31; from Tuyuk-Su Glacier Geographical Station (3500 meters, 11,483 feet): Titova Peak (3920 meters, 12,861 feet) on March 23, Pogrebetskogo (4230 meters, 13,878 feet) via east ridge on March 24, Molodjonznaya (4103 meters, 13,462 feet) via east ridge on March 25; from camp on the Bogdanovich Glacier (3300 meters, 10,827 feet): Pioneer Peak (3960 meters, 12,992 feet) via west ridge on March 29. The Soviets inform us that our ski descents of Titova and Pioneer Peaks were the first recorded ones.

DAVID SNADDEN, *Eagle Ski Club, Scotland*

Pik Lenina, First Winter Ascent. Our preparations began in 1983. We made winter climbs in the Caucasus and the Tienshan. In 1988, under my leadership the team was composed of 19 mountaineers from Leningrad and three from Kazakhstan. Base Camp was established at 3500 meters and Advance Base at 4200 meters with helicopter support. On January 20, the work on the mountain began. We planned to climb the north face which is relatively safe from winds. During the first push, Camp I was made at 5400 meters in two big snow caves for ten and eight men. Six members of the team suffered from frostbite or hypothermia. The final attack came in two waves. Ten climbers led by Valeri Khrishchaty and me set out from Base Camp. The next day, eight others followed led by Vladimir Balyberdin. At 6000 meters we established Camp II in a snow cave for ten persons. Fighting the strong wind the next day, we got to 6500 meters and placed Camp III in a snow cave we dug for 18 men. On January 30, we tried to reach the east ridge but failed. That evening all 18 climbers were in the cave. We decided to climb the west ridge. On January 31 at nine A.M., we all left for the summit. On the west ridge we were hit by a violent storm. With a temperature of -45° C, only six men could reach the summit: Khrishchaty, Balyberdin, S. Arsentiev, U. Moiseev, I. Tulaiev and V. Dedi. Eight other men got to the west shoulder. We descended in violent storm. Only thanks to 3000 meters of fixed rope, could we get down safely. On February 2, the whole team left Base Camp.

LEONID TROSHCHINENKO, *Sports Committee of Leningrad, USSR*

Pik Lenina and Pik Kommunizma Attempts. In July, David Bregenzer, Richard Goodell, Tim Lemmuchi, Alan Ropp, Fred Ziel and I went to the Soviet Union, hoping to climb the Razdelny route of Pik Lenina and the Borodin route of Pik Kommunizma. After only a day in the comfortable Ashik-Tash Base Camp for Pik Lenina, we moved to Camp I and by the seventh day reached the high camp at 6400 meters. On our summit attempt, high winds and a radio report of an oncoming storm forced us to retreat, even though we were feeling good. We turned to Pik Kommunizma. A helicopter ride to the Moskvina Base Camp was an unforgettable experience for seeing magnificent scenery. On our second day we established Camp I at 5200 meters. While moving to Camp II, Ropp slipped on a snow slope while making the transition from one fixed line to the next. He fell 300 meters down a couloir and sustained multiple injuries, including head trauma. A coordinated rescue by the Soviets and our group got him down to the glacier, where he was stabilized and air-evacuated to a hospital at Osh. He remained in a coma there for two weeks before being transported to London for further medical treatment. The rest of us abandoned the climb and had to remain in the Soviet Union for a week and a half dealing with Soviet bureaucracy. Ropp is walking and talking and hopes to travel in the mountains again. He still needs rehabilitation treatment, but considering the accident, it is a miracle that he is still alive.

STACY TANIGUCHI

Ak-Su, Pamir-Alay. From June 28 to July 21, fifteen Yugoslavs from various parts of the country led by Lazar Popara of Vojvodina climbed in the Ak-Su area of the Turkestan Range, one of the most difficult climbing regions in the USSR. Wild and hard faces, altitudes between 3000 and 5000 meters and unstable weather are factors. We did the following three new routes on the big face of Ak-Su: Tolmin Couloir and Novo Sad Couloir, both on July 5 and Slovene Route on July 7, all three by Jože, Šerbec and me. Some of the climbers attempted the normal route on Ak-Su but were turned back by storm. Numerous other easier climbs were made.

DARKO PODGORNIK, *Planinska Zveza Slovenije, Yugoslavia*

Peaks in the Fanskiye Gory, Tajikistan. Three Bulgarians, Nikolai Velikov, Kiril Rusev and K. Krumov climbed in August and September in the Fanskiye Gory, where they climbed four summits: Alaudin (4200 meters, 13,780 feet), Zamok (5070 meters, 16,634 feet), Mirali (5170 meters, 16,962 feet) and Chimatarga (5487 meters, 18,002 feet), the highest in the range. The most interesting was the new route on the west face of Zamok. The 1000-meter-high route took 1½ days (UIAA V). Using Friends and hexentrics, they climbed remarkably fast.

JÓZEF NYKA, *Editor, Tatarnik, Poland*

Altai Range. The members of the British Altai Expedition were Duncan Tunstall, Phillip Thomas, Paul Allison and I as leader. The Altai Range is in southern Siberia near the Mongolian border. The journey from Moscow was undertaken via two domestic jet flights followed by a 30-minute helicopter ride to our base at Ak-Kem Lake. We were to spend 2½ weeks at an International Mountaineering Camp comprising about 25 climbers from the west and 15 or so Soviets. The weather started fine and all the team made a four-hour ascent of the north face of Ak-Ayuk (3700 meters), an ideal training climb. A bleak ten-day period of weather ensued, during which the highest 24-hour precipitation was measured since local weather recordings began in 1958. The campsite was flooded and nearly obliterated by a landslide. The appalling weather frustrated all efforts even to attempt the northeast face of the Peak to Commemorate the 20th Anniversary of the Glorious October Revolution, usually referred to as the 20th October Peak. With only four days left and climbing conditions dangerous after the exceptional snowfall, we all climbed the normal route on Belukha (4506 meters, 14,784 feet), the highest peak in eastern Siberia, a not-too-difficult climb but one requiring a 20-hour round trip from the Tomsk bivouac. On the last available climbing day, conditions improved sufficiently for Turnstall, Allison and me to make the first Western ascent of the Tomsk ridge on Delone (4200 meters, 13,780 feet), which gave 1100 meters of superb climbing on mixed terrain. Very little in the region has been climbed by Soviet mountaineers and several obvious challenging objectives remain. Starting in 1989, the Soviets hope to provide camp participants with the option of a helicopter flight to the Slavra region of the Altai, about 150 kilometers distant.

MICK FOWLER, *Alpine Climbing Group*

