



## AAC Publications

---

### **Djangart Range: Seven First Ascents**

Kyrgyzstan, Central Kokshaal-Too

In August, Harry Bloxham, Clay Conlon, Al Docherty, Harry Kingston, Ross Davidson, and I (all from the U.K.) spent three weeks in the Djangart Valley. We had planned to attempt three 5,000m-plus unclimbed summits. Just before traveling, however, we learned that our primary objective, Peak 5,318m, now known as Peak After You, had been climbed a few weeks earlier by a team of Americans. Furthermore, the helicopter from Maida-Adyr airbase dropped us 10km from our preferred base camp.

Despite these setbacks, an initial exploratory trip onto the Kichik Sauktor Glacier turned into the successful ascents of two unclimbed peaks on the Chinese border. Following a tiring 12-hour approach from base camp, Ross, Clay, Harry Kingston, and I established advanced base camp at 4,300m. The following morning we left the camp at 3 a.m. and climbed to a col at 4,800m. Exhausted and with potential bad weather approaching, Harry and I chose to abandon the main target and instead summited a nearby unclimbed peak (Peak Little, ca 4,850m, AD-). Ross and Clay continued to the southeast and then east, finding difficult conditions that required them to pitch much of the corniced summit ridge. They summited Peak Currahee (5,025m GPS, D- III) at around 11 a.m., and returned to the col after 16 hours of climbing. Finding snow conditions too poor to continue the descent, they opted to bivvy at the col and descend early the next day.

Harry Bloxham and Al were next to summit, climbing a cracking new line up west-facing snow slopes on previously unclimbed Peak Betelgeuse (ca 5,100m, AD-) in the N1 valley.

After a short period of bad weather, the team walked one day up the Akunguz Glacier (a.k.a. Akoguz Glacier). Harry Kingston, Ross, Clay, and I climbed Peak Kasparov (4,822m, AD), following snow up the north side to the rocky west ridge. The following day Ross and Harry K. summited Peak Ozon (4,971m, AD), climbing snow and ice to the east ridge. Meanwhile, Harry B. and Al had walked west the length of the Djangart Valley to set up an advance camp on the Djangartynbashi Glacier. Here, they climbed two great new routes: the north face of Peak Feto (4,831m, AD+) and the west face of Peak Topor (ca 4,970m, D-), both previously unclimbed summits with some of the best alpine ice the team had ever encountered. The expedition gratefully acknowledges support from the Alpine Club, BMC, and Mount Everest Foundation.

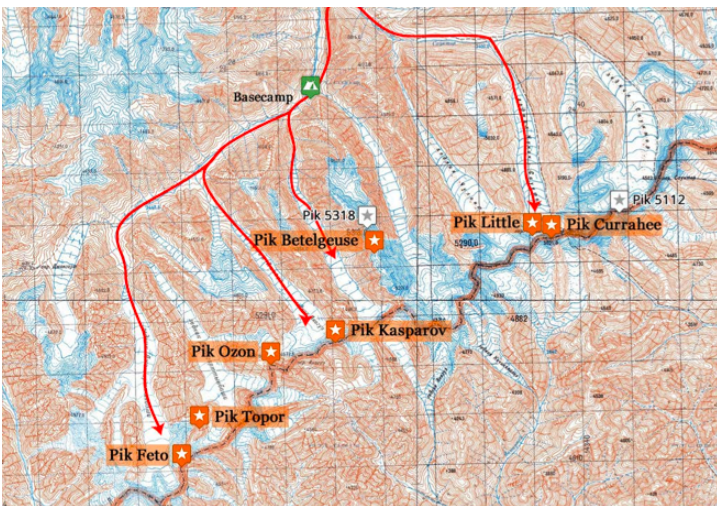
A complete expedition report (10 MB PDF) can be downloaded [here](#).

George Cave, U.K.

## Images



Route up the west side of Betelgeuse.



Bristol Djangart Expedition Map



Harry Bloxham struggles to cross the fast-flowing Djangart River on his way back to base camp.



High above the clouds on the summit ridge of Peak Currahee (Peak 5,025m).

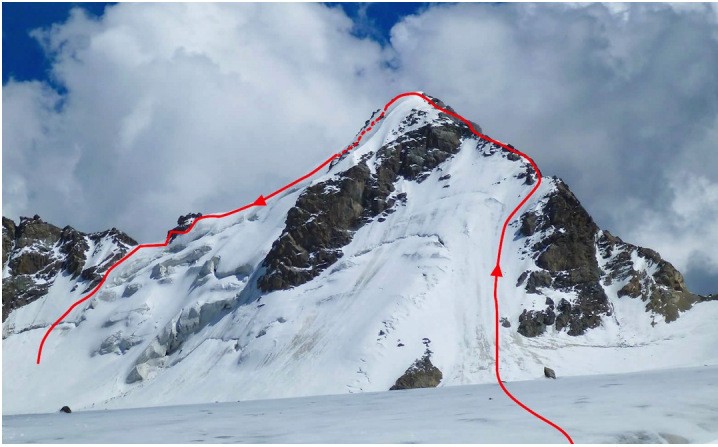


Peaks near the head of the Kichik Sauktor Glacier: (A) Peak Currahee, 5,025m, and (B) Peak Little, ca 4,850m. (1) Route to col where team split to climb each peak. (2) Descent from Peak Little.

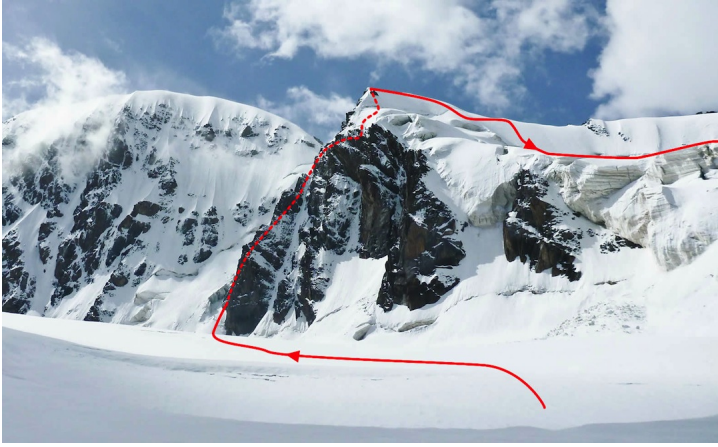


The north-facing line on Peak Feto.





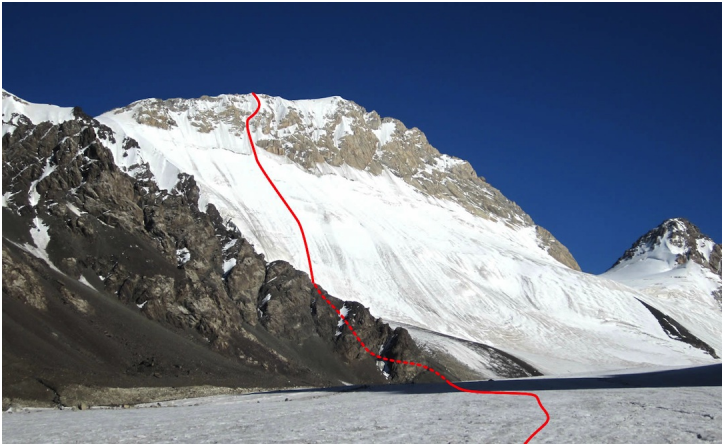
Ascent and descent routes on the north side of Peak Kasparov.



Peak Little. Peak Currahee is behind and left.



Peak Ozon above the Djangartinbashi Glacier.



The west-facing ice route on Peak Topor.



Base camp (3,100m) in the Djangart Valley.

## Article Details

Author	George Cave
Publication	AAJ
Volume	88
Issue	56
Page	272
Copyright Date	2014
Article Type	Climbs and expeditions