



AAC Publications

Virjerab Muztagh, Khushrui Sar (5,900m), north ridge

Pakistan, West Karakoram

Led by Krzysztof Wielicki, Maciej Dachowski, Wojciech Dzik, Wojciech Kapturkiewicz, Marian Krakowski, Anita Parys, Jerzy Urbanski, Katarzyna Karwecka-Wielicka, and I visited the Virjerab Glacier in July 2012. We were the first to explore this glacier since 1925. The expedition was organized in Pakistan by Karim Hayat, manager of Mountains Expert Pakistan, who also organized our 2011 expedition to Koksil Valley (AAJ 2012). Hayat accompanied us, and we also had four base camp staff, three from Hunza and one from Shimshal.

The Virjerab Glacier was "discovered" by George Cockerill during his 1892-'93 expedition, and then visited for a second time, in 1925, by the Dutch couple, Jenny Visser-Hooft and Philip Visser. Colonel R.C.F. Schomberg's book *Unknown Karakorum*, published in 1936, has a map of the "Shingshal Mustagh Area," which includes the Virjerab Glacier. Nearly 80 years later, the Virjerab remains an attractive goal for exploration.

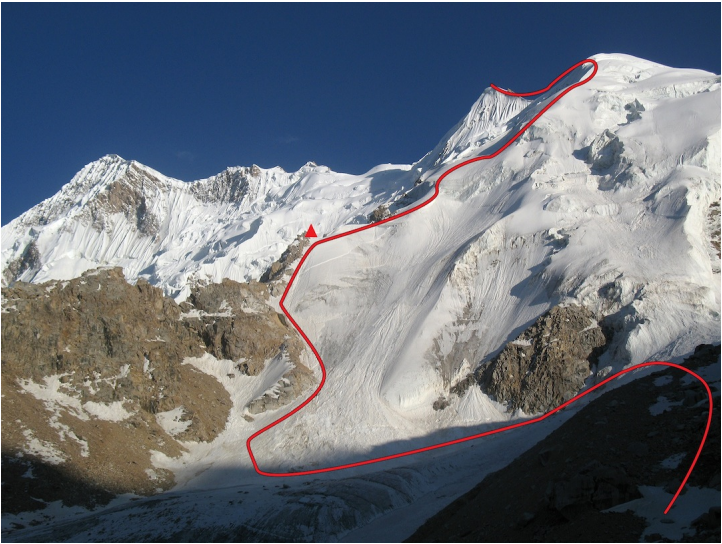
Difficulties in moving up the glacier due to lack of lateral moraines kept our expedition to the lower reaches, and we established our base camp at 4,058m, on the south bank (36°18.203' N, 75°35.993' E), three days' walk from Shimshal. On July 12, having several days previously put an advanced base at 4,700m in the Spregh Yaz Valley to the south, Dachowski, Hayat, Karwecka-Wielicka, and Wielicki climbed onto the eastern rim of the Spregh Yaz Glacier and bivouacked at 5,100m. Next day all four continued south up a ridge to the summit of a 5,900m snow and ice peak, which they named Khushrui Sar ("Beautiful Peak" in Wakhi).

Krakowski, Urbanski, and I, together with two base camp staff, Farman and Noor Alam, moved southeast up the main glacier to the entrance to the First West Virjerab Glacier (as designated on Jerzy Wala's 2013 sketch map). Due to bad weather, we were unable to follow the Vissers' footsteps any farther toward the confluence of Second West and East Virjerab glaciers.

On the 17th, Hayat, Kapturkiewicz, Noor Alam, and Parys crossed from base camp to the north side of the glacier and bivouacked, their aim to climb a 6,570m peak in the Chot Pert group. On the 18th, Hayat and Parys climbed up to a bivouac at 4,800m, but on the following day the weather took a turn for the worse and they retreated.

Janusz Majer, Poland

Images



Khushrui Sar from the Spreg Yaz Glacier, showing route of ascent via west flank and north ridge. The bivouac is at 5,100m, and the summit far left is Peak 6,099m.



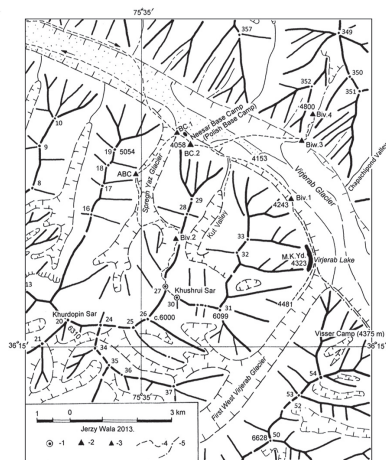
Looking southeast toward unclimbed peaks in the upper Virjerab Glacier from a point before the entrance to the Chapachipond Valley.



Looking south from the entrance to the First West Virjerab Glacier to the unclimbed peaks that form its east bank, the highest over 6,600m.



The little-known Chot Pert Group as seen looking north from the summit of Khushrui Sar. Peak 6,570m, one of the aims of the 2012 Polish expedition, is the high, pyramidal snow mountain on the right.



A portion of the Virjerab Muztagh, showing the activities of the 2012 Polish expedition.

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