



AAC Publications

Central Tower (5,380m GPS)

China Sichuan Qionglai Shan Siguniang National Park

South of Potala Shan, above the Shuangqiao Valley, the Central Tower lies between Eagle Rock (ca 5,300m) to the west and Wargleseisei (ca 5,300m) to the east. As these three peaks form a cirque around the head of a hanging valley containing Baihaizi Lake (White Lake, 4,600m), we have tentatively call these the Three Baihaizi Mountains.

On July 30, Naoki Ohuchi and I set up base camp by the lake. We began climbing the 510m southwest face on August 2. The approach took more time than imagined, with moraine followed by three pitches on snow leading to the foot of the wall. Ohuchi led up thin cracks and over bulges using aid, while I carried the loads that we eventually deposited on the upper terrace. We rested at base camp on the 4th, then began again next day. After two bivouacs we reached the ridge between Central Tower and Wargleseisei, where our attempt ended. We then descended to civilization, where we met two other friends, Koji Sano and Yusuke Yamazaki.

On the 13th all four climbers re-established base camp by the lake. On the 15th we re-climbed six pitches and cached equipment, took a rest day, and then on the 17th began climbing in two pairs. That day we climbed 12 pitches, led by Ohuchi and me (A1 VI+ on pitch two, and thereafter IV to VI- with aid on three pitches). After a bivouac on the south-southeast ridge, Yamazaki led pitches 13 and 14 (VI- and VI), I led 15 (VI+ A1), and Sano led the last two (IV-) to reach the top, just left of a 15m monolithic summit block.

Images



Southwest face of Central Pillar.

Article Details

Author	Hiroo Yonezawa
Publication	AAJ
Volume	0
Issue	0
Page	0
Copyright Date	2014
Article Type	Climbs and expeditions