



## AAC Publications

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### **Nalivkin and Rudnev Glacier Areas, Attempts and Exploration**

Kyrgyzstan, Western Kokshaal-Too

**In July and August, Sam Spector and I attempted several unclimbed summits from a base camp at 3,943m below the Kotur Glacier in the Western Kokshaal-too.** This we reached in a day from Naryn thanks to travel firm ITMC, our driver Anton, and his offroad-enhanced Mitsubishi SUV, which seemed much more reliable and comfortable than the Soviet-era trucks used on my previous trips to the area.

Unfortunately, our various climbing attempts were stymied by conditions or weather. We planned to make the first ascent of Pik 5,611m, north of Pik Byeliy (Grand Poohbah, 5,697m), by traversing over the summit of Pik Korsun (ca 5,320m) at the northern end of this ridge. The latter was climbed by a Moscow party in 2000 and is sometimes incorrectly marked at the location of Pik 5,611m. Pik 5,611m itself was previously targeted by Pat Littlejohn and party in 2006, but they aborted the attempt at their glacier camp due to heavy snow (AAJ 2007).

From our base camp, Sam and I cut across to the Nalivkin Glacier via vestigial icefields east of Pik Lvitsa (4,631m) and made a camp at 4,923m between Piks 5,055m and Korsun. We set off early on the morning of August 4 for the northeast ridge of Korsun in perfect weather but felt forced to retreat at around 5,058m due to the deep, hollow, unstable old snowpack that seemed widespread across the northern aspect.

After returning to base camp, we later crossed Kotur Pass to reach a cirque on the southern (Xinjiang) side, overlooking the Rudnev Glacier. Since only its border peaks have been climbed so far, this cirque presents notable climbing objectives for future parties, especially if one were able to attain access from within Xinjiang. The main summits appear well-guarded by rock walls and complex ridges, rising up to 600m to 700m above the snow (see photos in the gallery below).

Below the pass, we found ourselves navigating complex glacial topography with several icefalls and only thin coverage of old snow. We camped at 4,574m at the base of straightforward-looking Pik 5,082m, immediately south of Pik Babouchka (5,282m), but withdrew due to exceptionally high overnight winds within a prevailing stormy pattern.

— Paul Knott, New Zealand

## Images



Upper north face of Little Poohbah (5,481m), on the left, with the northeast ridge of Pik Korsun (ca 5,320m) at far right, dropping straight toward the camera.



North face of Pik Korsun (ca 5,320m) with the summits of Pik 5,611m and Pik Byeliy (Grand Poohbah, 5,697m) rising along the ridge behind.



Western side of Pik Korsun (ca 5,320m), Pik 5,611m, and Pik Byeliy (Grand Poohbah, 5,697m) from near Kotur Pass. The pass to the Nalivkin Glacier is visible on the left, with Pik Dankova (5,982m) in the distance.



The eastern side of Pik 5,082m (south of Pik Babouchka on the China-Kyrgyzstan border) with part of the Great Walls of China visible behind.

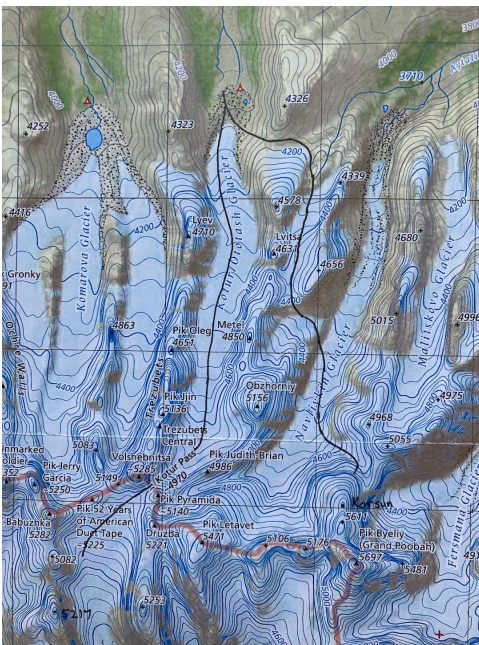




Western side of Pik 5,253m (south of Pik Druzba on the frontier). The steep face is estimated to be 600m to 700m high.



Eastern side of Pik 5,217m (south of Piks 5,082m and Babouchka), with faces estimated at 600m to 700m high.



Map showing the activities of the 2023 expedition to the Navlivkin and Rudnev glacier areas of the Western Kokshaal-too.

## Article Details

Author	Paul Knott
Publication	AAJ
Volume	66
Issue	98
Page	
Copyright Date	2024
Article Type	Climbs and expeditions