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Lower Bara Shigri, Mapping Irregularities

India, Himachal Pradesh

In 1961, British climbers Jo Scarr and Barbara Spark made the first ascents of Central Peak (6,285m, 32°14'24.21"N, 77°40'31.89"E) and its southeast summit, Lion Peak (6,126m, 32°14'6.95"N, 77°40'50.64"E), from the Lion Glacier to the north of the Bara Shigri Glacier. While it is possible that most or all subsequent parties climbing Lion Peak have summited the correct peak, nearly all maps of the region misplace it, marking Lion as a summit of similar height nearly two kilometers farther southeast, on or near 32°13'30.19"N, 77°41'49.44"E. This peak may still be unclimbed.

In the same area, two other peaks' locations are swapped on the available maps: Snow Cone and Gunther's Peak. Snow Cone (6,225m) is actually located at 32°10'47.62"N, 77°48'14.96"E; it was first climbed in September 1956 by Joyce Dunsheath (U.K.) and Nima Dorje (India), and many times since. The adjacent summit to the northwest, at 32°11'32.65"N, 77°47'16.96"E, is Gunther's Peak (6,309m), climbed by Albert Gunther and John Kempe (U.K.) in September 1953.

—Lindsay Griffin and Damien Gildea, AAJ

Images

Article Details

Author	Lindsay Griffin and Damien Gildea
Publication	AAJ
Volume	67
Issue	100
Page	
Copyright Date	2026
Article Type	Climbs and expeditions