



AAC Publications

Svarog, North Face, New Route

Kyrgyzstan, Gissar Alai, Ashat Gorge

The north face of Svarog in profile, showing the 2025 route.

In August 2025, the Russian team of Egor Matveenkov (leader), Evgeny Korulin, Artem Pivovarchik, and Tikhon von Stackelberg climbed a new route up the north face of Svarog (5,005m), at the head of the Ashat gorge. The north face had previously seen only two routes, both by Russian climbers, the first completed in 2014 by a group led by Konstantin Markevich and the second in 2021 under Alexander Parfenov.

Before the ascent of Svarog, Korulin and Pivovarchik made a two-day acclimatization climb on August 1 and 2, completing a partial new route (Russian 5B) on Parus West (4,850m), joining the 2012 route up the southwest buttress from a start farther to the south. The route included long sections of unstable rock, damaged both ropes on the final pitches, and left Korulin with a foot injury during the descent.

For the new route on Svarog, the four climbers left advanced base camp at 5:10 a.m. on August 4. Their line followed the most central system of slabs, corners, and dihedrals above the glacier. From the bergschrund to the summit, the height gain was about 1,300 meters, with a measured route length of 1,690 meters and an average angle of more than 80°. The team reported extremely laborious climbing on shattered rock (Russian 6B), with aid up to A4 in fractured sections and iced cracks.

They climbed without prior fixing, moving simultaneously where the terrain allowed and regrouping at solid anchors in broken sections to keep the leader from sending debris onto the others. Three nights were spent in a single portaledge, which they moved higher each day.

At 4 p.m. on August 7 they reached the summit ridge and the small top tower, where they found and replaced the water-stained summit note from the 2021 ascent. The next morning, they began rappelling their line of ascent, spending a fourth night on the wall before returning to the glacier at 12:30 p.m. on August 8.

—Anna Piunova, AAJ, with information from Tikhon von Stackelberg, Russia

Images



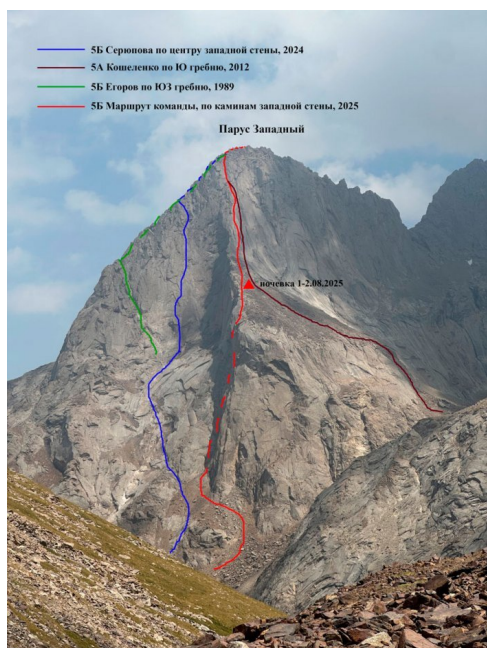
The north face of Svarog (5,005m), showing the Markevich route (2014, first route up the face) in purple; the Parfenov route (2021) in orange, and the 2025 route in red.



The 1,300-meter north face of Svarog (5,005m) and the lines climbed in (1) 2014, (2) 2021, and (3) 2025. Ice coverage on the face has decreased dramatically in the past decade.



The north face of Svarog in profile, showing the 2025 route.



Routes on the southwest side of Parus West (4,850m), with the 2025 variation to the 2012 route shown in dark red on the right.



Climbing on the north face of Svarog.



Climbing on the north face of Svarog.



Egor Matveenکو at the second bivouac on Svarog.



On Svarog's summit gendarme, left to right: Egor Matveenکو, Evgeny Korulin, Artem Pivovarchik, and Tikhon von Stackelberg.

Article Details

Author	Anna Piunova
Publication	AAJ
Volume	67
Issue	100
Page	
Copyright Date	2026
Article Type	Climbs and expeditions