

Expedition Objective

Kyrgyzstan 2011



The idea for the expedition came to life in late 2010, after having read about an anglo-american expedition, that made several first ascents in the region in summer 2010. The anglo-danish team set an objective to attempt to do the first ascents of Pt. 5025, Pt. 5318 Pt. 5290 and Pt. 5190. and to find new objectives while in the area. The expedition picked the Sauktor area of the Djangart region, as everything there would be unclimbed.

The expedition planned to stay in the region for seventeen days.

Expedition Members

Kyrgyzstan 2011

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Expedition Summery

Kyrgyzstan 2011

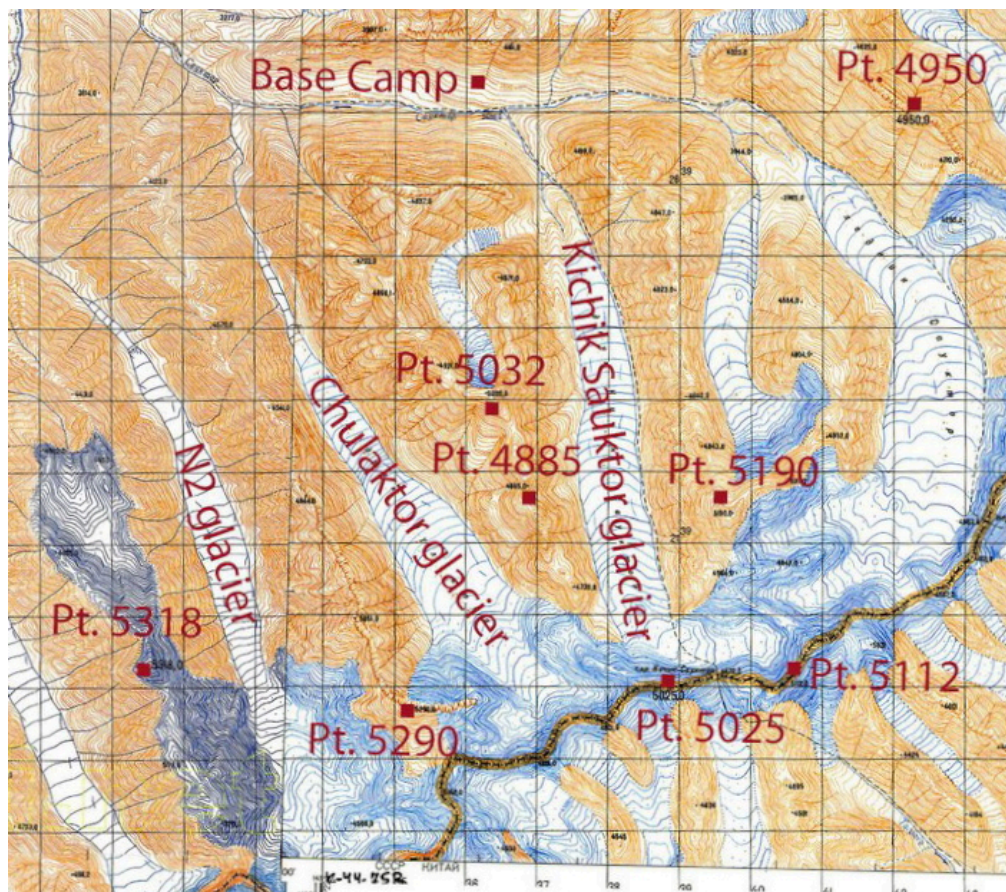
All expedition members met in Manas International Airport in Bishkek on the 17.th of July, and departed on the 10. hour busride through Kyrgyzstan accompanied by the expedition cook and helper. Additional foodpurchasing were sorted on the way. In the city of Karakol the expedition changed vehicle, to a 4WD Comanche truck. After unloading and loading of vehicles the expedition continued to the militarybase and helipad of Maida Adyr.

The expedition spend the night at Maida Adyr and left with a MI8 helicopter the next morning for the Djangart in the Kokshall-Too range, after having their permits checked by the Kyrgyzs army.

After 30 minutes of flying, the expedition and gear were dropped off in a valley at 3400 meters, near the outflow of the Kichik Sauktor Glacier, were we established basecamp.

Soon after, the expedition discovered that the gascanisters used for melting snow in the mountains had not been on the helicopter, and that the sat-phone did not work either, so we could not contact our logistics partner for assistance.

The next day three expedition members were hauling gear to the glacier, while others were at basecamp, when a russian family on a trekking trip came through camp. They offered to let members use their sat-phone, which saved the expedition. The next day, two boxes of gascanisters were flown out to base.



Map of the eastern part of the Djangart region (Sauktor), marked with our established and attempted climbs.

The three teams set out from base the day after, two teams (Buur, Fisker and Hedeager Pedersen - Cooper Jensen and Lund Jensen) went for objectives pt. 5025, pt. 5190 and pt. 5112 on the Kichik Sauktor Glacier, while one team (Broomhead and Szilas) went for objective pt. 5290 on the Chulaktor Glacier.

After acclimatization and reconnaissance on the Kichik Sauktor, the team (Buur, Fisker and Hedeager Pedersen) made a failed attempt on pt. 5025. The following day the team climbed pt. 5190 in clear weather, establishing the route "Waiting for the tide" (AD: 55, 700m), making a high traverse of the mountains glacier and ridge, reaching a footballfield sized plateau before climbing a 400m snow couloir leading to the summit. The same day the trio descended towards basecamp, but had to bivvy at a river on the way, hence the name of the route. The team have proposed the name Peak Pernille, after Fisker's girlfriend.

After spending two days at base, the team returned to Kichik Sauktor glacier, to make another attempt on Pt. 5025, after being tentbound for two days in snow and whiteout, the team used a break in the weather, (Buur and Hedeager) to make an attempt, but found the terrain too difficult and the weather in early morning very warm, which was typical for the entire expedition. After the return the team (Buur, Fisker, Hedeager) packed up camp and returned to base.

The team (Cooper Jensen and Lund Jensen) made an unsuccessful attempt on pt. 5112, where they met insufficient ice conditions and poor rock quality on route. After descending they moved camp from 4400m back to 4100 before descending back to base.

After 2 days at base the team (Cooper Jensen and Lund Jensen) moved up the moraine again (sigh), spend one night in 4100, and did the first ascent of peak 4885, and named it Peak Kathryn after Carsten Cooper Jensen's wife. The route had severe objective hazards, the lower slope is exposed to massive rock fall, and the middle part is exposed to seracs. The upper part demanded navigating through a hanging glacier, which was fun and scary, the initial slope is 60 degrees, and eases out at the top. The team stopped 20 vertical meters from the summit due to severe avalanche hazard (read 10 cm of hard wind slap on top of 40 cm of sugar snow, at a 40 degree slope) The team named the route

Russian Roulette (AD 60, 700m). After descending, the team spend one night at the glacier and returned to base camp.

The last team (Broomhead and Szilas) moved to Chulaktor glacier, where they after days of acclimatization and reconnaissance made a succesful climb of pt. 5290. by the route "Bivouac - French for Mistake" (D: 5.4, 70,700m)

The route starts up a couloir system left of the large hanging serac on the east face. A few pitches of clean rock climbing (5.4) on solid granite leads to a mixed gully, which is followed untill the base of a steep rock wall and then the route traverses right out to the hanging glacier. Snowy ice fields leads to a ridge with a pronounced cornice/serac, under which the team bivouacked. From there mixed climbing on a rocky ridge leads to an overhanging serac that is passed on the left and a short ice field leads to the summit ridge. The following day the team descended to basecamp, where they met the rest of the expedition members.

After a days rest (Broomhead and Szilas) made a lengthy approach to the N2 glacier and Pt. 5318, to find their gear insufficient and the conditions far too warm, to attempt such a project. After a days rest, the team returned to base, where they after having dried out their gear, moved east towards pt. 4950 which they climbed by the route "Mermaid" (D: M4, 70, 500m) The approach takes a ramp that cuts through a steep marble band and a steep talus field leads to the foot of the west face. Half a pitch of technical mixed climbing on verglassed marble (M4) is follow by a traverse on a ramp system below a steep marble wall, which connects to the ice field left of the hanging glacier. From there an ice field continues all the way to the summit ridge, through some rocky steps. The ice field is extremely exposed to avalanches from the upper part of the wall as the left-hand side of the hanging glacier acts as a funnel. The team returned safely to basecamp and have proposed the name "Peak Lea" after Szilas' girlfriend.

The expedition departed the Djangart Valley by helicopter on august 3,

Routes climbed

Kyrgyzstan 2011

Pt. 5190



Approximate Coordinates: N:41.71077,
E:079.07499

Acces From: Kichik Sauktor Glacier

Proposed name: Peak Pernille

Route Grade: AD: 55

Route Length: 700 m

Team: A. Hedeager Pedersen,
J. Fisker, S. Buur

Date Of Ascent: July 26th 2011

Peak Pernille “waiting for the tide”

Pt. 5290

Route Grade: D: 5.4, 70

Route Length: 700 m

Team: J. Broomhead, K. Szilas

Date Of Ascent: July 25th - 26th 2011

Approximate Coordinates: 41.686085, 79.017956

Acces From: Chulaktor Glacier

Proposed Name: Peak Alexandra

Route Name: "Bivouac - French For Mistake"



Peak Alexandra "Bivouac - French For mistake"

Pt. 4950



Peak Lea "Mermaid"

Approximate Coordinates:

41.760877, 79.106904

Acces From: River valley

Proposed Name: Peak Lea

Route Name: "Mermaid"

Route Grade: D: M4, 70

Route Length: 500 m

Team: J. Broomhead, K. Szilas

Date Of Ascent: August 1st 2011

Pt. 4885

Approximate Coordinates:

41°42'41,96"N, 79°02'25,45"E

Access From: Kichik Sauktor Glacier

Proposed Name: Peak Kathryn

Route Name: "Russian Roulette"

Route Grade: AD, 60

Route Length: 700 m

Team: S. Lund Jensen,
C. Cooper-Jensen

Date Of Ascent: July 30th 2011



Peak kathryn "Russian Roulette"

Weather

Kyrgyzstan 2011

In the seventeen days spent in the Djangart region, members found the weather to be fairly stable with over ten days of clear skies and sunshine mainly in the beginning of the expedition, with temps around 25 degrees in basecamp at 3400 m. About 5 days consisted of early morning sun and afternoon rain/snow thunderstorm, with up to 5 cm of fresh snow above 4000 m, the storms usually ended by early evening.

Two to three days consisted of heavy snow and whiteout above 4000 m, on the last days of our stay we had two days of on and on snow, which produced 10-15 cm. Temperatures varied greatly both on the glacier (4400m) and in the valley (3400), with members relaxing in their shorts and t-shirts on warm days, and in the messtent in their fiberjacket on the cold. The expedition experienced stronger winds during the afternoon storms, but it was never consistent for more than a few hours.



Digging out the tent on the Kichik Sauktor Glacier

The heat and rain made for very difficult rivercrossings, on several occasions it was only possible to cross in late evening or early morning. This made for several interesting crossings, where members on the north side had to assist with ropes. It is recommendable to bring a static rope, to be able to establish a tyrolean traverse, for safe and quick passage. It is possible to place a basecamp on the southside of the river near the distal

moraine of Kichik Sauktor. However it is only possible to access Kichik Sauktor and the eastern placed glaciers from here.

Due to the extreme heat at higher altitude, there was a rapid melting of snow on and around the glaciers, with a lot of rock and serac fall during the day and night. While travelling on the glacier we often encountered thigh deep slush, before mid day.

Future Expeditions to Sauktor

Kyrgyzstan 2011

There are still a lot of potential for new routes and unclimbed peaks in the Sauktor region of the Kokshall - Too range, as shown in map? there are still a great number of unclimbed 4000 and 5000 m peaks.

We would recommend for future expeditions to focus on the peaks of Pt. 5025 and Pt. 5112 on the Kichik Sauktor Glacier and Pt. 5318 on the N2 Glacier, Pt. 5318 has been the objective of all visiting expeditions to the area and remains unclimbed.

Pt. 5025 and Pt. 5112 have a lot of mixed route potential, on 5025 we encountered good rock quality (granite). 5318 have a very big and challenging north face.

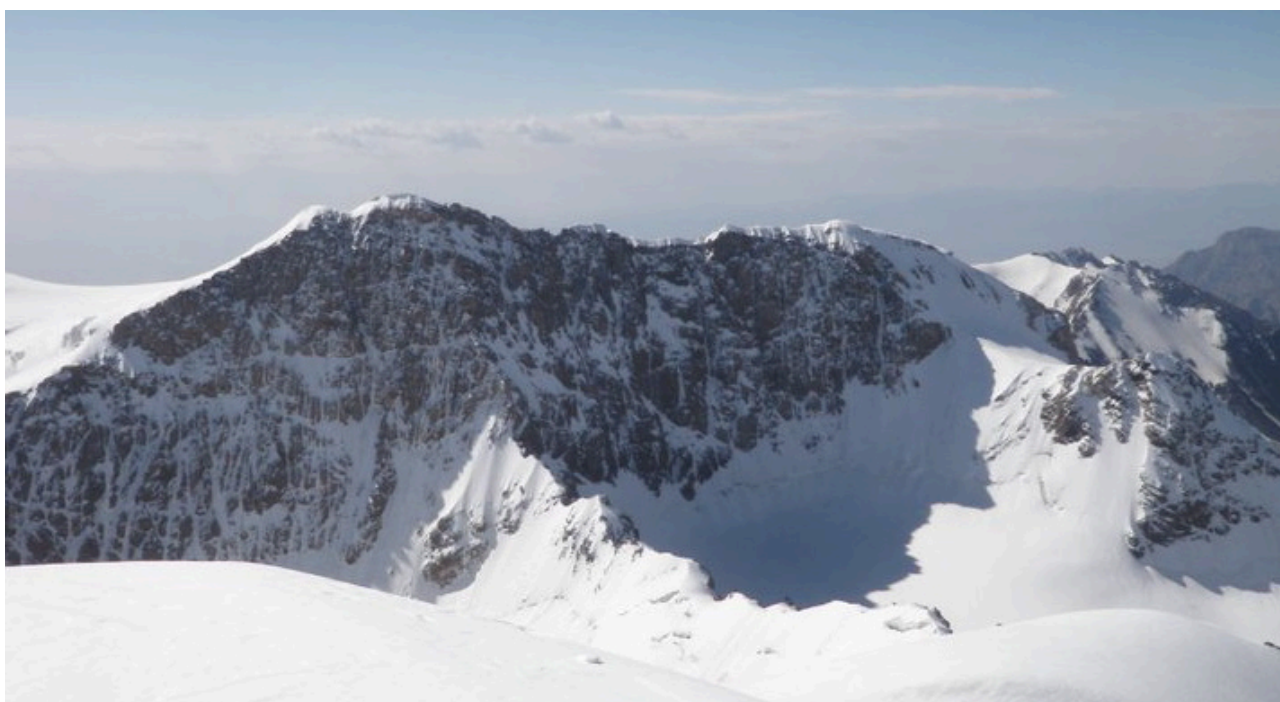
In our opinion it should be considered to visit the area in late spring or autumn, to have better luck with conditions and colder weather.

Pt. 5025



The beautiful north face of Pt. 5025

Pt. 5112



Many possible lines on the face of Pt. 5112, as seen from the summit of Pt. 5190 (Peak Pernille)

Pt. 5318



The 1500 m. east face of the unclimbed Pt. 5318 seen from the N2 glacier.