# The British West Mustabbes Expedition 2013

# **Expedition Report**



Steve Brown and Terje Lokken approaching the Central Mustabbes Glacier

# **Contents**

Summary	Page 3
Introduction	Page 6
The Team	Page 7
Planning and Logistics	Page 8
Journey to and from base camp	Page 12
Exploration of the Mustabbes glaciers	Page 14
Peak Katushka	Page 15
Peak Sur	Page 16
Peak Egizder	Page 17
Point Josse & Berkut Ridge Traverse	Page 18
Peak Mergenchi	Page 20
Peak Chatir	Page 21
Peak Kargan Semiz	Page 23
Peak Panorama	Page 24
Weather and Conditions	Page 25
Relavant maps and Reports	Page 26
Acknowledgements	Page 27

## **Summary**

After an eventful journey from Bishkek, the team set up a base camp at around 3600m next to the Mustabbes River. Two advanced camps were then used in the course of the expedition, the first on the central glacier and the second just below the west and far west glaciers. From these camps the team made first ascents of five previously unclimbed peaks. Three additional unclimbed peaks were climbed direct from base camp. All the peaks climbed were previously un-named and the names below are suggested by the team. The Kyrgz names for the peaks were translated from English for us by Tilek, a hunter who visited us at base camp.

#### **Summary of dates**

15<sup>th</sup> Aug – 17<sup>th</sup> Aug – Flights to Bishkek and preparations for expedition

18<sup>th</sup> Aug – 20<sup>th</sup> Aug – Truck journey from Bishkek to base camp

21st Aug – 31th Aug – Exploration and ascents around the Mustabbes glaciers

1<sup>st</sup> Sept – 5<sup>th</sup> Sept – Travel by truck back to Bishkek and flights home

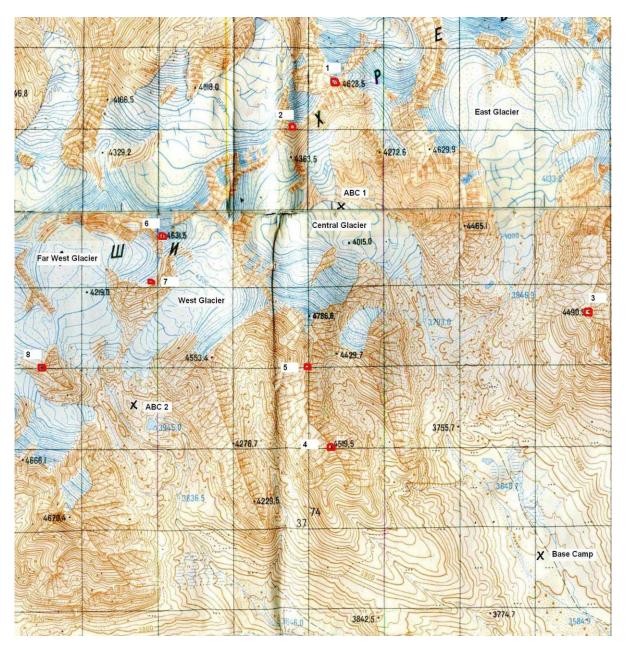
#### **Details of first ascents made during the expedition**

- Pk Katushka 4640m East Ridge PD
   23<sup>rd</sup> August, FA: Paul Josse, Steve Brown, Terje Lokken
- Pk Sur (Marmot Peak) 4480m South Ridge PD 27<sup>th</sup> August, FA: Paul Josse, Steve Brown
- 3. **Pk Mergenchi** (Hunters Peak) 4490m South Ridge F 26<sup>th</sup> August, FA: Steve Brown, Terje Lokken
- Pk Egizder (Peak of the Twins) 4519m SE Ridge PD-26th August, FA: Paul Josse (solo)
- 5. **Pt Josse** 4502m Climbed via traverse from Pk Egizder along the pinnacled 'Berkut Ridge' PD+, 26<sup>th</sup> August, FA: Paul Josse (solo)
- 6. **Pk Chatir** (Pyramid Peak) 4646m SE Face PD 30th August, FA: Paul Josse, Steve Brown, Terje Lokken
- 7. **Pk Kargan Semiz** (Old Buffalos Peak) 4550m Climbed via traverse from Pk Chatir, and descent down NW ridge AD, FA: Paul Josse, Steve Brown, Terje Lokken
- 8. **Pk Panorama** 4430m Traversed S N ridges PD+ 31<sup>st</sup> August, FA: Paul Josse (solo)

#### Note about heights and positions in report

All the peak heights in this report are taken from a handheld Garmin GPS. Some of the peaks we climbed are marked on the map with heights but the GPS readings turned out to be slightly different. We have used the GPS heights for all of the peaks for the sake of continuity. In the detailed descriptions of the peaks later in the report, we have also noted down the height of the peaks as they appear on the map.

Some positions were also taken from the GPS, and others were taken from Google Earth on our return home, where this is the case it has been duly noted.



Map showing the Mustabbes glaciers and peaks climbed during the expedition (numbers correspond to peak details on previous page)

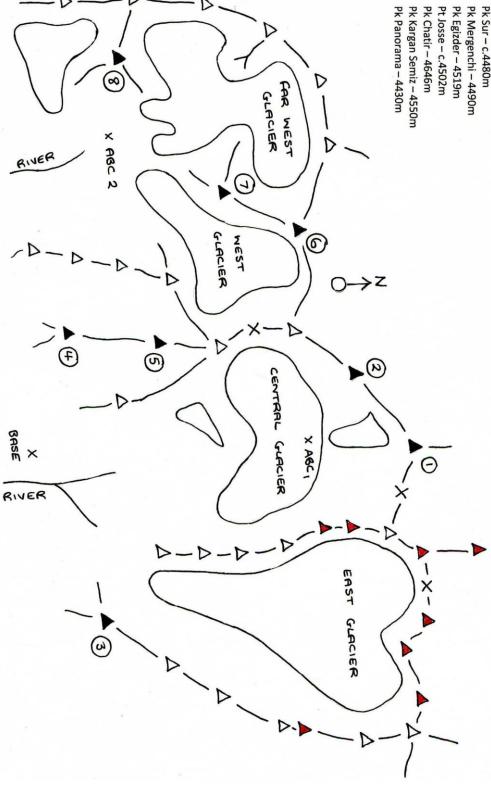
# Layout of the Mustabbes Glaciers – At Bashi Range – Kyrgyzstan

Drawn by Paul Josse 18/09/2013

# Peaks Climbed by the British West Mustabbes Expedition 2013

Please refer to Pat Littlejohn's map 'Mustabbes Eastern Glacier' for details of peaks Peaks shaded in red (East glacier) were climbed by ISM teams in 2007 and 2010

Pk Katushka - 4640m



#### Introduction

The At-Bashi range of mountains is a chain of mountains outlying the main Tian Shan range in Kyrgyzstan. The mountains are alpine in scale and most peaks are between 4400m and 4790m. The range is glaciated and can be approached from the north from the town of Naryn and the village of At-Bashi, or with more difficulty from the south from the Ak Say valley. The approach from the south is in the border zone with China and requires a border permit to enter the area.

The range has seen a few previous expeditions mainly from the north. The only documented expeditions approaching from the south have been ISM expeditions led by Pat Littlejohn. There are reports available for the five expeditions they have undertaken to the range.

The Mustabbes river runs into the Ak Say river and is fed by several glaciers in the At Bashi range. ISM mounted an expedition to the most easterly of these glaciers in 2010 and made numerous first ascents. There was no records of anyone having explored the glaciers to the west of this, and this was the area we proposed to explore.

Paul Josse and Steve Brown first came up with the idea for the expedition in the summer of 2012. Steve had been on two previous expeditions to the Tien Shan with ISM. We were keen to find an area that was relatively un-explored and offering unclimbed peaks of up to around 5000m. Whilst looking into possible areas, Paul read Pat Littlejohns expedition report of ISM's trip to the Mustabbes east glacier in 2010. After some further research it seemed that there were no reports of anyone having explored the 3 glaciers to the west of this. We opted for this area as it seemed to offer a wide range of good objectives on both snow covered and rock peaks.



The Central Mustabbes Glacier

# The Team



Paul Josse 42 – Climbing Leader



Steve Brown 60 – Joint Leader



Terje Lokken 65 - Climber



John Venier 60 – Climber



Phil Morgan 57 – Climber



Katia – Cook, Interpreter



Sergei – Driver



Sasha – Driver

# **Planning and Logistics**

#### **Transport**

The main way of reaching a lot of the mountain areas in Kyrgyzstan is by road. To drive all the way up to base camp in a 4 wheel drive vehicle has become the most common way for expeditions to approach the mountains.

We chose to use the well established company ITMC in Bishkek to handle all our logisitics such as transport, permits, cooking and food. This is run by Vladimir Komisarov, himself a well known mountaineer in Kyrgyzstan. Throughout the whole expedition ITMC were fantastic, there were the inevitable problems that come with travelling in a country like Kyrgyzstan and ITMC took it all in their stride. The 'can do' attitude of all their team was a real inspiration.

ITMC use ex USSR military trucks for their expedition transport, ours being the 'GAZ 66' – a 50 year old beast of a truck able to drive off road and up river beds etc.. It did have its fair share of problems during the trip though...more of which later..



The GAZ 66

#### **Permits and paperwork**

Kyrgyzstan is a very easy country to visit in terms of bureaucracy. UK nationals can now enter the country without a visa, and there seems to be no restrictions on climbing in most places. Some of the mountain areas close to the border with China require you to have a border permit to enter the area. Ours was easily obtained on our behalf by ITMC before our arrival in Bishkek. We passed through three military check points on the journey to base camp. Permits and passports were thoroughly checked but no problems were encountered.

#### **Expedition food and fuel**

All food for the expedition was obtained in Bishkek the day before our departure for the mountains. Most of this was bought in the markets and the bazaar. There are western style supermarkets in the centre of Bishkek, and although we could have bought everything there, it would have been much more expensive.

For base camp food, we had the luxury of a cook, Katia, and this proved a wise decision, as she handled all of the expedition shopping, with some manual help from us. This made the whole job a lot easier, as she not only planned the food list but also solved the problem of language difficulties when buying the food.

We didn't have too much of an issue with weight in the truck so we could take in pretty much whatever food we wanted. Food at base camp was great - We took in lots of fresh food – vegetables, meat, eggs etc. and Katia was a great cook – producing tasty meals and lots of snacks such as pies and pancakes.

Hill food consisted of dried fruit, chocolate, cheese and cereal bars, and food in high camps were soups, noodles etc. We also had the luxury of a few pre-cooked meals prepared by Katia which we carried up.

We had three burners at base camp fueled by three large gas cylinders. Cooking in ABC was done on two JetBoil stoves. These have proved to be amazingly efficient over the years and this trip was no exception. We took out 12 x 250ml cylinders, and came back with seven still full. We may have used more if more of the team had stayed up at ABC for longer.

A note on gas cylinders – ITMC obtained ours before we got to Bishkek. We were advised that they can be hard to get hold of during the peak climbing season, and that it is worth pre- ordering before arrival.

Water at base camp was obtained from the Mustabbes river. We did not treat it, but instead let it settle in a barrel overnight and boiled it before drinking. Up at ABC we either melted snow or used water from the run offs from the glacier.

There was the usual 'change of diet' stomach complaints at the start of the trip, but most members stayed fairly healthy throughout. The only exception was John who unfortunately remained ill for the duration of the expedition.

#### **Accomodation**

We stayed in the 'Alpinist' hotel in Bishkek. This is a 'climbers' hotel and had everything we required. The staff spoke some English and were always very helpful. In Naryn, we stayed in a 'homestay' (a bit like a B&B) which was very comfortable and welcoming.

On the journey to base camp, in the small village of Tarmaloaz, we were accommodated by a Kyrgyz family. It was getting dark and it was pouring with rain, and the thought of finding the tents in the truck and putting them up in the rain wasn't appealing. The family invited us to stay in their house and offered us a room and food - an extremely generous gesture for which we were all very grateful for.

#### **Equipment & Clothing**

During August and early September the conditions in the At Bashi range are similar to that of the European Alps. Everybody had their own clothing choices based on experience. We saw a fair amount of rain, snow and hail so good shell clothing proved important. Again, everyone had their own preference for boots, but the concensus of opinion was that the best type of boot seemed to be the lightweight alpine boots such as Boreal Icemasters or Scarpa Freneys. Most people agreed that taking an expedition sleeping bag paid off, they were a bit warm sometimes, but other nights were quite cold.

We hired quite a few tents from ITMC to save the weight on the plane journey. At base camp these were two man Vaude tents (old but still fine), and also a mess tent where we cooked and socialised. Mountain tents were Marmot 2-3 person mountain tents, again, they had seen a fair bit of use but were perfectly acceptable and were fine for 3 people sharing.

#### **Photography**

Most of the team took cameras. Paul Josse took the vast majority of the climbing shots and all the photos in this report were taken by him. A few brief sections of video footage were also taken.

#### **Communications**

We took some cheap two way radios (Midland) for communication between base camp and ABC. These generally worked very well as long as there was reasonable line of site. They also came in useful for one of the solo climbs undertaken by Paul.

Katia carried a satellite phone to keep in touch with the office in Bishkek. This also came in useful to get a weather forecast and also to find out what had happened to Sergei our driver.

#### **Local Hunters**

It is worth noting that we had several visits from local hunters during our time at base camp. Most were just curious and friendly and we offered all of them hospitality and food. However, we experienced two cases of theft, including one at night. This is very unfortunate, but future expeditions to the area should take note and exercise some caution.

#### **Expedition Finances**

The expedition was more or less self funded by the members. We also received generous grants from the Mount Everest Foundation and the Alpine Climbing Fund, which made a huge difference to the individual outlay for the trip.

#### **Expedition Accounts**

#### <u>Expenditure</u>

Flights - £1732.00
Transport, logistics, labour and accommodation (ITMC) – £3546.00
Equipment & medical - £374.00
Food - £669.00
Expenses in Kyrgyzstan - £712.00

#### **Total Expenditure - £7033.00**

#### <u>Income</u>

Grant from MEF - £1650.00 Grant from Alpine Climbing Fund - £400.00 Personal contributions - £4983

#### Total Income - £7033.00

Insurance not covered in above accounts as members all had their own individual insurance.

#### The environment and waste management

From the outset we were determined to leave no trace of our having been in the area after our departure from the mountains. No equipment was left in the mountains, no cairns were built, and all trash was taken out.

Our toilet site at base camp was carefully positioned well away from the river and was fully filled in and re-turfed on departure.



Expedition toilet purchased in the Bazaar in Bishkek for \$5 - worth every penny...

### Journey to and from Basecamp

The team left Bishkek early in the morning on the 18<sup>th</sup> August. The plan was to reach Naryn that day and spend the night there. This should have taken about 8 hours in the GAZ 66 but ended up taking about 13 hours. The truck started having overheating problems about an hour outside Bishkek, and this carried on all day. Although Sergei did a great job in limping the truck along, It was clear that we wouldn't reach Naryn that day if we carried on at the rate we were going so it was decided that Katia and Paul would try and reach the village of Kochkor and when there, try and pick up a minibus or taxi's to take the team to Naryn. We managed to flag down a van, and the driver agreed to take us to Kochkor. The van broke down after 5 minutes, leaving us no option but to flag down another car. Five minutes later we were squeezed into the back of a small car with a family of five plus a dog. This broke down too about 10 minutes later, but the driver managed to get it going again, and we reached Kochkor shortly after.

We eventually reached Naryn in two 'taxis' and Sergei arrived sometime in the night with the ailing truck. The next day, we got back in the GAZ 66 with promises from Sergei that it was now fixed, and this did indeed turn out to be the case (we still have no idea what he did to fix the truck). We made good time over the pass and through the military checkpoints and dropped down into the wide Ak Say valley on the south side of the At Bashi range. Soon after crossing a very unstable looking bridge over the river, the weather closed in. It started to rain and visibilty decreased in the mist and failing light. The thought of finding the tents in the pile of gear in the truck and putting them up for the night wasn't appealing, but we started preparing things for a hasty camp.

As we entered the small, run down village of Tarmaloaz, some of the local people came out to greet us, surprised at seeing the GAZ 66 turn up. One of the families agreed to put us up for the night, and gave us great hospitality and an entertaining evening. We were extremely grateful for their generosity.

We crossed the wide Ak Say river easily the next morning, and headed up the river towards our proposed base camp. The truck came into its own on the wet, rough terrain next to the river. Passing several yurt settlements, we finally headed right at the main fork of the river and found a perfect site for base camp next to the river at about 3600m. We off-loaded all our equipment, and Sergei then left in the truck to go and collect another group of climbers due to leave the mountains. He was due back in three days time.

As it turned out, Sergei didn't return. We were all concerned, so Katia phoned the office in Bishkek on the satellite phone. Sergei had apparently 'lost the truck in the river' and was living with a family in one of the yurts near the village. On our departure date from the mountains, Sergei, Sasha and Vladimir turned up in the 6 wheel truck to take us out. This had also had its fair share of excitement – bringing out another team to the range it had rolled

off the end of the rickety bridge we had crossed and landed on its side. The windows were smashed and there was a hole in the roof – it was patched up and it got us home.

We crossed the Ak Say river again on the return journey and saw the GAZ 66. Sergei said that he had crossed over the river on the way back up to base camp, and the wheels started spinning and then the truck started to sink into the sand in the river bed. He just had time to grab the paperwork from the dashboard, and climb out!

After our return to the UK the last we heard of the truck was that ITMC had pulled the truck from the river bed and it was in the process of being towed back to Bishkek, no doubt to be stripped down, fixed up and ready to be back in service for next year!



The GAZ 66 in the Ak Say river

A big part of the adventure in climbing and exploring these remote places in Kyrgyzstan is the journey to get into the mountains. Even though we had our fair share of excitement, we counted ourselves lucky that the truck didn't sink in the river on the way up to base camp, as it probably would have meant the end of the expedition before we had even reached the mountains, and it would have been exciting to say the least if it had sank with us all sat in the back!

# **Exploration of the Mustabbes Glaciers**

One of the main aims of the expedition was to fully explore the glaciers that feed the Mustabbes River. We wanted to produce a photographic record and sketch maps of the climbing potential around these glaciers, and also to make as many first ascents as we could of some of the peaks.

Access to all the three glaciers that we explored was straightforward. There were no icefalls at the snouts of the glaciers, and all three were mainly dry, with some snow cover higher up. There were some areas of crevasses, but these were easily identified and didn't present any problems with access. All the Bergschrund's we encountered were also easy to cross

Two ABC's were set up - one on the moraine on the north edge of the Central Glacier, and later on in the expedition, another in amongst the terminal moraine near the snouts of the West Glacier and the Far West Glacier. All the peaks circling these glaciers could easily be climbed in a day from these camps.



The Central Glacier, with Katushka Peak behind



The Far-West (L) and West Glaciers (R)

#### Peak Katushka 4640m

Height – 4640m (GPS) ( 4628.5 on map)
Position – N41° 00′50″ E075° 53′00″ (GPS)
Route – East Ridge (PD)
First Ascent – Paul Josse, Terje Lokken, Steve Brown
Date – 23<sup>rd</sup> Aug 2013

Peak Katushka is the beautiful peak at the head of the Mustabbes valley. It is clearly seen on the approach up the river, and on a clear day can be seen from the Ak Say valley. After sitting out a day of hail and high winds at ABC 1 we woke at 4 am to a clear morning.

We approached up the Central Glacier and the moraines bounding this and started up the snow slope leading to the col to the east of Peak Katushka just as it was getting light. This slope proved very unstable with a layer of windslab sitting on top of hard ice, so we backed down to the foot of the slope and decided to climb the wide couloir to the left – this had already avalanched at some point and we made our way steeply up the debris. This led onto the impressive corniced East Ridge which then led to the summit. Descent was by the same route.



Peak Katushka, showing the route up the couloir and the East Ridge

# Peak Egizder 4526m

Translation – Peak of the Twins
Height – 4526m (GPS) (4519m on map)
Position – N40° 58′24″ E75°52′54″ (Google Earth)
Route – South East Ridge (PD-)
First Ascent - Paul Josse (solo)
Date – 26<sup>th</sup> Aug 2013

This was ascended from Base camp, John and Paul starting out to have a look at the steep NE ridge. John, feeling ill, returned to base camp soon after setting out and Paul continued alone. The route onto the SE ridge was up steep loose scree, then the ridge narrowed into a sharp, very loose rock ridge which led to the summit. There was some easy climbing up loose rock to gain the top.



Peak Egizder on the left, showing route up the SE ridge

# Point Josse 4493m & Berkut Ridge Traverse

Height – 4493m (GPS)
Route – Traverse of 'Berkut Ridge' (Eagle Ridge) (PD+)
First Ascent – Paul Josse (solo)
Date – 26<sup>th</sup> August 2013

Point Josse is the aiguille at the far end of the ridge extending north from Peak Egizder. The ridge is roughly 1km long and consists of various pinnacles of extremely loose rock. Paul traversed the ridge, climbing some of the pinnacles direct and skirting some (mainly on the west side. The traverse offered interesting, continuously exposed climbing with short sections of II/III rock on the pinnacles. Paul stopped at the sharp summit of Point Josse (the ridge continued, but with a loss of climbing interest). A descent was made to the south of Point Josse down a loose 300m scree gully into the valley to the east of the ridge. An Eagle followed Paul the whole time he was on the ridge, circling round as he traversed, hence the name 'Berkut Ridge'.



The Berkut Ridge



Point Josse

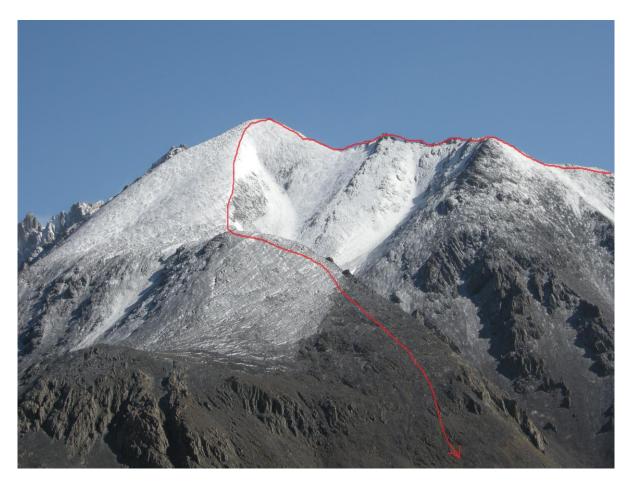


The Berkut Ridge, culminating in Point Josse on the right

# Peak Mergenchi 4490m

Translation – Hunters Peak
Height – 4490m (map)
Position – N40° 59'14" E75° 55'22" (Google Earth)
Route – Traverse – South ridge / South West Ridge (F)
First Ascent – Steve Brown & Terje Lokken
Date – 26<sup>th</sup> August 2013

This peak is the last peak on the ridge extending south on the east side of the East Glacier. It was ascended easily from base camp by Steve and Terje, other than some loose rock the ascent was straightforward, with some interest on the exposed S ridge to the summit. A descent was quickly made direct to base camp down the SW ridge. From the summit the pair got a good view of Peak Chatir over on the West glacier. From this angle, the summit looked like a perfect snow pyramid, hence our eventual name for the peak.



Peak Mergenchi from base camp, showing the South Ridge to the right of the summit

#### Peak Sur 4480m

Translation – Marmot Peak
Height – 4480m (GPS)
Position – N41° 00'32" E75° 52'35" (GPS)
Route – Ascent of South ridge (PD-)
First Ascent – Steve Brown & Paul Josse
Date – 27<sup>th</sup> Aug 2013

This peak is situated at the northern end of the Central glacier just SW of Katushka Peak. Steve and Paul had returned up to ABC1 a couple of days after a day of heavy snow. The plan was to assess the conditions with a view to climbing the next peak in the chain (un-named 4570m). We walked up to ABC1 in the morning, and in the afternoon decided to recce the route up to peak 4570. We skirted an area of crevasses on the glacier by walking up the moraine on the N bank of the glacier, then traversing a boulder ledge through the cliff above. This placed us on the upper part of the glacier below Peak 4570. Conditions were acceptable so we decided to head up the south ridge of Marmot Peak to gain the summit. The ridge was initially easy snow, followed by some interesting slabs higher up (on solid rock!). Descent was by the same route. We planned to attempt Peak 4570 the next day but it snowed most of the night and was still snowing when we woke in the morning, ruling out an attempt.

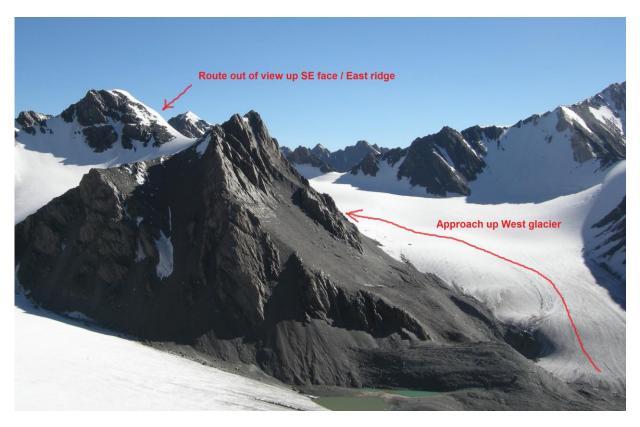


Paul Josse on the summit of Peak Sur

#### Peak Chatir 4646m

Translation – Pyramid or Tent Peak
Height – 4646m (GPS) (4631.5m on map)
Position – N40° 59′46″ E 75°51′ 23″ (Google Earth)
Route – Traverse – East Ridge / South Ridge
First Ascent – Paul Josse, Terje Lokken, Steve Brown
Date – 30<sup>th</sup> August 2013

This peak is between the West and the Far West glaciers and we made an approach up the West Glacier. The alarm went off at 4am and we woke to a clear morning. After getting ready, the clouds rolled in and it started to snow, visibility down to a few metres. We climbed back into sleeping bags, and looked out again at 6am. The weather had cleared, so we decided to go up. We climbed directly up the SE Face to gain the East Ridge - a magnificent position looking down the steep sweeping snow slope of the North face. The knife edged ridge led to the snowy summit. A descent was made down the South ridge, mainly on snow, with a view of traversing to the next summit along the ridge.



Peak Chatir on the left, showing the approach route up the West glacier



Peak Chatir from Peak Katushka showing the North face and final part of the East Ridge to the summit



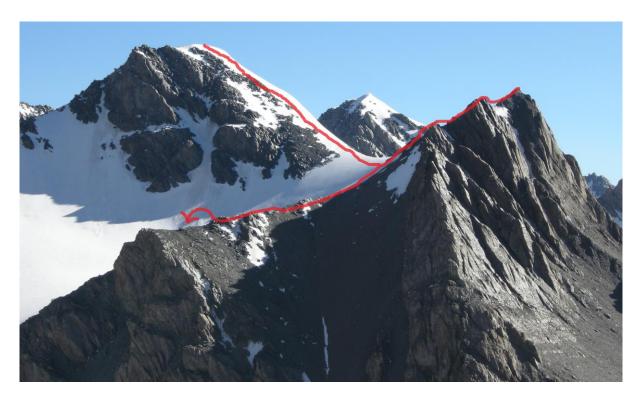
Terje Lokken and Steve Brown on the approach to the East Ridge of Peak Chatir

# Peak Kargan Semiz 4550m

Translation – Peak of the Old Buffalo
Height – 4550m (GPS)
Position – N 40° 59′31″ E 75° 51′17″ (Google Earth)
Route – NE ridge, from Pk Chatir (AD-), Descent down NW ridge (AD-)
First Ascent – Terje Lokken, Steve Brown, Paul Josse
Date – 30<sup>th</sup> Aug 2013

We saw from the summit of Peak Chatir that it would be possible to traverse along to this peak and make a descent down the NW ridge to the Far West glacier. The NE ridge from the col offered interesting mixed climbing to the summit. On our approach to the top the weather closed in, losing some visibility, and getting quite windy. The descent down the NW ridge was similar in style, and interest was maintained down to the Far West glacier, which gave an easy descent down to ABC2.

The traverse of the two peaks, taking in both of the glaciers probably gave us the best day of the trip, with an interesting route and great positions.



Peak Kargan Semiz on the right with the route of traverse marked from Pk Chatir

#### Peak Panorama 4430m

Height – 4430m (GPS)

Position – N40° 58′56″ E75° 50′13″ (Google Earth)

Route – Ascent of SE ridge, Descent down N Ridge (PD+)

First Ascent – Paul Josse (solo)

Date – 31<sup>st</sup> August 2013

This is the rocky peak which juts out into the Far West glacier. It was the closest peak to our ABC2. Climbed solo by Paul, the SE ridge was approached up loose moraine, and gradually steepened up to form a distinct ridge that offered interesting climbing on extremely loose rock. The summit ridge was exposed and finished up a knife edged arête composed of loose flakes piled up precariously in layers. Careful climbing gained the top, which afforded fantastic views of the surrounding peaks and both the glaciers (hence the name Peak Panorama). A descent was made down the North ridge and then onto the Far West glacier.



Peak Panorama showing route of traverse – SE Ridge on the left

#### **Weather and Conditions**

We encountered very mixed weather on the expedition. Our arrival at base camp was in rain and poor visibility, with no view of the mountains. As the trip progressed, the weather changed rapidly, and a fair few days saw 'four seasons in a day' - one minute snowing or hailing, the next minute sunny and warm.

We only had 2 or 3 clear, sunny days on the expedition, and only 1 day where the weather completely ruled out leaving camp. Short windows of good weather were used to go for the summits, sometimes getting back to camp just as the weather changed and the snow or rain set in. Temperatures were generally fairly mild, and only 2 or 3 nights saw an overnight freeze at base camp.

Snow conditions varied - some of the slopes on the Central glacier were avalanche prone with wind-slab sitting on hard ice underneath. This ruled out some of the potential routes here. There was quite a lot of evidence of slopes that had avalanched – the fracture lines being extremely pronounced, the hard ice below clearly showing through.

Pretty much all of the rock that we encountered was loose. Treated with caution, it didn't present too much of a problem, though a light touch was definitely required - the final ridge to the top of Peak Panorama was particularly memorable...



# **Relevant maps and reports**

#### **Maps**

**1- 50 000 Russian topographical maps –** nos. K-43-116-r and K-43-104-r, 1963

Alpine Mapping Guild - Kyrgyzstan - A Climber's Map and Guide, 2005

Central Asia Topographic Map Series - Naryn 66-2065-07 - 1:500,000. West Col/EWP, 2005

Satellite photos taken from Google Earth

Mustabbes East Glacier – Sketch map by Pat Littlejohn

#### **Reports**

Sally Browns report – AAJ 2010

ISM Expedition reports and maps – Pat Littlejohn, Adrian Nelhams



Terje Lokken and Steve Brown on the summit ridge of Peak Katushka

# **Acknowledgements**

**The Mount Everest Foundation** – Thank you very much for the generous grant. We are all extremely grateful for this - it really made a difference to our expedition.

**The Alpine Climbing Fund (supported by First Ascent)** – Thank you for the generous grant. The application process was very swift and easy and we really appreciated the money.

**The British Mountaineering Council –** Thank you for your official support of our expedition.

**Bridgedale** – Thank you very much for the generous donation of free socks and hats.

**Pat Littlejohn** – It was Pats report that first fired our interest in the area. Thank you Pat for your patience, time and advice – it was invaluable when we were in the process of planning the trip.

All the team at ITMC – Right from the initial stages of planning the trip, Margarita at ITMC was always friendly and helpful. Our enquiries and requests were dealt with quickly and efficiently. Whilst in Kyrgyzstan, all the team from ITMC impressed us with their commitment to making sure our trip was enjoyable and successful. We would have no hesitation in recommending their services to other expeditions to the country.

**Katia (Katushka)** – A special thanks to you....our only real concern prior to our arrival in Bishkek was shopping, food, language etc. You organised all of this and more. We employed you as our cook, but what you actually became was our cook, interpreter, base camp manager and tour guide. Thank you very much for your patience with us, particularly with all the translation. We all had a great laugh on the trip, and we hope that you enjoyed it too.



Peak Katushka from Pk Chatir

# The Compilers of this report and the members of the expedition agree that any or all of this report may be copied for the purposes of private research

#### Report written by Paul Josse, Sept 2013

For further information, please contact: Paul Josse, 41 Yaverland Drive, Bagshot, Surrey, GU19 5DX Paul.josse@btopenworld.com



Terje Lokken and Paul Josse on the summit ridge of Peak Chatir









