AC

Acl 28994

05/02

MOUNT EVEREST FOUNDATION

AK SU FREE AND CLEAN 2005 EXPEDITION REPORT

YOUR REFERENCE: 05/02 AK SU FREE AND CLEAN
DATE OF EXPEDITION: 01/07-31/07/2005
LOCATION: THE AK SU VALLEY IS LOCATED IN THE FAR SOUTH WEST TIP OF KYRGYZSTAN IN THE PAMIR ALTAI APPROXIMATELY 5 HOURS SOUTH WEST OF BATKEN
BUDGET: £3000
EXPEDITION MEMBERS: MARK PRETTY (LEADER), IAN PARNELL, SAM WHITTAKER (DAVE PICKFORD WAS A NON-BMC GRANT AIDED EXPEDTION MEMBER)

EXPEDITION OVERVIEW: THE CLIMBERS ALTHOUGH PLAGUED BY UNSEASONABLY BAD WEATHER (IE. A LOT OF LATE AFTERNOON THUNDERSTORMS GENERATED BY VERY HOT WEATHER LOWER DOWN IN THE VALLEYS) WERE ABLE TO CLIMB TWO COMPLETELY NEW ROUTES, FREE AN EXISTING AID ROUTE, CLIMB ABOUT A DOZEN ONE PITCH ROUTES UP TO 140FT LONG ON A CLIFF CLOSE TO THE CAMPSITE AND ADD SOME BOULDER PROBLEMS (UP TO V9) TO THE VALLEY 'CIRCUIT'.

ROUTE DETAILS:
ON A LARGE, PREVIOUSLY UNCLIMBED, CLIFF RIGHT OF THE HUGE WATERFALL TO THE RIGHT OF WALL OF DYKES MARK PRETTY AND IAN PARNELL CLIMBED A 550M ROUTE THEY CALLED 'THE BEAST'. PITCH GRADINGS WERE AS FOLLOW: HVS 5B, E1 5B, E2 5C, E4 6A, E1 5B, E2 5C, E2/3 5C, E2/3 5C, E3 5C, E2 5A, NORTH DEVON XS 5B!

ON A CLIFF FULL OF GROOVES ABOVE THE CAMPSITE SAM WHITTAKER AND DAVE PICKFORD FREE CLIMBED AN EXISTING AID ROUTE TO GIVE A 250 M ROUTE. PITCH GRADINGS WERE; E2 5B, E3 5B, E5 6A, E4 5C

ABOVE THIS CLIFF ON THE VERY RIGHT EDGE OF THE CENTRAL PYRAMID THE SAME TEAM PRODUCED , 'FROM RUSSIA WITH LOVE' 400M E2 5C, E3 5C, E3 5C, E7 6B, E5 6A, E3 5C, E2 5C, EI AND SOME SCRAMBLING.

ALL THREE ROUTES WERE CLIMBED GROUND UP ONSIGHT, FROM RUSSIA WITH LOVE MUST RANK AS ONE OF THE HARDEST ONSIGHT ROUTES IN THE MOUNTAINS AT THE PRESENT TIME.

THE SHORTER ROUTES ON THE CAMPSITE CLIFF WERE BETWEEN E3 AND E7 I GRADE MAINLY CLIMBED AFTER CLEANING.

YOURS SINCERELY

M. Pretty

MARK PRETTY

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