

Mount Everest Foundation

Expedition Report of the New Zealand Karim Sar Expedition 2009

(09/28a New Zealand Batura Glacier Expedition)

Patricia Deavoll, September 2009



1.



Mount Everest Foundation

New Zealand Expedition to make the first ascent of Karim Sar (6180m)

June 2009

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1. Overall Aim

The objective of this expedition was to make the first ascent of Karim Sar, a 6180m peak in the Batura massif of Northern Pakistan, via the southwest face.

2. Summary

In June Pat Deavoll made the first ascent of Karim Sar (6180m) above the Shitinbar Glacier in the Hunza region of Northern Pakistan.

Arriving in Pakistan in early June, Pat and Paul Hersey (under the management of Nazir Sabir expeditions of Islamabad) spent two days walking into their basecamp situated at the head of the Shitinbar Glacier. They were accompanied by their cook (Naseer) and liaison officer/guide (Baig) and twenty five porters.

By the 17th June Pat and Paul had spent a week acclimatizing at the head of the Shitinbar Glacier to a height of 4700m and were ready to make a summit attempt. Unfortunately Paul succumbed to an undiagnosed illness and the team spent six days at base camp while he recovered. On June 23th the pair left for their summit attempt, with Paul intending to only come as far as Advanced Base Camp at about 4200m. However he ended up coming up to a camp at 5200m where he waited for Pat while she made a summit bid. On June 26th at about 1 pm Pat reached the summit after climbing 1000m solo. She arrived back at the camp late in the evening, then joined Paul at ABC early the next morning. The pair returned to base camp on the 28th, and walked out to the Karakoram Highway on the 30th.

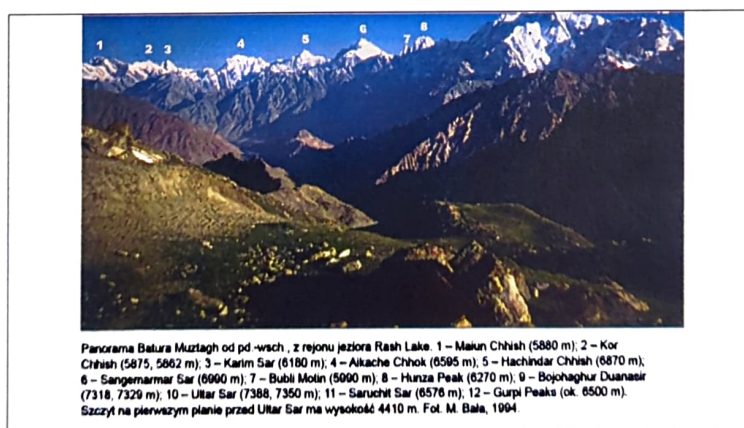
3. Introduction

3.1 Purpose

The expedition's aim was to attempt the first ascent of Karim Sar (6180m) by a team of two New Zealand climbers

3.2 Location.

Karim Sar is located on the southern side of the Batura massif, a sub-range of the Karakoram mountains in the Gilgit district of the 'northern areas' of Pakistan, west of the Hunza valley. The Batura massif is the westernmost sub-range of the Karakoram; it runs from Chalt village, in Bar valley on the east, to Kampir Dior in the Kurumbar valley. This valley separates the Pamir and Hindu Kush ranges from the Karakoram. The highest peak in the range is Batura Sar (7795m). Karim Sar lies a approximately 12 kilometers to the south of Batura Sar.



3.3 Character and Access

Karim Sar lies at the head of the Shitinbar Glacier, two days walk from the road end at the village of Budelas. The first day of walking climbs steeply on a good track up along the east, then west sides of the Shitinbar River. On the second day the route reaches the glacier and traverses the eastern side to a camp on the grassed moraine close to the snout of the glacier. The walk in is steep, ascending almost 2000m in two days but at no stage is the walking difficult.

Basecamp is situated at 3535m and is a pleasant spot for a camp with ready access to fresh water from a small stream. The base of the south face of Karim Sar is approximately three hours up glacier on the western side.

4. Personnel

The expedition members comprised of two New Zealand climbers. These were;

- Patricia Deavoll
- Paul Hersey

(See Appendix D for climbers resumes)

5. Research and Preparation

5.1 Introduction.

This section describes the expedition's preparation prior to leaving New Zealand.

5.2 Research

The objective of the research was to find unclimbed mountain in the Karakoram Range that suited the skills of the climbers involved. A south facing route of mixed rock, ice and snow that could be climbed using a lightweight alpine style approach was sought.

Pat had twice attempted Beka Brakkai Chhok (7140m) which is situated approximately 15 km north of Karim Sar in the Baltar Glacier. She had seen the north side of Karim Sar from BBC and thought the mountain to be a suitable objective for a future expedition. When plans to climb Kampire Dior in the Batura Glacier were stymied by the political situation in Pakistan in mid-2009, it was thought Karim Sar would be a suitable and safer alternative objective.

Pat also had also been in discussion with Bruce Norman of Scotland who, with climbing partner Marcus Walter, has climbed extensively in the Batura Massif. He also suggested Karim Sar as a suitable objective and supplied pictures of the north side of the mountain from Baktoshi Pass.

She also utilized a publication by Wolfgang Heichel called **"Chronique der Irshliedung des Karakoram: Teil; Western Karakoram" (Haus des Alpinistnus, Pruaterinel Alpine Museum; 2003)**. Although this is in German she was able to have relevant excerpts translated and access photographs and maps from the book which were invaluable to our research.

The excerpts she found most useful were:

- *Chapter: Batura group ;pp 149-152,150,155,56.*

The American Alpine Journal archives also have the following references to the Batura group: (see appendix A)

Pat also sought to contact a team of three Italian climbers who were known to have unsuccessfully attempted Karim Sar in 2007. These were Ivo Ferrari, Yuri Parimbelli and Fabio Valseschini. However she was unable to get a response from the Italians.



2. Italian Karim Sar Expedition 2007

5.3. Climbing Objectives

- To make the first ascent of Karim Sar (6180m) alpine style.
- To make a significant ascent in the Karakoram by a team of two of New Zealand's leading mountaineers..
- To run a lightweight expedition with low resource use and environmental impact.

5.4. Formalities.

There are some strict formalities required to climb in Pakistan.

All peaks below 6,500m are free from any peak fee, however climbing activity on mountains higher than 6,500m requires a climbing permit from the Pakistan Ministry of Tourism. The Ministry is currently providing 50 percent off the peak fee for these peaks. In addition 90 percent off the peak fee has been provided for all mountains situated in the districts of Chitral, Ghizer and Gilgit. To encourage climbing during the winter, 95% concession off the peak fee has been offered for all peaks between December 1 and end of February.

As Karim Sar is in the Gilgit district and less than 6500m we weren't required to pay a peak fee. However, we paid an environmental fee and a refundable 'rescue deposit' of US\$6000 to Askari Helicopters in lieu of a mountain rescue.

We enlisted the services of Nazir Sabir Expeditions (NSE) to organize our permit, transport, porters and base camp staff and facilities. We recommend future expeditions to Pakistan to enlist the help of NSE or similar.

A meeting with the Alpine Club of Pakistan in Islamabad prior to leaving for the trip, and on return, is mandatory.

5.5. Provisions and Fuel.

Freeze-dry food was brought from New Zealand, courtesy of Back Country Foods who offered a sponsorship arrangement. 'Clif' provided energy bars and gels free of charge. This was freighted from New Zealand to Pakistan by DHL. All other food items and butane gas canisters were purchased in Islamabad.

5.6 Finance.

Costing for two persons (in US dollars)

• Nazir Sabir Expedition	\$5700
• Thai Airlines:	\$2100
• Insurance:	\$770
• On mountain food:	\$200
• Freight:	\$600
• Equipment:	\$400
• Contingency	\$1000

TOTAL: \$10,770

Nazir Sabir Expeditions

(Based on US \$2850/- per person, single room basis)

- June 04: Day 01: Arrive Islamabad. Pick up from the airport and transfer to guesthouse. Shopping.
- June 05: Day 02: Drive to Besham (7-8 hrs drive). Overnight at PTDC Motel.
- June 06: Day 03: Continue drive on KKH to Gilgit. Overnight at PTDC Motel.
- June 07: Day 04: Drive to Chalt. Overnight in camp. Organise porters.
- June 08/09: Day 05/06: Two days trek up Shilinbar Nala/ Shilinbar Glacier to base camp.
- June 10 – 28: Day 07 – 24: 18 days in BC for acclimatization and climbing.
- June 29: Day 25: Trek back to Chalt and drive to Karimabad.
- June 30: Day 26: Kharimabad sight seeing.
- July 01: Day 27: Drive to Gilgit and fly to Islamabad or drive to Chilas or Besham
- July 02: Day 29: Free day in Islamabad or complete road journey to Islamabad. Hotel
- July 03: Day 30: Send off freight with DHL .
- July 04: Day 31: In the evening transfer to airport for home destination.

Services included:

- Process of import/export permit from Ministry of Tourism.
- Clearance of cargo before arrival of the team and its storage.

- Assistance upon arrival/departure.
- Welcome reception (briefing)/farewell meeting (debriefing) at Alpine Club of Pakistan
- Hotel accommodation (two single rooms) at guesthouse Islamabad, PTDC Motel (Besham) and PTDC Motel (Gilgit) with all meals.
- All meals during trek and 18 days at B.C
- Portage of 50 kg per person of expedition equipment and high altitude food etc. to the B.C and 40 kg per person on return from BC respectively.
- Flight tickets or road transportation Islamabad/ Gigit/Chalt / Islamabad air-conditioned vehicle or plane with all expedition luggages.
- Transport between airport/hotel, within city as per itinerary and Islamabad to Chalt and back to Gilgit.
- Sleeping tents, mattresses, mess tent, kitchen tent and toilet tent with table/field stools and camping ground fees.
- Kitchen equipment, crockery, cutlery, fuel and related community gear.
- Wages and basic kit of guide, sirdar, cook and assistant(s).
- Insurance of our field staff and low altitude porters (except helicopter rescue).
- Portage at airports, hotels, toll taxes and parking fee etc.
- Mail handling/forwarding to BC/overseas except postage charges.
- Reconfirmation of air tickets.
- Hiring of HAPs, mail runner(s) and any other crew as per requirement. (wages and kit to be arranged by the team).
- Guarantee from Nazir Sabir Expeditions of US\$6000 deposit with Askari Air which we will pay back to Nazir Sabir if required
- Above quotation is based on present porter rates and valid for 2009.

Not included:

- International airfare, airport tax, excess baggage charges..
- High altitude porters/any crew above BC.
- Sleeping tents for base camp, tents, sleeping bags, personal and climbing equipment of any kind beyond base camp including high altitude food and oxygen.
- Medications ground evacuations and helicopter rescue charges of any kind. (NZE to guarantee US\$6000 deposit to be refunded by expedition members if used)
- Room services, laundry, beverages, phone/communication bills and items of personal nature.
- Insurance liability of member(s) and other under force majeure conditions.
- Custom clearing agent's charges.
- Tips for staff and porters.
- Any other service not mentioned in this condition sheet.

5.7 Insurance

Insurance was arranged through the New Zealand Alpine Club, which offers a policy arranged by Torribles Insurance Brokers of Bristol, England. Cover for each member for the period of the expedition (42 days) was NZ \$410.00. The cover extended to medical, travel cancellations, search and rescue, personal liability and accident and personal effects.

5.8 Medical arrangements

Both climbers had extensive personal first aid and medication kits. These proved adequate for the minor ailments suffered (cold and flu, muscle strain etc.) and were sufficient to alleviate more serious injury if air evacuation was immediate.

The climbers carried a satellite phone in case of emergency and had a emergency evacuation plan in place.

5.9 Air Travel

Both climbers flew from New Zealand to Islamabad with Thai Airlines with a stop over in Bangkok.

On the return journey from Hunza to Islamabad the party intended to fly. However weather and /or political problems in Islamabad prevented this.

6. Activity/ Trip Report

(By Pat Deavoll)



3. The SW face (2600m) of Karim Sar from basecamp.

On June 5th 2009 Paul Hersey and I arrived in Islamabad to discover security in the city at an all time high. Soldiers with AK47's, roadblocks and a wary population had emptied the streets and our anxious guide Baig (Nazir Sabir Expeditions), saw us as a potential target for every kidnapper, suicide bomber and insurgent in Central Asia. He wouldn't let us out of his sight.

We drove north up the Karakoram Highway against an endless tide of refugees fleeing the Swat Valley, Baig breathing a nervous sigh of relief when we reach the relative safety of the northern town of Gilgit. Three days later we were ensconced at basecamp beside the Shitinbar Glacier, under the south face of Karim Sar. The enormous face was a confusing

mass of steep snow slopes, hanging glaciers and granite rock bands culminating in the summit ice cap. With an elevation of 2600m, it's was a daunting sight!

A week later Paul and I arrive back at basecamp, cold and damp after an extended acclimatisation sorte into the head of the glacier. Paul had struggled with the altitude and we'd moved slowly in snowy, unsettled weather. I had a headache and was feeling the cold. Summer was late to arrive and there was infinitely more snow than the two years previous (we learned later the Karakoram hadn't seen as much winter snow in 30 years!)

At base camp Paul came down with an undiagnosed illness, recovered, and then decided he didn't want to go onto the mountain. I decided to try the mountain alone and succumbed to some angst- ridden, sleepless nights. I was scared of the prospect!

The morning of my departure for the summit Paul announced he would come back up the glacier to advanced basecamp (4200m). I felt a flood of relief – even if Paul was thousands of feet below me, it would be a huge relief to know he was there in some capacity. Moving up through a dangerous section of the ice fall Paul climbed with a new speed and confidence.

The next morning he agreed to come a few hundred metres up the face to belay me through a rock band, but when we got beneath the short granite pitch I realised the terrain above was ominously ringed by ice cliffs, 1200m above. I decided to follow a gully system out to the left which appeared to finish on a small saddle at about 5100m. The gully was overhung on the right by a massive, but seemingly stable ice cliff and the route seemed the better of two evils. To my surprise Paul decided to continue, even though he had no overnight gear. I arrived at the saddle at about 3pm, dug a tent platform and watched him slowly work his way up the steepening slope. The location was breathtaking: Rakaposhi and Diran to the south, Sangamarmar only a couple of kilometres east and way in the distance, the massive Hispar Glacier.



4. Paul approaching the camp at 5200m.

We both spent a sleepless night: Paul because he was in a large plastic pack liner, and me because I was so damn nervous. But 4am arrived and I brewed up, handed my sleeping bag to Paul and headed up a steep snow slope to the first obstacle – a small granite rock band covered in loose wet snow. I bridged up a gully for a few metres, had an “I can’t do this” moment, and climbed back down. Thwarted only half an hour from the tent! Taking a deep breath I tried again and this time made the 20m to the top.

Another steep snow slope led to a 100m high granite cliff. I headed right to circumvent it, then realising I would have to traverse a steep rock gully with a large drop beneath it, scurried back to the left. Above me were two ice cliffs, and between them a steep narrow gully of snow about 100m high. I front pointed up the gully and half an hour later found myself in a wide cwm, ringed by huge ice cliffs.

The cliffs seemed quiet, but it was early, and as there were plenty of big ice blocks strewn around so I decided to climb up onto a broad ice rib on the right of the cym. I tried to hurry but with snow was almost up to my knees progress was glacial. However, up on the rib conditions were better and I sped up dramatically (in my mind, anyway).

After climbing several hundred metres, interspersed with some sizeable crevasses, I came to a large rock band forming the base of the summit pyramid. From base camp it looked as if this could be navigated on the left, but I now realised to do this I would have to traverse a long section of steep ice with an enormous drop into the Bar Glacier 1500m beneath me. Far too scary!

I accepted glumly I'd have to drop 100m, traverse right under the rock band and try to summit from the east side. I pigeon holed nervously downward and started the traverse. The exposure was frightening and with every step loose wet snow would swish down alarmingly, gathering speed until it shot out over the ice cliffs. I held my breath most of the way across. After what seemed like an eternity the traverse ended and I was able to start climbing up towards the ridge line. By this time I was in the full sun, and feeling tired. I wondered what Paul was doing, almost 1000m below.

At midday I hit the summit ridge above the east face and could see the top. The only thing between me and it seemed to be a 60-70deg ice slope leading up for about 100 metres to the last small snow step. "I can rappel that," I thought, and whizzed up the ice with renewed vigour. A five minute wander along the ridge had me on top. "Yippee! Now I can go down." But not before identifying Beka Brakkai Chhok several kilometres away, and our base camp, 2600m below.



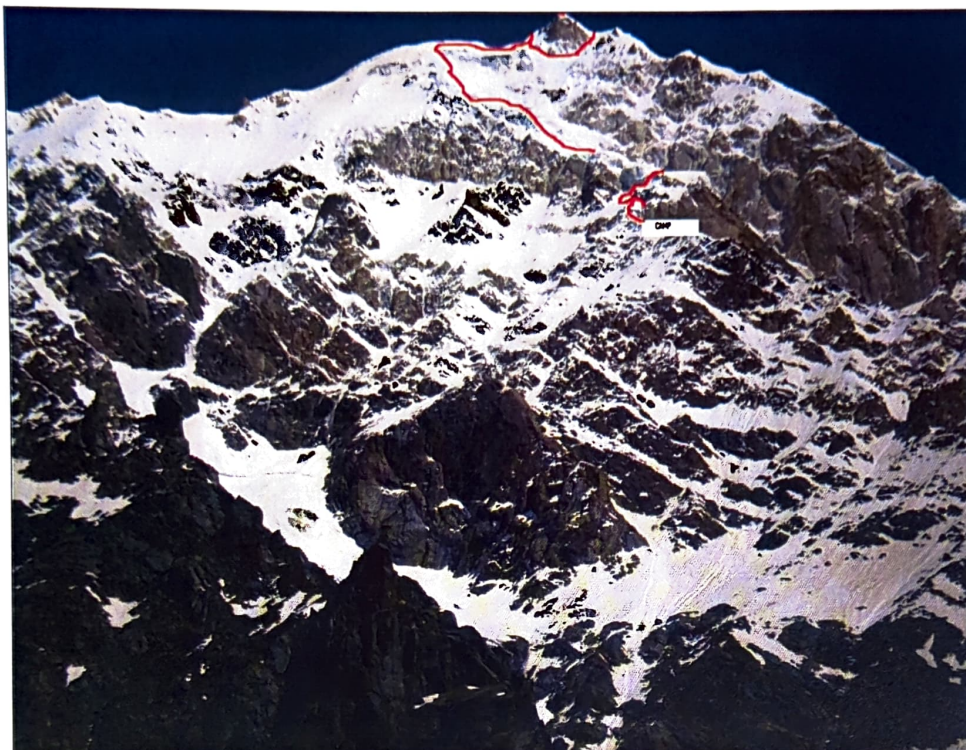
5. Rakaposhe from close to the summit of Karim Sar

Two raps off V-threads got me close to the base of the ice slope, and another three off slung rock bollards saw me back at the start of the traverse, my heart in my mouth. The snow had deteriorated further and by the time I reached the far end and climbed back up onto the broad rib, I was in tears.

But progress down the rib was rapid and I soon cheered up. In no time I was back in the cwm. I sat down behind a large block of ice and had a couple of those gu-things and started to feel smug and pleased with myself. I set off again with a big grin!

Reversing the steep narrow gully between the ice cliffs required concentration, followed by a nasty traverse back to the slope above camp. I spent forty minutes cold welding a number six BD stopper into a rotten crack for an anchor, then 30m later repeated the procedure to rappel the initial rock band. At this stage I could see the tent, and soon Paul stuck his head out the door, waved and disappeared again.

I felt such an enormous sense of relief when Paul hugged me on arrival I burst into tears for the second time. After forty minutes he left to descend the 1000 metres to ABC -two nights in a plastic bag definitely beyond the call of duty! I fell sound asleep on my stomach in our BD First Light. On dusk I woke again, made another brew, and then passed out till 7am. Descending the gully next day my legs were like jelly. Two 1000m days in succession, breaking trail, were beginning to take their toll. Paul was waiting at ABC, and we packed up and made our way slowly back to basecamp, Baig and Naseer our cook.



4. The South West face of Karim Sar showing the top came and the route taken by Pat to reach the summit.

7. Conclusion

1. At 6180m Karim Sar provides the alpinist with long routes at a relatively low altitude. The southwest face climbed by the expedition has a huge 2600m elevation and there is another potential west facing route of the same size waiting to be climbed from the Bar Glacier (access from Bar village).
2. The east face of the mountain (gained from the upper Shitinbar Glacier is very attractive but is unfortunately rimmed by ice cliffs at about 5800m. However down valley from the ice cliffs is a steep hanging glacier which leads almost to the summit ridge. This would make a good route for climbers looking for some steep ice climbing.
3. The north ridge looks to be a superb route, steep, technical and committing. It would be accessed via a steep arête at the head of the Shitinbar Glacier.
4. There are a number of other attractive peaks in the Shitinbar Catchment that look to be excellent climbing, in particular.
 - Kor Chhish (5862m) looks to have superb snow and ice routes, both arêtes and faces.
 - Aikache Chhok (6595m) has a mix of rock and snow routes. It has had one ascent in 1983.

- Peaks 5500 and 5536 on the ridge south of Karim Sar look to have quality steep ice and snow routes.

To conclude:

The Shitinbar Glacier has only had two other visits from expeditions that we could ascertain: the Italians in 2007 and a group of Japanese trekkers in the early 2000's. It would make an excellent destination for an expedition short on time, as the walk in is only two days, and the low elevation requires little acclimatization. The route Pat climbed on the South West face is an excellent objective, even if the route finding is a little complicated. However there are at least three other potential routes on Karim Sar to be climbed from the Shitinbar.

8. Acknowledgments

The expedition gratefully acknowledges assistance from the following organizations:

- Sport and Recreation New Zealand Hilary Expedition Fund
- The Mount Everest Foundation.
- Mountain Hardwear
- WL Gore Ltd Shipton Tilman Award/
- The New Zealand Alpine Club Expedition Fund
- Black Diamond and Southern Approach.
- DHL
- Back Country Foods.
- Heinz Watties Ltd.

9. Copyright

The compiler of this report and the members of this expedition agree that all or part of it may be copied for the purpose of private research

Appendix A Bibliography

Books:

“Chronique der Irshliedung des Karakoram: Teil; Western Karakoram” (Haus des Alpinistnus, Pruaterinel Alpine Museum; 2003) by Wolfgang Heichel

The American Alpine Journal

- *Batura (Karakoram Rg., Pakistan)* 1977: 273-74, 1978: 626, 1981: 302, 1982: 279, 1984: 302-3, 1985: 329, 1987: 290, 1988: 258, 1989: 262
- *Batura I (Batura Muztagh, Pakistan)* 2000: 326-327
- *Batura II (Karakoram Pakistan)* *Batura II* 1979: 306, 2003: 362
- *Batura IV (Karakoram Rg., Pakistan)* 1984: 303
- *Batura Mustagh (Pakistan)* 1960: 161, 1965: 473, 1975: 215 2000: 323-327, 2001: 347-349, 2005: 344
- *Batura Region (Karakoram, Pakistan)* 1985: 331, 1987: 290, 1988: 258-9, 1990: 294; *map sources* 1985: 339; *map* 1990:29

Appendix B: Photographs

1. The north side of Karim Sar from the Baltar Glacier

2. The 2007 Italian Karim Sar Expedition.
3. The SW face (2600m) of Karim Sar from basecamp.
4. Paul Hersey approaching the camp at 5200m.
5. Rakaposhe from close to the summit of Karim Sar
6. The South West face of Karim Sar showing the top camp and the route taken by Pat to reach the summit

Appendix C: Maps

1. Map of the Batura Massif showing Karim Sar in the bottom left quadrant.

Appendix D: Climbers Profiles

- 1) Pat Deavoll
- 2) Paul Hersey

Appendix E: Other information

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1. Map of the Batura Massif showing Karim Sar in the bottom left quadrant.

Climbing Resume: Patricia Deavoll

Profession: journalist, mountaineer

Pat began her mountaineering career in 1976, directly after leaving high school. Highlights prior to 1980 included ascents of all New Zealand's ten thousand-foot peaks and a three-month south to north traverse of the Southern Alps of New Zealand. In the early eighties she did repeats of the classic grade 5 test pieces, the 'Central Gully' on the South Face of Douglas, 'White Dreams' on the South Face of Cook and the Balfour face of Mt Tasman.

Pat spent 1984 to 1986 climbing in the Himalayan and Karakoram ranges. She completed several unsupported two-man ascents of 6000m plus peaks including the second ascents of the **South Face of Mera (6400m)** in Nepal and the **East Ridge of Girgindal (6200m)** in Pakistan.

More recent mountaineering highlights within New Zealand include an ascent of the Caroline Face of Mt Cook and the first female ascents of '**Logans Run**' (grd. 6+) on the South face of Hicks and the '**Hidden Balfour Face**' (grd. 6) on Mt Tasman. She has also been part of the first female team ascent (with her sister) of the **Central Gully of Douglas Peak (grd. 5+)** and the **South Face of Mt Aspiring (grd. 5)**.

In 2002 Pat was part of an expedition to Alaska. She made six successful ascents including two technical test pieces on **Mt Huntington** (the Nettle/Quirk route and the Colton/Leach route). She returned to Alaska in 2003 and made a first ascent of the north face of **Pk 11,520** in the Alaskan Range. She also made the first female ascent of the **North Buttress of Mt. Hunter (via 'Deprivation')** and the **SW Ridge of 11,300** in the Ruth Amphitheatre. She considers the ascent of Deprivation the technical high point of her mountaineering career.

In 2004 Pat took part in two Himalayan mountaineering expeditions: the British/New Zealand **Jankuth** Expedition to the Indian Garwhal region, and the New Zealand Expedition to **Cholatse**, Nepal. Neither expedition summited due to poor weather and snow conditions and ill health.

In 2005, with ex-pat New Zealander Karen McNeill, she made the first ascent of **Xiashe (6000m)**, a remote and technical mountain in western China. The team of two women beat a strong team of British climbers to the summit.

In September 2006 she returned to China and made the first ascent of the much coveted **Haizi Shan** (approximately 6000m) by the direct north face with British climber Malcolm Bass. They were the eleventh expedition to try the peak and the first to succeed.

In 2007 Pat took part in two expeditions to Asia. In June/July she attempted the first ascent of **Beka Brakkai Chhok (6940m)** with fellow Kiwi Lydia Bradey. The pair was unsuccessful on BBC, but did make the first ascent of a smaller peak in the same area which they named **Wahine (5900m)**.

A month later Pat returned to India and made the first ascent of a 6450m peak in the Gangotri glacier with Scottish climber Bruce Norman. The pair called the peak **Miandi Peak**.

In June 2008 Pat returned to Pakistan for a second attempt on the first ascent of **Beka Brakkai Chhok**, this time with Malcolm Bass. The pair reached over 6000m, but were forced back from the summit by bad snow conditions after spending 12 days on the peak.

In June 2009 she made the first ascent, solo of Karim Sar (6180m), again in the Batura Massif of Pakistan.

Over the past decade Pat has waterfall ice climbed and rock-climbed internationally to a very high level.

During recent Nth American winters she has spent 120 days waterfall ice climbing in the Canadian Rockies. She has led water fall ice to grade 7, including lead ascents of highly acclaimed test pieces "Sea of Vapours"(WI 7), Acid Howl (WI 6+) and French Maid (WI 6+). With a Canadian climbing partner she completed a significant new route on the Terminator Wall, "Stuck in the Middle" (M7, WI6)

Pat has been a dedicated rock climber since 1990. She has climbed extensively throughout Australia over the past fifteen years. In 1996 she was part of the first female partnership ascent of 'Siblings of the Sun' (9 pp, grd.26/12.c), at the time considered Australia's most committing multi-pitch climb. In 1997 she climbed for four months in Thailand, Spain and France. In 1999 she spent six months climbing in Britain and the USA. In 2001 she completed the first ascent of her hardest climb to date – "Intifada" (grd28/ 29/ French 8a)

She was the New Zealand Women's Sport Climbing Champion in 1994 and was placed 3rd in the Escalade Australia International Competition in 1995.

Pat has also participated to a high level in white water kayaking. In 1991 she was a member of the New Zealand Women's Himalayan Kayaking Expedition to Sikkim (Nthn.India). The expedition made first descents of two major rivers within this region. In 1992 she spent 2 months kayaking in Nepal. She made the first female (and second person overall) descent of what was at the time NZ's hardest rapid, 'Nevis Bluff' (grade 6+) on the Kawarau River.

Pat won the Macpac/CMC Mountaineer of the Year Award in 1999.

Pat worked as an outdoor instructor from 1989 until 2004. She contracted as a specialist instructor in mountaineering, ice, rockclimbing and kayaking to secondary and tertiary students and climbing clubs.

In 2005 she completed a post-graduate course in journalism and now works as the editor of The Wanaka Sun and as a free-lance writer for Business Rural North and South, QT Magazine, the NZ Climber and Straight Furrow magazine.

She has a Bachelor of Arts in English and Russian Literature.

Southern Approach/Black Diamond, Mountain Hardwear, Icebreaker NZ and Back Country Foods currently sponsor her.

2. Climbing resume: Paul Hersey

Profession: Writer

Personal Statement: During this expedition I aim to successfully complete a challenging first ascent, as well as gather written and photographic material about this climb for later publication. Also, I am excited about the opportunity to engage with the people and landscape in this remote area of Pakistan, and to promote understanding between different cultures.

Occupation: Adventurer writer and photographer

Relevant Climbing Experience:

Climbed for the past 20 years throughout the European Alps, Himalaya, Central Asia, America, and Australasia; completed more than 60 alpine and rock first ascents; previously worked as an ice climbing guide (Franz Josef Glacier), and rock climbing instructor (United Kingdom).

Recent Alpine Climbing Summary:

- 2008 Kyrgyzstan Pamir Alai Expedition, Jipdick Valley, two first ascents; New Zealand Southern Alps, two first ascents
- 2007 Indian Himalayan Expedition, Gangotri Valley; New Zealand Southern Alps, three first ascents
- 2006 New Zealand Southern Alps, six first ascents including Mount Hopkins North Ridge (grade 5) and Taiaha Peak South Face (grade 4+)
- 2005 New Zealand Southern Alps, five first ascents
- 2004 New Zealand Southern Alps, six first ascents including Mount Ward South Face (grade 5) and Steeple Peak West Face (grade 4)

Other Relevant Skills and Information:

Published one book on climbing in New Zealand (Where The Mountains Throw Their Dice, New Holland Publishers 2008), have another book due for release mid 2009, and currently working on a third contracted manuscript due for publication 2010; contribute to New Zealand Climber Magazine, Wilderness Magazine and New Zealand Geographic; Pre-Hospital Emergency Care Qualification; Avalanche One Qualification.