



UIAA
Global Youth Summit 2006



View Point – Mt Kazbek

July 3 - First record. Tbilisi - Stefanminda

The meeting is appointed at hotel "Iveria" at 10 o'clock in the morning. For the person who loves to sleep, this is an ideal time after arriving in Kazbek almost tired. On the way to the top of Mkinvarcveri 5033m, it is a small effort to reach the first sleeping place, and then be already prepared for the serious track up to the meteostation.

This road head is passed almost every month by the young members of school of mountain climbing, which is supervised by Zura Kutchava for over 12 years. This time this happens within the framework of the international youth camp UIAA Global Youth Summit and these instructors have already worked four times with this event. (The Camp was arranged from 2003 each summer).



Tired, but full of expectation the way starts at 5 o'clock in the morning. For now to perform the "orders" from meteostation I am I make my way to so-called market "Eliava" Chacha (on the sports camps alcohol is forbidden) so buy one packet of cigarettes, headphones, "Asa Parti" records, mono

card. More shortly, all this I have added to an already overflowing bag and got under the way to "Iveria".

The participants, covering themselves from the rain, are standing against walls of the central post office... The yellow "Pazik" or age of "grandfathers" has arrived soon and we are laden with equipment. All the way from Tbilisi it was raining. We were joined by the Ukrainian climbers at Ananuri and four Moscow climbers who arrived from Vladikavkaz already in Stefanminda. By the way, running forward, I'll mention that when coming back from meteostation the Russians were surprised by the decision of their own government (because of closing boundary in Larsi) they had to leave from Batumi through Sochi for Moscow.

Second Record. At Kazalikashvili...

As I have already told you, the rain did not stop from Tbilisi up to Stefanminda. It brought the first changes in the life of the camp - as Zura Kutchava, the chief of the camp, decided, the night would be spent at a settlement. Gergeti was replaced by sleeping at the house-museum of one of the pioneers of the Georgian mountain climbing Kazalikashvili.

Just at this place "Pazik" became empty and 25 climbers were allocated into three rooms of the house, which was built up at the beginning of the last century. **'Every thing here, every photo speaks about the history of the Georgian mountain climbing.'** The photos prompted some questions in people's minds -

"It is surprising; in the Ukraine museums are closed. And here, somewhere on border, the climbing museum is open. Surprisingly... What is this photo?" - Ukrainians are asking and are showing the rather new, colored, photo.

On this photo I recognize two Georgian climbers, Afi Gigani and Leva Sarkisov. The photo is taken in 1999 on the top of Everest. Probably remembering, that that year two Georgian teams simultaneously ascended the roof of the world...



"The Exposition requires updating. If you help also with it, the journalists will not be bad... We want that in this museum not only past to be represented, but also the present state of Georgian alpinism..." – This request was made by the representative of a well-known Georgian alpinist family name, the host and the friend of the youth climbing school - Iago Kazalikashvili.

The representatives of the press will pay attention to this request, and until then ... at last the porridge and the hot tea is ready, and the first night has ended...

80 years ago Giorgi Nikoladze's team made their way to the summit through Gveleti on Devdoraki. We are going to rise through Gergeti, the summer way, even though the non stop rain in Stefanminda makes it feel little like summer.

In the group of 25 men 18-year's Khatia (she – "mate-boy") and Mamuka, who moved in London almost 8 years, were expecting most of all... Khatia was silent, and Mamuka with had unending questions and parallels with ascents in the Alps.

July 4 - record third. A beginning of a way

The local climber Zura Sujashvili came early in the morning and told us that the horses for taking the bags onto Saberce were ready. Dato Mchedlishvili ("chelo") left together with Zura and the supplies for one week set off upward. So, when after 5 hours of climbing the main group came to Saberce, thanking "chelo" the tents were already pitched. To tell the truth, that was very pleasant.

I have passed this way already five times. Each place causes certain emotions and memoirs... First the way goes up to a spring (at this place on first UIAA camp I felt bad), afterwards the inconvenient stony rise before turning to Gergetian Sameba. Then a small snaking path section and the range appears, though with little visibility and not getting tired we gain height. The non-stopping rain is disturbing... One more rise and one more rest, already up to a niche... After that the descent and river, which all expected to be overflowed because of the rain, but it was almost low...

Together with us was 24 year old Tamuna ("Kuna") Tarkhnishvili. Devi Tarkhnishvili's daughter of Devi who was lost in 1984 on Ushba... If all goes well, it will be the first serious summit for Kuna. Kuna has her father's sleeping bag and ice axe... Other equipment is borrowed from friends.

Having risen on Saberce together with Kuna we came into Giorgi Kakhabrishvili's tent (Gezi, one of the most skilled instructors of school). When we have changed our wet clothes Jaba Tsiklauri came down from the meteostation and took the cigarettes and other things brought for them. Soon Gezi and two more Ukrainians came up to Saberce... Now all the camp structure was available.

July 5 - record four Mkinvarcveri

The rain stopped early in the morning. Pleased by this we went out from the tents into the sun... In some minutes the camp was disassembled and all the things we have taken out the previous evening were put back. I do not find myself among the climbers, but I have been going to the mountains for science since 1998 and have had time to see not so little... Not including it for flattery I shall say, that going with Zura Kutchava, for me always is great pleasure... Not looking back, as if he hears nothing Zura traditionally. At one pace with small hairpins the path goes up, and we did not often have a rest.

So slowly Zura is bringing a team up to a glacier and there has distributed the group into ropes. Gezi and Ukrainians are send ahead, then two more ropes of people and the last rope is lead by him. So he supervises all...

The fog comes down in the valley, there was the snow on Mkinvarcveri. Naturally the path winding up to the meteostation is covered with snow. Now the main aim is not to lose the path and not to fall in a crevasse...

Fortunately all reached Bogma without adventures... Bogma it is the "infinite" rise, covered with stones. As if you see the meteostation and think that you are already at camp, but the rise does not come to the end.

On Bogma my old friends have noticed me and decided to help. I cannot say, that this was unpleasant... So I have given my back pack and passed the last few meters free of it...

Having entered in meteo I drunk hot tea and in the evening watched the France-Portugal football match and the third day of expedition was finished.



July 6 - record fifth. Meteostation...

Constructed on height 3700m on the "island" between ice and cracks in the thirtieth years of the last century one time it lived by rough life. From this place mighty Soviet "Derjava" found out exact weather forecasts. Though time it has changed much and now the submarine shaped building has the unique function – for last twenty years it is a shelter for the climbers and a unique warm place in a white empire, where it is possible even to watch TV. Probably, if not for the climbers it simply would stop existing as well as the meteorological gadgets scattered on the road from Gergeti up to station...

Due to the climbers it was possible to block holes in the roof, to construct a toilet and rooms (certainly it not a hut in the Alps, but...). During a season (for two weeks or may be more...) climbers from Gergeti and Stefancminda are on duty here. Though basically there are two "chiefs" Joni Khucushvili and Dato Tukhareli... Joni is quiet and peaceful, "Tukho" grumbler and "women hated", who only at farewell with the visitors has tears

on eyes and always asks to stay a little... Sometimes it happened that at 3700m, these two were alone here...

More shortly, all beauty of the meteo we saw after the first night at 3700m. If you are lucky and the weather is good, it seems that you stand on a carpet of clouds. And at this moment if not all the world then half of it is at your feet...



The fourth day of expedition not ideal, but silent and dry. A part of expedition, 10 people, basically Georgians and the Ukrainians boys go on so-called "khodka". They should bring a part of the supplies from Saberce...

Beginners – these are the Georgian girls, Ukrainians and Russians – are guided by the skilled instructor of school Giorgi Dzagnidze on snow training. Movement on snow, failure and safety... It is the elementary alphabet, which is desirable for all who are going to rise to the summit...

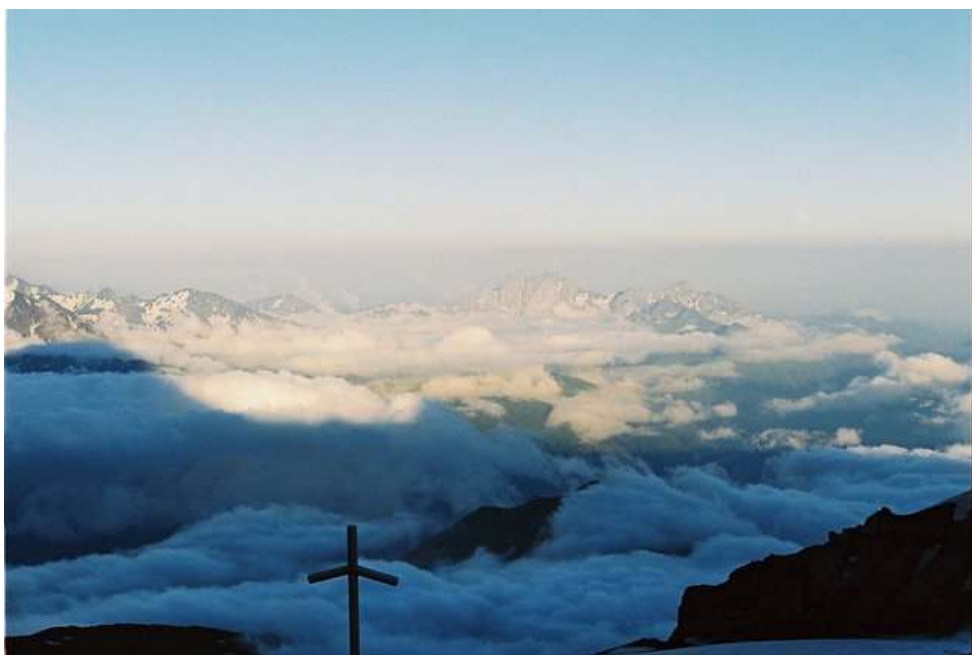
By this time the guys returned from "khodka" and make preparations for the next day of expedition. Zura Kutchava together with the instructors first distributed ropes, then places in tents – it is decided that each tent would include one girl... It is possible, that at height 4300m, in the snow the camp is subjected to more snowfall, and strong downfall of snow... In such a time in tents the watch is announced...

July 7 - record sixth. A plateau...

The fifth morning of expedition is foggy, but weather is perfect. Hot tea, porridge and command "we all leave".

On a threshold I was got up by Joni and given a small red sack the size of a fist is for a sleeping bag, to take to be warmer, and if necessary to sleep in the snow... Have you taken a foil? (The foil has rescued in 2005 on Ushba Gela Otarashvili. By advice Gela it weighs 200 gr. the adaptation always with me)... Well without a top do not come

back... - shouts Joni...



Meteo station gradually disappears from view, as well as the beginner climbers behind me. Ahead only three of the most skilled and two Ukrainians... To

my surprise I could adjust breath and rise up a stony slope. I rise up to a cross without stops and there waited for others.

After a cross comes already the empire of snow. From this place everyone should communicate by a rope... First goes the skilled Gezi and Nika Lebanidze... The circuit assembled from eight men slowly rises on a snow slope. It is followed by second, third and... Together with Giorgi Dzagnidze and I find myself in the last rope. Together with me is the beginner Mamuka Japaridze, Kuna Tarkhan-Mouravi and Moscowian Kiril. In valley Khmaura the fog comes and goes, so, that we see only the front of our rope. Sometimes we hear the sound of stones. This place therefore is called Khmaura. Stone fall is especially active last years, that in opinion of the experts as a result of global warming.

At last we have reached the seraks. From here up to a plateau by a hand to submit... first rope gives the instruction to follow on the left traces to avoid the large cracks... Soon we join together on a plateau.

On the plateau the building presses are active... The skilled train the young to cut bricks from snow. So " the first voice joins second, then third" and the area of



residing on the plateau is ready. Then here appeared the houses (tents) and in 60-70m in ice also the toilet... By the evening weather went bad.

July 8 - record seventh. Let's have fun...

Bad weather prolonged for the next day.. The expedition faces to a choice - or the group brings supplies to 4300m, or we curtail camp wholly and after the termination we storm the summit directly from meteo. In this case for the girls chances to rise to the summit decrease. Zura announces "the special meeting" of the instructors. All the boys are going in to one tent. The camp begins to live in a new mode... While the Georgians are deciding the arising problems Russians and the Ukrainians build according "to the architectural project " Mamuka begins construction of an ice bungalow. Three hours are devoted to this. Gradually evening comes, but protected from the wind in an ice house we all have fun together. The only one who constantly thinks of tomorrow's day is the chief Zura. Well if there will be a "window" (window the climbers call some hours of good weather during long time bad weather). If there will be a window we shall leave for the summit... If no then we come back and the expedition comes to the end - decides Zura. Though the last nobody wants to accept, but weather snowfall does not stop... And our chances of summit goes down to a minimum...

July 9 - record seventh. The ending...

In the morning I awoke early. Today 9th of July, day of the ending of a championship of the world on football. If I come on top then "my team" Italy becomes the champion... Among these ideas I hear votes and finally awake - look! As it is visible... It is visible? For certain it is clear around the top... That means there is a weather window... We are going on top, it is almost excluded, that Zura misses this chance. All our UIAA camps were successful, why this should be exception?



Neither tea nor meal, nobody remembers anything except for the summit... The clear sky and the sun beams gradually reaching to a plateau... Beginners do not hide their surprise, such beauty they have not seen before... "A dog stays, or it will go with us and will be lost!" - says Zura. The dog has nicknamed "Mcvervalva" later (top) has gone with

us from Stefanminda on a plateau (in meteo is one more legendary dog "Naprala"). "Mcvervalva" we adhered, but then with surprise we have seen it with the first rope on the horizon. Then saw it descending from the top and at last I saw at top close to me. "Mcvervalva" that day had made the summit (5033m) twice. We all have summited except for two Muscovians, one Georgian girl and instructors who together with them sat on the crosspiece. We were only 10 minutes on the top, have taken off photos and began descending. Now the main thing is in to collect the camp in time and to go down to meteo...

Already near the meteo I remember the world championship football... It means Italy became the champion today? I have risen to the top? I tell this to the guys and the part laughs. Though only in some hours...

July 10 - record eighth. We want home!

On the sports tax not for sleep... On the last day the camp lives in a sports mode. From meteo the first leave the Ukrainians – they have to reach the plane in Tbilisi.

We have good weather and start to descend slowly. Having descended to Saberce we saw the Ukrainian flag, "Hi to all! Unfortunately, unfortunately we had no time to say good bye to all as we left very early. We were very glad to acquaintance to all of you. Great thanks for the company and kindness, and also for a successful ascension. See you on the new tops! Write" In Stefanminda we come around 5 o'clock. In mountains weather deteriorates again. The letter I pass to Zura in Tbilisi on the next meeting of climbing school. When I am writing these lines the guys are again in the Kazbek area, this time in gorge Chaukhi, on next "khodka"... Only it isn't UIAA GYS.

Tamuna Jishkariani

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