

THE SHEREGESH ENCOUNTER

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At the end of March 2011 the members of a youth group hiking on Mount Green in Sheregesh (Tashtagolsky District of Kemerovo Oblast, Russia) had a chance to meet a Bigfoot and even video and photograph the hominoid. It was in an area next to the ski resort, famous for its comfortable ski traces and lifts; near Tashtagol City.

During that spring, a Kemerovo television program showed the video and photographs. What appears to be a hominoid is seen at a distance and later in close-up partially behind bushes. The young lady who took the video screamed in awe and dropped the camera.

The program was aired on April 1, 2011 (April Fools Day), which cooled my interest in the incident. Nevertheless, I noted the name of the person who presented the television report: Alexander Chudanov, a resident of Novokuznetsk; an entrepreneur. I expected, if possible, to find and interview him.

In the autumn of that same year, I visited Kuzbass, including Sheregesh, and Mount Zielona, during an international conference held in that region. Unfortunately, I did not have time to find out more about the Sheregesh encounter. I subsequently visited those regions again in December 2011, and June 2012, but again was unable to investigate the Sheregesh encounter any further.

In July 2013, during a regular trip to Kuzbass, I finally managed to locate Alexander Chudanov; but did not meet or interview him. During those summer trips, I traveled with a film group from Great Britain and stayed at the hotel Mango in Novokuznetsk, the city where Alexander lives. I was able to contact him, but had to limit myself to telephone conversations. He explained a lot about the Sheregesh encounter and I took notes. The following is what he narrated to me.

From Notes Taken on the Telephone

He [Alexander], along with a group of young people climbed Green Mountain on March 26, on the slope opposite to the ski slopes. Rising quite high and pretty tired, they stopped to rest at an opening. Nina Ovchinnikova, one of the band members, filmed on video surrounding landscape, and in front of her in the snow sat Nikita Korolyov with his [ordinary digital] camera and also shooting scenery. They chatted about various things ... Suddenly Nina loudly screamed in horror, the camera fell out of her hands and hung on a strap, continuing to shoot. And Nikita turned quickly in the direction of her gaze and began to direct his camera—there down the slope moved some huge hairy figure directly in deep snow. Someone asked: “Did you see?” Someone ran towards this substance, Nina cried: “Do not go!” As a result, as it turned out, Nikita managed to shoot this “Bigfoot” twelve times, though from a long distance; it was hidden behind the branches



A general view photo taken with a regular camera by Nikita; he obviously used a 35mm digital camera.



A still image of Nikita from the video taken by Nina. The hominoid appeared in the distance behind Nikita as seen in the following image.



Another still video image. Nikita turns around and sees the subject (circled). He proceeds to take photos with his regular digital camera.

of trees and on dark background; it was hardly seen because of this.

Later, at my request, Larissa Maksimenko, a reporter for the local newspaper *Kuzbass* met with Alexander Chudanov and recorded a video interview with him. That is what Alexander narrated in the television program.

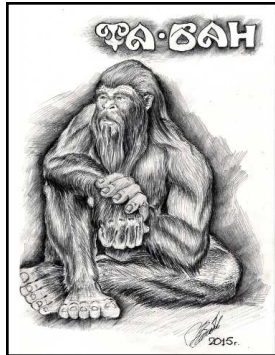
As a result of my and Larissa's conversations with Alexander I didn't have the slightest doubt that the video and photographs are real (not hoaxed). The snow was about one meter deep and the subject moved rapidly; people would be unable to do the same in snow of that depth.

Unfortunately, Alexander doesn't know in which city Nikita resides; and Nina Ovchinnikova had since sadly died in a car accident. Nevertheless, there were 12 photographs taken by Nikita at the event and I began to conduct research on them.

Much later, I invited American specialists, in particular M.K. Davis, to work with me in analyzing the photographs. Marlon had done (and continues to do) impressive work on the Patterson and Gimlin film so I looked forward to his results. M.K. scrupulously studied the photographs taken by Nikita, and described in detail the face of the subject. Especially noteworthy was what appears to be its long beard.

The last five images of the twelve were taken a little later, so the numbering of the last two or three images was incorrect. This raised a question in my mind so I contacted a specialist in photography. He explained that in frost (it was 10 degrees Fahrenheit at the time) the camera could fail and show other time stamps. So my question was satisfied.

I found it interesting that in 2015 an encounter in the same region was reported by Afghan veteran Andrey Lyubchenko. Andrey stated that he actually sat side-by-side with a male hominoid and communicated with him. Andrey is an accomplished artist and created drawings (one seen here) of the hominoid, who was named Ta-ban.* The Sheregesh subject's possible long beard appears to be the same as that of Ta-ban. I have considered the possibility that the two are the same. Six of the photos taken by Nikita are now provided on the next pages.



This photo was taken by one of the group members likely before they departed for Green Mountain. Nina is in the center, Alexander is to her right (left facing), and another group member, Alexey Nikulnikov, is to her left (right facing).



*A full report is provided on this encounter on Sasquatch Canada. It is published in *Bits & Pieces* No. 41. (Editor)

