



THIN AIR

Volume 20, No 1

January, 2008

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HAMS PRESENTS TWO GREAT PROGRAMS

HAMS JANUARY PROGRAM

GERRY ROACH

Join Gerry Roach as he presents a slide presentation of the photographs from his autobiographical books *Transcendent Summits* (2004) and *Ride the Breath* (2007).

Following the presentation there will be questions and discussion.

Thursday, January 17, 2008

7:00 - 9:30 pm

American Mountaineering Center

710 10th Street

Golden, Colorado

Free & Open to the Public



Gerry Roach nearing Mount Logan's summit in 1973

HAMS February Program

Tonya Riggs: BEYOND EVEREST

After climbing Mt. Everest, what's next? For Tonya Riggs and Brad Clement the answer is far from Disney World and just beyond Everest in the Annapurna Region of Nepal. Annapurna, with no beaten path to the summit, has seen only a handful of Americans reach the top. The HAMS group invites you to join Tonya and Brad as they share their "dream", their "decision" and their "determination" to attempt this peak.

Wednesday, February 20, 2008

7:00 PM

American Mountaineering Center

710 10th Street

Golden, Colorado

Free & Open to the Public



Tonya Riggs on the summit of Mt Everest

HAMS SPONSERED TRIP TO THE ALPS

Climbs in the Alps, Zermatt, Switzerland area:

August 9 – 24, 2008

Estimated Cost: \$900 + airfare + huts + trams + some meals

Leader: Bill Blazek

We will go to Zermatt, climbing mecca of the Alps, and climb what ever the weather will permit. Due to the fickle nature of the weather in the Alps, it will be difficult to plan to climb specific peaks. So this trip is designed as a *flex* climbing trip.



Options include:

- Matterhorn,
- Monte Rosa - Dufour – 2nd highest peak in the Alps, and any other peaks on Monte Rosa, including a traverse,
- Dom,
- Weisshorn,
- Zinalrothorn,
- and many others.

Climbs are mostly D-E difficult. Climbers should be recent graduates of a CMC BMS or HAMS or possess recent equivalent experience or training.

We will rent an apartment in Zermatt as a base camp and decide, either as a group or individually, when to climb which peaks when we get there based on the current weather and climbing conditions. This will give everyone maximum flexibility to climb as much as possible in the time allotted.

Depending on the interests of the group, not all climbers may choose to do the same climbs. Climbers are free to independently choose any peaks in the area and free to independently arrange for guided climbs of more difficult peaks if so desired. Leader will help research peaks, routes, etc. based on interest of the climbers and develop a list of climbing options. It is assumed that Matterhorn will be top priority of many climbers, weather permitting. However, given the limited climbing conditions of Matterhorn, we will also plan for other options.

Cost includes **ONLY**:

- Train transportation to/from Geneva – Zermatt.
- 13 nights of lodging only at an apartment in Zermatt that includes a kitchen for fixing own meals.
- One night at the Geneva Hostel on the return trip.
- Final cost will vary depending on currency exchange rate (dollar vs. CHF)

Costs **NOT** covered:

- \$1200-\$1500 airfare, estimated based on 2007 prices.
- \$500 for hut lodging: averages ~\$65/night for 1/2 board: dorm bunk, breakfast & dinner
- \$200 for local tram and train fare from Zermatt: \$40-\$80 per trip
- ~\$700 for up to 7-8 nights at huts and 3 tram/train trips depending on huts/trams/trains.
- \$200-\$500 for groceries and meals in Zermatt when staying at the apartment

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depending on personal preference and time spent in Zermatt.

- \$2600 - \$3500 **estimated** total cost for the entire trip
- Do to the flexible nature of this trip, mountain travel and lodging, trams and huts, and Zermatt meals are **NOT** included in the price of the trip to allow climbers to only pay for these expenses that they will actually use.

Participants will be asked to attend a planning meeting around March 1. The leader will arrange a series of training and get acquainted hikes and climbs beginning in late spring.

For an application packet, please contact Bill Blazek via email at wjb@pcisys.net, strongly preferred, or 11966 West Bowles Circle, Littleton, Colorado 80127. No phone calls please.

Modifying an Expedition Sled for *Easy Hauling* by Todd Bublitz & Jonathan White

Using a hauling sled on an Arctic or Denali expedition is a standard practice. Even using a sled on weekend trips in Colorado can make winter camping more comfortable. There are a few things you can do to make hauling a sled more comfortable and efficient.



Better tracking with rails

Adding rails to the bottom of the sled helps the sled to track better; on side-cuts or traverses the rails help the sled from sliding down the fall line. The rails are made from $\frac{1}{2}$ inch angled aluminum. Cut the aluminum into two 15 to 20 inch sections and attach to the bottom of the sled. Use screws that are just long enough to fit through the bottom of the sled. Use a spring loaded washer and epoxy/lock tight to secure the screw. Make sure the rails are centered toward the rear third of the sled.

It is important to cut or grind the front of the rail at an angle so it will slide forward more easily.

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Brakes

A 4-foot section of 1-inch webbing makes a great brake for traveling down hill. Tie several large knots in the webbing and sling underneath sled. This will help keep the sled from hitting you in the ankles. On steeper slopes let the sled drag on the side of the fall line -- exactly the opposite side you would place your ice axe -- this will prevent the sled from running into you.



Attaching your sled bag

The traditional method of tying down gear inside your sled is to drill about a dozen holes around the perimeter of your sled and tie small loops of cord through each hole. Then you use about 15 feet of cord threaded back and forth through the loops and over the gear. This can be tedious and may prevent you from accessing the gear in your sled while on the trail. An alternative is to put a length of cord through the loops around the circumference of the sled and use 1-inch straps with slide release buckles to hold your bag of gear. Start with three 40-inch straps that came with slide release buckles and cut them about 12" from the female part of the buckle. Put the male end of the buckle on the newly cut strap

and put a tri-glide on the free end of the straps. Don't forget to burn the new cuts.

It is very easy to un-buckle your sled bag, dig inside, then buckle it all back up. It is also quickly and easily adjusted. The whole thing costs less than \$10 and takes about 15 minutes to make.

INTERESTED IN LEADING YOUR OWN TRIP, TREK, OR EXPEDITION??

If interested, contact Jim Rickard [HAMS.Expeditions@cmc.org]

Upcoming Trips

Upcoming trips approved by the ExCom, as well as tentative trips in the planning stage are listed below. For more information, and for other trips offered by Adventure Travel, be sure to check listings on the CMC website at www.cmc.org/events/events.

To request an application for approved trips, or for even more information, contact the leader at the phone number or email shown.

Don't forget to submit your story to Thin Air!

You do not have to climb an exotic peak in a foreign country to be eligible for a submission! Please submit your latest adventure or other article to

spykerd@comcast.net

APPROVED HAMS TRIPS



Climbs in the Alps, Zermatt, Switzerland area:

August 9 – 24, 2008

Estimated Cost: \$900 + airfare + huts + trams + some meals

Leader: Bill Blazek

Refer to page 2 and 3 of this newsletter for complete information on this trip

Gran Paradiso, Italy: Park & Peak (13,324')

August 24-September 4, 2008

\$4,280 + \$380 for optional peak climb

Leader: Steve Bonowski



Please join the High Altitude Mountaineering Section for a new type of international outing: a hybrid trip. We will trek in very scenic Gran Paradiso National Park located in far northwest Italy, just southeast of the Mont Blanc area. The trek involves hiking from small town to small town, from hut to hut. Hiking is with a day pack, although participants will need to carry a few more things when we are staying in huts without road access for the baggage taxi. For the final day on trek, the hikers will descend while the climbers utilize an alpine start to do a roped glacial climb on low angle ice & snow of the Peak itself. After a successful visit to the picturesque summit, we will follow the climbers down to our last night on the trek in Pont. Cost of the trip includes round trip air fare to Geneva; transport to/ from Geneva and from Chamonix to Le Tri and return from Pont; all lodging with half board; most lunches; guide fees; luggage transfers; leader expenses; and CMC fee. Cost does not include a few meals; souvenir purchases; bar tab; any kind of evacuation or other insurance. Final cost may vary slightly depending on air fares and currency exchange rate (dollar vs. euro).

For an application packet, please contact Steve Bonowski at P.O. box 280286, Lakewood CO 80228-0286 or via e-mail at nztrekker@earthlink.net. No phone calls please.

Muztagh Ata, China, 7546 meters (24,758')

July 1-Jul24, 2008 \$5480

Leaders: Steve Bonowski / Andy White



We are all very excited about this expedition to China, the first ever High Altitude Mountaineering Section trip to that country. Muztagh is located in far northwest China, near the borders with Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan, and despite its gentle slopes, is the 43rd highest mountain in the world. The standard route on the mountain involves minimal exposure to crevasses and low angle snow climbing in the upper 1,000+ meters of the climb. Summer weather on the mountain is generally benign, although snowfall can occur at any time of the year. Cost of the trip includes international air fare to Kashgar; hotel in Kashgar; transport to Base Camp and return; airport transfers; all permits & liaison officer fees; full board at Base Camp; guide service on the mountain; Chinese visa; limited leader expenses; and CMC fee.

Cost does not include rental or purchase of equipment; food on the mountain above Base Camp; evacuation or other insurance; any use of porters; souvenir purchases; or bar tab. Final cost may vary slightly depending on air fares and currency exchange rates (guide cost is priced in Euros).

For an application packet, please contact Steve at P.O. Box 280286, Lakewood CO 80228-0286 or via e-mail at nztrekker@earthlink.net. No phone calls please.

SUBMIT YOUR OWN HIGH PEAKS

Call for Submissions for the 2007 HAMS "Climbers List"

LAST CALL FOR 2007 CLIMBS !!!

Submissions for 2007 required by January 31

It's time to submit your name and climbs for the third annual list of higher or "exotic" peaks climbed by HAMS members.

Submit your climbs to HAMS.Expeditions@cmc.org (or mail to the CMC, attention: HAMS), please include, as a minimum: **Your name, peak name, summit elevation, location, & date climbed.**

This is similar to "The 14'ers List" and "Beyond the 14'ers," published annually in the Trail and Timberline, but a bit more -- well -- arbitrary. The rules, such as they are, include:

- 1) Climbs must be submitted by January 31 2008.
- 2) Only climbs during calendar year 2007 will be listed.
- 3) An effort will be made to recognize valiant attempts that failed to reach the summit. If this describes your climb, please also indicate the approximate elevation reached, and reason for turning back.
- 4) For all climbs, commentary and/or photographs are appreciated, and may be published at the discretion of the editor as space permits.
- 5) Finally, what constitutes a "higher or 'exotic' peak"? This is where it really gets arbitrary:
 - a) No Colorado peaks. Colorado has lots of peaks and routes which clearly deserve to be called "exotic," but HAMS doesn't want to be in the position of deciding which are, and which are not. If you've climbed one of these, you are invited to write an article for Thin Air.
 - b) Any peak outside of Colorado of 14,000 feet or more.
- e) Lower peaks outside of Colorado that present a degree of difficulty, either in climbing or access. For example, Granite Peak (12,745) Montana, counts, Mount Sunflower (4,039) Kansas, probably doesn't. Unnamed 3,353, the highest point in Gabon, does.



The High-Altitude Section of the Colorado Mountain Club

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