

The High-Altitude Section of the Colorado Mountain Club

THIN AIR



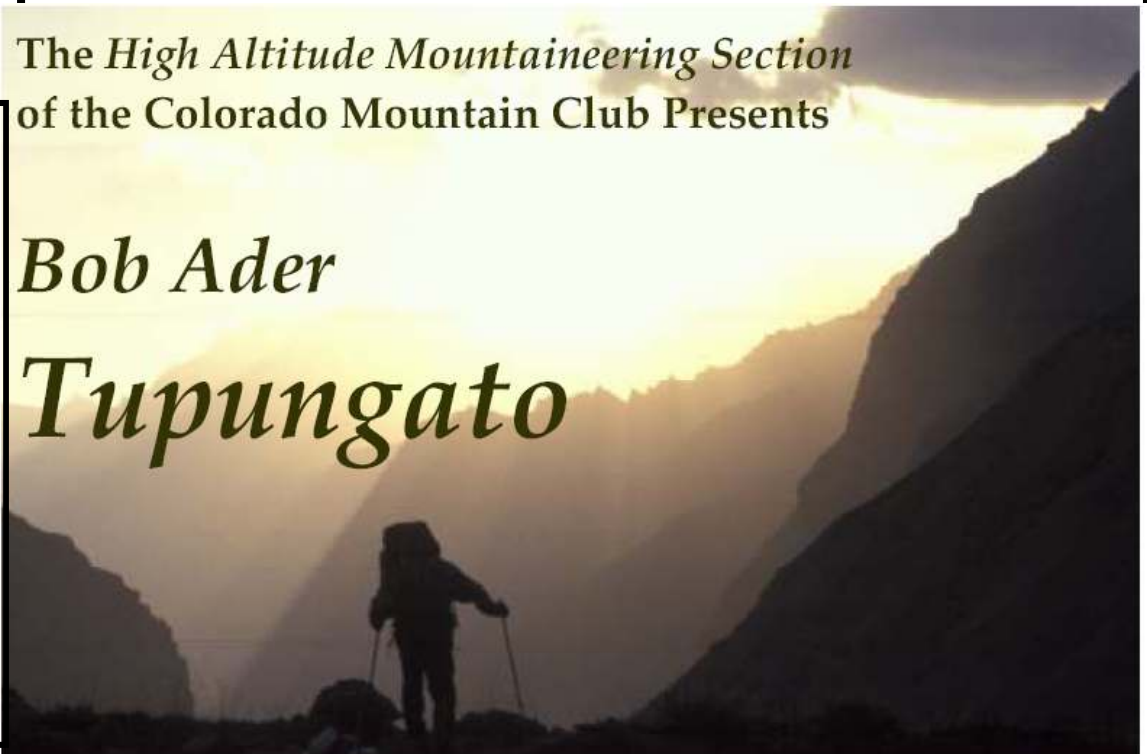
Volume 20, No 2

March, 2008

The High Altitude Mountaineering Section
of the Colorado Mountain Club Presents

Bob Ader

Tupungato



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Bob Ader - *Tupungato*

Wednesday, April 16, 2008

7:00 PM

American Mountaineering Center

710 10th Street

Golden, Colorado

FREE AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

I received a phone call in the summer of 1999 inviting me on an attempt to climb Tupungato, a 21,500 foot peak on the Andean crest between Chile and Argentina.

The person who made the invite was Kurt Diemberger, the legendary climber and high altitude photographer/film maker. It was an opportunity that could not be passed up. This presentation is about this trip to Tupungato with Kurt.

Congratulations to 2007's HAMS "Climbers!"

Thanks to everyone who contributed their accomplishments to the third annual list of higher or "exotic" peaks climbed by HAMS members. This year we had 43 people submit 81 climbs! This compares to 25 people and 36 climbs in 2006 and only 4 people / 7 climbs in 2005.

We know there are a lot of active climbers within HAMS, be sure to submit your 2008 climbs to HAMS.Expeditions@cmc.org, and let's see how long a list we can get!

2007 CLIMBERS LIST

Name	Peak	Elevation (FT)	Location	Date (2007)
Tom Adams	Mont Blanc	15,770	France	July
	Monte Rosa	15,200	Switzerland	July
	Breithorn	13,658	Switzerland	July
	Castor	13,868	Switzerland	July
Seth Allen	Huascarán Sur	22,200	Peru	August
Mandy Baker	Huascarán Sur	22,200	Peru	August
Vern Bass	Mont Blanc	15,770	France	July
	Monte Rosa	15,200	Switzerland	July
Kristin Bjornsen	Huascarán Sur	22,200	Peru	August
Bill Blazek	Mont Blanc	15,770	France	July
	Monte Rosa	15,200	Switzerland	July
	Breithorn	13,658	Switzerland	July
	Castor	13,868	Switzerland	July
	Granite Peak	12,799	Montana	July
Sam Briggs	Granite Peak	12,799	Montana	July
Kevin Cahill	Breithorn	13,658	Switzerland	July
Bob Dawson	Mont Blanc	15,770	France	July
	Monte Rosa	15,200	Switzerland	July
	Kilimanjaro	19,340	Tanzania	January
Gary Doyle	Granite Peak	12,799	Montana	July
Dorothea Frohner	Mount Elbrus	18,510	Russia	July
Gary Hellenga	Mont Blanc	15,770	France	July
	Monte Rosa	15,200	Switzerland	July
	Granite Peak	12,799	Montana	July
Lynn Hellenga	Mont Blanc	15,770	France	July
Wayne Herrick	Mont Blanc	15,770	France	July
	Monte Rosa	15,200	Switzerland	July
	Breithorn	13,658	Switzerland	July
	Castor	13,868	Switzerland	July
	Grand Teton	13,770	Wyoming	July
	Granite Peak	12,799	Montana	July
Lisa Herter	Mount Hood	11,249	Oregon	July
Stanley Kaliszan	Mont Blanc	15,770	France	July
	Castor	13,868	Switzerland	July
	Pollux	13,418	Switzerland	July
	Grand Teton	13,770	Wyoming	July
	Granite Peak	12,799	Montana	July



Huascarán Sur



Mt Elbrus

CLIMBERS LIST CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

CLIMBERS LIST CONTINUED FROM PREVIOUS PAGE

2007 CLIMBERS LIST

Name	Peak	Elevation (FT)	Location	Date (2007)
George Kasynski	Jebel Toubkal	13,657	Morocco	September
	Gannett Peak	13,804	Wyoming	August
Stu Knapp	Mount Hood	11,249	Oregon	June
Jeff Kunkle	Grand Teton	13,770	Wyoming	July
	Granite Peak	12,799	Montana	July
Laurie Loshaek	Jebel Toubkal	13,657	Morocco	September
	Gannett Peak	13,804	Wyoming	August
Denise Maceyka	Breithorn	13,658	Switzerland	July
Tom Maceyka	Mont Blanc	15,770	France	July
	Breithorn	13,658	Switzerland	July
Rich McAdams	Mont Blanc	15,770	France	July
	Monte Rosa	15,200	Switzerland	July
	Grand Teton	13,770	Wyoming	July
	Granite Peak	12,799	Montana	July
John Mitchler	Kilimanjaro	19,340	Tanzania	February
	Lata Mountain	3,160	American Samoa	October
Stephen Nypaver	Island Peak	20,305	Nepal	October
Greg Olson	Mount Hood	11,249	Oregon	July
	Mount Rainier	14,411	Washington	July
Doug Paige	Mount Hood	11,249	Oregon	June
Scott Papich	Huascaran Sur	22,200	Peru	August
Jim Rickard	Mont Blanc	15,770	France	July
	Castor	13,868	Switzerland	July
	Pollux	13,418	Switzerland	July
Gerry Roach	Jebel Toubkal	13,657	Morocco	September
Jennifer Roach	Jebel Toubkal	13,657	Morocco	September
Jan Schmidt	Mont Blanc	15,770	France	July
	Monte Rosa	15,200	Switzerland	July
	Grand Teton	13,770	Wyoming	July
	Granite Peak	12,799	Montana	July
Mark Scott-Nash	Huascaran Sur	22,200	Peru	August
Doris Spencer	Gannett Peak	13,804	Wyoming	August
Brad Spooner	Huascaran Sur	22,200	Peru	August
Darin Spykerman	Mount Hood	11,249	Oregon	June
Jenn Spykerman	Mount Hood	11,249	Oregon	June
Kathee Thomure	Kilimanjaro	19,340	Tanzania	January
	Mount Meru	14,980	Tanzania	February
John Wallack	Mount Hood	11,249	Oregon	June
Kris Wallack	Mount Hood	11,249	Oregon	June
Kurt Wibbenmeyer	Mont Blanc	15,770	France	July
	Castor	13,868	Switzerland	July
	Pollux	13,418	Switzerland	July
Kent Willoughby	Gannett Peak	13,804	Wyoming	August
Jack Zuzack	Huascaran Sur	22,200	Peru	August



Jebel Toubkal

Read the article on Island Peak on Page 4



MT HOOD

Island Peak—2007 CLIMBERS LIST ARTICLE

Island Peak, Nepal, by Stephen Nypaver III

I have always wanted to see Mount Everest and climb in the Himalayas in Nepal. Reading Tigers of the Snow by Tenzig Norgay, Into Thin Air, and climbing books all increased my desire. Summitting a fourteener just was not enough to satisfy my climbing dreams.

In early October of 2007 my wife, Robin, and I went to Nepal with a group from the Colorado Mountain Club to trek in the Mount Everest area and to give me a chance to climb a 6,000 meter (or 20,000') mountain named Island Peak. So after nine days of trekking from Lukla, I and five others and a group of Sherpas started on a two day climb of Island Peak. We had a high camp at over 17,700'. After a short night of little sleep, we were up at 1:30 am to go up. It was dark, cold, and rocky. At the snowline, we put on all of our snow gear –crampons, harnesses, ascenders, etc. – to go up snowfields and the glacier. At around 9:00 am on Friday, October 12, 2007, a beautiful day, I stood on the small top of Island Peak, 20,305'! All around we could see the famous mountains of the Himalayas, to include Lhotse, Makalu, Nupste, and Ama Dablam. I was really tired, but very happy that I could climb so high and fulfill a dream. Nepal was a great place to visit, and the Sherpas there are some of the best persons in the world

And I did it! And, wow, was it hard to do. We flew on a two engine plane from Kathmandu to Lukla. The runway at Lukla is only 450 meters long, so I was sure that we were going to die when the pilot would try to land our little two engine Otter. Amazingly, he stopped the plane before we could crash into the mountain at the end of the runway. We had 31 Sherpas and 28 dzopkyos (a crossbreed between a yak and a cow) to support the 20 of us. Quite an expedition. So we went off, downhill, to Phakding for our first camp by the river. Though we slept in tents most of the time, we were always able to eat in the teahouses or lodges that lined the way along the trail. The Sherpa cooks always served us a great meal – usually potatoes, and more potatoes, and then more potatoes. No, we really did have a variety of food, to include hot soups, pizzas, hard-boiled eggs, and popcorn.

Our second day involved a long uphill hike, crossing a lot of suspension bridges, to Namache Bazaar. It was a hot day, and whenever we had a steep section to go up, the dzopkyos always seemed to let loose and litter the trail with dung patties. I always tried not to step on those, especially later when I saw young girls coming along to pick up the patties and carry them home to be dried out to use as fuel. We stayed in a teahouse, the Panorama Lodge, in Namache, for two days to acclimatize to the altitude. During the next seven days, we went by Tengboche Monastery, where I met a Buddhist monk, Nwangza, who invited me into his room, made tea for me, gave me a kata scarf, and led me to a loud – horns, drums, chants – prayer ceremony. We saw Everest, which would peek in and out through the clouds. We climbed ridges lines with stupas, passed lots of gompas and mani (Buddhist prayer) stones on the trail, and greeted lots of Sherpas with their traditional greeting “Namaste.” At Chukhung, we climbed Chukhung Ri, at 18,208,' to help acclimate. One of our Sherpas, Lama, was on top, waiting for us as we made it to the summit. Prayer flags dropped from the columns of stone. To the east, Island Peak stood out, south of Lhotse.

From a high camp at over 17,000', Mingma, a Sherpa, led the 6 climbers on the rocks in the darkness. A little before daylight, we reached the snow and put on our snow climbing gear. As the sun was coming up, we reached the big, high-angle headwall then we had to go up using our ascenders, ice ax, and crampons. The now hot sun made it truly grueling to go up,

MT VINSON, ANTARCTICA 2008-2009

Private expedition looking for climbers with solid experience -- Denali or equivalent. We have been approved by ANI to lead an unguided team (saves about \$3K) on the mountain. A group of 3-6 would be ideal for this 2 week+ trip in Dec/Jan. Contact Bob Dawson at robinmnts@yahoo.com or Wayne Herrick at wherrick9@cs.com for more information.

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

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, Weissshorn, Zinalrothorn, and many others.

For an application packet, please contact Bill Blazek via email at wjb@pcisys.net.

Gran Paradiso, Italy: Park & Peak , Aug 24– Sept 4, 2008 (\$4280 +380 optional peak) 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 (24,758') July 1—July 24, 2008 (\$5480) Leaders, Steve Bonowski / Andy White



We are all are 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.

Kilimanjaro, 19,340' Feb 7-21, 2009 \$5250, I ncluding air, Leader: Steve Bonowski



SPECIAL SAFETY NOTE: as this is written on Feb. 1, '08, the present political violence in East Africa is confined to Kenya. Tanzania is not affected, and due to different tribes and government philosophy, likely will not be. We will offer the optional 3rd week extension to Mt. Kenya again if the situation in Kenya stabilizes.

We're back with the 7th Kilimanjaro trip sponsored by the Club's High Altitude Mountaineering Section. Kili is the world's largest free- standing mountain and is one of the fabled Seven Summits. We again will do the Machame Route and stay at the famous Marangu Hotel, first visited by Club members in the 1950s. The trip includes a four day budget safari to Serengeti, Lake Manyara, and Ngorongoro Crater. A series of training & get-acquainted hikes will be offered beginning in October. Nights are a mixture of a rustic hotel with full amenities, travelers camps, and tent camping. Excellent physical conditioning is required, and a high comfort level with 3rd world travel. Posted price includes air fare, lodging, ground transport, visa costs, Park fees, most meals, leader expenses, and CMC fee. Cost does not include shots, medications, travel insurance, bar tab, excess baggage fees, and a few meals. Final cost may vary slightly depending on air fares and currency exchange. Trip packets are available by regular mail only after March 15 from the trip leader, Steve Bonowski, at nztrekker@earthlink.net, or P.O. Box 280286, Lakewood CO 80228. No phone calls please.

dressed in all of our cold weather gear. Pasang, another Sherpa, was there, near the top of the wall, to encourage us. Of course we still had more to go, up a narrow ridge trail to the small summit of Island Peak, 20,305' (6,189 m). We all made it. I was pooped. But we were all happy as could be to have made it and to look at all the high, famous Himalas surrounding us.

Before and after the trek, we were in Kathmandu for a few days. Pemba Sherpa, our leader and organizer (he lives in Boulder, CO) found a nice hotel in the quieter embassy district for us to stay in. Their breakfast tea was delicious. For supper, Pemba led us out to Nepalese, Chinese, and other great ethnic restaurants. And of course there was the sightseeing of the monkey temple, Swayambhunath, and Bouddanath, a very large stupa. We had a lunch in Kopan Monastery, overlooking Kathmandu. A monk, who spoke excellent English, was our guide. The monasteries all had very large statues of Buddha. We had to shop too. The prices are not fixed, so there is bargaining, sometimes lots of bargaining. Robin bought two curved knives, kukris. I got a few Tibetan wool rugs from a shop near the Tibetan refugee area of Kathmandu, and a Buddhist prayer wheel. You spin the wheel and it says the prayers that are inscribed on the wheel - a nice concept. A few people of our group wore mouth masks in Kathmandu, since Kathmandu's air is very polluted with traffic fumes. A nice place to visit, but don't live there!

It was interesting to me, to be able to hike along the same paths that all the great climbers and other notables, who went on to climb Everest, had to use. Most of the women in our group wanted to take their Sherpa home with them, since they are so wonderful, helpful, and happy. It was truly a great adventure for us. Even on our difficult days on the trek, no one seemed to chant "O mommy, take me home." (A parody of the Buddhist mantra "Om Mani Padme Hum.") Namaste.



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Mountain Club**

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