



THIN AIR

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HAMS IS HEADED TO 25,000 FEET ! (almost, 24,758')

A HAMS expedition is headed to China in July. They will climb Muztagh Ata. The trip is confirmed, however there are still a few spots open. Refer to page 5 of this newsletter for more information.



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HAMS SEMINAR IS GETTING READY FOR 2008

The High Altitude Mountaineering Section of the Denver group will present its twentieth annual seminar on high altitude mountaineering this fall. The seminar consists of six sessions on consecutive Monday nights starting October 6 and ending November 10, from 7:00 to approximately 9:30 p.m.

Experienced climbers will present lectures on topics as diverse as organizing an expedition, fitness and conditioning, nutrition and menu planning, high altitude/cold weather medical issues and group dynamics. Mountaineering slide shows from around the world will be featured to complement and expand upon the lecture topics.

Attendance of the seminar is a prerequisite for admission to the High Altitude Mountaineering School.

HAMS SEMINAR—CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

ADVANCED CREVASSE RESCUE SEMINAR

It's that time of year again to brush up on your glacier travel skills before heading to Mt. Rainier, South America, Denali or other mountains around the world where crevasses pose a danger!

The ACRS Seminar includes a lecture, field day, and detailed workbook.



Crevasse near the summit of Mt Rainier, Photo: Todd Bublitz

The lecture will be held at the CMC clubhouse on Wednesday, May 28th. We will be reviewing knots, safe glacier team travel, and various rescue techniques including the "C" & "Z" rescue pulley systems.

The following Sunday, June 1st, we will simulate crevasse conditions by hanging victims over a cornice on top of Loveland Pass. There will be lots of hands-on practice for students performing as rescuers and victims.

Cost of the seminar is only \$35.00 for Denver members, and \$10 more for members of other CMC Groups. This seminar is open to HAMS graduates and those with comparable experience, and is not an introduction. This course is intended to be a detailed and complete review of glacier travel and crevasse rescue.

Deadline for sign-up is Wednesday, May 14th. If you have not taken the CMC HAMS School, please contact Brendan for permission to participate prior to registration.

If you have questions, contact Brendan Oldham at 303-810-6014 or brendan_oldham@yahoo.com

HAMS GRADUATES TO CLIMB MT RAINIER

Having successfully graduated from HAMS school, the HAMS graduates will climb Mt Rainier via the Winthrop- Emmons Route on July 9– July 14.

Congratulations to the following HAMS graduates and good luck on Rainier!

Dave Pellegrini - Sr. HAMS instructor
 Bob Dawson - Sr. HAMS instructor
 Jeff Kunkle - HAMS instructor
 Michele Graves - Asst. HAMS instructor
 Dan Peterson - previous HAMS graduate
 Sharon Adams - current graduate
 Tiff Nix - current graduate
 Tom Kavanaugh - current graduate
 Scott Nichols - current graduate
 Lee Mebel - current graduate
 John Brooks - current graduate
 Mike Stesney - current graduate



WANT MORE INFORMATION ABOUT HAMS?

VISIT THE RECENTLY UPDATED HAMS WEBSITE AT: WWW.CMCHAMS.ORG

Packing for a Trek or a Climb?

By John Wallack

As the cost of fuel climbs, the airlines have been changing some of the baggage allotments. Both the size and weight limits have changed. Note the new attitude about size. That didn't seem a problem in the good ol' days of XXL duffels. The cost for going over the limits may be a significant budget item for your next trip to far off places. I checked into the new baggage rules for United / Air Canada for an upcoming trip to Peru. Here's the latest and greatest on baggage and stoves.

Baggage Weight

For international flights, we are allowed 2 - 50lb., 62" L+W+H bags as "free" check-in. (Bags #1, #2) For bags #1 and #2: if either bag is between 50 and 70 lbs, it is \$50 per bag for over weight. (don't pack beyond 70lbs.) If there is a 3rd bag (#3), it must conform to the 50lb limit, and it costs \$100/bag. If it is over 50 lbs, it also adds another \$50 overweight.

Baggage Size

All bags have the L+W+H size limitation of 62". Over size and over weight fees are additive. (i.e., you can't carry a 3rd elephant) L+W+H between 62 and 115 inches is \$200/bag. Over 115" is not allowed.

So how much volume do you get for the L+W+H size limitation of 62"? Minimum: if you have a 1" X 1" X 62" duffel (not common), you check in 62 cu. in. Maximum: if you have a cube of 20.67" X 20.67" X 20.67", you check in 8831 cu. in. Typical: an XL duffel of 15" X 15" X 32" gives you 7200 cu. in., or 81% efficiency. If you have a circular duffel 15" diameter X 32", you check in 5654 cu. in., or 64% efficiency.

On LAN Peru are you can check 25 Kg (~55lbs) and carry on 8 Kg. (~17lbs) Tighter than the international flight. There are now flights to Huaraz, but the baggage limits are only check 10 Kg and carry on 5 Kg.

Continued on page 6

Call for Submissions for the 2008 HAMS "Climbers List"

HAMS is accepting submissions of names and climbs for the fourth 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 2009.
- 2) Only climbs during calendar year 2008 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.
 - c) 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.

HAMS SEMINAR—CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

The seminar is open to all interested CMC members and the general public. It will take place at the Foss Auditorium in the American Mountaineering Center in Golden. Dates for specific topics may change due to speaker availability.

Tuition is as follows:

\$40 for CMC Members who pre-register.

\$45 for Non-CMC Members and CMC Members who do not pre-register.

\$8 for individual evenings, payable at the door (CMC Members as well as Non-CMC Members).

To register call the CMC office, signup on line with your credit care or send your name, address, phone number and check made out to "CMC" to the CMC office. Please note "HAMS Seminar" on your check.

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

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

JOIN HAMS MEMBERS AS WELL AS OTHERS AT THE
HAMS RENDEZVOUS, SEPTEMBER 13-14, 2008

MORE INFORMATION TO FOLLOW

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

Muztagh Ata, China (24,758') July 1—July 24, 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.

Kilimanjaro, 19,340' Feb 7-21, 2009 \$5250, Including 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.

Parincota (20,767), Pomerape (20,413), & Sajama (21,463), Bolivia

SUMMER, 2009

TENTATIVE TRIP

On the border between Chile and Bolivia, these are extinct volcanoes that are accessed through the beautiful Sajama National Park.

Sajama is the highest point in Bolivia.



A "quick quote" for FEDEX of a single 100 lb 15"X15"X48" duffel with a value of \$300 from Conifer to Lima, Peru: \$2007.65. That answers that...

Stoves

The United agent was very helpful and read the fine print in the United policies for me. UA is the same as Air Canada on stoves. Backpacking/climbing stoves may be checked if it has never been used and is in its original packaging. Fuel can not be checked. If the stove has been used, and the fuel tank is integral, it can not be checked. If the stove has been used, and the fuel tank is separate, the stove may be checked and the used fuel canister can not be checked. A new fuel canister, in its original packaging, may be checked. MSR Fuel Bottle - 22 oz. \$17.95 Primus Fuel Bottle - 530ml \$15.00 Coleman Expedition Apex Fuel Bottle - 22 oz. \$12.95 Snow Peak Fuel Bottle \$12.95

So if you're planning your next adventure and you have a lot of weight or bulk, it may pay to read the fine print for all the legs of your trip. Happy packing!



**The High-Altitude Section of the Colorado
Mountain Club**

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