



BCMC

BC Mountaineering Club

Newsletter

**BCMC SOCIAL: GUNNBJØRN, THE ARCTIC'S HIGHEST PEAK
RAVIL CHAMGOULOV CONQUERS HIS 8TH SUMMIT
TUESDAY, OCT. 13TH - 7:30 ANZA CLUB**

Sept. 2015, Vol 93, No. 7

NEW MEMBERS

The **BCMC** welcomes the following new members: Graham Holwill, Jackie Reid, Scott McBride, Robin Tsui, Stephane Mousseau, Guntis Griksis, Roman Babicki, Bahareh Ashtiani, Claude Forest, Candice Ciesla, Jordan Schilling, Vasily Lisovskiy, Stephanie Morris, Mike Zinkevych, Glen Parker, Michelle Herrewynen, Sari Keinonen, Hunter Hamilton, Carol Kucel, Yuling Liu, Negar Roudgari, Tyler Kellogg, Amanda Thalmann, Gavin King, Bart Adrian, Paul Masiar, Shealen Clare, Sean Jewell, Isabel McFetridge, and Liam Blackmore.

UPCOMING TRIP SCHEDULE- Sign up, updates, and details at www.bcmc.ca

SEPT

20	Joffre Lakes Hike	Hiking	Kal Badela
22	Sport Climbing at Cheakamus Canyon	Rock Climbing	Paul Olynek
25	Fat Camp-Joffre Group	Mountaineering	William Ferguson
25-27	Washington Pass - Autumn Alpine Rock Camp	Rock Climbing	John Beeckler
26	Moderate Slab Climbing	Rock Climbing	Paul Olynek
26	Frosty Mountain	Hiking	Winifred Swatschek
29	VIFF documentary: MERU (2015)	Other	Oudina Cherfi
30	Sport Climbing at Cheakamus Canyon	Rock Climbing	Paul Olynek

OCT

1	Wilderness First Aid Practice Session	Practice	Geoffrey Swannell
3	Luxuria Pk.	Mountaineering	Alastair Ferries
3	Zum & Zopkios	Hiking	Karl Ricker
3	Intro Multi-Pitch Climbing - Altn Day 2 (FULL)	Instructional Program	Paul Olynek
6	BCMC Volunteers Team Meeting	Volunteer Meeting	BCMC Executive
10	Sport Climbing at Cheakamus Canyon	Rock Climbing	Paul Olynek
10	Garibaldi Lake	Hiking	Paul Olynek
10	Peak 5400	Hiking	Joanne Boutin
12	A Youth Wasted Climbing	Presentation	Anders Ourom
13	How to Organize Trips	nstruotional Program	Marlaina Rhymer
13	The Highest Peak in the Arctic	Social	Doug Lonsbrough
17	Rainbow Lake	Hiking	Paul Olynek
18	Mountaineering Movie: Everest 3D (2015)	Other	Paul Olynek
24	Panorama Ridge	Hiking	Paul Olynek
31	Heliotroping	Backcountry Skiing	Angus Robb
31	Coliseum Mountain	Hiking	Paul Olynek

NOV

3	Cypress ski/showboard season pass	Discount Deadline	Radmila Bridges
3	BCMC Volunteers Team Meeting	Volunteer Meeting	BCMC Executive
5	MEC Fall "10% Discount" Club Night	Discount Shopping	Marlaina Rhymer
8	Dry Tooling Practice for Mixed-Climbing	Mixed Climbing	Paul Olynek
10	BCMC Annual General Meeting	Volunteer Meeting	David Scanlon
10	Climbing and Skiing in BC and the Rockies	Social	Doug Lonsbrough
13-15	Dragontail Triple Couloir	Mixed Climbing	Adrian Lazar
14	Heliotroping	Backcountry Skiing	Angus Robb
20-21	Black Tusk	Backcountry Skiing	Angus Robb
27-29	Early Winter Mixed Climbing Sessions	Mixed Climbing	Adrian Lazar

SCHEDULED TRIPS: HOW THEY WORK

Participation on club trips is open to any person with adequate skills and experience, subject to the approval of the trip organizer. All non-member participants must sign a disclosure and waiver form relieving the club and all other participants on the trip from any liability.

A trip organizer is not a certified guide. The function of the organizer is to organize the trip, ensure that it gets underway, know the access to the area, and know a route or routes on the climb.

It is expected that each person on a club trip has the necessary skills, experience, fitness, and equipment. The organizer may specify certain equipment mandatory for participation in a trip. Any person who attempts to participate in a club trip without such mandatory equipment may be requested to withdraw.

Each person on a club trip is responsible for his or her own safety and for checking the equipment used. Please be considerate and call the trip organizer more than 1 day prior to the trip. If you are given a ride, please remember to pay the driver your portion of the car costs. If you decide not to go on a trip for which you have previously registered, please be courteous and inform the trip organizer.



BRITISH COLUMBIA MOUNTAINEERING CLUB
P.O. BOX 20042
VANCOUVER, B.C.,
V5Z 0C1

email: info@bcmc.ca
 website: www.bcmc.ca

HONOURARY PRESIDENTS: ESTHER & MARTIN KAFER

EXECUTIVE VOLUNTEERS & OFFICERS

PRESIDENT:	DAVID SCANLON
VICE-PRESIDENT:	BRITTANY ZENGER
PAST-PRESIDENT:	TODD PONZINI
SECRETARY:	BOB WOODHOUSE
TREASURER:	ALENA DZUJKOVA
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The **BC MOUNTAINEERING CLUB NEWSLETTER** is an official publication of the B.C. Mountaineering Club and is published 10 times per year (every month except July and August). All material within this newsletter is copyright © British Columbia Mountaineering Club.

SUBMISSIONS: We want you to write for us! Any submitted news, events, trip reports, letters relevant to the BCMC will be published unless the club executive decides otherwise.

Please contact bcmc.editor@gmail.com to submit material.

ABOUT SUBMISSIONS: For photos, high resolution is much appreciated. Submitted material may be edited for clarity or brevity, or for consistency with club policies. Opinions and comments expressed in this newsletter are not necessarily those of the BCMC.



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CLUB EQUIPMENT FOR HIRE

The club maintains a satellite phone and ice tools, which are available for rental by members only.

Ice Tool - \$5 per day per tool
 Satellite Phone - \$60/week; \$10 per day + \$2 per minute used

Fees are non-refundable and payable in advance and a refundable deposit may be required, at the equipment custodian's discretion. Instructional Programs are exempt from rental fees, all other uses are subject to the rental fees.

The satellite phone is rented from Peter Gumplinger (604-733-8264), who should be contacted at least 3 weeks prior to the day it is wanted.

Ice climbing axes are rented from Werner Grzimek.

OCT 13TH SOCIAL: THE '8TH SUMMIT' – GUNNBJØRN, THE HIGHEST PEAK IN THE ARCTIC

On 8 May 2015, BCMC Member Ravil Chamgoulov, stepped onto the summit of Gunnbjørn, the highest peak in the Arctic. Ravil's successful climb of Gunnbjørn marked the end of a journey that began in 2004.

In the past Ravil soloed Aconcagua, Denali, Elbrus, Gunnbjørn, Kilimanjaro and Kosciuszko. And while he joined unguided expeditions to Everest and Vinson Massif to reduce the logistical burden, Ravil climbed both peaks on his own once he arrived at the base camps.

Join us as Ravil shares stories and photos from his latest climb and his '8th Summit.'

Everyone is welcome: visitors, members, and guests. The meeting will take place at the Vancouver ANZA Club main floor (corner of 8th Ave and Ontario) on Tuesday, October 13th 2015. Doors open shortly after 7pm and the meeting begins at 7:30pm. **Note: you must be 19+ years old to attend and may be asked to sign-in at the door to ensure we don't exceed 135 people in the hall.

NOVEMBER 10TH: BCMC ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING EXECUTIVE VOLUNTEER ELECTIONS, AND WATER-SPRITE LAKE CABIN BUILDING FUNDS VOTE

As part of the Social evening on November 10th, 2015, the BCMC will hold its 2015 Annual General Meeting (AGM) The AGM will consist of three parts:

1) Financials: The 2014/15 Financial reports from the Executive volunteers will be submitted followed by a presentation of the 2014/15 BCMC Financial statement to be approved by the membership.

2) Executive Election: The names of club members running for Executive volunteer positions will be put forward and voted on as a group. In the rare instance an election is called, voting ballots will be provided and cast.

3) Watersprite Lake Cabin Construction Funds: The Watersprite Lake Cabin Building Committee will ask the membership to release funds for the cabin construction. For details about the Watersprite Lake Project regarding, planning, location, and budget please go to www.waterspritecabin.ca



If you are interested in volunteering on the BCMC Executive, please contact President Dave Scanlon for details regarding positions becoming available in the 2015/16 season.

Dave Scanlon can be reached at 604-230-2601, or email him at David.Hiker@gmail.com

A YOUTH WASTED CLIMBING

JOIN AUTHOR DAVID CHAUDRY-SMART, founding editor of Grippled Magazine, for the Vancouver launch of his book, ***A Youth Wasted Climbing***. With its vivid accounts of short and nasty climbs, dubious mentors, hapless climbing partners, and questionable climbing techniques, this is a memoir of coming of age in a simpler era of climbing, told with compassion, humour and insight.

Book Warehouse, 4118 Main St., on Monday, October 12, at 7:00 pm.



CYPRESS GROUP PRICING FOR ALPINE & NODIC SEASON PASSES

Radmila Bridges will be organizing Wednesday night club skiing at Cypress this season. If you are interested in going regularly, and want to buy a pass, go to the BCMC website's **CLUB RELATED NEWS** for all the details and links.

Deadline for Group Discount Pricing is NOVEMBER 3rd, 2015



MEC VANCOUVER FALL CLUB NIGHT IS HERE!

Thursday November 5th from 7:00 to 9:00 PM

Registered BCMC Members will receive 10% off on all regularly priced items purchased that evening. Members must **sign up** for the event on the BCMC website's Trip list where they can also find all further details.

Happy Shopping!



REEL ROCK 10

20% OFF REEL ROCK 10 ADVANCED TICKETS FOR BCMC MEMBERS

Rio Theatre: Nov. 14; Centennial Theatre: Nov 16

Films: Reel Rock 10 - *A Line Across the Sky*, *Dean Potter Tribute*, *High and Mighty*, *Showdown at Horseshoe Hell*, and *Dawn Wall: First Look*

For Discount details go to the BCMC website's **CLUB RELATED NEWS**



ITS TIME FOR ANOTHER MEC SNOWFEST!

VANCOUVER MEC: Sat, Nov 21; NORTH VAN MEC: Sat, Nov 28

Get in on tons of great deals at this legendary Snow Swap, partake in informative clinics and win some sweet prize giveaways!

Events start at 10am.

For more details go to events.mec.ca

FEATURED EVENT: HOW TO ORGANIZE TRIPS - TUESDAY, OCTOBER 13th, 6:00 (SHARP)

Join Executive Team Volunteers Marlaina Rhymer, Chris Ludwig, and Paul Olynek in this fun, informal, and interactive info session for those members who would like to know how to organize trips. This session is best for those who have been on a few trips but haven't organized one yet, or are just starting to organize your first one(s), though all members are welcome. If you're a BCMC member, then you **CAN ORGANIZE TRIPS**, and are very much encouraged to do so!

Course Overview:

Marlaina will discuss how to add club trips and the advantages for doing so.

Chris will be sharing his ideas for organizing a larger group during a club trip.

Paul will be available to help those that'd like to post a trip during this course.

Note: If you can't make this course there will be another How to Organize Trips session on the 8th of December

TRIP REPORT: EXPEDITION DENALI; WEST BUTTRESS

May-June, 2015

Climbers: Chris Bueley, Annie Maurer, and Tejbir Sandhar

Editor's note: *This trip report has been abridged from the original report due to space constraints. The full version will appear in the next edition of the BC MOUNTAINEER scheduled for publication in 2016*

"High altitude boots – check. Mitts – check. Ski goggles – check..." I mentally inventoried my gear for the umpteenth time while my climbing partners, Tej and Annie, began to set up and organize camp. This was Tej's second foray onto the mountain, having endured a difficult turnaround at over 18,000 ft on his first attempt in 2012; "Frozen fingers and toes," he had explained. Like myself, this was Annie's first go at the mountain and neither of us had been higher than 14,500 ft. The lessons learned from Tej's first attempt had been invaluable to us when planning for the expedition.

The most notable memory from the first night on the mountain was not the anticipation of climbing North America's highest peak, but being kept awake by a team of Japanese climbers singing, presumably, their national anthem repeatedly late into the night. When you are accustomed to being the only climbing party on the mountain, as is often the case in my home range of coastal BC, base camp on Denali is a strange place. It had previously been described to me as a mini-Ev-erest base camp. I think that's apt.

In the morning, we geared up and headed for Camp 1 at 7,800 ft. The route begins by descending a long but gentle slope affectionately referred to as Heartbreak Hill, a name that becomes self-evident when you consider having to slog back up it on your way off the mountain. We were all reasonable skiers. Well, OK, I was the only 'reasonable' skier and Tej and Annie were more of the 'expert' persuasion, but this was the first time skiing roped up with sleds for all of us. It was a comedy of errors for the first 200m with us being taken out by our own sleds, getting tangled in ropes/pull lines, and my personal favourite, sleds tipping over and grinding to a halt. I was glad there weren't any other teams around at this time to witness the spectacle. While it was a rough start, we eventually sorted out our technique and managed to ski to Camp 1 without further incident. We arrived early in the afternoon and spent the rest of the day lounging in the tent hiding from the afternoon sun. Tej complained of a headache to which we attributed the altitude and heat.

The next day, we woke up feeling strong and made it straight to Camp 2 at 9,700 ft in good time and without incident. I spent a fair amount of time thinking about how glad I was to be on skis on this section of the mountain as I suspiciously eyed the many cracks and depressions in the snow; crevasses were everywhere.

This is where things took a turn. Tej suffered another headache and this time it was debilitating. Tej knew what an altitude-related headache felt like and suspected this was something else. He was finishing up a course of antibiotic capsules for a strep throat infection he had been fighting prior to the trip and he connected the two. A dilemma: he could press on in the hopes that everything would work itself out, or turn around now and play it safe. The decision was further complicated by the fact that he was only suffering in the evenings. The prospect of his condition deteriorating higher up on the mountain was not appealing, and ultimately Tej made the prudent call to turn around. We sent him off with our spare tent and stove and he managed to hook up with another rope team lower on the mountain and safely made his way out. The next day Annie and I made our way up to Camp 3 (11,000 ft) in clear weather. Camp 3 exists in a bowl walled on two sides by massive snow slopes, one of which is riddled with seracs, and straight ahead is the notorious Motorcycle Hill – the current burial site of a Japanese climbing team that was wiped out by an avalanche a few years ago. While it is protected fairly well from the wind, radio reception is terrible at Camp 3; a problem when you are relying on radio-based weather forecasts.

Most teams do a double-carry between Camp 3 and Camp 4 (14,200 ft), and this was our plan. Like every day prior (four or five in a row now), we awoke to sunshine and clear skies. Feeling strong, we carried our cache all the way up to Camp 4, electing to skip the usual cache spot lower on the route. The effort took most of the day and at Camp 4 we were certainly feeling the altitude. By the time we returned to Camp 3, the weather had begun to change: our sunshine had disappeared and ominous clouds were rolling in.

The weather deteriorated further overnight. We awoke the next morning to a few meters of snow piled on our tent. A brief chat with other teams in the area revealed that the storm system that had rolled in was forecasted to last four or five days. We had one to two days' worth of food and fuel – we had just cached the rest up high. Oh shit.

The weather continued to worsen. The snowfall rate increased and the winds began to scream. Occasionally, the storm system yielded a slight reprieve which allowed us to glimpse the giant wind-driven snow plumes atop Motorcycle Hill, beyond the protection of Camp 3. The next few days were characterized by (lots of) lounging in the tent, rationing food, and shovelling metres of snow each day. It turns out there actually are a few arms-days on Denali after all.

Running out of calories was a real concern so we stretched our food as best we could. It seemed the storm had caught all the parties off guard. Fortunately, one team had some extra pancake mix and a jar of peanut butter which they graciously donated. Annie and I took turns eating spoonfuls of peanut butter throughout the days to maintain blood sugar and morale. Deranged with cabin fever and frustrated by our lack of progress, we decided to attempt to take advantage of what appeared to be slight improvement in the weather on the third day. We quickly packed and headed up the hill. We were halfway up Squirrel Hill when the storm re-intensified and with nowhere to hide, we took full brunt of it. The winds so fierce that simply standing upright was difficult. At one point in the confusion of whipping ropes, driving winds, and legitimate concern about being blown off the ridge, I witnessed a tent-pole shaped object rip off of Annie's pack and disappear into oblivion. At this point, we were both laying face-down, clutching our ice axes in an attempt to maintain purchase on the mountain. I managed to make my way over to inspect her pack: tent poles still there, it was just a picket that was missing! After the whipping we received up on Squirrel Hill, we returned to Camp 3 to ride out the rest of the storm.

Miraculously, the next day brought (sort of) clear weather; decent enough to move on. Every team broke camp in record time and sprinted out of Camp 3 like a prison break.

Up at 14,200 ft we were flush again; hot food and drinks for everyone. The following day was a rest day, so Annie and I took the opportunity to get some turns in up the headwall above camp to promote acclimatization; nothing like skiing at 5,000 m in fresh powder. We also got to know the three-man climbing team that had provided us with the peanut butter and pancake mix down at Camp 3. We floated the idea of pooling resources and caching up high together to lighten the load for everyone, to which they agreed.

The next day the five of us consolidated supplies to make a cache somewhere up high on the ridge. Above the headwall, the route onto the ridge ascends a steep ice face that is protected by fixed lines to allow guides to get their clients up and down safely. While it is nice to be able to use fixed lines on a technical face, this section is a notorious bottleneck and progress can be excruciatingly slow if you get stuck behind a guided party, which of course we did. -----

Up on the ridge, conditions were cold, windy, and more or less socked in so we decided to cache somewhere around 16,200 ft. Here, one of the members of our new companion team was nearly incapacitated by the altitude. He was so wrecked by the exertion I was concerned about his ability to get off the ridge and return to camp. As we (slowly) descended back down to basin camp his condition improved immensely, but the experience gave him pause about a potential summit bid in the upcoming days.

We spent the next few days monitoring the weather hoping for at least a two-day summit window. Weather up high remained brutally cold and windy - not a place one would want to hang out. Annie and I killed time by getting in a few more turns up on the headwall and exploring the 'edge of the world.'

After about four days at 14,200 ft, we finally received a weather forecast calling for at least three days of clear skies with low(ish) winds up high; time to make our move. The team member who had been incapacitated during our cache up at 16,500 ft elected to stay behind as he was not acclimatizing well and was worried about potentially endangering the team. Undoubtedly a difficult decision, but in the end I believe the right one; kudos to him.

Since there were now only four of us we decided to cram everyone into a single three-man tent to save weight up high. Back up the headwall and ice face we went, again held up by a guided party in front of us. On this occasion we were treated to a particularly critical and obviously quite frustrated guide berating a member of his team high up on the ice face; morale appeared low in that group and I was happy to pass them and put some distance between us.

The weather window we were aiming for was not due to arrive in earnest until the next day, so we had moved up in marginal conditions. Predictably, it was cold, and it was windy. While we located an existing tent site with mostly pre-built walls, we still spent hours hammering, shoveling, and sawing to get the campsite up to snuff. Winds at 17K can be extreme, so bombproof ice walls were mandatory. The thin air made excavating the tent site particularly miserable; it was remarkable how much our work capacity deteriorated at altitude.

I awoke the next morning to a suffocating sense of claustrophobia. The rarified air left me gasping for breath and the crush of people on either side of me gave me a small (internal) panic attack. Worse still, the calm(ish) weather promised by the weather forecast hadn't materialized yet. Given the screaming winds and flesh-freezing temperatures, we certainly weren't going to go for the summit. I spent most of the day outside that miserable tent occupying myself with snow-melting and reinforcing our snow wall.

The next morning we awoke to clear skies and slightly less wind – good enough. We geared up and went for it, as did every other party at 17K camp. The climb up was long but ultimately uneventful. Slowly we traversed the Autobahn, made our way around Denali Pass, up and across the Football Field, and finally up the summit headwall. I was surprised at the slow pace of some of the other teams making the push. Our team continued to move well at altitude, but the mountain absolutely punished others. I witnessed a number of climbers on their knees, foreheads on their axe, gasping for air.

After hours of climbing we finally found ourselves on the summit. To our luck we had it to ourselves; just the four of us standing on the highest point in North America with clear skies and infinite visibility. The scenery was incredible. We hung around for half an hour or so, high-fiving and taking the requisite 'selfies' before heading back down.

Fortunately, the climb down was just as uneventful as the climb up, though I should add that descending the Autobahn is a fair bit more intimidating than going up it. We rolled back into 17K camp in the late afternoon to well-deserved hot meals and naps. There was some group discussion about the merits of packing everything up and continuing down versus staying at 17K for the night and heading down in the morning. The group was tired and nobody was keen to keep going, but to me the prospect of spending another claustrophobic night in the tent at altitude was unfathomable. To my relief, it was eventually decided that we would head down together.

We got on the ridge late in the day and slowly picked our way down with sore legs and heavy packs. Amazingly, the air was perfectly still and the skies were clear – a phenomenon we hadn't experienced once on the mountain in the entire 3 weeks we had been there. Somewhere around 1 AM the prominent peaks of Foraker and Hunter were set ablaze with alpenglow in the Alaskan twilight. We spent about 20 minutes just staring, taking in the surrealness of it all. It wasn't until after 2:00 AM that we made it back to camp and crashed for the night.

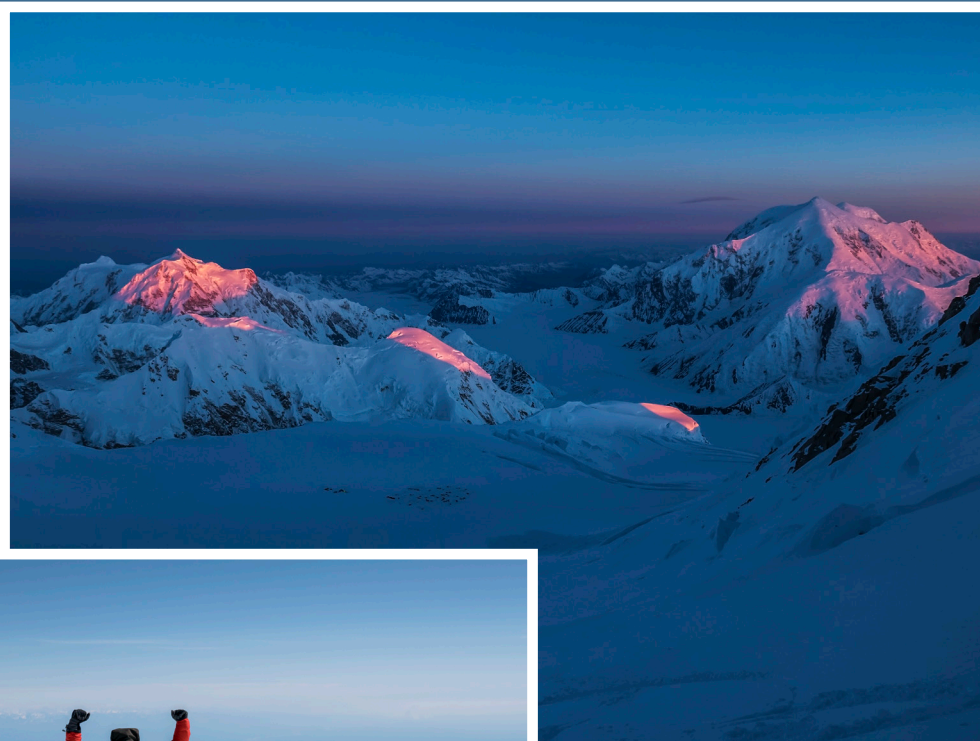
Having successfully summited, my reason for being on the mountain was gone. I was keen to get off and embrace the hot shower and non-freeze dried meals waiting for me back in Talkeetna. Fortunately, we were treated to another day of sunshine the next morning so we broke camp and headed down the mountain in the early afternoon. Descending the mountain with skis and heavy sleds was terrible, much more frustrating than I had anticipated. After hours of experimenting with different configurations, Annie and I were ready to launch the sleds into the nearest crevasse and be done with it.

When we (finally) figured our system out, progress was rapid; we rolled into the airstrip sometime late in the evening, set up a half-assed camp, and sat around drinking hot chocolate while 'shooting the shit' with a few fellow climbers who had summited around the same time as us. Throughout the night there was a steady trickle of climbers plodding into camp. On more than one occasion I witnessed a guided team show up with a guide at the helm hauling a sled containing multiple packs, and two or three pack-less clients in tow sporting 'thousand-yard' stares, absolutely wrecked. Our ski plane arrived early the next morning and we made our way off the mountain to the hot meals and showers beckoning us from Talkeetna.

Afterthoughts:

Our total time on the mountain was 17 days, which is about average for successful parties. Discounting variables such as logistics, team fitness, etc. climbing time is more or less governed entirely by weather windows. I did encounter at least one team that lucked out with weather and managed to get the whole route done in 10 days (the bastards), which is about as fast as you can realistically do it if you spend the proper time acclimatizing. In contrast, I also encountered teams that had been on the mountain for more than 20 days, cursing the continuously brutal weather they had been enduring (most of these teams had landed on the mountain in May). In my opinion, the two key elements for getting this route done are 1) fitness, and 2) time. I was glad to have had team members that were as strong as they were, and I'm confident Tej would have summited with us had he not been suffering from the remnants of strep throat. Third times the charm, Tej!

Chris Bueley



Front cover: Requisite summit selfie - Denali
(C.Bueley)

Top: Alpenglow in the middle of the night.
14-Camp is visible on the plateau.

(C.Bueley)

Above: Annie celebrating on the summit.

(C.Bueley)

Right: Tej and Annie setting up camp for our
first night on the mountain at the airstrip.

(C.Bueley)