

Contributors

VALERY BABANOV is one of the foremost exponents of pure alpine-style at high altitude. Born in Omsk, Russia, in 1964, he is resident in Canada and works as a guide out of Chamonix. He has twice been awarded the Piolet d'Or – 2001 Meru solo, 2003 Nuptse East via SE pillar – and this year was awarded the first Grolla d'Oro of the newly instituted Saint Vincent Award, for his ascent, with Sergey Kofanov, of west pillar of Jannu.

GEORGE BAND was the youngest member of the 1953 Everest team. In 1955 he made the first ascent – with Joe Brown – of Kangchenjunga, and subsequently climbed in Peru and the Caucasus. More recently he has climbed in Bhutan, and escorted treks for 'Far Frontiers' in Nepal, Sikkim and Central Asia. AC President from 1987 to 1989 and President of the BMC from 1996 to 1999. His books *Everest: 50 years on Top of the World* and *Summit: 150 years of the Alpine Club* were written to coincide with their 50th and 150th year celebrations in 2003 and 2007 respectively.

ANTONIO GÓMEZ BOHÓRQUEZ lives in Murcia, Spain. A librarian and documentalist (information scientist), he specialises in ascents in the north Peruvian ranges. He has written two books: *La Cordillera Blanca de los Andes, selección de ascensiones, excursiones* and *Cordillera Blanca, Escaladas, Parte Norte*. He has climbed since 1967, with first ascents including *Spanish Direct* on the north face of Cima Grande di Lavaredo, Italia (1977), *Pilar del Cantábrico del Naranjo de Bulnes*, Spain (1980), east face of Cerro Parón (La Esfinge, 5325m), Peru (1985) and the south-east face (1988).

NEIL BRODIE lives near Chamonix in the French Alps. He has fully embraced the local mountaineering ethos and always tries to be back in the bistro by nightfall. He enjoys short approaches and easy descents, and regularly delves into the black arts of skiing and sport climbing. Occasionally he has a relapse and does a climb that involves a bit of discomfort.

NICK BULLOCK was a PE instructor for the Prison Service until he became a nomadic full-time climber and writer in 2003. He discovered climbing in 1991 on a work-related course at Plas y Brenin since when he has established himself as one of Britain's leading alpinists. He has put up new routes in Wales, Scotland, the Alps, Peru and Nepal. He also rock climbs a bit.

ALTON BYERS is a mountain geographer and climber specialising in integrated conservation and development programmes, high altitude ecosystems, and field research methods. He has more than 30 years of experience working and living in remote mountainous regions of Africa, South America, Asia, and North America. He has worked for the Mountain Institute since 1990, and lives in Elkins, West Virginia.

NICHOLAS CLINCH is a past president of the American Alpine Club and an honorary member of the Alpine Club. He has led or co-led a number of expeditions including the first ascents of Hidden Peak and Masherbrum in the Karakoram, Vinson Massif in Antarctica and Ulugh Muztagh in the Kun Lun of northern Tibet. He is the author of *A Walk in the Sky*.

MICHAEL COCKER has climbed extensively throughout Britain and the European Alps as well as in East Africa, the Andes, Himalaya, North America and Arctic Norway. He works as a physiotherapy clinical specialist and is interested in mountaineering history and literature. He wrote and edited the *Wasdale Climbing Book* (Ernest Press, 2006).

ROB COLLISTER lives in North Wales and earns his living as a mountain guide. He continues to derive enormous pleasure as well as profit from all aspects of mountains and mountaineering.

JULIAN COOPER is a painter living in the Lake District specialising in mountains and rock faces. He has also worked in the Alps, Andes, Himalaya, and Tibet. Mountains as a subject provide him with a means of touching upon wider themes. His current project is set in the marble quarries of Carrara, Italy, and the slate quarries in Cumbria.

HENRY DAY has been driving Land Rovers to the Greater Ranges for more than 40 years, starting with the Elburz (Alam Kuh) in 1963, pushing on the following year to Swat (Mankial) in Pakistan. Since retirement from the Army the 'Maschina' has seen Kilimanjaro, the Karakoram Highway, Khiva and the Kun Lun; and now the Caucasus – via the Rockies and the Andes. Some mountains were climbed too, though Annapurna, Indrasan, Shishapangma and Everest were, sadly, Land Rover free ascents.

ED DOUGLAS is a former honorary editor of the *Alpine Journal*. His books include *Tenzing*, published by National Geographic, and *Chomolungma Sings the Blues*, published by Constable, both prize winners at the Banff Mountain Book Festival. When not flogging his soul as a freelance journalist, he can be found on the gritstone edges near his home in Sheffield.

RONALD FAUX worked as a journalist on *The Times* for 30 years and covered three expeditions to Everest, respectively in 1976, in 1978 when Messner and Habeler made the first 'unmasked' ascent, and in 1986 with the British team attempting the pinnacles of the north-east ridge. He is the author of *Soldiers on Everest*, jointly with Jon Fleming, *High Ambition*, the authorised biography of Reinhold Messner, *Everest Goddess of the Wind* and *The West*, a sailing companion to the west coast of Scotland. He claims many unspectacular visits to climb and ski in the Alps and the hills of Scotland and the Lake District where he now lives.

DEREK FORDHAM, when not dreaming of the Arctic, practises as an architect and runs an Arctic photographic library. He is secretary of the Arctic Club and has led 21 expeditions to the Canadian Arctic, Greenland and Svalbard to ski, climb or share the life of the Inuit.

LINDSAY GRIFFIN, after a lengthy and enforced break from activity, has returned to rock climbing, re-discovering all the anticipation and excitement of teenage years. He is still keeping up to speed on international affairs through his work with Mountain INFO and as Chairman of the MEF Screening and BMC International Committees.

MICK FOWLER works for Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs and, by way of contrast, likes to inject as much memorable adventure and excitement into his climbing ventures. He has climbed extensively in the UK and has regularly led expeditions to the greater ranges for more than 25 years. He has written two books, *Vertical Pleasure* (1995) and *On Thin Ice* (2005).

CLAUDE GARDIEN works as an editor for *Vertical*. He discovered climbing when he was 15 on the crags of Burgundy, and started a mountaineering career a few weeks later in the Mont Blanc range. He later climbed in the Alps, Morocco, Algeria, Jordan, Nepal, Pakistan, and worked as a mountain guide as well as a writer and photographer.

STEPHEN GOODWIN renounced daily newspaper journalism on *The Independent* for a freelance existence in Cumbria, mixing writing and climbing. A precarious balance was maintained until 2003 when he was persuaded to take on the editorship of the *Alpine Journal* and 'getting out' became elusive again.

MIKE GROCOTT is a consultant in Intensive Care Medicine at Southampton University Hospitals Trust and Senior Lecturer at University College London. He is director of the UCL Centre for Altitude Space and Extreme Environment Medicine and was expedition leader of the Caudwell Xtreme Everest medical research expedition in the spring of 2007. He has 15 years experience of high altitude mountaineering and summited Cho Oyu in 2006 and Everest in 2007.

GEOFF HORNBY is a consulting engineer now resident in the Italian Dolomites. He has made almost 325 first ascents in mountains outside of the UK and is looking forward to 175 more, inshallah.

ROWAN HUNTLEY, artist and AC Associate, is never happier than when painting rock, snow, ice and sky, and she explores away from her base in Cardiff whenever she can. With Norway, Switzerland, France and the Italian Bregaglia under her palette, Greenland is firmly on her agenda for 2009.

DICK ISHERWOOD has been a member of the Alpine Club since 1970. His climbing record includes various buildings in Cambridge, lots of old fashioned routes on Cloggy, a number of obscure Himalayan peaks, and a new route on the Piz Badile (in 1968). He now follows Tilman's dictum about old men on high mountains and limits his efforts to summits just a little under 20,000 feet.

HARISH KAPADIA has climbed in the Himalaya since 1960, with ascents up to 6800m. He is Hon Editor of both the *Himalayan Journal* and the *HC Newsletter*. In 1993 he was awarded the IMF's Gold Medal and in 1996 was made an Hon Member of the Alpine Club. He has written several books including *High Himalaya Unknown Valleys, Spiti: Adventures in the Trans-Himalaya* and, with Soli Mehta, *Exploring the Hidden Himalaya*. In 2003 he was awarded the Patron's Gold Medal by the Royal Geographical Society.

PAUL KNOTT is a lecturer in business strategy at the University of Canterbury, New Zealand. He previously lived in the UK. He enjoys exploratory climbing in remote mountains, and since 1990 has undertaken eleven expeditions to Russia, Central Asia, Alaska and the Yukon. He has also climbed new routes in the Southern Alps and on desert rock in Oman and Morocco.

NICK LEWIS has worked in polar matters since 1991 when he first started at British Antarctic Survey's Rothera Base. He has a penchant for cold mountains with favourites being the Tatra, Alaska, the Yukon, Patagonia and, of course, Antarctica. He is an environmental consultant and lives in New England where he enjoys the most frigid winters of all.

PAT LITTLEJOHN is known for a 'clean climbing' ethic and adherence to the lightweight, alpine-style approach. His worldwide portfolio of first ascents include the NE Pillar of Taweche (Nepal), Raven's Pyramid (Karakoram), Poi N Face (Kenya) and Kjerag N Buttress (Norway). He succeeded Pete Boardman as director of the International School of Mountaineering in 1983. Pat enjoys passing on the skills acquired over nearly four decades of alpine climbing, and is keen to ensure that climbing's unique 'spirit of adventure' is kept alive, both on the rock and in the mountains.

NICK MASON is a doctor, photographer and mountaineer based in Cardiff. A Consultant in Intensive Care Medicine at the Royal Gwent Hospital, Newport, he has been fortunate for over a decade to combine his love of mountaineering with research into high altitude physiology in the mountains of Nepal, Central Asia, North America and the French Alps. Nick is a member of faculty of the UK Diploma in Mountain Medicine.

Along with his wife, Emma, he is a representative for the International Porter Protection Group and worked at the IPPG rescue post at Machermo in Nepal's Gokyo valley during the autumn seasons of 2005 and 2007.

JOHANNA MERZ joined the Alpine Club in 1988 and has devoted most of her energies to the *Alpine Journal*, first as assistant editor, then as honorary editor from 1992 to 1998, and currently as production editor.

ADE MILLER lives and occasionally works in Redmond, Washington. This allows him to spend his weekends climbing in the mountains of the Pacific Northwest, specializing in winter ascents. He has also visited and climbed in numerous mountain ranges but has spent the last few years climbing in British Columbia, the Yukon Territories and Alaska.

TAMOTSU NAKAMURA was born in Tokyo in 1934 and has been climbing new routes in the greater ranges since his first successes on technical peaks in the Cordillera Blanca of Peru in 1961. He has lived in Pakistan, Mexico, New Zealand and Hong Kong and in the last 18 years has made 30 trips to 'Alps of Tibet in East of the Himalaya' – the least-known mountains in East Tibet and the Hengduan mountains of Yunnan, Sichuan, East Tibet and Qinghai. He is currently editor of the Japanese Alpine News and has received the RGS Busk Medal 2008.

ANDY PARKIN is still pushing at frontiers as both an artist and mountaineer. Active on the UK rock-climbing scene in the 1970s, he settled in the Chamonix valley, gaining a reputation for his painting and sculpting, along with hard routes such as *Beyond Good and Evil* on the Aiguilles des Pèlerins. Andy is committed to exploratory mountaineering: Patagonia and Tierra del Fuego have become favourite locations.

DAVID PICKFORD is a freelance photographer and writer, and the editor of planetfear.com (a climbing and adventure sports website). He has established many new rock climbs around Britain and across the world. David is currently pioneering a more direct route from his desk to the front door.

SIMON RICHARDSON is a petroleum engineer based in Aberdeen. Experience gained in the Alps, Andes, Patagonia, Canada, the Himalaya, Alaska and the Yukon is put to good use most winter weekends whilst exploring and climbing in the Scottish Highlands.

C A RUSSELL, who formerly worked with a City bank, devotes much of his time to mountaineering and related activities. He has climbed in many regions of the Alps, in the Pyrenees, East Africa, North America and the Himalaya.

BILL RUTHVEN was appointed Hon Secretary of the Mount Everest Foundation in 1985 so is now something of an institution in his own right. He is always happy to discuss the plans of people planning expeditions to high and/or remote areas and advise on their eligibility for MEF support.

VICTOR SAUNDERS was born in Lossiemoth and grew up in Peninsular Malaysia. He started climbing in the Alps in 1978 and has climbed in the Andes, Antarctica, Papua, Rockies, Caucasus, India, Pakistan, Nepal and Bhutan. Formerly a London-based architect, he is now a UIAGM guide based in Chamonix. When not working he likes to relax on steep bits of rock and ice. His first book, *Elusive Summits*, won the Boardman Tasker prize. In 2007 he received an honorary MA from the University of Stirling for services to Scottish mountaineering and between 2004 and 2008 has successfully guided Everest four times.

GRAEME SCHOFIELD is a teacher of Geography in a secondary school in Derbyshire. Walking up to his classroom, on the top floor of the school building, is how he keeps in shape for alpine adventures. Over the past five years he has been steadily building his experience of alpine mountaineering through climbing trips to the European Alps and as a member of two successful expeditions to the Bolivian and Peruvian Andes.

DAVID SEDDON is a physician in Nottingham. He has walked, climbed and skied in a number of unusual places, often in the company of John Harding or Derek Fordham. He continues to be interested in the painting of TH Somervell.

EVA SELIN is president of the Swedish Alpine Club, elected in 2001 and the first woman to hold this office. She is also a member of the Norwegian Alpine Club. Eva's climbing career began in 1978 with an ascent of the Troll ridge in Romsdalen together with her husband Anders Lundahl and blossomed during autumn of the same year at a BMC meeting where she climbed at Stanage with, amongst others, Dennis Gray. She is a professional botanist at the Museum of Gotland.

JOHN SHIPTON is the younger son of the explorer Eric Shipton. In recent years he has taken a passionate interest in his father's career and has been retracing some of his expeditions in the Himalaya and Patagonia. John has worked, travelled and sailed in many parts of the world, sailing in 1975 to Greenland with Eric's great climbing partner Bill Tilman. He now runs a plant and bulb nursery in west Wales and leads botanical treks in the Himalaya.

JOHN TOWN is a retired university administrator. He has climbed in the Alps, Caucasus, Altai, Andes, Turkey and Kamchatka, and explored little-known mountain areas of Mongolia, Yunnan and Tibet. He is old enough to remember the days without satellite photos and GPS.

STEPHEN VENABLES has just completed a busy term as president of the Alpine Club. He made many Himalayan ascents between 1977 and 1992, including a new route on the east face of Everest and more recently has climbed in South Georgia and Tierra del Fuego. He is a freelance writer and lecturer and has published a string of mountain travel books including the BT award-winning *Painted Mountains* (1986).

MARK WATSON works for the New Zealand Alpine Club as editor of both *The Climber* magazine and the *New Zealand Alpine Journal*. Mostly found hanging out at various crags, he can also be seen in the mountains from time to time. Mark's favourite New Zealand area is the Darran Mountains. He has also rock-climbed extensively in the USA, UK, western Europe and Australia.

DAVE WYNNE-JONES used to teach before he learnt his lesson. He has spent over 30 years exploring the hills and crags of Britain and climbed all the Alpine 4000m peaks. By the 1990s annual alpine seasons had given way to explorative climbing further afield, including Jordan, Morocco, Russia and Ecuador, though ski-mountaineering took him back to the Alps in winter. Expedition destinations have included Pakistan, Peru, Alaska, the Yukon, Kyrgyzstan, Nepal, India and China with a respectable tally of first ascents.