

### **CHAMPAKS ON LAMPAK NORTH 6181M**

**“So was your climb** the first ascent of Lampak North”, someone asked. “I honestly don’t know”, I replied, “but it was one of my most satisfying climbs in the recent years”. Lampak North 6181 m is situated at the entrance of the Kalla Bank Glacier and is seen clearly in all its glory even from the road head at Juma, a sleepy little village en-route the Joshimath-Malari Road.

Besides Cyrus Shroff, our fearless leader, the team comprised of Bhupesh Asher, Sanjay Khatau, Rajal Upadhyaya and me. All of us had Gujrati origins and this led a wise-ass friend of ours to name the Expedition as “Champaks on Lampak”. Nima and Dawa, our remarkable Sherpa companions, joined the team at Joshimath.

Kalla Bank is a narrow and short valley and nestled between Siraunch Glacier of the “Tirshuli West” fame on one side and the Bagini Glacier with its giants such as “Dunagiri”, “Kalanka” and “Changabang” on the other side. At the head of Kalla Bank is the most tantalising unnamed 6504 m peak, and in between Lampak North and 6504 m peak is situated the Lampak South 6325 m.



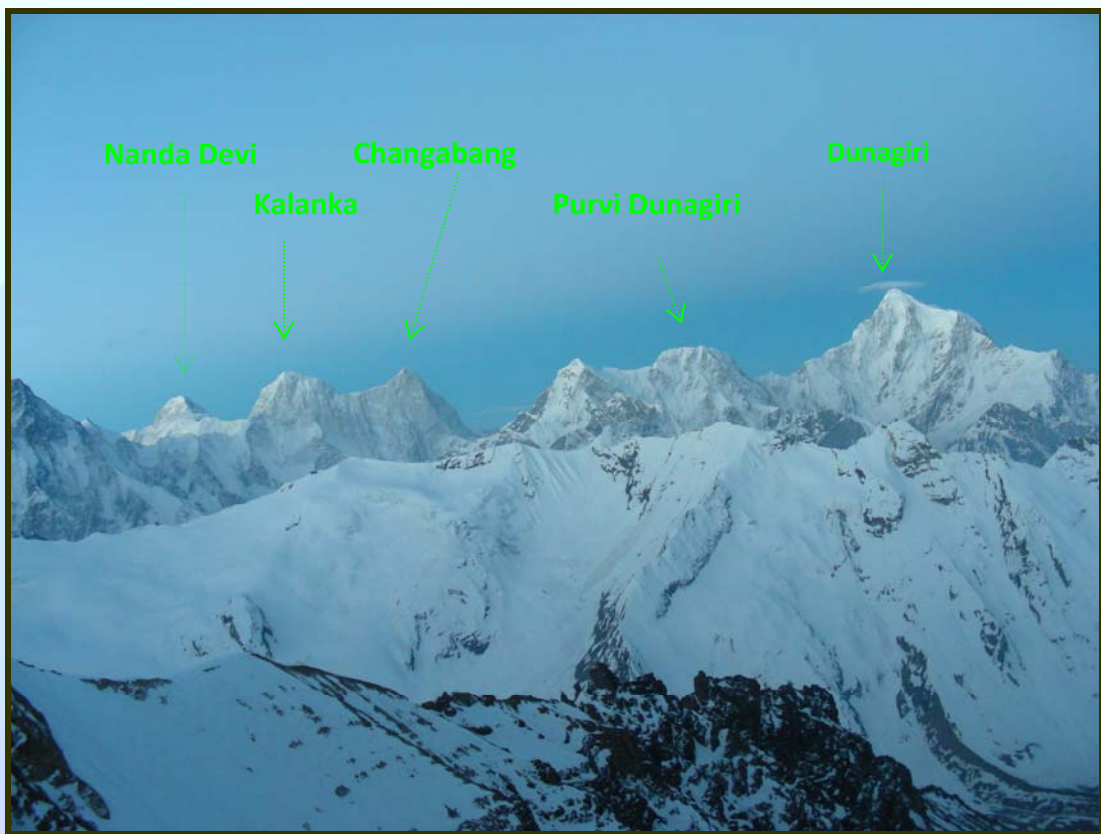
**Lampak North 6181m in the background Photo: Bhupesh Ashar**

This valley was reportedly first visited somewhere in the 1950s by the Scottish Kumaon Expedition led by W. H. Murray. They have listed the mountains of this valley in some detail. A team from Bombay made an abortive attempt on Lampak North in 1990 and was forced to turn back from around 6000 m. Then in 2003 the Punjab Police team visited this area and claims to have climbed Lampak North and Lampak South. The claim, at least of the climb of Lampak North by the Punjab team, seems doubtful, given the description of the terrain in the said report. Besides these reported visits there is one more mention of a team from West Bengal having climbed Lampak North in 2001. However, no report of that climb seems to be available. The locals confirm the visit of Bombay team and the Punjab team.

The walk up to the base camp (4700 m) from Juma was covered in four easy stages under a dense jungle canopy for most of the way. We were a little early in the season and as such the two villages en-route, that of Ruing and Gharpak were in the midst of reverse exodus by its inhabitants from the lower altitudes. The people were nevertheless cheerful and were cooperative, particularly when some of the mules engaged by us decided to call it a day and head back down. It certainly helped that the proprietor of trekking agency engaged by us in Joshimath, viz. Mr. Narendrasingh, was the resident of Ruing Village.

Not only did the male members of the village lend us a hand but for the first time in my experience we were accompanied by the ladies of the village who assisted in carting our load till the base camp. This however caused serious anguish to our fearless leader who could not bear the thought of him being the cause of such "exploitation of women". He was a bit mollified when we tipped the entire porter team handsomely at the Base Camp.

Base Camp was quite a bleak place, as it was quite high and bang in the middle of the moraine and not a place where one would want to hang around for long. The view though of Rataban and possibly Kamet and Mana peaks to the south was rather spectacular.



**View towards Bagini Bhamak enroute to summit**

***Photo: Rajal Upadhyaya***

We spent just one day in reconnoitering for a possible route to the base of Lampak North. We spent the better part of that day floundering in thigh deep snow and not reaching any conclusion with regard to the most convenient route. The next day, i.e. on 19 June 2009, based on the report of the 1990 Bombay team, we took a direct line up the scree slopes, opposite the Base Camp and voila we reached the perfect site for the Advance Base Camp at around 5200 meters. The most obvious route up Lampak North was up the South face of the Eastern flank of mountain till the South East ridge and thereafter hugging the ridge all the way till the top.

On 21 June we opened the route through the lower ice fall of 50 to 60 degree gradient and reached a convenient place for the summit camp. We dumped part of the load we were carrying and continued opening the route on the Eastern flank. The next day we set up and occupied the summit camp, hoping to reach the summit on 23 June. Being four in a three man tent was a cramped experience, but since we expected to be there for only few hours, i.e. till 2.30 a.m., there was lot less grumbling in the ranks.



The team on the round Summit of Lampak North *Photo: Vinay Hegde*

The climb to the summit on 23 June left us totally and completely knackered. Starting at 2.30 a.m., we made our way up slowly till the South East ridge, reaching there by around 8.00 a.m. The climb was steep and mostly on hard ice but the view of the first rays of the sun falling on Nanda Devi, Kalanka and Dunagiri was a sight that will always remain etched in the memory.

The climb to the summit from the dreadfully corniced ridge, though again steep, was thankfully on packed firm snow and the crampons crunched perfectly.

The high velocity wind and the bone deep tiredness did not allow us much time on the lovely round summit of Lampak North, which we reached at 10.00 a.m. Thick clouds were coming from Siraunch Glacier and Kamet side and we thought it prudent to hurry down. The descent was fraught with the constant threat of committing mistakes while abseiling on any one of the eleven long pitches. Everyone, however, reached the Summit Camp in one piece and not a minute too soon, since it started snowing and continued to snow heavily for most of remaining days we spent on the mountain. We wound up and reached the Base Camp next day and rested for the next two days, bleak place or not.



Getting down the corniced ridge

*Photo: Cyrus Shroff*

We still had a few days in hand before our scheduled departure and had hoped to attempt another peak on the Kalla Bank - Bagini divide, but we were apparently being subjected to the aftermath of "Aila" (not that of la Sachin Tendulkar style but the hurricane Aila) and given the almost continuous fresh snow we decided to call it quits, thanked our good fortune and headed down.

-- *Vinay Hegde*

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## ***THE INDIAN ARMY MT DHAULAGIRI EXPEDITION 2009***

**Mt Dhaulagiri** (White Mountain) 8167m (26,975 ft), situated in the north-west of Pokhara in Nepal was successfully climbed by the Indian Army, consisting of a total of 17 members (12 climbing members and 5 support members) and led by Lt. Col. M. S. Chauhan, on 8 May 2009 at 11.30 a.m. via the North East Face Route.



Volunteers were sought from the Indian Army. 60 probables undertook the Saser Kangri expedition in August–October 2008, of which 30 members were selected to undergo winter training at the Siachen Glacier in December–January 2009. The Indian Army Mt Dhaulagiri Expedition 2009 was flagged off by the Chief of Army Staff (COAS) at New Delhi on 19 March and moved to Kathmandu on 22 March 2009. The road head of the expedition was Beni, and thereafter the team reached Marpha for

acclimatisation on 30 May 2009. The team carried out second stage acclimatisation at Muktinath and started for Yak-Kharka on 4 April 2009. The team undertook the 10-days long treacherous route to Base Camp (4700m) reaching it by 1 April 2009. The route opening started on 16 April 2009. Camp-I was established at 5800m on 20 April 2009, Camp-II at 6400m on 23 April 2009, and Camp-III (Summit Camp), was established on 26 April 2009 at 7200m. The first summit attempt was aborted on 1 May 2009 due to bad weather conditions. The second summit attempt was planned on 6 May 2009 led by Major Amit Aukta. The summit team started from Camp-III on 7 May at 8 p.m. and reached the summit on 8 May at 11.30 a.m. Six members and four Sherpas reached the summit and created a record by becoming the first Indians to scale the summit. Sub CN Bodh, SC became the first Indian to have scaled six peaks above 8000m of the world.



(The details of this expedition and the photos are provided by Col. Ashok Abbey)

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## ***A TRAVERSE OF THE GREAT HIMALAYAN NATIONAL PARK***



**Dhel Meadow**

*Photo: Percy Fernandez*

**Mountain regions have** always been visited by local villagers in search of medicinal plants, wood, and fodder for their cattle. Over time, unregulated visits to mountain regions coupled with increase in population have certainly exerted pressure on the fragile resources of these areas. The Great Himalayan National Park (GHNP) was formed in 1999 by cordoning off a part of the Kullu district, where four rivers ---Tirthan, Sainj, Jiwa, and Parvati---originate and is an area that is rich in biodiversity. The GHNP has since adopted the Western Tragopan, an endangered pheasant, as its symbol. The plan for our team was to enter the Park from its southern entrance along the Tirthan River and exit from the northern entrance along the Sainj River, thus completing a traverse of the GHNP.

As we began our trek our team felt that the forest in the GHNP were as pristine as possibly imaginable and abuzz with birdlife. Starting out from Gushiani (1500m), we initially moved westward and reached the sprawling meadow of Nada Thatch (3300m) in two days. As we moved north from Nada towards our next camp at Ghuntro Thatch (3500m) it became obvious that the trail was in complete disuse. We learnt from our support team that the ban on the entry of village folk and their animals into the Park has resulted in the gradual deterioration of the trails. In the face of the difficult conditions caused by the absence of trails in some areas the team was inclined to rename these sections as the 'Shipton and Tilman stretch'. Finally, after a long day's walk, reaching the huge meadow at Ghuntro brought some cheer to the team. On day five, we moved to Patal Thatch (3500m) and positioned ourselves for crossing a 4200m high pass the next day, which would take us to the Sainj Valley area.

Day five turned out to be the highlight of the trip. Starting out early we crossed the pass at 4200m by noon. It was snowing at the top of the pass but not enough to slow us down. In the distance we got our first views of the Dhel meadow (3500m), our next camp. I must admit that Dhel is one of the prettiest spots that I have come across during my several years of trekking. The meadow runs some 4 km long, is virtually flat, and was dotted with various types of flowers as we walked past towards the end of May this year. Completing the spectacle was a ring of peaks towards the north and east, which included peaks at the head of the Sainj Valley. Towards the middle of the meadow on its western side is a prominent hump that lends a sense of uniqueness to Dhel. It took us further two days of a steep downhill walk to find our way to Neuli (1500m), the road head via Lapa (2000m) in the Sainj Valley, thus completing a most memorable crossing of the GHNP. During the eight days we spent in the Park we did not spot the Western Tragopan but greatly cherished the opportunity to experience the mountains in a condition which made us seem that we had actually gone back in time.

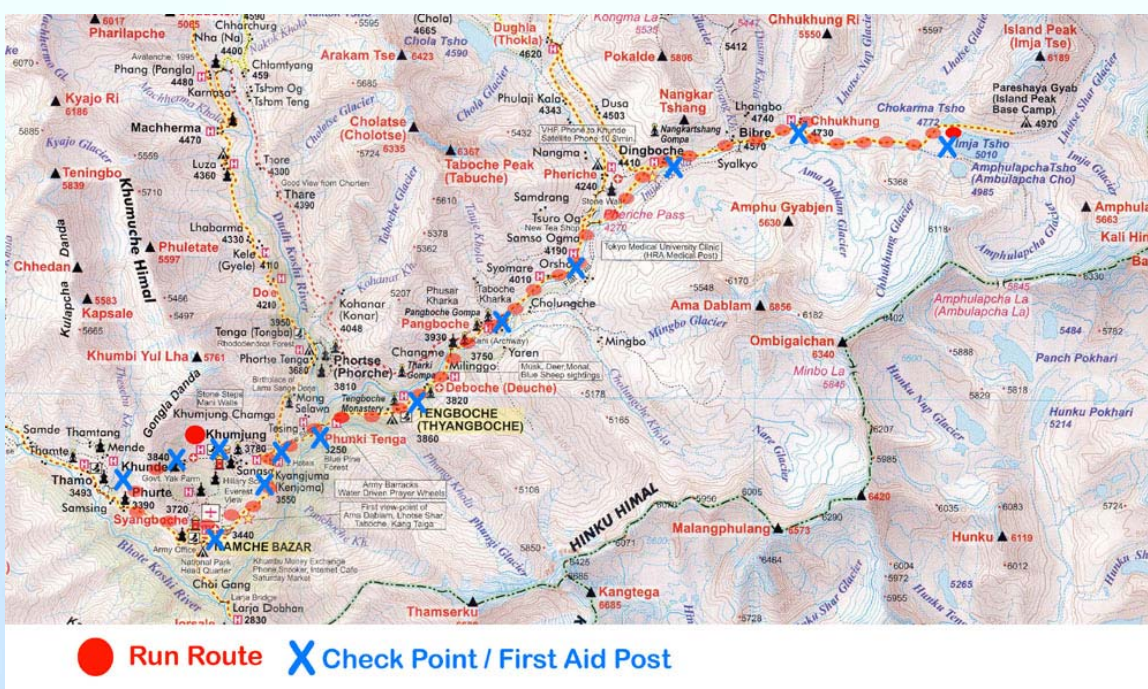
**--Maninder Kohli**

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## BEAT THE GLOF ACTION RUN 2009

As part of the Imja Tsho Action Event 2009, the Beat the GLOF Action Run took place in the Khumbu on 18 June 2009. The Run was organised to act as a catalyst for the international community to act and assist in programmes that would help minimise the loss of lives and property that would be the disastrous outcome of a Glacial Lake Outburst Flood (GLOF) occurring at Imja Tsho lake. The Event was a clarion call to the national and international stakeholders for action to help these threatened mountain communities.

The route of the Run closely followed the course of the Imja River, demonstrating the possible path of a GLOF in the event that the Imja Tsho lake was to burst its fragile moraine boundaries. During the Khumbu Festival members of the mountain community stressed the need for urgent action to be taken to reduce the risk to lives in the event of Imja Tsho bursting its banks. Such an event would devastate the Khumbu, a region that is home to the world famous Sherpa people and also the jewel in the crown of the Nepalese tourism industry.



113 runners out of 137 persons who had signed up for the Run completed the 35 km route from Imja Tsho lake (5010m) to Khumjung Village (3780m). Cash awards and trophies were presented to the top three male and female runners.

The Beat the GLOF Action Run was organised by Sherwi Yondhen Tshokpa, a network of Sherpa students and supported by iDEAS, with the major sponsorship of The North Face and the support of the Sagarmatha National Park, Department of Wildlife Conservation and National Park, Buffer Zone Committee, World Wildlife Fund (WWF) Nepal's 'Climate for Life' campaign, Agni Air, Asian Trekking (P) Ltd., Camp de Base at Namche Bazar, and La Villa Sherpani at Lukla.

--Dawa Steven Sherpa

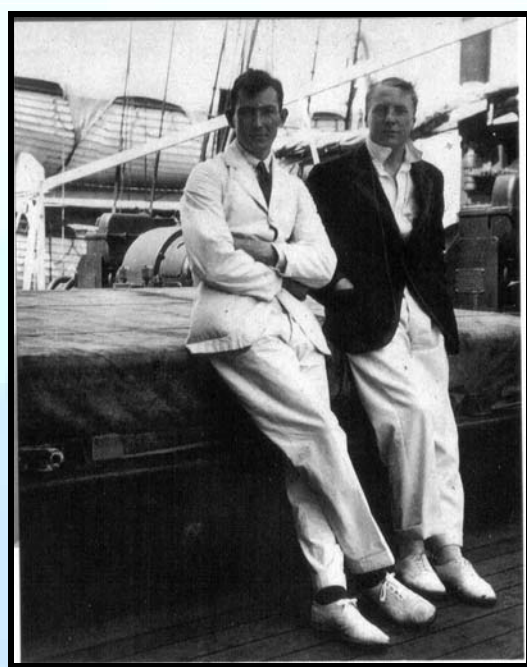
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## MEMORIES OF MOMENTOUS MOUNTAINS

**Mountaineering has been** the Flavor of the Month in May, internationally and in India! Achille Compagnoni died in Italy at the age of 94 on May 13th and The Landmark Jeffrey Archer Tour, promoting his newest offering "Paths of Glory", also brought Britain's most successful author to the sub-continent this month. Who is Achille Compagnoni, I hear you ask? And what's Archer to do with mountaineering? Well my summer reading made the connection, rekindling memories of times long gone!

Jeffrey Archer's "Paths of Glory" and Robert Marshall's "K2- Lies and Treachery" were the books I refer to, dealing respectively with the world of mountaineering in the early 1900's and then the mid-20th century. Archer's at the time the sun was beginning to set on the British Empire (though they didn't seem to know it then!), while Marshall's book takes us to the period after the Second World War, when nations were striving for a new place in the sun.

To 'Paths of Glory' first. A disappointingly Mills & Boon-type fictional exploration of aspects of the life of George Leigh Mallory, the English climber whose memory is forever linked with the 1924 Everest Expedition when he and climbing partner Andrew Irvine (shown here sailing to their destiny) disappeared near the top and never returned to camp. Mallory's body was found in 1999 minus his camera and his wife Ruth's photograph that he had reportedly wanted to place on the summit, leaving the tantalizing notion that the climbers may have successfully summited, but fell to their deaths on the way down. We will never know, and Archer's rather archly written prose sheds no fresh light on it either. I would doubt whether this the latest in Archer's steady flow of 3 best-selling series, 11 novels, 11 collections of short stories, 4 plays and 3 children's picture books, is likely to add to his substantial bank balance or his writing fame. Indeed, Baron Archer of Weston-super-Mare comes across as a larger persona than George Mallory in the various avatars he has enjoyed as author, actor, playwright, former politician and former guest of Her Majesty's Prison service! Mallory's story has been told better in at least 9 other books, and Archer's book affords us no insights and window into the factors or character traits that must have driven this clergyman's son into becoming Britain's finest rock climber or to keep returning to conquer Everest in the first 3 British expeditions there in 1921, 1922 and 1924.

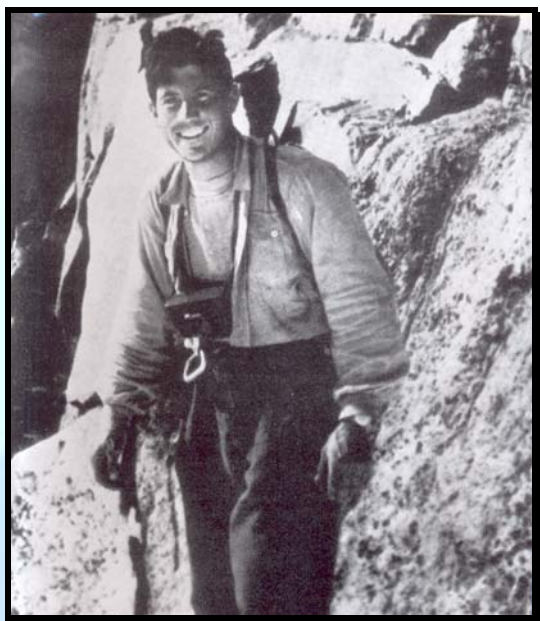


Andrew Irvine and George Mallory

For me, and I'm sure for several like me, the most evocative words on Mallory and Irvine will not be Archer's, but those of geologist and expedition colleague Noel Odell - striving on that fateful June 8, 1924 to follow their progress up the mountain: "At 12:50, just after I had emerged from a state of jubilation at finding the first definite fossils on Everest, there was a sudden clearing of the atmosphere, and the entire summit ridge and final peak of Everest were unveiled. My eyes became fixed on one tiny black spot silhouetted on a small snow-crest beneath a rock-step in the ridge; the black spot moved. Another black spot became apparent and moved up the snow to join the other on the crest. The first then approached the great rock-step and shortly emerged at the top; the second did likewise. Then the whole fascinating vision vanished, enveloped in cloud once more."

Robert Marshall's non-fiction book is a very different kettle of fish. Slim and sharply written, the book transports us into a Machiavellian world of intrigue, ego and corruption in the world of high mountain climbing beginning, in 1954, high in the Karakorums atop K2 between Pakistan and China. Remember that the French had planted their tri-colour on Annapurna in 1950 – the first of the world's 8000m peaks to be climbed – and the British finally "knocked

off" the highest, Mt Everest, in 1953. So now came the Italians to K2, second-highest mountain in the world, to wipe out some of their country's humiliations of fascism and wartime defeat. Conquest of "the Savage Mountain" that had just defeated Charlie Houston's American Expedition, and whose most commonly attempted line bore an Italian name, the Abruzzi Spur (named after the Duke of Abruzzi who prospected there in 1909) must have seemed the appropriate prize to restore national honor. Geographer Prof. Ardito Desio led the Expedition like a military dictator, preparing his attack on the mountain in a manner unashamedly familiar to those who had served in Alpine regiments during the war. He had assembled an 11-strong climbing team, 4 scientists, a doctor, a filmmaker and a mind-boggling 500 porters whom he controlled firmly from behind at Base Camp by issuing detailed notes every morning! Not for nothing was he quietly dubbed "Il Duce" behind his back (in effect, the little Mussolini!) by the climbers getting these daily instructions from below. Desio's climbing leader was Compagnoni - an Alpine guide pushing 40 but strong and ambitious and, most importantly for Desio, used to obeying orders. Chosen to be his summit partner was Lino Lacedelli. By 28th



**Walter Bonatti**

July they were poised at Camp 8 at 7740m, ready to try for the top. Well into what is known as the Death Zone, where the heaviest tolls are exacted on climbers already befuddled by the thin air, fatigued bodies and chilled senses. It was agreed the evening before that the team's youngest member ( its strongest climber, and soon to be Italy's gift to mountaineering as the greatest alpinist of his generation, pictured here) Walter Bonatti and Hunza porter Mahdi would carry up 2 receptacles of oxygen for the summit team all the way up from above Camp 7 to Camp 9. The stage was set for a peculiarly Italian soap opera that would have unexpected, painful and lasting effects!

Without telling Bonatti and Mahdi, Compagnoni and Lacedelli unaccountably changed the agreed

Camp 9 location at the last minute leaving it to the oxygen-bearers to find them! Meanwhile, exhausted by their loads and the altitude Bonatti and Mahdi finally reached the agreed area but no camp!! Frantically they climbed higher in the growing darkness trying to locate them. Finally, having climbed over 750 m higher from Camp 8 compared to the 300m they had thought, they stopped. Suddenly, out of the darkness, they heard Lacedelli's voice telling them to leave the oxygen and go down! But now it was too late for that. So, at 8100m and in the open, they cleared a space to sit and spend the night without tent or bivouac bag or any kind of covering! Swept by the wind, the intense cold and a blizzard that struck them they somehow incredibly survived the night. But Mahdi's physical and mental condition was deteriorating, and Bonatti had to hold him back from trying to run down. At dawn Mahdi started off down for Camp 8. The dawning of the sun helped Bonatti begin to warm up, but he still could not see the tent of Lacedelli and Compagnoni. Finally he too began descending. At exactly 7 am he looked back but could see the oxygen packs still lying untouched where they had left them. Mahdi, who had carried Hermann Buhl on his back to safety after he had returned from the summit of Nanga Parbat, had later to have several amputations of his fingers and toes as a result of that terrible night out in the open at 8100m .

Meantime, up above, the summiteers finally picked up the oxygen and moved up. They were later to claim that the bottles became exhausted, resulting in their having to summit on 31st July 1954 without oxygen. The victorious expedition now made its way back to Karachi. And met a firestorm of criticism by the Pakistani press, who claimed Mahdi had been denied a place on the summit team and had then been left in the open, resulting in the multiple amputations he had to undergo at Skardu hospital. The Italian Ambassador stepped in, holding an enquiry before the team was allowed to return to Italy to a tumultuous welcome. The news that they had summited without oxygen made Compagnoni and Lacedelli national heroes, and they were hailed as supermen by their grateful nation!



Desio's official account of the expedition sidelined Bonatti's efforts and he was later accused by Compagnoni in the national press of not just trying to race the summit team to the top, but also of deserting Mahdi and siphoning off oxygen from those bottles they had carried up!! That Bonatti and Mahdi had no oxygen masks with which to siphon off the oxygen that had allegedly left the summit pair gasless at the top seemed to bother no one!!

Marshall's book chronicles the climb but also, more importantly, the 50 years that followed that it actually took Bonatti to win court battles he had to resort to, to clear his name. But it was to sour him to top-class climbing and he would then become a well-known travel chronicler and photographer before undertaking a final climb in 1965 up the north face of the Matterhorn to celebrate the centenary of Edward Whymper's first ascent. His route set new standards, and was described in the press as the summation of the three 'impossibles' - the most direct route, in mid-winter and alone! But he remained a controversial figure till late 2007, when the Central Committee of the Italian Alpine Club finally changed its records of that first ascent of K2, correcting Desio's version to an amended new, final and official account unequivocally titled "K2 – Una Storia Finita" (K2 – The Final Story).

Marshall, an Australian surgeon and dedicated armchair mountaineer, taught himself Italian after being fascinated by accounts of the world of the high mountains, especially Fosco Maraini's 1958 Italian Gasherbrum IV Expedition that placed Bonatti and Carlo Mauri on the top. He stumbled on the K2 story in 1985, realizing the great travesty of justice that had taken place and taking it on himself to analyze all the details from 3 decades before. He wrote to Bonatti, becoming his close friend, and developing an obsession to clear his name. Then in 1993, casually leafing through a copy of *The Mountain World*, a now-defunct Swiss publication, he came across Desio's account accompanied by 2 full-page summit photographs. Suddenly realizing that the photographs actually revealed Bonatti was correct in what he had always referred to as 'the mother lie', he then built the final argument that helped clear Bonatti's name and prompting the retraction by the Italian Alpine Club!! I will not spoil your enjoyment of this almost detective-like tale of unbridled ambition and egos larger than the mountains they climbed by revealing to you how he nailed that central lie. All of us for whom the mountains are a great source of pleasure, and are fascinated by the outsized personalities connected with them, will enjoy this strange tale. I got my copy off the Internet – I recommend it to you unreservedly!

--Vijay Crishna

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## ***ADVENTURE SPORTS ARE 'COOL'!***

**At a recent Himalayan Club** event in Delhi on 21 June 2009, the audience primarily consisted, for a change, of young kids and their parents! A novel idea, initiated by Maninder Kohli, Hon. Local Secretary the Himalayan Club, Delhi Section, resulted in a talk show by young children on the theme 'Adventure Sports are "Cool"!'. The talks were a part of the Himalayan Club's efforts to encourage children to participate in adventure sports.



**L-R: Maninder Kohli, Sumer Kohli, Deeya Suzannah Bajaj, Col. Ashok Abbey, Arnav Abbey and Mihika Hegde**

***Photo: Percy Fernandez***

Four children (aged 9-16 years) spoke about the adventure sports being pursued by them, how they started, their future plans, and what they have learnt and gained from participating in such activities. Deeya Suzannah Bajaj, aged 15 years, spoke about her recent sea kayaking trip in Greenland. Sumer Kohli, aged 15 years, who has done several ski trips to Auli, Solang, and Gulmarg, showed pictures of his most recent ski holiday in Gulmarg. Mihika Hegde, aged 9 years, who has over the years been on several treks with her mountaineer parents, trekked to the Everest Base Camp and climbed Kala Pathar when she was 7 years old. Mihika showed pictures of and talked about the many treks that she has been on over the years and the adventure camp she recently attended in Solang. Arnav Abbey, age 16 years, talked about why he likes sport climbing and the lessons that he has learnt from doing sport climbing and shared his experiences about the Adventure Course he has done from the Nehru Institute of Mountaineering, Uttarkashi. The children impressed everyone with their presentations, both in terms of the content and the confident manner in which the talks were delivered.

Their presentations were followed by a short discussion on opportunities for children taking up adventure sports. Col. Ashok Abbey, former Principal of the Nehru Institute of Mountaineering, and well-known adventurer Ajeet Bajaj gave recommendations on options for children through which they can pursue their area of interest and also addressed safety concerns. Jasmine Hegde, Hon. Local Secretary, The Himalayan Club, Mumbai, who as a parent has been taking her daughter on treks from a young age, provided tips on introducing young kids into adventure activities, stressing that children should not be pushed into such activities but be allowed to develop their interest and participation at their own pace. The event generated wide interest in the public as well as in the media (see, for example, <http://www.livemint.com/2009/06/12210111/Little-cliff-hangers.html?h=B>).

***--Rama Goyal***

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## ***THE HIMALAYAN CLUB GATHERING AT LADAKH, 28–30 AUGUST 2009***

**The Himalayan Club** along with Rimo Expeditions has organised a three-day conference at Leh, Ladakh to spread awareness about the area. A training camp for 25 young Ladakhi youth and environmental training for several trekking agents will be held. Many elders from different villages are being invited to be part of the discussions and lectures and to see films on their land. Members of the Himalayan Club and their friends are invited to attend the conference. Kindly manage your travel and stay. For any assistance, please contact Motup Chewang Goba, Hon. Local Secretary, The Himalayan Club, Leh (e-mail: [motuprimo@gmail.com](mailto:motuprimo@gmail.com)).

**The programme for the conference is as below:**

<b>DAY ONE: 28 AUGUST 2009</b>	
<b>Medical Issues</b>	
Dr Tsering Norbu	A well known physician from Leh, he is an authority on medical issues in Ladakh. He will speak about the new diseases cropping up in Ladakh, how to prevent them. He will narrate the medical researches being carried out in Ladakh.
Dr Raghunath Godbole	A surgeon from Pune, he has special interest in High Altitude medicines and has trekked widely in different areas of the Himalaya. He is Hon. Local Secretary of the Pune Section of the Himalayan Club. His talk will cover various issues related to acclimatisation, how to prevent High Altitude sickness, steps for acclimatisation for visitors, and guide lines to travel and trekking agents to help their clients with issues related to acclimatisation.
Dr Thomas Hornbein	A medical doctor and a well-known climber, after who is named the 'Hornbein Colour' on Everest, through which he pioneered a route while climbing Everest with the American team. He will speak of the medical problems at High Altitudes, such as on Everest, and recent researches in the field, and will also show pictures of his historic climb on Everest.
The talks will be followed by an interactive discussion with the panel on Medical Issues and High Altitude. A special booklet published by the Himalayan Club will be released by Dr Hornbein. A special card giving instructions about acclimatisation to all visitors will be released.	
<b>DAY TWO: 29 AUGUST 2009</b>	
<b>Conservation and Environment</b>	
Kate Harris	A young scientist, explorer, and writer from Canada, she is currently a Ph.D. student in the Department of Earth, Atmospheric and Planetary Sciences at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT). A Rhodes Scholar, Kate wrote her Master's dissertation at Oxford University on the History of Science, Exploration, and Geopolitics on the Siachen Glacier, and is passionate about the potential of science as a force for peace in the Greater Himalaya. She will speak about her work and its relations to Ladakh.
Bernadette McDonald	Author and climber from Canada, she was the Director of the Banff Centre for Mountain Culture for almost two decades. She has won many book awards for her publications and climbs regularly. Bernadette will be speaking on 'Mountain Communities: Learning from Each Other'.

	With her special interest in mountain culture and people, she will draw a comparison between mountain communities in the world and in Ladakh, focusing on similarities and problems and solutions to these problems.
Major General (retd) Randhir Singh:	He has extensively served in the Ladakh area and was the Brigade Commander in the Nubra valley. He will narrate the work by the Indian army in Ladakh and Siachen, with special focus on the Army's role in helping people in Ladakh, steps taken to protect the environment, and role of the Army in protecting the borders of Ladakh.
The talks will be followed by an interactive discussion with the panel on issues relating to Environment and Conservation. The discussion will be moderated by Bernadette Mcdonald.	
<b>DAY THREE: 30 AUGUST 2009</b>	
<b>Siachen and East Karakoram</b>	
Harish Kapadia	Honorary Editor of the <i>Himalayan Journal</i> and is a well-known explorer, he has trekked and climbed in Ladakh since 1980 and visited the Siachen Glacier a number of times. With the help of pictures he will narrate the history of the Siachen Glacier, covering the famous explorers in the region and the start of the India–Pakistan conflict. He will also speak about the proposal for converting the glacier into the Siachen Peace Park.
John Porter	A leading climber from the United Kingdom (UK) he has climbed Chong Kumdan peak in the East Karakoram. He made pioneering climbs on the South Buttress of Changabang alpine style, and several other challenging climbs. Currently he runs a Mountain Film Festivals company. He will narrate his climbs with historic pictures.
The talks will be followed by an interactive discussion with the panel on the Siachen Glacier and the Siachen Peace Park proposal. The discussion will be moderated by Major General (retd) Randhir Singh.	

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