



NEWSLETTER ISSUE 1 JULY 2011

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FROM OUR DESK

Welcome to the first edition of the Rimo Expeditions newsletter.

We hope to keep in touch with you through this newsletter and to update you on what's been going on at Rimo Expeditions as we travel through the Himalaya and East Karakoram.

Our Ladakh season is now in full swing, the busiest time of the year for us.

If you visit our website at www.rimoexpeditions.com you will notice some changes, the most noticeable being our blog. We hope you will visit it regularly and contribute, subscribe or let us know of interesting posts that you might want us to share with our readers. We also have a very active facebook page at:

www.facebook.com/rimoexpeditions

Ladakh continues to recover from last year's cloudburst that killed so many people and destroyed so many homes. We at Rimo are doing our bit to help in the reconstruction process, along with the Juniper Trust UK, Himalayan Club and many of our clients worldwide, by adopting the villages of Skiu and Kaya. More on that later.

Until the next time, happy trails!

Team Rimo



MANASLU AND EVEREST CLIMBS



Rimo has been guiding expeditions to the East Karakoram and the Himalaya for almost 20 years, but we outdid ourselves this year by taking on two 8,000 metre peaks in Nepal, Mount Manaslu(8163m) and Mount Everest(8848m).



ATOP MANASLU

First Indian ascent of Manaslu by the Army. Record breaking 18 people on summit

MANASLU AND EVEREST CLIMBS

Both expeditions involved members of the Indian defence forces, the Indian Army on Mount Manaslu and the Indian Air Force (IAF) on Mount Everest.



Mt Manaslu (8,163 m)

For Manaslu, a record number of 18 summiteers reached the summit, the first ascent of the steep, avalanche prone peak by an Indian team. The expedition was led by Colonel Ajay Kothiyal, winner of the Kirti Chakra and Shaurya Chakra peacetime gallantry awards and consisted of three officers, two junior commissioned officers and 13 other ranks. The team included several Sherpa guides who work for Rimo.



The Indian Air Force Expedition to Everest was nearly postponed by organizers but once the last minute decision was made to go ahead, Motup

sprung into action and met the four day deadline to organize the logistics for the climb. The team had been in training for two years, with a visit to the Siachen glacier, an attempt on Mount Stok Kangri (6121m), ascents of Mount Bhagirathi II (6512m), Mount Kamet (7757m) and Mount Saser Kangri I (7672m) as preparation for the big climb. Seven people reached the summit including three female officers — a first for the Indian Air Force. They were Flight Lieutenant Nivedita Choudhary, Corporal Raju Sindhu, Leading Aircraftsman, Ganesh Singh Pokhriya, Squadron Leader Nirupama Pandey, Flight Lieutenant Rajika Sharma, Squadron Leader Devidutta Panda and Sergeant Jasbir Singh.

Three female officers reached the summit of Everest - a first for IAF.

Group Captain Prashant Joshi, director of adventure for the Indian Air acknowledged the effort put in by Rimo to make the expedition happen when he wrote:

“I wish to place on record my heartfelt appreciation and enormous admiration for you and all personnel of your company, to have taken on the audacious task of organizing the Everest Expedition in three days notice. I, or anyone I know, know no other firm that could have or can take on (in future) such a task which everyone in the mountaineering fraternity or (outside of it) rates as impossible.” □

NATIONAL TOURISM AWARD 2010



Mr Motup receiving the award from Priyanka Chopra

For the second year in a row, Rimo Expeditions has been awarded the prestigious Best Adventure Tour Operator award by India's Ministry of Tourism.

Chewang Motup received the award at a well-attended event at the Ashoka Hotel in New Delhi. Motup received the award from Bollywood superstar Priyanka Chopra. Also present on the dais were the Honourable Lok Sabha speaker Smt. Meira Kumar and tourism Minister Shri Subodh Kant Sahai. A proud spectator in the audience was Motup's father.

The write-up in the awards brochure about us read:

"Rimo Expeditions, India's pioneering adventure travel company has been a leader and innovator in the exploration of the East Karakoram and Himalayas, stretching from Ladakh to Arunachal Pradesh. Since 1993, Rimo's unrivalled team of experienced staff, who operate out of offices across the Indian subcontinent, have provided tourists an unparalleled opportunity to explore remote glaciers, climb virgin peaks, trek our mountains and run India's mighty rivers in a safe and memorable setting. Rimo's focus today is to raise the standard of environmental sustainability with creative and responsible rules for its staff to leave as light a footprint as possible in the wilderness."

We remain committed to being the Best Adventure Tour Operator in India for years to come. □

NAWANG GOMBU



The death of Nawang Gombu, former director of Field Training at the Himalayan Mountaineering Institute, saddened us.

The first man to climb Mount Everest twice, with the Americans in 1963 and then again with the Indians in 1965, Gombu was much admired and loved by our staff. He was also the father of Yangdu and father-in-law of Motup, the co-founders of Rimo Expeditions.

Gombu was part of the first group of Sherpa mountaineers who along with Tenzing Norgay

NAWANG GOMBU



The funeral procession enters HMI Darjeeling

completed a guide course in Switzerland in 1954. They became the backbone of the Himalayan Mountaineering Institute, an idea pushed by the late Indian Prime Minister Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru. He retired from the school as its Director of Field Training after more than 40 years of service during which he taught thousands of students basic and advanced climbing skills.

Gombu was also the youngest climbing Sherpa on the team that put his uncle Tenzing Norgay and Sir Edmund Hillary on the summit of Everest in 1953. His climbing days in the 1950s and 1960s across the East Karakoram and the Himalaya included successful ascents of peaks such as Makalu, Sakang Peak, Saser Kangri, Nanda Devi, Cho Oyu, Koptang and Ratong. He also had a long relationship and friendship with Rainier Mountaineering Inc. in Washington state that was co-owned by Lou Whittaker, the

twin brother of his climbing partner and friend Jim Whittaker.

For his climbing and teaching accomplishments, Gombu was awarded India's highest civilian honours including the Padma Bhusan, Padma Shri, the Arjuna Award, the Indian Mountaineering Foundation Gold Medal and the Tenzing Norgay Lifetime Achievement Award. He also received international acclaim and was awarded the Queen Elizabeth II Coronation medal from Her Majesty.

Among his great passions was his work as president of the Sherpa Buddhist Association situated in Toong Soon busty, a Darjeeling neighbourhood where he spent his early years □

GANGA CAMP - SUMMER 2011



Rimo Rafting Camp, Kaudiyala

Another season which started in the fall of 2010 and continued through the winter and spring has come to an end on the Ganga.



Cliff Jump

Our camp at Kaudiyala just north of the famed town of Rishikesh in Uttarakhand saw a record number of clients including several big college groups who came to run the river with us, even during the final of the Cricket World Cup. The interest was such that we kept our camp open for two extra weekends in May.

GANGA CAMP - SUMMER 2011



Riding the Rapids

Other highlights include new rafting gear that we have purchased along with all the latest accessories to ensure that rafting continues to be top notch in the seasons to come. The team is off to Ladakh for 2 months where we have daily trips on the Indus and Zaskar Rivers.

On a more personal note, we are sad to say that our camp manager Tara, a favourite among many of our guests, is going to get married and settle down in his hometown in Manipur. We wish him well.

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