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EverestHistory.com: Wally Berg



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Wally Berg has stood on the summit of Everest four times. He has had six successful ascents on 8,000meter peaks, including Mount Everest, Cho Oyu and Lhotse, which was the first American ascent.

Under his leadership, hundreds of people reached the tops of the continental high points known as the Seven Summits. Wally is the premier "Seven Summits" Guide. Those summits and the number of climbs Wally has made of each are as follows: Mount Everest at 29,035' (4 times), Denali also known as Mount McKinley at 20,320' in Alaska (4 times), Mount Elbrus at 18,481' in Russia (3 times), Cartensz Pyramid at 16,023' in New Guinea (2 times), Mount Kilimanjaro at 19,339' in Africa (25 times), Aconcagua at 22,840' in South America (1 time), and Mount Vinson at 16,067' in Antarctica (2 times). Wally has guided more than 40 total successful climbs to the Seven Summits and each was undertaken with humility, respect, planning, and devotion.

Wally's achievements in planning, organizing, and guiding successful expeditions have also established him as one of the world's foremost expedition leaders. Of particular note, Wally has been Leader of two successful Everest climbs, the International Everest Expedition in 1992 and the American Everest "GPS" Expedition in 1998. On may 20th, 1998 he established the highest benchmark ever when he installed a plate for a Global Positioning System (GPS) receiver at Bishop's Rock, the highest exposed bedrock on the earth's surface, 40 feet below the summit of Everest. Wally successfully activated a Trimble 4800 receiver capturing GPS data from the highest fixed point on earth from which readings have ever been recorded. In the words of Bradford Washburn of The Boston Museum of Science in 1998, "Wally can get the job done! He knows how to handle bad going up high and stick with it."

In 2000, his Embree Glacier Exploratory Expedition in Antarctica, an Explorers club "Flag" expedition, surveyed a previously unvisited region of the Ellsworth Mountains in Antarctica, completing first ascents and gathering data which was reported to NASA as well as to scholars at MIT. With his inquisitive nature, his tenacity and his resourcefulness in wild places, Wally's scientific and project-oriented trips are known to deliver on and surpass expectations.

Indicative of his success as a "world class mountaineer, explorer, and educator", Wally was singled out for recognition in 1997 by Fort Lewis College in Durango, CO. The college bestowed an honorary

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degree of Humane Letter's upon him - only the third person in the institution's history to receive such a degree. In 1999 he was made a Fellow in the Explorers Club. He is a member of The American Association of Avalanche Professionals, the Canadian Avalanche Association, the Wilderness Medical Society and the American Alpine Club.

Wally Berg is also an accomplished photographer. Wally's dramatic photography has been published in prestigious media such as National Geographic (June 2000), Time Magazine Online (2000), Wired Magazine (1999) among others.



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