



RYE 1984 RUINSARA YOUTH EXPEDITION

We are organising a 15 member (8 experienced- 7 youth) expedition to the Ruinsara Valley in Garhwal Himalaya in May-June 1984. The 7 young members will undergo training and then the team will attempt the peaks surrounding the base camp. There will also be treks to Har-ki-Dun and Dodi Tal.

SPONSORS: The expedition is sponsored by 'The Mountaineers', Bombay, an association of mountaineers to promote and support advanced mountaineering activities for the experienced climbers. In the past the association has sponsored many expeditions which climbed Devtoli (22,270 ft), Kalindi (20,020 ft), Chiring (21,520 ft) Sudarshan Parbat (21,350 ft), Chaturbhuj (21,880 ft) and last year 5 peaks in unknown valleys of Spiti were climbed. The association is very active, with members organising and participating in various mountaineering activities regularly both in Himalaya and Sahyadris. 'THE MOUNTAINEERS' is a registered association and all donations to it are exempted under the Income-tax Act, Section 80-G.

THE AREA: The Ruinsara Valley lies near Jamnotri in district of Uttarkashi, U.P. Har-ki-Dun is the adjoining Valley and the entire region is famous for its beauty. It is a well known area and frequently visited. To its north lies Kinnaur. It has many glaciers and from moderate to the most difficult peaks with the easy approach and the variety of terrain it is an ideal training cum climbing ground.

THE PLAN: After travelling by train and bus to Uttarkashi, the team will proceed to Netwar, the last road head. From here it is a beautiful 3 day trek to the base camp, including a night at Ruinsara Lake. At the base camp the younger members will undergo a 5 days training in basic snow and ice crafts. The team will then be split upto attempt at first the smaller and easier peaks and then the higher ones like, Bandarpunch (20,720 ft), Kalanag (20,956 ft), White Peak (20,020 ft) and Swargarohini (20,512 ft). After the climbing the team will return to Uttarkashi via. Dodi Tal, a beautiful trek.

HISTORY: The region is known for the frequent visits of students of the Doon School under the leadership of J.T.M.Gibson, and Gurudayal Singh, this was a favourite region for them. Gibson was particularly instrumental in attempting and first ascents of peaks in this area. Our plans are based on his book 'As I saw it!' and other available information. BANDARPUNCH : was attempted in 1937 (J.A.K. Martyn, Gibson, Tensing Norgay) and first ascent made

on 20 June 1950 (Tensing, Greenwood). KALANAG (Formerly known as 'Black Peak') was attempted in 1953 (Gibson and Doon School team) and the first ascent made in 1955 (Gibson, Passang, Chetan and others). WHITE PEAK was attempted in 1950 by SW face and is still unclimbed. SWARGAROHINI was attempted several times since 1958. Swargarohini II (20,372 ft) was climbed by a Canadian team (Virk, Clarke) in 1974 and the main peak is reported to have been climbed in 1977 by a team from Calcutta. (Mountain Lovers Association).

There has been several ascents of Kalanag, few of Bandarpunch.

ROUTE and SCHEDULE:

8 May	Dep. Bombay	4 June to	Attempting
11 May	Arr. Netwar (via. Uttarkashi)	13 June	harder peaks (Swargarohini Bandarpunch)
12 May to 18 May	Trek to base camp.		
19 May to 24 May	Initial training.	14 June to 20 June	Return trek to Uttarkashi via Dodi Tal.
25 May to 3 June	Attempts on easier peaks (Kalanag, Hanuman White Peak and others)	24 June	Arr. Bombay.

PORTERS : 4 porters will be assisting the team permanently. Initially porters and mules will be employed till base camp. to ferry a large bulk of luggage.

MEDICAL COVER: The team consists of 2 doctors and all the necessary medicines will be carried.

EQUIPMENT : The association has some mountaineering equipment. The balance will be hired or purchased.

FOOD: A detailed food list will be prepared based on definite scales. There will be different items for trekking and high-altitude. Special items will be carried from Bombay while flour, rice, vegetables etc. will be purchased at Dehra Dun. Packing of the food will be done in smaller quantities - each packet containing all the items.

BUDGET:

Transport/freight charges/porterage	Rs. 9,600.00
Food for members	Rs. 12,500.00
Porters and their food	Rs. 12,800.00
Insurance	Rs. 1,600.00
Equipment	Rs. 5,600.00
Photography (still)	Rs. 1,250.00
Medicines	Rs. 2,400.00
Miscellaneous	Rs. 2,000.00

		Rs. 47,750.00
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THE TEAM : ALL INDIAN NATIONALS

- 1) HARISH KAPADIA: (LEADER) Age 38 years. Businessman
Climbed: Ikualari (19,900 ft), Bethartoli Himal South (20,730 ft), Shiti Dhar (17,353 ft), Devtoli (22,270 ft), Kalabaland Dhura (20,030 ft) and Koteshwar II (18,670 ft), 4 peaks in Spiti. Attempted: Bhagirathi II (21,364 ft), Tharkot (20,020 ft) and Yogeshwar (21,710 ft).

Extensive high-altitude trekking over high passes in North Sikkim, East Nepal, East Kumaon and Ladakh - Zanskar, Over 650 ascents in the Western Ghats.
- 2) ZERKSIS BOGA: Age 37 years. Medical Representative.
Climbed: 'Tower' (18,350 ft), Bamba Dhura (20,780 ft), Chiring We (21,520 ft), Sudarshan Parbat (21,350 ft), and Gangotri I (21,890 ft). Attempted: Tharkot (20,020 ft) and Devtoli (22,270 ft), Mana (23,860 ft). High-altitude trekking in North Sikkim and Nanda Devi North Sanctuary.
- 3) ARUN SAMANT: Age 35 years. Architect.
Climbed: Peaks in Dhaula Dhar, Rudugaira (19,090 ft) and Lagma (18,701 ft).
Attempted: Bethartoli Himal (20,840 ft),
Trekged : Everest base, Dhaulta Dhar and Pindari Glacier.
- 4) BHUPESH ASHAR: Age 28 years. Executive.
Climbed : 4 peaks in Spiti. Trekged over high passes in Nubra valley (Ladakh) and Zanskar, Tempo La (Lahul).
Rock Climbing at Panchmarhi-Trekking in Western Ghats.
- 5) MUSLIM H. CONTRACTOR: Age 25 years, Executive.
Basic training. Expeditions to Manda, Guan Nelda, Dhaulta Dhar and Kailash in winter. Trekged to Bhillingna Valley, Everest base and Darma valley. Trekking and rock climbing in Western Ghats.
- 6) Flt.Lt CHANDRASHEKHAR JAYWANT: Age 32 years. Pilot, I.A.F.
Climbed: Lagma (18,701 ft).
Trekking in the Western Ghats.
- 7) JAGDISH C.NANAVATI: Age 55 years. Executive.
Basic training course at Darjeeling. Participated in expeditions to Nilgiri Parbat (leader), Hanuman Tibba Indo-British expedition, Bethartoli- Himal.
Trekged to : Kuari Pass, Kashmir, Satopanth and Bagnue glacier and Darma Valley.
- 8) Dr.VASANT N. DESAI: Age 67 years. Medical Doctor.
Doctor to the expeditions to: Hanuman, Rajramba - Chaudhara, Kalabaland glacier and Swetvarn Indo-French expedition.
Trekged to: Manali, Singalila, Chamba-Pangi, Gosaikund, Everest base, Dhaulta Dhar and Darma Valley.

YOUTH TEAM:

1. Dhiren Toolsidas: Age 20 years. (Engineering) (leader-youth)
Darma Valley trek, Kailash Parikrama in winter.
2. Ravi Mariwala : Age 17 years. (Science).
Treked to Pindari glacier.
3. Ms Genevieve Desa : Age 19 years (Medicine)
Basic Training course at H.M.I., Darjeeling.
4. Milind Pansare: Age 19 years (Computer science)
5. Ms Hina Patel: Age 17 years (Commerce)
Basic Training Course at H.M.I., Darjeeling.
6. Kartik Bhagat: Age 23 years (Medicine)
Treked to Pindari glacier, Sandakhphu and winter
circuit of Kailash.
7. Ms Parul Seth: Age 18 years (Home Science)
Basic training course at H.M.I., Darjeeling.

All Youth members are students and extensive trekking and rock-climbing experience in Sahyadris/Pachmarhi.



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REPORT

SUMMARY : The expedition was organised with a view to train young members between the ages 16 to 21 and to expose them to high altitude climbing experience. The expedition was successful in climbing the following peaks.

1. Bandarpunch West (White Peak) 10 June - First Ascent
(6102m - 20,020 ft.)

Summiters : Arun Samant, Dhiren Toolsidas and
Harish Kapadia

2. Kalanag (Black Peak)
(6387m - 20,956 ft.)

a) 29 May - Climbed

Summiters : Kartik Bhagat, Dhiren Toolsidas and
Harish Kapadia

b) 31 May - Climbed

Summiters : Arun Samant, Ravi Mariwala and Sher Singh.

3. 'Barasukha'
(C.5530m - C.18,200 ft.)

1 June - Climbed

(South of Dhumdhar Kandi Pass)

Summiters : Genevieve DeSa and Dhiren Toolsidas

4. 'Chhotanag'
(5220m - 17,120 ft.)

1 June - Climbed

Summiters : Milind Pansare and Pratap Singh

5. 'Ruinsara'
(C.5480m - C.18,000 ft.)

24 May - Climbed

Summiters : Arun Samant, Kartik Bhagat,
Ravi Mariwala and Pratap Singh.

DETAILED REPORT :

The party started from Bombay on 8 May and after initial transport problems, reached Dehara Dun

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AN EXPEDITION BY :

THE MOUNTAINEERS

72, VIJAY APARTMENTS, 16, CARMICHAEL ROAD, BOMBAY 400 026
TF 363772 - 313227

GRAM: WINTERWEAR

on 10th and roadhead Sankri (196 km. - via Nangaon Purola and Mori) on 11th. We arranged for 15 mules at Rs.40 per day and trekked to Taluka (6800 ft. - 12 km.). A little tiring road brought the party to Osla (8700 ft. - 10 km.). From here we changed to 35 porters (Rs.28 p.d. inclusive of food). On 14th we climbed steeply to Dapsu to get an excellent view of our peaks and then proceeded along the Ruinsara nala and camped at 11,000 ft. (15 km.). Next day we bypassed the disappointing Ruinsara Tal and after crossing a tricky rocky section, established base camp at lower Kiar Koti (13,800 ft. - 4 km.). For the next two days we recceed and ferried loads to ABC at 14,100 ft. (2 km.) ahead of upper Kiar Koti.

From 18th to 22nd various routes were recceed and training was imparted. Everybody felt fit and well acclimatised at the end of this period. White ferrying of loads to Camp 1 of Kalanag continued, the team made the first climb of the expedition on 24 May (Ruinsara Peak).

Other members kept themselves busy by small scrambles near ABC and critical observation of surrounding peaks. A party left on 26th for a trek to Har Ki Dun.

On the same day we started for our ascent of Kalanag. Camp 1 was across the lateral moraine of the Kalanag icefall at 16,500 ft. (4 km.). Camp 2 - 18,200 ft. (1 km.) was through a maze of Grevasses and 1500 ft. below the Col. On 28th 1st attempt failed for want of enough equipment to climb 300 ft. ice-wall which barred the way. On 29 May the party left camp 2 at 5.30 a.m. and reached the top at 4.45 p.m. in very strong icy winds. Gigi missed the summit by 300 ft. and was lucky to return safely. The second team repeated the ascent in perfectly calm and sunny weather and enjoyed good views.

On 1 June, 2 parties left separately for previously recceed peaks. Chhotanag was climbed by moving across the top of the icefall and then followed the North ridge to the top. Barasukha was climbed by following steep scree slopes and a sharp snowy southern ridge.

After 3 days of rest, we traversed the Bandarpunch glacier for 6 km. to make Camp 1 at 15000 ft. for Bandarpunch west. The glacier was totally broken and full of deep crevasses. After a recce a route was found over the true left

lateral moraine of Bandarpunch West glacier. The upper icefall was crossed and Camp 2 was at 17,400 ft. A day was spent to fix ropes in the last icefall which barred the way and the party had to cross very delicate snow bridges to go across. Camp 3 was set up at 18,600 ft. (2 km.). On 10th 1st ascent of Bandarpunch West was made by following the Northeast ridge to the highly corniced summit. We could look down upon the west ridge unsuccessfully attempted by Tenzing Norgay and J.T.M. Gibson in 1950. We withdrew to ABC on 11th amidst heavy snowfall.

Dhiren and Harish crossed Bali Pass (16,000 ft.) (from Ski Valley 2 of Gibson) to the Yamnotri Valley in 2 days. We returned by the pilgrim route to Dehra Dun.

NOTE ON ECOLOGY :

Generally, the moraine walls were crumbling at a fast rate due to a geological fault running through this valley. Forest cover was intact and still lots of dead wood was available. With many trekkers visiting this valley Ruinsara Tal camping ground was thoroughly polluted and a disgrace. We saw a musk deer, marmots, bharals and numerous variety of birds.

Yamnotri was stinking with dirt and the entire route was perhaps the dirtiest Himalayan trail ever.

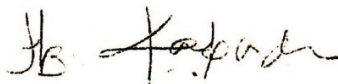
Members : Harish Kapadia (Leader), Arun Samant, Jagdish Nanavati, Dr. Vasant Desai.

Dhiren Toolsidas (Leader - youth), Genevieve De Sa, Parul Sheth, Hina Patel, Kartik Bhagat, Ravi and Shyam Mariwala and Milind Pansare.

Also Accompanied : Mrs. Geeta Kapadia, Mrs. Sheela Jayawant, Mrs. Manda Nanavati, Sonam, Nawang and Prashant.

Period : 8 May to 27 June 1984.

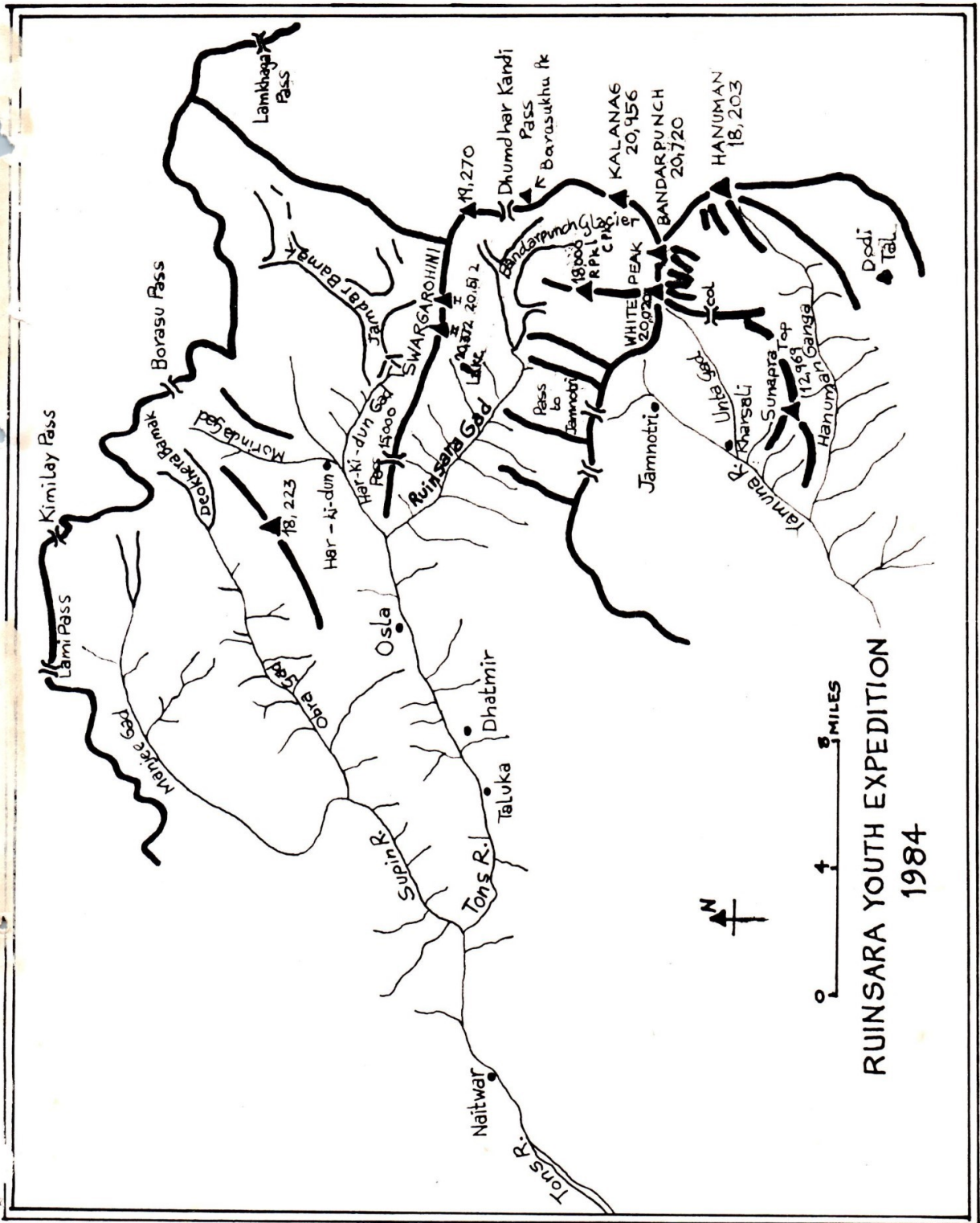
The Mountaineers,
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16, Carmichael Road,
Bombay-400 026.



Harish Kapadia

Leader.

28 June, 1984.



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1984

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