

# EXPEDITION NEWS

A PUBLICATION OF BLUMENFELD AND ASSOCIATES, INC. ©

**February 2010 – Volume Seventeen, Number Two**

**EXPEDITION NEWS, now in its 16th year, is the monthly review of significant expeditions, research projects and newsworthy adventures. It is distributed online to media representatives, corporate sponsors, educators, research librarians, explorers, environmentalists, and outdoor enthusiasts. This forum on exploration covers projects that stimulate, motivate and educate.**

## **CIRCUMNAVIGATING TIERRA DEL FUEGO**

By Stefani Jackenthal, Special Correspondent

Hoping to prove Frank Sinatra correct when he sang “If you can make it here, you’ll make it anywhere,” New York City residents Marcus Demuth and Biff Wruszek attempted a first counterclockwise kayaking circumnavigation of Isla Grande Tierra del Fuego. The more than 1,000 mile paddle around the South America’s largest island, about the size of Ireland, was expected to take two months of powering through some of the world’s harshest marine climates with brutal blowing winds and choppy icy-cold waterways. It would be no splash along the Hudson River.

“We wanted to do something that’s never been done before,” said Demuth, 40, a pragmatic German-born musician who has circled Ireland and completed an unprecedented solo circumnavigation of the Falkland Islands in 2009. “We’re certain to experience the beauty of the 100-mile-wide Cordillera Darwin, abundant maritime wilderness and charm of the Patagonian people living in this remote region.” This is Wruszek’s first big paddling adventure. A high-energy 36-year-old British-born rock climber turned paddler, she noted before leaving New York, “I’m excited but nervous and ready to suffer.”

On Dec. 31, 2009, they launched from Punta Arenas, Chile, for their expedition, which started under calm conditions following a stormy two-week delay due to “custom issues” with their boats. “The winds were down with some days of zero wind speed and glassy waters, which is very unusual for the trip from Punta Arenas to Ushuaia,” Demuth wrote in an e-mail from Ushuaia, Argentina, their original point of entry, 14 days later. “Some glaciers were pure heaven, while other areas were quite hostile, cold and rainy and it was almost impossible to find campsites.”

Following a day off the water in Ushuaia re-supplying and drying out, they paddled another week along the eastern coast to the southeast tip of Tierra Del Fuego, where fierce headwinds hammering from the northwest created treacherous turbulence. They pulled out at Caleta Falsa (about five miles north of Cape San Die), where they were weather-bound for 11 days.

After three breakout attempts, the final one with 20-foot seas, they once again returned to the safety of shore. “We tried to get back to the shelter of the bay as fast as possible knowing that if one of us capsized we would not be able to get close to each other to help,” recalls Demuth, who at that time was committed to completing the journey. But then the Argentine Coast Guard notified them that they were “on their own” and would not be able to help them by land, air or sea.

After a hard-fought 620 miles in some of the world’s most perilous waters and stunning surrounding glaciers and mountains, their journey came to an end due to safety concerns and dwindling supplies. “Although the expedition was a little different than we imagined and a bit more challenging than we hoped for,” posted Demuth on his blog, “I am happy I did the trip, and with my trusted kayaking expedition partner Biff.”

With the support of Kokatat, Globe Wireless, Manhattan Kayak Company, amongst others, their wet and wild expedition was a fundraiser for the kayaking program of Achilles ([www.achilliestrackclub.org](http://www.achilliestrackclub.org)), a New York City-based organization creating resources to enable disabled athletes to participate in mainstream activities such as running, climbing, and kayaking. (For more information: [www.tierradelfuego2010.com](http://www.tierradelfuego2010.com)).

*Stefani Jackenthal is an adventure journalist for print, TV, and radio and an elite endurance racer who has competed and reported worldwide. Her articles have appeared in The New York Times, Outside, Conde Nast Traveler, Marie Claire, and Runner’s World, amongst others. She lives in NYC. [www.stefjack.com](http://www.stefjack.com).*

## **EXPEDITION UPDATE**

### **Stowe Breaks Longest Sea Voyage Record**

On Jan. 16, New York City artist, adventurer and sailor Reid Stowe, on his 70-ft. gaff-rigged schooner *Anne*, accomplished his goal of remaining at sea for 1,000 days (2 years, 7 months and 4 days) without re-supply or touching land, in the process setting or breaking four world records.

Stowe, then 55, and his girlfriend and first mate, Soanya Ahmad, then 23, departed land on Apr. 21, 2007, to attempt this longest sea voyage in history. The longest continuous time on record was 657 days held by the Australian, Jon Sanders after his triple circumnavigation in 1987. As Reid approached Sanders’ solo record on Day 964, Sanders wrote, “Well done Reid. Good luck mate.”

Together Stowe and Ahmad sailed from the Hudson towards the Atlantic on a ship laden with three years worth of food, solar panels for energy, large tarps to catch rainwater, a laptop, an Iridium satellite telephone, and a Metocean tracking unit that would verify the path of the 1000-day voyage (see Google map at [www.1000days.net](http://www.1000days.net))

As Stowe and Ahmad entered the rough Southern ocean, by approximately day 305, Ahmad experienced debilitating nausea believing it to be seasickness. She was transferred off the coast of Australia to another boat that ferried her to back to land where it was confirmed she was pregnant. She returned to New York to have her son, Darshen, now 19 months old.

Last month at an event for his friends and supporters held at the South Street Seaport Museum, Stowe, whose computer has been disabled by moisture, called in by sat phone to explain that instead of returning during the stormy winter months, he has decided to sail with the variable winds and currents of the Atlantic doldrums, returning instead on June 17, 2010, at which time he will have been ship-bound for an astounding 1,151 days.

He admits, “I’m nervous about coming back and dealing with the real world and things I haven’t had to think about for three years. Nonetheless, I feel lucky to have accomplished this impossible goal I’ve set for myself.”

*EN* has covered Stowe since receiving his first sponsorship proposals in 1997 and plans to witness his triumphant return to civilization this spring. (For more information: [www.1000days.net](http://www.1000days.net); a story about his project is expected to run in *The New Yorker* early this month).

### **Apa Sherpa Plans Record 20th Everest Summit**

Widely recognized as one of the world’s greatest living mountaineers, Apa Sherpa, 50, made an appearance at the Suunto booth, his sponsor, during the Outdoor Retailer Winter Market trade show in Salt Lake last month.

Apa Sherpa, a resident of Salt Lake, has reached the top of Mount Everest a record 19 times and is trying to push the record to 20 this spring (see *EN*, February 2007). He hopes to improve the lives of young children in his home village of Thame near Everest Base Camp, where he will travel this summer. The Apa Sherpa Foundation, with Suunto’s help, will construct a library for the people of Thame.

### **One Down, Two to Go**

Polar explorer Eric Larsen, 38, announced that he has reached the South Pole, the first stage of his three-part “Save the Poles” expedition. If successful with the second legs of his quest, he will be the first ever to make it to the North Pole, South Pole and summit of Mt. Everest in a continuous 365-day period (see *EN*, January 2009). He hopes to travel to the “front lines” of global warming to document the changes occurring in what he calls,

“these last great frozen places.” Larsen will also use the expedition as a platform to advocate strategies for reducing carbon emissions and collect relevant scientific data.

Larsen, from Grand Marais, Minn., will depart March 1 for the North Pole; he’s targeting Everest for the fall.

The explorer completed the first-ever summer expedition to the North Pole in 2006 where he pulled and paddled modified canoes over 600 miles of shifting sea ice and open ocean. In January 2009, Larsen successfully led an international team to the geographic South Pole, becoming one of only a few Americans to ski to both poles. (For more information: [www.savethepoles.com](http://www.savethepoles.com)).

### **Barry Clifford Relocates *Whydah* Museum**

Underwater explorer Barry Clifford intends to bring his popular Cape Cod-based Whydah Pirate Museum to downtown Newport, R.I. The *Whydah*, a three-masted galley ship, was captured in February 1717 by Captain “Black Sam” Bellamy. Filled to the gills with gold and goods traded in Jamaica for 312 slaves, the *Whydah* sailed into a storm off Cape Cod in April 1717 and was sunk (see *EN*, April 2003).

So she sat for the next 250 years, until Clifford and his team of underwater explorers discovered the site of the wreck in 1984. For the next two decades, Clifford recovered objects from the ship, and has used those wares as the centerpiece of his display for his museum in Provincetown. The move is expected to reach thousands more summer tourists, and undoubtedly will become a welcome alternative to Newport’s t-shirt shops, harborside bars, and historic home tours. (For more information: [www.whydah.com](http://www.whydah.com)).

### **EXPEDITION NOTES**

**First Unassisted Traverse of Antarctica** – Last month, American Ryan Waters, 36, and Norwegian Cecilie Skog, 35, reportedly became the first team to make an unsupported/unassisted traverse of the Antarctic continent, covering more than 840 miles beginning at Berkner Island and ending at the Ross Ice Shelf, with a stop at the South Pole along the way.

The pair set off on their journey on Nov. 13 and reached their final destination 70 days later on Jan. 21. Over the course of the expedition, they frequently had to deal with high winds, whiteout conditions, and bitter cold, sometimes dropping as low as minus 40 degrees F. As if dealing with the weather wasn't challenging enough, they also had to endure the altitude (Antarctica is the highest continent on Earth) and massive sastrugi, hard waves of drifting snow that form on top of the ice.

Waters and Skog made the journey on skis, while dragging all of their supplies and gear behind them in specially designed sleds. In order for this expedition to be classified as "unsupported" they had to make the journey without receiving a supply drop along the way, and to earn the distinction as "unassisted," they had to finish the trip completely

under their own power. Previous traverses of Antarctic were done through the use of dog sled teams or by using massive kites to pull the explorers across the snow.

The duo spent about a day and a half at their final destination along the Ross Ice Shelf before being picked up by aircraft which returned them to Punta Arenas. (For more information: [www.cecilieskog.com](http://www.cecilieskog.com))

**Deep Thoughts** – A shout-out this month to Explorers Club honorary president Don Walsh on the 50th anniversary of his historic and pioneering voyage to land the bathyscaphe *Trieste*, with Jacques Piccard, at the deepest ocean floor.

According to a Club announcement, early on the morning of Jan. 23, 1960, in the rough Pacific sea, U.S. Navy Lieutenant Don Walsh and Swiss engineer and oceanographer Jacques Piccard lowered themselves through the narrow opening into the cabin of the *Trieste*. As Walsh and Piccard watched the cabin door close and all natural light disappear, they were unaware of what might await them at the bottom of the ocean. Walsh piloted the *Trieste* toward the absolute darkness of Challenger Deep.

At 35,840 feet (10,924 meters), the pressure is roughly eight tons per square inch. The trench was believed to contain only skeletons, yet with the aid of the *Trieste's* lamps, Walsh and Piccard witnessed marine life. The *Trieste* landed on the ocean floor. When it surfaced nearly nine hours later, the bathyscaphe had become the first vessel to reach the deepest part of the Earth's ocean.

The record set 50 years ago remains the only manned mission to reach the deepest part of the Earth's ocean, a unique scientific achievement and an amazing accomplishment in exploration, according to a recent Explorers Club e-mail.

In a related story, Lorie Karnath, MBA, Ph. D. Hon., and Fellow of The Explorers Club, has agreed to serve another year as the non-profit organization's president. As only the second woman in the club's 106-year history to hold this position, Karnath will continue to travel the globe seeking to further the club's mandate promoting discovery and the field sciences.

**Science Museum Offers Expedition to Remote Amazonian Highlands** – The Science Museum of Long Island is selling space on an expedition June 17-30 into the highlands of Peru. The region is replete with the archaeological ruins of the Chachapoyas – an ancient civilization conquered by the Incas and later destroyed by the Spanish.

It will be led by anthropologists Frederique Apffel-Marglin, Ph.D., and Peter Lerche, Ph.D., with archaeologist Klaus Koschmieder, Ph.D. On the itinerary are mysterious Chachapoyas sites including Kuelap which is believed to be the largest stone structure in South America. It sits atop a 10,000-ft. cliff with walls 70 feet high that took 200 years to build. Also on the itinerary: Karajia, the site of rows of sarcophagi, with mummy bundles still inside.

The expedition will be based in the Sachasmama Center where participants can attend indigenous craft workshops. Cost is \$4,500 all inclusive, including airfare. (For more information: <http://www.smli.org/peru.html>)

**99-Year-Old Plane Found in Antarctica** – Remains of the first airplane ever taken to Antarctica, in 1912, have been found by Australian researchers. The Mawson's Huts Foundation had been searching for the plane for three summers before stumbling upon metal pieces of it on New Year's Day at Cape Denison.

Australian polar explorer and geologist Douglas Mawson led two expeditions to Antarctica in the early 1900s, on the first one bringing along a single-propeller Vickers plane. The wings of the plane, built in 1911, had been damaged in a crash before the expedition, but Mawson hoped to use it as a kind of motorized sled.

The 1911-14 Australian Antarctic Expedition used the plane to tow gear onto the ice in preparation for their sledging journeys. But the plane's engine could not withstand the extreme temperatures and it was eventually abandoned. The plane, the first from France's Vickers factory, had not been seen since the mid-1970s, when researchers photographed the steel fuselage nearly encompassed in ice. (For more information: [www.mawsons-huts.org.au](http://www.mawsons-huts.org.au)).

## QUOTE OF THE MONTH

*"If you're not getting seasick, you're kind of getting ripped off."* – Geoff Green, expedition leader for Students on Ice, on the rocking and rolling *M/V Ushuaia*, somewhere in the middle of the Drake Passage early last month between South America and Antarctica. *EN* was there and, well, certainly got our money's worth. Read our daily blogs at [www.expeditionnews.blogspot.com](http://www.expeditionnews.blogspot.com).

## EXPEDITION FOCUS

### Report from Salt Lake

The mood was a bit more upbeat last month at the 2010 Outdoor Retailer Winter Market as 21,000 manufacturers and retailers welcome what appears to be an uptick in the economy, while still realizing that with nagging high unemployment, the country is not out of the woods yet. Some notable events and product launches from the Salt Lake Temple of Consumption follow below.

- **Glaciers in Trouble**

**Glacier Retreat Captured in Time Lapse Videos** – Acclaimed photographer, climber and scientist James Balog has spent the past three years working with a dedicated team on the Extreme Ice Survey. The project placed 33 time-lapse cameras at 16 sites through 32 expeditions to Greenland, Iceland, Alaska and the Rockies to document glacier retreat and the realities of global climate change. The author of *Extreme Ice Now* (National

Geographic Books, 2009), his work is featured in a NOVA-National Geographic TV special scheduled to air on PBS Mar. 24.

Balog's address before a breakfast meeting of the Conservation Alliance on Jan. 22 left the 300-plus audience aghast as they viewed glaciers shrinking before their eyes in time-lapse videos. He tells writer Doug Schnitzspahn of the *OR Show Daily*, "When people see it happening, when they hear our eyewitness testimony, they are stunned. Whether they are skeptics or believers, they are universally stunned that these sort of grand changes can happen in these mountain landscapes so fast."

Balog believes single frame photography isn't convincing enough. His videos, taken by cameras sealed in Pelican cases modified with windows and powered by solar energy, show climate change in action which directly and immediately effects humanity, he says. In fact, the retreat of glaciers in Greenland are thought to be the source of the iceberg that sank the *Titanic*.

"History will judge us as fools if we don't rise to the occasion about this challenge," he said during his sobering presentation which ended with a standing ovation. (For more information: [www.extremeicesurvey.org](http://www.extremeicesurvey.org)).

**Reach the Top** – Icelandic Mountain Guides, no stranger to receding glaciers, hosted a luncheon seminar with 66° North, the Icelandic performance clothing company. Together, the two Icelandic companies are preaching small changes that can help, such as reusing coffee mugs, bike or walk to work or school, washing in cold water, shop locally and using public transportation. Iceland is made up of 11 percent glaciers that are retreating at an alarming rate. The apparel company runs a climbing program called "Reach the Top with 66° North" which guides hundreds of people to Iceland's tallest peak, Havannadalshnukur (6,923-ft./2110m) located on Vatnajokull, Europe's largest glacier.

The program also teaches the importance of protecting the environment and serves as a forum to highlight the threat that global warming poses to Iceland's glaciers. By the end of the trip, we wonder if visiting clients ever learn how to actually pronounce "Havannadalshnukur." (For more information: [www.66north.com](http://www.66north.com)).

**Preserving Winter** – Teton Gravity Research showcased *Generations*, a short film sponsored by The North Face that focuses on the consequences of climate change upon winter environments and snow culture. It includes sad images of receding glaciers in the Alps, including ski lifts marooned by lack of snowpack. The film supports the work of ProtectOurWinters.org which invests in programs that help reverse the global warming crisis. ([www.tetongravity.com/generations](http://www.tetongravity.com/generations))

- **EN Product Review**

Want to read a review of new outdoor gear from major corporations? Well, you can always count on the pretty boy outdoor magazines for that. Here's *EN's* review of some



expedition-ready products from lesser-known manufacturers that are jostling for your outdoor dollar.

**Ride the Slide** – There were at least three companies at OR selling backpack-mounted avalanche airbags. The idea is fairly simple: if you find your sorry self in an avalanche, you pull a handle to inflate an oversized double airbag on your back that allows you to ride above the slide and avoid complete burial. One company, ABS, based in Grafelfing, Germany, even offers wireless activation allowing one person, often a guide, the ability to wireless deploy the airbags of other members of the group. ABS claims 98 percent of all avalanche victims with activated ABS-Avalanche Airbags survived nearly unharmed. ([www.abs-airbag.com](http://www.abs-airbag.com))

Another avalanche airbag company, Snowpulse of Switzerland, positions its inflatable airbags closer to the head and neck. Nonetheless, the first step is to avoid dangerous slide zones altogether. Indeed. The small print on the Snowpulse brochure reads, “Snowpulse airbags do not guarantee your safety during an avalanche. You must not take more risks just because you have a Snowpulse airbag.” Good thinking. ([www.snowpulse.com](http://www.snowpulse.com)).

**Slackers** – Not sure you realize this, but slacklining is, according to a flyer, “the new sport that’s sweeping the nation.” True or not, it’s sort of like tightrope walking, except you’re on 2-in. (50 mm) webbing just a foot or so above the ground. It’s not easy, despite our incredible personal skills on the Bongo Board (Google it). Sling the line between two trees, for instance, cinch it up with a two-part ratchet tensioning system, and you have a fun way to increase core strength, balance and coordination. Or, as the announcer at a demo put it, “Slacklining is pretty straightforward. All you have to do is walk pretty straight forward.” ([www.gibbonslacklines.com](http://www.gibbonslacklines.com))

**Hide and Seek** – One great way to encourage the future explorers of tomorrow is to get them geocaching – sort of a game of hide and seek whereby enthusiasts have hidden hundreds of thousands of small treasure boxes outdoors in almost every region of America. The Geomate Jr. from Apisphere, Berkeley, Calif., is a handheld device preloaded with 250,000 geocache locations covering all 50 U.S. states. You switch it on and it identifies the closest cache based upon your current latitude and longitude. New geocaches are being created all the time by enthusiasts, containing small toys, trinkets, and logbooks. You add a trinket and take one, according to geocaching etiquette ([www.mygeomate.com](http://www.mygeomate.com))

**Just Put Your Lips Together and Blow** – Whistles for Life, based in Ferndale, Wash., believes anyone who ventures outdoors needs to carry a whistle – considered an essential safety tool. Company literature claims, “If you can breathe, you can be rescued.” Endorsed by a host of safety organizations, it features two outer pealess chambers to create a separate omni-directional sound. But the real secret ingredient is the third chamber featuring a pea that produces a loud 120 db staccato sound. We tried it on a deserted street outside the Salt Palace; it had our ears begging for mercy. ([www.whistlesforlife.com](http://www.whistlesforlife.com))



**All in One** – Get yourself in trouble out there and you'll thank us for this tip: the JakPak is the world's first all-in-one waterproof jacket, tent and sleeping bag. It's a patent pending waterproof/breathable jacket with integrated tent, no-see-um sized mosquito netting, and three-season sleeping bag with waterproof ground cloth. We get exhausted just writing about it. Can't much recommend it for that trek to Everest Base Camp, but can think of a few Jets games where this little puppy would have come in handy. ([www.jakpak.com](http://www.jakpak.com))

## MEDIA MATTERS

**Lunar Disappointment** – An interview with Apollo astronaut Eugene Cernan, the last man to walk on the moon (1972), appears in the next Explorers Club *The Explorers Journal*. In the "What Were They Thinking?" column this spring, adventure journalist Jim Clash asks the former astronaut whether he was disappointed that we haven't been back to the moon.

Cernan replies, "Very disappointed. When I returned in 1972, I honestly believed it wasn't the end, but the beginning of a new era in space exploration. We're not only going back to the moon, but by the end of the century we'll be well on our way to Mars. We had three more Saturn V's sitting there waiting to go, before they were put in a museum. And I was trying to be conservative."

Cernan continues, "I figured 28 years, my God how much margin do you need? We threw out a plum to those men and women who followed, many far more capable, and they reeled in a lemon. We said, 'Here guys, pick it up and run with it, follow in our footsteps, we've proved we can do it.' This is not a slam on the Shuttle—it's the greatest flying machine we could have built – but it doesn't go anywhere."

**Hall of Famer** – The acclaimed *Everest* IMAX film, produced by MacGillivray Freeman Films (MFF), Laguna Beach, Calif., has been inducted into the IMAX Hall of Fame. With more than \$147 million in worldwide ticket sales, it is the highest grossing giant-screen film in history. Says John Mackay, president and CEO of Discovery Place in Charlotte, "*Everest* set a new bar for filmmaking which is yet to be matched and continues to reflect for millions of viewers their passion for films which are crafted around compelling stories and extraordinary places and events." With help from sponsor Polartec, MFF spent \$5 million marketing the film, an unheard of amount for a giant-screen film. (For more information: [www.macfreefilms.com](http://www.macfreefilms.com))

**Aron Ralston's Ordeal Comes to the Big Screen** – Oscar-winning filmmaker Danny Boyle of *Slumdog Millionaire* fame has accepted an incentive offer from Utah worth nearly \$2.8 million. His plan: Produce a movie in the state about rock climber Aron Ralston. The incentive for the movie *127 Hours* is the state's second-largest ever for a film. Filming begins in March, according to a story by Lesley Mitchell in *The Salt Lake Tribune* (Jan. 14).

The film depicts the harrowing 127-hour ordeal of Ralston, who was climbing in a slot canyon in Utah's Canyonlands National Park six years ago when his arm was pinned by an 800-pound boulder. After five days of being unable to escape – he was in a remote area and hadn't notified friends or family where he was going – he cut off his arm with a dull knife. Actor James Franco, best known for his appearances in the *Spider-Man* films, has been cast as Ralston.

Boyle said he wanted to make the film after reading Ralston's book *Between a Rock and a Hard Place*. "It's a celebration of life," he said. Boyle said the film should be completed by the end of May, and the movie could be released by the end of the year.

**Everest Stars in High Altitude Skiing Documentary** – Making the rounds is *Skiing Everest*, the first feature-length documentary about the cutting-edge sport of high altitude skiing. Filmed by co-director Mike Marolt over ten years, the doc tells the story of a group of close friends, lead by Marolt and his twin brother, Steve, who grew up in Aspen and went on to become the first Americans to ski from above 8,000 meters (26,247 ft.) when they skied from the summit of Shisha Pangma in Tibet in 2000, and then challenged the highest slopes in the world on Mt. Everest without using supplemental oxygen, without employing Sherpas to carry their gear or hiring guides to help them up to the summits.

The film also tells the history of high altitude skiing, dating back to the 1930s, and includes interviews with Hans Kammerlander, who was the first to ski from the summit of Everest; Laura Bokas, the first woman to ski from the summit of an 8000m peak; and Chris Davenport, the two-time world extreme skiing champion, who is an avid ski mountaineer as well. (View the "Skiing Everest" trailer on YouTube: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5N3v32z4NUM>)

## EXPEDITION MARKETING

**One Giant Leap** – Next Giant Leap, a space exploration company based in Deadwood, S.D. that's competing for the Google Lunar X Prize, has announced the addition of PerspectX to their team. Ogden, Utah-based PerspectX specializes in advanced visualization, ranging from storyboarding, to industrial pre-visualization, digital effects, animation, and interactive software development, primarily for clients in aerospace, technology, and entertainment.

Next Giant Leap will use the technology to create mission animations that will, hopefully, improve the group's chance of winning the Google Lunar X Prize. To win the \$20 million grand prize, a team must successfully soft land a privately funded spacecraft on the moon, rove on the lunar surface for a minimum of 500 meters, and transmit a specific set of video, images and data back to the Earth. (For more information: [www.nextgiantleap.com](http://www.nextgiantleap.com), [www.googlelunarprize.org](http://www.googlelunarprize.org)).

**GE Brings Good Things to 15-Year-Old** – A 15-year-old will attempt to ski the last degree (60 miles) to the North Pole, an outing designed to make younger people aware of

global climate change. His expedition guide, Doug Stoup, of Ice Axe Expeditions based in Truckee, Calif., is considered one of the world's foremost experts on the North and South Poles.

Parker Liautaud, a student at Eton College in Windsor, UK, will attempt the journey starting in late March, relying on GE's eVent waterproof fabric and its patented Direct Venting Technology.

Stoup has led nine trips to the Arctic region and 19 to the Antarctic. (For more information: [www.ge.com/energy](http://www.ge.com/energy)).

## WEB WATCH

**Good Snooze At Last** – *EN's* latest blog about the difficulties of sleeping under Antarctica's ever-present austral sun promoted one reader to suggest the "Dreamhelmet." Traveling to the land of the midnight sun and not worried about what you look like in bed? Dreamhelmet is a one-piece sleep mask and sound-blocking pillow that also doubles as a hand warmer and money belt. You won't find it in stores, which for some reason doesn't surprise us. Order it on the Web for \$29.95. (For more information: [www.dreamhelmet.com](http://www.dreamhelmet.com)).

## EXPEDITION CLASSIFIEDS

**Advertise in Expedition News** – For just 50 cents a word, you can reach an estimated 10,000 readers of America's only monthly newsletter celebrating the world of expeditions on land, in space, and beneath the sea. Join us as we take a sometimes irreverent look at the people and projects making Expedition News. Frequency discounts are available. (For more information: [blumassoc@aol.com](mailto:blumassoc@aol.com)).

**Targeted Support for Cold Weather** – Wacoal Sports Science Corporation continues to expand its collection of targeted support Conditioning Wear for cold weather. Shop specialty outdoor retailers and running stores for the new performance-enhancing Insulator Zip Vest, 3/4-length Insulator Stabilyx tights, Insulator Crew Neck top, and Cold Weather bra. The CW-X Insulator collection features Auto-Sensor, a quick-dry, breathable fabric with tuned temperature regulation that maintains a constant comfortable surface temperature under a variety of weather conditions. Antibacterial fabric freshness is provided through titanium and silver fiber technology, and U.V. protection is rated at UPF 50+. ([www.cw-x.com](http://www.cw-x.com))

**EXPEDITION NEWS is published by Blumenfeld and Associates, Inc., 28 Center Street, Darien, CT 06820 USA. Tel. 203 655 1600, fax 203 655 1622, [editor@expeditionnews.com](mailto:editor@expeditionnews.com). Editor/publisher: Jeff Blumenfeld. Assistant editor: Jamie Gribbon. ©2010 Blumenfeld and Associates, Inc. All rights reserved. ISSN: 1526-8977. Subscriptions: US\$36/yr. available by e-mail only. Credit card payments accepted through [www.paypal.com](http://www.paypal.com). Read EXPEDITION NEWS at [www.expeditionnews.com](http://www.expeditionnews.com). Enjoy the *EN* blog at [www.expeditionnews.blogspot.com](http://www.expeditionnews.blogspot.com).**