

Ash and
Barts
CHOICE
Adventure

TMC 15 Alpine Guides New Zealand 2002



The Choice Trip

Ash & Barts had been looking forward to this trip for a long time, they were so excited about going they turned up at Sydney Airport a day early! Which gives a good example of the mental state of these two. The next day, March 12 they were off to New Zealand, Land of the Long White Cloud, Aotearoa, where the men are brave and sheep are scared...

Mt Cook home of Alpine Guides is where they were heading to partake in a 10 day Technical Mountaineering Course followed by some sea kayaking in the Able Tasman area.

Our guides, for TMC 15, Kem and Jamie

The others putting their lives in to Kym and Jamies hands,
Nathan, Keiran, Natasha, Clive, Matt and Pete.

Tip: Never listen to your guides when they tell you what warm clothes to take up a mountain.
Take everything you've got!



"I'm not going anywhere
till I find my pants"

Hut Life



The salubrious Kelman Hut was our home for the 10 days of the course. While confined to the hut during blizzards we spent the time learning lots of interesting things like, knot tying, prussiking, avalanches, who farts the most (Kem), weather patterns, mountain toilets really stink, our porn star names and that you begin to get a bit on the nose after 10 days without a shower (especially Ash)



Help! It's finally got out and it's got me by the ankle!



A typical hut bound blizzard day.

Just going to the loo was an adventure!



"More coffee?" "Why not, I've only had 12 today"



The best way to stay warm, Bourbon in a bag!

Cooking was popular as it was the warmest part of the hut. The food was excellent with everyone showing off their culinary skills each night. Collecting water, boiling water, drinking coffee, hanging in a harness, quoting Monty Python, reading FHM, wishing we were outside, and practicing our choice kiwi eekints were popular pastimes as will eh!



Pete and Jamie getting ready to head out



"Bourbon slushies anyone?"

Pussiking

Ahh.. the gentle art of prussiking.
Definition: To hang in a harness that's forcing your testicles up into your throat while trying to climb a rope using two pieces of string!
To French? To Klemhist? Or to Classic?
That is the question!



Clive and Nathan coming to terms with a problem.



"Look Mum, no hands"
(or testicles)



That's not a smile folks, it's a grimace

Outside



Crampons on! This is where we all wanted to be! We trekked all over the place, visited Tasman Saddle Hut (Kelman rocks!!), set snow anchors and ice screws, weaved through crevasse fields, did self arresting (had to change undies after the hill moved!), ice climbed and crevasse rescued (more on that later!) We let Ash lead on one day, he has one speed, flat out!



Building snow anchors. Mt Cook in the background.



Heading home

Hey Barts, does my ass look fat in this harness? —



— "The service really sucks up here!"





Kem and Jamie have just sent us out to do some blizzard navigation. "Go out and get lost, promise we'll find you".

"Are we having fun or what?"



All roped up and not a whip anywhere!



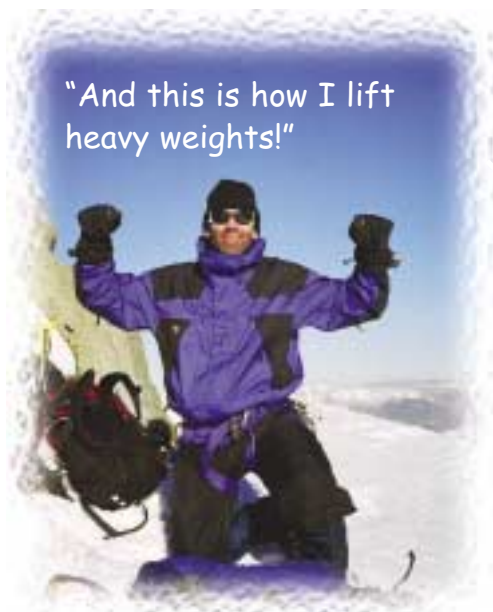
"Choice trip eh!"



"I'm with idiot"



Onward and upward



"And this is how I lift heavy weights!"



A typical mountain poser

Crevasse Rescues



Or "Guides Revenge". This is where we learnt about the dark side of our guides nature.

"We've found you a really cool crevasse to practice in guys"

"It's got a great overhanging lip" , " You guys will love it"

These were some of the things we were told before they lowered us over the edge. What they didn't tell us was how to get out! Or how hard it was. We did notice though that out of all the skills we learnt on the course that this is the only one Kem and Jamie didn't demonstrate!



"Bunch of smart asses in this group eh Kem!"

"Yes Jamie, I think it's time for some crevasse rescues"



Clive, Pete and Matt hanging in there!



Ash I thought you said this was going to be fun!

Just shut up and keep climbing



Just take the photo Jamie and stop laughing!!

Ice Climbing

Definitely a highlight of the trip. Axes swinging, crampons kickin and ice flying, awesome stuff. After letting us loose on an unsuspecting ice cliff we were taught technique, then there was nothing stopping us.

Even some lead climbing was attempted as can be seen in some of the photos....

.... it's amazing what a good computer can do for ones climbing skills!!!

The ice flies as Ash murders another cliff!



TMC 15 2002



Standing: Natasha - Sunny the nurse, Ash - Bro in-law, Jamie - Legend guru guide,
Matt- Young bastard, Pete - The gardener, Nathan - The gear man, Keiran - BP the quiet achiever.
Front: Clive- The Sth African, Kem - Head legend guru guide.
Colin - I'm too sexy for this pic - taking photo



Eet wes choice eh!

Great shot Jamie, you managed to keep Ash out of the photo, almost!



Thanks Kem and Jamie
it was huge fun!
Barts.





Sea Kayaking

We headed to the Able Tasman Marina Park where we headed out for a relaxing three day sea kayaking trip after our mountain adventure. A stunning place and popular kayaking destination.



From mountain man to sea man!



Pristine kayaking



How to move a lot of kayaks



A couple of locals



Anchorage Bay



"Hey Barts, have I got anything stuck in my teeth?"