

**A proposal to the Dartmouth Outing Club  
for support from the Wolfgang Schlitz Adventure Fund  
Andrew Flynn '07 and Katey Blumenthal '06**

**THE DARTMOUTH GRAND TRAVERSE:  
Following in the Footsteps of Jack Durrance**

**PROPOSAL:**

We, Andrew Flynn '07 and Katey Blumenthal '06, are requesting funding from the Wolfgang Schlitz Adventure Fund in support of an early summer climbing trip to Grand Teton National Park in western Wyoming. From June 7<sup>th</sup>-21<sup>st</sup> we hope to explore the traditional climbing and peaks of the Teton Range, establish first ascents of routes in select canyons and peaks, and to pursue two major route link-ups: the first in Death Canyon that will push our technical climbing abilities, and the second being a Dartmouth Grand Traverse – a link up of the seven highest summits in the Teton Range on routes established by Dartmouth climbers. In the current DOC Vertical Challenge competition, 75 individual submissions have come from Dartmouth climbers, and all of them from sport climbing at Rumney. While the focus of the Dartmouth Mountaineering Club has shifted in recent years from its traditional history and the days of Jack Durrance, we hope that this trip will provide a link connecting the past of DMC adventurers with the present focus of the club.

**SCHEDULE:**

June 2-6 Driving from Hanover to Jackson, Wyoming  
June 7-21 Climbing in Grand Teton National Park (GTNP)  
    ~June 11: Death Canyon climbs link-up  
    ~June 15-June 17: Grand Traverse  
June 21-25 Driving from Jackson to Seattle, WA

**BUDGET (ALL TOGETHER)**

Food – 14 days \* 20 = \$280 (\$140 per individual)  
Webbing = \$20  
Set of stoppers (Metolius) = \$50  
Double ropes = \$175  
Stove = \$40 (Pocket Rocket)  
Fuel = \$20  
Cookset = \$20  
Park Pass = \$50  
**TOTAL: \$655**

**BUDGET (PER INDIVIDUAL):**

Food: \$140  
Gear: \$162.50  
Misc: \$25  
**TOTAL: \$327.50**

## **AMOUNT OF MONEY BEING ASKED FOR:**

We are asking the Schlitz Fund for the funding of the food portion of our trip to the amount of \$280. We are also applying for money from the DMC's Expedition fund to help us pay for the gear we will require while in the Tetons.

## **SPECIFICS:**

From June 2<sup>nd</sup> –6<sup>th</sup> we will drive from Hanover to Jackson, Wyoming. Early in the trip we plan to rent a canoe for the approach to Mount Moran and to climb South Buttress Right (V, 5.11) to the mountain's summit, something not usually done via South Buttress Right. We would like to camp at the headwall of Death Canyon, exploring and climbing first ascents on the North side of the canyon, approximately 4 miles past the canyon's mouth. We would also like to explore first ascent potential in Granite Canyon, approximately 3 miles into the canyon high the south side, where there is a vertical granite cliff that has no known routes. Finally, we would like to scout Rock Springs Buttress, a south facing buttress on Mount Saint John's, where climbers recently have been developing one to six pitch climbs, and we believe there is more pitched route potential.

The main goal of the first week of our trip will be in Death Canyon, linking four classic crack climbs on the North side of the canyon – Arial Boundaries (IV 5.10+), Caveat Emptor (IV 5.11-), The Snaz (IV 5.10-), and Sunshine Daydream (IV 5.10).

In the second week of the trip, around June 15<sup>th</sup> (but dependent on weather and other factors), we will climb a Dartmouth Grand Traverse. The Grand Traverse has been a challenge for local climbers and mountaineers to test their familiarity with the range and their agility over its terrain. It is ordinarily soloed or climbed by the easiest routes on each of the seven highest summits in the Tetons. We would like to make our goal unique by climbing quality routes that have been established by Dartmouth climbers, namely in homage to Dartmouth Alum Jack Durrance's 1930s accomplishments in the area. Because routes on two of the summits — the South Teton and Cloudveil Dome — do not have Dartmouth first ascents, we hope to find our own routes and put up Dartmouth first ascents, and if this is not possible we have decided on back-up routes.

Specifically the breakdown of our traverse will include:

**Teewinot** – *Direct East Ridge* – (III 5.8 Rick Medrick, Sterling Neale, August 30, 1959)  
OR --*Lower Northeast Ridge* – (II 4.0 FA to the Crooked Thumb Col July 14, 1938, Jack Durrance, Michael Davis and Harry Butterworth)

**Mount Owen** – *Serendipity Arete* (IV, 5.7. FA: Frederick Medrick, William Buckingham, Sterling Neale, and Frank Magary, August 8, 1959)

**Grand Teton** – *Medrick-Ortenburger Route* (IV, 5.8, A2. FA August 14-15 1963 by Frederick Medrick and Leigh Ortenburger).

**Middle Teton** – *Dike* (IV, 5.6, Jack Durrance, Joseph Hawkes, Margaret Smith, July 20, 1940)

**South Teton** (Scramble, Route or establish FFA)

**Cloudveil Dome** (Scramble, Route or establish FFA)

**Nez Perce** – *North Face* (III, 5.6, FA August 9, 1940, by Jack Durrance and Henry Coulter)

We will plan for the traverse to take three days, and will use our other excursions to stash gear in order to lighten our loads (stashers will most likely be at the base of the

North Face of the Grand and in the Exum Hut on the lower saddle below the Grand, Middle and South Tetons).

The final goal of our trip is to climb the second free ascent of the North Face of the Enclosure on the Grand Teton. Rick Black, my father figure, peaked in his climbing career on his first free ascent of the route that no one thought was possible to free climb in 1977, and it's been his dream for his daughter to claim the second free ascent. Luckily no one has reportedly climbed the route since, (a credible claim considering how far from any other classic route is, and how small and tight-knit the local climbing community is).

### **RISK MANAGEMENT:**

The Tetons present a mixed bag for climbers. Although access to Grand Teton National Park is expensive, permits are not necessary for day-trips, and are free for camping in the backcountry. The weather in the Teton Range is known to be inclement, but is more stable in mid to late June than in later summer months. We anticipate ice and snow on the peaks in the beginning of our trip, which will melt towards the middle of June enabling us to traverse the range. We are aware of and familiar with the loose rock and alpine dangers in the range, as well as orienteering difficulties, but have adequate skill and familiarity with the range to negotiate these challenges. We plan to wear helmets, (with custom painted matching designs), while climbing at all times, carry a first aid kit, and be extremely cautious and respectful of the conditions. In between nights out, we have places to stay. We are familiar with where to buy food and supplies in the valley, GTNP rangers, and climbing guides in the area. Knowing climbing guides in Jackson will enable us to gather information on mountain conditions, and also provide us with immediate safety contacts. We are familiar (unfortunately!) with the hospital in Jackson, which is especially skilled in treating trauma that can result from climbing injuries. Furthermore, the Search and Rescue in GTNP is renowned for their competency.

For a mountain range with extreme alpine conditions, these safety factors, (along with cell phone reception from most peaks in the range), make the Tetons an ideal place to push oneself, especially on first ascent projects. This is important to us as climbing partners who have explored first ascents together minimally but feel that we have potential in this area and would like to pursue trips to more remote mountains.

### **GIVING BACK:**

Upon our return to Dartmouth (which will not be until winter 2007), we will submit a written report of our trip that we would ideally like to use as a contribution to Woodsmoke Magazine. We will compile our photos and make a slideshow of our trip. Hopefully we will also have route descriptions and topos to submit to the Fourth Edition of Renny Jackson and Leigh Ortenburger's book, *A Climber's Guide to the Teton Range!* In 2007 while we are on campus, we will continue our active involvement in the DMC through leading trips and teaching PE classes, especially through teaching with John Joline's class on traditional and lead climbing.

## **BIOS:**

**Katey Blumenthal** is in the class of 2006 but will graduate with the 2007 class. Her introduction to climbing at age 12 was through traditional routes, and mountaineering. World-renowned climbers Jack Tackle, Rolando Garibotti, Jim Donini, and Cindy Tolle taught her to climb. The Tetons are her tromping ground and she claims her familiarity with the range to be almost on par with the DMC's knowledge of Rumney (Joline and Woodward excluded). She has climbed nation-wide, in Central America, and in Europe, has trekked in the Himalayas, and established first ascents of rock routes from single pitch to big-wall climbs in the Tetons, The Needles in South Dakota, in Sonora Mexico, on El Gigante, Mexico (an 800 meter rock face), and with Andrew Flynn '07 in Red Rocks, Nevada. She is an active member and leader in the DMC. She was Gear Officer for a term, organized the 2006 Spring Break Trip, teaches PE classes and leads ice and rock climbing trips, but rarely ventures to Rumney and only appears in Daniel's Climbing Gym in plastic mountaineering boots. She was reportedly seen on a Dartmouth bouldering trip in Alabama last winter, to which she pleads temporary insanity. Along with her granite addiction she is an avid trail runner and endurance athlete. She hopes to conquer the slack line this spring, so that she can climb in Yosemite in the near future.

**Andrew Flynn** is a 2007 and has been an active member of the DMC since arriving at Dartmouth his Freshman Fall. In fact, one of his earliest memories of Dartmouth is scrambling up the tree on the Robo lawn with Tom Bonamici and promptly being asked to "please get down." Andrew began climbing at Boy Scout camp when he was 16 and learned the basics from his father in the Sierras at Lover's Leap near Lake Tahoe. He has climbed extensively in the West up to 2,000 ft. Grade VI big walls Yosemite, Joshua Tree, and Red Rocks. In the summers of 2003 and 2004, he traveled to Kandersteg, Switzerland where he worked as a Climbing Instructor the first summer, and a Snow & Ice Guide the second summer. Here he gained valuable experience about safety in the mountains. He also climbed extensively on his free days, climbing such peaks as the Matterhorn and a traverse of the 4,000 m Mt. Blanc peaks. At Dartmouth he has held many leadership positions within the DMC; acting as Co-Chair for two terms, Gear Officer for one term, and co-organizing the annual Spring Break trip in 2005. He has led many trips for the club ranging from beginner Rumney trips to advanced Gunks trips. He has taught PE courses ranging from Winter Mountaineering to a Big Wall/Aid Climbing class. Recently, he completed his American Mountain Guides Association (AMGA) Top Rope Site Manager certification and is a member of both the AMGA and the American Alpine Club (AAC). Although he has never been to the Teton range before, stories from Katey Blumenthal '06 and readings from *Talus: A History of the Dartmouth Mountaineering Club* have whetted his appetite too much to not take a trip there.