

BANGOR UNIVERSITY DENALI EXPEDITION

28 May - 5 July 2012

Final Report by: Tom Ripley

With support from: *British Mountaineering Council*

Mount Everest Foundation

Welsh Sport Association



Tom Livingstone descending the West Buttress at sunset.

Introduction.

After hearing many stories of the amazing climbing in the Central Alaska Range Tom Livingstone and I decided to check it out for ourselves. For both us this would be our first visit to Alaska and Livingstone's first to the great ranges.

We wanted to do a number of existing routes but we were both keen to do something new as well. I'd read about the Father and Son Wall on Denali. It sounded hard but not too hard and I could see a plausible new line. Unfortunately it wasn't to be. Our trip started well with ascents of SW Ridge of Mount Francis and Bacon and Eggs on the Mini-mini Moonflower Buttress, before warm weather forced us to head up onto Denali. Upon reaching 14k Camp we dropped down to checkout the Father and Son Wall, but warm weather, large seracs and reports of very poor quality rock made us reconsider our plans. After acclimatizing on the West Buttress we were able to take advantage of a good weather window and make a two day ascent of the Cassin Ridge. This was the quickest of the four ascents the Cassin had that season with the others taking four or more days. With a combined age of 43 we are pretty sure that our ascent is youngest ever British ascent of the Cassin.

Expedition Diary.



Our tent and the awesome North Buttress of Mount Hunter.

May 29: We landed in Anchorage at 1am. After a few hours sleep in a grim motel we started getting sorted. We bought some odd bit of climbing gear at AMH and a load of gels, Cliff Bars and freeze dried meals at REI, where we bumped into a group of guides from the American Alpine Institute. For \$100 they gave Tom and I a ride to Talkeetna. On the way we stopped off at Costco, where we bought bulk food and Fred Meyer where we bought stuff that we didn't need in multiples of ten. We spent a the afternoon packing, weighing and sorting our gear for the next days flight. Stupidly I'd forgotten to hire a Sat Phone in Anchorage, but thankfully I was able get one through K2 Aviation. We finished the evening with a beer and a burger and dossed the night in TAT's load house.

May 30: We awoke early and breakfasted at the Roadhouse. We then had our briefing with the National Park Ranger Service. By eleven we were all loaded up and ready to go. The flight onto the Kahiltna Glacier took about an

hour. We spent a few hours sorting out our camp, before going for ski up to the base of Mount Hunter.



Whiteout on the summit of Francis.

May 31: We climbed the SW Ridge of Mount Francis in a 13 hour round trip to base camp. The climbing was straightforward and high quality, similar to the Forbes Arete on Aiguille du Chardonet. The weather deteriorated as we approached the summit, which made climbing interesting. In poor visibility I managed to knock off a cornice, but thankfully didn't fall with it. We summited in a whiteout and managed to miss the normally straightforward descent. Instead we spent several hours down climbing a couloir. Eventually we got down and back to KIA.

June 1: Rest and recovery after Francis. Evening Ski up to Hunter.



Livingstone on Bacon and Eggs.

June 2: We climbed most of Bacon and Eggs an Ice Gully on the Mini-mini Moonflower Buttress. We encountered Difficulties up to about Scottish V. We abseiled off about two pitches from the top when the sun came round and ice started to fall. Good ski to back to KIA.

June 3: Rest and recovery.

June 4: Skinned up to the Mini Moonflower Buttress in crappy weather. Spindrift was pouring down the route and I thought it was too warm. Tom L was psyched, as ever, and insisted we give it a go. He lead a short pitch over the steep 'shrund. I then lead a 60m pitch up horrible dinner plating ice, as I reached the belay my crampon came off. Tom climbed up and agreed it was sensible to run away, so we did. Skiing back in flat light with a big sack was interesting.

June 5: Snow all day. Decided it is getting too warm for climbing around the Kahiltna Glacier

now. We'll start up the West Buttress tomorrow.

June 6: Spent the morning packing up and getting ready to go up the West Buttress. Cached a load of rack, fuel and food at KIA. After lunch we skied out of BC with heavy sledges. Very hard work. We stopped for the night at the top of Ski Hill. Not being as fit as Tom L I had a mild sense of humour failure on the steep hill.

June 7: Hot and sunny in the day time. We spent most of the day reading and hydrating. When the sun went away we struck camp and skinned up to 11k Camp.

June 8: Cloudy. Spent the day reading and hydrating again. At 8:30 we took a large cache of gear up to the Windy Corner. We had planned to go all the way to 14k camp, but the weather cold and Tom L was struggling with the altitude. The ski back down was fun.



Skiing around Windy Corner.

June 9: Another chilled day. Struck camp and left with heavy sleds at 8:30. 3 hours to Windy Corner. A further 1.5 hours to 14k Camp. The weather deteriorated around Windy Corner and we arrived at 14k in a full on storm. We quickly pitched tent behind a wall and went to sleep.

June 10: Thankfully the storm blew itself out over night. After breakfast we moved the tent to a better campsite. In the afternoon we skied

down to Windy Corner to collect our cache. The skin back up was hard work.

June 11: It snowed lots over night, but thankfully had cleared up by the morning. We started to dig a snowhole kitchen with Nick Bullock and Andy Houseman. The weather had crapped out again by the evening.

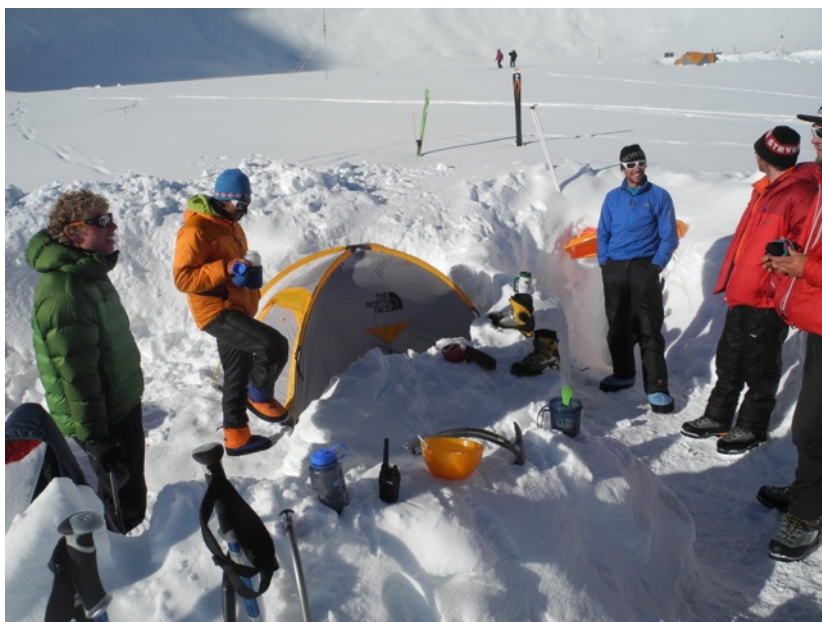
June 12: It was very snowy and windy over night. The snowhole got filled in and tent needed lots of digging out. Dug out an abandoned igloo and spent the afternoon in it playing cards with some other Brits. The tent needed digging out again before bed.

June 13: It was windy and snowed lots overnight. The tent needed digging out again. We finished digging the snowhole.

June 14: Weather good. Skied down to the top of Squirrel Hill and spent a long time looking at the Father and Son Wall. We managed to pick out a line that looked feasible. Tom was psyched, as ever, but I was pretty worried about the amount of time the face is in the sun for, the approach and the huge seracs that threaten most of the face. I also felt that we weren't climbing well enough as a pair to attempt such a big face. Back at 14k Camp we spoke to Mark Westman who told us about a safer approach but also pointed out that the rock is very poor quality.

June 15: Good weather. We went up to 17k camp to acclimatize. The ridge from the top of the fixed lines is like doing Crib Goch in winter. It's much, much colder up there, glad we aren't planning to camp up there!

June 16: Windy. Spent the day relaxing. Saw a guy nearly die when he triggered an avalanche skiing the Messner Colour. Thankfully he was ok. Packed for summit attempt, via West Buttress.



Outside the snowhole: Livingstone, Colin, Andy, Dan and Tad.

June 17: Up late. It had snowed over night so no summit attempt. Spent the day in 14k chatting rubbish with the other climbers.

June 18: Good weather. We were up at 8 and gone by 10. We roped up a guide for the AAI who needed a ride up to 17k. We stopped for a brew at 17k and kept on going up the Autobahn. It was very windy going around Denali Pass but we kept on going. Tom L found the altitude very hard work and turned around on the Football Field. I continued to the summit

alone. On the summit I realized how stupid I'd been and ran back to 17k worried silly about Tom, who was thankfully fine. After a brew we descended back to 14k, during an amazing sunset. 15 hour round trip.

June 19: Good weather. Knackered from yesterday's efforts. Ate and drank loads. Managed to piss all over the tent, when my piss bottle sprung a leak - thankfully I was well hydrated!

June 20: Still tired from West Buttress. Ate and drank loads again. Weather forecast is looking good for the next few days will pack for the Cassin tomorrow.

June 21: Good weather still. Busy day packing for Cassin. Stripped everything down so sack is nice and light. Big pasta meal before bed. If the weather is good we'll set off tomorrow.



Tom R with the Wickware ramp behind.

June 22: Up at 8. Weather still good. Breakfast and final packing. Left by 11. Long slog up the Upper West Rib to the cut off. Here we were joined by Nick Bullock and Andy Houseman (who were off to climb the Slovak Direct). We all roped up together and descended the Wickware Ramp, which was heavily crevassed and threatened by massive seracs. Thankfully we all got down in one piece and were soon relaxing at the base of the Japanese Couloir. We spent the afternoon, hydrating and enjoying the sunshine, before going to bed in our tiny tent.

June 23: We'd planned to get up at 3, but as usual I slept through the alarm on my watch. We woke at 4:30 and set off by 6. We soloed over the 'shrund and roped up at the steep section in the Japanese Couloir. Tom L lead a short pitch and we continued moving together to the top of couloir. I then lead the 5.8 pitch, which was straightforward and about Scottish IV. We then moved together up the Cowboy arete, which was

thankfully in easy condition. We continued to beneath first rock band, where we brewed. We kept moving together through the first rock band, stopping at 8pm to brew up, eat dinner and listen to the weather forecast. We then continued climbing through the second rock band and pitched our tent on a tiny ledge, at 1am.

June 24: We woke to snow. We got going and climbed a difficult mixed pitch (Scottish V) to top out on the second rock band. We then traversed across Big Bertha looking for the gully that skirts the third rock band. Amazingly we found it and kept climbing through the whiteout. We stopped to brew up on a tent platform cut by a previous party, when the sun burned through. We continued slogging upwards taking turns at breaking trail until eventually we arrived at Kahiltna Horn, where dropped our sacks and continued to the summit. We then descended to 17k Camp, where we collapsed into our tent.

June 25: We woke late and went to see the Rangers at 17k, who were very pleased to see us. The pumps on our stoves had frozen and weren't pressurizing. Thankfully the



Hard work. High on the Cassin.

rangers were able to fix them and give us water. We packed up and staggered back down to 14k Camp. We ate and drank loads before an early night.

June 26: Rest day. Lots of eating, drink and recovering.

June 27: Another rest day doing nothing. No sign of Bullock and Houseman. Was about to go to bed when they staggered into camp after successfully climbing the Slovak Direct. We cooked them a big pasta meal and chatted rubbish for a few hours.



Packing the plane to fly back to the real world.

June 28: Snowed all day. Planning to pack up and go down the airstrip the next day.

June 29: Up late. Spent ages packing so left to late to fly out today. The ski down was a total nightmare. My sled bag broke, thankfully I didn't lose anything. Eventually we skinned back up Heartbreak Hill and gorged on Baby Bells that we had stashed, before collapsing into the tent!

June 30: Up at 6:45. We skinned up to

the upper airstrip and were flown back to Talkeetna by Paul Roderick. Civilization felt very surreal!

We spent the next few days relaxing in Talkeetna before getting a transfer back to Anchorage on July 3 and flying back to the UK that evening.

Notes.

Travel and General: We flew from Heathrow via Atlanta and Salt Lake City with Delta. We found Delta's service to be excellent. They allowed us to take 23kg of hold luggage and a large carry on piece each. They also allowed us to take an extra 23kg bag for £50 each way, though on the way home they tried to charge us \$100, but after much patient and persistent haggling we got away with only paying \$75.

We landed in Anchorage at 1 am. If going to Alaska again I would try to get a flight that landed early morning (8 am would be perfect). That way we could have spent the day in

Anchorage buying food and supplies before getting a transfer to Talkeetna that evening. This would save paying for a motel as TAT's bunkhouse is free.

I would recommend getting a taxi from the airport to REI, which is good for freeze dried meals and gels. It sells some climbing gear, but AMH (over the road) appeared to have a better range of technical stuff.

There are a number of transfer companies that operate daily shuttle runs from Anchorage to Talkeetna for a similar rate. The staff in REI/AMH were happy to phone them for us. We didn't book in advance and this caused us no issues. For around \$10 extra the shuttle buses will stop at out of town supermarkets on the way to Talkeetna. We bought most of our food at a bulk buy Costco, you are supposed to have a membership there but we managed blag it - don't count on that though! We then stopped at Fred Meyer to buy the remaining items that we didn't need in multiples of ten.

Talkeetna is small place. It has a number of pubs and eateries, an airport, an expensive food shop and not much else. I'd recommend having everything you need for your trip sorted before you get there.

We flew into the Range with Talkeetna Air Taxi. Although there are other companies that fly climbers in TAT do the vast majority. Their service was excellent, their price competitive and I recommend them highly. Each climber is allowed 150 pounds of gear. Excess baggage is at \$1 per pound. We ended up spending around \$40 on excess baggage.

A word of warning however, TAT will try to sell you a few extra while you settle your bill, like wands and radios. The route up the West Buttress will be extremely well wanded by guided parties so don't waste you money. The folks at TAT will insist you need, politely tell them that you have already sorted them and they are packed with your stuff. The other thing they'll try to sell you is a Family Band Radio. These are essential for listening to the weather, but you can buy them much cheaper in REI and the UK. TAT sell them in packs of two and you only need one between you.

TAT have a bunkhouse in Talkeetna, which you can stay in for free (and for as long as you like within reason) if you are flying with them. It is a bit rough and ready and it can get busy in peak season. If it is too full you can sleep in TAT's load house next to the runway, which is even more basic. We had the bunkhouse to ourselves at the end of the trip and it's kitchen was full of food left by previous climbers, which saved us loads of money. I'd recommend booking your return flight on an evening. That way you can get a transfer to Anchorage on the morning of you flight, have a yummy pizza at the Moose's Tooth and then get a cab to the airport, saving you from paying for a Motel.

Most of the bars in Talkeetna have free wifi for patrons, but the only place you can use a reliable computer is public library (free but you are only allowed 30 minutes a day). It would be worth taking a laptop with you and leaving it with TAT while you are in the Range.

Cooking and Food: What to cook and how to cook it was one of main dilemmas before going on the trip. We were fairly disorganized and ended up buying far too much food. Although folk had told us it easy to blag food at 14k Camp and KIA we didn't really believe them. Guided parties heading down from the West Buttress are keen to offload as much food as possible and folk flying out equally happy to give their caches away.



TL brewing up on the Cassin.

Cooking: We took two MSR petrol stoves to do our day to day cooking with. One XGK, which was excellent and one Whisperlite, which wasn't anywhere near as good. If going again I would take two XGKs. Although one could quite easily survive with one stove I'd recommend taking two if you are going for a prolonged period of time as it means you can cook much more interesting meals, and are also able to melt snow and cook at the same time. If you are taking one stove, take a spare pump.

We also took a Jetboil with us and about 10 gas canisters. In the end we decided not to use this as we'd heard horror stories of Jetboils failing high on routes. Our fears were probably unfounded, but we conservatively carried a petrol stove up the Cassin.

Some friend of ours used an MSR Reactor on hard route on Denali with no issues. It's very efficient (they still had one full gas canister

when they returned to 14k after 5 days out) and it boiled water at least as quick as our XGK. I will probably take one of them next time I go to Alaska.

We took a big 4 litre Trangia billy for melting snow. This worked well and meant we had clean water throughout. We also had a cheap Trangia pan for cooking and a large Vango non stick pan with frying pan lid. This was poor quality and the non stick flaked off early on the trip. A better quality non stick pan would be worth getting. For a frying pan I would get a cheap one from a super market, which will do the job much better than any lightweight camping one.

Coleman Fuel is supplied by Lisa the base camp manager at KIA. You buy it from your airline and collect it on the glacier. We bought two gallons, but probably used about eight or so during our stay. Parties going down are all to happy to give away any surplus.

We left a cache of food that we didn't need/want at KIA as well as a gallon of fuel and a load of rack. It's important that this is buried deep, because if your cache melt out they are often attacked by ravens who spread your food all over the glacier, creating a mess which that National Park Service will fine you for! That said it is important you leave a cache at KIA as it is not uncommon to have to wait several days for the weather to clear before you can fly out.

Food: We started our food shop at REI, where we bought a large number of Mountain House freeze dried meals. Although expensive these freeze dried meals are very tasty and easy to cook. They come in a wide variety of flavors and it is well worth getting different ones as you'll get pretty bored pretty quick otherwise. A standard size packet will feed one hungry climber and the double sized will feed two. The pudding flavours are worth getting for special occasions! We bought enough for every day we planned to be climbing and for the four days moving our gear up 14k, plus a few extra. It is worth having extra for those

days at 14k when you are super tired. We managed to acquire quite a few extras from parties going down.

Also in REI we bought a load of Gels and Cliff Bars. We got GU Gels, which were thicker and more sickly than the SIS ones I've used before. I probably prefer the SIS ones. Cliff Bars are a sort of high energy flapjack. I've used them before and they taste great unfrozen. However at 6000m they are really hard to eat. I'd take a few but nowhere near as many as we did. It's much cheaper to buy them at Fred Meyer where you can buy 10 for \$10. Late in the trip we got given some Cliff Shot blocks by a party going down. These are like high energy sweeties and are super tasty. I'd definitely consider buying some next time. We also got given a load of sachets of GU brew, a powdered energy drink, which would be worth getting for routes.

The bulk of our shopping was done at Costco. We bought loads of Oatmeal for breakfasts, two sachets per person per day. This was very tasty and easy to cook and we weren't sick of it by the end of the trip.

We got bagels for lunch. One each for every day in the range. These worked well because they last a long time and are fairly robust. we filled them with a selection of different cheeses and salami. Philadelphia sachets worked well. Bagels fried in butter are great unhealthy treat on rest days.

We got a quite a bit of fresh stuff for the start of the trip: apples, onions, garlic, eggs, which I'd recommend getting as fresh stuff is so much nicer while it lasts. I'll probably take more next time.

Dinner was normally pasta with a sauce and some meat or cheese thrown in.

We got a big tub of Jelly Belly jelly beans for when the weather was bad and some Krustez pancake mix, which was impossible to cook without a proper frying pan.

We brought a big tub of Tang powder to make melted snow taste more interesting. Although Liptons tea with milk powder is drinkable I'll probably take a big box of Yorkshire Tea next time I go!

We bought a big box of snickers but we were sick of them by the end of the trip. American chocolate is disgusting and I really regretted not bringing any Cadbury's with us. We were both chuffed when some departing Brits gave us two big bars of Dairy Milk (cheers lads).

Equipment - a few thoughts on what to take, stuff that worked and stuff that didn't.



TL demonstrating good ski technique...

Skis - Although both of us had done a bit of resort skiing before neither of us had done any ski touring and we were in two minds about taking skis. Thankfully Anatom were able to lend us Dynafit skis, boots and skins. This was probably the best decision we made. Skiing is a much quicker, safer and easier way to travel around and it's also really good fun. Unless you are well practiced at skiing in climbing boots I'd take touring boots as well. We took our skis up to 14k Camp and Tom L used them a couple of times on rest days. If going again I'd save the hassle and cache them at 11k.

Tent - we took a Hilleberg Nallo 3 GT, which was kindly supplied by Cotswold Outdoors. The tent was very high quality and spacious for its weight. The big porch was very useful and we dug a sump for putting on boots etcetera. I'd have preferred a tent with two doors. Whilst the Nallo 3 wasn't cramped I'd probably opt for something bigger next time and perhaps a tent each, whilst at KIA. For the route we took a single skin BD Firstlight, which was very lightweight and performed excellently. It also worked well as food larder at base camp!

Sleeping - We took a Karimatt and an Exped Syn Mat each. The Syn Mats were very comfortable and remarkably warm. We took two sleeping bags each. A warm one with 1000g fill of down for general use and a much lighter bag with 500g of fill for the route. I'd probably take an even lighter bag on such a route next time. Ideally I'd try to get one with a Gore-Tex shell, as I found my bag got quite wet on the Cassin.

Clothing - We used Mountain Equipment clothing throughout the trip. It performed really well. We were particularly pleased with the Vega down jackets.

Boots - We both used Sportiva Spantik for climbing, which are quite bulky, but very warm meaning an over gaiter is not required. We used Teko's excellent Merino Wool socks during the expedition and not a single blister was experienced by either of us. Foolishly I only took one pair of socks on the Cassin and found it impossible to dry them out overnight, resulting in cold feet on summit day. I will take two pairs in future and consider using vapour barrier socks as well.

Climbing Hardware - We flew 2 60 metre 8mm ropes and plenty of hardware into the range. On the Cassin we stripped gear down to the bare minimum: 1 rope, 4 screws, 4 Camalots grey to red, 6 nuts, 1 knifeblade, 12 slings and 20 krabs. If doing the route again I'd cut the rope in half and ditch the peg.

Sun protection - Spending thirty days on a glacier isn't good for your skin and lips. It's sensible to wear high factor sun cream, and lip balm whenever you're outside. We foolishly only took 3 lip balms between us and ran out towards the end of the trip, thankfully we

were able to blag some. If I was going again I'd probably take 3 each. We took two mini sun creams each, which lasted us fine for the whole trip.

Satellite Phone - We hired a sat phone from Anchorage Sat Phones, which was useful for keeping in touch.

Books - Alaska Climbing by Joe Puryear, published by Supertopo, is the essential reading for anyone planning a trip to the Central Alaska Range. If you are planning on doing an existing route, that isn't in the guidebook the Ranger Station in Talkeetna has lots of topos, that can be photocopied for a nominal fee.



Tom Livingstone psyched - camped beneath the Cassin.

The Cassin Ridge.

a personal account by Tom Ripley

4:22am. Shit! As usual the alarm on my expensive altimeter watch had been too quiet to wake me. I shook Tom awake and he quickly got the stove going. Over the next hour we ate oatmeal and brewed up. At six we shouldered our miniscule rucksacks and set off. We soloed the first part of the Japanese Colour to the start of the difficulties where we put the rope on. Tom lead a steep bulge reminiscent of the Rouge Pitch. The wide gully above looked straightforward so we simu climbed, reaching its' top three hours after we'd crossed the 'shrund.



TR leading the 5.8 crux.

My block was straightforward easy snow climbing followed by the alleged crux. The guide said 5.8 so I was expecting a VS fight but was pleasantly surprised to find a straightforward gully that was about Scottish IV. Tom lead off up the Cowboy Arete finding secure snow with the occasional bomber screw. Stupidly I'd put my water bottle in my sack and was suffering for it. I had a big drink and clipped it to my harness before setting off up the towards the First Rock Band. At the 'shrund below we stopped and brewed up for an hour. The weather was still perfect and we were both pretty upbeat and pleased with how well we were moving. We talked rubbish and tried to pick out Nick and Andy's tracks on the glacier below.

I then set off into the First Rock Band, moving together through easy mixed terrain until I ran out of gear. Tom lead a tricky goulette and I continued upwards on easy snow towards the start the second rock band. Both tired and out of

water we stopped, brewed up and ate a freeze dried each. We turned the radio on 8. Lisa's forecast wasn't good: snow the next evening, but we still had twenty four hours she reassured us. Silently we packed up and set off, both knowing we had to get out of here.

I was pretty spent so Tom L lead us up the straightforward mixed ground through the Second Rock Band, while I plugged into my Ipod and escaped. At midnight we arrived at the small ledge that was the poor bivi marked on the topo. Even though there was only two more pitches of climbing to the top of the difficulties, after twenty hours of climbing we were too tired to continue. I brewed and boiled water for hot water bottles, whilst Tom struggled to make platform large enough to squeeze our tiny tent on. We slept tied in.

We didn't set an alarm and were alarmed when we woke to snow, which had arrived early. This wasn't in the plan. After brews and breakfast we set off, apprehensive about what the day would bring. Tom lead off and after dispatching the a tricky slab struggled up a tricky crux corner, with spindrift pouring down. We were now atop the Second Rock Band, the end of the route's technical difficulties. However the prospect of 6000 feet of wading in a whiteout on North America's highest mountain meant we were far from relaxed.

I broke trail across Big Birth, squinting through the clag for the colour that bypasses the Third Rock Band, scared that I'd miss it or follow dead end. Thankfully I choose the right fork and kept stomping up. We were both concerned about the weather and the snow were considering bailing leftwards towards the safety at the earliest opportunity. After a while a tent platform appeared. We stopped, sat on our pads, and dozed while we melted snow. The clouds parted, the summit was back on.

We kept trudging upwards through the calf deep snow. Swapping over every hour and using my altimeter to monitor our progress. The top of the Cassin went on and on and on. We stopped to brew up at weather time and shared a freeze dried meal. We were both tired and would have gladly stopped for the night but the forecast told us we had to keep going. We kept going avoiding the freezing shade, eventually reaching Kahiltna Horn, lungs bursting, feet freezing around eleven pm. We dropped our sacks and walked the final few hundred feet to the summit.

Exhausted. I stumbled down, bent double, in a world of my own, wondering why Tom still looked fresh. My water had frozen. The final tiny hill back in 17k Camp was my stumbling block. Head in my hands I sat on the snow. Tom picked up my sack and carried it into to camp. We'd planned to just brew up and continue down to our warm beds at 14k camp, but our stove wouldn't pressurize. Too tired to fix it we admitted defeat and collapsed into our tiny tent.

When I woke I went over to the rangers tent and sheepishly asked to use their stove. They knew what we'd done and were relieved to see us. They plied us with congratulatory hot drinks. After a couple of hours talking gibberish in their huge party tent we set off on our tired legs back to 14k Camp.

Budget.

International Flights	£1476	BMC	£750
Insurance	£270	MEF	£650
Equipment	£520	Welsh Sport Association	£1500
Glacier Flights	£640	Personal Contributions	£2550
Denali Permit	£520		
In country costs	£2024		
Total	£5450	Total	£5450

Support, Sponsorship and Thanks.

Financial Support: A massive thank you to the following organizations, without their support the expedition would not have taken place.

British Mountaineering Council **£750**
Mount Everest Foundation **£650**
Welsh Sport Association **£1500**

We're really grateful to the following companies who supplied us with equipment.

Mountain Equipment - supplied us high quality clothing that kept us warm and dry.
Anatom - supplied us with Teko socks and loaned us Dynafit ski gear
Cotswold Outdoor - supplied us with a Hilleberg Tent as well a number of other small items.

First Ascent - lent Tom R a pair of BD ice axes and allowed us to buy gear from them at a discount price.

Special Thanks: A big thank you to the following people who helped us out this summer.

- Katie Livingstone - Driving us to the airport
- Bodnant Medical Centre - for sorting us out with prescriptions of high altitude medicines
- Nikki Sommers - for organizing our first aid kit with idiot proof instructions.
- Andy Houseman - far taking us out to dinner in Talkeetna.
- Oscar Lopez - for gear and general beta.
- Luke Hunt and Hamish Dunn - for the MEF references.
- Faser Hughes at Anatom - for the skis and socks
- Duncan, Richard W and Rich T at Mountain Equipment - for sorting us out with a load of ME gear.
- Chris Hopwood at Cotswolds - for the tent and a whole host of other bits and pieces.
- Siobhan and Lindsay at First Ascent - for trade price gear and a pair of loan axes.

And Finally.

Tom L made a cool video of the Cassin. Check it out: <https://vimeo.com/50673898>

If you are planning a trip to the Central Alaska Range and need any information drop me a line and I'll do my best to help. Tom Ripley: thesavoygrill@hotmail.co.uk



Tom Livingstone on the summit of Denali.