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REPORT OF 1988 KARAKORAM CHALLENGE EXPEDITION

Climbers: Steve Boyer
 Adrian Burgess Joint leaders
 Alan Burgess climber
 Andrew Lapkass "
 Steve Matous "
 Pete Athans "

In the event, Steve Boyer did not come in to base camp because he had climbed Annapurna I in the spring and was too tired.

Address: Adrian Burgess
 4160 Riverside Ave.
 Boulder, CO 80302
 USA

Objective: To make rapid ascents of Broad Peak and K2.

The permit for Broad Peak was withdrawn by the Pakistan authorities because the New York embassy had lost our money and we were unable to trace it in time. We still have not traced it to date.

Expedition dates: Arrive base camp on 7th June 1988
 Depart base camp on 10th August 1988
 Approach walk takes 11 days and outward walk takes 7 days.

The expedition members arrived in Islamabad, the capital city of Pakistan, on the morning of 10th May.

Pete Athans and Adrian Burgess began travelling north on the Karakoram Highway with 70 pre-packed loads in a privately hired local bus on the 17th May. Meanwhile the rest of the group flew directly to Skardu.

During the afternoon of 18th May the bus, gear and two members were taken over by 70 gun-bearing Suni moslems who required a fast ride to Gilgit. The local situation deteriorated sufficiently as to seal off all access roads to Gilgit for eight days. Luckily the climbers and gear were released but had to wait until the siege of Gilgit was dispensed with by the military.

Thus delayed we only left Skardu on 27th May.

Base camp was reached on the 7th June and all local porters were paid off.

On 10th June the weather cleared and we began preparations for climbing. The next eleven days provided us with very reasonable but cold weather and we were able to 'push' our acclimatization in order to reach the site of Camp 3 at 24,600 feet. We then return to base camp to rest and prepare for a summit bid.

On 25th June we began climbing. As yet we were not really fully acclimatized but nevertheless hoped we could top the 28,250 foot summit by leaving our high point, climbing overnight and not sleeping (thereby reducing the risk of pulmonary and cerebral

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oedema). We never got the chance to test our theory as the weather closed in on the 27th June.

For the next six weeks we launched five more serious attempts but the weather only allowed us to get to 25,000 feet before forcing us down again. The affects of the heavy monsoon had begun to further disturb the weather but the side effects of this was to lay an exceptionally heavy mantle of snow upon the higher reaches of the peak. After each successive attempt we noticed that the layer of fresh snow was becoming deeper and more unconsolidated. Despite this fact we continued to hope that given a reasonable amount of settled weather this would change. We could not believe that 5 consecutive days of good weather was too much to expect. It never materialized and so on the 10th August we had to abandon our climb and began the trek down the Baltoro Glacier.

Our experiences on this climb have led us to believe that a small group of friends - and we are closer friends now than before - can safely tackle such a high and difficult peak and still hold the same hope of success as much larger groups. Proof of this lies in the fact that we did as well and possibly better than larger groups who were also around at the same time.

Estimated cost: Land costs ect. ~~£~~9,468
air-fares @ 5 x ~~£~~800 = ~~£~~4000

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Karakorum Challenge Budget

Excess baggage (outbound)	free
Excess baggage (homeward bound)	free
Lodging in Rawalpindi	216
Truck to Skardu	188
Road expenses to Skardu	115
Flights Rawalpindi to Skardu @₹9 /man	172
Lodging in Skardu (motel)	125
(food)	
Expedition food bought in New York & 'Pindi	505
Packaging materials in Pindi (sacks/jute bags etc.)	50
Kerosene containers (9 x 45 gal. type)	65
Kitchen ware (plates/pots/stoves)	160
Porter food @ ₹1 x 100 porters x 11 days (30 loads)	1100
Porter wages (in) 91 to start	3300
(out) 15 x ₹50	750
Porter shoes/clothing/stoves/etc.	320
Jeeps to Dassu (1 inward; 3 outward)	125
Insurance - LO ₹8; Porters ₹2	230
Customs charge for gaz/fuel	7
LO staying in Skardu @ ₹5/day	115
Staff wages - sardar/cook	420
Cook-boy	270
Peak permits	paid
USA organisational expenses - office/telephone/brochure	700
Helicopter bond (refundable)	2000
Ministry bribe	30
L.O. food and gear costs	480
Walk-in costs	130
Airport taxes	35
Misc. items in Islamabad (foam pads/taxis etc.)	160
Paid to Nazir Sabir agency fee	200
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Assets before leaving U.S.	11,778
Sale of tents	190
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Total assets	11,968
Cash returned from Pakistan	2,500
Actual cost	₹ <u>9,468</u>