

KALANAG (6387 m.) Expedition 1998

Organised by :

South Calcutta Trekkers Association

1/3 Love Lock Street, Calcutta 700 019

Leader's Report

- 16th Sept.'98** The expedition flag was handed over to the team leader by Sri S. B. Mukherjee.
- 18th Sept.'98** The team left Howrah railway station by 9 Up Doon Express for Hardwar.
- 19th Sept.'98** The whole day was spent in the train.
- 20th Sept.'98** Indranil & Sudip went to Uttarkashi from Hardwar for collection of equipment from Dias memorial fund at NIM. The rest of the team stayed at a dharamshala in Dera doon for marketing.
- 21st Sept.'98** We left for Sankri by bus at 6:00 am and reached Mori at 4:00 pm. Reached Sankri (6500 ft) at 6:00 pm by a jeep as the road beyond Mori was broken. Spent the night at GMVN guesthouse.
- 22nd Sept.'98** Mysore Singh, Balbir Singh, our guide arrived with porters as per schedule. The day went by marketing, re-packing & distributing porter loads. Indranil & Sudip arrived from Uttarkashi with the equipment at 6:00 pm.
- 23rd Sept.'98** We left Sankri on foot at 10:30 am and reached Taluka (7000 ft) at 13:30 pm. Spent the night at the Forest Rest House.
- 24th Sept.'98** Left Taluka amid rain at 9:00 am & reached Seema (9000 ft) at 16:30 pm. Spent the night at Forest Rest House.
- 25th Sept.'98** Left Seema for Ruinsara Tal at 8:00 am. We reached Devsu Bugial in 2 hrs time from where saw Mt Kalanag for the first time. The path descended from here to the Ruin Sara Gad. We crossed it & continued by the true right bank it up to Ruin Sara Tal.
- 26th Sept.'98** The porters packed up early & left for Kiarkoti as they will return to Seema the same day after dumping the load. We started at 9:00 am in a relaxed mood as it will take not more than 3 hrs for us to reach the Base Camp. We reached Base Camp in an overcast sky condition and could not see Mt. Kalanag until 5:30 pm, when the clouds cleared.
- 27th Sept.'98** We took rest at Base Camp (14,500 ft) for acclamatisation. We checked all out gear & equipments, repacked the load for further ferry & gained some height on the grassy slopes of Mt. Swargarohini in the afternoon.
- 28th Sept.'98** The whole team with 2 HAP & the cook ferried load to Camp – I. Camp – I was situated on the true right bank on the confluence of the Kalanag Ice fall & Banderpunch Glacier on a height of 15,500 ft. It was a grassy slope.
- 29th Sept.'98** As we carried heavy load yesterday, the whole team shifted to Camp – I taking some extra load on their personal gear. We left some emergency food & fuel under a big boulder at Base.
- 30th Sept.'98** Sudip, the cook & Myself ferried loads up to Camp – II, Dipen, Indranil, Partho, Arupam & Binoy occupied Camp – II 17,500 ft. along with Mysore & Balbir. For the first 1 hr from C-I we trekked on the grassy slope gaining height. Then we left the slope and stepped on the Kalanag Ice Fall for the first time. The Ice Fall was easy. No fixed ropes were required & the members moved on comfortably. Laloo the dog which accompanied us from Sankri was still

coming with us on the Ice fall which we did not expect. Camp – II was reached at 1:30 pm and established at a middle portion of the Icefall.

- 01st Oct.'98** The climb continued directly towards the peak and putting up the Summit Camp 19,000 ft. at the end of the Ice fall and the beginning of the Ice tongue which leads up to the col on the north ridge of Kalanag.
- 02nd Oct.'98** Dr. Ashoke Ghosh, Biswajit, the cook & myself gained height of around 1500 ft. on the slope where Camp – I is situated at 5:00 am to the point from where the entire route from the summit camp to the summit was visible. The whole climb was witnessed by us through binoculars. Dipen, Arupam, Partho, Indranil, Binoy, Mysore & Balbir left the summit camp at 5:00 am for the summit. After two hrs of climbing Indranil felt sick & Dipen accompanied him down to the summit camp. On reaching the col between Garur peak & Kalanag. Binoy could not continue and Arupam & Partho decided that Binoy & Balbir should stay at the col until they come back from the summit. The dog Laloo from Sankri was still accompanying the summit team who stayed back with Binoy & did not proceed further. Partho, Arupam, Balbir & Mysore reached the summit 20,950 ft. at 12:45 pm. They offered prayers & took photographs and rushed back as clouds were coming in heavily from the south. They were back at summit camp at 2:30 pm.
- 03rd Oct.'98** They came back to Camp – II at 11 am where I was waiting for them. After having some hot drinks & snacks we all came back to Camp – I where Dr. Ghosh, Biswajit & the cook was waiting for us. As after a long time the whole team was together once again & with the success of the climb we prepared a heavy dinner and stayed awake late in the night.
- 04th Oct.'98** We packed up everything and the ruck sacks became unreasonably heavy but we did not want another load ferry and decided to take all the load at a single day. Reached Base at 12:30 pm and was very happy to be back on green grass & bright sun.
- 05th Oct.'98** The Lap arrived at 7:30 am as we had sent the cook on 3rd to Seema from Camp – I for the return porters. We left Kiarkoti at 9 am & reached Seema at 4 pm.
- 06th Oct.'98** We took a stay at Seema as our guide. Mysore Singh invited us to his village and we had a grand lunch in his home at Osla.
- 07th Oct.'98** We trekked to Sankri having lunch at Taluka.
- 08th Oct.'98** Took a jeep & reached Dera Doon in the evening and stayed in a dharamshala.
- 09th Oct.'98** Reached Hardwar by bus and stayed for the night.
- 10th Oct.'98** Reached Rishikesh by Auto and stayed for the night.
- 11th Oct.'98** Reached Delhi by Jeep & stayed at IMF dormitory.
- 12th Oct.'98** Stay in Delhi.
- 13th Oct.'98** Aailed Kalka Mail.
- 14th Oct.'98** Reached Howrah.

Brijes Day

Leader,
Black Peak Expedition, 1998

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