**THE AMERICAN ALPINE JOURNAL**

**2014–2015 Submission Guidelines**

*If you have climbed a big new route, please report it to us as soon as possible. The AAJ posts edited reports online prior to print publication, so we ask you to send reports soon after your climb.*

**What We Publish**

Since 1929 the *AAJ* has been the world’s “journal of record” for documenting significant new climbs. We seek reports on big new routes anywhere in the world—usually at least five pitches long. Sometimes, if the route is especially significant, we will document shorter climbs.

We may report a repeat ascent if the peak or route has not been climbed in many years; if there have been major changes in conditions on the mountain or crag; if the style is new (example: first free ascent); if the ascent was exceptionally fast; if it was the first winter ascent; or if the report supplies vital information for future climbers. We do not publish reports on first "national" ascents (for example, the first American or Italian ascent). We also don’t cover first women's ascents, handicapped climbs, or other special recognitions. Sometimes, however, we break our own “rules.”

**How to Write a Report**

Reports for the “Climbs & Expedition” section of the *AAJ* are typically 300 to 500 words, but sometimes they are longer. The prime goals are to document history and provide information that helps future climbers in this region, but we enjoy a good story, too. Here is a simple way to remember what to include in the report:

*What?* Name of peak and route.

*Where?* Exactly where is it? (Country, mountain range, route line; include latitude and longitude, if appropriate.)

*When?* Dates of the expedition.

*Who?* Names of climbers.

*How hard?* Difficulty of the climb, using whichever grading system you prefer.

*How long?* Vertical gain of the climb. If the distance climbed is significantly greater, tell us that too.

*What style?* Did you use fixed ropes? Did you climb all free? Did all team members climb all free? Did you go the true summit or stop at a ridge or sub-peak?

*Other news:* Did you learn about any other new routes in the region? Please tell us.

**Photographs**

We want pictures showing the peak/wall and the route. Good “action” shots also are welcome. For route photos, please draw your route on a medium-resolution image (.jpg/JPEG are best) or a scan. If appropriate, please include other people’s routes. Please *also* send a high-resolution copy of the same photo with *no route lines*.

For print publication, we require resolution of at least 300 dpi (120 pixels/cm) at 6 inches (15.25 cm) for the horizontal dimension (width). If you have a lot of photos, please send lower-resolution images first, and we will request high-resolution copies of the ones we plan to print. If this is confusing, just send what you have.

Photos may be sent by email, FTP server, Dropbox or similar online download service. If you need FTP or other delivery information, please contact us.

**Maps, Topos and Expedition Reports**

We love to see maps, topos, and full-length expedition reports documenting your climb. They are very helpful in the editing process, and we can post all documents at the AAJ website for the benefit of future climbers. Photographed maps and topos (JPEGs), scanned photocopies, and PDF documents are all fine.

**Where to Send Reports and Photos**

*North America, South America, and Africa***:** Erik Rieger, erieger@americanalpineclub.org

*Karakoram, Himalaya, China, Greenland, Bolivia, Antarctica***:** Lindsay Griffin, mountaininfo@btinternet.com

*CIS countries (Russia, Kyrgyzstan, etc.), Middle East, Europe, Southeast Asia***:** Dougald MacDonald, dmacdonald@americanalpineclub.org

*General questions:* *aaj@americanalpineclub.org*

**Compensation**

The AAJ does not pay writers or photographers. We have always depended on the generosity of contributors to create this essential resource for the world’s climbers. In most cases, report authors will receive a free copy of the book. Please include your postal address with your report. Thank you!

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