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Greg Hill  
and more**

**Issue XIX  
Dec. 2003**



I first met Greg Hill six years ago in Canmore, Alberta while climbing with a group of mutual friends at a local crag. Greg was twenty and full of confident energy and the zest of living a life in the mountains. That he was determined and impassioned to live every day to its fullest was immediately obvious. Fresh from planting trees and months since he had touched rock, he seemed relaxed and sure of himself. After a few warm up climbs Greg, in the easy going way that he has, walked up to the base of an imposing looking route that wound its way through a series of overhangs. He started climbing with the characteristic ease and commitment I've become used to and didn't stop until the top. Climbing remained the focus of Greg's energy until a shoulder injury some years ago forced him off the rock and onto skis. He hasn't stopped skiing ever since, gaining confidence, experience, and an impressive list of firsts at an incredible rate.

Three years ago Greg moved to Revelstoke, British Columbia to familiarize himself with the Columbia mountains. Drawn by the promise of new adventures and the vast opportunities for world class ski mountaineering, Greg's focus had found a new home. One of his first projects was to take the topographic maps for hundreds of square kilometers around Revelstoke and pin them to his dining room wall. He would spend hours studying them, memorizing lines and dreaming of tomorrow's adventure. Those maps are like a collage of Greg's time in the mountains. After every new tour and descent he would dutifully record the new lines explored on those maps. Now, a little more worn, some with rips on the sides, they are still pinned, like a continually evolving piece of art, to a

wall in Greg's house. It is amazing to look at these maps and see all the places Greg has skied during the last three seasons. For many, these lines would represent a lifetime of accomplishment. For Greg these lines are his journal, a record of all the places he's been and also a reminder of all those places he hasn't, making it easier for him to plan his next tour and to help feed his ravenous appetite for new adventures.

Few individuals can maintain the pace and intensity that Greg takes into the mountains. His pure enjoyment of exploring and sharing adventures with others keeps his motivation strong throughout the season. As soon as the snow flies in the fall, and when most others have hung up their equipment in the spring, Greg will be ski touring. He has averaged over one hundred days of touring a season for each of the last three years. Two years ago his season stretched from late October to the end of April, in which time he toured over one hundred and fifty days.

As a mountaineer, Greg's attitude is characterized by a humble approach and unquenchable appetite for setting and achieving goals. As a natural progression, in order to challenge himself, he has taken to solo touring. Among these solo endeavors lie some of his most incredible accomplishments. Two winters ago, early on a midwinter morning, Greg started to tour towards Little Sifton, a popular ski tour in Rogers Pass. Fourteen hours and 22,500 feet later he returned to his truck. In a discussion shortly after this incredible feat of endurance, his next goal was shared. "Wouldn't it be fun" Greg stated, "to tour the elevation of Mount Everest in a one day push". It didn't really surprise me when I learned the next season that he had done it. In similar style and touring solo, Greg quietly and steadily took 15 hours and 15

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minutes to tour 30,000 vertical feet. Awesome!

Greg's development into a world class ski mountaineer has been incredible to be a part of and to witness. His tremendous natural athleticism, coupled with his addictive motivation, is an inspiration to many. Some of my most memorable mountain experiences have been shared with Greg. I'm sure many others would claim the same. There is much to be learned from the relaxed, confident, and controlled way that Greg travels in the mountains. He has an abundance of energy that he generously radiates to those around him. Many partners have been able to feed off of this shared energy and with it have found themselves able to push their bodies and minds to new limits of personal endurance.

In January of last winter, Greg traveled to Whistler to compete in the Life-Link/Dynafit Randonnee Rally. His goals were few and simple. To try something new and fun, to make industry contacts in his search for a sponsor, and to win the race. As a unknown new comer to the race series Greg proceeded to upset the race favorites, surprising everyone but himself by dramatically straight lining the final downhill, passing Jeff Banks and winning

the race. This inspiring performance along with his other achievements have raised Greg out of obscurity and launched his career as a professional ski mountaineer. Greg's growing list of accomplishments has also earned him sponsorship from Arc'Teryx.

As mountain culture and sport evolves, elite individuals that are able to couple innovative motivation and complete dedication to exploring the unknown push the boundaries of the possible to new levels. Greg Hill has emerged as one of these individuals. The



tireless, self-motivated way in which he is inspired and challenged by the mountains is awesome. Few people have the desire and energy needed to be at the forefront of mountain sport. The profound happiness and joy that shine from Greg and his unique ability to share this intense energy with others is an incredible virtue. Greg views the mountains as his tapestry, a largely unpainted world full of adventures that he has yet to experience. He is drawn irresistibly to all the places he has never been and has made it a personal goal to visit and experience as many as he can.

Myles Berney lives in British Columbia where he follows his passion for the mountains.

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