

Jeff Currier *global fly fishing*

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Back from Mt Everest Base Camp!

The Angels!!! You got to be kidding. Before the Cubs and the Red Sox . . . unreal.



Jeff and Granny at Mount Everest base camp at 17,775 feet above sea level!

On October 18th 2AM USA time (1:45pm Nepal time) Granny and I hobbled into Mt Everest Base camp. After 8 days of traveling up up and more up we reached the 17,600ft elevation and the remnants of many years of camps. Although there wasn't much camp type stuff or any groups in action for Everest at this time, it was very incredible.

The Kumbu Ice Fall is an amazing site. It is this section that has claimed more lives from the sides of Everest than any because of the shifts in the ice and avalanches. We walked close to crevasses and across the Kumbu Glacier for miles. Walking

wasn't easy either. Once we got to over 14,000ft nothing was easy. Thin air makes you move a bit slow and after 16,000ft you don't know what is going to happen. For 7 days in which we were over 16,000 we almost always woke up in the night with a headache. We were lucky. Only about 1/2 maybe even less people make it past 15,000 ft. Most of those that do had Diamox (drug for altitude sickness) and a sherpa and guide. We made it without any help! It was brutally cold too. So not only were you always struggling with the altitude but you were tired from hiking, backache from the packs, and oh you always have a terrible runny nose and the Kumbu cough.

At 9pm October 18th USA time (9am Nepal time Oct 19) we reached the summit of Kala Patar 18,050 ft. Its summit is a mere 5km from the summit of Everest. It was again brutally cold and the wind blew 50mph or more, it was dangerous as hell standing on the tiny top, (you would be proud Ma) but it was crystal clear. Outstanding views of 8 26,000ft foot peaks.

What a birthday!

After obtaining our goals we were tempted to get the hell out of there because we were so run down, but got tempted into more. We hiked west with some Canadians we met and crossed Cho La Pass, 17,900 ft and got into some near trouble. After we summited, through plenty of snow (by the way we ran into 2 light snow storms

while at Everest) we began going down the other side and after we were committed we hit terrible ice at a 70 degree angle. We thought for sure we were going to slide off the edge and down a few thousand feet. We didn't though and the Canadians picked up their pace and followed some sherpas to our destination. Granny and I kicked back took photos made peanut butter sandwiches then proceeded to get lost. Yup Haven't been lost in a long time. Nor have been as concerned as the Himalaya can make you when you're lost. But once again we figured it out and during the next few days made it to another summit called Gokyo Ri at 17,800ft. Just when we were fully acclimatized to the cold and elevation, we headed down the mountains another 5 days and yesterday caught a Twin Otter back to Katmandu. Heat! 88 degrees maybe more today. Gorgeous weather! But unfortunately the Maoist are causing hell and yesterday two bombs went off and one this morning very close to our hotel. I could see the smoke. Today the Maoist have required the entire country to freeze. They call it a Bandh or a strike. No public transportation allowed so we are trapped. Things seem quite mellow though. This morning was tense because no one knew what would happen. I snuck into a neighborhood bar a couple blocks from the hotel with Granny and watched all of



Jeff on top of Goyko Ri, 18,500 feet above sea level!

Game 7. I arranged it with the bar owner last night he has satellite TV. I watched it from 7am until it ended over breakfast and coffee. I better send this email before I lose it.

Take Care,

Jeff & Granny