

## ‘FINE LINES’ – with Carlos Buhler



Carlos Buhler is one of America's most accomplished high altitude mountaineers, with over 46 international climbing expeditions. His 'Fine Lines' presentations will tell stories of some of his most interesting and challenging routes ('lines') up some of the remarkable mountains in the world. His stories will also illustrate the fine dividing line between unique success and total catastrophe; between outstanding accomplishment and heart wrenching tragedy. His experience leading international climbing teams has given him unique perspectives into the delicate challenges of multicultural communication, leadership development and team dynamics. Since 1985 he has presented to and consulted for a wide variety of organizations and businesses in which leadership roles are carefully tuned to create an environment that allows their teams to excel.

Carlos' climbing speciality has been characterized by high altitude, no oxygen, minimal gear and equipment, small teams and relatively low amounts of funding, whilst climbing first ascents of the highest mountains by difficult routes in challenging conditions. In 1980, Carlos was invited to join the Spanish Aragon Himalayan Expedition where he and his Spanish partners made the first ascent of Baruntse's striking East Ridge (23,390 ft.). This was the first American ascent of the mountain. In 1983 Carlos was the first to climb what is considered to be the most difficult and dangerous route up Mount Everest, the Kangshung Face – a route which has never been repeated. During the 1985 Himalayan winter season, he and his single American partner pioneered the first ascent of the awe-inspiring Northeast Face of Ama Dablam (22,349 ft.). In April 1992, Carlos's climbing partner became sick in Base Camp just before their attempt of Nepal's majestic peak, Dorje Lhakpa (22,854 ft.) by its demanding West Ridge. Carlos overcame this setback by doing the route alone, making the first ever solo ascent of the mountain. In 1996, with a Russian team, Carlos ascended the infamous K2 (at 28,250 ft earth's second highest mountain) by the extremely daunting Chinese North Ridge. In 1998, Carlos led some of his Russian team to tackle the sheer, 5,200 foot North Face of Changabang (22,514 ft.) in the Indian Himalaya. After living 16 days on the vertical wall, the five-man team reached the summit together. This ascent established one of the most difficult 'big wall' routes achieved in the Himalayan



Mountains. He has also made numerous first ascents in the Andes and Alaska.

In 2002 Carlos was ranked 'Best of the Best' by Everestnews.com as one of the 4 best high altitude climbers in the world. In 2004 he was awarded a Lyman Spitzer Cutting Edge Grant awarded for cutting edge 'bold first ascents or difficult repeats of most challenging routes'. In 2007 he was awarded the Robert and Miriam Underhill Award for outstanding mountaineering achievement by the American Alpine Club.

With such a prestigious climbing background, many stories of both successes and failures, and also being a noted photographer with superb photos of many of these expeditions, Carlos has been a keynote speaker at many international mountain festivals.

Carlos has always had a great respect for the mountain areas in which he climbs, and in 2001 was awarded the Polartec Challenge Award, for 'vision, commitment, credibility and respect for the local culture and environment which serve as role models to outdoor enthusiasts worldwide'. He takes a personal interest in charities which help populations living in poverty in areas in which he has climbed, particularly in Nepal, and is an adviser to the 'Gorkha Foundation' (<http://www.gorkhafoundation.org/>). This charity is a grassroots organization whose purpose is to support initiatives that reduce poverty and inequality by making sustainable improvements to the living conditions of the poor and marginalized in the Gorkha region of Nepal. They do this by empowering communities throughout this impoverished area by focusing on development in Healthcare, Agriculture (livestock, pasture and fodder development), Primary and Secondary education and microcredit and income generating activities for those who will develop small family businesses.

With his vast experience of leading international climbing teams, Carlos has gained unique perspectives into the delicate challenges of multicultural communication, leadership development and team dynamics. Whilst still climbing for a hobby, Carlos is also a highly experienced management consultant, meeting facilitator and executive coach. Today, he applies his leadership experience in mountaineering to help corporations and organisations worldwide solve problems in leading teams for high performance, and promoting organizational transformation.

Carlos is visiting the UK 16<sup>th</sup>-20<sup>th</sup> October to share some of his climbing stories, insights, and photos, whilst also raising funds for the Gorkha Foundation, who are constructing four schools damaged by the 2015 earthquake. We hope you will want to join us for one of his presentations. Please contact Morris Rodham on 07506731892 or [Morris.Rodham@CovCofE.org](mailto:Morris.Rodham@CovCofE.org) for further details.

