



2012-2013

The eighth and last meeting of the season will be held in the Massachusetts Room of the Harvard Club on **Tuesday, May 21, 2013**. Cocktails will be served at 6:00 p.m., dinner at 6:45 p.m., and the meeting will begin about 8:00 p.m. The price is \$55 each for members and guests. If you are coming to the dinner please respond by the Friday before the meeting by NOON. RSVP by email is **preferred**, or use the enclosed card for those receiving this by mail, or by telephone. Reservations received after NOON on the Friday preceding the meeting may incur a \$5 late fee. Members and guests who fail to attend without cancelling their reservation prior to the above deadline will be liable for the dinner charge.

GREG CHILD
"K2, A VERY HARD WAY"

Australian-born rock climber, mountaineer, author and filmmaker, Greg Child is considered one of the best all-around climbers of his generation. Greg's exploits have been well documented in books, photographs, TV documentaries and articles in magazines such as *Outside*, *National Geographic*, *Rock and Ice*, and *Climbing*. In a climbing career that has spanned 35 years, Greg has conquered 5.13 routes, A5 big walls and the highest peaks in the Himalaya, including Gasherbrum IV, Everest and K2.

Summiting K2 is widely considered the ultimate prize for elite mountaineers. While his career is filled with noteworthy accomplishments, Greg's 1990 climb of K2 stands out. K2 is the second tallest, yet perhaps most difficult, mountain on earth - making for a far more risky ascent than Everest. The mountain has earned the name made famous by the iconic climbing book "*K2, the Savage Mountain*" (authored by Club Medalists Charles Houston and Robert Bates) - for every four humans that stand on her summit, one dies during their attempt.

The standard route of ascent, used far more than any other route, is the Abruzzi Spur, located on the Pakistani side of the mountain. Greg and teammates Greg Mortimer and Steve Swenson would elect to climb the seldom-attempted, highly-technical North Ridge, which requires approaching the mountain from the more difficult to reach Chinese side. The team would travel to western China by camel, crossing desert and dangerously flooding rivers to reach the remote northern flank of K2. Once there, it would take 47 days to reach the summit. They climbed without Sherpas or oxygen, and just ahead of an approaching storm. Reaching the summit at 8pm, they descended in the dark to find an abandoned Japanese tent at about 8000m. It would be the first successful climb of K2 since 1986.

In addition to countless articles in journals and magazines, Greg has authored several books, including: "*Thin Air: Encounters in the Himalayas*," "*Mixed Emotions: Mountaineering Writings of Greg Child*," and "*Postcards from the Ledge*." In 1987, he was honored with the American Alpine Club's Literacy Award for his prolific and insightful mountaineering literature.

Club Notes: We welcome the following new member: Laura Babbitt of Boston.

SUZANNE R. LYONS, *Secretary*