

## THE GUESTS

*In keeping with Taos Mountainfilm's interest in the literary side of mountaineering many of the guests will read from their work.*

**Jim Whittaker** Since becoming the first American to summit Everest in 1963 Jim Whittaker has established an enormously successful career. He was the president and CEO of the major equipment manufacturer, REI; he was mountain guide, confidant and finally pallbearer to Senator Bobby Kennedy; he broke the national curse of K2 by leading the first American ascent in 1978.

**Kitty Calhoun** has been at the forefront of alpine climbing for two decades. Many impressive ascents in the great ranges, including Dhaulagiri and Makalu in the Himalaya and a new route on the West Face of Middle Triple in Alaska have established her as one of the leading female climbers in the world.

**Jon Bowermaster** is a writer, documentary producer and lecturer. He has written extensively on the outdoors and works primarily these days for the National Geographic Society. Jon will present a film, deliver a lecture on his travels and read from his work.

Infamous for the audacity of his climbs **Jim Bridwell** continues to put up new routes of the highest grade. Colorful and controversial Jim will deliver a slide show of his exploits in the mountains that encompasses several eras of climbing development.

**John Bachar** amazed the climbing world with the boldness of his soloing in the late seventies. He will present a new film featuring his career and a slide show of the photos that put him at the forefront of the climbing world. Like many English climbers **Chris Jones** cut his teeth on the British crags before progressing to the bigger walls of the Alps. In the sixties he moved to the States, joined the Camp IV crowd in Yosemite and proceeded to repeat many of the classics. But it as an alpinist and writer that he has left his mark. His book "Climbing in North America" remains a definitive work. His ascent of North Twin with George Lowe remains one of the great lines on this continent. Chris will present a slide show of that ascent and will also be a panelist on "Who Wants to be a Mountaineer?"

"The Shaman's Apprentice," a film documenting **Mark Plotkin's** studies of the natural healing methods of the Amazon tribes, has won awards throughout the world. Plotkin will be here to present the film and his subsequent work, the Imax film "Amazon."

**Dean Cummings** is recognized as one of the top big mountain skiers and guides on glaciated terrain in the world. In 1995 he won the World Extreme Skiing Competition and was a member of the US ski team for four years. He is the founder of H2O Heli Guides and works in the Chugach range year round continually increasing his knowledge of snow conditions. Dean will present a film of his work and a slide show.

**Henry Barber**, one of the earliest practitioners of solo climbing, will present several films one of which shows him unroped on the famous climb in North Wales, 'A Dream of White Horse'. He will also make a retrospective slide show of his climbing career.

**Hans Florine** is the leading practitioner, of the modern phenomenon of speed climbing. He holds the record on the Nose of El Capitan at under three hours. Florine will present a slide show of the methods and risks of this arcane practice.

The massive cliffs of Yosemite have served as a proving ground not only for the climbers but also for the development of their equipment.

**Ken Yager**, who has gathered an extensive array of gear for a Climbing Museum planned for the Valley, will be displaying his collection publicly for the first time during the festival.

**Nathan Ward** is a writer and photographer with a particular interest in mountain biking and Mongolia.



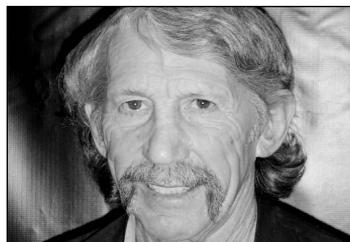
JIM WHITTAKER



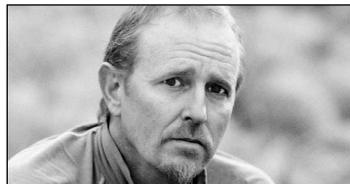
KITTY CALHOUN



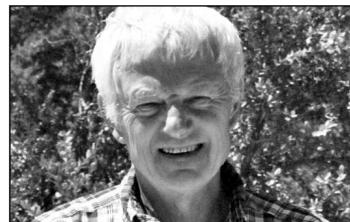
JON BOWERMASTER



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DEAN CUMMINGS



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