



2011: Mountain Hardwear Athlete News Recap (March 7– August 1)

Mountain HardWire 2011, vol.1, March, 7, 2011

Samuel Anthamatten Takes First at Freeride World Tour in Sochi, Russia

Swiss Mountain Hardwear-sponsored athlete Samuel Anthamatten topped the podium this past weekend at the Freeride World Tour event in Sochi, Russia. Coming off a 2nd place finish in Kirkwood, USA, Samuel moved ahead in the overall rankings after a creative and impressive line down the face.

Samuel reflects upon the day, *“We were up there on top at sunrise and then we skied a face with perfect snow conditions. I had a good run, jumping a lot of features and skiing hard in between. I am happy!”*

Learn more [here](#) or go to: <http://www.freerideworldtour.com/>.



Samuel Anthamatten in Sochi, Russia

Mountain HardWire 2011, vol.2, March 23, 2011

Samuel Anthamatten Takes 2nd Overall at Freeride World Tour Championship

Swiss freerider Samuel Anthamatten has proven that he’s got what it takes to compete in the higher levels of freeriding. In front of 7000 spectators, the Mountain Hardwear-sponsored ‘rookie’ from Zermatt made smart and tactical decisions to secure a 5th place in the final Verbier stage earning him the runner-up Freeride World Champion title. Congratulations for an incredible [performance!](#)



Climbing up on the list... and after nailing the ride, Samuel finishes 5th in Verbier, and 2nd overall (left of center).
www.freerideworldtour.com

Mountain Hardwear Signs New Athletes, Strengthens Global Team *New Additions Grow Freeride Ski Team*

Richmond, CA (March 28, 2011) - [Mountain Hardwear](#) is thrilled to announce the addition of seven new athletes to the Global Athlete Team for 2011. The new signings demonstrate Mountain Hardwear's dedication to working with the top talent in outdoor and mountain sports while infusing the athletes and their talents into all aspects of the business, including product development, marketing and sales. With the goal of creating a Freeride Ski Team and aligning the brand with young athletes at the top of their sport, Mountain Hardwear has signed five skiers, Vivian Bruchez, Mike Gardner, Caroline Gleich, James Heim and Drew Stoecklein, and two climbers, Sasha Digiulian and Angie Payne.

New athletes for 2011 are:

Vivian Bruchez, a big mountain skier from France now living in Chamonix, is a professional guide and ski instructor with a background in alpine racing. Having spent his entire life on skis, steep skiing is a lifestyle to which he brings passion, patience, engagement, precision and concentration. Some of Vivian's recent highlights include a ski descent of 7134-meter Tilicho Peak in the Himalaya and a 4-descent day on the Aiguille du Midi's North Face.

Mike Gardner was born and raised skiing and climbing in the San Juan Mountains of Colorado and the Teton Range in Wyoming. His father George Gardner was a mountain guide and instilled in Mike an unstoppable passion for the mountains. Mike skied competitively for a few years as a member of the Telluride Freestyle Team. He began to spend more time skiing in the backcountry and scoping lines in and around Telluride and Silverton, leading him to compete on the Junior Freeskiing World Tour. In his first year, Mike racked up two first and one second place finish at the North American Championship to earn

him 2nd overall. Named among the top 20 skiers in the world (18 and under) by Powder Magazine, you can expect to hear his name often in the years to come.

Caroline Gleich spent her childhood in Minnesota, but it wasn't until she moved to Salt Lake City at age 15 that she could pursue her childhood dream: making a living as a skier. Caroline seeks to live a low impact and action-packed lifestyle, but remains one of the hardest working young athletes in the business. She spends the bulk of the winter skiing powder and steep lines at Alta and Snowbird while working in design with top outdoor and snowsports brands. Passionate about the snow and mountain lifestyle, Caroline also finds time to volunteer time with [Protect Our Winters](#).

James Heim is a big mountain freeride skier living in Whistler, BC. Working as a carpenter in the summer, James has the opportunity to ski all winter filming with industry-leading Matchstick Productions (MSP). In 2011, James will again star in the MSP feature film and will take trips throughout British Columbia, and possibly Asia. James will help lead Mountain Hardwear into the freeride segment playing a role in the development of new freeride-inspired skiwear.

Angie Payne, born and raised in Cincinnati, Ohio, started climbing indoors at age eleven. Now residing in Boulder, Colorado and after years of training and competition, Angie has won ABS Nationals three times, establishing herself as a top female bouldering athlete, indoors and out. Angie has climbed first female ascents of 17 boulder problems, including two V12s. In August 2010, Angie completed *The Automator* and became the first woman in the world to climb a confirmed V13.

Drew Stoecklein, also a big mountain freeride skier, lives in Salt Lake City, Utah and makes his living in the Wasatch as a professional skier and photographer. Competition in the Freeskiing World Tour over the past few years has earned Drew a win at the Chilean Freeskiing Championships in 2010 and a 2nd place finish at the US Freeskiing Championships in 2008 and 2009. Drew has filmed with Warren Miller and Sweetgrass Productions and has appeared in numerous ski publications. When not skiing or filming, Drew volunteers his time working with the [Big Sky Youth Empowerment Program](#) and the [Billy Poole Memorial Fund](#).

“Mountain Hardwear is honored to be working with such talented athletes and exceptional human beings who are passionate about the outdoors. Serving as leaders within their tribes and communities, these athletes will help Mountain Hardwear to develop technical outdoor apparel and equipment that will enable them, and all of our customers, to push the limits of their potential in the mountains,” said Athlete and Promotions Manager Chris Strasser.

To learn more about the Mountain Hardwear Athlete Team, please visit: www.mountainhardwear.com/athletes



Ueli Steck trains for the big peaks.

Spring Training: The Beginning - As usual, renowned speed climber [Ueli Steck](#) is up to something big. This time, though, the Swiss Machine is quite literally taking his fast and light alpine approach to new heights. Undertaking a “spring training” regimen in the high mountains of Nepal, Ueli has spent several weeks preparing and acclimating, including two warm-up climbs on the 6000m peaks of Lobuche and Cholatse. With light and fast as his trademark, Ueli now sets his sights on the taller peaks of the Himalaya.

Fellow Mountain Hardwear athlete [Freddie Wilkinson](#) is on location to tell the tale. Follow along at www.HimalayaSpeed.com and watch Ueli's story unfold, literally. You just might witness history.

Mountain Hardwear's Ueli Steck Solos Shisha Pangma in 10.5 Hours *Speed-style ascent of 8000-meter peak successfully completed*

Richmond, CA (April 19, 2011) – [Ueli Steck](#), renowned Swiss alpinist and Mountain Hardwear-sponsored athlete known for speed records in the Alps, takes his era-defining speed style to the Himalaya. Ueli has summited the Tibetan giant of Shisha Pangma (8027-meters and 14th highest in the world) in a mere 10.5 hours, but it's only the beginning.

Holding impressive speed records on the Eiger, the Matterhorn and les Grandes Jorasses (Video: [The Swiss Machine](#)), Ueli is now focused on the Himalaya bringing his light and fast, solo approach to the tallest peaks on the planet, and Shisha Pangma is only the first in what Ueli dubs [Project Himalaya](#).

Ueli left basecamp at 5306m on Saturday April 16th at 10:30pm to solo-climb the southwest face and summit in just 10.5 hours. It is reported that just 20 hours after departure Ueli was back at basecamp recovering comfortably from the high alpine assault already thinking about what's next up in the high mountains of Tibet.

Ueli's success on Shisha Pangma can be attributed to his Olympic-level training regime he has followed the past three years, and the two months he spent this spring training and acclimatizing in the Khumbu region of Nepal. Using sprints up Lobuche and Cholatse as warm-ups for the real deal, Ueli is redefining what is possible in alpine climbing.

For the full back story, on-site video and insights into the unfolding chapters of *Project Himalaya*, visit: www.HimalayaSpeed.com

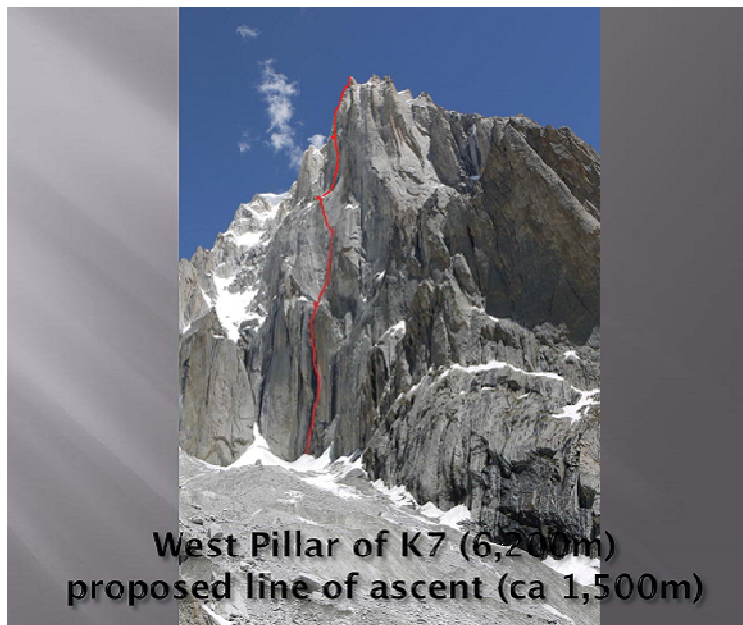
About Ueli: www.MountainHardwear.com/UeliSteck

Mountain HardWire 2011, vol.5, April 28, 2011

Mountain Hardwear Athletes Receive Prestigious Expedition Grant Awards *Goodman, Meinen, Libeck* awarded the *Shipton-Tilman, Copp-Dash*

'Tis the season! Yes, spring has sprung, but it's also the season for expedition grant awards, and Mountain Hardwear athletes have reason to be particularly grateful this year. Thanks to expedition grants like the [Shipton-Tilman](#) and the [Copp-Dash Inspire](#) awards, both veteran and up-and-coming climbers are able to realize, or at least attempt, their wildest climbing dreams while serving as inspiration for the future generation and the entire climbing community.

Mountain Hardwear climbers **Pat Goodman** and **Will Meinen** have been honored with a \$5000 grant from the **Shipton-Tilman Award Program** to complete an alpine-style 1st ascent of the unclimbed 6,200m Southwest Pillar of K7 West via a 1,500m wall. Pat, Will and Matt McCormick will tackle an inspiring route on one of the most complex and unclimbed pillars in the world. In a light and fast style, the team will attempt the west face using capsule-style tactics, alternating leads in blocks and following pitches as free as possible.



West Pillar of K7 (6,200m)
proposed line of ascent (ca 1,500m)

Photo credit: Matt McCormick

Mountain Hardwear is equally thrilled to announce this year's winners of the **Copp-Dash Inspire Awards**. The Copp-Dash Committee, made up of representatives from all the founding parties, had their work cut out for them making their selections from a deep pool of strong proposals. Mountain Hardwear is particularly proud that three of its own, **Pat Goodman, Will Meinen** and **Mike Libecki**, were among the award recipients. For a full list of the award winners, click [here](#).

Sponsored by Mountain Hardwear, Black Diamond Equipment, La Sportiva and Patagonia, with in-kind support from Adventure Film Festival, Alpinist Magazine, American Alpine Club, Sender Films and the Jonny Copp Foundation, the Copp-Dash Inspire Awards Grant was established in memory of American climbers Jonny Copp and Mountain Hardwear athlete [Micah Dash](#). Copp and Dash were killed in an avalanche in China in May 2009 along with friend and filmmaker Wade Johnson. In addition to financial support, the aim of the Copp-Dash Inspire Award is to provide mentoring, before and after the expedition, to help the climbers return with multimedia stories of their adventures that inspire the global climbing community.

Pat Goodman, Will Meinen and Matt McCormick received the Copp-Dash award for their above-mentioned expedition proposal: first ascents of the Southwest Pillar of K7 West in Nepal.

Fellow Mountain Hardwear athlete and renowned big wall climber [Mike Libecki](#) was also awarded a Copp-Dash for his solo attempt for the first ascent of The Ibx Horn in Central Afghanistan. This honor comes on the coattails of two other esteemed awards: [2011 Mugs Stump Award](#) and the [Polartec Challenge Grant Award](#) for Mike's upcoming Northern Russian Arctic Expedition to explore unclimbed walls above the Arctic Circle.

Mountain HardWire 2011, vol.6, May 6, 2011

Ueli Steck Reaches Summit of Cho Oyu *Steck speed climbs 2nd 8000m peak in 18 days*



Cho Oyu (8201m) at sunrise.

On May 5th 2011, [Ueli Steck](#) and partner Don Bowie reached the summit of Cho Oyu just 18 days after Ueli's summit of [Shisha Pangma](#). (Source: Don Bowie)



Ueli surveying the climbing conditions on Cho Oyu

Success on Cho Oyu comes just 18 days after Ueli solo-climbed Shisha Pangma (8027m) reaching the summit in a mere 10.5 hours. Unstable weather conditions over the high Himalaya over the last two weeks gave Ueli, and climbing partner Don Bowie, plenty of time to relocate camps between peaks and recon their route up to 7000 meters. Thanks to clearer skies and ample preparation, Ueli has successfully bagged his second 8000m peak of the season.

More details will follow once Ueli and Don dispatch from basecamp.

Stay tuned...www.HimalayaSpeed.com.

Mountain HardWire 2011, vol.7, June 23, 2011

Mountain Hardwear Announces 2011 Summer Expeditions

K7 West (6200m), Pakistan – Mountain Hardwear athletes **Pat Goodman** and **Will Meinen**, along with climbing partner Matt McCormick, will travel to Pakistan in late June to attempt

an alpine style 1st ascent of the 6200m Southwest Pillar of K7 West. The peak, located in the Charakusa Valley, has three substantial established routes, yet none have continued to the summit of the spire. In a light, fast and committed style, Pat and team will attempt the pillar via the unclimbed west face. The plan is to spend 4 days on the route, carrying only lightweight bivy gear and alternating leads in blocks. The group will acclimatize on many smaller granite pillars in the valley before making their attempt at the main objective. This expedition received two grant awards: the Copp-Dash Inspire Award and a Shipton-Tillman award.



Goodman & Meinen's planned route for K7 West, Pakistan

Unnamed Peak (6135m), India – Mountain Hardwear climbing athlete **Janet Bergman**, and climbing partners Emilie Drinkwater and Kirsten Kremer, will attempt a first ascent on an unnamed peak in the Indian Karakoram, located on the eastern edge of the “Line of Control” between India and Pakistan. The all-female team will plan to make an alpine-style ascent to the summit in one light, fast and free push. The women will share a base camp in the Charakusa Valley (with Janet’s husband Freddie Wilkinson and his team) before heading to separate advanced base camps. This expedition received a Polartec Challenge grant award back in January. Janet will first travel to Europe to get in a few weeks of training in the Alps to prepare for her Indian expedition.

Saser Kangri II (7513m), India – **Freddie Wilkinson**, along with two of America’s most experienced Himalayan veterans Mark Richey and Steve Swenson, will attempt to climb the second highest unclimbed mountain in the world. With the highest unclimbed mountain currently off-limits in Bhutan, Saser Kangri II (7513m) is the greatest remaining and attainable prize in the Himalaya. Richey and Swenson both with several decades of high-

mountain experience attempted the peak in 2009. This year, they invited Freddie to join them, an opportunity coined by Wilkinson as “the chance of a lifetime.” The team will hike into the valley with Janet Bergman team sharing a base camp before pushing on to their own advanced base camp.



Saser Kangri II, India

Russian Arctic– This summer, **Mike Libeck** will travel to virgin Earth in the Russian Arctic to explore Franz Josef Land, home of northernmost big walls on the planet. To reach the walls, Mike will travel roughly 40 miles by skis and kayak after arriving at his launch point by sailboat. He’ll be accompanied on the island only by the polar bears that call it home. Mike’s expedition to Russia has received a Polartec Challenge grant and a Mugs Stump Award.

Afghanistan Mountains - After a visit to Russia, **Mike Libeck** will return to Afghanistan to attempt a first ascent of the Ibex Horn, a tower roughly 3000 feet tall. Mike discovered this unclimbed wall on a reconnaissance trip in 2010. The Ibex Horn is located in the Koh-e-Baba Mountain Range near the Bamyan province. This expedition received a Copp-Dash Inspire award earlier this year.

For more on these athletes and the rest of the Mountain Hardwear Athlete Team, please visit: www.mountainhardwear.com/athletes

Angie Payne Takes EMS Pro Comp in NY

6/27/11 – More than 20,000 spectators descended upon Central Park in New York City to witness Angie Payne take top honors at the Eastern Mountain Sports Pro Tour this past weekend. Angie and runner-up Sasha DiGiulian flashed all three problems, but ultimately, it was Payne's performance in the semi finals that helped her clinch the win. This was the second of three events that make up the [Unified Bouldering Championships](#) (UBC) Pro Tour.