



TORN

CONRAD ANKER

CONRAD ANKER has been pushing the limits of mountaineering for the last 30 years, evolving into one of the best alpinists from the U.S. The Bozeman, Montana, based father of three is one of the most prolific explorers and alpinists alive today. He is equally at home in Antarctica, the Himalayas, or on his home ice in Hyalite Canyon in southwestern Montana.

In 2011, Anker notched the long-awaited first ascent of the Meru Shark's Fin in India, with partners Jimmy Chin and Renan Ozturk. This led to the Sundance-winning documentary "Meru." He has climbed Everest three times, including a 2012 trip with National Geographic to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the first American ascent of the mountain. On his most famous Everest climb in 1999, Anker discovered the remains of George Mallory, one of the two British climbers who died attempting Everest in 1924, helping to shed more light on one of mountaineering's most famous mysteries. In more than 25 years of expeditions to Nepal, Anker and his wife, Jennifer Lowe-Anker, have developed deep relationships with the Sherpa people of the Khumbu Valley of Nepal. The couple founded the Khumbu Climbing Center in Phortse, Nepal, which provides a variety of safety training courses to high-altitude workers.

Anker continues a deep appreciation for wild places passed on from his father and grandfather, who hailed from Big Oak Flat, California, just outside Yosemite National Park. Anker had climbed Mount Rainier by the time he was 16. He met his first climbing mentor, the iconic climber Mugs Stump, while studying at the University of Utah in Salt Lake City and working in a mountaineering store. Anker, a part-time carpenter, and the late Alex Lowe — his climbing partner and best friend—went on to become climbing's rock stars in the '90s, setting speed records in the Himalayas and Antarctica.

Though true alpine routes have been his forte, Anker's résumé also includes big-wall first ascents on El Capitan and first free ascents in Zion National Park. In 1997, alone, he completed first ascents in Antarctica, Pakistan's Karakoram and on Yosemite's El Capitan.

At home, Anker serves on the boards of Protect Our Winters, the American Himalayan Foundation and the Alex Lowe Charitable Foundation.