

**THE 'FAMOUS FIVE' ARRIVE - MOUNTAINEERS BEGIN TO LAND IN BERMUDA FOR  
WHITE ICE AND FIRE CELEBRATIONS**

On Monday 17<sup>th</sup> November, Peter Hillary, son of Sir Edmund Hillary, the first man to ascend Mt Everest alongside Tenzing Norgay, will arrive in Bermuda. He is the first of five extraordinary mountaineers to land on the island this week, in support of the White Ice and Fire events taking place this coming weekend.

The Statesman of the group is Alfred Gregory, who was in charge of stills photography on the 1953 successful expedition team up Everest. He reached 28 000 feet in support of Hillary and Tenzing's ascent. Now 90 years of age, with an extraordinary history of successful mountaineering and photography projects, he is supporting the event by attending and donating two photographic portraits of Tenzing and Hillary on Everest in 1953 for auction at the Ball, which he will sign.

Peter Hillary is no stranger to Everest either, having climbed the world's highest mountain twice. He is the first man on earth to have traversed the length of the Himalayas, and has also forged a new route across Antarctica to the South Pole. As an author as well as a world-class adventurer, he is on the island to raise awareness about the people of Nepal, and funds for his charity, the Hillary Himalayan Foundation, alongside The ISIS Foundation, the Bermudian charity organising the events. The ISIS Foundation works with children in the developing world and is registered as a charity in Bermuda and the United Kingdom.

Peter Athans is the third member of the group, and he has summited Mount Everest a record seven times. Working as a guide, photographer and cinematographer, he is renowned not only as one of the world's finest guides, but for his bravery. In 1996 he was awarded the American Alpine Club's David J. Sowles Award (with partner Todd Burleson) for unparalleled bravery and selflessness in a rescue situation, based upon their rescue efforts on Mount Everest.

The climbers make use of the inventions of the fourth member of the group - Roddy Mackenzie. Roddy runs a Helicopter Skiing and ski touring business in the Himalayas, and has developed innovative devices to make climbing safer. They include a portable altitude chamber, an avalanche bag, and a 'snow penetrometer', a device which allows more complete understanding of a given snow-pack, thus reducing avalanche risk. He too has been to the top of Everest, after cutting his mountaineering teeth in the New Zealand and European Alps.

Last but certainly not least, Brent Bishop joins the team. Like Peter Hillary, Brent Bishop followed in his father's footsteps up Mount Everest. In doing so he became the first American legacy to stand on the rooftop of the world, after his father summited in the first successful American expedition in 1963. His climbing achievements are matched by his success in environmental work - he has led many teams of climbers up Mount Everest to remove rubbish from the mountain, and has expanded this work to include mountain top clean-ups worldwide.

These 'famous five' to be a part of the White Ice and Fire events, and will all be at the Ball at the NATO Hangar on Saturday November 22<sup>nd</sup>. In addition, Bermudian schoolchildren can hear Peter Hillary speak at the Ruth Seaton James Auditorium at Cedarbridge Academy (Friday,

November 21<sup>st</sup>, 10 - 10.45 a.m.). He will also be speaking to the general public on Sunday November 23<sup>rd</sup>, from 1-2.00p.m. at Tradewinds Auditorium at the Bermuda Underwater Exploration Institute. Brent Bishop will be speaking at the Bermuda aquarium on his mountaintop environmental work on Saturday November 22<sup>nd</sup>, from 2.00 - 3.00 p.m. For more information on events please see [www.whiteiceandfire.com](http://www.whiteiceandfire.com). Photograph courtesy of Alfred Gregory.

**Sources:**

<http://www.whiteiceandfire.com>  
<http://www.isis.bm>

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