



TOPtoTOP

GLOBAL CLIMATE EXPEDITION



Annual Report 2014



In the ice



Clean up Cordova



Cycling on frozen lake



SEA to TOP



Black Bear



School visit Anchorage



Melting glaciers



Climate Award Exped



Seal



TOP of Denali



Local friends



Inside Passage



Prince William Sound



Inspiring students



Explore



Guest speaker



Salmon



Walk – raft out



Ski in



Drawing contest



Orcas

This year the Expedition travelled through different states of the United States of America and Canada. At the beginning of the year we were able to present, for the second time, the TOPtoTOP Climate Solution Award in Switzerland.

TOPtoTOP members were active in a total of 25 countries. Our mission is to inspire young people with good examples to a sustainable approach to nature.

This year our expedition was a great success thanks to the assistance of the Swiss representations and branch offices of SGS and Victorinox. We are extremely grateful in particular to SGS in Anchorage, the city of Cordova in Alaska and Braunwald in Switzerland. In turn, we were very active in many schools and in general. The "TOPtoTOP Climate Solution Contest" aroused great interest.

The highlight of this year was the Schmidheiny Symposium, the Climate Solution Award and the ascent of the highest TOPs of North America – firstly from the coast by sailing ship, then by bicycle and on foot. Further, we cleaned up Japanese "Tsunami debris" from the beaches of the Gulf of Alaska, and began systematically to record whales for the Whale Camp in Prince William Sound (PWS). We also collected statistics for the International Pacific Research Centre concerning "Maritime Debris" (Marine Pollution) in the Pacific Ocean.

Our Route

Over the winter we visited schools in Alaska and spent three months in Switzerland. There we were invited as guest speakers at the Schmidheiny Symposium and then successfully led the TOPtoTOP Climate Solution Award Expedition. A winner from each of the seven continents took part in the Expedition.

Back in Alaska, we visited schools on the way to Denali. Thanks to the support of the fishing village of Cordova, we had not only a safe haven for *Pachamama*, but also a good starting point for our activities. Best of all were the friendly and loving people. So, we had friends in no time, and the whole family was integrated into village life.

From the port of Whittier in Prince William Sound, we rode our bikes to Talkeetna and then made our way with skis and crampons to the top of North America. On the way back we employed Pack Rafts because the ice on the rivers broke up.

After Denali, preparations for the voyage through the Northwest Passage were foremost in our thoughts. Unfortunately, the ice blocked the Passage and made it impossible to return to the Atlantic Ocean. We sailed, therefore, to the capital of Alaska, Juneau. In the fjords of the Inside Passage there was clear evidence of glacier retreat.

Next we went to the Queen Charlotte Islands and British Columbia, Canada. In Comox, Vancouver Island, we met TOPtoTOP Member, Cliff Umpelby, who was with us on Mont Blanc in 2000. In Vancouver we gave a presentation at the headquarters of our clothing sponsor ArcTeryx.

From Thetis Island we set sail for San Francisco. In a few days we will start a Roadshow for schools in the "Lower 48 States" with E-bikes by Stromer. The route leads, among other places, to the lowest point of the continent, "Death Valley".

The media presence was, as usual, very high. Overall, wherever we anchored the media were interested in an interview. In Cordova, Anchorage, Juneau and Vancouver, we made it onto the front page of the newspapers. In Switzerland we appeared on the Talkshow "Aeschbacher", and in Alaska we were invited to appear on the KTVA Morning Show. In all the countries we visited, TV and print media again reported very favourably and positively on TOPtoTOP Actions.

In turn, we were allowed to learn about good climate protection projects and entered into new partnerships. Among the most promising are the Prince William Sound Science Center, the PWS Whale Camp and the Chugach Alaska Corporation.

Pleasing also is the TOPtoTOP pilot project in conjunction with the NGO "enkaina-e-retoto" in Tanzania: the project of a solar-powered pump for the supply of water in Loiborsoit in Tanzania, as well as the water project in the school has been completed.

The number of students lectured to during visits since the start of the Expedition has risen to 80,000. In that same time, TOPtoTOP has collected a total of 40 tonnes of waste.

Without the generosity and hospitality of the people throughout the journey and without your support, our endeavour would have been unthinkable. A big thank you to our Patron donors "UNEP", "Presence Switzerland" and "myclimate", as well as to our two main sponsors "SGS" and "Victorinox". Thanks also to all donors and supporters and all those who support our project with its TOP products and services (see <http://www.toptotop.org/supporters/index.php>).

Outlook: First, as part of our Expedition, we will circumnavigate the Americas from pole to pole in a figure eight, in order to optimally exploit the wind and currents. However, initially we will visit schools on the West Coast of the United States and Mexico, before we try to get through the NW Passage to New York. The expedition culminates in the final TOP, Mount Vinson in Antarctica in the 2016/17.

Please deposit 2015 Membership Fees no later than end of October 2014.

Children CHF 20.- Schools CHF 75.- Companies/Clubs/Patrons: from CHF 250.-
Adults CHF 50.- Families CHF 75.-

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Gift idea: Book: *Die Schwörer*. Order direct from the Website: www.toptotop.org

Thank you for your support!

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