



UIAA
Global Youth Summit 2004

CLUB ALPINO ITALIANO
Section of VARALLO - Youth Mountaineering Commission



Alle pendici... del Monte Rosa

July 1-6, 2004

UIAA 2004 Trekking Report

"I was there too!"

This has been the enthusiastic thought of the young Italians, Slovenians and Swiss who participated to the trekking tour around the Monte Rosa massif. Two hundred years later, they followed the steps of Bénédict de Saussure, who first in 1789 did the "Tour of Monte Rosa".

This itinerary has its premises on some historical and cultural evidences, but it is also a journey containing the intents of the UIAA Global Youth Summit 2004 international project: "for experiences of intercultural exchange, brotherhood and peace, with a sight on love, respect and protection of nature".

The UIAA Group members had the opportunity to live a unique and unforgettable experience. This Group was composed of 25 people, young mountaineers and their tutors: all together they went across seven valleys, several mount passes and hills. They went through some grasslands, woods, small tundra; they followed the coasts of alpine lakes, get over moraines, snow-fields and glaciers. They contemplated the "4000-meters", visited the Natural Park, went on through mule-tracks, nearly touched the typical huts. Finally, they were hosted in five huts during the tour of Monte Rosa: from Alagna to Gressoney, from Ayas to Valtournanche, from Zermatt to Saas and Macugnaga. The tour started on July, 1st and was completed on Jul, 6th.

This journey was a ring-trek 160 kilometres long, surrounded with a wonderful natural scenario. An experience nearly in touch with an almost uncontaminated environment, in which traditions, customs, local languages, legends, mountain civilisations still survive, together with some artistic, artisan and architectural expressions.

The enthusiasm shown by the young mountaineers was a pleasant point of reference during the whole tour. Although the height gradient covered in a single day was sometimes big, the hours on the way very tiring, the rucksacks heavier and heavier... these young mountaineers have been able to get over all the difficulties. This was possible because of their spirit of adaptation and their good will to join together, to share the emotions stirred by the wonderful sights of the nature.

This tour has been an extraordinary event for all its young "leading characters": Masa, Aja, Brigita, Bobovnik, Nejc, Timon, Julian, Riccardo, Gabriele, Lorenzo, Silvio, Matteo, Federico, Francesca & Francesca, Diego & Diego, Gianni. And of course for their AG tutors as well: Gabriella, Gianni, Alessandro, Renato, Gian Mario, Angelo and Fabio. During the climb towards the Monte Moro Pass, they had the honour to be receive by no less than Teresio Valsesia, who told them an interesting "welcome tale".

Most of this Group was already a "veteran" of this kind of experience, because last year some of these young mountaineers participated to the International UIAA "Green-water week" for youth. This journey, which took place in Valsesia in July, 2003, was promoted by the UIAA Youth Commission and approved by the Central Young Mountaineering Commission and the Section of Varallo Sesia of the Club Alpino Italiano.

With the intention of sharing socially constructive experiences, every day took place checkings, considerations, comparison moments, as well as intercultural exchanges. Experiences and beliefs were shared among all the involved people.

Videomovies, CDROM, photographs were realised. All the considerations have been written in the *UIAA log-book*.

The UIAA project is going on its long way...

Gabriella Patriarca