**Jan Reynolds**

Explorer Jan Reynolds raised the bar for skiers worldwide when she completed the highest ski descent from a summit nearly 25,000’ in the Pamirs, sponsored by National Geographic in 1980, and set the high altitude skiing record for women for almost a decade. Esquire Magazine honored Jan as athlete of the decade; as top biathlete, in the first women’s World Cup Championships 1984, and for skiing on the grueling Everest Grand Circle expedition, in **winter** in the Himalaya. Jan was the only woman on these expeditions, chronicled in her book, The Glass Summit: One Woman’s Epic Journey Breaking Through. Beyond setting world records, Jan’s expeditions were first to garner corporate sponsorship, elevating and expanding the sport internationally. Jan was also one of the first 2 athletes ever hired by The North Face, creating a new professional occupation for climbers and skiers in the U.S.

Finishing among the top men in the arduous ski triathlon “Mountain Man”, and leading imaginative expeditions using all forms of equipment from skate, telemark, rondonee skis, even snowboards, landed Jan on the cover of Outside, Ultra Sport, and Women’s Sports and Fitness magazines with headlines, “Is There Anything She Can’t Do” and “This is Jan Reynolds who loves doing things no woman has ever done.” As journalist/photojournalist Jan took skis worldwide; solo over Himalayan Nangpa La for National Geographic and pushed equipment limits using skating skis on 23,000’ Mera peak, writing for Ski, Powder, Outside, Backcountry, Snow Country and creating 20 award winning books, including Vanishing Cultures series.

**Jan Reynolds’ Achievements:**

-1978 University of Vermont Bachelor’s Degree/ teaching certification

Men’s and Women’s teams combined for **NCAA Champioships, UVM wins**/ Jan Reynolds is top cross country skier for UVM women’s team in all events

-1979 **Southern Cross Expedition,** **First free heel ski and climbing traverse of the Southern Alps, New Zealand,** with Ned Gillette (Hall of Fame member). Light, metal edged, backcountry ski gear used for all ascents and descents

-1980 **First westerners with John Fry and Ski Magazine to ski and coach in Manchuria, China**. 2 part article in Ski Magazine. Ned Gillette and Jan Reynolds supplied the photographs, and Jan coached the young junior champions

-1980 **Friendship Expedition**, **Highest ski descent from a mountain summit 24, 757’ Mustagata Peak,** **Pamirs**, with Ned Gillette, Galen Rowell, (Hall of Fame member Dick Dorworth participated) sponsored by National Geographic. **Jan set the women’s high altitude skiing record for women** which stood for 8 years**, Article: National Geographic February 1981, American Skiers Find Adventure in Western China)** (Powder 1981)

-1981/82 **Co-leader of Everest Grand Circle Expedition**, climbing and skiing at elevations from 20,000’-24,000 circling Everest for 4 months, **first winter ascent** **in Himalaya on Pumori. Several first descents in Tibet**. (Powder 1982)

-1982 the North Face announces Jan Reynolds and Ned Gillette their first professional athletes**.** Other outdoor companies begin to follow The North Face’s lead**. A new aspect of professional sports is born in the U.S. for climbers and skiers.** (Powder Feb 1983)

-1983/84/85 **Winner of the Mountain Man triathlon**. Ultimately placed 5th among the men; involving a 5000’ ascent and descent of a peak, 12 miles on skis, followed by the same on snowshoes, finishing with 12 miles of speed skating, likened to the “Iron Man” of winter, Vail Colorado. (Outside Feb 1985)

-1983/84 **Top member of the U.S. Biathlon Team**, world cup championships, Chamonix, France. (Powder 1984) Jan is part of the birth of a new sport for women

- 1984 **Athlete of the Decade: Esquire Magazine Special Edition** “A Celebration of the New American Woman” recognized as: ski mountaineering multi-world record holder, champion biathlete, ice climber, rock climber, biker, kayaker, water skier, scuba diver, skydiver, swimmer

-1985 Moroccan Adventure, **Highest Atlas peak, 14,000’ Toubkal,** on light,backcountry ski gear ( Powder Dec 1985, Rock and Ice Number Twelve, New Adventurers UK magazine, Japanese ski Magazine)

-1985 **Beyond the Summit Expedition**: 2 hot air balloons ascend to 28,000’ attempting to fly over Everest, a world height record set and **award winning film** created, televised worldwide. Jan’s knowledge of the Everest region, and climbing skills were essential for the pilots safety. (Rock and Ice magazine 1986)

-1985 **Book: Everest Grand Circle** published by Mountaineers in Seattle, co-authored Jan Reynolds, Ned Gillette/ Jan pitched and secured the book

-1980-85 Appearances on NBC’s Today Show, and Good Morning America, interviews on several national talk shows: Mev Griffin, Hour Magazine etc. National Public Radio, New York Times, 3 adventure ski films concerning her contribution to moving the sport of ski mountaineering forward for all genders, and for opening up this sport to women

-1986 **Nangpa La: article and sponsorship with National Geographic** magazine, after co-leading expeditions, Jan **solos** over 20,000’ Nangpa La from Nepal to Tibet on light, backcountry ski gear to cover the last of the yak trains, and ancient salt trade.

-1987 **23,000’** **Mera peak on xc skate skis**: Jan created and led the experimental ski expedition in one long day with a bivouac, that took the British team using heavy randonee gear before her, 4 days and 3 camps, proving timing and light gear was the **wave of future expeditions.** (Backcountry magazine)

-1989 **Mount Ararat ski in one day**: Jan climbed and skied the 14,000’ vertical rise in one day, **a first** **for all genders**, an endurance ascent/descent, on light, backcountry ski gear. (Snow Country June 1989)

-1990 **Midnight Ski: Finland**; reconnaissance in search of traditional Samis, reindeer herders for book project, in Pallas Ounas National Park (Cross Country Skier Feb/1991)

-1991 **Vanishing Cultures global book series** is born: Jan lived with the Tibetans in the Himalaya, and the Tuareg in the Sahara, skiing the peaks and sands of each environment, **“Himalaya” and “Sahara” published with Harcourt Brace.** New York Times Sunday Book Review, Publisher’s weekly, AP wire and more (Ski Nov 1993)

-1992 **Books “Far North”, “Down Under”:** living with the Sami reindeer herders in the arctic, and the Aboriginals in Australia, Harcourt Brace publisher, sand and snow skiing

-1993 Books **“Frozen Land” and “Amazon Basin”:** skiing in arctic with Inuit, Harcourt Brace publisher (Cross Country Skier Jan/Febuary 1993)

-1994 **Book “Mongolia”:** living with Mongolians. The last book in this global series Vanishing Cultures, which includes an indigenous culture on each continent, Harcourt Brace publisher, **supporting sustainability and cultural tolerance.**

-1994 **Otgon Tenger of Hongai Range, Mongolia**, 12, 000’ climb and ski, light backcountry ski gear (Backcountry December 1994)

-1995 **Toubkal on snowboard** (Back Country December 1995) while 6 months pregnant.

-1996 **Video Cultural Adventure**, sponsored by Malden Mills. Video shot and edited by Jan about the ancient salt trade set in the Himalaya, while 8 months pregnant.

-1997 **Book Mother and Child: Visions of Parenting From Indigenous Cultures**, published with Inner Traditions

1997-2003 Home births of 2 boys and being **mother/homemaker**

-2003 **Book Tuti’s Play**, Balinese culture, publisher Lee and Low

-2004 **Book Living in an Igloo**, skiing with Inuit, publisher Lee and Low

-2005 **Book Leo and the Butterflies**: Costa Rican butterfly farm, Publisher Lee and Low

-2006 **Book Celebrate: Connections Among Cultures**, breakdown of celebrations for our human family, publisher Lee and Low

-2009 **Book Cycle of Rice, Cycle of Life**: Indonesian Rice farming, clear description of sustainability, publisher Lee and Low

-2011 **Book Only the Mountains Do not Move, a Maasai Story of Culture and Conservation,** Lee and Low publisher

-2013 **Book The Glass Summit: One Woman’s Epic Journey Breaking Through**, Jan’s expedition, and cultural stories about working with all men while setting records, touching on the difference in the way men and women think, speak, and behave.

-2014 **Ski Magazine interview/ High Altitude Woman/and The Glass Summit**

-2018 **Backcountry Magazine, “Fearlessly Female**: Jan Reynolds on life up high and advice for aspiring women ski mountaineers” interview

-2019 **Bulgarian Backcountry: article** by Jan “Where Wilderness is Church”, skiing the peaks of Bulgaria on light backcountry ski gear and snowboard (Jan’s back at it, at 63! With the young bucks…;-) (Backcountry Nov 2019)

-2020 **Heliskiing the Himalaya,** with Craig Calonica, article TBA