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THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 22ND, 2007
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**50 FOR TIBET
STATE HIGHPONTER
FUND RAISING PROJECT
PASSES HALFWAY POINT**

In 2001, John Jancik (FN '98) carried The Explorer's Club #35 Flag to the Northernmost Mountain Range on Earth. John, along with the 50 For Tibet teammates, David Baker and Terri Baker, successfully reached the summit of the highest unclimbed peak in the range.

Team HighPoint has launched their 50 For Tibet project in a big way by collecting tax deductible donations and pledges in excess of \$60,000 on their way to reaching 31 state highpoints including climbing over 60,000 feet of elevation gain since June 16.

Sponsored by ECHO Geophysical of Denver, Team HighPoint hopes to reach the highest point in all 50 states in one year as a fundraising effort for The Rowell Fund for Tibet (www.savetibet.org/programs/rowellfund/index.php), an organization which provides financial support to Tibetan artists, writers, and musicians around the world to help preserve their threatened culture.

Financial support so far for the 50 For Tibet project has come from corporations and private donors. Some pledge an amount per highpoint reached, and others have donated a specific amount to the project. One hundred percent (100%) of all donations go directly to The Rowell Fund because costs for transportation, lodging, food, equipment and other expenses for Team HighPoint are paid by ECHO Geophysical or individual team members.

"Our motto is to 'celebrate one mountain culture, preserve another'," said John Jancik, who started the planning of this challenging adventure in October of 2005 with his wife, Terri Baker. John and Terri, who originally met Galen Rowell in 1995 as the three of them prepared for their participation in the 1996 Top Of The World Expedition to northern Greenland, now serve on The Advisory Board of The Rowell Fund For Tibet. Team Highpoint also includes their son David Baker and his wife, Jennifer Pauley.

The "50 For Tibet" adventure began on June 16th when Team HighPoint successfully climbed California's highest point, Mt. Whitney. At 14,495 feet, Whitney is the highest mountain in the 49 states outside of Alaska and is near Galen and Barbara Rowell's gallery (<http://www.mountainlight.com/>) in Bishop, California. "Galen's spirit of adventure inspired me for many years before we were expedition teammates in 1996. After his and Barbara's passing in August 2002, I somehow wanted to support their legacy and this adventure fundraiser really seemed like a perfect combination," said John Jancik.

To learn more about Team HighPoint and their 50 For Tibet project, see their website at www.50forTibet.org. More information about the Tibetan situation is available from the International Campaign for Tibet at (<http://www.savetibet.org/>) or by phone at (202) 785-1515.

Check out this link to http://cbs4denver.com/topstories/local_story_215085744.html featuring a 50 For Tibet article and a feature story video aired by a local Denver network, KCNC-TV, Channel 4 on Wednesday, August 2nd, 2006.

www.50ForTibet.org