

CLUB ACTIVITIES

EDITED BY FREDERICK O. JOHNSON

AAC, CASCADE SECTION. In 2003 the Cascade Section helped organize and sponsor two events in conjunction with a local web-based climbing group, cascadeclimbers.com. We also took part in a three-day mountaineering event hosted by REI in late February, which included talks and demos by such luminaries as Peter Croft and Mark Twight, giving the AAC some good exposure. In April we provided sponsorship in the form of prizes to the Sawtooth Film and Climbing Festival at Evergreen State College.

The first event, in June, was a slideshow and talk by Scott Backes. Scott drove from the flatlands of Minnesota to share his philosophy, experience, and advice from 27 years of cutting edge climbing. This was not just a slideshow. Scott used each of the five expeditions including, Mt. Kitchener in the Rockies in 1980, Fitzroy 1983, Denali 1985, Mt. Hunter 1984, and the single-push ascent of Denali in 2000 via the Czech Direct to show how these climbs changed his life and opened his mind to what is possible. He showed us how important it is to have mentors and teachers in the mountains. He made us think about why we climb and why it has become so attractive to more and more people to be able to escape the stressful, technological life of today. In the climb of the Czech Direct he taught us what can be achieved when you hone your body, mind, and skills, and have climbing partners with whom you have a deep connection and trust. In the questions and answers we learned tips and techniques for climbing light and fast using nutrition and equipment that was not available to the pioneers of this style of climbing. Altogether this was an excellent presentation and one to be recommended to other sections.

The second event was outdoors (a different approach!) in Leavenworth, as reported by Mike Beck of cascadeclimbers.com: "The rain may have gotten the climbers wet, but it didn't dampen their spirits. Nearly a hundred participants braved the weather to convene October 10-12 outside Leavenworth, Washington, to climb and celebrate the camaraderie of the vertical environment. During the day on Saturday, a beginner's climbing area was available, and Tacoma Mountain Rescue instructed people nearby on self-rescue techniques. A bratwurst and beer feast followed Saturday's climbing adventures. At dusk the real entertainment began. Slide shows by Steve Swenson (AAC) and Wayne Wallace, and more beer, were followed by a raffle of gear donated by over a dozen sponsors. The rain-soaked raffle raised \$400 for the Access Fund and the *American Alpine Journal*. A slide show by Erden Eruc (AAC) on his 2003 self-powered expedition from Seattle to the top of Denali and back was the high point of the evening. Climbers awakened Sunday morning to find John Harlin cooking pancakes for everyone, with the assistance of Steve Swenson, while enjoying coffee and a talk from the Forest Service on ways climbers can minimize impact on the environment. A trails project got washed out by all the rain, but many climbers still went climbing. The weekend was a success. The third annual Cascade Climbers Full Moon Ropeup had met its founding objective—'fostering stewardship of the vertical environment.' Look for next year's event during the full

moon in October at Bridge Creek Campground outside Leavenworth, Washington.” We hope to do more joint events with cascadeclimbers.com and other local climbing groups.

The major mountaineering issue this year was the proposed changes to the Mount Rainier National Park management plan. Lloyd Ahearn provided responses on behalf of the AAC with regard to both the proposed fee increases and to the changes to commercial climbing services. We are also monitoring a proposal for an underground science facility in the Alpine Lakes Wilderness area that is currently under consideration.

Congratulations to member Erden Eruc for completing the first part of his self-propelled climbing odyssey by cycling to and climbing Denali and cycling back to Seattle (5,546 miles). The next stages involve rowing, first to South America to climb Aconcagua and then on across the Pacific. For more information see www.around-n-over.org. For climbing exploits of other Section members see the expedition and first ascent notes in this Journal.

Lastly, the Section is pleased to have contributed \$1,000 this year to the *AAJ* and would like to thank Craig McKibben, Raymond Huey, and Carlton Swan for their share of that donation. Please visit our Web site at <http://cas.alpineclub.org>, and if you have questions about the Section contact me at pdack1@attbi.com.

PETER ACKROYD, *Chair*

AAC, OREGON SECTION. Our winter Section expedition was made to Smith Rock to construct an emergency rescue litter shelter. Jeff Alzner, Richard Bence, Bob McGown, Bob Spike, and others participated. The Section has plans for other litter shelters at Smith Rock. The first shelter has an Oregon Section AAC plaque dedicating the shelter to Mike Bearzi, who died climbing in Tibet. Mike’s family has assisted the Section.

This year our spring fundraiser was a slide show by Steve Boyer. He is a veteran of six Himalayan expeditions including a successful ascent of the south face of Annapurna. Steve is an accomplished speed climber, having set records on Mt. Hood. Steve is an MD who also holds a masters degree in glaciation. His program covered the highlights of his Himalayan career and he also discussed the major accident on Mt. Hood of May 30, 2002. Recently, Steve continued his glacier research with investigations of the glaciers on Mt. Hood with GPS positioning of the 12 glaciers on the mountain. He compared these present glacier positions with old Mazama photographs supplied by Mazama historian Jeff Thomas.

The Section supported the *Himalayan Bulletin*, Barbra Bower editor, and the Cooper Spur Coalition, a watchdog group on the development on Mt. Hood’s Cooper Spur.

Our winter program was a presentation on the traverse of the Southern Pickets by Wayne Wallace. Wayne gave an interesting program on his Cascade climbs of 20+ years, culminating in the traverse of the southern Pickett range with Colin Haley and Mark Bunker. Wayne is a dedicated alpinist who was recently awarded the Section’s Fred Becky award for his achievements in Cascade alpinism.

Longtime member, Vera Defoe, was recognized at the Mazama annual banquet for leading Mazama climbs for 37 continuous years through the age of 75. Earlier, the Explorer Scout troop sponsored by the Mazamas climbed a first ascent in British Columbia’s Coast Range, naming it Mount Defoe. Vera led several climbs for the Scouts in the Pacific Northwest. She continues to be active in conservation and access issues.

The efforts of Neale Creamer and the Friends of Silcox Hut were noteworthy. This fall

the friends along with Timberline Lodge installed a new snow tunnel on Silcox Hut for winter access to the 1933 WPA structure at 7,000 feet on Mt. Hood. This is an excellent base camp for an emergency south side rescue location. Section member Jeff Sheets, of the Friends of Silcox Hut, is also on the safety committee for *Accidents in North American Mountaineering*. Jeff and Bob Speik from Bend, Oregon, promptly reported several notable accidents.

June Hackett (Bill Hackett's widow) and Ric Conrad published Bill's climbing biography including exploits with the 10th Mountain Division and the 1958 K2 expedition. Bill was a longtime Section member and dedicated climber. The book is well laid out as a historical piece with comments by Charlie Shimanski, Dee Molenaar, and Bradford Washburn. The book covers Bill's expedition notes and will be an excellent reference document.

In August, Bob McGown and Steve Holman, President of the Oregon Science Teacher's Association, acted as climbing team support for the four-day experiment for NIAC (NASA Institute for Advanced Concepts) at the Skylight Cave system in Sisters, Oregon. Steve, an alpinist, was so enthused by the success of the CEMSS II biosphere that he plans to help his advanced biology students build several biospheres in the coming year.

The Section's climbing librarian Bob Lockerby created a 47- page index to the *American Alpine Journal* from 1997 to date.

BOB MCGOWN, *Chairman*

AAC, SIERRA NEVADA SECTION. The year started with a sometimes-annual Markleeville ski trip. A few hardy souls were out to enjoy the "pow" and soak tired, weary limbs in, where else, but Grover Hot Springs. More people should attend this trip.

We held our spring meeting at John Hart's home in Marin County. Catered food, wine, and beer warmed up a crowd of about 40 people. Greg Couch gave an outrageous slideshow about the first winter ascent of Cerro Torre, in 1999, with three Swiss partners with whom he could barely converse. Our stomachs got pumped from laughing at Greg's epic battles with bad weather, cabin fever, and ... SUPERMICE! Thanks to Greg for sharing this amazing adventure with us and to John for opening his home to us.

In September Royal Robbins hosted his now annual Pinecrest gala with climbing at the Gianelli Edges. Thanks to Royal and Liz for their help in making this our most popular outing. Some 40-50 people attended over the course of the weekend.

Our fall meeting was held at Greg Murphy's house in the hills of Montclair. Some new energetic faces were on hand to liven things up. Climbing tales were told, some true and some embellished by Greg's home brew. Tommy Caldwell and Beth Rodden were on hand to present their "First Couple of Rock," a video of the couple's exploits and misadventures together. In the film the two talk candidly about dating on El Capitan, their epic in Kyrgyzstan, and the pressure of being professional climbers. It was riveting, touching, and funny. Our thanks to them and to Greg and Annie for their hospitality.

In December we held our annual meeting at Berkeley Iron Works. Shawn Chartrand, our Section's events coordinator, arranged for some awesome food that everybody thoroughly enjoyed. We actually had too much; where were the rest of you? Mark Wilford was flown in from Colorado to be our keynote speaker. He delivered in a huge way, as he described the epic tale of the first ascent of Yamandaka in the Indian Karakoram. When he described rappelling off an anchor of slings held in place by rocks stacked on top, the crowd seemed to shiver collectively.

Our hats off to Mark and his partner, AAC President Mark Richey, for this daring ascent made in uncompromising style.

This meeting also marked the end of my tenure as Section Chair. The torch was passed to Ellen Latham of Grass Valley. I had served for three years and had a great time. Thanks to all who helped make it so great and such fun. Let's get out and climb!

STEVE SCHNEIDER, *Chair*

AAC, NORTHERN ROCKIES SECTION. As an AAC representative, a board member of the Boise Climbers Alliance, and an Idaho local, Doug Colwell participated as a member of the Climbing Management Plan (CMP) for Castle Rocks State Park, which adjoins the City of Rocks National Preserve. Over two days the Climbing Management Team developed the CMP, which set forth the rules, recommendations, and guidelines surrounding new route development at Castle Rocks State Park upon opening in May 2003. One provision of the CMP created a lottery whereby 25 people were selected to enter the Park prior to its opening and to establish new routes. The Access Fund facilitated this meeting, and it was a wonderful example of how governmental agencies, non-governmental organizations, and individual climbers can work together for the overall benefit of the climbing community and the public at large. Several of our members were lottery winners, and during two weekends in mid-May helped establish over 40 new routes, which went in with minimal problems or conflicts, despite what the trade rags indicated.

In August, during the official opening of the Park, the AAC and the Access Fund presented Wallace Keck, director of Castle Rocks State Park, with a joint award for his willingness to work with climbers in developing the CMP. Others attending the ceremony were Idaho Governor Dirk Kempthorne, Senator Larry Craig, Rick Colligon, Director of Idaho Parks and Recreation, as well as National Park Service officials. This was a good opportunity to recognize the mutual cooperation of the groups involved.

In April the Boise Chapter of the Northern Rockies Section cosponsored a fund raising slide show by our member Mike Libeck with the Boise Climbers Alliance. Brian Wright has taken over as President of the Boise Chapter from longtime leader Susan Bernatus.

The Section hosted its first event in Salt Lake City with 150+ people attending. Black Diamond graciously sponsored Will Gadd as the speaker. The meeting identified several Salt Lake members interested in increasing the AAC presence in the Wasatch Valley. Mark Holbrook agreed to serve as the Section's Salt Lake City "President." Mark hosted a barbecue for members most desirous of energizing the group and acting on potential issues and projects.

Our fourth "almost annual" Fall Moondance occurred September 6-7 at City of Rocks, with over 45 people reserving space at the group campground, almost double last year's attendance.

DOUG COLWELL, *Chair*

AAC, CENTRAL ROCKIES SECTION. On February 14-17 the Fifth Annual Cody Ice Festival was held in the Shoshone River Valley southwest of Cody, Wyoming. CRS Chair Greg Sievers and AAC Board Member Charlie Mace were on hand to support the popular activity. The Section donated several AAC fleece embroidered jackets for the auction and supplied free AAC mugs to all attendees. This small, quaint event offers everyone a chance to mingle and socialize in the

rustic setting of the DDX Ranch. The ice climbing in the area offers over 100 routes, few with grades less than WI3+. For those unfamiliar with the area, it is a world-class destination for ice climbing and a must for your resume. However, be prepared to hike, spend long, full days out, and be self sufficient and exceedingly safe. Treat it like an alpine adventure where your cell phone won't work.

Greg Sievers continued a diligent review of the proposed relocation of the Twin Owls parking lot at the popular Lumpy Ridge climbing area in Estes Park, Colorado. Unfortunately a challenge to the legal access through the MacGregor Ranch, which the public has used for over 40 years, failed. Relocation of the public access will add 1.5 miles to the climber's day if the destination were the "Book" or "Sundance" areas on Lumpy. This has been a 20-year process for the National Park Service, which included three environmental assessments, much public debate, and negative commentary. We will likely see the end of an era in the near future.

The 2003 Lumpy Trails Day on Lumpy Ridge was a commanding success! This is the third year that the AAC has hosted climbers, Club members, locals, and National Park Service employees to collaborate and improve the climber access trails to these highly popular and photogenic rock climbing crags. The narrow single-track access trails leading to the each of the magnificent crags are eroded by summer storms and increasing use. About 35 people showed up on October 18. Over 500 vertical feet of the rugged trail to Batman Rock was given a "complete" face lift, and at the Little Twin Owls bouldering area, 16 additional water bars were placed. The AAC provided donuts in the morning and full lunches delivered to the trail workers in the field. All volunteers received goodies from corporate sponsors, and a raffle was held that included outdoor gear donated by the AAC. Thanks to the vision of the Access Fund and their Adopt-A-Crag program, users and climbers are turning out in their own neighborhoods nationwide to repair trails at climbing crags like Lumpy Ridge.

The Section responded to a recent Environmental Assessment in Rocky Mountain National Park regarding the addition of paved, improved bus stops along the Bear Lake Road. While improvement for visitors is needed, we support vehicular access by the public in the years to come, despite shuttle bus improvement and increased use. With alpinists and climbers often starting their treks in the wee hours of the morning, we feel it is imperative for the NPS to maintain public vehicular access. The Section also responded to Environmental Assessments at Indian Creek and Fisher Towers recreation areas, where the BLM is developing a use plan.

GREG SIEVERS, *Chair*

AAC, NEW YORK SECTION. The New York Section, with membership now exceeding 700 in the Tri-State Area, tries to appeal to a broad cross section of members with a variety of outdoor climbing and indoor social events.

Activities invariably commence in late January with our Annual Adirondack Winter Outing, now entering its second decade. The winter of 2002-03 will be long remembered here in the East as one of the coldest and snowiest on record. As a result a capacity gathering of around 35 members and guests, both old and new members, were on hand to ice climb, snowshoe, and ski in almost ideal conditions in Keene, New York. For many, the chance to be with friends in an isolated, beautiful environment sharing intense experiences followed by a well-deserved cocktail hour and dinner makes it an annual ritual not to be missed. It also provides the

opportunity for members to pair up and seek adventures farther afield. Such was the case of Todd Fairbairn and Howard Sebold, who met at the Outing and planned a successful expedition to Katahdin later in March. They recounted their adventure at a slide show co-hosted by the Section in the North Face store in Manhattan a few months later.

In the fall, we once again returned to the Gunks, where Jack Reilly and John Tiernan organized simultaneous outings and, a week later, to the High Peaks area of the Adirondacks for a weekend of climbing and hiking. As in the past, the historic Ausable Club was our base of operations. Despite the area being one of the East's oldest venues, spectacular new routes, such as on the South Face of Gothics (5.9–5.11), are constantly being discovered and opened up.

May and June were busy months. First we began with a party at the Brooklyn Brewery to benefit the Ascent Program, which teaches inner city kids to climb. In June we combined culture with climbing in the Hudson Highlands. After hiking in the Breakneck- Taurus area of Cold Spring, we attended a live, one-man stage show Willi about the life of the legendary climber Willi Unsoeld.

Finally, in November, we held our 24th Annual Black Tie Dinner. As usual, the event draws a capacity crowd of members and guests from around the country drawn by the presence of a celebrity speaker plus the opportunity to renew old friendships and make new ones. This year Peter Hillary was the special guest and spoke about his experiences on K2 in 1995, where good judgment in turning back just short of the summit no doubt saved his life. A riveting speaker, Peter stressed the need to rely on one's informed judgment and not be swayed by group psychology. On that expedition, Peter lost six of his teammates, including Alison Hargreaves, Britain's most successful woman high altitude mountaineer. In a change of pace and mood from Hillary's talk, Mark Richey, new President of the Club, discussed and showed slides of Huayllay, a remarkable, pristine rock climbing area about seven hours from Lima in Peru. Among the new faces were 14 new members who were introduced, gently "roasted," and presented their membership pins. One of these, Britton Keeshan, is close to his goal of being the youngest person, at age 22, to attain the seven summits: only Everest remains.

The dinner benefited the American Alpine Journal and the AAC Library. Over the years, this event has raised well over \$100,000 for these and other AAC causes.

Special thanks go to our volunteer hosts, event leaders, and speakers, in particular Vic Benes, Chris Galligan, John Tiernan, Bob Hall, Jack Reilly, Richard Ryan, and Richard Wiese, in addition to others already mentioned above. Vic also doubles as our webmaster. For information on goings-on in the Big Apple, check out <http://nysalpineclub.org>.

Sadly we mark and mourn the loss of two of our members, David Boyd Brown and Peter Hodgson Wood. David, a member for 22 years, died as the result of injuries suffered in a bicycle accident. Peter, a member since 1951, was the son of former AAC President Walter Wood and served on the AAC Board in the 1980's.

PHILIP ERARD, *Chair*

AAC, NEW ENGLAND SECTION. Owing to the conjunction of the AAC's national meeting in Boston with our Section's Eighth Annual Dinner, we deferred the Eighth Annual for a year, putting our energies into the national gathering.

In June we offered a cookout and social at Nancy Savickas's new place in Albany, NH, which drew seven members.

Rick Merritt and Bill Guida traveled west to bag three state summits: Guadalupe Peak (TX), Wheeler Peak (NM), and Boundary Peak (NV).

In July climbers from New England, known as the “Adamant Eight,” enjoyed eight fine days of mountaineering in complete isolation based at the Bill Putnam (Fairy Meadow) Hut in the Northern Selkirks. The weather largely cooperated, the company was great, and some attained eight summits in the eight days. The climbers included Tom Boydston, Tom Carey, Paul Dale (leader), Chris Dame, Richard Doucette, Yuki Fujita, Tom Parker, and Heidi Zinser. We admire the stamina and resolve of the early climbers in the area, such as Bill Putnam, Sterling Hendricks, and Andy Kauffman, and are grateful to Bill for erecting such a wonderful base camp.

Jim St. Jean, Robert Plucenik, and Dale Jancic toured the Santa Cruz Valley in the Cordillera Blanca in Peru. The trio climbed Nevado Alpamayo (5,947m) via the Italian Route after acclimatizing on Nevado Millishraju II (5,500m) and Nevado Loyacjirca (5,600m).

In April, Nancy Savickas with Eric and Zeb Engberg attended the Phoenix Bouldering Competition, where Zeb placed sixth in the elite category. Later in the season Nancy managed two weeks of climbing in the Swiss and Chamonix Alps, doing more rock than snow owing to the unprecedented heat that had effectively closed many of the high alpine routes.

BILL ATKINSON, *Chair*, and NANCY SAVICKAS, *Vice Chair*

THE MOUNTAINEERS. The Mountaineers continues to broaden its offerings of climbing courses, seminars, and programs with a continued commitment to conservation, stewardship, and access that creates a long-standing interest for its members. A growing number of people, currently 232, have been members of The Mountaineers for over 50 years! Donna Price, past Trustee, has organized an annual luncheon to recognize this extraordinary commitment. At this year’s luncheon Bob Cram presented an entertaining history of the evolution of illustrations for *Mountaineering: The Freedom of the Hills*. His illustrations appeared in the first six editions of the text and provided the foundation for the new digitally generated illustrations in the latest edition.

Internationally-acclaimed mountaineering and cultural travel photographer Gordon Wiltsie, introduced by Mountaineers Honorary member Tom Hornbein, was featured at The Mountaineers 2003 Annual Banquet.

The Mountaineers Books was gratified for the enthusiasm and support its 2003 title *Arctic National Wildlife Refuge: Seasons of Life and Land* received from the media, from book buyers, and from the nonprofit community. This conservation title—focused on protecting the refuge from oil commercialization—received broad media attention in newspapers, general interest magazines, and on television. Author/photographer Subhankar Banerjee’s images from the book were exhibited at the National Museum of Natural History, Smithsonian Institution in Washington, DC, the American Museum of Natural History in New York City, and the California Academy of Sciences in San Francisco. A generous grant from the Lannan Foundation recreated the photography exhibit into six sets for traveling throughout the country in 2004. *Arctic Refuge* won the 2003 Banff Mountain Book Festival top award for “Mountain Image” and was used as evidence in a U.S. Senate debate on opening the refuge to oil drilling. Conservationists won that debate by a narrow margin, and The Mountaineers Books was proud to have had a role in this important issue.

The publisher's most significant title—*Mountaineering: The Freedom of the Hills*—was released in its seventh edition thanks to the work of approximately 40 Club volunteers who labored for nearly two years on this new edition. [This and select other climbing titles published in 2003 are reviewed in this Journal—Ed.]

The Mountaineers Conservation Division is a major force in the creation of the Wild Sky Wilderness Bill. If signed into law this bill would make 106,000 acres north of Highway 2 near the Washington towns of Index and Skykomish federally designated Wilderness. Division members Harry Romberg and Norm Winn are earnestly lobbying Congress for passage of this important Wilderness Bill. Also, Conservation Chair Nancy Neyenhouse is working with conservation interests on the Mount Rainier National Park boundary extension project known as the Carbon River Valley Conservation Project. The Division graduated 90 students from its 10th annual NW Environmental Issues Course, which aims to inform the average citizen about the key environmental issues of our region including water, wildlife, forestry, global warming, and transportation issues as well as an advocacy session.

The Mountaineers Recreational Resources Division is working to ensure that fee collection under the federal user fee demonstration project is fair and workable, and to influence decisions on the future of the program. The Division has also been a key contributor working toward redistribution of Washington gas tax funds supporting trails and other recreation facilities. The new distribution formula will more accurately reflect the actual contributions of non-motorized trail users. The Division also worked with land managers at Mount Rainier National Park to ensure that climbing fee increases and commercial services adjustments do not inhibit individual climbers. The Division continues to work with Mount St. Helens National Monument to create a workable compromise between users such as skiers/climbers and snowmobilers. In addition to its advocacy work, the Division coordinated successful trail maintenance work parties on National Trails Day and tested the leave-no-trace knowledge of hundreds of boy and girl Scouts.

STEVEN M. COX, *Trustee*

THE MAZAMAS. The many and varied activities of The Mazamas, headquartered in Portland, Oregon, are developed and coordinated by six committees. The Climbing Committee, chaired by Charlene Degener, selects climb leaders, schedules climbs, sets standards, and conducts several levels of training. The Ski Mountaineering Committee, chaired by Wim Arts, encountered strong winds and sleet, which impaired the basic class day at Timberline Lodge and the ski tour planned for the following day. The Trail Trips Committee continued its pattern of expansion with 598 hikes, which attracted 6,217 hikers. The Tuesday and Thursday Street Rambles, which start at the Mazama clubrooms, have become a very popular and important segment of the club's hiking program. The Nordic Committee was hampered by low snow levels at Mt. Hood in January. The Outing Committee, chaired by Kim McClear, fielded nine domestic outings: hiking in Alaska, the Olympic Peninsula, and the North Santiam and Crater Lake areas; rafting in the Grand Canyon, a Lewis and Clark float on the Missouri River; land improvement at the Hart Mountain Antelope Reserve; and kayaking around the San Juan Islands. Foreign outings went to Peru, Switzerland, the Australian Outback, and Pico Aconcagua in Argentina.

The Expedition Committee made six grants totaling \$6,700. The projects included climbing in the Zanskar Mountains of India (D. Anderson, A. Chapin, A. Chapman); climbs

of Denali's West Buttress (R. & R. Lee, Nancy Miller), Nevado Uta (T. Josephson, C. Buhler), Huascaran (E. Hoem, B. Wilson, V. Dunn), the North Face of Kalanka (C. Geisler, C. Buhler, R. Slawinski); and a search for the northernmost land on Earth (Lloyd Athearn and eight others).

The new Facility Task Force spent months of fruitless search for a new site for the Mazama clubrooms and offices. The club's rented building at SW 19th and Lovejoy Streets since 1957 will no longer be available after 2005. There is a surprising lack of suitable existing buildings or available land for building. So the search goes diligently onward into 2004. Gary Beck, Harold Crawford, and Eugene Lewins were elected to the nine-person Executive Council. John Youngman was elected President of The Mazamas.

JACK GRAUER, *Historian*

ARIZONA MOUNTAINEERING CLUB. The AzMC is a climbing and mountaineering club with approximately 500 members. In 2003 the club conducted several climbing schools, seminars, and master classes. Over 200 students participated in various training sessions. Two of our members, Richard Horst and Sean Colonello, attempted a new route on the Moose's Tooth in Alaska. They climbed and fixed ropes on the first third of the route but ran out of time due to weather delays. They will be returning in 2005.

The AzMC conducted its annual over-the-rim cleanup at the Grand Canyon. Led by Scott Hoffman, 60 members rappelled over various tourist look-out points and hauled up dozens of bags of trash. We also completed two trash pick-ups in the Queen Creek canyon area. The AzMC continues to be involved in local access issues. We are supporting access efforts of the McDowell Sonoran Land Trust. The Land Trust and the City of Scottsdale are purchasing land for a preserve that, when open, will have non-motorized access to hiking and climbing in the McDowell Mountains in North Scottsdale. In other access concerns, climbing on Mt. Lemmon, near Tucson, has been restricted due to a severe forest fire during summer 2003. Finally, the AzMC celebrated its 40th anniversary in April 2004.

BRUCE MCHENRY, *President*

ALPINE CLUB OF CANADA. Mountains. In addition to copious climbing options from Newfoundland to Vancouver Island, Canadians are blessed with vast, unpopulated spaces in-between. But with a relatively small population inhabiting the world's second largest country, it's not easy to maintain a national identity in a social or political sense, not to mention viewing Canada's climbing community as a single cohesive entity. With over 10,000 members, the Alpine Club of Canada includes 18 regional sections.

Every November, the Banff Mountain Film Festival brings ACC members together. They volunteer in Banff at the festival's food concessions, which fund the ACC sponsored prize for Best Climbing Film, then gather in local auditoriums across the country for ACC organized screenings of the festival's best films. Last year the Vancouver section organized a two-week summer climbing camp in the Waddington Range's Upper Tellot Glacier area, the Prince George section embarked on its first international trip to climb warm rock at Joshua Tree in California, and the Ottawa section staged a summer camp at the A.O. Wheeler Hut in Rogers Pass. Volunteer-led mountain outings are the backbone of the ACC, as is a commitment of stewardship toward the places those adventures take place. Across the country, section members

collaborate, as the Outaouais, Montreal, and Ottawa sections have, to create the Keane Farm Management Committee. Last August the Manitoba section hosted an invitational climbing weekend for Thunder Bay members, returning Thunder Bay's hospitality during its invitational ice-climbing weekend. Online, the Edmonton section maintains the Alpine Accidents in Canada Website to the benefit of all Canadians.

Along with volunteer-led club outings, ACC membership offers valuable leadership training, from telemark clinics to backcountry orienteering, watercolor painting workshops to writing contests, adventure races to ice climbing festivals. All promote the club's founding objectives: the encouragement and practice of mountaineering and mountain crafts, the education of Canadians in appreciation of their mountaineering heritage, the exploration of alpine and glacial regions, and the preservation of their natural beauties.

Under its new and broader Mountain Culture heading, the publications committee continues to celebrate the people and events that shape Canada's alpine heritage through its ever-expanding library. Three times a year Mountain Culture's volunteers produce the full color *Gazette*, bringing ACC and mountain related news to members across the country. Every year since 1907, climbers in Canada and other alpine nations have looked forward to exploring the pages of the *Canadian Alpine Journal*. Working in partnership with other organizations and individuals, in 2003 Mountain Culture published *Artists of the Rockies: Inspiration of Lake O'Hara*, by Jane Lytton Gooch. Honoring the Association of Canadian Mountain Guides' founding members at the 2003 ACC Mountain Guide's Ball annual fundraiser, Mountain Culture produced the ACMG's only published history, *Route Finding*, by Lynn Martel.

While the past is important to all cultures, so is the present and future. The ACC's Competition Climbing Canada/Compétition d'Escalade Canada encourages Canadian youth to pursue climbing, with over 100 registered athletes competing on a regular basis. Last year 12 climbers traveled to Bulgaria for the World Youth Championships, where Vancouver's Sean McColl won his 17 year-old age category. The Canadian Ski Mountaineering Competition Committee has developed a proposal for a ski mountaineering competition to take place in the Rockies, with plans for a Canadian team for this growing sport. The Huts Committee is planning a new Fay Hut to replace the historic log cabin that was lost to forest fire last August. Honoring the club's past, the Fairy Meadow Hut was renamed the Bill Putnam Hut last summer, while the ACC took over management of the new Kokanee Glacier Trudeau Hut.

While dedicated volunteers put their expertise in areas of access and environment to use for the benefit of club members and all Canadians, the Grants Committee handed out \$12,500 last year to worthy mountain related projects, including the Cliff Face Vegetation Communities Project to research and document the impacts of sport climbing on cliff face vegetation in the Niagara Escarpment area, and the Vampire Spires all-woman first-ascent attempt near the NWT's Cirque of the Unclimbables.

Like any organization, the ACC faces unforeseen challenges. Rising liability insurance costs have affected the club's financial picture, as did last year's SARS outbreak, rampant forest fires in B.C., and an unusually high number of avalanche deaths. Such challenges are unavoidable, but serve to highlight the strength of Canada's mountaineering community and its partnerships with related organizations, including the Union Internationale des Associations d'Alpinisme and the American Alpine Club. And at the end of the day, ACC members head to their nearest hills, crags, cliffs and peaks to celebrate the blessing of being able to do so.