

*Magazine*, Rolex and Paragon Sporting Goods, as well as the American Alpine Club, awarded the Grand Prize to "Shadow Hunters," a French documentary by Alain Majani on swallow's nest hunters in Thailand. To no one's surprise, this film was later nominated for an Academy Award. A close second was "Sheer Courage," an inspiring National Geographic documentary on the physical and spiritual comeback of Hugh Herr following a devastating accident on Mount Washington. Hugh's simple yet eloquent comments on the experience drew a standing ovation. The Award for Outstanding Cinematography went to "Pachamama," a snow-boarding adventure in the Andes by Patrice Aubertel. Proceeds from the festival were contributed to help fund the equipment needs of the Adirondack Volunteer Technical Rescue Team of Lake Placid.

The New York Section now numbers over 300 active members, an increase of over 15% from a year ago. Members from other Sections desiring to be on our mailing list or filmmakers interested in submitting their work to *Alpinfilm*, should write to us at: P.O. Box 5475, Rockefeller Station, New York, N.Y. 10185.

PHILIP ERARD, *Chairman*

*A.A.C., Sierra Nevada Section.* The continued high level of member involvement made 1992 an important year for the Sierra Nevada Section. Section members have made ascents of mountains from South American traditional summits, i.e. Aconcagua, to new routes on the Central Tower of Paine in Patagonia. In Central Asia, Al Steck completed a three-week Silk Route odyssey from Beijing to Rawalpindi, and R.D. Caughron on a Polish expedition just missed the summit of Nanga Parbat. On a local level, many classic routes have been revisited and impressive new routes of 5.11 through 5.13 have been put up throughout the Sierra Nevada.

Section access issues have included Paul Minault of the Section and the Access Fund representatives working together with the Forest Service to solve the problem of overuse of the Lover's Leap campground. The Section has long been involved in issues of the Leap, and in 1983 built the first out-house for Leap climbers.

Russ Faure-Brac has been involved in minimizing the impact of the Mount Shasta wilderness management plan that would open a large area of the mountain for ski development, while restricting the number of climbers that could be on the mountain at any one time. David Chick has been representing the AAC and the Section on the Yosemite Climbing Management Plan Committee. This committee has been meeting for a year and is charged with developing a resource management plan for all climbing activities. Our stated goal is to try to minimize resource impacts by climbing, while minimizing the National Park Service impact upon climbers.

During this year the Section activities included the annual Sierra ski weekend at Grover Hot Springs, climbing weekends at Lover's Leap, Tuolumne Meadows, and Yosemite Valley. Section Socials were held in the Bay Area both in the

spring and the fall. The annual Section fund-raising dinner to provide funds to publish the quarterly section newsletter was held in May. The dinner, attended by 95 members and guests, was a gala affair featuring George Lowe. George dazzled the audience with his trilogy slide show of extreme exposure on the Nose of El Capitan, accomplishment tempered with survival on K2, and his solo of Dhaulagiri.

DAVID N. CHICK, *Section Chairman*

*A.A.C., Southern California Section.* The major event of 1992 was a meeting at Mammoth Lakes on April 25 featuring a slide show by Don Lauria on his second ascent of the North American Wall on El Capitan in 1968 with Dennis Hennek. More than 80 members and guests, including Eastern Sierra residents and a contingent of members from the Los Angeles area, attended. Lauria's presentation was preceded by a talk and slides by Marty Lewis of Mammoth Lakes on sport climbing in the nearby Owens River Gorge. Lewis is the author of the gorge guidebook. Jim Thomsen of Mammoth Lakes and Allan Pietrasanta of Bishop ably handled logistics for the meeting. The following week, Ted Vaill arranged for section members to be special guests at a preview showing of the movie *K2*.

Member notes: Peter Green of Palmdale and his brother Robert climbed to Camp IV at 26,500 feet on K2 before being forced to retreat in the face of incoming weather. They were part of an 18-member international expedition climbing on a Russian permit. Six made the summit.

Doug Mantle was among the 32 who summited Mount Everest on May 12 as a member of an Adventure Consultants (New Zealand) expedition that also included Ned Gillette. Mantle later went to Antarctica while closing in on his pursuit of the Seven Summits.

R.J. Secor helped celebrate publication of his High Sierra guidebook by joining a commercial expedition to Broad Peak. The group was thwarted by deep, unstable snow after establishing Camp III at 24,000 feet and subsequently having the camp obliterated, presumably by avalanche. R.J. reported, however, that the only expedition injury was his being struck by a polo ball while watching a match in Skardu. The team returned via the little-used Ghondophoro La, as did Robert and Peter Green on their return from K2. In the fall, Secor went to the Khumbu region of Nepal with a Southern California group to climb Mera Peak and Imja Tse (Island Peak).

Kurt Wedberg traveled to Alaska as a member of Rainier Mountain Guides and was on Mount Foraker when the severe weather struck Mount McKinley, resulting in the deaths of a number of climbers. Wedberg and his group were forced to hole up for some time on Foraker and failed to reach the summit, but were not in danger. Wedberg returned later to help lead an expedition to McKinley's summit. On September 26, Wedberg, who is 26 years old, made his 31st ascent of Mount Rainier. His father, John Wedberg, is section treasurer.