

the trail required a vast amount of heavy work and untiring perseverance.

1997 was a salient year for the fiscal managers of The Mazamas, when the major assets of the club were placed into a separate trust. This significant move had been planned and suggested for two decades before President Robert Hyslop, Treasurer Howard Hanson and the Executive Council finally “took the bull by the horns.”

JACK GRAUER, *Historian*

Arizona Mountaineering Club. The 300+ members of the Arizona Mountaineering Club enjoyed another successful year of climbing-based activities. The AMC meets monthly and, in 1997, featured such nationally known speakers as Kitty Calhoun, Paul Piana and Jeff Achey. Our series of climbing classes (basic, advanced and lead), offered twice during the year, were filled to capacity. Under the capable leadership of Wayne Schroeter, these classes emphasize safety and a strong commitment to the climbing ethic.

Club involvement continues on multiple access-related issues. We worked with the city of Scottsdale on park planning and trail layout for Pinnacle Peak Park, scheduled to re-open in 1998. This popular climbing area has been closed for nearly two years while the surrounding area undergoes development. From early in the planning process (and much to the chagrin of development interests), the city recognized that climbing is a viable activity in the park. The McDowell Mountains, bordering Scottsdale to the east, also face intense developmental pressure. The prime climbing area is ably represented on the McDowell-Sonoran Land Commission by AMC member Bill Berkley. Additionally, the AMC provides financial assistance to the Phoenix Bouldering Contest and strong fiscal support to the Access Fund.

Member activities of note included Michael Baker and Sally Borg’s ongoing involvement as leaders of the Arizona Trail Association, a group working to build a continuous trail system across Arizona from north to south. Greg Opland published his long-awaited and sorely needed guidebook on central Arizona granite, *Phoenix Rock II*, and is scheduled to release a climbing guide to the Superstition Mountains in 1998. Blind climber Eric Weißenmayer, who has climbed Denali and Kilimanjaro, completed an Aconcagua expedition. In November, he was featured as the lead climber for Sarah Ferguson, Duchess of York, in the ABC television special “Adventures with the Duchess.” He also helped with our club’s “blind leading the blindfolded” outing, where members climbed blindfolded to simulate the conditions he climbs under. Even with Eric’s guidance and support, this was very difficult (try it sometime). Although Eric led some of the climbs, the rest of us climbed on top ropes and politely declined his encouragement to try leading blindfolded.

TOM CONNOR, *President*

The Colorado Mountain Club. The year 1997 brought success and change to The Colorado Mountain Club. In January, John Juraschek became the CMC executive director and Chip Drumwright began his term as president. Their biggest challenge was finishing the \$4.2 million fund-raising campaign for the creation of the American Mountaineering Center in Golden, Colorado. The AMC will be the home of the Colorado Mountain Club, the American Alpine Club (our partner in this venture) and other outdoor-related organizations. Those organizations include the American Mountain Guides Association, the Colorado Fourteeners Initiative, Climbing for Life, and the Colorado Trail Foundation. Under the strong and able leadership of Juraschek and Drumwright, club members rallied in support of the AMC. They contributed more than \$530,000—twice the amount originally projected. By the end of 1997, the CMC and AAC reached their goal, and the AMC became a reality.

In the spring, the Club's board of directors held its first board retreat at the Snow Mountain Ranch in Fraser. The work done there became the foundation for board restructure. When approved by the requisite number of CMC groups, board size will be reduced from 35 to 20. A second tier of representation, the State Council, will be created to strengthen group relations and improve group communications.

Programs and services were a high priority of the volunteer leadership and staff. Kristy Judd, assistant director, managed the day-to-day operations while developing partnerships in the community at large. Scott Stebbins joined the CMC as publications manager in late 1996. His expertise in design and layout gave our monthly magazine, the *Trail & Timberline*, an exciting new look. The financial affairs of the club, as well as of the AMC, continued to be adeptly managed by Cathy McGuire. In September, Heide Anderson became conservation director. Her goal is to increase the CMC's visibility and participation in the environmental community.

Club members continued to enjoy the hundreds of activities offered throughout the year. We adopted the Leave No Trace principles, which are now an integral part of our school curriculums. The CMC also became a partner with the Colorado Fourteens Initiative to help mitigate environmental damage on Colorado's "loved-to-death" fourteeners. Many members took part in Adopt-A-Trail hikes, where they did both light trail maintenance and trail building. The High Altitude Mountaineering Section sponsored climbing trips to Ecuador, Bolivia, Chile, Mexico and Russia.

The Colorado Mountain Club looks forward to serving the mountain lovers of Colorado from its new headquarters in Golden. We invite you to visit the American Mountaineering Center. For information on the CMC, please call (303) 279-3080, or visit our website at <http://www.entertain.com/cmc/>.

SHERRY RICHARDSON, *President-Elect*