

er, while in June the persistent rains managed to hold off long enough so that the Spring Outing became one of the more successful in recent memory. The traditional after-dinner slide shows at the Outings were given by Ed Palen and Willits Sawyer.

In April, the Section sponsored Alpenfilm, the New York International Mountain Film Festival. Now in its ninth year and an annual get-together for the New York climbing community, Alpenfilm is a juried competition offering cash prizes to winning filmmakers. This year's top award for Best of Festival went to Lynn Hill's *Free Climbing the Nose*, while the prize for the Best Film on Climbing went to a New Zealand film, *The Fatal Game*. The People's Choice award went to Rick Ridgeway for a film on a spectacular first ascent in Antarctica. Before the screenings, members, guests, jury and filmmakers convened for a dinner and reception that benefited the Golden Clubhouse Fund.

In October, the Section hosted its 19th Annual Black Tie Dinner and Gala with famed British author/climber Joe Simpson as special guest speaker. A capacity audience of 140 members and guests listened in rapt attention to Joe's epic story of survival and courage in the Peruvian Andes related in the best seller *Touching the Void*. Before the main event, Section member William Rom told of his adventures on the China/Tibet border climbing Mount Gelendaintong, source of the Yangtze River. The evening benefitted the Library Computerization Fund. Later that month, the Section co-sponsored a slide show, cocktail reception and book signing by Rick Ridgeway at the Patagonia store in lower Manhattan.

Besides the above, a variety of informal hikes and other weekend events were organized in the spring and fall by members John Tiernan, John Palutis and Earlyn Church. Also worthy of note was a May New Zealand night at the Explorers Club where members of the 1998 Expedition mentioned above recounted their adventures, followed by a reception featuring an excellent assortment of New Zealand wines and cheeses graciously provided by the New Zealand Tourist Promotion Board.

Thanks to the efforts of the Sierra Nevada Section and our own web master, Vaclav (Vic) Benes, the Section now has its own web site, nys.alpineclub.org. We hope this will introduce the Section to prospective members as well as furnishing up-to-the-minute news of our activities to the local membership.

PHILIP ERARD, *Chairman*

AAC, New England Section. 1998 saw the beginning of a renewal of the Section as a more cohesive social entity and, perhaps in the future, a working entity as well. We have striven to gather the membership together more often than in the past and to field activities in more than one region of New England.

Our third Annual Dinner attracted 51 members and guests. Mark Synnott was guest speaker, and Henry Kendall assembled a remarkable exhibit of his "Climber's Camera" mountain photographs. Bill Atkinson was voted Section Chair, replacing Barry Rugo, and Nancy Savickas Vice-Chair.

In April, Al Stebbins, Eric Engberg and Fran Bennett went variously to Red Rocks (Nevada) and to Mount Lemmon, Queen Creek Canyon and side canyons of the Salt River-Cibeque Creek and Salome Jug (Arizona). Our June north country "Base Camp" attracted some 40 AAC and Appalachian Mountain Club climbers for an afternoon and evening at the North Conway grill and beer cooler of generous AAC board member Jim Ansara.

Mark Synnott joined a trip sponsored by the National Geographic Society to Baffin Island, where he took part in the first ascent of "Great Sail Peak" (see *National Geographic*, January 1999). Mark joined the NGS again in August to Iceland to explore volcanoes.

In the summer (after a crash healing regimen for Mark's injured arm), Mark Richey and John Bouchard flew off to the Karakoram. There they made another attempt on Latok II (7108m), encountering dangerous conditions yet again. However, they were able to make the first ascent of an unnamed 6100-meter summit which they chose to call Harpoon Peak. Paul Dale and Bill Atkinson returned to Chamonix, where they ran into Yuki Fujita on Les Grands Charmoz and Bob Clark on the Aiguille de l'Index at La Praz. Paul and Bill climbed Le Miroir d'Argentine at Villars in Switzerland, then traversed from Montenvers to the Torino hut via the Refuge du Requin with an attempt on the Dent du Geant. Yuki reports having climbed the Brenva Spur on Mont Blanc under heavy bombardment, as well as the Central Spur of the Aiguille du Midi, the Gervasutti Pillar on Mont Blanc du Tacul and the Grand Capucin by the Swiss route on the south face. In the fall, Rick Wilcox led a group into Nepal's Mustagh Kingdom, a remote and seldom-visited corner of the world. Finally, our November "Camp I," organized by Walt Hampton and Bob Clark in Connecticut, attracted a dozen or so climbers to top-rope and lead at Pinnacle Rock Ridge. Appropriately, since he discovered this crag years ago, Sam Streibert showed up to climb with Al Rubin, our New England climbing historian, for the first time in many a moon. We repaired at day's end to Steve Messina's Prime Climb gym in Wallingford for dinner and slides.

BILL ATKINSON, *Chair*

The Mountaineers. The Seattle Mountaineers climbing program, under the leadership of Barbara McCann, continued with expansion of its traditional alpine program by again offering courses and seminars in sport climbing, water ice climbing and other advanced climbing experiences. The traditional alpine courses remain as popular as ever, with a small number of people being turned away each year owing to the high level of interest in these programs. The Advanced Climbing Experiences (ACE) program, which was initiated during the 1995-'96 climbing season, continued to attract increasing interest. During 1997-'98 it offered a number of activities for more experienced Mountaineers. Most popular of these was an extensive series of Water Ice seminars, which included trips to Ouray, Colorado, and Banff, Alberta. Other ACE seminars addressed Aid Climbing, High-Altitude Travel, Denali Expedition Planning, and Leadership. Besides climbs in Washington's Cascades and Olympics, various destinations and climbs offered to club members included Yosemite Valley and Tuolumne Meadows, Iztaccihuatl (Mexico), Mount Shasta, Gannett Peak and the Grand Teton, and Icefields Parkway in Banff (Athabasca and Andromeda).

On an administrative level, climbers Steve Firebaugh and Peter Clitherow developed a web page for the club's climbing programs (www.eskimo.com/~pc22). The Northwest Environmental Issues Course is a popular class offered annually. It features a program of lectures and field instruction designed to empower participants to take actions that will protect the natural resources of the Northwest by expanding their awareness and knowledge of regional environmental issues. Students examined aspects of often conflicting interest—including population, lifestyle, forests, water, salmon, growth management, energy and transportation—through lectures by nationally recognized speakers and local environmental experts as well as group discussion and activities. Field trips were offered to engage the class actively in the issues they studied. Also, an ongoing theme of activism focused on ways to influence legislation, write persuasive letters, and determine the most effective forums to shape public policy.

New titles of note for Mountaineers Books were *On Belay! The Life of Legendary Mountaineer Paul Petzholdt*, Joe Simpson's *Dark Shadows Falling, Back Country Snowboarding (Dudes!)*, the full-color *100 Classic Hikes in Washington* and the second edition