

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.