

OREGON SECTION. Keith Daellenbach along with Kellie Rice were the super-achievers of the Oregon Section on the Madrone Wall Preservation Project. One mile south of the City of Damascus along the Clackamas River Bluffs resides an amazing civic treasure. The Madrone Wall is a publicly owned 44-acre Clackamas County site which has been closed to public access since 1997, when the County pursued an ill-conceived rock quarry that would have destroyed these splendid bluffs. Over a quarter million dollars were wasted studying how to blow up the cliffs. In 2000 the County dropped plans to quarry the site with "County forces." With the help of Mazama Club funding and the climbing community, a study by the Madrone Wall Preservation Committee showed the County why it was uneconomical, even under the most favorable circumstances, to reduce these beautiful cliffs to aggregate, thus destroying their unique watershed, natural habitat, and recreational and educational resources. Keith and Kellie have worked diligently on the Madrone Wall Project along with other members of the MWPC (Mazamas and AAC) to create a climbing park in the suburbs of Portland. Kellie is an active Portland climber who also works with the Access Fund. Long-time AAC member and exploration geologist Richard Bence hosts the Madrone Wall Web site.

On a Columbia River Gorge Service Project, Christy Hansen, myself, and others worked on the rescue litter shelter at Broughton's Bluff. The Oregon Section has had good success with the rescue litter station program and will collaborate with Al Schumer and the Cascade Section to create more such structures in the North Cascades.

In September Christy Hansen and I made a number of ascents testing concepts for the Space Mountaineering Analogue Project (SMAP). The idea is to learn from each discipline to bring new ideas to space exploration as well as mountaineering. A brief abstract of our work may be found in "Earth and Space 2008" in the Proceedings of the ASCE. Members of the Oregon Section will be testing ascending mechanisms and techniques in space tether climbing.

ROBERT MCGOWN. *Chair*

SIERRA NEVADA SECTION. We had an active year hosting climbing, social, and conservation events for AAC members and the climbing community. In February we hosted our second Ice Climb-munity based out of the off-the-grid Lost Trail Lodge in Coldstream Canyon near Truckee. The Climb-munity events are intended to get both AAC members and nonmembers out climbing together, foster climbing community, and promote AAC membership. Warm and wet weather ended up foiling the ice climbing, but those attending enjoyed skiing and snowshoeing in the beautiful canyon below the Sierra crest. That, along with great meals, a warm fire, and live music at the lodge kept spirits high.

In an effort to connect the AAC locally with younger climbers, the Section created the Annual Meeting Attendance Grant. In March we awarded our inaugural grant to young big-wall ace and AAC member Dave Turner from Sacramento. We paid Dave's way to attend the AAC Annual Meeting in Bend, Oregon, where he received a Lyman Spitzer grant to support his attempt on a new route on Cerro Escudo in Torres del Paine in Chilean Patagonia [pp. 24–31]. As a spring and fall resident of Camp 4, Dave is a great ambassador to younger climbers in Yosemite.

In April Section members began their annual volunteer support for the climbers interpretive program in Yosemite. This wonderful program of Saturday evening free public presentations by climbers is part of Linda McMillan's ongoing effort in leading the AAC's work to

promote the interests of climbers and preserve the historical importance of climbing in Yosemite Valley.

Members and friends gathered for the Donner Summit Climb-munity in June to enjoy superb granite cragging. We camped within walking distance of the climbs on undeveloped property owned by our member Bela Vadasz of Alpine Skills International and enjoyed a barbeque and campfire. This low-key climbing event provides a great way for climbers who haven't yet joined the AAC to check us out and experience the Club at a local level.

The July Climb-munity attracted over 50 climbers to Tuolumne Meadows and Tioga Pass. Our member Tom Burch secured a group campsite in the Meadows, which we (over)filled and shared with some climbers who were shut out of the full campground. Word got out in the campground, and we had many friends wander over to our site to share a beer and campfire. August featured the sequel to our Donner Summit Climb-munity. The weather was splitter, and everyone enjoyed great climbing and another fun barbeque and campfire on Bela Vadasz's beautiful Donner Pass property.

The Section kicked off its series of fall events with the ever-popular Pinecrest Climb-In, graciously hosted by Royal and Liz Robbins and Tom Frost in mid-September. Members and guests gathered for cragging at Gianelli Edges and a wonderful party at the Robbins cabin. It's worth noting that while the Sierra Nevada Section has a tradition of strong membership and leadership from women climbers, no doubt the presence of Liz Robbins and the inspiration of her first female ascent of the Northwest Face of Half Dome resulted in 25 women attending this year's Climb-In.

In late September our members also participated in the tremendous effort of the annual Yosemite Facelift cleanup organized by the Yosemite Climbers Association with support from the AAC and the Sierra Nevada Section. Check out these numbers and you can't help but be inspired by the power of grassroots effort: 2,945 volunteers contributing 18,335 person-hours; \$344,148 Park Service-value of work done; 132 miles of roadway cleaned; 80+ miles of trails cleaned; 42,330 pounds (over 21 tons) of trash collected, with everything recycled that could be. The AAC and the Section contributed 300 T-shirts featuring graphics designed by our own Scott Sawyer. We also sponsored one of the evening slideshows, with Royal Robbins and Tom Frost describing their ascent of the West Face of Sentinel Rock.

In November the Section hosted the second annual Fall "High Ball" in Bishop. About 50 climbers joined the party Saturday night at Mill Creek Station. Thanks to Roger Derryberry for opening the shrine to Warren Harding for our event. Jerry Dodrill and Kevin Jorgenson presented an electrifying multi-media show featuring insights into their creative collaboration with still photography and video from their diverse climbing experiences, and, of course, there were the wicked highball boulder problems. The gear raffle was a great success. On Sunday a number of us joined local BLM ranger and climber Scott Justham for climber's coffee at the Happy Boulders trailhead, followed by a work session repairing the trail into the Happies and collecting trash. The explosion in the popularity of bouldering obviously comes with consequences for the surrounding environment and demands responsibility from us.

Later in November, noted climbing photographer Giulio Malfer passed through the San Francisco Bay area on a visit to California, and we coaxed a few notable Section members to sit still for his large-format portrait camera. Thanks to Steve Roper, Irene Beardsley, and Nick Clinch for making themselves available. And thanks to Giulio for giving the AAC permission to use his portraits of our members in promotional materials and at the Bradford Washburn

American Mountaineering Museum.

On December 9th the Sierra Nevada Section wrapped up the year with our traditional Annual Holiday Dinner at Spenger's Fish Grotto in Berkeley. Members and guests enjoyed drinks, a dinner buffet, a recap and photos from this year's Section events, and a gear raffle. About 100 members and guests attended and were treated to a heartfelt presentation by John Harlin III, editor of the *American Alpine Journal* and author of the recent book, *The Eiger Obsession: Facing the Mountain that Killed My Father*, which was featured in the IMAX film, *The Alps*. To commemorate the evening, each attendee received a complimentary copy of the last issue of the climbing anthology, *Ascent*, co-edited by Allen Steck, who was in attendance. Coincidentally, that issue included an article by Harlin. Other notable members attending were Lou Reichardt, a member of the first American ascent of K2, and long-time Sierra Nevada guide, author, and filmmaker Doug Robinson.

DAVE RIGGS, *Chair*

CENTRAL ROCKIES SECTION. The year started out with a bang in January, when the Central Rockies Section sponsored the 13th Annual Ouray Ice Festival. We provided a station and the CRS Tent, a volunteer staff, and swag. Our members Ryan McCombs, Chris Kellner, and JP Parsons, plus Ellen Stein, Trevor, and Dario from Chile were provided with a group motel room by the CRS in exchange for staffing the table for three days, promoting the AAC, and serving hot chocolate. Spirits were high, and despite the unseasonably cold temperature, the crew was still successful in signing up 17 new AAC members. AAC staff members Phil Powers and Charlie Mace were in attendance to support the CRS crew and add that extra level of oversight and polish that all good volunteers appreciate. Ouray area local Danika Gilbert developed and hosted the Women's Base Camp Breakfast. Twenty-two women attended, aged 14 to their mid-70s, and talked about everything from training techniques and networking with other women, to peeing methods while out adventuring! The catered breakfast was great (Sara from Secret Garden catering). Danika stated "we felt specially honored that Eve Nott and Julie Johnson joined us."

In February the Section helped sponsor the 9th Annual Cody Ice Festival in Cody, Wyoming. Billed as the "Friendliest Little Ice Festival in the Northern Rockies," it boasts nearly 100 routes, most of which are multi-pitch ice and all of which are in a very remote, beautiful area.

In June the CRS Chair put out a call for grant ideas, with over \$3,000 available from CRS shirt sales, banquets, auctions, and donations over the last 10 years. Two \$1,000 grants were awarded based on the numerous letters that our members provided. The Colorado Avalanche Information Center received a grant to further efforts in "wet avalanche" research. New communication equipment will allow retrieval of real-time analysis and use it to run snowpack models and provide information to their public Web site. The second grant went to the Colorado 14er Initiative for the Mt. Massive ascent trail, which must be re-routed around wet or steep fall-line areas.

This year I confronted the human waste problem that many popular crags face. Partnering with Restop® I designed an oak "BagBox" for use at trailheads to dispense these small backcountry bags. Rocky Mountain National Park was sufficiently excited to put two Bag-Boxes into immediate service. Seven other National Parks are looking at this box design.